



Methodist Women in Britain

Newsletter—Spring 2024

CoChairs Letter

As we prepare to write the introduction to our spring newsletter we are newly returned from a very exciting Trustees meeting at the beautiful setting of Hinsley Hall. Much of the discussion was around Methodist Women in Britain moving forward so watch this space.

We have some exciting events coming up.

Daffodil Day on March 2nd 2pm at Methodist Central Hall

Conference at Swanwick 19th to 21st April at Swanwick

Garden Party at Epworth on May 18th

Joint European area seminar (world federation] in Porto June 12th to 17th

We hope to meet up with you at some or all of these events.

We are encouraged to hear of some creative grass roots initiatives to rekindle interest in MWiB and would lo love to hear your news and see your photos.

As we journey through Lent to Easter it is good to reflect on the journey that MWiB is on as we continue to strive to know Christ and make him known in all we do.

Maggie and Ruth



METHODIST CENTRAL HALL

"BLESSED ... AND CALLED TO BLESS!"

DAFFODIL DAY 2024

MCHW'S SPRING FESTIVAL FOR CHRISTIAN ENCOURAGEMENT AND RENEWAL

Methodist Central Hall Westminster
Storey's Gate, Westminster, SW1H 9NH

SATURDAY 2 MARCH
1.40PM FOR 2PM

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE

- Pam Rhodes (Presenter & Author)
- A team from LCGC (London Community Gospel Choir)
- Anando Mukerjee (Soloist)
- Lord Mayor of Westminster
- Revd Gill Newton (President of Conference)
- Tom Hart (Youth President)
- Revd Nigel Cowgill (London District Chair)
- Maggie Woods (Co-Chair of MCHW)
- MCHW's Choir and Staff Team.
- Marking MHA's 80th Anniversary too!

mchw.live t: 020 7654 3809



11TH JOINT EUROPEAN AREA SEMINAR

Porto, 13th - 17th June 2024

“rooted and grounded in love”

Area Seminar:
a meeting place for all methodist women in Europe
brought to you by the two european Areas of the World Federation



REGISTER NOW!

more information:

in Britain&Ireland:
Barbara Easton: britainireland.president@wfmucw.org

in Continental Europe:
Lilla Kardosné Lakatos: europe.president@wfmucw.org

Learn more about the World Federation: wfmucw.org

Panel Discussion

Worship

Different Culture

Bible Study

Love Feast

& more...

Kerry Scanlon

Sipiwe Chisvo

Deacon and Vice President of the British Methodist Church Kerry grew up in and around Belfast. Her earlier appointments included circuit ministry, workplace chaplaincy, and the development of both the West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network, and the Aduvu Project, a Birmingham District project supporting survivors of modern slavery. Kerry is still involved with the work of Aduvu in a voluntary advisory capacity, and her part time PhD studies explore the ways in which faith stories of survivors can shape engagement with modern slavery.

Sipiwe Chisvo, Harare, Zimbabwe, Southern and East Africa Area, World President of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church women (WFMUCW). The first black women from Africa being the World President of this wonderful organization. Sipiwe is counselor and family-therapist. Excited about being part of a world-wide sisterhood she declares: „The World Federation is a place where I think Methodist women should be in, if one wants to advance in all dimensions.“

Places are still available if you want to be part of this exciting event in Porto—an opportunity to share in fellowship with women from around Europe as well as sharing in Bible Study, listening to inspiring speakers and by sharing in a Love Feast. Booking contact details on the previous page.

Swanwick Conference 19th to 21st April 2024 ‘Words create Worlds’



Becca Byass from All We Can



Rev Jenny Pathmarajah from Cambridge

A few places left

—see our website to book your place
Booking closes 18th March so hurry!

Mary Bosanquet Lecture

Casting down the mighty: Women and the mission of God

This year will be given by Chine McDonald, Director of Theos, author of ‘God is not a White Man’, broadcaster, Greenbelt trustee .

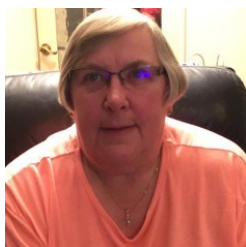
Friday evening, 28th June

as a Methodist Conference Fringe event in Leeds.

Booking details will be on our website



Finance Officer—a goodbye and a hello



After serving as the MWiB Finance Officer since 2018 Nina Rawlins has delivered her last finance report to the Trustees at our recent meeting and passed on the reins to her successor, Sheila Hall. We thank Nina most sincerely for steering Methodist Women in Britain finances through some challenging times and for being such an active member of the Executive team in this time of change and re-direction. We will miss your wit and your wisdom Nina, but look forward to your continued presence at MWiB events.

Introducing Sheila Hall—Finance Officer

I was born and raised in the North East of England. As a child I attended Sunday school but that lapsed in my mid teens. However the seed had been sown and I returned in my early twenties.

I have been involved with MWiB since its formation and with Network and Women's Fellowship before that. During that time I have been my local groups secretary, sadly, they no longer meet. I am currently the East Durham circuit treasurer and have been Newcastle upon Tyne District treasurer twice.

I really enjoy the meetings, meeting people and sharing my faith.

I worked for a number of years in the police control room as a civilian operator. No two days were the same!!

I have 2 children and I am 'grandma' to Archie, my sons dog.

I like nothing more than being outside walking and cycling or just sitting in the garden. Following surgery I am just getting back to cycling but hope to rejoin my local cycling club soon. I am very fortunate that I have been able to enjoy a few cycling holidays although I must admit to being a bit of a fair weather cyclist. I also enjoy reading, cross stitch and watching the odd movie. I am currently learning to be a gardener and have had some success in the greenhouse and with my vegetable patch.

Now, I am looking forward to another challenge, being the new finance officer and sitting on the executive.



Barbara Southgate died in January.

She was a member of Sudbury Methodist Church in the Wembley Circuit, London District, but in MWIB terms she was very involved in the old North West London District, later Sector A of London District and Women's World Day of Prayer, but she was also a Trustee of Annersley House, remaining involved until it closed & the house sold.

Ruth Watkins offers the following tribute:

When I think of Barbara I see a tall slim slightly serious looking woman but that hid an intelligent, kind, efficient, loyal and hard-working person. In the days of LNW Women's Network when I was secretary, she was a person I would turn to for advice and in meetings she would calmly put things into position when we were floundering.

She had many talents and as it was said at her funeral service, without turning her into a saint we can say that she used all of these to the good of others. As treasurer for the LNW district and later for MWiB London and with her work for Annesley House she was diligent. The Methodist women's movement has lost a dependable colleague and good friend.

Pamela Grayson died in February.

Jude Simms shared this tribute on our Facebook page:

It's with great sadness that I share the news of the passing of our dear friend Pamela Grayson. Pam 'discovered' Women's Network while attending the World Federation World Assembly in Rio de Janeiro in 1996. Since then she has served in the Sheffield District in various capacities, including twice as District President (for Women's Network, and later for MWiB). Many of you will have met Pam at the Swanwick weekend, creative days, World Fed days, and other connexional events, which she always attended with great enthusiasm - the same enthusiasm with which she championed and supported WN and MWiB over the years. An accident at home last Easter had prevented her from playing a full part in MWiB and other church activities, which she found frustrating, and following a stroke in November, Pam moved to live in a nursing home in Kent to be near her family.



We offer our condolences to the families of Barbara and Pamela as we celebrate and give thanks for the variety of ways in which they supported the work of women within the Methodist Church over many years.

Maggie talks about our current projects in Methodist Women in Britain

Period Poverty

One of the hidden aspects of poverty has been the number of school days or work days missed because the cost of period products impacting on tight budgets. Even more concerning is the use of such products for longer than appropriate leading to infection and other serious consequences. We believe that every girl and woman should have the dignity of easy access to sanitary products.

To this end MWiB groups have been placing sanitary towels, tampons or incontinent pads in pretty bags, made from scrap material, in baskets in the toilets of church premises as a free gift. It avoids the embarrassment of having to ask for help and offers a sign of Christian love and care in a very practical way.



DORA

DORA is a project based in Ukraine in the region of south Carpathia between the Carpathian mountains and the border with Hungary. The area has an influx of people, mostly women and children who are fleeing the war. It is considered a safer area. Some people stay and some use it as a transition space before moving through the border to Hungary. Churches have been stepping in to help with accommodation, health care and support. Education for the children has been disrupted in a major way by the war which can reduce their life chances if not addressed.

DORA supports 20 young people, at the moment, mostly girls, who are seen to be particularly at risk from traffickers. These young people are helped with life skills and gaps in their education as well as warm clothing and independent living. The project has been set up by Dora who is the wife of a pastor in the area. Traffickers seek out young people, boys and girls, and offer gifts and job opportunities of work in hotels or offices abroad that in reality are centred around drugs and prostitution. Being away from one or both parents makes it difficult for them to seek guidance.



