



Methodist Women in Britain

Darlington District

How quickly time passes; it's October already and six months since the last Newsletter! Spring and Summer are behind us with Autumn fast approaching and our Autumn Day on the horizon, something we are all really looking forward to when at last we will be able to meet together as a large group of Christian women to celebrate 10 years of MWiB in our District. Our theme for the day is '*Forward together in Faith*', a phrase to hold onto into the future.

There have been many changes for everyone over the last six months, but two that impact MWiB are the retirement of Gwen Morrison and Helen Weighell from the Coordinating team. Gwen has moved to pastures new and we wish her well in her new home nearer to family. We are indebted to Gwen and Mike for editing the Newsletter over the past two years and for Gwen's input and energy to the coordinating team.

Helen having given years of service both before and after being President (2005-7), has decided now is the time to step down. How do we begin to thank her for all she has given to Network and then MWiB? We will miss her guidance, friendship, experience, the hours of fun and treasured music, all given with such a gentle touch. We hope she will continue to play for us occasionally and might be cajoled to repeat a Music Quiz?

So, ladies are you looking for a new challenge? We have two vacancies Editor of the Newsletter and Ministeracres Support, please think about offering to help us with either role.

Pam Stenson officially takes up the role of Vice President at our Autumn Day, we are so pleased she accepted the office and is already an invaluable member of the 'team'. You will find a Psalm Pam has reimagined further on in this edition.

But how do we say farewell to June Anderson? We will miss her; we cannot thank her enough for stepping over the District boundary to take over as President in 2017-19 and then for staying on as Vice President for a further two years. Her depth of knowledge and expertise has been invaluable to the coordinating team and I for one would have been lost without her support and guidance as I became President. We hope instead of farewell it is only au revoir.

At this point, I must give a special thank you to those who produced and took part in our Advent and Easter YouTube services which were a great outreach, not only to our local MWiB, as the recordings were enjoyed by others within the District and far beyond, appreciated by many isolated at home during difficult times. I am proud that we accepted the challenge to learn new skills to bring women together, encouraging one another to know Christ and to make him known, as Methodist women and as part of the wider Church in the virtual world.

We are moving forward in faith planning our 2021/22 Programme, details of which can be found as you read on. I look forward to sharing the events together and to continuing to serve you. So, until we meet God's blessing be upon you and His Peace.

Debs Coggrave



Methodist Women
in Britain 2011-2021

News from Mercy School, Kenya supported by our Project 2019-21 COCO, Schools for life

With the student chairs, the students are able to social distance themselves in class hence reducing the chances of spreading the disease.



The desks created more sufficient spacing to limit the chances of the spreading of the disease and also making it conducive for the learners as they sit comfortably while studying in class. The provision of face masks had also reduced the infection rates. Students are still wearing masks (Sept 2021).

The availability of the detergents at the entrances of classes and school gate enhanced frequent washing of the hands for students thus reducing the chances of disease spreading.

Students and staff members should wash their hands when entering the school gate and at break down. Handwashing vessels are stationed around classroom entrances.

The parents and guardians are able to use the hand wash facilities when they visit the school for meetings and normal day to day visits.

The caregivers and guardians of the children have also saved a lot when it comes to purchasing of the facemasks for their children as this was a requirement for every child to have the masks. The money they could have used in buying them were saved and used at household level for providing the basic needs such as buying food and other household items.



The overall outcome is that the students are able to attend classes without fear of getting infection; which has led to an increase in their performance.



Weight Watcher's Lament

It's all my fault, I know it is.
I shouldn't eat those sweets!
it's all my fault, I know it is -
I really like my treats.
I can't blame anyone else, I guess.
The fault is mine, I must confess
I know my figure is a mess
Solution is - I must eat less.
All those biscuits, all those cakes!
No wonder that my stomach aches!
A firm resolve is all it takes
I must make one, for all our sakes.
to 'Weight Watchers' I'll go again,
To get encouragement from Rihann
to try to do the best I can
to shift the pounds I have piled on.
So, points I'll count, you wait and see!
A pound a week will do for me
Three stones lighter I will be
Come next year, you wait and see!

