



Methodist Women in Britain 2011-2021

for women, for justice, for Christ

Newsletter Winter 2021

Greetings!

By now, many of you will have been able to meet up again in person and I hope that now, most of us will have been double vaccinated and received our boosters and feel able to meet and begin to plan for the future. For some of you this will be on Zoom still, whilst for others it may be hybrid meetings that are being planned. However we meet, there are important decisions to be made as to how we can address the issues of climate change. By considering our modes and sharing of transport, buying and using Fairtrade products for our refreshments, turning down the heating a notch, sharing tips and recommending eco products, we are acting responsibly. Together we can make a difference.

We are coming to the end our 10th Anniversary year and we hope to finally celebrate it together with a Garden Party at Epworth Old Rectory in June when you will be able to see the Methodist Women in Britain 10th Anniversary Exhibition. Can I encourage you to think about hiring a coach so that we can all come together to make it a day to remember?

Exciting things are being planned for the years ahead! We have a new Vice President/President Support Group who will be contacting the Districts about our new initiatives. 'Walking with Micah' is a new Methodist initiative led by Rachel Lampard. She would like to know of any justice issues you are working on in your churches. She is asking us to talk to and to listen to the women around us, to listen to their stories. It could be someone in your church that you do not know well or someone in your community, to discover the injustices in their lives. Rachel would love to hear stories and would like a short video recording (1 to 2 minutes) from you or a face to face recording to be done on either a phone or tablet. Alternatively, she would like you to write about your conversation in no more than 200 words.

We are nearing the season of Advent and Jude Simms has written the Advent Reflections for the Methodist Recorder this year. As I write we are planning to put them on our YouTube Channel and to share them on Facebook each week in Advent. Do please share them with friends and family as we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child.

I do hope that we will all be able to celebrate Christmas with our friends and family this year and I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Blessings

Ruth

President 2021-2023



Make a difference – become the President of Methodist Women in Britain

Are you passionate about supporting women, social justice and encouraging others in their walk with Christ? We are seeking our next President to guide and shape the movement as we go forward, building on our first ten years. Do you know someone who might be interested? Or, could God be calling you to apply for this exciting role?

Closing date for applications: 4 January 2022

Interviews on Zoom: 15th and 16th February 2022 and candidates will need to provide a short, pre-recorded video presentation.

For more information, please contact Ruth Parrott: ruthparrott24@outlook.com



WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN

14th WORLD ASSEMBLY

9-14th August 2022 ONLINE

As we mentioned in our Autumn newsletter The World Executive has decided to hold the 14th World Assembly online. This will make it easier for more people to join no matter what the situation is with Covid-19.

More details about the registration process will be available in 2022, but put the date in your diary.



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



World Federation Day 2022

Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources
(based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12
Responsible consumption and production)

Saturday 15th October 2022
Bristol District- venue to be confirmed

Save the date! Further information and booking details to come



Surviving by Hope

Connexional Conference
with keynote speakers
Jill Baker and Fiona Kendall



Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th April 2022
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

We are excited and travelling in hope that we will be able to meet in person at our Connexional Conference on 22nd-24th April 2022.

There are two keynote speakers for the weekend. **Jill Baker** is known to many of us and was the first president of Methodist Women in Britain. **Fiona Kendall** works in Rome with Mediterranean Hope, a refugee project created by the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy. She is also a member of the Iona Community.

Information and booking forms will be available early in 2022.

Our 2021 online conference with Sister Imelda Poole on 17-18th April was a blessing and a challenge to all who took part. As President of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, Sister Imelda talked about the work to eradicate human trafficking in Albania, the UK and across Europe, with particular reference to women and children.

The keynote speeches are available to watch again on our [YouTube channel](#): Methodist Women in Britain.



Easter Offering 2022

**Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.**

Proverbs 31:25-26 (NRSV)

This year's theme, 'Tell Her Story, Tell Our Story' features the stories of women which have often been forgotten or overlooked. They are stories of courage, compassion and calls for change. The theme is inspired by the tenth anniversary of Methodist Women in Britain and the work we have done to empower and enable women around the world.



Use the [order form](#) to request your printed resources, including your collection envelopes. For more information: [Methodist Church website](#) and [Methodist Publishing](#).

About Easter Offering

Each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head, and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. Recently, Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team) have produced an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

All the money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in our Partner Churches around the world.

Since Methodist Women in Britain began in 2011 over £3 million has been raised for the World Mission Fund.

Whose Bag is it Anyway....?

This joint project between Methodist Women in Britain and Touchstone is funded by World Day of Prayer. It builds on our shared work to develop understanding between all people, especially supporting the advancement and abilities of women to fulfil their potential. There are a series of events happening during 2022 and 2023 focussing on faith perspectives on caring for creation and the environment.

It begins with a Zoom event on **Saturday 12 March 2022**
10am — 1pm.

Registration details will be available in January 2022



**Methodist Women
in Britain**

for women, for justice, for Christ



Welcome to Amy

In September Amy Walters joined Methodist Women in Britain. A Methodist minister serving as a chaplain in the British Army, she is currently posted to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

As our Digital Coordinator Amy looks after all things to do with the website and social media. Her priority has been to make technical improvements to the website to make it easier to maintain.

If you have any comments or suggestions for improvements, then contact her on website@mwib.org.uk.

Methodist Women in Britain need you!

Do you have ideas or suggestions about how we could improve the way we communicate?

Why not share them with the Communications Task Group?

Send an email to

communications@mwib.org.uk.

If you would prefer to speak to someone then include your contact details and we will get in touch



Have you seen the article on Methodist Women in Britain in the latest copy of the connexion? You can read it [online](#).

Let us know what you think.



Written by Jude Simms, former Communications Officer

RESOURCING AND ENABLING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

This year (2021) Methodist Women in Britain donated £10,000 in **empowerment gifts** to projects in Argentina, Cameroon, Columbia, Northern Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

In 2019 we sent Africa Greater Life Mission U.K. (AGLM) an empowerment gift. They used it to bless Sharon in Uganda (pictured). Mary Gill, Northampton Forum Rep, shares with us the difference it has made.

'Sharon is from Kamuli, a rural community north of Jinja in Uganda, an area with high levels of poverty and little in the way of educational opportunities. Sharon hasn't seen her mother since she was about five years old and her grandparents (the main carers) and her father have died.



Her schooling had been erratic until 2012 when, aged 14, following a recommendation from her local church, Sharon moved to Wakiso Town with AGLM, completing her primary and secondary education with their support.

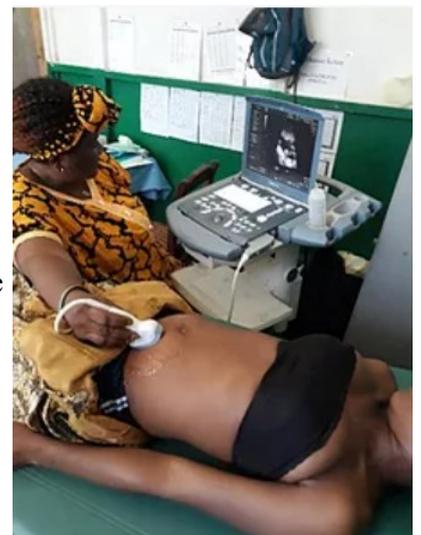
At first Sharon couldn't find work and helped her aunt, a hairdresser, to earn money to send her children to school. Eventually, she did find some work in micro finance but wanted more training to enable her to progress. Our empowerment gift helped Sharon to enrol in a Diploma in Records, Bookkeeping and Information management. She continues to work and studies at weekends.'

And in 2020 an empowerment gift proposed by Stamford Methodist Church enabled the Friends of Nixon Memorial Hospital in Sierra Leone to donate an ultrasound machine.

The introduction of this new service allows women to know an approximate due date and to identify any potential issues.

As a result more women are choosing to have their antenatal care and subsequent labour care at the hospital.

