

WRU Annual Conference 2026

LIST OF OFFICERS 2025-2026

PRESIDENT

Mr George Phillips

PAST PRESIDENT

Rev Michael Hedley

PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE

Mr David Tuckett

TREASURER

Mr George Phillips

GUARDIAN REPRESENTATIVES

Mr George Phillips

Rev Phillip J Hearson

Rev Colin Braithwaite

TRUSTEES

Mr Stuart Allen

Mr Graham Evans

Mrs Daphne Hodgkinson

Rev Sharon Hollamby

Mr David Rooksby

PASTOR TO THE PASTORS

Rev Peter Norton

ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Mrs Alina Taylor

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Mrs Debbie Young

REPRESENTATIVE OF OVERSEAS MISSIONS

Mrs Anne-Marie Wilcock

REPRESENTATIVE OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION

Rev Graham Johnson

REPRESENTATIVE OF E2S (EQUIP TO SERVE)

Mr David Tuckett

REPRESENTATIVE OF HOME MISSIONS AND YPD

Mr Andy Wilcock

CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

Alderman's Green	David	Lee
Attleborough	Matthew	Halladay
Attleborough	Barrie	Parsons
Beacon Community	Tony	Brown
Bedworth	Natalie	Johnson
Bowbroom	Christine	Houghton
Bozeat	Lyndis	Payne
Cliffe Bridge	Ann	Hewitt
Coal Aston	Muriel	Stonehewer
Cornerstone	John	Houghton
Dodworth	Philip	Hartshorn
Dorrington	Kathleen	Kinnard
Ellistown	John	Langford
Finedon	Nick	Addington
Griffydam	Judith	Darby
Hampden View	Carole	Parkinson
Hazlemere	Tony	Child
Heath End	Lisa	Macbeth
Hough Lane	Graham	Evans
Ibstock	Clifford	Darby
Jump	Ian	Sykes
Mayfield	Margaret	Kay
Mexborough	Andrew	Copley
Newhill	Jean	Sykes
Owlerton	Maureen	Robinson
Richmond	Martin	Ludbrook
Rushden High Street	Anne	Hearson
Rushden Mission	David	Bracken
Ruskington	George	Phillips
St James - Old Hill	Elaine	Heathcock
Stoney Middleton	Beth	Ely
Ashington	Lanre	Atanda
Worsbrough Community	Tracey	Hamby
Wymington	Robert	Major

UNION DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE

Christian Ethics and Social Action	Graham	Johnson
Home Missions & YPD	Andy	Wilcock
E2S (Equip to Serve)	David	Tuckett
Ministerial	Sharon	Hollamby
Overseas Missions	Anne-Marie	Wilcock

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Ian	Fall
Sandra	Fall
Arthur	Hammond
John	Hancon
Susan	Hartshorn
Julia	Hodson
Steven	Jenkins
Colin	Johnson
Hugh	Kinnard
Helen	Lee
Ellie	Minney
Susan	Norton
Audrey	Parsons
Douglas	Reid
Stella	Reid
Sandra	Rooksby
John	Russell
Richard	Saunders-Hindley
Benny	Seeds
John	Sucksmith
Anthony	Taylor
Elaine	Tuckett
Jackie	Willis
Susan	Woods

MINUTES OF BUSINESS

For The 177th 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
TUESDAY MORNING
WEDNESDAY MORNING

THE RETIRING PRESIDENT
THE PRESIDENT

Mr George Phillips
Mr David Tuckett
Mrs Lisa Macbeth

MONDAY, June 22nd 2026

Opening Devotions

Devotions were led by the retiring President, Mr George Phillips. He read from Colossians 4:12 & 13 and commented on the frequency, fervency, focus and foundation of Epaphras' prayer. The President led us in prayer and we sang "Lord, for the years".

1. Names of Representatives

The names of representatives (as per the above list) were taken "as read".

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Jackie Clarke, Stuart Allen, Daphne & Tony Hodgkinson, Sue & Tom Partridge-Underwood and Michael & Lindsay Hedley.

2. Appointment of:

- Secretary to Conference: **Mrs Alina Taylor**
- Recorders of Minutes: **Rev Colin Braithwaite**

- Letter Writers: **Muriel Stonehewer, Carole Parkinson**
- Decide as to the admission of representatives of the Press and Visitors: **Approved**

3. **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

4. **Obituaries**

Conference stood to remember all who has passed to Glory since we last met. Particular mention was made of David Cartledge, Maurice Beasley, Ken Goreham and Brian Hyde. Prayer was offered.

5. **Read Correspondence for Conference**

There was no correspondence to bring before Conference

6. **Conference Dates**

2027 Mon 21st June to Wed 23rd June, Swanwick

2028 Mon 19th June to Wed 21st June, Swanwick

The dates were noted and approved

7. **General Meetings Dates**

2026 Sat 17th October (3rd Saturday in October), Jump Church & Zoom

2027 Sat 13th March (2nd Saturday in March), Rushden Mission Church & Zoom)

The dates were noted and approved

8. **Nomination of President**

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

9. **Nomination of Union Trustees and Guardian Representatives**

The Chairman of the Trustees presented name of Rev Sharon Hollamby for the position of Guardian Representative and Ellie Minney for the role of Union Trustee. Both names were unanimously approved

10. **Christian Ethics and Social Action**

Report by Rev Graham Johnson

Apology

We must begin this report with an apology for not having got the Values Day materials ready in time this year. We are looking at various aspects of chaplaincy and although the material is still being worked on we hope to have them ready for September, so they can be used in Bible Studies and Home Groups.

We are already considering themes for next year's Values Day which is the first Sunday in February.

Terms of Reference

Phil Hartshorn has completed the revision of our Terms of Reference and these have now been submitted to the WRU Trustees.

Assisted Dying Bill

We have been following the progress of this bill through the House of Commons and the House of Lords. It required a final reading in the House of Lords, but this didn't leave enough time for further legislative processes to take place before the current parliamentary session ended in May.

This means it cannot become law at the moment. Supporters may seek to re-introduce the bill in the next parliamentary session. The government has remained neutral on this bill, considering it to be a matter of conscience for MPs and Peers to debate.

It is interesting to note that during its passage through the House of Lords, 1200 amendments to it were proposed.

At our recent committee meeting at the end of April, we looked further afield at some of the countries where there is ongoing conflict. Not just Russia and Ukraine, or Israel and Palestine, but also Yemen and the Red Sea, Syria, Iran and Iraq.

