

Wonder Women! – Then and Now President's Letter August 2021

Dear Sisters

I am writing this at the end of an extremely hot day – I was glad to get home from work and sit in the cool of our house. By the time you read this of course, the sunshine may have gone and we may have returned to lower temperatures and even rain. I hope you all enjoyed the sunshine, there is no doubt that the sunshine makes us all feel a little cheerier!

There are a number of things I would like to tell you in this, my final letter as President of MWA.

Firstly, I would like to tell you some MWA and Provincial news. My final President's memorial to Synod was well received. I am thankful that at Synod, the church managed at last to elect a full complement of PEC members. I realise that this means some congregations are now to be without a minister. Let us remember these congregations and PEC in our prayers and pray God will guide them as they go forward. In my June letter I reported that "The Seedlings" – MWA's online Circle was planning an exercise fundraiser to contribute money to the UWD fund to keep 12 Masai girls in Tanzania in education. I am pleased to report that they raised a staggering £1,115.42! This money will be sent as soon as possible to UWD for these girls.

Secondly, I would like to make an appeal – MWA needs a treasurer. As Sr Gillian Taylor will become our new President in September, it would be really good if she didn't have to do two jobs! Please prayerfully consider this – Gillian will be able to work alongside you to help you learn the role. If you want to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Gillian.

Thirdly, I would like to take a little time to reflect on the part MWA has played in my life. When I first joined the Moravian Church at Fairfield at the age of eighteen, I had no idea the part MWA would play in my life. I cannot even tell you when MWA at Fairfield met but I had little interest in joining, thinking of it as an organisation that was "not for me" and filled with women I had little if anything in common with. This changed when I arrived at Lower Wyke, when Phil became minister there and I was invited to the Circle and more importantly made to feel welcome when I attended the meetings. My involvement with MWA continued when we moved to what was then Westwood Moravian Church and Circle members there encouraged me to become the Lancashire District Deputy to Central Committee. After being involved with Central Committee for a while, a vacancy came up to be Vice-president. MWA members in my Circle and from the wider membership encouraged me to allow myself to be nominated for this role. I was not successful on this occasion but the next time the role needed filling I was successfully elected as Vice-president. Eventually of course I was elected as President and have served in this role for the past ten years. What I hope you are all understanding from my story is that I would never have had this involvement had I not been encouraged by other Sisters in the Province to have a go. This encouragement has given me some very happy times and a real sense of community, a community which has been very important to me. The MWA community will continue to be an important part of my life as I serve as Home and Overseas Secretary for the next few years.

Our theme over the past two years has been Wonder Women – the women that encouraged me to become a part of MWA are my Wonder Women – I hope you all know who you are and I thank you all very much. I want to leave you all with a question to ponder – can you be someone's Wonder Woman by recognising another Sister's gifts and encouraging her to use them?

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper

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