



Ann-Marie Wilson

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Location: Britain



What I do: Working to end FGM and violence against women and girls, specifically across Africa and the diaspora where FGM is practised.

Dear friends,

It seems amazing that we are already in late July. I recently finished my Caleb course at St Mellitus College and have graduated well. We had a good final weekend in Derbyshire, including pastoral skills assessments with real-life scenarios from chaplains invited in as assessors. We also had teaching on different church movements, helping highlight differences throughout the global Church. To celebrate, we enjoyed a party with karaoke and a ceilidh.

Over the early summer, my usual ministries have continued, including Noah's Ark volunteer chaplaincy every Thursday, where I talk to families, children, and siblings, getting to understand their lives. I went to St Barnabas Church World Mission summer gathering and had a lovely time seeing people from across Eastern Europe and Israel. These are places facing extreme challenges at this time and I hope and pray that they will find peace again very soon and are comforted by our prayers.

I have also been working closely with colleagues from the Orchid Project, both here in the UK and those based overseas. Our work on Indonesia is in production, and we have launched our work on Malaysia: [https://www.fgmcri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Malaysia/malaysia_country_profile_v2_\(june_2024\).pdf](https://www.fgmcri.org/media/uploads/Country%20Research%20and%20Resources/Malaysia/malaysia_country_profile_v2_(june_2024).pdf)

I attended CMS's People in Mission Conference at All Nations College, to whom I am donating much of 28 Too Many's anti-FGM resource library. The conference is a gathering for all CMS's people in mission, including new partners and those leaving mission at the end of their term. A time for worship, creativity, training, debriefing and connections.

I enjoyed meeting Bishop Anderson Jeremiah when I joined his installation as Bishop of Edmonton at Kings Cross St Pancras Church; it was a lovely evening, meeting with plenty of people, known and new. Please pray for Anderson as he starts this new role.

I have also been offering some assistance as a Friend of New Ground, a local housing development, and have offered my services as a potential chaplain/advisor. With some members having lived there over seven years now, some are being challenged by dementia or life-limiting illnesses and needing carer support. New Ground have asked me to present my thoughts on what I could do for the members and how to prepare for end of life, and look to working together to help make lives better. I have also attended a couple of University of the 3rd Age (U3A) meetings, which have covered similar subjects and enable me to engage with community life in the Borough of Barnet.



Bishop Anderson and me at his inauguration

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



I joined a Precious Women church event recently, which is open to women of any denomination, run out of a couple of churches in Barnet. It was especially interesting as we had Jane Kendal as a speaker, who is my ex-vicar's wife and graduated from St Mellitus College last year. It was good to reconnect with her and hear what has been happening to her and her husband since leaving St Barnabas church following their sabbatical and move to Surrey.

In terms of other ministry, I represented CMS and visited St John's parish church, Royston, to talk about our anti-FGM work and shared about the different aspects of what I do and how it impacts FGM.

I have also shared at St Cuthbert's Church, Hoddesdon, who celebrated my graduation and our Camino success (see below), and at the Cockfosters Prayer Group, run by Peter and Ros Kraushar over many years. Recently, Peter suddenly became unwell and he quickly deteriorated. I took him home-based communion in his short stay in the Whittington Hospital, and at the North London Hospice. I was privileged to attend his celebration of life, as he lived a full and varied life until around 90 years. Please pray for Peter's family.

For some of this summer I have been preparing to walk the last 75 miles of the Camino Way in northern Spain by completing 15 practice walks. The actual trek was 75 miles, which we covered in five days, covering many more miles. I walked with a pilgrimage group from Kent and two friends, all supporting each other and finishing well. You can see some of the highlights here: <https://youtu.be/oUFlu-yiPMU?si=SxiXg85WEoZ2JdZF>

I have also been to Malling Abbey in Kent, once to attend a requiem mass for the late Sister Mary John, enclosed at age 17 years, who I knew for nearly 20 years. Later a six-day retreat helped me rest and recover from a busy few months.

My health has been good recently, having thought I was going to have to undergo back surgery this summer. The walking has helped strengthen it and acted as a good distraction in very beautiful scenery. I am having a month's respite from health appointments during August, just to be able to get out in the garden should the weather be kind! I am very grateful for the NHS for keeping me ticking over during the last six months and ask that you pray for all the NHS staff who do such vital and wonderful work, and my ongoing good health.

I want to share that after a year of prayerful reflections, affirmed by CMS, I am looking to move on from St Barnabas Church, which has been my home for over 25 years. I joined fresh from completing an Alpha course at Holy Trinity Brompton Church. In addition to my mission, I have served in Healing on the Streets; been a core member of the pastoral team and coach to the hospitality team. I was also a project manager for the Go & Grow relocation scheme, and a lay minister since 2015. After my sabbatical, I felt called to explore a new spiritual opening. I am continuing my anti-FGM work with Orchid Project, and chaplaincy ministries.

Please pray for St Barnabas Church, my finding a new church that meets my needs and successful outcomes to two chaplaincy applications that are ongoing.

Wishing you good summer.

Ann-Marie xx



Photos from top to bottom: Rev Steven, vicar, and Brenda, CMS liaison St John's Parish Church, Royston; St Mellitus year group at graduation; Camino Way pilgrimage – we made it to the end of the earth; visit to link church St Cuthbert's parish church, Hoddesdon



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Jesus never gives up. Neither should we. We live in a fractured, hurting world. It can be tempting to give up: on hope, on people, on the idea that things can ever change. Yet, Jesus invites us to follow him on a journey to the edges. Find out more at churchmissionsociety.org/jesus-never-gives-up

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