

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

I'm writing this letter on a very sunny but chilly day in Leeds, as District Forum Representatives and the Executive team gather to review past events and look forward to the year ahead.



Following our custom over the last few years, the Executive *[left]* took time out for sharing, reflection and prayer in late November. Foxhill Retreat Centre in Cheshire was our venue this time, an ideal setting of peace and natural beauty.

In early January we appointed Nina Rawlins *[below right]*, currently Forum Representative for the Northampton District, to be our Finance Officer for the next five years. Nina will shadow our current Finance Officer, Gillian Womersley, until 31st August before taking on her full role in September. Nina has been a member of the Finance Task Group for a number of years and we're pleased to welcome her into this very responsible and at times challenging role on the Executive team.



Following interviews, Forum have not appoint to the Vice-President/President role for 2018-2022. This will be re-advertised later in the spring. Please give prayerful thought as to whether this could potentially be your calling.

The Easter Offering Task Group has started the process of writing and collating material for 2019. Much thought, research and prayer goes into this annual resource, which is used widely across the Connexion. We enjoy the privilege and opportunity to promote the work of God's mission through the Church and I'd like to take this opportunity to stress once again that **all money donated** to the Easter Offering Appeal goes into the **Methodist Fund for World Mission** and not to MWiB.



In this season of Lent, and as we hear the national and world news each day, we realise more than ever the importance of the 2018 Easter Offering theme—to 'Seek Peace and Pursue it'. One key aspect of seeking and pursuing peace is in the 'art of listening', the ability to really listen to each other's perspective whether at home, in community, or internationally.

We are excited about a new relationship that has been agreed and signed at Forum between MWiB and 'Touchstone' in Bradford—pictured left, Touchstone Team Leader Barbara Glasson and I sign the agreement at Forum. For many years Touchstone have been working with communities from different ethnic and faith backgrounds, and active listening is key to this work. We look forward to sharing and learning from their expertise.

I finish today's letter with one of the Lent reflections from our website linked to the Easter Offering 2018 material [written by Sandra Lopez, WCR Team]:

Lord Jesus, I ask your Holy Spirit to give me the wisdom to become a disarmer of hearts in every volatile situation I find myself in. Help me to truly seek peace in every situation even if it means I may not obtain justice for myself in that instance. Help me see the bigger picture of your plan for peace in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

With love and blessings

*Sandra*

Following our recent work on Dalit Solidarity, you may be interested in an event, being run by Dalit Solidarity Network, Churches Dalit Support Network and Amos Trust, with the support of the Methodist Church:

## DOING THEOLOGY IN A STRANGE LAND: DALIT THEOLOGY ON CASTE DISCRIMINATION

Wednesday 25th April 2018

Amos Trust, St Clements Church, 1 St Clements Court, London EC4N 7HB

In India, there are over 300 million Dalits, those who for thousands of years have been seen as being worthless and untouchable. What does a God of liberation say to the on-going Dalit struggle for justice and equal rights when prejudice and discrimination are present in every area of life?

This is the first in a series of seminars with guest speakers on Dalit rights: activist Revd Dr Vincent Manoharan from Tamil Nadu, India long-term Amos partner and friend Rev Dr Jacob Devadason Dr Elizabeth Joy from the Churches Dalit Support Network



To book and for further details including the full itinerary for the day, please visit: [www.amostrust.org/dalit-day](http://www.amostrust.org/dalit-day)

**\* Please note this is NOT an MWiB event, so please DO NOT contact us for event or booking details! \***

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Saturday 6—Monday 15 October 2018

Organised by Elizabeth Burroughs (former WWDP rep to Forum) and led by Valerie Martin (a Quaker). Participants will stay in hotels in the Old City of Jerusalem, near Manger Square in Bethlehem, and on the sea shore of Galilee, visiting the main Holy Land sites and Masada, and meeting both Christians and Jews who live in there today. There are just 24 places on the pilgrimage, so early booking is advised. For further information and a booking form, please email Elizabeth: [dreab@talktalk.net](mailto:dreab@talktalk.net)

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**A weekend conference open to all  
at Cliff College, 6-8 April 2018**

For more information and booking details:  
[pilgrimage@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:pilgrimage@methodistchurch.org.uk)

### Y-PRAY?



An exciting weekend conference for younger women sponsored by the Women's World Day of Prayer.

King's Park Centre, Northampton  
4-6 May 2018.

The programme includes worship, bible study and creative prayer, plus more light-hearted activities and opportunity to discover what WWDP is all about.

Further information and booking form available from [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk)

**MWiB is offering a £60 bursary to any young woman wishing to attend this conference—contact Finance Officer.**

### MWiB Annual Review Spring 2017

[Review of MWiB activities 2016-2017]

As well as reviewing the events and activities of MWiB over the past year, the Annual Review is MWiB's 'shop window'—a place for people to look and see who we are, what we do, and why we do it. As well as handing them out at your women's meetings, why not give out copies at your District Synod, give them to people in your own church (rather than leaving them for people to take), put some where 'outside' groups can pick them up, and get copies into all your local churches (Methodist and other denominations).

Your Forum Rep will have some copies for your District, but if you want more, please contact the Communications Officer by email or phone (all contact details overleaf).

The Annual Review will also be available to download from the MWiB website.



### Story and Song

...is the theme of this year's Conference Fringe Event, which will take place in Nottingham on Friday 29th June (venue and start time to be confirmed).

Our speaker will be Anne Browse, who will share in *Story and Song* her experiences as MWiB President.



The evening will also include announcement of the 2018 creative writing competition winners and reading of the winning entries.



