

**YEAR BOOK OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE NEW CHURCH: 2016-2017**

**INCLUDING THE MINUTES
OF THE 209th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Held at the Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire
from Tuesday 26th July to Friday 29th July 2016**

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

The General Conference was incorporated,
under the Companies Acts 1862 and 1867, on 16th February 1872

It was entered in the General Register of Charities,
under the Charities Act of 1960, on 11th July 1967,
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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.

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COUNCIL

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

TRUSTEES

Mrs JM WILSON, BA	[until 2019]	Chairman [Training and Development, CAM and Local Churches]
Mr MJ HINDLEY, BA	[until 2017]	Vice-chairman
Ms JZ BROOKS, BA	[until 2017]	
Mr RH CUNNINGHAM BSc	[until 2018]	[Web Development, Health and Safety]
Mr MD HASELER, BSc	[until 2019]	[Purley Chase]
Mrs LK NICHOLLS	[until 2018]	[Youth]
Mrs RF TURNER	[until 2017]	[Human Resources]

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Revd DE GAFFNEY BSc		[Spiritual Leader]
Revd C BANK		[Ministers' Committee Secretary]
Mrs SG FIELD FMAAT, MSc		[Company Accountant] [Finance]

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr GEOFFREY TURNER
Mr MICHAEL CLUBB
Mr PATRICK LEONARD JOHNSON
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:	HARRIS AND HARRIS CRIPPS HARRIES HALL

USEFUL CONTACTS INCLUDING VOLUNTARY WORKERS
(Voluntary Workers are shown in *italics*)

Company Secretary	<i>Ms JZ BROOKS, BA</i>
Finance Manager	<i>Mr A BENTLEY</i>
Payroll & Pensions Manager	<i>Mr CV SKINNER, BSc</i>
Lifeline Editor	<i>Mr AC MISSON, BSc</i>
Auxiliary Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs J MILLAR
Technology Manager	Ms G MCLEAN
Child Protection	Revd R RUSSELL <i>Mrs LK NICHOLLS</i>
Youth Leaders:	Mr R CLARK Mrs J JONES
Property Manager North	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Property Manager South	<i>Mr M WILSON</i>
Church Support North	<i>Mrs P GRIMSHAW</i> <i>Mrs A CLARKSON</i>
Church Support South	<i>Revd G GORDON</i>
Health and Safety	<i>Mr W WOODHOUSE</i>
Lifeline Distributor	<i>Mr H TURNER</i>
Conference Organiser	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Conference Bookings Secretary	<i>Mrs M PRESLAND</i>
Conference Programme Secretary	<i>Mr RH CUNNINGHAM, BSc</i>
Magazine Ordering	<i>Mrs M CURRY</i>

WALKING WITH JESUS - Keynote Address - General Conference of the New Church - AGM - July 2016

Introduction

Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice and they follow me." (John 10:27)

In this verse, the sheep are those who have a desire to do good but don't yet know how to do it wisely, the Lord's voice is His instruction to us from His Word, illuminated by His Holy Spirit, and to follow is to live a life in accordance with this. Our walk with the Lord, quite often begins by following Him out of a sense of duty or out of what the Word calls holy fear. As the Proverb says:

"Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment." (Proverbs 9:10)

So in the beginning, it seems to be necessary to follow the Lord, and then, when our relationship with Him develops we can walk alongside Him. Personally, I find Him incredibly patient; he walks at my pace and waits for me until I'm ready to go on. Sometimes if I'm dawdling or stuck in one place, playing around like a child does, lost in the experiencing of things, he gives me a clue that it's time to move on. He is always kind and never pushes me along, and I sometimes feel that because of my stubbornness, He is angling with a fine line. He really does have all the answers but sometimes I feel as though I'm not very good at asking the right questions or indeed at listening.

So as the walk continues, the trepidation we may experience when we begin to follow the Lord turns into respect and respect into love as we realise that the Lord is Love itself and there is nothing to fear whatsoever from Love for as the Lord tells us in John:

"I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you." (John 15:15)

For the Lord to make things known to us about Love (the Father) implies that we are receptive and willing *in our hearts* to live accordingly so that we can be enlightened. Fear of the Lord happens when we project the negative aspects of ourselves onto Him.

For the rest of this talk I offer a few practical comments that came to mind about different aspects of walking with the Lord.

On Faith

Faith develops as we walk along with the Lord, it is about getting to know Him. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can tell us of the true nature of God, because He is God incarnate. There are three kinds of faith described in the Writings of our Church; three kinds of 'knowing': There is knowing in the memory, knowing in the understanding and knowing in the heart. We begin with faith in the memory which we get by reading passages from the Lord's Word. It takes time before this matures into the fuller bloom of understanding and more time still for us to *live it* so that it becomes engrained in our hearts or will. It is by living it that we can have a "heart of flesh" as opposed to a "heart of stone." It is when we live it that we then really believe in the Lord, because belief manifests itself in action. The Writings tell us that we cannot really believe until we have lived the Lord's instructions to us, and He can descend into our hearts with His goodness.

On entering into the fray

Everyday life has its joys, its pleasures, and its pitfalls. Life has a tendency to constantly fall into chaos and it is only the Lord with His Holy Spirit, bringing His Word to life for us who has the ability to bring order out of this chaos. You only need to think of the consequences of a lot of people quitting their jobs or stopping paying the mortgage, the government stopping social security payments, and the farmers giving up work, all at the same time, and you can imagine the chaos which would result. But people hang on in there at their work, sometimes under great duress to keep the system going. We all depend on co-operation for our survival. This is how it is, we need not to take things personally, but to persevere. Wherever we find the Lord amongst the chaos, when we see his face in the antagonist, there is peace, as the Psalmist said:

"God is our refuge and our strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; ..." (Psalm 46: 1 7 2)

If we are in trouble we seek the Lord in prayer and open His Word and read; the words we read may be an instant balm to our hurt minds, or they may at that time seem empty or even annoying, or to have nothing to do with our current duress but in my experience they will unfold and lead us onward and upwards if we listen and persevere.

On prayer

An essential part of walking with the Lord is to talk to Him, and talking to Him is prayer. The Lord is our heavenly Father and it is the right thing to do to speak to Him. We can and should confide in Him fully, telling him all our

secret thoughts. Don't hold back as though he doesn't know what our deepest thoughts are because He has counted every hair on our heads, and He knows us much more intimately than we know ourselves. We can tell Him about all the things we regret and all the things which we know He wants us to grow out of or change in our lives. We can ask Him to help us to identify what it is which may be making us feel down, and listen to His still small voice. We need to give Him time in a quiet place with the door closed, so that we are with Him alone and giving Him our undivided attention. Meditate and pray on His Word. We can thank him for the many good things we have received. Unlike us, He is incredibly and endlessly patient. We do not need to implore the Lord to listen, as he never stops listening. We will eventually begin to ask, not for worldly benefits, but for spiritual qualities such as good will, modesty, gentleness, forgiveness, courage, steadfastness, charity, and so on; and we shall gain a deeper sense of peace and joy.

We should even pray for the spiritual well being of our enemies (see Matthew 5:44). Somehow, by praying for them we are miraculously relieved of the gremlins which can gnaw away at us; but also, somehow, I believe that the 'enemy' themselves are helped as well.

On materialism and the consumerist society we live in

We live in a largely materialistic consumerist society, and we need to guard against getting too sucked into aspects of its superficiality and empty promises. Marketing, promotions and advertising play on our love of the world and try to persuade us to buy things we don't really need, but begin to want to have very much. Many young people can become very unhappy when they realise that much of what is advertised is unavailable to them - how can we help them?

It is also useful to be conscious of our purchases with respect to the world's resources and the cleanliness and safety of our ecosystem, because much of what we are buying is based for instance on plastics and other man made materials.

On the environment

The long term effects of many man made materials is unknown. For instance the excessive and uncontrolled use of plastic for packaging and the like is controversial. The market will only produce what we buy. It makes sense to use materials where possible which are properly biodegradable within the Lord's ecosystem. The quality of the environment, is always a reflection of the quality of the human mind which occupies it. Being aware of this and taking *some* action, is for me part of my walk with Jesus.

I am going to talk about this from my own experience, to try to impart a sense of how the young can be affected by what seems like a lack of wisdom amongst adults. When I was seventeen I was studying science and mathematics and intending to go on to study Civil Engineering. There was a general studies lecture going on which I went to, and I can't even remember the content of it, except that it brought home to me the problems of environmental pollution. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that I was traumatised. I imagined that the growth of science and technology and a lack of wisdom as to how to use it responsibly, coupled with a likely population explosion, could, and likely would if left unchecked, destroy the finely tuned ecosystem which we all rely on. And I was about to enter one of the professions which would be at the centre of creating the infrastructure which would service this diabolical nightmare as I perceived it. I can't begin to describe the panic, sense of demotivation, and fear which accompanied me as I limped through a degree course in Civil Engineering. This continued with me for a few more years after I graduated until I encountered Jesus, and although I am still extremely concerned about much of humanity's seeming lack of concern for the environment, the Lord helped me to rise above it and see it from a more sanguine perspective.

I think what we need is to gradually move on towards a more co-operative and spiritual society where the machinations of fashion bow to wisdom, true usefulness, and respect for the long term wellbeing of all of us living together on this planet. The responsible use of non-renewable energy seems to be part of this. Some believe that science will continue to turn up solutions to the pollution problem. One example for instance is that we will eventually work out how to carry out nuclear fusion reactions to dispose of all our nuclear waste. Personally, I think it's unlikely that we will; but I ask you to consider whether it is a reasonable approach to continue to produce dangerous material in relatively large quantities, on the basis that we may eventually find a way of disposing of it. Especially as we waste vast amounts of energy unnecessarily. For me, wrestling with issues such as these is also part of my walk with Jesus.

He is the Man; he knows what's going on.

On marriage

For many if not most of us, marriage is a key part in our walking with Jesus. Someone once said, “.. you marry a personality and then find yourself face to face with a character ..” The word personality comes from the latin word “persona” which basically means “a mask:” the pretend character which is shown to others. So marriage is almost bound to be difficult at the start, after the honeymoon period is over. Swedenborg tells us that we need to be careful to choose a compatible person to begin with.

The development of Christian virtues such as patience, forgiveness, the art of dialogue, listening, perseverance and so on are all tested and developed along the way, on this very important part of the walk with Jesus. And, as Rev. Brian Kingslake once said: “With a wife, you can regenerate in the comfort of your own home.”

Married life is bound to produce arguments, that is simply the way it is, but try not to go to the end of the day without making up. How we learn to do this is part of the process. Personally, the maxim I try to stick to is: Never quit, never quit, never quit trying to be nice to your spouse. If both parties commit to this then all should end well. We do this first for the Lord, and then for ourselves.

We need to nurture a sense of Humility before the Lord.

On Children and teenagers

The world seems to keep us so tied up with the pressures of work and the consumerist society that we find it increasingly difficult to give our children and teenagers the quality time they seem to want and need. It seems to me that they want us to demonstrate that we are prepared to sacrifice something for them; and that something is time. They seem to need us to demonstrate how we do the little things in life such as how we hold the ruler to draw a line, how we form a letter or hold a saw or a shovel, or how we get grease off a plate, or kick the football, or play a game. Not how someone else’s parent or guardians do these things but how theirs do them. In these things the Lord can enter with us and we can perhaps find ourselves all walking together. In whatever situation we find ourselves, with our children, I feel we need to find an opportunity to give them the precious present: time in the present, to be conscious in the moment with them.

If I had more space, I would have liked to have written about the following, so I have given a heading and a brief summary of each of them. To do these things for ourselves is natural but to do them for God and our neighbour is spiritual. To walk with Jesus our friend is spiritual.

On metering our workload - the evils of the protestant work ethic

Enjoy being useful, but avoid the whip; the Lord wants us to enjoy our work. This is spiritual

On swapping things

Put service before profit and profit will follow; this is spiritual

On professional standards

Support quality training institutions to get properly qualified people into the right jobs; this is spiritual

On responsibility - do not arm the bad to do harm to the good

Be careful whom you empower; this is spiritual

On looking after money

Whether rich or poor, be wise stewards of your resources for the betterment of the Lord's Kingdom and mankind; this is spiritual

On needs and wants

We often want what we don't need; keep these in balance; this is spiritual

On pleasure and joy

Pleasure is of the senses, joy is of the spirit; keep them in balance; this is spiritual

On judging others

Clearly, we have to make judgements about others' behaviour, the Lord said: "Judge righteous judgment." (John vii 24). This is spiritual

On science and the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

The Lord can't be proved through natural science, He won't allow it; if God could be proved by natural science, it would destroy our faith in Him and we would be lost - unable to regenerate. This is spiritual

On doing all these things for the Lord and the neighbour

We are commanded to Love God and your neighbour as ourselves. To Love God and the neighbour is to *live* according to His Commandments. This is spiritual

On the spiritual life

To draw meaning (or doctrine) out of the Lord's Word, and to *live* according to it is called religion, and the practise of religion is the spiritual life.

