

## **MWA PRESIDENT'S LETTER SEPTEMBER 2014**

### WITH GOD IN THE GARDEN

Dear Sisters

It seems a very long time ago since I wrote to you all. I hope you have all had a lovely Summer and are ready for the start of the new MWA year. We turn our attention to our new devotional theme, "With God in the Garden". Diane tells me she has lots of good ideas for the papers this year so I am sure they will be a blessing to us all.

In June I attended one of the sessions at Synod to present the MWA memorial. We were thanked by PEC for the contribution we make to the life and work not just of the British Province but to the wider Unity. However, in preparing the memorial, I noted with some alarm the decrease in our membership. We have lost sixty members in the last two years. If we are to survive as an organisation we can not afford to lose members at that rate or we will cease to exist within a decade or so. We need to attract new members. There will shortly be a new poster promoting MWA, which can be displayed in your church.

Central Committee approved the distribution of a questionnaire to women who are not currently members of MWA to find out what they want from a Women's organisation. These questionnaires will be arriving in your congregations shortly so please encourage the women of your congregation to fill them out and return them to me.

It is also important that the members that we have contribute as fully as possible to the life and work of the organisation. We have had difficulty this year in finding people to fill roles within Circles and on Central Committee and some Circles have been late in paying subscription money and project money. I am sure we are all passionate about women's work in the Moravian Church in Britain and I hope and pray that we can find a way forward so that our wonderful organisation can survive. If any of you have any suggestions on how MWA might develop and renew, please let me or a member of executive know.

Several members of MWA were happy to be present at the wedding of our former president and secretary Sr Jane Hutchings now Dixon. We wish Jane well in her married life and in her future ministry in the Moravian Church.

In September, the Irish District will celebrate their Rally. We wish all the Sisters of the Irish District an afternoon of fellowship and spiritual refreshment.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper