



Autumn 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to our autumn newsletter—and no you haven't misread your calendar, it is still summer. However as I am fortunate enough to be attending the WFMUCW 15th World Assembly in New Zealand the newsletter and prayer diary are being sent early.

We have had a busy summer including having a presence at Methodist Conference in Telford with a stall and hosting a fringe event, our 4th Mary Bosanquet Lecture, given this year by Rev Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson. Her lecture is well worth a listen and you can do that easily by finding it on our MWiB YouTube channel. Our channel is also the place to catch up on our recent 'Let's Talk About It' webinar series.

We also held the interviews for our new Vice Chair while we were at Telford and you can find out more about Philippa Hill, our successful candidate, inside this newsletter. You can read about our restructuring which CoChair Olive and the governance team have been working on with all stages of the process being scrutinised of course by our hardworking Area Trustees. Many, including outgoing CoChair Leonora will be staying with us in their new role as District Ambassadors and we are delighted to keep their depth of knowledge and experience as Methodist Women in Britain continues its journey forward. The governance group have been very grateful for the help given by former President of MWiB Hilary Evans during this restructuring process.

Another important aspect of the work of MWiB is the financial support we can give to others through gifts and grants and you can read about some of these this time. The administration of the Empowerment Gifts and the contact with the groups overseas is a crucial one each year and we are grateful to Sylvia White for her diligence in this.

The World Assembly this month marks the point where both Barbara Easton and Madeleine Reed officially finish their time with us and hand over to Helen and Izzy. We say thank you to both of them for all their contributions during their time on the Executive and look forward to catching up with them at the World Federation Day. Farewell and thank you also to Leonora who finishes her time on the Executive.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Lots of news from New Zealand next time.

Bronwen Braisdell

Dates for your Diary 2026 / 2027



World Federation Day

Saturday 17th October 2026



10am to 4pm

Stapleford Methodist Church

40 Eatons Rd, Stapleford NG9 7EA

More details in September but for now Save the Date

16 Days of Activism and Butterfly Service

Starts 25th November—get involved



MWiB Conference

Friday 9th to Sunday 11th April 2027

From Friday evening meal to Sunday lunchtime

**At The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick ,
Derbyshire DE55 1AT**

This year's theme: WELLNESS

***Guest speaker, Bible Study, a variety of workshops,
Marketplace, worship and prayer, Quiz and Disco,
friendship and fellowship***

16 Days of Activism 2026

We will be kicking off our 16 days of Activism on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Last year we held our first MWiB Butterfly Service at Wesley's Chapel in London. The Exec have taken the decision that this will be held every other year to enable full preparations to take place. There is a prepared service accompanying this newsletter which you can use in your Circuits and Districts if you would like.

We will be delivering our campaign this year via Facebook and Instagram, with daily prayers, actions and links to global organisations where you can connect and share with other women across the world.

We welcome prayer or actions you may wish to be included in the campaign please email to media.mwib@gmail.com before 31st October for inclusion in the campaign.

It would be excellent to see what churches, circuit and Districts are doing to support the campaign and the 16 days of activism, and we will run media following the campaign for people to showcase their activities.

We will be sharing the work of others alongside our own campaign -

@restoredUK / @forwarduk_ / PressRed.org / Orange The World and others.

Watch Out for further information or start sending your prayers and activities now!

#OrangeTheWorld #16Days #StandWithWomen #ButterflyCampaign #MWiB

Ruth Dawson

Thursdays in Black

Remember we have resources to support the ongoing Thursdays in Black Campaign including wristbands and badges plus from mid-September the chance to purchase your own Thursdays in Black t-shirt direct from Teemill through a link on our website.



Bronwen, Raj & Maddie
show their support at
Methodist Conference

resources.mwib@gmail.com



Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Methodist Women in Britain Governance Modernisation and Structural Update

Background: In October 2025, the MWiB Trustees voted to transition from a legacy "Area-based" governance model to a centralized "Functional Board" model. This move ensures the long-term sustainability of the movement and addresses the challenges of oversized geographic areas and the administrative burden on volunteers.

A working party was established to both amend the MWiB Constitution and create role descriptions for the new trustee posts being created to complete the Board of Trustees, as well as to rewrite the role description for District Ambassadors. All of these were brought to the MWiB Trustees and Ambassadors for comment in May this year, and revised after consultation with the final constitution approved by the Trustees on 13th July 2026. This has been submitted to the Charity Commission and will come into effect from 1st September 2026.

What the new structure will look like: Legal governance and charity trusteeship are now concentrated within specific functional portfolios:

Chairs Leadership Progression: A formalized progression model over 4 years that guides leadership continuity from **Vice Chair** → **Chair** → **Chair Emeritus**, ensuring clear institutional memory and effective handovers.

Functional Roles: Lead Trustees holding dedicated portfolios for **Finance, Governance Administration, Safeguarding, Communications, Resources & Fundraising, Events, and People & Volunteering**.

Regional "Area Trustees" have been formally phased out. In their place, Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) is establishing District Ambassadors and Partner Ambassadors.

District Ambassadors align with the Methodist Church Districts and act as local representatives, networkers, and advocates for Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB) without carrying statutory legal or financial liability under the Charity Commission. Ambassadors will seek representation on District Synod, serving as a direct liaison between local churches/circuits and the Board of Trustees. Role descriptions encourage team-based approaches and flexible terms of office.

Partner Ambassador will represent partner organisations such as World Day of Prayer, All We Can, Action for Children, Fund for Human Need.

Board of Trustees as at 1st September 2026

Chair	Olive Ruzvidzo
Vice Chair	Philippa Hill
Finance	Sheila Hall
Governance Administration	Gillian Pengelly
Safeguarding & Media	Ruth Dawson
Communications & Media	Bronwen Braisdell
Resources & Fundraising	Caroline Fillery
VP (Britain & Ireland) WFMUCW	Helen Cunningham
HKMS (Britain) WFMUCW	Izzy Solomon
Events	Vacancy
People & Volunteering	Vacancy

Introducing our new Vice Chair **Philippa Hill**

Hello my friends,

What an honour and privilege it is to be introducing myself to you all as the incoming Vice Chair for MWiB – I am so looking forward to meeting up with many of you in the future - those I already know and the friends I have yet to meet!

I am so excited to be given this opportunity to see where this MWiB journey can take us, and as I begin to work alongside our Chair Olive, and all the Board of Trustees, I am confident we will be able to continue to build on the solid foundations of all our predecessors.

I have been involved with MWiB since 2018 and I was quickly encouraged to become both Secretary and Forum Rep for the then Bolton & Rochdale District. Following the first change in structure of MWiB I then became Area Trustee for Bolton & Rochdale and the Lancashire area – both now part of North West England District. I have also recently been part of the Swanwick Task Group and also served on the Finance Task Group for most of my term as a Forum Rep/Trustee.

Within our local area we continue to meet regularly across circuit boundaries and we have recently ventured into holding an annual residential at Foxhills, Frodsham – we had our first one last November when Leonora led our retreat and following its success we have our next one at the end of September when we will learn more about Esther – “the first suffragette” led by one of the Bolton ministers – Revd Sarah Hooks.



So now I would like to introduce ME the person – and what I believe to be my most privileged role in life – I am the proud and blessed mother of 2 (Natasha and Mark) and totally besotted grandma of Florence, aged 3 – I have the honour of being ‘Granny Day Care’ every Monday – she certainly keeps me on my toes!

I am a retired nurse having spent almost 50 years working in the NHS – but for the last 20 I wasn’t nursing in the traditional sense – I was in education and training of our future workforce and not even nurses! I worked alongside our wonderful, and often forgotten, Allied Health Professionals – Physios, OT’s, Speech and Language, Dietetics etc – I learned so much from such an amazing group of people, some who remain close friends even after retirement. In my spare time I enjoy travel – both abroad and in the UK – nothing better than a nice weekend in Whitby or the Lake District to blow away the cobwebs! I enjoy the comforts of home too – pottering in the garden (although very much a novice), crochet and sewing are practical interests and mentally I enjoy the relaxation of meditation and mindfulness and also practice Reiki – I am a Master level 3.

I am a member of Connections Community Methodist Church in Bolton – a multi-cultural church with members from a number of different African countries and we are blessed with our Swahili choir (called Tumaini which means ‘Hope’) - they sing every week as part of worship and we are all now slowly learning the songs – I can’t actually speak Swahili but I can sing along with great enthusiasm! I am a Local Preacher and regularly take appointments across the circuit. I enjoy facilitating alternative and interactive worship, I also assist with our WOW – Worship on Wednesday – which is a monthly alternative style of worship led by one of our pastors. I also take part regularly in a local radio stations weekly worship programme

I would like to close by saying that I am passionate about the ethos and principles of MWiB - I have a heart for justice and a desire to be involved in whatever way I can. I hope I will be able to approach anything I am called to do with energy, strength and enthusiasm and remember that we belong to a justice seeking church that befriends and supports those on the fringes of society, that we are called to love as He loved and that all things we can do in the strength of the God who loves us

Blessings to you all, Philippa

Vice Chair Visit to Manchester

Wednesday 16th September at Monton Methodist Church, Grange Dr, Eccles M30 9JG

Speaker: Philippa Hill Vice Chair of MWiB at 11.15am—Journey through Japan

12.15pm buffet ploughman’s lunch, cost £5

Further details: media.mwib@gmail.com



Deep breath: this is my last summer as Helen Kim Memorial Scholar. It seems so strange to be finishing up now; the last few years have been such a whirl of colour and joy, it felt like it would never end.

I am comforted by two things: firstly, I am by no means ending my involvement with MWiB, and secondly, I know that the next scholar, Izzy Solomon, will be absolutely fantastic. I am very much looking forward to seeing what she gets up to after she adopts the role in August at the World Assembly!

But there is also a sadness. I was so underprepared for being suddenly flung into academia that the first year of my theology BA swamped my time and led to my being unable to participate in many of the things I would usually be involved in. I began my final year as HKMS with the expectation of getting properly mucked in and going out with a bang; now it seems I have rather been being weaned off the scholarship slowly, redirected to the next chapter of my story: Cliff College.

I am still preparing with enthusiasm for one final task: leading the Minsteracre retreat for MWiB's Newcastle District in October!

Between my BA sending me on a two-week mission and evangelism placement to Cromer Methodist Church and Wavestation in the North Norfolk Circuit, and travelling to Berlin with the Student Christian Movement and Project Bonhoeffer on a pilgrimage of Peace and Reconciliation, I was able to do one brilliant thing with MWiB: I was able to attend the Methodist Conference in Telford! I had never been to Conference before and was very excited; I was there helping to (wo)man the stall from the Thursday to the opening of Conference on the Sunday. Watching the new President and Vice President take on their positions was amazing; the pomp and ceremony recalled to me the history of Methodism, harking back to John Wesley, the first President of Conference. The fact that the new Vice President is a woman who gave a wonderful talk on inclusivity and acceptance reminded me of how we as a church have managed to honour the past without becoming trapped in it. I became a Methodist almost by accident (it was the only church in my village that didn't swing incense), but I remain a Methodist on purpose.

Finishing a chapter in a book always has mixed emotions for me: it usually comes with some form of cliffhanger, some kind of resolution, and generally a heightened emotional state. It seems that ending a chapter in life is very similar. The cliffhanger is held in my education as I pass into my second year of the BA; the resolution comes in the fact that I am slowly realising that I am ready to pass on the HKM Scholarship (God's timing is perfect as ever); my emotions are indeed heightened – a potent mixture of grief,

excitement, hope, and apprehension. Thanks be to God, my days of anxiety are behind me, or else this transition would be much harder.

It isn't quite time for a goodbye yet; I'm not finished until the end of August, and even then I'll still be hanging around, loitering with intent! But I wind down slowly. I'm learning that slow and steady really does win the race; I'm tired of hurrying, and I'm happy to watch the end of this chapter unspool into the tapestry of time.

I'm sorry if I sound a bit dramatic; I've never been good at endings, except in poetry. Call it a coping mechanism, or an eccentricity. I don't mind; I'm happy. When I became the HKMS back in 2022, I could never have imagined the peace I feel now, even when something precious is finishing up. There's a dove outside my window as I write. Isn't God good?

Gifts to those entering circuit in 2026

In what has now become an established tradition (it's the 3rd time so it must be a tradition by now!) MWiB give a small gift to Presbyters and Deacons as they leave college to go into circuit. This year Catrin Harland-Davies collected 14 Gift Bags from our stall at Methodist Conference to give to the 8 Presbyters and 6 Deacons as they left Queens in June. The bags contained an MWiB pen and pencil, post it notes, one of our fabulous wooden crosses, MWiB publicity and Annual Review, some chocolate and a letter offering our prayerful support as they enter circuit.

Catrin sent this comment along with the photos below: *Thanks again for these gifts, which were greatly appreciated by all our students - especially the post-its, which proved particularly exciting!*



If you have a probationer presbyter or deacon in your circuit encourage them to find out more about MWiB and what we can offer.

Bronwen Braisdell

Each year MWIB offers a total of £15,000 towards Empowerment Gifts to help projects for vulnerable women and girls.

In the February Newsletter I outlined the Projects that received an Empowerment Gift last October. The following is information about how the money was used for some of those and some of the previous year's Gifts.

CONECE – *Eastern Uganda Empowering Women and Teenage Mothers with Disabilities*

320 community members had training in stigma, discrimination, disability rights and the importance of social inclusion. A further 50 women received training in soap making, bakery, knitting, crafts production and basic business management enabling them to earn a living from these ventures. Also, 18 women received assistive devices including wheelchairs, crutches, walking aids and hearing support devices.

COFCAWE – *Kamuli District, Uganda*

Sustaining empowerment through advocacy economic independent and social inclusion for women and teenage mothers.

Training 100 women and teenage mothers in entrepreneurship and small business development and budgeting, supporting teenage mothers and creating safe spaces to improve emotional well-being and providing community awareness.

EHCO – *Busoga Region, Uganda*

Empowering Rural Women in through skills development in re-usable sanitary pad production Uganda

This project trained women with knowledge and skills in menstrual health management and taught the women how to make re-usable sanitary pads. Packs of re-usable pads were distributed to 500 school girls.

AMIGO'S – *Uganda 2024 Menstrual Hygiene Management*

The Gift surpassed its targets and taught women and girls the skills to manufacture sanitary pads. 50 women were trained and they provided 3 packs with 3 re-usable pads to 317 girls. They also provided 5550 re-usable pads, much more than their target of 1426. They gave 90 packs of knickers and 1000 packs of 3 re-usable pads.

KIANJAI – *Meru Region, Kenya 2024 Tailoring Project*

Training women to be tailors in collaboration with the Methodist Church in that area which had an order for 369,000 items. They purchased a knitting machine and provided training to make over 30 sweaters to help those in the community. They are continuing to train young girls to gain a qualification and better their lives.

You can see the difference that a small amount of money can make to the lives of women and girls in those projects. I think we can all be proud of MWIB's involvement in making these projects happen and changing lives.



Iglesia Evangélica Metodista en Bolivia

Personalidad Jurídica R.S. N° 57715 del 22/07/1953 • R.S. N° 31162 del 20/05/2025

La Paz, 10 de junio de 2026

Cite: IEMB/OB/281/2026

Debora Coggrave
IGLESIA METODISTA DE GRAN BRETAÑA
Gran Bretaña

Subject: Gratitude for Support to Methodist Women in Bolivia.

Dear Sister Debora,

Receive a warm and cordial greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In acknowledging receipt of your email, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for the valuable support provided to the women of the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia.