# BONANZA FOR BELFAST!



Once again we are raising money to enable women from poorer European countries to attend the seminar, who would otherwise be unable join us. Coffee mornings, offerings, concerts, bring-and-buy sales, and events—there are so many creative and imaginative ways to raise money, and we look forward to seeing what you come up with!

At the Swanwick residential in April there will be a 'Butterfly Bring and Buy Stall' (as we had for our Houston fundraising in 2016), so please bring, or send with someone else, any butterfly items for the stall, and some money to buy an item or two yourself. Last time we had a huge variety of scarves, notebooks, pictures, jewellery, cards, candles, and much, much more. Any items left at the end will be available to take back to your District as your own 'Butterfly Stall Starter Kit'!



## Meet a Mission Partner

### Our Woman in Milan

The Methodist and Waldensian churches in Italy came together in the 70s. The surge in migration starting round about the mid 90s has brought with it the gift of many Christian migrant families, who have invigorated and rejuvenated the churches. They also brought with them—and have carried on to a certain extent—their ways of being church. The Methodist Waldensian Union has been on a journey of developing an intercultural approach to being church—

*Essere Chiesa Insieme/Being Church Together*. Daniel and I were invited in 2016 to serve alongside the church in this process.

Our family belongs to two congregations with people from the USA, UK, Ghana, China, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Italy, Madagascar, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Germany, Vietnam...

So, what do I do?

I serve with the Intercultural National Committee which works alongside churches and their pastors offering support in various ways to encourage the development of the vision of *Being Church Together*. I also work with the Education Department (*Servizio Istruzione ed Educazione - SIE*), as an Intercultural Relationships facilitator and also as a member of the group of writers of Sunday School material (*La Scuola Domenicale*) for the use of the member churches of the Protestant Federation of Churches in Italy (*Federazione delle Chiesa Evangeliche in Italia - FCEI*). My main task here is to help develop an Intercultural approach in the preparation of the resources.

My family is going through an intercultural experience of its own. Not so long ago we were learning to speak French and Pidgin in Cameroon, and sampling the various regional delicacies of the student community of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary there. Today, our diet embraces a variety of Filipino, Italian, Indonesian and African dishes. What a wonderful thing it is to belong to the world wide family of God!

Grace



*Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman and their children.*

## TRANSFORMING the World from the kitchen?

THE STORY OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER IN BRITISH METHODISM



The MWiB Heritage and Archives Exhibition—telling the story of women working together in British Methodism—will reopen at Epworth Old Rectory on Tuesday 6 March 2018.

**March, April and October:**

Tuesday to Saturday, and Bank Holidays: 10.30am—3.30pm

**May to September:**

Tuesday to Saturday, and Bank Holidays: 10.00am—4.30pm.

## Forthcoming Events



Methodist Women  
in Britain



### Events Diary 2018

#### February

- 14—23 Carolyn Lawrence and Rachel Allison visit South Africa  
17—18 Forum meets at Hinsley Hall, Leeds

#### March

- MWiB Exhibition re-opens at Epworth Old Rectory  
Friday 2 Women's World Day of Prayer  
Wed 21 Executive meets at MCH, London

#### April

- 20—22 Swanwick Residential Weekend  
Wed 25 Closing date for writing competition

#### June

- 7—11 Joint Area Seminar, Belfast  
Wed 20 Executive meets at MCH, London  
Fri 29 Fringe event at Methodist Conference

#### July

- Sat 14 New Forum Reps training, London

#### September

- Wed 5 Executive meets at MCH, London  
29—30 Forum meets at The Hayes, Swanwick

#### October

- Sat 27 World Fed Day—Truro & Blackburn

## Oceans of Justice, Rivers of Fairness



### MWiB Residential Weekend

Friday 20th—Sunday 22nd April 2018  
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire

#### Keynote speaker: Rachel Lampard

Rachel is Team Leader of the Joint Public Issues Team and was Vice President of Conference 2016-17. She has worked for the Methodist Church as Secretary for Parliamentary and Political Affairs since 2000 with responsibility for the Church's engagement with political issues in a range of areas.

Information and booking forms are available to download from the website, or by email: [admin@mwib.org.uk](mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk) or telephone: 0300 030 9873 to receive them by post.



Thanks to two very generous legacies, MWiB has money available for projects, training or equipment to enable those with visual or hearing impairment have better access to worship and other church activities. The amount available for Visual impairment is £24,665 and for Hearing Impairment is £60,242.

If you know of any group, church or individual who would benefit from a grant from this money, please contact the Finance Officer with details.

#### Contact us:

|                         |                   |                                                                            |
|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MWiB President:         | Sandra Goodwin    | <a href="mailto:president@mwib.org.uk">president@mwib.org.uk</a>           |
| Vice President:         | Anne Browse       | <a href="mailto:vicepresident@mwib.org.uk">vicepresident@mwib.org.uk</a>   |
| WFM&UCW Officer:        | Carolyn Lawrence  | <a href="mailto:wfmucw@mwib.org.uk">wfmucw@mwib.org.uk</a>                 |
| Finance Officer:        | Gillian Womersley | <a href="mailto:finance@mwib.org.uk">finance@mwib.org.uk</a>               |
| Communications Officer: | Judith Simms      | <a href="mailto:communications@mwib.org.uk">communications@mwib.org.uk</a> |
| Resources Officer:      | Liz Marriott      | <a href="mailto:resources@mwib.org.uk">resources@mwib.org.uk</a>           |
| General enquiries       | 0300 030 9873     | <a href="mailto:admin@mwib.org.uk">admin@mwib.org.uk</a>                   |

PO Box 9298, Loughborough, LE11 9FY

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Website: <http://www.mwib.org.uk>  
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Methodist Women in Britain



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