

YEAR BOOK OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH: 2013-2014

**INCLUDING THE MINUTES
OF THE 206th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Held at the Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire
from Tuesday 23rd July to Friday 26th July 2013**

The Deeds of Conference were enrolled,
in the High Court of Chancery, on 14th February 1822

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CONTENTS

The Council and Useful Contacts	3
Mission Statement and Vision Statement	4
Keynote Address	5
Annual Meeting Minutes	15
Report of the Council	25
Report of Ministers' Committee	51
Report of the Company Accountant	56
Conference Accounts	58
Statistical Table	60
Report of College Council	62
Report of the College Principal	68
College Accounts	70
List of holders of College Certificates and Diplomas	74
Last 40 Annual Meetings	75
List of Ministers Recognised by Conference	76
List of Worship Leaders	77
Land and Buildings in Conference Trust	81
List of Societies	84
List of Groups	87
Secretaries and Treasurers of Committees and Institutions	89
Area Councils	90
Overseas Directory	91
Address List	94

COUNCIL

[Linked responsibilities are listed after the names of the Council members]

Mr DRA FRIEND	[until 2015]	Chairman
Mrs JM WILSON, BA	[until 2017]	Vice-chairman [Youth and Training and Development]
Ms JZ BROOKS, BA	[until 2014]	
Mr RH CUNNINGHAM BSc	[until 2015]	[Human Resources and Web Development]
Mr MD HASELER, BSc	[until 2016]	[Purley Chase]
Mr MJ HINDLEY, BA	[until 2014]	
Miss SG ROSS MAAT	[Non-voting Member]	[Company Accountant] [Finance]

Although she is no longer a Council member Mrs K Brooks will continue as the link for CAM and Churches, via the Secretary of the Ministers' Committee.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Spiritual Leader:	Revd DE GAFFNEY, BSc
Ministers' Committee Secretary	Revd C BANK
Council Secretary & Asst Company Secretary:	Mr MJ HINDLEY, BA
Company Secretary:	Ms JZ BROOKS, BA
Company Accountant	Miss SG ROSS, MAAT
Payroll & Pensions Manager	Mr CV SKINNER, BSc
Insurance Manager	Mr I HAYES
Lifeline Editor	Mr AC MISSON, BSc
Auxiliary Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs J MILLAR
Technology Manager	Mr D GLOVER
Family Co-ordinator	Mrs J JONES
Child Protection	Revd R RUSSELL
Youth Leaders:	Mr RJ CURRY Mrs J PICKARD
Property Manager North	Mr J FORD
Property Manager South	Mr M WILSON
Health and Safety	Mr W WOODHOUSE
Lifeline Distributor	Mr H TURNER

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr GEOFFREY TURNER
Miss DOROTHY TURNER
Mr MICHAEL CLUBB
Mr PATRICK LEONARD JOHNSON
Miss BARBARA NICHOLLS, MBE
Mr DAVID RICHARD ALFRED FRIEND
Mr GORDON ROLAND SMITH
Mrs FRANCES MARY BURNLEY
Mr GORDON STANFORD KUPHAL
Mrs ELSIE JEAN CHAMBERS
Mrs PAULINE ANN GRIMSHAW
Mr ALAN C MISSON

AUDITORS:	BW SERVICES LTD
INVESTMENT MANAGERS:	RATHBONE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD
SOLICITORS:	GREGORY ROWCLIFFE MILNERS CRIPPS HARRIES HALL

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to express, share and experience with others in life an inclusive, non-judgmental vision of God's kingdom.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is of a network of individuals and groups interacting together to share spiritual insight and understanding in an open and non-judgmental way, in order to promote spiritual growth through the application to life of the Word, and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.

CONFERENCE 2013 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

ENLIGHTENMENT

Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light to my path. [Psalm 119:105]

A spiritual journey

What wonderful words the good Lord speaks to us; words of comfort and reassurance. Imagine walking along on a dark night through unfamiliar terrain with a powerful lamp in your hand. What do you do with it? Perhaps you stand still for a moment and shine it into the distance all around to determine your general direction. Then you shine it at your feet to make sure that you are not immediately going to trip over a stone. Perhaps you step over a stone, then walk around another before continuing on your way - shining the lamp alternately ahead and downwards continually checking your direction and the potential obstacles before you. The lamp enables you to make your progress safely and in the right direction; a direction that will get you to your destination.

The journey is a journey of spiritual progress and the destination is moral wisdom which has heaven within it. [Conjugal Love 164 etc.] Moral wisdom is inextricably linked with procreating and nurturing the human race and thus the angelic heavens. This journey involves the engagement of all our faculties. The journey of life which the Lord wants us to make doesn't just involve walking the right walk; it also involves talking the right talk and praying the right thought. This walk of life inevitably involves interacting with other people and using the gifts we have and developing them. This is all done with the Lord's help, to enable us to assist our brothers and sisters to form harmonious communities. These are communities here on earth which are as much as possible reflections of heaven. "*As in heaven, so upon the earth.*" Think for a moment about your own lives. How are you helping your brothers and sisters to form little heavenly communities? How am I? Have you any unhelpful loves which hold you back? Have I? Our journeys through the night will indeed involve frustration: difficult terrain, bad weather, robbers, wild animals and shortages from time to time of food and water. But as long as the Lamp keeps shining we can make it through the night.

Arise and trim your wicks - Enlightenment according to the New Church

Some of you may be familiar with the parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew Chapter 25, This section has clear reference to enlightenment.

... Then all those virgins rose up, and trimmed their lamps, ...
[Matthew 25:7]

The brightness of our inner lamp so to speak relates to our ability to perceive and see clearly what the Word means. To trim our lamps is to remove the debris of misunderstandings which inevitably build up even in those people who are conscientious about following the Lord. This trimming of our lamps is done so that His truth can shine brightly for us and lead the way.

The Writings of our church say that: *... when a person reads the Word, and carefully compares one passage with another, he perceives then what is to be believed, and what is to be done; this does not take place except with such as are enlightened by the Lord.* [Arcana Caelestia 6222:3]

The Ten Virgins were awaiting the Bride Groom. In other words, they were awaiting conjunction, or a connected relationship with the good Lord. Five of them had let their lamps go out, but five of them had kept them filled with oil and trimmed their wicks so that their lights shone brighter than ever and they got maximum light from the oil they had; these were the wise virgins. They represent both men and women of the Church who from a position of humility before the Lord, had charity in their hearts and understanding from the Word in their heads. And from these, they produced good works in their lives.

The oil they had in their lamps would probably have been olive oil. Olive oil represents deeply seated goodness which we receive from the Lord. This in turn leads to the light given off from the burning wick, which represents a truer understanding of the Lord's Word so that we shall know how to act and what to do in life. We begin with a simple command of the Lord and try to obey it. As we are all different, the Lord brings different things before us with differing levels of difficulty for different people. But we need to be assured that He knows what He is doing.

To 'obey' the Lord is to do genuine good in life. Genuine good can only be done when our orientation to good work stems from Love towards the Lord and charity to the neighbour; and we are conscious to try to exclude aspects of self-aggrandizement. We need to genuinely give the Lord all the credit, even though we need to initiate the process and see the work through. This can be difficult; especially at first. The result is that the Lord can flow into us and implant a little of his deep goodness so that we then get a little bit of oil in our lamps so to speak. Just focus within yourselves for a minute! Can you feel the oil in your lamp? Can you feel a deep desire to do genuine good? Ask yourself: "Have I got a deep desire to do genuine good and to know how to do it?" If not, what is stopping you? The Lord will always tell us if we ask Him.

Edible oils and fats used to power lamps are also food for the body and represent spiritual food: the Lord's deeply seated goodness known in the Writings as celestial good. This acquisition of deeply seated good from the Lord leads to a more inspired understanding of His Word, and this in turn to a better quality of applied goodness in our outward lives in the world. Thus a cyclic process is set up. The more genuine good we do, the more clearly we see and the more genuine good we do and so on. In our spiritual infancy, we need to act from obedience; later we begin to act from love. Having genuine and deep seated goodness in our hearts from the Lord allows us to be able to see the obstacles in our character traits which incline us to interpret the Word in a way which doesn't challenge us. When we can see these, we are then in a better position to ask the Lord to help us move them out of the way so that we can see more clearly. This I believe is what is meant by trimming our wicks. Then the Lord's light within us shines brightly, illuminating our understanding of what needs to be done.

The Lord gave the written Word to Noah and later to Moses, the prophets and evangelists because since the fall of the Most Ancient Church, we cannot trust our feelings or emotions anymore. With the Lord's help we have to wrestle with ourselves, like Jacob did when he became Israel. The Word of God gives us conscience. Whether we like it or not, it is a fact of life that bad spirits try to flow into us with their desires and also with thoughts which corroborate them. So we need to form new wills by living from a new understanding from the Word.

This process is assisted by wide ranging knowledge of the Lord's Word and prayerfully seeking the Lord's guidance for understanding. We all have an inclination to interpret the Lord's Word from our own agenda and although it may not seem like it, this always serves the ego. We have a kind of spiritual inertia, which would prefer it if we interpreted the Lord's Word to suit ourselves, rather than change ourselves to suit the Word. This, I believe, is where the chief difficulty lies. We need to look inside, the Sufi mystic Rumi said:

Your task is not to seek for love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it.

Do you practise rising up and do you practise trimming your wicks? Do I? Do you diligently, honestly and with the Lord's leading, explore the Word? Is your love elevated above the love of material things of this life which decay? Do you go after eternal loves which do not decay? If you have good will in

your heart, is your understanding lit up, does your understanding keep pace with it and confirm its choices? Can you distinguish between light and dark and how sure are you that you are right?

We are required to operate from genuine charity. Genuine charity means, living with a strong desire in the heart that our neighbour should go to heaven. This in turn leads us to ask ourselves, “How will my interactions with this person help them on their journey to heaven?” This in turn leads us to ask the questions: “How deep, broadly read and honest, is my knowledge and understanding of the Lord’s Word? How deep and wide is my faith?” Our faith is the full complex of our knowledge and understanding of the Lord’s nature, of heaven’s nature, and what the Lord requires of us. Our faith is the key to our discernment and to how we relate and engage with people in many different situations.

Enlightenment is considered by many to be the fortune of a privileged few and special people, possibly imbued with a smidgeon of predestination. But the Writings of our church suggest that it is something which is available to the majority of us.

In all these things, don’t treat yourself too harshly or you will find yourself on a treadmill or a ‘work ethic’ which in itself can contain aspects of self-aggrandizement or asceticism or stress which can become self defeating. To quote the Desiderata by Max Ehrmann:

... Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. ...

Swedenborg tells us that it is not so difficult as one would imagine to live a life of heaven. This is what he says on the subject:

It is not as difficult to live a heavenly life as you may think. If you have an inclination to do something which you know would be dishonest or unjust, think against it because it would be against God’s Commandments. If you get accustomed to thinking like this and establish a habit, then you will gradually be joined to heaven. The more you are joined to heaven the more the higher regions of your mind are opened; and the more they are opened the more clearly you can see what is dishonest or unjust. The more you can see these evils, the more they can be dispersed because evils cannot be dispersed unless they are seen. The Lord has given us freedom to be able to work out what is good or bad, right and wrong. When we have made a start, the Lord brings to life all that is good in us, and causes us, not only to be able to see evils as

evils, but to refrain from willing them, and finally to turn away from them. This is what is meant by the Lord's words:

My yoke is easy and My burden is light. [Matthew 11:30]

However, it is important to understand that the more we will and do evils, the more difficult it becomes to see them and resist them. Eventually we get to a point where we cannot see them anymore and we begin to love them and from the delight drawn from this love we excuse them and confirm them by all kinds of faulty reasoning, and tell others that they are actually allowable and good. This is the fate of those who in early youth plunge themselves into evils of various kinds without restraint and who also reject Divine things from the heart. [Heaven and Hell 533 – paraphrased]

All these things bring illumination or enlightenment to the soul.

Ascetics, quietists and mystics

To change the subject briefly and to try to throw some light on a broader concept of enlightenment, we can ask ourselves, what does the word enlightenment mean to the world at large compared with what it means to the New Church?

The New Church interpretation of enlightenment as outlined so far, seems on the face of it to be different from how the world at large may see it but I think the essential elements of what Swedenborg describes in great detail in his Writings are also present in the lives of most of the well known mystics. I suspect many of them have followed a similar process in the development of their own spiritual stature.

According to the English mystic Evelyn Underhill, enlightenment is an English synonym for mysticism. Enlightenment of this kind is a term which spans many religions and ages and is associated with 'ascetics', 'quietists' and 'mystics.' The gloom, irrationality and ignorance of older orthodox expressions of world religions seem to have driven many gifted and conscientious people to 'break through' and find out for themselves. A situation perhaps summed up by Teresa of Avila with her comment:

I do not fear Satan half so much as I fear those who fear him.

This probably refers to such as the Inquisition and the like or their bosses who, perhaps in their zeal to protect those under their care, carried out deeds far worse.

It is said that there are many paths leading to the same place, like the many paths up a mountain. Many of the enlightened mystics seemed to have managed to coexist alongside the stifling regimes of their eras and make statements which would seem very much akin to New Church ideas. Evelyn Underhill tells us that: "Every minute you are thinking of evil, you might have been thinking of good instead. Refuse to pander to a morbid interest in your own misdeeds. Pick yourself up, be sorry, shake yourself, and go on again." This progressive and positive attitude seems very Swedenborgian; it includes a challenge to be cheerful come what may, review ourselves, genuinely regret if we have let down the Lord and the neighbour, determine to revise our actions in future, and then go on. Rumi as far back as the twelfth century, seems to instruct us to take heed of the meaning in scripture, and do good works:

Why should I stay at the bottom of a well, when a strong rope is in my hand?

And that enlightenment and faith increases as we step out and live the good life:

As you start to walk out on the way, the way appears.

The three mystics mentioned above, are all what might be termed 'people of the book', Christian or Islamic; people of the Occident, the West and whose belief systems have a commonality in that they can be traced back to Abraham. I once had an acquaintance who was a Japanese Zen Buddhist - an Oriental - who said he was once a monk in a temple in Japan being supervised by a Zen Master. During a gruelling week long meditation he had a mountain top experience where he says he saw the universe all at once and knew all things. He said that as a result of this he was enlightened, that he now had the Buddha mind. He had never been the same since. But he never came out with any profound statements such as those I have already mentioned above from the three western mystics (he may have done had I known him longer.) Nevertheless his life was a life of work and his output was his beautiful two acre garden which he cultivated himself and which was actually as close a picture of heaven as you could possibly imagine.

I wonder if people sometimes believe that mystics generally spend their lives in pious prayer, or meditation, or physically uncomfortable situations? But I

would imagine that most well known mystics would have led active lives in the world alongside their prayerful lives. Swedenborg is clear that true enlightenment can only come from a healthy balance between reading scripture, a good and active life in the world and prayer. This is what he says on the subject.

There are some who believe that to live the life that leads to heaven, which is called the spiritual life, is difficult, because they have been told that a person must renounce the world, must divest himself of the lusts called the lusts of the body and the flesh, and must live spiritually; and they understand this to mean that they must discard worldly things, which consist chiefly in riches and honors; that they must walk continually in pious meditation on God, salvation, and eternal life; and must spend their life in prayers and in reading the Word and pious books. Such is their idea of renouncing the world, and living in the spirit and not in the flesh. But that this is not at all true it has been made known to me by much experience and from conversation with the angels. I have learned, in fact, that those who renounce the world and live in the spirit in this manner acquire a sorrowful life that is not receptive of heavenly joy, since everyone's life continues the same after death. On the contrary, to receive the life of heaven a person must live in the world and engage in its business and employments, and by means of a moral and civil life there receive the spiritual life. In no other way can the spiritual life be formed in a person, or his spirit prepared for heaven; for to live an internal life and not at the same time an external life is like dwelling in a house that has no foundation, that gradually sinks or becomes cracked and rent asunder, or totters till it falls. [Heaven and Hell 528]

I note also, that Carl Jung discussed the differences between Eastern and Western mystical practices and in doing so warns us in the West to be careful of some intense Eastern meditative practices. Some of these practices he says, are not conducive to the Western mindset.

The Age of Enlightenment

On another tack, the Age of Enlightenment arrived around the eighteenth century. This is around the time when Swedenborg tells us that the Last Judgement occurred in the spiritual worlds. After this cataclysmic event, the quality of goodness and truth which flowed from the Lord through the heavens to mankind on earth, increased dramatically. Scientific discoveries began to accelerate and along with these, many of the old and irrational concepts of the Christian Churches began to be challenged. In fact, I believe all religions have been challenged and continue to be challenged.

This was probably a good thing except that the expansion of the natural sciences inevitably brought about an expansion of technology far in excess of the wisdom of mankind to use it. Weaponry and war experienced a quantum leap into a completely different league, and this along with our collective lack of wisdom had an inevitable effect. The old religions were thrown aside more than ever; perhaps by those who were embittered in the aftermath of war. What seems to have happened is that the decline of orthodox religions has left a kind of moral vacuum, as much of the control and responsibility possessed by religion, government and education transferred to other groups and the people themselves, allowing an erosion of some of the unhelpful dogma which existed within these old structures. At the same time, the lid seems to have been removed from 'Pandora's Box'. But it is hoped that out of this malaise of our current love affair with the materialistic side of life, a new consensus may arise from the people themselves about what religion should be like.

So the age of enlightenment has thrown many of the irrational aspects of orthodox religions into disrepute and at the same time opened up the horizons of scientific knowledge. However, our infatuation with the natural sciences (simply called 'science' in common parlance) has very little if any potential to develop us spiritually just at a time when we need wisdom more than ever. Mankind in general has entered into a love affair with science to the exclusion of the very thing which is capable of providing us the wisdom we need: good and true religions which make sense, give meaning to life and leave us in freedom.

The limitations of Natural Science

Swedenborg said that the natural sciences cannot prove the existence of God or the spiritual realities of the afterlife. Hence the Lord removed the Israelites from Egypt, where Egypt represents the dream that natural science can provide salvation. All they can really do is lead to a more comfortable material existence whilst we are on the earth, but they have little power to help us develop spiritual stature, as the power to do this is from the Lord alone and terminates entirely in the domain of human interactions and relationships. In fact, the short term materialistic hedonism encouraged by technology erodes our spiritual stature if anything and puts pressure on our natural resources. Another problem with researching the natural sciences is that where it has been disconnected from religion, scientific researchers tend to attribute success to themselves as opposed to the Higher Mind and thus can have a tendency to become egocentric; which is spiritually dangerous. Having said all that, there can be many advantages of technology which can assist our

spiritual progress but only to my mind, when they are shackled to wisdom. The communication power of the internet and green energy come immediately to mind. And the word wisdom, in its true sense, always implies/includes a sense of the Divine.

Swedenborg tells us that it is only spiritual science which can really help us spiritually.

Thought from the eye closes the understanding, but thought from the understanding opens the eye. [Divine Love and Wisdom 46]

In other words, to try to prove spiritual things from observations of material things per se is useless, the spiritual world is a discrete degree removed from the material world and so there is no continuous relationship with it - only correspondence. Faith can only be derived by gaining an understanding of the Word and confirming our thoughts by correspondence with the processes of natural or material sciences.

For instance, we can study a particular type of tree with the methods of natural science, and may by doing so, develop a variety which produces better fruit to eat and timber to build our houses with. But we need to understand that spiritually, a tree represents a person, the fruit, goodness in a person and timber, wisdom leading to spiritual stature. Also that each of the steps of the fairly complicated scientific process we used to develop the new species represents the steps of a series of spiritual processes we need to impose upon ourselves in order for us to develop goodness, and wisdom. This, according to Swedenborg, was the chief education of the ancient people of the Earth in their Golden and Silver Ages. Until we rediscover this lost spiritual science or science of correspondences, then the natural science we use can only really have a natural advantage to us.

The Lord Himself dwells within an internal part of us called the internal life and we have no sense perception (perception through the five senses) of this whatsoever. However, the Lord can flow down through our conscious natural or external life and access what is His in our memory. Bringing it to life and showing us by spiritual perception - His still small voice - the things he wants us to heed and live. And that which belongs to Him in our memory is anything which is from His Word.

So what is the future for a people who are distracted by the magic of science in a world that has largely sidelined religion? Well, all is not lost. Walt Whitman

the American Poet said: “Swedenborg will make the deepest and broadest mark upon the religions of future ages of any man that has ever walked the earth” I assume he wasn’t considering the Lord Himself.

Swedenborg was adamant when he said in all humility that the Lord had given him the teachings of the New Jerusalem; the perfect and holy city which is prophesied in the Apocalypse of John to descend from heaven. So we can rest assured that although things may seem a little gloomy at times that the Lord has a plan. He is working to establish a new church which will eventually be established in all its wonderful variety but with a common heart of love to the Lord and charity to the neighbour; based upon essential elements of His Word. The Lord is the redeemer of all mankind irrespective of religion. The beautiful perfume of His goodness and truth is wafting over the whole earth and His ‘principles’ are being imperceptibly imbibed by all and sundry. I believe that the Writings of Swedenborg are a necessary literary accompaniment to this process and artists and poets have already done a stirring job of spreading this knowledge. We in our church can only play our own tiny part in our time, but this tiny part is infinitely important to the Lord’s work and adds to all the other tiny parts from around the world to produce the heavens in all their wonderful and interesting variety.

True enlightenment can only be achieved by holding in our hearts and minds a sense of the absolute Holiness of the Lord’s Word, praying to the Lord for a true understanding of it and living a life in the world in accordance with this to the best of our gifts and capabilities. In doing these things, we will need to overcome egocentric obstacles which can be difficult, sometimes very difficult, as I’m sure many of you will recognise. And although it seems as though it is we that overcome them, we ought to believe that it is really the Lord working in us and through us.

Revd David Gaffney

Minutes of the Two Hundred and Sixth Annual Meeting of The General Conference of the New Church

Tuesday 23rd July 2013

1 In accordance with Minute 58 of the last Annual Meeting, the Conference assembled, as arranged by the Council, at 3.00 p.m. at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, on Tuesday, 23rd July 2013.

2 The Revd Bruce Jarvis led a family service of worship, during which the Pledge of Commitment was repeated as follows:

“I promise to honour the Lord Jesus Christ as the One God of heaven and earth, who is love itself and in whom is the Divine Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I will endeavour to follow the teaching of His Holy Word, contained in the Bible and revealed anew in the theological books of Emanuel Swedenborg.

I will seek to overcome all evils in thought, word and action, and strive to do what is good as if of myself, whilst acknowledging that the saving power to do so comes from the Lord alone.”

3 The Acting Chairman of the Council, Mr Michael Clubb, took the chair and welcomed Members to the 206th Annual Meeting of The General Conference of the New Church.

4 The Chairman announced that he had invited Mrs Enid Nicholls and Mrs Lynda Pierpoint to check the credentials of Voting Members and to supervise the signing of the Conference Roll.

5 The roll, when completed, contained the following names:

COUNCIL

Acting Chairman	M Clubb
Members	J Z Brooks
	R H Cunningham
	M D Haseler
	M J Hindley
	J M Wilson
Officer	S G Ross

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

F M Burnley
E J Chambers
D R A Friend
P A Grimshaw
P L Johnson
G S Kuphal
A C Misson

MINISTERS

Spiritual Leader	D E Gaffney
Spiritual Leader	G L Gordon
	C A Bank
	H T Brown
	L Chambers
	C Curry
	M E Duckworth
	J Dunion
	B R Jarvis
	I Russell
	R M Russell
	M W Stanley
	B M Talbot

AREA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

London and Southern	D Margison
Yorkshire and North-East	I P Johnson, M J Taylor

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	L M Pierpoint, S Thomas
Bradford	J E Millar, T Millar
Brightlingsea	I Hindley
Burnley	S Wilson
Dalton	J Mrozek, W Richardson
Derby	B J Bentley, G C Bentley, E B Nicholls
Kearsley	J E Ford, S Kennion
Keighley	P N Brooks, A E Clarkson
Greenhill	J N Harris

Kensington	H W Turner
West Wickham	H G Johnson, L K Nicholls
Paisley	J A Bowie
Seaburn Dene	H A Nicholls, E Regan,
Southend-on-Sea	J Cunningham

SOCIETY VOTERS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	M P Curry
Bradford	G E Rowe
Chester	R M Jarratt
Derby	B Clubb, J Jones, S A Jones, R J Kennion
Kearsley	A Presland, M Presland
Greenhill	P Peacock
Kensington	S Friend
West Wickham	D E Brooks, E A Brooks, A Skinner, C V Skinner
Seaburn Dene	T M Jarvis, E K Schofield

CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

B Brown
E S Cunningham
C Goalen
M Hawkins
D A Lomax
P M Russell

6 *Resolved:* That Mr Michael Hindley, Mr Gordon Kuphal and Miss Sally Ross be a Committee to co-operate with the Chairman and the Company Secretary in revision of the Minutes; Secretary, Mr Kuphal.

7 The Conference, having been informed that the Revd Esther Byrne, Mrs Dorie Chalk, Dr Margaret Jackson and Mrs Pamela Russell-Lacy had passed into the spiritual world,

Resolved: That the Conference expresses its high regard for these friends and their various services to the Lord's Church, and requests that a copy of the Memorial Notice be forwarded to the families, with the sympathy and goodwill of the Members of Conference.

8 The Company Secretary drew attention to the messages displayed for the information of the Annual Meeting received from:

The Revd Julian and Mrs Ruth Duckworth, the Revd Robert Gill, the Revd Christopher and Mrs Joy Hasler, the Revd John and Mrs Jenny Sutton, Mr Graham and Mrs Frances Fisher and Mr Geoffrey Turner.

Resolved: That the Conference, through the Chairman, sends greetings and best wishes at his discretion to those named above.

9 *Resolved:*

- (a) That Rules C3 and C4 be deleted.
- (b) That a full stop be put after 'recorded' in line four of Rule C5 and that the remainder of the paragraph be deleted.
- (c) That Rule C7 be deleted.
- (d) That the word 'Governing' be deleted from Rule C8.
- (e) That Rules C9, C10 and C13 be deleted.
- (f) That the words 'In accordance with Rule G3b,' be deleted from Rule C11.
- (g) That the words 'or resignation' be inserted after 'other than by reason of death' in Rules J10 and K4.

10 A statement was made on behalf of the Council regarding a letter which Mr Nigel Sutton had circulated to various Members of Conference and others.

11 The recently appointed Youth Leaders, Mrs Jen Pickard and Mr Bob Curry, were introduced. Mrs Pickard spoke about her ideas and plans. As Mr Curry was unable to be present a video which he had made outlining his plans was shown.

12 The Revd Helen Brown spoke about her continuing use of workshops in her ministry.

13 Mrs Cathy Mahmood spoke about the Spiritual Friends website.

14 A discussion on 'One Attending Member One Vote' was introduced by Mr David Haseler.

Resolved: That every Attending Member of Conference should have the right to speak and vote at General Meetings and that the matter should be brought to an Extraordinary General meeting in 2014 to effect the necessary amendment to the Articles.

15 At 8.45 p.m. evening worship was conducted by Mr Stephen Thomas.

Wednesday 24th July 2013

16 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with a session entitled 'Praise the Lord' led by the Revd Bruce Jarvis.

17 At 9.45 a.m. a Family Holy Supper service was conducted by the Revd Mary Duckworth assisted by the Revd Gillian Gordon. There were 93 communicants including children.

18 The Revd Gillian Gordon presented a session entitled 'Churches as Power Houses'.

19 The Revd David Gaffney delivered the keynote address based on the Conference theme contained in Psalm 119, verse 105 – "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

20 The Revd Clifford Curry presented a session entitled 'Four Faces of Christ' about the differences between the four Gospels.

21 The Revd Mary Duckworth, the Revd Jack Dunion, the Revd Bruce Jarvis and the Revd Michael Stanley formed an 'Any Questions' panel under the chairmanship of Mr Alan Misson.

22 The Revd Helen Brown introduced a session entitled 'Any Answers', which enabled discussion, in groups, on matters raised during the previous session.

23 At 8.00 p.m. the following special interest groups were held in parallel:

New Church Historical Society Annual General Meeting

Sacred dance – Revd Rita Russell

Working with the 'Spiritual Friends' website – Mrs Cathy Mahmood

Thursday 25th July 2013

24 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with family worship conducted by the Revd Jack Dunion.

25 The Revd Christine Bank presented the Report of the Ministers'

Committee.

26 *Resolved:* That Mrs Rebecca Jarratt be declared to be a Student Minister.

27 *Resolved:* That Mrs Rebecca Jarratt be declared to be an Authorised Celebrant for Baptisms.

28 *Resolved:* That Miss Gwendolen Rowe be declared to be a Recognised Worship Leader.

29 *Resolved:* That Mrs Liz Regan be declared to be an Accredited Worship Leader.

30 *Resolved:* That the Report of the Ministers' Committee be adopted.

31 Miss Sally Ross presented the Report of the Company Accountant.

32 *Resolved:* That the Company Accountant's Report, the Balance Sheet and Accounts be adopted.

33 *Resolved:* That Conference, saddened by the emotional situation that Mr Nigel Sutton has described in a letter to many Members of Conference, instructs the Council not to take any further action on Mr Nigel and Mrs Christine Sutton's requests, as this situation is a matter between the individuals involved and not the Council.

34 Mr Michael Clubb presented the Report of the Council.

38 *Resolved:* That the Report of the Council be adopted.

37 *Resolved:* That BW Business Services Ltd., of The Mills, Canal Street, Derby, be appointed auditors to the Conference.

38 *Resolved:*

(a) Rules Section D and Section G

That the whole of these sections be deleted.

(b) Rules Section H

That H3, H4, H5 and H6 and also the heading 'CHIEF EXECUTIVE' be deleted.

That H1 be revised to 'The Company Secretary shall ensure that the Register

of Members includes the names of Societies and Groups with which they may be associated.’

That in H2 the words ‘a copy of any nominations for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Elected members of the Council together with their personal statements, and’ be deleted.

That H7 be revised to ‘Societies, Groups, Area Councils, Ministers and Honorary Life Members shall be informed of the final date by which the Company Secretary must have received, in writing, the terms of any Notice of Motion intended to be placed before the Annual Meeting and this date shall be twelve weeks before the Annual Meeting. Notices of Motion may be submitted by any Society, Group, Area Council, Minister or Member. Provided that, except where the mover is a Society, Group or Area Council, they are supported by at least five Members in addition to the mover, they shall be printed in the Circular and shall be dealt with at a time decided by the Chairman. Voting Members may submit Notices of Motion in writing to the Company Secretary at the Annual Meeting, supported by five other Voting Members, but, unless in the view of the Chairman they are urgent and call for immediate action, the Company Secretary shall include them in the Circular for the next Annual Meeting.’

(c) Rules Section I

That the whole section be deleted.

(d) Rules Section J

That J2 and J9 and the second sentence of J1 and the second sentence of J8 be deleted and that the following then be added as a second sentence to J8 ‘The induction of any Minister into the office of Ordaining Minister shall be approved by the Council and the Ministers’ Committee’.

That a new Rule J2 be added as follows:

‘The Ministers’ Committee shall:

- a) give pastoral guidance to the Conference
- b) have overall responsibility for such devotional and educational activities as may form part of General Meetings
- c) make arrangements for the conducting of inductions into pastorates.
- d) nominate a member or members to be appointed as leader or leaders by the Council.’

That in J5 ‘Senior Minister’ be amended to ‘Ministers’ Committee’.

(e) Rules Section L

That L6, L7 and L10 and the word ‘GOVERNING’ in the heading be deleted.

That (b) after Article 31 in L4 and L5 be deleted as Article 31 no longer has (a) and (b).

That in L3 ‘eight’ be amended to ‘two’, that a full stop be put after ‘Annual Meeting’ and that ‘so that information about each nominee can be circulated with the Proof Reports.’ be deleted.

That in L5 the words “‘the Senior Minister’ be amended to ‘ministerial representatives’.

(f) Rules Section O and Section P

That the whole of these sections be deleted.

(g) Rules Section Q

That in Q6 ‘Senior Minister’ be amended to ‘Ministers’ Committee’, ‘Chief Executive’ to ‘Council’ and ‘employment’ to ‘use’.

(h) Rules Section R

That the second sentence of R1 and R2 to R6 inclusive be deleted.

(i) Rules Sections B, C, H, L, M, and Z

That in Rules B1, C1, C5, H8, L3 (twice), M2, Z1 and Z3 the words ‘Chief Executive’ be deleted and replaced by the words ‘Company Secretary.’

39 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to Mr Michael Clubb for his years of service as a Trustee and particularly for his work in the last four years as Vice-Chairman and Acting Chairman.

40 Following a ballot Mr David R A Friend was declared to be Chairman of the Council until 2015.

41 Following a ballot Mrs Judith M Wilson was declared to be Vice-Chairman of the Council until 2017.

42 Following a ballot Mr David Haseler was declared to be a member of the Council until 2016.

43 At 5.15 p.m. the Conference Service was conducted by the Revd Rita Russell in the Main Hall of the Hayes Conference Centre. Her theme was

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1: 9 TNIV. During the service Mrs Rebecca Jarratt was inducted as a Student Minister by the Revd Gillian Gordon.

The offertory for the Conference funds amounted to £1,549.28 (inclusive of Gift Aid).

44 At 8.00 p.m. a social was held, compered by Mrs Jan Millar.

Friday 26th July 2013

45 Mr David Lomax introduced a presentation on the work of the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre. Mrs Rebecca Jarratt and Mrs Patricia Russell also spoke.

46 Mrs Jan Millar introduced a short presentation on the work of the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry. Mrs Liz Regan also spoke.

47 A certificate was presented to Miss Gwendolen Rowe as a Recognised Worship Leader.

48 The children, under the guidance of their leaders, presented the work they had done over the period of the Conference.

49 A number of speakers contributed to a review of the Annual Meeting.

50 *Resolved:* That, in accordance with the Council’s proposal, the 207th Annual Meeting be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, starting on Tuesday, 29th July 2014.

51 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be conveyed to all those responsible for making arrangements for the meeting, in particular Mr John Ford (the Conference Organiser); Mrs Margaret Presland (the bookings secretary); Mrs Jan Millar (the secretary of the Conference Planning Committee); Mr David Glover and Mr Samuel Kennion, for Information Communication Technology arrangements; Mrs Jenny Jones, and all those involved in enabling and planning for families to be present at the Meeting; Mrs Enid Nicholls and Mrs Lynda Pierpoint for acting as the Credentials Committee; Mr Michael Clubb, Mrs Edith Schofield and Mr David Friend for

arrangements for the Holy Supper service; Mrs Susan Friend and Mrs Lynda Pierpoint for doing the washing up afterwards; Mr Alan Misson and Mr Colin Skinner for acting as scrutineers; Mrs Marion Curry (Music Director) the musicians and the choir and Mrs Barbara Bentley for the beautiful floral arrangements.

52 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the Minutes Committee for their conscientious work in producing the minutes of the meeting.

53 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to Mr Michael Clubb and to the chairmen and vice-chairmen appointed by him, for their conduct of the Annual Meeting. Those who acted in this capacity were Mrs Judith Wilson, Mr Richard Cunningham, Mr David Haseler, Mr Michael Hindley and Mr Alan Misson.

54 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the incoming Chairman, Mr David Friend, for his conduct of the final sessions of the meeting.

55 The session concluded with the Chairman's closing remarks.

56 At 12.15 p.m. a closing service of family worship was conducted by the Revd Christine Bank.

57 The Minutes of this Annual Meeting were verified.

58 The Annual Meeting closed at 3:10 p.m.

Signed

David R A Friend, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

Michael Hindley, Minutes Committee

Sally G Ross, Minutes Committee

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL – YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2013

SECTION 1 – CENTRAL TOPICS

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Council held the usual five meetings during the year, which included one short meeting before the Annual Meeting, plus an additional very short meeting in Derby, particulars of which are given at 1.2. Details of attendances at the five main meetings are as follows:

Acting Chairman:	Mr M Clubb	5
Trustees:	Mrs K Brooks	2 (2 possible)
	Ms J Z Brooks	5 (Also Company Secretary)
	Mr R H Cunningham	3 (3 possible)
	Mr M D Haseler	5
	Mr M J Hindley	5 (Also Council Secretary)
	Mrs J M Wilson	5

In attendance were:

Treasurer:	Mr N K Sutton	1 (part) (2 possible)
Company Accountant	Miss S Ross	3 (3 possible)
CoM Secretary:	Revd C Bank	5
Spiritual Leader:	Revd D E Gaffney	5

Mr Andrew Bentley also attended part of the September meeting in his role as Finance Manager.

The Revd Gillian Gordon attended the November meeting in her role as Spiritual Leader. Mr D R A Friend, the Pensions and Insurance Manager, also attended the November meeting.

1.2 A short meeting was held in Derby on 23 September to transact urgent business. In accordance with Article 34 the Council agreed prior to this meeting that two would form a quorum for this meeting. It was attended by Mr M Clubb (Acting Chairman) and Ms J Z Brooks.

1.3 The Council records its appreciation to Mr Michael Clubb for service as Acting Chairman for another year. Mr Clubb had said initially that he was only prepared to fill this office for one year and the Council is very grateful to him for agreeing to carry on for a second year. Mr Clubb is not seeking re-election to the Council in 2013. A new Chairman is therefore sought to succeed him for the remaining two years of the current term.

The Council wishes to express its appreciation of the service of Mrs Kathie Brooks, who did not seek re-election in July 2012.

In addition to Mr Clubb (Vice-chairman), Mrs Judith Wilson and Mr David Haseler will all complete their terms of office in July 2013. Mrs Wilson is seeking to be elected as Vice-chairman. Mr Haseler is seeking re-election as an Elected Member.

The periods of office of the remaining members of the Council are: Mr Richard Cunningham until 2015, Ms Zoë Brooks until 2014 and Mr Michael Hindley until 2014.

1.4 At the Conference in 2012 only one of the two possible Trustees was appointed and subsequently the Council has been one Elected Member short for a fourth year. This year therefore, in addition to the Chairman and Vice-chairman, it is possible to appoint two Trustees for a period of three years and one for two years, despite the fact that only two are retiring.

1.5 The Council is concerned that, with so few people being willing to become trustees, the Council members are not always actually elected. It has therefore made a Standing Order to rectify this. The Order reads as follows:

‘Whenever there are vacancies for the Chairman, the Vice-chairman or Elected Members and the number of nominees standing for a particular position equals or is less than the number of vacancies, a ballot will be held in which any nominee will need to obtain the votes of at least half of the Voting Members present at the Annual Meeting when the vote is taken in order to be elected.’

2 GENERAL REVIEW

Unfortunately, in about five years’ time The Revd David Gaffney and Mrs Anne Gaffney will reach the age when they may wish to retire. The Council has therefore decided to advertise for an Ordination Student to train specifically for the role of Programme Director at Purley Chase. No action is being taken at present regarding the position of Centre Manager, as the training period for this post will not be as long.

At its meeting in May the Council decided to advertise for a part-time (16 hours a week) Youth Worker to satisfy the need expressed by young families. Following a somewhat lengthy advertising campaign two applicants were selected for interview at the March meeting. They both gave excellent albeit very different presentations. The Council was so impressed by the quality of these two candidates that it decided to offer each of them employment of 16 hours a week from 1st April, as it was recognised that they had complementary approaches and talents that should combine to give Conference significant

progress in this vital area. There was a real feeling of excitement after the decision was made, a sense that at last we were on the verge of something new. Happily both candidates accepted the offer of employment.

The Council wishes to express its thanks to West Wickham Society for their generosity in offering to pay £4,000 per annum towards the cost of employing the Youth Workers.

In order to continue to encourage teenagers to attend Conference the Council has again agreed that Mrs Jenny Jones be authorised to invite 16-19 year olds to attend Conference 2013 as a free event.

The Council recognises that it is not only young families that sometimes have difficulty meeting the costs of attending Conference. It has therefore decided to offer to reduce the price for all members to 75% of the actual cost for 2013. Those who can afford to do so have been asked to make up the balance of 25% by donation, in addition to any donation they might wish to make towards the costs of young families. As a result of this reduction, young families have been offered attendance at only half of 75% but they have been asked to make this up to 50% by donation if they can afford to do so.

The working of the Revd Gillian Gordon and the Revd David Gaffney in a dual leadership role as Spiritual Leaders has continued to be effective. However, the joint leadership offer was for a period of two years only and ends in July 2013. The Council has been pleased to approve the Ministers' Committee recommendation that the Revd David Gaffney continue for a further period of two years, this time as sole Spiritual Leader, and it hopes that he will not find his duties too arduous.

The Council wishes to record its appreciation of the work of Mr Nigel Sutton as Treasurer for the final period until his resignation in July 2012.

3 LINK MEMBERS

The link membership has been amended. Details of the links between the Council and those engaged in ministerial work are:

Churches and CAM	*Mrs K Brooks and Revd C Bank
Web Development	*Mrs K Brooks and Revd J Dunion
Purley Chase	Mr D Haseler and Revd D Gaffney
Finance	Miss S Ross and Revd C Curry
Human Resources	Mr R H Cunningham and Revd C Bank
Youth and Training and Development	Mrs J Wilson and Revd J Dunion

*Although she is no longer a Council Member Mrs K Brooks continued her

work with Churches, CAM and the Vision Team via the Secretary for the Ministers' Committee.

In addition Mrs J Wilson links with Mrs J Jones on working with Youth.

4 STAFF & REMUNERATION

In 2012/13 the total of stipends, telephone and broadband, paid to ministers was £114,840. In addition one worked as a non-stipendiary minister throughout the year. In the same year the total of salaries, wages, telephone and broadband paid to lay employees was £146,513.87. These figures include people employed for part of the year.

The Council approved a 1.3% increase from 1 April 2013 for all employees, except those paid hourly, to be in line with the Average Weekly Earnings index.

Most of the work previously undertaken by Mr Sutton has been taken over by Miss Ross and she is in fact the Treasurer but the Council has decided that she will keep the more modern title of Company Accountant. Mr Andrew Bentley as Finance Manager has taken over the Management of Conference and Common Investment Fund investments, in conjunction with other members of the Finance Advisory Committee.

The amount of work involved in changing bank etc. account signatories following Mr Sutton's departure was unimaginable. Miss Ross was without the Internet banking facility she needed until the beginning of November but everything seems to be running smoothly now.

5 VISION TEAM

The team had only three members this year, the Revds David Gaffney and Jack Dunion and Mrs Kathie Brooks. The Council is very grateful for the work the team has done to produce the results with which we are now working and is continuing to be influenced by the Team's needs-led philosophy. Use of the new website is increasing and it is felt that now is the time for the Vision Team to move organically to a Web Team.

As a result of the Vision Team's desire for a new name more in keeping with its philosophy, the Governing Council has become simply the Council, following a resolution at the AGM in 2012.

The Council is determined to keep alive the ideas that have come from the Vision Team and to support the Web Team.

6 MINISTRY

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

The Council again wishes to record its appreciation of the generosity of the Revd Clifford Curry who continues as a non-stipendiary minister. His voluntary work has helped considerably in improving the Conference financial position.

Ordination Training

The Council is delighted to support the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre's ideas for work-based training and the concept of a Student Minister role. It hopes that it will soon see the first Student Minister in post.

David Lomax

The Council was sorry to learn that David had found it necessary to resign as Principal of the College and also as a Conference Minister. It wishes him every success in whatever future path he chooses.

7 CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

The Council is concerned that Central Register Members, particularly those who are not members of Groups, may become isolated. As a result Mr Haseler has written to all Central Register Members informing them of ways they can maintain contact and giving details of periodicals, websites and other facilities.

8 CHILD PROTECTION

The Revd Rita Russell continues to co-ordinate requests for enhanced certificates. These are now made electronically and the Council appreciates the very clear instructions that she has issued to enable even the most reluctant Internet user to cope. As part of the changeover process enhanced certificates for ministers, employees and volunteers will gradually be re-checked.

9 VOLUNTEERS – THE NEW STRUCTURE

The new structure came into force in July 2011. It appears to be working well and the Council anticipates that this structure will continue for some time. A full list of volunteers now working for Conference is given below.

Council Secretary	Michael Hindley
Council Recorder	Patricia Russell
Conference Organiser	John Ford
Conference Bookings Secretary	Margaret Presland
Conference Programme Secretary	Jan Millar
Company Secretary	Zoë Brooks
Finance Manager	Andrew Bentley
Pensions and Insurance Manager	David Friend
Payroll Manager	Colin Skinner
Property Manager, North	John Ford
Property Manager, South	Mike Wilson
Church Support, North	Pauline Grimshaw
	Anne Clarkson
Church Support, South	Revd Gillian Gordon
Family Coordinator	Jenny Jones
Health & Safety Coordinator	Wilf Woodhouse
Child Protection	Judith Wilson
Magazine Ordering	Marion Curry

The Council is still seeking to reduce the work of volunteers wherever possible

Arrangements have been made for the significant and vital information held by the Council Secretary and the Company Secretary to be accessed in emergencies. At its September meeting the Council decided to reappoint Mr Michael Hindley as Council Secretary and Ms Zoë Brooks as Company Secretary for a further three years. Mr Michael Hindley was also appointed as Assistant Company Secretary for three years to regularise the position regarding some of the work he does.

People are still sometimes in doubt as to whether they should contact the Council Secretary or the Company Secretary but this has not caused any problems as the two officers continue to work closely together.

The Council again wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have taken on voluntary roles.

10 SOCIETIES

The Council was pleased to learn that Mr Alan Misson is to be inducted as Lay Pastor at West Wickham.

11 CONFERENCE PROPERTIES

Domestic

The house at 112 Kensington Road, Southend-on-Sea was sold on 1 May 2012 for £225,000.

The bungalow at 14 Riverside Lane, Tuckton, Bournemouth was sold on 6 July 2012 for £242,500.

Churches and Other Buildings

The sale of Oaklands, Birmingham for £425,000 was completed on 15 May 2012.

The church premises at Besses were let to a community group from 1 June 2012 for six months at a rent of £150 per month. This rent did no more than cover our legal costs but the Council decided upon this letting as it was felt that it was safer than leaving the property empty and vulnerable to vandalism. There was also the hope that the tenants would eventually purchase the property. At the end of the six months the community group still did not have the funds to buy the property and a lease for a further six months at a rent of £500 a month was granted from 1 December 2012. Care was taken to ensure that the security of tenure provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 did not apply to this letting. Also at the beginning of December the asking price was reduced from £160,000 to £135,000 in accordance with the estate agent's recommendation.

In February the tenants made an offer of £100,000 for the property. This offer was accepted, the agent saying that in the present climate he considered it to be a good one. A completion date to coincide with the end of the lease has been agreed.

Blackpool church was originally put on the market for £130,000 but as after six months there seemed to be no prospect of a sale, despite there having been some interest shown in the property, it was decided in November 2012 to reduce the asking price to £115,000 in accordance with the estate agent's recommendation. Shortly before this there was an offer from a community group to rent the property but their terms were unacceptable. Two offers of £70,000 have been received and rejected.

The Stained Glass Museum in Ely did say that they would take the two stained glass windows from the church and pay for replacements. They then found themselves short of funds and asked if we could assist. Conference offered £500 and this was accepted. A part of New Church history has thus been saved with only a small cost to Conference.

12 MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

Since the last Annual Meeting the Revd Esther Byrne has passed into the spiritual world. A memorial notice is being circulated with the proof reports.

13 ARTICLES AND RULES

The Council is still working on simplification. Last year it concentrated on the Articles but this year it has been the turn of the Rules, where the objective is to achieve a substantial reduction. As a result there are a number of motions before Conference this year concerning changes.

14 NOMINATIONS, PROPOSED RULE CHANGES AND OTHER MOTIONS

a) Nominations

The Council proposes that Messrs BW Business Services Ltd of Derby be re-appointed auditors for the Conference.

b) Rules

The following rule changes will be moved by the Council at the AGM 2013:

1) Rules Section C

Rules C3, C4

That these Rules be deleted.

Rule C5

That a full stop be put after 'recorded' in line four and that the remainder of the paragraph be deleted.

Rule C7

That this Rule be deleted.

Rule C8

That the word 'Governing' be deleted.

Rule C9

That this Rule be deleted. (All information to be included in amended H7 – see below.)

Rules C10 and C13

That these Rules be deleted as a consequence of deleting C3 and C4.

Rule C11

That the words ‘In accordance with Rule G3b,’ be deleted.

2) Rules Sections J and K

Rule J10 and Rule K4

That the words ‘or resignation’ be inserted after ‘other than by reason of death’.

3) Rules Section D

That the whole section be deleted.

4) Rules Section G

That the whole section be deleted. (The items at G1 and G3 (a) to (c) to be incorporated into J2 – see below.)

5) Rules Section H

That H3, H4, H5 and H6 and also the heading ‘CHIEF EXECUTIVE’ be deleted.

That H1 be revised to ‘The Company Secretary shall ensure that the Register of Members includes the names of Societies and Groups with which they may be associated.’

That in H2 the words ‘a copy of any nominations for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Elected members of the Council together with their personal statements, and’ be deleted.

That H7 be revised to ‘Societies, Groups, Area Councils, Ministers and Honorary Life Members shall be informed of the final date by which the Company Secretary must have received, in writing, the terms of any Notice of Motion intended to be placed before the Annual Meeting and this date shall be twelve weeks before the Annual Meeting. Notices of Motion may be submitted by any Society, Group, Area Council, Minister or Member. Provided that, except where the mover is a Society, Group or Area Council, they are supported by at least five Members in addition to the mover, they shall be printed in the Circular and shall be dealt with at a time decided by the Chairman. Voting Members may submit Notices of Motion in writing to the Company Secretary at the Annual Meeting, supported by five other Voting Members, but, unless in the view of the Chairman they are urgent and call for immediate action, the Company Secretary shall include them in the Circular for the next Annual Meeting.’

6) Rules Section I

That the whole section be deleted.

7) Rules Section J

That J2 and J9 and the second sentence of J1 and the second sentence of J8 be deleted and that the following then be added as a second sentence to J8 ‘The induction of any Minister into the office of Ordaining Minister shall be approved by the Council and the Ministers’ Committee’.

That a new Rule J2 be added as follows:

‘The Ministers’ Committee shall:

- a) give pastoral guidance to the Conference
- b) have overall responsibility for such devotional and educational activities as may form part of General Meetings
- c) make arrangements for the conducting of inductions into pastorates.
- d) nominate a member or members to be appointed as leader or leaders by the Council.’

That in J5 ‘Senior Minister’ be amended to ‘Ministers’ Committee’.

8) Rules Section L

That L6, L7 and L10 and the word ‘GOVERNING’ in the heading be deleted.

That (b) after Article 31 in L4 and L5 be deleted as Article 31 no longer has (a) and (b).

That in L3 ‘eight’ be amended to ‘two’, that a full stop be put after ‘Annual Meeting’ and that ‘so that information about each nominee can be circulated with the Proof Reports.’ be deleted.

That the final part of L5 be amended from ‘the Senior Minister’ to ‘ministerial representatives’.

9) Rules Section O

That this section be deleted.

10) Rules Section P

That this section be deleted.

11) Rules Section Q

That in Q6 ‘Senior Minister’ be amended to ‘Ministers’ Committee’, ‘Chief Executive’ to ‘Council’ and ‘employment’ to ‘use’.

12) Rules Section R

That the second sentence of R1 and R2 to R6 inclusive be deleted.

13) Rules Sections B, C, H, L, M, and Z

That in Rules B1, C1, C5, H8, L3 (twice), M2, Z1 and Z3 the words ‘Chief Executive’ be deleted and replaced by the words ‘Company Secretary.’

c) Other Motions

The Council will move that:

Every Member should have the right to speak and vote at General Meetings and that the matter should be brought to an Extraordinary General meeting in 2014 to effect the necessary amendment to the Articles.

15 COMMUNICATIONS & WEBSITES

www.generalconference.org.uk	News, information [intra-net]
www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk	Lifeline
www.purleychasecentre.org.uk	Purley Chase
www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk	SOLCe/New Church College
www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk	Outreach site
www.swedenborg.org.uk	The Swedenborg Society
www.apocalypse-of-john.org.uk	Apocalypse of John
www.spiritualquestions.org.uk	Light on human happiness
www.God-is-love.org.uk	God is Love
www.spiritualfriends.org.uk	Web Presence

16 FINANCIAL MATTERS

(The Company Accountant, Sally Ross, reports on the Income & Expenditure accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, subject to audit)

Overall Summary

The Operational Results show a surplus in the year of £75,000, which is an increase on the surplus last year of £23,000. This surplus has arisen from continued efforts to reduce costs mainly from Human Resources (HR) and an increase in donations and investment income.

Income

As society contributions are reducing, the investment income is becoming a more substantial part of the total income. Society Income fell very slightly by 1% whereas investment income rose by 24% due to money invested from property sales and a good 4th quarter investment performance. There was an overall increase of 7%.

Expenditure

Expenditure has continued to fall with a 5% decrease compared with last year. This is mainly due to the reduction in HR costs through use of volunteers.

Balance Sheet

There has been a sale of three properties in the year showing a decrease in fixed assets but an increase in reserves. Investments continue to be structured to a 50/50 split between capital growth and income.

Financial Future

Even though there was a larger surplus this year compared with last year, there will be an increase in HR costs from the 1st April due to the employment of two part time Youth Workers. The surplus made this year will be reduced to just above break-even point in the coming years due to increases in costs. An emphasis should be put on activities to increase income to enable us to continue without having to dip into our reserves.

17 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PURLEY MANAGEMENT TEAM 2012 – 2013

(Michael Clubb, Chairman, and David Haseler, Secretary, report)

1 The Team

Michael Clubb	Chairman	Nigel Sutton	Treasurer
Anne Gaffney	Manager	Sally Ross	Accountant
David Gaffney	Programme Director	David Haseler	Secretary

The Team continued to be supported by the competent housekeeping and catering team of Sue Earp, Stella Stephenson, Dawn Scaife, Angela Lewis, Samantha Twining and Samantha Moore. Stella retired in February 2013 and the Team is grateful for her loyal service during the last six years.

Nigel Sutton resigned at the end of the year. Nigel has been involved at Purley in several roles for over 50 years and the Team is grateful for his work and support.

2 Events

It is encouraging that the number of Conference events (20) and the attendance at them remained similar to those in the previous year. The Team recognises that our principal objective remains the promotion of Conference events, and we are working on increasing the number of these in the forthcoming year. However, we would welcome people who have new ideas for events and are willing to run these.

There was a significant decrease in the number of non-Conference events and also in the attendance at them, but, in compensation, there was a large increase in meals and social events. We believe that the previous year had a particularly high number of non-Conference events, and this would partly explain the decrease this year.

One interesting new event was organised by a newcomer to Purley. She has started a business teaching church growth to leaders of different Christian churches and groups.

Overnight events were attended by 831 people during the year; some would have attended more than one event.

There are indications that there is an increase in bookings for both 2013-14 and 2014-15.

There has been a reduction in paid advertising because it has been found that word-of-mouth and the Internet are more effective.

The monthly Sunday morning service continues with a small core of regular attendees supplemented by occasional visitors and an encouraging trickle of people from the local community.

3 Finance

Compared with the previous year, gross income stayed constant. There was an increase in the deficit from £10.2K to £14.4K. Though there was a significant reduction in advertising costs, this was more than offset by unavoidable increases in gas, maintenance and wages. An encouraging sign was the fact that donations, including those with Gift Aid, almost doubled to £47K.

4 Programme Director

The Team continues to be concerned about the time-pressures on David Gaffney as a result of his office as a Spiritual Leader. While recognising the benefits for the Conference organisation, there are inevitable disadvantages for Purley because of the reduced time available for his work as Programme Director.

David Gaffney has informed the Team that he will be 65 in 5 years' time and so will be in a position to decide to retire. The Team considers that it is essential that there be a successor in place when David does retire and has approached the Council to request that approval be given to find and train a successor, who will become an ordained minister. The Council has agreed to this request, and the Team will soon be advertising this position.

5 Buildings and Grounds

(a) General

Following the approval by the Council for the building of a conservatory at a maximum cost of £80K, a quotation was accepted and work started in early 2013. Some problems have been experienced in laying the foundation, and a new design is being prepared. The conservatory will be completed in time for the Summer season.

The Team is grateful to the West Wickham Society for funding the installation of en suite facilities in Bed Sit 1.

Routine maintenance continues to be carried out together with the required regulatory checks and testing.

(b) Grounds

80 per cent of the hedge along the field-boundary has now been laid.

6 Thanks

Purley is maintained in a clean and welcoming condition by our hard-working staff, and we continue to be grateful for their contribution to the Centre. We would also like to thank the many people, both church members and people from the local community, who willingly give their time and effort to help to maintain the building and the grounds.

The Team would also like to thank the many people who have donated generously to the Centre.

At the centre of Purley is the team of Anne and David Gaffney and Sally Ross who are primarily responsible for the smooth running of the Centre and for explaining our teachings to visitors who show an interest in them. They need to cope with the wide variety of problems that inevitably occur to the fabric and guests during the running of a complex organisation, often at inconvenient times. The Team expresses their thanks for their work and dedication.

SECTION 2 – AROUND THE CHURCH

18 AREA COUNCILS

18.1 SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

(Mrs H Laidlaw reports)

Once again a very successful “Open Doors” Day was held in September 2012 with some 117 people visiting and enjoying our Church building. Many favourable comments were made and there was quite a lot of interest in a number of the leaflets which were on display.

During the year, several new books have been purchased and placed in the Library. This included the purchase of two volumes of Rev. Norman Ryder’s Bibliography – one copy being presented to The Mitchell Library in Glasgow.

Consideration is being given at the moment to finding suitable premises to mount an Exhibition of the Apocalypse paintings and it is hoped to have this arranged for September or October of this year.

18.2 YORKSHIRE AND NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

(Mrs Jan Millar reports)

At the 2011 area meeting it was decided to hold the AGM and an Area Rally after a Sunday service for an experimental period of two years. The second of these took place at Seaburn Dene on 21st April 2013. Bradford, Keighley and Dalton churches closed for the day and transported their congregations by minibus to a service, AGM and afternoon of all age activities held at Seaburn Dene. Families and isolated members from the area were also invited. Thirty-seven people attended the AGM and over seventy adults, young people and children took part in the other activities. It was a most enjoyable and stimulating day.

At the AGM a presentation was made about the pros and cons of continuing to have an Area Council. Several people spoke strongly in favour of continuing with the Area although it was pointed out that new people needed to come forward for office. The executive will take on board the opinions expressed and ask representatives to discuss the matter with their individual churches and feed back well in advance of next year’s AGM.

In September we once again held a wonderful Area Weekend at Purley Chase. It is a very popular event and gives us the opportunity to meet together to worship, study and socialise in a relaxed atmosphere.

The reports received from all four churches show that, despite problems and

the loss of several key members at various churches, the area remains generally in good heart. We are as always deeply indebted to the Ministers, Retired Ministers and Lay Worship Leaders who take our services and all those who work so tirelessly on our behalf to maintain the life of our churches.

18.3 NORTH WEST (MANCHESTER) AREA COUNCIL

(Mrs Pauline Grimshaw reports)

1. Two meetings of the Council have been held during the past year with an average attendance of six, representing our members at Kearsley, Radcliffe and Stockport.

2. We have organized the usual three area events which give us the opportunity to meet together for fellowship, worship and instructional purposes.

3. This year we joined together with friends from North Lancashire to celebrate New Church Day which was held in the morning at Accrington. We very much enjoyed and appreciated the service, which was led by Mr. Christopher Chambers, who involved all ages with practical activities and the lovely instrumental music which was provided by the Thomas family. The enjoyable buffet lunch afterwards gave us the opportunity to get together socially.

4. The Christmas celebration was held at Kearsley, preceded by a shared meal. We enjoyed a selection of readings, poems and other individual items co-ordinated by Mr. Ray Kennion.

5. On the first Saturday in February our Swedenborg birthday meeting was held at Radcliffe. This was facilitated by Mr. Christopher Chambers and focused on discussing images of the Apocalypse.

6. Mrs. Jean Chadwick represented our area at Conference and presented a very detailed and interesting report of the proceedings. Mr. Keith Sandiford represents our Area on the Kildwick Committee.

7. Again our most sincere thanks of appreciation go to all those worship leaders, both lay and ministerial who have served the area during the past year and who have ensured that the worship of our Lord and the rites and ceremonies of our church have been maintained and provided.

8. During the coming year our officers will be:-

Chairman: Mr. Jeff Lomax

Treasurer: Mr. John Ford

Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Grimshaw

18.4 LONDON AND SOUTHERN AREA COUNCIL

(Mr Bryan Brown reports)

The Area is served by six churches at Bournemouth, Brightlingsea, Greenhill, Kensington, Southend and West Wickham. There is now only one full time minister, Revd Gillian Gordon, and one half time minister, Revd Clifford Curry. There have been discussions about how to manage when Gillian retires later this year. Additional ministry is provided by two retired ministers, a freelance minister and a team of lay people some of whom are licensed to take sacraments. In addition to formal services of worship, spiritual activities include meditation, study groups, discussion groups and circle dancing. Kensington and Brightlingsea are involved in their local “Churches Together” organisations. Some isolated members in Eastbourne enjoy pastoral support from Stephen Thomas. The Southend-on-Sea Church continues to have Sunday services each week. Weight Watchers UK uses its Church Hall as do a singing group and a Carers Group affiliated to Rethink, the mental health charity. A monthly Spiritual Discussion Group meets in members’ homes in either Bournemouth, Christchurch or Southampton; these are led by Revd Clifford Curry or Rev Rita Russell. Transport is arranged and 10 people attend. The Southampton Group consists of two ladies.

An Area Inset, with invaluable information on events relevant to members in the South, is produced by David Friend bimonthly and circulated to the six churches for inclusion in their church magazines.

There have been two Area “All Age” gatherings. The first at Bournemouth on 21 April on the theme of “touch”, with an attendance of 47. The second at West Wickham on 2 December with a Christmas theme. Both events were organised by Lara Nicholls. Family services have been introduced at Kensington.

The 23 June saw New Church Day celebrated in partnership with the Swedenborg Society with an exhibition of Roland Smith’s pictures from “Revelation”. Talks were given by Roland Smith, Michael Stanley and Helen Brown to outline the origins of the pictures and the work of Conference’s Apocalypse Study Group.

There were two workshops during the year. The first was at Greenhill on 20 October featuring Qigong and entitled “The Light Within”. This was facilitated by Peter Hague who runs the healing group at Greenhill. The second was at Swedenborg House on 2 March entitled “Discovering the Christ-spirit through Revelation”. The workshops were organised by Helen Brown and Hilda Johnson.

A weekend at Purley Chase was organised by Gillian Gordon for Southern Area church members and friends on 15-17 June. The theme for the weekend was “water” which was reflected in the various activities available over the weekend. These included origami, flower arranging and a boat trip on the local canal.

On Saturday afternoon 24 November an organ recital by Lionel Friend was held at Kensington. This was followed by a showing of “No Greater Love”, a film by Michael Whyte which gives a unique portrait of the Carmelite nuns in Notting Hill. Mostly newcomers attended.

At the end of December 2012 the ELSAC account balance stood at £132.81. An appeal has been made to Area treasurers for contributions to ensure that sufficient funds will be available for this year’s expenditure.

West Wickham hosted a New Year party on 5 January with refreshments and a variety of games and activities. The event was well attended and welcomed members from around the Area but, in addition, there were also many friends of the New Church.

The Open meeting was held at Swedenborg House on Wednesday 17 April 2013 and was attended by twelve people.

19 OVERSEAS

(The Revd Norman Ryder, Overseas Secretary, reports)

South Africa The New Church of Southern Africa has been in a phase of reorganisation during 2011-2013, five years after the coming together of the Orlando and Bloemfontein wings of their Church. During the Annual Conference held in December 2012, when Archbishop Henry T Kalo completed his six-year term of office, Senior Bishop L Benjamin Ngwexane was elected as Archbishop, with his installation ceremony scheduled to take place during 2013.

The Swedenborg Society and the Revd Ian Arnold are collaborating in arranging donations of multiple sets of the Writings of the New Church to all Bishops, Ministers, and official Student Ministers of the New Church of Southern Africa. This generous gift is a god-send to their Church. Similar gifts are being arranged to West Africa and the Philippines. The Revd Christopher Hasler has donated from his personal library many volumes of the Writings and of Bible commentaries, and these will be a valuable addition to the Library at Mooki Memorial College.

I have continued to send to individual Ministers in South Africa a steady flow of books, many of which come from stocks held at New Church House,

Manchester. At Chester Society's annual charities fair I was able to raise £105 towards the cost of postage for these.

Nigeria I have received no response to my letters to Archbishop Lawrence Wariso Wariboko, but I receive some news from leading and longstanding lay members of our churches there, to whom I send New Church books. Among new contacts this year is the Chief Resident Town Planner of Sokoto State in the far northwest of Nigeria, which I had thought was a Muslim area of the country.

I gather that during the Church's annual conference in December 2012 there were lively debates on the promotion of fasting as a key spiritual discipline and on the need for books of New Church prayers for use in worship.

Europe The Revd Gudmund Boolsen in Copenhagen continues his task of translating "Arcana Caelestia", though deteriorating health is limiting the work he can do. Miss Lenka Máchová in the Czech Republic has been engaged in translating and publishing New Church collateral works in her effort to spread the New Church there.

Asia Work sponsored by the General Church of the New Jerusalem continues in Kerala State in India, and in Korea where "The Four Doctrines of the New Jerusalem" has recently been published. I cannot describe the thrill at being the first one in Britain to hold such an exotic translation in my hands! The New Church in the Philippines continues to develop with guidance from the Revd Ian Arnold and the Revd Trevor Moffat.

20 HOME WORSHIP

(Mrs Sylvia Fay, the Organiser, reports)

The Home Worship Scheme is still ongoing. Fortunately all our writers seem to get their work to us on time.

Lately we have 'lost' quite a few recipients as they have either died or can no longer read or have gone into nursing homes and cannot understand anything they read.

We currently send out 46 by Email and 54 by post. They are still being sent overseas and many are being translated and more copies made and distributed. Copies are also being made in other overseas places so the real figures are many more than we know.

Thank you to everyone who is involved with the scheme.

21 KILDWICK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(Keith Sandiford, the Secretary, reports)

As usual the season began at Easter, with all the planned work completed except for the outside painting. Unfortunately, all the bookings for October had to be cancelled because of flooding following three days of almost incessant rain when the ground was already very wet. On the night of 26th September the River Aire overflowed and water entered the kitchen and dining room. By Saturday 26th a working party was able to clean the premises, a large dehumidifier was hired, and within a week the rooms were completely dry. Obviously this has been a financial blow, with costs being incurred to put things right and income being lost.

Bookings have been similar to those of recent years in spite of the generally poor weather. The Discussion Day organised by the Revd Geoffrey Clarkson was again popular and there were the usual groups from Radcliffe, Kearsley and Derby. The total number of bookings was 23 for 76 days compared with 27 for 86 days last year but if three bookings had not been lost the figures would have been much the same. The breakdown of the bookings was 14 church parties for 52 days (20 for 71 days in 2011) and outside groups 9 for 24 days (7 for 15 days last year).

The premises have been maintained in good order. The main work was the painting of the outside of the Centre, the construction of a new kitchen soakway and the cutting of the hedge. The costs of £816 were met by the Friends of Kildwick. We are very grateful for their continuing support.

Special thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Law for all the work they did after the flood and to the members of the working party who gave up their time to clean out the kitchen and dining room.

22 FAMILIES

(Mrs Jenny Jones, Family Co-ordinator, reports)

The two weekends held at Purley Chase for families have yet again been very popular over the last year. Families of all shapes and sizes attend and the children's ages range from babies to teenagers. We are continuing to welcome new families occasionally and welcome back people who enjoyed Purley when they were young people and now would like to bring their own families. In May we were very close to having to turn people away as the weekend was already fully booked in March. This has led to discussions again as to whether

there could be a need to introduce more events for families at Purley in the future. We continue to be lucky to have a wonderful group of volunteers who return each year to care for and teach the children and young people. We were lucky in May to have two new faces join our team. This is vital if we are to consider holding more events in the future. We continue to choose a theme each weekend that every age group can study at their own level. The families and event leaders are also excited to be able to welcome Jen Pickard and Bob Curry as youth leaders to our “team”.

We also continue to have a number of families who return each year to attend Conference. The welcome decision made last year to offer free places to young people aged 16 and over has meant that we have a growing number of young people showing an interest in coming. This year we have a group of 6 young people aged 13-20 attending. We are also indebted to the leaders who volunteer to look after the children. We do need to continue to find volunteers for this work to ensure that families continue to be able to come and to spread the workload.

All Age Gatherings have not continued to run in the North of England this year due to the low numbers attending in 2012. However, many families attended the Yorkshire area day in Seaburn Dene and a family picnic day is planned for June in North Yorkshire. A successful All Age Gathering was held in April at Bournemouth New Church. This was well attended by 25 adults and 14 children from the Bournemouth and West Wickham New Churches as well as other families from the area. The adults and older children worked on a play based on “Manna from heaven” and many other activities were enjoyed such as Iris folding to make cards, messy jelly, collage, making oat biscuits, colouring, vegetable printing and decorating gingerbread people!

A three day Easter Rally again took place at SOLCe in April for young people aged 13 and over. This was attended by fourteen young people and was run by Jenny and Steve Jones, Revd Jack Dunion, Rob Taylor and Bob Curry. A fantastic time was had by everyone and the teenagers requested “more” events for this age group in their feedback. As a result of Bob Curry joining us, an outdoor pursuits weekend for 16+ was planned for June. We hope this is the first of many such events. As a large group of our teenagers are now over 16 and a big group enter further education we are looking at ways that we can continue offering events and spiritual support for young people as they head into their late teens and early twenties.

23 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AUXILIARY MINISTRY

(The CAM Coordinator, Mrs Jan Millar, reports)

General

The needs of the Church are changing and the work of the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry is developing to reflect this. CAM and SOLCe continue to work together to train and support churches and individuals in various aspects of church life. Mrs Kathie Brooks became a full member of the committee when she was no longer a member of the Council and her continued input is much appreciated.

Workshops

Following a request made by several people attending Conference in 2012, a 'Working with Groups' seminar was led by Revd Helen Brown at Keighley in April. CAM will be pleased to organise workshops anywhere in the country to support and meet the needs of both churches and individuals.

Worship Leader Training and Support Programme

Several worship leaders are still undergoing training as either Accredited or Recognised Worship Leaders. Tonia Jarvis, Susan Wilson and Liz Regan have all become Accredited Worship Leaders during the year and Becky Jarratt and Liz Regan have also been confirmed as Holy Supper Celebrants. Two further people are also undergoing training to become Holy Supper Celebrants. Both trainee and experienced worship leaders attended the Worship Leader Weekend that was held at Purley Chase in October 2012. The theme for the weekend was 'The Twelve Apostles' and the weekend was led by Revd Robert Gill. We also looked at women in the New Testament. We have once again reverted to holding two weekends per year and plans are afoot for Revd Rita Russell to attend the meeting at the end of May to give details and obtain feedback on the new 'Introduction to the Four Gospels' module which she is writing especially aimed at Worship Leaders. In addition to the weekends, Worship Leader Days were held at the New Church College and at West Wickham in March. CAM would like to thank all the ministers who have given of their time, insights and expertise to enable all these events to take place.

Resources

CAM continues to build up a wide variety of resources to assist lay people in

their ministry. Some of these resources are currently in the process of being included on the 'Spiritual Friends' website. The committee is grateful to all the ministers and lay people who so generously share their work with others.

CAM is also appreciative of all the support which the Council and the Committee of Ministers continue to give to the work of lay people. CAM is very aware that the needs of the Church are changing and the committee is keen to introduce new initiatives to reflect this. The committee can, however, only respond to these needs if we are made aware of what training and support is required. Finally CAM would like to thank all the auxiliary ministers who give of their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to maintain the life of the Church in so many ways. Without their dedication and hard work the Church would be unable to function.

24 EDWARD JEGGINS TRUST

(Mrs Deborah Mullock, Secretary to the Trustees, reports)

As a matter of courtesy the Trustees report that during the past year they were able to make grants totalling £3680 to two Societies, towards the cost of maintenance work on their church premises.

The Trustees ask that when Society officers plan their programme of maintenance work they will notify us in advance of likely applications for grants so that we can respond without delay.

25 BROADFIELD MEMORIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

(Ray Pulsford, the Treasurer/Secretary, reports)

The Fund has continued to make grants, on request, to pensioners and ministers and a total of £16,075 has been distributed compared with £17,025 last year.

Donations remain at £16,000 and other income was £354 from CIF dividend. There was a balance of £659.72 on 31st March 2013 compared with £391.97 last year.

26 REPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE 2012 –2013

(Mrs Frances Fisher, the Secretary, reports)

The Committee, consisting of Revd. Norman Ryder, Mrs Frances Fisher, Mrs Maeve Hawkins, Mrs Isabel Hindley, Mr Patrick Johnson, Mr Gordon Kuphal and Mr Howard Turner, has met three times this year.

Apart from the usual work of looking after the Library and Archives and answering historical and genealogical enquiries, some items of particular interest this year are listed below.

Discussion about two stained glass windows from Bath New Church, later given to Blackpool New Church, led to information about their designer, John William Brown (1842 to 1928) categorized as a Pre-Raphaelite. J. W. Brown also designed and manufactured a War Memorial window installed in the South Manchester New Church in 1921.

The planned removal of important items from North of England New Church House to our collection at Swedenborg House has involved Mr Ryder, Mrs Hawkins and Mr Turner in considerable work.

The Committee was pleased to hear that the Birmingham font has found a home at Derby New Church.

Mr Johnson has produced a history of the Willesden Society of the New Church.

After much deliberation it has been decided not to proceed with the creation of an electronic catalogue for our Library. There would be considerable expense involved and it is difficult to see the way forward. The matter is now on hold for the foreseeable future.

27 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MARKETING AND RESOURCES GROUP 2013

(Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy, Chair, reports)

The Group

The Group consists of Stephen Russell-Lacy (chair), Revd. Helen Brown, Patrick Johnson, Alan Misson, Rev Helen Newton, One Spirit Interfaith Minister, (recently resigned), Colin Skinner, and Nigel Sutton. The Group continued to meet twice a year, and communicate between meetings via email. It aims to produce, commission, sponsor and encourage the production of resources tailored to different markets that help to effectively communicate our teachings.

Books

Since the closure of New Church House, Manchester, the New Church movement has a problem of having only one main book-shop for selling its current titles that are all written in a modern style. These include for example *Nurturing the Soul, Heart, Head & Hands, Discovering David and Soul*

Symbols. We are addressing this issue in terms of internet selling of hard copy and republishing e-book versions. The Group will be publishing a revised and illustrated version of a book by Ian Johnson.

Outlook

We continue to financially support Outlook magazine, which is now produced with a dramatic reduction of cost. The magazine has proved useful in gaining some spiritual workshop attendances.

Cards

Soul Symbol and Journey Home cards, which we have published, are starting to show their worth in assisting some of our spiritual workshop leaders in their work.

Spiritual Questions

This website which the Group runs has doubled its daily visitors over the last twelve months.

Leaflets

The distribution of leaflets covering our teachings expressed in non-church language has widened although the main outlet continues to be Purley Chase Centre where they are being taken at the rate of 100 per month.

Advice

Feedback regarding individual writing style has been offered in response to material sent to us.

Vacancy

With the resignation of one of our members we are looking to recruit a replacement volunteer with an interest in the fulfilling role of helping to promote our illuminating teachings to the public.

28 LIFELINE

(Alan Misson, the Editor, reports)

Lifeline has continued to be published each month as a paper publication and online. The current style of Lifeline started in April 2009 and the cost of printing has remained the same since that time and the turnaround speed of the printer has been consistently good. I am very grateful to Howard Turner for managing the business aspects of Lifeline and ensuring printed copies arrive at their destination as soon as possible after delivery from the printer.

The Editor's task is not always easy. This is not because of a high volume of material to print making choice difficult but because of the subjects involved. Following Conference last year and the debate on Human Sexuality and Church Ceremonies I made the decision to provide an online library of documents on this subject rather than allow the subject to dominate issues of Lifeline for many months. I think this has proved useful but in an Editorial in the June 2013 issue I signalled a change to this decision to allow a return to discussion on the subject within the printed pages of Lifeline. This decision may not be universally welcomed.

I am aware that some readers of Lifeline would like to see more articles and news about local church activities. I am more than happy to print such material providing the events involved are significant in some way. Reports should preferably be accompanied by pictures.

On behalf of the Council:

Michael Clubb, Acting Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

Report of the Ministers' Committee 2012/13

1. Meetings

The autumn meeting took place from 30th October – 1st November 2012 with 11 members plus Mr G S Kuphal (Recorder) present and the AGM from 12th – 14th March 2013 with 11 members plus Mr G S Kuphal (Recorder) in attendance. Both meetings took place at Purley Chase.

2. Spiritual Leaders' Report

Revd David Gaffney and Revd Gillian Gordon

The Spiritual Leaders' time since last Conference has been heavily involved in new employment issues amid the usual and growing commitments of ministerial life. The employment of two Youth Leaders and support for our Student Minister, Becky Jarratt, and her intended ministry is welcomed.

The spiritual trend for our churches and Purley Chase, and the way we feel we are being led into the future as a church organization, is away from the separatism of the past into being part of the whole movement of the Christian spirit, whilst retaining the comfort, zeal and knowledge with which the New Church nurtures us.

In the UK our congregations are mainly composed of core groups of dedicated, informed New Church people who enjoy the worship, tradition and fellowship the church provides but are feeling their ability to maintain Sunday worship every week is questionable. The Spiritual Leaders believe this is far from being any kind of failure and should not be viewed as such, but as a new opportunity opening up to worship The Lord in other ways. We believe it is part of the process of the Church evolving into the future in a changed society. Two services a month may be more manageable at some churches and on the other two Sundays they could be open for meditation, for silent prayer or not open at all and without the commitment of having to prepare and lead another service for lay people. We feel this may be another sign from The Lord that it is acceptable not only to worship and keep in touch with our New Church roots twice a month instead of every week but also for us to worship in other ways on Sundays – perhaps to minister to our families and friends, or take part in worship with other congregations, or to volunteer to help others in some way or to

read quietly at home. Swedenborg tells us the way to worship God is to be of use to others, but at the same time, as New Church Christians, we appreciate and need the energy and comfort of some regular New Church services.

In central London, far from being viewed with the general scepticism of the past, the New Church is welcomed as an active part of the local Christian community and Swedenborg's role is acknowledged as significant rather than heretic. Some parts of Swedenborgian theology seem to have pervaded many areas of the Christian movement.

Work and interaction with so many different groups of varying persuasions at Purley Chase continues and strengthens and church groups are using the premises more as time progresses. Purley Chase feels the spiritual home to many, especially the younger folk. We are moving into a new phase of New Church Christianity and we pray The Lord will direct our ways and be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

3. **Revd Esther Byrne**

The news of Esther's passing into the spiritual world was received during our March meeting; her declining health had been known for some time. Revd Jack Dunion left our meeting to prepare for her funeral and conveyed our condolences to her family and friends.

4. **Resignation**

David Lomax's resignation from the Ministry and as Principal of the New Church College was received in January 2013. The Ministers' Committee met in March and **Resolved unanimously: That the Committee acknowledges with regret that David Lomax has resigned as Principal of the New Church College and as a minister of the General Conference, and extends to him its good wishes for the future.**

5. **New Church College**

The Principal, Mr David Lomax, and the College Council have agreed a period of notice. During this time of transition Mr Lomax has continued to support Mrs Becky Jarratt in her studies as she moves towards a new stage in her training.

6. Sexual orientation

Conference 2012 saw an ‘any questions’ style panel of Ministers addressing questions around this subject. This opportunity allowed for something of the range of opinions among the Ministry to be heard as Ministry are working carefully through this complicated and emotional area seeking understanding, wisdom and discernment around the complexities of human relationships.

7. Committee for Auxiliary Ministry [CAM]

The Ministers’ Committee is very appreciative of the work of CAM and the dedicated volunteers who offer their time and expertise as Worship Leaders and Celebrants. Additional support is given in settings both within and outside Sunday worship by Lay Pastors. The Worship Leader weekends continue at Purley Chase and there are occasional training days held. The Committee wishes to affirm the value of these times for learning and sharing together. While these are not compulsory we would wish to encourage those able to attend an event to take advantage of the opportunity. Thanks are particularly due to the Coordinator, Mrs Jan Millar, and the CAM committee for their work during the year.

8. Web Presence and Vision Team

The work of the Vision team has been focussed towards the establishment of the Spiritual Friends website, proactively providing training opportunities; and encouraging the growth of this web presence. The Committee welcome and support the ‘needs-led’ ethos the Vision team have helped to promote and recognise that the priorities and membership of the team will change over time. The work of dedicated volunteers is evolving and expanding; the Ministers’ Committee values the willingness of individuals to keep coming forward into new roles.

9. Ministers’ Committee Apocalypse Study Group Report 2013

We have held the customary two Workshops in the autumn and spring at Purley Chase, prior to meetings of the Ministers’ Committee, plus an additional workshop in April at Clayton-le-Moors. Our focus and energies at the workshops, and between, have been directed towards completing work on the Apocalypse Card Deck materials. Almost inevitably, progress has been slower than desired because the checking, revising and editing process is painstaking, and best tackled when we are together.

At the time of writing in late April, the deck of cards is all but ready for printing; Handbook 1 is ready for the design stage; Handbook 2 and the Games supplement are intended to be ready for design by the annual meeting of Conference. The Swedenborg Society has offered to assist with a launch programme when we are ready, and we are grateful for this gesture. We are currently negotiating with the Conference's Marketing and Resources Group over support and sponsorship for the venture. The Group remains focussed on these materials as yet another way for people to enter into the exciting territory of the Apocalypse.

The Apocalypse of John Exhibition is now stored at Purley Chase Centre, awaiting invitations to mount the exhibition at local venues.

Plans are still in hand for it to be shown in Scotland in the coming autumn. As before, members of Conference are urged to look for potential venues and to liaise with the Group. We have a most wonderful resource. Let's use it!

10. Salary rates

Once again the Committee agreed that the standard salary rate for Ministers should be published in this report, and to record our thanks to the Council for their decision to increase the salaries of employed Ministers, the fees of self-employed Ministers and the fees of retired Ministers by 1.3%

The salary (gross) for an ordained Minister for the year 2013/14, inclusive of payment towards telephone line and broadband cost, is £29,232. This figure represents the salary of all Ministers in full time paid employment. The role of Spiritual Leader is remunerated at the same rate as all other Ministers.

11. Home worship

Our thanks go to the co-ordinator, Marian Kidd, and to the Revd Norman Ryder and Sylvia Fay for their work in producing and distributing this valuable resource to the wider church. Their own report provides fuller details and the Ministers' Committee is grateful to all who contribute to this work.

12. The Council

The Ministers' Committee is aware of, and sympathetic to, the difficulties faced by the Council as they continue to work with less than the allowable number of Trustees. Representatives of the Ministers' Committee attend meetings, which provides valuable lines of communication between Ministry and those who take a lead in the central administrative functions of the organisation.

13. Appointments and nominations

The Secretary of the Ministers' Committee, Revd Christine Bank, attends the meetings of the Council and Revd David Gaffney as Spiritual Leader also attends as an additional ministerial representative. Revd Gaffney continues as Spiritual Leader for a period of two years from Conference 2013.

We have appointed the following ministers to liaise as appropriate with the members of the Council on linked matters:

Revd Clifford Curry	Finance
Revd Jack Dunion	Training and development
Revd Jack Dunion	Youth and web
Revd David Gaffney	Purley Chase
Revd Christine Bank	Human resources
Revd Christine Bank	CAM and local churches

We have appointed Revd Christine Bank as our representative on the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry

We have appointed Revd Jack Dunion and Revd David Gaffney as representatives on the Vision team.

We have appointed Mrs Marian Kidd as Home Worship Coordinator.

David Gaffney, Gillian Gordon [Spiritual Leaders]
Christine Bank [Secretary]

REPORT OF THE COMPANY ACCOUNTANT

For the year ended March 31st 2013

During the year, three properties had been sold; 112 Kensington Road (which had been replaced by a property that was purchased at the end of 2011/12), 14 Riverside Lane and the Birmingham society property. Also the loan from the Bournemouth society in the amount of £200,000 had been repaid in July 2012. Income had increased by 7% in comparison to the previous year due to an increase of 23% in investment income.

Expenditure fell by 1% compared with the previous year due to the loss of CEO and a minister part way through last year. There has been an increase in administration costs of 6% due to the continuing increase in costs in nearly all areas of administration making an overall operational surplus of £66,000.

Society income is falling due to society closures and the aging populations of its members. In relation to this, investment income has been increasing, mainly due to proceeds from property sales being invested. In a couple of years' time society income will be at the same level as investment income and after that Investment income will become the largest income source.

Even though there has been an increase in the loss this year, Purley continues to be as busy as ever. The rise is due to increase in costs and no increase in charges. Donations increased by 81% to over £47,000.

Looking to what has happened since the year end, two youth leaders have been employed part-time and given £10,000 to fund projects and events of which some have already taken place. There has been an offer of £100,000 for Besses which has been accepted and we are just awaiting the contracts to be exchanged. Blackpool was sold for £90,000 in July 2013.

This year's accounts have shown a further growth in the surplus received and if things were to carry on like they are currently, then this level of surplus would be maintained.

We are reliant on volunteers to a high degree and may not always be so fortunate to have them take on the roles in the future. If this was the case then we would have to take on staff which would increase our expenditure. Also, the trend of properties being up for sale is all too familiar and this will decrease society contributions and donations but when the properties are finally sold, it should increase investment income.

To survive we need to be careful in how we spend our money. There are some funds available as long as they are spent wisely and to perhaps grow the organisation in new and different ways. To make us more stable, we need to strive for a more diverse set of income streams that will sustain us for years to come.

Thanks were given to the Council, David Friend, Colin Skinner, Gordon Kuphal, Mike Wilson, John Ford, Anne Gaffney and David Gaffney.

Sally Ross – Company Accountant

Income and Expenditure Accounts

For year ended March 31st 2013

£,000 £,000

	2012-13	2011-12
INCOME		
Societies	172	164
Donations - Conference	38	30
Investment Income	161	131
Trust Income	73	67
Bursary Grant	10	15
Other Income	6	14
Income Purley Chase	173	171
Total Receipts	633	592
EXPENDITURE		
Human Resources		
Ministry	127	139
Laity	75	87
Staff - Purley Chase	85	81
Student grants	5	9
Self employed fees	13	13
Pensions	22	23
Housing	29	20
	356	372
Administration		
Travelling Expenses	18	27
Professional fees	28	26
Insurance	15	9
Office	9	10
Marketing/Resources	8	3
Central Costs	18	15
Education & Training	13	11
Purley Chase	103	97
Kildwick	-2	
	210	198
Total Payments	566	570

	£,000	£,000
OPERATIONAL SURPLUS/DEFICIT	66	23
Other Receipts and Costs		
Depreciation	-74	-76
Closed Society Receipts	640	534
Legacies	20	71
Homelands	0	10
Adjustment to Property Valuation	0	-17
CIF	-50	133
Prior Year Adjustments	-7	-2
NET SURPLUS	595	677

Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2013

FIXED ASSETS

Tangible Assets for operational use

Investment Assets

CURRENT ASSETS

Net Current Assets

Less Creditors falling due after more than one year

NET ASSETS

Represented by:-

Endowment funds

Restricted funds

Unrestricted funds

	2013	2012
	3,017,343	3,309,530
	9,360,344	7,456,216
	12,377,687	10,765,746
	519,631	128,456
	-100,000	-125,000
	12,797,318	10,769,202
	1,256,626	881,099
	5,962,951	4,656,908
	5,577,741	5,231,195
	12,797,318	10,769,202

STATISTICAL TABLE

	Society Members	Non-resident	Total new members	Deceased	Removed	Increase	Decrease	Members of Conference
Accrington	47	16	0	4	0	0	4	37
Bournemouth	37	6	4	3	0	1	0	36
Bradford	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Brightlingsea	23	10	0	1	0	0	1	16
*Bristol	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Burnley	29	6	0	1	0	0	1	17
Chester & Wallasey	38	18	0	0	1	0	1	32
Clayton	18	7	0	1	0	0	1	11
Dalton	35	2	0	3	0	0	3	27
Derby	58	25	0	0	1	0	1	43
Kearsley	50	17	1	2	7	0	8	23
Keighley	39	13	0	4	0	0	4	30
Greenhill	20	8	0	0	0	0	0	10
Kensington	13	5	0	0	0	0	0	10
West Wickham	29	11	0	1	0	0	1	24
Paisley	53	9	0	1	0	0	1	28
Radcliffe	17	2	0	1	0	0	1	7
Seaburn Dene	31	0	0	1	0	0	0	22
Southend	20	7	2	0	0	2	0	11
Central members								179
Total 2012/13	589	163	7	23	9	3	27	590
Totals 2011/12	618	160	4	17	3	3	19	616

* 2010/2011 figures

	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals	Sunday:School No. of children	Avg. attend. 13+	Holy Supper Administrations	Holy Supper Average Attendance	Overall Average Attendance
Accrington	0	0	4	6	4	6	24	18
Bournemouth	2	0	7	8	8	13	20	24
Bradford	2	0	2	8	3	15	13	13
Brightlingsea	0	0	1	0	0	2	9	9
*Bristol	0	0	0	0	2	6	6	6
Burnley	0	0	2	0	0	11	11	11
Chester & Wallasey	1	0	2	6	6	13	16	26
Clayton	0	0	1	0	0	5	8	7
Dalton	2	0	5	0	1	12	8	10
Derby	1	0	1	10	4	12	18	28
Kearsley	1	2	3	5	3	5	18	24
Keighley	2	7	4	5	5	11	15	30
Greenhill	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11
Kensington	0	0	0	0	1	12	7	9
West Wickham	0	0	0	4	0	13	12	13
Paisley	0	0	1	0	0	6	15	15
Radcliffe	0	0	2	0	0	3	9	12
Seaburn Dene	0	0	1	13	13	8	22	33
Southend	0	0	0	2	1	9	10	10
Totals 2012/13	11	9	36	67	51	173	252	309
Totals 2011/12	12	7	26	81	51	176	282	347

* 2010/2011 figures

THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE
REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL 2012 – 2013

This Report covers the work of the College Council for the year ended 31st March 2013.

A COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1 Attendance at Council Meetings

The Council met at the College on 5 occasions during the year, 2 of the meetings being extraordinary ones. Membership and attendance at meetings were as follows:

Mr CJ Chambers, President (resigned June 2012)	1(1 possible)
Dr PM Russell, President (appointed October 2012)	4 (4 possible)
Mr RJ Nicholls, Treasurer	5
Mr MD Haseler, Secretary	5
Mr JE Ford	5
Mr SR Lacy	4
Mr P Leather	5
Rev MW Stanley	4
Mrs MMJ Taylor	5
Mrs S Wilson	3

As 2 meetings were arranged at short notice, making it difficult to find dates suitable for everyone to attend, attendance at meetings was below its normal high level.

The Principal, Mr David Lomax, attended 4 meetings (4 possible) by standing invitation.

The Administrator, Ms Melanie Bennett, attended 3 meetings (3 possible) by invitation.

Mrs E Lomax attended 1 meeting by invitation.

2 Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 148th Annual Meeting of Governors was held at The New Church College, Radcliffe on Saturday, 30th June 2012 with an attendance of 11 Governors and 5 friends.

D GENERAL REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COLLEGE

1 Performance of the Charity

The Council considers that the Charity has performed well in the year 2012-2013 in line with its charitable objects.

The training of one ordination student continues, and 14 students are studying either through open learning or in tutorial groups. The Principal and the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry Coordinator continue to work together to develop and deliver training for the Conference organisation. A new course that will be more accessible to people without a Swedenborgian background is being developed. The College continues to run various educational events.

2 Future Development

In view of the departure of the Principal, the Council discussed how The College should develop in the future, so that a decision could be made about the roles that would be needed and their job-specifications.

The Council agreed that 2 part-time roles were needed though it was possible that one person could perform both these roles. The focus of the Leader of Studies would be needs-led education facilitating spiritual understanding and reflection, mainly within the context of Swedenborgian doctrines, supporting people who want to explore their vision of ministry, and responding to the individual training needs of those who want to use Swedenborg's teachings; especially those who are called to reach out to others e.g. in ministry, leadership, writing, workshops and worship leading. Though the Leader would ideally be an ordained minister, the Council realised that this might not be achievable.

The Leader of the Spiritual Centre would be responsible for the development of SOLCe as a spiritual centre, encouraging new ways of reaching out to spiritual seekers and new ways of coming together to connect in spirit and to share a spiritual pathway. The Centre Leader's focus would be person-, group- and community-centred i.e. facilitating spiritual understanding and reflection within the context of the individual, group and community needs of centre attenders

It is planned to advertise these positions in May, with the intention that the appointee(s) be in post as soon as possible after the Principal finishes at the end of September.

3 Staff

a Principal

Much of the Principal's work has focused on adapting the ordination training course so that it is more relevant to the needs of our ordination student, Rebecca Jarratt. Work-based training has been introduced, and it is planned that Mrs Jarratt become a student minister at the Annual Meeting of Conference.

The Principal has also organised various educational events for adults and young people in addition to work with Conference and, of course, his work to support other students.

The Principal attended the memorial service for Rev Esther Byrne with the intention of presenting her graduation certificate to her parents. However, they were unable to travel from Ulster on medical advice and so the certificate was presented to Rev Jack Dunion in front of the Paisley congregation with the request that it be forwarded to her parents.

b Assistant to the Principal

Mr Alan Bowie continues to use his expertise and experience to maintain and develop The College web-site.

c Administrator

In addition to her routine work, Ms Bennett has successfully increased the usage of the building with 3 groups now using it on a regular basis.

During the year, the Council agreed that Ms Bennett could reduce her working hours from 32 to 20 hours so she could take up part-time employment elsewhere.

The Council congratulates Ms Bennett on obtaining her Diploma of Business Administration

4 SOLCe

a Ordination Student

Rebecca Jarratt continues her studies on a part-time basis. The Sponsored Student Monitoring Group (SSMG) has been working closely with her during the year and changes have been made to her training programme to suit her particular circumstances.

b SOLCe Students

In addition to the ordination student, there are currently 14 students, 3 of whom are from overseas, studying 8 different modules tutored by 8 different tutors including 1 lay person. 4 new students enrolled during the year.

c Education Committee

The Committee has met twice during the year. The Committee plays a major role in developing the educational work of SOLCe and benefits from the experience and expertise of its 10 members.

Rev Esther Byrne graduated as a student of SOLCe during the year. She was informed of this achievement, but unfortunately she died before it was possible to present her with her graduation certificate.

d Assessments

As a result of hard work by the Principal during the year, all outstanding written assessments were cleared. A new procedure for recording and preparing assessments has been introduced and is working successfully.

E PUBLIC BENEFIT

The College has continued to advertise its open learning courses on the website; these courses are available to the general public as well as to our church members and a limited number of bursaries are available towards their cost.

The College building is used by several neighbourhood groups with, as noted earlier, three more using it on a regular basis.

F THE FABRIC

The fabric and grounds continue to be kept in good condition by the Estate Management Committee. There have been several small improvements and repairs during the year.

G RELATED PARTY

The Trustee, The General Conference of the New Church, is a registered charity. The General Conference is entitled to a proportion of the net incoming resources from the Jersey Fund and provides payroll facilities for which The College pays a service charge. The College also relies on the support of Conference for tutors, examiners and module-writers.

H GOVERNORS

There are currently 8 Honorary Governors (0), 11 Life Governors (-4), and 62

Annual Governors (-1); in total 81 (-5). The numbers in brackets show the changes during the year.

In the last decade, there has been a reduction of 20 (20%) in the number of Governors. At the last Annual Meeting, there were only 2 Governors present in addition to Council members.

I FINANCE

1 Annual Accounts

The Treasurer reported a net increase in resources of £6,657 before capital movements for the year to 31st March 2013. (Decrease of £2,340 in 2011-2012).

During the year, gains on the disposal of investments of £3,890 were realised and notional gains of £139,424 arose on the revaluation of investments.

The budget for 2012–2013 projected a deficit of £6,400 but the actual surplus for the year was £6,657.

A budget for 2013-2014 projects a surplus of £2,700 before any adjustments arising on the real and notional gains and losses on investments.

2 Investments

The unrestricted funds, including the Jersey Fund, are amalgamated to minimise trading costs and to form a larger portfolio. The funds continue to be separated from an accounting point-of-view.

The investment adviser, Brewin Dolphin, in line with the Treasurer's instruction, continues to concentrate on capital growth rather than income.

JACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The smooth and effective running of The College depends principally on the hard work of the Principal and the Administrator, and the Council expresses its gratitude to both of them. There are also many other people, both paid and voluntary, who support The College in different ways, and the Council thanks them for their varied contributions.

Thanks are also due to the students, an essential component of The College.

Approved by the Council and signed on its behalf by:

PM Russell, President

MD Haseler, Secretary

Dated: 29 June 2013

THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE
REPORT OF THE PRINCIPAL 2012 – 2013

Introduction

The work of the College has continued to develop this year as we have looked at our work with students and with others in the community. On a personal note, this has been a year of change for me and this will be my last report as College Principal. I have concentrated mainly in this report on my work within the College in the past year.

Students

A substantial amount of my work in the last year has concentrated on putting in place structures for Becky Jarratt to move into “work-based training”. This has been done in order to address Becky’s needs as regards both the nature of her future ministry and the length of time spent training part-time. Discussions have been taking place within the Education Committee in relation to these matters for some time. Part of the work on this front has been initiating discussions within the Ministers’ Committee and the (Conference) Council.

Becky described her vision of ministry when she addressed the Annual Meeting of Conference in July 2012 (see *Lifeline* September 2012). This will be community-based. Becky intends initially to focus on the needs of families and children, although other elements may be incorporated over time. Her move into work-based training will be acknowledged in a ceremony at the Annual Meeting of Conference in July 2013, which will recognise her as a student minister. The Sponsored Student Monitoring Group has continued to meet to look at Becky’s current position and future needs.

Becky has continued to follow training during the year on a quarter-time basis. This has combined study-based modules with more practical training, for example in Group Leading. We anticipate that she will be close to two-thirds of the 12 credits required for ordination (which is the level which would be required for the award of the Diploma i.e. 8 credits) at the close of the academic year 2012-13.

A number of other students have followed modules, either individually or in groups.

Although strictly speaking it falls within the timescale for next year’s report, I would like to mention that I attended Rev. Esther Byrne’s memorial service at Paisley New Jerusalem Church on 28th April 2013. After the service I was able to present Rev. Jack Dunion with Esther’s SOLCe Graduation certificate, to be sent on to her family. Esther’s attainment of the level of credits for graduation was agreed some time ago by the Education Committee. It was

hoped to present Esther with the SOLCe Graduation certificate at Paisley New Jerusalem Church, but this was not possible due to her health problems in the months before she died. I would like to pay tribute to Esther's commitment to SOLCe and its work both as a student and after her ordination.

Liaison with the wider church

As well as the items already mentioned, I have led a CAM Day for Worship Leaders on Prophecy.

I attended training in the use of the Spiritual Friends website.

I have been involved in the work of the Ministers' Committee and the preparation of the timetable for the Ministers' Seminar for part of the year.

Resignation

It was with sadness that I submitted my resignation to the College Council in January 2013. This was the end of a lengthy process as I had been considering this option for some months. In spite of working intensively with the College Council in the autumn of 2012 I felt that certain issues could not be resolved. Although reluctantly, I came to the conclusion that my resigning would be the best option both for me and my family and for current and future SOLCe students.

Thanks

I have been privileged to be in this role for seven years. I have found working with students, especially the level of involvement required with ordination students, to be uplifting, if also not without challenges. I am grateful to all students for the inspiration they have provided.

I have been very conscious over the last few years of how essential it is for the work of SOLCe to be a "team effort". This can be through the contributions of those working in official bodies such as the College Council and the Education Committee or with an official position such as the Administrator, the Assistants to the Principal and the College Officers. In addition, there are those whose work is essential for tutorial groups or other aspects of students' training with SOLCe. This includes tutors, assessors and those writing modules. Those supervising the building and its use also have a key role. I would like to express my thanks to all those who have supported the work of SOLCe in whatever way in recent years.

David Lomax
May 2013.

THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE
Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2013

The following pages contain a summary of the financial statements of The New Church College. A full set of accounts is available on request from the Treasurer, Richard Nicholls, or from the College itself.

**Independent Examiner's report on the accounts
to the Governors of The New Church College**

I report on the accounts of the New Church College for the year ended 31 March 2013 set out on pages 9 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and examiner

The charity's trustee is responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustee considers that an audit is not required under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5) (b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

G F Whiteside FCA

Douglass Grange

Chartered Accountants

Stanley House

Phoenix Park

Blakewater Road,

Blackburn.

BB1 5RW

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments	1,881,103	1,737,769
Current Assets		
Debtors	10,998	9,460
Cash at Bank and in Hand	26,801	21,896
	-----	-----
	37,799	31,356
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12,435	12,629
	-----	-----
Net Current Assets	25,364	18,727
	-----	-----
Net Assets	1,906,467	1,756,496
	=====	=====
Funds		
Unrestricted Funds;		
General	367,185	332,959
Designated - Jersey Education	338,396	310,987
Restricted Funds;		
Permanent Endowment	1,200,886	1,112,550
	-----	-----
	1,906,467	1,756,496
	=====	=====

INCOME

<u>Incoming Resources</u>	2013	2012
	£	£
Subscriptions and Donations	13,840	13,857
Investment Income	69,076	66,391
Fees	899	2,610
Miscellaneous Income	1,094	880
	-----	-----
Total Incoming Resources	84,909	83,738
	=====	=====

EXPENDITURE

<u>Direct Charitable Expenditure</u>	2013	2012
	£	£
Salaries & Consultancy Fees	49,722	52,569
Module & Tutorial Expenses	1,444	3,317
Student Support	-	132
In-Service Training	-	432
Library Books	319	281
Books, CD-ROMs etc. for Sale (and write offs)	-	315
Office Equipment - purchases	287	1,385
Office Equipment Leasing and Maintenance	2,775	1,823
Property Expenses	6,790	8,918
Catering and Housekeeping	576	457
Telephone and Fax	937	836
Stationery	343	135
Postages	107	547
Council and Staff Expenses	2,861	3,332
General Conference Support Jersey Fund	8,310	7,328
Miscellaneous Expenses	516	410
	-----	-----
	74,987	82,217
	=====	=====

<u>Other Expenditure</u>	2013	2012
	£	£
Bank and Interest Charges	262	272
Professional Fees	3,000	3,200
Miscellaneous Expenses	3	389
	-----	-----
	3,265	3,861
	=====	=====
Net Outgoing Resources	(6,657)	2,340

Approved by the Council on 29 June 2013 and signed on its behalf by:

PM Russell, President

NEW CHURCH COLLEGE

Names of people who have successfully completed accredited Courses, other than those who have been recognized as Ministers.

Certificate holders

Ruth Duckworth	1979
David Fitzjohn	1979
Margaret Presland	1989
Geoffrey Cunningham	1990
Renée James	1999
Alan Bowie	2002
Bev Johnson	2004

Diploma holders

Raymond Kennion	1990
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Swedenborg Open Learning Centre

Certificate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level One)

Marion Curry	2004
Bev Johnson	2004
Lenka Machova	2004
Judith Wilson	2004
Thelma Wilson	2006
Peter Wilson	2006
Leslie Hurst	2006
Anna Woofenden	2007
Trevor Millar	2007
Stephen Thomas	2008
Helen Newton	2009
Rebecca Jarratt	2010

Graduate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level Three)

Alan Bowie	2006
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LAST 40 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Year	Place	President/ Senior Minister/Spiritual Leader	Preacher	Members
1974	Kearsley	C.H.Presland	E.J.Jarmin	88
1975	Bromley	J.O.Booth	M.W.Stanley	81
1976	Stirling	J.O.Booth	B.Kingslake	68
1977	Birmingham	J.O.Booth	J.M.Sutton	94
1978	Chester	J.O.Booth	L.Chambers	86
1979	Clacton-on-Sea	J.O.Booth	R.A.Gill	84
1980	Radcliffe	C.V.A.Hasler	C.V.A.Hasler	93
1981	Leeds	C.V.A.Hasler	T.A.Moffat	97
1982	Swanwick	C.V.A.Hasler	C.H.Presland	92
1983	Southampton	C.V.A.Hasler	I.P.Johnson	86
1984	Swanwick	C.V.A.Hasler	F.Clarkson	95
1985	Clacton-on-Sea	N.Ryder	N.Ryder	91
1986	Swanwick	N.Ryder	J.O.Booth	85
1987	Manchester	N.Ryder	J.C.Duckworth	91
1988	Hoddesdon	N.Ryder	J.E.Elliott	77
1989	Durham	N.Ryder	B.R.Jarvis	82
1990	Swanwick	R.A.Gill	R.A.Gill	86
1991	Birmingham	R.A.Gill	C.V.A.Hasler	82
1992	Swanwick	R.A.Gill/N.Ryder	J.D.Allsopp	80
1993	Glasgow	N.Ryder	J.M.Sutton	72
1994	Hoddesdon	N.Ryder	B.J.Presland	77
1995	Swanwick	N.Ryder	B.M.Talbot	78
1996	Lancaster	J.M.Sutton	J.M.Sutton	83
1997	Hoddesdon	J.M.Sutton	O.C.E.Jackson	81
1998	Swanwick	J.M.Sutton	N.Ryder	72
1999	Swanwick	J.M.Sutton	G.Clarkson	79
2000	Hoddesdon	J.M.Sutton	D.A.Moffat	77
2001	Swanwick	I. Russell	R.P. Brugler	83
2002	Swanwick	I. Russell	I. Russell	68
2003	Swanwick	I. Russell	C. Curry	76
2004	Hoddesdon	I. Russell	M.E. Duckworth	70
2005	Swanwick	I. Russell	R.A. Gill	79
2006	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	G.L. Gordon	86
2007	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	J.C. Duckworth	98
2008	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	R.A. Gill	87
2009	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	D. Lomax	88
2010	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	M.W. Stanley	88
2011	Swanwick	M. Duckworth	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	82
2012	Swanwick	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	J. Dunion	74
2013	Swanwick	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	R.Russell	76

MINISTERS, WORSHIP LEADERS, LAY PREACHERS AND CELEBRANTS

1 MINISTERS

The following are the Ministers recognised by the Conference:

*Retired or not in active service

#Overseas

Ordaining Ministers	ORDAINED	INDUCTED
* Christopher Vincence Alexander Hasler	June 20,1951	July 19,1980
* Norman Ryder	June 24,1964	July 30,1985
* Robert Arthur Gill	June 30,1970	July 25,1990
* Ian Russell	July 22,1983	July 23,2001
* Mary Elizabeth Duckworth, B.A	July 10,1996	July 27,2006

Ministers	ORDAINED
* John Edward Elliott, B.A., B.D.	June 23,1954
*# John Emanuel Teed	June 23,1954
* Leslie Chambers, B.A., Ph.D.	June 27,1956
*# Ian Allan Arnold	June 30,1965
*# John Maitland Sutton, B.Ag.Sc. (served as an Ordaining Minister 1996 to 2001)	June 30,1970
* Michael William Stanley, M.Sc., Ph.D.	June 27,1971
*# Trevor Alexander Moffat, B.A.	July 15,1978
# Julian Clayton Duckworth	July 19,1980
# Richard John Keyworth	June 23,1982
Clifford Curry, B.Sc	July 22,1983
* Bruce Roger Jarvis	July 30,1985
* Brian Mark Talbot, B.A.	July 26,1989
* Geoffrey Clarkson, B.A.	July 26,1989
*# David Allan Moffat, B.Mus.	July 23,1997
Gillian Lindsey Gordon	July 5,2000
* Rita Mary Russell	July 25,2001
David Edward Gaffney, B.Sc	July 29,2004
Christine Anne Bank	July 31,2008
Helen Thelma Brown	July 30,2009
Jack Dunion	July 30,2009

Jeffrey David Lomax	1982
Anne Elizabeth Clarkson	1991
Michael Clubb	1991
Robert Joseph Kirk	1991
David Richard Alfred Friend	1992
Geoffrey Turner	1992
Willie Huggins	1992
Kathryn Mary Brooks	1993
Phillip Nicholas Brooks	1993
Frances Mary Burnley	1993
Maurice Garnett	1993
Alan Christopher Misson	1994
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2013
Pamela Joy Moffat	1995
Clive Goalen	1995
James Alan Bowie	2001
Constance Thelma Wilson	2001
Peter Michael Wilson	2001
Judith Margaret Wilson	2003
Pauline Ann Grimshaw	2004
Jan Millar	2004
Trevor Millar	2004
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2008
Madeleine Mary Josephine Taylor	2004
Stephen Thomas	2005
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2009
Kittie Methuen-Jones	2006
Jean Mrozek	2006
Nigel Sutton	2006
Richard Lines	2007
Helen Newton	2007
David Haseler	2007
Rebecca Jarratt	2008
Gwendolen Rowe	2013

Accredited Worship Leaders

Derrick Pearce	1999
Bev Johnson	1999
Mary Brigg	2000
Enid Nicholls	2000
Diane Lewin	2002
Jonathan Armitage	2003
George Hunt	2003
Janet Benson	2003
Dorothy Margison	2004
Howard Turner	2004
Linda Wells	2006
Grant Brackley	2006
David Brooks	2006
Michael Hindley	2006
Kathie Freyhan	2007
Janet Jessop	2007
David Sharrock	2008
Tonia Jarvis	2012
Susan Wilson	2012
Liz Regan	2013

Lay Preachers recognised for service in Mauritius

	Authorized
Jacques Danjoux	1991
Clifford Phanjoo	1991
Evelyne Eynaud	2005
Yves Radhanauth	2005

4 CELEBRANTS

The following are the Authorised Celebrants for the Sacraments and Ceremonies recognised by the Conference:

Mr Geoff Cunningham - Baptism, Holy Supper, Marriages and Funerals.

Mr Pat Johnson - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Alan Misson - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mrs Mary Burnley - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mrs Anne Clarkson - Holy Supper.

Mr Maurice Garnett - Holy Supper.

Mr Phillip Brooks - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr David Sharrock - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr David Friend - Holy Supper.

Mr Trevor Millar - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Dr Geoffrey Bentley - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Michael Clubb - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Peter Wilson - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mrs Thelma Wilson - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mrs Madeleine Taylor - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Miss Gwendolen Rowe - Holy Supper.

Mrs Kathryn Brooks - Funerals.

Mrs Pauline Grimshaw - Baptism, Holy Supper, Funerals and Marriages.

Mrs Jean Mrozek - Funerals.

Mrs Marion Curry - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Stephen Thomas - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr David Brooks - Funerals.

Mr Alan Bowie - Holy Supper.

Mr Nigel Sutton - Baptism and Holy Supper.

Mr Gordon Kuphal - Holy Supper.

Mrs Liz Regan – Holy Supper

Mrs Rebecca Jarratt – Holy Supper and Baptism

LAND AND BUILDINGS HELD IN TRUST BY CONFERENCE

Insurance of buildings (excluding contents)

B Conference Block Policy	C Congregational & General
M AMP	S Saga

- + Index Linked
- # Held in trust for the Embsay Fund
- * Last year's figure

Conference maintains with Ecclesiastical a combined insurance policy for employers, public and products liability on the properties listed below and also for other Societies and associated institutions

In London and the South of England

Bournemouth. Church and rooms at Tuckton Road, Southbourne.	B	£1,198,328	+
House at 101 Tuckton Road, Southbourne.	B	£218,736	+
Brightlingsea. Church and rooms at Queen Street.	B	£850,136	+
Greenhill. Church and rooms at 177 Leicester Road, New Barnet.	B	£1,336,015	+
Kensington. Church and rooms at 5 Pembridge Villas, London, W11.	B	£2,118,199	+
Southend-on-Sea. Church and rooms at Sutton Road.	B	£475,085	+
West Wickham. Church and rooms at High Street.	B	£425,309	+

General Conference.

House at 18 Pollard Road, Whetstone, London N20. Freehold.	B	£677,634	+
Bungalow at 80 Broadway, Southbourne Bournemouth. Freehold.	B	£243,921	+
House at 6 Atwater Court, Faversham Road, Lenham, Kent. Leasehold.			Insured by freeholder

In the Midlands and West

Bristol. Church at Cranbrook Road, Redland.	B	£1,153,287	+
Derby. Church and rooms at Horwood Avenue. House at 409A Burton Road, Derby.	B	£914,322	+
	B	£161,945	+

General Conference.

Bungalow at 215 Coventry Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Freehold.	B	£471,926	+
Purley Chase Centre, Atherstone. Freehold.	B	£5,267,841	+

In North Lancashire

Accrington. Church at Hargreaves Street.	B	£629,066	+
Blackpool. Church and rooms at Reads Avenue.			
Burnley. Church and rooms at Briercliffe Road.	B	£309,020	+

General Conference.

House at 5 Whittycroft Drive, Barrowford, Nelson. Freehold. #	B	£193,773	+
House at 126 Mercer Crescent, Haslingden, Rossendale. Jointly owned freehold.	B	£184,100	+
House at 6 Dunkirk Avenue, Fulwood, Preston. Jointly owned freehold.	B	£212,383	+

In North-West (Manchester) and Cheshire

Chester. Church and rooms at Brook Lane, Newton.	B	£389,909	+
House at 51 Woodlands Drive, Newton.	B	£135,915	+
Kearsley. Church and rooms at Bolton Road.	B	£1,263,284	+
Radcliffe. Church and rooms at Stand Lane.	C	£1,050,646	+

General Conference.

House at Church Street, Kearsley. Freehold.	B	£255,645	+
Church and rooms at Charles Street, Whitefield, Manchester. Freehold.	B	£712,922	+

In Yorkshire and the North-East

Bradford. Church and rooms at Ashfield Avenue, Frizinghall.	B	£561,666	+
Dalton. Church and rooms at Grove Place, Dalton, Huddersfield.	B	£1,052,563	+
Flats at 111 and 113 Long Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield.	B	£763,660	+

Keighley. Church and rooms at Braithwaite Road,
Braithwaite. B £245,481 +

Seaburn Dene. Church and rooms at Shields Road,
Seaburn Dene, Sunderland. B £456,969 +

General Conference.

House at 22 Wimborne Drive, Keighley.
Jointly owned freehold. # S £500,000

Kildwick New Church Centre, Main Road,
Kildwick. Freehold. # B £673,127 +

In Scotland

Paisley. Church and rooms at 17 George Street,
together with library and creche contiguous. B £1,526,177 +

New Zealand

59a Balmain Road, Birkenhead, Auckland, 1310 M

Property of the New Church College

25 Radcliffe New Road, Radcliffe, Manchester. B £569,151 +

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Accrington	Hargreaves Street Accrington BB5 2BB		Mr.D.H.Sharrock	Mr.A.Duckworth
Bournemouth	Tuckton Road, Southbourne BH6 3HT	Rev.C.Curry	Mrs.J.Pike	Mrs.L.Pierpoint
Bradford and Saltaire	Ashfield Avenue, ShIPLEY W Yorks BD18 3AL	Contact Secretary	Mr.J.Skaife	Mrs.J.Millar
Brightlingsea	Queen Street Brightlingsea Essex CO7 0PH		Mr.N.A.Skinner	Mr.G.S.Kuphal
Bristol	Cranbrook Road, Redland Bristol BS6 7BS	Rev.C.Curry **	Dr.R.A.Gilbert	Miss.M.Thomson
Burnley	Briercliffe Road Burnley Lancs BB10 1XH	Rev.M.W.Stanley *	Mr.T.Mitchell	Mrs S Wilson
Chester	Dicksons Drive Newton Park Chester CH2 2BT	Rev.N.Ryder *	Mr.R.Pulsford	Mrs P Ryder

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Clayton-le-Moors	Arthur Street Clayton-le-Moors BB5 5NY	Rev.L. Chambers *	Mr.D.Sagar	Mrs C Sagar
Dalton, Huddersfield	Grove Place, Dalton Huddersfield HD5 9LH	Mr T Millar	Mrs.J.Jessop	Mrs J Mrozek
Derby	Horwood Avenue Derby DE23 6AN	Mrs.C.Sutton	Mr.N.K.Sutton	Mrs R.F.Delderfield
Greenhill	177 Leicester Road, New Barnet, Herts., EN5 5EB	Contact Secretary	Mr.N.K.Sutton / Mr.T.Cook	Mr.J.Shepherd
Kearsley (07913 121119)	Bolton Road Kearsley Lancs BL4 9DD	Contact Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mrs.P A Grimshaw
Keighley	Braithwaite Road Braithwaite Village Keighley BD22 6PX	Rev.C.Bank	Mr.M.Pepper	Mrs. Y.Higgins
Kensington (020 7229 9340)	5 Pembroke Villas Kensington London W11 3EN		Mrs.L.F.Wells	Mr.D.R.A.Friend

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(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Paisley	17 George Street Paisley PA1 2LB	Rev.J.Dunion	Mr.CA.Macpherson	Mr N.R. Laidlaw
Radcliffe	Stand Lane Radcliffe Manchester M26		Mrs H Eastwood	Mrs.M.Burton
Seaburn Dene, Sunderland	Shields Road Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8ND	Rev.B.R.Jarvis*	Mr.G.Nicholls	Mr.W.Griffiths
Southend-on-Sea	Sutton Road Southend-on-Sea SS2 5HX		Mr.B.R.Smith	Mr.P.Cunningham
West Wickham (07534 702887)	142 High Street, West Wickham Kent BR4 0LZ	Mr.A.C.Misson	Mr.C.V.Skinner	Mr. and Mrs D.E.Brooks
Mauritius	Remono Street, Curepipe Road and 2 Rue Champ de Lort Port Louis		Mr.R.Sookeeah	Mr.C.Phanjoo
* Retired Minister		** Supervising Minister		

LIST OF GROUPS AND STUDY CIRCLES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The information given is liable to change, and potential visitors are advised to check with the Secretary or Contact concerned. For addresses and telephone numbers of the Secretaries, Ministers, etc., see the Address List

City, Town, etc.	Usual Meeting Place	Minister or Lay Leader	Secretary or Contact Name	Usual Day and Time of meeting
Blackpool			Mrs.E.Morrison	
Dumbarton	Members' homes	Rev.J.Dunion	Rev.J.Dunion	Monthly
East Sussex	Member's 'home (Eastbourne)	Mr S Thomas	Mr.A.Bula	Consult contact
Edinburgh	Members' homes	Rev.R.A.Gill	Mrs.H.Laidlaw	Sept-Dec and Feb-June (first Monday of the month 7.30 p.m.)

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City, Town, etc.	Usual Meeting Place	Minister or Lay Leader	Secretary or Contact Name	Usual Day and Time of meeting
Preston	23/25 Guildhall Arcade, Preston PR1 1HR	Mrs A Whittle	Mrs L Hale	First Sunday of the Month at 10:45 a.m.
Southampton	Members' homes	Rev. C. Curry		Consult contact (monthly 2.30 p.m.)
Stockport	Members' homes		Mr. J. D. Lomax	Usually fortnightly

**SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS OF
NEW CHURCH INSTITUTIONS AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES**

	Secretary	Treasurer
Area Councils:-		
London & Southern	Mr.B.Brown	Mr.B.Brown
North-West (Manchester)	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mr.J.E.Ford
Scottish Association	Mrs.N.Laidlaw	Mrs.R.Johnstone
Yorkshire & North-East	Mrs.J.E.Millar	Mr.P.Brooks
Broadfield Benevolent Fund	Mr.R.G.Pulsford	Mr.R.G.Pulsford
New Church College	Mrs.C.Mahmood	Mr.R.J.Nicholls
Committee for Auxiliary Ministry	Mrs.J.E.Millar	
Examining Board (College Education Committee)	College Principal	
Home Worship Scheme	Mrs.S.Fay (Organiser)	
Honorary Life Members	Ms.J.Z.Brooks	
Library & Archives Committee	Mrs.F.Fisher	
Jeggins Trustees	Mrs.D.Mullock	
Kildwick Committee	Mr.K.Sandiford	Mr.K.Sandiford
Marketing and Resources	Mr.S.Russell-Lacy	Mr.N.K.Sutton
Ministers' Committee	Rev.C.A.Bank	
New Church Children's Society	Dr.G.C.Bentley	Mr.D.Thomas
New Church Historical Society	Mrs.M.Hawkins (Convenor)	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw (Sec/Treas)
New Church Youth Association	Miss.A.Presland	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw
North of England New Church House	Mrs.M.Kidd	Mr.N.K.Sutton
Overseas Secretary	Rev.N.Ryder	
Purley Chase Centre	Mr.M.D.Haseler	Miss.S.Ross
Swedenborg Society	Mr.R.Lines	Mr.A.Morley
Women's League	Mrs.M.Liversedge	Mrs.A.Walton
League Benevolent Fund	Mrs.A.Walton	
Yorkshire Missionary Association	Mrs.J.Millar	Mr.P.Brooks

AREA COUNCILS

These Councils comprise a Secretary, a Treasurer and as many Ministers and Lay Members as are deemed necessary.

The numbers in brackets after the names of the Societies denote the number of representatives which the Society is entitled to send to the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

An asterisk indicates that the property of the Society is in Conference Trust.

London and Southern

Ministers: Rev.C.Curry, Rev.G.L.Gordon, Rev.R.Russell, Rev.H.Brown

Secretary: Mr.B.Brown

Treasurer: Mr.B.Brown

*Bournemouth (2); *Brightlingsea (2); *Greenhill (1); *Kensington (1);

*Southend-on-Sea (1); *West Wickham (2)

North-West (Manchester)

Secretary: Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw

Treasurer: Mr.J.E.Ford

*Chester (2); *Kearsley (2); *Radcliffe (1);

Scottish Association

Ministers: Rev.R.A.Gill, Rev.J.Dunion

Secretary: Mrs.N.Laidlaw

Treasurer: Mrs.R.Johnstone

Registrar of Isolated: Rev.R.A.Gill

*Paisley (2)

Yorkshire and North-East

Minister: Rev.C.Bank, Rev.B.Jarvis

Secretary: Mrs.J.E.Millar

Treasurer: Mr.P.Brooks

*Bradford and Saltaire (2); *Dalton (2); *Keighley (2); *Seaburn Dene (2)