In Africa there is ongoing trouble in Sudan, and also Somalia. In Asia there are problems in Myanmar, India and Pakistan, and lastly, unrest in Haiti as well as Ecuador, in the Americas.

Gifts

Due to an oversight in our giving last year, this year, we have given £700 each to Caring For Life and The Christian Institute, and £200 to Day One Publications.

Our CESA Committee Members remain as below:

Chair – Stuart Allen

Administrator – Andy Wilcock

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

We always have room for more people!

Additional Comments

Christian Concern – assisted dying bill being re-introduced

From the floor

Q: Are there any resources to help opposing the Assisted Dying bill and, at the same time, being positive and pro-active

A: The Christian Institute, the Pilgrim Friends and "Care" are all suitable bodies

It is an awful bill and we must pray against it.

The above report was proposed, seconded and approved.

11. Union Trustees Report & Statistics

Report by Mr George Phillips

The Trustees have met six times during the year with the Administration Manager, Administration Assistant and incoming Trustee being invited to the meetings. The incoming President attended the meeting in May. Ellie Minney will join the Trustees from Conference and Rev Sharon Hollamby has accepted the invitation to be a Guardian Representative.

There has been significant progress in training with the Theology Course, originally written by Rev Geoffrey Lee, receiving national accreditation with CPD as a result of considerable work by Rev Michael Hedley who has taken the role of Internal Quality Assurance. The partnership with the AWE Academy has provided a

suite of training days and, in the future, preparation of training in preaching and pastoral work in collaboration with the Independent Methodists.

We have continued to have meetings with other smaller denominations with a Wesleyan background for mutual support called 'Association of Wesleyan Evangelicals (AWE).

The Trustees have continued to consider prayerfully future support and strategy. An overview of statistics shows that, although there continues to be some small decreases in some areas in 2026 (membership, attendance) there are increases in others (young people, devotional meetings). This continues the trend of figures being 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 one of the main focuses of the Trustees during the year has been 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. We have advertised these posts alongside ministry positions and have had some positive responses which will be considered shortly alongside comprehensive discussions with Churches interested.

The Trustees have been encouraged by the interest of the former Forsbrook Methodist Church from Staffordshire in joining the Union and have recently received an application to join which will be presented to Conference.

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 continue to explore taking over ownership of the Bethel, Bierley building in Bradford to allow a Church plant in collaboration with Pete's Place, a local outreach initiative led by Anglican Churches. Rental income from the four current properties in the portfolio has supported Union finances and, therefore, along with increased reserves and interest we are able to reduce assessment. The property in Cardwell Avenue, Sheffield has been extensively refurbished which has led to a higher rental value.

The Trustees have been involved in the disposal of several Church buildings: Over Haddon, Lowestoft, Chapeltown, Ruskington Fen, Hunningley Lane, Coal Aston.

Many of these have not been straightforward with lost deeds and no property trustees. Chapeltown and Lowestoft sales have been completed and Ruskington Fen is likely to be demolished as the ground on which it stands is owned by a local farmer. Hunningley Lane is likely to be sold to another Church, possibly incorporating the Foodbank that has operated from the property.

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.

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		1						1		25
Moirā		6						1		14
New Swanington		4						1		12
	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	71
Bakewell Circuit										
Bonsall		10								10
Curbar		13	3					1		15
Stoney Middleton		7	1					1		8
Winster		4								10
Youlgrave		6						2		12
	0	40	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	55
Barnsley Circuit										
Cliffe Bridge		8	2					2		20
Dodworth		8	2							12
Staincross Christian Fellowship	2	8	3							16
Worsbrough Community		4						2		5
	2	28	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	53
Bradford Circuit										
Addingham		10						3		20
Beacon Community Fellowship		35	1		2					35
Muff Field		14	1		1			3		10
	0	59	2	0	3	0	0	6	0	65
Roth, Mex & Don Circuit										
Bowbroom		24						2		20
Cornerstone		4								5
Hough Lane	20	12	2				44			26
Jump		18						1		15
Mexborough Life Church and Centre	20	67	1	14	5	10	3	5	11	71
Newhill		20	1					1		25
	40	150	4	14	5	10	47	9	11	169
Sheffield Circuit										
Hampden View		14	4					1	10	22
Mayfield		11	2					1		14
Oughtibridge		10								
Owlerton		17						4	5	25
Philadelphia		4								5
Richmond		24	2	26	4	12	14	7	8	51
St Mary's		4						2		25
Woodseats		4						2		10
	0	88	8	26	4	12	14	17	23	152

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		29						1	12	30
Isham		5								10
Rushden High Street		33	2	4	3		6	3		34
Rushden Mission		37	1	23	11	7	7	7	6	65
Wymington		8						1		14
	0	129	5	27	14	7	13	13	18	180
Non-Circuit Churches										
Aldermans Green		37		1	2			2		34
Ashington (Word of Life)	15	30	4	15	6			3		55
Attleborough		6	2					3	8	16
Beaconsfield		8						1		8
Bedworth		19	1					3		13
Birds Edge		9	2							8
Choppington		8	1							13
Church on the Rock		12	2	8	2		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		23
Fritwell		8								12
Griffydam		14		5	2	1	8	4		32
Hazlemere		22	1					4		34
Heath End		18	7	18	6	12		5		60
Heckington		4						2		7
Old Hill - St James		19	1							16
Ruskington		9	1							15
St Just (Free Church)		8						1		15
Syresham		11						1		18
SUMMARY OF STATISTICS										
TOTALS FOR 2025	52	800	56	110	47	29	78	67	91	1194
TOTALS FOR 2026	59	769	54	120	47	41	87	91	71	1168
INCREASE	7			10	0	12	9	24		
DECREASE		31	2		0				20	26

Additional comments:

Number of Devotional Meetings had gone up from 67 to 91 and was encouraging.

Progress has been made on the theology course, and it had been verified to NVQ level by CPD. Thanks to Michael Hedley for taking this forward and bringing it to the stage of recognition.

The Hunningly Lane church is now up for sale and has caused an issue with regard to a food bank currently using the premises. Local and national press were involved with prompting a negative attitude. The building is to be auctioned in the very near future.

An application from an ex-Methodist church for entry to the Union had been received and is to be discussed by the Trustees during Conference and a recommendation will be brought to Conference later on the Agenda.

It was reported that numbers continue to decline – although the decline is slowing slightly. As a result, we are considering the appointment of area workers/ministers. A number of applications had been received and would be discussed by a sub-committee later in Conference. The Union will be the employer and support any churches.

From the floor

Q: Can unused churches be leased to organisations such as Food Banks?

A: We can hold property now we are a CIO but would find it difficult to let a Food Bank (or similar) have the premises at a “below market” price.

Q: What criteria would be applied for churches requesting help?

A: Be aimed mainly at churches needing leadership and had potential for growth.

Q: Devotional meetings – do these numbers include Sunday services?

A: Devotional meetings do not include Sunday service – but Bible studies, prayer meetings etc.

Hunningly Lane had presented huge issues and the Union Officers were thanked for standing firm in the interests of the Union.

TUESDAY, 23rd June 2026

Opening Devotions

Devotions were led by the President, Mr David Tuckett. He read from Galatians 1:1-9 and 3:1-14 and commented on the passage. The President led us in prayer and we sang “My hope is built on nothing less” and “Come people of the risen King”

12. Resolution of Loyalty

to be moved by President, David Tuckett

It is with great pleasure that the members of the 177th Conference of the Wesleyan Reform Union of Churches, as we assemble at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, send to your most Gracious Majesty their sincere and loyal greetings.

We recognise and thank you for 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.

13. **Safeguarding Report**

Report by Mr S Sykes

Introduction

Safeguarding remains one of the most important responsibilities entrusted to the Church. Our churches are continuing to strengthen their commitment to creating environments where children, young people, and vulnerable adults are protected, valued, and able to flourish in faith. Safeguarding is not simply a legal requirement; it is a gospel imperative rooted in Christ's care for the vulnerable and His call to shepherd God's people faithfully.

1. A Culture of Safeguarding

One of the most significant developments over the last few years is that safeguarding is about culture as much as compliance. We should be continually seeking to create environments where:

Concerns can be raised without fear.

- Victims and survivors are listened to and supported.
- Leaders are accountable and transparent.
- Every member understands their role in safeguarding.

A healthy safeguarding culture is now widely recognised as essential for maintaining trust and ensuring the well-being of everyone we come into contact with.

2. Improved Training and Awareness

Using the online safeguarding training resources, many of our churches have strengthened their safeguarding training for people who work with children and vulnerable adults.

Current good practice includes:

Regular safeguarding refresher training.

- Role-specific training for leaders and pastoral workers.
- Greater awareness of domestic abuse, spiritual abuse, and coercive behaviour.
- Clear reporting procedures for safeguarding concerns.

This increased awareness has helped many of our churches identify concerns earlier and respond appropriately

3. Safer Recruitment

We need to continue to strengthen safer recruitment processes, including:

Appropriate references.

- Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks where required.
- Written role descriptions.
- Codes of conduct for leaders and volunteers.
- Regular review of safeguarding policies.

4. Digital and Online Safeguarding

The growth of online ministry has introduced new safeguarding considerations.

Current areas of focus include:

- Safe use of social media.
- Appropriate communication with children and young people.
- Online meetings and livestreamed activities.
- Data protection and privacy.
- Managing digital risks, including cyberbullying and online exploitation.

Churches need to work to ensure that safeguarding standards remain robust both online and in person.

5. Recognising Wider Vulnerabilities

Our Safeguarding practices need to recognise the complex challenges faced by many individuals within our communities, including:

- Mental health difficulties.
- Financial exploitation.
- Domestic abuse.
- Modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Loneliness and social isolation.
- Addiction and substance misuse.

Our Churches are often uniquely placed to identify concerns and provide pastoral support while working appropriately with other agencies.

Looking Ahead

The Church's safeguarding journey is ongoing. Our future priorities should include:

- Continuing to strengthen safeguarding culture.
- Supporting survivors with compassion and integrity.
- Ensuring consistent training and compliance.
- Addressing emerging online risks.
- Equipping leaders to recognise complex forms of abuse.
- Promoting accountability at every level of church life.

Conclusion

Safeguarding is fundamentally about reflecting the character of Christ. It is an expression of love, justice, protection, and care for those entrusted to the Church. While much progress has been made, vigilance, humility, and commitment remain essential.

I do believe that as a union we are getting better at safeguarding but there is still more we can do to strengthen our procedures. I continue to support churches with safeguarding issues and am available if anyone needs to speak to me. please keep safeguarding at the forefront of your meetings and plans.

As members of the Wesleyan Reform Union, may we continue to foster churches that are safe, welcoming, and trustworthy places where all people can encounter the grace of God without fear and with confidence.

In the absence of the Safeguarding Officer, the report was presented by the President. He particularly mentioned the need to remember Data Protection issues. The report was proposed, seconded and approved.

14. Home Missions and YPD Report

Report by Pastor Andy Wilcock

Home Missions Report

Our Wesleyan Union of Churches has useful buildings where communities of loving people meet weekly. We love because He first loved us; we pray because He called us to Himself; and we desire to speak to the Father through Him. We study His Word because it is living and fills us with life through His Spirit. Our fellowship is in Him first and foremost, and therefore with each other and the wider Church.

Our buildings have been passed on to us for a reason. They host our meetings and keep us warm and dry, but they can also be part of our identity in our area, as they are the first part of us that people see.

- If we, as a Church, live out our lives in the community around our church, people may come to know us by our friendship and kindness.

- If people in our local community come into our buildings for groups, coffee mornings, or celebrations, then they will link our kindness and love with our church.

It has been suggested that a church needs more than one contact a week with people to build a meaningful affinity with them. Maybe they come to a knitting group or a choir, or to a language, art, or writing class. But if they then also attend a coffee morning, a toddler group, or meet up with us for a coffee at another point in the week, those relationships can strengthen. There is more of a chance for them to feel that they belong.

- But we also have a message that is even greater and more powerful than our building or our friendship. The message gives reason to our love and to who we are. We need to find ways to engage people we are connected to, so that they feel they belong with us, through the Gospel and the message of our Saviour.

We need to demonstrate how this Gospel message works in real, day-to-day life. People need to see forgiveness, love, patience, grace, and His power coming to life in our communities.

Where are the points of contact with our communities? E.g. the high street, classes, groups, community projects, allotments, over the garden fence.

Where are the opportunities for our community to meet with us in our buildings? E.g. toddler groups, coffee mornings, conversation groups, knit and natter, breakfasts, choir.

