

### 43. Authorisations Committee

<b>Contact name and details</b>	The Revd Dr Andrew J Lunn Chair of the Authorisations Committee andrew.lunn@methodist.org.uk
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1. The Authorisations Committee has reviewed applications from Circuits to authorise those who are not ordained as presbyters to preside at services of Holy Communion. Careful consideration was given to applications using the established criteria.
2. The Committee considered a total of 78 new applications (including renewals after three years): 26 presbyteral probationers, 1 deacon and 51 lay people. Seventy-four authorisations are recommended to the Conference. One diaconal application was recommended due to exceptional circumstances. The Committee declined to recommend four lay applications on the grounds of not meeting the deprivation figure and/or not making best use of existing resources.
3. It is clear to the Committee that the pattern of authorisation applications has been changing over the last thirty years. While the numbers vary considerably from year to year, the overall trends are clear. Some aspects of figures shown in the attached chart are entirely expected considering the statistics for mission with which we are familiar. The overall trend of a decline in membership is apparent. However, as the overall number of authorisation applications has declined there has been a notable change in the proportion of authorisations issued for probationers and lay people. At the end of the 1980s the number of authorisations for probationers was consistently greater than those for lay people; now the reverse is true.
4. It is the task of this Committee to implement the policy of the Conference and not to set it. In the light of the changes outlined above and the reply to Memorial M16 in 2016, the Committee feels that we now need clearer direction with regard to the situation of lay employees who lead pastoral care within congregations. A Conference Statement in 1996 stated that authorisations are granted for a Circuit as a whole, and are not related to any pastoral relationship between the person with an authorisation and particular congregations. The reply to Memorial M10 in 2016 reiterated this principle. While recognising that among many Methodist people there would seem to be a natural link between who presides at communion and who has responsibility for leading in pastoral care, the current position is that this cannot be used as grounds to strengthen any application. There is now some uncertainty about whether it is ever appropriate for a person named as a lay employee with pastoral care of congregations to be given an authorisation. Up to now, this has not been an active consideration within the Committee's work, and indeed, there are already a number of situations where lay workers who lead pastoral care within a congregation also hold an authorisation; some of these are long-standing. The Committee sought clarification from the Districts as to the number of individuals in this situation and it is a total of six. Given the changing patterns of authorisation applications we believe it would be helpful to clarify the position in this regard, and to include a statement about this within the criteria.
5. The Committee again had the opportunity to consider applications made under the missional criterion approved by the 2012 Conference and is grateful to the Revd Ian Bell from Venture FX for attending the meeting to discuss the current situation. It was recognised that the situation of certain missional congregations is such that different criteria need to be applied when granting authorisations. However, the Committee again felt that the missional criteria are not sufficiently clear to allow for a proper consideration of these matters. Furthermore, in discussion regarding the reply to M10 (2016), it became obvious that clarification was needed about the position of employed Lay Pioneers in significant pastoral roles.

6. The Committee was extremely grateful for the input of Mr Bell and agreed to seek the permission of the Conference to consult with the Connexional Team members with responsibility for Fresh Expressions in the case of future applications under missional criteria.
7. The Committee considered two applications made under this criterion, and it was decided to approve one on cultural isolation grounds. The second one was approved after the committee met, following further conversation with the District. A member of the Committee with significant experience of Fresh Expressions led this process.
8. This year the Committee made a revision to the application form for a probationer presbyter regarding the signature on behalf of the Connexional Team which can introduce unnecessary delay into the process. The Committee trusts oversight tutors to complete the stationing profiles and felt it was unnecessary for members of the Connexional Team to express an opinion on probationers. The form therefore now states that "The stationing profile of the probationer presbyter will indicate whether he/she is a suitable person to preside at the Lord's Supper." This will require a small change to SO (011(2)(b) as follows:

SO 011(2) (b) Persons nominated for authorisation to preside at the Lord's Supper shall be members in the Circuit, or deacons or probationers appointed or expected to be appointed to it. The district Policy Committee shall be provided with information as to the suitability of all persons so nominated, and shall make its recommendations to the Synod. Such information shall be provided by the Circuit Meeting in the case of members in the Circuit, by the appropriate member of the Connexional Team **Oversight Committee** in the case of presbyteral probationers, and by the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order in the case of deacons and diaconal probationers.

9. The Committee seeks the approval of the Conference for the addition of the following paragraph to the current criteria in CPD Book VI, Part 3, *Authorising Persons other than Presbyters to Preside at the Lord's Supper*:
 

***4A Authorisations are granted for someone to assist across a Circuit, except in the case of the missional criteria outlined above. They are not related to the relationship of pastoral care which any individual has with particular congregations. While it is possible for an application to be made for someone who carries pastoral responsibilities for congregations within a Circuit, such relationship is not part of our criteria and does not strengthen an application in any way. In circumstances where the committee judges that such an arrangement might lead to a blurring of the distinctions between particular callings and ministries, the Authorisations Committee may decline to recommend an authorisation for a given named individual even when the other criteria are met.***
10. The Committee approved the updating of the application forms and they are available for the authorisation of probationer presbyters, deacons, lay persons, missional applications and renewals after the three-year term. These will be available to District Chairs in October. Applications need to be considered by Circuit Meetings, District Policy Committees and Synods before submission.
11. In the case of applications for authorisations for deacons, these should only be submitted following a thorough consultation with the Warden of the Methodist Diaconal Order and on the basis that the Circuit will make every effort to train a lay person to take up the role the following year.
12. All applications for consideration in 2019 should be submitted to the Conference Office by Friday 12 April 2019. The Committee will meet at the end of April 2019 to consider the applications received.

13. Authorisations, when granted, are for one year and their scope is limited to the Circuit in which the person resides. If the District Policy Committee is satisfied that the person authorised remains suitable and the circumstances of the Circuit have not changed, it may on the application of the Circuit Meeting recommend a renewal of the authorisation for a second or third year, and the Authorisations Committee supports any such recommendation without further investigation (see lists B and C below).
14. The Committee is planning to gather information about the current situation with regard to deprivation, given changes which have taken place on the ground, with particular reference to larger Circuits and Fresh Expressions. On this basis the Committee will continue work on the review of the current criteria for deprivation.
15. The Committee welcomes informal consultations with any Circuit considering making an application for an authorisation.

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

**43/1. The Conference received the Report.**

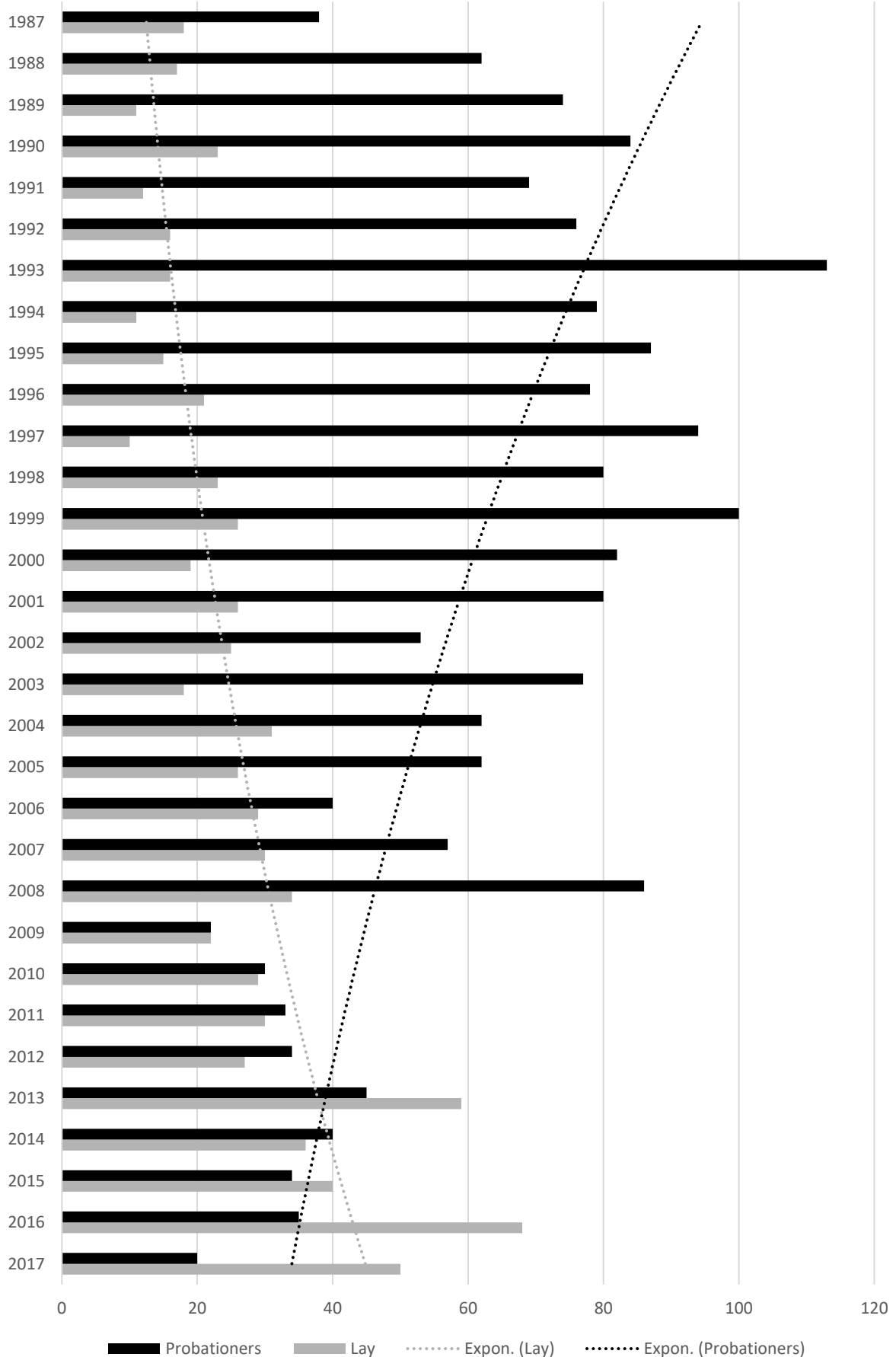
**43/2. The Conference amended SO 011(2)(b) as set out in paragraph 8 of the Report.**

**43/3. The Conference added the following paragraph to the current criteria: CPD Book VI, Part 3, *Authorising Persons other than Presbyters to Preside at the Lord's Supper*:**

***4A Authorisations are granted for someone to assist across a Circuit, except in the case of the missional criteria outlined above. They are not related to the relationship of pastoral care which any individual has with particular congregations. While it is possible for an application to be made for someone who carries pastoral responsibilities for congregations within a Circuit, such relationship is not part of our criteria and does not strengthen an application in any way. In circumstances where the committee judges that such an arrangement might lead to a blurring of the distinctions between particular callings and ministries, the Authorisations Committee may decline to recommend an authorisation for a given named individual even when the other criteria are met.***

**43/4. The Conference directed the Authorisations Committee to seek the advice of the Connexional Team member responsible for Fresh Expressions when considering applications made under missional criteria.**

## Lay and Probationer Authorisations 1987-2017



**\*\*\*RESOLUTION**

**43/5. The Conference authorises the following persons to preside at the Lord's Supper for the year commencing 1 September 2018 in accordance with the provisions of SO 011:**

**AUTHORISATIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE 2018 CONFERENCE**

Key: P = Probationer presbyter  
 D = Deacon  
 L = Lay person  
 M = Approved under missional criterion

**LIST A – New applications for authorisations for three years**

<b>Circuit no</b>	<b>Circuit name</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Cat</b>
1/1	Cymru	Jonathan Miller	D
2/9	Cardiff	Alun Hughes	L
2/9	Cardiff	Alexis Mahoney	P
2/16	Mid Glamorgan Mission	Eileen Gardiner	L
2/16	Mid Glamorgan Mission	Philip J Osborne	P
2/25	Welshpool Bro Hafren	John Harbron	L
2/25	Welshpool Bro Hafren	Jennifer Thomas	L
5/1	Birmingham	Adam Sanders	M
5/6	Birmingham (West) and Oldbury	Michael Hall	L
9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	Andrew J Sterling	P
9/13	Kendal	Marc D Jackson	L
9/14	South Lakes	John Biggs	L
9/14	South Lakes	Brenda Horrocks	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Zena Smith	P
11/22	North Staffordshire	Joy R Ventom	P
11/24	Staffordshire Moorlands	Lynne Bradbury	L
12/3	Falmouth and Gwennap	Gerald Triggs	L
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	Clare J Anderson	P
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	Michael Fairhead	L
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	Miranda Knight	L
12/7	St Austell	John Keast	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Roderick Harrison	L
12/12	St Ives (Fore Street)	W Rodney Orr	L
12/14	Lizard and Mount's Bay	William T Reed	L
13/3	Stockton	Sheila Hargreaves	L
13/3	Stockton	A Keith Robinson	L
14/10	Norfolk Broads	Shaun Cushion	L
18/13	Sankey Valley	Sian Williams	P
19/8	Altrincham	Shirley Blinston	L
19/11	Oldham and Saddleworth	Natalie Hackett	P
19/11	Oldham and Saddleworth	Graham Radcliffe	L

