

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Monday afternoon – June 15th 2015

Conference began at 2.30pm.

The President, Mr. George Phillips, welcomed all to the 166th Annual Conference after which the hymn 'Lord for the years' was sung. He then read Philippians chapter 4 verses 10 – 19 and commented on how God blesses devoted and faithful service and how he has seen this happening in various places through the Union. This is reason for encouragement. We must support one another and look for God's blessing.

Following the singing of the hymn 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here', Conference took part in a time of prayer.

Afternoon tea was shared, after which business commenced.

Names of Representatives were read. Prayer was offered for first time members.

Apologies for absence

Old Hill (St James) - Sue Haggart is the delegate and Colin Bolton is not attending

St Just – Mary King is attending as a student and Roger King is their delegate

Ashington (Word of Life) Michael Hedley is attending as a student and Lindsay Hedley is their delegate

Bradford Circuit – Margaret Dennison and Gloria Bedford are not attending

Appointment of:

- Secretaries to Conference
Colin Braithwaite & Lisa Taylor

- Recorders of Minutes
Bernard Oldman - Mon pm
Phil Hearson - Mon pm
Graham Evans - Tues am
Stephen Griffiths - Tues am
Peter Norton - Tues pm
David Rooksby - Tues pm
Jan Shepherd - Wed am
Sam Downing - Wed am

- Letter Writers
Carol Nicholls
Jean Handley

- Scrutineers
Sue Norton
David Rooksby
Pippa Wood
Phil Hartshorn

Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors.

These were all agreed.

2. Decide as to Standing Orders as follows:

Discussion only allowed on a motion duly moved and seconded.

No delegate to speak more than once on any subject, except the mover of the Resolution, who has the right to reply.

The mover of a Resolution must not exceed ten minutes, and the seconder five minutes.

Subsequent speakers and the reply of the mover, not to exceed five minutes.

All printed reports and statements to be taken as read.

Only Representatives have authority to vote. No others must accept or use voting privileges.

These were agreed.

3. Obituary List

Conference stood to remember those who had died since last Conference. Special mention was made of Percy Johnson, Paul Busby, Ralph Thompson and Margaret Mills

4. Read Correspondence for Conference

There was no correspondence for Conference

5. Election of President

The nomination of Pastor Andrew Wilcock was moved by Mr. David Tuckett, was warmly received and was given a unanimous vote of approval. Andrew responded briefly, saying how he was looking forward to visiting churches.

6. Election of President-Designate

The nomination of Mr. David Rooksby was moved by Rev Ian Fall. The nomination was warmly received and given a unanimous vote of approval. David asked for prayer for the coming years and shared ways in which the call to the position had been confirmed.

7. Election of Union Treasurer

The nomination of Mr. George Phillips was moved by Rev Colin Braithwaite. Colin spoke of George's in-depth knowledge of the Union and its finances. The nomination was warmly received and was given a unanimous vote of approval. This is for a period of five years. George responded briefly.

8. Approval of new Union Trustees - This was delayed until later in Conference

9. Approval of new Guardian Representative – This was delayed until later in Conference

10. Nominations for General Committee

ALDERMANS GREEN	Rev P H Norton
ARNOLD	
ASHBY CIRCUIT	Rev M Nicholls
ASHINGTON (WORD OF LIFE)	
ATTLEBOROUGH	
BAKEWELL CIRCUIT	Mr S D Allen
BARNESLEY CIRCUIT	Mrs M Mottershaw
BEDWORTH	Rev S Griffiths
BIRDS EDGE	
BRADFORD CIRCUIT	
CAWSTON CIRCUIT	
CHOPPINGTON	
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	
CLYDEBANK	
DEDDINGTON	
DORRINGTON	
FRICTWELL	
GRIFFYDAM	Mr C A Darby
HAZLEMERE	
HEATH END	
HECKINGTON	
HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT	
IVINGHOE	
LOWESTOFT	
NUNEATON	
OLDBURY	
OLD HILL	
ROTH, MEX & DONC CIRCUIT	Mr G Evans, Pastor D Clifford
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

These names were proposed and seconded, and Conference voted in favour.

David Rooksby, representing the Wellingborough Circuit, commented on the effect of the reducing number of people available to cover various roles, particularly when membership numbers within circuits fall. He stated

the disparity between the representation of churches in circuits to Conference and General Committee compared to independent churches. Any change will need a Notice of Motion.

11. Approval of new Job descriptions

Job descriptions for the new positions of General Manager and Pastoral Visitor were approved

12. Half Yearly Meetings 2015 onwards

2015	21st November	Rotherham, Mexborough & Doncaster Circuit
2016	19th November	Sleaford Circuit
2017	18 th November	Warley Area of Churches

13. Conference 2016 onwards

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)

14. Christian Ethics and Social Action

Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson

On Thursday May 7th, the United Kingdom was involved in yet another important General Election. During the past five years we have been governed by a Coalition Government, but not even the opinion pollsters could predict the outcome this time.

I am sure that many MP's will have been elected to the House of Commons for the first time, and it is important that we, as Christians, establish where they stand on a number of Christian values. You will not agree on everything, but they may hold values that are important to you. Contact them regularly. Remember you pay them; you appoint them and you can also dismiss them. Above all pray for them that they may know God's perfect will for our nation.

Our committee has been busy again this year. For example, we have contacted the Travelodge company to protest about their decision to remove Bibles from their rooms We have also encouraged Hope UK to train more youth leaders to deal with drug addicts, and so much more.

Our Values day in February dealt with the challenging subject of "The sanctity of life". It was especially relevant in the light of cutbacks and shortage of care home places. Thanks to Ian Fall and Andy Wilcock for their contribution.

Thanks also to all Churches who support the work financially. A list of recipients is in the financial report.

The report was proposed, seconded and accepted by Conference.

The following Officers were approved:

Chair – Rev. Ian Fall

Secretary – Mrs. Daphne Hodkinson

15. Statistics

Name Of Church	Junior Mem bers	Senior Mem bers	Preac hers (Full & Trial)	Schol ars	Teach ers	Childr en (Prim ary Schoo l)	Young Peopl e (Senio r Schoo l)	Devot ional Meeti ng (Inc. WA)	WA Mem bers	Avera ge Atten dance
ALDERMANS GREEN		67	1	30	6			3		40
ARNOLD		5	1	3	1					10
<u>ASHBY CIRCUIT</u>										
ELLISTOWN		4								5
IBSTOCK		17						3		17
MOIRA		12	1					2	8	16
NEW SWANNINGTON		14			3	4	2	1		12
	0	47	1	0	3	4	2	6	8	50
ASHINGTON										
ASHINGTON (Word Of Life)		16	3					8		16
ATTELBOROUGH		12		5	1			2	10	15
<u>BAKEWELL CIRCUIT</u>										
BONSALL		18	1					1		22
CURBAR		10	4							11
FROGGATT										
OVER HADDON										
STONEDGE		33	1				4	8		38
STONEY MIDDLETON		4	1				15	1		10
WINSTER		3						1		16
YOULGRAVE		10						1		12
	0	78	7	0	0	0	19	12	0	109
<u>BARNSELY CIRCUIT</u>										
BARNSELY		13	4							12
CLIFFE BRIDGE		5	2	6	3	2	3	1		16
CUDWORTH		5	1							6
DODWORTH		11	3			30	11		3	10
HOYLE MILL		3								4
HUNNINGLEY		8								10
SMITHIES		7	1					1	6	10
STAINCROSS	2	12	3	3	1	14	12	2	4	17
WORSBROUGH		12	1					2		12
	2	76	15	9	4	46	26	6	13	97
BEDWORTH		18	3	4	2			1		15
BIRDS EDGE		10		6	1			1		14
<u>BRADFORD CIRCUIT</u>										
ADDINGHAM		31	1					2		28
BEACON COMMUNITY		29	3		5			2		37

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BETHEL COMMUNITY		17	2	7	3	16		3		40
MUFF FIELD		29	1	5	5			3		17
	0	106	7	12	13	16	0	10	0	122

<u>CAWSTON CIRCUIT</u>										
COLBY LONG ROAD										
SMALLBOROUGH										
SWANTON ABBOTT		7	9							12
	0	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
CHOPPINGTON	3	7								14
CHURCH ON THE ROCK		13	3	8	2	2	15	1	10	17
CLYDEBANK		23	1	10	3	6		1	24	53
DEDDINGTON		9						1		12
DENBY DALE		8	1	5	3			2		20
DORRINGTON		6	1	2	1					17
FRITWELL		10								10
GRIFFYDAM		15	1	15	6	28	12	4		35
HAZLEMERE		32		21	5	23	3	2		63
HEATH END		23	2	6	3	10	21	2	11	32
HECKINGTON		7						2		10

<u>HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT</u>										
BEACONSFIELD		15	12	10	2	8	2	3		14
FARNHAM COMMON*		7	1					2		8
WYCOMBE MARSH		6		1				3	10	25
	0	28	13	11	2	8	2	8	10	47
IVINGHOE		10						2		13
LOWESTOFT		2	3					1		9
NUNEATON		6		5	3			1		12
OLDBURY		30		6	2			3		35
OLD HILL		24		4	2			2	20	20

<u>ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT</u>										
BOWBROOM	5	20		8	2			1		20
CORNERSTONE		13								12
ELSECAR		9	2							12
HOUGH LANE	4	18	1	4	1			2		22
JUMP		25	1			45	14	7	10	30
MEXBOROUGH LIFE CHURCH	20	60	6	10	6	0	20	9	0	80
NEWHILL *		10	2					1		10

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ROTHERHAM *		2						1	8	3
WARMSWORTH										
WATH		2								3
	29	159	12	22	9	45	34	21	18	192
<u>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</u>										
COAL ASTON		8		8	5			1		14
GREENHEAD		5								11
GRIMESTHORPE		19	1	3	2	2	1			18
HAMPDEN VIEW		7	1	7		6	5	2	15	31
MAYFIELD		18	4					2	9	14
OUGHTIBRIDGE		57		27	6			7		46
OWLERTON		9						4	14	18
PHILADELPHIA		7						1		13
RICHMOND		30	5	7	5	3	14	4	10	50
SHARROW VALE		30	4	80	12			16		230
ST MARY'S		7		14	2			2		16
WOODSEATS		7						2		12
	0	204	15	146	32	11	20	41	48	473
<u>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</u>										
BRANT BROUGHTON		2								8
LEASINGHAM										
RUSKINGTON		9	1	1	2					19
RUSKINGTON FEN		5	1							14
	0	16	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	41
<u>SOULDERN</u>										
SOULDERN		7	2	8	2					6
ST. JUST		17								13
SYRESHAM		16		5	2	13	9			21
<u>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</u>										
ALMA STREET		9						1		22
BOZEAT		17				12	1	2		12
DICKINS MEMORIAL		5								6
ISHAM		6	1	1	1					12
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET		47	1	23	3	22	20	4	26	52
RUSHDEN MISSION		49	3	20	7			4		85
WYMINGTON		11		4	4					15
	0	144	5	48	15	34	21	11	26	204
<u>SUMMARY OF STATISTICS</u>										
TOTALS FOR 2014	43	1292	99	347	130	385	252	142	212	1942
TOTALS FOR 2015	34	1258	108	392	125	246	184	154	198	1869

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INCREASE			9	45				12		
DECREASE	9	34			5	139	68		14	73

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

The General Secretary made various comments regarding the percentage changes.

Comment was made that we must make disciples, not simply look to arrest the fall in numbers. Various comments were made regarding the statistics. The importance of prayer was stressed.

The statistics were received.

16. Greetings from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion

Greetings were brought by their President, Pastor Peter Riddle and his wife, Brenda.

17. Greetings from the Independent Methodist Connexion

Greetings were brought by their President Mr Ray Ursell. His wife was unable to be with us due to illness. He said that things within the IM Connection are very similar to those within the WRU.

18. Greetings from the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust

Greetings were brought by the LWPT National Advocate, Miss Jenny Benfield. She spoke about her journey over the year with LWPT. They have a new logo and a new magazine with an ecumenical emphasis, as well as a very useful and thought-provoking website. Jenny outlined the work at the Care Homes and help available for those in time of need. Vocational grants are also available.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Tuesday morning – June 18th 2015

19. Resolution of Loyalty to be moved by The President, Pastor Andrew Wilcock

“May it please your most Gracious Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to accept the sincere greetings from the members of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches assembled for their 166th Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We give thanks to Almighty God for your faithful and inspirational rein over the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and pray that we will remain united, as one nation under your rule.

We pray for your government and nation, asking that, together, we will follow the biblical mandate to uphold justice, tolerance, mercy and love, to the vulnerable and the stranger in our land.

Through our continued allegiance and in obedience to Holy Scripture we wish to assure you of our prayers, asking that God will continue to bless you, your family and your reign over the nation. We pray that through the working of your government we will know His righteous guidance”

20. Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee

There being less than twenty nominations. All those nominated were appointed

21. Local Preachers' Fellowship Report

Report by Mrs C Nicholls

Our Annual Retreat was held on October 19th 2014 at the Jump Church when the speaker was Rev Bill Patterson 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. It was attended by 34 people. Our grateful thanks are expressed to the Jump church who hosted the day at very short notice.

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

Details of the Retreat to be held on October 17th 2015 are as follows:-

Cost £15.00

Venue: - Jump Church

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.

Speaker: Rev Mike Stringer of Leicestershire.

Theme: “What are we trying to achieve?”

He will endeavour to address his talks to any who have responsibility for leading and speaking in the various elements often found in church life - Sunday school, Men's and ladies fellowships, children's clubs, Bible Studies and Sunday services.

In 2016 the Retreat will be on October the 15th. The speaker will be Mr Mark Foster of the Wirral a member of SGA.

On April 12th 2015 we held our spring event at Ibstock when Rev G.D.Lee took as his Theme "Four conversations Jesus had" and 42 people attended.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mr Percy Johnson who, along with the late Herbert Sykes, was one of the instigators of the Local Preachers Fellowship meeting in Percy's home. He was always a great encourager and supporter always having a great interest in Local preachers and Ministers. Since his move to Cirencester he had been unable to attend meetings but he maintained a lively interest in the work and was pleased to receive the notes and recordings from the retreats. He was always a joy to talk to on the phone and will be sadly missed.

We are delighted that two of our Committee Emma Wilcock and Ray Evans have received Maundy money from the Queen in recognition of Christian service.

We record our sincere thanks to Emma who has served on the committee as Chairman and Treasurer for several years.

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

Officers for 2015/2016

Chairman: Rev M Nicholls

Secretary: Mrs C Nicholls

Committee: Mrs E Wilcock, Mr R Evans, Mr B Hyde and Mr R Nuttall.

We are delighted that in October at our AGM Mrs D Hodkinson will be joining the committee.

Accounts by Mr G Phillips

LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP ACCOUNTS	2014/2015	2013/2014
		4
Income		
Balance 1st April 2014	1,606	1,681
Seminar	98	101
Retreat	589	508
Sundries		12
	<u>2,293</u>	<u>2,302</u>
Expenditure		
Seminar	45	
Conference	140	145
Retreat	574	500

Sundries	64	51
Balance 31st March 2015	<u>1,470</u>	<u>1,606</u>
	<u>2,293</u>	<u>2,302</u>
Fund Balances		
Bank/Cash	1470	1606
Trust Fund	1613	1613

22. Young People's Department Report Report by Mrs Beth Ely

The Committee have met regularly throughout the year for prayer and discussion on the work with young people in the Union.

We had hoped to organise a joint youth event with the Independent Methodists but so far this has not been possible. The far flung dispersal of our churches makes it very difficult to plan a national event, and local events are very demanding on human resources. Some groups already join forces to celebrate together; several using the talents of our youth worker, Martin Ludbrook.

During the year we have continued to monitor and update the Safeguarding document providing information for churches and youth groups to use.

The policy offering advice on the use of social media is available on the web site and we are very fortunate to have Steve Blyth to keep us in touch with the very latest legislation to guide us safely and within the law. Social Media can be a minefield especially where young people are concerned and it is important that the adults who organise activities for young people and vulnerable adults know how to keep their members and themselves safe.

If anyone has any ideas for future events or is seeking information or ideas for use in their youth work and Sunday Schools please contact a member of the committee.

23. Home Missions Report Report by Pastor Andy Wilcock

We want to give praise to God for the invaluable contribution that Paul Busby made to the work of the Home Missions Department. Paul had a spirit-empowered passion and determination for the ongoing work in our churches. His proactive attitude and analytical approach to the work will be hugely missed! Although we will greatly miss Paul and his wise presence in the meetings, we seek to continue with the projects we were working on with him. Seeing this material working to encourage and challenge our churches, in outreach and the proclamation of the gospel is our desire and we are certain it would be Paul's.

As a committee we are excited to be launching two packs for churches to use in helping them become more effective in their local area. The first is a Tool Kit that will help you as a church identify where change needs to happen and to help you start planning on how to bring this about. The second is a collection of ideas on Hospitality, with the aim to be a blessing and connect with your local community. Later on this year we are

looking to launch further resources on 'Sharing your faith', 'Discipleship' and others. These resources will be free to download from the website and we are looking to you to add more ideas in the future.

Resources to be launched at Conference 2015

Mission Action Planning Tool

This tool is designed to help you as a church reflect on growth, and on which direction you need to focus your work in Christ. In his year as President, Andy is looking to take this in person to each church he visits during his Presidential year. The Home Missions committee will offer support to our churches with regard to the action plan they come up with.

The main areas it helps you look at are.....

- 1) A place of Welcome and Belonging
- 2) A place of Worship and Prayer
- 3) A place of Nurture, Discipleship and Vocation
- 4) A place with a Clear Mission and Purpose and Good Collaborative Leadership
- 5) A place of Empowerment and Involvement for your whole church
- 6) A Base for Evangelism, Outreach and Numerical Growth
- 7) A place of Serving and Transforming - Salt and Light
- 8) A place Actively Seeking to Engage with Children and Teenagers

Hospitality Template

This is a series of tried and tested ideas that can be easily adapted to your own situation. They are underpinned by the Biblical teaching that expresses the very nature of God to offer hospitality in a variety of ways.

24. Treasurer's Report by Mr G Phillips

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2015

	2014/2015	
Employment of Funds		
LAND AND BUILDINGS		485,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	27,332	27,332
Less: Depreciation to date	27,078	254
		26,824
INVESTMENTS		954,465
LOANS TO CHURCHES		
Chapel Loan Fund	16,400	18,800
Extension Fund	83,750	100,150
65,500		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors:		
Resource Centre		34
National Westminster Bank plc		137
	Deposit Account	16,763
	Current Account	8,717
		185,861
		6,093
Cash in Hand	115	332
	25,595	
	1,565,498	
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors:		
Union Expenses, etc.	3,138	3,372
Actuarial Fees	2,075	1,944
New Connexions	305	305
	5,518	
	1,559,980	
REPRESENTED BY:		
Property Fund		485,000
Loan Fund		137,935
Extension Fund		632,969
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund		4,745
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust		1,764
Home Missions Account		1,129
Young People's Department Account		2,366
Christian Ethics and Social Action		390
General Reserve		22,451
Holdback Policy Capital Account		271,231
		1,559,980

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

		2014/2015		2013/2014
Income				
Assessment		41,275		41,920
Interest		10,453		13,061
Insurance Commissions				
Profit from Resource Centre		140		160
Connexional Plan		1,632		1,508
Year Books		727		567
Child Protection Fees		96		314
Sundries		104		1
From General Reserve		<u>36,143</u>		<u>33,822</u>
		<u>90,570</u>		<u>91,353</u>
Expenditure				
Salaries etc		48,266		46,705
Gen Sec's House, Car, Telephone		<u>3,712</u>	51,978	<u>7,185</u>
Pension Fund			14,066	13,877
Church House Expenses			4,820	4,281
Year Books			497	481
Magazine			2,613	2,277
Conference			595	1,778
Administration -	Telephone	2,116		2,100
	Postage	457		347
	Stationery	2,132		2,060
	Insurance	<u>1,399</u>	6,104	<u>1,590</u>
				6,097
Travelling -	Conference	401		314
	Half Yearly	308		443
	General Committee	<u>2,238</u>	2,947	<u>2,649</u>
				3,406
Sundry Expenses-	Subscriptions	639		895
	CAS			352
	Sundries	103		155
	Legal Costs	968		180
	Bank Charges	<u>755</u>	2,465	<u>836</u>
				2,418
Depreciation			254	904
Accountants			2,256	
Actuaries			<u>1,975</u>	<u>1,944</u>
			<u>90,570</u>	<u>91,353</u>
		2014/2015		2013/2014

RESOURCES CENTRE ACCOUNT

Sales	1,272	2,076
Purchases	1,091	1,838
Postages	41	78
Profit/Loss transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>140</u>	<u>160</u>
	<u>1,272</u>	<u>2,076</u>

CONNEXIONAL PLAN

Income from Churches	1,755	1,611
Less Postage and Travel	123	103
Transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>1,632</u>	<u>1,508</u>

MAGAZINE ACCOUNT

Sales	2,477	2,401
Printing	4,262	4,114
Postage	828	564
Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>-2,613</u>	<u>-2,277</u>
	<u>2,477</u>	<u>2,401</u>

	2014/2015	2013/2014
HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT		
Balance 1st April 2014	1,458	1,489
Donations	4,371	5,142
Interest	15	19
Transfer from Extension Fund	53,000	38,000
	<u>58,844</u>	<u>44,650</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant	13,607	13,287
Travel	1,123	530
Grants	42,985	29,375
Balance 31st March 2015	1,129	1,458
	<u>58,844</u>	<u>44,650</u>
YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT		
Balance 1st April 2014	3,396	3,273
Donations	2,691	3,777
Interest	36	43
	<u>6,123</u>	<u>7,093</u>
Salary, etc.	2,749	2,610
Travel	1,008	1,087
Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2015	2,366	3,396
	<u>6,123</u>	<u>7,093</u>
CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION		
Balance 1st April 2014	673	1,307
Donations	1,755	1,410
Interest	7	
Sundries		36
	<u>2,435</u>	<u>2,753</u>
Caring for Life	500	500
Christian Institute	700	700
Day One	500	500
Hope UK	300	200
Sundries	45	180
Balance 31st March 2015	390	673
	<u>2,435</u>	<u>2,753</u>

		2014/2015	2013/2014
ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND			
Balance 1st April 2014		4,886	4,832
Donations		1,517	1,102
Fees			37
Interest		52	63
Transfer from Extension Fund		7,000	12,000
		<u>13,455</u>	<u>18,034</u>
Salary etc.		2,585	2,715
Service Increments		840	720
Training		2,933	7,242
Travelling Expenses		1,579	1,963
Removal expenses		703	508
Costs		70	
Balance 31st March 2015		<u>4,745</u>	<u>4,886</u>
		<u>13,455</u>	<u>18,034</u>
EXTENSION FUND			
Balance 1st April 2014		723,896	682,297
Sales of Churches	Skelmanthorpe		53,981
	Low Moor		39,550
		<u>723,896</u>	<u>775,828</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		53,000	38,000
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		7,000	12,000
Grants	St Just	10,000	
	Mexborough	6,449	
	Cudworth	9,022	
	Dodworth	<u>2,000</u>	
		27,471	
Sundries		3,456	1,932
Balance 31st March 2015	Investments	549,219	658,396
	Loans	<u>83,750</u>	<u>65,500</u>
		632,969	723,896
		<u>723,896</u>	<u>775,828</u>

		2014/2015	2013/2014
HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT			
Balance 1st April 2014		349,127	306,509
Sales of Churches	Skelmanthorpe		25,000
	Low Moor		39,550
		<u>349,127</u>	<u>371,059</u>
Grants	Beacon	44,047	
	Addingham	14,824	
	Bierly	1,260	
	Rushden M	1,636	
	Swanton Abt	13,072	
	Denby Dale	<u>3,057</u>	
		77,896	21,932
Balance 31st March 2015	Barnsley Circuit	1,716	1,716
	Bakewell Circuit	178,071	178,071
	R,M & D Circuit	1,110	1,110
	Cawston Circuit		13,072
	Wellingborough Circuit	3,851	5,487
	Bradford Circuit	39,750	99,881
	Nottinghamshire Circuit	22,371	22,371
	Denby Dale	21,943	25,000
	Birmingham	<u>2,419</u>	<u>2,419</u>
		271,231	349,127
		<u>349,127</u>	<u>371,059</u>
LOAN FUND			
Balance 1st April 2014		137,935	137,935
Collections			
Balance 31st March 2015		<u>137,935</u>	<u>137,935</u>

PERCY AND RUTH JOHNSON MEMORIAL TRUST

Balance 1st April 2014	1,745	1,822
Interest	19	23
	<u>1,764</u>	<u>1,845</u>

Conference 2013		100
Balance 31st March 2015	<u>1,764</u>	<u>1,745</u>
	<u>1,764</u>	<u>1,845</u>

	2014/2015	2013/2014
GENERAL RESERVE		

Balance 1st April 2014	49,167	53,131
Collections		
Holdback excess		28,384
Donations - Hucknall	3,455	
Legacy - R Hanson	3,822	
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	4,782	
Less costs	<u>5,323</u>	<u>-541</u>
Rent from Thornbrook Close	3,300	3,510
Less costs	<u>609</u>	<u>263</u>
	<u>58,594</u>	<u>84,762</u>

Donations		1,500
Costs at Cardwell Avenue		273
Union Expenses	36,143	33,822
Balance 31st March 2015	<u>22,451</u>	<u>49,167</u>
	<u>58,594</u>	<u>84,762</u>

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Interest from Investments	10,582	13,209
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	<u>10,453</u>	<u>13,061</u>
	<u>129</u>	<u>148</u>

Distribution:		
Home Missions	15	19

Young People's Department	36	43
Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid	52	63
Christian Ethics and Social Action	7	
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust	19	23
	<u>129</u>	<u>148</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2014	Invested 2014/2015	Repaid 2014/2015	Invested at 31/03/2015
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	500,000	4,465	50,000	454,465
	1,000,000	4,465	50,000	954,465

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/14	Repaid Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/15	Collection Received 31/03/15
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000		13,700	1,900	11,800	
2013 Jump	5,000		5,000	500	4,500	
	26,000	0	18,800		16,400	0

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/14	Repaid Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/15	Collection Received 31/03/15
2007 Farnham Common	15,000		6,500	750	5,750	
2008 Attleborough	25,000		9,000	6,000	3,000	
2009 Clydebank	60,000		50,000		50,000	
2015 Swanton Abbott	25,000	25,000			25,000	
		25,000	65,500	6,750	83,750	0

It was agreed that the proceeds from the sale of Arnold Church be paid into Extension fund.

It was agreed to increase the assessment by £1

25. Ministerial Committee Report Report by Rev C Braithwaite

This year has been an interesting year for the Ministerial Committee. Following the decision to ordain women into our ministry at our last Conference, we have subsequently interviewed Sharon Hollamby (formally from our Alma Street Church but now worshipping at our Rushden Mission Church) for ministry in the Union. The Committee were unanimous in endorsing her as a possible candidate for Ordination once the required studies have been completed.

Eddison Mubengo (a member of our Clydebank Church) is currently pastoring a fellowship in Glasgow. He has recently completed his studies and has been interviewed by the Ministerial Committee on his dissertation. As a result of a successful interview, Eddison will be Ordained during the Conference Communion service. His intention is to bring his fellowship into the family of the Union and we give them a very warm welcome

Michael Hedley (Pastor of the Word of Life Church in Ashington) has been interviewed and accepted as a possible candidate for Ordination but needs to complete his three years membership of a WRU Church along with the necessary studies before Ordination can take place. Michael has already brought his existing fellowship into the Wesleyan Reform Union. Michael & Lindsay will be with us at Conference.

The full Committee met with Dave Clifford to discuss his theological dissertation with him but following that meeting did not feel able to offer him for Ordination. Dave will be leaving the Ivinghoe & Pitstone Church at Conference and has accepted an invitation to become pastor of our Hough Lane Church

Steve Karma has given the Ebenezer, Oldbury Church notice that he will be leaving them in July for further ministry outside the Union.

Our Union Tutor, Ady Rugeruzza took extended (unauthorised) leave of absence and, as a result, has resigned as Minister of our Jump and Staincross churches. His role as Tutor has been suspended by the Ministerial Committee and the Tutor Emeritus (Rev Geoffrey Lee) has agreed to act as tutor for all current students. For any new students, we will investigate training courses from other sources.

Our current students, Mary King, Jon & Cita Bennets, Graham Johnson, Jackie Clarke, and Michael Hedley continue with their respective studies.

The Hazlemere Church has interviewed Sharon Hollamby and made an invitation to her to become their next Minister once her studies are complete and Ordination has taken place.

The Heath End church is currently seeking a minister. Since last Conference the Ashington, Rotherham Ebenezer and Farnham Common Churches have taken the decision to close.

Sadly, we have to report that during the last year two of our Ministers and Pastors (Ralph Thompson and Paul Busby) have died. We continue to remember Hazel and Brenda, and their families in our prayers.

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.

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 (16)
- 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 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, Sheringham, 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 (9)
- 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 (9)

- 1998 Michael G Alderson (Retired)
3 Knuston Drive, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9AB
Tel: 01933 413136 E-mail: Malderson@btinternet.com
- 1980 Colin Braithwaite
Church House, 123 Queen Street, Sheffield S1 2DU
Tel: 0114 272 1938 E-mail: gen.sec@thewru.co.uk
GENERAL SECRETARY (9)
- 2004 Ian Fall
161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9TA
Tel: 01933 312919 E-mail: ian.fall@virgin.net
RUSHDEN MISSION (9)
- 1985 Stephen Griffiths
4 Glenwood Gardens, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 8BD
Tel: 024 7649 1624 E-mail: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk
BEDWORTH CHURCH (3)
- 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 Rugeruzza
4 Wentworth Views, Church Street, Jump, Barnsley, S74
Tel: 07974 531258 E-mail: adyrugeruzza@hotmail.co.uk
- 2013 Stephen Blyth
12 Rannoch Drive NUNEATON, Warwickshire, CV10 9DT
Tel: 07583 001679 E-mail: Blyth.sa@gmail.com
- 2014 Irvine Grey
36 Calvertstown Road, PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland, BT63 5NY
Tel: 02838 236751 E-mail: irvinegrey@yahoo.co.uk

It was agreed that Adalbert Rugeruzza is to be removed from the list of ministers.

Eddison Mubengo will be added to the list of ministers after his ordination.

MINISTERS AWAITING ORDINATION

Sharon Hollamby
4 Adams Close, Finedon Road, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants, NN8 4EZ
Tel : 01933 276260 E-mail: s.hollamby4@btinternet.com

Eddison Mubengo
Flat 14/1, 140 Charles Street, GLASGOW, G21 2QD
Tel: 0141 564 3644 Email: mubengoe@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Hedley
12 Warren Court, ASHINGTON, Northumberland N63 8LL
Tel: 01670 253072 Email: wordoflifechurch@hotmail.co.uk

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 CLYDEBANK CHURCH
76 Barns Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire G81 1QY
Tel: 0141 952 2293 E-mail: ajibauka@gmail.com

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

James Braddock RICHMOND CHURCH
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 CHURCH ON THE ROCK
24 Century Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4AS
Tel: 0121 552 7153 E-mail: dibleyj@btopenworld.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26. Safeguarding issues

There is a new Government document called 'Working together to Safeguard children', promoting the welfare of children statutory guidance as to how to safeguard children. The document includes information on what is a 'notifiable incident', 'a definition of serious harm' and 'the need to report adults when suspicions arise.'

There is a need to have clear accountability for everybody in the church.
There needs to be a designated leader in the church
There needs to be a clear policies within the church

Churches need to refer paragraph four in the document which clearly refers to churches in this context.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Tuesday afternoon – June 18th 2015

Women of Action President Beth Ely read from Matthew 28 v 11 – 20

Beth explained that when invited to be WA President she was tempted to go alone, I can do this, then can I. God said to her, you are not alone, don't try it alone, I am with you.

Go out into the world and preach the Word of God.

We can as Church be so busy doing what we do within our four walls that we don't take the message outside.

When we have good news we want to tell everybody about it, we must act quickly and spread the Good News, because for some people tomorrow may be too late.

Overseas Missions Department Report

Report by Mrs J Shepherd

What a difficult year this has been for so many Christians throughout the world!

As I write this report, I am thinking of the number of Christians who have been displaced from their homes during the year and how many have suffered severe persecution for no reason other than that they believe in Jesus.

It is always difficult to know what we can do to help in these situations. So often we think that the only things we can do effectively are to pray and to give. I am sure that the most effective way of helping our brothers and sisters in Christ is to pray for them and also to send money and other gifts to assist them in their every day living. However, there must be more! And to that end, we are in the process of arranging an Away Day which we hope will take the form of a workshop to show the many and varied ways in which we can support the Church Worldwide in their suffering. By the time we are at Conference, the date, venues and organisations to be involved should be confirmed. At the moment, we are working on the date of Saturday 21st May 2016 for this special day. Please do put the date in your diary so that you do not miss this time when we can really find out more.

Last year I said we might even have made the lofty heights of being able to use FaceBook and Twitter to share OM news. Sorry! We have failed on that one. However we are managing to put some articles on our page on the Union web site. Please just take a look from time to time.

Despite articles in Contact about Twinning with an overseas Church, we have had no more enquiries during the year about new "twins". However, the offer of help remains and if your Church does wish to investigate, please contact us.

Irvine Grey had intended to visit the House of Hope during the year so that we could have fresh photos and information from our project. We do know that they have started work on the kitchens, but sadly, Irvine's flight from Mombasa to Nairobi was cancelled and so he was unable to make the visit. We hope to have more

photos for our display board in the Conference Hall. £2,000 has been sent to the work to date but a final figure will be announced at Conference.

For our project this year, we move back to India, southern India to be exact, and partner with the Fountain of Life Ministries in a ministry set up to improve the lives of some of the poorest people in rural India. There will be more information about this on our stand.

We thank all of our Churches for their support for our missionaries and for our projects over the years and look forward to meeting many of you again at Conference.

Jan also brought to our attention the plight of the persecuted Church, it is so easy to say that we will pray for them, but things get in the way and stop us, the devil does not want us to pray. Next years Away Day with Open Doors will be an opportunity to increase our focus. Saturday 21st May workshop at a venue to be arranged.

Jan showed Conference the Wycliffe translation of the Gospel of Luke in the Waji language, as a result of our past projects, and dubbed Jesus film into their language.

This year project is the "Fountain of Life", based in Hope Valley in Derbyshire. Based in Andhra Pradesh in Southern India. They have built a building known as the Home of Hope, teaching ladies to sewing classes and a playing area, workers are Indian Christians drawn from the area.

The total given for the 2014/ 2015 project, House of Hope was £4,500.00

Accounts by Mr G Evans

Overseas Mission	2014/2015	2013/2014
Accounts		
General Fund		
Income		
Balance 1st April	4430.71	1341.49
Donations		
General Fund	7519.25	3484.10
Interest from Reserve Account	0.74	0.79
Interest from Investment Accounts	23.62	29.73
Away Day		690.00
Benstead collection		110.00
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	193.16	
Total	<u>12167.48</u>	<u>5656.11</u>
Expenditure		
Conference Fees	110.00	147.40
Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses	25.00	25.00
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	200.00	
UFM	400.00	
J Taylor	500.00	
R Moorin	500.00	
Arab World Ministries	500.00	
Partners Relief	500.00	
People International	400.00	
Balance 31st March	8029.48	4430.71
Total	<u>12167.48</u>	<u>5656.11</u>

	2014/2015	2013/2014
Irving & Edith Fairhurst Memorial Fund		
	£	
Balance 1st April	1132.08	1131.08
Interest	1.00	1.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>1133.08</u>	<u>1132.08</u>
Training Fund		
Balance 1st April	2117.92	2115.92
Interest	2.00	2.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>2119.92</u>	<u>2117.92</u>
Summary		
General Fund	8029.48	4430.71
Project Fund	1303.41	3641.00
Training Fund	2119.92	2117.92
Fairhurst Memorial Fund	1133.08	1132.08
Total	<u>12585.89</u>	<u>11321.71</u>
Balances		
Current Accounts		
Nat West	7979.22	6589.40
Reserve Account		
Nat West	1432.89	1582.15
National Savings		
Investment		
Accounts	<u>3173.78</u>	<u>3150.16</u>
Total	<u>12585.89</u>	<u>11321.71</u>
Projects		
Proclaimers 2012		
Income 12/13	2507.50	
Income 13/14	2842.50	
Expenditure	5350.00	
Balance	<u>0.00</u>	
Apolo 2013		
Income 13/14	3641.00	
Income 14/15	2035.50	
Expenditure	5676.50	
Balance	<u>0.00</u>	
House of Hope 2014		
Income 14/15	3303.41	
Expenditure	2000.00	
Balance	<u>1303.41</u>	

Present List of Missionaries, by Mrs J Shepherd

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2015 – 2016

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	c/o Wesleyan Reform Union Arab World Ministries Church House 123 Queen Street Sheffield, S1 2DU
2013	Sarah Armitage	Partners Relief & Development UK PO Box 557 Mexborough S Yorks S63 3EN

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2015 – 2016

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 mccleansinthailand@gmail.com	c/o 145 Farringdon Road Swindon Wiltshire SN1 5DL

2002 Jackie Taylor
jacky2010@mailforpeople.com

c/o Mrs A Chattaway
82 Wren Road
Sidcup
Kent, DA14 4NF

2003 Rob & Grace Moorin
rmoorin@yahoo.com

c/o Mr & Mrs R L Moorin
Coates Lane
High Wycombe HP13 5EY

- d. Election of officers: Chairman Muriel Stonehewer, Secretary Jan Shepherd, Treasurer Graham Evans

Women of Action Report

27. Report by Mrs S Fall

We would like to thank Meryl Griffiths for serving the Women of Action whilst in her year of office as President. Meryl has expressed the need for us to extend our vision, to be able to get alongside the women within the union where they are, to build on those connections and be a support to them. Meryl commented that she had gained in confidence as the year had progressed and it had been an interesting journey.

We welcome Beth Ely 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 Beth, protect her and bless her in all that she does on behalf of the Women of Action and I would encourage you to invite her to come to your church/meeting during her year of office.

The Autumn Reflection day in September last year at Moira Church was a very blessed time together. Sam Darby led us through the theme of 'Gems in God's Treasure Store'. We were reminded of how precious we each are to God, how individual, unique and specific, yet each one made for a purpose. We continue to be in awe of God as He affirms us and makes something beautiful of each life given over to Him.

The Spring Event this year was at Rushden Mission Church. This was a day of teaching led by Rev Elaine Roberts of World Mandate Ministries. Elaine took our name as her theme for the day and spoke Gods word to us all. Her 3 points were 'stop talking' 'listen to God' and 'do what he says'. Many women were impacted by God through Elaine's words, and lives were changed through the work of the Holy Spirit. One lady was also miraculously healed from the broken shoulder she had had for 5 months. It was an incredible day and I know that God will continue to work in our lives so that we will all be women of action, willing for God to use us, whatever way he chooses.

The Women of Action have been pleased to give a grant to Bethel Community Church for a holiday club that they did in August last year.

I am writing this report just days after our morning of prayer and AGM and what a day that was. We questioned the whole purpose of the Women of Action. We spent a lot of time in prayer because we recognise the need for us to listen to God, hear what He is saying and then act on it. It is no good making plans if they are not God's plans. We also acknowledged that we should not be restricted by the structures that are in place at the present time, if God is calling us into something new. The role of President was also

questioned, and it was suggested that perhaps with possible future changes, this role may adapt as we move on in all that God has for us. We definitely have a clear sense that the Women of Action needs to change from its present state of seeming to be irrelevant into something that will be more useful in today's world, for women of all ages throughout our churches.

It was felt that we needed to define our purpose and know what our mission is. 'To encourage and support all women of the church community in their faith and witness'

We believe that we should be supporting, encouraging and helping the ladies within our union of churches where they are within their local church and communities. Whether this be in providing extra hands to enable them to put on an event themselves or for us to host different events through the year in different regions. Or even just to be at the end of the telephone to have an encouraging conversation.

From the initiative that was realised last year, about helping ladies to put on an event we have been asked to help with an evangelistic ladies day at Church on the Rock. This is on Saturday July 18th. We have also had a request from another church for a ladies day which is yet to be arranged. We have put working parties together to arrange 2 other events in different regions as well and details will be sent out when finalised.

We will continue to seek God's will for the Women of Action, and there will be another meeting in September, where the ladies of the churches will be invited to attend and we can assess again where and how God is leading us. Date and venue to be announced.

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 and enable and equip the women of our Union of churches.

Officers for the year are:

President	Beth Ely
President Elect	Sandra Fall
Secretary	Sandra Fall
Treasurer	Daphne Hodgkinson
Contact Secretary	Anne- Marie Wilcock
Representative to Women's World Day of Prayer	Muriel Stonehewer
Representatives to General Committee	Beth Ely , Meryl Griffiths

Sandra Stressed Beth's availability next year and hers the year after to involve in Church life, to met with women of Churches, not just Sunday. But through the week activities too.

They have questioned everything they do to measure the relevance to today, they must be following what God would have them do.

Future events Saturday 19th September at Coal Aston to review structure and to hear what God has to say to them. 10:30 to 12:30.

An event is planned in February/ March at Bedworth with Fred and Fran who have an amazing testimony of forgiveness after their 17year old son was murdered in 2007.

28. Accounts by Mrs D Hodkinson

WOMEN OF ACTION	2014/2015	2013/2014
Income		
Balance brought forward	1774	1,337
Spring Event Donations	166	136
Offerings	232	245
Donations	204	255
Conference repayments	70	150
	<u>2446</u>	<u>2,123</u>
Expenditure		
President's Gift/Insurance	50	50
President's Expenses	-	-
Conference Fees	282	135
Half Yearly Fees	-	20
Secretary's Expenses	18	24
Quiet Day Expenses	75	-
Spring Event Expenses	250	120
Balance carried forward	1771	1,774
	2,446	2,123
OUTREACH ACCOUNT		
Income		
Balance brought forward	461	591
Gifts	150	130
	311	461
Expenditure		
Gift: Bethel Com Church	150	130
Balance carried forward	311	461
SUMMARY		
General Current Account	1,771	1,774
Outreach Account	311	461
All held in Lloyds TSB Bank	2,082	2,135

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Wednesday morning – June 17th 2015

29. Approval of Union Committees for 2015-2016

The Union Committees and dates for 2015-2016 were approved

Approval of new Trustees

Union: The names which have been suggested by Management and approved by General Committee for new Trustees are: Rev Steve Blyth, Mr Graham Evans, Rev Ian Fall, and Rev Maurice Nicholls.

Housing for Retired Ministers Fund: The names which have been suggested by Management and approved by General Committee for new Trustees are: Mr Cliff Darby & Mr David Rooksby

Approval of New Guardian Representative

The names which have been suggested by Management and approved by General Committee for new Guardian Representative is Rev Phil Hearson

30. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report

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.

One of our Ministers has retired this year and another two plan to retire in the near future. 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.

Sadly, during the year, Paul Busby, a Trustee of the fund, has died. In addition, Neil Sowerby has resigned as a Trustee. As a result of that, a recommendation will be brought to Conference for new Trustees to replace them. Muriel Stonehewer, George Phillips, and Brian Pratt 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.

Accounts by Mr G Phillips

	2015	2014
	£	£
<u>Receipt</u>		
Interest Northern Rock Building Society	1,398.70	1,820.30
Donations	<u>1,551.00</u>	<u>4,331.00</u>
	2,949.00	6,151.30
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Grant towards Rent	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Net Incoming Resources	1,749.70	
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2014		
Loan Repayment	<u>85,550.31</u>	<u>73,599.01</u>
		7,000.00
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2015		
	<u>87,300.01</u>	<u>85,550.31</u>
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2014</u>		
Building Society Account		
Northern Rock Building Society	87,300.01	85,550.31

31. Ministers' Provident Society Report
Report by Rev P Hearson

As always, firstly we want to say a heartfelt thank you to those who have supported the Society over the past 12 months whether it was in prayer, financially or with your words of encouragement.

Over the year the number of annuitants has changed as two of our Ministers have reached the age of 65 and therefore have started to receive the quarterly gift. We have to report the passing of Rev. Ralph Thompson and Mrs. Marjorie Taylor (wife of Rev. Reg Taylor) during the year. Funeral gifts were made to their families. Currently we support 9 ministers and 4 widows. Those who receive gifts are very grateful for this support and many phone calls, letters, cards and emails are received. We now pay all gifts direct into bank accounts although a quarterly letter is still sent to ensure regular contact and encouragement.

You will note from the accounts that the balance has once again fallen by in excess of £9,000. We are pleased to report that gifts to the society have increased during the year but at the same time the amount of interest received has fallen due to the continuing low rates which are available.

The annuities will remain at £1000 per year and the funeral grant will remain at £500 despite the fall in funding.

We continue to support those who have given so much to the work of our Lord particularly through the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches and we very much value your partnership with us in this important work.

Rev. Ian Fall – Chairman,
Mr. David Rooksby – Treasurer,
Rev. Phillip Hearson – Secretary
Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

MINISTERS PROVIDENT SOCIETY		2014/2015	2013/2014
Income			
Balance Brought Forward		71,429	80,209
Donations		1,949	1,584
Subscriptions		108	66
Interest	Virgin Money Interest	1,147	1,570

	74,633	83,429
Expenditure		
Annuitants	11,500	11,000
Funeral Gift	1,000	1,000
Balance Carried Forward	62,133	71,429
	74,633	83,429
Balances		
HSBC Community account	2,216	1,658
Virgin Money	59,917	69,771
	62,133	71,429

Election of Officers: The Officers remain as listed

32. Any Other Business

33. Vote of Thanks

34. Group discussion on regional ministry

The President led in prayer; this brought Conference business to a close.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Monday afternoon – June 15th 2015

Conference began at 2.30pm.

The President, Mr. George Phillips, welcomed all to the 166th Annual Conference after which the hymn 'Lord for the years' was sung. He then read Philippians chapter 4 verses 10 – 19 and commented on how God blesses devoted and faithful service and how he has seen this happening in various places through the Union. This is reason for encouragement. We must support one another and look for God's blessing.

Following the singing of the hymn 'Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here', Conference took part in a time of prayer.

Afternoon tea was shared, after which business commenced.

Names of Representatives were read. Prayer was offered for first time members.

Apologies for absence

Old Hill (St James) - Sue Haggart is the delegate and Colin Bolton is not attending

St Just – Mary King is attending as a student and Roger King is their delegate

Ashington (Word of Life) Michael Hedley is attending as a student and Lindsay Hedley is their delegate

Bradford Circuit – Margaret Dennison and Gloria Bedford are not attending

Appointment of:

- Secretaries to Conference
Colin Braithwaite & Lisa Taylor

- Recorders of Minutes
Bernard Oldman - Mon pm
Phil Hearson - Mon pm
Graham Evans - Tues am
Stephen Griffiths - Tues am
Peter Norton - Tues pm
David Rooksby - Tues pm
Jan Shepherd - Wed am
Sam Downing - Wed am

- Letter Writers
Carol Nicholls
Jean Handley

- Scrutineers
Sue Norton
David Rooksby
Pippa Wood
Phil Hartshorn

Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors.

These were all agreed.

2. Decide as to Standing Orders as follows:

Discussion only allowed on a motion duly moved and seconded.

No delegate to speak more than once on any subject, except the mover of the Resolution, who has the right to reply.

The mover of a Resolution must not exceed ten minutes, and the seconder five minutes.

Subsequent speakers and the reply of the mover, not to exceed five minutes.

All printed reports and statements to be taken as read.

Only Representatives have authority to vote. No others must accept or use voting privileges.

These were agreed.

3. Obituary List

Conference stood to remember those who had died since last Conference. Special mention was made of Percy Johnson, Paul Busby, Ralph Thompson and Margaret Mills

4. Read Correspondence for Conference

There was no correspondence for Conference

5. Election of President

The nomination of Pastor Andrew Wilcock was moved by Mr. David Tuckett, was warmly received and was given a unanimous vote of approval. Andrew responded briefly, saying how he was looking forward to visiting churches.

6. Election of President-Designate

The nomination of Mr. David Rooksby was moved by Rev Ian Fall. The nomination was warmly received and given a unanimous vote of approval. David asked for prayer for the coming years and shared ways in which the call to the position had been confirmed.

7. Election of Union Treasurer

The nomination of Mr. George Phillips was moved by Rev Colin Braithwaite. Colin spoke of George's in-depth knowledge of the Union and its finances. The nomination was warmly received and was given a unanimous vote of approval. This is for a period of five years. George responded briefly.

8. Approval of new Union Trustees - This was delayed until later in Conference

9. Approval of new Guardian Representative – This was delayed until later in Conference

10. Nominations for General Committee

ALDERMANS GREEN	Rev P H Norton
ARNOLD	
ASHBY CIRCUIT	Rev M Nicholls
ASHINGTON (WORD OF LIFE)	
ATTLEBOROUGH	
BAKEWELL CIRCUIT	Mr S D Allen
BARNESLEY CIRCUIT	Mrs M Mottershaw
BEDWORTH	Rev S Griffiths
BIRDS EDGE	
BRADFORD CIRCUIT	
CAWSTON CIRCUIT	
CHOPPINGTON	
CHURCH ON THE ROCK	
CLYDEBANK	
DEDDINGTON	
DORRINGTON	
FRICTWELL	
GRIFFYDAM	Mr C A Darby
HAZLEMERE	
HEATH END	
HECKINGTON	
HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT	
IVINGHOE	
LOWESTOFT	
NUNEATON	
OLDBURY	
OLD HILL	
ROTH, MEX & DONC CIRCUIT	Mr G Evans, Pastor D Clifford
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

These names were proposed and seconded, and Conference voted in favour.

David Rooksby, representing the Wellingborough Circuit, commented on the effect of the reducing number of people available to cover various roles, particularly when membership numbers within circuits fall. He stated

the disparity between the representation of churches in circuits to Conference and General Committee compared to independent churches. Any change will need a Notice of Motion.

11. Approval of new Job descriptions

Job descriptions for the new positions of General Manager and Pastoral Visitor were approved

12. Half Yearly Meetings 2015 onwards

2015	21st November	Rotherham, Mexborough & Doncaster Circuit
2016	19th November	Sleaford Circuit
2017	18 th November	Warley Area of Churches

13. Conference 2016 onwards

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)

14. Christian Ethics and Social Action

Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson

On Thursday May 7th, the United Kingdom was involved in yet another important General Election. During the past five years we have been governed by a Coalition Government, but not even the opinion pollsters could predict the outcome this time.

I am sure that many MP's will have been elected to the House of Commons for the first time, and it is important that we, as Christians, establish where they stand on a number of Christian values. You will not agree on everything, but they may hold values that are important to you. Contact them regularly. Remember you pay them; you appoint them and you can also dismiss them. Above all pray for them that they may know God's perfect will for our nation.

Our committee has been busy again this year. For example, we have contacted the Travelodge company to protest about their decision to remove Bibles from their rooms. We have also encouraged Hope UK to train more youth leaders to deal with drug addicts, and so much more.

Our Values day in February dealt with the challenging subject of "The sanctity of life". It was especially relevant in the light of cutbacks and shortage of care home places. Thanks to Ian Fall and Andy Wilcock for their contribution.

Thanks also to all Churches who support the work financially. A list of recipients is in the financial report.

The report was proposed, seconded and accepted by Conference.

The following Officers were approved:

Chair – Rev. Ian Fall

Secretary – Mrs. Daphne Hodkinson

15. Statistics

Name Of Church	Junior Mem bers	Senior Mem bers	Preac hers (Full & Trial)	Schol ars	Teach ers	Childr en (Prim ary Schoo l)	Young Peopl e (Senio r Schoo l)	Devot ional Meeti ng (Inc. WA)	WA Mem bers	Avera ge Atten dance
ALDERMANS GREEN		67	1	30	6			3		40
ARNOLD		5	1	3	1					10
<u>ASHBY CIRCUIT</u>										
ELLISTOWN		4								5
IBSTOCK		17						3		17
MOIRA		12	1					2	8	16
NEW SWANNINGTON		14			3	4	2	1		12
	0	47	1	0	3	4	2	6	8	50
<u>ASHINGTON</u>										
ASHINGTON (Word Of Life)		16	3					8		16
ATTLEBOROUGH		12		5	1			2	10	15
<u>BAKEWELL CIRCUIT</u>										
BONSALL		18	1					1		22
CURBAR		10	4							11
FROGGATT										
OVER HADDON										
STONEDGE		33	1				4	8		38
STONEY MIDDLETON		4	1				15	1		10
WINSTER		3						1		16
YOULGRAVE		10						1		12
	0	78	7	0	0	0	19	12	0	109
<u>BARNESLEY CIRCUIT</u>										
BARNESLEY		13	4							12
CLIFFE BRIDGE		5	2	6	3	2	3	1		16
CUDWORTH		5	1							6
DODWORTH		11	3			30	11		3	10
HOYLE MILL		3								4
HUNNINGLEY		8								10
SMITHIES		7	1					1	6	10
STAINCROSS	2	12	3	3	1	14	12	2	4	17
WORSBROUGH		12	1					2		12
	2	76	15	9	4	46	26	6	13	97
<u>BEDWORTH</u>										
BEDWORTH		18	3	4	2			1		15
<u>BIRDS EDGE</u>										
BIRDS EDGE		10		6	1			1		14
<u>BRADFORD CIRCUIT</u>										
ADDINGHAM		31	1					2		28
BEACON COMMUNITY		29	3		5			2		37

Name Of Church	Junior Mem bers	Senior Mem bers	Preac hers (Full & Trial)	Schol ars	Teach ers	Childr en (Prim ary Schoo l)	Young Peopl e (Senio r Schoo l)	Devot ional Meeti ng (Inc. WA)	WA Mem bers	Avera ge Atten dance
BETHEL COMMUNITY		17	2	7	3	16		3		40
MUFF FIELD		29	1	5	5			3		17
	0	106	7	12	13	16	0	10	0	122

<u>CAWSTON CIRCUIT</u>										
COLBY LONG ROAD										
SMALLBOROUGH										
SWANTON ABBOTT		7	9							12
	0	7	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
CHOPPINGTON	3	7								14
CHURCH ON THE ROCK		13	3	8	2	2	15	1	10	17
CLYDEBANK		23	1	10	3	6		1	24	53
DEDDINGTON		9						1		12
DENBY DALE		8	1	5	3			2		20
DORRINGTON		6	1	2	1					17
FRITWELL		10								10
GRIFFYDAM		15	1	15	6	28	12	4		35
HAZLEMERE		32		21	5	23	3	2		63
HEATH END		23	2	6	3	10	21	2	11	32
HECKINGTON		7						2		10

<u>HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT</u>										
BEACONSFIELD		15	12	10	2	8	2	3		14
FARNHAM COMMON*		7	1					2		8
WYCOMBE MARSH		6		1				3	10	25
	0	28	13	11	2	8	2	8	10	47
IVINGHOE		10						2		13
LOWESTOFT		2	3					1		9
NUNEATON		6		5	3			1		12
OLDBURY		30		6	2			3		35
OLD HILL		24		4	2			2	20	20

<u>ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT</u>										
BOWBROOM	5	20		8	2			1		20
CORNERSTONE		13								12
ELSECAR		9	2							12
HOUGH LANE	4	18	1	4	1			2		22
JUMP		25	1			45	14	7	10	30
MEXBOROUGH LIFE CHURCH	20	60	6	10	6	0	20	9	0	80
NEWHILL *		10	2					1		10

Name Of Church	Junior Mem bers	Senior Mem bers	Preac hers (Full & Trial)	Schol ars	Teach ers	Childr en (Prim ary Schoo l)	Young Peopl e (Senio r Schoo l)	Devot ional Meeti ng (Inc. WA)	WA Mem bers	Avera ge Atten dance
ROTHERHAM *		2						1	8	3
WARMSWORTH										
WATH		2								3
	29	159	12	22	9	45	34	21	18	192
<u>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</u>										
COAL ASTON		8		8	5			1		14
GREENHEAD		5								11
GRIMESTHORPE		19	1	3	2	2	1			18
HAMPDEN VIEW		7	1	7		6	5	2	15	31
MAYFIELD		18	4					2	9	14
OUGHTIBRIDGE		57		27	6			7		46
OWLERTON		9						4	14	18
PHILADELPHIA		7						1		13
RICHMOND		30	5	7	5	3	14	4	10	50
SHARROW VALE		30	4	80	12			16		230
ST MARY'S		7		14	2			2		16
WOODSEATS		7						2		12
	0	204	15	146	32	11	20	41	48	473
<u>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</u>										
BRANT BROUGHTON		2								8
LEASINGHAM										
RUSKINGTON		9	1	1	2					19
RUSKINGTON FEN		5	1							14
	0	16	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	41
<u>SOULDERN</u>										
SOULDERN		7	2	8	2					6
ST. JUST		17								13
SYRESHAM		16		5	2	13	9			21
<u>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</u>										
ALMA STREET		9						1		22
BOZEAT		17				12	1	2		12
DICKINS MEMORIAL		5								6
ISHAM		6	1	1	1					12
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET		47	1	23	3	22	20	4	26	52
RUSHDEN MISSION		49	3	20	7			4		85
WYMINGTON		11		4	4					15
	0	144	5	48	15	34	21	11	26	204
<u>SUMMARY OF STATISTICS</u>										
TOTALS FOR 2014	43	1292	99	347	130	385	252	142	212	1942
TOTALS FOR 2015	34	1258	108	392	125	246	184	154	198	1869

Name Of Church	Junior Mem bers	Senior Mem bers	Preac hers (Full & Trial)	Schol ars	Teach ers	Childr en (Prim ary Schoo l)	Young Peopl e (Senio r Schoo l)	Devot ional Meeti ng (Inc. WA)	WA Mem bers	Avera ge Atten dance
INCREASE			9	45				12		
DECREASE	9	34			5	139	68		14	73

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

The General Secretary made various comments regarding the percentage changes.

Comment was made that we must make disciples, not simply look to arrest the fall in numbers. Various comments were made regarding the statistics. The importance of prayer was stressed.

The statistics were received.

16. Greetings from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion

Greetings were brought by their President, Pastor Peter Riddle and his wife, Brenda.

17. Greetings from the Independent Methodist Connexion

Greetings were brought by their President Mr Ray Ursell. His wife was unable to be with us due to illness. He said that things within the IM Connection are very similar to those within the WRU.

18. Greetings from the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust

Greetings were brought by the LWPT National Advocate, Miss Jenny Benfield. She spoke about her journey over the year with LWPT. They have a new logo and a new magazine with an ecumenical emphasis, as well as a very useful and thought-provoking website. Jenny outlined the work at the Care Homes and help available for those in time of need. Vocational grants are also available.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Tuesday morning – June 18th 2015

19. Resolution of Loyalty to be moved by The President, Pastor Andrew Wilcock

“May it please your most Gracious Majesty and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to accept the sincere greetings from the members of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches assembled for their 166th Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We give thanks to Almighty God for your faithful and inspirational rein over the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and pray that we will remain united, as one nation under your rule.

We pray for your government and nation, asking that, together, we will follow the biblical mandate to uphold justice, tolerance, mercy and love, to the vulnerable and the stranger in our land.

Through our continued allegiance and in obedience to Holy Scripture we wish to assure you of our prayers, asking that God will continue to bless you, your family and your reign over the nation. We pray that through the working of your government we will know His righteous guidance”

20. Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee

There being less than twenty nominations. All those nominated were appointed

21. Local Preachers' Fellowship Report

Report by Mrs C Nicholls

Our Annual Retreat was held on October 19th 2014 at the Jump Church when the speaker was Rev Bill Patterson 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. It was attended by 34 people. Our grateful thanks are expressed to the Jump church who hosted the day at very short notice.

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

Details of the Retreat to be held on October 17th 2015 are as follows:-

Cost £15.00

Venue: - Jump Church

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.

Speaker: Rev Mike Stringer of Leicestershire.

Theme: “What are we trying to achieve?”

He will endeavour to address his talks to any who have responsibility for leading and speaking in the various elements often found in church life - Sunday school, Men's and ladies fellowships, children's clubs, Bible Studies and Sunday services.

In 2016 the Retreat will be on October the 15th. The speaker will be Mr Mark Foster of the Wirral a member of SGA.

On April 12th 2015 we held our spring event at Ibstock when Rev G.D.Lee took as his Theme "Four conversations Jesus had" and 42 people attended.

We were all saddened to hear of the death of Mr Percy Johnson who, along with the late Herbert Sykes, was one of the instigators of the Local Preachers Fellowship meeting in Percy's home. He was always a great encourager and supporter always having a great interest in Local preachers and Ministers. Since his move to Cirencester he had been unable to attend meetings but he maintained a lively interest in the work and was pleased to receive the notes and recordings from the retreats. He was always a joy to talk to on the phone and will be sadly missed.

We are delighted that two of our Committee Emma Wilcock and Ray Evans have received Maundy money from the Queen in recognition of Christian service.

We record our sincere thanks to Emma who has served on the committee as Chairman and Treasurer for several years.

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

Officers for 2015/2016

Chairman: Rev M Nicholls

Secretary: Mrs C Nicholls

Committee: Mrs E Wilcock, Mr R Evans, Mr B Hyde and Mr R Nuttall.

We are delighted that in October at our AGM Mrs D Hodkinson will be joining the committee.

Accounts by Mr G Phillips

LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP ACCOUNTS	2014/2015	2013/2014
		4
Income		
Balance 1st April 2014	1,606	1,681
Seminar	98	101
Retreat	589	508
Sundries		12
	<u>2,293</u>	<u>2,302</u>
Expenditure		
Seminar	45	
Conference	140	145
Retreat	574	500

Sundries	64	51
Balance 31st March 2015	<u>1,470</u>	<u>1,606</u>
	<u>2,293</u>	<u>2,302</u>
Fund Balances		
Bank/Cash	1470	1606
Trust Fund	1613	1613

22. Young People's Department Report Report by Mrs Beth Ely

The Committee have met regularly throughout the year for prayer and discussion on the work with young people in the Union.

We had hoped to organise a joint youth event with the Independent Methodists but so far this has not been possible. The far flung dispersal of our churches makes it very difficult to plan a national event, and local events are very demanding on human resources. Some groups already join forces to celebrate together; several using the talents of our youth worker, Martin Ludbrook.

During the year we have continued to monitor and update the Safeguarding document providing information for churches and youth groups to use.

The policy offering advice on the use of social media is available on the web site and we are very fortunate to have Steve Blyth to keep us in touch with the very latest legislation to guide us safely and within the law. Social Media can be a minefield especially where young people are concerned and it is important that the adults who organise activities for young people and vulnerable adults know how to keep their members and themselves safe.

If anyone has any ideas for future events or is seeking information or ideas for use in their youth work and Sunday Schools please contact a member of the committee.

23. Home Missions Report Report by Pastor Andy Wilcock

We want to give praise to God for the invaluable contribution that Paul Busby made to the work of the Home Missions Department. Paul had a spirit-empowered passion and determination for the ongoing work in our churches. His proactive attitude and analytical approach to the work will be hugely missed! Although we will greatly miss Paul and his wise presence in the meetings, we seek to continue with the projects we were working on with him. Seeing this material working to encourage and challenge our churches, in outreach and the proclamation of the gospel is our desire and we are certain it would be Paul's.

As a committee we are excited to be launching two packs for churches to use in helping them become more effective in their local area. The first is a Tool Kit that will help you as a church identify where change needs to happen and to help you start planning on how to bring this about. The second is a collection of ideas on Hospitality, with the aim to be a blessing and connect with your local community. Later on this year we are

looking to launch further resources on 'Sharing your faith', 'Discipleship' and others. These resources will be free to download from the website and we are looking to you to add more ideas in the future.

Resources to be launched at Conference 2015

Mission Action Planning Tool

This tool is designed to help you as a church reflect on growth, and on which direction you need to focus your work in Christ. In his year as President, Andy is looking to take this in person to each church he visits during his Presidential year. The Home Missions committee will offer support to our churches with regard to the action plan they come up with.

The main areas it helps you look at are.....

- 1) A place of Welcome and Belonging
- 2) A place of Worship and Prayer
- 3) A place of Nurture, Discipleship and Vocation
- 4) A place with a Clear Mission and Purpose and Good Collaborative Leadership
- 5) A place of Empowerment and Involvement for your whole church
- 6) A Base for Evangelism, Outreach and Numerical Growth
- 7) A place of Serving and Transforming - Salt and Light
- 8) A place Actively Seeking to Engage with Children and Teenagers

Hospitality Template

This is a series of tried and tested ideas that can be easily adapted to your own situation. They are underpinned by the Biblical teaching that expresses the very nature of God to offer hospitality in a variety of ways.

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

		2014/2015		2013/2014
Income				
Assessment		41,275		41,920
Interest		10,453		13,061
Insurance Commissions				
Profit from Resource Centre		140		160
Connexional Plan		1,632		1,508
Year Books		727		567
Child Protection Fees		96		314
Sundries		104		1
From General Reserve		<u>36,143</u>		<u>33,822</u>
		<u>90,570</u>		<u>91,353</u>
Expenditure				
Salaries etc		48,266		46,705
Gen Sec's House, Car, Telephone		<u>3,712</u>	51,978	<u>7,185</u>
Pension Fund			14,066	13,877
Church House Expenses			4,820	4,281
Year Books			497	481
Magazine			2,613	2,277
Conference			595	1,778
Administration -	Telephone	2,116		2,100
	Postage	457		347
	Stationery	2,132		2,060
	Insurance	<u>1,399</u>	6,104	<u>1,590</u>
				6,097
Travelling -	Conference	401		314
	Half Yearly	308		443
	General Committee	<u>2,238</u>	2,947	<u>2,649</u>
				3,406
Sundry Expenses-	Subscriptions	639		895
	CAS			352
	Sundries	103		155
	Legal Costs	968		180
	Bank Charges	<u>755</u>	2,465	<u>836</u>
				2,418
Depreciation			254	904
Accountants			2,256	
Actuaries			<u>1,975</u>	<u>1,944</u>
			<u>90,570</u>	<u>91,353</u>
		2014/2015		2013/2014

RESOURCES CENTRE ACCOUNT

Sales	1,272	2,076
Purchases	1,091	1,838
Postages	41	78
Profit/Loss transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>140</u>	<u>160</u>
	<u>1,272</u>	<u>2,076</u>

CONNEXIONAL PLAN

Income from Churches	1,755	1,611
Less Postage and Travel	123	103
Transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>1,632</u>	<u>1,508</u>

MAGAZINE ACCOUNT

Sales	2,477	2,401
Printing	4,262	4,114
Postage	828	564
Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account	<u>-2,613</u>	<u>-2,277</u>
	<u>2,477</u>	<u>2,401</u>

	2014/2015	2013/2014
HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT		
Balance 1st April 2014	1,458	1,489
Donations	4,371	5,142
Interest	15	19
Transfer from Extension Fund	53,000	38,000
	<u>58,844</u>	<u>44,650</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant	13,607	13,287
Travel	1,123	530
Grants	42,985	29,375
Balance 31st March 2015	1,129	1,458
	<u>58,844</u>	<u>44,650</u>
YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT		
Balance 1st April 2014	3,396	3,273
Donations	2,691	3,777
Interest	36	43
	<u>6,123</u>	<u>7,093</u>
Salary, etc.	2,749	2,610
Travel	1,008	1,087
Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2015	2,366	3,396
	<u>6,123</u>	<u>7,093</u>
CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION		
Balance 1st April 2014	673	1,307
Donations	1,755	1,410
Interest	7	
Sundries		36
	<u>2,435</u>	<u>2,753</u>
Caring for Life	500	500
Christian Institute	700	700
Day One	500	500
Hope UK	300	200
Sundries	45	180
Balance 31st March 2015	390	673
	<u>2,435</u>	<u>2,753</u>

		2014/2015	2013/2014
ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND			
Balance 1st April 2014		4,886	4,832
Donations		1,517	1,102
Fees			37
Interest		52	63
Transfer from Extension Fund		7,000	12,000
		<u>13,455</u>	<u>18,034</u>
Salary etc.		2,585	2,715
Service Increments		840	720
Training		2,933	7,242
Travelling Expenses		1,579	1,963
Removal expenses		703	508
Costs		70	
Balance 31st March 2015		<u>4,745</u>	<u>4,886</u>
		<u>13,455</u>	<u>18,034</u>
EXTENSION FUND			
Balance 1st April 2014		723,896	682,297
Sales of Churches	Skelmanthorpe		53,981
	Low Moor		39,550
		<u>723,896</u>	<u>775,828</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		53,000	38,000
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		7,000	12,000
Grants	St Just	10,000	
	Mexborough	6,449	
	Cudworth	9,022	
	Dodworth	2,000	
		<u>27,471</u>	
Sundries		3,456	1,932
Balance 31st March 2015	Investments	549,219	658,396
	Loans	83,750	65,500
		<u>632,969</u>	<u>723,896</u>
		<u>723,896</u>	<u>775,828</u>

		2014/2015	2013/2014
HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT			
Balance 1st April 2014		349,127	306,509
Sales of Churches	Skelmanthorpe		25,000
	Low Moor		39,550
		<u>349,127</u>	<u>371,059</u>
Grants	Beacon	44,047	
	Addingham	14,824	
	Bierly	1,260	
	Rushden M	1,636	
	Swanton Abt	13,072	
	Denby Dale	<u>3,057</u>	
		77,896	21,932
Balance 31st March 2015	Barnsley Circuit	1,716	1,716
	Bakewell Circuit	178,071	178,071
	R,M & D Circuit	1,110	1,110
	Cawston Circuit		13,072
	Wellingborough Circuit	3,851	5,487
	Bradford Circuit	39,750	99,881
	Nottinghamshire Circuit	22,371	22,371
	Denby Dale	21,943	25,000
	Birmingham	<u>2,419</u>	<u>2,419</u>
		271,231	349,127
		<u>349,127</u>	<u>371,059</u>
LOAN FUND			
Balance 1st April 2014		137,935	137,935
Collections			
Balance 31st March 2015		<u>137,935</u>	<u>137,935</u>

PERCY AND RUTH JOHNSON MEMORIAL TRUST

Balance 1st April 2014	1,745	1,822
Interest	19	23
	<u>1,764</u>	<u>1,845</u>

Conference 2013		100
Balance 31st March 2015	<u>1,764</u>	<u>1,745</u>
	<u>1,764</u>	<u>1,845</u>

	2014/2015	2013/2014
GENERAL RESERVE		

Balance 1st April 2014	49,167	53,131
Collections		
Holdback excess		28,384
Donations - Hucknall	3,455	
Legacy - R Hanson	3,822	
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	4,782	
Less costs	<u>5,323</u>	<u>-541</u>
Rent from Thornbrook Close	3,300	3,510
Less costs	<u>609</u>	<u>263</u>
	<u>58,594</u>	<u>84,762</u>

Donations		1,500
Costs at Cardwell Avenue		273
Union Expenses	36,143	33,822
Balance 31st March 2015	<u>22,451</u>	<u>49,167</u>
	<u>58,594</u>	<u>84,762</u>

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Interest from Investments	10,582	13,209
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	<u>10,453</u>	<u>13,061</u>
	<u>129</u>	<u>148</u>

Distribution:		
Home Missions	15	19

Young People's Department	36	43
Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid	52	63
Christian Ethics and Social Action	7	
Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust	19	23
	<u>129</u>	<u>148</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2014	Invested 2014/2015	Repaid 2014/2015	Invested at 31/03/2015
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	500,000	4,465	50,000	454,465
	1,000,000	4,465	50,000	954,465

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/14	Repaid Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/15	Collection Received 31/03/15
2002 Ellistown	3,000		100		100	
2011 Mayfield	18,000		13,700	1,900	11,800	
2013 Jump	5,000		5,000	500	4,500	
	26,000	0	18,800		16,400	0

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/14	Repaid Year to 31/03/15	Balance 31/03/15	Collection Received 31/03/15
2007 Farnham Common	15,000		6,500	750	5,750	
2008 Attleborough	25,000		9,000	6,000	3,000	
2009 Clydebank	60,000		50,000		50,000	
2015 Swanton Abbott	25,000	25,000			25,000	
		25,000	65,500	6,750	83,750	0

It was agreed that the proceeds from the sale of Arnold Church be paid into Extension fund.

It was agreed to increase the assessment by £1

25. Ministerial Committee Report Report by Rev C Braithwaite

This year has been an interesting year for the Ministerial Committee. Following the decision to ordain women into our ministry at our last Conference, we have subsequently interviewed Sharon Hollamby (formally from our Alma Street Church but now worshipping at our Rushden Mission Church) for ministry in the Union. The Committee were unanimous in endorsing her as a possible candidate for Ordination once the required studies have been completed.

Eddison Mubengo (a member of our Clydebank Church) is currently pastoring a fellowship in Glasgow. He has recently completed his studies and has been interviewed by the Ministerial Committee on his dissertation. As a result of a successful interview, Eddison will be Ordained during the Conference Communion service. His intention is to bring his fellowship into the family of the Union and we give them a very warm welcome

Michael Hedley (Pastor of the Word of Life Church in Ashington) has been interviewed and accepted as a possible candidate for Ordination but needs to complete his three years membership of a WRU Church along with the necessary studies before Ordination can take place. Michael has already brought his existing fellowship into the Wesleyan Reform Union. Michael & Lindsay will be with us at Conference.

The full Committee met with Dave Clifford to discuss his theological dissertation with him but following that meeting did not feel able to offer him for Ordination. Dave will be leaving the Ivinghoe & Pitstone Church at Conference and has accepted an invitation to become pastor of our Hough Lane Church

Steve Karma has given the Ebenezer, Oldbury Church notice that he will be leaving them in July for further ministry outside the Union.

Our Union Tutor, Ady Rugeruzza took extended (unauthorised) leave of absence and, as a result, has resigned as Minister of our Jump and Staincross churches. His role as Tutor has been suspended by the Ministerial Committee and the Tutor Emeritus (Rev Geoffrey Lee) has agreed to act as tutor for all current students. For any new students, we will investigate training courses from other sources.

Our current students, Mary King, Jon & Cita Bennets, Graham Johnson, Jackie Clarke, and Michael Hedley continue with their respective studies.

The Hazlemere Church has interviewed Sharon Hollamby and made an invitation to her to become their next Minister once her studies are complete and Ordination has taken place.

The Heath End church is currently seeking a minister. Since last Conference the Ashington, Rotherham Ebenezer and Farnham Common Churches have taken the decision to close.

Sadly, we have to report that during the last year two of our Ministers and Pastors (Ralph Thompson and Paul Busby) have died. We continue to remember Hazel and Brenda, and their families in our prayers.

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.

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 (16)
- 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 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, Sheringham, 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 (9)
- 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 (9)

- 1998 Michael G Alderson (Retired)
3 Knuston Drive, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9AB
Tel: 01933 413136 E-mail: Malderson@btinternet.com
- 1980 Colin Braithwaite
Church House, 123 Queen Street, Sheffield S1 2DU
Tel: 0114 272 1938 E-mail: gen.sec@thewru.co.uk
GENERAL SECRETARY (9)
- 2004 Ian Fall
161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9TA
Tel: 01933 312919 E-mail: ian.fall@virgin.net
RUSHDEN MISSION (9)
- 1985 Stephen Griffiths
4 Glenwood Gardens, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 8BD
Tel: 024 7649 1624 E-mail: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk
BEDWORTH CHURCH (3)
- 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 Rugeruzza
4 Wentworth Views, Church Street, Jump, Barnsley, S74
Tel: 07974 531258 E-mail: adyrugeruzza@hotmail.co.uk
- 2013 Stephen Blyth
12 Rannoch Drive NUNEATON, Warwickshire, CV10 9DT
Tel: 07583 001679 E-mail: Blyth.sa@gmail.com
- 2014 Irvine Grey
36 Calvertstown Road, PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland, BT63 5NY
Tel: 02838 236751 E-mail: irvinegrey@yahoo.co.uk

It was agreed that Adalbert Rugeruzza is to be removed from the list of ministers.

Eddison Mubengo will be added to the list of ministers after his ordination.

MINISTERS AWAITING ORDINATION

Sharon Hollamby
4 Adams Close, Finedon Road, WELLINGBOROUGH, Northants, NN8 4EZ
Tel : 01933 276260 E-mail: s.hollamby4@btinternet.com

Eddison Mubengo
Flat 14/1, 140 Charles Street, GLASGOW, G21 2QD
Tel: 0141 564 3644 Email: mubengoe@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Hedley
12 Warren Court, ASHINGTON, Northumberland N63 8LL
Tel: 01670 253072 Email: wordoflifechurch@hotmail.co.uk

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 CLYDEBANK CHURCH
76 Barns Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire G81 1QY
Tel: 0141 952 2293 E-mail: ajibauka@gmail.com

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

James Braddock RICHMOND CHURCH
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 CHURCH ON THE ROCK
24 Century Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4AS
Tel: 0121 552 7153 E-mail: dibleyj@btopenworld.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26. Safeguarding issues

There is a new Government document called 'Working together to Safeguard children', promoting the welfare of children statutory guidance as to how to safeguard children. The document includes information on what is a 'notifiable incident', 'a definition of serious harm' and 'the need to report adults when suspicions arise.'

There is a need to have clear accountability for everybody in the church.
There needs to be a designated leader in the church
There needs to be a clear policies within the church

Churches need to refer paragraph four in the document which clearly refers to churches in this context.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Tuesday afternoon – June 18th 2015

Women of Action President Beth Ely read from Matthew 28 v 11 – 20

Beth explained that when invited to be WA President she was tempted to go alone, I can do this, then can I. God said to her, you are not alone, don't try it alone, I am with you.

Go out into the world and preach the Word of God.

We can as Church be so busy doing what we do within our four walls that we don't take the message outside.

When we have good news we want to tell everybody about it, we must act quickly and spread the Good News, because for some people tomorrow may be too late.

Overseas Missions Department Report

Report by Mrs J Shepherd

What a difficult year this has been for so many Christians throughout the world!

As I write this report, I am thinking of the number of Christians who have been displaced from their homes during the year and how many have suffered severe persecution for no reason other than that they believe in Jesus.

It is always difficult to know what we can do to help in these situations. So often we think that the only things we can do effectively are to pray and to give. I am sure that the most effective way of helping our brothers and sisters in Christ is to pray for them and also to send money and other gifts to assist them in their every day living. However, there must be more! And to that end, we are in the process of arranging an Away Day which we hope will take the form of a workshop to show the many and varied ways in which we can support the Church Worldwide in their suffering. By the time we are at Conference, the date, venues and organisations to be involved should be confirmed. At the moment, we are working on the date of Saturday 21st May 2016 for this special day. Please do put the date in your diary so that you do not miss this time when we can really find out more.

Last year I said we might even have made the lofty heights of being able to use FaceBook and Twitter to share OM news. Sorry! We have failed on that one. However we are managing to put some articles on our page on the Union web site. Please just take a look from time to time.

Despite articles in Contact about Twinning with an overseas Church, we have had no more enquiries during the year about new "twins". However, the offer of help remains and if your Church does wish to investigate, please contact us.

Irvine Grey had intended to visit the House of Hope during the year so that we could have fresh photos and information from our project. We do know that they have started work on the kitchens, but sadly, Irvine's flight from Mombasa to Nairobi was cancelled and so he was unable to make the visit. We hope to have more

photos for our display board in the Conference Hall. £2,000 has been sent to the work to date but a final figure will be announced at Conference.

For our project this year, we move back to India, southern India to be exact, and partner with the Fountain of Life Ministries in a ministry set up to improve the lives of some of the poorest people in rural India. There will be more information about this on our stand.

We thank all of our Churches for their support for our missionaries and for our projects over the years and look forward to meeting many of you again at Conference.

Jan also brought to our attention the plight of the persecuted Church, it is so easy to say that we will pray for them, but things get in the way and stop us, the devil does not want us to pray. Next years Away Day with Open Doors will be an opportunity to increase our focus. Saturday 21st May workshop at a venue to be arranged.

Jan showed Conference the Wycliffe translation of the Gospel of Luke in the Waji language, as a result of our past projects, and dubbed Jesus film into their language.

This year project is the "Fountain of Life", based in Hope Valley in Derbyshire. Based in Andhra Pradesh in Southern India. They have built a building known as the Home of Hope, teaching ladies to sewing classes and a playing area, workers are Indian Christians drawn from the area.

The total given for the 2014/ 2015 project, House of Hope was £4,500.00

Accounts by Mr G Evans

Overseas Mission	2014/2015	2013/2014
Accounts		
General Fund		
Income		
Balance 1st April	4430.71	1341.49
Donations		
General Fund	7519.25	3484.10
Interest from Reserve Account	0.74	0.79
Interest from Investment Accounts	23.62	29.73
Away Day		690.00
Benstead collection		110.00
Gift Aid Tax Reclaim	193.16	
Total	<u>12167.48</u>	<u>5656.11</u>
Expenditure		
Conference Fees	110.00	147.40
Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses	25.00	25.00
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	200.00	
UFM	400.00	
J Taylor	500.00	
R Moorin	500.00	
Arab World Ministries	500.00	
Partners Relief	500.00	
People International	400.00	
Balance 31st March	8029.48	4430.71
Total	<u>12167.48</u>	<u>5656.11</u>

	2014/2015	2013/2014
Irving & Edith Fairhurst Memorial Fund		
	£	
Balance 1st April	1132.08	1131.08
Interest	1.00	1.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>1133.08</u>	<u>1132.08</u>
Training Fund		
Balance 1st April	2117.92	2115.92
Interest	2.00	2.00
Balance at 31st March	<u>2119.92</u>	<u>2117.92</u>
Summary		
General Fund	8029.48	4430.71
Project Fund	1303.41	3641.00
Training Fund	2119.92	2117.92
Fairhurst Memorial Fund	1133.08	1132.08
Total	<u>12585.89</u>	<u>11321.71</u>
Balances		
Current Accounts		
Nat West	7979.22	6589.40
Reserve Account		
Nat West	1432.89	1582.15
National Savings Investment Accounts	<u>3173.78</u>	<u>3150.16</u>
Total	<u>12585.89</u>	<u>11321.71</u>
Projects		
Proclaimers 2012		
Income 12/13	2507.50	
Income 13/14	2842.50	
Expenditure	5350.00	
Balance	<u>0.00</u>	
Apolo 2013		
Income 13/14	3641.00	
Income 14/15	2035.50	
Expenditure	5676.50	
Balance	<u>0.00</u>	
House of Hope 2014		
Income 14/15	3303.41	
Expenditure	2000.00	
Balance	<u>1303.41</u>	

Present List of Missionaries, by Mrs J Shepherd

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2015 – 2016

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	c/o Wesleyan Reform Union Arab World Ministries Church House 123 Queen Street Sheffield, S1 2DU
2013	Sarah Armitage	Partners Relief & Development UK PO Box 557 Mexborough S Yorks S63 3EN

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2015 – 2016

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 mccleansinthailand@gmail.com	c/o 145 Farringdon Road Swindon Wiltshire SN1 5DL

2002 Jackie Taylor
jacky2010@mailforpeople.com

c/o Mrs A Chattaway
82 Wren Road
Sidcup
Kent, DA14 4NF

2003 Rob & Grace Moorin
rmoorin@yahoo.com

c/o Mr & Mrs R L Moorin
Coates Lane
High Wycombe HP13 5EY

- d. Election of officers: Chairman Muriel Stonehewer, Secretary Jan Shepherd, Treasurer Graham Evans

Women of Action Report

27. Report by Mrs S Fall

We would like to thank Meryl Griffiths for serving the Women of Action whilst in her year of office as President. Meryl has expressed the need for us to extend our vision, to be able to get alongside the women within the union where they are, to build on those connections and be a support to them. Meryl commented that she had gained in confidence as the year had progressed and it had been an interesting journey.

We welcome Beth Ely 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 Beth, protect her and bless her in all that she does on behalf of the Women of Action and I would encourage you to invite her to come to your church/meeting during her year of office.

The Autumn Reflection day in September last year at Moira Church was a very blessed time together. Sam Darby led us through the theme of 'Gems in God's Treasure Store'. We were reminded of how precious we each are to God, how individual, unique and specific, yet each one made for a purpose. We continue to be in awe of God as He affirms us and makes something beautiful of each life given over to Him.

The Spring Event this year was at Rushden Mission Church. This was a day of teaching led by Rev Elaine Roberts of World Mandate Ministries. Elaine took our name as her theme for the day and spoke Gods word to us all. Her 3 points were 'stop talking' 'listen to God' and 'do what he says'. Many women were impacted by God through Elaine's words, and lives were changed through the work of the Holy Spirit. One lady was also miraculously healed from the broken shoulder she had had for 5 months. It was an incredible day and I know that God will continue to work in our lives so that we will all be women of action, willing for God to use us, whatever way he chooses.

The Women of Action have been pleased to give a grant to Bethel Community Church for a holiday club that they did in August last year.

I am writing this report just days after our morning of prayer and AGM and what a day that was. We questioned the whole purpose of the Women of Action. We spent a lot of time in prayer because we recognise the need for us to listen to God, hear what He is saying and then act on it. It is no good making plans if they are not God's plans. We also acknowledged that we should not be restricted by the structures that are in place at the present time, if God is calling us into something new. The role of President was also

questioned, and it was suggested that perhaps with possible future changes, this role may adapt as we move on in all that God has for us. We definitely have a clear sense that the Women of Action needs to change from its present state of seeming to be irrelevant into something that will be more useful in today's world, for women of all ages throughout our churches.

It was felt that we needed to define our purpose and know what our mission is. 'To encourage and support all women of the church community in their faith and witness'

We believe that we should be supporting, encouraging and helping the ladies within our union of churches where they are within their local church and communities. Whether this be in providing extra hands to enable them to put on an event themselves or for us to host different events through the year in different regions. Or even just to be at the end of the telephone to have an encouraging conversation.

From the initiative that was realised last year, about helping ladies to put on an event we have been asked to help with an evangelistic ladies day at Church on the Rock. This is on Saturday July 18th. We have also had a request from another church for a ladies day which is yet to be arranged. We have put working parties together to arrange 2 other events in different regions as well and details will be sent out when finalised.

We will continue to seek God's will for the Women of Action, and there will be another meeting in September, where the ladies of the churches will be invited to attend and we can assess again where and how God is leading us. Date and venue to be announced.

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 and enable and equip the women of our Union of churches.

Officers for the year are:

President	Beth Ely
President Elect	Sandra Fall
Secretary	Sandra Fall
Treasurer	Daphne Hodgkinson
Contact Secretary	Anne- Marie Wilcock
Representative to Women's World Day of Prayer	Muriel Stonehewer
Representatives to General Committee	Beth Ely , Meryl Griffiths

Sandra Stressed Beth's availability next year and hers the year after to involve in Church life, to met with women of Churches, not just Sunday. But through the week activities too.

They have questioned everything they do to measure the relevance to today, they must be following what God would have them do.

Future events Saturday 19th September at Coal Aston to review structure and to hear what God has to say to them. 10:30 to 12:30.

An event is planned in February/ March at Bedworth with Fred and Fran who have an amazing testimony of forgiveness after their 17year old son was murdered in 2007.

28. Accounts by Mrs D Hodkinson

WOMEN OF ACTION	2014/2015	2013/2014
Income		
Balance brought forward	1774	1,337
Spring Event Donations	166	136
Offerings	232	245
Donations	204	255
Conference repayments	70	150
	<u>2446</u>	<u>2,123</u>
Expenditure		
President's Gift/Insurance	50	50
President's Expenses	-	-
Conference Fees	282	135
Half Yearly Fees	-	20
Secretary's Expenses	18	24
Quiet Day Expenses	75	-
Spring Event Expenses	250	120
Balance carried forward	1771	1,774
	2,446	2,123
OUTREACH ACCOUNT		
Income		
Balance brought forward	461	591
Gifts	150	130
	311	461
Expenditure		
Gift: Bethel Com Church	150	130
Balance carried forward	311	461
SUMMARY		
General Current Account	1,771	1,774
Outreach Account	311	461
All held in Lloyds TSB Bank	2,082	2,135

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Wednesday morning – June 17th 2015

29. Approval of Union Committees for 2015-2016

The Union Committees and dates for 2015-2016 were approved

Approval of new Trustees

Union: The names which have been suggested by Management and approved by General Committee for new Trustees are: Rev Steve Blyth, Mr Graham Evans, Rev Ian Fall, and Rev Maurice Nicholls.

Housing for Retired Ministers Fund: The names which have been suggested by Management and approved by General Committee for new Trustees are: Mr Cliff Darby & Mr David Rooksby

Approval of New Guardian Representative

The names which have been suggested by Management and approved by General Committee for new Guardian Representative is Rev Phil Hearson

30. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report

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.

One of our Ministers has retired this year and another two plan to retire in the near future. 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.

Sadly, during the year, Paul Busby, a Trustee of the fund, has died. In addition, Neil Sowerby has resigned as a Trustee. As a result of that, a recommendation will be brought to Conference for new Trustees to replace them. Muriel Stonehewer, George Phillips, and Brian Pratt 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.

Accounts by Mr G Phillips

	2015	2014
	£	£
<u>Receipt</u>		
Interest Northern Rock Building Society	1,398.70	1,820.30
Donations	<u>1,551.00</u>	<u>4,331.00</u>
	2,949.00	6,151.30
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Grant towards Rent	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>
Net Incoming Resources	1,749.70	
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2014		
Loan Repayment	<u>85,550.31</u>	<u>73,599.01</u>
		7,000.00
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2015	<u>87,300.01</u>	<u>85,550.31</u>
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2014</u>		
Building Society Account		
Northern Rock Building Society	87,300.01	85,550.31

31. Ministers' Provident Society Report
Report by Rev P Hearson

As always, firstly we want to say a heartfelt thank you to those who have supported the Society over the past 12 months whether it was in prayer, financially or with your words of encouragement.

Over the year the number of annuitants has changed as two of our Ministers have reached the age of 65 and therefore have started to receive the quarterly gift. We have to report the passing of Rev. Ralph Thompson and Mrs. Marjorie Taylor (wife of Rev. Reg Taylor) during the year. Funeral gifts were made to their families. Currently we support 9 ministers and 4 widows. Those who receive gifts are very grateful for this support and many phone calls, letters, cards and emails are received. We now pay all gifts direct into bank accounts although a quarterly letter is still sent to ensure regular contact and encouragement.

You will note from the accounts that the balance has once again fallen by in excess of £9,000. We are pleased to report that gifts to the society have increased during the year but at the same time the amount of interest received has fallen due to the continuing low rates which are available.

The annuities will remain at £1000 per year and the funeral grant will remain at £500 despite the fall in funding.

We continue to support those who have given so much to the work of our Lord particularly through the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches and we very much value your partnership with us in this important work.

Rev. Ian Fall – Chairman,
Mr. David Rooksby – Treasurer,
Rev. Phillip Hearson – Secretary
Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

MINISTERS PROVIDENT SOCIETY		2014/2015	2013/2014
Income			
Balance Brought Forward		71,429	80,209
Donations		1,949	1,584
Subscriptions		108	66
Interest	Virgin Money Interest	1,147	1,570

	<u>74,633</u>	<u>83,429</u>
Expenditure		
Annuitants	11,500	11,000
Funeral Gift	1,000	1,000
Balance Carried Forward	<u>62,133</u>	<u>71,429</u>
	<u>74,633</u>	<u>83,429</u>
Balances		
HSBC Community account	2,216	1,658
Virgin Money	<u>59,917</u>	<u>69,771</u>
	<u>62,133</u>	<u>71,429</u>

Election of Officers: The Officers remain as listed

32. Any Other Business

33. Vote of Thanks

34. Group discussion on regional ministry

The President led in prayer; this brought Conference business to a close.