

The Beacon

Supplement Autumn 19



Methodist Women
in Britain

World Federation Day 2019



Water for Life, Water of Life

Based on SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

Saturday 26th October 2019

10.00am–4.00pm

Elm Ridge Methodist Church, Darlington
and Christchurch, Braintree

Refreshments and hot lunch provided.

Suggested donation £10 per person.

Poster and booking form now available to download from the MWiB

www.mwib.org.uk

The MWiB Conference is next April. Booking will be on line for the WFD and later in the Autumn for the Conference. There are bursaries available for the Conference and a free place for anyone going for the first time. I will try to circulate information to my church contacts but think it useful for all the circuit to know what is happening through MWiB.

The MWiB Newsletter is available online and anyone can ask to be on the mailing list.

Mary Gill

SAFE-SPACE COUNSELLING

Our circuit Counselling Service, represents a major outreach project across the whole of Leicestershire. It is open to anyone seeking help and with the current mental health initiative it is more valuable than ever. Having good friends and family is wonderful, but is often NOT ENOUGH. An independent outsider can be so useful - they don't give advice for tell you what to do. That will help you to make up your own mind.

We currently have four counsellors, and two more in training, and clients are continually telephoning for appointments. We always operate with a prayer partner who remains outside the counselling room, praying for the client and counsellor, and acts as receptionist to the client. We are always looking for prayer partners.

Please USE this service - encourage others to use it - tel 07938779477. E.mail - safespacecounselling@icloud.com

Book Review.



From A Mother's Pen -

Selections from the spiritual writing of Susanna Wesley.

Editor - Revd Dr Charles I Wallace Jr ISBN 978-1-85852-464-1

This scholarly book contains a selection of Susanna Wesley's own writing organised in 4 sections.

These are:-

Her own accounts of the turning points in her life and faith, including the fire that ravaged the family home in Epworth.

Her engagement with the intellectual and spiritual thinkers of the day.

Her mother's wisdom to her three sons and seven daughters.

Her meditations and spiritual reflections.

To quote from the section headed Gratitude for God's goodness

' I stand amazed at the boundless and inexhaustible goodness and mercy of God!
That He should give to those that are so undeserving, so unmindful of him, and so
regardless of and unthankful of his mercies.'

Obviously the language is that of the 18th Century but the message still engages
with the reader in the 21st century.

I strongly recommend buying and reading this book . It will make an engaging and
useful gift for anyone seeking to know more of Susanna, mother of John and
Charles Wesley.

Mary Gill

The Methodist Worship Book after 20 years

In 1990 the Methodist Conference directed the Faith and Order Committee to
start work on a successor to *The Methodist Service Book (MSB)* which had been
published in 1975. The impact of that earlier book on British Methodism had been
immense. *MSB* had brought many of the insights of the Liturgical Movement into
the worship of country chapels and suburban churches; it encouraged the use of
the full service of word and sacrament; and promoted more frequent celebrations
of the Lord's Supper. It had also brought about more widespread use of the Lec-
tionary. The very success of *MSB* meant that Methodists had begun to ask for
more material and greater variety of imagery in Sunday services and in Eucharistic
worship as well as for greater sensitivity around the issue of inclusive language.
The detailed work of producing new services was delegated to a liturgical sub-
committee of about sixteen people, and during the 1990's draft orders of service
were produced for experimental use in local churches. The Conference of 1998
gave final approval for the new book and it was published in February 1999 as *The
Methodist Worship Book (MWB)*.

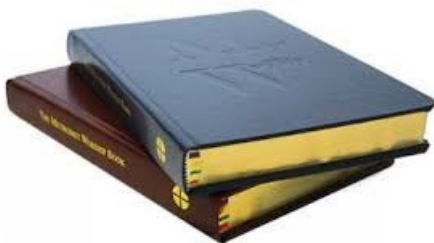
The *Preface* to *MWB* describes the book as "the latest in a succession of Method-
ist service books which can be traced back to John Wesley's *The Sunday Service*
(1784). With more than 600 pages the book was more extensive than any of its
predecessors and it was hoped that "its rich and comprehensive nature will help
to enhance and renew the worship of the Methodist people". The orders of wor-
ship it contains were the fruit of a long process of drafting and revision and they

take account both of liturgical and ecumenical developments throughout the world as well as distinctively Methodist traditions of worship.

One of the most notable features of *MWB* lies in its rich provision of services of Holy Communion: there are five separate orders celebrating the Christian seasons (each creating a different mood) and three orders are provided for 'Ordinary Time' – the weeks before Lent and after Pentecost. 'Prayer in the Morning' and 'Prayer in the Evening' anchor us in the Christian year and in the "seven whole days" of the Christian's week. The section entitled 'Morning, Afternoon, or Evening Services' provides a wealth of material for the 'Preaching Service'. There are orders of service for the three rites of passage – baptisms, marriages and funerals as well as confirmation, admission, commissioning, welcome and ordination services. A revised version of 'The Covenant Service' is included.

When *MWB* was published media interest focused on one phrase which appeared on page 204: "*God our Father and our Mother, we give you thanks and praise...*" The 1975 Service Book had been criticised by some for presenting an image of God in which concepts like omnipotence and lordship predominate. In *MWB* there was a conscious effort, perhaps especially in the wording of many of the Collects, to do justice to our understanding of God as loving, gracious and self-emptying. Throughout the book, and not just among the Collects, a wide range of imagery is employed in addressing or referring to God. In a recent article, written to mark the twentieth anniversary of its publication, Norman Wallwork has described *MWB* as "a landmark in liturgy" which continues to provide "a benchmark" for Methodist worship.

Howard Smith



AUTUMN'S PICTURE

When autumn opens her welcoming door,
she shows herself in falling leaves,
that carpet pavements, parks and land,
and spread themselves with quivering hands;
On paths, grown hard with summer's heat,
to meet the tread of squelching feet.

The trees, reach starkly heaven-ward,
into the fading, golden light.
And bleakest branches, black and gnarled,
Stand out against the darkening night.

She pauses with a brightening day
of summer haze,
and then half- way
the blackening sky throws raindrops down.
Cold on the unsuspecting ground.

And Autumn in her mellow coat,
Gloved hands of myriad hue.
Reach out, displaying colours fair.
Her scarf of red, of green and gold.
Flutters, twirling in air grown cold.

**Then comes the passing of this time.
with autumn beauty all defined.
And God's own garden, once in bloom,
Will crumble, then upon us soon,
The cold and wind and frost will work
Their slumbering magic on the earth.**

**God's beauty stirs in every month.
And stepping onward in the year,
We hold his blessings very near.
The road of seasons stretches on.
He stays beside us, everyone.**

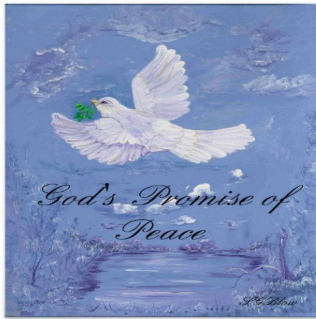
Beverly Sweetman.



PEACE WILL KEEP YOU STANDING THROUGH THE DARKEST HOUR

Why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit

“Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel “(Philippians 4:7 CEV)



INTRODUCTION

In His darkest hour Jesus prayed (Luke 22:41-44) while His close friends slept. I tend to be weak in emotionally charged moments like Jesus’ friends. **The images that I see of recent happenings in Cameroon make me feel helpless** and angry at the same time. I remembered how calm and peaceful it was and rich in natural resources and how we took it for granted. There were instances of tribal conflicts but never at the scale where hospitals, schools or places of worship were targeted and burnt and bodies of people, young and old left on the streets. I found consolation in Romans 8:26-27.

“In the same way, the **Spirit helps us in our weakness**. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the **Spirit Himself intercedes** for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, **because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.**”

The words in bold became life reassuring that I was not alone; the Holy Spirit was with me. I felt a fresh sense of peace like the one spoken by Paul in Philip-

pians 4:7 (CEV) "... God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel "

The situation in my region remains a precarious one. But the Spirit of God within me gives me the strength to daily intercede for God's intervention. I felt an urge to put down the words below with my 'writing stick' which I am hoping will encourage someone

Hold firm that which you have;
Costly it is than gold.
Needful all journey long;
And when He calls you home.

Stay close to Him you serve;
Knows He the way you seek.
From there He came to you;
And there He pleads your case.

Knows He your brokenness;
Sees He your nakedness.
From far above and near;
And yet He loves you so.

In this journey of faith,
Tightly in Him do cling.
Needless to fret or fear;
In Him shielded you are.

By Juliet Kisob Local Preacher from Birstall