



His cross stands empty to the skies

Dear Sisters

I am writing this after a wonderful weekend with the York and Hull District at Cober Hill, near Scarborough. It is a great privilege to be invited to share with women across the Connexion as they gather for district days and residential.

It was a privilege, too, to spend a weekend with our dedicated Forum members at Hinsley Hall in Leeds recently. The exciting outcome of that meeting was the selection of Sandra Goodwin to the role of Vice President and then President of the movement when my term of office draws to a close. Sandra will be welcomed as Vice President at our fringe event at Methodist Conference on Monday 4 July 2016 and will then be commissioned as President in the summer of 2017.



Sandra Goodwin



Judith Simms

Since the last newsletter we have also appointed Judith Simms to the role of Communications Officer. Carolyn Lawrence has been appointed to replace Alison Judd and I would ask you to pray for all the new executive officers. Gillian Womersley and I will continue to serve until the summer of 2018 and we are looking forward to the future as part of this new team.



Carolyn Lawrence

I must at this point pay tribute to Linda Crossley, Alison Judd and Liz Marriott, whose contribution to MWiB has been outstanding. They have given of their time, energy and commitment in a completely voluntary capacity over several years and we will miss their presence at our meetings. They have brought wisdom, insight and warmth to all that we have done together and I greatly value their friendship.

Several Forum members complete their terms of office this year, too, and I would like to thank them for their hard work on behalf of their districts. I shall not name them, as one or two are considering the possibility of offering to stay for one additional year on the Forum in order to smooth the transition in terms of numbers joining and leaving the group each year.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the concert with Paul Field and Garth Hewitt on 21 May at Methodist Central Hall Westminster.

With every blessing

Anne

Holy Land Pilgrimage - November 2015

For ten nights in November, 34 MWiB pilgrims travelled together through the Holy Land. We were a mixed bunch, ranging in age from 25 to 80; there were two past presidents of MWiB and a number who knew very little of the movement; there was a mother and daughter pair, and another pair of schoolfriends, who now live hundreds of miles apart. The idea of a women-only Christian pilgrimage had attracted us all for different reasons, and that enabled many to undertake something very special that they might not have been able to do otherwise.



Thursday in black at Tabgha

We were wonderfully led by Revd Elizabeth Rundle, as chaplain, and Jill Baker as organiser, carer and provider of encouragement in every situation. Elizabeth and our tour guide and driver – Palestinian Christians Salim and Jawad – had led many such tours previously but, for all of them, leading a women-only group was a new experience. They were struck by our great care and concern for each other, by our patience, good humour and energy levels and, for Salim and Jawad, by our wonderful Methodist singing! We had communion services at the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem, in Shepherd's Fields in Bethlehem, and at Tabgha, the scene of the feeding of the 5,000 by the Sea of Galilee; we had readings and hymns at so many other memorable sites.

Salim was an excellent guide, sharing the experience of life today in this beautiful but troubled land, as well as giving us so much Biblical and historical insight to the places we visited. Very special for me was visiting Jacob's Well at Nablus in the West Bank, definitively the site of Jacob's Well, and the well where Jesus talked with the Samaritan woman. In the crypt of a Greek Orthodox Church today, it was also the scene of the fatal shooting of a priest in 1974, killed for helping Palestinians.

As Elizabeth concluded her guide and worship booklet, "We came as pilgrims, we return home as witnesses."

A fuller account of this pilgrimage will appear soon on the MWiB website.



13th World Assembly 29 August – 3 September 2016

Book before 1 April for the cheaper rate!

Around 40 women from Britain and Ireland have now registered to attend the Assembly which is running alongside the World Methodist Conference in Houston, Texas. Alison is sending out occasional progress reports to those who have registered, so do let her know you are going if you haven't already done so. 250 rooms have been reserved for the WFM&UCW and Alison may be able to help you find a room-mate if you need one. Through our 'Tenners for Texas' appeal, MWiB is giving financial support (£10,000+) to our sister Area, Europe: Continental, thus enabling 11 of the smaller Units to be represented at the event. Thank you to those who are raising funds through 'Bring and buy a butterfly' and other means. Please pray for those planning the Assembly, a huge undertaking but well worth the effort. Pray that those needing visas will be granted them without delay, and that all travel arrangements proceed smoothly. Pray for Louise Wilson (Ireland) and Carolyn Lawrence (Britain) as they prepare for their roles as Area President and Vice-President of the Europe: Britain and Ireland Area. They will be commissioned in worship in Houston on Friday 2 September. Rachel Allison from York and Hull District has been selected as our Helen Kim Memorial Scholar (HKMS) 2016-2021. She, with Wanda Hogan from Ireland, will join a dozen other HKMS for their leadership training event prior to the Assembly. Please support all these young women with your prayers.

This opportunity to meet and share experiences with Methodist and Uniting Church women from around the world only occurs every 5 years. Don't miss it!

Look out for regular updates on www.wfmucw.org or email Alison for further information.





Easter Offering 2016 - "Child, get up!"

We hope you have been using the **Lent Reflections** associated with this year's service and giving background information to various cultural groups that make up the Church of North India: [Lent Reflections](#). For the first time, associated **Children's Resources** are also available on the MWiB website: [Children's Resources](#), Methodist Church website and in Rainbow magazine. Please make these known to leaders of Junior Church, uniformed groups, Messy Church etc.

All resources associated with the service itself are on the Methodist Church and MWiB websites, including a correctly paginated version of the service for download and printing for use in small groups and the PowerPoint presentation complete with photos to accompany the stories. A projectionist's order of service is also available on the websites.

The service features three stories showing how the World Mission Fund supports Dalit people to experience the fullness of life that Christ intends for each of us. Last year £427,500 was raised for the World Mission Fund through the Easter Offering. A big 'Thank you!' to all those who support this annual campaign.



Our woman in Germany - News from a Mission Partner

I live in Chemnitz in the eastern part of Germany. In Communist times the city was called Karl-Marx-Stadt and even after 25 years of united Germany the Communist legacy is still felt. Almost 85% of the inhabitants here are atheist which makes our mission here interesting to say the least.

Together with my husband and a handful of Christians from other churches in Chemnitz, I am involved in a social outreach project - a fresh expression of church, called INSPIRE. Our aim is help breathe new life into the Brühl neighbourhood in Chemnitz City centre. We have rented rooms and are using them to build community, welcome the stranger, and share the love of God with our

neighbours. At INSPIRE we run a bring and share brunch, have open stage on Mondays for upcoming artists and run a cafe for refugees. I also teach English to senior citizens. We are just about to start a new work with the children on the Brühl. Please do pray for this new work. I love being in the background using my gifts of hospitality, creativity and making people feel welcome. Thank you for your prayers.

Gillian Sloan



From deep within - a writing competition, inspired by the life, writing and work of Revd Julie Hulme.

You are invited to submit a meditative or reflective piece of writing on the theme of 'From Deep Within' in prose or poetry, maximum 500 words. This must be an original piece of work, not previously published either in print or electronically.

The competition is open to British residents, male and female, aged 16 or over, other than relatives of the organisers or judges. You may submit up to three entries.

The closing date is midnight on **Sunday 15 May 2016**.

There will be a prize of £150 for the winner and a runner-up prize of £50.

The winner and runner-up will be announced on 4 July 2016 at a fringe event of the Methodist Conference held in Westminster, London.

Competition rules and guidelines:

Ideally entries should be sent by email attachment to writingcompetition@mwib.org.uk or by post to Writing Competition, PO Box 9298, Loughborough LE11 9FY, including, your name, address, telephone number and the title of the piece in the body of the email or covering letter. **DO NOT** put your name or any identifying details on the entry itself. Entries must be typed. Please print clearly on A4 paper, using black ink and using one side of each sheet of paper. Double spacing is preferred.

Copyright will remain the property of the writer, although it would be our intention to publish the material on the MWiB and Imagining Abundance websites.

NOTICE BOARD

Forthcoming Connexional MWiB Events

Methodist Women in Britain present

Paul Field in Concert
WITH SPECIAL GUEST GARTH HEWITT

Saturday 21 May 2016 3-5pm

**Methodist Central Hall
Westminster, London**

Admission by ticket (£5)

Doors to Great Hall open at 1.30pm

Refreshments on sale

To order tickets send SAE and cheque payable to Methodist Women in Britain to Concert, PO Box 9298, Loughborough,

LE11 9FY.

Tel. 0300 030 9873

Proceeds from the event will go to the MWiB partnership with the Church of North India, in support of their work to educate and empower Dalit women and girls.

Swanwick Residential Weekend - 15-17 April 2016 (fully booked)

Conference Fringe Event - 4 July 2016

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster.

Training for New Forum/Executive members—11:00—16:00 16 July 2016

Methodist Central Hall, Westminster

World Federation Day - Taste of Texas - 29 October 2016

Rowbarton Methodist Church, Taunton.

MWiB Walking pilgrimages to Lindisfarne (Holy Island)

4-9 April 2016 Pilgrimage is now fully booked. Check for any availability for 8-13 August 2016 Pilgrimage, contact Jill Baker,

pilgrimages@mwib.org.uk or download the registration form from the MWiB website: [Registration form 2016](#)

Women's World Day of Prayer – Y Pray conference

A weekend conference for young women based on prayer.

Venue: King's Park Conference Centre, Northampton

Date: 29 Apr–1 May 2016

Keynote Speaker: Revd Professor Ulrike Bechmann

Worship Leader: Helen Pollard

[Booking Form](#)

The form can also be downloaded from the WWDP Website.

MWiB Merchandise

The new Butterfly Cards are available from Liz Marriott at the MWiB PO Box, priced at £3.00 per pack.

Merchandise will be available at MWiB events and Methodist Conference .

Dalit Resource Packs and Updates can be ordered from Rev. Deborah Kirk, deborah.m.kirk@googlemail.com

Dementia Friendly Churches resource pack is available from lesley.france@mha.org.uk

www.mwib.org.uk

follow us:



MWiB is a movement within the Methodist Church of Great Britain, Registered Charity No. 1156626

Visit us on <http://www.mwib.org.uk>

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