

December 2022 MWI Letter

Greetings to all Methodist Ladies!

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022, my Installation Service took place in Enniskillen Methodist Church. It was an amazing afternoon and enjoyed by all who attended. I firmly put into action my theme for the next two years – “Faith over Fear. I have made my commitment to be your MWI All Ireland President. I want to say ‘thank you’ to everyone for coming to the service. Your presence was a tremendous testimony to the support that I currently enjoy.

Thank you to all who took the time to send me cards, letters and gifts. It is impossible to reply to each and everyone of you but each one has been gratefully received and very much appreciated.

On 15<sup>th</sup> October an early start was required in order to be in Ballynahinch Methodist Church for 10am, but thankfully, with the help of my husband who volunteered to drive, we arrived with lots of time to get a welcome cuppa.

We were given a Royal welcome. Met by Rev Jackie McNair, Audrey Burrows, outgoing North Eastern Vice President and Alexa Brown, the incoming Vice President.

My first All-Ireland Executive took place from 10.30am and after lunch we had Alexa’s Installation service. A very meaningful service took place as Alexa pledged before God to be an active Christian and lead the MWI ladies To Know Christ and To Make Him Known. Thanks, Prayers and Blessings were shared with grateful thanks to Audrey Burrows, for her leadership over the previous two years and especially through the tough times experienced during Covid and Lockdown. A special word of thanks goes to the ladies who provided an amazing tea after Alexa’s service. We were delighted with so many sandwiches, traybakes and all kinds of goodies. We were thoroughly spoiled. Thank you so much to all who prepared and served the beautiful tea.

As we left Ballynahinch Methodist Church the rain was coming down in torrents, a reminder that we can carry out as many plans as we want but none of us can plan the weather!

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 it was an honour to be able to join with the Southern District MWI, via Zoom, for their Coffee Morning. A very enjoyable and encouraging time was had by all as I shared my life’s journey to date with them.

November has been a very busy month with the Installation service of Maeve Wilson as the North Western District Vice President in Richhill Methodist Church. This service was to be held in early September, but with the sad news of our Queen’s passing and Maeve recovering from surgery, the service was postponed. All arrangements are firmly in place as I write this letter.

Please plan to join with us, via Zoom on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.30pm for our very first All Ireland Carol Service. Login details should be with your District Secretaries and will no doubt be circulated a few weeks prior to this event. MWI Facebook is well worth a follow for up to date information and opportunities to read about the latest news across our land.

It is so hard to believe that we are talking Christmas! A wonderful and exciting time of year as we celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

In Luke 1 and verse 38 we read “I am the Lord’s servant” Mary’s answer “May it be to me as you have said”. Then the angel left her. We see here the Faith that Mary had in God and her submission to do His will. No doubt she was fearful of what was asked of her but her Faith overruled. Then we see Mary asking “How can this be?” as I am a virgin and the angel said “A great honour had been bestowed upon you”.

Try to imagine the misunderstanding and suspicion that surrounded Mary. She didn’t have all the answers but what a lesson we can learn from Mary to have Faith when God is in it.

May I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas with a God filled 2023.

Blessings

*Olive*



*Photo: (from left) Audrey Burrows outgoing Vice President North Eastern District, Olive Rowe, All Ireland President and Alexa Brown Vice President North Eastern District*