

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Monday afternoon – June 16th 2014

The session began with the singing of 'Jesus, what a beautiful name'.

1. Names of Representatives were read
 - a. Apologies for absence
Daphne Hodgkinson & Tracey Ursell

The President led in prayer, particularly remembering new members of Conference.

- b. Appointment of:
 - Secretaries to Conference
Rev C Braithwaite & Mrs L Taylor
 - Recorders of Minutes
Monday afternoon: Phil Hearson & Bernard Oldman
Tuesday morning: Graham Evans & Stephen Griffiths
Tuesday afternoon: David Rooksby & Peter Norton
Wednesday morning: Paul Busby & Sam Downing
 - Letter Writers
Jean Handley & Carol Nicholls
 - Scrutineers
Sue Norton, Pippa Wood, David Rooksby & Phil Hartshorn
- c. Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors.
It was agreed that press and visitors be admitted

2. Decide as to Standing Orders as follows:
 - a. Discussion only allowed on a motion duly moved and seconded.
 - b. No delegate to speak more than once on any subject, except the mover of the Resolution, who has the right to reply.
 - c. The mover of a Resolution must not exceed ten minutes, and the seconder five minutes.
 - d. Subsequent speakers and the reply of the mover, not to exceed five minutes.
 - e. All printed reports and statements to be taken as read.
 - f. Only Representatives have authority to vote. No others must accept or use voting privileges.The above were agreed

3. Obituary List
Conference stood to remember those whom God has called to Himself. The names of Marilyn Leeson, Josie Busby, Audrey Marshall, Bessie Webb, Ena Morris, Daphne Lee, Gordon Gordon & Bill Rose were mentioned. The President led in prayer.

4. Read Correspondence for Conference
There was no correspondence to be read to Conference

5. Election of President

Rev I P Fall nominated Mr George Philips MSc to be President for 2014-2015, this was seconded. George then responded. Conference voted unanimously in favour.

6. Election of President-Designate

Mrs E Ely nominated Pastor Andy Wilcock to be President-Designate for the year 2014-2015. This was seconded. Andy responded. Conference voted unanimously in favour.

The President led Conference in prayer for George and Andy.

7. Nominations for General Committee

ALDERMANS GREEN	Rev P H Norton
ARNOLD	
ASHBY CIRCUIT	Pastor P Busby
ASHINGTON	
ATTLEBOROUGH	
BAKEWELL CIRCUIT	Mr S D Allen, Mrs B Ely
BARNESLEY CIRCUIT	Mrs M Mottershaw, Rev A Rugeruzza
BEDWORTH	Rev S Griffiths
BIRDS EDGE	
BRADFORD CIRCUIT	
CAWSTON CIRCUIT	
CHOPPINGTON	
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	
CLYDEBANK	
DEDDINGTON	
DORRINGTON	
FRITWELL	
GRIFFYDAM	Mr C A Darby
HAZLEMERE	
HEATH END	
HECKINGTON	
HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT	
IVINGHOE	Pastor D Clifford
LOWESTOFT	
NUNEATON	Mr S Downing (<i>see below</i>)
OLDBURY	Rev S Karma
OLD HILL	
ROTH, MEX & DONC CIRCUIT	Mr B England, Mr G Evans
SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT	Mr B Oldman, Mrs M Stonehewer, Mrs.C Parkinson
SLEAFORD CIRCUIT	
SOULDERN	
ST. JUST	
SYRESHAM	
WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT	Rev I P Fall, Rev P Hearson, Mr D Rooksby

Sam Downing will not be standing for General Committee although his name appears in the Handbook.

8. Half Yearly Meetings 2014 onwards		
2014	15th November	Barnsley Circuit (Worsbrough Community Church)
2015	21st November	Rotherham, Mexborough & Doncaster Circuit
2016	19th November	Sleaford Circuit
2017	18 th November	Warley Area of Churches

9. Conference 2015 onwards		
2015	Mon 15th June to Wed 17th June	Swanwick
2016	Mon 13th June to Wed 15th June	Swanwick
2017	Mon 19 th June to Wed 21 st June	Swanwick
2018	Mon 18 th June to Wed 20 th June	Swanwick (To be confirmed)

10. Young People's Department

a. Report by Mr S Blyth and Mr M Ludbrook

The YPD Committee has had another quiet year. Whilst keeping the Safeguarding document up to date we have also had an opportunity to respond to questions about its application into new digital media (specifically social networking sites such as Facebook). Our response is now available on the Union website for people to read and adapt as they wish.

The rest of our time has been spent hearing about and praying for the various activities with children and young people around the Union. Martin has continued as Support Worker and has been involved in supporting, organising and speaking at Childrens Clubs, Youth Groups, Holiday Clubs and All Age Services.

Last Summer he was involved in Holiday clubs at Griffydham, Syresham, and Ellistown and is currently preparing new material for Holiday Clubs this summer at Syresham, Ellistown and Bethel Community Church. Martin's ongoing work this last year has been more focussed on a couple of churches including launching the Monday Night Xplorers, a monthly Childrens Club at Ellistown as follow up to their holiday club. He has been available to support other churches and groups in planning similar events, meeting with youth leaders, Sunday school teachers and church leaders to support their work and lead holiday club training sessions, but to a lesser extent than previous years. Martin also continues to teach three days a week but has finished his Bible training course and is instead using one day a week for commitments within his own church.

The prayers of the Committee over the year are being answered and plans for the future of youth work in the Union are exciting, we should look forward to the new developments which are in the pipeline.

Please continue to pray for the future of the church, the work being done with young people and young families and for the many leaders and teachers who give their time in this ever-valuable ministry.

In addition to the above written report, Steve Blyth spoke of a workshop being put together concerning informal education and Theology of Youth Work, and gave a brief taster of this. Martin Ludbrook gave details of some of the work he has been involved in. He showed a video of the forthcoming Holiday Club 'Flashback' he will be involved in and gave a brief overview of it.

The report was accepted.

11. Statistics

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
ALDERMANS GREEN (*)	-	68	1	30	7	-	-	2	-	60
ARNOLD	-	9	-	7	1	6	2	-	-	5
<i>ASHBY CIRCUIT</i>										
ELLISTOWN	-	4	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5
IBSTOCK	-	19	-	-	3	-	-	4	9	18
MOIRA	-	13	3	-	-	2	4	3	11	16
NEW SWANNINGTON	-	14	1	-	3	11	3	2	-	14
	-	50	4	-	6	17	7	9	20	53
ASHINGTON	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
ATTLEBOROUGH	-	13	-	8	1	-	-	2	10	16
<i>BAKEWELL CIRCUIT</i>										
BONSALL	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	24
CURBAR	-	12	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
FROGGATT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
OVER HADDON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
STONEDGE	-	31	-	4	2	-	-	4	-	25
STONEY MIDDLETON	-	4	1	-	-	7	-	1	-	8
WINSTER	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	17
YOULGRAVE	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12
	-	78	5	4	2	7	-	8	-	98
<i>BARNSLEY CIRCUIT</i>										
BARNSLEY	-	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
CLIFFE BRIDGE	-	5	2	5	3	-	3	1	-	18
CUDWORTH	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
DODWORTH	-	9	3	-	-	15	10	-	-	10
HOYLE MILL	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
HUNNINGLEY	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
SMITHIES	-	9	1	-	-	11	3	1	5	12
STAINCROSS (*)	4	12	5	4	1	2	2	2	8	14
WORSBROUGH	1	12	1	-	-	-	-	3	10	18
	5	82	17	9	4	28	18	7	23	108
BEDWORTH	-	18	4	5	2	4	1	1	-	17
BIRDS EDGE	-	11	2	7	1	-	-	2	-	16
<i>BRADFORD CIRCUIT</i>										
ADDINGHAM	-	32	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	30
BEACON COMMUNITY	-	31	-	-	-	-	8	3	-	39
BETHEL COMMUNITY	-	12	2	8	4	9	-	1	-	38
MUFF FIELD	-	37	1	5	5	-	-	2	-	20
	-	112	4	13	9	9	8	8	-	127
<i>CAWSTON CIRCUIT</i>										
COLBY LONG ROAD	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SMALLBURGH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SWANTON ABBOTT	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
CHOPPINGTON	3	7	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	13
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	-	11	3	8	2	2	15	1	11	30
CLYDEBANK	-	26	1	8	3	3	-	3	7	53
DEDDINGTON	-	9	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	12
DENBY DALE	-	10	-	7	4	-	-	1	-	20
DORRINGTON	-	6	1	-	2	-	-	3	-	14
FRITWELL	-	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
GRIFFYDAM	-	17	7	14	6	30	10	6	-	41
HAZLEMERE	-	25	-	21	3	45	7	3	-	62
HEATH END	-	23	4	8	3	12	18	2	11	32
HECKINGTON	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9

HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT

BEACONSFIELD (*)	-	14	-	6	2	7	-	3	6	12
FARNHAM COMMON	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	8
WYCOMBE MARSH	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6	12	28
	-	27	1	6	2	7	-	11	18	48

IVINGHOE	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	14
LOWESTOFT	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
NUNEATON	-	6	-	6	3	-	-	2	-	13
OLDBURY	-	35	1	5	2	10	40	3	-	60
OLD HILL	6	16	-	6	2	-	-	3	16	30

ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT

BOWBROOM	6	20	-	12	3	-	-	1	-	15
CORNERSTONE	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
ELSECAR	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
HIGHTHORN		11				(joint with New Oxford Road)				20
HOUGH LANE	2	20	2	7	2	-	-	1	-	30
JUMP	-	25	1	-	-	35	15	3	9	30
MEXBOROUGH	21	60	7	20	7	45	50	11	-	85
NEWHILL (*)	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
ROTHERHAM	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	3
WARMSWORTH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WATH	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	29	174	14	39	12	80	65	18	17	220

SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT

COAL ASTON	-	8	-	3	6	-	-	1	-	14
GREENHEAD	-	7	-	-	-	20	-	1	-	18
GRIMESTHORPE	-	19	1	3	1	3	-	-	-	18
HAMPDEN VIEW	-	6	1	7	-	26	6	2	15	25
MAYFIELD	-	17	4	-	-	-	-	2	8	15
OUGHTIBRIDGE	-	56	-	18	7	-	-	8	-	56
OWLERTON	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	20
PHILADELPHIA	-	8	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	14
RICHMOND	-	31	4	8	3	14	11	4	10	58
SHARROW VALE (*)	-	30	2	40	12	-	-	-	-	200
ST. MARYS	-	6	-	9	2	8	1	2	-	16
WOODSEATS	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	13
	-	204	12	88	31	75	18	26	46	467

Names of Churches	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers - Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
<i>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</i>										
BRANT BROUGHTON	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
LEASINGHAM	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
RUSKINGTON	-	9	1	1	2	-	-	1	8	19
RUSKINGTON FEN	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
	-	16	2	1	2	-	-	1	8	43
SOULDERN	-	7	2	4	2	-	1	-	-	6
ST. JUST	-	18	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	20
SYRESHAM	-	17	-	7	3	11	13	-	-	25
<i>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</i>										
ALMA STREET	-	13	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	22
BOZEAT	-	17	1	-	-	10	-	1	-	15
DICKINS MEMORIAL	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
ISHAM	-	6	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	13
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET	-	51	2	19	4	29	28	4	25	50
RUSHDEN MISSION	-	49	1	12	5	-	-	4	-	85
WYMINGTON	-	11	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	17
	-	154	8	36	17	39	28	12	25	210

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

TOTALS FOR 2013	50	1310	97	356	137	311	198	134	280	1962
TOTALS FOR 2014	43	1292	99	347	130	385	252	142	212	1942
INCREASE	-	-	2	-	-	74	54	8	-	-
DECREASE	7	18	-	9	7	-	-	-	68	20

(*) Please note that we have had to use last year's figures for these churches

- Yet again, our total membership has decreased over the last year and the Home Missions committee are addressing this issue.
- Conversely, there is encouragement in the increase in the number of children and young people and credit should go to Martin and the YPD for this.
- During the year, the Mexborough & Highthorn churches have officially amalgamated into one under the name of "Mexborough and Highthorn Church" and will appear as such in the Year Book.
- The Arnold Church has taken the decision to leave the Union and join with a local Pentecostal church. We are currently trying to ascertain whether or not they are on the Reference Deed.

Comments were made concerning the implication of reducing membership in the churches – people will become overburdened with responsibilities and appointment of trustees will be difficult. The question was raised as to whether church closures has contributed to the reduction in membership. This information is not available. The age profile of members and those holding offices in the churches across the Union was mentioned. We should not always look at the negatives – the increase in children and young people should not be forgotten. Young people are thirsty and we need to be bold in our work!

12. Greetings from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion

Greetings were brought by the President, Clive Dale and his wife, Sandra. He spoke of 'Mile 91' in Sierra Leone. He quoted from Matthew 12 v 20 'A bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not snuff out'

13. Greetings from the Independent Methodist Connexion

Greetings were brought by the President Ray Ursell. He posed the question 'Is God in decline?' – NO!

14. Greetings from the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust

Greetings were brought by Mr Philip Nuttall. He spoke of the work of LWPT and LWPHomes.

The President, Michael Alderson led in prayer. This concluded the business for the afternoon.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Tuesday Morning – June 17th 2014

15. Resolution of Loyalty to be moved by The President, Mr George Phillips MSc

“May it please your Most Gracious Majesty, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, to accept the sincere greetings of loyalty sent by the members of the 165th Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches, meeting at “The Hayes Conference Centre”, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We give thanks to God for your continuing reign over us and your steadfast Christian witness to our nation and commonwealth.

We assure you that the members of the Wesleyan Reform Union, in obedience to Holy Scripture, will uphold you and your family in prayer as you continue in your service to God and the Nation”.

The above resolution was accepted and Conference rose to sing the National Anthem

16. Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee

Members of General Committee were elected as per the list presented earlier in Conference.

Thanks were given to Mr. Sam Downing for his many years service on the General Committee.

17. Local Preachers' Fellowship

a. Report by Mrs C Nicholls

In November 2013, our friend and much respected Christian Mrs. Audrey Marshall went to be with the Lord, whom she loved and served so faithfully for most of her life. We thank God for all the memories we have of Audrey's witness, discernment, wisdom and faithfulness. We continue to remember Ralph at this time.

Our Annual Retreat was held on October 19th at the Jump Church when the speaker was Rev Derek Cleave who took as his theme “What's in a Name”. We were challenged and blessed as he led us through the sessions. We are grateful for his ministry. Thirty people attended and it was a joy to see new and younger people join us.

Full manuscripts of the talks can be obtained from carol@carolnicholls.wanadoo.co.uk

Details of the Retreat to be held on October 18th 2014 are as follows:-

- Cost: £13.00 (changed to £15)
- Venue: Ebenezer Church, Oldbury, West Midlands.
- Speaker: Rev B Patterson of Hinckley, Leicestershire
- Theme: “In Christ alone”
- From 10.00am for coffee with the sessions commencing at 10.30 through to 4.00pm after which the Annual Committee Meeting will be held.

In 2015, the Retreat will be on October 17th at the Jump Church when the speaker will be Rev M Stringer of Wigston Leicestershire.

A time of encouragement and challenge was held on April 12th at Ibstock when Rev S Karma took as his Theme “What makes Christianity Christian?”

Mr S Liffen of our Lowestoft Church has been presented with a Certificate recognizing his 50 years as a Local Preacher and Mr John Bolton of our Cliff Bridge Church was awarded a certificate to mark his 60 years as a preacher of the gospel.

We have revised our Statement of Purpose and Rules of the Local Preachers Fellowship.

We are grateful to all our local preachers who serve God so faithfully.

Officers for 2014/2015:

Chairman: Rev M Nicholls
 Secretary: Mrs C Nicholls
 Treasurer: Mrs E Wilcock
 Committee: Mr R Evans, Mr R Marshall, Mr B Hyde, Mr R Nuttall, Rev S Karma.
 Mr. R Marshall has resigned from the committee.

b. Accounts by Mrs E Wilcock

LOCAL PREACHER'S FELLOWSHIP	2013/2014	2012/2013
Income		
Retreat Fees	429	491
Retreat Offering	79	66
Fees Re: Steve Karma event	101	-
Interest	12	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	621	570
Payments		
Retreat Gift to Speaker	250	300
Catering	200	100
Gift to church	50	-
Printing, Postage, etc	51	50
Conference Fee (Secretary)	135	130
Half Yearly Meetings	10	10
Deficit	75	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	621	570
Fund Balances		
Current Account	99	187
Reserve Account	1398	1,600
Trust Fund	1613	1,398
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3110	£3,185

The above report and accounts were accepted

18. Christian Ethics and Social Action

a. Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson (Presented by Mrs C Nicholls)

In July 2013, the Westminster Parliament passed highly controversial legislation to permit same-sex couples to marry in England and Wales. It was a historic moment, but will it strengthen or weaken marriage? While politicians such as David Cameron claim to be on the right side of history and on the side of justice and fairness, only time will reveal the full out workings of this radically revised understanding of marriage that is in direct opposition to the Word of God. Not only that, but marriage was redefined over the heads of the 24 million

married people in this country. The Government blatantly ignored the 500,000 names who protested against the move. No nation on earth had legalised same-sex marriage until 13 years ago. Now, 16 out of 193 have done so. The truth is that same-sex marriage is a social experiment! Parliament can change the law, but it cannot change the reality that God ordained that marriage should be between a woman and a man

Those of us, who represent you on the CESA Committee, do so in the name of the Lord Jesus, speaking out against the abhorrent laws that are being passed, encouraging those charities that help those with hurting lives, and attempting to be salt and light in the nation. We were thrilled to see our friends from "Caring for life" on the television at Easter.

We were saddened at the passing of Audrey Marshall who had been our treasurer for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Ralph. Thanks to all the committee for their thoughtful magazine articles in Contact.

Values day was at the beginning of February and was well received. The subject of Food banks and the Churches responsibility is still very much in the news. Thanks to Maurice Nicholls for preparing the material. The theme for next year will be "The sanctity of life"

Thank you for your generous donations to the work. The recipients of the gifts are listed in the financial report

b. Accounts by Mrs A Marshall (Presented by Mrs C Nicholls)

CRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION	2013/2014	2012/2013
Income		
Balance brought forward	1,307	1,229
Donations	1,410	2,032
Conference Contribution	35	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,752	3,291
Payments		
Fees	135	230
Hope UK	200	350
L.D.O.S.	500	400
Caring for Life	500	550
Christian Institute	700	400
Postage, Stationery, Copying	45	54
Balance (Nat West) C/F	672	1,307
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,752	3,291

The above report and accounts were accepted

19. Home Missions Department

a. Report by Pastor P Busby

I announced at the denomination's last annual conference that the Home Missions Committee would work this year towards producing a Template for Mission.

Very early on in our discussions as a Committee, we debated whether template was a helpful description of what we wanted to produce. Each of our churches is part of the great commission to witness to others as described in

Matthew 28, verses 18-20. Jesus says go and I will be with you. As each church has a different challenge and needs to take a varied approach to mission, perhaps we should provide a variety of templates or models to support and encourage them.

Once produced, we aim to take these models to our churches, if invited, rather than just send them out. Perhaps a pilot scheme is needed and a recognition that we are on a journey rather than presenting a finished work.

Recognising that other denominations and organisations have already done substantial pieces of work on this subject, we will also seek to embrace what they have developed. As such, we hope to invite a number of organisations to make presentations to us in the next few months.

A further meeting of the Home Missions Committee will be held before Conference to discuss ideas and approaches. Please pray for the Committee and join us on the occasions when opportunities arise over the coming months.

Pastor Rev. D Clifford gave a summary on the work undertaken since the last conference explaining a missionary approach within a church context.

b. Report by the Development & Outreach Consultant

It has been a privilege to serve God alongside our churches, seeking to see Christ's kingdom extended through the local church.

It has been very encouraging to get involved in events that our churches have arranged, to connect with their local communities - be it holiday clubs, family outreach, local festivals or outreach services.

For the second year, the Sheffield Circuit is planning to get involved in the Sheffield Festival, but with improvements. We needed a bigger plot to hold three gazebos, more books to give away for children and more bibles. We know of at least one person who came to Christ and has since been baptised, through contact at the stall last year. There are also plans to hold a meeting in a neutral venue in the city centre, to invite friends along to hear the gospel message.

Work with Stoney Middleton has also been richly rewarding, in supporting their Toddler Group and taking toddler services.

Also at Ibstock, we continue to build on the contacts we have with over 12 children and their families through one off events.

I would love to be involved in more activities, so please invite me to a Church, Circuit or local prayer meeting to discuss opportunities for outreach. It would also be good to hear from you about events or projects you are looking to hold.

