

## LET IT SHINE!- PRESIDENT'S LETTER MARCH 2019

Dear Sisters

This month sees the beginning of our preparation for Easter – the greatest of all the Christian festivals! Before we reach the celebration however, we have the preparation – Lent. Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday is on the 5<sup>th</sup> March and Ash Wednesday, the official beginning of Lent, is on the following day the 6<sup>th</sup> March. This time of preparation is important. Jesus prepared himself for his ministry on earth by spending time alone in the wilderness where he faced trial and temptation and it is from this period of time that the Christian Church derived the season of Lent. Celtic Christians felt that a period of preparation was necessary for every new venture they undertook and would spend 40 days – the amount of time Jesus spent in the wilderness – to pray and reflect on what they planned to do. Lent gives us an opportunity to spend a little longer in prayer, a little longer with God, a little longer with the scriptures – than we might otherwise do. I wish you a fruitful Lent.

During March, many of us will gather at Lower Wyke to participate in the service of consecration of Sr Jane Dixon. I ask you to hold Jane and Mark and the congregations she serves in your prayers as she enters this next stage in her ministry.

Also during March, the Executive Committee will meet at the Moravian Church, Royton. We are grateful for this opportunity to be together and hope that our meeting will be blessed by God as we consider what MWA will be doing during the next twelve months. Central Committee meets, of course just before our MWA Day. Please, as Circles remember to fill out your questionnaire with suggestions for Projects and themes. The more suggestions we receive the better as it enables us to see what you, the members are interested in.

I wrote in my last letter that I hoped by this March letter, we would have a clearer idea of the future direction of our country. As I write this, we seem no nearer to knowing and understanding what will happen than we were last month. Continue to pray for our leaders and our country.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper