

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER APRIL 2016**

### ***MESSAGES FROM THE MOUNTAINS***

Dear Sisters

By the time you read this we will have had our annual Central Committee Meeting and MWA Day at Hall Green, Birmingham. The way the dates have fallen this year means that it will be the May letter before I can bring you details of the elections, projects and Devotional theme for the next year. This makes this letter tricky to write as usually the letter after Easter would be filled with these details.

I am sure we will all have enjoyed the day in Birmingham, we usually do. I know how much hard work it takes to put on such a large event so on behalf of MWA can I thank the Sisters and Brothers of Hall Green for hosting the event.

Fellowship is an important part of the Moravian Church and an important part of the MWA. I always enjoy the fellowship greatly when I attend MWA events. It is good to have an opportunity to meet new people and to renew friendships. Fellowship is a vital building block in the development of community – I believe that community was something which Jesus built into his teachings and life and that he wishes us to have community at the heart of our lives too.

Building communities was central to the work of the early Moravian missionaries. As they travelled the world they literally built communities – many are still in existence today – trying as best they can to be a visible witness of God's love to the surrounding areas.

Whether or not you are a member of a settlement congregation, it is still vitally important that the communities in which we worship are strong and welcoming to others – for this is how the church will grow.

MWA Circles are communities within the larger community of the congregation in which they are situated and indeed MWA as a whole. It is important that we are welcoming groups which women want to attend. I wrote in my President's report that, for this year at least, the decrease in membership appears to have slowed. For that I am thankful. However, we still need to look at ways in which we can grow – so that the work of MWA for our Lord Jesus can continue.

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper