

METHODIST WOMEN IN BRITAIN NEWSLETTER

EAST ANGLIA DISTRICT – SPRING 2026



Editorial / President's letter – Susan Eldridge

Greetings!

I can't believe we have reached May already!

I am still hoping someone will be called by God to take up the role of Vice President to support me.

Blessings, Susan



Selfie in our garden!

Tributes – Ruth Arnold

JOY DEAN

It is hard to think of a MWiB District Day, or indeed any District gathering, without Joy and Richard with their tables laden with books, cards and music. Many of us had come to rely on them — but not just for our purchases — for their friendship and advice, their good humour and their help in finding and stocking just exactly what we were looking for!

Joy's death was a horrible shock to everyone and we miss her so much and continue to look for her cheerful smile of welcome behind the bookstall. Soham Books was of course Joy's venture and Richard had the unenviable task of winding it up. It must have been so hard for him while he was struggling with the loss of Joy and we continue to hold him in our thoughts and prayers.

Joy was a lovely person with a strong faith that was evident to all who knew her and spent time chatting with her. She used her librarian talents to promote her Christian faith and commitment, selecting very carefully the books and items she sold. Many of us have been challenged and cheered by the Christian greetings and words in the cards that she had chosen to sell — helping us to share our own faith with others who in turn received these cards from us. Joy and Richard continually brought us back to our own witness to Jesus and sharing the gospel we believe is for all.

Thank you Joy for a life well-lived! We miss you but we thank the Lord we were privileged to know you. Rest in Peace.

REV HEATHER SORRELL

As I joined the large congregation at Diss on December 1st last year, I was reminded of the extent of Heather's network of friends, relations and colleagues— all who had loved her and had gathered to pay tribute to her life of dedication, love and friendship. I felt honoured to be in the number.



Heather and Peter (taken by Paul)

MWiB was well-represented, for Heather had worked so hard to develop MWiB in our District. Her time as President had led us forward in so many ways and so I was grateful to Susan and Sue who, when the congregation was invited to say a few words about Heather, allowed me to speak on our behalf, though I did not think I did justice to all that she had done for us. *(You did a very good job Ruth – Susan)*

Of course, my own friendship with Heather had developed through District MWiB and I will be forever grateful for that. Over the years we travelled together to so many places and events, like Swanwick, conferences and forum meetings.

When Heather was ill during her Presidency, I stood in as Vice President and later when I became too unwell to fulfil my duties as President for a while, Heather stepped back in and supported me. For Heather's last four years of progressive illness she, through Peter and others who were able to visit her, continued to show interest in everything that was going on in MWiB and I know Peter tried to keep her up to date. Heather was so well-loved and respected in MWiB circles. She worked so hard in everything that she took on. Among other things, I think it is true to say that Heather raised more than anyone for her chosen charity, EACH, and had special recognition from the charity.

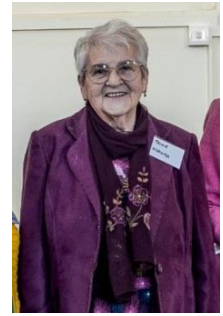
It is hard to put into words Heather's achievements for MWiB but I know that we all have our thoughts and memories of Heather and her influence remains with us. I join with MWiB across the District in giving thanks to God for Heather's hard work, her commitment and devotion and all that she did to witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in her life.

Heather, we thank God that we were privileged to know you and call you friend. We rejoice in our friendship with Peter and our many happy memories of you.

Praise the Lord!

My MWiB story – Trixie Dye

My journey with Women's Work (WW), Women's Fellowship (WF), Network and now MWiB began when I was speaking at a Women's Fellowship meeting. Mrs Burgess asked me if I would represent the Wymondham, Watton and Attleborough Circuit at the District meeting. I was not familiar with the District but agreed to do it. I went to the meeting and cannot say I felt very comfortable, everyone seemed so much older than me. However, I stayed in the position until I moved to the Norwich Circuit.



I hadn't been going to the meetings long when I realised the work and dedication of these ladies. There were District weekends at Hengrave Hall and The Pleasaunce at Overstrand, Annual Garden meetings, District Days to name a few. Along the way I met Mrs Mary Ream, she asked if I would continue with District resources as she was retiring from that post! I said I would. Resources then were mostly leaflets which, for those that can remember before decimal, were 3d and 5d. I am not sure what happened with the 6 year rule but I am still doing the role.



