

Fruits of the Spirit President's Letter May 2024

Dear Sisters,

What a wonderful day we had at Hall Green on the 13th April. I do hope that all those who attended had a good a day as myself. A big thank you to all those who contributed to the organisation before the day and on the day. Without all this help it would not take place. A big thank you to Hall Green for hosting us and offering to hold the event again next year. The date for the diary is 3rd May 2025.

I am going to report the decisions of the Central Committee meeting for that those who were not able to attend our day so that you know what we are looking forward to from September.

I, Sr Gillian Taylor, was re-elected has your President. I consider this an honour and hope I can do the position justice for the next three years. When I consider who served before me, I know I have a lot to live up to. Also, we ratified Sr Mary Holmes position as Home an Overseas Secretary, and it was decoded that her three-year term commences in September.

Our new theme from September is 'On the Journey Together'. I am looking forward to the devotional papers to come as this can incorporate so many types of journeys.

The project money collected at the MWA Day amounted to £3,485. However, when our treasurer arrived home there was another cheque for £800 which gave us a total of £4,285. The collection on the day was over £300. This is to be added to the project money, at Hall Green's request. (We always ask the host circle to chose the charity this goes to.)

This means that we were able to meet the commitments for donations for the year. These were £500 to Masai Girls, £500 to David Knott Foundation for work in war zones, £500 for Youth Work in the Province and £500 to Autism Society. Also, we had money left from last year. We distributed immediately was a further £2,000. It was decided that £500 should go Alder Hey Children's Hospital, £500 to British Mission Board to help Binnakandi School purchase a new bus, to provide funds for outreach, Alternative Angels, Swindon a homeless charity, Fairfield School Birstall bed appeal, which is a school for disabled children and Willow Wood Hospice, Tameside.

The projects that we have chosen for you to support next year are £500 to Barnado's support for young carers, £500 Marie Curie, £500 for Provincial Youth work and £750 to the Unity Women's Desk to help fund Women from poorer countries attend the Women's consultation. This is a commitment of £2,250.

The meeting thought that as we had other worthwhile charities suggested we should distribute any surplus from this year sooner than next April when we have our Central Committee meeting. They therefore gave the Executive permission to distribute the surplus at their meeting in September. I will report the outcome in the October letter.

Next year is our 75th Anniversary and we are asking members if they have any ideas as to how they want to celebrate this. Please think about this in your circles and let us know by

the end of August so we can discuss at our September meeting. Remember we were planning a 70th Anniversary year but COVID got in the way.

We are in the process of organising our retreat for September, 2025. Watch this space for news of this.

I hope you feel the Central Committee have represented your wishes but please let us know if we can do more. We try our best to cover all your suggestions, but it is not always easy.

Enjoy the coming summer.

The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent one from another.

Amen

Sr Gillian Taylor

MIZPAH