

# **YEARBOOK OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH: 2018-2019**

**INCLUDING THE MINUTES  
OF THE 211<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Held at the Hayes Conference Centre,  
Swanwick, Derbyshire  
from Tuesday 24th July to Friday 27th July 2018**

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,  
with reference number 253206

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2018

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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.

## CONTENTS

Mission Statement and Vision Statement	2
The Council	4
Useful Contacts	5
Keynote Address	6
Annual Meeting Minutes	13
Report of the Council	20
Reports from Around the Church	30
Report of Ministers' Committee	38
Report of the Company Accountant	43
Conference Accounts	44
Statistical Table	46
Report of College Council	48
Report of the Leader of Education	60
College Accounts	62
List of holders of College Certificates and Diplomas	65
Last 40 Annual Meetings	66
List of Ministers Recognised by Conference	67
List of Worship Leaders	68
Land and Buildings in Conference Trust	72
List of Societies	75
Secretaries and Treasurers of Committees and Institutions	77
Area Councils	78
Web Sites	78

## **COUNCIL**

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

### **TRUSTEES**

Mrs JM WILSON, BA	[until 2019]	Chairman [Training and Development, Human Resources, CAM and Local Churches]
Ms JZ BROOKS, BA	[until 2020]	
Mr RH CUNNINGHAM BSc	[until 2021]	[Web Development, Health and Safety]
Mr MD HASELER, BSc	[until 2019]	
Mrs LK NICHOLLS	[until 2021]	[Youth]

### **NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

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

## **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

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 PAULINE ANN GRIMSHAW  
Mr ALAN C MISSON

<b>AUDITORS:</b>	BW SERVICES LTD
<b>INVESTMENT MANAGERS:</b>	RATHBONE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD  NEWTON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD
<b>SOLICITORS:</b>	HARRIS AND HARRIS

## 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>
Insurance Manager	<i>Mrs SG FIELD</i>
Auxiliary Ministry Co-ordinator	<i>Mrs J MILLAR</i>
Technology Manager	<i>Miss G MCLEAN, BA</i>
Child Protection	<i>Mrs R RUSSELL</i>
	<i>Mrs LK NICHOLLS</i>
Youth Leaders:	<i>Mr R CLARK</i>
	<i>Mrs J JONES</i>
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>
Conference Organiser	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Conference Bookings Secretary	<i>Mrs M PRESLAND</i>
Conference Programme Secretary	<i>Mrs LK NICHOLLS</i>
Magazine Ordering	<i>Mrs M CURRY</i>

**PEACE - Keynote Address - Conference, July 2018 - General Conference of the New Church.** Rev David Gaffney (The Spiritual Leader)

The Yajur Veda is one of the four Vedas which are the basis of Ayurvedic Medicine (Indian Herbal Medicine: Ayu means life and Veda means knowledge or science). Healing and peace are inextricably connected concepts. Here is a beautiful excerpt from the Yajur Veda:

*“May there be peace in the heavens, peace in the atmosphere, peace on the earth. Let there be coolness in the water, healing in the herbs and peace radiating from the trees. Let there be harmony in the planets and in the stars, and perfection in eternal knowledge. May everything in the universe be at peace. Let peace pervade everywhere, at all times. May I experience that peace within my own heart.” (Yajur Veda 36.17)*

In the inner meaning of the Bible, *herbs* which contain more volatile fragrances, seem to connect us to a higher level than ordinary grasses and leaves in that they also represent knowledges of goodness and truth in the mind, but with the addition that they have also been imbued with ‘fragrances’ which may suggest an inkling that the Lord’s Life is within them; and it is the Lord’s Life within us which heals and brings peace. This passage from the Vedas was written long before the advent of our Lord Jesus as the Prince of Peace; as was prophesied in Isaiah 9:6; but, I believe that the Lord came so that the sentiments of this passage from the Vedas may also eventually be fulfilled.

**Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace...” (John 16:33)**

This is the key quote for the Conference. One would imagine that everyone would like a peaceful life. But as heaven is associated with peace, and hell is associated with conflict, and hell - according to the Word - is a reality and people really do end up there, then it would appear that not everyone wants peace in their lives, or know what real peace is.

In the full verse, John 16:33, Jesus says:

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33)*

Here the Lord has told the disciples that they would be persecuted by worldly people for following Him, but that they are right to follow Him and although they will have tribulation, in the end all will be well for them.

Jesus said, “ ... *but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*” (Jn 16:33)

The Lord came into the world, in order, as the Psalmist says, to make His enemies a footstool for His feet: to tame the torrid legions of spirits in hell, so that anyone who genuinely follows Him will find safety and protection to all eternity in His sphere of peace. As the Psalmist says:

*The Lord says to my Lord:  
“Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet.”(Psalm 110 vs 1)*

Note that, “The Lord says to my Lord” teaches the great truth that the Lord’s Humanity - the “Son of God” - is Divine, and one with the Essential Divinity - “the Father” - as the body is one with the soul. (See Swedenborg, New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine, §280 - 297)

This is a prophesy in the Psalms that the Lord would need to come in a human body in order to get the hells under His control. By His advent, He made it possible for evil spirits to be removed both from infiltrating the heavens, and attaching themselves to individuals whilst on Earth.

*“ .... He came down and took on the Human for the purpose of reducing to order all things that were in heaven, and all things in hell, and all things in the church; because at that time the power of hell prevailed over the power of heaven, and upon the earth the power of evil over the power of good, and in consequence a total damnation stood threatening at the door. ....” (Swedenborg, True Christian Religion, §3)*

There are 25 New Testament passages where Jesus casts out demons:

Eg: In Matthew 8:16, *“When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill.”*

The general tenor of the Writings is that many aspects of sickness, malady, disorder, and addictions, etc. are associated with a lack of peace, and are in some way accompanied by the spheres of malevolent spirits having access to us.

Also, freedom from the domination of malevolent spirits is associated with the symbolism of the *scales*. These correspond to balance and in one sense they can represent **redemption** because the Lord redeemed mankind by restoring the balance between good and evil influences acting upon us - so that we are at all

times and in all situations whilst on Earth: **free to choose**. Our consciousness is the product of carefully balanced potential chaos.

**REDEMPTION = WE CHOOSE.**  
**THE LORD MAINTAINS THE BALANCE CONTINUALLY.**  
**THE LORD'S REDEMPTION FACILITATES OUR FREE CHOICES.**  
**SALVATION IS ACHIEVED BY THE CHOICES WE MAKE.**

How do we get the Lord to cast out our demons? According to Swedenborg:

*"Man is placed in the middle between heaven and hell. Out of heaven goods unceasingly flow in, and out of hell evils unceasingly flow in; and as man is between he has freedom to think what is good or to think what is evil. This freedom the Lord never takes away from anyone, for it belongs to his life, and is the means of his reformation. So far, therefore, as man from this freedom has the thought and desire to shun evils because they are offences against God (sins), and prays to the Lord for help, so far does the Lord take them away and give man the ability to refrain from them as if of himself, and then to shun them." (Apocalypse Explained §936 paraphrased)*

And as King Solomon said:

*"The wise fear the Lord and shun evil, but a fool is hotheaded and yet feels secure." (Proverbs 14:16)*

If we give into temptation, or convince ourselves that it is not temptation when it really is, then effectively, we cannot be tempted (see Swedenborg's book, Divine Providence §231)? If this is the case, then we don't shun the evil but give in to it, and cannot move on to doing genuine good for the Lord's sake. Therefore we cannot regenerate or enter heaven. I believe that we are all tempted to some extent, some mildly, some severely; and this probably has something to do with who we are; inherited tendencies, and the work/uses we will do in this life and the afterlife etc.; so as the Psalmist says:

*"Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it." (Psalm 34:14).*

### **IF IN DOUBT - DON'T DO IT - RESIST IT!**

Dr. Wilson Van Dusen an American psychologist, talks about his personal work experience with patients and Spiritual Hierarchies in his fascinating booklet: "The Presence of Spirits in Madness" (downloadable online as a PDF: [http://www.searchwithin.org/download/presence\\_spirits.pdf](http://www.searchwithin.org/download/presence_spirits.pdf) (note that between 'e' and 's' is an underscore)). Van Dusen - quoting Swedenborg - talks about mankind (on Earth) existing within a hierarchy of spirits; both



good and bad. And that we cannot live for a moment without such continuous interaction:

*“... Mankind is free to act, but by their relation to a hierarchy of spirits, their tendencies are conditioned. ... Their identification with good or evil tendencies (spirits), by their actions, further conditioning in one direction or another. ...” (Swedenborg, Arcana Caelestia, §5850/1)*

So to shun the **thoughts and actions** which these bad spirits are tempting us with helps the Lord and His angels to move in instead, and the bad spirits are removed to a distance. Carrying out good action for the Lord's sake, is usefulness and allows the Lord to flow into our hearts with His goodness. This brings peace.

The Lord put all malevolent spirits under His footstool, but it seems that we need to demonstrate to the Lord that we are sincere. We need to enter into combats against them but also remember that the Lord Himself, unbeknown to us, does the harder part, even though it seems as though we do it all ourselves.

### **THE ONLY ‘REAL’ PEACE IS CONJUNCTION WITH THE LORD**

The hells are definitely no respecter of persons, and will try to persuade us that what we are being tempted with is the right thing to do and will inflow with all kinds of reasoning to persuade us that this is so. They will even use our best principles against us. **We cannot trust our ‘feelings’ we can only trust the Word.** The Lord is the Word made flesh:

*“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Jn 1:14),*

and The Lord Himself is the source of our very life and without Him we have nothing.

*Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do **nothing**.” (John 15:5)*

Our conjunction with the Lord brings us peace, because with conjunction, He Himself flows into our hearts:

Swedenborg says: in his book Heaven and Hell, §286:

*“The origin of peace shall be first considered. Divine peace is in the Lord; it springs from the union of the Divine Itself and the Divine Human in Him (through His Glorification). The Divine quality of peace in heaven is from the Lord, springing from His conjunction with the angels of heaven, and in*

*particular from the conjunction of good and truth in each angel. These are the origins of peace. From this it can be seen that peace in the heavens is the Divine inwardly affecting with blessedness everything good that comes from there, and from this is every joy of heaven; also that it is in its essence the Divine joy of the Lord's Divine love, resulting from His conjunction with heaven and with everyone there. This joy, felt by the Lord in angels and by angels from the Lord, is peace. By derivation from this the angels have everything that is blessed, delightful, and happy, or that which is called heavenly joy”#*

*# FOOTNOTE: By peace in the highest sense the Lord is meant, because peace is from Him\*\*, and in the internal sense heaven is meant, because those are in a state of peace (AC §. 3780, 4681). \*\* Because He has put the evil spirits of the hells “beneath His footstool”! Peace in the heavens is the Divine inmost affecting with blessedness everything good and true there, and this peace is incomprehensible to mankind (AC §. 92, 3780, 5662, 8455, 8665). ”*

And again, the Proverbs tells us as does Swedenborg to **shun** evils for the Lord's sake:

*“Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and **shun** evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.” (Proverbs 3: 7-8)*

The Writings tell us that the highest form of charity is to shun evils as offences (‘sins’) against God. As already mentioned, we can't do genuine good work until - after praying to the Lord for help - we shun evils first; and shunning evils is in itself good work which leads to inner peace:

*“So far as a person shuns evils as offences against God (‘sins’), so far they do good, not from themselves, but from the Lord.” (Swed, Doctrine of the Lord. §18).*

Also: *“So far, therefore, as man from this freedom (brought about by the Lord's redemption of mankind) has the thought and desire to shun evils because they are sins, and prays to the Lord for help, so far does the Lord take them away and give man the ability to refrain from them as if of himself, and then to shun them.” (Apocalypse Explained, §936)*

INTERNAL REST according to Swedenborg is as follows:

*“And it was given to him that sat thereon (The rider of the red horse - whose understanding of goodness is utterly lost) to take peace from the earth. (Rev. 6:4)”, signifies the taking away of charity, spiritual security, and internal rest. ... : It follows therefore that "peace" is charity, spiritual security, and internal rest; for when mankind is in the Lord, he is in peace with his neighbour, which is charity; in protection against the hells, which is spiritual security; and when*

*he is in peace with his neighbour, and in protection against the hells, he is in internal rest from evils and falsities. ....' (Apocalypse Revealed 306)*

Swedenborg wrote himself some rules for life, which are not part of his published works but were found amongst his documents. They make a great deal of sense and offer useful guidance towards the process of developing peace in heart and mind. (Note that these do not supersede the Ten Commandments):

- "1. Often to read and meditate on the Word of God.*
- 2. To submit everything to the will of Divine Providence.*
- 3. To observe in everything a propriety of behaviour, and to keep the conscience clear.*
- 4. To discharge with fidelity the functions of my employments, and to make myself in all things useful to society."*

In alignment and support of these the Psalmist says:

*"Depart from evil and do good: seek peace and pursue it." (Psalm. 34:14).*

The Lord Himself is Peace and the third commandment about keeping the sabbath, in its highest sense, means to stay close to the Lord because He is the Peace of the sabbath as Swedenborg tells us in True Christian Religion:

*"In the celestial sense this commandment [about the sabbath] means conjunction with the Lord, and then peace, because of protection from Hell. For the sabbath signifies rest, and in the highest sense, peace; hence the Lord is called Prince of Peace, and He also calls Himself Peace as is evident from many passages." (Swedenborg, True Christian Religion, §303. (Note many of these passages are listed in TCR §303 and can be read as a MEDITATION.))*

I've heard it said that **peace** does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or strife, but it means to be in the midst of these things and still be calm in your heart. We are promised:

*"Peace that surpasses all understanding.." (Philippians 4:7)*

Personally, I find that in times of stress and internal turmoil, that - as Swedenborg suggests - **meditating on the Word of God**, and especially for me the Lord's actual words in the Gospels, and **prayer** generally bring on relief as the Lord seems to move something internally for me.

Mahatma Gandhi said:

*"The day that the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."*

This cannot happen, according to the truths of the New Jerusalem unless we review our intentions or actions, revise our understanding, and act differently (repentance, reformation and regeneration); because, the 'love of power' is from our inherent 'love of self'; don't we just love to lord it over others. If we can resist temptations so that the love of the Lord and the neighbour replaces our love of ourselves, then the power of true love will take precedence. But we need to beware, for the hells are constantly devious: for instance, 'self-righteous indignation' comes to mind where we can sometimes think that we are loving the neighbour, but what we are - possible subconsciously - feeling and projecting is: "... aren't I wonderful for displaying great concern for this or that situation. ...". This is still love of power, and not the power of love.

**Jesus said, "*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives it do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*" (John 14:27)**

I wish you constructive deliberations on the subject of peace. "Pax vobis": Peace be with you (Christ's greetings to the Apostles after His resurrection).

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

**Company Number 00006039**

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

1 In accordance with Minute 38 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, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

2 The Revd Christine Bank 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 211<sup>th</sup> 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
Members	J Z Brooks
	R H Cunningham
	M D Haseler
	L K Nicholls
Officer	S G Field

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

F M Burnley  
M Clubb  
D R A Friend  
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
	A C Southcombe
	M W Stanley
	B M Talbot

## AREA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

North-West (Manchester)	J D Lomax
Scottish Association	M Cowie
Yorkshire and North-East	P Blomfield, G Rowe

## SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	M Curry, J Pike
Bradford	J E Millar
Dalton	J Mrozek, W Richardson
Derby	G Bentley
Kearsley	J Ford, S Kennion
Keighley	P Brooks, A E Clarkson
Seaburn Dene	L Griffiths, N Ramsay
West Wickham	A Skinner, C Skinner

## SOCIETY VOTERS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth	R Russell, S Thomas
Derby	B Bentley, J Jones, S Jones

Kearsley  
Kensington  
Seaburn Dene  
West Wickham

C Kennion, A J Presland, M Presland  
B D Friend, S Friend, L F Wells  
T Jarvis, G Nicholls, H Nicholls  
D Brooks, M Misson

#### CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

J Chadwick  
E S Cunningham  
J Cunningham  
L Differ  
F Fisher  
A Gaffney  
C Goalen  
I Hindley  
D A Lomax  
M Morgan  
P Morgan

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

The Company Secretary stated that she had also received apologies and good wishes from Mr Michael Hindley, Mr Trevor Millar and Mrs Lynda Pierpoint.

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

7 *Resolved:* That Rule C3 be deleted and that Rules C4 to C7 be renumbered C3 to C6.

8 The Revd Christine Bank spoke about the contribution to Conference made by the Revd Leslie Chambers, Mrs Janet Jessop and Mrs Patricia Russell, 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     *Resolved:*     That Alison Claire Southcombe is hereby declared to be a Minister recognised by the Conference.

13     *Resolved:*     That Christine Mrozek be declared to be an Accredited Worship Leader.

14     *Resolved:*     That Richard Harold Cunningham be declared to be a Recognised Worship Leader.

15     The Revd David Gaffney then presented Mr Cunningham with a certificate and medallion.

16     Mrs Jan Millar gave a report on behalf of the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry.

17     A presentation was made to Mrs Mary Burnley to mark her retirement after 21 years of service on the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry.

18     A presentation was made to Dr Geoffrey Bentley to mark his 60 years of service as a Recognised Worship Leader.

19     Miss Gemma McLean explained the operation of the Online Events Diary.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

20     The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with music and singing.

21     At 9.45 a.m. a Family Holy Supper service was conducted by the Revd Becky Jarratt and the Revd Jack Dunion.

22     The Revd David Gaffney delivered the keynote address based on the Conference theme 'Peace', during which he encouraged discussion.

23     The Revd Helen Brown gave the Conference news from the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre.

24     There followed two sessions of all age activity, one about making links and the other regarding the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.

25     The afternoon activities closed with a ceremony to plant a tree to



celebrate Conference's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the Hayes and its 30<sup>th</sup> at a CCT Conference Centre.

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

Any Spiritual or Theological Questions led by the Revd Michael Stanley  
Circle Dancing led by Mrs Rita Russell and Mrs Marion Curry  
Musicians' new hymns session led by Mrs Ruth Friend  
The future of Lifeline led by Mrs Lara Nicholls and Mr Alan Misson  
Annual General Meeting of the New Church Historical Society

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

27 The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with family worship led by Miss Gwendolen Rowe.

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

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

30 *Resolved:* That in Rule 3 a second sentence 'A candidate for Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Elected Member must be nominated by at least three other Members of Conference, at least one of whom must be a Trustee and at least one of whom must not be a Trustee.' be inserted and that in the last sentence 'two' be amended to 'eight'.

31 Mrs Judith Wilson presented the Report of the Council.

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

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

34 There was a presentation to Mrs Anne Gaffney to mark her retirement and to thank her for her service as Manager of the Purley Chase Centre.

35 Following a ballot Mr Richard Cunningham and Mrs Lara Nicholls were declared to be members of the Council until 2021.

36 Miss Gemma McLean led a session on Data Protection.

37 Mrs Carolyn Kennion and the Revd Becky Jarratt spoke about the work being done with children and young people.

38 At 4.30 p.m. the Conference Service was conducted by the Revd Mary Duckworth in the main hall of the Hayes Conference Centre. During the service the ordination of the Revd Alison Southcombe at Purley Chase in December 2017 was re-affirmed.

The offertory for the Conference funds amounted to £1199.50 (inclusive of Gift Aid).

39 At 8.00 p.m. a social entitled 'Party Time for Everyone' was held, compèred by Mr Steve and Mrs Jenny Jones.

### **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

40 The morning began with a session in which the children and young people presented the work they had undertaken during the Conference.

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

42 *Resolved:* That, in accordance with the Council's proposal, the 212<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, starting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019.

43 *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); Mr Richard Cunningham, for the planning of Conference; Miss Gemma McLean, 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; Mrs Hazel Nicholls and Mr Colin Skinner for acting as scrutineers; Mr Michael Clubb, Mrs Hazel Nicholls and Mr David Friend for arrangements for the Holy Supper service; Mrs Ruth Friend (Music Director), the musicians and the choir; Mrs Jenny and Mr Steve Jones for the Social and Mrs Erica Cunningham for the beautiful floral arrangements.

44 *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to all those unsung volunteers and church workers whose dedication to the Conference fills the 362 days of the year when the Annual Meeting is not happening. These include the members of the Conference Council, the Spiritual Leader and the other members of the Ministry, both active and retired, the Purley Management Team and the Company Accountant, plus many others who keep the Societies and institutions of the church running.

45     *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 and Mrs Lara Nicholls.

46     *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the Company Secretary, Ms Zoë Brooks, for her work throughout the year.

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

48     At 12 noon a closing service of family worship was conducted by the Revd Alison Southcombe.

49     The Annual Meeting closed at 12:38 p.m.

Signed

Judith M Wilson, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

## **REPORT OF THE COUNCIL YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2018**

### **1 MEMBERSHIP**

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 (Until 27 July)	2 (2 possible)
Trustees:	Ms J Z Brooks (Also Company Secretary)	5
	Mr R H Cunningham	5
	Mr M D Haseler	5
	Mr M J Hindley (From 28 July)	1 (3 possible)
	Mrs L K Nicholls	4 (5 possible)
	Mrs R F Turner (Until 27 July)	1 (2 possible)

In attendance were:

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

1.2 In July 2017 Ms J Zoë Brooks was re-elected as a Trustee and Mr Michael J Hindley did not stand for re-election as Vice-Chairman but was elected as a Trustee.

Mr R H Cunningham and Mrs Lara K Nicholls will complete their terms of office in July 2018. They are both seeking re-election. The periods of office of the other Members of the Council in their present roles are: Mrs Judith Wilson and Mr David Haseler until 2019 and Ms J Zoë Brooks and Mr Michael J Hindley until 2020.

1.3 At the Conference in 2017 no Vice-Chairman was elected and only two of the three possible Trustees were appointed, so the Council was reduced to only six voting members, making it the ninth 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, and one for a period of one year, despite the fact that only two are retiring. It is also possible to elect a vice-Chairman.

The Council particularly needs people with legal and accountancy skills to join its membership.

1.4 Because of the bad weather the March Council meeting had to be re-scheduled from 2/3 March to 8/9 March. As a result Mr Michel Hindley and Mrs Lara Nicholls were unable to attend and Mr Richard Cunningham was able to attend only part of the meeting.

## **2 GENERAL REVIEW**

In order to continue to encourage young people to attend Conference the Council has 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 2018 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 2018. 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 A Southcombe
Finance	Mrs S G Field and Revd C Curry
Human Resources	Mr M J Hindley 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 2017/18 the total of stipends, telephone and broadband paid to ministers was £115,156. In addition one worked as a part-time non-stipendiary minister for 11 months. In the same year the total of salaries, wages, telephone and broadband paid to lay employees was £188,519. These figures include people employed for part of the year.

The Council approved a 3% increase from 1 April 2017 for all employees, except those paid hourly, who are treated individually. This is slightly above what was shown by the Average Weekly Earnings index, which gave a figure of 2.8%.

Mrs Anne Gaffney retired as Manager of the Purley Chase Centre on 31 December 2017. She is succeeded by Mr Geoffrey Nicholls, whose employment with Conference commenced on 30 August 2017, in order to ensure a smooth handover.

Mr Graeme Harding resigned as Deputy Manager of Purley Chase in January 2018. His notice period will expire on 19 April. Mrs Rachel Gilsenan has been appointed to replace him and she will start work on 4 April.

Miss Gemma McLean will be taking on the additional role of Data Protection Manager from 1 April 2018.

## **5 MINISTRY**

### **Resignation**

On 18 December the Revd Rita Russell resigned from the ministry for personal reasons. The Council was very sad to learn that it had been necessary for Mrs Russell to do this.

### **Reduction in Hours**

The Revd David Gaffney gave up his position as Purley Chase Programme Director in the winter and has reduced his hours to 13 per week from 1 February 2018. It is anticipated that most of his time will now be devoted to his work as Spiritual Leader, a post that he has agreed to occupy for a further two years from July 2017.

### **Ordination**

Ms Alison Southcombe completed her studies at the end of October and was ordained at the Purley Chase Centre on Saturday 9 December. She has taken over the work of Programme Director at Purley Chase with the new title of Programme Leader.

### **Non-Stipendiary Ministry**

The Revd Clifford Curry has formally retired with effect from 1 March 2018. Until then he continued to work as a contracted part-time non-stipendiary minister. This means that he worked part-time for almost nine years without payment. A rough estimate at today's rate of pay means that he has saved Conference some £140,000. The Council wishes to record its thanks to him for this tremendous contribution to Conference's improved finances.

### **Ordination Training**

Mr Lee Differ is nearing the end of his second year as a sponsored ordination student.

## **6 VOLUNTEERS**

The Council again wishes to express its gratitude to all those who have taken

on voluntary roles.

## **7 SOCIETIES AND GROUPS**

Once again it has been a sad year. As had already been decided Burnley Society closed on 30 April and Southend-on-Sea closed on 13 May. At a meeting on 6 November 2017 Chester Society took the decision to close, the date yet to be determined. Its final service was held on 12 November 2017. Kensington Society took the decision to close at a meeting on 7 January 2018, the actual date of closure to be decided later. Greenhill Society took the decision to close at a meeting on 28 March, the actual date of closure to be decided later. Its final service will be on 24 June 2018. During the year the Stockport Group also decided to close.

## **8 CONFERENCE PROPERTIES**

### **General**

Most of the work in connection with Asbestos, Legionella and electrical checks has now been completed. It has been a slow process with the need to send numerous reminders to some Societies.

### **Brightlingsea**

The original offer for the purchase of this church fell through. As a result the building was sold at auction for £168,000 and completion took place on 4 July 2017.

### **Burnley**

#### The Flats

The Management Company in respect of the flats has at last been re-instated and it is hoped to complete the sale of the freehold for £10,000 soon.

#### The Church

The property was sold on 13 September 2017 for £180,000. Unfortunately the Trust Deed stipulates that the sale proceeds must be held for a period of 20 years to be applied in providing replacement premises for any new Society which might be established in Burnley or the vicinity. The Burnley Society was willing for this restriction to be lifted and the matter was accordingly referred to the Charity Commission. Their ruling is still awaited.

### **Southend-on-Sea**

An offer of £375,000 for the purchase of the church was accepted on 12 January 2017. The sale was completed on 1 June 2017. The capital from the sale has to be held by Conference for 12 years so that if 12 people get together and form a new Society in the same area it is available to purchase a building for their use. The income can only be used during those 12 years for the promotion of the Faith in Essex. At the end of the 12 years both capital and accumulated income may be used for Conference's general purposes but must be spent within three years.

## **6 Dunkirk Avenue**

The property has been empty since the end of March and is now being marketed.

## **6 Atwater Court**

This property is also now empty and being marketed.

## **9 PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTING OF TRUSTEES**

On the Charity Commission Website we are told that as charities we should 'Recruit trustees who have the experience and skills your charity needs.' There is now a new Charity Governance Code detailing best practice. It is produced by various organisations and supported by the Charity Commission. Much of it is not relevant to Conference but it does give some important detail about the appointment of trustees. It says among other things that the procedure for appointing new trustees should be formal and rigorous and that the board should have, and should regularly consider, the mix of skills, knowledge and experience it needs to govern and lead and to deliver the charity's purposes effectively.

Conference's present trustees are very much aware of the skills that are needed but under our current system for appointing trustees they really have no way of ensuring those elected have such skills. Anyone who is nominated by two Conference members can stand for election, so there is no way the existing trustees can prevent those who do not have the necessary skills from standing. This makes Conference vulnerable to making poor decisions, particularly at the present time when there are more vacancies than standees and there is therefore the temptation to appoint whoever stands.

The Code works on the premise that in most cases the existing trustees will be responsible for appointing new trustees. It does however acknowledge the possibility of a situation where the charity's governing document provides for one or more, but not all, of the trustees to be nominated and elected by a wider membership, or elected by a wider membership after nomination or recommendation by the board. The present trustees can see that some adjustment is needed to follow best practice.

The Council feels that the easiest way to improve would be to increase the number of nominations required from two to three and for at least one of the nominees to be a Trustee. A motion to effect this will therefore be put at the Annual General Meeting. (See 14 below.)

## **10 DATA PROTECTION**

A considerable amount of time has been spent on this and we now have a Data Protection Policy. There is to be a session at Conference where any areas of difficulty may be discussed.



## **11 EVENTS CALENDAR**

The events calendar requested at Conference last year has now been designed and there is a session this year to explain its use.

## **12 LIFELINE**

In a letter dated 27 March the Editor informed the Council that he and the Distributor intended to resign after the publication of the November/December 2018 issue. At Conference there will be a choice session in which the future of this publication will be discussed.

## **13 MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE**

Since the last Annual Meeting the Revd Leslie Chambers, Mrs Janet Jessop and Mrs Patricia Russell have passed into the spiritual world.

## **14 NOMINATIONS AND PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

### **a) Nominations**

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

### **b) Rules**

The following rule changes will be moved by the Council:

### **Annual Meetings Order of Proceedings**

#### **Rule C3**

That Rule C3 be deleted and that Rules C4 to C7 be renumbered C3 to C6. (This means that the Minutes Committee will be abolished.)

### **Conference Council**

#### **Rule L3**

That a second sentence 'A candidate for Chairman, Vice-Chairman or Elected Member must be nominated by at least three other Members of Conference, at least one of whom must be a Trustee and at least one of whom must not be a Trustee.' be inserted and that in the last sentence 'two' be amended to 'eight'.

## **15 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Company Accountant, Mrs Sally Field, reports on the Income and Expenditure accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, subject to audit:

### **Overall Summary**

The operational surplus in 2017/18 shows a decrease of £8,000 over the 2016/2017 figure of £17,000.

## **Income**

Society income has decreased to £145,000 which is a decrease of 11% compared with last year. This is due to closure of Societies and some Societies either not contributing to Conference or reducing their contributions. Once again donations have decreased, being only £15,000, which is 17% less than in the previous year. This lower figure of donations is likely to continue in the coming years. Investment income continues to be the largest source of income for Conference. The increase in investment income does not fully make up the shortfall from donations and Society income.

## **Expenditure**

There has been a slight increase in expenditure of 3.6% compared to the previous year. This is because of higher Administration costs. The main cause is the additional manager employed at Purley Chase but most other administration costs have also risen slightly.

## **Exceptional Items**

Legacy receipts relating to this financial year total £31,000 and closed Society funds total £740,000. Of this £740,000 only £36,000 can currently be spent as the rest is restricted.

## **Future Forecast**

The trend over the next 5 years is consistent operational deficits that will need to be covered by previous surpluses or the cashing in of unrestricted investments, which will naturally reduce income in the future. Conference needs the support of all Members to keep it going for the next generations. Even just £2 a month can make a difference. Those who no longer regularly attend a church could help by setting up a standing order to Conference or Purley and by attending events at Purley.

# **16 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PURLEY MANAGEMENT TEAM 2017 – 2018**

(Mr Grant Brackley, Chairman, and Mr David Haseler, Secretary, report)

## **1 The Team**

Grant Brackley	Chairman
David Haseler	Secretary
David Gaffney	Programme Director (part)
Alison Southcombe	Programme Leader
Anne Gaffney	Manager (part)
Geoffrey Nicholls	Manager (part)
Graeme Harding	Deputy Manager
Sally Field	Company Accountant

This has been a year of change. Mrs Anne Gaffney and Mr David Gaffney

retired in December after 11 years transforming an empty building with only a handful of Conference events to a building bustling almost every day with visitors, holding about 50 overnight events a year with about 1000 attendees. Mr Graeme Harding has resigned after 18 months' service, leaving in April.

