



# Methodist Women in Britain **10** 2011-2021

*For women, for justice, for Christ*

## Newsletter Spring 2021

### A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Readers,

We celebrate the tenth anniversary of Methodist Women in Britain this year. Some of our plans to mark this milestone will be affected by the ongoing restrictions related to the pandemic. Nevertheless we will celebrate in the best ways that we can and give thanks not just for MWiB, but also for the work of so many women in Methodism over the previous generations. We have always endeavoured to support our sisters, and fight against injustice, and that has not changed. Nor has our motivation to do all that we can, following the example of Jesus Christ.

The past year has not followed the expected pathways for our work. It has, however, opened other possibilities, enabling the work to continue. We have learned new – sometimes scary – skills, and made new links in unexpected places. Technology has opened fresh doors and begun to help us reach people who were unaware of our existence previously, as well as enabling continued liaison with partners.

Our last two Forum meetings have been held via Zoom. One of our reps has been able to join us on both occasions from Ghana, as she was visiting family early last year and has been unable to return to the UK to date. Our annual conference will be held online for the first time this year with our keynote speaker joining us from Albania. I have had conversations with people right across the country and abroad which is amazing, and outweighs the negative aspects of technology. We seek to use it in positive ways.

Right from the start of lockdown last year I have been concerned for those who cannot access social media, and who are particularly isolated, but I have been so heartened to hear about the women joining meetings via their phones, or asking grandchildren to set them up for online meetings.

We have been forced to adapt our patterns and practices and to review and rethink. We need to be alert to changes and do our very best to be relevant to society's needs. There are implications here for us as we look forward to the next decade. I believe our core principles will remain just as relevant as before: the challenges of education and equality will be with us for some time to come; issues such as early child marriage, FGM and gender based violence will take much more work to reduce and one day eradicate; the changes in our climate will continue to affect everyone around the world; too little water; too much water; severe storms and virus mutations are likely to increase, driving further migration and displacement. We must face the challenges ahead with determination to do all that we can to care for everything that lives on our incredible planet.

Look out for information about tenth anniversary happenings. You may like to take a look at our range of merchandise as there are some new items, for example candles for the anniversary. See our website: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) or contact us by email: [resources@mwib.org.uk](mailto:resources@mwib.org.uk)

I pray that you will hold on to the hope that we find through our faith. It can strengthen us and comfort us each day. Let's face a positive future together in that knowledge.

With my good wishes,

**Hilary**





## Together, with Hope on the Way

Annual 'Swanwick' Conference

Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 2021

Following the huge disappointment of having to cancel the weekend at Swanwick in 2020, we have been determined to offer something in 2021, but sadly, we have made the decision not to meet face to face at The Hayes because of the ongoing uncertainties of life with COVID-19, and the need to keep everyone as safe as possible.

However, we are delighted to be able to invite you to 'Together, with Hope on the Way', an online conference taking place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th April 2021. It will be different to our previous events, but is an exciting new venture, be accessible to a wider audience.

Our keynote speaker Sister Imelda Poole will be joining us 'virtually' from Albania, to talk about her work educating and training young people to help prevent them becoming trafficked. Imelda is a Sister of the Mary Ward Loreto Foundation, Chair of 'Renate', and an international speaker on human trafficking.

Building on the work of previous generations of Methodist women, MWiB continues to support those in need, especially women and children, and to tackle issues of injustice including human trafficking. We hope you will join us for this year's conference.

2021 also marks the tenth anniversary of MWiB. Following on from the Conference itself we hope you will also join us for a time of celebration on the afternoon of Sunday 18th April (see page 5 for more details).

### REGISTRATION AND COST

Registration is now open. We are asking that all participants consider making a donation towards the cost of bringing you this online conference, and suggest an amount of £10 per person.

You will find links for registration and donation on the MWiB website: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

A programme for the weekend, joining details, and other information will be sent out a few days before the conference to all those who have registered.

*Your prayers for this conference will be greatly appreciated,  
and we look forward to you joining us in April.*

## Change begins with...

...a short **weekly resource** from All We Can and MWiB.

Each week throughout Lent, this short resource offers a Bible reading, a reflection, a story from All We Can, a prayer, and suggestions for responding to the theme with practical actions. The reflections can be used by individuals or groups, meeting online or face to face, and can be printed or forwarded to those unable to join in meetings at present.



You can download the whole series of weekly reflections from the MWiB website, or email [communications@mwib.org.uk](mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk) to be sent copies by email.

These weekly MWiB resources link in with All We Can's 2021 Lent resource. Be transformed by a daily journey of Bible reflections, prayers, group sessions and testimonies this Lent. You can order or download the full 'Change begins with Lent' resource booklet now at [allwecan.org.uk/lent](http://allwecan.org.uk/lent)

**EXECUTIVE MEETINGS:** 17th March (via Zoom) and 9th June 2021

**FORUM MEETING:** 17th–19th September 2021

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

## Meet a Mission Partner

### Our Woman in Waiting



Being a “woman in waiting”: does that make me handmaiden to a King/Queen? May I commence by confirming that I acknowledge Jesus as Lord, Saviour and King. It seems to me that whenever we accept that it is He who rules our lives then our plans and presumptions have to be set aside. Furthermore, when one's plans are made amidst a pandemic, disruption is inevitable.

I'm a mission partner who has completed her formal training and been commissioned but I must wait until certain other of the pre-requisites for my taking up of my overseas appointment can be fulfilled. Meantime, alongside colleagues who are also preparing to go overseas, I remain in waiting at Wesley House.

I am waiting for:

- ~ **Covid vaccination**—because it has been determined that we should not travel overseas until we are fully vaccinated.
- ~ **A medical.** (This has been postponed thrice, owing to the closure of the clinic.)
- ~ **The granting of a Work Permit.** The country to which I'm appointed has instigated a new taxation and immigration policy that requires that my would-be employers submit a Tax Compliance Certificate that is not yet available to them.

Provided that the above three are satisfactorily resolved or fulfilled, I await special **permission to travel** from the Methodist Council (since all travel charges to the budget are currently embargoed).

Please pray that I will learn patience and that, whilst I wait, the will of God be done.

Wendy Kilworth-Mason



Methodist Women in Britain are seeking a

### Website and Social Media Coordinator

to work with the Communications Coordinator, Executive and Forum to keep the MWiB website and Facebook page regularly updated, and to develop an appropriate and ongoing social media strategy as this exciting and growing movement enters its second decade.

Beginning 1st September 2021, this is a part-time volunteer role, primarily home-based, with the occasional online or face-to-face meeting with the Executive and Forum as required.

- \* *Might ideally suit a younger person or student\**
- \* *Who do you know that might consider applying? \**

To find out more about MWiB, and to download an application pack, visit the MWiB website: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) or request by email from: [admin@mwib.org.uk](mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk) or by telephone: 0300 030 9873

There is no application deadline. If you're interested in this role, please complete the application form and return to MWiB by email as above, or by post to:  
MWiB, c/o Touchstone, 4 Easby Road, Bradford BD7 1QX

### \* NEW FOR 2021! \*

Polo shirt, with MWiB logo and dates '2011–2021'



Available in mint green or white, sizes medium and large

Price £14.00 (inc. p&P)

Order by email from: [resources@mwib.org.uk](mailto:resources@mwib.org.uk)

# RESOURCING AND ENABLING WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

Every year, MWiB donates £10,000 in Empowerment Gifts to overseas projects whose primary focus is to empower women and girls by providing education and training opportunities, staffing costs, resources and materials. We've recently received photos and news from three of the projects we supported in 2019/2020.

## Sri Lanka

In Minuwangodo, Sri Lanka, many of the women are of low caste. They carry the 'Dalit' label with them throughout their lives, facing discrimination in many areas of their lives, not least in finding employment to support themselves and their families. An MWiB Empowerment Gift of £1,500 has enabled the Methodist Church, with the help of the local superintendent minister Revd Nadeera Fernando, to set up an interest-free loan system to enable these women to set up a successful pottery business. With the additional purchase of a clay mixing machine, the women are now able to work from their homes making traditional pots, giving them an income to provide for their families.



Minuwangodo, Sri Lanka:  
pots drying in the sun

Another gift of £1,500 went to the Shalom Project for Peace in Kilinochchi, in the northern part of the country. The project provides chickens to women affected by the long civil war, the eggs from which provide not only a source of nutrition for the family but also a means of income by selling in the local market, enabling them to become self-sufficient.

## Quick Impact Women's Project, Liberia



Class of 2020: the first graduates of the  
Quick Impact Project, Liberia

At the West Africa Area Seminar of the World Federation, many women expressed a need for skills training and a desire for spiritual growth development amongst the women in their churches and communities. Muriel Nelson, President of United Methodist Women in Liberia submitted an application, and the Quick Impact Women's Project received an Empowerment Gift of £1,500. Despite the pandemic, 22 women from three districts were trained in the production of body care product (soap and perfume), and household sanitation products (bleach, air freshener, and disinfectant).

The women also received business management training, and with the help of local Village Savings and Loan Associations they were able to set up their own small businesses, enabling them to support themselves and their families, and to overcome the need to depend on men for their survival. They were also able to come together for bible study and fellowship, and to build a network of support in their churches and communities.



EASTER OFFERING 2021

Into all the world

The 2021 Easter Offering theme 'Into all the world' has been

carried over from last year's cancelled event in a service that features people who have made a journey, some in obedience to God's call on their lives, and others because they had no choice. The worship encourages us to reflect and learn from those who travel, and to consider our own journeys – both physical and spiritual.

A series of Lent Reflections on the theme is available to accompany the Easter Offering.

Go to [www.mwib.org.uk/creativespirituality](http://www.mwib.org.uk/creativespirituality) to order or download Easter Offering resources, and to download the Lent Reflections.

*Please note—if you already have printed materials from last year, we ask that you simply change the date and use them, rather than waste the paper. Thank you!*

We will hopefully be able to gather together properly this spring to celebrate God's mission activity and to support the work and mission of our 65 partner churches around the world.

