



Spring newsletter 2025



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2025, and although it is cold outside as I write this the sun is finally shining again giving me hope that spring is around the corner.

Last week the MWiB Trustees met for a 24 hour meeting in the beautiful setting of Launde Abbey in Leicestershire. Although we were working hard we caught some glimpses of the advent of spring with carpets of snowdrops standing bravely all around the gardens and daffodils starting to peep through. Inside our meeting it felt like the advent of a new spring for the work of Methodist Women in Britain as we considered a whole new range of publicity which will be launched at our Swanwick Conference in April as well as some new additions to our merchandise.

We will be working hard this year to raise the profile of MWiB with stands at a variety of Christian events throughout the year including Methodist Conference in Telford. We are also delighted that Kathy Galloway from the Iona Community will be our speaker at this years Mary Boasanquet lecture, a fringe event at the Telford Conference. This years Swanwick Conference, with our keynote speaker Rev Sonia Hicks, has proved popular and is almost full residentially but you can sign up to join the conference on zoom—see our website for details.

Our CoChairs Maggie and Leonora are out and about spreading the word about MWiB and you can read more about what they have been up to inside this edition. You can follow their work through the CoChair blog on our website and on our Facebook and Instagram. Our website also features Prayer for the Week written by a different writer each month as well as news of events and currently all the Easter Offering materials for this year. Lent Reflections will also be posted in due course.

On behalf of the Trustees I wish you all a blessed Easter and we hope to meet up with some of you during the coming year.

Bronwen Braidell (Communications Officer)



News from CoChair Maggie Woods

After leading a carol service at Manningtree Methodist church just before Christmas I found myself heading to hospital by ambulance with a suspected heart attack. Luckily it was not a heart attack but after further tests it was discovered that a heart valve had been damaged by a virus but it can be fixed.

Of all that has been happening since Christmas I have chosen three highlights.

On Jan 10th I was pleased to represent MWiB at the service of celebration for the life of Elizabeth Dunn Wilson a former president of Network. The service was at Emmanuel Eastbourne, lovely bright and welcoming building on a chilly day. A large MWiB candle was lit at the start of the service. Family photos were used to celebrate the life and ministry of both Elizabeth and her husband and what a wonderful roller coaster of a life it was. We saw Elizabeth outside 10 Downing St with a petition during her time as Network president, in the mission field in Panama and Kenya. Elizabeth used her skills as a teacher to pioneer creative worship for children and took a real interest in promoting women's health. It was good to hear tributes from colleagues, church friends and family and reflections on her legacy.

Afterwards I met with one of the stewards who is keen to set up an MWiB group having attended the district day at Battle that I led last year.

On Jan 18th both Leonora and I attended a District Day at Wesley's Chapel hosted by London District President Lilla Hercules. Based around 'Give thanks with a grateful heart' Leonora spoke in the morning about the 16 days of activism and future plans and in the afternoon worship I reflected on "An attitude of gratitude". It was a wonderful joyous day with news of two new groups, amazing singing, bags of enthusiasm and endless cake



On Jan 23rd I joined the Essex Beds and Herts Executive meeting on zoom. It was good to see Annah Zodwa joining as trustee for the first time. The group had raised an amazing £1,066.30 for the Dora project and were planning a fellowship day at High Leigh. An encouraging message had been received from Esther who had moved to Cumbria to say that MWiB was thriving in her area.

It is so good to see clear signs of new growth and enthusiasm for MWiB across the country.

News from CoChair Leonora Wassell

Be a disruptor!

Following on from the 16 Days of Activism which we took part in last November, I decided I needed to educate myself on the issue of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Ruth Dawson, our Media Officer placed a video by Press Red on Instagram and Facebook.



https://youtu.be/UPmHFMW6_zQ?si=nOB1_ytv9tPWUUV

This video challenges men to look at how they treat women. I was so impressed by it that I contacted Michelle Bucknor the Deputy Director of Press Red and had a very animated conversation with her over zoom. She told me about the resources on offer from Be a Disruptor! Course, Control, a theatrical event designed to make churches aware of the issue of Domestic abuse, and their work in schools. Michelle characterised the role of Press Red as being at the top of a precipice helping to stop abuse from happening.

I duly signed up for the next Disruptor! Course to be held in at the Coach House Church, Stockport. "At the end of the training, participants will know how to respond to abuse, to recognise sexism, know that they are not alone and become skilled in how to challenge their mates without it turning into a confrontation." We looked at the



statistics which were shocking. This is considered a national crisis. What was also shocking was that 41% of domestic abuse happens to church members. We role played a variety of situations that we might find ourselves in within church as well as at work or in the community.

That was challenging as we identified unconscious bias. In the safety of this event, we were able to share stories of our own lived experiences. How to be alongside people who are experiencing abuse was tackled as we looked at how to disrupt a situation we may be witnessing. I would certainly recommend the course for churches, circuits, or districts. This could be arranged as an area MWiB event.

Community Vision East Riding Conference on Domestic Abuse & Violence Against Women and Girls for Church based faith sector

During the 16 of Activism we had a side chat on Facebook in which people could comment and say what they were doing. One such person was Councillor Linda Johnson, past Mayor of Beverley and a Methodist Local Preacher and Circuit Steward. I had a very productive conversation with her about what I hoped MWiB would be doing around the issue of violence against women and girls.

She then told me about what she does through her civic role in Beverley and the East Riding. She invited me to the Community Vision Day held at Toll Gavel United Church and Centre. This conference brought together those offering services in this sector; East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board; East Riding Domestic violence and abuse partnership team; Jackie Bowes, Deputy Lieutenant. We also heard from charities involved with the issue of abuse.



I had a table with prototypes of our publicity leaflets and had an opportunity to speak at the end about what MWiB stands for and what we



are hoping to do in the future. The paintings are done by a perpetrator of violence against women who has turned his life around and these portray his realisation of what effect he had on women.



National Council of Women (NCW)

MWiB is an associate member of

NCW. In December we received an email from Ann Davison, the Vice President, inviting us to join them on their International steering group. I joined the team and learnt about the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) event to be held at the UN headquarters in New York. This year is the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action where states set up a framework for gender equality and women's empowerment. It is a commitment by the international community to address gender inequality and assess the situation of women & the efforts of states to support women's empowerment. It affirms women's rights are human rights. This year will be an assessment of current challenges that affect the implementation of the declaration and what has been achieved towards the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The event will run from 10 March to 21 March with 12000 people attending. As well as the main business occurring in the UN Building there is an NGO Parallel event where discussions and side events will happen at various sites. I have the privilege of going to represent both NCW and MWiB and take part in this amazing event. I have had a variety of zoom and in person meetings to discuss what will be happening and what will be expected of me. There are over 120 delegates from a variety of organisations going from the UK. We had an opportunity of meeting with The Rt Hon Annaleise Dodds, Minister for Women and Equalities to hear the Governments position on the issues facing women and heard presentations from other organisations involved in advocacy for women's rights. I was able to network with those going to New York, sharing what we are hoping to do within MWiB.

I leave on 8th March and will be returning on 17th March. Whilst there I will be meeting up with members of United Women in Faith, our American equivalent and hopefully share fellowship and stories. I will hopefully be doing a daily blog and if I can manage it a vlog whilst there.



Watch out for Flutterby's adventures in the Big Apple!

Places at our annual conference are filling up fast—booking closes 10th March.

Can't come? Then why not join us on zoom—booking details on our website www.mwib.org.uk

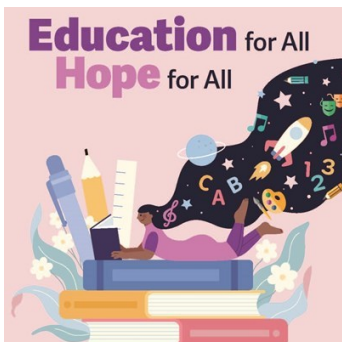
Methodist Women in Britain **Swanwick Conference 2025**
this little light of mine ...
Friday 4th to Sunday 6th April 2025
at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire
with keynote speaker
Rev Dr Sonia Hicks
(President of Methodist Conference 2021-2022)
plus worship, workshops, fellowship & friendship

Longing for light we wait in darkness:

Methodist Women in Europe preparing for Easter

Thursday 10th April at 19.00hrs (7pm London BST) on Zoom

Zoom Meeting ID: 861 6381 4328 Passcode: 056330



Easter Offering 2025

The worship materials can be found on our website or ordered direct from Methodist Publishing. Please encourage your circuit or church to use this material for worship and to hold Easter Offering collections for the World Mission Fund.



SAVE THE DATE

Our 3rd Mary Bosanquet Lecture



will be given by Kathy Galloway from the Iona Community

Pay attention Be astonished Tell about it

27th June 2025

as an evening fringe event at Methodist Conference in Telford

Good news from Tabitha House in Bolivia



FE.FE.ME. NACIONAL

DISTRITOS:

- Kollasuyo**
Carabuco
Prov. Camacho
La Paz
- Norte "A"**
Av. Abdón Saavedra N° 1955
z. Sopocachi • Tel. 2491687
La Paz
- Central**
c. Junin 351
Tel. 4223708 - 4222843
Fax: 4282407
Casilla: 770
E-mail: iem_dc@yahoo.es
Cochabamba
- Puna Central**
Konani
Prov. Aroma - Prov. Loayza
La Paz
- Oriente**
Casilla 51
Telefax 92-20170
Montero, Santa Cruz
- Norte "B"**
Karhuiza
Prov. Los Andes
La Paz
- Altiplano Central**
Eucallitus
Prov. Tomás Barrón, Oruro
Prov. Gualberto Villarroel, La Paz
- Yungas - Alto Beni**
Caranavi
La Paz
- Valle Andino**
Timusi
Prov. Muñecas
La Paz
- Lago**
Ancoraimes
Prov. Ormasuyos
La Paz
- El Alto**
Calle 2 N° 71
Zona Brasil, Ex-Tranca (Río Seco)
Tel. 2861657
El Alto - La Paz
- Kollasuyo Norte**
Humanata
Prov. Camacho
La Paz
- Sur - Potosí**
Av. Periférica N° 15
Zona Villa Venezuela
Potosí
- Cordillera Warisata**
Warisata
Prov. Ormasuyos
La Paz
- Valle Verde**
Inca Katurapi
La Paz
- Copacabana**
Prov. Manco Kapac
La Paz
- Fronteras del Sur**
Prov. Villazón
Potosí
- Amazónico**
Prov. Nicolás Suárez
Pando
- Monte Sinai - Beni**
Prov. José Ballivián
Beni

IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA METODISTA EN BOLIVIA

Federación Femenina Metodista FE.FE.ME.

La Paz - Bolivia, November 7th, 2024

Sister
Ruth Parrot
Present.-

REFERENCE: THANK YOU LETTER

Dear Sister in Christ,

May the peace and love of the Lord Jesus Christ fill your home and the work you do for the good of society with blessings.

On behalf of the Bolivian Methodist Sisters we send our deep gratitude to all the Sisters of the churches of Great Britain for the offering of love. Thanks to your economic support we concluded with the fine work of the kitchen of our Tabitha Center that was very nice and useful equipped with dishwasher and counters incorporated also the kitchen has a ceramic finish on the walls and aluminum Windows, all of this will give us the facility to prepare food for all the sisters in the workshops, meetings and others.

The support is a great blessing for the Methodist Women of Bolivia. In the help that you gave us we feel the love of God that is manifested through you.

Thank you very much, Sister Ruth, you and your team will always be in our prayers.

Love from Bolivia your sisters in Christ


Hna. Sonia Guaravia Machaca
SECRETARIA NAL. FEFEME
I. E. M. B.


Hna. Delia Cala Vegue
PROMOTORA NAL. FEFEME
I. E. M. B.