When do they get the chance to hear what we believe and come to know our Saviour for themselves?

E.g. Alpha, Christianity Explored, books, Life or Hope magazines, Real Lives story events, Christmas and Easter, Bible studies.

Area Worker: South Yorkshire and Derbyshire

Andy Wilcock, based in Sheffield at Hampden View Church.

I've been supporting a number of churches through ministry, preaching, and Bible studies, encouraging others through phone calls, meeting up, and attending prayer meetings. I've also been involved in one-to-one pastoral support and advice. These churches include Coal Aston, Sheffield Circuit, Philadelphia, Jump, Cliffe Bridge and Rose Hill, Youlgrave, St Mary's, Owlerton, and Heckington.

Our churches face real challenges in reaching out to their communities with the gospel. Leadership, numbers, age, and illness make this particularly difficult, although many have strong links with their community through local events and groups.

Additional comments

Although the committee had not met regularly throughout the year, they had met the previous evening. The committee would like a wider representation of the Union as a whole and new members would be welcome.

The above report was proposed, seconded and approved

OVERSEAS MISSION UPDATE

As Conference was running ahead of time, Ian Sykes was asked to update everyone of the current Overseas Mission project – Hope for Children in Riga, Latvia. The project had raised £29,000 in all. The project had been a real blessing to those giving as well as those receiving. Lisa & and Steve McBeth had recently visited the project and Lisa updated us on their visit.

15. Union Treasurer's Report

Report by Mr G Phillips

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2026

		2025/2026	2024/2025
Employment of Funds			
LAND AND BUILDINGS		955,000	760,000
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS COST	29,757	28,877	
Less: Depreciation to date	25,407	4,350	20,697
			8,180
INVESTMENTS		1,934,081	1,016,751
LOANS TO CHURCHES			
Extension Fund		55,750	58,750
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors:	Union	462	416
	Year Books		31
	Pension Scheme		33,532
	Interest	14,000	3,500
National Westminster Bank plc			
	Deposit Account	635,676	326,251
	Current Account	80,782	7,348
Cash in Hand	1,525	732,445	2,212
		3,681,626	2,216,971
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors:	Union Expenses, etc.	1,230	1,128
	Actuarial Fees	4,100	5,330
		5,330	4,000
		3,676,296	2,211,843
REPRESENTED BY:			
Property Fund		955,000	760,000
Chapel Extension Fund		1,193,484	640,366
Ellis Crossley Training & Pastoral Aid Fund		4,256	4,465
Home Missions Account		932	631
Overseas Missions	General Fund	1,283	1,398
	Training Fund	2,367	2,367
	Project Fund	10,208	8,544
Young People's Department Account		9,931	9,535
Christian Ethics and Social Action		2,081	1,278
Ministers Provident Society		5,007	8,600
Equip to Serve		2,157	2,429
Women of Action			792
General Reserve		507,242	192,638
Holdback Policy Capital Account		982,348	578,800
		3,676,296	2,211,843

UNION EXPENSES ACCOUNT

		2025/2026	2024/2025
Income			
Assessment		29,498	30,451
Investment income		44,034	30,932
Year Books sales		377	490
Conference income		11,928	10,946
Sundries		160	725
From General Reserve		<u>3,646</u>	<u>15,898</u>
		<u>89,643</u>	<u>89,442</u>
Expenditure			
Salaries etc		39,669	40,825
Pension		8,753	7,558
Head Office Expenses		3,482	3,360
Year Books costs		353	344
Conference costs	2025	11,926	12,698
	2026	4,905	4,130
Administration -	Telephone	1,863	1,227
	Postage	369	158
	Stationery	2,820	3,021
	Insurance	<u>843</u>	<u>831</u>
		5,895	5,237
Travelling -	Conference	246	312
	General Meetings	1,200	1,208
	Committees	<u>1,140</u>	<u>1,534</u>
		2,586	3,054
Sundry Expenses-	Subscriptions	1,539	1,474
	Bank charges	222	500
	Sundries	<u>47</u>	<u>1,974</u>
		1,808	
Depreciation		4,710	4,963
Accountants		1,230	1,128
Actuaries		<u>4,326</u>	<u>4,171</u>
		<u>89,643</u>	<u>89,442</u>

GENERAL RESERVE

	2025/2026		2024/2025	
Balance 1st April 2024		192,638		182,056
Brockmoor accounts		44,161		
Ashington Old Trust accounts		296,406		
Rent from Cardwell Avenue	6,896		7,319	
Less costs	<u>36,792</u>	(29,896)	<u>1,173</u>	6,146
Rent from Thornbrook Close	10,568		10,196	
Less costs	<u>1,349</u>	9,219	<u>1,086</u>	9,110
Rent from Willow Walk	11,520		11,520	
Less costs	<u></u>	11,520	<u>1,452</u>	10,068
Rent from Windsor Road	12,854		12,406	
Less costs	<u>515</u>	12,339	<u>574</u>	11,832
		<u>536,387</u>		<u>219,212</u>
Legal advice		25,499		10,676
Database				
Union Expenses		3,646		15,898
Sundries				
Balance 31st March 2025		<u>507,242</u>		<u>192,638</u>
		<u>536,387</u>		<u>219,212</u>

		2025/2026	2024/2025
HOME MISSIONS			
Balance 1st April 2025		631	854
Donations		2,760	2,780
Interest		19	27
Transfer from Chapel Extension Fund		59,500	92,500
		<u>62,910</u>	<u>96,161</u>
Cost of Development and Outreach Consultant		21,080	20,189
Car		4,571	3,367
Travel			213
Cost of National Spiritual Coordinator		8,699	30,105
Car			4,307
Travel			
Accommodation			
Grants	New Swan/Ellistown	3,600	
	Rushden Mission	1,250	
	Ashington	12,000	
	Bedworth	7,778	
	Richmond	3,000	
		<u>27,628</u>	<u>37,154</u>
Training			195
Balance 31st March 2026		<u>932</u>	<u>631</u>
		<u>62,910</u>	<u>96,161</u>
YOUNG PEOPLES DEPARTMENT			
Balance 1st April 2025		9,535	9,095
Donations		110	148
Interest		286	292
		<u>9,931</u>	<u>9,535</u>
Salary, etc.			
Travel			
Balance 31st March 2026		<u>9,931</u>	<u>9,535</u>
		<u>9,931</u>	<u>9,535</u>
CHRISTIAN ETHICS AND SOCIAL ACTION			
Balance 1st April 2025		1,278	1,209
Donations		1,010	1,040
Interest		38	39
		<u>2,326</u>	<u>2,288</u>
Grants	Caring for Life		350
	Christian Institute		350
	Day One		100
Conference fees		245	210
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2026		<u>2,081</u>	<u>1,278</u>
		<u>2,326</u>	<u>2,288</u>

		2025/2026	2024/2025
EQUIP TO SERVE			
Balance 1st April 2025		2,429	2,644
Ministry Day			60
Donation		150	100
Interest		73	85
		<u>2,652</u>	<u>2,889</u>
Ministry Day		250	250
Conference		245	210
Sundries			
Balance 31st March 2026	General Fund	510	782
	Trust Fund	1,647	1,647
		<u>2,652</u>	<u>2,889</u>
ELLIS CROSSLEY TRAINING & PASTORAL AID FUND			
Balance 1st April 2025		4,465	4,026
Donations		645	860
Ministers/Pastors donations			10
Interest		134	129
Transfer from Chapel Extension Fund		19,000	4,500
		<u>24,244</u>	<u>9,525</u>
Tutor Salary etc.		5,510	160
Pastoral Salary etc		3,803	3,701
AWE Academy Training		6,525	
Service Increments		450	310
CPD Accreditation		2,100	714
Training		1,227	
Ministers & Pastors Retreat		340	175
Sundries		33	
Balance 31st March 2026		<u>4,256</u>	<u>4,465</u>
		<u>24,244</u>	<u>9,525</u>
WOMEN OF ACTION			
Balance 1st April 2025		792	820
Donations			206
Interest			26
		<u>792</u>	<u>1,052</u>
Conference		245	210
Coordinator Gift		200	50
Transfer to Overseas Missions		347	
Balance 31st March 2026		<u>792</u>	<u>792</u>
		<u>792</u>	<u>1,052</u>

MINISTERS PROVIDENT SOCIETY

Balance 1st April 2025	8,600	11,472
Donations	1,105	1,060
Legacy		500
Interest	258	368
Transfer from Chapel Extension Fund	500	
	<u>10,463</u>	<u>13,400</u>

Gifts	5,456	4,800
Balance 31st March 2026	<u>5,007</u>	<u>8,600</u>
	<u>10,463</u>	<u>13,400</u>

2025/2026

2024/2025

OVERSEAS MISSIONS

General Fund

Balance 1st April 2025	1,398	2,294
Donations	2,145	3,669
Interest	113	145
Transfer from Women of Action	347	
	<u>4,003</u>	<u>6,108</u>

Conference fees	245	210
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Postage

Grants	Pioneer Arab World	825	1,500
	Friends of Mandritsara	825	1,500
	Flame International	<u>825</u>	<u>2,475</u>
			<u>1,500</u>
			<u>4,500</u>

(2
years)

Sundries

Balance 31st March 2026	<u>1,283</u>	<u>1,398</u>
	<u>4,003</u>	<u>6,108</u>

Training Fund

Balance 1st April 2025	2,367	2,367
Sundries		
Balance 31st March 2026	<u>2,367</u>	<u>2,367</u>

Latvia Family Centre Renovation Project

Balance 1st April 2025	8,544	
Donations	11,664	13,044
	<u>20,208</u>	<u>13,044</u>

Grant	10,000	4,500
Balance 31st March 2026	<u>10,208</u>	<u>8,544</u>
	<u>20,208</u>	<u>13,044</u>

		2025/2026	2024/2025
CHAPEL EXTENSION FUND			
Balance 1st April 2025		640,366	574,765
Sales	Grimesthorpe	218,189	
	Smithies	158,819	
	Chapelton	225,818	
	Lowestoft	46,312	
	Brant Broughton		22,623
	Souldern		24,755
	Deddington		177,140
		<u>1,289,504</u>	<u>799,283</u>
Transfer to Home Missions		59,500	92,500
Transfer to Training & Past Aid		19,000	4,500
Transfer to MPS		500	
Grants		1,689	15,000
Costs	Smithies	151	
	Grimesthorpe	286	
	Deddington	4,610	
	Chapelton	1,794	
	Hunningley Lane	594	
	Hoyle Mill	44	
	Lowestoft	<u>7,852</u>	<u>15,331</u>
			46,917
Balance 31st March 2026	Investments	1,137,734	581,616
	Loans	<u>55,750</u>	<u>58,750</u>
		1,193,484	640,366
		<u>1,289,504</u>	<u>799,283</u>

CHAPEL EXTENSION FUND - LOANS OUTSTANDING

Description	Original Loan	New Loans Year to 31/03/26	Balance 31/03/25	Repaid Year to 31/03/26	Balance 31/03/26	Collection Received 31/03/26
2018 St Just	30,000		21,250	3,000	18,250	
2009 Clydebank	60,000		37,500		37,500	
		0	58,750	3,000	55,750	0

HOLDBACK POLICY CAPITAL ACCOUNT		2025/2026	2024/2025
Balance 1st April 2025		578,800	531,739
Sales	Grimesthorpe	141,100	27,151
	Chapeltown	51,089	
	Smithies	83,542	
	Wellingborough manse	243,034	
	Souldern		24,754
	Deddington		75,246
	Brant Broughton		21,350
		<u>1,097,565</u>	<u>680,240</u>
Grants	Newhill	18,947	
	Hough Lane	14,000	
	Jump	3,500	
	Bowbroom	7,320	
	Aldermans Green	2,530	
	Heath End	7,239	
	Bedworth	4,222	
	Fritwell	6,600	
	Beaconsfield	16,350	
	Hazlemere	25,000	
	Hampden View	<u>9,509</u>	<u>101,440</u>
Balance 31st March 2026	Bakewell Circuit	119,976	119,976
	Barnsley Circuit	125,000	41,457
	Bradford Circuit	7,623	7,623
	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	7,061	50,829
	Sleaford Area	61,521	61,521
	Syresham/Fritwell/		
	Hazlemere/Beaconsfield	52,050	100,000
	Sheffield Circuit	200,000	17,319
	Coventry/Nuneaton	12,999	26,991
	Bozeat/Isham/Alma		
	Street/Wymington	243,034	
	Wellingboro Circuit	<u>3,851</u>	<u>3,851</u>
		<u>982,348</u>	<u>578,800</u>
		<u>1,097,565</u>	<u>680,240</u>

INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Interest from Investments	48,547	32,043
Less Retained by Union Expenses Account	<u>44,034</u>	<u>30,932</u>
	<u>4,513</u>	<u>1,111</u>

Distribution:

Home Missions	19	27
Overseas Missions	113	145
Young People's Department	286	292
Ellis Crossley Training & Past Aid	134	129
Ministers Provident Society	258	368
Christian Ethics and Social Action	38	39
Women of Action		26
Equip to Serve	73	85
Bozeat/Isham/Alma Street/Wymington	<u>3,592</u>	
	<u>4,513</u>	<u>1,111</u>

INVESTMENTS

	Invested at 31/03/2025	Invested 2025/2026	Repaid 2025/2026	Invested at 31/03/2026
Income Bonds	500,000			500,000
Virgin Money	216,751	2,292	100,000	119,043
Virgin 30 day notice		1,015,038		1,015,038
Virgin Fixed Term Bond	300,000			300,000
	1,016,751	1,017,330	100,000	1,934,081

2025/2026

2024/2025

AWE ACADEMY

Balance 1st April 2025

Wesleyan Reform Union	6,525	
Independen Methodist Connexion	<u>6,525</u>	
	<u>13,050</u>	<u>0</u>

Salary	13,050	
Balance 31st March 2026	<u>0</u>	
	<u>13,050</u>	<u>0</u>

Additional comments

Union Expenses account – most things as expected – interest had been better than expected.

General Reserve accounts – supporting Union accounts. A closed church in the Birmingham area (Brockmoor) had dormant finances and we received £44,000 from them.

The old Ashington Trust still had money to come to the Union.

Balance in General Reserve is around £500,000.

All other funds are self-explanatory.

Ellis Crossley & Pastoral Aid fund supports the increased training courses offered.

Women of Action fund now closed.

Ministers Provident Society – being supported by the Union.

Interest received had been in the area of 3%.

Balance sheet – Land & Buildings had been re-evaluated – Thornbrook Close & Cardwell Avenue.

Other properties to be added in due course.

Balance sheet strengthened considerably – book value is around £3.7 million.

Recommended that the assessment be changed from £37 to £20 per member.

From the floor

Thanks were offered to our Union Treasurer.

Q: UBM employ someone to look after properties – should we do the same?

A: Properties are being professionally managed.

We need to start succession planning.

Q: Could we subsidise costs of Conference to individuals?

A: “it’s a thought”!! – we already subsidise Conference to the area of 30%.

The above report was proposed, seconded and approved.

The reduction in the assessment was approved as a separate motion.

16. Housing for Retired Ministers Fund Report

a. Report by Alina Taylor

The Housing for Retired Ministers Fund is here to offer financial support to our ordained ministers, especially in retirement when housing concerns or other needs may arise.

If you find yourself in need of help, please feel free to contact the Administration Manager to request an application form. Any request will be received with understanding, compassion, and care.

The current Trustees of the fund are Muriel Stonehewer, George Phillips, Cliff Darby and David Rooksby.

We are deeply thankful to all the churches that support this fund through their generous giving. Your kindness is greatly valued, and we are grateful for both continuing and new support. If your church is able to contribute, donations may be sent to the WRU Head Office.

b. Accounts by Mr G Phillips

	2026 £	2025 £
<u>Receipt</u>		
Interest Virgin Money	1,237.69	1051.83
Donations	<u>1,365.00</u>	<u>1,310.00</u>
	2,602.69	2,361.83
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Grant	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Incoming Resources	2,602.69	2,361.83
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2025	<u>97,091.75</u>	<u>94,729.92</u>
Building Society Balance at 31 st March 2026	<u>99,694.44</u>	<u>97,091.75</u>
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st March 2026</u>		
Building Society Account		
Virgin Money	99,694.44	97,091.75

Additional comments:

Muriel Stonehewer had retired as a fund Trustee.

The report and accounts were proposed, seconded and approved.

17. **Ministerial Committee Report**

Report by Rev. Sharon Hollamby

As I reflect on another year of service to our Union of Churches, the Ministerial Committee continues to focus on equipping and supporting our churches wherever needed.

As a Committee we are keen to assist our churches in their search and need of Spiritual and Pastoral Leadership, and we explore and discuss ways in which this can be actioned. Please communicate your needs to us! The advertisement for Ministry and Outreach positions placed in various Bible colleges and Christian media, have produced a number of applications and additional interest, and so it is hoped to further these promptly, particularly as the requirement for Regional Workers has been identified. Rev Peter Norton continues to be proactive in contacting Church Leaders, and is available to offer valuable Pastoral support in whatever ways he can, so please contact him too.

Richard Saunders-Hindley and Steven Jenkins have provided excellent tutorage and encouragement to our students, as well as opportunities to attend additional study days and residential training, not just for them, but for our Denomination as a whole. Please speak to Richard further if you require more details. Equipping future leaders is essential, so please encourage anyone within your churches who shows an interest to explore further. Rev Michael Hedley and George Phillips have driven the accreditation process forward, and updates will be given via the Trustees Report.

As always, please hold our Church Leaders in prayer, it is essential and valued by us. As a Committee, we are dedicated to seeing people within our congregations Equip to Serve where they are, in leadership, spiritually and practically.

As I stand down from Ministerial Committee is it with anticipation of what our Lord is leading us forward into, as we seek to serve and equip our churches for the future. May we be prepared to journey forward with expectancy and hope in our Lord 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
2016	Sharon Hollamby BA 2 Willow Walk, Hazlemere, HP15 7UJ Tel: 01494 815858 Email: ministerhfmchurch@hotmail.com HAZLEMERE CHURCH (8)
2021	David Bracken 161 Wellingborough Road, Rushden, Northants, NN10 9TA Tel: 07900 615063 Email: revdbrkn.rushden81@gmail.com RUSHDEN MISSION CHURCH (8)
2025	Graham Johnson 37 Regent Street, Bede, Bedworth, CV12 9BN Tel: 02476 319710 Email: tlcbedworth@gmail.com TLC BEDWORTH CHURCH

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
- 2025 Michael Hedley**
12 Warren Court, Ashington, Northumberland N63 8LL
Tel: 01670 814425 Email: nsc@thewru.co.uk

Ministers and pastors independently appointed by churches

- | | |
|--|---|
| Charles Martin
8 Lodge Hill, Addingham, Ilkley, LS29 ONG
Tel: 07799420250 | ADDINGHAM (MOUNT HERMON)
Email: kitmartin100@gmail.com |
| Lanre Atanda
69, North Seaton Road, Ashington, NE63 0AG
Tel: 07438 326810 | ASHINGTON (WORD OF LIFE)
Email: wol.pastor@outlook.com |
| Tony Brown
205, Leeds Road, Windhill, Shipley, BD18 1ET
Tel: 07902 244183 | BEACON COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP
Email: beaconpastor63@gmail.com |

Ruth Jukes 1 Suffolk Close, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8RP Tel: 0121 511 2169	CHURCH ON THE ROCK Email: ruthjukes@btinternet.com
Ishaku Bitrus 21 Dunmore Street, Whitecrook, Clydebank, West Dumbartonshire G81 1RJ Tel: 0141 952 2293	CLYDEBANK CHURCH Email: ajibauka@gmail.com
Joyce Turner 17, Springfield Road, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9HG Tel: 01526 832334	DORRINGTON CHURCH Email: dorringtonwru261@btinternet.com
Andy Wilcock 29, Daniel Hill Street, Walkley, Sheffield, S6 3JH Tel: 07792 944217	HAMPDEN VIEW CHURCH Email: andymarkw@gmail.com
Lisa & Steve Macbeth 14, Dorset Close, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV10 8EN Tel: 07946 351712	HEATH END CHURCH Email: lisamarymac@gmail.com
Jonathan & Susannah Youdan 159, Abbeyfield Road, Burngreave, Sheffield, S4 7AU Tel: 0114 2424639	MAYFIELD CHURCH Email: jyoudan06@aol.com
Steven Jenkins Mexborough Life Church Centre, New Oxford Road, Mexborough, Swinton, S64 0JL Tel: 07904 452970	MEXBOROUGH LIFE CHURCH AND CENTRE Email: pastor@mexboroughlifechurch.org
James Fenton 12, Brodley Close, Hipperholme and Lightcliffe, Brighouse, HX3 8LS Tel: 01422208028	MUFF FIELD CHURCH Email: isaiah40v8@gmail.com
John Langford 13, Sybil Road, Rowley Fields, Leicester, LE3 2EX Tel: 0116 4295269	NEW SWANINGTON & ELLISTOWN CHURCHES Email: johnjlangford@gmail.com
Geoff Cottam Springfield, Trelyon Close, St. Buryan, St Buryan, TR19 6BB Tel: 01736 810077	ST JUST CHURCH Email: geoffcottam@gmail.com

Additional Comments

Been active in moving forward to appointment of ministers and regional workers.

From the floor

Q: How are ministers added to the Ministerial list.

A: Independent ministers need to be added to the list at the recommendation of their churches.

Q: Do pastors need to be remunerated in order to be added to the list?

A: No

The report and list of ministers were proposed, seconded and approved. Rev Sharon Hollamby was thanked for her years of service to the committee – particularly, recently, as Chair.

AWE ACCADEMY

As we were ahead of time, Richard Saunders-Hindlley updated Conference on the work of the AWE academy – Association of Wesleyan Evangelicals.

Nine study days had been held – either online or in person.

Students being supported in their training.

137 people attended the above.

Looking at a series of study days later in the year.

18. 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 two year-long project that will come to a close at this year's Conference is Hope for Children, Latvia.

Please can I ask you to make sure that any final gifts for this are sent/given by Monday evening of Conference on 22nd June so that we will have a final total to report at Conference before the new project is launched on Tuesday 23rd June.

The latest total, at the time of writing this report, is over £27,000!

Thank you to everyone for your generosity in giving to this project, and especially to Ian Sykes for coordinating the project, keeping us informed about developments, and sending us regular newsletters and updates.

Our new project for the next 12 months is supporting the work of Flame International.

In the first instance, funds raised will be used to support and teach chaplains (who minister to soldiers on the frontline in Ukraine) at a conference later this year. Any money raised after this will be used for a further mission next year. At the moment, we don't know where this might be, but we will keep you informed. This will be very different from anything we have done in the past, and we hope that you will all prayerfully consider how you can help to raise funds in a timely manner in response to what Ian Fall shares with us on Tuesday evening.

Looking forward, we would love to hear from anyone who has a suggestion for future projects that the Overseas Mission Team can consider.

PERSONNEL

We are hoping to have updates from all of our mission personnel to share with you at the Conference.

Ian Fall (Flame International) will be with us for the whole of Conference, so please do speak to him about his work with Flame.

Helen (works for Pioneers - formerly AWM)

Lesley Notghi (hoping to visit and work at Good News Hospital, Madagascar, this summer)

PROVISION

Thank you to every individual and church for your gifts to the General Fund so that we are able to support the mission personnel listed above financially. Please can you continue to give to the General Fund as well as the project.

PRAYER

Please continue to pray for our current and future projects and our mission personnel.

Give thanks that we have a new team member, Tony from Rushden Mission, who expressed an interest in joining us at the March General Meeting.

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.

The team comprises:

Dave Tuckett, Phil Hearson, Tony Mokogwu, Graham Evans, Stuart Allen, Ellie Minney, James Rossell, Carole Parkinson, and Anne-Marie Wilcock (Team Coordinator)

c. 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

Additional comments

The new project was to be “Flame International” where Ian Fall is serving.

Initial giving will go to supporting a visit to Ukraine.

Further giving will be decided late in the year.

Leslie Noghti was returning to Madagascar and building works was now well underway.

The above report was proposed, seconded and carried.

Following the report, Phil Hearson led in prayer for our mission personnel.

Rev Ian Fall then spoke about the work of “Flame International”.

WEDNESDAY, June 24th 2026

Opening Devotions

Devotions were led by Mrs Lisa McBeth. She read from Matthew 25:14-21 & Hebrews 12:1-3 and commented on the passage – particularly “well done, good & faithful servant” and we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. She led us in prayer, and we sang “I cannot tell” and “Turn your eyes upon Jesus”.

The quiet revival

How can churches be revival ready?

Bible society report started a wider conversation on revival and openness.

Culture is changing – prominent people are beginning to speak openly about their faith.

Younger Christians are more likely to practice the faith they affirm – nominal Christianity declining.

One in four 18–30-year-olds are open to considering Christianity.

Bible sales are increasing hugely.

Various denominations are reporting increase in numbers – particularly young people.

Reference to “Finding Jesus” produced by the Evangelical Alliance”.

How are people finding Jesus today?

What helps people make a commitment to Jesus?

What helps new believers become disciples?

Create more spaces for honest questions.

Equip members for relational evangelism.

Make invitations to follow Jesus clear.

Prioritise discipleship pathways.

Following the above, we broke into small groups to discuss “The Quiet Revival”.

Discussion after sermon.

Do what you can do – don’t be too critical of others.

Need to change the mindset of those already involved in church.

We need to model the faith.

We don’t need to do everything.

We need to be more “Wesleyan”.

Class meetings – housegroups.

Our buildings need to be more welcoming.

As Christians we need to be honest - say “I don’t know” BUT find the answer and pass it on.

More than theology – we need Jesus.

Don’t try to be something we are not – just be ourselves.

Be intentional and share our lives.

Do we need more non-Christian friends.

Be real.

Help newcomers to feel more included.

Allow people to ask honest and open questions.

What things prevent our discipleship.

19. **Ministers’ Provident Society Report** Report by Rev P Hearson

Firstly, as always, we would like to thank all those who have prayed for or given to the work of the Society over the past year, whether individuals, churches or circuits.

The MPS supports retired ministers and widows – currently we have 6 retired ministers and 3 widows. In its current form it has been in existence for over 100 years. Prior to this it is recorded in the 1899 Year Book that a Ministers' Provident Society at the time gave total gifts of £10 in the year to widows (there is no mention of Ministers receiving a gift). We are pleased to say that the amount we give now to Ministers and widows is currently around £5,000 annually!

Quarterly gifts are sent to the beneficiaries and although the payment is made direct into the bank we ensure that we send a letter by email each quarter to keep in touch – it is a joy to hear how often the gift arrives at exactly the right time to meet a specific need which has arisen.

In addition to the quarterly gift, a payment is made towards funeral expenses on the passing of ministers or their widows, although there have been none this year.

Do please keep the Ministers' Provident Society in your prayers – the Officers, Board Members and of course the beneficiaries. Financial gifts are always welcome from both churches and individuals, and we have been blessed in the past to have received legacies. We invite you to prayerfully consider this.

Many thanks for your partnership as we continue to provide much needed support.

Rev. Sharon Hollamby – Chair

Rev. Phil Hearson – Secretary

Additional comments

The accounts had been approved at the meeting during Conference.

Gifts had been increased by £170 & £584 funeral costs.

Board members: Colin Braithwaite, Peter Norton, Cliff Derby, David Rooksby, Phil Hartshorn.

The above report was proposed, seconded and approved.

20. Equip to Serve Report

Report by D Tuckett

Our team met together over zoom on 25th Feb, where we discussed plans for this year's day of ministry on 3rd October 2026. This year we are looking forward to Ian Coffey of Moorlands college leading the teaching for us. We will be meeting at Bozeat church, NN29 7JP. Please plan to come along if you are able to. We are planning a day of refreshment and encouragement along with good teaching. The church have kindly agreed to provide refreshments for us. There is no cost for the day so please book in when the posters are sent out.

Realizing that Bozeat is quite a southern location we are aiming to offer attendance via Zoom for the first time.

We have begun to discuss future speakers who could bring a day of teaching for us.

Dave Tuckett has drawn up our terms of reference for the group, and these have been circulated among the group.

We have honoured our preachers by giving out certificates to a number of people. These are often warmly received and are a way of encouraging our speakers. Please let us on the committee know of anyone who you would wish to nominate for a certificate.

We wish to support our local preachers you can help in this by praying for those who regularly preach each week.

Our committee comprises currently: Dave Tuckett (chair), Jackie Clarke (sec),

George Phillips (treasurer), Rev M. Hedley, Brian Hyde, Daphne Hodgkinson, Howard Copley, Cliff Darby, Phil Hartshorn and Jim Rossell.

We are open to others joining as the Lord leads.

Additional comments

October 3rd next meeting – Bozeat – speaker Ian Coffey.

The above report was proposed, seconded and approved.

21. Approval of Union Committees for 2026-2027

UNION DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES FOR 2026-2027				
UNION TRUSTEES	HOME MISSIONS/YPD	OVERSEAS MISSIONS	CESA	MINISTERIAL
Union Treasurer	Andy Wilcock (Chair & Sec)	Anne-Marie Wilcock (Coordin/Sec)	Stuart Allen (Chair)	President
Admin Manager	Michael Hedley	Graham Evans	Andy Wilcock (Sec)	Admin Manager
President	Adam Shepherd	Stuart Allen	Phil Hearson	Colin Braithwaite
Stuart Allen	Beth Ely	Carole Parkinson	Phil Hartshorn	Andy Wilcock
Daphne Hodgkinson	David Bracken	Ellie Minney	James Rossell	Peter Norton
Graham Evans	Peter Norton	James Rossell	Graham Johnson	George Phillips
David Rooksby	Phil Hartshorn	David Tuckett		David Rooksby
Colin Braithwaite	Lisa Macbeth	Phil Hearson		
Phil Hearson				
Sharon Hollamby				
Ellie Minney				
MPS	E2S			MAGAZINE
Sharon Hollamby (Chair)	David Tuckett (Chair)			Admin Manager (Chair & Sec)
Phil Hearson (Sec)	Jackie Clarke (Sec)			Andy Wilcock
David Rooksby	Howard Copley			Daphne Hodgkinson
Colin Braithwaite	Daphne Hodgkinson			Cliff Darby
Peter Norton	Cliff Darby			Marie Nichols
Cliff Darby	Phil Hartshorn			Beryl Green
Phil Hartshorn	James Rossell			
	Michael Hedley			

Note: The President and Admin Manager are ex-officio members of all committees

Additional comments

Tony Mokogwu from Rushden mission was added to the OM Committee

22. Any Other Business

FORSBROOK METHODIST CHURCH

The Chairman of the Trustees reported that a former Methodist Church (Forsbrook Methodist Church - to be known as Forsbrook Chapel) had applied to join the Union. This had been discussed by the Trustees during Conference, and they are now proposing that we approve their acceptance into the Union. Conference unanimously voted to approve their admission to the Union.

23. **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 a fitting end to an excellent Conference.