### \*NEW online video service \*

We are producing a simple video recording of the service, which will be available soon—ideal for individuals or groups unable to meet. Look out for further information!

In 2020, MWiB Empowerment Gifts also enabled skills training projects in Ghana and Tamil Nadu, India; provided equipment for a safe-house in Zambia for women and girls fleeing domestic violence or threatened with FGM or forced marriage; supported the Karibuni Feeding Programme in Kenya, struggling to feed orphaned children in the midst of the pandemic; bought a medical scanner for the maternity ward of a hospital in Kenya; and provided training and resources for women and girls with hearing impairment in the Nusirat refugee camp in Gaza, Palestine [pictured right].



These relatively small gifts enable big changes to people's lives:

"It will go a long way in the development of the work we have planned."

"This will make a huge difference to many women and their families."

"Gifts such as this from MWiB make a huge impact and go a long way here."

"It will enable us to reach a good number of women with this training programme."

Are you aware of a project overseas that would appreciate an Empowerment Gift? Criteria and information forms are available to download from the 'Resourcing and Enabling' page of the MWiB website ([www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)), or by email from: [admin@mwib.org.uk](mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk) The deadline for this year's Empowerment Gift applications is **31st July 2021**.



# Methodist Women in Britain 2011-2021

## Tenth Anniversary Celebrations

As you're no doubt aware, 2021 marks ten years since the launch of Methodist Women in Britain at the Methodist Conference in Southport, in 2011, and we are planning a number of activities and events throughout the year to mark this milestone. Of course, some of our plans have been postponed or changed due to COVID-19, but we hope you'll be able to join us as we celebrate over the next few months.

Note the following dates and events\*, and join us during our special year:

### **For women, for justice, for Christ**

*April–October 2021, at Epworth Old Rectory*

An exhibition highlighting the people, projects, events and campaigns that tell the story of the first ten years of MWiB. The exhibition may be repeated in 2022, and we hope to produce a booklet to accompany the exhibition.

### **Together... A time of celebration**

*Sunday 18th April, online*

On the Sunday afternoon following our online conference (see page 2 for details), we will be sharing in an online time of celebration together, with worship (including two new hymns written for the occasion), a fun quiz, and more. Go to the conference information on [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk), follow the link to register, make a donation if you wish, then—get your glad rags and your party hat on, bring your own cake and candle, and join us for the occasion!

### **Methodist Conference**

*24th June–1st July, Birmingham*

We hope to share cake and conversation with delegates and visitors on the Saturday of Conference, to make a presentation to the Conference about the work of MWiB, and to lead Conference worship one morning—all details tbc. Our Fringe Event *[date tbc]* will include worship, anniversary celebrations, and the commissioning of Ruth Parrott as MWiB President.

### **Summer Garden Party**

*August [date tbc], at Epworth Old Rectory*

A chance to get together to celebrate MWiB, to eat together, to visit the Rectory and exhibition, and to enjoy (we hope!) some sunshine!

*(\*Dates and details are all subject to change depending on the ongoing coronavirus situation; information will appear in mailings, on the MWiB website, and on Facebook and Twitter)*

WORSHIP / BIBLE STUDY / STORIES / ACTION

GLOBAL ONLINE EVENT  
13TH & 14TH AUGUST 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
[www.wfmucw.org](http://www.wfmucw.org)



World Federation  
of Methodist and  
Uniting Church Women

**A NEW VISION**  
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



## **A NEW VISION**

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

A global online event  
planned and hosted by  
World President Alison Judd  
and Rachel Allison,  
British Unit Helen Kim Scholar.

We are asked to pray on the 26th  
day of each month between now  
and August, praying with the  
World Officers as we prepare  
for the event.

Save the date—details to follow.

## Forthcoming Events



### World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

#### A NEW VISION

FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Global online event:  
13th and 14th August 2021



### Together, with Hope on the Way



Online Conference  
Saturday 17th and  
Sunday 18th April 2021

With keynote speaker  
Sister Imelda Poole

and

MWiB tenth anniversary  
celebration on Sunday afternoon

Bookings now open at  
[www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)  
See page 2 for further details

#### *What's happening where you are?*

*Send details of your upcoming MWiB events  
to: [communications@mwib.org.uk](mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk)  
so that we can share them on the website  
(or post on the MWiB Facebook group)—  
a great way of sharing news, encouraging  
prayer for one another, and inviting others to  
join you if they're online events.*

#### Just Living: Being Faithful with God's Resources (based on SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production)



World Federation Day Event  
Saturday 23rd October 2021  
Central Methodist Church, Chippenham, Wiltshire

Save the date! Further information and booking details to come



#### 14th World Assembly Go and bear fruit— fruit that will last

2nd—7th August 2022

Gothia Towers Hotel,  
Gothenburg, Sweden

Booking details available autumn 2021

#### Contact us:

MWiB President:	Hilary Evans	<a href="mailto:president@mwib.org.uk">president@mwib.org.uk</a>
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Website: <http://www.mwib.org.uk>  
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