

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Monday afternoon – June 13th 2016

Conference commenced at 2.30pm with a time of devotions, worship and prayers led by the President Andy Wilcock.

1. Names of Representatives

Beth Ely & Sandra Fall should appear as representatives of the WA under “Additional delegates to Conference”
The vote on membership of Churches Together in England will take place on Wednesday morning.
Names of representatives were read.

Apologies for absence

No apologies for absence

Appointment of:

- Secretaries to Conference
Colin Braithwaite & Alina Taylor

- Recorders of Minutes
Bernard Oldman & Phil Hearson – Monday afternoon
Graham Evans & Stephen Griffiths - Tues morning
Peter Norton & Daphne Hodkinson - Tues afternoon
Jan Shepherd & Sam Downing - Wed morning

- Letter Writers
Pauline Downing & Jean Handley

- Scrutineers
Sue Norton
Pippa Wood
Michael Wood
Phil Hartshorn

Pippa Wood and Michael Wood are unable to be present, scrutineers will be appointed during Conference.

Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors. This was agreed

2. Standing Orders were agreed 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.

3. Obituary List

Once again we record our gratitude to Almighty God for those whom he has given to us in Christian service and whom he has now called Home to Himself

We cannot hope to recall the totality of service which they have rendered in our Churches, Circuits and the Union as a whole. We only know that our lives are the richer because of these dear servants of God

We particularly remember today the life and witness of:-

- **Reg Taylor, one of our Ministers, a past member of General Committee and a past President**

To all those dear ones who mourn at this time, we extend our deepest love and sympathy and assure them of our continued prayers.

The President then led in prayer.

4. Read Correspondence for Conference – There was no correspondence.

5. Election of President – Mr. David Rooksby

Nomination was moved by Rev Ian Fall. Rev. John Williams also spoke in support of this nomination. These were warmly received. David then addressed Conference briefly. The nomination was accepted unanimously.

6. Election of President-Designate – Mr. Philip Hartshorn

Nomination was moved by Mrs Marjorie Mottershaw. Philip then responded. His name was seconded and Conference voted unanimously in favour.

7. Approval of staff appointments

Mr George Phillips, Chairman of the Management Committee reported as follows:

With reference to the situation of the Office, it is likely that Church House will be sold in the coming year and that the Office will be based in a church in the local area to Sheffield.

He then brought to Conference the name of Alina Taylor as Administration Manager. This was seconded and accepted by Conference unanimously.

Finally, George reported on the position of the Development and Outreach Co-Ordinator. He proposed the name of Andy Wilcock for a further five-year appointment. This was seconded and Conference voted unanimously in favour.

George then led in prayer for Alina and Andy.

8. **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, Mrs B Ely |
| BARNSELY CIRCUIT | Mrs M Mottershaw, Mr P Hartshorn |
| 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 |
| SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT | Mrs M Stonehewer, Mrs. C Parkinson |
| SLEAFORD CIRCUIT | |
| SOULDERN | |
| ST. JUST | |
| SYRESHAM | |
| WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT | Rev I P Fall |

9. **Half Yearly Meetings 2016 onwards**

| | | |
|------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2016 | 19th November | Sleaford Circuit |
| 2017 | 18 th November | Warley Area of Churches |
| 2018 | 17 th November | Ashby Circuit |

10. **Conference 2017 onwards**

| | | |
|------|--|----------|
| 2017 | Mon 19 th June to Wed 21 st June | Swanwick |
| 2018 | Mon 11 th June to Wed 13 th June | Swanwick |
| 2019 | Mon 17 th June to Wed 19 th June | Swanwick |

11. **Christian Ethics and Social Action**

Report by Mrs D. Hodkinson

The Western world continues to be overwhelmed by the vast crowds of refugees who are fleeing war-torn countries. The media has brought their desperate plight to our doorstep and the question is, as Christians how should we respond? We are grateful to Andy Wilcock who prepared a Values study on the crisis, including five ways of getting involved. (1) Get clued up. (2) Get on your knees. (3) Get in touch (4) Get your wallet out (5) Get the red carpet out!

This document was sent to all the Churches and was well received.

We watched and prayed as the Asher's Bakery company in Northern Ireland has been taken to court because they declined to decorate a cake with a pro-gay marriage slogan. This promises to be a landmark case because it is clearly wrong that people should be forced to act against their genuine beliefs. At this time of writing we await the Appeal Court ruling.

Then in March 2016, David Cameron had to concede that his plans to relax Sunday trading laws were "Dead in the water".

Praise the Lord! Long may they stay there! Many of the committee take the time to lobby their M.P. about such matters. Don't forget to pray for your M.P.

Our Values Day was in February and the subject was "A Moral Revolution", and it proved to be a subject which provoked lots of discussion

Many committee members continue to write bi-monthly articles for Contact and we are grateful for these.

This is a very special year for our Queen as she celebrates her 90th birthday (DV). Elizabeth II has consistently, winsomely and publically honoured the God she serves. Before her Coronation she asked the people of the United King to:

"Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life"

God has answered those prayers.

Finally, thanks to all those fellowships and individuals who continue to support the work financially. A list of recipients is included in the financial statement.

Thanks were expressed to Daphne Hodkinson and also to Bernard Oldman who will be retiring from General Committee and the CESA Committee from Conference.

The report was accepted by Conference.

12. Women of Action Report

a. Report by Mrs S Fall

The Women of Action would like to thank Beth Ely for serving as President. It was very unfortunate that hip problems prevented her from being fully active during her year, for which she would like to express her sincere regret and apologies. Beth is very keen to still visit and is open to invitations to come to your meeting to either be a part of what is going on or to speak, and is very thankful to those who have already welcomed her.

We welcome Mrs Sandra Fall as our incoming President and pray that she will know God's presence and guiding as she ministers. Please invite Sandra to come to a ladies event in your area, she would very much like to be able to meet up with all the ladies within our church communities, to be able to speak with them and share in what God is doing.

We were very pleased to take part in and support a ladies day at Church on the Rock in July 2015. It was a mixed day of teaching, prayer and craft, and there were several thought provoking conversations too.

It was a privilege to welcome Fran and Fred Gill to our Bedworth church in March and it was amazing to witness the depth of their love, faith and gentleness as they shared their story with us. Robert their 17-year-old son was murdered and from that tragic event God has led them through personal restoration and forgiveness, but also used it for the benefit of the wider community. They have a Harley Davidson motorbike which has been hand painted to display Robert's life and his love for Jesus, and 'Bedford Street Angels' was formed. Out of tragedy God brings blessings. Find out more from the WA web page, the article in Contact or visit robertgill.pilgrim@gmail.com and invite them to your area.

As the Women of Action we have for some time been praying and considering where and how God is leading us for the future. 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 appropriate in today's world, for women of all ages throughout our churches. We also acknowledge that we should not be restricted by the structures that are in place if God is calling us into something new. We very much would like to fulfil what our mission statement says about us, **'To encourage and support all women of the church community in their faith and witness'**. This report is being written before our morning of prayer and AGM so hopefully we will have more to share with you at conference.

We would like to thank you in advance for your continued prayers as we aim to encourage and support the women of our union of churches. Please pray that we would be attentive and obedient to His voice as we serve our awesome God together.

Officers for the year are:

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

Sandra added the following comments:

The WA have sent a survey to the churches asking for details of all the things happening in the churches.

There will be an Autumn event.

The WA do not have a President Elect at present.

The report was accepted by Conference.

b. Accounts by Mrs D Hodkinson

| WOMEN OF ACTION | 2015/2016 | 2014/2015 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Income | | |
| Balance brought forward | 1771 | 1774 |
| Spring Event Donations | | 166 |
| Offerings | 116 | 232 |
| Donations | 265 | 204 |
| Conference repayments | 105 | 70 |
| | 2257 | 2446 |
| Expenditure | | |
| President's Gift | 50 | 50 |
| Conference Fees | 435 | 282 |
| Half Yearly Fees | 10 | - |
| Secretary's Expenses | 67 (2 years) | 18 |
| Quiet Day | - | 75 |
| Spring Event | 60 | 250 |
| Balance carried forward | 1635 | 1771 |
| | 2257 | 2446 |
| OUTREACH ACCOUNT | | |
| Income | | |
| Balance brought forward | 311 | 461 |
| | 100 | 150 |
| Gift to Sandra Fall's studies | | (Bethel Community Church) |
| Balance carried forward | 211 | 311 |
| SUMMARY | | |
| General Account | 1635 | 1771 |
| Outreach Account | 211 | 311 |
| All held in Lloyds TSB Bank | 1846 | 2082 |

The accounts were presented by Sandra Fall in Daphne Hodkinson's absence. They were accepted by Conference.

Statistics

These were presented by our new Administration Manager Alina Taylor

| Name of Church | Junior Members | Senior Members | Preachers Full & Trial | Scholars | Teachers | Children (Primary School) | Young People (Senior School) | Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA) | WA Members | Average Attendance |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| ALDERMANS GREEN | | 55 | | 18 | 6 | | | 1 | | 50 |
| ARNOLD | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u><i>ASHBY CIRCUIT</i></u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellistown | | 4 | | | | | | | | 5 |
| Ibstock | | 17 | | | | | | 3 | | 14 |
| Moira | | 11 | | | | | | 2 | 7 | 16 |
| New Swannington | | 14 | | | | | | 1 | | 12 |
| | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 7 | 47 |
| Ashington (Word of Life) | | 15 | 4 | | | | | 3 | | 10 |
| Attleborough | | 12 | | 2 | 1 | | | 2 | 15 | 16 |
| <u><i>BAKEWELL CIRCUIT</i></u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bonsall | | 16 | | | | | | 1 | | 24 |
| Curbar | | 10 | 4 | | | | | | | 10 |
| Froggatt | | | | | | | | | | |
| Over Haddon | | | | | | | | | | |
| Stonedge | | 34 | 2 | 4 | 2 | | 5 | 7 | | 38 |
| Stoney Middleton | | 4 | 1 | 10 | 2 | | 15 | 1 | | 5 |
| Winstar | | 4 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 15 |
| Youlgrave | | 10 | | | | | | 1 | | 12 |
| | 0 | 78 | 8 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 20 | 11 | 0 | 104 |
| <u><i>BARNSLEY CIRCUIT</i></u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Barnsley | | 12 | 4 | | | | | | | 12 |
| Cliffe Bridge | | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | 15 |
| Cudworth* | | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | 6 |
| Dodworth | | 9 | 2 | | | 9 | 7 | | | 10 |
| Hoyle Mill | | 3 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| Hunningley | | 8 | | | | | | | | 11 |
| Smithies | | 7 | | | | 13 | 2 | 1 | | 10 |
| Staincross | 2 | 11 | 3 | | | 14 | 12 | 1 | | 14 |
| Worsbrough | | 9 | 1 | | | | | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| | 2 | 69 | 13 | 4 | 2 | 37 | 25 | 6 | 5 | 91 |
| Bedworth | | 19 | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | | 19 |
| Birds Edge | | 15 | 3 | 4 | 1 | | | | | 20 |
| <u><i>BRADFORD CIRCUIT</i></u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Addingham | | 29 | | | | | | 2 | | 30 |
| Beacon Community* | | 28 | 3 | | 5 | | | 2 | | 40 |
| Bethel Community | | 16 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 22 | | 3 | | 36 |
| Muff Field | | 25 | | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | 15 |
| | 0 | 98 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 22 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 121 |

| Name of Church | Junior Members | Senior Members | Preachers Full & Trial | Scholars | Teachers | Children (Primary School) | Young People (Senior School) | Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA) | WA Members | Average Attendance |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Choppington | 3 | 6 | 2 | | | | | | | 14 |
| Church on the Rock | | 13 | 3 | 12 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 10 | 19 |
| Clydebank | 5 | 38 | | 6 | 3 | 4 | | 1 | | 35 |
| Deddington | | 12 | | | | | | | | 12 |
| Denby Dale | | 8 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 3 | 2 | | 18 |
| Dorrington | | 6 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | 2 | | 18 |
| Fritwell | | 10 | | | | | | | | 10 |
| Glasgow (Abundant Life and Liberty Centre) | 7 | 12 | | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 15 |
| Griffydam | | 14 | | 16 | 6 | 28 | 14 | 4 | | 33 |
| Hazlemere | | 30 | | 23 | 5 | 19 | 10 | 2 | | 56 |
| Heath End | | 24 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 3 | 10 | 35 |
| Heckington | | 6 | | | | | | 1 | | 12 |
| <i>HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaconsfield | | 15 | 1 | 11 | 2 | 26 | | 3 | 6 | 17 |
| FARNHAM COMMON | | 7 | 1 | | | | | 2 | | 8 |
| Wycombe Marsh | | 6 | | 4 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 8 | 24 |
| | 0 | 28 | 2 | 15 | 4 | 29 | 0 | 7 | 14 | 49 |
| Ivinghoe | | 8 | | | | | | 1 | | 12 |
| Lowestoft* | | 2 | 3 | | | | | 1 | | 9 |
| Nuneaton | | 7 | | 5 | 3 | | | 2 | | 15 |
| Oldbury | | 30 | | 8 | 2 | | | 3 | | 35 |
| Old Hill | | 20 | | | | | | 1 | 18 | 22 |
| <i>ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bowbroom | | 25 | | | 2 | | | 1 | | 22 |
| Cornerstone | | 13 | | | | | | | | 14 |
| Elsecar | | 7 | 2 | | | | | | | 10 |
| Hough Lane | 4 | 17 | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | 1 | 5 | 20 |
| Jump | | 25 | 1 | | | 40 | 18 | 6 | 9 | 26 |
| Mexborough Life Church | 10 | 60 | 6 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 15 | 8 | 0 | 80 |
| Newhill* | | 10 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 10 |
| Warmsworth | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wath | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 14 | 157 | 12 | 14 | 11 | 40 | 33 | 17 | 14 | 182 |

Continued on the next page

| Name of Church | Junior Members | Senior Members | Preachers Full & Trial | Scholars | Teachers | Children (Primary School) | Young People (Senior School) | Devotional Meeting (Inc. WA) | WA Members | Average Attendance |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| <u>SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal Aston | | 8 | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | | | 16 |
| Greenhead | | 6 | | | | | | 1 | | 8 |
| Grimesthorpe | | 20 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 18 |
| Hampden View | | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 20 | 5 | 1 | 15 | 33 |
| Mayfield | | 17 | 4 | | | | | 2 | 6 | 16 |
| Oughtibridge | | 56 | | 20 | 7 | | | 5 | | 54 |
| Owlerton | | 10 | | | | | | 4 | 13 | 20 |
| Philadelphia | | 7 | | | | | | 1 | | 13 |
| Richmond | | 25 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 40 |
| Sharrow Vale* | | 30 | 4 | 80 | 12 | | | 16 | | 230 |
| St Mary's | | 6 | | 8 | 2 | | | 2 | | 18 |
| Woodseats | | 6 | | | | | | 1 | | 10 |
| | 0 | 200 | 14 | 118 | 31 | 36 | 12 | 35 | 43 | 476 |
| <u>SLEAFORD CIRCUIT</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Brant Broughton | | 2 | | | | | | | | 9 |
| Leasingham | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruskington | 1 | 9 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 8 | 20 |
| Ruskington Fen* | | 5 | 1 | | | | | | | 14 |
| | 1 | 16 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 43 |
| Souldern | | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | | | | | 6 |
| St. Just | | 16 | | | | | | 1 | | 12 |
| Swanton Abbott | | 7 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 12 |
| Syresham | | 16 | | 5 | 2 | 14 | 12 | | | 22 |
| <u>WELLINGBOROUGH CIRCUIT</u> | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alma Street | | 9 | | | | | | 1 | 10 | 15 |
| Bozeat | | 16 | | | | 12 | 1 | 2 | | 14 |
| Dickins Memorial | | 3 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Isham | | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 12 |
| Rushden High Street | | 44 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 27 | 10 | 4 | 20 | 50 |
| Rushden Mission | | 48 | 3 | 15 | 4 | | | 4 | | 90 |
| Wymington | | 12 | | | | | | 1 | | 15 |
| | 0 | 138 | 6 | 34 | 8 | 39 | 11 | 12 | 30 | 202 |
| SUMMARY OF STATISTICS | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS FOR 2015 | 34 | 1258 | 101 | 392 | 125 | 246 | 184 | 154 | 198 | 1869 |
| TOTALS FOR 2016 | 32 | 1237 | 90 | 340 | 113 | 290 | 175 | 139 | 179 | 1852 |
| INCREASE | | | | | | 44 | | | | |
| DECREASE | 2 | 21 | 11 | 52 | 12 | | 9 | 15 | 19 | 17 |

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

Various comments were made, including:

Loss of members over last ten years has been 571 members.
If this continues at this rate, the number of members will fall below 1,000
Membership and attendance have fallen every year since 1993 with one exception
The number of Sunday School Scholars has fallen but midweek numbers increased by almost 18%

Various comments were made from the floor of Conference.

The report was seconded and accepted unanimously

13. Home Missions Report

Report by Pastor Andy Wilcock

Area Worker initiative

The Union is looking to finance a number of Area Workers, with the intention of them working with up to three Churches at a time to start new outreach initiatives. So for example, a church might want to start a Cafe Church outreach, run an Alpha course, or get a youth or children's club started. They may want to get a schools ministry started or run a Holiday at Home to reach the retired people in their area. The worker would meet, plan, support and train people in the church, with the hope of stepping back after 6 months to a year once the initiative has got going. It is understood that, in some cases, the given initiative might not work and so will stop, but at least we tried and hopefully have reached some people along the way.

We sent out a letter encouraging churches in their areas to meet up to pray and discuss how this might work in their own area. It is encouraging to know that a number of prayer meetings have happened and that at least one area wants to take this further.

We are very keen to hear from any churches, circuits or areas that are interested in discussing this further.

Excited about Mission

We continue to send, compile and publish the Excited about Mission prayer letter to over 270 people and we know that many then pass this on to others to read. The latest letter is also published on our website for people to read and download. Please visit the Home Missions stand to sign up for the Prayer Letter, if don't already receive it.

It's fantastic to see the many churches that are actively involved in their community, and using opportunities to share the love of Christ and communicate the message of the Gospel. The prayer letter not only helps us to pray for evangelism going on in our churches, but is also a great source for new ideas that we can all try in our own churches.

It has been great to see the number of churches using the Queen's 90th birthday as an opportunity to bring their local community together and forge new friendships. From street parties run by the community, coffee mornings, bring & share meals, to afternoon teas! Many have also bought the book "The Servant Queen and the King she serves" produced by the Bible Society, to give to friends and residents in their area. The book wonderfully presents the message of the Gospel through quotes from Her Majesty's Christmas messages throughout the years, and has a forward by the Queen herself.

Mission Action Planning Tool & Hospitality Template

These two documents continue to be used and are available to be downloaded from the website.

Sharing your Faith Resources

This new document seeks to review and suggest resources that churches have found useful in the challenge of sharing our faith. Some of the resources look at training, such as the excellent book "Intentional" by Paul Williams which Andy has been promoting as he has visited churches. There are also resources that can be used for sharing our faith either one to one or with groups such as Christianity Explored or Alpha. Please visit the Home Missions stand to pick up your own copy.

The report was accepted by Conference.

14. Greetings from the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust

This was brought by Rev. John Bolton, the Advocate of LWPT. He spoke about worship, gave an update on their work

and showed a brief video.

This concluded the business for the afternoon.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

Tuesday morning – June 14th 2016

A presentation was made by Keith Horobin of Micah Mobile Ministries explaining their evangelistic ministry, and offering their services to our churches.

15. **Resolution of Loyalty to be moved by The President, Mr David Rooksby**

“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 167th Conference at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

We give thanks to almighty God for your long and faithful reign over us and rejoice in the celebrations in this the year of your ninetieth birthday.

Please be assured of our prayers and support for you, and your family that God will continue to guide, strengthen, sustain and encourage you as you reign over our nation and commonwealth”.

16. **Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee**

17. **Local Preachers’ Fellowship Report**

Report by Mrs C Nicholls

Our Annual Retreat was held on October 17th at the Jump Church when the speaker was Rev Mike Stringer who took as his theme “What are we trying to achieve”. This was a very practical day and we were challenged and blessed as he led us through the sessions.

We are grateful for his ministry. 34 people attended. Our grateful thanks are expressed to the Jump church who hosted the day.

The next Retreat is to be held on October 15th 2016.

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: Mr Mark Foster from the Wirral, Director of Slavic Gospel Association. Mark works full-time for Slavic Gospel Association, a missionary organisation, and he is often away in Eastern Europe teaching pastors and church leaders within those countries. Mark is married to Margaret and they have one daughter and two sons.

Theme: “Spiritual refreshment from Romans”

In 2017 the Retreat will be on October the 21st. The speaker will be Mr Roger Carswell from Leeds.

At our last Committee meeting it was decided the retreat will be called “A day of Ministry for all” The local preachers committee will still host the day.

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

Officers for 2016/2017:

Chairman: Rev M Nicholls

Secretary: Mrs C Nicholls

Committee: Mrs E Wilcock, Mr R Evans, Mr B Hyde, Mrs D Hodgkinson, Mr R Nuttall, Rev C Braithwaite, Mrs Alina Taylor (Ex officio)

18. Young People's Department Report
Report by Mr Cliff Darby

The Committee has again continued to meet throughout the past year. As the organization and structure of the Union is reviewed, so the YPD committee has continued to review how it can best be of service to both the young people with whom churches come into contact, and also to the wider church community.

It is recognized that at present, there are generally fewer available people in the churches to sit upon external committees and this is also true of YPD. As a result, we feel that the way forward is to continue to focus on the child protection and social media agendas, both for youth workers in particular and for churches in general. We continue to be blessed by having access to current legislation on these issues through Steve Blyth and our aim is to make such information on the subject available through the Union's web site and other sources as it becomes relevant and available.

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

Overseas

Global Vision Lead

Last year, I opened the report by saying that I was thinking of the many Christians who have been displaced from their homes and suffered severe persecution during the year. Things, sadly, have not changed in the time since the last Annual Conference. In fact, if anything, there are more Christians suffering now than there were last year. This makes the Away Day we talked of last year an even more important event. By the time you read this, the day will have happened and we will have learned from Open Doors how we can best support our suffering brothers and sisters around the world. All of our churches were sent details and asked to pray if they were unable to attend. In addition, about 50 churches local to Ibstock were also invited.

We have again this year been able to send gifts to all of our missionaries, still working and retired. We thank all of our churches for their generosity in enabling us to do this. The Bible tells us that it is more blessed to give than receive and this is born out in the great generosity with gifts to personnel and to our projects.

The Fountain of Life Ministries has been our project this year and I have been able to put quite a bit of information in Contact during the year about their work. They gave us permission to lift from their web site anything that we thought would be good for us to know and so we have been able to do that and put something in each edition of Contact.

It is good to see that things are changing for the better in Myanmar (Burma) and we receive regular information about the progress there from Sarah at Partners Relief and Development. Keep on praying for the improvements to continue.

Details of our projects over the past few years are now on the Union web site – OM page. It is amazing how many countries we have "visited" since 2000 when the first project was undertaken. We will be launching a new project at Conference this year and this will; be publicised in Contact straight afterwards.

It is good to be able to keep in touch with so many of our Missionaries via email on a regular basis. Their messages are sent out to everyone who has asked for them. If you would like to pray for, contact or just know more about what our missionaries are doing, please let me have your email address and I will add you to the regular prayer mailing list.

Thank you again to all of our churches who support us so wonderfully. We look forward to meeting up again this year.

b. Present List of Missionaries, by Mrs J Shepherd

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2016 – 2017

| | | |
|------|---------------------|---|
| 1986 | Margaret | c/o Wesleyan Reform Union 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 123 Queen Street Sheffield, S1 2DU |
| 2013 | Sarah Armitage | Partners Relief & Development UK PO Box 557 Mexborough S Yorks, S63 3EN |
| 2016 | Dr Lesley Notghi | c/o Jan Shepherd 23 Ashby Road Ravenstone, LE67 2AA |

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2016 – 2017

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1990 | Stephen & Gillian Bryant | 67 Budbury Tynning Bradford on Avon BA15 1QE |
| 1995 | Philip & Diane Benstead | c/o Wesleyan Reform Union 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 |

c. Accounts by Mr G Evans

| Year | 2015/2016 | 2014/2015 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| OM Accounts | | |
| General Fund | | |
| Income | | |
| Balance 1st April | 8029.48 | 4430.71 |
| Donations | | |
| General Fund | 3107.72 | 7519.25 |
| Interest from Reserve Account | 0.73 | 0.74 |
| Interest from Investment Accounts | 23.80 | 23.62 |
| Gift Aid Tax Reclaim | | 193.16 |
| Total | <u>11161.73</u> | <u>12167.48</u> |
| Expenditure | | |
| Conference Fees | 110.00 | 110.00 |
| Secretary's Honorarium/Expenses | 25.00 | 25.00 |
| Interest to Training & Fairhurst | 3.00 | 3.00 |
| Annual Gifts | | |
| WEC | 2500.00 | 1000.00 |
| Wycliffe Bible Translators | 250.00 | 200.00 |
| UFM | 1000.00 | 400.00 |
| J Taylor | 750.00 | 500.00 |
| R Moorin | 500.00 | 500.00 |
| Arab World Ministries | 1250.00 | 500.00 |
| Partners Relief | 1250.00 | 500.00 |
| People International | 1000.00 | 400.00 |
| G & J Womersley | 375.00 | |
| Steve & Gill Bryant | 500.00 | |
| Stephen & Nessie Levinsohn | 375.00 | |
| OMF | 250.00 | |
| Transfer to House of Hope Project | 351.77 | |
| Balance 31st March | 671.96 | 8029.48 |
| Total | <u>11161.73</u> | <u>12167.48</u> |

Gifts include two years awards for 2015/16

Accounts by Mr G Evans (continued)

| | 2015/2016 | 2014/2015 |
|---|----------------|-----------------|
| Irving & Edith Fairhurst Memorial Fund | | £ |
| Balance 1st April | 1133.08 | 1132.08 |
| Interest | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Balance at 31st March | <u>1134.08</u> | <u>1133.08</u> |
| Training Fund | | |
| Balance 1st April | 2119.92 | 2117.92 |
| Interest | 2.00 | 2.00 |
| Balance at 31st March | <u>2121.92</u> | <u>2119.92</u> |
| Summary | | |
| General Fund | 671.96 | 8029.48 |
| Project Fund | 2660.26 | 1303.41 |
| Training Fund | 2121.92 | 2119.92 |
| Fairhurst Memorial Fund | <u>1134.08</u> | <u>1133.08</u> |
| Total | <u>6588.22</u> | <u>12585.89</u> |
| Balances | | |
| Current Accounts Nat West | 1957.02 | 7979.22 |
| Reserve Account Nat West | 1433.62 | 1432.89 |
| National Savings Accounts | 3197.58 | 3173.78 |
| Total | <u>6588.22</u> | <u>12585.89</u> |
| Projects | | |
| Apolo 2013 | | |
| Income 13/14 | 3641.00 | |
| Income 14/15 | 2035.50 | |
| Expenditure | <u>5676.50</u> | |
| Balance | <u>0.00</u> | |
| House of Hope 2014 | | |
| Income 14/15 | 3303.41 | |
| Income 15/16 | 1196.59 | |
| Expenditure | <u>4500.00</u> | |
| Balance | <u>0.00</u> | |
| Fountain of Life 2015 | | |
| Income 15/16 | 2660.26 | |
| Expenditure | <u>0.00</u> | |
| Balance | <u>2660.26</u> | |

A cheque for £5,100 was presented to Stuart Allen for Fountain Of Life Ministries.

This year's project will be to support the work of Rev. Eddison Mubengo at his home village, Muzondo in Zimbabwe, to drill a water bore hole for the village school.

20. Treasurer's Report by Mr G Phillips

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2016

| | | 2015/2016 | | 2014/2015 |
|---|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|
| Employment of Funds | | | | |
| LAND AND BUILDINGS | | 485,000 | | 485,000 |
| FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST | 27,332 | | 27,332 | |
| Less: Depreciation to date | 27,332 | 0 | 27,078 | 254 |
| INVESTMENTS | | 981,400 | | 954,465 |
| LOANS TO CHURCHES | | | | |
| Chapel Loan Fund | 14,000 | | 16,400 | |
| Extension Fund | 51,750 | 65,750 | 83,750 | 100,150 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | |
| Debtors: | | | | |
| Union | 1,208 | | | |
| Magazine | 114 | | | |
| Resource Centre | | | 34 | |
| National Westminster Bank plc | | | | |
| Deposit Account | 64,900 | | 16,763 | |
| Current Account | 21,560 | | 8,717 | |
| Cash in Hand | 286 | <u>88,068</u> | 115 | <u>25,629</u> |
| | | <u>1,620,218</u> | | <u>1,565,498</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | |
| Creditors: | | | | |
| Union Expenses, etc. | 3,252 | | 3,138 | |
| Actuarial Fees | 3,250 | | 2,075 | |
| New Connexions | 305 | <u>6,807</u> | 305 | <u>5,518</u> |
| | | <u>1,613,411</u> | | <u>1,559,980</u> |
| REPRESENTED BY: | | | | |
| Property Fund | | 485,000 | | 485,000 |
| Loan Fund | | 138,035 | | 137,935 |
| Extension Fund | | 649,237 | | 632,969 |
| Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund | | 4,990 | | 4,745 |
| Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust | | 1,783 | | 1,764 |
| Home Missions Account | | 1,406 | | 1,129 |
| Young People's Department Account | | 4,279 | | 2,366 |
| Christian Ethics and Social Action | | 515 | | 390 |
| Local Preachers Fellowship | | 3,367 | | |
| General Reserve | | <u>61,623</u> | | <u>22,451</u> |
| Holdback Policy Capital Account | | <u>263,176</u> | | <u>271,231</u> |
| | | <u>1,613,411</u> | | <u>1,559,98</u> |

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

| | | 2015/2016 | | 2014/2015 |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Assessment | | 40,863 | | 41,275 |
| Interest | | 10,468 | | 10,453 |
| Profit from Resource Centre | | -33 | | 140 |
| a Plan | | 671 | | 1,632 |
| Year Books | | 478 | | 727 |
| Child Protection Fees | | 376 | | 96 |
| Sundries | | 495 | | 104 |

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| From General Reserve | <u>32,577</u> | <u>36,143</u> |
| | <u>85,895</u> | <u>90,570</u> |

Expenditure

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Salaries is | <u>48,308</u> | <u>48,266</u> | |
| Gen Sec's House, Car, Telephone | <u>4,581</u> | 52,889 | <u>3,712</u> 51,978 |
| Pension Fund | | 12,545 | 14,066 |
| Church House Expenses | | 4,463 | 4,820 |
| Year Books | | 414 | 497 |
| Magazine | | 1,945 | 2,613 |
| Conference | | 1,665 | 595 |
| Administration - | | | |
| Telephone | 2,357 | | 2,116 |
| Postage | 686 | | 457 |
| Stationery | <u>1,040</u> | | <u>2,132</u> |
| Insurance | <u>1,433</u> | 5,516 | <u>1,399</u> 6,104 |
| Travelling - | | | |
| Conference | 280 | | 401 |
| Half Yearly | 298 | | 308 |
| General Committee | <u>2,822</u> | 3,400 | <u>2,238</u> 2,947 |
| Sundry Expenses- | | | |
| Subscriptions | 155 | | 639 |
| CAS | 676 | | |
| Sundries | 74 | | 103 |
| Legal Costs | <u>60</u> | | <u>968</u> |
| Bank Charges | <u>711</u> | 1,676 | <u>755</u> 2,465 |
| Depreciation | | 254 | 254 |
| Accountants | | 1,128 | 2,256 |
| Actuaries | | | <u>1,975</u> |
| | | <u>85,895</u> | <u>90,570</u> |

2015/2016

2014/2015

RESOURCES CENTRE ACCOUNT

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------|
| Sales | 188 | 1,272 |
| Purchases | 221 | 1,091 |
| Postages | | 41 |
| Profit/Loss transferred to Union Expenses Account | <u>-33</u> | <u>140</u> |
| | <u>188</u> | <u>1,272</u> |

CONNEXIONAL PLAN

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Income from Churches | 949 | 1,755 |
| Less Postage and Travel | <u>278</u> | <u>123</u> |
| Transferred to Union Expenses Account | <u>671</u> | <u>1,632</u> |

MAGAZINE ACCOUNT

| | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Sales | 2,201 | 2,477 |
| Printing | 3,552 | 4,262 |
| Postage | 594 | 828 |
| Net Cost transferred to Union Expenses Account | <u>-1,945</u> | <u>-2,613</u> |
| | <u>2,201</u> | <u>2,477</u> |

| | 2015/2016 | 2014/2015 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| HOME MISSIONS ACCOUNT | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | 1,129 | 1,458 |
| Donations | 4,725 | 4,371 |
| Interest | 13 | 15 |
| Transfer from Extension Fund | 51,500 | 53,000 |
| | <u>57,367</u> | <u>58,844</u> |
| Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant | 13,728 | 13,607 |
| Travel | 545 | 1,123 |
| Grants | 41,688 | 42,985 |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | <u>1,406</u> | <u>1,129</u> |
| | <u>57,367</u> | <u>58,844</u> |
| YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | 2,366 | 3,396 |
| Donations | 2,150 | 2,691 |
| Interest | 26 | 36 |
| | <u>4,542</u> | <u>6,123</u> |
| Salary, etc. | 231 | 2,749 |
| Travel | 22 | 1,008 |
| Sundries | 10 | |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | <u>4,279</u> | <u>2,366</u> |
| | <u>4,542</u> | <u>6,123</u> |
| CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | 390 | 673 |
| Donations | 1,905 | 1,755 |
| Interest | 4 | 7 |
| | <u>2,299</u> | <u>2,435</u> |
| Caring for Life | 400 | 500 |
| Christian Institute | 600 | 700 |
| Day One | 400 | 500 |
| Hope UK | 200 | 300 |
| Conference fees | 145 | |
| Sundries | 39 | 45 |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | <u>515</u> | <u>390</u> |
| | <u>2,299</u> | <u>2,435</u> |

| | | 2015/2016 | 2014/2015 |
|--|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | | 3,083 | 3,219 |
| Retreat | | 845 | 589 |
| Seminar | | 445 | 98 |
| Interest | | 24 | |
| | | <u>4,397</u> | <u>3,906</u> |
| Retreat | | 605 | 574 |
| Seminar | | 260 | 45 |
| Conference | | 145 | 140 |
| Sundries | | 20 | 64 |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | General Fund | 1,730 | 1,470 |
| | Trust Fund | <u>1,637</u> | <u>1,613</u> |
| | | <u>4,397</u> | <u>3,906</u> |
| ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | | 4,745 | 4,886 |
| Donations | | 1,630 | 1,517 |
| Fees | | 50 | |
| Interest | | 52 | 52 |
| Transfer from Extension Fund | | 5,000 | 7,000 |
| | | <u>11,477</u> | <u>13,455</u> |
| Salary etc. | | 2,817 | 2,585 |
| Service Increments | | 660 | 840 |
| Training | | 2,970 | 2,933 |
| Travelling Expenses | | | 1,579 |
| Removal expenses | | | 703 |
| Costs | | 40 | 70 |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | | <u>4,990</u> | <u>4,745</u> |
| | | <u>11,477</u> | <u>13,455</u> |

| | | 2015/2016 | 2014/2015 |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| EXTENSION FUND | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | | 632,969 | 723,896 |
| Sales | Ashington | 23,354 | |
| | Colby Long Road | 66,933 | |
| Sundries | | 149 | |
| | | <u>723,405</u> | <u>723,896</u> |
| Transfer to Home Missions | | 51,500 | 53,000 |
| Transfer to Training & Past Aid | | 5,000 | 7,000 |
| Grants | Aldermans Green | 10,000 | |
| | Mexborough | 2,400 | |
| | | <u>12,400</u> | <u>27,471</u> |
| Sundries | | 5,268 | 3,456 |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | Investments | 597,487 | 549,219 |
| | Loans | 51,750 | 83,750 |
| | | <u>649,237</u> | <u>632,969</u> |
| | | <u>723,405</u> | <u>723,896</u> |
| HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | | 271,231 | 349,127 |
| Sales | Ashington | 25,000 | |
| | Low Moor | | |
| | | <u>296,231</u> | <u>349,127</u> |
| Grants | Bethel Bierley | 9,160 | |
| | Denby Dale | 1,524 | |
| | Transfer (Nottingham) | <u>22,371</u> | <u>77,896</u> |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | Barnsley Circuit | 1,716 | 1,716 |
| | Bakewell Circuit | 178,071 | 178,071 |
| | R,M & D Circuit | 1,110 | 1,110 |
| | Guidepost a Circuit | 25,000 | 3,851 |
| | Bradford Circuit | 3,851 | 39,750 |
| | Nottinghamshire Circuit | 30,590 | 22,371 |
| | Denby Dale | 20,419 | 21,943 |
| | Birmingham | 2,419 | 2,419 |
| | | <u>263,176</u> | <u>271,231</u> |
| | | <u>296,231</u> | <u>349,127</u> |

| | 2015/2016 | | 2014/2015 |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| LOAN FUND | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | 137,935 | | 137,935 |
| Collections | 100 | | |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | <u>138,035</u> | | <u>137,935</u> |
| PERCY AND RUTH JOHNSON MEMORIAL TRUST | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | 1,764 | | 1,745 |
| Interest | 19 | | 19 |
| | <u>1,783</u> | | <u>1,764</u> |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | <u>1,783</u> | | <u>1,764</u> |
| | <u>1,783</u> | | <u>1,764</u> |
| GENERAL RESERVE | | | |
| Balance 1st April 2015 | 22,451 | | 49,167 |
| Collections | 200 | | |
| Holdback excess & Transfer | 61,721 | | |
| Donations | 751 | | 7,277 |
| Rent from Cardwell Avenue | 6,801 | 4,782 | |
| Less costs | <u>493</u> | <u>6,308</u> | <u>5,323</u> |
| Rent from Thornbrook Close | 3,900 | 3,300 | |
| Less costs | <u>731</u> | <u>3,169</u> | <u>2,691</u> |
| | <u>94,600</u> | | <u>58,594</u> |
| Sundries | 400 | | |
| Union Expenses | 32,577 | | 36,143 |
| Balance 31st March 2016 | <u>61,623</u> | | <u>22,451</u> |
| | <u>94,600</u> | | <u>58,594</u> |

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

| | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Interest from Investments | 10,582 | 10,582 |
| Less Retained by Union Expenses Account | <u>10,468</u> | <u>10,453</u> |
| | <u>114</u> | <u>129</u> |
| Distribution: | | |
| Home Missions | 13 | 15 |
| Young People's Department | 26 | 36 |
| Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid | 52 | 52 |
| Christian Ethics and Social Action | 4 | 7 |
| Percy and Ruth Johnson Memorial Trust | <u>19</u> | <u>19</u> |
| | <u>114</u> | <u>129</u> |

INVESTMENTS

| | Invested at 31/03/2015 | Invested 2015/2016 | Repaid 2015/2016 | Invested at 31/03/2015 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Income Bonds | 500,000 | | | 500,000 |
| Virgin Money | 454,465 | 104,298 | 79,000 | 479,763 |
| National Savings (LPF Trust Fund) | | 1,637 | | 1,637 |
| | 954,465 | 105,935 | 79,000 | 981,400 |

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

| Description | Original Loan | New Loans Year to 31/03/16 | Balance 31/03/15 | Repaid Year to 31/03/16 | Balance 31/03/16 | Collection Received 31/03/16 |
|----------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2002 Ellistown | 3,000 | | 100 | | 100 | |
| 2011 Mayfield | 18,000 | | 11,800 | 1,900 | 9,900 | |
| 2013 Jump | 5,000 | | 4,500 | 500 | 4,000 | 100 |
| | 26,000 | 0 | 16,400 | | 14,000 | 100 |

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

| Description | Original Loan | New Loans Year to 31/03/16 | Balance 31/03/15 | Repaid Year to 31/03/16 | Balance 31/03/16 | Collection Received 31/03/15 |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2007 Farnham Common | 15,000 | | 5,750 | | 5,750 | |
| 2008 Attleborough | 25,000 | | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | |
| 2009 Clydebank | 60,000 | | 50,000 | 4,000 | 46,000 | |
| 2015 Swanton Abbott | 25,000 | | 25,000 | 25,000 | 0 | |
| | | 0 | 83,750 | 32,000 | 51,750 | 0 |

Conference recognised the work done by Mr Philip Nutall regarding the sale of churches in recent years, which has resulted in significant increases in the amount of money obtained. A letter of thanks will be sent.

The sale of Arnold church which is the last church in that circuit means that the money is available to be used in a different way, it was proposed and agreed that half of the proceeds should go to the General reserve and half to the extension fund.

A proposal to sell Union headquarters, Church House was agreed.

It was proposed and agreed that the assessment be increased by £1.

21. Ministerial Committee Report
Report by Rev C Braithwaite

In presenting this report, it must be noted that in the Year Book, Peter Norton and myself will be entered as “retired”, Sharon Hollamby will be moved up to the official list of ministers.

Paragraphs four and five seem to contradict each other. The appointment of Paul Brown to Beacon Community Church was confirmed to me just as the handbook was to be sent out and, although I added him to the new ministers, I omitted to remove it from the list of churches seeking a pastor.

We are sorry to report that during the last year, one of our oldest, and longest serving ministers, Rev Reg Taylor, passed from this life to his eternal home. We record with gratitude, all that Reg did for the Union – and for the Lord

Two years ago Conference took the decision that, in future, the Union would be prepared to Ordain ladies into their ministry and, as a result of that vote, we are delighted to report that Sharon Hollamby (currently a member of our Rushden Mission Church) will be Ordained on the Monday evening of Conference. Sharon has been invited by the Hazlemere Church to be their next Minister and she hopes to start her ministry there in the next few weeks. Do remember Sharon in your prayers as being a single minister (and a newly ordained one at that) will not be easy.

This year, Rev Peter Norton and Rev Colin Braithwaite will be retiring from the official list of Ministers and Pastors Ron Stockley and Neil Bedford will be retiring from the list of independently appointed pastors. We are grateful to them for their years of service and wish them God’s richest blessing in their retirement.

Shortly after Conference last year, David Clifford was appointed to be pastor of our Hough Lane Church but, by mutual agreement that appointment has come to an end.

Four of our churches have appointed Pastors during the year. We are pleased to welcome Mark Parsons (Oldbury) John Diggle (Owlerton), Halbo Chou (Ivinghoe & Pitstone) and Paul Brown (Beacon Community Church) into the Union and assure them of our prayers and support as they settle in to their new roles.

We have a number of churches (Muff Field, Addingham, Heath End, Aldermans Green and St Just) who are seeking ministers – some full-time and some part-time. Enquiries have been made from a number of Bible Colleges but, as yet, no response has been received.

Our students (Jon Bennett, Jackie Clarke, Michael Hedley, Graham Johnson and Mary King) continue with their studies under the guidance of our Union Tutor Emeritus, Rev Geoffrey Lee. They are progressing at different speeds but all doing well.

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.

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 (17)
- 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 (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
- 1988 Peter H Norton**
56 Silverdale Close, Coventry CV2 1PX
Tel: 024 7668 5230 E-mail: revsnorton@btinternet.com
ALDERMANS GREEN (10)
- 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 (10)
- 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, South Yorkshire S1 2DU
Tel: 0114 272 1938 E-mail: gen.sec@thewru.co.uk
GENERAL SECRETARY (10)
- 2004 Ian Fall**
161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9TA
Tel: 01933 312919 E-mail: ian.fall@virgin.net
RUSHDEN MISSION (10)

- 1985 Stephen Griffiths**
4 Glenwood Gardens, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 8BD
Tel: 024 7649 1624 E-mail: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk
BEDWORTH CHURCH (4)
- 2013 Stephen Blyth BA, JNC**
12 Rannoch Drive NUNEATON, Warwickshire, CV10 9DT
Tel: 07583 001679 E-mail: Blyth.sa@gmail.com
- 2014 Irvine Grey B.Th, MA, M.Phil**
39 Calvertstown Road, PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland, BT63 5NY
Tel: 02838 326751 E-mail: irvinegrey@aol.com
- 2015 Eddison Mubengo**
56 West Donnington Street, Darvell, KA17 0AP
Tel: 01560 673507 Email: mubengoe@yahoo.co.uk
GLASGOW, ABUNDANT LIFE AND LIBERTY (1)

MINISTERS AWAITING ORDINATION

Sharon Hollamby

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

Michael Hedley

12 Warren Court, ASHINGTON, Northumberland NE63 8LL
Tel: 01670 814425 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

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22. Safeguarding issues

Work has been carried out this year as follows

Safeguarding referral process flow chart, copies of which are available, and can be downloaded from the website.

Risk assessment forms are available to assist churches to carry out their own risk assessments

A code of conduct for church workers is available to assist with training.

YPD is aiming to be able to give help with small grants and advice regarding Ofsted, DBS, Goddard inquiry.

23. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report

.a. Report by Rev C Braithwaite

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

Two of our Ministers will be retiring this year and it has been a privilege to help one to purchase accommodation for his retirement. 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 Administration Manager to request an application form. Any requests will receive a sympathetic ear.

New Trustees have been appointed during the year and the full complement of Trustees is: Muriel Stonehewer, George Phillips, Brian Pratt, Cliff Darby and David Rooksby.

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

b. Accounts by Mr G Phillips

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| <u>Receipt</u> | | |
| Interest Northern Rock Building Society | 876.00 | 1,398.70 |
| Donations | <u>1,760.00</u> | <u>1,551.00</u> |
| | 2,636.09 | 2,949.70 |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | |
| Grant towards Rent | <u>1,200.00</u> | <u>1,200.00</u> |
| Net Incoming Resources | 1,436.09 | 1,749.70 |
| Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2015 | <u>87,300.01</u> | <u>85,550.31</u> |
| Loan Granted | 50,000.00 | |
| Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2016 | <u>38,736.10</u> | <u>87,300.01</u> |
| <u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2016</u> | | |
| Building Society Account | | |
| Northern Rock Building Society | 38,736.10 | 87,300.01 |
| Secured Loan | 50,000.00 | |

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

Tuesday afternoon – June 14th 2016

There was no business on Tuesday afternoon as it was taken up with two sessions led by Gavin Calver who spoke on “Cultural landscape for evangelism” and “Evangelism in a small church setting”. The second session included time for Questions and answers. The whole afternoon was helpful, inspiring and thought-provoking.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

Wednesday morning – June 15th 2016

24. Ministers' Provident Society Report

c. Report by Rev P Hearson

Firstly, may we give our grateful thanks to all those who have supported the work of the Minister's Provident Society over the past 12 months – churches, circuits or individuals who have either given financially or prayed for our work.

During the year we supported 9 ministers and 4 widows. This reduced to 8 Ministers with the passing to Glory of Rev. Reg Taylor in February 2016 – we were very glad to be able to give a gift to his family to help with the costs. Annuities were paid at the same rate as the previous year.

We continue to pay all annuities direct to the bank although quarterly letters are still sent. Many emails, letters and phone calls are received to convey the thanks of those who have received the gift. As always, often the money is received at just the right time to cover a particular need.

You will note from our financial report that the balance of funds has reduced by around £11,400 over the year. Interest received is still significantly lower than several years ago due to the general prevailing interest rates and is also affected by the time at which the interest is received. Donations are also considerably down during this year. We are able to give so generously to our annuitants mainly due to a substantial legacy given to us, but the balance of this gift is falling rapidly. May we gently ask once again that this is something that our supporters might prayerfully consider.

Rev. Ian Fall – Chairman
 Mr. David Rooksby – Treasurer
 Rev. Phillip Hearson – Secretary
 Rev Peter Norton
 Rev M Nicholls
 Mr C Darby
 Phil Hartshorn

Approve annuity of £250 for retired ministers and/widows for this year.

b. Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

Ministers Provident Society Accounts

| | 2015/ 2016 | 2014/ 2015 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Income | | |
| Balance Brought Forward | 62,133 | 71,429 |
| Donations | 1,235 | 1,949 |
| Subscriptions | 24 | 108 |
| Virgin Money Interest | 585 | 1,147 |
| TOTAL | 63,977 | 74,633 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Annuitants | 12,750 | 11,500 |
| Funeral Gift | 500 | 1,000 |
| Balance Carried Forward | 50,727 | 62,133 |
| TOTAL | 63,977 | 74,633 |

Balances

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| HSBC Community Account | 1,725 | 2,216 |
| Virgin Money | 49,002 | 59,917 |
| TOTAL | 50,727 | 62,133 |

25. Approval of Union Committees for 2016-2017

The Union Committees for 2016-2017 were approved and dates agreed

26. Notice of Motion

2 abstentions, 2 against, everyone else in favour

A Notice of Motion from General Committee was discussed at length and after a vote, the motion was approved.

27. Membership of Churches Together in England

After discussion and a vote, it was agreed that application should be made to join. There was considerable discussion and dissent on this matter which continued to be debated following the vote. Prayer was lifted that we might be shown if this decision is right or not and be brave enough to discuss further if necessary.

For 25 Against 16 Abstain 10

28. Any Other Business

Given that there are a large number of new faces at Conference this year, is it acceptable for committees to co-opt some of these people on our committees.

29. Vote of Thank

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