Revd David Gaffney

**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND NINTH ANNUAL
MEETING OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH**

Tuesday 26th July 2016

1 In accordance with Minute 46 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, 26th July 2016.

2 The Revd Rebecca Jarratt 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 Mrs Judith Wilson, the Chairman of the Council, took the chair and welcomed Members to the 209th Annual Meeting of The General Conference of the New Church.

4 The Chairman announced that she had invited Mrs Erica Cunningham and Mrs Sally Field 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

Chairman	J M Wilson
Vice-chairman	M J Hindley
Members	J Z Brooks R H Cunningham M D Haseler L K Nicholls R F Turner
Officer	S G Field

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

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

MINISTERS

Spiritual Leader	D E Gaffney C A Bank H T Brown G Clarkson C Curry M E Duckworth J Dunion R M Jarratt B R Jarvis I Russell R M Russell B M Talbot
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AREA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Yorkshire and North-East	P Blomfield, T M Jarvis
North West (Manchester)	J D Lomax

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Stockport	J M Chadwick
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SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	L M Pierpoint, J Pike
Bradford	J E Millar, G E Rowe
Brightlingsea	K F Fisher
Dalton	J Mrozek, W Richardson
Derby	B J Bentley, G C Bentley
Kearsley	K A Dunbar, C E Kennion
Keighley	P Brooks, A Clarkson
Kensington	H W Turner
West Wickham	H G Johnson, A Skinner
Paisley	J A Bowie, E Johnstone

Seaburn Dene
Southend-on-Sea

L Griffiths, E Regan
J Cunningham

SOCIETY VOTERS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	M P Curry, S Thomas
Bradford	T Millar
Brightlingsea	I Hindley
Derby	B Clubb, J Jones, S Jones, R J Kennion
Kearsley	J E Ford, S Kennion, A J Presland, M Presland
Keighley	J L Raistrick
Kensington	B D Friend, S Friend, L F Wells
West Wickham	D E Brooks, M Misson, C V Skinner
Seaburn Dene	G R Nicholls, H A Nicholls

CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

E Bank
E S Cunningham
L Differ
C Goalen
D E K Harvey
C M Hawkins
D A Lomax
P M Russell
A Southcombe
V Stewart-Wood

6 The Company Secretary read messages received from the Revd Ian Arnold, the Revd Trevor and Mrs Joy Moffat and the Revd John and Mrs Jenny Sutton and drew to attention to the fact that these messages were displayed on the noticeboard.

The Company Secretary stated that she had also received apologies and messages of good wishes for a successful Conference from the Revd Leslie and Mrs Jean Chambers, the Revd Julian Duckworth, the Revd Patrick Duvivier, the Revd Michael Stanley, Mrs Dorothy Margison, Mrs Edith Schofield, Mrs Jean Shaw, Mrs Madeleine Taylor and Mrs Susan Wilson.

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

7 *Resolved:* That Mrs Frances Fisher and Mr Gordon Kuphal be a Committee to co-operate with the Chairman and the Company Secretary in revision of the Minutes; Secretary, Mr Kuphal.

8 The Revd Christine Bank spoke about the contribution to Conference made by the Revd Christopher Hasler, Mr Ian McCallum and Mrs Bertha Muir who had all passed into the spiritual world.

9 *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.

10 The Revd Christine Bank presented the Report of the Ministers' Committee.

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

12 Mrs Jan Millar gave a presentation on the work of the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry.

13 Mrs Carolyn Kennion gave a presentation on the work of the New Church Youth Association.

14 The Revd Christine Bank gave a presentation on the 'New Christian Bible Study' website.

15 A magnificent piano recital was given by Mr David Glover, in which he performed *Finlandia* by Sibelius and the second movement, entitled *The Love*, of a piano concerto by Nigel Hess (arranged by the composer for piano solo), which had been commissioned by Prince Charles in memory of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

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

Annual Meeting of the New Church Children's Society,
Circle Dance led by the Revd Rita Russell,
Future Purley Vision led by Ms Alison Southcombe,
Annual Meeting of the New Church Historical Society.

Wednesday 27th July 2016

17 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with singing to praise the Lord led by the Revd Rita Russell.

18 At 9.45 a.m. a Family Holy Supper service was conducted by the Revd Helen Brown. There were 99 communicants including children.

19 The Revd David Gaffney delivered the keynote address based on the Conference theme: “Walking with Jesus”. This was followed by discussion.

20 The Conference broke into six separate groups to experience various new ways of worship, some of which also involved the children. This was followed by a short plenary session led by the Revd Rebecca Jarratt.

21 A reading of chapter 1 to chapter 9, verse 13 of the Gospel of Mark was given by ten people.

22 The Revd David Gaffney and the Revd Rebecca Jarratt led a session entitled “Singing with Jesus”.

23 At 8.00 p.m. the Revd Helen Brown made a presentation about the work of the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre (SOLCe). Mrs Diane Lewin spoke about the planned merger of the North of England New Church House with SOLCe. Mr Lee Differ spoke about beginning his ordination studies in the coming autumn. Following this, the Revd Helen Brown presented Certificates in Swedenborgian Studies (Level One) to Mr Alan Misson and Ms Alison Southcombe. The session ended with a time of worship led by Ms Southcombe.

Thursday 28th July 2016

24 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with hymns and prayer led by the Revd Clifford and Mrs Marion Curry.

25 Mrs Sally Field presented the Report of the Company Accountant.

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

27 The Chairman of the Council, Mrs Judith Wilson, thanked Mr David Glover for his thirteen years of service as Technology Manager. She presented a cheque to him and an arrangement of flowers to his wife Anne.

28 Mrs Judith Wilson presented the Report of the Council.

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

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

31 The Conference asked that its thanks be passed to Mr Wilfred

Woodhouse, the Health and Safety Officer, in acknowledgement of his extra workload following the introduction of new asbestos and legionella regulations.

32 *Resolved, by Special Resolution:*

Article 11

That in Article 11 the third sentence be deleted.

Article 14

That in Article 14 the word “Extraordinary” be deleted from the final sentence.

Article 19

That in Article 19 the words “an Extraordinary” be deleted and replaced by the word “a”, twice.

Article 20

That in Article 20 the words “an Extraordinary” be deleted and replaced by the word “a” twice.

Article 21

That in Article 21 the word “Extraordinary” be deleted.

33 *Resolved, by Special Resolution:*

Article 23

That the second sentence of Article 23 be deleted and that the following be inserted:

“When the minutes have been approved as correct, and signed, by the Chairman and the Company Secretary, or persons appointed by them, they shall be deemed to be a true record of the acts of the General Conference.”

34 *Resolved, by Special Resolution:*

Article 45

That the existing Article 45 be deleted and a new Article 45 be inserted as follows:

“Any persons already appointed as Honorary Life Members of the General Conference to act in a consultative, advisory or representative capacity on its behalf shall remain in office for life unless they resign, become resident outside the United Kingdom, or are removed by resolution of the General Conference in General Meeting. However, no more appointments shall be made to the office of Honorary Life Member.”

35 *Resolved:*

Rule B5

That the words “or Extraordinary General” be deleted.

Rule B6

That the words “or Extraordinary General” be deleted.

Rule B7

That the words “or Extraordinary General” be deleted.

Rule M1

That the second and third sentences of Rule M1 be deleted.

36 Following a ballot Mr David Haseler was declared to be a member of the Council until 2019.

37 Mrs Jenny Jones gave a presentation on the work of the Youth Leaders, to which Mr Robert Clark among others contributed.

38 The Revd Rebecca Jarratt gave a presentation entitled “When I’m 64” about younger people’s experience of church life and possibilities for the future.

39 At 4.30 p.m. the Conference Service was conducted by the Revd Jack Dunion in the main hall of the Hayes Conference Centre. He delivered an address based on John 14:6.

The offertory for the Conference funds amounted to £2,513.25 (inclusive of Gift Aid).

40 At 8.00 p.m. a social entitled "All Age Fun" was held, compèred by Mr Barry Friend and Mr Stephen Jones, assisted by Mrs Jenny Jones. It included games and dancing. The evening ended with prayer and a blessing led by the Revd Rita Russell.

Friday 29th July 2016

41 There was a session of feedback from and to those 'under 64'.

42 The children, under the guidance of their leaders, presented the work they had undertaken during the Conference.

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

44 *Resolved:* That, in accordance with the Council’s proposal, the 210th Annual Meeting be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, starting on Tuesday, 25th July 2017.

45 *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 Judith Wilson, for the planning of Conference; Miss Gemma McLean 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 Erica Cunningham and Mrs Sally Field for acting as the Credentials Committee; Mr Phillip Brooks and Mr Colin Skinner for acting as scrutineers; Mr Michael Clubb, Mr David Friend, Mrs Hazel Nicholls and Mr Howard Turner for arrangements for the Holy Supper service; Mrs Marion Curry (Music Director), the musicians and the choir; Mr David Glover for the wonderful piano recital, the 'under 64's' for the Social and Mrs Erica Cunningham for the beautiful floral arrangements.

46 *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.

47 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the Chairman of the Council, Mrs Judith Wilson, and to the chairmen and vice-chairmen appointed by her, for their conduct of the Annual Meeting. Those who acted in this capacity were Mr Richard Cunningham, Mr David Haseler, Mr Michael Hindley, Mrs Lara Nicholls and Mrs Rachel Turner.

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

49 At 12 noon a closing service of family worship was conducted by the Revd Christine Bank.

50 The Annual Meeting closed at 12:25 p.m.

Signed

Judith M Wilson, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2016

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The Council held five meetings during the year, which included one short meeting before the Annual Meeting. Details of attendances are as follows:

Chairman	Mrs J M Wilson	5
Vice-Chairman:	Mr M J Hindley	3 (5 possible)
Trustees:	Mrs J Z Brooks	5 (Also Company Secretary)
	Mr R H Cunningham	5
	Mr M D Haseler	5
	Mrs L K Nicholls	2 (3 possible)
	Mrs R F Turner	2 (3 possible)

In attendance were:

Company Accountant:	Mrs S Field	4 (5 possible)
Ministers' Com. Secretary:	Revd C Bank	5
Spiritual Leader:	Revd D E Gaffney	5

1.2 Mrs Lara Nicholls and Mrs Rachel Turner attended the non-confidential parts of the May meeting by invitation because they were considering standing for election to the Council in July 2015.

1.3 Mrs Judith M Wilson, the Vice-Chairman, undertook the duties of Chairman from March until the Annual General Meeting in July, when she was elected Chairman. Also in July 2015, Mr Michael J Hindley was elected Vice-Chairman, Mr Richard H Cunningham was re-elected as a Trustee and Mrs Lara K Nicholls and Mrs Rachel Turner were elected as Trustees.

Mr David Haseler (Elected Member) will complete his term of office in July 2016 and will seek re-election. The periods of office of the other Members of the Council in their present roles are: Mrs Judith Wilson until 2019, Mr Michael J Hindley until 2017, Ms J Zoë Brooks until 2017, Mrs Rachel F Turner until 2017, Mr Richard H Cunningham until 2018 and Mrs Lara K Nicholls until 2018.

1.4 At the Conference in 2015 only three of the four possible Trustees were appointed and subsequently the Council is still one Elected Member short, making it the seventh year during which it has been without its full

complement. This year, therefore, it is possible to appoint two Trustees for a period of three years, despite the fact that only one is retiring.

2 GENERAL REVIEW

In order to continue to encourage young people to attend Conference the Council has again agreed that Mrs Jenny Jones be authorised to invite 16-19 year olds and those aged 20 and 21 who are undergoing full-time education to attend Conference 2016 as a free event.

As it is not only young families that sometimes have difficulty meeting the costs of attending Conference, the Council has also decided to continue to offer to reduce the price for all members to 75% of the actual cost for Conference 2016. 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 are being offered attendance at only half of 75% but they are being asked to make this up to 50% by donation if they can afford to do so.

3 LINK MEMBERS

Details of the links between the Council and those engaged in ministerial work are:

Web Development	Mr R H Cunningham and Revd J Dunion
Purley Chase	Mr M D Haseler and Revd D Gaffney
Finance	Mrs S G Field and Revd C Curry
Human Resources	Mrs R F Turner and Revd C Bank
Youth	Mrs L K Nicholls and Revd J Dunion
Training and Development	Mrs J Wilson and Revd R Jarratt
CAM and Local Churches	Mrs J Wilson and Revd C Bank

4 STAFF & REMUNERATION

In 2015/16 the total of stipends, telephone and broadband paid to ministers was £98,083. In addition one worked as a part-time non-stipendiary minister throughout the year. In the same year the total of salaries, wages, telephone and broadband paid to lay employees was £174,766. These figures include people employed for part of the year.

The Council approved a 2% increase from 1 April 2016 for all employees, except those paid hourly. This is in accordance with the Average Weekly Earnings index.

Mr Robert Curry resigned as Youth Leader with effect from 1 May 2015 and is working as an Event Leader on a self-employed basis. Conference is,

therefore, still able to make use of his services. It was decided, however, that despite this it was necessary to employ a replacement Youth Leader. The post was advertised with a closing date of 30 June. Two applicants were interviewed on 1 August. As a result Mrs Jenny Jones was recruited to work 16 hours a week from 1 October and Mr Robert Clark was recruited to work 10 hours a week from 5 December.

Following notification of Mr David Glover's plans for retirement by April 2016, the position of Technology Manager was duly advertised. Three candidates were interviewed. Miss Gemma McLean was selected for the post and the Council was pleased to welcome her as a new employee from 1 March 2016. This meant a short overlap of one month, Mr Glover's retirement date being 31 March. The Council is sorry to see him go and wishes to thank him for nearly 13 years of excellent service.

Mrs Jan Millar has asked the Council to reduce her hours from 30 a week to 10 per week from October 2016 and the Council has agreed to this proposal.

5 MINISTRY

Non-Stipendiary Ministry

The Revd Clifford Curry has again worked as a part-time non-stipendiary minister throughout the year. His voluntary work continues to contribute to Conference's financial position and the Council wishes to record its thanks to him.

Ordination

Following her ordination at Conference 2015, the Revd Rebecca M Jarratt was employed from 1 September to 31 October for 11.5 hours a week and from 1 November onwards for 17 hours a week.

Ordination Training

In October 2014 Ms Alison Southcombe became a Sponsored Student to train at SOLCe with a view to her replacing the Revd David Gaffney as Programme Director at Purley Chase. Her training period, which was initially for a year, was later extended by a further two years. In November 2015, after prayerful consideration, Ms Southcombe applied to become a Sponsored Ordination Student. Her application was approved by the Ministers' Committee and in December the Council agreed to the transfer. It is anticipated that she will finish her training in Autumn 2017.

6 VOLUNTEERS

The Council again wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have taken on voluntary roles. A full list of volunteers now working for Conference is

given in the Year Book. The Council is still seeking to reduce the work of volunteers wherever possible.

7 SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

General

A letter was sent to all Societies in October, giving general information and reminding them of the need to attend to such matters as ensuring that their rules were adequate, particularly in connection with the numbers required at meetings in order to be quorate, and checking that they had sufficient signatories in respect of bank accounts and investments.

Mauritius

The Revd Joel Kouassi of the General Church left his Mauritian pastorate to return to the Ivory Coast at the end of his 12 month contract. The New Church in Mauritius appreciated the service he had given.

Blackpool

Sadly the Blackpool Group decided to close during the year as only a few journeys were made to Accrington by the two members.

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Group unfortunately had to be disbanded during the year as it became too difficult for members to travel from Perth for meetings.

Brightlingsea

The Council has been informed that sadly the Brightlingsea Society proposes to close at the end of September, the final service being held on 24th September in the afternoon.

8 CONFERENCE PROPERTIES

Churches and Other Buildings

General

Following the concerns he expressed about asbestos and Legionella in our buildings the Council authorised Mr W Woodhouse, the volunteer who deals with Health and Safety issues, to select a church and obtain pilot reports in respect of its premises. As a result Legionella and Asbestos Policies have been adopted. Mr Woodhouse has contacted all occupiers of Conference-owned properties who are affected on behalf of the Council and provided them with details of the action they are required to take.

In October 2015 there was new legislation regarding smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and Mr Woodhouse has brought this to the attention of those

who are affected by it.

Bristol

Contracts for the sale of Bristol church were exchanged on 8 April 2015 and completion took place on 13 April 2015. The sale price was £430,000. Obtaining our costs from Bristol City Council in respect of the court case that took place on 23 January 2015 was a protracted process and payment was not received until 9 July 2015.

Burnley

The matter of reinstatement of the Management Company in respect of the flats has yet to be resolved but is still being pursued.

9 PROPOSED MERGER OF SOLC_e AND NORTH OF ENGLAND NEW CHURCH HOUSE

The Council has been kept aware of progress and has agreed that Conference is willing to act as Trustee of the merged charities on similar terms to its trusteeship of SOLC_e.

10 FUNDS

East Anglia

The failure of the Norwich Society put the Council in the position of being free to determine the disposition of this fund but it had previously continued to hold the fund lest the London and Southern Area Council might call upon it. Now that the London and Southern Area Council no longer exists the Council decided to add this fund to its general funds.

Norwich Trust Fund

The demise of the London and Southern Area Council also prompted the Council to look at this fund. The rules of the fund provide for the income to be accumulated ad infinitum for any new Society established in Norwich. As there is no likelihood of any society being established there in the foreseeable future the result is that there is no way in which the funds can be used. The permission of the Charity Commission to add the money in this fund to Conference's general funds will therefore be sought.

11 COMMITTEES

Broadfield Memorial Benevolent Fund

Mrs Judith Wilson, Mrs Erica Cunningham and Mrs Liz Regan have been appointed to the Committee as Mrs Ann Skinner, Mr David Friend and Mr Michael Hindley have retired.

Rules Committee

Mr David Friend has left the Rules Committee but will continue to produce revised versions of the Rule Book for those who want them.

12 MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE

Since the last Annual Meeting the Revd Christopher Hasler, Mr Ian McCallum and Mrs Bertha Muir have passed into the spiritual world.

13 NOMINATIONS AND PROPOSED ARTICLE AND RULE CHANGES

a) Nominations

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

b) Articles

As Extraordinary General Meetings are no longer required in order to amend a company's Articles the following Special Resolutions will be moved by the Council in order to effect amendments to the Company's Articles of Association. Attention is drawn to the fact that the Companies Acts require that Special Resolutions cannot be amended but can only be passed in their entirety or rejected.

Special Resolution Number One

Article 11

That in Article 11 the third sentence be deleted.

Article 14

That in Article 14 the word 'Extraordinary' be deleted from the final sentence

Article 19

That in Article 19 the words 'an Extraordinary' be deleted and replaced by the word 'a', twice

Article 20

That in Article 20 the words 'an Extraordinary' be deleted and replaced by the word 'a', twice

Article 21

That in Article 21 the word 'Extraordinary' be deleted.

Special Resolution Number Two

Article 23

That the second sentence of Article 23 be deleted and that the following be inserted:

When the minutes have been approved as correct, and signed, by the Chairman and the Company Secretary, or persons appointed by them, they shall be

deemed to be a true record of the acts of the General Conference.

Special Resolution Number Three

Article 45

That the existing Article 45 be deleted and a new Article 45 be inserted as follows:

Any persons already appointed as Honorary Life Members of the General Conference to act in a consultative, advisory or representative capacity on its behalf shall remain in office for life unless they resign, become resident outside the United Kingdom, or are removed by resolution of the General Conference in General Meeting. However, no more appointments shall be made to the office of Honorary Life Member.

c) Rules

The following rule change(s) will be moved by the Council:

Representation at the Annual Meeting

Rule B5

That the words 'or Extraordinary General Meeting' be deleted

Rule B6

That the words 'or Extraordinary General Meeting' be deleted

Rule B7

That the words 'or Extraordinary General Meeting' be deleted

Honorary Life Members

Rule M1

That the second and third sentences of Rule M1 be deleted.

14 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Company Accountant, Mrs Sally Field, reports on the Income and Expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st March 2016 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, subject to audit:

Overall Summary

The operational figures have gone from a surplus last year to break even at the end of March 2016.

Income

Society income has continued to fall too and is now £161,000, which is a decrease of 2.4% compared with last year. This is the same percentage decrease as the previous year. Donations have increased by 29.4% to £22,000 compared with the year before. Although this is encouraging, the previous year's donations were a lot lower than normal.

Expenditure

There has been an increase in expenditure of 14.4% compared with the previous year. This increase is made up of both human resources increases and administration. Human resources have increased by 18.2% and administration 8.8%.

Balance Sheet

We have again received a large amount of legacy income but the majority of it was received at the end of the financial year and so was not added to our investments until 2016/17. The final sale of Bristol went through at the beginning of the financial year creating a closed society receipt of £419,000.

Future Forecast

The forecast over the next 5 years is very uncertain but at the moment it looks as though we will be making an operational deficit each year. The size of the deficit depends on decisions yet to be made. We are able to cope with this deficit thanks to previous surpluses but they will not sustain us forever. We are still in the situation of heavily relying on investment income but if we are to keep going for many years to come we will need the other sources of income to increase or new sources to be found.

15 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PURLEY MANAGEMENT TEAM 2015 – 2016

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

1 The Team

Michael Clubb	Chairman	Alison Plunkett	
Anne Gaffney	Manager	Sally Field	Company Accountant
David Gaffney	Programme Director	David Haseler	Secretary

Alison Southcombe, Programme Director designate, attended one meeting by invitation.

The Team is supported by the competent housekeeping and catering team who ensure the smooth running of Purley throughout the year.

2 Events

There were 55 residential events during the year including several new bookings. There was an overall decrease of 13% in person-nights, though those for Conference events dropped by only 8%. A noteworthy new event during the year was one aimed at young people aged 18+, an age-group that had previously been neglected.

The monthly Sunday service and the Arcana Caelestia study group are now

well-established and important events in the Purley calendar. In addition to a core group of attendees, there is also a trickle of newcomers. We have been delighted that 7 people coming to these events became Members of Conference during the year.

The Team are conscious that David Gaffney has the pressures of being both Spiritual Leader and Programme Director.

3 Finance

There was a nett deficit of £41.2K compared with a deficit of £18.2K in the previous year. Factors were a 10% decrease in income from events, wage increases for hourly-paid staff and the introduction of pension payments for them.

4 Programme Director

The Team has been pleased with the involvement of Alison Southcombe in some services and at other Purley events.

5 Staff

Two members of staff left during the year to move to new positions; we thank them for their service to Purley.

It has been agreed to recruit a Deputy Manager to provide support to the Manager and to free her from the 24/7 responsibility for the building and occupants. It is hoped that this position will be filled in time for the summer season.

6 Buildings and Grounds

(a) General

After many years of problems, broadband reception has been improved to an acceptable level.

There have been no major problems during the year, but a programme of redecoration has started and minor repairs carried out.

(b) Grounds

The Team, has decided that the strip of land to the east of the grounds should become a wild-flower meadow; access will be provided by a mown path. Four trees adjacent to the road had to be felled during the year.

(c) Quarry

The quarry has been granted planning permission to extend its workings to the former Purley Chase Golf Club; any impact on Purley should be minimal.

(d) Health and Safety

Health and Safety continues to be a high priority, and regular audits are carried out by the Manager and Steve Jones. In accordance with Council policy, professional assessments for both asbestos and legionella have recently been carried out, and the Team is studying what action needs to be taken.

7 Thanks

The Team is grateful to our hard-working staff, who have had to work particularly hard this year to cover vacancies. We are also grateful to the numerous volunteers who have helped in many different ways to improve the building and grounds. Many people make generous donations to Purley, and we are grateful for this unseen support.

The burden of 24 hour responsibility falls on Anne and David Gaffney, and we continue to be grateful to them for their work to ensure the continued success of the Centre. They are ably supported by Sally Field with her experience and competence.

On behalf of the Council:

Judith M Wilson, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2016

1 AREA COUNCILS

1.1 SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION

(Mrs H Laidlaw reports)

The Scottish Association met three times during the year.

We continue to take part in the Paisley “Open Doors Day” and once again this event was well attended and enjoyed by both adults and children. A simple quiz is provided for the young people, which gives them the opportunity to discover various aspects of the Church.

New glass panels which have been inserted in the front door of the Church have made a big difference to the appearance of the Church on a Sunday and during the week. Shutters are inserted and it is hoped to use them to display some photos of the interior alongside some quotations and useful information.

The Scottish Association has been able to make a contribution to the web site “New Christian Bible Study”, which has been successfully launched by Steve David.

1.2 YORKSHIRE AND NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL

(Mrs Jan Millar reports)

We once again held the AGM on a Sunday as part of a day of worship and activities to which all churches in the Area were invited as well as families and individuals who live in the area but are unable to attend a church on a regular basis. The stimulating day began with a service of worship led by Revd Becky Jarratt which was followed by the AGM and activities and discussion based on the theme of Samuel. It was well attended and gave us the opportunity to share in worship and fellowship together.

The reports received from all four churches at the 2016 Area AGM show that the churches remain in good heart despite reduced numbers of people attending Sunday worship. Seaburn Dene continues to meet twice monthly and Bradford and Dalton have several joint services throughout the year.

We are as always grateful to the Ministers, Retired Ministers and Lay Worship Leaders who take our services and to all those who work so tirelessly on our behalf to maintain the life of our churches.

1.3 NORTH WEST (MANCHESTER) AREA COUNCIL

(Mrs Pauline Grimshaw reports)

Our usual two meetings of the Council have been held during the past year with an average of six persons attending from Stockport, Kearsley and Radcliffe.

The three events organized by the Council during the past year have provided us with opportunities to worship, learn and enjoy the friendship and fellowship of being part of a greater whole. Our New Church Day Service held at Kearsley was led by Mr. Christopher Chambers with the continuing theme of our journey through the book of Revelation. Afterwards we enjoyed meeting friends over lunch.

Our Swedenborg Birthday meeting, held at Radcliffe, also involved our study of the Apocalypse and was led by Christopher in a discussion type format, concentrating on a Roland Smith picture.

Our Christmas celebration this year was held at Wellspring House, instead of Kearsley and was held in the early afternoon following a shared lunch. It was good to have an increased attendance and to meet new participants.

A successful CAM organized workshop was held at Kearsley entitled 'Help! I'm on a Committee.' This was intended to encourage, and allay the fears and concerns of, anyone considering being on a Committee and was a very well attended and an informative experience.

Our most urgent area of concern during the past year has been the difficulties of maintaining regular services of worship within the Area, particularly at the Radcliffe Church. Our most sincere thanks go to all worship leaders who have served the Area during the past year. Their efforts have been vital to ensure the value of our churches as worshipping communities. We have been pleased to have the services of the Revd Brian Talbot which has helped to ameliorate the situation at Radcliffe and at Stockport. Our grateful thanks also go to Mr. Clive Goalen and to Mr. Jeff Lomax who also take regular services in our Area and to Mrs. Pauline Grimshaw, the worship leader at Kearsley.

During the coming year our officers again will be:-

Chairman: Mr. J. D. Lomax Secretary: Mrs. P.A. Grimshaw
Treasurer: Mr. J.E. Ford Auditor: Mr. K Sandiford
Kildwick Committee Representative: Mr. K Sandiford

2 OVERSEAS

(The Revd Norman Ryder, Overseas Secretary, reports)

South Africa I have heard that the Revd E N J Montsho, Principal of Mooki Memorial College in Orlando, has contacted a number of members and officers of the General Conference, asking for financial contributions to enable the New Church of Southern Africa to register as an official educational establishment.

At Easter 2015 the Junior Women's League met at Orlando for their Annual Convention. During the gathering the newly refurbished Library and administration facilities at Mooki Memorial College were dedicated, and this was advertised on a Johannesburg publicity company's web site. Ministers and Church members attended from all over Southern Africa with representatives from the Women's League, the Swedenborg Stars, the Sons of the New Church and Proteas.

Nigeria I report that Archbishop Lawrence Warisi Wariboko died on 15 October 2015 after a long illness. I sent a message of sympathy to the Revd Dr Adegbemile Olowadare, General Secretary of the New Church of West Africa (Nigeria) – <NCWA(N)>, but so far I have received no reply. Archbishop Wariboko's Funeral Service was arranged for 16th April 2016, after which a mini-Conference was to be held to make arrangements for the appointment of his successor as President of NCWA(N). Also scheduled for this time was the Ordination of a number of new Ministers. One of them, Saturday Oyeabuan, was moved to apply for training as a Minister of his Church as a result of receiving from me and studying a large number of volumes of the Writings of our Church. Many of these books were donated by the Swedenborg Society and others came from New Church House before its Manchester premises closed.

I have been consulted by the Revd David Gaffney, Spiritual Leader, and the Revd Helen Brown, New Church College's Leader of Education, on matters relating to individuals in NCWA(N). One of these individuals is an unordained pastor in Yenagoa State, who has only recently written to tell me that he has transferred his and his Society's allegiance from NCWA(N) to the General Church of the New Jerusalem. The Executive Bishop of the General Church reported in *New Church Life* for January/February 2016 that General Church numbers in Nigeria are growing; this is largely the result of the activities of a Ghanaian priest of the General Church. A senior Minister of NCWA(N) has written to ask me "whether the New Church in Britain (West Africa, Nigeria) and the General Church of the New Jerusalem are the same". On receiving from me a statement about the organisational forms and doctrinal standpoints of the General Conference and the General Church of the New Jerusalem he responded: "I did not defect from the New Church to the General

Church of the New Jerusalem. I remain the New Church Ordained Minister in West Africa (Nigeria).” I have stressed to him that I have many friends among the Ministers and Members of the General Church, and he echoed the view of Swedenborg that those who live in charity and worship the Lord Jesus Christ are our brothers.

Mauritius I have heard indirectly that the Revd Henry Joel Kouassa has decided to withdraw from his appointment to the New Church in Mauritius.

Europe With sadness I record the death of the Revd Olle Hjern of Stockholm on 28th March 2016. A priest of the Lord’s New Church which is Nova Hierosolyma, he had served as President of the International Council of Priests of his Church, and attended our Ministers Seminars regularly from 1988 to 2007. I have sent a message of sympathy to Susanna, Olle’s widow.

3 HOME WORSHIP

(Mrs Sylvia Fay, the Organiser, reports)

The issues for 2015/2016 have been paid for by donations from a number of the recipients, with no charge on Conference funds. Currently our team prints and sends by post 34 copies of each issue, with 46 copies distributed by email. Our readers live in Britain, U.S.A., Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Netherlands, Slovenia, Mauritius and Denmark. We are now able to produce the material in extra-large type for the sake of any reader who is visually impaired.

The appreciation expressed by the isolated recipients inspires us. This one speaks for them all: “My father was my New Church guide due to the lack of a local New Church, and since his death the Home Worship has enabled me to retain that connection.”

4 BROADFIELD MEMORIAL BENEVOLENT FUND

(Ray Pulsford, the Treasurer/Secretary, reports)

The Fund has continued to make grants, on request, to pensioners and ministers and a total of £16,140 has been distributed compared with £16,220 last year.

Donations remain at £16,000 and other income was £262 from CIF dividend. There was a balance of £778.39 on 31st March 2016 compared with £668.95 last year.

5 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR AUXILIARY MINISTRY (The CAM Coordinator, Mrs Jan Millar, reports)

General

It is a time of great change for the Church and the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry is developing to respond to the challenges that arise because of this. CAM continues to work closely with SOLCe to train and support churches and individuals in many aspects of church life.

Worship Leader Training and Support Programme

Worship leaders attended the Worship Leader Weekends that were held at Purley Chase in October 2015 and April 2016. The theme for the October weekend was 'Divine Providence' and the weekend was led by Revd Christine Bank. At the April weekend we looked at 'Seeing ourselves in Biblical characters' under the leadership of Alan Misson. Both weekends were educational and inspiring and CAM would like to thank all those who have given of their time, insights and expertise to support and encourage the worship leaders.

Workshops

CAM held a day workshop 'Help! I'm on the committee' at Kearsley in January 2016. This was led by Patricia Russell, Kathie Brooks and Jan Millar and was attended by both experienced people and those fairly new to committee work. The workshop was very well received by all the participants and a sample document pack was produced which is available for all churches and individuals.

Resources

CAM continues to build up a wide variety of resources to assist lay people in their ministry. The committee is grateful to all those who so generously share their work with others.

CAM would also like to thank the Council and the Committee of Ministers for the support they continue to give to the work of lay people. Despite the reduction in my hours from October 2016 the committee is always looking for new initiatives to meet the changing needs of the Church. Do not hesitate to continue to approach CAM if any training or support is required.

Finally, the committee would like to thank all the Auxiliary Ministers who give so generously of their time, knowledge and enthusiasm to serve the Church in many different capacities. Without their dedication the Church would be unable to function.

6 THE EDWARD JEGGINS TRUST

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

In the past year the Trust has received one request from a Society of the New Church for a grant towards the cost of essential maintenance of its church building. While the Trustees admire the determination of our Societies to fund the costs of their maintenance work themselves, we remind them that we remain ready and able to help them to do so.

7 YOUTH AND FAMILIES

7.1 (The Revd Jack Dunion Reports)

Since our first meeting on Saturday December 5th 2015 the youth and family team have continued to enjoy the full support of the Council. We communicate mostly by email and telephone in order to co-ordinate the provision of a range of activities spread throughout the year. Between March and October 2016 the youth leaders have been/will be involved in a total of 12 activities catering for an age range from toddler to young adults. Activities include: summer camps, family weekends, outdoor pursuits, activity days out and toddler groups.

The year has brought us through some steep learning curves and sadly we see the resignation of one of our youth workers. Our thanks go to Jen Pickard who has done some excellent work for the church over the last three years and we will be able to build on the activities Jen helped establish.

Looking to the future; as well as the existing activities the team will now focus on work based training and development. We don't envisage the need to employ a new worker in the near future but rather look to consolidate our existing resources. We will also continue to expand our communication with and offer support to the youth and family element within our organisation. Having established a strong base we will be in a better position to reach out with a view to expanding our church family.

7.2 (Mrs Jenny Jones, Youth Leader and Family Co-ordinator, reports)

The two weekends held at Purley Chase for families continue to be popular and we are pleased to have welcomed some new families during the past year. In February a third weekend was held for the first time. This followed a relaxed programme on the theme of David and Goliath, where children and young people aged 4 -18 worked alongside parents and grandparents instead of spending time in separate groups. Although a relatively small number of people came, the group included several newcomers to Purley, who enjoyed the weekend so much that they immediately booked for future events. Our teenage group is now the largest group at our Family weekends and we still

struggle to find volunteers willing to work with this age group. However, it is great that some of our young adults are now returning as leaders to work with the children and teenagers at this year's Easter Rally, Conference and Summer Camp. Conference also continues to be popular with families and children and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who works with the children at these events throughout the year. Many children and teenagers who attend these events with their families go on to attend Easter Rally and the Summer Camps at Purley Chase on their own as they have caught the "Purley Bug" and wish to return time and time again to meet up with all their friends.

Easter Rally ran successfully at Wellspring House again at the end of March. Twelve young people aged 12-18 attended and for about half the group it was their first experience of Easter Rally. A great time was had by everyone and it was great to welcome Steph Whittle as a leader instead of as an attendee! As the event is difficult to reach for those in the South, we are running a similar event for teenagers at a bunkhouse in the New Forest at the end of September. It is hoped that this event will be equally successful and long running.

Weekends for young people aged 18 plus are now also up and running and the first was held at Purley Chase in November with a further weekend booked for early July. It is hoped that these bi-annual weekends will provide a much needed opportunity for young adults, who have enjoyed the Summer Camps as younger teenagers, to continue to enjoy Purley Chase with friends of a similar age and be able to continue to explore their understanding of the teachings in a deeper way.

Two Family "Walk and Talk" days have been set up for families in the North giving family members of all ages the chance to meet up and enjoy the day together in the local countryside. The first was held at Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire and about 30 people braved the sleet and snow to meet up and spend a few hours together. A further event is planned for October and a good turn-out is expected again.

Last September two Fun days were run for Families. The first was at Bournemouth New Church and was organised by Jen Pickard and the second was at West Thorpe Methodist Church in York and was organised by Becky Jarratt. Both days were based on the theme of Noah's Ark and raised money for local charities. A trip to Laser Quest was also organised for a group of teenagers living in the Bradford area and was run by Phillippa Blomfield.

Two outdoor activity days have taken place for children over seven; one in the North and one in the South of England with a range of activities on offer including climbing, archery and sailing. An outdoor pursuits weekend in the Peak District for those aged over 16 plus has also taken place and was run by Robert Curry and Geoff Nicholls.

A Facebook group called Purley People is now up and running and has just over 100 members so far. This page is used to advertise all the events that are taking place nationally for children, teenagers, young adults and families and is also used to report back on events as they take place, with plenty of photos and film clips to show what is happening. Blogs, prayers and bible quotations have also been included. As any member can post a contribution or make a comment it is being used as a way in which members can keep in touch and communicate with each other. It has been a fantastic resource for advertising and sharing what is going on, especially with those who are more geographically isolated, and has attracted members who have not attended an organised church event for many years but still have an interest in finding out what is going on. The Facebook is a "closed" group so only members can access it, making it safe to post photographs of children and young people as long as their parents have given permission. However, anyone with a Facebook account can request to join.

8 SPIRITUAL FRIENDS (SF) WEBSITE REPORT (Revd Jack Dunion reports)

In the embryonic stages of the digital age the potential was seen by some but perhaps not enough people to build a web presence that exploited such potential to the full. However, things have moved on apace since the "Vision Team" launched spiritualfriends.org. A new and exciting era is dawning and a global effort is beginning to emerge and we need to move with the times.

Moving the social networking part of the site to Facebook has proved to be a great success with something approaching 300 "likes" on our page, the vast majority of which come from outside our organisation. This gives us quite a reach and enables us to join with the growing Swedenborgian presence online in getting our Lord's voice heard in the world through spreading the writings of our church.

Our new IT worker Gemma McLean, who is interested in the whole web scene, will be looking at the feasibility of the Spiritual Friends site and also look at how we could make best use of the resources we have on the site and how we can communicate such to others.

9 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE 2015-2016 (Mrs Maeve Hawkins reports)

The members of the Committee, The Rev Norman Ryder (Chairman), Mrs Maeve Hawkins (Secretary), Mr Patrick Johnson, Mr Gordon Kuphal, Mr Howard Turner and Mr Richard Lines have met on four occasions during the year ending March 31st 2016. Mrs Pauline Grimshaw, an associate member, is

unable to attend but she contributes usefully to the work of committee.

The transfer of the contents of the General Conference Library and Archives to the care of the Swedenborg Society remains the most important matter before the Committee. Good progress is being made in enabling this to take place. After many years of concern over the future of the Collection it is an exciting time for the committee members with the prospect of increased secure space and storage to modern archive standards being provided over time. Most importantly the transfer will safeguard the future of a unique collection and give increased access to researchers and others interested in different aspects of the New Church. We are grateful to Mr Stephen McNeilly and Mr James Wilson for attending the committee meetings to discuss details of the transfer.

Enquiries continue to be received and answered by the members. As reported in previous years many come by way of the Swedenborg Society website. They have included, for the second time, an enquiry from a researcher working on the BBC Television series “Who Do You think You Are?” In this case and in others we appreciate the help given by James Wilson to ensure enquiries are dealt with quickly and efficiently.

Among the enquiries have been two interesting ones from people working on local histories. The first concerned members of the Keighley Society who received prison sentences for refusing to obey the Compulsory (Smallpox) Vaccination Act. The second came from a lady in Salford who was unable to find anything useful in local archives, the internet or other sources relating to the North Manchester Society. Her work will ensure that the New Church there is no longer forgotten but will now be recorded for the future.

Items continue to arrive for the Collection. They have included photographs, books, and research work by committee members and members of the New Church Historical Society. A transcription has been made of the badly deteriorated Bury baptism register. A request from the Friends of a Middleton cemetery asked for the names of those originally buried in the churchyard of the Middleton Church. The burials were moved to the cemetery many years ago. A list has been compiled and a copy placed in our Archives.

The members remain enthusiastic in their commitment to the care of the General Conference Library and Archives collection.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' COMMITTEE 2015/16

1. Meetings

The Committee meeting took place from 17th - 19th November 2015 and the AGM from 8th - 10th March 2016. Ten members were present at the November meeting with Mr Steve David attending part of the meeting by invitation. In March there were 11 members plus Mr G S Kuphal as Recorder. In addition Miss Gemma McLean attended part of the meeting by invitation. Both meetings took place at Purley Chase.

2. Spiritual Leader's Report from Revd David Gaffney

How my year went and a few thoughts for the year ahead.

Greetings everyone. I hope your year has been rewarding and has led you into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus. My year has been incredibly busy as I'm sure many of yours have been too; and in the busyness, I have to say that I have found it difficult to get enough space to really reflect on how I personally feel I have progressed on my own spiritual journey. Again, I would imagine that many of you feel the same. However, as I am thinking about this now, I do sense that I have learned a lot and, hopefully, even acquired a bit of wisdom in the process. Only the Lord Himself really knows. I do try to have some quiet times with the Lord, to read His Word 'behind a closed door', to tune into His still small voice and to follow his leading. But it seems to be a subtle and difficult thing to know that you are hearing correctly and possibly still more difficult to live by it; and as you are probably aware, we are only allowed to see Providence after the event.

I have had my hands full with overseeing Purley events in general, as well as planning, promoting and running my own events, and running services and a Small Group here at Purley as well as an Arcana Studies Group. Numbers attending seem to be slowly increasing overall; but sadly, we also inevitably lose people. I enjoy this work immensely, and I am experimenting with ways of trying to present core teachings of the New Jerusalem to people in ways they will understand more easily. Here at Purley, this has led me to almost entirely abandon conventional addresses of a more 'oratory' nature in favour of Powerpoints with ongoing interactive discussions; with minimal text but with pictures, expounding the Bible passages, key words and their inner meanings. I have found this to be well received and the feedback I have obtained has led me to believe this is a worthwhile approach and is promoting understanding of our invaluable teachings.

As well as spiritual teaching as mentioned above, I continue to be involved with what could perhaps be described as the more mundane, but nevertheless essential, aspects of church work; that of sitting on committees and all the minute reading and adjustments and jobs which many of you know 'come with the territory.' For your information, the committees I attend are the

Purley Management Team, which meets several times a year, the Council, which also meets several times a year, Sponsored Student Monitoring Group Meetings, the Ministers' Committee, which meets twice a year, and the Ministers Seminar. I also look after applications for ministry and other things, and as a one-time engineer, I look after the fabric of the Purley Chase building; including attending the Purley Working Parties, which maintain the Purley building and grounds, when I can. Anyone is welcome to attend this, and we all enjoy the camaraderie of working together and a hearty lunch.

What will the future bring? Well, as you are aware, only the Lord Himself knows. But I sense that *one* of the key ways in which our organisation can continue to function and serve the Lord and His people is by setting up Small Groups which can meet in peoples' houses. Also giving lectures or talks, perhaps referring enquirers to seek support from a local Small Group network. Small groups do not need buildings, and although there is a place for buildings, for some groups of learners and worshippers the buildings themselves tend to draw a lot of focus and energy away from the processes of learning, living the life and worshipping, especially when attendance is low. We have the teachings, and some capable teachers to teach them. I sense that a key aspect of making a success of Small Groups is a structure for managing or co-ordinating them; on the other hand, I also realise that this could be an area of significant consternation.

I think it's worth reminding ourselves what wonderful and unique knowledge we have in the Writings. Swedenborg wrote his writings to give us an example as to how to stay on the path of a truer interpretation of the Christian church than was the case in his lifetime. At that time Swedenborg said that the first era of the Christian church was essentially exhausted. The things he was guided by the Lord to be concerned about were the confused understanding of the nature of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) and the tendency for many to think of each of them as separate Gods. This in turn led to much erroneous thinking and a loss of charity from the church of his day; and much of this is still around. Hard to believe I know! (If you want to delve further see Swedenborg's book: *The True Christian Religion* 164 - 184). However, the world has changed much since Swedenborg's time; and much of the needed change he wrote about has, and still is, coming about by an absorption by religious institutions of his good and wise concepts, through such media as poetry and the arts rather than through the normal channels of theological power.

So, Swedenborg was commissioned by the Lord to write things which could sort out the mess, and he wrote the Writings for the New Church, showing us that God *is* the risen Lord Jesus Christ - The Divine Human - the visible God in whom is the invisible. The One God whom we can relate to and love and trust to guide us. (For more information see Swedenborg's book, *True*

Christian Religion 787). Incidentally, Swedenborgian concepts apply to what is good and true in all religions not just Christianity.

As well as this, Swedenborg also brought back from his journeyings into the spiritual worlds and through his perception of the Lord's inflowing promptings, a renewed knowledge of the concept that everything in the natural world *represents* some spiritual quality or process which exists simultaneously in the spiritual world. For instance: warmth *represents* love, and light *represents* truth or wisdom; and these *correspondences* are embedded into all scripture; giving us access to a better understanding of spiritual things. He also brought us knowledge of the nature of the spiritual worlds, of heaven and hell and the world between them, of marriages in heaven, the language, dwellings and clothing of spirits and angels and much more. He was instructed by the Lord to write this down so that we can have confidence in the reality of the life to come.

The human will has a tendency to want to go its own way; it generally resists being directed along certain paths by God. It has a tendency to rebel against this, either consciously or unconsciously. And so we humans, since time immemorial, have had a tendency to interpret scripture in ways which will *not* cause us to change. In other words, we derive meanings of scripture which will not change us, or is in sync with the particular dictates of our will, our agenda, rather than deriving meanings which will facilitate change in us. Until we are honest with ourselves and derive meanings from scripture which will help us to enjoin the Lord in fighting battles with our lower natures, then we will continue to fight battles of external warfare with each other. If there is something genuinely good in you or me then we will hang on in there and, perhaps grudgingly at times, allow the Lord - **who wants us to enjoy life** - in gradually bending us towards heaven.

This body of knowledge known as the Theological Writings of Swedenborg is effectively, in my view, the answer to much of the world's strife in our day. It is a lack of understanding that people are fighting about, and we have understanding by the bucket load. As Swedenborg said: "All religion has relation to life and the life of religion is to do good." Everyone who believes in God and lives a good life enters heaven - irrespective of their religion (see Swedenborg's book Heaven and Hell 318 & 319 etc.). Having said that, just as the human body is made up of many parts and organs which all work together to make a unitary functioning whole, all the world's religions make up the whole of the heavens; and we are a part of the Christian religion. So I think I reflect Swedenborg's view when I say that: Unity comes from diversity not uniformity. This is a great and useful church and we have great teachings so I would like to encourage us all to try to walk that extra mile in helping the Lord to use it to bring in His harvest.

On that cheery note, I wish you productive deliberations. Rev. David Gaffney, Spiritual Leader.

3. Ms Alison Southcombe.

Ms Alison Southcombe continues as a sponsored student working towards ordination and in addition to her college studies works with many of the groups who use Purley Chase. As she will be the incoming Programme Director to succeed Revd David Gaffney there is a sense of maintaining continuity but also of preparing for changes to come in the future.

4. Committee for Auxiliary Ministry (CAM) / Local churches

The Ministry affirm their appreciation and ongoing support for the work of CAM. Our Secretary is on their committee and we continue to appreciate the faithful and quiet work of so many who volunteer with dedication and commitment to enable regular worship in our churches and group settings.

5. Web presence

Revd Jack Dunion is our link member for Web Development and maintains contact with those working on the Spiritual Friends website & Facebook page. Moving the social media element of the site to Facebook has proved to be successful with 285 "likes" on the page and counting. Miss Gemma McLean, the Technology Manager, is looking at the feasibility of the site in the context of all other sites before we can make any decisions about the future of the site and the best presentation and use of the resources available on the site.

6. Renewal – reading at least Chapter 1 of Arcana Caelestia.

Last Conference we spent time looking at the first chapter of AC together and during this year, not necessarily coming directly from that but certainly in sympathy with it, some new groups have begun to meet and others are continuing with their existing regular pattern.

Particularly exciting is the news that two new Groups have begun in the Somerset Area initiated by Karin Baynes a General Church member who lives near Wells. They started in Nov 2015 and meet monthly. The groups are each about half a dozen folks nearly all from Conference backgrounds. Revd Clifford Curry supports one group meeting at Karin's home, the other group meet at a member's home in Bath and are supported by Rev. Alan Cowley of the General Church. Ministers are not the group leaders and the group members use pre prepared materials and are taking on the leadership roles among themselves. The intention was to serve isolated folks from both strands of the organised New Church so this joining of both traditions in the initiative is all in the spirit of the original plan.

7. Youth Leaders

During the last year there has been considerable change in the Youth and

Family team. We are happy to welcome Robert Clark and Jenny Jones as Youth Leaders working with the Revd Jack Dunion. Building on the existing programme of activities and events, the team look to provide spiritually challenging and enriching times for not just the children and families but for those young adults with a love of the people and places found in Conference.

8. Apocalypse Study Group (ASG)

Revd Bruce Jarvis reports on behalf of the ASG: As we have done for many years, the Group met twice during the year before or after meetings of the Ministers' Committee at Purley Chase. We are now in a different phase of our work, not engaging in or planning any new ventures but consolidating on what has been produced thus far.

In the first place, this has been to focus on providing additional resources to support the Apocalypse of John exhibition: viz. a leaflet to help Church member(s) wishing to approach a local library, museum or gallery with a view to mounting the exhibition; practical resources to accompany the exhibition; a leaflet for visitors to take away from the exhibition. All these items are in various stages of preparation, and we hope to have some on display at the annual meeting of Conference. What we need, above all, is for individuals or small groups to take the initiative and try to book a venue in their area. We ask members of Conference to give serious thought to this possibility.

Secondly, we have focussed on publicity for the Apocalypse Card Deck, and have plans for an advertisement to appear in the periodical *Caduceus* this autumn. We regard it as a matter of urgency and priority that this superb new tool to help people enter the world of Apocalypse and inner revelation goes beyond our own organisation and out into the public domain.

A successful one-day workshop "Fire and Angels" was held at Wellspring House (SOLCe) in February, led by Mary Duckworth and Michael Stanley. Unfortunately, a week-end at Purley Chase in February, "A New Jerusalem Journey", had to be cancelled owing to lack of numbers.

9. Safeguarding

During the past year Mrs Lara Nicholls has been working with Revd Rita Russell on the necessary task of completing DBS checks for new people and also ensuring that existing checks on those already working with children are updated when required. The Ministers' Committee join with the Council to affirm their commitment to this process.

10. New Christian Bible Study website

Steve David was invited to our November meeting to speak about the New Christian Bible Study website www.newchristianbiblestudy.org

This is based in the USA and is fast becoming a resource for Swedenborgian

ideas which is supported by the different branches of the New Church across the world. It already contains the Writings (or part of them) in many languages and as the work of translation continues the intention is to upload not only the text of the Writings for a truly global reach but also to add to the depth of the site as Bible Stories and Spiritual Topics are explained. The Council have agreed to ‘match fund’ donations from within Conference up to a maximum of £5,000 which offers the potential for up to £10,000 to support this work.

11. Retired Ministers

The Committee wish to acknowledge the work of Ministers who do so much in retirement to support and lead congregations or groups and who continue to research, translate and write new material. Not all colleagues attend our Committee meetings or the Conference AGM but we all benefit from their continued service to the church in their own ways.

12. 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 2% from April 2016.

The salary (gross) for an ordained Minister for the year 2016/17 inclusive of the payment towards telephone and broadband is £30,864.96

13. The Council

Maintaining good communication between the Council and the Ministry continues to be a priority and the established pattern of having both the Spiritual Leader and Secretary of the Ministers’ Committee attending the Council meetings is working well. The Trustees take immense care in their work of managing the business and charitable affairs of Conference but there is a need for new volunteers willing to serve as Trustees to come forward.

14. 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.

In addition we maintain links between the Council and the Ministry as below:

Web Development
Purley Chase
Finance
Human Resources
Youth

Mr R H Cunningham and Revd J Dunion
Mr M D Haseler and Revd D Gaffney
Mrs S G Field and Revd C Curry
Mrs R F Turner and Revd C Bank
Mrs L K Nicholls and Revd J Dunion

Training and Development
CAM and Local Churches

Mrs J Wilson and Revd R Jarratt
Mrs J Wilson and Revd C Bank

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

We have appointed Mrs Marian Kidd as Home Worship Co-ordinator.

David Gaffney [Spiritual Leader]
Christine Bank [Secretary]

REPORT OF THE COMPANY ACCOUNTANT YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2016

During the year five legacies were received, £10,049.56 from the O C Jackson Estate, £5,000.00 from the C C Harrison Estate, £5,000.00 from the B Nicholls Estate, £1,000.00 from the B Muir Estate and £192,342.88 from the D Turner Estate. Income increased by over 3% in comparison to the previous year, which was due to an increase in investment income and donations to Conference, while society income continued to fall.

Expenditure increased by 14% compared with the previous year. All aspects of expenditure have increased with the largest being in Human Resources, increasing by £60,000, in part due to increased housing costs of £15,000 compared with the previous year. This has meant an overall operational break even.

Investments have slightly decreased in unit value to £7.027 and the split between capital growth and income received from the investments still remains at a 50/50 split.

Purley has seen a large increase in the net loss which is £41,224 compared with £18,065 last year. All regular costs at Purley increase slightly each year, but this year there has also been the introduction of an 8% pension for hourly paid staff that qualify and increases in hourly rates due to the introduction of the living wage.

Costs are predicted to increase in the coming years due to the employment of a full time deputy manager at Purley from August 2016 and a new ordination student from September 2016. This will mean an operational deficit which will be paid for with past operational surpluses.

For Conference not to be in a place of operational deficit we need to either increase income from current sources or find new sources of revenue. If no extra income is found then we could be in a situation in the next 5-10 years where we would need to sell investments to support our current activities.

Sally Field – Company Accountant

Income and Expenditure Accounts

For year ended March 31st 2016

	£,000	£,000
	2015/16	2014/15
Societies	161	165
Donations - Conference	22	17
Investment Income	194	188
Trust Income	73	72
Bursary Grant	10	10
Other Income	1	0
Income Purley Chase	176	175
Total Receipts	637	627
Human Resources		
Ministry	106	98
Laity	84	85
Staff - Purley Chase	101	84
Student grants	25	27
Self Employed Fees	17	13
Employment Allowance	-2	-2
Pensions	23	15
Housing	36	21
	390	341
Administration		
Travelling Expenses	20	20
Professional fees	42	25
Insurance	11	10
Office	13	13
Marketing /Resources	0	6
Central Costs	21	16
Education & Training	24	29
Youth Leading	5	1
Purley Chase	109	107
Kildwick	2	2
	247	229
Total Payments	637	570
Operational Surplus/(-Deficit)	0	57

Other Receipts and Costs

	£,000	£,000
Depreciation	-65	-65
Legacies	213	375
Closed Society Funds	419	-9
Homelands Waived Fees	10	10
Non Conference - CIF (Common Investment Fund)	7	28
Net Surplus/(-Deficit)	584	396

	2016	2015
<i>Note. The market value for the CIF per unit</i>	7.207	7.255

Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2016

	£	£
	2016	2015
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	2,677,974	2,744,346
Investment Assets	13,015,439	11,836,004
	15,693,413	14,580,350
CURRENT ASSETS		
Net Current Assets	339,277	1,088,338
Less Creditors	-25,000	-50,000
NET ASSETS	16,007,690	15,618,688
Represented by:-		
Endowment funds	1,179,694	1,221,627
Restricted funds	7,586,491	7,571,193
Unrestricted funds	7,241,505	6,825,868
	16,007,690	15,618,688

STATISTICAL TABLE

	Society Members	Non-resident	Total new members	Deceased	Removed	Increase	Decrease	Members of Conference
Accrington	37	16	0	3	0	0	3	32
Bournemouth	34	8	0	0	2	0	2	32
Bradford	20	0	0	1	0	0	1	20
Brightlingsea	16	6	0	1	0	0	1	10
Burnley	16	0	0	1	10	0	11	8
Chester & Wallasey	33	15	0	2	1	0	3	25
Clayton	16	7	0	1	0	0	1	9
Dalton	32	2	0	2	0	0	0	20
Derby	54	25	0	1	0	0	1	37
Kearsley	45	15	0	2	0	0	2	21
Keighley	35	9	0	0	0	0	0	25
*Greenhill	19	8	0	1	0	0	1	8
Kensington	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	10
West Wickham	28	11	0	0	0	0	0	23
Paisley	47	11	0	4	0	0	4	23
Radcliffe	16	2	0	1	0	0	1	6
Seaburn Dene	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Southend	16	6	0	2	0	0	2	7
Other members								174
Total 2015/16	505	148	0	22	13	0	33	510
Totals 2014/15	546	153	2	19	9	2	28	541

* last year's figures

	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals	Sunday School No. of children	Avg. attend. 16-	Holy Supper Administrations	Holy Supper Average Attend-	Overall Average Attend-
Accrington	0	0	3	1	1	5	14	14
Bournemouth	1	1	4	10	6	15	15	25
Bradford	0	0	0	2	2	11	10	11
Brightlingsea	0	0	1	0	0	3	6	8
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	9	8	8
Chester & Wallasey	1	1	6	6	5	13	12	21
Clayton	0	0	1	0	0	4	6	5
Dalton	2	0	1	0	1	12	5	7
Derby	1	1	1	10	3	6	16	22
Kearsley	3	0	3	4	2	7	20	22
Keighley	1	2	4	1	2	12	19	29
*Greenhill	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	11
Kensington	0	0	0	0	1	12	9	9
West Wickham	0	0	0	5	1	11	12	12
Paisley	0	0	2	0	1	5	14	13
Radcliffe	0	0	1	0	0	2	6	6
Seaburn Dene	0	0	1	10	8	10	14	26
Southend	0	0	0	0	0	6	7	8
Totals 2015/16	9	5	28	49	33	154	204	257
Totals 2014/15	12	4	19	55	31	161	224	277

**THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE
REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL 2015 – 2016**

This Report covers the work of the College Council for the year ended 31st March 2016. The New Church College uses the working name of The Swedenborg Open Learning Centre [SOLCe] and is based at Wellspring House.

A COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1 Attendance at Council Meetings

The Council met for full Council meetings on 4 occasions during the year (April 2015, July 2015, October 2015 and January 2016)...

It also met for a Task Day in March 2016.

Membership and attendance at meetings were as follows:

	Council mtg	Task Day
Dr PM Russell, President	4	1
Mr RJ Nicholls, Treasurer	4	
Mrs C Mahmood, Secretary	3	1
Mr JE Ford	4	1
Mr SR Lacy (resigned April 2015)	1	
Revd MW Stanley	4	
Mrs S Wilson (Resigned Jan 2016)	1	
Mr R Kennion	4	1
Miss E Taylor	1	
Mrs D Lewin (appointed June 2015)	2	1

The Administrator, Ms Melanie Bennett, attended 2 Council meetings (4 possible) by invitation and the Task Day in March 2016.

The Leader of Education, Revd Helen Brown attended 4 full Council meetings (4 possible) by standing invitation and the Task Day in March 2016.

The Leader of the Spiritual Centre, Phil Wood attended 3 full council meetings (4 possible) by standing invitation.

2 Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 151st Annual Meeting of Governors was held at New Church College (commonly known as SOLCe, Swedenborg Open Learning Centre) on Saturday 27th June 2015 with an attendance of 12 Governors and 8 guests/friends.

3 Membership of the Council

Stephen Russell Lacy resigned from the Council in April 2015. Stephen joined the Council in 2004-05 and has been a wonderful support, contributing his understanding and wider connections to SOLCe for 10 years. We all express

our thanks to Stephen and will miss him at Council meetings.

Diane Lewin was elected to join the Council at the AGM in June 2015 and attended her first meeting on 18th July 2015. The Council are pleased to welcome Diane on board and her positive enthusiasm and experience with New Church House. Diane has offered to take minutes at meetings for which Cathy is very grateful.

B EMPLOYEES

Revd Helen Brown	Leader of Education (15 hrs, with 5 hrs to delegate, per week)
Phil Wood	Leader of the Spiritual Centre (Phil's hours reduced from 30 hours per week to 20 hrs per week; from 1 st July 2015)
Melanie Bennett	Administrator (25 hours per week, Mon, Wed and Fri)
Linda Stoney	House keeper (ad hoc hours, generally 5-7 hours a week)

Phil Wood was asked to consider reducing his hours when he took on a second job (a further 18.5 hours a week). Melanie Bennett's hours have been 25 hours a week (3 eight hour days, Monday, Wed and Friday with one hour floating) from January 2015 onwards. This arrangement has been beneficial for Mrs Bennett's health.

A need was identified in June 2015 for the recruitment of a Spiritual Centre Assistant, a role that would job share with Melanie Bennett, our Administrator (covering Thursdays), while also bringing a particular focus to Marketing and Events support. Unfortunately, the first round of applications was not strong and it was decided not to appoint to this role. The decision to defer this appointment coincided with a request from the Spiritual Centre Leader to take a period of 3 months unpaid leave of absence, for health reasons. This was granted to Phil Wood and he returned to work in January 2016. It continues to be SOLCe's intention to recruit an additional member of the team, but to re-advertise this post as a Marketing and Events Assistant to reflect the core nature of the role required.

C EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

In line with the current policy of the Council to follow the lead of General Conference, the salaries of the Leader of Education, Leader of the Spiritual Centre, and the Administrator were increased by 2% from April 2015.

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 2015-2016 in line with its charitable objects. The Council acknowledges that the

year has been one of reflection and challenge, as well as optimism and collaboration. The Leader of the Spiritual Centre's leave of absence due to personal health reasons over the winter period undoubtedly affected the events and work programme. However, during this period, the Council consolidated the work with the Collaborative task group to take forward a merger with New Church House (NENCH) and also finalised the design of a new website for SOLCe, which is due to launch in the summer of 2016.

Collaboration is a key to our continued development and we are delighted to have reached agreement with the North of England New Church House (NENCH) regarding the process of merger; the size and format of the new Council, the charitable status and scheme with the Charity commission and how members of NENCH can be incorporated into a merged organisation. Approval for final alterations to the Schedule for the Charity Commission are being sought from our Trustees and the NENCH Council. Our shared vision is for Wellspring House to be a supportive and inspiring educational resource centre. We continue to develop the improvements and refurbishments to the building that will make it a welcoming space for people of all faiths and none. We support personal spiritual growth and offer events and courses inspired by the writings of Swedenborg.

The delivery of ordination training is part of our core purpose and it was a delight to witness the ordination of Becky Jarratt at the General Conference of the New Church in July 2015. SOLCe has one full time sponsored student, Alison Southcombe, who is now in her second year of ordination training for the role of Programme Director at Purley Chase Centre. This year, Jenny Jones as Youth leader, has been studying modules and there are 12 other students who are studying either through open learning or in tutorial groups.

A varied programme of workshops and events continues with highlights including the Apocalypse of John Day; The Summer School, our first tutor event and the Mysticism in Dialogue workshop.

Workshops and events in 2015/16

Apocalypse of John Day, 11th April 2015, 15 attended
Gems workshop on Forgiveness, 15th April 2015, 9 attended
Summer School, 26th & 27th June 2015, 16 attended (inc leaders)
AGM, 27th June 2015
Herb Walk, 7th July 2015, 5 attended
Hands, Head and Heart workshop, 15th July 2015, 10 attended
Tutor event day, 20th October 2015, 7 attended
Christmas Afternoon, approx. 20 attended
Apocalypse of John Card Day, 27th February 2016, 8 attended
Mysticism in Dialogue workshop, 5th March 2016, 22 attended

New Church Easter Rally, 4 days
Other Users of building

MASCS 8 counsellors over 5 days weekly (the number of Counsellors has doubled in the past year).
Creative Living Centre Away Days
Residents of Shorecliffe Rise AGM
Slimming World (2x groups weekly)
Radcliffe Road Church Group – Sunday mornings (weekly)

In May 2014, our Trustees, the General Conference of the New Church, approved a 3 year financial plan (2014-2017) to enable SOLCe to draw on investments in order to invest in its future. We have projected a budgeted deficit in order to fund our activities. The total deficit over three years is expected to be within the £116,000.00* approved by our Trustee [the Council of Conference]. This represents approximately one third on payment of employees, one third on professional budgets and one third on the house and grounds. There has been some delay in some of the original Property improvement plans which has reduced the projected deficit this year. This second year of the three year plan, has seen investment in our future in order to improve the look and feel of Wellspring House; make the rooms more fit for purpose and increase room lettings.

We are grateful to Ms Patricia Maromo for the voluntary work she carried out in organising many boxes of books in our library. Ms Munro was granted asylum in July 2015 and moved to Guernsey for a number of months. We wish her well for the future.

2 Future Development

Significant changes have taken place since the new financial year in April 2016-2017. Our President Patricia Russell, shared the shocking news of a cancer diagnosis and resigned with immediate effect on 23rd April 2016. Patricia dedicated so much time and energy into SOLCe that her leadership, encouragement and support is truly missed. The Council, students and tutors of SOLCe hold Patricia in their thoughts and prayers.

The Leader of the Spiritual Centre, Phil Wood, handed in his resignation at the end of April, giving 3 months notice from 1st May 2016. A Marketing and Supports Events team, convened by Helen Brown and made up of local enthusiastic people, will meet at regular intervals in the coming year to keep up the momentum to the events and workshop programme at Wellspring House.

We are delighted that a second full-time ordination student, Lee Differ, will

join us in September 2016.

The Council is pleased and grateful that Chris Chambers has agreed to take on the role of President. We are keen to progress the website launch and review staffing requirements in the light of Phil Wood's resignation. Discussions continue with NENCH regarding our shared vision for a vibrant and inspirational Spiritual Centre and how we can offer educational resources which deliver Swedenborgian concepts in an accessible way. We retain an open-minded approach and want to encourage involvement from local people in the development of the centre.

3 Staff

a) The Leader of Education

The focus of the Leader of Education role is needs-led education, facilitating spiritual understanding and reflection, mainly within the context of Swedenborgian teachings, and supporting students and tutors, especially those who are called to reach out to others e.g. in ministry, leadership, writing, workshops and worship leading. Rev Helen Brown is an ordained New Church minister. She liaises with the Committee of Ministers, the Council (Conference), the Sponsored Student Monitoring Group (SSMG) and the Education Committee. Helen organised the first Tutor event in October 2015 which was very successful; this will become an annual event and an opportunity for skills training.

b) Leader of the Spiritual Centre

Phil Wood was Leader of the Spiritual Centre from November 2013 until May 2016. The Council will be reviewing the job description for this post and the need to recruit a Coordinator that can take responsibility for the development of SOLCe as a spiritual resource centre, encouraging new ways of reaching out to spiritual seekers and new ways of coming together to share a spiritual pathway. Partnership working, marketing and event planning are all key elements of this role.

b Assistant to the Principal / Website Developer

Mr Alan Bowie requested to step down in 2014 from the duties of maintaining and developing the SOLCe website. A new freelance Website developer was appointed in October 2015, Leonie Winson, who also developed the Purley Chase website. She attended the Task Day in March 2016 and completed the website build in April 2016.

c Administrator

The Council would like to thank Melanie Bennett for maintaining and developing the administrative, financial and communication systems which ensure the day-to-day smooth running of SOLCe.

d) Housekeeper

Linda Stoney is the Housekeeper at Wellspring House, the home of the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre. She cleans the building, prepares food and the rooms for visitors and washing the bedding and towels. She generally works 5 – 7 hours a week.

4 SOLCe

a Sponsored Students

Becky Jarratt was ordained at the Annual Meeting of Conference 2015.

Alison Southcombe started as a full time sponsored student in October 2014 and is training for the role of Programme Director at Purley Chase Centre. She is undertaking a full three year training course.

b SOLCe Students

There have been 2 sponsored students in 2015/16, and there are currently 12 others studying either through open learning or in tutorial groups. 8 different modules have been tutored by 7 different tutors.

c Education Committee

The Committee meets regularly throughout the year. The Committee plays a major role in developing the educational work of SOLCe and benefits from the experience and expertise of its members. The updating of current modules is an ongoing task. Mrs Sue Chesworth has taken on a volunteer role to provide student liaison and support.

The Committee would like to encourage more people from the wider organisation to take up learning opportunities and has changed the old 'bursaries' to student 'sponsorship'.

E PUBLIC BENEFIT

The College has continued to advertise its open learning courses and its spiritual centre programme on the web-site. Events and courses are available to the general public as well as to our church members, who can now access sponsorship support towards the costs of fees. We endeavour to create a welcoming spiritual centre with open doors to the local, regional and national community – building on existing networks and establishing new relationships to widen our reach and impact. We hope our new website will reach a wider audience, accompanied by an increasing use of social media.

The College building is used by several neighbourhood groups.

F THE FABRIC

The fabric and grounds continue to be kept in good condition by the Estate Management Committee. There have been several improvements and repairs during the year. Last year the Common Room was transformed into a welcoming multi-use space and the kitchen was re-decorated and refitted.

This year a number of bedrooms have been redecorated and there are plans to redesign the reception area and potential exhibition space.

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 (+1), 11 Life Governors, and 58 Annual Governors (-3); in total 77 (-2). (The numbers in brackets show the changes during the year).

At the last Annual Meeting, there were 12 Governors present.

I FINANCE

1 Annual Accounts

The Treasurer reported a net decrease in resources of £6,004 before capital movements for the year to 31st March 2016. (decrease of £33,186 in 2014-2015).

During the year, losses on the disposal of investments of £3,633 were realised with notional losses of £93,962 arising from the revaluation of investments.

The budget for 2015–2016 projected a deficit of £40,500 (before investment management fees but after property expenditure of £14,500) but the actual surplus for the year was £8,075 before investment management fees and a deficit of £6,004 when these are included. The main reason for the reduction in the budgeted deficit was a deferment in some of the planned property developments in the first two years of our 3 year plan.

A budget for 2016-2017 projects a deficit of £21,900 before any adjustments arising on the real and notional gains and losses or charges for managing our investments. Once again the reason for this deficit is to allow for developments at the College in the coming year including improvements to the property. This forms part of a 3 year plan which has been discussed with and is supported by the Conference Council.

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.

Following a visit to the investment adviser, Brewin Dolphin, with the Conference Company Accountant they have been instructed to continue concentrating on capital growth rather than income.

J FUNDING AND RESERVES POLICY AND RISK REVIEW

1 Objective

The objective of the Charity is stated in the Charity Commission Scheme dated 13th July 1977. This states that the Charity shall promote the education of members of the New Church, with emphasis upon the doctrine and life of the New Church. The land and investments belonging to the Charity shall be held in the name of the Trustee (The General Conference of the New Church). The Trustee shall administer and manage the said investments and shall pay the clear income thereof to the Council for application in furthering the Objective of the Charity.

2 Principle

The New Church College operates to a balanced budget, while recognising that, within each individual year, a small operating surplus or deficit may arise. Any deviation from this objective will be agreed with the Trustee in advance.

Monies available to the College are invested to obtain an income but with a focus on capital growth. The income is used to fund the day-to-day activities of the College, while the capital growth ensures the continuing viability of The College, enabling it to meet future commitments and objectives.

Small donations and legacies, which are not given for a specific purpose, will be used at the discretion of the College Council to fund and enhance the day-to-day activities of the College.

Substantial donations and legacies may be added to reserves to fund the future development of The College's Objective. These monies will be added to the Non-Permanent Endowment account at the discretion of the Treasurer of the College, in consultation with the Council and/or the Trustee if appropriate. Donations or legacies that are given for a specific purpose may require the establishment of new endowment funds. When required, these will be set up with the agreement of the Trustees.

The handling of these accounts, the level of reserves, and investment policy are subject to regular review by both the Trustee and the Council at their respective meetings, and as part of the annual budgeting exercise. This is supplemented by regular discussions between the two Treasurers of these organisations.

To assist in this objective, The New Church College currently operates the following accounts:

- National Westminster Bank account. This is used for meeting day-to-day operating expenses.

Investment accounts are detailed below. In addition, the Council and the Trustee have responsibility for the assets as defined on the Balance Sheet, including the property in which the College currently resides.

- Investment accounts operated by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd.
- Deposit accounts. For each of the investment accounts below, Brewer Dolphin hold cash balances from the purchase and sale of investments and to meet transaction expenses.
- Permanent endowment account established under the Charity Commission Scheme. This restricted fund contains the investments as defined in the Scheme. Over time, the detailed investments have changed as the result of sound investment decisions, but the principle of income together with capital growth remains. (These funds fall under the definition of Permanent Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classed as reserves).

In one combined account, the two following funds are maintained with separate records of income kept for the two constituent funds.

- The non-permanent endowment account contains additional non-restricted funds that have been donated to the Charity over time. These have been invested in line with the above principle, thus increasing investment income while allowing additional flexibility for funds as required by the Council. (These funds fall under the definition of Expendable Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classified as reserves).
- The Jersey Educational Fund was established following a substantial donation from the Jersey Society, and the non-restricted fund was established so that the income from the Fund would be allocated to the College for the development of New Church education. This is administered in line with the 'Memorandum of Intent' agreed by the Councils of the General Conference of the New Church and of The New Church College, signed on 8th April 1998. (These funds fall under the definition of Expendable Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classified as reserves).

