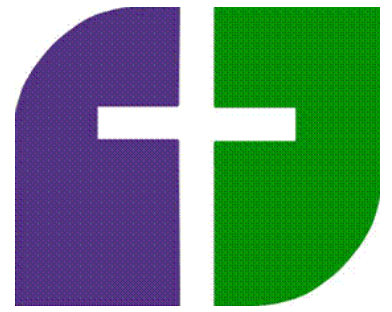


Wesleyan Reform Union
of Churches



MINUTES of the 176th ANNUAL CONFERENCE



9-11th June 2025

The Hayes Conference Centre
Swanwick, Derbyshire

WRU Annual Conference 2025

LIST OF OFFICERS 2024-2025

PRESIDENT

Mr George Phillips

PAST PRESIDENT

Rev Michael Hedley

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE

TREASURER

Mr George Phillips

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Mrs Alina Taylor

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Mrs Debbie Young

GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Rev Phillip J Hearson

Mr George Phillips

Mrs Muriel Stonehewer

Rev Colin Braithwaite

PASTOR TO THE PASTORS

Rev Peter Norton

TRUSTEES

Mr Stuart Allen

Mr Graham Evans

Mrs Sandra Fall

Mrs Daphne Hodgkinson

Rev Sharon Hollamby

Mr David Rooksby

REPRESENTATIVE OF HOME MISSIONS

Pastor Andy Wilcock

REPRESENTATIVE OF OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Mrs Anne-Marie Wilcock

REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION

Mr Graham Johnson

REPRESENTATIVE OF WOMEN OF ACTION

Mrs Sandra Fall

REPRESENTATIVE OF E2S (LOCAL PREACHER'S FELLOWSHIP)

Mr David Tuckett

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

Alderman's Green	Mr	David	Lee
Ashington	Pastor	Lanre	Atanda
Attleborough	Mr	Matthew	Halladay
Beacon Community	Mrs	Michelle	Norton
Bowbroom	Mrs	Christine	Houghton
Bozeat	Mr	Tom	Partridge-Underwood
Church on the Rock	Mrs	Jackie	Clarke
Cliffe Bridge	Mr	Richard	Saunders-Hindley
Coal Aston	Mrs	Muriel	Stonehewer
Cornerstone	Mr	John	Houghton
Curbar	Mr	Stuart	Allen
Dodworth	Mr	Philip	Hartshorn
Dorrington	Mrs	Kathleen	Kinnard
Ellistown	Rev	John	Langford
Griffydam	Mrs	Judith	Darby
Hampden View	Mrs	Julia	Hodson
Heath End	Mrs	Lisa	Macbeth
Hough Lane	Mr	Graham	Evans
Ibstock	Mr	Cliff	Darby
Jump	Mr	Ian	Sykes
Mayfield Chapel	Mrs	Margaret	Kay
Mexborough Life	Dr	Steven	Jenkins
Newhill	Mrs	Jean	Sykes
Owlerton	Miss	Maureen	Robinson
Rushden High Street	Mrs	Anne	Hearson
Rushden Mission	Rev	David	Bracken
Ruskington	Mr	George	Phillips
St James Old Hill	Mrs	Elaine	Heathcock
St. Mary's	Rev	Stuart	Reynolds
Stoney Middleton	Mrs	Beth	Ely
Worsborough Community	Mrs	Tracey	Hamby
Wymington	Mr	Robert	Major

UNION DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

Christian Ethics and Social Action	Mr	Graham	Johnson
Home Missions & YPD	Mr	Andy	Wilcock
E2S (Local Preachers Fellowship)	Mr	David	Tuckett
Ministerial	Rev	Peter	Norton
Overseas Missions	Mrs	Anne-Marie	Wilcock
Women of Action	Mrs	Natalie	Johnson

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Mrs	Rita	Allen
Pastor	Fisayo	Atanda
Mr	Ian	Buchanan
Mrs	Mary	Carr
Rev	Stephen	Griffiths
Mrs	Meryl Ann	Griffiths
Mr	Arthur	Hammond
Mrs	Susan	Hartshorn
Rev	Anthony	Hodkinson
Mr	Andrew	Jenkins
Mr	Colin	Johnson
Mr	Hugh	Kinnard
Mrs	Helen	Lee
Mrs	Ellie	Minney
Mrs	Susan	Norton
Mrs	Carole	Parkinson
Mrs	Audrey	Parsons
Mr	Barrie	Parsons
Mrs	Sue	Partridge-Underwood
Mrs	Lyndis	Payne
Mrs	Sandra	Rooksby
Mr	Tristan	Stevenson-Coulshaw
Mr	Anthony	Taylor
Mrs	Elaine	Tuckett
Miss	Helen	Vipass
Mrs	Sue	Woods

MINUTES OF BUSINESS

For The 176th Annual Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches

NOTICES

Conference Sessions commence at 2.00pm on the Monday. It is desired that all delegates will stay to the conclusion of Conference.

STANDING ORDERS FOR CONFERENCE

Six months' notice must be given by members of Conference of any resolution which in any way affects the Constitution of the Union.

No Resolution, or Notice of Motion, which in any way affects the Constitution of the Union, shall be received from any member of the Conference or Union Trustees, unless such Resolution, or Notice of Motion, shall have first received the approval of the member Church / Department or Union Trustees of which such individual shall be a member of good standing at the time when such Notice of Motion shall be made.

The Business Sessions of the Conference will be preceded by devotions, and will be conducted by the following:

MONDAY AFTERNOON	THE PRESIDENT	Mr George Phillips
TUESDAY MORNING	THE PRESIDENT	Mr George Phillips
WEDNESDAY MORNING	THE W.A. REPRESENTATIVE	Mrs Muriel Stonehewer

MONDAY, June 9th 2025

Opening Devotions

Devotions were led by the President, Mr George Phillips. He read from Psalm 46, commented on God being our refuge and led in prayer. We sang "All hail the power of Jesus name"

1. Names of Representatives

The names of representatives (as per the above list) were taken "as read". With the amendment that Mr Cliff Darby was representing the Ibstock church and the absence of a representative from Curbar, the list was proposed and accepted.

2. Nomination of President

A letter from Lindsay and Michael Hedley was read to Conference. It thanked everyone for their help, support and love during his illness. They remain strong in the Lord and are blessed through our friendship. The commended their new Pastor to Conference.

Colin Braithwaite, on behalf of the Union Trustees recommended to Conference that Mr George Phillips continue as President for one more year. The nomination was proposed, seconded and approved. George responded briefly and commented on some of his recent visits.

3. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Stuart & Rita Allen, Michale & Lindsay Hedley, Jim Rossel

4. **Appointment of:**

- Secretary to Conference: Mrs Alina Taylor
- Recorders of Minutes: Rev C Braithwaite
- Letter Writers: Daphne Hodgkinson & Carole Parkinson
- Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors: Approved

5. **Decide as to Standing Orders as follows:**

Discussion only allowed on a motion duly moved and seconded.

No person to speak more than once on any subject, except the mover of the Resolution, who has the right to reply, other than at the President's discretion.

- 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.

The above Standing Orders were approved

6. **Obituaries**

Conference stood to remember all who has passed to Glory since we last met. Particular mention was made of Frank Bruntlett and Sam Bown. Prayer was offered.

7. **Read Correspondence for Conference**

There was no correspondence to bring before Conference.

8. **Conference Dates**

2026 Mon 22nd June to Wed 24th June, Swanwick

The dates were noted and approved. It was commented from the floor that it might be time to consider alternative options for future Conferences. Other venues were already being explored. This would be discussed further by the Trustees.

9. **General Meetings Dates**

2025 Sat 18th October (3rd Saturday in October), Jump Church & Zoom

2026 Sat 14th March (2nd Saturday in March), Rushden Mission Church & Zoom)

The dates were noted and approved

10. **Notice of Motion**

A Notice of Motion to change some wording for the CIO (full details attached) was proposed, seconded and passed.

11. **Nomination of President Designate**

The name of Mr David Tuckett was proposed to Conference by Graham Johnson and was unanimously approved. David responded briefly.

12. **Nomination of Treasurer**

Graham Evans proposed the name of Mr George Phillips to Conference, and it was unanimously approved. George responded briefly.

13. **Women of Action Report**

Report by Mrs S Fall

The Women of Action had a good 2024. Having already started the new teaching series in March at Dorrington Chapel, 'Solid foundation' events also happened at Stoney Middleton in June and Bozeat Chapel in September. We explored God as our Rock and made sure that we were all standing on Jesus as we walk out our faith, and journey through life with all it's waves and storms. There was time for discussion and prayer, and we also shared bread and wine together. The ladies were very responsive and appreciative, and I am still hearing positive comments about the events and what effect they have had on people's lives and churches.

Last year I reported that we had approached some other churches to host events this year, but unfortunately for different reasons there was no progression on these.

We have had several prayer times together on Zoom and one in person in February.

As you know we are always seeking God for the way forward for the WA which has been more poignant as last September I informed the team that I would be stepping down as Co-ordinator and Secretary after the AGM this year. I know that God is calling me to put down these responsibilities as He has other things that He is leading me into outside of the WRU.

I will always be grateful to the ladies of the Women of Action for their friendship, trust and confidence in me. I started to attend the WA meetings in 2001. I became secretary in 2008, was President twice and took on the new role as co-ordinator in 2018. As I look back over my journey I can see how I have grown and have been thoroughly blessed by you all and God. Thank you.

With this in mind we have spent a lot of time praying and discussing what could be next but sadly there has not been a positive outcome. There have been lots of good ideas put forward but God has not laid it on

anyone's heart to take up the responsibility of this work.

Therefore, after prayerful consideration over many months it was agreed unanimously at the Annual General Meeting on 26/04/2025 that the Women of Action would close in it's current form. It is hoped that the churches would be encouraged to support the women of their communities as much as possible in their journeys of faith and witness.

This does not mean that the local ladies groups will need to close, but just that there will be no nationally organised events or team. This outcome saddens us all, but who knows what God may raise up in the future.

We are all thankful to have been a part of this incredible work in our time. We also remember all the ladies who have gone before us and the many women around our churches and further afield, who have been blessed by the work of the Women of Action or formerly the Women's Auxiliary.

May God continue to bless you all as you seek to serve Him in and through the WRU.

Additional comments:

Decision to close was difficult to make

Much prayer went into making the decision

Memory board at the back of the hall

Money remaining in their accounts (£347) to go into the OM fund.

The WA has changed greatly during the years.

It was a cause of regret that the WA (as a national body) has ceased to exist

Sandra spoke enthusiastically about her time and experiences as President and Co-ordinator

She had been greatly blessed during that period

From the floor:

Tribute to Sandra was paid by the WA members and she was presented with a gift

The report was proposed, seconded and approved

14. Union Trustees Report & Statistics

Report by Mr George Phillips

The Trustees have met five times during the year. The Administration Manager and Administration Assistant have been invited to the meetings. The ill health of the National Spiritual Coordinator has meant he has not been able to attend any meetings. Michael will leave the role in July when he reaches state pension age, but it is hoped that, if his health allows, he may be able to give support in accreditation of training courses.

The Trustees have continued to consider prayerfully future support and strategy. An overview of statistics shows that, although there have been some small decreases in 2025, most areas (membership, attendance, number of preachers, children and WA) have been relatively stable in the last few years. However, numbers are at a low level, and we recognise many Churches are struggling particularly in terms of leadership resource. As a result of this we are looking at ways the Union can support at Church level with regional leadership coordinators. Andy Wilcock is now working more regionally in the Sheffield, Barnsley and

Derbyshire area and other areas have expressed interest in this approach. There is also a probability of linking with a local organisation to restart the outreach work in the Bierley area of Bradford.

Recently we have completed the transfer of all assets and properties to the Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and the unincorporated charity will shortly be removed from the register.

The property portfolio is increasing by taking ownership of the former Deddington manse. This is taking some time due to solicitor's delays. Significant refurbishment will be necessary before it can be rented. We may also take over ownership of the Bethel Bierley building in Bradford. Rental income from the four current properties in the portfolio has supported Union finances and, therefore, there has been no requirement to increase assessment. The property in Cardwell Avenue, Sheffield is being refurbished which will lead to higher rental value.

The Trustees have been involved in the disposal of several Church buildings.

Over Haddon
Lowestoft
Smithies
Grimesthorpe
Chapeltown
Ruskington Fen

Many of these have not been straightforward with lost deeds and no property trustees. Grimesthorpe and Smithies sales have been completed recently and progress being made on Lowestoft, Chapeltown and Ruskington Fen.

We have continued to have meetings with other smaller denominations with a Wesleyan background under a move to form a grouping for mutual support called 'Association of Wesleyan Evangelicals (AWE). This has led to a partnership to offer training under the banner of the AWE Academy with Richard Saunders-Hindley as Director. The Theology Course prepared by Geoffrey Lee has been refined and is being delivered by the AWE Academy with Richard Saunders-Hindley and Steven Jenkins as tutors. It is planned to increase the suite of training available starting with delivering Discipleship face to face training in the next year.

The Trustees have performed a management function over the Union employees and continue to monitor the effectiveness of the roles. Grants have continued to be given in support of Churches and monitored by qualitative (reports etc.) and quantitative (measurable statistics etc.) means.

As part of the legal duties time has been given to discuss any changes in investment policies and any issue that may affect the reputation of the Union.

Sandra Fall is leaving the Trustee Board at Conference as she has been led to support Ian in the work of Flame International and we would like to thank her for her contribution over the last three years.

Statistics

Name of Church	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meetings (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
Ashby Circuit										
Ellistown		4						1	3	20
Ibstock		2								25
Moirā		7						1		12
New Swanington		4						1		14
	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	71
Bakewell Circuit										
Bonsall		10								10
Curbar		13	3					1		15
Stoney Middleton		7	1					1		8
Winstēr		4								10
Youlgrave		6						2		12
	0	40	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	55
Barnsley Circuit										
Cliffe Bridge		5	1					2		20
Dodworth		8	2							12
Ebenezer - Hunningley		7								8
Staincross Christian Fellowship	2	8	3							16
Worsbrough Community		4						2		7
	2	32	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	63
Bradford Circuit										
Addingham		13						2		16
Beacon Community Fellowship		35	1		2					35
Muff Field		14	1		1					11
	0	62	2	0	3	0	0	2	0	62
Roth, Mex & Don Circuit										
Bowbroom		24						2		20
Cornerstone		5								5
Hough Lane	16	12	2				40			26
Jump		23						1		22
Mexborough Life Church and Centre	20	61	1	21	6		4	4	11	91
Newhill		20	1					1		25
	36	145	4	21	6	0	44	8	11	189
Sheffield Circuit										
Coal Aston		2								4
Hampden View		14	5	3				1	10	22
Mayfield		11	2					1		14
Oughtibridge		11								
Owlerton		16						3	6	28
Philadelphia		4								5
Richmond		29	2	20	3	12	7	2	10	51
St Mary's		4						2		25
Woodseats		3						2		10
	0	94	9	23	3	12	7	11	26	159

Name of Church	Junior Members	Senior Members	Preachers Full & Trial	Scholars	Teachers	Children: Primary School	Young People: Senior School	Devotional Meetings (Inc. WA)	WA Members	Average Attendance
Wellingborough Circuit										
Alma Street		2								9
Bozeat TLC		15	2					1		18
Finedon		34							12	20
Isham		5								10
Rushden High Street		39	2	6	3		7	2		42
Rushden Mission		41	1	20	12	5	5	3	6	58
Wymington		8						1		14
	0	144	5	26	15	5	12	7	18	171
Non-Circuit Churches										
Aldermans Green		40		1	2			1		40
Ashington (Word of Life)	10	25	5	10	6			3	4	42
Attleborough		9	2					3	12	16
Beaconsfield		9								8
Bedworth		19	1					2		14
Birds Edge		9	2							8
Choppington		8	1							13
Church on the Rock		13	2	6	1		3	1		10
Clydebank Central	2	11	1	6	2		2	1	8	23
Denby Dale		6	1					1		18
Dorrington		6	1		1			2		25
Fritwell		8								12
Glasgow Abundant Life and Liberty Centre	2	6	1				2			15
Griffydam		14		3	2		8	4		27
Hazlemere		25	1					2		36
Heath End		18	7	14	6	12		4		50
Heckington		4						2		7
Old Hill - St James		14							9	12
Ruskington		9	1							15
St Just (Free Church)		8						1		15
Syresham		11						1		18
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS										
TOTALS FOR 2024	35	834	46	102	41	49	69	67	90	1242
TOTALS FOR 2025	52	806	56	110	47	29	78	67	91	1194
INCREASE	17		10	8	6		9	0	1	
DECREASE		28				20				48

Additional Comments

All church closures had presented problems
The NSC had had to relinquish that role due to ill health and that was regrettable
We need to support churches at ground level
The DOC was working more locally with the Sheffield Circuit and other local area churches
We were endeavouring to revitalise the work at Bierley Lane in Bradford
Trustees were involved in training – alongside the Ministerial Committee
Mention was made about the “AWE Academy”
Sandra Fall would be leaving the Trustees at this Conference – she was thanked
Muriel Stonehewer was resigning as a Guardian Representative – she was thanked
Statistics – numbers were more stable than they had been in previous years.

From the floor:

Q: Regional workers – how will they be monitored and evaluated
A: Yes with qualitative and quantitatively ways
Q: Is there any help for churches appointing individual workers
A: This is already happening
Q: If a local church appointed a minister who would be the employer
A: It would be the denomination

Additional proposal (from our solicitors)

The Union may take over a number of properties
Deddington Manse, Bierly Church and Pitstone Manse
It was proposed and agreed that the Union take over responsibility for those properties

The report and statistics were proposed, seconded and approved

15. Overseas Missions Department Report

a. Report prepared by OM secretary Anne-Marie Wilcock

Thank you to everyone for all your support over the last year.

PROJECTS

The current Project is 'Hope for Children, Latvia 2024 to 2026

The latest total at the time of writing this report is an incredible £14,700 and this is only 11 months into our 2 year project! Thank you especially to Ian Sykes for coordinating the project, keeping us informed about developments, sending us newsletters and for arranging for Helen Vipass to be here with us at conference this year.

Looking forward, we would love to hear from anyone who has a suggestion for our next project 2026 to 2028. I'm mindful that a lot of our most recent projects have been closer to the United Kingdom so it would be good if we can reach out further into the world if possible.

PERSONNEL

It has been great to have Ian Fall (Flame International) and more recently Helen (Pioneers, formerly AWM) join the OM Team on Zoom over the last year and we're planning a Zoom meeting with Lesley Notghi (Good News Hospital, Madagascar) in the Autumn. It's been a great opportunity to get to know our Missions Personnel, find out more about what they're doing and pray for them.

PROVISION

At the March General Meeting we had to appeal for gifts to our general fund in order to be able to send our Missions Personnel their annual gift before the end of the financial year. Thank you to every individual and church that responded really quickly, which meant we were able to send the same amount this year as we'd sent to each of them in 2024.

PRAYER

Please continue to pray for our current and future projects and our personnel. We'd like to know any overseas missions individuals and organisations each of our churches support on a regular basis and will be emailing each church a questionnaire in the coming months. I think it will be encouraging for all of us to find out about the people and countries we are supporting.

Overseas Missions is for everyone whether we are on the OM Team or not. The great commission calls us to proclaim the Gospel in all nations. As always, if anyone wants to join the Team please speak to any of us.

b. List of Missions Personnel

Helen 2003
Pioneers UK and Ireland
PO Box 51 Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 3WQ
www.pioneers.org.uk

Dr Lesley Noghti 2016 Friends of Mandritsara Trust
29, Priory Road, Needingworth, Cambridgeshire, PE27 4SD
www.mandritsara.org.uk

Phil & Diane Benstead 1995 People International Ltd,
PO Box 310, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1WT
www.peopleintl.org.uk

Ian Fall 2023
Flame International, PO Box 424, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU11 9ER
www.flameinternational.org

Mark and Angie Barnes
WEC International, PO Box 6461. Coventry, CV3 9NR
www.wec-uk.org

Additional comments:

Project: Hope for children – 2nd year of a 2 year project

£15,500 raised in one year

Future projects – please give any ideas to one of the team

South America would be a good place to support

WRU members: Ian Fall, Leslie Noghti & Helen

Ian currently ministering in Ukraine

Sandra will be joining Ian in the work of Flame

There had been an increase in giving for missionaries

Please pray for future projects and mission personnel

Comments from the floor:

Reminder of a link to “Unreached people of the day” on the Union web site

The report and list of mission personnel were proposed, seconded and approved

TUESDAY, June 10th

Devotions were led by the President, Mr George Phillips. He read from Psalm 46, commented on us being refreshed and led in prayer. We sang “The Lord’s my Shepherd”

16. Resolution of Loyalty

to be moved by President, George Phillips

It is with great pleasure that the members of the 176th Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches assembled at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, send to your most Gracious Majesty their sincere and loyal greetings.

We recognise your dedicated service to our nation and commonwealth over the recent year sometimes under difficult personal circumstances and pledge our continued support as you faithfully carry out your duties.

We pray that God will sustain you and your family as you reign over us under His divine guidance and authority.

The above Resolution of Loyalty was proposed and approved. Conference stood to sing the National Anthem

17. **Safeguarding Report**

Report by Mr S Sykes

Sorry I cannot be with you in person but unfortunately June/July is my busiest time at work. This will not be a long report as there is not a huge amount to say, I continue to get enquiries from churches regarding different topics, mainly covering DBS checks or advice on what paperwork churches need in place. The basic safeguarding training course is now live on the union website but I have not had any feedback from any churches that have used it with their members yet but if anyone has used it either in a group setting or even run the presentation for themselves, please let me know how it went and how you found the course. If you found it useful or if you have any suggestions on anything else that you think could be added to it.

As far as Safeguarding goes there hasn't been any major new updates over the last 12 months. The big emphasis at the moment for all organisations is on The prevent duty and British values including county lines and radicalisation.

As churches we need to be integrating British values and fulfilling our prevent duty obligations all while fostering a safe and inclusive environment. The British values includes, The rule of law, Democracy, Individual Liberty and Mutual respect, they are designed to promote a culture of inclusivity and respect encouraging understanding and tolerance for diverse viewpoints and cultures. We need to highlight the importance of democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty into our daily routines and discussions.

The British values are closely tied in with the Prevent duty regulations that are designed to stop vulnerable people from ending up being radicalised and recruited into gangs or terrorist organisations. We should have a clear understanding and procedures in place for identifying and addressing potential radicalization risks.

We need to make sure our church leaders are equipped with the knowledge and confidence to recognise and respond to signs of radicalization, we need to look for changes in behaviour, increased interest in extremist views or any isolation from peers.

We should be engaging with other relevant agencies to build partnerships and share information.

County lines is the specific act of recruiting young and vulnerable children or adults to transport drugs or other illegal goods around the county. We need to look for signs of individuals being drawn into these criminal networks and provide support for those who may have been affected by county lines exploitation.

I continue as always to be available to assist if churches have any questions or concerns and can be contacted on my email or my mobile number but if you need a more rapid response you are better ringing me as with my current workload it sometimes takes me a while to reply to all my emails.

Take care and continue talking about safeguarding in your churches, the more it becomes part of our everyday life the less daunting it will become and we can better protect the vulnerable individuals we come into contact with on a daily basis.

In the absence of the Safeguarding Officer, the report was proposed by the President seconded and approved

18. **DOC, Home Missions and YPD Report**

Report by Pastor Andy Wilcock

DOC Area Worker Report

I have been working alongside a number of local churches in our area seeking pray, encourage, support with pastoral care, advice and offer support in outreach.

Supporting Philadelphia governance, pastoral support, building work,

Supporting members and trustees re: Greenhead Church closure, with pastorally and practical advice.

Coal Aston exploring possible Parenting Course through contact made at Hampden View Toddler Group.

Sheffield Fayre Outreach (August Bank Holiday) with Sheffield Circuit

Stone Middleton, Rose Hill & Cliffe Bridge regular prayer meetings.

Speaking at Jump, Denby Dale, Heckington.

Home Missions Report

Bible Society – A Quiet Revival (taken from the Bible Society Website)

“While some traditional denominations continue to face challenges, we’ve seen significant, broad-based growth among most expressions of Church – particularly in Roman Catholicism and Pentecostalism. There are now over 2 million more people attending church than there were six years ago.

The Quiet Revival shows that men (13 per cent) are more likely to attend church than women (10 per cent). And as well church decline being reversed, the Church is also becoming more ethnically diverse, with one in five people (19 per cent) coming from an ethnic minority. Close to half of young Black people aged 18–34 (47 per cent) are now attending church at least monthly, according to The Quiet Revival.

It’s also great to see that Bible reading and confidence in the Bible have increased as well as church growth. Some 67 per cent of churchgoing Christians read the Bible at least weekly outside church.”

This report makes for interesting reading, as does the articles written in response. Earlier this year an anonymous post on a local Facebook community page asked the question “Does anyone know of any good churches in our area?” The following discussion was very informative. We watched as people in our area expressed their opinions on what is a ‘Good Church’. What they thought of particular churches in our area, good and bad. Traditions of Christian denomination and sects were also discussed.

As we seek to make Christ known and to communicate the beautiful message of His gospel, it is vital that we understand what questions our society are asking. What the people living around our church are thinking about spiritual matters. Do people even know our church is there and open?

Are we offering the opportunity for people to explore the Christian Faith, Bible and message. Maybe using resources like Alpha, Christianity Explored or 3-2-1.

How are we praying as Churches and believers. Are our prayers informed by a knowledge of the people living in our area, their opinions and experience of spirituality. What challenges are they facing, poverty, materialism, loneliness, fear, guilt, grief, isolation etc.? How is our church alongside other churches looking to connect with people and serve our community?

Our Home Missions Committee would love to hear from you. We'd love to pray with you as a Church. Explore with you how to reach you own area with the great and beautiful message of Jesus and His gospel of hope. We invite new members to join us as a committee to pray with churches, support them in outreach and encourage them to grow in faith, holiness and numerically.

Please do get in touch with us. Andy Wilcock – doc@thewru.co.uk

Additional comments:

How well do we know our areas – get to know the local people (dog walkers, school gates etc)
Pray for their needs

From the floor:

How can we learn from one another – sharing experiences
Share our blessings with others
Should we continue with activities during the quiet months – e.g. August
Possible Zoom meeting for mutual learning and encouragement
Consider joining a non-church activities
Men's group at Bozeat (MOB) – Men of Bozeat – many opportunities for witness
Philadelphia church is becoming alive again – used by another church

The report was proposed, seconded and approved

AWE Academy

At this point on the agenda, we had time left and so Richard Saunders-Hindley was asked to report on the work of the AWE academy:

Associate of Wesleyan Evangelicals
WRU, Independent Methodist, Free Methodists & Methodist Evangelicals Together
To form Christ-like disciples & leaders for the renewal of local churches.
Working with students on the WRU theology course
Making training and learning opportunities available online
In-person opportunities to be made available
Evangelism & Pastoral care training available
Want to hear from people in our churches of their training needs

19. Union Treasurer's Report

Report by Mr G Phillips

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

		2024/2025	2023/2024
Employment of Funds			
LAND AND BUILDINGS		760,000	760,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	28,877	28,801	
Less: Depreciation to date	20,697	8,180	16,408
			12,393
INVESTMENTS		1,016,751	1,009,874
LOANS TO CHURCHES			
Extension Fund		58,750	60,750
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors:	Union	416	897
	Year Books	31	21
	Pension Scheme	33,532	
	Interest	3,500	
National Westminster Bank plc			
	Deposit Account	326,251	237,292
	Current Account	7,348	7,901
Cash in Hand		2,212	1,368
		<u>373,290</u>	<u>247,479</u>
		2,216,971	2,090,496
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors:	Union Expenses, etc.	1,128	1,128
	Actuarial Fees	4,000	3,800
		<u>5,128</u>	<u>4,928</u>
		2,211,843	2,085,568
REPRESENTED BY:			
Property Fund		760,000	760,000
Chapel Extension Fund		640,366	574,765
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund		4,465	4,026
Home Missions Account		631	854
Overseas Missions	General Fund	1,398	2,294
	Training Fund	2,367	2,367
	Project Fund	8,544	2,227
Young People's Department Account		9,535	9,095
Christian Ethics and Social Action		1,278	1,209
Ministers Provident Society		8,600	11,472
Local Preachers Fellowship		2,429	2,644
Women of Action		792	820
General Reserve		192,638	182,056
Holdback Policy Capital Account		<u>578,800</u>	<u>531,739</u>
		2,211,843	2,085,568

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

		2024/2025	2023/2024
Income			
Assessment		30,451	30,608
Investment income		30,932	21,984
Year Books sales		490	442
Conference income		10,946	11,037
Sundries		725	414
From General Reserve		<u>15,898</u>	<u>17,111</u>
		<u>89,442</u>	<u>81,596</u>
Expenditure			
Salaries etc		40,825	39,300
Pension		7,558	7,451
Head Office Expenses		3,360	3,483
Year Books costs		344	476
Conference costs	2024	12,698	10,003
	2025	4,130	
Administration -	Telephone	1,227	1,313
	Postage	158	314
	Stationery	3,021	3,222
	Insurance	<u>831</u>	<u>443</u>
		5,237	5,292
Travelling -	Conference	312	387
	General Meetings	1,208	1,193
	Committees	<u>1,534</u>	<u>1,416</u>
		3,054	2,996
Sundry Expenses-	Subscriptions	1,474	1,968
	Bank charges	500	551
	Sundries	<u>1,974</u>	<u>72</u>
			2,591
Depreciation		4,963	4,811
Accountants		1,128	1,128
Actuaries		<u>4,171</u>	<u>4,065</u>
		<u>89,442</u>	<u>81,596</u>

GENERAL RESERVE**2024/2025****2023/2024**

Balance 1st April 2024	182,056	178,720
Collections		
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	7,319	8,470
Less costs	<u>1,173</u>	<u>3,585</u>
	6,146	4,885
Rent from Thornbrook Close	10,196	9,920
Less costs	<u>1,086</u>	<u>913</u>
	9,110	9,007
Rent from Willow Walk	11,520	9,360
Less costs	<u>1,452</u>	<u>115</u>
	10,068	9,245
Rent from Windsor Road	12,406	11,473
Less costs	<u>574</u>	<u>470</u>
	11,832	11,003
	<u>219,212</u>	<u>212,860</u>
Legal advice	10,676	10,261
Database		3,432
Union Expenses	15,898	17,111
Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2025	<u>192,638</u>	<u>182,056</u>
	<u>219,212</u>	<u>212,860</u>

		2024/2025	2023/2024
HOME MISSIONS			
Balance 1st April 2024		854	770
Donations		2,780	2,769
Interest		27	17
Transfer from Chapel Extension Fund		92,500	121,000
		<u>96,161</u>	<u>124,556</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant		20,189	19,456
Car		3,367	2,603
Travel		213	332
Cost of National Spiritual Coordinator		30,105	40,808
Car		4,307	4,533
Travel			985
Accommodation			368
Grants	New Swan/Ellistown	3,600	
	Rushden Mission	5,000	
	Ashington	7,804	
	Bedworth	9,000	
	Richmond	8,000	
	Bethel, Bierley	3,750	
		<u>37,154</u>	<u>54,617</u>
Training		195	
Balance 31st March 2025		<u>631</u>	<u>854</u>
		<u>96,161</u>	<u>124,556</u>
YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT			
Balance 1st April 2024		9,095	8,786
Donations		148	110
Interest		292	199
		<u>9,535</u>	<u>9,095</u>
Salary, etc.			
Travel			
Balance 31st March 2025		<u>9,535</u>	<u>9,095</u>
		<u>9,535</u>	<u>9,095</u>
CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION			
Balance 1st April 2024		1,209	449
Donations		1,040	950
Interest		39	10
		<u>2,288</u>	<u>1,409</u>
Grants	Caring for Life	350	
	Christian Institute	350	
	Day One	100	
Conference fees		210	200
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2025		<u>1,278</u>	<u>1,209</u>
		<u>2,288</u>	<u>1,409</u>

		2024/2025		2023/2024	
LOCAL PREACHERS FELLOWSHIP					
Balance 1st April 2024		2,644		2,899	
Ministry Day		60			
Donation		100			
Interest		85		65	
		<u>2,889</u>		<u>2,964</u>	
Ministry Day		250		120	
Conference		210		200	
Sundries					
Balance 31st March 2025	General Fund	782		997	
	Trust Fund	1,647	2,429	1,647	2,644
		<u>2,889</u>		<u>2,964</u>	
ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND					
Balance 1st April 2024		4,026		4,275	
Donations		860		1,025	
Fees					
Ministers/Pastors donations		10			
Interest		129		97	
Transfer from Chapel Extension Fund		4,500		4,000	
		<u>9,525</u>		<u>9,397</u>	
Tutor Salary etc.		160		99	
Pastoral Salary etc		3,701		3,556	
Service Increments		310		310	
Travel					
Removal fees					
CPD Accreditation		714		714	
Training				542	
Ministers & Pastors speaker		175		150	
Balance 31st March 2025		4,465		4,026	
		<u>9,525</u>		<u>9,397</u>	
WOMEN OF ACTION					
Balance 1st April 2024		820		898	
Donations		206		152	
Interest		26		20	
		<u>1,052</u>		<u>1,070</u>	
Conference		210		200	
Coordinator Gift		50		50	
Balance 31st March 2025		792		820	
		<u>1,052</u>		<u>1,070</u>	

MINISTERS PROVIDENT SOCIETY

Balance 1st April 2024	11,472	15,238
Donations	1,060	1,990
Legacy	500	
Interest	368	344
	<u>13,400</u>	<u>17,572</u>
Gifts	4,800	5,100
Funeral contributions		1,000
Balance 31st March 2025	<u>8,600</u>	<u>11,472</u>
	<u>13,400</u>	<u>17,572</u>

2024/2025

2023/2024

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

General Fund

Balance 1st April 2024	2,294	403
Donations	3,669	2,028
Interest	145	63
Sundries		
	<u>6,108</u>	<u>2,494</u>

Conference fees	210	200
Postage		
Grants (2years)	Arab World Missions 1,500	
	Friends of Mandritsara 1,500	
	Flame International <u>1,500</u>	<u>4,500</u>
		<u>0</u>

Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2025	<u>1,398</u>	<u>2,294</u>
	<u>6,108</u>	<u>2,494</u>

Training Fund

Balance 1st April 2024	2,367	2,367
Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2025	<u>2,367</u>	<u>2,367</u>

Safe Haven Project

Balance 1st April 2024	2,227	1,525
Donations	1,382	6,685
	<u>3,609</u>	<u>8,210</u>

Grant	3,609	5,983
Balance 31st March 2025	<u>0</u>	<u>2,227</u>
	<u>3,609</u>	<u>8,210</u>

Latvia Family Centre Renovation Project

Balance 1st April 2024	0	
Donations	13,044	
	<u>13,044</u>	<u>0</u>

Grant	4,500	
Balance 31st March 2025	<u>8,544</u>	
	<u>13,044</u>	<u>0</u>

		2024/2025	2023/2024
CHAPEL EXTENSION FUND			
Balance 1st April 2024		574,765	491,238
Sales	Nuneaton		243,388
	Grimesthorpe		182
	Brant Broughton	22,623	
	Souldern	24,755	
	Deddington	177,140	
		<u>799,283</u>	<u>734,808</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		92,500	121,000
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		4,500	4,000
Grants	Griffydam	15,000	
			3,491
Costs	Smithies	19,303	
	Grimesthorpe	23,694	
	Deddington	2,310	
	Lowestoft	<u>1,610</u>	
		46,917	31,552
Balance 31st March 2025	Investments	581,616	514,015
	Loans	<u>58,750</u>	<u>60,750</u>
		640,366	574,765
		<u>799,283</u>	<u>734,808</u>

CHAPEL EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/24	Balance 31/03/24	Repaid Year to 31/03/25	Balance 31/03/25	Collection Received 31/03/25
2018 St Just	30,000		23,250	2,000	21,250	
2009 Clydebank	60,000		37,500		37,500	
		0	60,750	2,000	58,750	0

		2024/2025	2023/2024
HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT			
Balance 1st April 2024		531,739	468,177
Sales	Nuneaton		100,000
	Brant Broughtom	21,350	
	Souldern	24,754	
	Deddington	75,246	
	Grimesthorpe	27,151	
		<u>680,240</u>	<u>568,177</u>
Grants	Muffield	6,600	
	Hough Lane	12,500	
	Jump	3,500	
	Cornerstone	5,500	
	Aldermans Green	22,470	
	Heath End	17,761	
	Bedworth	20,778	
	Worsborough	2,500	
	Hampden View	<u>9,831</u>	<u>36,438</u>
Balance 31st March 2025	Bakewell Circuit	119,976	119,976
	Barnsley Circuit	41,457	43,957
	Bradford Circuit	7,623	14,223
	Denby Dale	20,419	20,419
	Guidepost	25,000	25,000
	Mexborough	50,632	50,632
	Mexborough Capital	53,182	53,182
	R,M & D Circuit	50,829	72,328
	Sleaford Area	61,521	40,171
	Syresham/Fritwell/ Hazlemere/Beaconsfield		
		100,000	
	Sheffield Circuit	17,319	
	Coventry/Nuneaton	26,991	88,000
	Wellingboro Circuit	<u>3,851</u>	<u>3,851</u>
		578,800	531,739
		<u>680,240</u>	<u>568,177</u>

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Interest from Investments	32,043	22,799
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	<u>30,932</u>	<u>21,984</u>
	<u>1,111</u>	<u>815</u>
Distribution:		
Home Missions	27	17
Overseas Missions	145	63
Young People's Department	292	199
Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid	129	97
Ministers Provident Society	368	344
Christian Ethics and Social Action	39	10
Women of Action	26	20
Local Preachers Fellowship	<u>85</u>	<u>65</u>
	<u>1,111</u>	<u>815</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2024	Invested 2024/2025	Repaid 2024/2025	Invested at 31/03/2025
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	509,874	6,877	300,000	216,751
Virgin Fixed Term Bond		300,000		300,000
	1,009,874	306,877	300,000	1,016,751

Additional Comments:

Union expenses & Gen reserve – used for running the Union
Conference costs over two years made a loss because we subsidise certain costs
General Reserve has increased – more than broken even – due to increase in interest & property income
Retirement benefits scheme - no active members – bought out by an insurance company
Home Missions: lower transfer from extension fund – ceased to support Edison Mubengo
Continued to pay Michael Hedley as NSC – full rate for 6 months then ministerial minimum
MPS – balance gradually decreasing
Proposal to MPS & OM to underwrite support to retired ministers and mission personnel
Various churches have been sold – some above asking price but others below expected price
Balance sheet – higher now due to receiving the money from the sale of Deddington
Support given to various funds - £230,000
Given £2.1 million since 2010
No need to increase assessment

From the floor:

Thanks to George
Holdback balance sheet – are churches aware of money available and what it can be used for
Aldermans Green thanked us for their Holdback monay

The report was proposed, seconded and approved

20. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report

a. Report by Alina Taylor

The Housing for Retired Ministers Fund is there to support our ordained Ministers financially, particularly at the time of their retirement when sometimes they have problems with housing and other needs.

If such needs arise, please contact the Administration Manager to request an application form. Any requests will receive a sympathetic ear.

The Trustees for the fund remain: Muriel Stonehewer, George Phillips, Cliff Darby and David Rooksby.

We thank all the Churches for their donations in support of this fund. It is much appreciated, and we look forward to new and continued support. If any Church feels able to support this fund, kindly send donations to the WRU Head office.

c. Accounts by Mr G Phillips

The report and accounts were proposed, seconded and approved

Report from LWPT

Given by Ian Buchanan – Chairman of LWPT
Reference to a quiet revival
We are flat-lining rather than decline
10% up to 12% in monthly attendance
2024 – record amount of people attending Alpha course
Purchases of Bible risen to 28%
“Responding to the re-birth” Conference in November

ORDINATION

The day ended with a service to recognise the Ordination of Graham Johnson from our Bedworth church.

WEDNESDAY, June 11th

Devotions were led by Muriel Stonehewer (representing the WA). She read from John 10, commented on Jesus being our gate-keeper and led in prayer. We sang "I, the Lord of sea & sky"

21. Ministers' Provident Society Report

Report by Rev P Hearson

It is our pleasure to be able to report on the work of the Ministers' Provident Society. The Society was set up in its current form over 100 years ago to support ministers and their spouses in retirement and to provide a gift on the death of either the minister or spouse to help towards funeral expenses. We are pleased to report that we have been able to continue to meet that purpose and over the last year we have supported 6 ministers and 3 widows. They are very thankful for the quarterly gifts; they will testify that they often arrive at just the right time to meet a particular need.

Our accounts in the handbook show that funds have again fallen. At present, at current levels of gifts to the members, funds would only provide for less than two years. We have had discussions with the Union Treasurer regarding the future of the Society and will report more to Conference.

We also note that donations to the Society have fallen over the past year by almost 50%. While we, of course, are most grateful for your donations, and also understand that there are many pressing demands on the finances of churches, we would ask you to look upon us favourably when deciding on future giving.

We want to say a big thank you to individuals and churches who have supported us financially and in prayer.

Sharon Hollamby – Chair
Phil Hearson – Secretary
David Rooksby – Treasurer

Additional comments:

Few small rule changes – no longer need a treasurer – additional Board member
Board members: Phil Hartshorn, Peter Norton, Cliff Darby, David Rooksby & Colin Braithwaite
Regular gift £164 & funeral grant of 564

The report was proposed, seconded and approved

22. Equip to Serve (LPF) Report

Report by J. Clarke

Throughout the year we had met on 7th Nov 2024 and January 23rd 2025, via zoom.

PRESENT Committee members are:

D. Tuckett (chair), Jackie Clarke (sec) Cliff Darby, Daphne Hodgkinson, Phillip Hartshorn, Jim Rossell, Howard Copley, Brian Hyde, Michael Hedley. Thank you to all who serve in this way.

Equip to serve needed to be formally changed as our name within Union paperwork, hopefully this is now the case.

Delegates and visitors to conference are very welcome to attend the annual general meeting at conference. We wish to further grow the work of the Equip to Serve amongst the Union of churches.

This year's day of ministry is to be held on 4th October 2025. Our venue will be the Little Chapel at Bedworth. The church has now confirmed that there is extra car parking available at the church opposite. Lunch will be a fish and chip meal. The ministry day will be free but people may give a freewill offering if so desired. Our speaker will be: Ian Buchanan of LWPT (leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust). Our theme will be a practical Bible based speaking workshop. Please book early.

In 2026 we are in the process of booking Ian Coffey of Moorlands college. He is firmly booked for 3rd October 2026, on the subject of faith. We would be glad if one of our Midlands or southern churches would be able to supply a venue.

Thanks be to our Saviour that a number of our local preachers have now served faithfully for many years in some cases. Throughout the year we have given out a framed certificate to: Julia Hodson, Howard Copley, Joyce Turner from Dorrington. Muriel Stonehewer and recently George Phillips, Barry Kimber and Martin Drake at Muff Field.

Please if you are able, complete a questionnaire, regarding what further support is needed for our preachers. How can we encourage new preachers to take on the role?

Additional comments:

2 Cor 9:8 – “God is able to make all grace abound.....”

New members welcome

Day of Ministry 2025 at Bedworth – Ian Buchanan (LWPT)

Day of Ministry 2026 at Bozeat – Ian Coffey (Moorlands College)

The report and statistics were proposed, seconded and approved

23. Ministerial Committee Report

Report by Rev. Sharon Hollamby, presented by Rev. Peter Norton

Firstly, it has been my privilege and pleasure to support Graham Johnson through the Theology Course, and after applying for ordination, to be able to meet with him for his final interview, and to discuss his calling to ordination. The Committee and myself were encouraged by the way Graham is serving the church at Bedworth, and after a successful interview, we were unanimous in putting him forward for ordination. Graham has been faithful to the congregation there, and I ask again for your prayers for Graham and Natalie as they seek to serve the Lord in that place.

Our students continue to be excellently supported by Richard Saunders-Hindley and Steven Jenkins on the WRU Theology Course, so please speak to them. And again, if you have anyone in your congregations asking questions or interested in going deeper in their knowledge of the nature of God, and their beliefs; please speak to myself, Richard, or Steven, as we consider the second cohort starting date.

As we seek to fulfil the aims of this committee, we realise communication is essential. We can only assist and encourage Churches and Pastors if we are made aware of situations. We continue to support several churches seeking to fill Ministerial vacancies. Please contact us via Alina, if you require assessment of suitable candidates or interview support. Rev Peter Norton provides valuable Pastoral support in whatever way he can, so please communicate.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who lead our churches and seek to do our Lord's will. We desire to see people equipped to serve where they are. I believe this is an exciting time for our churches IF we are prepared to journey forward with expectancy and hope in our Lord. I pray we will all grow in the power of His Holy Spirit.

Ministers

Ministers ordained by the Union

(figures in brackets denote years in Present Charge)

**Year
Ordained**

Active Ministers

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1998 | Phillip J Hearson
11 South Park, Rushden, Northants. NN10 9LY
Tel: 01933 312392 Email: p-j.hearson@sky.com
RUSHDEN HIGH STREET (18) |
| 2004 | Ian Fall
6 Gallagher Road, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 8SB
Tel: 07986 676876 Email: ian.fall@virgin.net |
| 2013 | Stephen Blyth BA (Hons) JNC
12 Rannoch Drive, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 9DT
Tel: 07583 001679 Email: blyth.sa@gmail.com |
| 2015 | Eddison Mubengo
56 West Donnington Street, Darvel, KA17 0AP
Tel: 01560 673507 Email: mubengoe@yahoo.co.uk |
| 2016 | Sharon Hollamby BA
2 Willow Walk, Hazlemere, HP15 7UJ
Tel: 01494 815858 Email: ministerhfmchurch@hotmail.com
HAZLEMERE CHURCH (8) |
| 2017 | Michael Hedley
12 Warren Court, Ashington, Northumberland N63 8LL
Tel: 01670 814425 Email: nsc@thewru.co.uk |
| 2021 | David Bracken
161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9TA
Tel: 07900 615063 Email: revdbrkn.rushden81@gmail.com
RUSHDEN MISSION CHURCH (2) |

Retired Ministers

- 1971 Anthony E Hodkinson**
30 Beaumont Avenue, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicester, LE65 2NF
Tel: 01530 416521 Email: daphton@sky.com
- 1974 Maurice Nicholls**
29 Willow Court, Uplands Drive, Markfield, Leicester, LE67 9WF
Tel: 01530 242422 Email: carolnicholls72@gmail.com
- 1988 Peter H Norton**
75 Upper George Street, Higham Ferrers, Northants, NN10 8JN
Tel: 01933 356104 Email: revsnorton@btinternet.com
- 1998 Michael G Alderson**
3 Link Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9LB
Tel: 01933 413136 Email: Malderson@btinternet.com
- 1980 Colin Braithwaite**
2 Hawthorn Court, 27 Kedleston Road, Derby, DE22 1FY
Email: colin.braithwaite@btinternet.com
- 1985 Stephen Griffiths**
34 Penfolds, Halton Brook, Runcorn, Halton, WA7 2DG
Tel: 01928 621080 Email: stephengriffiths@mypostoffice.co.uk

Ministers and pastors independently appointed by churches

- Ishaku Bitrus** **CLYDEBANK CHURCH**
21 Dunmore Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire G81 1RJ
Tel: 0141 952 2293 Email: ajibauka@gmail.com
- Joyce Turner** **DORRINGTON CHURCH**
17 Springfield Road, Ruskington, Lincolnshire, NG34 9HG
Tel: 01526 832334 Email: dorringtonwru261@btinternet.com
- Rachel Corbett** **HOUGH LANE (TOGETHER) CHURCH**
50 Riber Avenue, Barnsley, S71 3PU
Tel: 07703 828936 Email: crippin0212@sky.com
- Geoff Cottam** **ST JUST CHURCH**
Springfield, Trelyon Close, Rectory Road, St Buryan, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 6BB
Tel: 01736 810077 Email: est.e.cott@gmail.com
- James Fenton** **MUFF FIELD CHURCH**

12 Brodley Close, Hipperholme, Halifax, HX3 8LS

Tel: 01422 208028

Email: isaiah40v8@gmail.com

Lanre Atanda

ASHINGTON, WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

69 North Seaton Road, Central Ashington, NE63 0AG

Tel: 07438 326810

Email: wol.pastor@outlook.com

Steve Jenkins

MEXBOROUGH LIFE CHURCH AND CENTRE

New Oxford Road, Mexborough, Swinton, S64 0JL

Tel: 07904 452940

Email: stevendjenkins@icloud.com

Graham Johnson

BEDWORTH (THE LITTLE CHAPEL)

37 Regent Street, Bedworth, Warwickshire, CV12 9BN

Tel: 02476 319710

Email: tlcbedworth@gmail.com

John Langford

NEW SWANNINGTON & ELLISTOWN CHURCHES

133 Loughborough Road, Whitwick, Leicestershire, LE67 5AS

Tel: 01530 451549

Email: jjjslangford@ntlworld.com

Steve & Lisa Macbeth

HEATH END CHURCH

14 Dorset Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 8EN

Tel: 02477 051943

Email: lisamarymac@gmail.com

Andrew Wilcock

HAMPDEN VIEW CHURCH

29 Daniel Hill Street, Walkley, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S6 3JH

Tel: 07792 944217

Email: andymarkw@gmail.com

Jonathan & Susannah Youdan

MAYFIELD CHURCH

159 Abbeyfield Road, Sheffield, S4 7AU

Tel: 0114 242 4639

Email: jyoudan06@aol.com or syoudan6@aol.com

Ministers Awaiting Ordination

Graham Johnson

37 Regent Street, Bede, Bedworth, CV12 9BN

Tel: 02476 319710

Email: tlcbedworth@gmail.com

Additional comments

Pastors to the pastors report – not appropriate for public sharing

Eddison Mubengo to come off the list

Graham Johnson to be transferred to official list

Michael Hedley to move to the retired list

Rachel Corbett removed from the independent list

It was emphasised that independently appointed are at the request of the church not the minister

The report and list of ministers were proposed, seconded and approved.

Graham Johnson was congratulated on his Ordination

24. **Christian Ethics and Social Action**

Report by Mr Graham Johnson

As I write this report, I am aware that the Assisted Dying Bill, more correctly called the Terminally Ill (End of Life) Bill is nearing the report stage in the House of Commons on May 16th. This allows all MPs, not just those on the relevant Public Bill Committee, to amend the Bill. They will be able to propose and debate amendments or new clauses and vote on proposed changes to the Bill.

There is still a long way to go with this Bill – it hasn't gone to the House of Lords yet, and there is still time to lobby our MPs to vote against it. There seems to be growing support for the view that the implementation of this bill would undermine the value of human life for some disabled or sick members of the community. We would urge you to pray that this Bill does not succeed and the sanctity of life is preserved.

Employers, schools, Sports Associations and many other organisations are now implementing the gender assignment ruling that came from the Supreme Court. This ruling states that sex is binary. In other words the term 'woman' refers to a biological woman. And facilities such as toilets and changing rooms provided for women can only be used by biological women, not by men, even if they have had gender reassignment.

There is still much confusion and discontent over this but we must continue to pray that the ruling stands.

At the time of writing the Church of England is yet to appoint a new Archbishop of Canterbury. More than 11,000 people, including children, responded to a Public Consultation on the appointment of the new Archbishop. They were able to propose candidates and comment on what they thought the needs of the Church of England are.

The responses will help inform the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission who will consider the needs of both the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion. We must pray that the person chosen will be the one God wants.

Finally, we should not forget the various conflicts which are ongoing around the world, for example Ukraine, Gaza and India. You may be aware of others. We continue to pray for peace between nations, and for humanitarian needs to be met.

And we repeat our call for new members to join our committee. If you have a passion for any of the topics featured in this report, or other areas of society where Christian influence is needed, then please consider being a part of CESA. Together we can make a difference.

CESA Committee Members:

Chair – Stuart Allen

Administrator – Andy Wilcock

Committee Members – Rev Philip Hearson, Phil Hartshorn, Jim Rossell, Graham Johnson

Additional comments:

Assisted dying bill progress was different to that recorded above

From the floor

Do we put our public statements as a Union – no, but maybe we should

Should we put out a statement

New committee members would be welcome

"Care" organisation is a useful source of information and action

Would a union statement need to be approved by the denomination members

It was thought that we could not put out a statement on behalf of the Union unless approved by Trustees

We should be praying believing that it will be defeated
 Be sure to add a home address to any correspondence to our MP or local councillor
 “Living Wills” are enforceable and medics MUST respect them
 Already excellent “end of life” pathways are available

The report was proposed, seconded and approved.

25. Approval of Union Committees for 2025-2026

UNION DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES FOR 2024-2025				
UNION TRUSTEES	HOME MISSIONS/YPD	OVERSEAS MISSIONS	CESA	MINISTERIAL
President	Andy Wilcock (DOC, Chair & Sec)	Anne-Marie Wilcock (Coordin/Sec)	Stuart Allen (Chair)	President
Admin Manager	Michael Hedley	Phil Hearson	Andy Wilcock (Sec)	Admin Manager
Union Treasurer (Chair)	Adam Shepherd	Graham Evans	Phil Hearson	Sharon Hollamby (Chair)
Stuart Allen	Beth Ely	Stuart Allen	Phil Hartshorn	Colin Braithwaite
Daphne Hodkinson	David Bracken	Carole Parkinson	James Rossell	David Rooksby
Graham Evans	Peter Norton	Ellie Minney	Graham Johnson	Andy Wilcock
David Rooksby	Phil Hartshorn	James Rossell		Peter Norton
Colin Braithwaite	Lisa Macbeth	David Tucket		George Phillips
Phil Hearson		Phil Hearson		
Sharon Hollamby			Plus, any co-options they may wish to make	
MPS	E2S			MAGAZINE
Sharon Hollamby (Chair)	David Tuckett (Chair)			Admin Manager (Chair & Sec)
Phil Hearson (Sec)	Jackie Clarke (Sec)			Andy Wilcock
David Rooksby	Brian Hyde			Daphne Hodkinson
Colin Braithwaite	Howard Copley			Cliff Darby
Peter Norton	Daphne Hodkinson			Muriel Stonehewer
Cliff Darby	Cliff Darby			Marie Nichols
Phil Hartshorn	Phil Hartshorn			Beryl Green
	James Rossell			
	Michael Hedley			

To be a member of a committee an individual should generally be a church member

The above Committees were presented and approved

26. Any Other Business

The Union treasurer brought to Conference the proposal that the Union underwrites support to retired minister and current mission personnel:

“The chapel extensions fund will underwrite, where necessary, gifts to the beneficiaries of the Ministers Provident Society (MPS) and Overseas Missions personnel with a connection to a Wesleyan Reform Union church to the level of 2025 gifts, revaluated every year by CPI inflation while maintaining a minimum year-end balance of £5,000 for MPS and £1,000 for the Overseas Missions General Fund.”

This was approved.

27. Vote of Thanks

Thanks were expressed to everyone who had assisted at Conference in any way. Alina, in turn, was thanked by the President.

Communion

Conference closed with a service of communion which made an excellent end to an excellent Conference.

**MEMORANDUM OF RESOLUTION
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
WESLEYAN REFORM UNION OF CHURCHES
("the WRU-CIO")**

(a charitable incorporated organisation registered charity number 1203983)

At a meeting of the Annual Conference of the Members of the WRU-CIO on 9th day of June 2025

The members were reminded that:

- The WRU-CIO was registered by the Charity Commission as a charitable incorporated organisation on 13 July 2023 as the successor charity to a charitable unincorporated association of the same name. The transfer of assets from the unincorporated charity to the CIO was completed on 30th April 2025
- The WRU-CIO is governed by a Constitution and accompanied by a Union Handbook that sets out how the WRU-CIO will operate.
- The Union Handbook can be amended by a resolution/notice of motion passed by a 75% majority of votes cast at the Annual Conference of the members of the Union. The resolution/notice of motion to be debated at the Annual Conference must be brought to a general meeting held at least six months preceding it.
- The Charity Trustees of the WRU-CIO proposed some minor amendments to the Union Handbook, the details of which were circulated to members of the WRU-CIO and debated at a general meeting held on 19th October 2024.

The members RESOLVED to amend the WRU-CIO Union Handbook as follows:

1. To add numbering to the heading "Charity Trustees" so that it reads "7. Charity Trustees" and renumber subsequent clauses accordingly.
2. To changes references to "Local Preachers Fellowship" to "Equip to Serve" in clauses 5.2 and 8.1 (renumbered as 9.1).
3. To add ")" to the end of clause 10.1 (renumbered as 11.1) before ".".
4. To delete the words "remove, assist or encourage" from the statement on marriage in the Ethical Statements contained in Appendix C.
5. To change the word 'him' to 'them' in the last phrase of the Confession of Faith clause 6 of Appendix A

The members RESOLVED to amend the WRU-CIO Constitution as follows:

To change the word 'him' to 'them' in the last phrase of the Confession of Faith clause 6 of Appendix 1

This is a correct record of the resolution passed at the meeting and takes effect on the date of the meeting.

Signed: **CHAIR OF THE MEETING**