Hna. Aurora Callizaya Choque
TESORERA NAL. FEFEME
I. E. M. B.

Delia, Sonia and Aurora.

Methodist Women's Federation in Bolivia (FEFEME BOLIVIA)


Hna. Merydo Vega Gutiérrez
SECRETARIA NAL. IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA
METODISTA EN BOLIVIA

Av. 16 de Julio No. 1636, Piso 3 • c. México N° 1577 • Centro de Huéspedes "John Wesley" (z. Central)
Telf.: (591-2) 290 0710 - 290 0711 • Fax (591-2) 290 0720 - 290 0709
www.iembc.cc • e-mail: iemb-obispado@cotas.com.bo • La Paz - Bolivia



**Kitchen refurbishment
paid for with money
sent by MWiB.
Together we make a
difference.**



Remembering Celia Shires (Died December 2024) longstanding friend and supporter of women's work in the church through Network, World Federation & MWiB

Celia was Darlington District MWiB President 2014-2015 and a long-serving member of Network & MWiB on the District Committee as well as in her Circuit and Church. She will be greatly missed, not least for her contributions of many original poems & meditations, her wonderful recitations and her signing skills, and as a Local Preacher. Many recall Celia leading Signing workshops at Swanwick. A dear friend and supporter of MWiB and great encourager inspired by her deep faith, especially to others during lockdown, praise and adoration poured from her, not least when she was signing during worship. We remember the different colours in her hair and her use of sign language during District Services, Celia's wonderful poems and her amazing ability to recite monologues and deliver them so brilliantly. Picture was taken at the WFMUCW European Seminar "Forward together in hope" at Pomezia, Italy in June 2014. Our sympathy to Celia's son Andrew & her family and friends. *Pam Stenson*



Remembering Liz Marriott (16/9/1959-3/1/2025) by Gillian Pengelly

Picture of Liz was taken in Porto at WFMUCW European Seminar June 2024

It came as a tremendous shock to many to hear the news that Liz Marriott had died suddenly. Liz was actively involved with Women's Network and MWiB both locally and nationally. She served as an Area Representative on the Women's Network Connexional Committee at a particularly important time as we transitioned to be an independent movement. She was a member of the first Methodist Women in Britain Executive as Communications Officer which included being British Unit Correspondent for WFM&UCW. She enjoyed attending world assemblies in Johannesburg and Texas and European seminars in Italy and Porto, listening to women from around the world and making her contribution. Most recently Liz was a volunteer editor of Magnet, where she was able to share her love of photography and her faith through creative imagery.

Liz was passionate about encouraging girls to work in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). She loved riding her motorbike and dancing. She felt privileged after learning British Sign Language to be able to communicate with another group of people and often signed hymns and songs in worship.

Liz continued her involvement with MWiB & WFM&UCW after she and John moved 4 years ago to Germany to be near to their daughter, Rachel. It was great spending time with her in Porto & to see her online in December for the WFM&UCW Europe Area Christmas webinar. Harrison her grandson, aged 1, was the light of her life. Liz and John have made many friends in the churches and groups they belonged to and in the village where they lived. The church in Teupitz was full for her funeral service, with others joining on Zoom. It was very moving at the end of the bilingual service when everyone paused to lay a flower by her picture and urn at the front of the church as they left.

Using her skills and gifts in the service of God, Liz lived the ethos of Women's Network, MWiB and WFM&UCW as she encouraged, guided and inspired other women. We are so very grateful for her contribution and commitment. I have good memories of my friend & colleague and shall remember especially the many times we circle danced together.

Executive Team meetings

Bronwen Braidell

Between Trustee meetings your executive meet regularly on zoom as well as keeping in contact through email & what's app (how did we manage without all this technology?!)

