

## JUNE 2022 MWI ARTICLE

### GOD STILL MATTERS

It is hard to believe that this is the last article I will write in the Methodist Newsletter as All-Ireland MWI President. (35 in total)

My first six months as President were normal and then the pandemic came, and I had to get to grips with 'Zoom' or I would not have been able to function in my role. Zoom is the avenue we have used throughout Ireland on hosting MWI events and business meetings, and I wish to say a huge thank you to our three Districts Officers for taking up the mantle and organising wonderful on-line events for our MWI members, keeping them connected.

I have been grateful for the invitations I have received to join in zoom gatherings, for the video messages I have been asked to do, to represent you all within the Methodist Church in Ireland. It was such a privilege and a tremendous way for me to keep connected to MWI branches and districts as well as the Methodist Church in Ireland. It was a delight to get face to face engagements back into my diary. These last few months have been very busy visiting branches, speaking at church services and presenting our Report to the Governance Board; also attending fun events which has been an absolute delight.

Over these past weeks I have been reflecting on my calling as President, and if someone had told me that it would coincide with the New Structures in MWI, New Structures of the Methodist Church in Ireland and Corona Virus, I would probably say, Lord, I am not the person to lead at such a time. Thankfully, ignorance is bliss and more importantly God had promised to be with me enabling me for the tasks ahead. I rest very much on my theme 'God Matters', God is concerned for me, and He matters to me in all aspects of my life. I could and did depend on His leading and sustaining me in such unusual circumstances.

Many of you may know that one of my favourite verses which has got me through the 'lockdowns', and in fact was the verse that sealed my calling to be your President is:

**"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41 v 10. WHAT A PROMISE!!**

I can indeed testify to God providing His strength in challenging times and know that He has upheld me by His righteous right hand.

I am grateful to the following people for their support and encouragement over these last three years. My husband Alan, my family and friends, my Glengormley MWI branch and Church family. Also, a huge thank you to the Executive Officers and members of Central Forum for their guidance and prayerful support. I also need to say a huge thank you to the Rev Dr Heather Morris and the Safeguarding Working Party of MCI for encouraging me in our 'No Excuse for Abuse' project and taking an interest in MWI.

Thanks also goes to our out-going World Mission Secretary Pat Jamison. We in MWI appreciated Pat's work and commitment to our Mission and Associated Partners and wish Pat God's blessing for the future.

I am delighted to introduce you to the new All-President, Mrs Olive Rowe. Olive is currently the MWI Vice President of the North-Western District and has been very active on this district over the last three years. Olive brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to MWI. She has twice of the Lakelands District as well as having a long commitment with Endeavour the Christian movement.

I also wish to introduce Miss Elizabeth McWatters as our new World Secretary. Elizabeth was the previous All-Ireland President, and she has had a commitment to mission for many years, having worked as a volunteer since 2004 with the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka. Elizabeth takes a zoom international bible study and weekly prayer meeting, which keeps her in touch with world problems.



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**Olive and Elizabeth, “May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you and give you peace.”  
Numbers 6 v 24-26.**

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve MWI over these last three years and I know you will give Olive and Elizabeth your support and encouragement in their term of office.

Joan Strong

All-Ireland MWI President