Pleasaunce, Overstrand

It was 1984 when Mrs Kath Jones invited me to go to Swanwick. This was wonderful; I cannot tell you what the theme was but I recall very clearly the Bible study. Swanwick made a great impression on me. In the meantime conversations were taking place between WW and WF, and as a result Network was formed in 1987.



Swanwick (present day)

The inauguration service for Network was held at Harrogate on 10th September 1987. Mrs Rosemary Wass was the first President to be inducted under the new name.

District Days and District weekends at Belsey Bridge gave us opportunities to get to know one another, with speakers that inspired us to go back to our Churches and carry out the work God had called us to do. Over the years many organisations have been helped by the Presidents' projects.



Belsey Bridge

For the 10th anniversary of Network and 50 years celebrating Women's meetings in East Anglia, each Circuit was asked to produce a 12" by 12" panel using fabric, depicting an aspect of the work of women in the District. As a result we have a District banner (*now with the Heritage Centre in Wighton – Susan*). This service was held on 15th April 1997 at Culford School. There was a Circuit celebration in the June with Mrs Kath Jones as the speaker. I have named a few of the events that have happened over the years, but could have named more.

It was 2007, when the Circuit boundaries changed bringing Wymondham and Attleborough into the Norwich Circuit, when I was appointed as Secretary. MWiB came into being fully and was launched in 2011 at Southport (*I was at another MWiB event there in 2015 and it was a very hot day – Susan*). I look back to Mrs Burgess with gratitude who sent me on this journey 40 plus years ago.



Southport

Over the years God has blessed this work and will continue to. We now have Susan to take us forward and carry on God's plan. My prayer is that God will "Encourage, Empower and Enable" each one of us on our journey.

A “bit of history” - Susan

When I became President I was presented with a Bible in the front of which was the list of the Presidents of the various forms our organisation has taken and I thought I would include these names (in the form they are listed) this time.

East Anglia District Women’s Fellowship

1961	Mrs H J Martin
1963	Mrs E P Harrison
1965	Mrs K M Buckmaster
1966	Mrs W M Bloom
1968	Mrs T Fretter
1971	Mrs J Blount
1973	Mrs R Greetham
1975	Mrs D Ruddock
1977	Mrs J Eddy
1979	Mrs P Oliver

After Union with Women’s Work

1982	Mrs J Eddy
1983	Miss P M Trowse
1985	Mrs R G Jones

After launch of Network

1987	Mrs V Carter
1989	Mrs J Pearson
1991	Mrs E Day
1993	Mrs E Hughes
1995	Mrs S Braddy
1997	Mrs Kathleen Jolley
1999	Mrs Norma Purvis
2001	Mrs A Harris
2003	Mrs Pauline West
2005	Brenda Sigsworth
2007	Barbara Girling



Pauline West

2009 Brenda Searle

After launch of MWiB

2011 Mrs Jackie Smith
2013 Mrs Angela Macquibban
2015 Mrs Heather Sorrell
2017 Mrs Ruth Arnold
2020 The Covid Pandemic
2022 Mrs Sue Groome
2025 Mrs Susan Eldridge



Angela & Rev Tim Macquibban in Rome

I wonder how many of the above names you know. Perhaps someone reading this could be the next name on the list after mine?

It is interesting that Rev Heather is listed as Mrs Heather Sorrell. I suspect the majority of the ladies on the list were lay people but we would be very happy to have a female Supernumerary Minister as our President in the future. It would also be great if we could have a younger person.

The Butterfly Logo for MWiB – sent by Judy Bainbridge



The butterfly image represents aspects of our Christian belief.

- THE EGG – Jesus still offers new life to all who believe Him (John 3 v1-8)
- THE CATERPILLAR – As we feed on the Word of God we grow as disciples (2 Timothy 3 v15-17)
- THE CHRYSALIS – Prayer is the powerhouse for the Christian who waits on the Lord (Ephesians 3 v16)
- THE BUTTERFLY – A symbol of resurrection, new life in Christ, freedom and perfection (2 Corinthians 5 v17)

Autumn District Day thoughts – Susan Eldridge

This is not a proper report but based on a few things I jotted down soon after the day:

- Rev Graham Thompson said it was a privilege to be asked to preach/speak and we thought it was a privilege to have him do so.
- Rev Jenny Pathmarajah, when I said how lovely it was to have her present for my commissioning, replied “I would not have missed it for the world. It has been a long time coming!”
- The sermon was inspiring with its focus on humility, patience and unity. I am not sure I do too well with the middle one of these!
- It was fascinating hearing about Graham’s Presidential Year – the death of Queen Elizabeth II, the Coronation of King Charles III, faith leaders meeting with the King and much more.
- It was interesting hearing about Graham and Alison’s overseas visit as part of preparing for the Presidential Year. Graham was expected to lecture on the Methodist Class system! I am sure he did it admirably! The visit involved much Covid testing.
- Someone commented that it was the best District Day they had been to for a long time.
- The singing was fabulous and sharing communion made the service really special.
- We were hosted by a great team at Ely. A few hiccups occurred in advance but were all overcome beautifully on the day. If we return we will try to give clearer parking instructions. Poor Rita drove round in circles for quite a while.
- It was sad that we no longer had the bookstall but lovely to have Richard and his former helper, Joyce, there.
- It was sad a few regulars (like Jacky) could not make it due to lack of transport.
- It was lovely to have a younger lady, Charlotte, there. This emphasises the need to hold some events at weekends or in the evening (probably on Zoom).
- It was lovely to have Sarah Friswell with us – she will be our speaker for the Autumn District Day in Thetford.
- It was a good opportunity for Rita Rowe, trustee for Lincolnshire and East Anglia, to meet some of our ladies and it was decided that Rita would join our future executive meetings (held on Zoom) and this is working well.

It felt like a really positive day and it will hopefully inspire more people to get involved as we celebrate what we can do, rather than get depressed when looking back to what we used to have! Remember that “comparison is the thief of joy” and “God holds us in the palm of his hand”.



The Royal invitation (photo by Paul)



Ely Cathedral

National news – Susan Eldridge

Newsletter

Do you receive the national quarterly newsletter electronically? If not, and you would like to, please sign up directly or ask your local Circuit MWiB rep who should receive it via Jacky Woor. The latest one includes:

- An introduction to the new Helen Kim Memorial Scholar from August 2026 – Izzy Soloman. Izzy is an active member of Castle Street Methodist Church in Cambridge so may be able to come to some of our events. She enjoys crafting so that could fit with our consideration of whether to hold a Creativity Day in 2027.
- An introduction to the Vice President of WFMUCW (World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women) from August 2026 – Helen Cunningham.
- The Groups that were awarded a MWiB Empowerment Gift in 2025 – these included projects and groups in Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. If you know of a project abroad that might benefit from an Empowerment Gift then the application forms can be found on the MWiB website from April and the closing date for applications is the end of July.
- Lilla Hercules gives highlights of her time as London District MWiB President from 2023 to 2025.
- A report from the Methodist Women in Ireland G.I.G.G.L.E.S. Conference. This stands for Girls in God, Growing, Learning, Eating & Sharing and sounded a lot of fun. It appealed to all ages, from children upwards.
- News of a new exhibition at Epworth Old Rectory – “A Life in Fellowship – My Story/My Song” and an encouragement for people to get involved.
- A report from the Lancashire MWiB Conference – Pilgrimage of the Soul – Meeting God in the Wilderness, Mountaintop and Waterside.



Madeleine and Izzy

The newsletter was accompanied by the usual Prayer Diary prepared by the current Helen Kim Memorial Scholar, Madeleine Reed.

The newsletter also contains information about **Arise & Shine 2026 – Our Shared Journey to Purpose**. MWiB has launched its 2026 National Plan, rooted in the call of Isaiah 60 v1-5 “Arise and Shine”. This is a roadmap built together to ensure our spiritual depth is directly connected to our community service.

The following is taken from the newsletter. It was intended to be started in March but I am sure the resources can be used beyond that date together with a report from those that attended Swanwick.

“Where Our Power Meets Our Purpose

Our movement is at its strongest when we work in harmony. This year, we are embarking on a three-stage journey that invites every member, in every District, to play a vital role:

- **Awakening (March):** We begin in local groups, studying together to identify the unique “Power” and gifts God has placed within our community.
- **Activation (April):** Our Residential Swanwick Conference, “Where Power meets Purpose: Small Acts that Change the World” will be our national gathering theme. Here, we will combine our collective energy to identify the “Small Acts” that will change the world.
- **Action (May-Dec):** We return to our pews and our streets to “Shine”. Through a new National Tracker, we will finally quantify and celebrate the immense impact of Methodist women across Britain.

Be Part of the Story

This plan belongs to all of us. Whether you are leading a local study, attending the Conference, or performing a quiet act of service in your neighbourhood, you are the “spiritual engine” of this movement.”

Co-Chair, Olive Ruzvidzo, says “**Let us arise together and shine our light for all to see**”.

Resources for the Awakening stage and the 2026 MWiB “Small Acts” Impact Tracker accompanied the national newsletter. They can also be found on the national MWiB website by following the link on this page [Arise & Shine resources](#). We will need to consider what, if anything, we can do around this. Perhaps this could be by Zoom.

Methodist Heritage - Stories of people and places which have influenced the growth of Methodism in East Anglia - Sarah Friswell

At the Autumn District Day, 21st October 2026, I will be talking about Methodist heritage and pilgrimage. If you like knitting, then I would like to ask you to do a little bit of preparation ahead of the day. The symbol of pilgrimage, which is recognised worldwide, is a scallop shell. Below is a knitting pattern for a scallop shell (see photo). It would be lovely if some of you might knit some scallop shells, so that we might wear them at the District Day. You can knit one for yourself and if you so wish, you might like to knit one to give to someone else, who doesn't knit themselves. You will need: scraps of double knitting wool, knitting needles (3mm), safety pin

Pattern:

Cast on 41 and work in the flat.

1. Row 1: [k1, p3] x 9, turn/ [k3, p1] x 7, k3, turn/
[p3, k1] x 6, p3, turn/ [k3, p1] x 5, k3, turn/
[p3, k1] x 4, p3, turn/ [k3, p1] x 3, k3, turn/
[p3, k1] x 7 (41)
2. Row 2: [p1, k2togtbl, k1] x 10, p1 (31)
3. Row 3: [k1, p2] x 8, turn/ [k2, p1] x 5, k2, turn/
[p2, k1] x 4, p2, turn/ [k2, p1] x 3, k2, turn/
[p2, k1] x 2, p2, turn/ k2, p1, k2, turn/
[p2, k1] x 6 (31)
4. Row 4: [p1, k2togtbl] x 10, p1 (21)
5. Row 5: [k1, p1] x 9, turn/ [k1, p1] x 7, k1, turn/
[p1, k1] x 5, p1, turn/ [k1, p1] x 3, k1, turn/
[p1, k1] x 7 (21)
6. Row 6: cast off 4, [k1, p1] x 8 (17)
7. Row 7: cast off 4, k2tog x 6 (7)
8. Row 8: p –
9. Row 9: k1, k2tog x 3 (4)
10. Row 10: p –



NB k2tog-tbl means knit two stitches together through the back loops

Once you have finished, just tie off and secure the ends and fix a safety pin to the back so that it can be pinned on as a scallop shell badge.

I look forward to seeing your creations in October.

Reflection – Jacky Woor, Central Norfolk

I wonder if you are like me and find yourself thinking about something that you know you can't get an answer to? Over Easter I found myself wondering what the weather was like on that first Easter morning, mainly because we had such a lovely day, indeed it is still very sunny as I write this article two days later.



What would it have been like as the women left their homes before dawn on that day – perhaps a bit misty, even thick fog? Or perhaps a lovely day was just dawning, the promise of a fine day. Whatever the weather, they left to carry out the ritual of preparing Jesus' body for burial in their cultural way, a job that only the women of the family would carry out. No need for the men to come along, just the faithful women who had supported Jesus during His ministry. But what a shock awaited them!

You can imagine them talking as they went along – “How shall we get the stone moved? Will the guards allow us to go inside?” Reasonable questions to be asking with no idea on what the answers would be. According to which Gospel account you read there was only Mary Magdalene, or three of them, or maybe more. Whatever the number none of them would be expected to be strong enough to move the stone that blocked the entrance to the tomb. The picture below gives you an idea on what they thought awaited them – taken in the Garden of the Tomb in Jerusalem, May 2016 when I visited the Holy Land.

Whatever they expected it was not what they found, the tomb open and empty. Also angels sitting there, maybe in the tomb or on the stone to one side of the entrance. Not only was it unexpected it was beyond their understanding. The women would have been terrified!

All accounts agree that Mary was the one told to go and tell the disciples what had happened and that they should go to Galilee to await Jesus. We are told by John that only Mary was there and met with Jesus, that it was He who told Mary what she should do.

Whatever happened, it was a shock and surprise, it was unbelievable, this sort of thing did not happen, yet it had once before with the raising of Lazarus!

Now all that Jesus had told them, all the miracles and teaching was leading up to this, God's Son raised from the dead. What a glorious morning, no matter what the weather.



Reports on the Lent Bible Study morning

This was a super morning attended by around 20 people exploring the misconceptions and misinformation surrounding the biblical figure of Mary Magdalene. Far from the fallen woman plagued by demons as presented by the Catholic Church from the 6th century AD until recently, Mary was actually a respected part of the regular group around Jesus. She was a woman of means who supported the ministry of Jesus and his disciples administratively and financially thus enabling them to focus on teaching and preaching.

She even had her own gospel - which you can buy on Amazon Kindle for 79p! As “the apostle to the apostles” and a witness to the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Christ, Mary’s image has been rehabilitated. No longer the epitome of the seven deadly sins due to the seven demons cast from her by Jesus she has joined the canon of saints in Catholic, Anglican and Ba’hai faiths.

This was an excellent session with questions at the end that asked us to explore times when we have focused on the surface and not looked beyond at the voiceless and the marginalised especially those who have been framed through a patriarchal lens. **Sue Groome**

Kate Daynes

During Lent I joined about 20 others at Thetford Methodist Church to spend a morning thinking and learning more about Mary Magdalene. This study was based on material prepared by Revd Helen Hollands, our District Chair. Unfortunately, Helen was unable to be us, but we were very fortunate that Revd Jenny Pathmarajah agreed to kindly lead our discussions. That, of course, meant we were able to benefit from Jenny’s ideas and thoughts as well.



Of course, we would soon hear and read how Mary Magdalene met with the risen Christ in the garden of Gethsemane. Some of us were preparing to preach on the subject! We recognized that this Mary was just one of so many Marys in the gospels, and that the gospel writers try to identify the different Marys, often as the mother or wife of a male disciple or follower. We learnt that she was probably known as Mary of Magdala as this was the city of her birth. An ancient city on the shores of the Sea of Galilee five miles north of Tiberias, which had begun to overshadow Magdala in importance.

We recognised that Mary Magdalene is often seen as someone who has had a difficult past, may have been a great sinner, even a fallen woman and how this is often reflected in the ways she is portrayed in classical art. Jenny helped us to reflect about how this might have originated. The city of Magdala was a wealthy city but in some ways a sinful place with a dubious reputation, so this might be the source of these traditions. We recognized too that some of these myths and traditions continue, for example, how Mary is portrayed in modern day works such as the Da Vinci Code and Jesus Christ Superstar.

As our discussions progressed, we looked at Mary as that first witness of Christ's resurrection, recognising that this happened in society, a world, where women were not considered to be reliable witnesses. Courts considered women to lack rationality, being too hysterical to be believed.

From there Jenny encouraged us to reflect about how women are portrayed in scripture, how so many are unnamed. We thought about the women who stayed and witnessed the crucifixion. Plus, we recognised the crucial role of women providing for Jesus and his followers in practical ways and the key contribution made by Mary Magdalene, and also Susanna and Joanna providing the financial resources to underpin Jesus' ministry.

Moving on we tried to identify those whose voices are not heard today in our church and our world. Perhaps not thought to be worth listening to? We thought of minorities, the poor and powerless, those whose voices were overlooked.

Overall, a morning which provided much food for thought, and finished with sharing lunch and a birthday cake for Jenny who had so kindly agreed to be with us on the birthday morning!



We were also pleased to have Jackie Smith's quilt with us on the morning - Susan.

Report on Lincolnshire District Day from Rita Rowe, MWiB Trustee for East Anglia and Lincolnshire

ARISE & SHINE

These words are taken from Isaiah 60 v 1-2 and were the theme for our Lincolnshire District Day on 16th March 2026 held at Middle Rasen Methodist Church and led by our Co-Chair Olive Rudvidzo.



We had an amazing time and built a Sunflower (pictured) to show what our thoughts are for our lives in this troubled World. 30 women came together for a fantastic time of fellowship and fun and joined in activities and Worship surrounded by the above Statement. Arise & Shine to show Power (God's light) meeting Purpose (our Actions) which is the message from MWiB throughout the Easter period. During Lent and each month of the year we have a prayer for the week on our Website..... MWiB.org.uk and the prayers are a reflection of what the Season is about.



We also had a visiting person to our District Day who is going out to Uganda in February next year to take resources of period products and underwear (bras mainly) to help the women learn how to make washable period items using towelling and material that can be washed rather than disposed of and some ladies took the pattern for these to make them at home ready to give to her later this year. We have access to these items which we take for granted but other Countries struggle to have basic hygiene materials so we hope to help where we can. Ladies that attended the District Day were generous in bringing along new and used bras and also period products to be taken by the young women going on the event next February. We also gave her a donation to help with costs of travel. She was overwhelmed at our generosity.

Swanwick 2026 – Susan Eldridge



- A** Arise and Shine, the MWiB theme for the year
- R** Rain for the prayer walk, but still enjoyable if you were dressed appropriately!
- I** Inspiring (and challenging at times)
- S** Singing, including putting secular tunes to various hymns – try STF 513 “Take this moment, sign and space” to “Love me tender”
- E** Example of Christ’s love to follow as we live our lives and impact others

- A** Appreciation to outgoing Officers, including Leonora and Alison Judd
- N** New faces – introduction to new members of the World Federation including Izzy from Cambridge replacing Madeleine as Helen Kim Memorial Scholar
- D** Dancing – Circle and Worship Disco!

- S** Small acts that change the world (where power meets purpose) – the focus for our keynote speaker, Carolyn Godfrey
- H** Holding of power – the power to show glimpses of heaven into the lives of others
- I** Inter-faith – workshops included Islamic Geometric Art
- N** Noise – as over 180 women chatted!
- E** Empty red chair – symbolises women who have died at the hands of a partner

- W** Workshops – a wide variety
- O** Organisation – a lot of hard work went into making the Conference such a success
- M** Mission – Dragon’s Den competition between tables to consider how you would use a yellow rubber duck, a blank luggage tag, a wooden clothes peg, a pack of wildflower seeds and a tea bag (or multiples of these) to help someone in your community to “Arise and Shine”. There were many different ideas.
- E** Encouragement and enthusiasm
- N** Not hiding from difficult subjects – safeguarding, abuse

- O** Opening devotions by Madeleine who has blossomed into a confident young lady – her testimony given later was very moving
- F** Fellowship and fun
- C** Church at its best is a place of profound healing but we get it wrong
- H** Happy faces and laughter
- R** Response – pledges as to what small act people were going to do to impact their community
- I** Initiatives to raise money to help send women to the 15th World Assembly in New Zealand in the summer.
- S** Study – Rev Jenny considered “Is the Bible a handbook on how to abuse women?” and helped us look at the story of Samson and Delilah from a different viewpoint. Samson was a nasty man and Delilah not as bad as she is made out to be (see Sue’s report below).
- T** Texts (New Testament) – reading these in the ways the writers always intended – one of the workshops



A short report on Swanwick received from Sue Groome

This residential weekend had everything: from worship disco to pyjama prayers, circle dancing to Girls’ Brigade badges.