The key staff involved provided positive feedback on the opportunity to develop a new skill and the impact it was beginning to have on the women they looked after.



Details about how to apply for an empowerment gift in 2022 are available on our [website](#).

Thursdays in Black

A global movement for a world without rape and violence

The Thursdays in Black campaign began in the 1970's inspired by the Mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina who gathered quietly wearing black, or black sashes, every Thursday during the military dictatorship in protest at the loss of their loved ones. Many young men disappeared, and women were raped and abused. Women still gather there on Thursdays.

Other groups in later years expressed their outrage when violent acts of rape and death occurred, for example during the Bosnian war, and the Black Sash movement in South Africa. Individual women also expressed their opposition to gender based violence across the world.

In the 1980's #ThursdaysinBlack grew to a peaceful, global campaign, supported by the World Council of Churches. The aim is to work towards a world without violence, rape and fear, by helping to change attitudes that cause the aggression.

The campaign gained strength in 2008 during the South African 16 Days of Activism campaign launched by the Diakonia Council of Churches to raise awareness of the violence against women and children. During the pandemic the level of violence against women and children has increased significantly across the world. Therefore this campaign is more relevant than ever, and we encourage everyone, men as well as women, to **wear Black on Thursdays**.



Can you help?

We are using our social media channels to promote and support #Thursdays in Black and want to share pictures of people wearing their badges or t shirts to raise awareness and encourage more people to take part.

At the Forum meeting in October 2021 we took the pictures you see here. Others will appear on Facebook and Twitter in the coming months...but, we want more!



Send a photograph wearing your Thursdays in Black badge or t shirt to website@mwib.org.uk with a few sentences about why you support the campaign.



Future Meeting Dates

EXECUTIVE MEETINGS (on Zoom):
13 December 2021, 10 January 2022,
7 February 2022

FORUM MEETING (Methodist Women in Britain Trustees):
Saturday 19 February 2022 (on Zoom)

If you have any issues to raise or questions to ask, please speak to your District Forum Rep.

Walking with Micah:

Methodist Principles for Social Justice Project

This two year project will help the Methodist Church in Britain to focus on our principles and priorities for justice.

Rachel Lampard is keen to hear your stories about the social justice work going on in your church (see page 1 for details).

For more information see the [Methodist Church Website](#) or contact Rachel by email LampardR@methodistchurch.org.uk



Methodist Women in Britain 2011-2021



Epworth
Old Rectory

Garden Party Saturday 11 June

Would you like to be part of a task group to organise this event? Contact: communications@mwib.org.uk

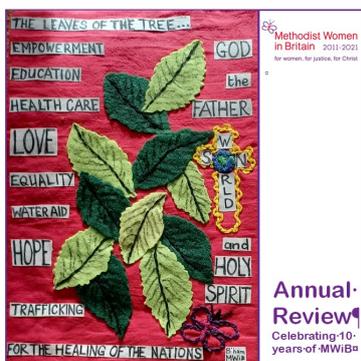
*** NEW ***

Annual Review 2021

Celebrating 10 years of Methodist Women in Britain. Now available to download from www.mwib.org.uk

If you would like hard copies of the review, please email your name, postal address and the number of copies required to: resources@mwib.org.uk.

There is no charge for reviews or post and packing, but if you wish to make a donation then use the 'Donate' button on the Home Page of our website.

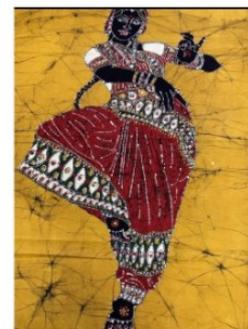


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2021- 31 October 2022

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Epworth
DN9 1HX

Email: manager@epwortholdrectory.org.uk
Telephone : 01427 872269
Visit: www.epwortholdrectory.org.uk



10th anniversary Exhibition

In celebration of the first 10 years of
Methodist Women in Britain

Now extended until 31 October 2022!

For a sneak preview inside the exhibition
click the link below

[View exhibition](#)

Contact us:

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