



Methodist Women in Britain

For women, for justice, for Christ

Winter Newsletter 2022

Greetings!

This autumn has been the warmest on record but while we have been enjoying the clement weather, there have been multiple changes in our government and much uncertainty as we have seen food and heating costs rise and the effect that climate change continues to have, across the world. As I am writing this, COP27 is meeting in Egypt and I pray that the world leaders will take the situation seriously and take action before it is too late!

The world is still recovering from the pandemic and we are continuing to support projects financially, both here and overseas, that are having to adapt. Sadly, I heard last week that the orphanage in Romania, which we have been supporting, is having to close as they cannot continue to pay the staff. Please hold Ligia, Christian, the staff and the children in your prayers.

I have been able to travel more widely to visit districts and it was great to meet up with Maggie Woods, our new VP/P and Hilary, even though it was on Birmingham New Street Station! Forum was able to meet face to face in October to discuss the proposals for our restructuring, which have now been passed. Some details are still to be worked out but we hope to launch our new structure in February. Forum Reps have all the information to pass on at your District meetings.

Work on the website has begun and you should soon start to see an improvement in the management of the site. Our thanks to Phil Davies, who is our new webmaster.

Many of you have been asking about our annual Swanwick Conference and I can at last, tell you that our Keynote speaker will be the TV Presenter, Pam Rhodes, and Rev Jenny Pathmarajah will present the Bible Study. This is likely to be a very popular event, so please can I encourage you to book early! Booking will open online in January.

The coming year is going to be difficult for many people. Young people at college and university will find it particularly hard to cope with the cost of living. Please can I encourage you to befriend a young person and to perhaps write letters of encouragement, to show an interest in them, in their hopes and dreams.

Whatever your plans are this Advent, may you look forward with hope, joy and peace in your hearts to the celebration of Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child.

Blessings, Ruth





Introducing our next Vice-President

Maggie Woods

Looking back Church has always been important in my life from attending a Church of England School to being a ministers wife in the URC and being welcomed into Manningtree Methodist Church in retirement.

At present I am a local preacher, a circuit steward and the Methodist Representative to our local SACRE which advises on the RE curriculum in schools.

My career has taken me to a variety of roles within nursing and Health and social care. It has given me insight into issues of discrimination, injustice and inequality which have had a key influence on my Christian journey.

In particular I have been aware that many of the issues remain hidden in plain sight within society ...not seen but still very much there. I have also had the opportunity to experience first-hand some of the challenges in places such as South India, Kenya and Ukraine.

All these experiences led to my interest in the work of MWIB.



Mission Partner—Fiona Kendall

Many of us were delighted to meet and hear from Fiona at this year's Swanwick Conference. Fiona works with Mediterranean Hope, a project created by the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy to support refugees. She is a joint mission partner of the Methodist Church in Britain with the Church of Scotland and Global Ministries (UCC and Disciples of Christ).

To read Fiona's latest update or find out about all our Mission partners visit the Global Relationships page on the Methodist Church website and follow the links.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/global-relationships/>

Resources

NEW DEMENTIA PACKS for CHURCHES

MHA and MWiB have produced an updated Pack, for use in churches

Elaine says “ I'm currently using a Pack in my own church, as part of our Risk Assessment, and finding it very useful”.

As this is a joint venture, we are asking for a suggested donation of £5 per Pack.

Please email resources.mwib@gmail.com



Voices in Harmony

Swanwick Conference 14th—16th April 2023

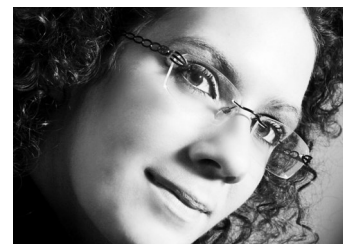


Keynote Speaker

Pam Rhodes - 'Hymns and Her'

Bible Study

Rev Jenny Pathmarajah



Booking from January www.mwib.org.uk

The conference will also be available as a zoom option

Report from Madeleine, our HKMS

The 14th Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women was held on Zoom over a week in early August. The theme was 'go and bear fruit, fruit that will last' and there was worship, conversation and, of course, the inauguration of the new World President, Vice President and many more. For me, this was also my own inauguration as Britain's new Helen Kim Memorial Scholar.

It was such a pleasure to see so many dedicated women logging in from all around the globe. There were breakout rooms at times and there were so many people that these groups had to be organised not only by language, but also by the first letter of our family names!

It was also very exciting to watch Alison Judd, now President Emerita, hand over to the new World President, Sipiwe Chisvo, the first African World President!

Being still relatively new to the World Federation, this Assembly, which can be found in its entirety on the WFMUCW YouTube channel, was a wonderful opportunity for me to feel like I was a part of it all, a part of something so much bigger than myself.

In early October, there was the World Federation Day in St John's Northgate Methodist Church, Gloucester, available to be watched through on the MWiB YouTube channel. The keynote speaker was Rachel Alison, the previous Helen Kim Memorial Scholar. Having technically stepped down already, this was her very last event.

The bible study was led by Barbara Easton, the Area President for Britain and Ireland. The theme was 'Just Living' and we looked not only at the climate crisis, but also at what we can practically do as caregivers of God's beautiful and hurting creation. I was honoured to be asked to run a prayer activity station that day, doing marble painting in trays of water as we pondered the pollution of our oceans. Our president, Ruth Parrott, ran one on food waste, Rachel Alison was looking at fast fashion and there were several more wonderful prayer activity stations set up around the church.

Not only was it a day of reflection, prayer and hope, it was also a day of love, laughter and fellowship. Having spent some significant time among the women of MWiB and the World Federation, I have seen such a spirit of joy and compassion and I'm eager to find out what other events I'll be blessed to attend!

Madeleine Reed, Helen Kim Memorial Scholar



Methodist Women in Britain Pastoral Care Fund

Methodist Women in Britain is pleased to announce a Pastoral Care Fund available to churches throughout the Connexion. This fund has been set up to assist churches who wish to develop their pastoral care work in line with MWiB's mission statement – for women, for justice, for Christ – and, in particular, to fulfil parts of its aims of bringing 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 by equipping them to participate more fully in the wider church and in society.

Single discretionary grants of up to £200 may be awarded to churches that are working hard post-Covid to further general pastoral care in their areas: this can either be towards new initiatives or to extend existing ones. Some examples could be for cards and stamps to keep in touch, or towards a tea party, etc and one Circuit has made distinct efforts to reach out and increase their pastoral care towards older folk. However, grants will not be awarded towards employment or fixtures/ fittings.

If you would like to apply, please write to MWiB giving full details of how this grant would be used. Letters can be sent to MWiB, c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road, Bradford BD7 1QX, or preferably, by email to finance.mwib@gmail.com

Please ensure that full bank details are included in your application.

Would you like to join the Methodist Women in Britain Team?

Would you like to be part of the next chapter of MWiB as we move forward?

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our team

Could you be our next Finance Officer ?



Or our next Digital Media Coordinator?

Interested?

Contact: communications.mwib@gmail.com for more information

Contact us:

MWiB President: Ruth Parrott - thepresident.mwib@gmail.com

Vice President: Hilary Evans - vicepresident.mwib@gmail.com

Finance Officer: Nina Rawlins - finance.mwib@gmail.com

Communications Officer: Bronwen Braidell -
communications.mwib@gmail.com

WFM&UCW Officer: Barbara Easton - wfmucw.mwib@gmail.com

Resources Officer: Elaine Banks - resources.mwib@gmail.com

Website & Social Media Coord: Amy Walters -
digitalmedia.mwib@gmail.com

General enquiries: 0300 030 9873

or post to MWiB, c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road, Bradford BD7 1QX

Visit us: Website: www.mwib.org.uk

Follow us:



Registered Charity No: 1156626 Methodist Women in Britain

EASTER OFFERING 2023

No borders to God's love: Many churches support people who have come to the UK in search of sanctuary. The Easter Offering 2023 dedication service considers welcome and hospitality, especially to people who are displaced and forced to migrate.

No borders to God's love offers churches, circuits and districts a celebration of God's love and mission world wide. It includes the dedication of the Easter Offering, all of which goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain, supporting and working with over 100 Partner Churches and organisations around the world.

In 2019, collections from Easter Offering services raised over £370,000, thanks to the generosity of Methodists.

Service materials available to download from January 2023 from methodist.org.uk/easteroffering