National Council of Women GB

Hilary Evans draws our attention to 2 webinars that link to our MWiB concerns:

Changing the climate for climate change

The UN says that 'with a climate cataclysm looming ... current plans are wholly insufficient.' At our current global pace of carbon emissions, the world will burn through its remaining "carbon budget" by 2030. All countries both cause and suffer from the problem so need to act in concert.



At our 2023 AGM, NCW members called on the international community to cooperate to radically strengthen climate action plans. Most people are worried about climate change, but they feel frustrated and pessimistic about it. Forty-five percent of young people globally, say their feelings about climate change negatively affect their daily life and functioning: And the feeling that governments are not doing enough is linked to climate anxiety.

But there is plenty that can be done. Join us in a discussion about UK plans, how the government can improve wellbeing through nature and create green jobs, what other countries are doing and how NCW can put pressure internationally.

We are currently inviting guest speakers to talk to us prior to the group discussion, so please watch out for updates. To book your free place, please follow the link below:

Date: Tuesday 19 March 2024 Time: 13.00—14.30

Booking link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-the-climate-for-climate-change-tickets-845818123777>

NCW Network 18-30: Campaign on non-fatal strangulation and suffocation

Network 18-30 member, Maisie, feels deep concern about the level of sexual violence and harassment faced by women students at UK universities. Disturbing ONS Crime statistics for England and Wales show that sexual assault is higher among full-time students than any other occupation, and women of all ages are significantly more likely to be victims of sexual assault than men. Maisie is particularly disturbed by the rising incidence of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation, which has been linked to children's increased exposure to porn. Yet there is a distinct lack of authoritative and quantitative data, meaning that the problem cannot be addressed.



A bit about Maisie.... I joined NCW as I have always been passionate about women's rights and, for me, NCW provided an authoritative, influential space in which to pursue this. The resources, experience, and knowledge which is available with the organisation is what makes it so valuable to me.

This particular topic is of special importance to me due to personal and peer experience at university. So often hidden from the public gaze, I want this to become more widely recognised and protected against in order to safeguard women from future harm.

Join today's discussion to add your experiences, share your views, and support NCW's Network 18-30 campaign plans for inclusion of uninvited non-fatal strangulation and suffocation in relevant research and appropriate policy making.

Date: Thursday 21 March 2024 Time: 7pm

Booking Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ncw-network-18-30-campaign-on-non-fatal-strangulation-and-suffocation-tickets-838788367587>

Update on research project: Jumpers, Umbrellas and Plastic Bags: material culture and women's everyday experiences of Methodism - from Dr Ruth Slatter

It is now four years since Hannah and I began to work on our research project Jumpers, Umbrellas and Plastic Bags: material culture and women's everyday experiences of Methodism in England from 1945-2020. We are hugely grateful for your participation in this research project. Your thoughts and reflections have been – and continue to be - invaluable in informing how our research has developed. Thank you!

Progress has been a little slower than we would have liked with this project and we are only now beginning to have outputs from the project that we can share with you.

Firstly, we are really pleased to announce that transcripts of all the interviews we did with Methodist women as part of the project have now been deposited at Epworth Old Rectory and will become part of their Methodist Women's Collection.

We are also really excited to have been invited to the Methodist Women in Britain garden party in 2024 and look forward to sharing some findings from our research there.

We have recently written a chapter about the Epworth Methodist Women's Collection as an important feminist archive. This was published in 2023 in the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History's most recent book: Our Justice Journeys: Three Centuries of Striving for a Better World. This can be purchased from Amazon for £9.99 here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Our-Justice-Journeys-Centuries-Striving/dp/B0CKCW91M4>

Hannah and I are also working towards a few academic papers, which we will share with you in due course once they have been published.

Finally, some of you attended an online talk we did for Epworth Old Rectory in 2021. Focusing on the theme of 'Faithful Female Friendship' within Epworth's Methodist Women Collection. You all might like to know that a recording of this talk is still available on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l1x1tm8qpxY&t=8s>



**Methodist Women
in Britain**



Invite you to a Garden Party on Saturday 18th May 2024

hosted by MWiB in the garden of Epworth Old Rectory 2pm – 5pm

Parking available from 1pm onwards

Cost for the afternoon £5 plus the donation of sanitary items for local foodbanks/ women's refuge as part of MWiB's period poverty campaign. **Tickets must be booked in advance of the event through the MWiB website: www.mwib.co.uk**

Booking will be open from 28th March to 13th May

Contact us: PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES

MWiB Co-chair (North): Ruth Parrott - cochairnorth.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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Bristol & South Wales - Gillian Pengelly

Southampton & Channel Islands - Liz Chick

Next Trustee meeting: 4th—6th October 2024 at 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.