We also extend our thanks to Methodist Women in Britain for the financial contribution of £3,680.00, the receipt of which we hereby confirm. This support will be of great help in completing an area of work on Casa Tabita, contributing to the fulfillment of the objectives set for this project.

Likewise, I take this opportunity to inform you that the new National Promoter of the Methodist Women's Federation is Sister **Erika Quispe**.

We reiterate our appreciation for the generosity and commitment of the British women to this ministry. We pray that God will continue to abundantly bless your life and your ministry.

In Christ Jesus,


Rev. Mgtr. Medardo Vedia Gutiérrez
OBISPO DE LA IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA
METODISTA EN BOLIVIA



Some of the women from Bolivia that we have been helping with our fundraising over the years for Tabitha House. Their story was featured in the Easter Offering service this year, a service that can be used at any time of year in your church and is still accessible on our website mwib.org.uk

What's New in Resources?

One of the joys of being your MWiB Resources Officer is getting the go-ahead to introduce brand-new items — and this year has been especially exciting. Just in time for Swanwick Conference, we launched our new *Methodist Women in Britain Enamel Pin Badges*. Not one, not two, but **three** designs, so there's truly no excuse not to have one for every occasion!

Our rectangular badge features the butterfly logo and name — a refreshed version of our previous MWiB badge. If you've admired one on someone else, now's your chance to get your own. We also have two circular designs: one with the butterfly and MWiB initials, and one with just the butterfly. I have to admit, the simple butterfly is my personal favourite — a lovely conversation starter for anyone curious about MWiB. All enamel badges are **£3 each**.

Pens have had an update too. Our Eco pens — made with card barrel and recycled plastic trim — now come in a rich deep purple and remain **£1 each**. Our white plastic pens have been discontinued, but in their place we now offer a gorgeous lilac soft-touch pen. Trust me, once you pick one up, you'll want more than one. These are **£2 each**.

You can purchase all items:

- By emailing **resources.mwib@gmail.com**
- Through your district's resources lead (encourage them to place an order!)

At national events such as World Federation Day and Swanwick Conference
To help reduce postage costs, please consider making a group order or checking with your local resources lead first.

Finally, a new way to order **Thursdays in Black T-shirts**: these are now available directly through *Teemill*. Ordering this way reduces waste, as each item is printed to order and delivered straight to your door. The link will be available mid-September on our website.

Caroline Fillery



Board of Trustees

Chair	Olive Ruzvidzo	cochairs.mwib@gmail.com
Vice Chair	Philippa Hill	cochairs.mwib@gmail.com
Finance	Sheila Hall	finance.mwib@gmail.com
Governance Administration	Gillian Pengelly	governance.mwib@gmail.com
Safeguarding & Media	Ruth Dawson	media.mwib@gmail.com
Communications & Media	Bronwen Braidell	communications.mwib@gmail.com
Resources & Fundraising	Caroline Fillery	resources.mwib@gmail.com
VP (Britain & Ireland) WFMUCW	Helen Cunningham	wfmucw.helen@neast.org.uk
HKMS (Britain) WFMUCW	Izzy Solomon	mwib.hkms@gmail.com
Events	Vacancy	
People & Volunteering	Vacancy	

The first Board of Trustees meeting will be held at Eastwood Hall, Nottingham 9-11th October 2026

Interested in our Events or People & Volunteering vacancies? Think you can join our friendly team? Contact Olive or Bronwen to find out more.

Did you know that a small gift in your will can have a huge impact?

After looking after your loved ones, please consider leaving a gift to 'Methodist Women in Britain'.

A gift of any size can help change lives and make a massive difference through our Grants and Gifts programme.

Visit our website, 'Methodist Women in Britain' or contact our finance officer at finance.mwib@gmail.com for further information.



General enquiries: 0300 030 9873

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

Website: www.mwib.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1156626 Methodist Women in Britain

Find us on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube

Use the QR code to access our website

