

Wonder Women! – Then and Now President's Letter May 2020

Dear Sisters

I hope you are all managing in the current situation we find ourselves in. Although I am out at work during the week – as a community physiotherapist- and therefore not shut in as some of you are – I find myself longing for some of the pleasures I took for granted before the pandemic began. I came out of my office on a lovely sunny day to begin my visits and found myself longing to go and sit outside a coffee shop with a large cappuccino and a cake! I am sure that most of you have experienced similar feelings.

During my daily walks around Fairfield Square, I find I am noticing the flowers and trees much more than I ever did previously and I hear our resident woodpecker(s) on an almost daily basis. For those of you who have Facebook I hope you have noticed that Sr Naomi Barker is posting something daily which relates to the Moravian Watchword – for more information I refer you to this month's Home and Overseas paper.

Living at Fairfield does mean that we are able to maintain some sense of Christian community and fellowship. On Palm Sunday we were all able to stand outside and sing the Hosanna Anthem, on Easter Sunday we were able to join in the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland initiative to sing two resurrection hymns at 10 am. Phil was able to begin our "gathering" by proclaiming the familiar Easter morning declaration – The Lord is risen! And those of us at our end of the Settlement were able to reply – He is risen indeed!

We are hoping to be able to join in some outdoor hymn singing on a Sunday as often as we can.

Perhaps as an MWA Circle or congregation you could organise to sing a couple of hymns in your own homes at a set time on a Sunday, knowing that others are doing the same. MWA at Royton decided that we would all read the papers at our usual MWA time and it was a lovely thought that all the Sisters I usually gather with were reading and thinking about the same subjects at the same time.

I had hoped to be able to give you a date for MWA in September or October of this year. The executive committee had decided upon a date at the end of September and I was ready to put this in my letter. However, as April has ticked by it became apparent to us that it was unlikely that we would be able to gather for our MWA Day in the way in which we normally do and would want to. We have therefore decided to cancel for this year and hold our next MWA Day in 2021 on 17th April. So we will have to celebrate our 70+1 anniversary! This means that we will not be holding our usual Central Committee meeting either. We have decided that I will stay in post as President and Naomi will remain as Home and Overseas Secretary. We will also continue with our present theme – I'm sure there are enough Wonder Women to fill another year's papers!

We already have enough money in the Project Fund to donate what we had planned to our current projects so they will not suffer from our lack of ability to meet. MWA Executive Committee also decided to use the £1000 which sits in the Disaster Fund. We have donated this to the British Red Cross who are supporting the NHS in caring for people in the UK during the current crisis; I hope this meets with your approval.

I don't believe that the MIZPAH has ever meant so much to us! Whenever I think of my absent friends and family it pops into my head. So for now Sisters; MIZPAH and keep safe.

Sr Janet Cooper

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