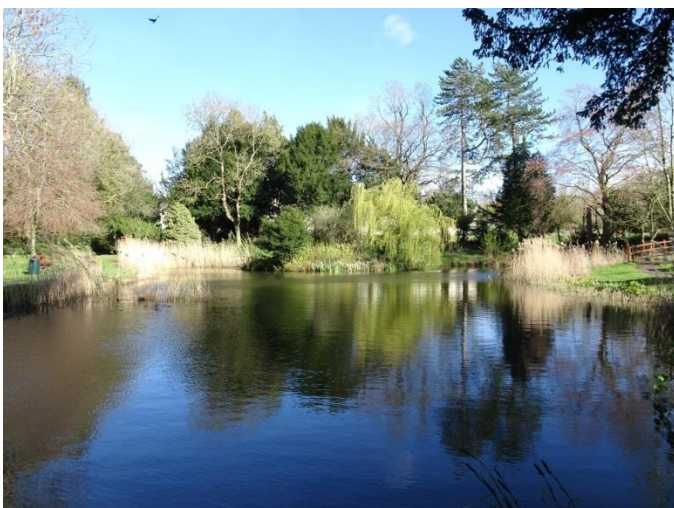
The accommodation was basic but comfortable and the food varied and plentiful. I particularly enjoyed the keynote speech which urged us to make sure that our church spaces are safe spaces. Carolyn Godfrey drew on her experience as a safeguarding officer to show that in the small acts of kindness we can transform the world. She followed up in her address on Sunday to point out that the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand began in the willingness of a young child to share their lunch - a small gesture used to make a big difference.

Our Sunday morning bible study viewed Kings 13 - 16 through the lens of modern feminism and common sense. Who knew that the Old Testament could be so relevant to the 21st century manosphere? Or that far from a heroic man of God Samson was an obsessed womaniser, a vandal, cruel to animals and a mass murderer who had to be reined in by his own people to defuse international conflict? Far from being a manipulative harlot, Delilah was actually a patriotic heroine employed by her country to stop the rampages of an out of control man-child. If nothing else, this bible study actually makes you read your bible and not the fancies around it.

Overall this was a brilliant weekend - roll on 2027.



Some of our East Anglia ladies



The beautiful grounds

MWiB East Anglia District Finances – 1st September 2025 to 17th April 2026

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Brought Forward (1)	1,233.65	EAD Treasurers Bureau	60.00
EADTB Donations	75.00	Newsletters (printing)	56.00
Newsletters	19.40	District Day at Ely (5)	231.26
Donations to funds (2)	91.10	Expenditure for Lent morning (6)	105.00
Bank Interest	13.25	Transfer to Charity PSPA	2,000.00
Current Charity PSPA (3)	2,084.42	Donation to national MWiB	100.00
Transfer of Conference a/c	1,587.29	Transfer Current a/c to Savings a/c	1,500.00

Total Income	5,104.11	Total Expenditure	4,052.26
Less Expenditure (4)	4,052.26		
Remainder in current a/c	1,051.85		

Monies in Hand

Current Account	1,051.85
Deposit Account	2,862.32
Total	3,914.17

Notes

1. Current account and excludes donations to the Charity
2. From "Women's Own", Dereham
3. Includes all donations to Charity PSPA
4. Includes transfer of majority of former Conference account to Savings account
5. Includes gifts, donation to Ely MC, travel for speaker and cost of printing programmes
6. Includes donation to Thetford MC and gift for speaker

Report from Olga

Hello everyone, wherever you are reading this we need to thank you for being a supporter of MWiB in this East Anglia District.

We have good news that, following the Autumn District Day at Ely in October 2025, everyone was really generous with their donations and by January 2026 we were able to pass another £1,000 over to the PSPA charity making a total of £2,000 so far. Raising money at your church meetings and special coffee mornings has been continuing and to date we are holding a further £84.42 towards our next one thousand we hope!

Dereham's 'Woman's Own' continue to be busy bees as usual and we are thankful to them for boosting our general funds by £91.10 up to now in this financial year.

Our only downside is that, as things stand, only 5 of our Circuits within the District have found it possible to let us have the £15 subscription (for EADTB) we ask for each year. We are very grateful therefore to Thetford Diss and Mildenhall, Norwich, Central Norfolk, West Norfolk and St Neots & Huntingdon. It would be helpful if, maybe, MWiB Circuit reps/secretaries could speak with their Circuit Treasurers to see if this small donation to MWiB would be possible. If you are in doubt of how to approach this, please get in touch with me if I can be of help.

The only other major thing of note is that for many years we held what was termed as a 'Conference Account'. This came in handy in the days of our weekend conferences when bills needed to be paid immediately (and deposits in advance) by cheque. This has now been transferred into our main account – see note from Susan below.

Conference Account

In addition to our main account which is looked after by Olga and EADTB, we had a Conference Account which was looked after by me (with Margaret Snelling being my main counter-signatory for geographical reasons). It was held with Lloyd's Bank and they decided we had to have a different sort of account with some onerous conditions if we wanted to continue. Consequently, it was agreed to close this account and transfer the proceeds to our main account held with the Treasurers' Bureau. This transfer went surprisingly smoothly and all our money is now included in Olga's report.

Payment reminders from Olga

Our District Treasurer continues to work in conjunction with the Treasurer's Bureau. Please make all cheques payable to "East Anglia District Treasurer's Bureau" or "EADTB". Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope and a note indicating your Church and Circuit and what the payment is for. Cash can be given directly to Olga at District Days and a Bank Transfer can be made if necessary (please contact Olga for Bank details).

Can it please be noted that any bank transfers will go directly into our account which is held by the EADTB (who handle the account for us). It will arrive without notification, so it is imperative Olga is also made aware you have sent something (an email will do) so it can be accounted for in the correct way. In all cases we ask that you either write on the back of the cheque or drop Olga a note stating whether the donation is for MWiB funds or for our designated charity and indeed who or where it is from.

Olga's contact details

Olga Watkins, 01487 814352 or email olga.watkins@yahoo.co.uk

Address 1, Grenfell Road, Bury, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE26 2QR

From the national communications - Let's Talk About It!

National MWiB's "**Let's Talk About It!**" series, is committed to bringing the light of Christ into the corners of life that often stay in the shadows. In late May, attention is being turned to a topic that is frequently in the headlines but often misunderstood in our hearts – **Immigration**.

The Honoured Guest is **Rumbidzai Bvunzawabaya** who is a UK-based immigration solicitor, CEO and Founder of Tulia Group CIC, and a passionate advocate for migrants and vulnerable communities. She is also the founder of Freedom Ministry International, where she mentors women and creates safe spaces for healing and empowerment. Rumbidzai is known for her ability to break down complex legal issues into accessible, real-life understanding.

The session will explore Law and Reality, Truth vs Myth, Lived Experience and A Compassionate Response.

Event Details – Faith, Law and Frontiers – Understanding Immigration in the UK today

- **Date:** Thursday, 28 May 2026
- **Time:** 7.30pm
- **Location:** Online via Zoom (A supportive, non-judgmental digital space)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84544741218?pwd=yeihAY52hBLI2jbR1KZPOq5pn6Vbpm.1>

- **Meeting ID:** 845 4474 1218
- **Passcode:** 995966

On MWiB's YouTube channel you can find 6 recordings of previous sessions in this monthly series including on Mental Health, Menopause and Domestic Abuse. They last around an hour to 75 minutes and I plan to watch some of them when I get a chance – perhaps some of you will too?

Susan Eldridge

Future dates

District Executive	1st September 2026 by Zoom (9.30am) 7th January 2027 by Zoom (9.30am)
District Forum	24th September 2026 at Diss – 10 for 10.15am start 25th February 2027 at Diss (or by Zoom) – 10 for 10.15am start
District Day – Autumn	21st October 2026 at Thetford – Speaker Sarah Friswell (Heritage and Pilgrimage)
National Conference	Swanwick – 9th to 11th April 2027

Members of the Executive Committee

Susan Eldridge – President – susan.eldrids@gmail.com, 01508 493795

Jacky Woor – Secretary – jackywoor07@btinternet.com, 01362 697860

Olga Watkins – Treasurer – olga.watkins@yahoo.co.uk, 01487 814352, 1 Grenfell Road,
Bury, Ramsey, Huntingdon, PE26 2QR

Sue Groome – Past President – suegroome55@outlook.com, 01502 731038

Trixie Dye – Resources – theresadye39@yahoo.co.uk, 01508 499220

Susan Eldridge – Newsletter – as above

Ruth Arnold – Member – ruth.ann.uk@gmail.com

Judy Bainbridge – Member – nandjmbainbridge@hotmail.com

We are not including addresses (except Olga's) as this Newsletter is being circulated electronically so if you need an address please email the relevant person or ask Jacky or Susan.