

## **MWA PRESIDENT'S LETTER FOR OCTOBER 2012**

### *FOLLOWING IN CHRIST'S FOOTPRINTS*

Dear Sisters

Autumn certainly has arrived! As I look out of the window the day is grey and damp and the leaves are starting to come off the trees. Christmas will be here before we know it! First however, we have Harvest Festival. Probably you will all have celebrated this festival by the time you read this. I have probably said this before but Harvest is one of my favourite festivals. For those of us who live in urban environments, Harvest is a good reminder of how our supermarket shelves get filled. I always love to look at our decorated church and remember the hard work of the farmers and the blessings of God in feeding us.

I hope our Sisters in the Irish District enjoyed their Rally on 15<sup>th</sup> September, it was also the day the executive committee met at the home of Sr Glenys Marshall. We had a good meeting. All of the project money has been sent to the projects we have chosen. I have received a thank you letter from the Alex Hulme Trust, a charity to support research into Non -Hodgkin's Lymphoma in children. Alex was featured in our September Home and Overseas Paper. Dave Hulme (Alex's dad) is a colleague of mine. He was able to tell me that the Trust has already managed to fund the start of research into this condition. He said that in addition to finding a cure for the disease, the research would also look into finding what drugs were necessary in order to improve the quality of life of those children who survive. It is good to know that our £500 has gone to such a worthwhile cause.

At executive we decided to have a retreat, probably in Derbyshire next September, so look out for more details of this.

Yesterday, I attended the Provincial Fellowship Day, it was a good day and it was nice to see so many of you there. The presentations and discussions focussed on whether or not our churches provide a welcoming environment to all. It is important to keep in mind that we need to make all our church groups open and welcoming to all – including MWA!

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper