



Methodist Women in Britain

Autumn Newsletter 2023

Greetings!

We hope that you have enjoyed the summer, in spite of the rain and cool temperatures and are refreshed, ready for the autumn, and are looking forward to our new Methodist Year. We hope you are now getting to know your Area Trustees and District Ambassadors; our new structure should make communication easier, but it is up to you to make it work!

It was good to meet some of you at Stamford for our Creative Day in July when we were inspired by the delightful surroundings of the town, and by weaving, creative writing and collage workshops. We were well looked after by the Stamford ladies and also the 'Second Helping' café, who provided us with a splendid meal. Our thanks to all those at Barn Hill Methodist Church who made the day so enjoyable.

The Exec has been busy and plans for the World Federation Day in Congleton on the theme of 'Living Water' are coming together. Rev Jenny Pathmarajah and Becca Byass (All We Can) will be our speakers on 'What's in a Word?' at our annual conference at Swanwick. We do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us at either or both of these events.

The MWiB Exhibition at Epworth Old Rectory has been upgraded. We have paid for the redecoration of a room and Anya has been busy making new boards and displays which will be changed regularly. If you haven't been, you will be able to view it at our Garden Party next year, but of course, you can visit before then as it has now been opened.

Look out for new videos on our YouTube Channel. The Mary Bosanquet Lecture at Conference was a great success and our speaker, Canon Dr Paula Gooder was an excellent Speaker. Her address is now on the channel, complete with signing. Please do use it as a basis for your meetings, it is well worth a listen. Our thanks to Hilary, Liz and Matt for organising this event. The Easter Offering Service is also available on the MWiB YouTube Channel.

On 13th September, Rev Inderjit Bhogal will be doing a webinar for us on 'Churches of Sanctuary'. I am sure we are all concerned about the welfare of the Seekers of Asylum who have arrived in our country, so it will be good to hear how churches can help to provide safe places and support. Booking is now open, the details are on our website.

Please share your ideas with us. Log on to the website and use our Facebook page to advertise events or to share photos. We look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings

Ruth and Maggie

Sister Santusa

In early June MWiB hosted the visit of Sister Santusa, Head of Methodist Women in Bolivia, who had been the keynote speaker at the World Mission Conference at Swanwick. She was delightful! Even though she didn't speak English and we didn't speak Spanish, with the aid of several interpreters and Google Translate, we were able to build a lovely relationship.

Angela and Tim Macquiban, were able to take Santusa to a women's meeting and then to show her around Chester. I was able to take her to see the Dorothy Clive Gardens, where she showed me which plants grew in Bolivia and found native British species she had never seen before. The following day we took her to the Wedgewood Visitors Centre where she was able to see the pots being made. Bronwen took her to a ladies' craft meeting where she taught them macrame. They visited Lincoln Cathedral and then to Epworth Old Rectory, where she was thrilled to visit Susannah's kitchen. We introduced her to Primitive Methodism at Englesea Brook and then took her to the Prim's Camp Site at Mow Cop. Road Closures on the Sunday meant a change of plans so we visited a small rural chapel where Santusa spoke about her church in Bolivia and in the evening she spoke at our Circuit Easter Offering Service.

We have laughed, cried, and prayed together. It was an experience which myself, and those involved will never forget. Santusa and I have set up a What's App so that we can share news and also progress on Tabitha House. After four flights, which took thirty-six hours, Santusa arrived home and was greeted at the airport by her granddaughter and husband. As she has said, 'This is was an experience of a lifetime!' We send our greetings and best wishes to Santusa and the Methodist women of Bolivia.

Ruth



Santusa at Epworth and Mow Cop



Methodist Women
in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

‘Engaging with Refugees - Building Churches of Sanctuary: Creative ways for your Church and Congregation to link in’

Join Rev Inderjit Bhogal for a Webinar hosted by Methodist Women in Britain
on Wednesday 13th September, 7.00 – 8.30pm on Zoom

The evening will include:

A presentation on the theme by Inderjit

Breakout rooms to discuss the question:

Can my church be a church of sanctuary?

Q&A session with Inderjit

Please register (by 12th September) for the Zoom link:

<https://forms.gle/DmGFgybxsACUX3WV6>



Now available to view on our YouTube channel

Mary Bosanquet Lecture—Canon Dr Paula Gooder—Reading between the Lines—finding women in the stories in the bible even when it looks like they are not there

Bpdiies of Faith Webinar—In Sickness & In Health - Dr Laura Hipple & Rev Charity Hamilton —in conversation with Barbara Easton about faith in sickness and in health

Both of these are good resources for opening up conversation in your local groups



World Federation Day—Encounters at the Well

Saturday 14th October 2023 10am to 3pm

At Trinity Methodist Church,

Wagg Street, Congleton CW12 4BA



The well is the at the heart of Biblical communities. It's not just a place for the Water of Life but a place of meeting, of challenge, of healing and reassurance. In our 2023 World Federation Day we will think about community - with the well at our heart we will think about the critical importance of the life-giving water, but we will also consider how we meet with others in a spirit of challenge, healing and reassurance. There will be worship, prayer and Bible study, stimulating presentation and creative expression.

Come to the well and be nourished! Refreshments, including lunch, provided.

Fee: this day is offered free of charge but please come ready to make a donation for lunch and, separately, for the work of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Bookings via Eventbrite – to help us make sure we have enough lunch!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/encounters-at-the-well-world-federation-day-methodist-women-october-23-tickets-707082160777?aff=oddtcreator>



Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women In Britain Residential Conference April 19th –21st 2024

held at the Swanwick Conference Centre in Derbyshire

What's in a word?

Keynote Speakers: Rev Jenny Pathmarajah and Becca Byass

Worship & Workshops, Fellowship & Fun

Cost £185

Bursaries & Zoom options available

Save the date! Booking opens on our website 15th January 2024

New Exhibition now open at Epworth Old Rectory

Epworth Old Rectory is proud to present a brand new exhibition 'Methodist Women in Britain'. The exhibition explores the history of Methodist Women in Britain and showcases objects from the Methodist Women's Collection (MWC) that tell fascinating stories about famous and everyday Methodist women from the past and present. The display also highlights the significance of MWC as a unique feminist collection – a collection collected by women for women. Fascinating objects and the stories they tell include:

- The supposed hair of Sarah Crosby, the first Methodist female preacher, contemporary to John Wesley.
- The portrait of Mrs Caroline Wiseman who was hugely influential in Women's Work.
- A Bible class ticket book belonging to an ordinary Methodist woman called Lucy Ethel Morgans and a note book she kept when leading a Bible class of men.
- Beautiful Batik cloth made by women of Sierra Leone

Hand-knitted jumpers owned by Methodist women who contributed towards their community and charity abroad.

By displaying objects that relate to Methodist women and their personal histories, we hope to connect with and engage Methodist women and women of other religions or no religion at all with the exhibition and stories told.

While the exhibition will be permanent, objects will be changed every year to continue to showcase unseen objects and untold stories. If you would like to donate an object, or simply tell a story, that relates to Methodist women's history please contact Anya (Visits and Collections Manager) on vcm@epwortholdrectory.org.uk or telephone: 01427 872268.



SAVE THE DATE—GARDEN PARTY AT EPWORTH OLD RECTORY

Saturday 18th May 2024

2pm —5pm

Look out for more details in our next newsletter & on our website

MWiB Creativity Day

On Saturday 15th July Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) treated us to an excellent day of fun, fellowship and creativity at Barn Hill Methodist Church, Stamford. It was good to meet with people from other parts of the Methodist family, some travelling many miles to be here, and to learn a little of how their local churches are faring.

With the choice of a guided walk to explore Stamford's history, and workshops in collage making, creative weaving, and creative writing, there was ample time to learn something new, share stories and appreciate the breadth of Methodist culture.

The role of MWiB in addressing the empowerment of women here and across the globe is inspirational in its scope and effectiveness. Any Methodist woman (and man) is welcome at its events and to be involved at every level. Even if there is no local group nearby there is always the possibility of joining in an occasional event and supporting such a worthwhile cause.

Audrey Hensman (Stamford)



Radiate webinar—Do you have an interest in global relationships and global mission?

Join for us for a time of storytelling where we will hear from Mission Partners and about the most recent work of the World Mission Fund at the Radiate webinar.

Wednesday 27 September, 2023 at either 1-1.40pm or 7-7.40pm via a Zoom webinar.

[Book your place now](#) .

For more information please visit The Methodist Church website: [Global Relationships \(methodist.org.uk\)](https://www.methodist.org.uk)

Look out in our next newsletter for news of the 2024 Easter Offering Service currently being prepared by Methodist Women in Britain—all money raised through Easter Offering supports the work of the Methodist World Mission Fund.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT—AND ACT UPON

We will shortly be advertising for a new Co-Chair.

If you know anyone who you think would be suitable, please could you have a quiet word with them and ask them to think about it.

Personal contact is so much better than just an advert but together they make an impact.

Composed at Lincolnshire District MWiB Day 12 June 2023, Gosberton Clough,
by Rev Val Ogden & the ladies present, this song was based
on the Methodist Women in Britain strapline: For Women, For Justice, For Christ.
Tune: I'd like to teach the world to sing (by The New Seekers)

Our verse focusing on WOMEN

We long to see all women free to speak their minds and learn;
To walk in paths of dignity, for this we pray and yearn.

CHORUS: Hear the song we sing. Hear the voices we raise.

For women, justice and for Christ. We'll sing it all our days!

Our verse focusing on JUSTICE

We long to see a fairer world for all humanity;
Where people feel their voices heard with perfect empathy.

CHORUS: Hear the song we sing. Hear the voices we raise.

For women, justice and for Christ. We'll sing it all our days!

Our verse focusing on CHRIST

We long to see the kingdom come to stir up humble hearts;
To share the love of Jesus Christ which God to us imparts.

CHORUS: Hear the song we sing. Hear the voices we raise.

For women, justice and for Christ. We'll sing it all our days!

The ladies of Lincolnshire encourage you to use this song in your own meeting and perhaps write your own verses for each of the foci. And if you do write new verses please send them to Bronwen at communications.mwib@gmail.com for inclusion in our next newsletter.

Contact us:

MWiB Co-chair (North): Ruth Parrott - thepresident.mwib@gmail.com

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General enquiries: 0300 030 9873

or post to MWiB, c/o Stamford Methodist Church, 11 Barn Hill, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 2AE

Visit us: Website: www.mwib.org.uk

Follow us:



Registered Charity No: 1156626 Methodist Women in Britain

MWiB Area Trustees

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Next Trustee meeting: 6th-8th October 2023 Swanwick Please use communications.mwib@gmail.com

initially to make contact with your area trustee and let them know what's happening in your local MWiB group.