ANDY WILCOCK - DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH CONSULTANT

The above reports were accepted

20. The following accounts were presented by Mr George Phillips

21. Treasurer's Report by Mr G Phillips
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2014

Employment of Funds		2013/2014		2012/2013
LAND AND BUILDINGS		485,000		485,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	27,332		27,332	
Less: Depreciation to date	26,824	508	25,920	1,412
INVESTMENTS		1,000,000		1,013,846
LOANS TO CHURCHES				
Chapel Loan Fund	18,800		16,300	
Extension Fund	65,500	84,300	71,000	87,300
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors:				
Resource Centre	137		191	
Magazine			369	
Sundries			459	
National Westminster Bank plc				
Deposit Account	185,861		88,011	
Current Account	6,093		5,625	
Cash in Hand	332	192,423	121	94,776
		<u>1,762,231</u>		<u>1,682,334</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors:				
Union Expenses, etc.	3,372		3,319	
Actuarial Fees	1,944		1,725	
Magazine			697	
New Connexions	305	5,621	305	6,046
		<u>1,756,610</u>		<u>1,676,288</u>
REPRESENTED BY:				
Property Fund		485,000		485,000
Loan Fund		137,935		137,935
Extension Fund		723,896		682,297
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund		4,886		4,832
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust		1,745		1,822
Home Missions Account		1,458		1,489
Young People's Department Account		3,396		3,273
General Reserve		49,167		53,131
Holdback Policy Capital Account		349,127		306,509
		<u>1,756,610</u>		<u>1,676,288</u>

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

		2013/2014		2012/2013
Income				
Assessment		41,920		43,231
Interest		13,061		22,687
Insurance Commissions				2,712
Profit from Resource Centre		160		409
Connexional Plan		1,508		1,881
Year Books		567		611
Child Protection Fees		314		516
Sundries		1		224
From General Reserve		<u>33,822</u>		<u>16,913</u>
		<u>91,353</u>		<u>89,184</u>
Expenditure				
Salaries etc		46,705	40,937	
Gen Sec's House, Car, Telephone		<u>7,185</u>	<u>7,747</u>	48,684
Pension Fund			13,877	13,854
Church House Expenses			4,281	4,602
Year Books			481	468
Magazine			2,277	1,774
Conference			1,778	1,562
Administration	Telephone	2,100	1,488	
	Postage	347	1,355	
	Stationery	2,060	2,233	
	Insurance	<u>1,590</u>	<u>1,290</u>	6,366
Travel	Conference	314	295	
	Half Yearly	443	426	
	General Committee	<u>2,649</u>	<u>2,747</u>	3,468
Sundry Expenses	Subscriptions	895	110	
	CAS	352	468	
	Sundries	155	212	
	Legal Costs	180	1,713	
	Bank Charges	<u>836</u>	<u>815</u>	3,318
Depreciation			904	2,028
Accountants				1,128
Actuaries			<u>1,944</u>	<u>1,932</u>
			<u>91,353</u>	<u>89,184</u>

RESOURCES CENTRE ACCOUNT	2013/2014	2012/2013
Sales	2,076	3,365
Purchases	1,838	2,809
Postages	78	147
Profit/Loss transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>160</u>	<u>409</u>
	<u>2,076</u>	<u>3,365</u>
CONNEXIONAL PLAN		
Income from Churches	1,611	2,068
Less Postage and Travel	103	187
Transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>1,508</u>	<u>1,881</u>
MAGAZINE ACCOUNT		
Sales	2,401	3,080
Printing	4,114	4,185
Postage	564	669
Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>-2,277</u>	<u>-1,774</u>
	<u>2,401</u>	<u>3,080</u>

HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT	2013/2014	2012/2013
Balance 1st April 2013	1,489	1,566
Donations	5,142	5,369
Interest	19	36
Transfer from Extension Fund	38,000	29,000
	<u>44,650</u>	<u>35,971</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant	13,287	12,958
Travel	530	1,899
Grants	29,375	19,625
Balance 31st March 2014	1,488	1,489
	<u>44,650</u>	<u>35,971</u>

YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT

Balance 1st April 2013	3,273	3,832
Donations	3,777	2,495
Interest	43	88
	<u>7,093</u>	<u>6,415</u>
Salary, etc.	2,610	2,675
Travel	1,087	439
Sundries		28
Balance 31st March 2014	3,396	3,273
	<u>7,093</u>	<u>6,415</u>

ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND

Balance 1st April 2013	4,832	9,310
Donations	1,102	1,466
Fees	37	50
Interest	63	214
Transfer from Extension Fund	12,000	4,000
	<u>18,034</u>	<u>15,040</u>
Salary etc.	2,715	2,644
Service Increments	720	400
Training	7,242	4,645
Travelling Expenses	1,963	1,579
Removal expenses	508	910
Costs		30
Balance 31st March 2014	4,886	4,832
	<u>18,034</u>	<u>15,040</u>

EXTENSION FUND		2013/2014	2012/2013
Balance 1st April 2013		682,297	731,533
Sales of Churches	Skelmanthorpe	53,981	
	Low Moor	39,550	
Leasehold redemption			1,000
		<u>775,828</u>	<u>732,533</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		38,000	29,000
Transfer to Training & Pastoral Aid		12,000	4,000
Grants	Salem		10,000
	Mexborough		3,672
	Cudworth		602
Sundries		1,932	2,962
Balance 31st March 2014	Investments	658,396	611,297
	Loans	65,500	71,000
		<u>723,896</u>	<u>682,297</u>
		<u>775,828</u>	<u>732,533</u>

HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT

Balance 1st April 2013		306,509	332,325
Sales of Churches	Skelmanthorpe	25,000	
	Low Moor	39,550	
		<u>371,059</u>	<u>332,325</u>
Grants	Stonedge	7,445	
	Arnold	1,960	
	Rushden HS	2,202	
	Swanton Abbott	1,425	
	Addingham	<u>8,900</u>	
		21,932	25,816
Balances 31st March 2014	Barnsley Circuit	1,716	1,716
	Bakewell Circuit	178,071	185,516
	R,M & D Circuit	1,110	1,110
	Cawston Circuit	13,072	14,497
	Wellingborough Circuit	5,487	7,690
	Bradford Circuit	99,881	69,231
	Nottinghamshire Circuit	22,371	24,331
	Denby Dale	25,000	
	Birmingham	2,419	2,418
		<u>349,127</u>	<u>306,509</u>
		<u>371,059</u>	<u>332,325</u>

LOAN FUND	2013/2014	2012/2013
Balance 1st April 2013	137,935	137,935
Collections		
Balance 31st March 2014	<u>137,935</u>	<u>137,935</u>
PERCY AND RUTH JOHNSON MEMORIAL TRUST		
Balance 1st April 2013	1,822	1,781
Interest	23	41
	<u>1,845</u>	<u>1,822</u>
Conference 2013	100	
Balance 31st March 2014	<u>1,745</u>	<u>1,822</u>
	<u>1,845</u>	<u>1,822</u>
NEW CONNEXIONS ACCOUNT		
Balance 1st April 2013	305	305
Sundries		
	<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>
Balance 31st March 2014	<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>
	<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>
GENERAL RESERVE		
Balance 1st April 2013	53,131	83,868
Collections		100
Holdback excess	28,384	
Rent from 1 Thornbrook Close	3,510	3,480
Less costs	263	-2,674
	<u>84,762</u>	<u>81,294</u>
Additional Pension Scheme Costs		11,250
Donations	1,500	
Costs of 58 Cardwell Avenue	273	
Union Expenses	33,822	16,913
Balance 31st March 2014	<u>49,167</u>	<u>53,131</u>
	<u>84,762</u>	<u>81,294</u>

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION	2013/2014	2012/2013
Interest from Investments	13,209	23,066
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	13,061	22,687
	<u>148</u>	<u>379</u>

Distribution:

Home Missions	19	36
Young People's Department	43	88
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid	63	214
Loan Fund	23	
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust		41
	<u>148</u>	<u>379</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2013	Invested 2013/2014	Repaid 2013/2014	Invested at 31/03/2014
Income Bonds	250,000	250,000		500,000
Nat West Bond 21106606	763,846		763,846	
Virgin Money		500,000		500,000
	1,013,846	750,000	763,846	1,000,000

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/14	Balance 31/03/13	Repaid Year to 31/03/14	Balance 31/03/14	Collection Received 31/03/14
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000		16,200	2,500	13,700	
2013 Jump	5,000	5,000			5,000	
	26,000	5,000	16,300		18,800	

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/14	Balance 31/03/13	Repaid Year to 31/03/14	Balance 31/03/14	Collection Received 31/03/14
2007 Farnham Common	15,000		8,000	1,500	6,500	
2008 Attleborough	25,000		13,000	4,000	9,000	
2009 Clydebank	60,000		50,000		50,000	
			71,000	5,500	65,500	

The Union accounts were accepted as above. A recommendation that the Annual Assessment be raised by £1 to £34 was agreed by a Unanimous vote with one abstention.

8. Ministerial Committee Report

a. Report by Rev C Braithwaite

The past year has been fairly quiet as far as the appointment of ministers to churches is concerned with no movement of existing ministers or appointment of new ministers. There are no churches currently seeking ministry.

We regret that during the last year we were notified of the death of Rev Gordon Gordon who had been ordained in 1989 and had faithfully served in Union churches until his retirement. We thank God for his faithful service.

The main item which has exercised the Ministerial Committee has been the on-going discussions about the possible Ordination of Women into our Ministry. Delegates will be asked to vote on this issue later in Conference. Please make this a matter of prayer as you prepare to attend Conference.

Irvine Grey, a member at our Ebenezer Church, Oldbury, has met with the Ministerial Committee on a number of occasions and, as a result of those meetings, is to be Ordained during the Communion service at the end of Conference. Irvine is currently exercising a church planting ministry in Craigavon in Belfast as well as making frequent ministry visits to Kilifi in Kenya.

Ady Rugeruzza is taking on an increasing responsibility for training our preachers and pastors. He is currently updating the methods by which these men and women are trained for ministry of various kinds in their local fellowships. Geoffrey Lee continues to serve as Tutor Emeritus.

We currently have eight students studying at various levels and doing a variety of different courses.

We regret to report that the Colby Long Road and Leasingham churches have taken the decision to close during the last year.

We are grateful to all our ministers and leaders for their willingness to serve the Lord and His people in this way and would ask that you continue to remember all of them in prayer.

There had been one or two developments since this report was prepared.

- Firstly, the Hazlemere Church has informed me that Michael Alderson will be retiring in Spring 2015 and that they are seeking someone to replace him. Ministers on the Official List have been informed.
- Sian Edwards has informed me that she will be leaving the Ashington Church in the autumn of this year.
- Hough Lane Church are looking for a minister

a. List of Ministers

(Figures in brackets denote years in Present Charge)

Year Ordained

- 1956 Geoffrey D Lee BD ALBC
"Rosebank", 1 Abbey Road, Simpson, Milton Keynes. MK6 3AE
Tel: 01908 395246 E-mail: geoffdlee@talktalk.net
BOZEAT CHURCH (15)
- 1960 Reginald Taylor (retired)
3 Ladyslaude Court, Bramley Way, Bedford. MK41 7FX
Tel: 01234 266544
- 1960 John W Goulder ThM (retired)
35 Dumas-Cul-de-Sac, Brackley, Northants. NN13 6LL
Tel: 01280 841469 E-mail: jwg35d@gmail.com
- 1969 David Allcock (retired)
23 Darrell Place, Norwich, Norfolk, NR5 8QW
Tel: 01603 501040 E-mail: allcock603@btinternet.com
- 1970 A John Williams (retired)
2 Bunyan Road, Bicester, OX26 2YB
Tel: 01869 388707 E-mail: austin.williams@talktalk.net
- 1971 Anthony E Hodkinson (retired)
30 Beaumont Avenue, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester. LE65 2NF
Tel: 01530 416521 E-mail: daphton@sky.com
- 1974 Ralph S Thompson (retired)
Bethesda, 51 Queens Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. TA6 6EQ
Tel: 01278 425746 E-mail: hazelvt@talkalk.net
- 1974 Maurice Nicholls JP (retired)
29 Willow Court, Uplands Drive, Markfield, Leicester, LE67 9WF
Tel: 01530 242422 E-mail: carol@carolnicholls.wanadoo.co.uk
- 1976 Frank Robinson (retired)
5 Emery Close, Sherringham, Norfolk. NR26 8YB
Tel: 01263 822335
- 1988 Peter H Norton
56 Silverdale Close, Coventry CV2 1PX
Tel: 024 7668 5230 E-mail: revsnorton@btinternet.com
ALDERMANS GREEN (8)
- 1997 John M Leslie (retired)
14 East Avenue, Bedworth, Warwickshire. CV12 9EH
Tel: 024 7631 6167
- 1998 Phillip J Hearson
11 South Park, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9LY

Tel: 01933 312392 E-mail: p-j.hearson@sky.com
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET (8)

1998 Michael G Alderson
6 Vine Close, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Bucks. HP15 7UT
Tel: 01494 814530 E-mail: Malderson@btinternet.com
HAZLEMERE CHURCH (11)

1980 Colin Braithwaite
Church House, 123 Queen Street, Sheffield S1 2DU
Tel: 0114 272 1938 E-mail: gen.sec@thewru.co.uk
GENERAL SECRETARY (8)

2004 Ian Fall
161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9TA
Tel: 01933 312919 E-mail: ian.fall@virgin.net
RUSHDEN MISSION (8)

1985 Stephen Griffiths
4 Glenwood Gardens, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 8BD
Tel: 024 7649 1624 E-mail: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk
BEDWORTH CHURCH (2)

2013 Stephen Karma
63 Prince's Road, Tividale, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2LS
Tel: 0121 552 9416 E-mail: ebenezerchurch@hotmail.co.uk
OLDBURY CHURCH

2013 Adalbert Rugeruza
4 Wentworth Views, Church Street, Jump, Barnsley, S74 0HZ
Tel: 07974 531258 E-mail: adyrugeruza@hotmail.co.uk
JUMP AND STAINCROSS CHURCHES

2013 Stephen Blyth
6a The Green, Attleborough, NUNEATON, Warwickshire, CV11 4FJ
Tel: 024 7637 3180 E-mail: Blyth.sa@gmail.com

MINISTERS AWAITING ORDINATION

David Clifford Ivinghoe & Pitstone Chapel
12 Windsor Road, Pitstone, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 9GD
Tel: 01296 668906 E-mail: davidclifford954@sky.com

MINISTERS AND PASTORS INDEPENDENTLY APPOINTED BY CHURCHES (in alphabetical order)

Christopher Barnes Bethel Community Church
257 Bowling Hall Road, Bradford, BD4 7JT
Tel: 01274 306230 E-mail: chrisbarnes257@hotmail.co.uk

Neil Bedford Addingham Church
7 St Helena's Park, Otley Old Road, Horsforth, West Yorkshire LS18 5HZ
Tel: 0113 203 7230 E-mail: neil.bedford@btinternet.com

Ishaku Bitrus
76 Barns Street, whitecrook, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire G81 1QY
Tel: 0141 952 2293 E-mail: ajibauka@gmail.com

Colin Bolton
31 Bagley Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 7AU
Tel: 01384 346378 E-mail: colinbolton30@gmail.com

James Braddock
26 Cardwell Drive, Sheffield. S13 7XD
Tel: 0114 293 9677 E-mail: jim.braddock@btinternet.com

Paul Busby
12 St Margarets, Lower Outwoods, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 0QH
Tel: 01283 548800 E-mail: ppaulbusby@aol.com

Jackie Clarke
24 Century Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4AS
Tel: 0121 552 7153 E-mail: dibleyj@btopenworld.com

Sian Edwards
18 Parkside Court, Ashington, Northumberland. NE63 9WE
Tel: 01670 812533 E-mail: sianedwards283@btinternet.com

Stanley Liffen
138 Raglan Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 2JT
Tel: 01502 517395

Nick Lugg
28 West View Road, Mexborough, South Yorkshire S64 9BE
Tel: 01709 584425 E-mail: nick_lugg@yahoo.co.uk

Peter Mitchell
10 Park Avenue, Scottow, Norfolk. NR10 5BY
Tel: 01692 538657 E-mail: beryl.mitchell@talktalk.net

Robert Nuttall
1 Sunnybank Court, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. HD8 8TJ
Tel: 01484 863406 E-mail: nuttall@nuttallrobert866.orangehome.co.uk

Brian Pratt
90 Pytchley Road, Kettering, Northants. NN15 6JA
Tel: 01536 520844

Ian Relf
25 Cumbrian Way, Shepshed, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 9BP
Tel: 01509 829166 E-mail: Barbara.relf1@ntlworld.com

Ronald Stockley
84 Buttershaw Lane, Wibsey, Bradford. BD6 2DA
Tel: 01274 393351 E-mail: stockleyj2@blueyonder.co.uk

Isobel Walton
The Wesleyan Manse, 3 Castle Street, Deddington, Banbury. OX15 0TE
Tel: 01869 337157 E-mail: Pastorissy@hotmail.com

Andrew Wilcock
29 Daniel Hill Street, Walkley, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. S6 3JH
Tel: 0114 233 4852 E-mail: hampden@blueyonder.co.uk

Jonathan & Susannah Youdan
159 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield. S4 7AU.
Tel: 0114 242 4639 E-mail: jyoudan06@aol.com or syoudan6@aol.com

In presenting the list of Ministers, I would add that the name of Irvine Grey will be moved to the list of officially appointed ministers following his Ordination tomorrow afternoon. Also, the Ministerial Committee have agreed that, in future, there will be two separate lists for serving and retired ministers. Please note that Ady Rugeruzá's address should read Wentworth MEWS and not Views. His post code is S74 0HZ

The Ministerial Committee suggested that the vote on the ordination of women was not a constitutional issue but should be passed on a two thirds majority. After discussion this was agreed by a vote of 29 for and 25 against.

9. Safeguarding Issues

During the year, Marjorie Mottershaw expressed her desire to stand down as Union Safeguarding Officer. In line with Marjorie's wishes, we have approached Steve Blyth who has agreed to take on that responsibility as from the end of August. Our thanks must go to Marjorie for all she has done during her period as Safeguarding Officer – particularly, her preparation of the "Sure Foundations" document.

The appointment of Steve Blyth was agreed by Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Tuesday Afternoon – June 17th 2014

22. Overseas Missions Department
a. Report by Mrs J Shepherd

Overseas Mission

Global Vision, Local Insight, Personal Touch

How quickly the years fly by! Last year we were pleased to have Sarah Armitage added to our list. This year we would ask that as many of our Churches as possible invite Sarah to come and visit to share with them her work with Partners Relief and Development and hear more about what is really happening in Burma.

There have been a couple of changes to our list again this year. Sadly, since The Pastures Church has left the Union, Rob, Grace and Freddie Moorin are now on the list of Associated Personnel. Jacky Taylor has also moved to that list since she is no longer a member of our Mexborough Church. However we continue to pray for and support members of both lists and so this is merely a formality.

We are pleased to report that we are catching up in terms of technology and now are able to add reports and articles to our Union web site. We do have to exercise some caution about this since it is possible to access the site from anywhere but we do hope and intend to keep it more up to date with information about projects. Who knows, by this time next year, we may even have graduated to Facebook and Twitter!

Over the next months, we hope to be able to look again at "twinning". It would be really good to see how many of our Churches are actively twinned with an overseas church. It would be even better to share with those churches who are not twinned the benefits of being a "twin church".

We have now had five editions of our Newsletter and we expect to be sending an edition out every three months. We will try and make these a good read with a variety of information about missionaries, mission situations, the persecuted Church, secret believers and mission opportunities. One of the opportunities we would like to offer is to visit some of our Personnel for a short term trip. We are not very familiar with how to go about this at the moment but have some great expertise in some of our fellowships. For those who would just like to spend time with some of our Personnel, it could be a great encouragement to both parties to visit maybe for a holiday or as part of a holiday. If anyone would be interested in doing any of these things, please do contact Jan and we will use you as a "guinea pig" for this exciting addition to the work of the Overseas Missions team.

It has been good to be able to have the "Apolo Project" for this year and we thank Jill Bethell for her enthusiasm and regular information. We look forward to hearing about how the work is progressing long after we have moved to another project. Our project to be introduced at Conference is "House of Hope" in Kenya.

For the current Apolo Project in Bolivia a cheque was presented for £5,676.50.

The Overseas Missions Project for 2015 is to be in support of the House of Hope in Kenya. The home began in 2003 as a feeding programme and has developed into a home for Street Children. They lack equipment, even basic items like cutlery and cooking pots. They have sent a list of what equipment they need to enable them to eat together and equip the kitchen to take cooking smells and fumes away. Dormitory equipment is also required.

b. Accounts by Mr G Evans

OVERSEAS MISSIONS	2013/2014	2012/2013
General Fund		
Income		
Balance 1st April	1341.49	5167.52
Donations		
General Fund	3484.10	2308.77
Interest from Reserve Account	0.79	1.00
Interest from Investment Accounts	29.73	10.46
Away Day	690.00	
Benstead Offering	110.00	
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim		615.49
Total	<u>5656.11</u>	<u>8103.24</u>
Expenditure		
Conference Fees	147.40	105.00
Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses	25.00	25.00
Half Yearly expenses		10.00
Interest to Training & Fairhurst	3.00	3.00
Away Day MAF	230.00	
Away Day AWM	230.00	
Away Day Wycliffe	230.00	
Benstead Gift	360.00	
Annual Gifts		
WEC		1000.00
Wycliffe Bible Translators		250.00
Radstock Ministries		
J Taylor		550.00
R Moorin		550.00
Arab World Ministries		550.00
H Grimshaw		550.00
OMF International		
J & A McClean/UFM		550.00
J & A McClean Special		2618.75
Balance 31st March	4430.71	1341.49
Total	<u>5656.11</u>	<u>8103.24</u>

Annual Gifts of £4000 will be included in next years accounts

	2013/2014	2012/2013
Irving & Edith Fairhurst Memorial Fund		
Balance 1st April	1131.08	1130.08
Interest	1.00	1.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>1132.08</u>	<u>1131.08</u>
Training Fund		
Balance 1st April	2115.92	2113.92
Interest	2.00	2.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>2117.92</u>	<u>2115.92</u>
Summary		
General Fund	4430.71	1341.49
Project Fund	3621.00	2507.50
Training Fund	2117.92	1131.08
Fairhurst Memorial Fund	1132.08	2115.92
Total	<u>11301.71</u>	<u>4980.07</u>
Balances		
Current Accounts Nat West	6569.40	2394.20
Reserve Account Nat West	1582.15	1581.36
National Savings Investment Accounts	3150.16	3120.43
Total	<u>11301.71</u>	<u>7095.99</u>
Projects		
Burundi Toilets 2011		
Income 11/12	4356.00	
Income 12/13	2824.00	
Expenditure	7180.00	
Balance	0.00	
Proclaimers 2012		
Income 12/13	2507.50	
Income 13/14	2842.50	
Expenditure	5350.00	
Balance	0.00	
Apolo 2013		
Income 13/14	3621.00	
Expenditure	0.00	
Balance	3621.00	

The report and accounts were agreed by Conference

c. Present List of Missionaries, by Mrs J Shepherd

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2014 – 2015

1986	Margaret	c/o Wesleyan Reform Union Church House, 123 Queen Street, Sheffield, S1 2DU.
1995	Mark & Angie Barnes	via Mr G Evans 10 Carr Road, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7AA.
2003	Helen, Arab World Ministries	c/o Wesleyan Reform Union Church House, 123 Queen Street, Sheffield, S1 2DU
2013	Sarah Armitage	Partners Relief and Development UK PO Box 557 Mexborough South Yorkshire, S63 3EN

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2014– 2015

1990	Stephen & Gillian Bryant	67 Budbury Tynning, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1QE.
1995	Philip & Diane Benstead	c/o Wesleyan Reform Union Church House, 123 Queen Street, Sheffield, S1 2DU.
1995	Stephen & Nessie Levinsohn	60 Falcon Avenue, Brickhill, Bedford, MK41 7DX.
1996	Graham & Jean Womersley	Sunnymeads, Ashlett Road, Fawley, Southampton, SO45 1DS
1998	Jonathan & Ann McClean	c/o 145 Farringdon Road, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN1 5DL. mccleansinthailand@gmail.com

2002 Jackie Taylor C/o Mrs A Chattaway
82 Wren Road
Sidcup
Kent DA14 4NF
Jacky2010@mailforpeople.com

2003 Rob & Grace Moorin C/o Mr & Mrs R L Moorin
Coates Lane
High Wycombe
HP13 5EY
rmoorin@yahoo.com

The list of Mission personnel was approved by Conference

d. Election of officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

23. Women of Action

a. Report by Mrs S Fall

Well what a year it's been! Last year I wrote 'Being the secretary of the Women of Action is a real privilege and delight.' Well this year I can say the same again but in double measure, as I have also served as President. I cannot believe what God has done in me personally while on this journey. I have grown so much in my faith as I have stepped out of my comfort zone and obeyed God's call. I remember when Judy asked me to step forward so that she could induct me and I sat there and shook my head. I really did not want this role and responsibility as I felt so inadequate and out of my depth. But I can honestly say it has been the biggest learning, growing, trusting, time of my life and I am so grateful to have had this opportunity. A friend gave me a card right at the beginning and it said 'God does not choose the qualified, he qualifies the chosen' how true I have found that to be. Thank you to everyone who has supported me and prayed for me, and given me hospitality, I am very grateful. Special thanks must go to Ian and my church family at the Mission, and to all the people that accompanied me on my travels. Thank you also to our great God who we serve, who never lets us down. My prayer now is 'What next then God?'

We welcome Mrs Meryl Griffiths as our incoming President and pray that she will know God's presence and guiding as she ministers, and travels around the Union. Please continue to pray that God will enable Meryl, protect her and bless her in all that she does on behalf of the Women of Action. Please invite her to come to your church/meeting during her year of office.

We held our Spring Event at Aldermans Green Church, and what an incredible day of blessing it was. There were 65 ladies who gathered and several of them were at a Women of Action event for the first time. The day was entitled 'Come and meet the Potter....' and Jan Finch spoke to us about being broken pots, but in the potters hands he can make us new again. She spoke so openly and honestly about her own life and how God put her back together again and healed her from all that life had thrown at her. Jan was a real encouragement and testimony to Gods healing power and that He will do it for each one of us if we ask Him.

The Autumn Reflection day in September last year at Worsbrough Church was a blessed time together. It turned into a mixture of both Quiet Day and Spring Event as the March event had to be cancelled at the last minute because of the snow. We are always in awe of God as he uses each one of us and makes something incredible and inspiring happen as we work together for Him.

We have been saddened this year with the loss of several prominent women from our Union of churches. We continue to uphold their families in prayer and thank God for the women that they were, the strength of their faith, and the privilege of having known them and worked alongside them.

The Women of Action have been pleased to give a grant to Church on the Rock, to go towards an outside garden area. We look forward to seeing photographs of the area in use.

At the time of writing we are yet to have the AGM, when we will spend time together to discuss, pray and seek God's guidance on the way forward for the Women of Action in the future. The 'WA' of the past has been greatly blessed and used by God, but we are asking for direction as to what He wants the Women of Action to do/be for our churches and the Union now and in the months and years ahead.

As we look towards another year, we would ask for your continued prayers that we would be attentive and obedient to His voice, and thank you in advance for your support as we serve our God together.

Sandra asked that we please pray for Meryl Griffiths as she serves in her year, please invite her to your Church. Please also pray for Beth Ely as she prepares for her Presidential Year that begins in 2015.

