

Methodist Women in Yorkshire West

Letter from Joy Coates, District President, from 4 October 2018

I would like to begin with a very big 'thank-you' to Jean Delaney for all her work over the last two years as President, and for her endeavours for MHA Music Therapy. The response to this has been magnificent, with £5,000 being raised, which will make a real difference. I look forward to working with Jean and the other officers and we all wish her well and good health in the future.

I am rather surprised to find myself in a position to write this letter. My husband and I moved back to the area just two years ago and I didn't imagine that I would be doing this. When I was approached earlier in the year I said a very firm 'No' but various conversations and the challenge of the Swanwick conference led me to pray and reconsider!

My husband's ministry began at Ebenezer, Dudley Hill in the former Bradford Trinity Circuit. I remember two or three Network meetings but I wasn't very involved as I worked. We moved to the then York & Hull District where my husband had two appointments and a 'first' retirement. I was District Network Secretary and then MWiB Secretary, and also the first Forum rep. for the District. It was always good to attend the Four District (Leeds, Sheffield, West Yorkshire, York & Hull) meetings where I met most of the officers with whom I am now to serve.

I regard it as a great privilege to have been involved with MWiB from the beginning and it has been a very important part of my life. I make every effort to attend Connexional events and also World Federation Days (sadly I haven't made any of the overseas conferences). Through the movement I feel we have a great opportunity to learn, act and make friendships. I have chosen 'Reach Out....' as my theme for the two years and I hope that this is what we will do to each other and to the wider world as we are in partnership with All We Can in providing solar panels for people in Malawi.

It will be good to see you at meetings and to get to know you. I realise that the District is a large one and that not everyone has transport. I am fortunate that I can get to places and would love to come to you. Don't worry if you haven't got a meeting - I'm quite happy to have a coffee and a chat and let you know what is happening in MWiB, both Connexionally and more locally.

Every blessing,

Joy