

PRESBYTERAL SESSION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

14:15 Holy Communion

15:15 Tea Break

15:45 Preliminary business and administration

Membership of the Conference (Agenda pages 612-620 and Order Paper page 2)

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

The Revd Charles Banks (1946)
The Revd Dr Owen E Evans (1947)
The Revd William Farrell (1945)
The Revd John Garfoot (1942)
The Revd Antony M Hearle (1947)
The Revd Arthur H Howell (1946)
The Revd Dr Albert W Mosley (1948)
The Revd Ronald H Rich (1946)
The Revd Gordon F Simmons (1947)
The Revd George W Simons (1947)
The Revd John E Stanfield (1948)
The Revd Reginald E Tansey (1947)

Hours of session: Thursday: 14:15-15:15; 15:45-18:30; Friday: 09:15-11:00; 11:30-12:45; 14:15-14:45; 15:30-16:30; 17:00-18:30.

Appointment of Scrutineers

The Revd Iain M Ballard
The Revd Andrew W Fyall
The Revd David W Hookins
The Revd Eleanor G Jackson
The Revd Philip J Jackson
The Revd Rachael M Wilson

Appointment of Attestors of the written portion of the Daily Record

The Revd Simon J Clarke
The Revd Faith M Nyota

Membership of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee

Agenda Item 4: Report of the Presbyteral Session Business Committee (pages 52-53)
Resolution 4/1 (page 53)

Agenda Item 5: Conference Arrangements (pages 54-56)
Resolutions 5/3, 5/4, 5/5 (page 55) and 5/6 (page 56)

Draft of Stations

Presentation of the text of the obituaries

Memorials and Notices of Motion

16:00 **Theological Reflection on Fresh Expressions**

17:15 Good news stories about episcopally and non-episcopally ordered Churches relating together, in the light of the *Mission and Ministry in Covenant* proposals

18:15 Evening prayer

18:30 Adjourn

AMENDMENTS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE PRESBYTERAL SESSION (Pages 612-620)

Chairs of District

The Revd Richard M Andrew *vice* The Revd Ian Howarth
For The Revd David Hinchliffe *read* The Revd Dr David Hinchliffe
For The Revd David P Easton *read* The Revd Dr David P Easton

Lancashire

The Revd Barbara S Pettitt *vice* The Revd Katharine J Bland

Yorkshire North and East District

For The Revd Keith Albans *read* The Revd Dr Keith Albans

London

The Revd David I H Hardman *vice* The Revd Rachel A Bending

PRESBYTERS ATTENDING AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE

Delete The Revd Patricia Christopher
Add The Revd Mary Jones
Delete The Revd Delyth A Liddell
Add The Revd Samuel E McBratney

ADDITIONAL OBITUARIES

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.

Eric Ball: Born in Kirkby-in-Ashfield on 10 December 1929. Eric grew up in Mansfield. He gave his life to the Lord at a Covenant Service at the age of twenty-three, when he realised he was renewing a promise he had never made in the first place. Eric was a senior draughtsman working with the Coal Board and later in mechanical engineering companies. As a youth club leader, he took his club to a camp at Harlech in 1955 where he met Jean. They married in 1956 and became members of Chesterfield Road South Methodist Church in Mansfield. They were blessed with three children, Timothy, Alison and Martin. Eric became a local preacher in 1955 as well as serving as youth leader. He and Jean were members of the Lay Witness Movement and led several missions. They moved to Lincoln in 1984 because of Jean's work. Later that year Eric was invited to apply for the post of lay pastor and was appointed to look after two churches as well as being a circuit evangelist, working alongside the Revd Dr Mark Wakelin, then a probationer. Later, he was invited to test a call to ordained ministry and was accepted as a minister in local appointment. He served throughout in the Lincoln Circuit. On sitting down, he and Jean returned to the Chesterfield Road South church where they had worked and worshipped in their early years and he continued to be active in the life of that church up until his death. Eric had a lively and engaging personality as well as a deep and infectious faith that touched many people. He died on 10 May 2018 in the eighty-ninth year of his age and the twenty-sixth year of his ministry.

Margaret Amy Elizabeth Meakin-Collins: Born in Hemel Hempstead on 3 March 1930, the eldest child of Alex and Annie Smith. Margaret was very skilful and progressed to become senior seamstress and dressmaker in Watford. She had a lovely sense of humour and even in those early days talked of going into church ministry. The Revd Thomas Meakin was the minister of the church where the Smith family regularly worshipped, but it was much later in 1970 when Margaret, as a Deaconess, and Tom (now widowed) met again in ministry in Norfolk and shortly after married. Margaret was "adopted" lovingly into Tom's family but she had to give up her official diaconal ministry and became listed as 'married, without appointment.' Margaret cared for Tom in failing health until he died in 1975. The next year she was one of the first women to be ordained as a presbyter. She served in the following Circuits: Fenland and Hunstanton. She retired to her bungalow in North Walsham and visiting Walcott to enjoy the views of the North Sea and sky she met the recently-widowed Fred Collins walking his dog on the beach. They continued to meet and in 1994 decided to marry. Margaret moved to Fred's bungalow in Hoveton in the Norfolk Broads. She had a very happy life, enjoyed trips on Fred's small boat and walking on the coast. She remained active as a supernumerary working in her Local Church at Smallborough and across the local Circuit. Sadly, Fred developed Alzheimer's and once again Margaret's caring nature showed through as she looked after him until his death in 2005. Margaret's life and ministry will be remembered by many people with great warmth and affection for her deep-rooted faith in Christ. Finally needing full-time nursing care, Margaret moved to Haywards Heath, Sussex where she died on 24 February 2018 in the eighty-eighth year of her age and the fifty-sixth year of her ministry.

Colin Manley Morris: Born near Bolton on 13 January 1929 and called to the ministry while doing national service in the marines. From Hartley Victoria College he was

stationed in the Doncaster District Coalfields Mission, followed by a period of study at Nuffield College, Oxford. He was asked by the Missionary Society to go to Northern Rhodesia as minister of Chingola Free Church on the Copperbelt. His forthright preaching, especially on Christianity and race, provoked heated debate. He became a close friend of Kenneth Kaunda who in 1964 became the first President of independent Zambia; he himself was elected the first President of the United Church of Zambia, inaugurated a few months later. Returning to Britain as minister of Wesley's Chapel, he faced the challenge of a tiny membership and a crumbling fabric. The Chapel was declared unsafe and closure threatened. He proposed an imaginative rescue operation which demanded instant decisions more massive than the Conference could make; nonetheless his speech secured the mission of the Chapel for future generations. He moved to the newly-named Overseas Division (MMS) in 1973 as its General Secretary. In 1976 he was President of the Conference. He was a prolific writer and persuasive speaker, and was renowned for his incisive contributions to Thought for the Day on Radio 4. In 1978 he joined the BBC as Head of Religious Television, becoming Head of Religious Broadcasting in 1979 and Controller in Northern Ireland from 1987 to 1991, where he rigorously defended journalistic freedom at the height of the Troubles. It was at the BBC that he met his wife Sandy, with whom he retired to Lewes. For five years he commuted to Westminster College, Oxford as director of the Centre for Religious Communication. He continued writing and broadcasting until well into retirement. His writings revealed a profound theological analysis of the issues with which he grappled: race relations, communications, ethics and apologetics. Both within church circles and in his engagement with the socio-political arena he exercised a prophetic ministry. He died on 20 May 2018 in the ninetieth year of his age and the sixty-sixth year of his ministry.

William James Brian Skinner: Born in the village of Langore near Launceston in Cornwall on 6 March 1935. In later years, Brian fictionalised his mischievous antics as a young man in the village to entertain his granddaughter with stories. A conversion experience led him to consider serving in the Church and took him away from Cornwall. He studied at Cliff College and engaged in several evangelistic enterprises before a short time in retail in London while he candidated for the ministry. After Hartley Victoria College, Brian served as a probationer in the Kirby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay Circuit from 1960 and was received into Full Connexion in 1963. He served in the following Circuits: Bolton (Wesley), London Mission (Walham Green and Fulham), Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancaster, Wallasey (for a year while on the President's List), Reading and Silchester, Nottingham (South) and Sutton (Surrey) before becoming supernumerary in the same Circuit in 2000. In Tebay he regarded Rendezvous, an after-church Sunday evening meeting for young people, as one of his great achievements, and in Fulham, where he oversaw the move from the old Walham Grove church to a new building next to Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground, he helped many families trace children who had gone missing in the burgeoning drug scene. He took great care over the preparation of his sermons, chose at least one Charles Wesley hymn in every service, and was, above all, a much appreciated pastor. He was a man of the people who developed a busy funeral ministry as a supernumerary, to the extent that he was well-known around Carshalton, and much loved by his carers in his later years. Brian showed courage, cheerfulness and deep faith during his final illness and died on 18 April 2018 in the eighty-fourth year of his age and the fifty-eighth year of his ministry.

Alan James Triffitt: Born in the Officers' Quarters of 12 Camp Larkhill on 9 March 1924. At the age of eleven Alan was awarded a scholarship to Bishop Wordsworth School in Salisbury where he developed a lifelong interest in politics, history and religion. He was

also a keen all-round sportsman but broke his leg very badly playing rugby. He was taken to Bath for a bone graft and, after catching tuberculosis, spent a year in isolation in Warminster. This ended his hopes of joining an RAF bomber crew. He spent the rest of the war as a bank clerk and ARP Warden. By the time the war was over Alan had decided to offer himself for the Methodist ministry. Following a pre-collegiate year at Lydney in the Forest of Dean he went to Didsbury College where he was elected head of college in his final year. He served in the following Circuits: Southampton, Sutton (Surrey), Leeds, Stroud and Cirencester, West Wight, Portland, Weymouth and Aylesbury. In Southampton he met June through the youth club at Totton and they were married in 1955. They had two sons, Paul and John. Alan had a health problem from the beginning of his ministry that often robbed him of his confidence. He only served as Superintendent when Portland became a single-minister Circuit, but other Circuits told him he was the best Superintendent they never had. He was an inexhaustible pastor who loved spending time with people in their homes. He was also a prison chaplain for twenty years of his ministry. In Aylesbury, Alan suffered a throat condition which left him with no voice and whilst June offered great support it was time to retire to Bemerton in the Salisbury Circuit where Alan, his voice returned, kept on preaching for many further years. He felt he had come home. For the last few weeks of his life he moved to Hampton Lodge in Southampton and died in Southampton General Hospital on 28 April 2018 in the ninety-fifth year of his age and the seventieth year of his ministry.

Theological Reflection on Fresh Expressions

Discussion Questions

Part 1:

How has the emerging 'mixed economy' impacted your Circuit?

What steps could be taken to help the 24,424 previously unchurched people to be more fully integrated into the life of the Methodist Church?

Has the numerical growth of fresh expressions of church occurred despite the fact that fresh expressions are largely outside Standing Orders or because they are outside them?

Part 2:

What resonances do you see in Methodism with the Salvation Army's story?

Where do you see engagement with the edges bringing life to the centre?

What can you do in your setting to encourage and support those who are called to be pioneers?

Part 3:

Consider the quotes from the pioneers:

What is most encouraging?

What is most challenging?

What is my response?