

Wonder Women! Then and Now

I'm sure we have all grown up with our own ideas of heroes and heroines. It may have been a character in a book, an idol on the large or small screen or a real live person who inspired us on to greater things in life. 'Wonder Woman' first appeared in comics in 1942 – a feminine super hero to counteract the masculine heroes of the time. Over the years her image has changed, sometimes representing feminism or standing up for women's rights in various guises, and at other times being the domestic - minded stay at home wife as her husband went off to war.

The image I have is of the American actress Lynda Carter, back in the 70s dressed in a revealing red, gold and blue outfit which hid very little of her femininity! In 2017 a new film was released of 'Wonder Woman' which you may have seen and we will hear more of this in one of our papers later in the year. 'Wonder Woman' is part of recent comic history and, as such, held an immense power to change things of her time but if we go back over the centuries there have been many 'wonderful women' who have held this same immense power to change not only their lives, but the lives of those around them. Of course, as Christians, we do not believe that this was their own power at work but that it was the power of God working through them that made them stand out in history.

It is easy to think that Biblical times were dominated by the actions of men but the Bible is full of stories of women who changed the course of history by their faith, courage, patience, determination and obedience and whom we can learn from today – Esther, Ruth, Hannah, Mary, Priscilla and Phoebe – to name but a few. Some of these 'Wonder Women' we will discover more about in this year's papers. During the last two centuries there have been many women who have been outstanding in their power to change things for the good of others - politicians, medical workers, religious leaders – women like Rebecca Protten, Erdmuthe Dorothea Zinzendorf, Mother Teresa, Florence Nightingale, Indira Ghandi, Malala Yousafzai and many more. Again some of these will feature in our discussions on the theme of 'Wonder Women'.

'Wonder Women' are all around us. You may live next door to one! You may see such a person at work in your community, in your county, in your country and throughout the world. They all have the power to change things for the better.

I believe that even we, as individuals and certainly as groups, can change situations that we feel are not right if we set our minds to it. We are all part of God's great plan for the world. We can influence people that no one else can. We have opportunities that no one else will have. God has a purpose for each one of us. Will we be like the 'Wonder Women' of the past and step out in faith to do what God has called us to do? Can we be faithful to him as he has been to women in the past?

As you know, I often attach a hymn to my thoughts.

How about; God Moves in a Mysterious Way or

Great is thy Faithfulness

For Discussion

1. Who were your heroes and heroines when growing up?
2. Who do you think are Wonder Women at work in society today?
3. Do you agree that each one of us can be a Wonder Woman in some way?