

**PRESBYTERAL SESSION**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

14:15 Opening Worship

14:35 Preliminary business and administration

Membership of the Conference (Agenda pages 491-498)

Letters of greeting to presbyters with more than 70 years' service:

The Revd Kenneth D Beardsley (1950)  
The Revd Herbert W Clark (1949)  
The Revd John Garfoot (1942)  
The Revd Harry W Gillespie (1949)  
The Revd Antony M Hearle (1947)  
The Revd George W S Knowles (1949)  
The Revd Keith F Lyon (1950)  
The Revd Dr Albert W Mosley (1948)  
The Revd Dr Richard G Jones (1950)  
The Revd Cledwyn Parry (1950)  
The Revd Gordon F Simmons (1947)  
The Revd Howard L Skinner (1950)  
The Revd John E Stanfield (1948)  
The Revd W G Flaxman Vivian (1950)

Hours of session: Thursday: 14:15-16:00; 16:30-18:00; Friday: 09:30-12:00.

Appointment of Scrutineers

The Revd Philip J Jackson (Chief Scrutineer)  
The Revd Andrew J L Hollins  
The Revd Christopher A Jackson  
The Revd Ann L Lett

Membership of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee

**Agenda Item 20: First Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee**  
(pages 161-162)

Resolution 20/1 (page 162)

**Second Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee** (Order Paper  
pages P3-P4)

Resolution PB/1 (page P4)

**Agenda Item 61: Committee on Methodist Law and Polity (3)** (Order Paper  
pages P5-P11)

Resolutions LP/1 (page P6), LP/9 (page P9)

**Agenda Item 5: Conference Arrangements** (pages 83-85)  
Resolutions 5/3, 5/4, 5/5 (page 84) and 5/6 (page 85)  
Draft of Stations

Presentation of the text of the obituaries

Memorials and Notices of Motion

14:45 **Pastoral Address and Theological Reflection**

16:00 Tea Break

16:30 **Closed session (Candidates, Probationers and Reinstatements business)**

**Agenda Item 45: Ministerial Candidates' and Probationers' Oversight Committee** (pages 459-464)

1. Candidates for Presbyteral Ministry (see separate booklet)  
Resolution 45/2 (page 461)

2. Special Reports  
Resolution 45/1 (page 460)

3. Preachers recommended for continuance on trial  
Resolution 45/4 (page 463)

4. Preachers on trial presented to the Conference for Reception into Full  
Connexion in 2019  
Resolution 45/5 (page 464)

**Agenda Item 46: Presbyteral Transfers and Reinstatements** (pages 465-467)  
Resolutions 46/1, 46/2 (page 467)

**Agenda Item 44. Permissions to serve** (page 458)  
Resolution 44/1 (page 458)

Resignations accepted by the President (Order Paper page P12)

Report of Connexional Discipline Committees and Appeal Committees (SO  
1147)

18:00 Adjourn

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## **AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA**

### **CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION (Pages 491-498)**

#### **Birmingham**

*For* The Revd Faria Mapamula *read* The Revd Farai Mapamula

#### **Bristol**

*For* to be confirmed *read* The Revd Carol A Chaplin

#### **Scotland**

The Revd Stephanie Njeru *vice* The Revd Nicholas B Baker

#### **London**

The Revd Steven Cooper *vice* The Revd Geoffrey F J Farrar

### **PRESBYTERS ATTENDING UNDER THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS (Page 499)**

*Add* The Revd Heather M Walker

*Add* The Revd Danny Wheadon

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## **SECOND REPORT FROM THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

### **Voting in the Conference**

1. The Conference Business Committee recommends to the Conference that all voting will take place either through the means of electronic 'raised hands' or by the use of the poll function in Zoom. It will be made clear to the Conference how voting is to be undertaken whenever a vote is taken. The Chief Scrutineer and the Chair of the Business Committee (as returning officer) will oversee all voting, and ensure that proper processes are followed. Where a standing vote is required, the Conference will be asked to use the raise hands function, and also to mark the significance of the vote by standing up if they are able to do so.

### **Elections**

2. The Presbyteral Session is required to elect a new member of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee, to serve for the Conferences of 2021, 2022 and 2023.
3. A nomination form was circulated electronically to all voting members of the Conference.
4. It is proposed that all signatories to nominations send an email confirming their wish to nominate a particular candidate in lieu of a physical signature. The address from which the email is sent must be that used to register as a member of the Conference. The details of the email addresses to which this should be sent are included on the nomination form.
5. Ballot papers will be circulated as soon as possible on Thursday evening, and will need to be returned by 9:30 am on Friday morning. Voting members of the

Conference should send their completed ballot paper to the designated email address which will be indicated on the ballot paper.

6. When ballot papers are received, all identifying information will be removed before the vote is read and the Committee therefore assures the Conference that all voting will be recorded anonymously (as they would be if we were using ballot boxes).
7. The single transferable vote system will then be used in the usual way.

#### **Notices of Motion**

8. Subject to the Conference adopting Resolution LP/9, the Business Committee requests that all notices of motion which relate directly to the business before the Conference are submitted using the standard form (which has been sent to members of the Conference) by the deadline of 4:30 pm on Thursday 25 June.
9. Members of the Conference who wish to 'sign' a notice of motion should confirm this by sending an email to [conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:conferenceoffice@methodistchurch.org.uk). Again, the address from which the email is sent must be that used to register as a member of the Conference.

#### **\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**PB/1. The Conference receives the Report.**

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#### **AGENDA ITEM 45: MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES' AND PROBATIONERS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (Pages 459-464)**

##### **Paragraph 1.5, Changes in expected date of Reception into Full Connexion**

*Add* Kenneth Peter Kingston from 2020 to 2021

*Add* Karen Sian Williams from 2022 to 2023

##### **Paragraph 1.6, Deferment or suspension under SO 726**

(b) *For no case read* Penelope Thorne

##### **Paragraph 1.7, Withdrawals under SO 727**

**(c) Probationers**

*Delete* Karen Sian Williams

##### **Pages 461-463, Preachers recommended for continuance on trial**

*Add* \* Kenneth Peter Kingston 2021

*Add* \* Sydney-Samuel Ekundayo Lake 2021

*Add* \* Penelope Thorne 2024

*Add* \* Karen Sian Williams 2023

##### **Pages 463-464, Preachers on trial presented to the Conference for reception into Full Connexion in 2020**

*Delete* Kenneth Peter Kingston

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**AGENDA ITEM 46: PRESBYTERAL TRANSFERS AND REINSTATEMENTS (Pages 465-467)**

**Page 466, Paragraph 1.10**

*Add* Matthew Allen Laferty (United Methodist Church East Ohio Conference)

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**AGENDA ITEM 51: PRESBYTERS BECOMING SUPERNUMERARY OR RETURNING TO THE ACTIVE WORK (Pages 486-487)**

**3. Presbyters requesting permission to become supernumerary**

*Add* Philip J Berry (40)

*Add* Christine E Kennell (28)

*Add* Clifford J Meharry (34)

*Add* Stephen Oliver (16)

*Add* Gary S Ridley (29)

*Add* Susan Rowe (20)

*Add* Maurice E Stafford (40)

*Add* Elizabeth D Trinder (13)

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**AGENDA ITEM 52: PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES (Pages 488-490)**

**Page 488, Presbyters of other autonomous Methodist Conferences**

<i>Add</i>	Quophie Anochie Ababio	34/14	Methodist Church Ghana
<i>For</i>	Paulo B Da Silva	<i>read</i>	Paulo Bessa Da Silva
<i>Delete</i>	Richard M Kyaira	14/1	Methodist Church Kenya
<i>Add</i>	Matthew A Laferty	ASA	United Methodist Church East Ohio Conference
<i>Add</i>	Adrian T Roux	26/2	Methodist Church of Southern Africa
<i>Delete</i>	Cleopas Sibanda	5/1	Methodist Church Zimbabwe

**Page 489, Presbyters of other communions applying to be recognised and regarded**

*Delete* Mark R Mander

*Add* Peggy M Kabonde 7/20

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**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM:**

**61. COMMITTEE ON METHODIST LAW AND POLITY (3)**

**SECTION F**

**INITIAL RESOLUTIONS**

1. Since the last formal meeting of the Law and Polity Committee, the United Kingdom has gone into lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and the Methodist Council has decided that the Conference of 2020 cannot take place at Telford, as was resolved by the Conference of 2019, but that an electronic meeting should be held to deal with essential business and other matters. Members of the Law and Polity Committee have been involved in offering advice to the Methodist Council and the Connexional Team on these issues and the

advice given on holding electronic meetings is set out in the second report of the Business Committee.

2. In summary, the Committee's view is that:
  - (1) The governing documentation of the Methodist Church requires a physical meeting of the Conference.
  - (2) The governing documentation also requires, however, that certain business should be conducted annually. There is other business which is pressing, even if not legally required to be conducted this year.
  - (3) The Charity Commission has given guidance to bodies in such a position to the effect that it will be understanding of the situation and of any decision to proceed electronically.
  - (4) In order to meet the needs of the Methodist Church, the best course is for the Conference to meet electronically, but since the constitutional status of such a meeting is obscure, the business done should be limited as far as possible to business which is essential.
  - (5) The business of the Conference should be conducted in a way which will demonstrably enable, as far as possible, effective participation and discussion.

To achieve these objectives, the Conference is invited to pass a series of enabling resolutions.

3. In addition, the Committee is aware that since the lockdown restrictions came into force, many Methodist bodies have conducted business electronically in order to ensure that necessary work is undertaken. Decisions have been made which are preliminary to matters which will come before the Conference and which are required by Standing Orders, and business of other kinds has been undertaken. The constitutional basis for at least some of that action is doubtful. It is the Committee's view that it would be appropriate for the Conference, as far as possible, to ratify such action and a resolution is put forward for that purpose.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**LP/1. (Presbyteral Session) The Conference, noting that the Representative Session will be considering a resolution for the rescission of the resolution of the 2019 Conference that the Conference of 2020 should meet in Telford ("the Telford Resolution"), resolves that:**

- (1) the Conference in its Presbyteral Session shall conduct its business by electronic means and for that purpose a person is present or attends if he or she is present or attends electronically;**
- (2) information and documents required for the purposes of the Presbyteral Session are taken to be in writing, printed or signed (as the case may**

require) if a legible electronic version has been provided to the Conference Office in a form which can be made available to the members of the Conference;

- (3) all resolutions passed and votes taken, including standing votes, shall be taken electronically by a process recommended by the Business Committee and agreed to (with or without amendment) by the Presbyteral Session;
- (4) if the Conference in its Representative Session resolves to rescind the Telford Resolution and to meet electronically, then for all purposes of the Deed of Union and Standing Orders, so far as the law permits, the business of the Presbyteral Session conducted in accordance with this resolution shall be taken to have been validly conducted.

LP/2. Pursuant to Standing Order 131(25)(iii) and 131(25A), the Conference resolves to rescind the resolution of the 2019 Conference that the Conference of 2020 in its Presbyteral and Representative Sessions should meet at Telford on the ground that a physical meeting at Telford or elsewhere in Britain has become illegal and resolves instead to meet by electronic means to enable business necessary to the continuing life of the Methodist Church to be transacted.

LP/3. For the purpose of enabling its business to be conducted effectively by electronic means, the Conference further resolves that for the duration of the Conference of 2020, so long as it is meeting electronically:

- (1) the Standing Orders relating to the business of the Conference shall be read and construed as if:
  - (a) a person is present or attends if he or she is present or attends electronically;
  - (b) information and documents required for the purposes of the Representative Session are taken to be in writing, printed or signed (as the case may require) if a legible electronic version has been provided to the Conference Office in a form which can be made available to the members of the Conference;
- (2) all resolutions passed and votes taken, including standing votes, shall be taken electronically by a process recommended by the Business Committee (including the appointment of scrutineers) and agreed to (with or without amendment) by the Representative Session.

LP/4. The Conference further resolves that for all purposes of the Deed of Union and Standing Orders, so far as the law permits, the business of the Representative Session conducted in accordance with Resolutions LP/2 and LP/3 shall be taken to have been validly conducted.

LP/5. The Conference, noting that the effect of the legal restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 and regulations made under that Act, together with guidance given to minimise the risks to public health arising from the coronavirus pandemic, has been to make unlawful, or a contravention of the guidance, physical meetings which are provided for by Standing Orders, resolves that where strict compliance with Standing Orders has therefore not been possible, each such Standing Order shall be read and construed as if extended to permit as an alternative the taking of such reasonable steps to achieve the object of the relevant Standing Order as were considered practicable in all the circumstances: Provided that this resolution shall not affect adversely any rights which may have accrued to any person as a result of non-compliance with any Standing Order.

## **SECTION G CONFERENCE PROCEDURE**

4. The Reports of the Business Committee have identified a number of procedural matters in relation to which it recommends the suspension of Standing Orders and the adoption of an alternative procedure. The relevant resolutions, which relate to the rules of debate, notices of motion and voting procedures, are set out below.