Celia E. Shires

(I make this vow every year!!!)

Take my hand

Take my hand, Gentle Saviour, take my hand.
Take my hand, Gentle Saviour, you understand.
You know what I've been through: I know I can trust you.
Take my hand, Gentle Saviour take my hand.

Walk with me, Gentle Saviour, walk with me.
My Lord Jesus, Gentle Saviour, you set me free.
Help me walk ever closer so that all may see
that the world's gentle Saviour walks with me.

I don't know, Gentle Saviour, what life will send.
I don't know, Gentle Saviour, what's round the bend.
But I know Gentle Saviour, that you are my friend.
And will walk with me, Saviour, to the end.

Celia Shires 27th September 2021

Music Quiz

Helen Weighell organised a wonderful music quiz on zoom as we were coming out of lockdown. It was very cleverly organised into three parts, a part to suit all tastes. A group of us from Guisborough Methodist Church decided to meet at my house to take part. Enjoying the fellowship, but not the small screen of my laptop, we managed to hear the piano and answered the questions though the others zooming did not see a clear picture of our group. We had a lot of fun and not surprisingly the others quickly agreed with the answers. I managed to answer a couple; my excuse is the others were knowledgeable and quick especially Linda Lister, Ancia Ford and Joyce Turner. Ros Forteath and Angela Clare knew a lot too, I was so glad I was in their team and we managed to win. Looking forward to seeing you all again. *Roma Ross*

What Roma did not realise was we all could see the “Flutterflies” quite clearly on Zoom, sipping their chilled glasses of prosecco with much frivolity and laughter. Other participants wished they were at Roma’s home too; the bubbles must have made the difference to their score which put the rest of us to shame!



Music Quiz winning team the “Flutterflies” from left to right Joyce, Ros, Ancia, Roma, Linda and Angela



The Darlington District MWiB have been asked during December to pray for Barbara Easton, Vice President of Conference and World Federation Area Vice President.

Ten years of fundraising

As we celebrate the tenth anniversary of Methodist Women in Britain, I thought it might be a good idea to recap the fantastic fund raising efforts of the Darlington District MWiB over that time. In ten years we have supported 10 very different projects and raised £86,430.

Each year the Executive Committee ask members to make nominations for charities to support and there is then a vote to decide the charity.

I am sure that many of you have memories of the particular projects and the events you took part in whilst raising money in your church and Circuit groups. I hope this short article allows you to recall happy memories and if you are like me, you will be disbelieving of the year the event took part. How quickly time passes.

Below is a year by year table of the project and the amount raised

2010/11	Yatton House: £10,000
2011/12	Say No to Female Genital Mutilation: £12,000
2012/13	NEPACS: £10,000
2013/14	Dalit Women in India: £9,000
2014/15	Riding for the Disabled, Escomb and Teeside: £10,000
2015/16	Kinamba: £6,500
2016/17	MS and Samaritans: £8,400
2017/18	Haiti: £6,600
2018/19	HALO: £7,500
2019/21	COCO: £6,430

Hazel Neasham



Thursdays in Black

Many of you will be very much aware of the *Thursdays in Black* movement that is supported by the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and Methodist Women in Britain.

However, some of you might also be asking “What is the Thursdays in Black Campaign”?

Dressing in black on Thursdays is to draw attention to the culture of violence against women in our world. This practice was started by the World Council of Churches (WCC) during the decade 1988 -1998 to show solidarity with women’s struggle against rape as a weapon of war and other abuse. Today it would cover forced marriage, especially of children, and Female Genital Mutilation. In many countries it is women and their children that bear the brunt of poverty, injustice and inequality. Inspiring Campaigns that demonstrate women’s resilience include:

- The Mothers of the Disappeared in Buenos Aires, Argentina, who protested against the disappearance of their children during the violent dictatorship.
- The Women in Black in Israel and Palestine against war and violence.
- Women in Rwanda and Bosnia protested against the use of rape as a weapon of war in the genocide.
- Black Sash movement in South Africa protesting against apartheid and its use of violence against black people.

- Sexual and Gender-based Violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent or silenced, fearing stigma and further violence.

We believe that we all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies around the world.

Please, therefore, if you feel able to support this initiative: wear black on Thursdays or a pin-badge or a Thursdays in Black t-shirt (available from MWiB). By doing so, you will also be helping to spread the word about this long-standing and ever-growing movement towards a world without rape and violence. Thank you.



Thursday 7th June 2018 at the WFM&UCW
European Seminar in Belfast with Alison Judd World President

Pamela Stenson

In April 2020 following the death of my Auntie and my Mother-in-law from Covid on April 8th and 10th respectively, I wrote *“Love and Death in Holy Week 2020”* as an immediate and heart-felt meditation in response to the impact of the pandemic at Easter-time.

A year on, in April 2021, I re-imagined Psalm 23 as *“The Lord is my Healer”* in the hope that it might help others, as well as myself, deal with the ongoing reality of Covid on all of our lives:-

Psalm 23 re-imagined for 2021

The Lord is my Healer; I need no other.

He allows me rest in parks with green grass close to home;

He brings me to streams and ponds of peaceful water nearby and refreshes my weary life.

The Lord is my Healer and leads me along the path to recovery of Spirit in body and soul.

Though I walk through dark places in the shadow of death, I am not afraid,
for He is with me during the long hours of mourning.

He keeps us all safe until a new day of hope dawns on the horizon;

He shows us new life that defeats our old ways with compassion and justice;

He fills us with new wine that heals and overflows into living water;

His love and tenderness are always with me every day of my life
and I will be for evermore in His care.

Give thanks to our God for His goodness and mercy in times of trouble.

Amen

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April 2021



Methodist Women
in Britain



Antenatal Awakening!

*A Service to celebrate the
Holy Season of Advent*

*Friday 26th November 2021
at Barnard Castle Methodist
Church,*



DL12 8PW

10am Coffee

10.45 Service

Programme of Events for 2021/22

- Autumn Day: Thursday 14th October 2021 at Peterlee Memorial Methodist Church. Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of MWiB with a morning of worship with guest speaker Alison Judd, WFM and UCW World President. Registration & refreshments 10am Service with Holy Communion 10:30am
- Advent Service: Friday 26th November 2021 at Barnard Castle Methodist Church, Flatts Road Barnard Castle DL12 8PW. Refreshments from 10am, service starts at 10:45am. Please note that there is no car park at the Church, although you are allowed to drop passengers off. There is off street car parking near by or a pay and various pay and display car parks within 500 yards
- Minsteracres Overnighter: Friday 11th / Saturday 12th March 2022. Programme to be announced
- Easter Day of Reflection: Monday 11th April 2022 at Stokesley Methodist Church High Street Stokesley TS9 5AD. Refreshments from 10am, event to start at 10:45am. Please bring a packed lunch.
- Swanwick Annual Conference: 22- 24th April 2022.
- Afternoon Tea: Wednesday 8th June 2022 at Bishop Auckland Methodist Church, 21 Cockton Road, Bishop Auckland DL14 6EN, starts at 2pm.
- Presidents Summer Evening: Friday 22nd July at Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Carmel Road Darlington DL3 8DJ, starts at 6:30pm. More details to follow.

New Project

Our new project is to support DKMS, dedicated to the fight against blood cancer and blood disorders.

DKMS was founded in 1991 and it is the world's largest stem cell donor register - giving every person faced with blood cancer and or blood disorders the opportunity to be matched with a donor and potential second chance at life.

DKMS raises awareness, recruits stem cell donors, fund raises to increase the size and diversity of the worldwide pool of available stem cell donors, helps to improve blood cancer treatments and maintains a relationship with donors from registration to stem cell donation.

In 2020 there were 90,406 transplants for people in need, 10.5 million potential donors were registered and world wide, 21 blood stem cell donations are made each day .

If you want to know more about the project or share fund raising stories please contact Christine Ridgeway