



Methodist Women
in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Annual Review
2019—2020



Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

The front cover image shows a section of a woven panel made by the MWiB Executive at their retreat in November 2019.

Methodist Women in Britain is a self-financing volunteer-run charity within the Methodist Church in Britain.

Its aims are three-fold:

- to bring women together, encouraging one another to know Christ and to make him known, as Methodist women and as part of the wider Church in the world;
- to encourage, resource and train women members of the Methodist Church, equipping them to participate more fully in the wider church and in society;
- to connect women in Britain with women overseas, working in partnership with others to raise awareness of and act upon issues of social justice around the world.

It does this by:

- providing fellowship and training events, including residential conferences and one day events;
- producing resources and publications, both printed and online, for worship and spiritual growth, and for advocating and providing information on issues of social concern;
- highlighting areas of need and raising funds or providing other goods to support partners and agencies working to alleviate poverty and injustice.

The MWiB Forum acts as the Trustees of the charity, comprising one elected representative from each District within the Methodist Church in Britain, the MWiB Executive team, the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar, and the Methodist representative of the World Day of Prayer Committee (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). The Forum meets twice yearly (February and September), and is the main decision-making body of MWiB.

Outside of Forum meetings, the work of MWiB is taken forward by the Executive team, comprising the President, Vice-President, Finance Officer, World Federation Officer, and Communications Officer.

The work, activities, events and campaigns undertaken by MWiB are largely based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and everything we do falls under one or more of four main areas of focus:

~ **Creative Spirituality** ~
~ **World Church Focus** ~
~ **Global Social Justice** ~
~ **Resourcing and Enabling** ~

This Annual Review gives a taste of our activities for the year 2019–2020. For more information about MWiB and news of our current activities, visit our website: www.mwib.org.uk

Forum Members (Trustees)

at September 2020



Above: MWiB Forum, meeting online in October 2020: a different way of working during the coronavirus pandemic.

Beds, Essex & Herts	Linda King
Birmingham	Diana Bosman
Bolton & Rochdale	Philippa Hill
Bristol	Margaret Johnston
Channel Islands	Pam Gidney
Chester & Stoke	Chris Thompson
Cornwall	Adrienne Simpson
Cumbria	Judith James
Darlington	Debs Coggrave
East Anglia	Mary Sachikonye
Isle of Man	Sue Collier
Lancashire	Wendy Bridgman
Lincolnshire	Bronwen Braidell
Liverpool	Elaine Phillips

London	Eve de Graft
Manchester & Stockport	Jo Richards
Newcastle upon Tyne	Judith Oldroyd
Northampton	Mary Gill
Nottingham & Derby	Sue Nickson
Plymouth & Exeter	Elaine Banks
Scotland	Barbara Harrison
Sheffield	Ann Baldock
Shetland	Sylvia White
South East	Credwyn Tolhurst
Southampton	Liz Chick
Synod Cymru	Gwenda Humphries
Wales Synod	Susan Murrell
Yorkshire West	Janet Thompson
Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury	Pauline Beattie
Yorkshire North & East	Janice Clark
President	Hilary Evans
Vice President	Ruth Parrott
Finance Officer	Nina Rawlins
Communications Officer	Judith Simms
WFM&UWC Officer	Carolyn Lawrence
Helen Kim Memorial Scholar	Rachel Allison
World Day of Prayer	Charity Madenyika

Creative Spirituality

Grounded in prayer and worship, MWiB acknowledges and values the diverse and creative ways of expressing the Christian faith that lie at the heart of our movement as we seek 'to know Christ and make him known'.

Focus on... Prayer

- ▣ **Prayer for the Week**
a weekly resource for prayer, meditation and reflection, featuring a bible reading, a short reflection, an image, and a prayer.
- ▣ **A Call to Pray**
a monthly resource highlighting prayer concerns from around the world, written by World Federation President Alison Judd.
- ▣ **Prayer Diary**
a quarterly opportunity to pray for MWiB, Methodist Women in Ireland, the World Federation, and related events and issues.

All MWiB prayer & worship resources can be found on the MWiB website.

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A Prayer Walk for All

With this year's planned pilgrimage to Scotland postponed to May 2021, MWiB President Hilary Evans provided an alternative in the form of a 'prayer walk' which can be done by anyone, walking or sitting, outside, or in the home—ideal for those in lockdown or shielding, or anyone simply looking for worship activities.

Each stage of the journey gives an opportunity to pause and consider where you are (both physically and metaphorically) and how you feel, and time to consider the world around you, using all of your senses. This is followed with suggestions for prayer and meditation, ending with a closing prayer of dedication.



In 2020 MWiB partnered with **twelvebaskets** to provide funding for the ongoing production of 'The Vine at Home', a weekly short act of worship based on the lectionary. Designed for use in people's homes while our church activities are restricted, the resource is free to duplicate and distribute, and can be downloaded from the MWiB website.



World Day of Prayer

In October 2019, Revd Charity Madenyika took on the role of Methodist Representative to the WDP Committee for England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and now represents WDP on the MWiB Forum.



The 2020 World Day of Prayer Service took place on Friday 6th March. Through their theme 'Take up your mat and walk' the women of Zimbabwe encouraged us all to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that have plagued their country over many years, and shared the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

Friday 5th March 2021—'Build on a strong foundation' (Vanuatu).

Easter Offering

Written by Methodist Women in Britain as a gift to the whole church, the annual Easter Offering Service is an opportunity for churches, circuits and districts to celebrate God's mission activity. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering money—usually in excess of £350,000—all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, supporting and working with 65 Partner Churches around the world.

EASTER OFFERING 2020 Into all the world

2020 marks both the 400th anniversary of the voyage of the Mayflower and 260 years of Methodist Overseas Mission, which started in Antigua.

The Easter Offering service *Into all the world* was written primarily by Carolyn Lawrence (World Federation Area Vice President, and Vice President Designate of the Methodist Conference), whose ancestors were among those who sailed on the Mayflower.

Featuring stories of people who have made a journey, some in obedience to God's call on their lives, and others because they had no choice, the worship encourages us to reflect and learn from those who travel, and to consider our own journeys, both physical and spiritual.

Downloadable materials dated 2021 will be available in the new year; however, if you already have printed materials with the 2020 date, we encourage you to use them rather than wasting the paper.

Due to the Covid-19 emergency, the 2020 Easter Offering service was cancelled, and the theme and material held over to 2021.

Worship in a time of Covid

In lieu of the usual Easter Offering service, MWiB worked with the Global Relationships team to produce a simple and reflective 'Covid-19 Special' act of worship highlighting new and increased needs around the world.

The service raises awareness of how Covid-19 has affected some of our World Church partners, urges us to pray, shows how the Global Relationships team has responded with grants totalling more than £500,000 from the World Mission Fund, and encourages us to give to this fund, which won't this year receive the usual generous donations from the Easter Offering.

Living in Tune with our Planet

Linking in with our World Federation Day theme 'Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources' (based on SDG 12) and the Methodist Prayer Handbook theme *The Earth is the Lord's*, we also produced a worship resource focusing on issues of climate change and good stewardship of God's creation. The service includes hymns and prayers, a short reflection, and stories of real people and communities living with and working to

curtail the effects of climate change in Brazil, Africa, Ethiopia, Fiji and the UK.

Originally written for the 2021 Easter Offering, the material was graciously withdrawn by its writer, outgoing MWiB Vice President Sandra Goodwin, and generously offered instead as an extra resource for MWiB.



The order of service is available to download from the MWiB website, and can be used for individual or group worship and reflection.

World Church Focus

There is no Brexit in the Methodist Connexion!

At the beginning of October 2019 MWiB hosted a week-long visit of three women from the United Methodist Church in Germany: Claudia from Erzgebirge, Kerstin from Nuremberg, and Cornelia from Karlsruhe. After three days in London—sightseeing, visiting Methodist Church House and Methodist Central Hall, meeting the MWiB Executive and attending even-song in Westminster Abbey—the group spent four days in the Plymouth and Exeter District. They enjoyed the Halberton Churches Together harvest barn dance and met people from the local community, spoke at the Methodists for World Mission South West Conference at Brunel Manor, and had dinner with Alison and Revd Graham Thompson in Exeter *[picture right]*. On Sunday they joined Anne Browse in leading morning worship at Elburton Methodist Church near Plymouth and were treated to a traditional Sunday roast after the service. On the way back they visited Buckfast Abbey, where they were warmly welcomed by the Methodist congregation.

The visit came after five years of building relationships between MWiB and Frauenwerk, our sister movement in Germany, and we hope that these links will continue into the future, initially by inviting two of the German women to attend the annual MWiB Residential Weekend at Swanwick in 2021.



Kerstin, Claudia and Cornelia enjoying the beach at Teignmouth

Established in 1858, the first women's movement in the Methodist Church aimed 'to train, equip and finance the sending of women missionaries overseas'.

This aim remains central to MWiB, supporting Mission Partners with prayer and practical support, working with Global Relationships to share news and identify projects for fundraising, gifts and grants, and visiting partner churches overseas on behalf of the Church.

Visit to Ghana

In January 2020, Communications Officer Jude Simms and Forum Rep Wendy Bridgeman (Lancashire) represented MWiB on a visit to the Methodist Church in Ghana—an opportunity to visit projects and congregations both in Accra and in more remote areas, to learn about African culture and history, and to experience African life and worship.

As a result of the visit, we hope to offer an Empowerment Gift to a women's project in a newly formed diocese, and we are exploring the possibility of setting up a sponsorship programme with the Kwadaso Skills Training Centre to enable young women and girls to attend school and learn vocational skills.





Signs of Kingdom Growth

This year's MWiB Fringe Event at the Methodist Conference was planned and hosted in partnership with the Global Relationships Team. The event was to be a 'round table' conversation, responding to the question

"What does Kingdom Growth look like where you are?"

and giving opportunity to:

- ~ **Engage** in discussion with Mission Partners, overseas guests, and leaders from around Britain and the World.
- ~ **Listen** – to stories and learn how and where growth is taking place in the world church.
- ~ **Share** – stories of how MWiB is supporting the growth of God's work where we are.

As Conference met online, so the Fringe Event moved to an online event, with a selection of the gathered stories published each day on the MWiB and Methodist Church websites.

These stories are still available to download on the MWiB website.



World Federation Day 2021
Saturday 23rd October
Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources
(based on SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production)

Central Methodist Church,
Chippenham, Wiltshire
Further information and
booking details to come



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

As a global fellowship of Methodist, United and Uniting Church women, the purpose of the WFM&UCW is "to know Christ and to make him known". It does this by supporting and promoting the interests of women in all areas of life, and encouraging Women in leadership.

Its logo is the Tree of Life—the name also given to its quarterly magazine.

MWiB is the British Unit of the WFM&UCW, and part of the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area.

Focus on... Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship

Rachel Allison (British Unit HKMS) writes:

This year has been an unusual one for all of us, and many of my plans for the year have been put on hold. In February I was all set to go to the 64th UN Convention on the Status of Women in New York, but due to Covid-19 the convention was cancelled.

Since then nearly everything else has been postponed, cancelled, or gone online, including the WFMUCW World Assembly, which will now take place in 2022, and so I will serve an extra year as HKMS. I am very excited to be planning the Helen Kim Memorial Scholar programme for the World Assembly, as well helping with the 2021 virtual conference.

~ In 2019 Rachel contributed information and resources on the issue of FGM to the WFMUCW Study Day material on SDG 5: Gender Equality.

~ We will soon be seeking applications for the next HKMS (2022–2026)—look out for more information in mailings and on our website and social media.

~ While the 2021 World Assembly has been postponed, Alison Judd is working with Rachel and others to produce an alternative assembly, with online webinar sessions and activities. Information will be available in due course.



Global Social Justice

One of the main aims of MWiB is to engage with issues of social justice both in the UK and around the world.

Working in partnership with the Methodist Church and others, MWiB has raised awareness of and engaged the wider church with issues including Dementia Friendly Churches, hearing and visual impairment, Dalit Solidarity, and, most recently, migrancy, refugees and human trafficking.

Comedor Juan 6:35 *

In 2019, MWiB President Hilary Evans visited Mexico and witnessed first-hand the plight of migrants trapped at the Mexico-US border, and the way the church is working to provide practical support, security and shelter for many of the most vulnerable.

During Hilary's visit, the church in Tijuana opened the *Comedor Juan 6:35*, a café providing not only food and drinks, but also a safe and social meeting space.

In February 2020 the MWiB Forum agreed to underwrite a grant of £6,000 for the café, to support their feeding programme and education classes, and an appeal was launched for MWiB groups to raise funds to back-fill the money paid out. At the end of September 2020, £5,592 had been raised, and Forum was considering whether to make a further grant.

* John 6: 35—"Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread that gives life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Historic Concordat Continues

In 2019, Harriet Olson (United Methodist Women, USA) met with MWiB President Hilary Evans and Finance Officer Nina Rawlins, WFMUCW President Alison Judd, and Rachel Lampard (Joint Public Issues Team).

Harriet was in London to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the historic Concordat agreement between the British and American Methodist Churches.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the areas of work we share, and ways in which we might work together, and led to a commitment within the Concordat agreement for shared action, for hearing the voices of young people, and for worshipping together as we move into the future.

*Left: migrants arriving at the border
Centre: building work well underway
Right: the opening ceremony*





MWiB continues to engage with the United Nations through the World Federation, whose status as consultative members of ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) includes representation on the Commission on the Status of Women.

In line with the work of the World Federation, MWiB takes the UN Sustainable Development Goals as the focus for its own work, raising awareness and encouraging action.

The 2019 World Federation Day event took as its theme 'Water of Life, Water for Life', with keynote sessions, Bible study, worship, and workshops based on SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation. The 2020 event, entitled 'Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources', will focus on SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production.

Focus on... the future

In the next year, our plans include:

- ~ Engaging with the 26th Annual UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), meeting in Glasgow in November 2021.
- ~ Working in partnership with the National Council of Women to lobby parliament on action against the trafficking of women and girls.
- ~ Securing a grant from World Day of Prayer and working with Touchstone to launch a multi-faith-based project focusing on environmental issues and climate change.



MWiB supports the World Council of Churches' 'Thursdays in Black' campaign, and stands in solidarity against all forms of gender-based violence including domestic abuse, rape and female genital mutilation.

As part of this commitment, we are encouraging contributions to the WCC's 'Waterfall of Solidarity and Resistance'. The quilted tapestry is intended to reflect a waterfall, made up of individual squares with messages of solidarity and resistance from around the world.



Panels made by women in the Isle of Man District for the WCC's Waterfall of Solidarity and Resistance exhibit

The waterfall will be displayed at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva and at major events including the WCC World Assembly in 2021.

For more information about how you can get involved, go to:
www.oikoumene.org

Partnership working

Whenever possible, MWiB works in partnership with organisations whose activities fit with our own aims and purposes. Partnership working involves:

- ~ sharing of information and resources
- ~ identifying and engaging with Issues
- ~ working together to resource and enable people and projects

In 2018–2019, MWiB continued to work in partnership with:

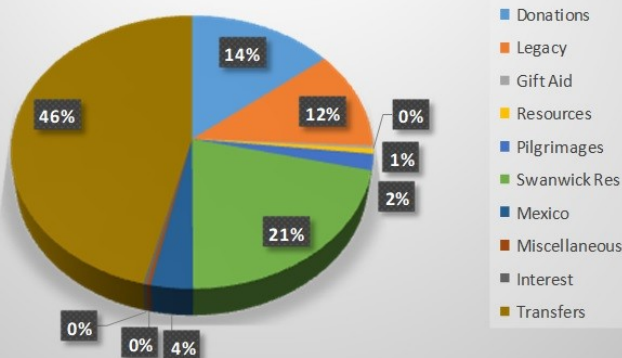


Resourcing and Enabling

MWiB is self-financed, primarily through donations, which enables us to fund the running of the movement, to underwrite our activities, events and resources, and to offer various gifts, grants and bursaries.

Occasionally MWiB receives generous legacies, and these often enable us to undertake a specific piece of work, where possible linked to the interests of the benefactor.

Receipts to
31st August 2020



Bursaries

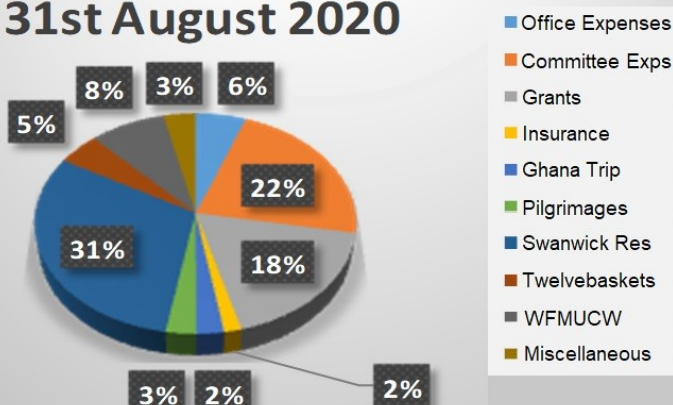
As part of its commitment to training women for mission and leadership roles, MWiB is working in partnership with Cliff College, offering bursaries to enable women to access a variety of training opportunities.

In 2019/20, a total of £2,300 was given in bursaries:

- ✦ to two young women undertaking the Cliff College Gap Year programme: £1,000
- ✦ to enable seven women to attend retreats and courses at Cliff College: £1,300



Payments to
31st August 2020



Hearing Impairment Grant

The hearing impairment legacy fund provided a grant of £5,000 for the Nusirat Women's Programme, working with women and girls with hearing impairment in refugee camps in Gaza, Palestine.

Picture: a group of girls learning embroidery skills at Nusirat

A free MWiB resource for supporting people in our churches with hearing impairment is available to download from our website.



Gifts and Grants

Empowerment Gifts:

Every year MWiB donates £10,000 to projects working to empower women and girls overseas. In 2019/20, ten applications met our criteria, and the following Empowerment Gifts were awarded:

✦ Quick Impact Women's Project, Liberia *	£1,500
✦ The Shalom Project, Sri Lanka	£1,500
✦ Hairdressing project, Uganda	£500
✦ Africa Greater Life Mission, Uganda	£500
✦ Empowering Widows & Guardians of Orphans, Zimbabwe	£1,500
✦ Deaconess training programme, Nigeria	£500
✦ Extra Mile, Sierra Leone	£1,000
✦ Chodort Training Centre, Zambia	£1,000
✦ House of Emergency Love and Peace, Japan	£1,500
✦ Jameli Clinic, The Gambia	£500

* Focus on... Quick Impact Project, Liberia

Muriel Nelson, President of United Methodist Women, Liberia, writes: "In 2018 UMW Liberia realized that women needed training in livelihood skills to support and sustain their family and become active and supportive members in their churches and communities. We applied and acquired a grant from MWiB to help 300 women. However, due to the pandemic we were able to train only 22 women from three pilot districts. They received training in Village Savings and Loan Associations, and in making household sanitation products like disinfectant and soap *[pictured right]*, re-usable sanitary pads, and body and hair care products. They also learned to make rice cereal and ginger candy.

The aim is to assist women to set up small businesses, helping women to understand how to manage and sustain a small business, enabling them to support their families and rise above the dependency on men for their survival. The initiative also created an environment for women to come together to learn, study the bible, share love and fellowship, and build a network of support in their churches and communities. We hope to provide more training for women around the country, and express gratitude to MWiB for providing these opportunities."



Social and Community Action Grants:

MWiB provides funding for local projects around the Connexion, aimed at fostering interest and involvement in social and community action, and encouraging new projects that fill a local community need.

Total awarded 2019/20: £4,150

Enabling Grants:

One Enabling Grant was awarded:

- ✦ 1st Ryton Girls Brigade £500

Discretionary Grants:

Three Discretionary Grants were awarded in 2019/20:

- ✦ To enable a young woman to undertake Soul Edge leadership training £200
- ✦ To enable a young woman to attend Y-Pray (WDP Prayer Conference) £60
- ✦ Chalton School, Zimbabwe £500

All Gift and Grant criteria and application forms can be found on our website: www.mwib.org.uk

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, local church, circuit and district MWiB events have not taken place as usual, meaning a drop in our income from donations.