After October's Trustee meeting we were left with many ideas from Trustees as to the next steps for Methodist Women in Britain to take including how to get our name out there. Following our executive retreat in November



it was decided that a 24hour executive meeting in person would be a productive way forward to consolidate our vision for the next few

years and our publicity. In January we met at Milton Keynes to discuss, plan and formulate ideas for our new publicity packs. Leonora

has been hard at working bringing our suggestions to life and these were brought to the Trustees for their approval in February. With

some tweaks at the request of Trustees our new publicity is off to the printers and packs will be launched at our Swanwick conference in

April. We want to get the name of Methodist Women in Britain out there in both the Methodist Church and the wider community. We

invite you to help by sharing publicity in your local area & church.

Merchandise & Resources

Caroline Fillery

Our MWiB merchandise is available all year round via our website, at your district events, as well as at conferences and national events. Browse the items we have available on the website and then place your order directly with our resources officer Caroline Fillery resources.mwib@gmail.com or contact your local district ambassador or area trustee who may have stock available locally.

This year we have introduced two new items to support your prayer life and reflection:

MWiB Labyrinth Embroidery Kit, which contains fabric, sewing silk, a needle, a butterfly button, a "handmade" button, and a printed labyrinth design for you to use. Use these kits to enhance your prayer life and reflection practices. Keep for yourself or gift to a friend.

MWiB Prayer Packs containing 10 cards each with ideas for different ways to enhance your prayer practice and to connect with God in a variety of ways through prayer.

Photos of some of our existing items, and all prices follow.

We are always happy to receive ideas and suggestions for new items to add to our range, so please contact Caroline via resources.mwib@gmail.com if you have ideas to share.

MWiB Merchandise

Labyrinth Embroidery Packs

Pray and reflect as you sew.

Use for further prayer
and reflection once
complete.

£10.00 each



Prayer Packs

£5.00 each



Candles

Approx 3" high

£2.50 each

Lightweight

Shopping Bag **£3.00**



Silk Scarfs

(Butterfly design)

15.00 each



Packs of Notelets

6 notelets with envelopes

3 different packs:

- A Flowers
- B Birds and Animals
- C Butterflies and Fresas

£3.00 each

Jute Bag

£5.50 each



Wooden Items

Cross on Stand

£5.00

Bookmark

2.00

Oval Keyring

£2.00

Round Keyring

£2.00



Notebooks

Available in:

red/pink, black, silver, blue

£4.00 each

Pens

£1.00 each



Methodist Women in Britain partner, or are affiliated with, many different groups. Some have sent us news about different events that you can join in with:

Action for Children Count Your Blessings through Lent & Faith Space

Join Action for Children to Count Your Blessings through Lent (5 March to 17 April 2025). They have produced a calendar of daily reflections and short stories about their work, with opportunities to make small donations during Lent. It is now available to download from: actionforchildren.uk/faithFR - scroll to the "Count Your Blessings" section.

Please invite family, friends and churches to take part. It's a great way to learn about Action for Children's impactful work while raising funds to support children and families.

Action for Children would also like to invite you to their first Faith Space event of 2025, which will be held on 12th March from 2:30 - 3:30 pm.

The government's forthcoming Child Poverty Strategy is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform child poverty in the UK. Alice Woudhuysen, Head of Campaigns & Public Affairs at Action for Children, will give you a sneak preview of the charity's new campaign - which aims to influence the strategy - ahead of the launch on 19th March. There will be other guest speakers too! Sign-up: <https://forms.office.com/e/y2701CkN5e>

Religions for Peace UK Women of Faith Network

We would be honoured if you would join us for this special Parallel Event as part of the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). 2025 marks 30 years since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+30).

Has progress been made on gender equity in the last 30 years? How can we collaborate to make a better world for women? Be the voice for the voiceless!

Join us on Wednesday, 12 Mar 2025 19:30 - 20:30 GMT

Register: <https://bit.ly/42CAurB>

The webinar will bring together voices from individuals and organisations working towards gender equality & addressing gender-based violence to share experiences and insights on the power of collaboration and partnerships in advancing impactful work.

Our speakers include representatives from Bold Voices, the Faith and VAWG Coalition, and The Scottish Interfaith Group on Domestic Abuse (SIFGODA), who will highlight how they engage with organisations, build partnerships, and the role collaboration plays in their initiatives.



