

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Monday afternoon – June 16th 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Election of President

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

6. Election of President-Designate

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

The President led Conference in prayer for George and Andy.

7. Nominations for General Committee

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

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

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

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

10. Young People's Department

a. Report by Mr S Blyth and Mr M Ludbrook

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report was accepted.

11. Statistics

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

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

HIGH WYCOMBE CIRCUIT

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

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

ROTHERHAM, MEXBOROUGH AND DONCASTER CIRCUIT

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

SHEFFIELD CIRCUIT

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

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

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

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

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

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

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

12. Greetings from the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion

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

13. Greetings from the Independent Methodist Connexion

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

14. Greetings from the Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust

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

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

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Tuesday Morning – June 17th 2014

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

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

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

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

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

16. Appointment of, and prayer for, General Committee

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

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

17. Local Preachers' Fellowship

a. Report by Mrs C Nicholls

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Officers for 2014/2015:

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

b. Accounts by Mrs E Wilcock

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

The above report and accounts were accepted

18. Christian Ethics and Social Action

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The above report and accounts were accepted

19. Home Missions Department

a. Report by Pastor P Busby

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. Report by the Development & Outreach Consultant

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANDY WILCOCK - DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH CONSULTANT

The above reports were accepted

20. The following accounts were presented by Mr George Phillips

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

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

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

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

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

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

YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT

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

ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND

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

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

HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT

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

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

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

Distribution:

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

INVESTMENTS

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

CHAPEL LOAN FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

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

EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

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

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

8. Ministerial Committee Report

a. Report by Rev C Braithwaite

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a. List of Ministers

(Figures in brackets denote years in Present Charge)

Year Ordained

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINISTERS AWAITING ORDINATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Safeguarding Issues

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

The appointment of Steve Blyth was agreed by Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Tuesday Afternoon – June 17th 2014

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

Overseas Mission

Global Vision, Local Insight, Personal Touch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. Accounts by Mr G Evans

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

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

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

The report and accounts were agreed by Conference

c. Present List of Missionaries, by Mrs J Shepherd

List of Overseas Mission Personnel 2014 – 2015

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

List of Associated Overseas Mission Personnel 2014– 2015

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

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

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

The list of Mission personnel was approved by Conference

d. Election of officers: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer

23. Women of Action

a. Report by Mrs S Fall

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Future Events

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

Officers for the year are:

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

b. Accounts by Mrs D Hodkinson

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

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

The report and accounts were approved by Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

Wednesday Morning – June 18th 2014

24. Approval of Union Committees for 2014-2015

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

25. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund

a. Report by Rev C Braithwaite

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

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

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

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

b. Accounts by Rev C Braithwaite

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

Secured Loans
The report and accounts were approved by Conference

7,000.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. Accounts by Mr D Rooksby

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

Balances

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

The report and accounts were received and approved by Conference

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

The officers were duly approved for a further year

27. Approval of new Trustees

New Trustees were approved as below:

Union

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

Housing for retired ministers

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

LWPT

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

28. Vote on the Ordination of Women

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

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

29. Any Other Business – There were no items raised

30. Vote of Thanks

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

31. Future strategy of the Union

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