

This Area consists of two Units: Methodist Women in Britain and Methodist Women in Ireland

CHOSEN PEOPLE CALLED TO PROCLAIM . . .

. . . through our WORSHIP

As one of the nine Areas of the Federation we join with our sisters throughout the world in the monthly 'Call to Pray' that comes from our World President and it is good to know that so many hearts and voices are lifted in unison to God in this way. We are also humbled and privileged to be asked from time to time to pray for particular concerns facing our sisters in other countries, either for themselves personally or for their nations.

The Methodist Women in Britain are faithful in celebrating the World Federation Study Day but this has proved more difficult for the Methodist Women in Ireland due to lack of numbers. Both Units celebrate an act of worship around Easter time which is produced by the British Unit. Again both Units hold national residential weekends which involve Bible studies and praise and women in local churches throughout Britain and Ireland hold special women's services which they plan and lead.

. . . through our RELATIONSHIPS

The two Units have developed a close relationship, sharing prayer concerns with each other and sending representatives to each other's residential weekends. As Area Officers we are also able to be present at these events; in fact Carolyn was the guest speaker at a women's weekend conference in the South of Ireland earlier this year.

In preparing for the 10th Joint European Area Seminar taking place in Ireland in June 2018, closer relationships have been formed between all the Area Officers and between us and many of the European Unit Presidents. We look forward to this developing further and maybe even leading to some joint European initiatives around worship and social action arising from the Seminar. In fact, we hope that the Seminar will enable many relationships to develop between the individual members of all the European Units who will be represented: there will be delegates from 20 different Units present. Women from certain Districts of the Methodist churches in both Britain and Ireland have already established links with women in churches such as Bulgaria, Romania and Latvia and we hope that not only will these links be strengthened but even that others may be formed.

Both Units are actively involved, through the mission departments of their churches, in visiting church communities in other parts of the world. In the last year, women from this Area have visited their sisters in Germany, North India, and Bolivia. As Area President Louise has visited the women of the Methodist Church in Upper Myanmar; and as Area Vice-President Carolyn has been to South Africa. We are delighted that one of our Helen Kim Memorial Scholars was able to accompany Carolyn to Germiston in South Africa. In July this year (2018) Louise will also be attending a Conference of the Confederation of Latin American Women in Costa Rica.

. . . through our SOCIAL ACTION

Locally, women from both Units are actively involved in a variety of social action projects and initiatives, such as: foodbanks; parent & toddler groups; carer support groups; luncheon clubs; women's refuges; and street pastors. At national level, each Unit has funded several initiatives at home and overseas which have helped to empower women and girls and improved their health and education.

As an Area we have committed to working on three of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals during this quinquennium: SDG 4 – Quality Education; SDG 5 – Gender Equality; and SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities. The British Unit has already held a World Federation Study Day on SDG 5. It is wonderful that both our Helen Kim Memorial Scholars, Rachel and Wanda, are also committed to these goals; they have each adopted projects related to Gender Equality and we look forward to working closely with them on these over the remaining three years of this quinquennium. It is our hope that the Joint European Area Seminar might help to inspire the women of our Area to think of ways we might all work together on at least one of these Goals.

Louise Wilson
Area President

Carolyn Lawrence
Area Vice President