Global Relationships Team Methodist Church

Wholehearted monthly, a new online mission series starting in March on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm - 9:00pm GMT/BST. People from all traditions and countries are welcome.

Nadia Bolz-Weber is a best-selling author, public theologian and pastor, and is the founder and church planter of House for All Sinners and Saints. (Tuesday 11 March)

Rowan Williams is a theologian, poet and former Archbishop of Canterbury, and is author of fifty books on literature, politics, and being Christian. (Tuesday 8 April)

Chine McDonald is a writer, broadcaster and author, and is Director of Theos, the religion and society think tank. (Tuesday 13 May)

It's for anyone committed to a vibrant friendship between "Church" and "World" — and a desire for both to flourish. Each month, testimony from local innovators, input from a renowned guest speaker, and wisdom-sharing in networks around Gospel justice, inclusion, evangelism, and growth. In the second hour the Global Relationships room will be opening the discussion and hearing from speakers from Global Partners and Global Communities, to explore our relationships, contexts and how we might mutually support each other in justice, inclusion, evangelism and growth around the world. Maggie will be speaking about MWiB in March.

Get your seat at the online conversation table here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wholehearted-monthly-tickets-1082365166349?aff=evangelismgrowth>



National Council of Women GB Women and Poverty free online event

Thursday 20th March 2025 12noon to 2pm

Join us online as we discuss the challenges faced by women living in poverty and explore ways to empower and support them. This event aims to raise awareness about the intersection of gender and poverty, and highlight the importance of addressing these issues in our communities.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn, connect, and make a difference.

The National Council of Women GB is delighted to welcome:

Erin Mansell, Head of Communications and Public Affairs for the Women's Budget Group; the UK's leading Feminists Economics Think Tank;

Susan Mc Kellar, Manager for The Scottish Women's Convention, who released their report 'The Impact of Poverty on Women' in late 2024; and

Dorothy Sang, Head of Advocacy and Policy at CARE International UK to provide us with a Worldwide perspective.

We look forward to welcoming you too. Presentations are followed by an open debate, so all can contribute to this very important issue. See you there!

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1237789444549?aff=oddtcreator>



MWiB Area Trustees

East Anglia and Lincolnshire - Rita Rowe

Scotland and Shetland - Barbara Harrison

Cornwall, Plymouth & Exeter - Elaine Banks

Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Mid Wales - Diana Bosman

London, Beds Essex & Herts, South East—Annah Mwadiwa

Yorkshire North & East, Yorkshire West and Sheffield -Janice Clark

Darlington, Newcastle and Cumbria - Debs Coggrave

Notts & Derby and Northampton - Mary Gill

Bolton & Rochdale and Lancashire - Philippa Hill

Liverpool, Chester & Stoke, North Wales, Manchester & Stockport - Margaret Lindley

Bristol & South Wales - Gillian Pengelly

Southampton & Channel Islands - Liz Chick

Next Trustee meetings: 12th May zoom; 10th—12th October St Katherines; 5th—6th February 2026 Swanwick

Please use communications.mwib@gmail.com

initially to make contact with your area trustee and let them know what's happening in your local MWiB group.

Contact us: PLEASE USE THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES

MWiB Co-chair's: Maggie Woods and Leonora Wassell— cochairs.mwib@gmail.com

If your contact is person specific please put Maggie or Leonora in the subject line

Finance Officer: Sheila Hall - finance.mwib@gmail.com

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

Digital Media Coordinator: Ruth Dawson - media.mwib@gmail.com

WFM&UCW Officer: Barbara Easton - britainireland.president@wfmucw.org

Helen Kim Memorial Scholar: Madeleine Reed— hkms.mwib@gmail.com

MWiB Resources : Caroline Fillery - resources.mwib@gmail.com

General enquiries: 0300 030 9873

or post to MWiB, c/o Stamford Methodist Church, 11 Barn Hill, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 2AE

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

Registered Charity No: 1156626 Methodist Women in Britain

Find us on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube

