

Wonder Women! – Then and Now President's Letter October 2019

Dear Sisters

We had a wonderful retreat in September at Shallowford House in Staffordshire. The retreat was lead by Sr Lorraine Shorten who gave us the opportunity to reflect on the story of creation using Godly Play. We also watched and discussed the film "The Shack" which gave us all an opportunity to think about our faith and particularly the difficult issue of forgiveness when someone has caused us great harm. We all had an opportunity to join in some craft – making bottle lamps and decorating tea-light holders which fitted well with last year's theme of "Let it shine!" and there was ample opportunity for some quiet time and time to socialise with each other. The weather was glorious and Shallowford is a beautiful place to stay. On behalf of those of us who were there I would like to thank Sr Shorten for providing our devotional sessions, Sr Norma Maynard for booking the retreat centre and formalising the timetable and all other Sisters who provided morning and evening devotions and craft activities.

During the month of October the MWA Executive Committee will meet on the 19th at Harlesden. Please keep this meeting in your prayers as we review the previous year and plan for the future, not least the MWA Day in 2020. We will also be completing the sustainability questionnaire which is part of a piece of work requested by Synod 2018. I know this questionnaire is going to be presented and discussed in every congregation and I hope as many of you as possible will be able to go along to your congregation meeting and/or fill out one as an individual. It really is an important piece of work in the life of our Church. I know that MWA members are often committed and active members of their congregations and it is vital that your opinions and ideas are heard.

Many of you will have participated in Heritage Weekends at your churches and I hope these weekends were successful in terms of drawing people in to the Church as an interesting historical site but also as a way of demonstrating the faith which lies behind the buildings.

This time of year is also Harvest Festival time – a time to celebrate and give thanks for this wonderful world. Let us also give thanks for the young people of the world who have been out on the streets reminding us all of our responsibility towards the planet which God so graciously gave us.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper