



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,

May began with a visit to Bishop Rob to renew my vows as a Pioneer Lay Minister. I had a lovely morning and took my two PAs, Alex and Fiona, to share this spiritual occasion. Give thanks to God for this moving time. Later that week I joined with my church family for breakfast, and we joined the rest of Barnet, country and Commonwealth to watch the King's Coronation. Spectacular indeed!

I had a long-awaited trip to Paris with my good friend Angie, staying in a lovely Airbnb. While there we took trips to the beautiful Giverney house and gardens of the painter Monet, and the palaces at Versailles, Vaux and Fontainebleau. All were amazing and part of my special 60@60 plan.

On 20 May I attended an event called "Treasures of the Church", celebrating lay ministers in the church in the Edmonton area. I was one of three who shared about my roles in anti-FGM work, chaplaincy and pastoral work at St Barnabas. Give thanks for this opportunity and the lay ministers in my area.



Re-licensing as Lay Pioneer Minister with Bishop Rob of Edmonton.

June: I had a trip to Cardiff in Wales, to see a treasured link church. While there I went to the Royal Mint to strike a coronation 50p coin, and also enjoyed a cream tea lunch.

I have started to volunteer with Iranian new believers in Jesus in Barnet on a monthly basis. The group invited me to lunch with them, during which I was asked if I would like some healing prayers for my cancer from a pastor from Turkey. Well, a miracle occurred, as when I left the lunch I found that I could walk without my stick and without pain. The power of prayer is amazing and God really does work in mysterious ways. This miracle continues as I am still walking unaided and even managed to wear heels to my special event in July!

I undertook some Mental Health First Aid training, which was challenging but very rewarding and I enjoyed it very much.

At last I collected my new car, ordered in faith as I could not drive. Still a Honda Jazz, yet a hybrid version and with an adapted foot pedal. I'm trying to get used to driving in silence on very small journeys and pleased to be doing my bit to help the environment! Give thanks for the provision of this car, enabling me to start driving a little. Please pray for growing confidence in using my paralysed leg on the accelerator/brake!

July was an exceptionally busy month. It started with a tick off my wish list with a visit to the opera at Glyndebourne (a gift from a dear friend to celebrate my 60th and MBE). I saw Don Giovanni, which was

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exceptional. The next event was celebrating the 75th birthday of the Marie Curie charity. I have volunteered for them for the last seven years.

I then had an Oblate day with my sisters at Malling Abbey, Kent. A very enjoyable day with a lecture from Mother, and meetings with our supervising sisters. Please pray for the sisters, who are all amazing.

The 11th of July was a very special day indeed for me. I went to Windsor Castle with four very special people, where I was presented with an MBE by His Majesty King Charles. A very humbling yet super proud day where I spoke with the King for several minutes about my fight to eradicate FGM. I am thankful to God for this wonderful day with family and friends, and for the calling and work that led to it.

The following weekend took me to St Cuthbert's Church, Hoddesdon, another link church. I was presented with a massive cake and bubbly in celebration of my MBE award. I had a lovely weekend.

Following a period of Interregnum at my home church, St Barnabas, on 18 July we installed our new vicar, Andy Sachs, and gathered together to formally welcome him and his family.

Saturday 23 July was also a special day as 60 of my close friends and family came together in prayer and celebration of my MBE. This was hosted by long term friends of 28 Too Many. We gathered and shared memories over lunch, drinks and tea.

To round off an extremely busy month I attended Church Mission Society's People in Mission conference at All Nations college, where a day was dedicated to all of those, like me, who are serving in the UK.

Coming up: I am due to have discussions with the Orchid Project CEO regarding my expanded role and duties, both in the short and medium term. Please pray for wisdom and agreement on how I can best contribute to the continuing fight against FGM, as I consider becoming their fundraising ambassador along with my portfolio of research roles. I am especially looking forward to dusting off my rusty German for the Orchid Project launch in Berlin.

I am about to go into talks as I share project outcomes as part of my hospice work: A multi faith calendar to help signpost appropriate faith needs that may need to be considered for ill and dying patients of multiple faiths, and a database of out of hours ministers across four faiths who could be contacted if required in multiple London boroughs and Hertfordshire.

Further prayer points:

- Future funding from July 2023 to make up a large shortfall in my funding.
- For all of my friends and office PAs who continue to support me, on holidays, at events, etc.

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Photos from top to bottom: Celebrating lay voices as "treasures" of the church; Lunch with new Iranian friends; The King and I: receiving my MBE; With my fellow Lay sisters at Malling Abbey reaffirming our annual vows.



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