



**Methodist  
Women in Britain  
Southampton  
District**

# **SOUTHERN VIEW**

**Spring 2019**



## Southampton District MWiB Officers

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## OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

*Gill Robinson writes:*

Jesus promised the woman at the well that he could give her living water which would well up inside her forever. Jesus makes that promise to us too – *living water welling up inside us forever*. I am not sure that the woman in John's gospel understood all that Jesus was saying to her and I am not sure that we always understand what God is saying to us either. My theme



for this Presidency is “Unexpected God” and God constantly takes us on twists and turns through life, I wonder where God has taken you in recent months?

As District MWiB officers we have been looking for a new twist this year. We have had three or is it four years when we have brought a theme to different parts of the District at Roadshows. Many of them have been wonderful and a blessing to us all but last year, generally they were not attracting women in the way that we hoped, so we are travelling a new way this year. Two or three of the officers will be bringing to individual Women's Meetings a presentation about 'education' taken from Alison Judd's work on 'Quality Education for All' the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4. If your meeting has not been offered this this year then please do get in touch with Chris Stuckey and ask about 2020. We hope that this will enable us to be in touch with more of the women in the District, bring information to share and encourage the women to want to stay in touch, find out more and support both MWiB and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women of which Alison Judd is President.

I hope that you will find maybe unexpected ways to share information about MWiB, a vibrant challenging and supportive movement, which from July will be led by our very own Hilary Evans from Romsey. Liz Chick will be replacing Hilary as the Southampton Forum Rep. I wish Hilary, Liz and all of the women in the District a wonderful year with MWiB.

God Bless.

*Gill*

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE DISTRICT?

*Christine Stuckey District Enabler writes:*

This year we have decided to embark on two new ventures: As Gill has already written, here are fuller details:

During the month of May, small groups of us will be leading Women's Meetings, focussing on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 –Education.

We shall give a PowerPoint presentation and talk about the work being done through MWiB and the World Federation of Uniting Church Women towards supplying quality education for all. We have been booked for the Women's Meetings at Chandlers Ford, Romsey, Barton on Sea, Highcliffe and Broadstone.

In July we have offered to take a morning service at four churches in the District. A group of us including a Local Preacher, will lead worship on the theme of "Why Bother?" There will be some focus on the work of MWiB. We are being planned in the Salisbury, Yeovil & Blackmore Vale, Winchester & Eastleigh and Poole Bay circuits.

We have our District Sharing Day on June 20<sup>th</sup> at St, James Road Methodist Church, Southampton when Carolyn Lawrence, World Federation Area Officer, will be our speaker on the theme "Changing World, Unchanging Mission". *Chris*



## **MWiB RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND 2019 SWANWICK**

**5th to 7th April 2019**

**Passions and Palms: Heavy Lifting and Resilient Hope**

*Katie Betts writes:*

On arrival at the very well appointed Hayes Conference Centre, I was immediately welcomed and felt excited about the weekend ahead. A yellow name tag identified those of us who were there for the first time and we were especially helped to find our way around.

Rev Val Ogden was the Keynote Speaker, leading two sessions headed "Passions and Palms" and "Heavy Lifting and Resilient Hope". She spoke passionately, leaving us with much food for thought. There were several workshops available on Saturday and the two on Mindfulness and Climate Change were extremely helpful and informative.

Worship sessions were meaningful and joyful and it was uplifting to be

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Liz Chick writes:*

Thank you to everyone who supported our District Partnership with Albania Hope, Sister Imelda's visit was very interesting and informative and we were able to send £7,000 to help with their work with young people.



Sandra Goodwin came for the Celebration Day and one of the things she shared was about her visit to Bolivia and seeing Tabita House, a place which had initially been funded by the United Methodist Church of North America but this funding has now ceased. The initial aim was to build a five storey building which would provide accommodation for

- homeless women and women needing refuge from domestic abuse
- kitchen facilities providing food and lessons in cooking
- rooms with teaching and craft facilities
- small retail units that could be rented to generate income for the centre.

Only three storeys were completed before funding ceased so the decision has been taken to make the existing building structurally sound and waterproof thus preserving the work already done. Once the building is waterproof, the intention is to finish off and equip the existing rooms so that work with disadvantaged women can begin.

MWiB were able to send the £11,670 needed to pay for the roof from Connexional funds and then asked for donations to replace it. The District Officers and members of the Executive agreed to send £1000 from our funds towards this.

We have now changed the District MWiB bank account name to **"MWiB Southampton District"**, so please can any future cheques be payable to that name.

*Liz Chick - District Treasurer.*

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sharing with around 250 like-minded women from all around the UK.

Overall I found the whole weekend to be extremely informative regarding some of today's major issues and felt very privileged to spend time in quality fellowship with fellow Methodist women

I came away feeling spiritually nurtured and blessed by the whole experience.

*Katie*

## BAGS OF MERCY

*Hilary Evans our MWiB Forum Rep writes:*

The city of Southampton provides safe houses and refuges for women and children rescued from situations of human trafficking, or who have escaped violent relationships.

The Vineyard Church collects donations of basic items of clothing and toiletries, with a small treat added, to give to women who arrive at the houses, often with nothing at all, a welcome. Children have usually experienced things which children should not see or hear and are therefore traumatised and mistrusting of adults. Their behaviour can be challenging. Their bags contain a small soft toy, and usually a story book as well as basic clothing items, toothbrush, soap etc.

At Romsey Methodist Church we became aware of this support service following a raising of awareness concerning the scale of human trafficking in our streets. We learnt that trafficking is everywhere, but most people do not realise it is happening, because it is hidden. The traffickers are skilled at keeping their victims below the radar in situations of

domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and even the sale of human organs. Those trapped in these places have often been promised a better life, money to send home to families in poverty, and education or training. However, personal papers are taken from them, and they are paid little or more likely nothing, but forced to work. They are poorly fed, meagrely clothed and badly treated with almost no hope of escape.

So, we now have a box, much like that for the foodbank collections, where donations can be put. The box is regularly emptied and all the items taken to the local collection point in Bitterne. We discovered that in 2018, 140 bags were given out across the city. This represents a very small part of the scourge of trafficking, and violence towards women in particular. It makes one wonder what the actual scale of the problems is. It is estimated that world wide over 40 million people are trafficked, over 70% women and girls, and that is recognised as a conservative estimate.



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*Example of a typical bag contents*



*Example of a baby's bag*

## **A NEW ROLE**

Last April I attended the annual Methodist Women in Britain weekend for the first time, having been a District rep' for Southampton District for nearly two years. This was my first opportunity for various reasons. I went expecting some interesting information from the keynote speaker, Rachel Lampard, and the opportunity to enjoy getting to know some more women involved in Methodism, which was the case on both counts. What I didn't expect at all were the conversations suggesting I might consider applying to become President of MWiB! I had offered help with one or two of the task groups for Forum, but had come quite late to being an active member of the movement. It was only since retirement that I had leeway to support activities. So, I found myself in a quandary and felt very much called to at least consider the possibility. I needed time to reflect and think of the impact on my family, as well as to talk it over if I was to put myself forward. The family were supportive. My husband simply said "well you'd better go for it then."

I spent time over the Summer considering what to put in an application and putting together a short presentation. An invitation to attend for interview at the September Forum whilst still being Forum rep', seemed a little strange, but the day arrived. I felt fairly calm, having reached a point where I tried to put it in God's hands for the outcome and ready to accept whatever decision was made. It was still a moment to gasp though when I was offered the role, and I am still [6 months on] attempting to believe it is happening to me! I am on a learning curve to grasp the background and current position of the many things which MWiB is involved in and to remember the key facts, which challenges the slightly rusty brain. Exciting opportunities are presenting, sometimes unexpectedly like the 350 Anniversary of Susanna Wesley's birth celebrated at Wesley's chapel, followed by a mini pilgrimage through the area and the recent invitation to

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join the pilgrimage to Rome when one woman could not go. An amazing week.



*Susanna Wesley joined an Executive meeting*



*Outside Wesley's Chapel*

I am to be commissioned as President of Methodist Women in Britain at the Conference Fringe event at The Warwick Suite, The Hilton, Birmingham NEC on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. I hope to further raise people's awareness about the rapidly growing criminal activities of human trafficking to help reduce this trade in people during my appointment, as well as increase the profile of Methodist Women in Britain, who are working hard to make people aware of the wide range of topics they are actively supporting.

Further information can be found on the website: [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk) or invite me to come along and speak to your group.

*Hilary Evans*

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

## **DISTRICT CELEBRATION DAY**

**Sunday 12th October 2019**

**10.30am**

**Romsey Methodist Church SO51 8BZ**

**Speaker: Mrs Hilary Evans**

**President of Methodist Women in Britain**



## **PARTNERSHIP NEWS**

*Glenda Sidding writes:*



Hi, it's me again!! Despite all our advertising we are as yet not able to bring a name to you for a new Partnership Secretary. So, along with the District Committee, I will continue in this role to ensure that we have a District Partnership every other year. With this being a Circuit Partnership year, I pray that what ever you are focusing on is going well. Within the magazine there are several write ups as to what some circuits are supporting.

With all this in mind the District Committee have asked me to contact our World Church to enquire about a partnership with a Pacific country that is affected by climate change. The suggestion has been placed before us that we support Fiji where the rising of sea levels is causing concern. The World Church's partnerships are usually for a period of between 2 to 5 years but they would be delighted to have our support for just a year. A proposal has been sent to us that we work with the Fiji Council of Churches, an ecumenical group of 10 churches, whose current leadership is with the Methodist Church. The proposal is headed 'Women and Youth Resilience and Response to the Effect of Climate Change. (New/High Tides, Flooding and Rise in both River and Sea Water)' Their plan is to not just respond to the aftermath of cyclone, hurricane and flood but more importantly preparing the people and communities before disasters happen. As we take up this proposal we will be working with 2 communities on the western side of Fiji, Rukuruku and Nabuna, with their women and youths from different churches. The Partnership will fund a consultation with the women and youths of the villages, a mapping and planning exercise with relevant government partners, the planting of mangroves along with some administration cost. The estimate of this partnership is approximately £9,000 which our committee are sure we can fund.

We have asked the Fiji Churches to provide us with photos and a PowerPoint to illustrate the work to be undertaken, this we can use to promote the partnership around our District, and we hope this will be ready for the Celebration Day in October. If you would like a copy of the proposal I would be pleased to email it to you.

I always get excited when we look at a new partnership, there is something special about what we as Methodist Women in Britain can do together. Over the years the support, love, prayers and money that has be given by

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**Methodist Women in Britain**

**Southampton District**

**SHARING DAY**

**CHANGING WORLD-**

**UNCHANGING MISSION**

**Speaker: Carolyn Lawrence**

**Thursday 20th June 2019**

**St James Road**

**Methodist Church**

**Southampton SO15 5HE**

**Bring your own lunch**

**Drinks will be provided**



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our District, to various communities and people around the world has been incredible. My prayer is that as we embark on this new partnership, we will be receiving knowledge about an area of the world we know little about and what we offer are our prayers and money to enable Fijian people to have a more secure future.

Every blessing

## AN UPDATE

from Alison Judd (World President of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women)

**Prayer unites us with each other and with God:**

Thank you for your prayer support! I greatly appreciate this provided by my District sisters.

The World Federation Prayer is being used every month on 26<sup>th</sup> day, the day in October 1939 that the first constitution was signed. Each month a Call to Pray is circulated and reminds us to pray for global issues faced by women.

Prayers for Bulgaria were answered when a proposed action by the government against Churches was rescinded.

The World Federation Executive, consisting of five World Officers, nine Area Presidents or their representatives and the Tree of Life Editor met in Hong Kong in March. We heard encouraging reports from each Area and discussed arrangements for the next World Assembly. A full report on the East Asia Area Seminar which took place the following week will appear on the website [www.wfmucw.org](http://www.wfmucw.org) in due course. It was attended by nearly 300 women from Hong Kong, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Japan and Cambodia. The programme included Bible study, worship, speakers on various topics and a superb Gala dinner with cultural presentations. A planned outing took us by coach to the Peak viewpoint on Hong Kong Island and to Stanley, a resort town on the coast.

I had a free day on the Saturday and went to visit the new Methodist International Church which celebrated its official opening on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original church on that site. Rev Howard Mellor showed me around the impressive 22 storey building and I felt very privileged to spend the morning with him and Rosie in this fantastic facility, the result of many years of visionary commitment on the part of church leaders and members.

Howard and Rosie Mellor are due to return to Southampton District after Easter 2019. I imagine they will be in demand as speakers as they have a remarkable story to tell of their time in Hong Kong and what God is doing in East Asia.

Three women from Cambodia attended the East Asia Area Seminar. Only one, Sophany, spoke English but she told me the story of one of her companions. Her Buddhist father had converted to Christianity but had been killed by those who were enraged by his conversion. Her husband is

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a Christian pastor and she is still anxious for his safety at times. Many women in Cambodia are illiterate, so they hope the pastor can start teaching reading and writing so they can better study the Bible.

As so often happens, this visit to another part of God's mission field has given me a fresh perspective and renewed determination to make Christ known more widely. Please join with me in maintaining prayer support for our courageous sisters in Christ.

### **Other engagements**

I shall attend the World Methodist Council Steering committee in Mexico in August and also visit the venue for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly in Gothenburg with other World Officers and the Local Arrangements Committee.

The Southern and East Africa Area Seminar is due to take place in Kenya in November 2019

### **Weaving Together Programme**

Prior to each Area Seminar I have been using Ketso at the Weaving Together Programme with Area and Unit leaders. This has helped us identify priorities for each Area.

I also distribute knitted angels – reminding the women they are, like angels, 'called to proclaim' the good news. I am so very grateful to Jeanne at St James Road Methodist Church for providing me with enough for each Weaving Together Programme attendee.

### **United Nations in Geneva**

MWiB Helen Kim memorial Scholar Rachel Allison has visited the United Nations in Geneva, assisted by Bishop Rosemarie Wenner and will return as World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women representative when her work commitments in London allow.

### **Publicity leaflets**

There are now four information leaflets about different aspects of World Federation activities:

1. General information, 2. Finance and fund-raising, 3. The Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship programme, and 4. Engaging with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. I have been grateful for District support in printing these and request help with printing the new leaflet on United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

*Alison Judd* WFMUCW World President, 2016-2021

## HERE ARE SOME REPORTS OF YOUR 2018/2019 CIRCUIT PARTNERSHIPS

Poole Bay Circuit

### **SLEEPSAFE IN BOURNEMOUTH**

*Christine Stuckey writes:*

Several churches in Bournemouth work together to accommodate up to 12 rough sleepers each night between the months of November and the end of March. This project is sponsored by **BCARS**—Bournemouth Churches Alongside Rough Sleepers and is part of ‘Faithworks Wessex’.

Each church provides accommodation for a week at a time. There is a paid professional worker on duty each night together with 2 volunteers. Volunteers cover either the evening or the early morning shift, interacting with the guests, providing food and generally making the guests feel comfortable. For the past 3 years I have been a volunteer on the early morning shift at two of the churches, St.Georges, Boscombe and Trinity Southbourne.

The criteria for those who wish to be on this scheme is that they want to get off the streets, into accommodation and work.

The ‘Second Half Project’ is for those who have got into accommodation. This opens the opportunity of working in a Community Kitchen. There they learn about basic food hygiene (leading to a possible hygiene certificate) and develop their own cooking skills.

In addition ‘Faith Works’ have set up practical workshops for recycling furniture, making items from pallets and reclaimed timber. There are also garden projects, bicycle maintenance work, learning decorating and building skills, DIY, and team-building.

Assistance can also be given with CV writing; job applications & interview preparation; support with ID and references for interviews.

During February 2019, 12 guests were assisted into accommodation giving a total from November 2018 of 35.

*Christine*

**ON BEHALF OF US ALL, WE OFFER OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO  
HILARY EVANS AS SHE BECOMES  
CONNEXIONAL PRESIDENT OF METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN.**

## **‘COPING WITH CHAOS’ a Dorset Charity, part of Diverse Abilities Children's Team.**

*Val Smith from Verwood writes:*

While visiting a friend two years ago, who has a son with both physical and learning disabilities, I heard about the brilliant work that ‘Coping with CHAOS’ does during school holidays to support families like my friend’s.

Started by two East Dorset mums, Liz Morris and Anne Boyce, in 1997, who both had children with very different disabilities, the organisation immediately had 400 families register and today is recognised as a major provider of short breaks for families with disabled children.

‘CHAOS’ sits within and complements a group of services: ‘DIVERSE ABILITIES’ that run a special school and a respite facility. CHAOS provides respite with fun, laughter and joy for children, while parents and siblings have some quality time. Siblings are provided for, to have enjoyable activities together, apart from their families. What the service finds difficult to explain to would be fund raisers, is that there are not so many ‘things’ that they need, but quality time, with opportunities for ‘experiences’ and plenty of interaction.

‘CHAOS’ has received considerable support from local churches and organisations for a number of years, until they received grants from ‘Children in Need’ for a period, followed by The National Lottery. They were also enabled to install a wonderful sensory room with the grant. All the activities provided are free, except for some more expensive outings, when parents may be asked to pay half the cost. Ordinarily, activities at the West Moors centre, cost £32 per child. An outing costs about twice this and a special outing can cost around £130 per child. Fun Parks, trampolining, hydro-therapy and much more have been provided.

My friend, when I asked her about CHAOS recently, said, “Oh, that’s gone down a lot, unfortunately, they are having to raise the funds themselves and they haven’t the money”, so that’s where we come in, all amounts of money will be tremendously appreciated, by families that struggle to cope with chaos a lot of the time!

*Val*

Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey Circuit

## THE BOAZ STORY

*Irene Bourne writes:*

From the outside you could be forgiven for thinking that The Boaz Project hidden away in the Hampshire countryside is a series of regular farm buildings with your usual, traditional farming activities taking place, but



inside - when you open the doors to Boaz - there is something quite magical going on. There are many transformations taking place inside with volunteers, members and staff all experiencing their own unique and fulfilling journeys.



Based just outside Winchester at the idyllic setting of Hill Farm, Boaz was created by a group of people who saw a need for a therapeutic and horticultural working environment for adults with learning disabilities to find a sense of purpose and achievement, to learn new skills and to develop in a supportive environment when the generic world of work failed to offer them these opportunities. They felt that especially for teenagers leaving school there was a lack of opportunity.

With a community of 100 - consisting of members, volunteers and staff – The Boaz Project today is a bustling hive of activity providing a therapeutic work environment where the character and needs of adults with learning disabilities are respected and nurtured and where they can achieve a sense of self-worth and learn new skills. Within the barn, you will find up to 14 adults each day being helped by volunteers and staff from all backgrounds working on the land, looking after the animals, baking, making craft goods, working wood in the workshop and building not only products to sell to help fund the charity but to also build their social skills. Boaz is a fine example of people from all walks of life enjoying working and learning together, shoulder to shoulder and enhancing each other's lives.

The project's Christian ethos seeks to address the whole person in body, mind and spirit, aiming to release each person's full potential.

*Irene*

## COMING EVENTS

Various Dates in May	Sustainable Development Goal Four meeting at Women's meetings around the District with members of the District Committee
Thursday 20th June 10.30am	District Sharing Day with Carolyn Lawrence St James Road Methodist Church.
Friday 28th June 7.30pm	Induction of Hilary Evans as National MWiB President in Birmingham
Various dates in July	MWiB Services around the District
Sunday 12th October 10.30am	Celebration Day with Hilary Evans Romsey Methodist Church



**SOUTHERN VIEW** is the Newsletter of Methodist Women in Britain in the Southampton District. It is produced twice a year and distributed this year at the Spring District Synod and at the Celebration Day in the Autumn to everyone attending. A small number are also given to each Circuit and are expected to be copied for wider distribution please. It is also emailed to each Circuit Contact Person.

It is a valuable way to communicate with women (and men) around our large District, but as it is not practical to produce sufficient copies for everyone, we hope that you will be able to share this one with others in your group and church. Please feel free to make copies if that would be more helpful.

Editors — Glenda and Ken Sidding

Please send items for the Autumn Edition 2018 when you have them but by the latest 30th September 2018 to:

5 Waterford Gardens, Highcliffe Dorset, BH23 5DW or  
glenda.sidding@gmail.com The Autumn edition will be printed for the  
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