At the Day of Prayer and AGM, thanks were given for past and prayers looking to present and future. At the meeting they decided to keep the Presidents role, it was also felt that more Bible based teaching was needed. The role of the Women of Action was seen as to Encourage, inspire, facilitate, and enable, to assist ladies to put on their own events. God said "we are gems in God's Treasure Store"

Future Events

- 13th September 2014 Quiet Day at Moira led by Beth Darby.
- Spring Event Rev Elaine Roberts at Rushden Mission on Saturday March 21st 2015.
- April 25th 2015 Morning of Prayer and AGM at Coal Aston.
- Youlgrave Induction of Mrs Beth Ely on 13th June 2015.

Officers for the year are:

President	Meryl Griffiths
President Elect	Beth Ely
Secretary	Sandra Fall
Treasurer	Daphne Hodkinson
Contact Secretary	Cynthia Bryant
Representative to Women's World Day of Prayer	Muriel Stonehewer
Representatives to General Committee	Meryl Griffiths Sandra Fall

b. Accounts by Mrs D Hodkinson

WOMEN OF ACTION	2013/2014	2012/2013
Income		
Balance brought forward	1,337	1,126
Spring Event Donations	136	-
Offerings	245	161
Donations	255	360
Conference repayments	<u>150</u>	<u>151</u>

	2,123	1,798
Expenditure		
President's Gift/Insurance	50	50
President's Expenses	-	-
Conference Fees	135	391
Half Yearly Fees	20	20
Secretary's Expenses	24	-
Quiet Day Expenses	-	-
Spring Event Expenses	120	-
Balance carried forward	1,774	1,337
	2,123	£1,798
 OUTREACH ACCOUNT		
Income		
Balance brought forward	591	630
Gifts	-	-
	591	630
 Expenditure		
Church on the Rock	130	39
Balance carried forward	461	591
	591	630
 SUMMARY		
General Current Account	1,774	1,337
Outreach Account	461	591
 All held in Lloyds TSB Bank	 2,135	 £1,928

The report and accounts were approved by Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Wednesday Morning – June 18th 2014

24. Approval of Union Committees for 2014-2015

The Committees for 2014-2015 were presented and approved by Conference

25. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund

a. Report by Rev C Braithwaite

It is some years now since the Housing Trust was set up in our Union in an effort to assist our ordained Ministers financially, particularly at the time of their retirement when sometimes they have problems with housing and other needs. It has been a joy to be able to help several of the Ministers over the years in different ways.

In the next couple of years, three of our ministers will reach retirement age. The Trustees of the Scheme are always ready to discuss problems with our retiring or retired Ministers and to help where they can. In the first instance they would encourage any of our retired Ministers to contact the General Secretary to request an application form. Any requests will receive a sympathetic ear.

During the year, Brian Kay has resigned as a Trustee of the fund. As a result of that, a recommendation will be brought to Conference that Muriel Stonehewer and George Phillips be appointed as Trustees. Paul Busby, Brian Pratt and Neil Sowerby continue to serve as Trustees.

Since last Conference the Trustees have received donations from several of our Churches and this has been very encouraging. Thank you to every Church who has helped in this way, it is much appreciated and we look forward to new and continued support. If any Church feels able to support the work, even in these uncertain days of economic crisis, kindly send donations to Church House.

b. Accounts by Rev C Braithwaite

HOUSING FOR RETIRED MINISTERS	2013/2014	2012/2013
Income		
Interest - Northern Rock Building Society	1,820.30	869.29
Donations	4,331.00	1,415.00
	6,151.30	2,284.29
Expenditure		
Grant towards rent	1,200.00	1,200.00
Net Incoming resources	4,951.30	1,084.29
Building Society Balance 31 st March 2013	73,599.01	62,514.72
Loan Repayment	7,000.00	10,000
Building Society Balance 31 st March 2014	85,550.31	73,599.01
Summary		
Building Society Account (Northern Rock)	85,550.31	73,599.01

Secured Loans
The report and accounts were approved by Conference

7,000.00

26. Ministers' Provident Society
a. Report by Rev P Hearson

Once again, the first thing we would like to do is to say thank you to all those who have supported the Society over the past year. This may have been financially or prayerfully or perhaps by encouraging the Officers and Board Members.

At the beginning of the year we were supporting 9 ministers and 2 widows. During the year this changed slightly with the passing to glory of Rev. Gordon Gordon and Mrs. Daphne Lee, the wife of Rev. Geoffrey Lee, both in January 2014. This means that at the end of the year our annuitants are 8 ministers and 3 widows, although the change has no financial effect as it had been decided some years previously that gifts given should be the same to both groups. Those supported by the Society are very thankful and many telephone calls, emails and cards are received each quarter to express this. Many times the gifts arrive at just the right time to meet a specific need.

You will note from the accounts that our funds have once again fallen. Interest rates are still very low although we do try to ensure we get a good return on our investment taking into account the prevailing rate. Our aim though is to bless our annuitants as a thank you for their service for the Lord, particularly within the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches. Please continue to give both as churches and individuals so that the work of the Society will flourish.

Thank you again for your continued partnership in this important work – we very much appreciate your prayers and your gifts.

Rev. Ian Fall – Chairman
Mr. David Rooksby – Treasurer
Rev. Phillip Hearson – Secretary

b. Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

MINISTERS PROVIDENT SOCIETY	2013/2014	2012/2013
Income		
Balance Brought Forward	80,209	87,446
Donations	1,584	1,840
Subscriptions	66	36
Legacy from the late Mrs Jean Barton	-	500
Interest		
CAF Scottish Widows	-	1,386
Virgin Money interest	1,570	-
	<u>83,429</u>	<u>91,208</u>
Expenditure		
Annuitants	11,000	11,000
Funeral Gift	1,000	-
Balance Carried Forward	<u>71,429</u>	<u>80,208</u>
	<u>83,429</u>	<u>91,208</u>

Balances

HSBC Community account	1,658	2,108
Virgin Money	69,771	78,100
	<u>71,429</u>	<u>£80,208</u>

The report and accounts were received and approved by Conference

- c. Election of Officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
 Chairman Rev. Ian Fall Treasurer Mr. David Rooksby Sec. Rev Philip Hearson

The officers were duly approved for a further year

27. Approval of new Trustees

New Trustees were approved as below:

Union

Ady Rugeruzza has agreed to replace Brian Kay as a Union Trustee

Housing for retired ministers

Muriel Stonehewer and George Phillips have agreed to replace Brian Kay and others as Trustees of the Housing for Retired Ministers Fund

LWPT

Graham Evans has agreed to replace Paul Busby as a Trustee of the LWPT

28. Vote on the Ordination of Women

Jim Braddock asked to speak on the subject but as he was not a delegate this was not allowed.

After a brief discussion, a vote on the question "Should the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches Ordain women into it's Ministry" was held by secret ballot. The result, announced later in Conference was 42 votes (80.8%) in favour and 10 (19.2%) against – there were 4 abstentions.

29. Any Other Business – There were no items raised

30. Vote of Thanks

The General Secretary thanked all who had worked to make Conference such a success

31. Future strategy of the Union

An interactive discussion on the future strategy of the Union was held and the comments coming from that discussion (which were fed back briefly to Conference) would be further discussed by both the Management Committee and General Committee.