

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL**  
**WALES**  
**25 JULY to 5 AUGUST, 1987**

Minutes of the meeting of the 12th meeting of the World Council of the Girls' Friendly Society held at Swansea and Bangor, Wales from 25 July to 5 August, 1987

**Theme: "GFS in Harmony"**

**Saturday 25 July** was arrival day for the delegates and observers. In the evening a Sherry Party was held at which a warm welcome to all was extended by the Registrar of the University College of Swansea.

Dinner followed at which the World Chairman, Mrs Dilys Fowler, welcomed everyone. The Lord Mayor of Swansea welcomed the delegates and observers to Swansea, which was proud of the opportunity to host the Council. He and the Lady Mayoress would be present at the Opening Service the following day and they were pleased to extend a welcome at the official reception afterwards. The Lord Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, the Right Revd B N Y Vaughan, also welcomed everyone to the World Council. He was sure that we would have a successful Conference and that we would be meeting the following day to ask for God's blessing upon it. Mrs Iwai, who was Chairman in Japan three years earlier, said of how pleased she was to be with us and extended hearty congratulations to the World Chairman and her team who had worked so hard preparing for the Conference. Mrs Fowler thanked Mrs Iwai and all the speakers for their kind words.

At Compline, the Right Reverend A R Jones, Bishop of St Asaph, reminded us that the Office of Compline had been in existence for several centuries. "It is a service" he said, "to complete the day's work and would be said daily throughout the Conference to complete each day's work of the World Council".

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July** commenced with Holy Communion, Welsh Rite, celebrated by the Bishop of St Asaph who spoke of the Gospels being a collection of truths and "GFS in Harmony" being Unity Fellowship and Peace. It was necessary to have good relations with God and with each other, but peace starts within ourselves. Peace is what Wales wanted for the World.

At .9.30am some members saw themselves on a BBC Wales television program called "This is the Day". After lunch we proceeded to the Collegiate and Parish Church of St Mary Swansea, for the Opening Service at 3pm. Here we were welcomed by the Reverend Canon D E Lewis, Rural Dean of Swansea and Vicar of St Mary's. The introduction to the service was made by Mrs Fowler. A greeting was received from the Queen Mother and was read out by Mrs Fowler.

Participating clergy were the Right Reverend A R Jones, (Bishop of St Asaph), the Reverend Canon D E Lewis (Rural Dean and Vicar of St Mary's), the Reverend Clive Southerton (Provincial GFS Chaplain), and the Reverend Peter Jackson (Swansea and Brecon Diocesan GFS Chaplain).

Other clergy present included the Bishop of Llandaff (the Right Reverend R T Davies), the Archdeacon of Brecon, (the Venerable Wynford Rees), the Archdeacon of Gower, (the Venerable O W Jones), Canon A G Mowells ((Canon Missioner), Chaplains of the College of St Mary and the Reverend D J Wilkinson.

Civic Dignitaries present included the Lord Mayer and Lady Mayoress of Swansea and the Chairman of West Glamorgan County Council, County Councillor Mr Cox and Mrs Cox.

The sermon was given by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, the Right Reverend B N Y Vaughan, who took the theme "Harmony".

After a most impressive service, we proceeded to the Official Reception given by Swansea City Council at the Swansea Guild Hall.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July.** Holy Communion was celebrated by the Revd Barnabas Maeda of Japan, who used the Japanese Rite. His meditation was on "Friends".

World Council Sessions 1a,1b,and 2: In her speech of welcome, Mrs Fowler drew attention to: The lovely banners surrounding the Hall, all of which had been made by members of one Swansea Branch.

The floral arrangements attended to by members of another Swansea Branch.

And thanked them both for preparing the Hall for our use.

The lovely Altar Frontal made by an Art Design Teacher in Brecon.

The Candlesticks and Communion Vessels made in pottery especially for this World Council.

The second set of Communion Vessels, borrowed from England and also in pottery, were brought back from Taize for use by GFS England.

And finally, the Information and Daily Services Booklet – the laborious task of assembly and typing of which had been undertaken by the Revd Peter Jackson and Mr Peter Fowler.

She then introduced officially:

The Vice-Chairman                      Mrs Iwai from Japan, who really needed no introduction.

The Secretary                              Mrs Ann Jackson, who with her husband, the Revd Peter Jackson, had done such sterling work for this World Council. Mrs Fowler would never ever be able to say enough thanks to both of them.

Minute Secretary                        Mrs Rona Boyd, who had volunteered to do this work.

The two Treasurers were both very experienced gentlemen, Mr Adrian Parker would be attending tomorrow and Dr John Perkins we would be meeting at Bangor.

Later in the day we would be joined by Mrs Jill Baker and her husband from New Zealand.

The Revd Mary Vickers, Industrial Chaplain from England, would also be attending later in the day.

All the Welsh Diocesan GFS Chaplains would be attending daily.

The Delegates were then introduced.

Australia	Miss Patricia Byron	
	Miss Sonia Roulston	Junior Delegate
Barbados	Mrs Audrey Moore	
England	Mrs Jean Riggs	
	Miss Anne-Marie Rose,	Junior Delegate
Guyana	Miss Irma Chase	
	Miss Ava Mernerding	Junior Delegate
Ireland	Mrs Mary Hinchliff	
	Miss Lorna Beattie	Junior Delegate
Japan	Miss Agnes Hara	

	Margaret Hayami	Junior Delegate
Kenya	Miss Emily Siaga	
Korea	Miss Pauline Soon Hie Yoon	
	Miss Monica Hwa Young Kim	Junior Delegate
Lesotho	Miss Alice Mafereka	
Nigeria	Mrs Cardine Anyanwu	
	Miss Chidirma Uzoekwa	Junior Delegate
Philippines	Rosalinda Yujchengkang	
	Dr Kate Botengan	Junior Delegate
Sierra Leone	Mrs Subuola Thompson	
	Yvette Harding	Junior Delegate
Sri Lanka	Mrs Jean Withanage	
Transkei	Mrs Nobanto Makunga	
USA	Ms Patricia Henderson	
	Miss Carol Coles	Junior Delegate
Wales	Mrs Christine White	
	Miss Kathryn Southerton	Junior Delegate

Greetings to the Council were received from:

Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother; The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Archbishop of Brisbane, Australia; The Archbishop of Armagh, Ireland; The Archbishop of Dublin, Ireland; Bishop Thompson, Freetown, Sierra Leone; The Primate of NSKK, Tokyo, Japan; The Suffragan Bishop of Los Angeles, USA; The Bishop of Pennsylvania, USA; The Bishop of Massachusetts, USA; The President Bishop of New York, USA; The Bishop of Guyana; The Bishop of Jarrow, England; The Bishop of Liverpool, England; The Bishop of Lesotho; The Bishop of Seoul and Chairman of the Anglican Church in Korea; The Bishop of Guilford, England; The Bishop of Western Massachusetts, USA; The Bishop of London, England; The Bishop of Coventry, England; The Bishop of Nigeria and his wife; the Bishop of the Philippines; Bishop Tutu of South Africa; The President of the Transkei; Michaels CSU; The Rector of Emmanuel Church, Philadelphia, USA; The Rector of St James' Church, Perciomen, PA, USA; The Priest in Charge of All Saints Church, Findon Valley, SA; The Anglican Youth Movements, Grenada; The Mothers Union, Llandaff, Wales; Kay Warrington, Wales, Cicely Childs, Wales; The President and members of the Mothers Union, Monmouth, Wales; The Centre Vice-President of the Mothers Union, Wales; Beth Mayes, Ireland; Betty Truman, England; Jean Cheshire, World Chairman 1969—72, Australia; Lulu Dumezwini, Transkei; National 15-30s Chairman, England; GFS Llanidloes, Wales; Kathleen Bright-Parker OBE, Australia; The Mayer of Springfield, Massachusetts, USA; Lena Franklin, Hove, England; The Diocesan Youth Advisor, Maseno West, Kenya; GFS New Zealand; The Diocesan Chairman Elect, GFS Sydney Australia; Frank and Jean Cheshire, Melbourne, Australia; The May of North Warwickshire Borough Council, England; The May of Worcester, England; GFS Korea, GFS Liverpool, England; Merle Davies, Australia.

### Minutes

Minutes of the last World Council in Japan in 1984. Mrs Iwai advised that these had been sent out last December but only Australia had replied. She requested that the name of Kathleen Bright-

Parker, OBE., Australia, should be added to the list of greetings on line 3 of page 6 of the Minutes – this request was granted.

England moved, seconded by Ireland,

*“That the Minutes, so amended, be approved”* and the Chairman signed the Minuter Book. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Reports: The World Chairman, Mrs Dilys Fowler, gave her report for the last three years.

The last three years have been the busiest but the most rewarding time I have ever had. On our return from Japan in September 1984, the members of GFS in Wales were very thrilled that the net World Council was to be held here but, at the same time, very conscious of the enormous task before us. We all felt that by our own efforts and prayers and support of our members and friends around the world, we would be able to face this undertaking and prove worthy of the great trust which had been placed in us.

We set to work in the autumn of 1984 and formed a small group, representative of all parts of Wales, and began to make plans. This planning committee has worked hard; each member undertaking a specific task, everything being coordinated by our Secretary, Mrs Ann Jackson.

Our first thoughts about our theme were – after “Together in Christ, sharing love and peace” in Japan, we felt that 1987 in the Land of Song could have no better thought running through it than “GFS in Harmony”. Harmony in our meeting together and plenty of harmony music wise!

Secondly, I have tried to maintain the links between the member countries through the newsletter, which have been produced twice each year. Thank you all for your items of news; I know that sharing your experiences and activities means a great deal to our fellow members.

With regard to the World Day of Prayer – St Michael’s Day, 29 September – for our three years, we felt that Faith, Hope and Love seemed suitable thoughts on which to build our services. I am grateful to our Chaplains for producing the forms of service.

One important aspect which we had to give consideration when planning this Council was finance. We thought of many ways to raise the necessary money to fund our preparations, postage, entertainments, etc. Eventually we arrived at the following methods:

- a) A talent scheme for our own branches and members.
- b) Appeals to various trusts, the Mothers Union, the Church in Wales and the six Welsh Dioceses.
- c) Sales of souvenirs etc., to make a profit.

All these ideas proved extremely successful, and our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who supported us so magnificently. Here I must also say a word of thanks to all our member countries for the wonderful way you have contributed to the Project Fund and the World Travel Fund. We have endeavoured to use the money in both funds prudently.

Much time has been given to the Caribbean Project; I have visited Barbados twice with Sandra Coleman, our Director of Training, and many useful contacts have arisen from these visits. A fuller report on the project will be given later in the Agenda, but one wonderful outcome has been the planning of exchange visits between young members in Wales/England and Barbados, partly funded by the Commonwealth Youth Council.

I was also invited to the Irish National GFS Leaders Conference in Dublin in 1986, this was a great joy and I hope that our Irish friends gained as much from that visit as I did. It was so full of friendship and love as well as learning together.

Thank you all for your kindness, patience and understanding; for bearing with me in my shortcomings and uplifting me with your thoughts and prayers.

May GFS Wales 1987 prove to be a worthy successor of all previous World Councils. I pray that we will truly be GFS in Harmony.

And my hope for the future? That we continue to “bear one another’s burdens” through love, prayer, cooperation, better understanding of each other’s needs, and above all by the knowledge that we can do all things through him who is our strength at all times.

Australia in replying to the World Chairman’s Report, expressed thanks to Mrs Fowler and the members of her committee who had worked so hard to ensure that the Council was well organised.

There followed, in alphabetical order of country, Reports from the Countries present, with illustrated slides from Japan and Korea and a booklet from Australia, covering GFS activities over the last three years. All reports spoke of the part played by the GFS wherever the Society is established, and the work done in the various countries in both Church and Community, especially in helping and encouraging girls and young women.

The Chairman thanked every country for their report and especially Nigeria which was a new member country where GFS had been inaugurated on 17 December 1985 and where the Society is growing rapidly in strength.

Good wishes were extended to the Lesotho Delegate, who had to leave Council for an important examination in London and who would be returning on Wednesday. This concluded the business for the day although the Agenda was not completed.

After these sessions we proceeded to a Reception given by the West Glamorgan County Council at the County Hall from where there were magnificent views of the whole of the Swansea Bay area. In the evening we were given an illustrated talk by the Ven O W Jones, Archdeacon of Gower, and the Revd Canon D G Walker on the subject “Christianity in Wales”.

### **Tuesday 28 July**

Holy Communion was celebrated by Revd Adrian Davies using the Welsh Rite. For meditation he took as his theme our need to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

World Council session 3a and 3b: Firstly, we had the Financial Statements:

- a) From Japan for the period 1981-1984. This was presented by the Treasurer, Miss Hara, and was in the currency of Japanese Yen. Regarding the membership dues it was explained that England covered both England and Wales together. The report was accepted.
- b) Wales. Mr Adrian Parker presented a report for the period 1 December 1984 to 16 July 1987 and stressed it was an interim report only as receipts were still to come in and the largest parts of the costs were still to be paid.

Sierra Leone raised the question of £100 (one hundred pounds) sent by them for the World Travel Fund and thought that this should have been included in the report. It was explained that this sum had been received through CMS and that the donation arrive a long time before it was discovered what it was actually for. The matter will be put right in the Final Statement which will be produced in three years' time.

#### **World Projects:**

- a) 1981-1984. The Transkei, Mrs Iwai, Deputy Chairman, in introducing Mrs Makunga of the Transkei, said how very pleased she was at Mrs Makunga's attendance as she had been very worried about this and also about the position of the project about which she gave a very full report of the correspondence between Japan and the Transkei from 1984 to 1987. The problems in the Transkei were appreciated and Mrs Iwai wrote in December 1986 suggesting to Bishop Jacob Dlamini of St John's Diocese, successor to Bishop Godfrey, that she visit the Transkei, but the Bishop preferred this visit to take place after a new GFS Director had been appointed.

All the project money had been forwarded by the former Treasurer in Japan to the Transkei and had been acknowledged by Bishop Dlamini who said the money was under strict control of the Dioceses. Mrs Iwai was very appreciative of the efforts of the Bishop of St John's over several years. The project should have been completed in six years, but it may be ongoing. The problems involved may have been aided by the GFS Directors changing three times for six years and only about two and a half years work being actually done during that time. Again, the GFS directors might not have had the experience to work the project properly. Mrs Iwai made recommendations which she asked the Council to consider, and she hoped that there would be a good outcome for the Transkei Project.

Mrs Makunga replied, to the effect, that she could only say that the instability of organisers affected the Poultry project. In her view the failure of the project was due to control being in the hands of the priests rather than the people who were supposed to be really involved. During the six years there had been two Bishops involved, three GFS Directors and attempts had been made in three parishes to get the project under way without success due, she felt, to all decision and orders being made by priests without involving the girls themselves. However, Bishop Dlamini has now appointed a priest, Revd Canon M Gabula, to be in charge of all diocesan projects including the GFS Poultry project and it is hoped that this arrangement may work out well. She referred to the political and economic position in the country and the man/woman domination which she prayed and hoped would be solved. She also gave details of the present situation of the GFS Poultry Project Trust Fund and said that the Fund was earning interest at 12% per annum. Mrs Makunga concluded by saying the Bishop and GFS members were very worried about the future progress of the GFS Poultry project but "God will guide us and by his love we will make it".

Questions from various delegates and discussions followed and it was suggested that it might be helpful if, when Mrs Iwai visited the Transkei, she has a very able communicator in English to assist her. Mrs Iwai had carried out an enormous lot on our behalf over the last three years – Japan would like a partnership with an English-speaking country to see this project through, maybe England, Wales or Ireland.

It was decided that a sub-committee be formed to try and sort out a few of the problems and to report back to Council. The sub-Committee to consist of:

Mrs Iwai, Mrs Makunga, Mrs Jean Riggs, England, Dr Kate Botengan, Philippines; Miss Patricia Byron, Australia; Mrs Subuola Thompson, Sierra Leone.

- b) 1984-1987: The Caribbean. Mrs Fowler gave a report to date on the Caribbean Project which is intended to develop and strengthen the work of the society in the Caribbean by appointing a worker for one year to promote community work and train others in this field, thinking especially of the needs of girls and young women. The World Chairman should be responsible for the project and, although England offered to take care of it, England and Wales decided they would share the responsibility.

After several attempts to contact the Archbishop of the West Indies to obtain his approval and advice, Archbishop Woodruff informed us of his pending retirement and that he would not welcome any developments in St Vincent at this time but would make no objection if other Bishops wished to avail their dioceses of our offer.

The World Chairman and Sandra Coleman (Director of Training) visited Barbados in August 1986 and had had a wonderful welcome from the Bishop, the Diocesan Youth Adviser, the YWCA, the Methodist Church and others. When asked what the greatest need amongst young women was, all gave the same answer – unemployment.

Arrangements were made for a young local girl, Roslyn Lynch, to visit the UK for experience, attended World Council and Summer School, but it later transpired that she was unable to undertake the work having been offered a Scholarship at Boston University, USA. However, Beverly Sealy was found who was anxious to do this type of work. A parish/community base was to be set up at St Patrick's Church and Beverly would be able to work from there as a "Community Worker" / with special responsibility for girls, young mothers, babies etc. A support group has been set up of GFS Officers, YWCA members, PCC members and the Revd Michael Clarke, the Parish Priest.

Regarding finance, we had aimed for £9000 to fund the project and to date over £10,000 has been raised which means we can continue to fund the work over a longer period than that agreed of one year – this the World Chairman would like to recommend we do.

Sandra Coleman reported that nothing had been done without consulting the GFS in Barbados. A lot of time was spent talking with Mrs Audrey Moore and the Vice-Presidents because it was felt that Barbados had to approve. The GFS in Barbados is small, and a strong team is needed to support Beverly.

Mrs Moore endorsed all that had been said and thanked the World Council for starting the project.

Beverly Sealy told us a little about herself and expressed her wish that the project in Barbados would be successful knowing that it had the support of the PCC and other churches within the Diocese.

#### **World Council Session 4.**

**Branch Work:** Mrs Jean Riggs gave an address on the subject of GFS in an Ecumenical Society and spoke of places in England where people share churches and where clergy work very closely together. Membership of GFS is not limited to Anglicans - people join because they want to enjoy themselves and they want to make a promise - but it was felt that all officers should be Anglicans or be in full communion with the Anglican Church.

**Membership and leaders: Members in Korea and Nigeria all have to be Anglicans, in Kenya other denominations are accepted but not Roman Catholics, in the Transkei**

**Christians, other than Anglicans are accepted provided they have the permission of their Church. In all other countries, members do not have to be Anglicans.** Regarding leaders, in most countries they must be Anglicans or communicant members of a church in communion with the Anglican Church. In Ireland leaders must be communicant members of the Church of Ireland or the Anglican Church; In Kenya they are hoping that in future all leaders will only be Anglicans; in Sri Lanka Christians are accepted into full membership – there are non-Christian members who, however, have no voting rights – if non-Christian members were accepted as leaders it is feared that the Buddhists would hold power, in USA leaders must be communicants of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the USA.

**Joy Epton.** England raised the point that in the early 1970's there were talks between Anglicans and Methodists to try and get together into full communion to which Mrs Riggs replied that unfortunately, a definite decision was not made, and the Anglican/Methodist talks failed. As regards GFS in an ecumenical society, people can be working in GFS but need not be Anglicans necessarily. "Is the work that is being done more important than the denomination of the person doing the work?" she asked. USA thought that the question was largely governed by the ecumenical position in one's own country. In GFS we should be doing everything possible to bring young girls into an understanding of the Gospel. Australia commented that members should be girls of any denomination, but leaders must be Anglicans.

**Industrial Mission.** A talk was given by the Revd Mary Vickers, Industrial Chaplain; on "Where do we fit in" The Industrial Chaplains are financed by the Anglican Church but work on an ecumenical basis. She gave an insight into her work in a city centre. She thanked the branches in England and Wales, and Headquarters in London, on whom the responsibility falls for funding the mission work.

**Hostels:** A talk illustrated with slides was presented by Julia Thoms, Hostel Warden in Birmingham. The Hostel caters for ages 17/30 years with a time limit on the stay in the Hostel of two years or until the age of 30 ears. In the past the Hostel has had eleven nationalities – Indian, Brazilian, Chinese, English, Iranian, Irish, Jordanian, Malaysian, Somalia and Welsh – all living together as one despite the varying religious beliefs such as Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and Christians of varying denominations. Harmony is seen in sharing, whether it be in the kitchen or at communal gatherings.

**The GFS Prayer:** The Revd Peter Jackson spoke about the possible need for an "International GFS and TF Prayer". "One of the beauties", he said, "of the Anglican Church in the past was its common liturgy – wherever you went it was always the same. That has been changed over the past sixty years or so and is best illustrated in the variety of our Holy Communion celebrations this week. We can still see the thread of Anglicanism through them but, hopefully, they also express the ethos of the particular nation or national Anglican Church which has produced them".

**GFS identifies itself with the local community within the parish situation, but it must also identify itself on the international scene.** It was his belief that this could best be done by the introduction of an "International Prayer". He further suggested that if we are going to have such a prayer it should reflect belief in a personal God and Lord of history, and the

acceptance of the special relationship that the Christian God has with us as shown in the work of Christ Jesus. It must begin with praise – thanksgiving, penitence and petition will follow naturally – concluding with further praise “through Jesus Christ our Lord”. Such a prayer could be

**“O God our Father, we praise you for your goodness to us and all mankind.** We confess that we do not live up to your expectations of us and we ask for your forgiveness. We promise to be obedient to your Word and henceforth to live our lives according to your will. We ask you to bless us and all who belong to the Girls’ Friendly Society and Townsend Fellowship throughout the world. Bind us together in love as members of one family and thus enable us to bear one another’s burdens, and to live not just for ourselves but for each other: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

**Uniforms:** Ireland asked whether we wished to have a resolution for uniforms and said that they would like to put forward an idea on this matter to Council. They thought that it would be nice if we all had some kind of uniform that looked like GFS – possibly the same colours of navy and white with each country having its own distinctive tie or hat or something. Barbados asked about the cost of such a uniform and thought that it might be prohibitive.

**Link Countries:** The question was put by Mrs Fowler as to how many of us had found this useful or beneficial. The present links are:

- 1 Australia with New Zealand and Korea.
- 2 England with Barbados, Guyana and the Philippines
- 3 Ireland with Japan and the Transkei
- 4 USA with Newfoundland and West Africa
- 5 Wales with Lesotho and Sri Lanka.

USA said that they had not been able to make contact with Newfoundland, but the Revd Mary Vickers advised them that she could let them have the address of her friend there to whom they could write and try to establish a contact. Japan, being with Ireland and the Transkei, had a language problem.

**World Dues:** All funds should be in sterling. It was suggested that the annual contribution from each country be one pound per one hundred members, if we do increase the contribution, we must consider the rate of inflation – suggest this subject be reviewed at every World Council.

**World Council Constitution:** At present the World Council takes place every three years in a different country and the World Chairman is from the host country. There are two delegates from each country, one under a certain age. Delegates may make propositions and vote; observers are allowed to attend but not to vote. In some countries it may not be possible to accommodate as many as we had at this World Council.

This completed the business for today.

During the evening, in the Banqueting Hall of this University, we had a “Welsh Evening” with traditional food and entertainment in the form of a “Nosan Lawen” presented by a group of entertainers and there was much fun, fellowship and laughter. Included in the entertainment was clog dancing at which members of the World Council took part much to the amusement of the appreciative audience. To end, each country sang a traditional song, and I place of Compline, we all joined hands for the singing of “Bind us together, Lord”.

**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July** Holy Communion was celebrated by the Revd George Hinchliff of Ireland who used the Irish Rite.

After breakfast we proceeded to Swansea City Centre where free time was spent by some going around the shops and others visiting the new maritime quarter, everyone seemed to have walked through the Market and some even tasted cockles and laver bread. Then it was off to Cardiff, the capital city of Wales and a visit to Llandaff Cathedral where we were greeted by the Dean, the Very Revd Alun R Davies, who gave us a brief account of the history of the Cathedral. We were also greeted by Mrs B E R Ridett, Diocesan Mothers Union President of Llandaff, who presented Mrs Fowler with a bouquet of beautiful flowers. Before returning to Swansea, we partook of a very welcome cup of tea and refreshments for which we were very grateful.

**Thursday 30 July.** The Welsh Rite was again used for the Holy Communion, which was celebrated by the Revd Gregory Cameron, who took as his theme for the meditation Psalm 133, “Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”.

**World Council Session 5a and 5b.** This was a “closed session” and Mrs Fowler reminded those present that they were there as the official delegates of their respective countries.

**World Council Constitution** was drawn up in 1962 and needed tidying up. At present the heading is “Directives” but after discussion, Wales proposed, seconded by Barbados and Lesotho.

*“That this be amended to ‘Guidelines’.* CARRIED.

This was agreed, as was also that the Guidelines should be amended after this Council, a copy being forwarded to each country to be returned with any comments.

**World Day of Prayer – September 29, St Michael and All Saints Day.** If, as in the case of Ireland, this coincides with another festival, then it is quite in order for that country to make alternative arrangements.

**Membership:** “Representation at Council meetings shall be extended to two (2) from each country, one of whom shall be ideally between the ages of 16 and 21 years” England suggested, supported by Ireland, that the younger age group should be between 16 and 25 years. Another suggestion was between 16 and 30 years. Many would be established I work and better able financially to come. Sierra Leone preferred 16 and 25, saying the older people could still come. It was agreed the younger age group should be between 16 and 25 years.

Wales brought up the question of Anglican membership as in Wales we are covenanted with other churches and members of the churches within that covenant should be included; Agreed this should be considered at a later date. The Philippines suggested that the question of covenanted Church of Churches within the Anglican Community – should be left to individual countries to suit their own need.

**Officers:** “It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the World Council to arrange for the election of the country to preside over the World Council for the succeeding period, the voting to be carried out by mail. Here, Mrs Fowler point out, we could have agreed one country, but circumstances could arise preventing that country carrying out the agreement. It was passed “if necessary” be added to the voting be carried out by mail.

**Voting at Meetings:** “The Vice-Chairman shall also be ex-officio – agreed this should read “The Vice-Chairman of the World Council shall also be ex-officio”. Mrs Fowler mentioned that the Chairman also had a casting vote.

**Minutes:** The Minute book is at present passed from Chairman to Chairman and the Philippines brought up the point that there is only one copy and if the possibility of circumstances arising where this one copy may be destroyed. It was moved that a Xerox copy of the Minutes be kept in a different country to the Minute Book, the Book remaining with the Chairman.

**Finance:** The small amount of money received over the three years was so minute over the general budget, but it did help. Instead of the annual contribution from each country being 5/- (five shillings sterling) per 500 total membership, it was suggested and agreed that each country should pay the same amount. Proposed by Ireland, seconded by USA.

*“That instead of membership this be called an Affiliation Fee, such fee to be shown in the Guidelines as a minimum fee”.*

Countries could, of course send more. Agreed that an Affiliation Fee of a minimum of fifteen pounds sterling be paid by each country and that this fee to be paid within the period of three years between World Council Meetings.

The World Chairman may administer on behalf of the Council various funds, such as the Travel Fund etc.

**Link Countries:** Following previous discussion it became clear that

- 1 Japan would like to go with the Philippines.
- 2 England with Guyana, Barbados plus one other country, possibly the Transkei.
- 3 Wales would like to continue with Lesotho and Sri Lanka
- 4 Ireland was happy to continue as they are but pointed out that Japan is nearer to the Philippines, so they would take on Kenya, and
- 5 Nigeria would like to be linked with USA.

Thus, for the future links would be as follows:

- 1 Australia, New Zealand, Liberia and Korea.
- 2 England, Guyana, Barbados and Transkei
- 3 Ireland, Japan and Kenya
- 4 Japan, Philippines and Ireland
- 5 USA, Newfoundland, Nigeria and Sierra Leone

**Uniform:** USA raised the query as to whether we were speaking of uniform for attendance at World Council or not and whether this would supplant native costume. Nigeria also asked whether this should be national costume or national uniform. After discussion it was agreed that we request the countries to come to World Council in their national costume or national uniform or blue skirts and white blouses, the host country of each World Council to design a scarf or cravat.

## **WORLD PROJECTS**

**Barbados:** USA hoped that there would be additional money to support the project for two years and also could any indication be given of the time when GFS will be working on the start of this program and whether there would be any plan for on-going.

Mrs Moore, for Barbados said “applications for funding had been made to the Government and the Diocese and there are probabilities of money from local sources etc. They are hoping the Anglican Church will help and that their own GFS will make this a project” Everyone will help as much as they can, and they will need on-going support as there are other areas needing this kind of help.

Mrs Fowler wished every success to the project in Barbados and Mrs Moore, in thanking Council for the grant, felt confident it would succeed. Reports would be sent out at regular intervals.

**Transkei:** At the request of Mrs Iwai, Mrs Riggs gave the report and recommendations of the sub-committee and stated that we did not know all the problems and conditions in the Transkei. Mrs Makunga cannot approach people until authority from the Bishop had been given. It became obvious during the debate that there are two different ways to train women in the keeping of chicken:

- 1 The establishing of a centre (ie a set of building) where the training would take place. This centre would need staffing.
- 2 The training of girls by either the Agricultural College or established and competent people who keep chickens themselves.

A third possibility came up for consideration – the provision of GFS Bursaries for women to attend courses to become competent themselves in certain skills. These skills could be chicken rearing, but handicrafts, nutrition and hygiene would give a broader base to community life if included. It would seem that the Council will need to accept two or more schemes in order of preference. The GFS branch work had suffered in image, even if not in other ways, through the instability of the position of the GFS organisers. It was important that any scheme assists, and does not harm, the rebuilding of confidence in and within the GFS branch work in the Transkei.

It is six years since the project was first conceived. In that time things like communities and needs change. The original concept may now not be the most appropriate way forward. The support of the Bishop of the Diocese for any proposed scheme is vital.

The following options were put forward for consideration.

- 1 All working out of the project is left with Canon Gabla, who has been appointed by the Bishop as from 1 January 1988. To be in charge of any project within the Diocese of St John. This was rejected.
- 2 The setting up of a centre with a Director to be appointed to work with Canon Gabula. Training would take place here but must be with the cooperation of GFS leaders. Agreed to let this stay as an option until a budget had been received.

3 Women to be trained at Agricultural College or by the Transkei appropriate technology unit. They would live in a convent while under training. They or their parish would then be given a grant to set up a local scheme to train more women.

This was regarded as being the nearest to where we had started six years ago.

4 Bursaries to be offered for training on a broader base – could include handicrafts etc., as previously suggested. The trainees would be required to return to their parishes to train others.

Council decided the order of preference would be Nos 3, 4 and 2, with Nos 3 and 4 being the most likely outcome, dependent upon research.

Council was asked “If the above schemes or combination of schemes are not acceptable to the World Council and or the Bishop, is the Council prepared to appoint and give authority to a sub-group who would investigate further and report back by post?” This was agreed; the group to consist of Japan, England and the Philippines – and the group will keep the present World Chairman informed.

#### **General Recommendations:**

Mrs Iwai must have regular reports; say at intervals of four months, from a reliable correspondent who we would like to be Mrs Makunga. She would have to obtain the Bishop’s permission for this.

Outline plans of project are to be made and reported before any restart is made. Information needed would be:

- a) How much time will Mrs Makunga be able to give to the furthering of this project?
- b) Is chicken rearing still a necessary skill to be learned? Are there other pieces of training of more or equal value?
- c) If not, what would GFS leaders see as most valuable apart from assistance to run branches?  
This scheme was originally an extra. We still want it to be.
- d) Outline budget.

A review date was agreed; say one year after Project restarts. If insufficient progress has been made by this time, we consider the Project in its present style to be closed. If it is decided to foreclose the project, Mrs Iwai was given guidelines as to what should happen next.

Early in 1988 there would be a visit to the Transkei by Mrs Iwai and one other who would be in a supportive capacity to Mrs Iwai.

GFS leaders should be included in the project so that they are made to feel that they “own” it.

Personnel in the Transkei at present are: Mrs Makunga, Canon Gabula, Mrs Neulala, Mrs Nebanda, GFS Leaders.

Regarding finance – any scheme must not leave the parishes with an economic burden once project support is withdrawn.

A timetable for discussion was prepared covering the period from date of this World Council until the review of the situation twelve months after the restart of the scheme, the first part of which should begin by June 1988.

Mrs Fowler thanked the Committee for their hard work. Mrs Iwai thought that she now had enough guidance and support to carry out what we wanted, and she felt she should be more confident in handling this problem.

**An International GFS Prayer:** The Revd Jackson stated that we were not trying to impose a prayer but only suggesting that there could be a prayer at gatherings, such as the World Council, that we would all know and say together. Delegates were asked to go home and think about it and to return to the next World Council with their thoughts.

**Forward Projects:** Various views were put forward for example some countries might like to have their own project with their "Link Countries", but it was eventually decided to consider the case of Kenya alongside a project put forward by Ireland. Countries were asked to give these some thought for further discussion at an extra session, to be arranged later.

**Venue of Future World Council Meetings:** Wales's offer to host the 1987 Council had been accepted in Japan in 1984 and it was then envisaged the World Council of 1990, would, hopefully, be held in Sierra Leone, with financial assistance from Australia (who had offered assistance to any small country who might wish to host the net World Council). Mrs Thompson for Sierra Leone said that they would be happy to host the next World Council in 1990 and asked Australia what the amount of their financial aid would be, to which Australia replied that in 1984 they had given a figure of 4,000 Australian Dollars. That still stands. AT this stage, they have no authority to offer any more but would hope to raise money during the next three years. All funds should be in Sterling, US Dollars or Japanese Yen.

As second-in-line for hosting the 1990 World Council, Australia said it was not their wish to take the hosting from Sierra Leone but, in view of the drop in the value of their financial assistance, if Sierra Leone could not host the 1990 Council Australia would do so, but they would need plenty of notice as it really takes three years preparation. They could not offer to host the 1993 World Council at this time because their Primate would be changed. They stressed, however, they were not trying to take the 1990 World Council from Sierra Leone.

Mrs Thompson advised that Sierra Leone would be able to host at least one hundred people at this stage she could not say where as they were looking at various places. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Thompson and Australia. Mrs Thompson, in turn, thanked the Council for giving Sierra Leone the opportunity to host the 1990 World Council saying that it marked a very significant point in history because it showed that our Christian friends are with us. She also thanked Australia for their financial assistance.

There were no offers made to host the 1993 World Council.

As all business had not been completed at Swansea, it was agreed that a further extra session be held at Bangor, North Wales.

Thursday afternoon was "Open Day" when we greeted visitors including members from local GFS branches. Each country had set up a display stand showing some of their handicrafts and activities, all of the displays being very much admired. The afternoon ended with the Revd Clive Southerton presenting impromptu entertainment when various countries gave performances of their national singing and dancing.

Before dinner, a Reception was given by the Church in Wales, when the Archbishop, the Most Revd George Noakes, welcomed everyone. He said that "we are a small nation with a big heart; it is

marvellous to have the theme 'GFS in Harmony' but what else would you expect from the 'Land of Song'. Take back to your countries our many greetings from the Church in Wales".

At compline we had the meditation taken by the Revd Clarice Smith, who spoke on "Happiness", saying "I am sure each one of us will be giving thanks to God for the joy and happiness shared during the past week. On your journey tomorrow, you will travel through our lovely country and see the wonderful hills of Wales. As you all go to your various homelands, we in Wales will pray that happiness goes with you and remains with you always".

**Friday 31 July** was transfer day from Swansea, in South Wales, to Bangor, in North Wales. Three coaches left Swansea for travelling thus:

- 1) Via St David's and visiting St David's Cathedral.
- 2) Via Brecon, visiting Brecon Cathedral and Llanidloes
- 3) Via Brecon, visiting Brecon Cathedral and Newtown.

After dinner at Bangor, we had an illustrated talk showing many places of interest in South, Mid and North Wales and the Welsh Coastline.

**Saturday 1 August.** The Revd Berw Hughes, Bangor Diocesan GFS Chaplain, celebrated the Holy Communion using the Wels Rite.

From 10am we had an "Open Day" for visitors from local GFS branches and some from further afield, until 5pm It was a very happy and friendly day and once again there was impromptu entertainment by the various countries.

After dinner had a concert given by the Brymbo Male Choir, Ceuwen Stuart and Dafydd Muw Jones (Harpists) and Island Harmony, a ladies group from Anglesey, which was enjoyed by everyone. At the end of the day Mrs Fowler announced that the next World Council would be held in Sierra Leone with Mrs Subuola Thompson being the next World Chairman. This was received with great joy.

**Sunday 2 August.** After breakfast, we were taken to the Cathedral at St Asaph where we joined the regular worshippers for Holy Communion during which the Revd Barbados Maeda, GFS Chaplain, Japan, preached, His address was based upon Philippians chapter 4 and verse 4 "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice, and the letter "R" from "Harmony" from which we get both Rejoice and Responsibility. During the service there was also a Liturgical Dance by GFS members from the Diocese of St Asaph. The intercessions were taken by Mrs Fowler.

At Prestalyn, where we had lunch, we were greeting with a banner "Croeso I Gymru" - (Welcome to Wales) World Council GFS. A performance of "Greater than Gold" was most admirably presented by GFS branches of St Asaph Diocese.

After dinner at Bangor, we held the final extra Council Session.

This was a delegates' meeting and commenced with Guyana handing over £20 from the sale of items at the Open Day. Korea had previously given £24 and Japan £41. During the meeting Miss Hara said that Japan would pay for Mrs Iwai to visit the Transkei.

**GFS Prayer:** Sierra Leone thought that in its present form the prayer presented to Council last Tuesday would be too long for the little ones. The Revd Peter Jackson explained that this had not been his intention – I want you to use your own country, but we need a prayer that we can use together for international gatherings and, possibly in your own country, when you want to remember the GFS Worldwide. Ireland suggested amending “all mankind” and also they would like “we promise to try to be obedient to your word. Australia pointed out that in the 1978 World Council it was agreed that the prayer of the host nation would become the prayer of the Council.

The general opinion seemed to be that more time was needed for consideration. Ireland moved, seconded by Australia

*“That it be recorded in the minutes, that for the next World Council we use the prayer of Sierra Leone, which is the same as England, and we think about the idea of an ‘International Prayer’ by the next World Council”.*

**Future Projects:** Two ideas were put forward.

- 1) Ireland suggested, after hearing a personal report by the Revd Missui Kauria on the horrifying conditions in Uganda, we assist work with women and children in the Namweribe Diocese of Uganda, particularly in relation to the Katwe Martyrs Community Centre which needs rebuilding work, equipment, drugs, transport and salaries. The CMS would provide us with information and photographs over the three-year period so that we would be fully informed about the use to which our money is being put.

To work with an already established body means that the contribution from GFS will be put to immediate use on an ongoing project. It would also be a practical and positive way of introducing GFS to the Diocese and maybe the whole of Uganda. An advantage of working with CMS is that they would claim as much as eight times the amount we raise from the EEC as part of a grant scheme with which they are involved.

- 2) Kenya. The delegate, Emily Siaga, reported on the formation of a GFS branch in the diocese of Maseno West in ST John’s School of Mission which is responsible for the pastoral program instructions in the Primary Schools of the area. She, being the only lady at the college, had seen the need to meet the pastoral needs of the girls in these schools and at present she had a group of 52 girls who attended meetings every week. Their activities were limited to Bible Study, topical discussion and indoor games. In future they hoped to extend activities into handicrafts etc., but so far this had not been possible due to lack of facilities.

Emily and the Youth Adviser, Mr Apollo Ocvhieng, are hoping to work together to establish GFS in the whole of the Diocese of Maseno West and, it was hoped the Diocese of Maseno South will join with them. In order to be successful, they need assistance support and prayers to bring together the interested young people of the Diocese. USA asked what kind of things were needed, to which Emily replied that the area was very large, very remote and that there were difficulties with communication. Help will be required next year when she will be responsible for Sunday School and GFS work. Assistance will also be required to enable her to travel in order to train other people. Sierra Leone enquired if she was asking for assistance in providing a vehicle and what type would be required. Emily said that she thought something like a Land Rover – she herself is at present unable to drive – but there would be drivers available to help. Philippines brought up their point in the Kenya Report of

assistance being needed for the improvement in activities such as handicrafts etc., and asked if this was additional to or an alternative” Wales wondered what visual aids might be required, thinking of various items for the training of Sunday School Teachers – books, films, knitting needles and other simple materials, etc.

Discussion took place as to the advisability of working through another organisation such as CMS or Mothers Union, the feeling being that we would have regular communications from them and also, they could administer the project on our behalf. This idea of working through another agency is to be investigated.

In putting forward their proposal, Ireland had stated that CMS could claim money up to eight times the amount raised. Would this apply to Kenya if we operate through CMS? Philippines advised that they get money to fund community projects from the EEC, but their requirements are very demanding. They also said that having heard of the problems in administration in the Transkei, they can appreciate working through CMS but what bothers them is that GFS will become a ‘funding agency’. The idea of working through the Diocese may be safe for the Transkei but the experience in the Philippines is that it is high time women learned to manage their own affairs, perhaps we could combine these both amicably but they would like to see a GFS member in control.

Ireland had mentioned that it is easier to raise Children’s interest round a project that is understandable to them and they can learn about the project and the country. The problem for us is how to keep the children involved and interested in an ongoing project?

The Philippines moved and were seconded by Lesotho

*“That this Council approved, in principle, the project of GFS in Kenya but authorises the Executive Board to work out the details after the receipt of a program, approved by the Bishop from Emily” This proposal was CARRIED unanimously.*

Because Emily had not been involved for very long with the GFS and was not very conversant with many of its procedures, it was decided to contact the Bishop, either directly or through Emily herself, to ask for firm proposals of what is required together with details of estimated costs and his consent of a needed and necessary project.

Australia proposed, and USA seconded

*“That, if no specific proposal is received within six months, then we should revert to the project put forward by Ireland” All agreed.*

As regards funds raised, all money for the Barbados Project will now be sent to Mrs Moore and all money for the Kenya Project should be forwarded to Mrs Fowler.

**Finances for World Council in Sierra Leone** The host country has been administering the account and it will take a little while to wind it up when we will know how much we will have left over (which we hope will be quite a nice sum) and then it will all be handed over to the next host country for their administration. This will take some time – Japan sent theirs at the beginning of 1985,

The finances for the World Council in Sierra Leone will be held in sterling in London. A special account will have to be opened and Mrs Thompson will let us know exactly where the account is to be held. The Travel Fund will also be dealt with through this account. We should make enquiries with the airline KLM as to whether they had any special discounts for Church Organisations.

An application form will be forwarded to each country to complete for grants. Mrs Fowler said that we must make sure that every country has a representative. Ireland agreed but said there should be no one under 16 years as they thought that this would be too young, also they should be a bona fide GFS member in their own country, USA made the point that they would be doing something specific with their "Link Countries" in addition to the World Project and also that they would work to financially support the World Council in Sierra Leone.

Mrs Fowler then said that we had had some very busy business sessions and she thanked everyone for their help, kindness and consideration in all the meetings. "I am very, very grateful to you all and I am sure you will give the same support to the next World Chairman, Mrs Subuola Thompson."

Australia moved a vote of thanks to both Mrs Ann Jackson and Mrs Rona Boyd, which was acclaimed by all present.

Before Compline, Mrs Fowler gave a short report on all the things discussed and the decisions made. There had been a large number of countries represented and all have told her GFS is working in their respective countries.

#### **The next World Council in 1990 will be held in Sierra Leone.**

**Directives:** The last one was compiled in 1962 and we thought it was time it was tidied up. They are now to be called GUIDELINES and are to be rewritten and forwarded to each country for approval.

**Dues** are now to be termed Affiliation and Will be £15 per country, to be paid during the three-year period between World Council Meetings.

**Link Countries** have been tidied up, including the new countries, and the geographical factor has been taken into consideration.

For all future World Councils, the host country will design a cravat or scarf, as Wales had done, to make everyone feel that they belong to each other.

**GFS Prayer** It was not meant to impose a prayer on anyone. Each country is going to look at a uniform prayer for use throughout the world at international events such as the World Council. Delegates are returning to their countries with this suggestion and will come back in three years' time when it will be seen if individual countries would like to have a uniform international prayer or continue as at present.

#### **Projects:**

**Barbados** is going alright.

Regarding a project for the next three years, we were aware that we must be careful we chose a project in which we show that GFS is moving forward and expanding in the World and also ensure that we have the support of another agency like the CMS or Mothers Union. The chosen project is HELP IN KENYA. It was passed in Japan that the World Vice-Chairman was to look after the next World Project, so Mrs Fowler will be contacting the Bishop asking for specific needs – it has been suggested that a vehicle to travel around groups for training and instruction be obtained. A time limit has been set and, if a specific list of needs is not received within six months, we will revert to a suggestion from Ireland that we support work in Uganda through CMS.

**The Transkei** It is six years since this was talked about so it may be that the original concept is not now the appropriate thing to do now. The decision is that the Project will be funded but before anything happens, we will require a report from the Bishop. We must have a regular correspondent who, we hope, will be Mrs Makunga. Reports must be sent to Mrs Iwai every four months or so, and GFS and women must be involved. Suggestions of ways in training women for the project included bursaries for women to go on short courses in college and then return to their parishes to train others in turn. Mrs Iwai is to visit the Transkei early next year accompanied by someone from England and Wales. Japan has said that they will be responsible for the money for Mrs Iwai's visit. A timetable has been drawn up and a review is to be made one year after the project restarts. If sufficient progress has not been made, then the Project will be closed and held over to the next World Council.

**Monday 3 August.** Holy Communion was celebrated by the Revd Clive Southerton using the English Rite "A. For the mediation the spoke of the three Marys:

Mary the Mother of Jesus – who knew when to let go.

Mary Townsend our Founder – meeting a need.

Mary Jones – who was determined to get her own Bible.

After breakfast we were taken on a tour of Anglesey, Caernarvon and Llonkeris.

In the evening we paid a visit to Bangor Cathedral where we were greeted by the Dean, the Very Revd J Ivor Rees, who gave a short account of the history of the Cathedral.

**Tuesday 4 August.** Holy Communion was celebrated by the Revd Peter Jackson using the Welsh Rite. The mediation was on the letter "O" for which the ring was taken as a symbol, endless as eternity, no beginning and no end; ne God, who us to is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

During the day "Workshops" were held and included the following: Music and Drama, Corn Dollies, Pottery, Spinning, Making Love Spoons and Folk Dancing.

Following a Buffet Supper, we led our International Evening when every country in turn presented an item of entertainment, all of which were greatly enjoyed by all.

**Wednesday 5 August.** After breakfast, the Closing Service of this the 12<sup>th</sup> World Council of the GFS was held in Bangor Cathedral. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Dean of Bangor. Among the clergy present were:

The Archbishop of Wales, The Most Revered George Noakes; The Bishop of Bangor, The Right Revd John Cledon Mears; The Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, The Right Reverend BNY Vaughan and all the Canons of Bangor Cathedral.

The Old Testament lesson was read by the World Chairman, Mrs Fowler, the Epistle by the World Chairman Elect, Mrs Thompson and the Gospel, read in Welsh, by The Revd A Berw Hughes.

The address was given by the Bishop of Bangor who spoke on the Transfiguration which Peter, James and John were privileged to witness. "As you return to your countries, our prayers go with you. God be with you wherever you go and from wherever you have come", he said.

During the service the commissioning, by the Archbishop of Wales, of the new World Chairman, Mrs Subuola Thompson of Sierra Leone, took place.

The 'Dismissal' was said by the new World Vice-Chairman, Mrs Fowler, and the services was concluded by the Bishop of Bangor.

During lunch, Mrs Fowler thanked everyone who had helped her prepare for this World Council and also expressed her thanks to the University of Bangor. She wished everyone a safe journey home and gave a welcome to the new World Chairman, Mrs Thompson, with the hope that she would be given the same support as she (Mrs Fowler) had received. Mrs Thompson responded and looked forward, on behalf of all the GFS members in Sierra Leone, to welcome everyone to the next World Council in 1990.

Immediately after lunch the delegates and observers left for their homes in various points of the world, taking with them the fellowship, friendship, love and blessing of us all.

SD Subuola D Thompson, World Chairman 1987/1990