

**MWM South West  
Regional Conference**

*Encountering diversity in mission-  
building bridges in Rome*

23rd –25th October 2020

Ammerdown Centre  
Nr. Bath BA3 5SW

£190 ensuite full board  
Friday dinner – Sunday lunch  
Non returnable Deposit £80 by 28th  
April. Full payment 20th July.  
Day rates and more information from  
the treasurer:  
Genny Cowling  
27 Topaz Drive  
Andover SP10 3ED  
TEL.01264512646

**MWM Northern Districts  
Conference**

*Setting the Oppressed free:  
Modern slavery and people trafficking*

30th October - 1st November 2020

Rydal Hall, Ambleside,  
Cumbria LA22 9LX

Residential rates from £215\*  
£25pp deposit  
“Day visitor” rates and “Under 18s”  
discounts available  
Full payment by 18th September 2020  
Children’s Programme  
Bookings and more information from:  
Mr Alan Cunningham  
admin@mwm.neast.org.uk  
01912414051

MWM would like to express grateful thanks to our Magazine Editor,  
**Tim Baker**, for all he has done over the years for us.  
As his term of office is now coming to an end, we are looking for someone to  
take on this role. If you feel you might be able to help, or know someone who  
could, please contact our president, Inderjit Bhogal.

**Methodists for World Mission (MWM)**

www.mwm.org.uk

**President:** Inderjit Bhogal

**General Secretary:**

**Treasurer:** Margaret Williams

**Registrar:** Gillian Pengelly

**Magazine Editor:**

**MWM Prayer and Care coordinators:**

Irene McKay and Maggie Patchett

Prayer requests for Summer 2020 should  
reach Irene by 31st July 2020 via email to  
prayerandcare@mwm.org.uk



**Methodists for  
World Mission**

# Prayer and Care

No. 26

Spring 2020



**Methodists for  
World Mission**

**An update to the Prayer Handbook supporting our  
mission partners working across the world and in Britain**

**Please use with the Prayer Handbook (PH) – the days are highlighted - and  
copy for wider circulation and in church newsletters.**

Both paper and electronic copies are available. The inspiring texts of prayer  
letters and the Global Relationships Monthly Bulletin ‘World Church News’ are  
available online at [www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/  
Global Relationship](http://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-worldwide/Global-Relationship) and by email or post.

**COVID19** has impacted on us all and this affirms our precious gift of prayer  
that we offer to each other both near and far.

**Please pray for:**

- **Global Relations Team:** Conrad Hicks - Director; Andy Dye; Catherine Hickey; Steve Pearce; Sandra Lopez; Bumni Olayisade; Barry Sloane; Simon Bennett; Natalie Hastings.  
Pray for the Global Relationships team as they work from their various homes and seek to wisely support Mission Partners and Partner Churches and Organisations during this global pandemic.
- **‘Mission partners on leave:** Please check with the Global Relationships (GR) team - Email: [gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:gr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk)
- **World Church Partners working in the U.K.:** All who leave their homes to share in the mission and ministry of the church here in Britain.

## MWM Conference 2020

Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus this year’s conference has been postponed until next year — **4th to 6th June 2021.**

Please book onto the regional conferences in the Autumn:

**MWM Northern Districts’ Conference**

Rydal Hall, Ambleside, Cumbria

30th October - 1st November 2020

For more information see back page or visit [www.mwm.org.uk](http://www.mwm.org.uk)

**MWM South West Conference**

Ammerdown Centre, Bath, BA3 5SW

23-25 October 2020

## Mission Partners Prayer Concerns and Requests

**We pray for all our Mission Partners, whether or not they have sent in specific prayer request.**

**Sharon and John Harbottle** share this message:

We are giving thanks for:

- our NHS, friends, family and church;
- the continued prayers of the people of Haiti;
- John's treatment and healing for prostate cancer and Sharon's support.

We know that we are surrounded by the love of God and place our trust in him.

**Michael and Joanna Tetley and family – Togo – PH Day 3**

**Hans & Mary Van Den Corput, Marcel and Maurice – Nigeria – PH Day 5**

**Freddy & Dee Takavarasha – South Africa – PH Day 6**

**Pray with us:**

- We are, with effect from 26 March, officially on Lockdown in South Africa. The Church's stance follows Government's stipulations closely and we will have no Sunday gatherings for 21 days. Social media is just so wonderful during this period of

time as I am in daily contact with Church members. This Sunday finds us ready for streaming!

- The negative side is all of our little projects with special needs children sadly cease for the duration. We however pray that we will be able to resume where we left off.

**Jonathan & Isabel Hill – Zimbabwe – PH Day 7**

**Jenny Featherstone - Zambia - PH Day 7**

**Pray with us:**

- Our first recorded case was in mid March, when a small group came back from a wedding in South Africa. They were put into isolation for 21 days tested and 5 discovered to be positive. To date the number of positive tests and deaths continue to rise, and now at the end of April are increasing rapidly on a daily basis, and spreading across the country, including among health care workers. Wearing of masks is now compulsory, and only 'essential travel' allowed (although there is no definition of this) but people are still allowed out and to meet as long as social distancing is observed. Borders are closed, but this also means food supplies are severely restricted too.

Our **MWM President**, Inderjit Bhogal, is currently writing a series of reflections: *Communion In Times Of Coronavirus*.

You can find these at

<http://www.inderjitbhogal.com/category/communion-in-times-of-coronavirus>

### **A Creed for our times:**

*Part of the **Communion in Times of Coronavirus** series of gentle reflections*

### **We believe God dwells in our midst**

The refuge and shelter of our souls,

In whom is our sanctuary and in whom we live and have our being, and eternal life.

We believe the life of God flows in us and restores our soul.

We believe that the Spirit of God is upon us,

In darkness, and light, storms and stirrings,

In which God weaves with darkness and the "deep" to make life and love,

and calls us to protect all creation and life with carefulness, and to do all things with wisdom.

We believe Christ reveals the life of God, and how we can share in it,

By being fully human, embracing beauty and brokenness in life,

By seeking wholeness and the fulness of life for all,

Bearing the cost of suffering, and always keeping hope alive.

We commit ourselves to so live our lives in God that we reflect the likeness of Christ,

See the image of God in all people, those like us and those different from us,

Love ourselves that we may love our neighbour as our self, and,

Always act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

**Inderjit Bhogal, 29 March 2020**

service of thanksgiving for the completion of construction work to strengthen our main building against earthquakes. It's taken four years, wing by wing, and one unforeseen problem after another, and for the past two of those years we have been unable to use our chapel. We are very grateful to be back into it, although sad that it certainly doesn't look as if we will be able to have it full of students for the foreseeable future.

- We are now preparing to start the new academic year from April with a minimum of face to face contact, and working out how we are going to teach our classes on line.

**Julia Edwards – United Church in Papua New Guinea – PH Day 23**

**Barry and Gillian Sloan – United Methodist Church in Germany – PH Day 26**

**Daniel and Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman, Kwame, John and Anna –Italy – PH Day30**

**Fiona Kendall - European and Legal Affairs Advisor,**

**Mediterranean Hope - Italy - PH Day 30**

**Pray with us:**

- Here in Italy, we seem to be starting to turn a corner. There has been a fairly steady drop in the number of new cases over the past seven days. Whilst I suspect that we still have a long way to go, this is very encouraging news. It helps us all to make sense of the very severe restrictions which have now been in place here for almost one month.
- I suspect that you will have requests for many prayers along similar lines at present. However, if possible, I'd be most grateful if you'd add these specific points, please:
- Compassion, to enable those who are presently living on the streets and in ghettos to be safely accommodated and fed, irrespective of their migration status;
- Altruism, to enable those afraid that their own needs will not be met to exercise restraint when they shop and to share what they have with others;
- Vision, to enable all of us to see how society might function differently when we emerge from this crisis;
- Wisdom, to enable leaders to steer us safely through the hard times and build strong foundations for the future.

- Our health facilities in Zambia are minimal and like South Africa, we are expecting many people in the compounds to suffer.
- We will have difficulties limiting gatherings like weddings and especially funerals to 50(the guidance so far) as culturally that is unheard of.
- Having already suffered a severe drought, food shortages and rampant inflation our poorest are struggling and don't seem to understand the swingeing contagiousness of the new virus. We pray for mercy at this time of pandemic.
- We have very few testing and health facilities, and very very few ventilators. Health workers have to find their own PPE, and most people are frighteningly ignorant about the reasons for isolation.
- The government also has not always been clear about its strategy.
- Jenny is self-isolating, with any visitors limited to the veranda where we could sit and talk 2 meters apart and where they had their own hand washing facilities.
- We are on our way to a huge outbreak of covid 19. The government has announced it doesn't have enough funds for a lockdown. The hospitals are already overflowing with patients so, in our area, Choma General has decided to make Njase clinic the centre for Covid19 cases. It is a small but very busy clinic

and has maybe 6 -10 maternity beds? I don't know if it has been provided with testing facilities or ventilators. Zambia is in this very precarious situation.

- We pray that God will spare us from the misery and economic collapse that threaten to overwhelm us.

**Keith & Ida Waddell - Zambia - Day 7**

**Pray with us:**

- We are praying too for you all in Europe and all over the world, as we hear of the death toll rising and people in lock-down
- We spent a whole day in conclave working on pastoral guidelines to protect the Church and keep ahead of the virus. Dr Msiska, Ida and I argued for the strongest measures, emphasising prevention, avoiding overcrowding, social distancing. We were the first Zambian Church to cancel Sunday Worship.
- With a very fragile Health Service, it would soon be overwhelmed if we were to have an Italian Scenario developing. Most people in Lusaka live in overcrowded compounds, many are immune-compromised and malnourished, so the consequences of a serious outbreak here is unimaginable. There are no ventilators; testing is rudimentary and tracing does not always work. As the Italian PM said, We do our best here on

earth, then heaven help us. That is all we can do here.

- We are now in self-isolation at Mwandi. Ruairidh Fiona & girls, the same, outside Luasaka. Catriona and Will are in Lusaka. Will still working! Gregor is moving into his curacy in North Wales next month without public ordination. Kirsten, Stewart and their two are in lock-down in Lenzie.
- We give thanks for Science and medicine and for all medical care workers. Doctors, Nurses Pharmacists Cleaners Ambulance Crews, Cooks Refuse Crews and other essential workers.
- We pray for good stewardship of financial and medical resources at this time
- We pray for continued national unity and working together for the common good and that greed selfishness and profiteering will cease
- We pray for a holistic ministry from the Church that meets the Spiritual Physical Social and Economic needs of people
- We pray for all Churches to stand together, to protect it as our Lord did, by giving his life for us. The Lord bless and keep you.

#### **Claire Smithson - Kenya - PH Day 8**

Barbara Dickenson, currently in Kenya with Claire writes: Kenya still has few cases of

COVID19 reported, but also not so many tested. Three Coast counties and Nairobi are in lock-down, but not as yet Meru County. When there is news of any spread (confirmed cases) then the entire county (each county is quite large) is closed down. Police are very much in evidence and enforcing the travel ban. It must be very difficult for so many of the population who rely on selling what they grow in order to purchase other necessities. Before the lock-down comes to Meru county we are still able to go shopping and do some normal things, but a little differently. Every shop, no matter how small was offering soap and handwashing. The boda-boda drivers (motorcycle taxis) wear masks and are restricted to one passenger per bike. Social distancing is happening in various places. The hospital is facing difficulties as they prepare for cases of the virus, and it is very stressful for the staff. Claire's work permit and Licence to Practice came through just in time (praise God), and she and Barbara have been making face masks for the hospital staff. Please keep Claire in your prayers as she has now returned to Maua to the Hospital, and Barbara, self-isolating in Kithoka.

#### **Angleena Keizer – Israel/ Palestine – PH Day 15**

In lockdown now since 5<sup>th</sup> March.

She asks for prayers for:

- Gaza, where on 8th April, there were 13 cases. If it spreads it will be a catastrophe with limited resources and crowded population.
- Israel, in full lockdown, since the start of Passover; in particular for the Orthodox communities, if the virus spreads there.
- the estimated 35,000 Palestinians returning from continuing to work in Israel on construction sites, and returning from Israel during the Passover holidays. It seems some are infected and the West Bank has limited resources to deal with a possible huge outbreak. So far the numbers are relatively small because they went immediately into lockdown. Pray for those returning, that it will be contained and not passed on to their families.

#### **Rachel Ullmer – Church of Pakistan – PH Day 16**

#### **Anne Baldwin – Sri Lanka – PH Day 16**

**Please pray:**

- For the forthcoming national elections in April may be held in a considered and peaceful manner.
- For the Theological College of Lanka, that it continues to flourish and more lecturers join the faculty.

- For me, now back in the U.K. having had 12 hours to leave Sri Lanka on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, now in my own house with much unpacking to be done.
- That I may be able to share my story of the wonderful privilege it is to serve here.

#### **Eden Fletcher – Hong Kong – PH Day 20**

#### **Sheila Norris – United Church of Christ in Japan – PH Day 21**

**Pray with us:**

- We are proceeding with great caution, compared to Europe the general situation in Japan has been less critical. However, in the bigger cities, and especially in Tokyo, the cases have started to multiply in the past few days, and people there are being asked not to go out unless absolutely necessary over the weekend, which has led to panic buying today in the fear that this is just the beginning of restrictions on movement.

Positive news!

- I am grateful for the prayers for our two students who were having trouble coping; both were able to graduate safely earlier this month.
- In the main chapel at Kwassui University (sitting well apart, wearing masks, and with the windows open) we had a short