If you would like to make a donation to MWiB you can do so by cheque, or via the DONATE button on our website.

Residential Weekend

Residential Weekend 2020 Travelling in hope

with keynote speakers
Jill Baker and Fiona Kendall
was cancelled, and
will now take place in 2022



Residential Weekend 2021

The Hayes, Swanwick



Keynote: Sister
Imelda Poole,
President of
**the Mary Ward
Loreto**

Foundation,
an organisation working to
eradicate sexual and labour
exploitation, slavery, and
organ harvesting.

We hope Sister Imelda will be able
to join us, to speak about her work,
training young people in Albania
to avoid trafficking and exploitation.

*Further information and booking
details available January 2021.*

Celebrating 10 Years of MWiB

 **Methodist Women
in Britain** 2011-2021

On 1st July 2021 MWiB will be ten years old, and we're looking forward to celebrating with you across the connexion. We're planning a number of activities and events to take place throughout the year—coronavirus permitting! Ideas so far include:

- ~ connexional coffee morning
- ~ exhibition at Epworth, plus accompanying book
- ~ presentation and events at Methodist Conference
- ~ celebration garden party
- ~ creativity day
- ~ connexional pilgrimage... and more!

If you have any suggestions for ways to celebrate, why not let us know—and we look forward to hearing how you're celebrating where you are.

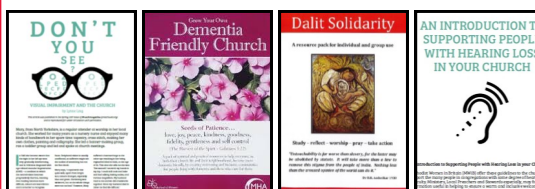
Look out for further information in mailings, on the website,
and on social media—and join the celebration!

Merchandise and Resources

A wide range of MWiB merchandise is available, including notebooks and pens, bags, badges, note cards, and reusable bamboo cups.



MWiB engages with issues of social justice, and often produces resource packs of information, stories, facts and figures, and worship resources relating to the issue. Most recently we have produced resources relating to Dalit Solidarity, Visual and Hearing Impairment (all downloadable from our website) and Dementia Friendly Churches (currently being updated).



You can order MWiB resources and merchandise by email at:
resources@mwib.org.uk or
by post from: 'MWiB Resources
Officer' at the address overleaf.

Events Diary: 2020—2021

** All event details subject to change depending on coronavirus regulations and restrictions*

2020

Wed 9th September	MWiB Executive meets (<i>via Zoom</i>)
Friday 2nd October	Welcome session for new Forum reps (<i>via Zoom</i>)
Saturday 3rd October	MWiB Forum meets (<i>via Zoom</i>)
Saturday 24th October	World Federation Day— <i>event postponed to October 2021</i>
Tue 3rd—Thu 5th Nov	MWiB Executive Retreat— <i>postponed to April 2021</i>
Wed 18th November	MWiB Executive meets (<i>via Zoom</i>)

2021

Wednesday 13th January	MWiB Executive meets— <i>venue/format tbc</i>
Fri 19th—Sun 21st Feb	MWiB Forum meets at The Hayes, Swanwick
Friday 5th March	World Day of Prayer
Wednesday 17th March	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Fri 16th—Sun 18th April	Residential Weekend with keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
Saturday 15th May	Creativity Day, Sheffield
Wednesday 9th June	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Friday 25th June	Methodist Conference Fringe event Metropole Hotel, Birmingham
Wednesday 8th September	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Fri 17th—Sun 19th Sept	MWiB Forum meets at The Hayes, Swanwick
Saturday 23rd October	<i>Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources—</i> World Federation Day at Central Methodist Church, Chippenham



*World Church Links: Germany—
Palestine—Ghana—Mexico*



Methodist Women in Britain

www.mwib.org.uk



Methodist Women in Britain



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