### **\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

LP/6. (Two thirds majority) The Conference suspends Standing Order 130 for the duration of the current meeting of the Conference.

LP/7. (Two thirds majority) The Conference further suspends for that period the rules of debate contained in clauses (1A), (3) to (5), (8), (11) to (16), (18) and (22) to (24) of Standing Order 131.

LP/8 The Conference further directs that:

- (1) in place of clause (1A) the President shall at his or her discretion call upon members to speak after paying such regard as he or she thinks fit to applications to do so made at such time and in such form as may from time to time be notified in writing to the members of the Conference by the Business Committee (which shall include provision for applications in advance of the debate and for applications during its course). In exercising his or her discretion the President shall seek to ensure that a representative range of opinions is heard on the business under consideration by the Conference;
- (2) the President, having regard to the constraints upon debate imposed by the exigencies of operating electronically and the importance of securing full and informed participation, but having allowed a reasonable time for debate, may at any time in his or her discretion:
  - (a) put to the Conference a resolution that the business before the Conference be referred to the Conference of 2021, upon terms that the body responsible for the business may decide whether then to present it in the same form or in a different form or to withdraw it



altogether, in the light of the debate which has occurred;

- (b) adjourn the debate to a time to be determined by the Business Committee;
- (3) where the President moves a resolution under paragraph (2)(a), the person moving the substantive resolution relating to the relevant business shall have the opportunity to speak before the vote is taken and the resolution moved by the President requires a two-thirds majority;
- (4) a resolution under paragraph (2)(a) may be put more than once in relation to the same business.
- (5) a member wishing to propose an amendment to a resolution otherwise than by a notice of motion circulated in advance of the debate does not require a seconder but may do so only if the attempt comes in a timely fashion to the attention of the President and the proposal may then be considered only by permission of the President, to be withheld or given, conditionally or unconditionally, at his or her absolute discretion;
- (6) the person moving a resolution, including a resolution proposing an amendment, shall have a right of reply to the debate on the resolution;
- (7) a member wishing to raise a point of order on the ground that the rules of debate or regulations of the Conference or these directions have been violated may do so only if the attempt comes in a timely fashion to the attention of the President. The President may at his or her absolute discretion permit the point to be raised, in which case that shall be done as soon as is reasonably possible. The President shall decide all questions of order.

**LP/9. (Presbyteral Session) The Conference, noting that the Representative Session will be considering a resolution for the suspension of Standing Order 132, resolves not to consider in its Presbyteral Session any notice of motion which does not, in the judgment of the President, relate to business which is before the Conference.**

**LP/10.(Two thirds majority) The Conference suspends Standing Order 132 for the duration of the present meeting of the Conference and directs instead that:**

- (1) any two members may upon notice of motion complying with these directions bring before the Conference any lawful resolution to amend a resolution which is before the Conference or which in the judgment of the President after consultation with the Vice-President otherwise relates to business which is before the Conference;
- (2) every notice of motion shall be sent to the Secretary or the Conference Office in electronic form and signed by the following persons:
  - (a) where the proposal is to amend a resolution and those presenting that business to the Conference are prepared to accept it, the proposer and seconder;

- (b) in any other case, by the proposer and seconder and four other persons;
- (3) subject to paragraph (4) below, a notice of motion in the Representative Session must be received by the Secretary or the Conference Office no later than 1 pm on Sunday 28 June 2020;
- (4) a notice of motion may be received later than the time specified in paragraph (3) above if:
  - (a) it is judged to be on a matter of urgency by the President after consultation with the Vice-President; or
  - (b) it proposes to amend a resolution circulated or materially altered on or after Saturday 27 June 2020 and it is received before 5 pm on the day before the resolution is to be dealt with.

LP/11.(Two thirds majority) The Conference suspends Standing Order 110A, clause (5), for the duration of the present meeting of the Conference and directs instead that nomination papers shall be provided to the Conference Office so that they are received no later than 5.30 pm on Monday 29 June 2020 and shall then be made available as soon as possible for consideration by members of the Conference by such means as are specified on the Order Paper until 6.00 pm on Tuesday 30 June 2020, by which time the members of the Conference must have voted in accordance with the instructions given on the Order Paper. Before the vote is taken, the Secretary of the Conference shall seek from each nominee an assurance of willingness to serve, if elected, and shall report the outcome to the Conference.

## SECTION H OTHER MATTERS

- 5. It is clearly the case that while restrictions on physical meetings continue, there will be further business to be done for which electronic meetings are likely to be required and for which the constitutional basis is doubtful, as explained in Section F above. The Committee therefore offers a further resolution to address that situation.

### \*\*\*RESOLUTION

LP/12.The Conference, noting further that the continuing effect of the legal restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus Act 2020 and regulations made under that Act, together with guidance given to minimise the risks to public health arising from the coronavirus pandemic, is at present, and is likely to continue to be, to make unlawful, or a contravention of the guidance, physical meetings which are provided for by Standing Orders for the general conduct of the business of the Methodist Church, resolves that where strict compliance with Standing Orders governing such business is therefore not possible, each such Standing Order shall be read and construed, while such legislation and guidance, or any further such legislation or guidance, comes into or remains in force, as if extended to permit as an alternative the taking of such reasonable steps to achieve the object of the relevant Standing Order as are considered practicable in all the circumstances: Provided that:

- (1) this resolution does not of itself authorise the holding of an electronic meeting of an initial or appeal committee under Section 03, a consultative or pastoral committee under Section 04, an appeal panel under Standing Order 234 or a discipline or appeal committee under Part 11;
  - (2) where a meeting under one of those provisions is required to be held, it may be held electronically with the agreement of the person who is the subject of the discontinuance, competence or safeguarding proceedings or the respondent under Part 11;
  - (3) if the person mentioned in paragraph (2) above does not agree to an electronic meeting, the chair of the committee or panel may in his or her discretion decide that an electronic meeting should nevertheless be held if he or she is satisfied that in all the circumstances the meeting would be able to deal fairly with the proceedings.
6. The Conference of 2019 passed provisional resolutions under Standing Order 122 in connection with the report *God in love unites us* and a deferred special resolution under Standing Order 126 amending Model Trust 14(2A) as to the power of managing trustees to permit the use of their premises by members of other Christian churches or congregations. Both SO 122 and SO 126 require consultation and consideration in the Connexion in the year (SO 122) or years (SO 126) following the year of the Conference in which the relevant resolutions were passed. The effect of the pandemic has been to make the consultation and consideration impossible or impractical. The following resolutions are proposed to address the situation.

**\*\*\*RESOLUTIONS**

**LP/13.**(Two thirds majority) **The Conference hereby suspends Standing Order 122, clause (3) until the close of the Conference of 2021 and directs that:**

- (1) any provisional resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2019 which would under that clause have been submitted to the Synods before this current meeting of the Conference, reported on by them and submitted for confirmation to this meeting of the Conference shall instead, except in any District in which they have already been submitted to and dealt with by the Synod, be submitted to the Synods before the Conference of 2021, and shall in every case be reported on by the Synods and by the Law and Polity Committee to that Conference and submitted to it for confirmation; but that
- (2) any provisional resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2020 or by the Conference of 2021 (subject to any further resolution of that Conference) shall be dealt with as if Standing Order 122, clause (3), were still in force.

**LP/14.**(Two thirds majority) **The Conference hereby suspends Standing Order 126, clause (4), until the opening of the Representative Session of the Conference of 2021 and directs that:**

- (1) any deferred special resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2019 which would under that clause have been considered by the Synods before this current meeting of the Conference shall (if not already so considered)

instead be so considered at their first meetings in the next connexional year; but that

- (2) any deferred special resolutions adopted by the Conference of 2020 shall be dealt with as if Standing Order 126, clause (4), were still in force.

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## RESIGNATIONS ACCEPTED BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE YEAR

Patrick J Aldred	No status
Luiz F Cardoso	No status
Charles D J Connor	Member only
D Kevin Jones	No status
Jarel A Robinson-Brown	No status
Barbara P Savage	No status

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## OBITUARIES

### Amendment

#### Gerald Stanley Broadbent

Line 16:

*For* He was a husband to Daphne...

*Read* He was a loving husband to Daphne...

***The Conference is asked to accept these additional obituaries. If, when necessary checks are carried out, changes need to be made prior to publication in the Minutes of the Conference, the Conference gives permission for such changes to be made.***

**Derek William Wesley Jaggard:** Born in Great Bentley, Essex on 24 May 1938. Being born on Wesley day, to a family steeped in Methodism, is the reason for one of his names. After leaving Colchester grammar school Derek worked as an industrial physicist where he became involved in setting up Christian meetings. He did his National Service with the RAF, travelling to Aden where he became very active in the church. Returning to England he spent a year at Cliff College before returning to his old job. Derek and Faith met through circuit youth meetings, both heavily involved in the church and both local preachers, and in 1964 they were married. Their long and happy marriage was blessed with two children, Mark and Rebecca, four grandchildren and one honorary grandchild. Derek was so very proud of them all. After returning home from work one day, Derek announced to Faith he was going to candidate for ministry. No one was surprised. He was accepted and trained at Wesley College, Bristol. Derek shared his ministry with his wife and their children, and served in the following Circuits: Newmarket, Peterborough, Ipswich, Lincoln, and Brentwood. Whilst at Ipswich he was the Chaplain to St Clements as well as the Girls' and Boys' Brigade. Derek was often moved into circuits where churches needed to be brought together, predominantly URC and Methodist, as he had wisdom and skill in the legalities. He was well-read, being interested in politics and the Third World. However, Derek's passion in ministry was his pastoral work, at ground level, and people responded to that. He supported people and brought them to faith. In 2003 Derek retired to the Bury St Edmunds circuit to be close to family and continued to preach as a supernumerary until ill-health prevented this. Derek has served his God from childhood to his death. He died on 27 April 2020 in the eighty-second year of his age and the forty-third year of his ministry.

**John Hugh Roberts “Jack”:** Born 6 December 1926 in Holyhead, Anglesey, Jack’s Welsh roots always remained an important part of his life. His call to ministry came early. He had time in Newbury as a pre-collegiate year and then went to Headingley ministerial training college, followed by two years as a probationer in the Beverley Circuit. It was here he met Doreen and married. Six weeks later, after offering for overseas service, they sailed to South Africa and then to Zimbabwe, Rhodesia as it was, and stayed there for fifteen years. During this time they served in Tegwini, Plumtree, Shabina, Salisbury and Chibero. Jack had a great affinity for the life here and was extremely politically active. He was eventually banned from working in the country and left to return to England with the family. During the time in Zimbabwe all four children were born, Janice, Glenys, Hazel and David. Returning to England, Jack served in the following Circuits: Middlesbrough and Eston, Bradford (Woodhouse Grove), and Ealing and Acton. Jack enjoyed a full ministry, always having a passion for serious preaching and reading, pastoral care and methodical administration. He continued to have a wide interest in politics and current affairs. Doreen and Jack retired to Bourne End and enjoyed good years of retirement. Jack continued to preach, lead studies and work for some time for the Marlow Pastoral Foundation. He cared for Doreen in her later years of illness. Jack continued to live on his own for some time in Bourne End but with declining memory moved to live with his daughter Hazel and then his last years in a care home. He had eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Jack died on 22 December 2019 in the ninety-fourth year of his age and the seventieth year of his ministry.

**George Williams Simons:** Born in Brightside, Sheffield on 4 November 1923, George was introduced to Jesus Christ, his Saviour and friend, by faithful Sunday school teachers. He was encouraged to witness and serve by ministers in the Sheffield Mission and under the influence of Cliff College students. Through a colleague at work, George heard the call to preach and was recognised as a local preacher in 1943. George joined the Methodist Peace Fellowship in 1939 and registered as a conscientious objector in 1942. For National Service he served in the National Fire Service and the National Coal Board as a Bevin Boy. Accepted for the Methodist ministry in 1944, George began his studies whilst working down the mines. He left coalmining in 1947 and served a pre-collegiate probation year in Kirkoswald, Cumbria. He trained at Headingley College 1948 -1950. On 12 August 1950 George married Joan Larcombe, and together they shared a full and varied itinerant ministry which would last for 40 years until Joan’s death in March 1991. George served in the following Circuits, Liverpool (Crosby) after which he was ordained at the Sheffield Conference in 1951, Goole, Lowestoft, Birmingham (Elmdon), Birkenhead, Nottingham (West), Hoylake and West Kirby and Dunstable, the last three as superintendent. The diversity of these appointments demonstrates George’s ability to relate to all manner of people: rural, industrial, fishing, urban and suburban communities. He loved people. George sat down in 1989 in the Reading and Silchester Circuit. He helped train local preachers. His preaching and genuine interest in people were appreciated. His local church in Woodley valued his warm hospitable presence in worship and at the Wesley Guild. His love of people was only matched by his love of God in Jesus. George could see the presence and love of God wherever he was. Latterly, in the care home, he said, ‘This place is full of Jesus.’ George was a loving father and grandfather and is survived by daughter Kate and son Andrew. He died on 9 May 2020, in the ninety-seventh year of his age and the seventy-third year of his ministry.