

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to Sheila Tonkin by September 1st 2017. It would be good to hear your story and the news from your church or circuit.

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### District Summer At Home

**Dr Jill Barber (Ex-President of Conference)**

**Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2017 - 2.30pm to 4pm**

The Avenue Methodist Church, Sale, M33 4PL

Refreshments afterwards

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### Autumn Meeting

**Ann Browse (President MWiB) - "Story and Song"**

**Saturday 21st October—1030—3 15pm**

Whalley Range Methodist Church, Manchester, M16 7EX

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### World Federation Day—28th October 2017

**Gender Equality in the 21st Century**

Sidedoor Methodist Church, Laceby Road, Grimsby DN34 5BH

10am to 4pm

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### MWiB Conference @ The Hayes, Swanwick

**Speaker—Rachel Lampard**

**(Vice President—Methodist Church)**

20th—22nd April 2018

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Please put these dates and events in your diary

and make them known to others

Download from [www.mwib.org.uk](http://www.mwib.org.uk)

Telephone 030 0030 9873



### President's Letter

## Manchester & Stockport District Summer - Newsletter 2017

Dear friends,

When I was growing up, my sister and I had three kinds of clothes; school uniform, play clothes and Sunday best. Sunday best clothes were prettier and worn only on special occasions. My mother, a good seamstress, made our dresses. Today it is easier to replenish the wardrobe especially via internet shopping although I expect, like me, you have favourite garments. When they have passed their usefulness they are either thrown away with regret like saying goodbye to a trusted friend or, recycled.

Psalm 71:9 says: - "And now in my old age, don't set me aside. Don't forsake me now when my strength is failing." Growing older may give us a sense of not being needed. The psalmist David recognised that he was no longer needed in the same ways by his family or nation, he cried out not to be cast off like a worn out sandal. When we look back and see responsibilities we once held successfully taken over by others, it means that when we passed on the mantle we did the job well and laid good foundations. Let us thank God we were able to help others to mature and to be equipped so that they carry on independently. The theme of this year's conference was "Welcome!" Bishop Rosemarie Weiner talked about refugees and the impact upon the country and the United Methodist Church in Germany and how the church and country have stated: - "I pledge to protect and defend vulnerable people in the name of Jesus." How we need to look at how we speak of people coming so that we do not increase anxiety, not just as a management risk but as

enrichment as entertaining angels unawares.

Google tells me that there are fifty four bible verses which mention clothing.

Revelations 3:18 - I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich and white garments. So that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see."

Let us thank God today and trust him to make us aware of the people in our lives who need us now. People of all ages need each other and need to be needed. Christian fellowship and service are essential. When we are sensitive to the needs of others around us, we will be needed and will take on a new garment.

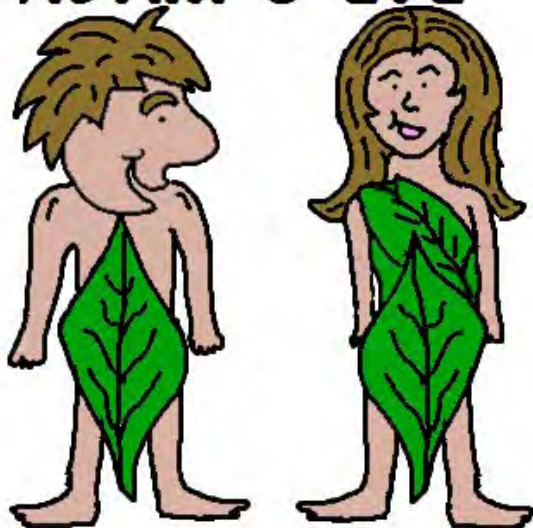
Revelation 3:5 - "He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels."

Claim your upgrade!

Every blessing

Sheila Tonkin

## ADAM & EVE



## Angels in Poynton announce the good news

Early on Easter Sunday morning a group of 250 angels appeared along Park Lane in the village of Poynton in Cheshire. Created by the Art relax craft team at Poynton church over a period of months, these heavenly beings could be seen hanging from trees, lampposts, shop signs and benches even hiding in flowerbeds.



## Swanwick Conference 2017

I spent a lovely weekend re-connecting with many of my friends I have made by attending three conferences and also going on pilgrimage with MWIB members. The weekend was concentrated on the way as Christian's we should help and welcome refugees and asylum seekers. Bishop Rosemarie Wenner talked to us of her experience of the difficulties and also the joyful events when the Germans opened their arms to welcome such people to their country.

Saturday and Sunday morning worship offered a variety of styles, peaceful praise with the lovely ladies from Ireland, loud and joyful praise with the ladies from Zimbabwe. We shared communion in the church on Sunday, I always love the sound of hymn singing by such a large group of women, very emotional.

Roberta Gerrard. St Mary's, Handforth.=

## Things to know

In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have "the rule of thumb".

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled "Gentlemen Only—Ladies Forbidden" ... And thus the word GOLF entered the English language.

The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV were Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Coca-Cola was originally green.

It is impossible to lick you elbow.

Each King in the deck of playing cards represents a great King from history:

Spades—King David	Hearts—Charlemagne
Clubs—Alexander the Great	Diamonds -Julius Caesar

What is the only food that doesn't spoil? Honey

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase—"Goodnight, sleep tight."

At least three quarters of you who read this will try to lick their elbow!

## ARE YOU WEARING THE RIGHT CLOTHES?

Are you renewed from within  
Or did you ever begin  
To feel the Father's Love  
When you went forward in re-birth  
Making a commitment to honour His name  
Old fashioned clothes or still the same?  
You make a decision, then it seemed right  
So why so determined to doubt and to fight.  
The season of fashion grows on you still  
You can't ignore the Father's will.  
Change the clothing from within  
Don't drag your feet, bury the sin.  
Perhaps its the same and never been washed  
Baptised in His Spirit, you've counted the cost.  
Now its a mixture of the old and the new  
The dirt and the pain are too close to you  
They should have been buried long ago  
Now unkind enemy and foe  
The clothes don't fit, discard the lot  
Turn to Jesus, then you'll spot  
The robe to wear, no longer there  
On the outside, you need to wear  
A coat of zeal and love to find  
The clothing He has left behind.  
The outward appearance doesn't matter.  
Have you outgrown last year's in stature?  
Put on the robe waiting for you  
God will shape it perfectly, in season too  
But only if you pay the price  
Constantly seek His help and advice.

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## MWiB Swanwick Residential 2017-04-09

The theme was welcome. On arrival I was welcomed and greeted with a hug by Elaine who I had sat at a table with on a previous year. Over the weekend I saw many familiar faces, people who stay in your minds and hearts until the next time we meet up at Swanwick. This year I met 2 more people who made my weekend special, Renee and Elizabeth. This is one of the reasons I love coming to the Swanwick residential. Jill Baker talked about the collective name of things, a gaggle of, a murmur of, a hoard of etc. And she said the collective term for a group of MWiB should be a kindness of methodist women and she is right.

The setting is beautiful with its lakes, sheep and flowers. There is plenty to do, or you can have quiet reflective time in the grounds and the labyrinth. There was worship and prayer, lovely music from the pianist, late night options and bar, circle dancing, market place and shop, and an abundance of food.

Our keynote speaker was Bishop Rosemarie Wenner from Germany who talked to us about the refugee situation in Germany

and how their churches have responded. We were shown videos of how their needs were met and how they were made to feel welcome. She gave 2 very inspirational talks. We had a Bible study from Alison Judd on Ruth, exploring foreigners and friendships.

We had a choice of 2 workshops and I went to Holy Habits, a book written by Andrew Roberts, based on Acts 2, which has become a best seller and I'm now reading. My other workshop choice was Touchstone Rugs, we watched a series of you tube clips about 2 very different people who were neighbours and awkward strangers who learned to embrace each others differences and oddnesses and became friends.

One of the highlights of my weekend were the morning prayers. I chose the Zimbabwe prayers on Saturday morning which were joyful and lively. A musical feast for the ears and heart. On Sunday morning I went to the Ireland prayers, led by Elizabeth with words from Psalm 46:10, be still and included words from Micah 6:8 and Isaiah 37:36 and also Martha and Mary. She spoke about her own life when she was 6 in her garden and later in life in Norway. I was inspired and moved by it and spoke to her afterward and she emailed me a copy of her words then and also the Saturday morning prayer on Psalm 23 the Lord is my Shepherd, which I have read and been moved by.

I came away refreshed and fed by the words, peace, beauty, sounds and the food! Roll on next year.

Julie Hassell.