The Team thanks them for their hard work in developing Purley.

Mr Nicholls was employed as Manager-Designate in September to work alongside Mrs Gaffney. The Revd Alison Southcombe and Mr Nicholls started in their new roles in the new year and will be joined in April by Mrs Rachel Gilson as Deputy Manager.

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

## **2 The Future**

Purley remains a key centre within Conference and we have started to plan to increase the number of people attending Purley and the number of Conference events.

## **3 Events**

### **Overnight Events at Purley Chase**

<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONF</b>	<b>GC</b>	<b>SPIR</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
04.15-03.16	55	20	3	21	11
04.16-03.17	59	18	3	29	9
04.17-03.18	59	22	3	31	3

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONF</b>	<b>GC</b>	<b>SPIR</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
04.15-03.16	930	357	120	305	148
04.16-03.17	1002	344	108	414	136
04.17-03.18	1093	478	86	452	77

<b>PERSON-NIGHTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CONF</b>	<b>GC</b>	<b>SPIR</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
04.15-03.16	2815	921	660	877	357
04.16-03.17	2807	927	524	990	366
04.17-03.18	3221	1012	731	1324	154

Notes:

- Church meetings are not included
- The figures are for the financial year April to March.
- 'Events' are the number of overnight events held.
- 'Attendees' are the number of people who attended events.
- 'Person nights' are the number of nights that an attendee stays at Purley.
- 'Conf' refers to General Conference events.
- 'GC' refers to General Church events.
- 'Spir' refers to outside groups with spiritual themes.
- 'Other' refers to outside secular groups.

It is encouraging that the person nights at Conference events has increased by 10% and is at the highest for 3 years as is the overall person nights. Attendance at Conference events has increased by a positive 33 per cent.

The Revd Alison Southcombe has taken over the running of the Sunday service and the Arcana Caelestia study group and these continue to be held monthly.

#### **4 Finance**

There was a nett deficit of £73.3K compared with a deficit of £53.5K in the previous year. A major factor was the employment of a Trainee Manager-Designate in September 2017.

#### **5 Staff**

Jane Sarkady resigned during the year.

#### **6 Buildings and Grounds**

##### **(a) General**

There have been no major problems during the year but minor repairs have been carried out. The flat has been repainted and other internal work carried out. Planning permission was received to convert the flat into two separate ones but fortunately this did not prove necessary in view of the potential high cost.

The office has been converted into a study for the Programme Leader.

##### **(b) Health and Safety**

All statutory checks and inspections are carried out at the specified intervals. The Team recognises its responsibility for the health and safety of our guests.

All staff have received first aid training.

### (c) Library

The Team decided that the Library should be a working one, not a reference one. Old translations of the Writings have been discarded, books have been re-shelved and the room generally tidied up to try and attract people to use it and browse.

### **7 Thanks**

Purley continues to depend on the enthusiasm and dedication of our hard-working staff who often work long and inconvenient hours to ensure that Purley continues to run smoothly. The overall responsibility has fallen on Mrs Anne Gaffney, Mr Graeme Harding and the Revd David Gaffney, and we thank them for their work in developing and running the Centre. We are confident that the new Team of Mr Geoffrey Nicholls, Mrs Rachel Gilsenan and the Revd Alison Southcombe will continue their work. Mrs Sally Field continues to provide support on financial matters and helps in many other ways.

The Team would also like to thank the numerous volunteers who help in many different ways and also to the people, known and anonymous, who support Purley financially.

On behalf of the Council:

Judith M Wilson, Chairman

J Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary

## **REPORTS FROM AROUND THE CHURCH YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2018**

### **1 AREA COUNCILS**

#### **1.1 SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION**

(Mrs H Laidlaw reports)

The Scottish Association met three times between May 2017 and February 2018.

At a meeting in February Revd Jack Dunion reported that he had met with Robin Wooldridge to discuss the video they hope to make for You-tube and both are eager to see this project move forward in the next few months.

It was also agreed at this meeting to purchase a number of 'Memory Sticks' which would contain basic information about the New Church and its beliefs and these would be available for any interested visitors or enquirers.

This year, as well as taking part in the "Open Doors Day" it was agreed that we would organize a separate "Family Fun Day" at the Church premises and that we would hire play equipment for the day. It was felt that we should use a professional "Leaflet Drop" and that this would include information about a "Family Service" on the following Sunday.

Following a discussion it was agreed that in future our Mission Statement should be included on Page 1 of our Bi-Monthly Newsletter.

#### **1.2 YORKSHIRE AND NORTH EAST AREA COUNCIL**

(Mrs Jan Millar reports)

The AGM was held as usual 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. As always it gave us the opportunity to share in worship and fellowship together.

It has been a sad year for the committee as our Treasurer Janet Jessop passed into the spiritual world. She will be greatly missed but she has been replaced as Treasurer by her husband Roger Jessop.

Numbers of people attending Sunday worship continue to drop due to the ill health and death of some of our regular members. Seaburn Dene continues to meet twice monthly; and Keighley, Bradford and Dalton meet every week, with Bradford and Dalton having several joint services throughout the year.

A coach was organised from the Area to attend the ordination of Revd Alison Southcombe at Purley Chase in December. This gave the opportunity for some of our members to visit Purley Chase for the first time.

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

### 1.3 NORTH WEST (MANCHESTER) AREA COUNCIL (Mrs Pauline Grimshaw reports)

**1. Meetings:** Two meetings were held during the past year which were attended by representatives from Kearsley, Radcliffe and Stockport and Rev Brian Talbot.

**2. Chester and Stockport:** It was regretted that the Chester Society had closed and that the Stockport Group had decided to stop formally meeting as a group.

**3. Events:** During the year three events were organised by the Council  
i) The New Church Day service was held at Kearsley and was led by Mr Christopher Chambers. Sadly only the Kearsley people attended.

ii) The Celebration of Christmas was held at the New Church College. There was a good attendance. We all enjoyed a wide variety of Christmas readings and carols.

iii) Unfortunately the Swedenborg Birthday meeting was cancelled because of the illness of the leader.

**4. Outreach:** Revd Brian Talbot outlined his proposals for an outreach initiative in the Area. It was felt that the College might be a more suitable centre to undertake this initiative.

**5. Worship:** One of our concerns has been the maintenance of regular services of worship. Radcliffe meets when possible and Kearsley meets each Sunday. We are thankful for help given by Mr Clive Goalen, Mr Jeff Lomax, Mrs. Marian Kidd and Revd Brian Talbot, particularly at Radcliffe.

**6. Reports:** Mrs Grimshaw reported on the activities of the meeting of the General Conference and Mr Keith Sandiford on the activities of the Kildwick New Church Centre.

## 2 **KILDWICK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** (Mr Keith Sandiford, the Secretary, reports)

After a much less traumatic winter than the previous year the Centre was open, as usual, at Easter. Before the opening the dining room and kitchen were redecorated, finally removing the last signs of the flooding. There has been

another check for legionella and a full electrical inspection. Neither survey revealed any cause for concern although both were an additional expense. Fortunately it was possible to adjust the pre-payment meters to take the new £1 coin at very little cost.

Bookings this year showed a slight decline on last year when comparing the number of parties booking the Centre but there was a slight increase in the number of days that it was in use. The figures for 2017 were as follows (2016 figures in brackets). Total bookings numbered 18 on 61 days (21 on 58). New Church bookings were 11 on 43 days (12 on 39) and outside groups were 7 on 18 days (9 on 19). The bookings fell into the usual categories, including the Discussion Day led by Rev. Geoffrey Clarkson. The outside groups were mainly family parties.

The Centre is maintained in a satisfactory condition but the ever increasing running costs mean that there is little scope for improvements.

### **3 HOME WORSHIP**

(The Revd Becky Jarratt reports)

Home Worship is continuing to be distributed each month. At the time of writing, there are 43 email recipients, and 34 postal, of which 10 are International. People are also accessing Home Worship through the link on the Conference website. It is added to the site each month.

Gemma McLean has been assisting the team by editing and distributing Home Worship each quarter. The postal copies are being sent out through a company called DocMail, therefore reducing the need to print it out and address envelopes. The Conference Council has agreed to increase Gemma's hours going forward so that she can take on more of the administration.

The Marketing and Resources Group have given funds towards the production and distribution of Home Worship, and our thanks go to them for this. We would be delighted to receive requests to receive the material, and even more so to hear from anyone who would like to write for it.

### **4 BROADFIELD MEMORIAL BENEVOLENT FUND**

(The Treasurer, Mrs Erica Cunningham, reports)

The new committee reviewed the way grants were evaluated and felt a simpler more effective mechanism for granting requests was necessary. It was decided that payments should be made via Bank transfer where possible.

All those who were believed to be entitled to request assistance were contacted to introduce the new committee and explain the new system.

The committee felt it prudent to initially hold some funds back as historically there had been some quite substantial requests. In the event these did not materialise.

Donations totalled £17,000 with income of £263.00 from the CIF dividend.

Grants requested totalled £7,100.



The Chester Society made a very generous donation of £50,000 which has gone into the CIF with the hope of providing a greater annual dividend.

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

### **General**

It has been a relatively quiet year for CAM with my main role being one of supporting the group of Auxiliary Ministers who are working so hard to keep our churches going. Although churches are continuing to close those that remain still need our support.

### **Worship Leader Training and Support Programme**

Worship leaders attended the Worship Leader Event that was held midweek at Purley Chase in April 2017 with the theme 'Variety in Worship'. The theme for the October weekend was 'Parables' and the inspiring weekend was led by Revd Christine Bank. In future CAM will host one weekend and one midweek event for Worship Leaders each year. CAM would like to thank all the ministers and lay people who have given of their insights and expertise to support, resource and encourage the worship leaders.

### **Resources**

CAM has a wide variety of resources to assist lay people in their ministry and these are available for anyone who requires them.

### **Change of personnel**

After serving on the committee for well over 20 years Mary Burnley has resigned. She has been chairman of the committee and a valued worker for CAM in so many capacities and her input, hard work and sound advice will be sorely missed. We are, however, delighted to welcome Anne Clarkson as her replacement. Anne has served on the committee in the past and is a keen supporter of all Auxiliary Ministry.

CAM would like to thank the Council and the Committee of Ministers for their continuing support for the work of lay people in all aspects of church life. The committee is always looking for new initiatives to meet the changing needs of the Church and individuals so please don't hesitate 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, skills and enthusiasm to serve the Church in many different capacities. The Church would be unable to function without them.

## **6 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW CHURCH YOUTH ASSOCIATION**

(Miss Gwendolen Rowe, the Secretary, reports)

**Council Meetings:** Three Council Meetings have been held during the last year.

**Creation of a Logo:** Our most exciting venture this year has been the challenge sent out to create a logo for us. We are delighted with the final result which was created for us by Miss Gemma McLean.

**NCYA Conference:** Our AGM in 2017 was held at Derby New Church. This was felt to be a worthwhile meeting although we were only a small group. We shared resources from various sources and this was felt to be very useful.

**Purley Chase:** We continue to sponsor Summer Camp 1 and Family Weekends and it is a delight to hear how well these are enjoyed. We noted that there were fewer children attending in the younger age group.

**Home Sunday Club:** Home Sunday Club has been sent to 59 children each month this year. We have also sent out a sample of Home Worship to parents of children with an invitation to continue to receive it. We value the support we receive from Mrs Lara Nicholls and Miss Alison Presland who write the letters for the packs.

**Colouring Exhibition:** This year we decided to follow the Conference theme of 'Peace' so children were sent designs based on this. We hope to display some of these at our AGM and at Conference. Each child will receive a small prize for their efforts.

**Sunrise Magazine:** With the increasing number of activities for children our Editor has had plenty of material but would always welcome new ideas. A regular article has been supplied by Jenny Jones who has been looking at a popular film and linking it with a Biblical story and making it relevant. There continues to be requests for the magazine from new sources.

**Children's Day:** This was held on the third Sunday in January and Ministers and Worship Leaders were invited to use some of their service to focus on children and young people. Mrs Carolyn Kennion produced a useful leaflet with a short talk and some prayers as a handy guide for those who wanted it. Sadly we received no feedback despite asking for this.

**Youth Leader:** Mrs Jenny Jones and Revd Rebecca Jarratt were welcomed to our January meeting and we had a very worthwhile discussion

about future activities. It was felt that it would be very useful if the NCYA could support existing events as with the amount on offer it would be difficult to expect families to attend new events.

**Grants:** We continue to offer financial assistance when needed. We offered a grant to Bradford for their heating and are pleased to hear that it has made a big difference already.

**Store Cupboard at Purley Chase:** We continue to provide a store cupboard at Purley Chase and this is available to all leaders working with children and young people. We have recently added some story bags to this for use with children particularly during the monthly service. All we ask is that everyone puts things back where they came from and lets us know when materials need replacing.

**Thanks:** Finally our thanks and appreciation go to all those who work so hard with the children and young people in our organisation.

## **7 YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

(Mrs Jenny Jones Reports)

The Youth and Family Team now consists of Robert Clark, Jenny Jones, Rev Becky Jarratt and Rev Jack Dunion and we continue to work to spread the teachings of our church and a sense of community and fellowship to the children, young adults and families who attend our events and receive the information we produce. We are also supported by Lara Nicholls, who is our link to the Council.

We organise and run residential weekends, family walks and get-togethers and activity adventure days across the country for a range of age ranges. A “date list” is sent to all our contacts at the start of the year and events are also advertised and reported on in Sunrise and Lifeline magazines. We also have a successful Facebook page, Purley People, which is used regularly by the youth leaders to share information and photographs of our events. It is also increasingly used by other church members to share activities taking place at churches, Purley Chase and Wellspring House and as a means of communication. We have a small but fantastic team of volunteers who support us by leading children’s groups at residential weekends but we are always looking for more people who would like to join us in our rewarding work. We especially welcome the young adults who have “graduated” to our 18 plus events and wish to become young leaders themselves.

## **8 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE 2017-2018**

(Mrs Maeve Hawkins, the Secretary, reports)

During the last year the Committee has been working with the Swedenborg Society Librarian and staff helping with the transfer of the Collection to the Society. The members of the Committee, Gordon Kuphal, Patrick Johnson, Howard Turner and Maeve Hawkins have met three times during the year. Sadly Mr Johnson was unable to attend in March 2018 due to his illness. He remains interested in the work and his help will always be very useful. Pauline Grimshaw is an associate member as she cannot attend meetings but we are grateful for her help. The Revd Norman Ryder who has been unable to attend since September 2016 has lost none of his interest and has requested copies of the Minutes of the meetings. He contributes by adding information and even on occasion pointing out errors!

Members have also visited Swedenborg House at other times to work on the Archives moving documents, registers and other items to a new storage area in the Swedenborg Society basement. It is already easier to access some Society records than it has been for many years.

In October a letter was sent to the Secretaries of Societies and Church organisations advising future enquiries and items for deposit in the Archives should now be addressed to the Librarian of the Swedenborg Society. The Committee members are still happy to give advice and in some cases their knowledge means they will handle enquiries before passing all the new information to the Librarian.

Advice has also been given to Societies facing closure and the Archives of the now closed Burnley Society have been moved to London. Work on organising and identifying photographs in the Conference Photographic collection continues. These last two are areas in which Mrs Grimshaw has been involved.

We look forward to continuing to work with Mr Stephen McNeilly, Mr James Wilson and Mr Alex Murray of the Swedenborg Society as the custodians of the Conference Library & Archives Collection.

## **9 REPORT OF THE MARKETING AND RESOURCES GROUP**

(Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy, Chair, Reports)

The Group has identified a need for extra resources at Purley Chase. As the likely future focus for growth, the Centre needs investment in marketing and networking to attract new people.

Younger folk these days have little or no familiarity with sacred scripture or

worship and may not see themselves as religious. It has been said that we need to tell people about Swedenborg but what visitors often want to start with is a nurturing sphere, practical activity and quietness.

A creative activity (such as gardening or artwork), or a spiritual practice (such as meditation or mindfulness) may be the external form of an event or course. This needs to be set within a deeper theological framework e.g. art for well-being, mindfulness for loving kindness. Such an event that simultaneously appeals to different ages is more likely to attract families.

Although those attending our events will be concerned about personal and spiritual growth, many won't want to be told what to do and believe. From a marketing perspective, they will probably be put off by our use of dogmatic or traditional church language or ritual. However, we assume they will respond favourably to any social sphere that derives from a shared charitable attitude and confident faith.

## **REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' COMMITTEE 2017/18**

### **1. Meetings**

The Committee meeting took place from 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and the AGM from 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Eleven members were present at the November meeting and ten members in March. Both meetings took place at Purley Chase.

### **2. Spiritual Leader's Report**

It seems like such a short time since the last Conference, and here I am writing a report for the year which has passed since.

My time has been taken up with taking various services, and setting up and leading a number of events at Purley Chase, as well as pastoral work at Purley and throughout the Conference. I continue to sit on various committees: The Council, the Sponsored Student Monitoring Group and the Committee of Ministers. I ceased working on the Purley Management Team as Programme Director at Christmas and my post there was taken over by Alison Southcombe as the incoming Programme Leader. I continue to work for Conference as the Spiritual Leader.

Lee Differ continues to be very busy with his studies, and visiting various places, and very much seems to be enjoying being part of our organisation. I think that I am safe in saying that I speak for all of us when I say that we are very glad to have him in our company.

I carried out a Closing Service for the Chester Church building on the 12th November last year. It was a full house and an emotional and rousing service; the singing was amazing and I certainly felt the Lord in that place. It was a day of mixed emotions for all concerned. I very much enjoyed taking the service but was sad for those losing their place of worship which they have used for so many years. May the Lord's blessings go with Norman and the people of Chester as they carry on in whatever way they can into the future. (I am available to take services or lead groups generally, diary permitting, so please contact me if you wish me to do that.)

Anne and I found ourselves extremely busy towards the end of last year trying to keep Purley on track with a full order book at the same time as moving house and supporting the incoming manager.

On the first Friday in December we had the Carol Service at Purley as usual, and it also was a full house; the carol singing was great and we enjoyed a wonderful festive buffet after the service. This was followed by the normal Sunday Service and then by Alison's Ordination Service on the 9th December, which again I found moving and it was very well attended; I

thoroughly enjoy leading it; many thanks to all who attended to support Alison on her Ordination.

Anne and I left Purley in mid December and moved to Glossop where we are now living.

Sadly, news of the pending closures of churches continues to emerge.

I have observed that The Council continues to be heavy laden with administration work, which has in the past year been significantly increased by such things as the latest government data protection legislation. May our thoughts and prayers support them in this essential work.

In April 2018 I was happy to continue to lead my annual event on New Church Teachings at Purley Chase.

May the Lord's blessings go with you and your households.

Revd David Gaffney (Spiritual Leader)

### **3. Reverend Alison Southcombe.**

We were delighted to celebrate the Ordination of Alison at Purley Chase in December 2017 and welcome her into the role of Programme Leader at Purley Chase.

### **4. Rita Russell**

The resignation of Rita Russell for 'deeply personal' reasons was received on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and acknowledged with good wishes for her future.

### **5. Reverend Clifford Curry**

After several years of part time non-stipendiary ministry Revd Curry decided to formally retire in March 2018. The Council report records formal thanks to him for this time of service and we wish Clifford and Marion well as they are able to have more freedom from church responsibilities.

### **6. Committee for Auxiliary Ministry (CAM) / Local churches**

As more of our church congregations recognise they are unable to continue to meet regularly for worship it is clear the role of CAM in supporting public worship in church settings is diminishing. Our dedicated team of Worship Leaders is too often finding that their own church closing the door leads to loss of their own role in supporting the congregation too.

CAM is very aware that for many the idea of coming together as a group may be a next step. They are very happy to work with those who see a need to lead smaller gatherings in people's homes or other venues and will always do what they can to provide support and resources.

## **7. Youth and Family**

*Revd Jack Dunion reports:*

The Youth and Family team consists of Jenny Jones, Robert Clark, Revd Becky Jarratt and Revd Jack Dunion. Lara Nicholls provides our communication link to Conference Council.

A programme of events has been created that covers all ages; from small children and families to young adults into their late twenties. Our aim is to provide opportunities for our families and young people to access a range of events all around the country that allows their needs for New Church fellowship and spiritual guidance to be met. Our youth leaders undergo training through the study of SOLCe courses, whenever it is deemed helpful, to help increase their personal knowledge of the Word and the writings. It is hoped that this will help improve the ongoing service we provide for our young people and families.

An annual programme of events is distributed in order to reach as many families and young people as possible. These events include: family weekends, 13 plus events, adventure activity days suitable to bring friends to, events for young adults aged 16 and over, weekends for those aged 18+ and a variety of family worship and Fun days, including regular “Make a noise for God” services.

As the number of church societies continue to decline, these events allow our young people & families to continue to meet with other like-minded families and friends helping them maintain & improve communication, relationship building and opportunities for spiritual growth.

Although there has been a drop in the number of younger children attending events, due to the closure of church societies, family weekends continue to be well attended. However, it has been noted that if the decline in the number of younger children attending events continues, it will have a significant impact on our ability to sustain high attendance numbers in the future.

Our successful Facebook page “Purley People” continues to attract new members and has become an important communication tool for advertising and publicising events, as well as providing the opportunity for families to view event posts in real time. It also provides opportunities to build and maintain relationships.

## **8. Apocalypse Study Group (ASG)**

*Revd Bruce Jarvis reports on behalf of the ASG:*

Our working time this past year has been confined to two workshops, held at Purley Chase before or after meetings of the Ministers’ Committee. We used our time together to work on the Apocalypse Card Deck, refining the text



relating to each card to make it suitable for use by the New Christian Bible Study website. An Introduction was added covering the principle themes of the original Handbook 2.

Recognising the limitations of the British Conference to make use of the Apocalypse material developed by our Group, we have been delighted to take up the opportunity to make this particular aspect available to a potentially large audience.

As always, we take this opportunity to remind Conference members that the Apocalypse of John Exhibition stands ready for use! Is there a suitable venue near you? Contact can be made via the ASG email address: [asg@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:asg@generalconference.org.uk). For those who wish to visit the Exhibition online and its accompanying catalogue, we commend the Lifeline website: [www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk) which has a link to the ASG materials.

### **9. Safeguarding**

Mrs Rita Russell and Mrs Lara Nicholls have been working to ensure the necessary DBS checks have been carried out for new people and that timely renewal of checks on those already working with children are completed. The Ministers' Committee joins with the Council to affirm their commitment to this process.

### **10. New Christian Bible Study website**

[www.newchristianbiblestudy.org](http://www.newchristianbiblestudy.org)

This website is based in the USA and is a valuable resource for Swedenborgian ideas supported by the different branches of the New Church family. The site is continually expanding across many languages as the Writings (or parts of them) continue to be translated and uploaded. Explanations of Bible Stories passages are being expanded and explanations are available for many more Spiritual Topics. This site is aiming to be a resource for serious students but also accessible and interesting to those who are enquiring and curious.

### **11. Retired Ministers**

The Committee wishes 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 3.0% from April 2017.

The full time salary (gross) for an ordained Minister for the year 2018/19 including telephone and broadband is £32,587.

**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**

In addition to the Spiritual Leader and Secretary attending the meetings we maintain links between the Council and the Ministry as below:

Web Development	Mr R Cunningham and Revd J Dunion
Youth	Mrs L Nicholls and Revd J Dunion
Purley Chase	Mr D Haseler and Revd A Southcombe
Finance	Mrs S Field and Revd C Curry
Human Resources	Mr M Hindley and Revd C Bank
CAM and Local Churches	Mrs J Wilson and Revd C Bank
Training and Development	Mrs J Wilson and Revd R Jarratt

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

David Gaffney [Spiritual Leader]

Christine Bank [Secretary]

## **REPORT OF THE COMPANY ACCOUNTANT YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2018**

During the year two legacies were received, £1,661 from the F F Shuttleworth Estate and £29,027 from the G Turner Estate.

Income had increased by over 2% in comparison with the previous year which was due mainly to a donation to Kildwick of £20,000 from the Chester Society.

Expenditure increased by 4% compared with the previous year. Administration costs had increased by £28,000 whereas human resources costs decreased by £9,000. The main increase was the cost of Purley with an increase of £20,000. This has meant an overall operational surplus of £9,000.

Investments in the common investment fund have slightly decreased in unit value to £8.099 and the split between capital growth and income received from the investments still remains at a 50/50 split.

Purley's increase in cost is down to increased fulltime staff costs which were expected but also the increase in maintenance costs. As Purley re-opened 11 years ago the building and fixture are wearing and need repairs and replacement which is what is causing the increase in maintenance costs. This cost increase is likely to continue, so more income from events or donations is needed to offset it.

Decreases in society income and donations coupled with increased costs, mean an operational deficit is likely for the coming years.

The trend over the next five years is consistent operational deficits. This means that, in order to survive, we will need to cover them with previous surpluses or cashing in unrestricted investments, which will then reduce income in the future. This financial situation is not sustainable forever. Conference needs your support to keep it going for the next generations. Even just £2 a month can make a difference. If you no longer regularly attend a church please consider setting up a standing order to Conference or Purley and attending events at Purley.

Sally Field – Company Accountant

## Income and Expenditure Accounts

For year ended March 31st 2018

	£,000	£,000
	<b>2017/18</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
Societies	145	163
Donations - Conference	15	18
Investment Income	228	222
Trust Income	78	74
Bursary Grant	10	10
Other Income	23	1
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>499</b>	<b>488</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>		
Ministry	125	114
Laity	72	77
Student grants	36	30
Self Employed Fees	6	13
Employment Allowance	-3	-3
Pensions	15	18
Housing	16	27
	<b>267</b>	<b>276</b>
<b>Administration</b>		
Travelling Expenses	25	24
Professional fees	48	34
Insurance	8	14
Office	14	19
Marketing /Resources	1	0
Central Costs	22	19
Education & Training	23	26
Youth Leading	6	6
Purley Chase	73	53
Kildwick	3	0
	<b>223</b>	<b>195</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>471</b>
<b>Operational Surplus/(-Deficit)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>

**Other Receipts and Costs**

	£,000	£,000
Depreciation	-69	-69
Legacies	31	164
Closed Society Funds	740	-1
Women's League		136
Homelands Waived Fees	10	10
Non Conference - CIF (Common Investment Fund)	0	0
<b>Net Surplus/(-Deficit)</b>	<b>721</b>	<b>257</b>

*Note. The market value for the CIF per unit*

<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
£8.099	£8.110

**Balance Sheet as at March 31st 2018**

	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Tangible Assets	2,550,381	2,614,011
Investment Assets	15,825,404	15,165,357
	<b>18,375,785</b>	<b>17,779,368</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Net Current Assets	371,279	418,867
Less Creditors		
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>18,747,064</b>	<b>18,198,235</b>
<b>Represented by:-</b>		
Endowment funds	1,363,252	1,367,690
Restricted funds	10,254,988	9,582,664
Unrestricted funds	7,128,824	7,247,881
	<b>18,747,064</b>	<b>18,198,235</b>

## STATISTICAL TABLE

	Society Members	Non-resident	Total new members	Deceased	Removed	Increase	Decrease	Members of Conference
Accrington	38	16	3	5	0	0	2	34
Bournemouth	30	7	0	0	1	0	1	29
Bradford	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
Dalton	32	2	0	1	1	0	2	20
Derby	50	24	0	0	0	0	0	32
Kearsley	37	10	0	3	0	0	3	19
Keighley	36	10	0	1	0	0	1	23
Kensington	14	7	0	0	0	0	0	9
West Wickham	25	10	0	0	0	0	2	20
Paisley	32	0	0	0	15	0	15	18
Radcliffe	15	2	0	1	0	0	1	6
Seaburn Dene	30	4	0	0	0	0	0	22
Other members								231
Total 2017/18	356	92	3	11	17	0	27	477
Totals 2016/17	477	140	12	24	3	7	22	493

	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals	Sunday School No. of children	Avg. attend. 16-	Holy Supper Administrations	Holy Supper Average Attendance	Overall Average Attendance
Accrington	0	0	5	1	1	3	14	17
Bournemouth	2	1	3	6	5	12	16	20
Bradford	0	0	0	1	1	11	11	11
Dalton	3	0	2	10	1	12	6	7
Derby	0	0	0	10	3	6	18	23
Kearsley	1	0	5	2	2	4	17	19
Keighley	2	3	2	0	1	12	18	25
Kensington	0	1	0	0	0	12	8	8
West Wickham	0	0	2	5	1	12	11	12
Paisley	2	2	2	0	1	5	11	11
Radcliffe	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Seaburn Dene	0	0	1	0	7	8	14	23
Totals 2017/18	10	7	23	35	23	97	144	181
Totals 2016/17	12	4	35	43	30	136	194	238

## **THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL 2017 – 2018**

This Report covers the work of the College Council for the year ended 31 March 2018. The New Church College uses the working name of The Swedenborg Open Learning Centre [SOLCe] and is based at Wellspring House.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the College's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

### **Objectives and activities**

#### **A COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

##### **1 Attendance at Council Meetings**

The Council met for full Council meetings on 3 occasions during the year (May 2017, October 2017 and January 2018). There was also an AGM in July 2017.

Membership and attendance at meetings were as follows:

	3 Council mtgs	AGM (July)
Mr C Chambers (President)	2	1
Mr RJ Nicholls, Treasurer	3	1
Mrs C Mahmood, Secretary	3	0
Revd MW Stanley	3	0
Mr R Kennion	3	1
Mr J Ford (resigned July 2017)	0	0
Dr E Foster (resigned July 2017)	0	0
Mrs D Lewin	2	1
Mrs M Duckworth	2	1
Mr S Kennion	3	1
Ms Gwendolen Rowe	2	1

The Administrator, Ms Melanie Bennett, attended 2 Council meetings (3 possible) by invitation.

The Leader of Education, Revd Helen Brown attended 3 full Council meetings (3 possible) by standing invitation.



The Centre Leader for Wellspring House, Karen Nolan, attended 3 full Council meetings (3 possible) by standing invitation.

## **2 Attendance at the Annual Meeting**

The 153rd Annual Meeting of Governors was held at New Church College (commonly known as SOLCe, Swedenborg Open Learning Centre) on Saturday 1st July 2017 with an attendance of 12 Governors and 6 guests/friends.

## **3 Membership of the Council**

John Ford and Emily Foster resigned from the Council at the AGM in July 2017. John Ford has a long association with New Church College and had served as Estate Manager for many years. We thank them both for their insights, energy and commitment and wish them well in the future.

The Council were delighted to welcome Gwendolen Rowe as a new member to the Council at the AGM in July and Peter Isherwood in January 2018. Peter has been line-managing Karen Nolan and supporting staff at Wellspring House over the past year, and we are pleased to formally welcome him to the College Council.

## **B EMPLOYEES**

Revd Helen Brown	Leader of Education (20 hrs)
Karen Nolan	Wellspring House Centre Leader (30 hrs)
Melanie Bennett	Administrator (25 hours per week, Mon, Wed and Fri)
Linda Stoney	House keeper (ad hoc hours, generally 5-7 hours a week)

## **Wellspring House Centre Leader**

Karen Nolan began as Wellspring House Centre Leader in January 2017 and over the past year has made a tremendous impact on the energy and professionalism of our work at Wellspring House.

The Council are delighted with Karen's approach and commitment to developing the Centre as a welcoming and friendly place for people of all faiths and none, including the links she has made in the local community – developing volunteers and the use of the building. Karen has been welcomed and supported by the Wellspring House Events team.

The Council would also like to thank Peter Isherwood who has been line managing Karen, providing invaluable support.

The College Council have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the College should undertake.

## **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 Wellspring House and the Administrator were increased by 3% in April 2017.

## **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 2017-2018, in line with our charitable objectives.

During the year, SOLCe has had two full time sponsored students, with Alison Southcombe completing her third year and being ordained in December 2017 and Lee Differ continuing with a range of modules and gaining experience in New Church ministry. This year, Jenny Jones and Rob Clark as Youth leaders, have both been studying modules and other students are learning in tutorial groups, supported by Sue Chesworth, our student liaison volunteer.

Over the last year the Introduction to the Gospels module has been developed and delivered to a group of worship leaders with great success. We hope to have a group of Sunday school teachers undertake the same module soon.

The Doctrine of the Lord module has been rewritten and what has been a dry doctrinal subject has been communicated in a vibrant way yet with depth, inviting the student to relate to this subject and their relationship with the Lord in a personal way.

In addition, Swedenborg and Psychology is undergoing a revision.

Out of the tutor event in October came the offer of a rewrite of Sacred Scripture which was last written in 2004. In the coming year we will complete and deliver the first Tutoring Skills module. It's a busy time!

The following workshops and events have taken place at Wellspring House and Purley Chase over the last year.

### **Workshops and events in 2017/18**

Opening the Door, One day Workshop, February 2017, 18 attended

Autumn Reflective Walk, 10 attended

Christmas Gathering, 27 attended

Redfolio Art Workshop 1, 13 May 17, 16 attended

Redfolio Art Workshop 2, 11 Nov 17, 15 attended

AGM, 1st July 17

Summer School, 1.5 day workshop, 13 attended

Tutor Event, October 2017, 8 attended

Workshop Peace and Hope 25 Nov 2017, 16 attended

Spiritual Evolution workshop at Purley Chase, February 2018, 20 attended

### **Regular Groups and other users of the building**

Meditation Mindfulness Tutorials

Art Group

Art and Minds

MASCs Counsellors

Independent Counsellors

Consensus/Caring Homes – we are used as their training premises in the North West

Journey to Lower Earth Group

### **2 Future Development**

During 2017/18, we have been researching and developing our understanding of how Wellspring House can be developed as a Resource Centre for Spiritual Education, Development and Wellbeing. Our aim is to create a vibrant Centre that will serve the local community, the Northwest region and the wider New Church Community. The Centre will provide a regional focus for New Church Members, act as a Centre of Excellence in Swedenborgian Studies and offer a welcoming and supportive space for spiritual seekers of all faiths and none. The merger between NENCH and SOLCe last year brought these aims into sharper focus and the leadership that Karen Nolan has brought to Wellspring House, gives Council members and SOLCE volunteers a renewed confidence in what is possible here.

Our vision:

“Wellspring House is a vibrant and inspirational Spiritual Centre, providing an educational resources centre and meeting place for New Church Members and students of Swedenborg. We serve as a beacon and place of support, contemplation, guidance and encouragement for spiritual seekers of all faiths and none.”

Last year’s annual report mentioned that we would be establishing a project team built on trust, mutual co-operation and a common goal. This project team has met twice, to discuss the following issues:

- How to make best use of the space we have
- To consider how the Centre is used now and will be used in the future
- To consider what we need in terms of physical space now and for the future
- Next steps.

Following a detailed consideration of the space available to us, including consultation with building users and Council members, Helen Brown and

Karen Nolan are preparing a design brief and investigating fees for commissioning a design and build service team from a firm of architects or building surveyors. In the coming year, we expect to identify funding requirements to enable us to move forward with an architect brief and tender process, to significantly improve the multiple use spaces at Wellspring House.

Helen Brown is discussing with Swedenborg Society, who have just published Malcolm Peet's book on Garth Wilkinson, a book launch at Wellspring House in October this year. Malcolm is a retired psychiatrist from Sheffield and has previously done a module with us. Malcolm and Helen are also talking about a seminar to be held at Wellspring House as a follow-up to the book launch, perhaps in the new year.

Experience over the last twelve months has shown that Wellspring House is viable. Income from room hire has increased and the feedback from building users has been excellent. The Art and Minds Group has the potential to expand, however we are constrained by the age and design of the existing building, particularly in terms of disability access. The Christmas gathering was well attended by Church members and members of the wider Wellspring House Community, but we struggled for space for the shared lunch and gathering. There is scope to expand the events we run and to increase the number of external users.

There is scope for Wellspring House to become a focal point, meeting place and place of worship for Church members.

### **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 continues to organise Tutor events which give our network of tutors an opportunity to share skills and interests.

#### **b) Wellspring House Centre Leader**

Karen Nolan is the Wellspring House Centre Leader. Her role is to coordinate a programme of events and workshops to facilitate personal spiritual reflection and learning at Wellspring House and to manage the development of the centre's role within the community it serves – locally and nationally.

Karen Nolan provides strategic leadership for the development of Wellspring House as well as ensuring the practical day-to-day smooth-running of the

building and its programme. The role covers marketing, an emphasis on partnership working and line management of the Administrator.

Karen has spent a great deal of time in her first year ensuring that all of our policies and procedures are up to date. Building management has absorbed much of her time and she is grateful for the support of Ray, Melanie and the Wellspring House Events team.

Building management / Policies and Procedural issues highlighted this year:

- Insurance Risk Management Report – a number of actions were highlighted to do with health and safety and reducing fire risks which Karen has been working through.
- A Fire emergency procedure has been written and circulated to all council members, staff, tutors, volunteers and building users.
- Completion of an asbestos management survey (there were two minor asbestos management incidents this year).
- Food safety - paid staff and volunteers have all successfully completed Level 2 Food Safety in Catering
- Emergency First Aid at Work – all paid staff and volunteers have completed First Aid training
- Data Protection – steps have been taken to improve secure storage of confidential documents and data, and we are now registered with the ICO

Marketing – Karen updates our information on Google and manages social media content on Twitter;

@HouseWellspring has 296 followers.

#### c) Website Designer and Website Management support

We have a continuing relationship with Leonie Winson, a freelance website developer who began working with us in October 2015. She works on an ad hoc basis as and when required. Helen Brown uploads modules to our website and Rob Taylor helps with student and tutor logins.

#### d) 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. Melanie also manages the Wellspring House Facebook page.

#### e) 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 launders the bedding and towels. She generally works 5 – 7 hours a week.

f) Temporary Admin support

In June 2018, we will be employing Caroline Thompson as a temporary admin person, to be reviewed at the end of 12 weeks.

g) Volunteers

We expect this area of our work to increase and would like to better capture and celebrate the contribution of volunteers to the life of SOLCe.

**4 SOLCe**

a) Sponsored Students

Alison Southcombe started as a full time sponsored student in October 2014 and has been training for the role of Programme Director at Purley Chase Centre. She has undertaken a full three-year training course and was ordained in December 2017.

A second full-time ordination student, Lee Differ, joined us in September 2016.

b) SOLCe Students

Courses studied and completed April 2017 – March 2018:

Divine Providence 1 student  
Intimate Relationships 1 student  
Swedenborg and Psychology 1 student  
Old Testament People 1 student  
Introduction To The Gospels 5 students

Courses Currently Being Studied:

Introduction to Swedenborgian Thought 1 student  
Pastoral Care and Communication 1 student  
Themes in World Religion 1 student  
Correspondence 2 1 student  
Divine Providence 1 student  
Synoptics 1 student

c) Education Committee

The Committee meets regularly throughout the year and plays a major role in developing the educational work of SOLCe and benefits from the experience and expertise of its members. Mrs Sue Chesworth provides invaluable support in her 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 advertises its open learning courses and the Wellspring House programme on the website [www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk](http://www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk)

Events and courses are available to the general public as well as to our church members, who can access sponsorship support towards the costs of fees. We are considering how to increase the sponsorship programme to the wider Wellspring House Community to provide access to further courses and experiences (such as weekends at Purley).

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.

The College building, Wellspring House, is used by local groups and there is a growing network of volunteers who support the smooth running of events and workshops, as well as the upkeep of the building.

### **F THE FABRIC**

The fabric and grounds continue to be kept in good condition by the Facilities Management team, chaired by Ray Kennion. There have been several improvements and repairs during the year. A programme of ‘decluttering’ is ongoing to bring rooms such as the Principal’s Office and the back room (book store) back into use. This needs further work and ties into the development of the library.

We want to make best use of the spaces we have, as well as envisaging how we could make changes that benefit further use of Wellspring House. The library and garden can be used differently and there has been increased interest in these spaces. The garden can be used for mindfulness and art groups; and we’d like to be outside more often during the summer months, using a marquee in the garden.

We look forward to working with an architectural firm to bring our vision for our varied multiple use spaces to the drawing board. A list of requirements is being developed into a detailed brief and Karen Nolan and Helen Brown are leading on these exciting developments, working closely with the Project Team.

### **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 7 Honorary Governors (-1), 6 Life Governors, and 55 Annual Governors (-8); in total 68 (-9). (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 £9,702 before capital movements for the year to 31st March 2018. (increase of £863,581 in 2016-2017 which was unusually high due to the large transfer of funds from NENCH).

During the year, losses on the disposal of investments of £181 were realised with notional losses of £632 arising from the revaluation of investments.

The budget for 2017–2018 projected a deficit of £9,000 (before investment management fees) but the actual surplus for the year was £7,072 before investment management fees and a deficit of £8,889 when these are included. The main reason for the reduction in the budgeted deficit was a generous gift of cash of around £11,000 received from the Burnley Society.

A budget for 2018-2019 projects a deficit of £10,000 before any adjustments arising on the real and notional gains and losses or charges for managing our investments. The reason for this deficit is to allow for some of the developments which were postponed in the previous year and additional ongoing activity at the College.

### **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 behalf of College Council On 14th July by:

C Chambers [President]

C Mahmood [Secretary]

## LEADER OF EDUCATION REPORT

### **Ordination Students**

It is with a sense of quiet satisfaction that I report Alison Southcombe's ordination took place on 9<sup>th</sup> December at Purley Chase Centre. She is now in post as Programme Director at Purley Chase.

Lee Differ has now settled into his training and has more idea of the church organisation and people he is embracing. I look forward to walking alongside him as the shape and form of his ministry unfolds.

### **Module revision and uploading onto website:**

This last year *Swedenborg & Psychology (in 3 parts)* and *Doctrine of the Lord* modules have been rewritten. My grateful thanks go to Stephen Russell- Lacy and Revd. Michael Stanley respectively for their work and commitment. The *Doctrine of the Lord* module has been renamed *The Awe and Wonder of the Divine Human*.

Subsequent to the first group taking the module *Introduction to the Gospels* Mrs Rita Russell and I are working some minor adjustments.

Revd Mary Duckworth and Revd Clifford Curry are working on a new version of *Doctrine of Sacred Scripture*.

This coming year we will complete and deliver the first *Tutoring Skills* module.

### **Tutor Event:**

Mrs Sue Chesworth and I facilitated a Tutor training day 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Other Events:**

The theme of *Spiritual Evolution* was the focus of the SOLCe weekend at Purley Chase in February. And we had 19 – 20 people attending with some new faces including one of the Wellspring House community who thoroughly enjoyed it. We have booked again in February of next year (9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> Feb).

Karen and I facilitated a workshop at Wellspring House – *Living Joyfully* in

April, with 15 people attending coming from New Church people, the Wellspring House community, attendees at the SOLCe weekend at Purley and the meditation group held at Wellspring House. It creates a rich variety of experience and connection.

I continue to value my work colleagues from Education committee, SOLCe council and Karen and Mel. There have been many challenges and changes, however with respect for each other and drawing on our collective talents we have and can continue to move forward into a vibrant future.

With open minds and hearts the Lord can lead us into new ways of serving the people who come to us.

Revd. Helen Brown

Leader of Education

June 2018

**The New Church College**  
**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2018**

	Unrestricted funds	Endowment funds designated
	£	£
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>		
Donations and legacies	29,392	-
Charitable activities	-	-
Other trading activities	9,970	-
Investments	73,546	13,048
Other income	1,641	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total income and endowments</b>	114,549	13,048
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>		
Raising funds	12,854	3,107
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Charitable activities	120,525	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	133,379	3,107
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(551)	(1,662)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(19,381)	8,279
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balances at 1 April 2017	961,451	389,240
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Fund balances at 31 March 2018</b>	942,070	397,519
	<hr/>	<hr/>

<b>funds general</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
-	29,392	15,939
-	-	1,976
-	9,970	7,827
-	86,594	599,271
-	1,641	611
-	127,597	625,624
-	15,961	14,906
-	120,525	91,833
-	136,486	106,739
1,400	(813)	344,696
1,400	(9,702)	863,581
1,451,330	2,802,021	1,938,440
1,452,730	2,792,319	2,802,021

**Balance Sheet**  
**As at 31 March 2018**

	2018	2017
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Investments	2,781,244	2,758,010
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	14,588	20,281
Cash at Bank and in hand	32,318	43,785
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	46,906	64,066
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	35,831	20,055
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	11,075	44,011
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	2,792,319	2,802,021
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Funds</b>		
Endowment funds	1,452,730	1,451,330
Unrestricted funds;		
General	942,070	961,451
Designated - Jersey Education	397,519	389,240
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total Charity Funds</b>	2,792,319	2,802,021
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The accounts were approved by the College Council on 14 July 2018.

C Chambers [President]

The accounts have also been subject to an Independent Examination and signed by Douglas Grange Accountants.

A full set of the accounts can be obtained from the New Church College.



## **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
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
Lee Differ	2017

#### **Graduate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level Three)**

Rita Russell	2001
Alan Bowie	2006

## LAST 40 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

<b>Year</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>President/ Senior Minister/ Spiritual Leader</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Members</b>
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
2017	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	H.Brown/J.Dunion	77
2018	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	M.E.Duckworth	69

# **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

<b>Ordaining Ministers</b>	<b>ORDAINED</b>	<b>INDUCTED</b>
* 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

<b>Ministers</b>	<b>ORDAINED</b>
* John Edward Elliott, B.A., B.D.	June 23,1954
*# John Emanuel Teed	June 23,1954
*# 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
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
Alison Claire Southcombe	December 9,2017

(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
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**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)	
Robin Wooldridge	July 25,2017
(Ordained by the Revd D. Gaffney on behalf of The New Church in Australia on August 7, 2016)	

**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
Stephen Russell-Lacy	1979
Jeffrey David Lomax	1982
Anne Elizabeth Clarkson	1991
Michael Clubb	1991
Robert Joseph Kirk	1991
David Richard Alfred Friend	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
Helen Newton	2007
David Haseler	2007
Gwendolen Rowe	2013
Richard Cunningham	2018

#### **Accredited Worship Leaders**

Derrick Pearce	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
David Sharrock	2008
Tonia Jarvis	2012
Susan Wilson	2012
Liz Regan	2013
John Harris	2014
Philippa Peacock	2014
Christine Mrozek	2018

### **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 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  
M AMP

+ Index Linked

# Held in trust for the Embsay Fund

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 £1,725,000 +  
House at 101 Tuckton Road,  
Southbourne BH6 3HT B £319,700 +

**Greenhill.** Church and rooms at 177 Leicester Road,  
New Barnet EN5 5EB B £1,445,778 +

**Kensington.** Church and rooms at 5 Pembridge Villas,  
London, W11 3EN B £2,967,000 +

**West Wickham.** Church and rooms at  
High Street BR4 0LZ B £460,250 +

#### General Conference.

House at 18 Pollard Road, Whetstone,  
London N20 0UB Freehold. B £733,304 +  
Bungalow at 80 Broadway, Southbourne  
Bournemouth BH6 4EQ. Freehold. B £263,962 +  
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 £989,440 +  
House at 409A Burton Road, Derby DE23 6AN B £175,251 +



**General Conference.**

Bungalow at 215 Coventry Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 7AX Freehold.	B	£510,698	+
Purley Chase Centre, Atherstone. Freehold.	B	£5,859,250	+

**In North Lancashire****Accrington.** Church at Hargreaves Street BB5 2BB

B	£680,748	+
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**General Conference.**

House at 5 Whittycroft Drive, Barrowford, Nelson BB9 6AS Freehold. #	B	£209,692	+
House at 126 Mercer Crescent, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 4DH Jointly owned freehold.	B	£199,226	+
House at 6 Dunkirk Avenue, Fulwood, Preston PR2 3RY Jointly owned freehold.	B	£229,832	+

**In North-West (Manchester) and Cheshire****Chester.** Church and rooms at Brook Lane,

Newton CH2 2BT	B	£421,942	+
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House at 51 Woodlands Drive, Newton CH2 3QQ	B	£287,500	+
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**Kearsley.** Church and rooms at

Bolton Road BL4 9DD	B	£1,367,655	+
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<b>Radcliffe.</b> Church and rooms at Stand Lane.	B	£1,496,603	+
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**General Conference.**

House at Church Street, Kearsley BL4 9DD Freehold.	B	£276,649	+
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**In Yorkshire and the North-East****Bradford.** Church and rooms at Ashfield Avenue,

Frizinghall BD18 3AL	B	£607,811	+
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**Dalton.** Church and rooms at Grove Place,

Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 9LH	B	£1,139,037	+
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Flats at 111 and 113 Long Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 9LL	B	£826,398	+
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**Keighley.** Church and rooms at Braithwaite Road,  
Braithwaite BD22 6PX B £538,202 +

**Seaburn Dene.** Church and rooms at Shields Road,  
Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8ND B £494,512 +

**General Conference.**

House at 22 Wimborne Drive, Keighley.  
Jointly owned freehold. # B £358,801  
Kildwick New Church Centre, Main Road,  
Kildwick. Freehold. # B £728,433 +

**In Scotland**

**Paisley.** Church and rooms at 17 George Street,  
with library and creche contiguous PA1 2LB. B £2,810,610 +

**New Zealand**

59a Balmain Road, Birkenhead, Auckland, 1310 M NZ\$421,595  
(Conference share 86.7647%)

**Property of the New Church College**

25 Radcliffe New Road, Radcliffe, Manchester. B £891,250 +

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

<b>City, Town, etc.</b>	<b>Situation of Church</b>	<b>Minister or Lay Leader</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
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
Chester	Dicksons Drive Newton Park Chester CH2 2BN		Mr.R.Pulsford	Mrs A Langan
Dalton, Huddersfield	Grove Place, Dalton Huddersfield HD5 9LH	Mr T Millar	Mr.R.Jessop	Mrs J Mrozek
Derby	Horwood Avenue Derby DE23 6AN	Mrs.C.Sutton	Mr.N.K.Sutton	Mrs R.F.Delderfield

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

<b>City, Town, etc.</b>	<b>Situation of Church</b>	<b>Minister or Lay Leader</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
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
Paisley	17 George Street Paisley PA1 2LB	Rev.J.Dunion	Mr.CA.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		Mr.G.Nicholls	Mr.W.Griffiths
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.Sookeah	Mr.C.Phanjoo

## 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	Miss.G.Rowe	Mr.R.Jessop
Broadfield Benevolent Fund	Mrs.E.Cunningham	Mrs.E.Cunningham
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	Rev.C.A.Bank (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
Overseas Secretary	Rev.C.Bank	
Purley Chase Centre	Mr.G.M.Brackley	Mrs.S.Field
Swedenborg Society	Ms.D.Prentice (Admin)	Mr.A.Morley
Yorkshire Missionary Association	Miss.G.Rowe	

## 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

\*Paisley (2)

### **Yorkshire and North-East**

Minister: Rev.C.Bank, Rev.B.Jarvis, Rev.R.M.Jarratt

Secretary: Miss.G.Rowe

Treasurer:

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

## WEB SITES

General Conference

[www.generalconference.org.uk](http://www.generalconference.org.uk)

Lifeline

[www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk)

Purley Chase

[www.purleychasecentre.org.uk](http://www.purleychasecentre.org.uk)

SOLCe

[www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk](http://www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk)

Spiritual Wisdom

[www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk](http://www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk)

Swedenborg Society

[www.swedenborg.org.uk](http://www.swedenborg.org.uk)

Apocalypse of John

[www.apocalypse-of-john.org.uk](http://www.apocalypse-of-john.org.uk)

Spiritual Questions

[www.spiritualquestions.org.uk](http://www.spiritualquestions.org.uk)

Spiritual Wisdom Publishing

[www.spiritualwisdompublishing.co.uk](http://www.spiritualwisdompublishing.co.uk)

God is Love

[www.god-is-love.org.uk](http://www.god-is-love.org.uk)



