



Methodist Women  
in Britain

# Annual Review

Spring 2018



Cover photo by Ryosuke Yamaguchi  
on [www.unsplash.com](https://www.unsplash.com)



## Welcome to the Annual Review of MWiB activities for the year 2016-2017

### Methodist Women in Britain is a charity within the Methodist Church of Great 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.



# Forum Members (Trustees)

## at September 2017



*MWiB Forum meeting at The Hayes, Swanwick, September 2017*

Beds, Essex & Herts	Jenny Broadbridge
Birmingham	Diana Bosman
Bolton & Rochdale	Anne Cash
Bristol	Carolyn Buley
Channel Islands	Pam Gidney
Chester & Stoke	Chris Thompson
Cornwall	Adrienne Simpson
Cumbria	Margaret Newrick
Darlington	Win Aston
East Anglia	Ruth Arnold
Isle of Man	Lesley Bridson
Lancashire	Wendy Bridgman
Lincolnshire	Rita Rowe
Liverpool	Janet Walton

London	Patsy Constantine
Manchester & Stockport	Angela Doyle
Newcastle upon Tyne	Judy Tasker
Northampton	Nina Rawlins
Nottingham & Derby	Sue Palmer
Plymouth & Exeter	Deborah Kirk
Scotland	Barbara Harrison
Sheffield	Ann Taylor
Shetland	Sylvia White
South East	Credwyn Tolhurst
Southampton	Hilary Evans
Synod Cymru	Margaret Morgan
Wales Synod	Ronnie Dean
Yorkshire West	Glenys Vere
Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury	Joan Wickett
Yorkshire North & East	Elaine Turner
President	Sandra Goodwin
Vice President	Anne Browse
Finance Officer	Gillian Womersley
Communications Officer	Judith Simms
WFM&UWC Officer	Carolyn Lawrence
Helen Kim Memorial Scholar	Rachel Allison
Women's World Day of Prayer	Irene Hayes

# Willkommen! Bienvenue! Welcome!

Swanwick Residential, March 2017

MWiB holds an annual residential weekend at The Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, with around 250 women meeting together for worship, fellowship, Bible study, and much more.



Keynote speaker Rosemarie Wenner, recently retired Bishop of the German United Methodist Church, spoke about the migrant and refugee situation in Germany. She shared stories of how the churches there have responded to the challenges—and been changed themselves—as a result.

Rosemarie was accompanied by two women from Frauenwerk, the German equivalent of Methodist Women in Britain.



Participants explored the theme through Bible Study, discussions and worship. There was a wide variety of workshops on many themes, including:

- Spirituality and Psychosis
- How *Action for Children Works*
- Exploring Silence
- A journey with Ruth
- FGM: faith, facts and figures
- Touchstone Rugs
- “Welcoming People”?
- Tax Justice



The market place proved as popular as ever, with stall-holders selling a variety of goods and helping local groups raise money for projects at home and abroad.

There was plenty of opportunity for socialising, late night drinks in the bar, and the ever popular circle dancing, and each evening there was a chance for the younger women to meet together.

On Saturday evening there were MWiB updates and stories from the President's trips to Germany and Greece, and Claire Welch shared songs she had written about her work with *All We Can* (Methodist Relief and Development), particularly her own moving experiences of meeting Syrian refugees.

# World Church Partnerships

## Bolivian Hospitality

In April 2017, MWiB Vice President Sandra Goodwin and Forum Rep Chris Thompson visited Bolivia. Based in La Paz, they received a warm Bolivian welcome from the leaders of FEFEME (the Bolivian equivalent of MWiB) and Bishop Modesto Mamani, head of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia (IEMB).

With FEFEME leaders Augustina, Isabella and Nieve, they visited several women's groups. Many of the women arrived on foot carrying children and bringing food to share. During worship, Chris shared a Bible study based on the book of Ruth, and Sandra spoke about 'Leadership, Susanna Wesley Style'—a theme requested by the women themselves.

In La Paz they participated in the National FEFEME conference, during which Sandra found herself elected to the panel of judges for a 'Strictly Come Dancing—Bolivian Style' competition!

New equality laws in Bolivia are encouraging women to 'find their voice', and the women described how two centres for women established in the Altiplano region enable them meet together in safety to teach, learn, join in fellowship and, if necessary, find safe refuge and overnight lodging. FEFEME hope to open a third centre, 'Tabita House', in El Alto, but until they secure further funding, the building remains without a roof!

Sandra and Chris visited districts in the Altiplano region, a vast agricultural plain in the Andes, populated by mostly indigenous Aymaran or Qechuan people, farmers who rely on crops, sheep or cattle for their daily survival. Climate change has resulted in the longest drought in living memory, severely affecting this year's crops, but undaunted many came, again walking long distances, bringing food to share for their Easter celebrations. They are desperately poor in a material sense, yet rich in fellowship and hospitality.



*Pictures—top: Aymaran women enjoy fellowship and craftwork at the Susanna Wesley Centre in the Altiplano Region  
centre: Sandra and Chris receive a warm welcome from the leaders of the IEMB and FEFEME  
bottom: Young mums enjoying 'time out' with their children in El Alto*



## Germany: Refugees and Reformation

Anne Browse and Pam Stenson visited Germany in January 2017 to follow up on Anne's previous visits to Germany (2014) and Greece (2015), to experience some of the Methodist Church in Germany's mission outreach to refugee families and asylum seekers. Living in basic accommodation provided by the authorities, many of the refugees have no status and are unable to do paid work, and it can take months to obtain the necessary permissions. They visited projects such as:

- The Kindertreff, Delbrücke—a church-run project providing the children of Syrian, Pakistani and Romanian refugees with homework help and a hot meal donated via the Berliner Tafel scheme.
- Lindenkirche, Berlin—a café for refugee families.
- Methodist Church café, Hamm—providing cookery courses for migrants and supervised employment for disabled workers.
- InselArche project, Wilhelmsburg—providing food and after-school activities for young people. 80% of the town's inhabitants are migrants, many living in a 'container' village.

Anne and Pam joined the Methodist women at Bethesdakirche in Leipzig, speaking about MWiB and their reasons for visiting Germany, and in Chemnitz they met Mission Partners Barry and Gillian Sloan and heard stories of how the local women are trying to meet the needs of incoming migrant families.

In Stuttgart they attended a seminar for leaders of migrant and international congregations in Europe, including a visit to Reutlingen to join celebrations and learn about the history of the town and the impact of 500 years since the Reformation.

In July Anne was also invited to represent the Methodist Church in Britain at the World Exhibition in Wittenberg, Germany, marking 500 years of Reformation.

*Pictures—top: Anne Browse, Regula Stotz and Pam Stenson  
middle: Pam with Mission Partner Gillian Sloan in Chemnitz  
bottom: giant Playmobil figure of Reformation leader Martin Luther*



## Methodist Women in Ireland Residential Weekend—September 2016

At the invitation of Methodist Women in Ireland, Anne Browse and Carolyn Lawrence travelled to the Glenada Conference Centre in Newcastle, on the east coast of Northern Ireland, to join the MWI Residential Weekend. They were warmly welcomed by the Irish women, and enjoyed a rich weekend of worship and fellowship.

As well as worship and Bible study, there was a range of workshops. Anne says:

"we were able to choose between découpage, the story of Susanna Wesley, and self-defence for women—so Carolyn is now better able to look after herself in a dark alley and I have decorated an attractive wooden heart plaque!"

Both returned feeling extremely spoiled and blessed to have been invited to share with our sisters in Ireland in this way.

We now include the names of MWI District Officers in our quarterly prayer diary, available to download from the MWiB website, and we are determined to continue to foster links and friendships with each other across the Irish Sea, as MWI and MWiB seek to know Christ and to make him known in our respective countries and in the world.



# World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women



The World Federation (WFM&UCW) is a global fellowship of officially recognised groups of Methodist, United and Uniting Church Women, whose purpose is "to know Christ and to make him known". The aim of the organisation is to support and promote the interests of women in all areas of life and to encourage leadership amongst women in the church. Its logo is the Tree of Life—the name also given to its quarterly magazine. MWiB is the British Unit of the World Federation, and we are part of the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area.



As Vice President of the Britain and Ireland Area of the World Federation, Carolyn Lawrence [pictured left] has spoken at MWiB events around the country, leading women in worship, Bible study and conversation about what it means to be 'chosen' and 'called', and how we can use our gifts and talents to share the love of Jesus not only in our own situations, but also in the wider world.

As a member of the World Methodist Council, Carolyn serves on the Family Life Committee, and is part of the Global Relationships Sub Committee, which pulls the world connections together and gives an overview of what the Methodist Church is doing around the world.



This year's Methodists for World Mission conference was on the theme of *Moving People, Moving Stories*, focusing on migration, refugees and asylum seekers. Carolyn attended and led a workshop on Biblical Hospitality.

The quarterly prayer diary enables people to prayerfully support people, campaigns and events across the country and around the world, including District Forum Reps, District Officers of Methodist Women in Ireland, and our female Mission Partners around the world, enabling mutual prayer support and encouragement.

Carolyn meets twice a year with District and World Church Reps as a member of the *One Mission Forum*, to share stories and encouragement from around the country and to seek ways of incorporating all our mission activities under one umbrella.



Rachel Allison, our Helen Kim Scholar [pictured left], continues to work to raise awareness of gender equality issues, FGM, and gender-based violence, particularly among the youth and young adult age groups.

Rachel and Carolyn work closely on the World Federation Day and Easter Offering planning groups, and in February 2018 they will travel to South Africa together to visit Mission Partner Jane Day.



# A Taste of Texas

## World Federation Day 2016

80 people gathered on Saturday 29th October at Rowbarton Methodist Church, Taunton, to experience a flavour of the 13th World Assembly, which took place in Houston, Texas in August.

Worship and Bible study were based on I Peter 2:4–5, the text which provided the Assembly theme 'Chosen People, Called to Proclaim'.

A Texas-style lunch of burgers and delicious American desserts was served, and in the afternoon participants could choose to attend 'taster' workshops on music, Stop Hunger Now, making Celtic prayer flags, and Biblical hospitality.

Before leading our closing worship, World President Alison Judd outlined the World Federation's action plan for the next five years as we look at the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and how we might bring these about by prayer and practical action.



Above:  
80 people attended  
the day in Taunton



Right:  
Alison Judd,,  
WFM&UCW  
World President

## World Federation Day 2018



**Sustainable  
Development  
Goal 4: Quality  
Education**

Saturday 27th October 2018

10.00am–4.00pm

Venues to be confirmed in the  
Cornwall and Lancashire Districts

## World Federation Joint European Seminar



**THROUGH WORSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS  
AND SOCIAL ACTION**

7th–11th June 2018  
Clayton Hotel, Belfast, N. Ireland

## 14th World Federation World Assembly

Gothia Towers Hotel,  
Gothenburg, Sweden



Autumn 2021:  
theme and dates to be confirmed

In August 2017, World President Alison Judd visited Zimbabwe to join in the celebrations of forty years of Autonomy, and to represent the Methodist Church in Britain at the Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ). There was opportunity to share in harvest worship, attend a meeting on gender justice, join in a 90th birthday party, visit the Matthew Rusike Children's Home, and meet women benefitting from skills training.

In Harare, 40,000 Methodists filled the National Sports Stadium for a four-day event to celebrate 40 years of autonomous mission by the MCZ, on the theme 'Warmed Hearts'. The celebrations included singing, dancing, worship, and preaching, as well as the recognition of forty years of women's ordination in the MCZ.

Alison addressed the Annual Conference of the MCZ, bringing greetings and paying tribute to the church's initiatives that empower women.

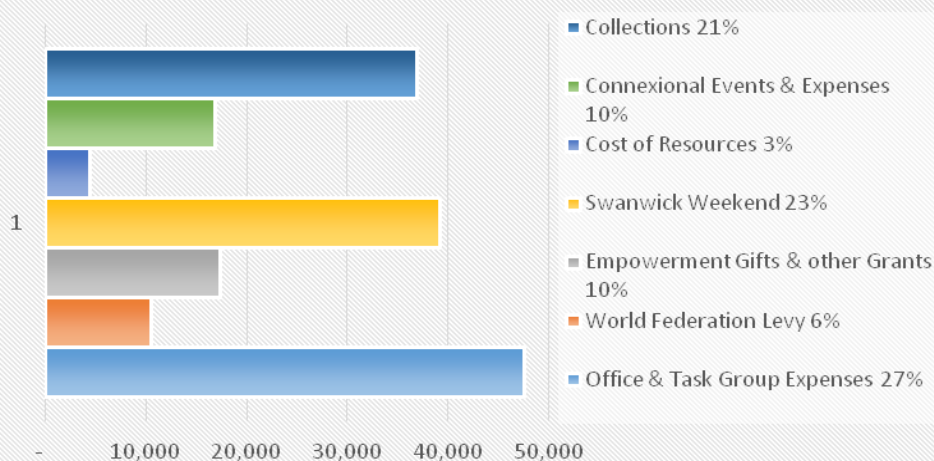


Alison with S.E. Africa Area  
President Mrs Sipwe Chisvo

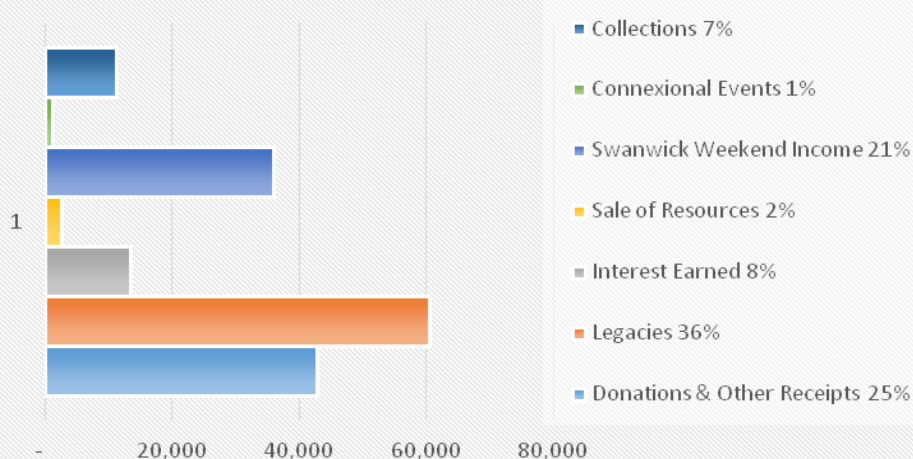
# Financial Summary

## 2016 - 2017

### Total Expenditure £172,573



### Total Income £167,516



## Easter Offering

Easter Offering is an annual act of worship prepared by MWiB on behalf of the Methodist Church's World Mission Fund. The service gives the whole of the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland the opportunity to give to the work of the World Mission Fund and our 65 Partner Churches overseas.

In a recent letter to MWiB, the Methodist Church's World Church Relationships Team Leader David Friswell wrote:

"I want to thank once again all of you who take part in the Easter Offering through prayer, worship and giving. Your support continues to build God's kingdom here on earth and brings dignity, encouragement, strength and resources to thousands of women each year."



The 2017 service  
**Shine  
like  
Stars**  
raised £355,000



2018 Easter Offering service:  
**Seek peace and pursue it**

Resources are available to order from Methodist Publishing or to download from the MWiB website.

# Grants and Gifts

## Social and Community Action Grants

MWiB uses the interest from its Welfare Fund to make grants to local projects around the UK, fostering an active interest and involvement in social and community action. Funding is available for projects which meet a local social or community need, particularly within marginalised groups, and for individuals or groups seeking funding for imaginative new areas of work.

In 2016-2017 grants were made to a wide variety of projects:

**Southampton:** a gazebo and two insulated pots for serving hot drinks to visitors to the crematorium and cemetery on Mothering Sunday, Father's Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

**Trebulet Methodist Church, Launceston:** serving and clearing trolley for their catering service.

**Loughborough Methodist Church:** wheelchair evacuators, enabling disability access.

**Camborne Wesley Methodist Church:** a telephone system to improve communication for their busy café and meals-on-wheels.

**Truro Methodist Church:** child-sized go-pak tables for toddler group, crèche, Sunday School, and uniformed groups.

**Trinity Methodist Church, East Durham:** new toys and equipment for their Parent and Child Play Scheme.

## Discretionary Grants (one-off small grants)

Elizabeth Leeming, a young nurse, towards the cost of travelling to work in a refugee camp in Greece; Stitch-in-Time Group in Arnside, Cumbria, to buy a new overlocker used to stitch reusable menstruation supplies in response to the 'Period Poverty' appeal; Twelveheads Church, Truro, providing toys for their Little Eden playgroup *[pictured]*; and Bethel Church's new Freedom Cafe.

We used money from a generous legacy for resources and projects in line with our

**Visual Impairment Awareness** work: Large print *Aloneness* small group resources (with Shoreline Conversations) and large print MWiB Heritage Timeline leaflets; and a grant to Formby Methodist Church to buy three Tablets to enable visually impaired worshippers to access worship materials.



## Empowerment Gifts

Each year MWiB donates £10,000 to projects working to empower women and girls overseas by providing staff and training costs, or buying equipment to facilitate their work. Nomination forms are available on the MWiB website, and projects are selected by the Forum at its Autumn meeting.

This year, the £10,000 was divided equally between three projects:

### Women's Ministry, Theological College of Zimbabwe:

the Gift enabled the training of women in lay leadership *[photo below]*.



**The Carpenter of Nazareth Centre, Buenos Aires, Argentina:** with their gift the Centre was able to buy office equipment to enable girls to develop their computer skills.

**The Jameli Clinic, The Gambia** bought and installed solar panels for their women's clinic.



# Leaving the Familiar

Saturday 20 May 2017



More than 40 women met in Liverpool for **Leaving the Familiar**, a Creativity Day, organised jointly by MWiB and Shoreline Conversations. The aim was to encourage participants to experience something outside of their usual routine, by:

- visiting the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral, celebrating its 50th anniversary year, and the Lutyens Crypt, described as 'one of the city's greatest architectural gems, a secret spiritual space'.
- exploring the city's industrial and economic past at Albert Dock, the Museum of Liverpool, and the International Slavery Museum.
- using photography as a means of exploring and capturing something of the spirit of the city and its people.
- Experiencing a different way of being church by baking bread and sharing conversation at Somewhere Else, the 'bread church'.

The bread they made was brought back to the Quaker Meeting House and shared at lunchtime.

The afternoon provided opportunity to reflect on our morning experience in a variety of ways: there were art and craft materials available, a creative writing workshop, and space to simply reflect alone or in conversation with others, while those who had been out taking photographs worked together to create a photo-collage of images *[pictured below]*.

The theme of 'Leaving the Familiar' was very real for those participating in the day, leaving the familiar, comfortable confines of a church building and stepping out—into an unfamiliar city, into different church architecture, into new ways of being church, into the very real stories of people past and present.

A resource with suggestions on holding a similar event in your own local setting is available to download from the MWiB website.



## 'Leaving the Familiar'

Walking the streets:  
Afraid of being closed in:

Fear

Where to turn?

Who to turn to?

Hunger.

Bread; From where?

A meal for free?

Bread from Somewhere;

Made, for me?

Where?

Dare I go;

Dare I enter?

Is it safe?

Welcome, warmth:

Voices: No questions asked!

Church!

Really?

Making bread together,

Sharing bread together.

Reflection, candles,

Peace.

No questions asked!

Safety, for a little while:

Kindness.

Non-judgemental.

Is this what God is all about?

'Somewhere Else'

Church.

*[By MWiB President Sandra Goodwin,  
inspired by her visit to 'Somewhere Else']*



**STEPPING OUT** was the theme of the second annual writing competition, inspired by the life, writing and work of Revd Julie Hulme.

134 entries were received, and the winners were announced at the MWiB Fringe event at the Methodist Conference in Birmingham.

The overall winner was Revd Margaret Doughty, a retired presbyter from the Lincolnshire District. The judges said of her winning entry, a meditation on circle dancing, that:

"It is imaginative, descriptive, evocative... It runs the whole gamut of emotions [and is] rooted in everyday reality and how to live with it."

The winning, runner up and highly commended entries can be read on the MWiB website. Copyright remains with the author; for permission to reproduce any part of any entry, please contact MWiB, who will put you in touch with the author.

### Revd Julie Hulme

Julie was a Methodist minister and a prolific writer. She was the last President of Women's Network in 2010-2011, becoming the first Vice-President of MWiB in 2011-2012. She died of cancer in 2014, leaving behind a rich legacy in the form of her writings, which can be accessed on the website: [www.imaginingabundance.co.uk](http://www.imaginingabundance.co.uk)

An excerpt from the 2017 winning entry:

### Reflections of a Circle Dancer

Step right step left, sway right sway left, step right step left, sway right sway left, and so we step to the rhythm of the music, holding hands in a circle of mutual support, each of us savouring the joy of moving together in unison, happy in the knowledge that every step we take is the right step because we have been told that there is "no wrong way... only variations".

© Margaret Doughty, 2017



The 2018 competition is now open, on the theme ***At the Heart...***

Competition rules and submission information are available on the MWiB website.

Closing date for entries: Wednesday 25th April 2018.

The winner and runner-up will be announced on the evening of Friday 29th June 2018 at a fringe event of the Methodist Conference to be held in Nottingham.

# Working Together

## Partnerships

MWiB has continued to work closely with a number of Methodist and ecumenical organisations—All We Can, Methodists for World Mission, Methodist Education, the Joint Public Issues Team, and Women's World Day of Prayer—and is represented on a wide variety of other organisations working in sympathy with our aims, including the National Council of Women and the Government Equalities Office.

## Heritage and Archives

Our exhibition—Transforming the World from the Kitchen?—opened again at Epworth Old Rectory in March 2017, telling the story of women and women's movements in the Methodist Church.

In April we launched the Heritage and Archives Resource Pack, including PowerPoint and discussion questions designed to inspire the sharing of our own stories.

Artefacts from the exhibition are available (by arrangement with the curator), for District and Circuit events, and we continue to exploring further plans with EOR, including a 'travelling exhibition'.

## Creative Worship

This year we have again worked with Shoreline Conversations, exploring and encouraging creative and inclusive worship and spirituality. The Creativity Day in Liverpool was jointly organised, and we continue to explore the production of small-group resources—*Journeying Spiritually with Children* and *Aloneness* are pictured below.

We have again produced varied resources to tie in with our events, partnerships and campaigns, and worked with the Methodist Church to produce creative resources for the Easter Offering.



## Visual Impairment Awareness

A generous legacy left to MWiB enabled a small group to meet to look at how we create spiritual resources and spaces that are inclusive for people with sight loss and visual impairment. The event was jointly planned by MWiB, Shoreline Conversations and Gaining Vision.

Members of the group shared their own experiences of visual impairment, whether personally or as friends, carers, spouses or partners, and we explored the issues through conversation, presentations, and spiritual reflection.



As a result of this initial work, an article entitled *Don't You See? Visual Impairment and the Church* appeared in the Spring 2017 issue of Preach magazine, with guidelines for making worship spaces, as well as worship itself, more accessible for people with sight loss and visual impairment. *Don't You See?* is also available as a printed document, and can be downloaded from the MWiB website.



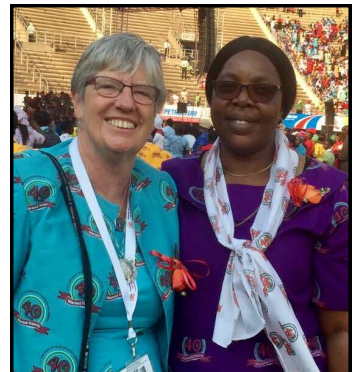
# Events Diary: 2017 - 2018

## 2017

Sat 30 Sep—1 October	MWiB Forum meets at The Hayes, Swanwick
Saturday 28th October	<i>Mind the Gap: Gender Equality in the 21st Century</i> World Federation Day at Side Door Church, Grimsby
Wed 8—Fri 10 November	MWiB Executive Retreat, Foxhill Retreat Ctr, Frodsham
Wednesday 22 November	MWiB Executive meets at the Highbury Centre, London

## 2018

Monday 15 January	Launch of 2018 writing competition—' <i>At the Heart...</i> '
Wednesday 10 January	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Wed 14—Fri 23 February	Carolyn Lawrence and Rachel Allison visit South Africa
Sat 17—Sun 18 February	MWiB Forum meets at Hinsley Hall, Leeds
March—October	Transforming the World from the Kitchen?—Heritage and Archives Exhibition reopens at Epworth Old Rectory
Friday 2 March	Women's World Day of Prayer
Wednesday 21 March	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Friday 20— Sunday 22 April	<i>Oceans of Justice, Rivers of Fairness</i> Residential with keynote speaker Rachel Lampard The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
Wednesday 25 April	Closing date for writing competition entries
Thursday 7 —Monday 11 June	<i>Chosen People, Called to Proclaim</i> —Joint European Area Seminar, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Wednesday 20 June	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Friday 29 June	MWiB Fringe event at Methodist Conference including announcement of writing competitions winners
Saturday 14 July	New Forum reps training, Methodist Central Hall, London
Wednesday 5 September	MWiB Executive meets at MCH, London
Sat 29—Sun 30 September	MWiB Forum meets at The Hayes, Swanwick
Saturday 27th October	World Federation Day: theme—SDG4 Quality Education Venues tbc in Cornwall and Lancashire Districts





[www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)



Methodist Women in Britain



@methodistwomen

**Contact us:**      **Methodist Women in Britain**  
P.O. Box 9298  
Loughborough  
LE11 9FY

**Telephone:**      **0300 030 9873**

**Email:**              **admin@mwib.org.uk**