

## **MWA PRESIDENT'S LETTER MARCH 2014**

### WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS

Dear Sisters

At the same time as thinking about this letter, I have also been thinking about the Women's World Day of Prayer Service. I have been invited to conduct and speak at the service which will be held at Salem Moravian Church. Last month, we received the usual excellent information about the service and the country of its origin, Egypt. This information was provided by our Women's World day of Prayer representative, Sr Wendy Hopcroft. I should like to thank Wendy on behalf of MWA for the fine work she does in this role. Egypt is a country currently in a state of turmoil and frequently in the news as the people seek to live freely in their own country. It is this desire for freedom which drives their protests and this freedom, which I fear many of us in the West take for granted. Egypt was part of the "Arab Spring" a few years ago, when many countries in that region experienced upheaval as the people strove for freer societies. It was called "Arab Spring", because these events took place in the spring, but to me there is a deeper significance in the name. Springtime is a time of hope. Winter is losing its grip on the landscape, new life can be seen appearing in the fields and gardens. Perhaps these stirrings of the earth inspired the people of the Middle East to strive for the fulfilment of their hope to live freely and peacefully in their lands.

When you read this, it will probably be Lent, the season of the Church Year which precedes Easter. Lent means spring and although it is traditionally seen as a time of abstinence and penitence, it is also a time of hope as we prepare for the festival of Easter. The time when we remember and celebrate the events which provide all of humanity with hope.

I hope you all enjoy the Women's World day of Prayer service and I hope your preparation for Easter is filled with hope. Remember in your prayers those in our world who need to know the hope that Christ can bring. I will finish with a verse of poetry by Emily Dickinson. The whole poem is freely available on the internet:

"Hope" is the thing with feathers-

That perches in the soul-

And sings the tune without the words-

And never stops – at all-

Yours in Christ

Sr Janet Cooper