Note. Included within the funds, which are administered on behalf of the College by Brewin Dolphin, are investments in both the General Conference

Pool, which is administered by the General Conference of the New Church, and the COIF Charity Funds administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

This means that The New Church College does not currently hold reserves as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19.

This policy is subject to an annual review as part of the budgeting process to ensure that the reserves still meet the requirements of the Charity, and that the policy is still being followed.

Any variances from the agreed policy, or changes to this policy document will be agreed with the Trustee.

K TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustee is responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for

the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

L ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Council thanks its employees for all their work. There are also many other people, both paid and voluntary, without whose contribution The College could not function. The Council expresses its gratitude to the College Governors and to all those who support its work in different ways.

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

Approved and signed on 2nd July 2016 on behalf of the Council by:

C Chambers
President

C Mahmood
Secretary

LEADER OF EDUCATION REPORT

As I look back on the last year at SOLCe the overriding recollection is the changes that have occurred on all levels, to the building, staff, students and the way we deliver education. But regardless of this, our central focus remains constant, and that is to improve and provide for both students and tutors of SOLCe.

We are developing a new website that will enable us to include as part of our modules links to video clips that will enhance students learning. The website will also promote the events that happen at Wellspring House.

We continue to welcome new students to study with us. This year Jenny Jones, as Youth Leader, has been studying modules and in the autumn Robert Clark will be starting some study with us. We are delighted to have Lee Differ join us in September as a full-time ordination student.

Alison Southcombe is now well into her second year of ordination training for the role of Programme Director at Purley Chase Centre. She is unique in that her training is for a specific role and she is increasingly involved with events at Purley Chase. We have all been delighted with what Alison brings to her training.

This year we held our first tutor event to enable a dialogue between tutors and an opportunity for skills training. Nine people attended and it was very successful. This will be a yearly event and the next event will include skills training in giving feedback and highlight some of the pitfalls of tutoring.

Education committee is continually looking for ways in which to improve students' learning experience. We are revising modules (Synoptic Gospels, Worship Leading, Skills in Swedenborgian Studies, Correspondence 1 & 2) and writing new modules (Introduction to the Gospels, Group Leading Skills, Tutoring Skills).

I value the support that both the Education Committee and the SOLCe council have given me over the past year. The diversity of what each person brings increases the enrichment of the work we do together. In particular I want to mention Patricia Russell for her vision, commitment and support. Her contribution has been immense and I know that SOLCe will continue to be dear to her heart.

I find that I need to be quite pragmatic about what can be achieved with the resources we have. Any growth that takes place must be sustainable and be allowed to gradually unfold and evolve. Yet I also experience an openness to what might appear on our horizon, the unexpected. We never know who is

going to appear either as a new student or as a new contact who might become part of our SOLCe community whether locally or at a distance.

I'm very aware of placing our trust in the Lord and allowing his guidance to prevail.

Rev. Helen Brown

Note due to the resignation of the Leader of the Spiritual Centre there is no report covering that activity this year

**The New Church College
Statement of Financial Activities
For the year ended 31 March 2016**

TOTALS	2016	2015
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Subscriptions and Donations	14,175	13,728
Investment Income	67,496	68,805
Fees	12,137	12,400
Miscellaneous Income	4,745	3,787
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Incoming Resources	98,553	98,720
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Resources Expended		
Direct Charitable Expenditure	86,753	110,006
Other Expenditure	17,804	21,900
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Resources Expended	104,557	131,906
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Incoming Resources	(6,004)	(33,186)
Transfers	-	-
Gains and Losses on Revaluations and Disposals Of Investments		
Realised	(3,633)	16,782
Revaluations	(93,692)	89,875
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Movements in Funds	(103,329)	73,471
Fund Balances brought forward @ 1 April 2015	2,041,769	1,968,298
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balances Carried forward @ 31 March 2016	1,938,440	2,041,769
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2016

	2016		2015	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Investments		1,926,116		2,037,708
Current Assets				
Debtors	20,913		16,084	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	8,307		10,178	
	29,220		26,262	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16,896		22,201	
Net Current Assets		12,324		4,061
Total Net Assets		1,938,440		2,041,769
 Funds				
Unrestricted Funds;				
General		355,383		373,944
Designated - Jersey Education		335,375		360,865
Restricted Funds;				
Permanent Endowment		1,247,682		1,306,960
		1,938,440		2,041,769

Approved by the Council on 2 July 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

C Chambers
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
Anna Woofenden	2007
Trevor Millar	2007
Stephen Thomas	2008
Helen Newton	2009
Alan Misson	2015
Alison Southcombe	2015

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
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
2014	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	C.Curry/C.Bank	72
2015	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	C.Bank	76
2016	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	J.Dunion	83

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
* 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., DipEd., B.Sc.	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
Rebecca Mary Jarratt	July 30,2015

(Ministers in the following categories are not entitled to vote at General Meetings of Conference)

MINISTERS ORDAINED FOR SERVICE ABROAD

Ministers Ordained for Service in the Czech Republic

Martin David Krejza April 3,1994
(Ordained in the Czech Republic)

Ministers Ordained for Service in the Commonwealth of Independent States

Alexander Gorbenko July 29,2004

MINISTERS ORDAINED BY OTHER NEW CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

RECOGNISED

Patrick Duvivier July 28,1999
(Ordained by the General Convention of the New Jerusalem
in the United States of America on July 2, 1982)
Catherine Lauber July 31,2009
(Ordained by the Swedenborgian Church of North America
on July 5, 2008)

2 WORSHIP LEADERS AND LAY PREACHERS

The following are the Recognised Worship Leaders, Accredited Worship Leaders, and Lay Preachers recognised for service in Mauritius.

Recognised Worship Leaders

Geoffrey Charlton Bentley	1958
Bryan Richard Smith	1962
Patrick Leonard Johnson	1962
Gordon Stanford Kuphal	1968
Geoffrey Cunningham	1979
Stephen Russell-Lacy	1979
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
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
Janet Jessop	2007
David Sharrock	2008
Tonia Jarvis	2012
Susan Wilson	2012
Liz Regan	2013
John Harris	2014
Phillipa Peacock	2014

Lay Preachers recognised for service in Mauritius

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

3 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

LAND AND BUILDINGS HELD IN TRUST BY CONFERENCE

Insurance of buildings (excluding contents)

B Conference Block Policy C Congregational & General
M AMP

+ Index Linked

Held in trust for the Emsbay 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 BH6 3HT	B	£1,246,898	+
House at 101 Tuckton Road, Southbourne BH6 3HT	B	£227,601	+
Brightlingsea. Church and rooms at Queen Street .CO7 0PH	B	£884,594	+
Greenhill. Church and rooms at 177 Leicester Road, New Barnet EN5 5EB	B	£1,390,166	+
Kensington. Church and rooms at 5 Pembridge Villas, London, W11 3EN	B	£2,204,053	+
Southend-on-Sea. Church and rooms at Sutton Road SS2 5HX	B	£494,341	+
West Wickham. Church and rooms at High Street BR4 0LZ	B	£442,546	+
General Conference. House at 18 Pollard Road, Whetstone, London N20 0UB Freehold.	B	£705,098	+
Bungalow at 80 Broadway, Southbourne Bournemouth BH6 4EQ. Freehold.	B	£253,808	+
House at 6 Atwater Court, Faversham Road, Lenham, Kent. Leasehold.			Insured by freeholder

In the Midlands and West

Derby. Church and rooms at Horwood Avenue DE23 6AN	B	£951,381	+
House at 409A Burton Road, Derby DE23 6AN	B	£168,510	+

General Conference.

Bungalow at 215 Coventry Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 7AX Freehold.	B	£491,053	+
Purley Chase Centre, Atherstone. Freehold.	B	£5,531,468	+

In North Lancashire

Accrington. Church at Hargreaves Street BB5 2BB	B	£654,563	+
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Burnley. Church and rooms at Briercliffe Road BB10 1XH	B	£379,500	+
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General Conference.

House at 5 Whittycroft Drive, Barrowford, Nelson BB9 6AS Freehold. #	B	£201,626	+
House at 126 Mercer Crescent, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 4DH Jointly owned freehold.	B	£191,562	+
House at 6 Dunkirk Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RY Jointly owned freehold.	B	£220,992	+

In North-West (Manchester) and Cheshire

Chester. Church and rooms at Brook Lane, Newton CH2 2BT	B	£406,693	*+
House at 51 Woodlands Drive, Newton CH2 3QQ	B	£141,424	+

Kearsley. Church and rooms at Bolton Road BL4 9DD	B	£1,315,048	+
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Radcliffe. Church and rooms at Stand Lane.	C	£1,180,506	*+
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General Conference.

House at Church Street, Kearsley BL4 9DD Freehold.	B	£266,008	+
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In Yorkshire and the North-East

Bradford. Church and rooms at Ashfield Avenue,
Frizinghall BD18 3AL B £584,431 +

Dalton. Church and rooms at Grove Place,
Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 9LH B £1,095,224 +
Flats at 111 and 113 Long Lane,
Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 9LL B £794,611 +

Keighley. Church and rooms at Braithwaite Road,
Braithwaite BD22 6PX B £517,500 +

Seaburn Dene. Church and rooms at Shields Road,
Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8ND B £475,491 +

General Conference.

House at 22 Wimborne Drive, Keighley.
Jointly owned freehold. # B £300,000 *
Kildwick New Church Centre, Main Road,
Kildwick. Freehold. # B £693,475 +

In Scotland

Paisley. Church and rooms at 17 George Street,
with library and creche contiguous PA1 2LB. B £1,588,035 +

New Zealand

59a Balmain Road, Birkenhead, Auckland, 1310 M NZ\$377,013
(Conference share 86.7647%)

Property of the New Church College

25 Radcliffe New Road, Radcliffe, Manchester. B £586,355 *+

+ Index Linked

Held in trust for the Embsay Fund

* Last year's figure

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	Contact Treasurer
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	Ms.P.Blomfield	Mrs.J.Millar
Burnley	Briercliffe Road Burnley Lancs BB10 1XH	Rev.M.W.Stanley *	Mr.T.Mitchell	Mrs S Wilson
Chester	Dicksons Drive Newton Park Chester CH2 2BN	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.Harris
Kearsley (07913 121119)	Bolton Road Kearsley Lancs BL4 9DD	Contact Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mr.D.Ormes	Mrs.P A Grimshaw
Keighley	Braithwaite Road Braithwaite Village Keighley BD22 6PX	Rev.C.Bank	Mr.M.Pepper	Mrs.K.Higgins
Kensington (020 7229 9340)	5 Pembroke Villas Kensington London W11 3EN		Mrs.L.F.Wells	Mr.D.R.A.Friend

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
Paisley	17 George Street Paisley PA1 2LB	Rev. J Dunion	Mr. C.A. Macpherson	Mrs. W. Laing
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	Contact Treasurer
West Wickham (07534 702887)	142 High Street, West Wickham Kent BR4 0LZ	Mr. A. C. Misson	Mr. C. V. Skinner	Mr. D. E. Brooks
Mauritius	Remono Street, Curepipe Road and 2 Rue Champ de Lort Port Louis		Mr. R. Sookceeah	Mr. C. Phanjoo
* Retired 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
Dumbarton	Members' homes	Rev.J.J.Dunion	Rev.J.J.Dunion	Monthly
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:-		
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	Mrs.J.Jessop
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)	Leader of Studies	
Home Worship Scheme	Mrs.S.Fay (Organiser)	
Honorary Life Members	Ms.J.Z.Brooks	
Jeggins Trustees	Mrs.D.Mullock	
Kildwick Committee	Mr.K.Sandiford	Mr.K.Sandiford
Library & Archives Committee	Mrs.M.Hawkins	
Marketing and Resources	Mr.S.Russell-Lacy	Mr.N.K.Sutton
Ministers' Committee	Rev.C.A.Bank	
New Church Children's Society	Mrs.S.Chesworth	Mr.D.Thomas
New Church Historical Society	Mrs.M.Hawkins (Convenor)	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw (Sec/Treas)
New Church Youth Association	Miss G Rowe	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw
North of England New Church House	Mrs.D.Lewin	Mr.N.K.Sutton
Overseas Secretary	Rev.N.Ryder	
Purley Chase Centre	Mr.M.D.Haseler	Mrs.S.Field
Swedenborg Society	Ms.D.Prentice (Admin)	Mr.A.Morley
Yorkshire Missionary Association	Mrs.J.Millar	Mrs.J.Jessop

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.

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: Mrs.J.Jessop

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