22/14	Mid Derbyshire	Keith Bryan	L
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	John P Malnutt	P
23/1	Oxford	Paul G Carter	P
23/7	Leicester (Trinity)	D Jervis Yovan	P
23/9	Leicester (West)	Judith Lincoln	P
23/10	Loughborough	Calvin Cheung	P (M)
23/11	Hinckley	Judith Cooke	L
23/12	Melton Mowbray	Michael Thompson	L
23/29	Vale of Aylesbury	Arthur Sara	L
24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Muriel Hodges	L
24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Clive Smale	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Martin Reardon	L
25/1	Sheffield	Melissa Quinn	L
25/11	Bolsover and Stavely	Kevin Laming	L
25/14	Doncaster	Susanna Brookes	L
25/14	Doncaster	Christine Ogle	L
25/14	Doncaster	Barry Parker	L
25/14	Doncaster	Steven Willimott	L
25/15	Barnsley	Ben Scrivens	P
26/8	Dorset South and West	Pam Woodland	L
26/10	Christchurch and Wimborne	Phillip Dixon	P
26/11	Isle of Wight	Maralyne Hollingshead	L
26/11	Isle of Wight	Marian Izzard	L
27/2	Leeds (North and East)	Rebekah J Stennett	P
28/1	Wolverhampton	Samantha Hagerman	P
28/2	Brownhills and Willenhal	Michael Smith	L
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Ruth Downes	L
28/5	Vale of Stour	Josephine Soon	P
28/13	Dudley and Netherton	William J Jones	L
28/13	Dudley and Netherton	Peter Roberts	L
29/32	South Holderness	Thomas J Parker	P
31/2	Strathclyde	Laurent R Vernet	P
34/1	North Bedfordshire	Dalwyn R Attwell	P
34/4	South Bedfordshire	Colin Quine	L
34/10	Southend and Leigh	Steve Mayo	L
34/15	North Hertfordshire	Christine Warren	L
35/12	London Mission (North West)	Esther Akam	P
35/22	New River	Matthew Lunn	P
35/36	Harrow And Hillingdon	Kenneth P Kingston	P
36/6	Wey Valley	Sydney S Ekundayo Lake	P
36/8	West Sussex Coast and Downs	Daniel Balsdon	P
36/25	South Kent	Joy P Brumwell	L
36/25	South Kent	Hugh Burnham	L

**LIST B – Renewals after one year for applications granted in 2017**

<b>Circuit no</b>	<b>Circuit name</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Cat</b>
2/9	Cardiff	Anne (Alana) Lawrence	P
2/18	Neath Port Talbot	Clement Raymond	L
2/20	South West Wales	Ian D Ledgard	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Sophie Carnaby	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Hayley Edmondson	L
11/1	Chester and Delamere Forest	David Bintliff	P
11/15	Stoke-on-Trent North	Paul Owen	L
12/1	Camborne, Redruth and Hayle	Brian Thornton	L
12/7	St Austell	J Paul Parker	P
12/11	St Ives	Kenneth Basset	L
12/11	St Ives	R J Lester Scott	L
12/19	Liskeard and Looe	David Nicholls	L
13/4	Castle Eden	John G Kidd	L
13/17	Barnard Castle and Teesdale	William Bartle	L
14/1	Norwich	Mary Sachikonye	P
15/1	Isle of Man	Andrew G Fishburne	P
21/10	Chorley and Leyland	Tony Simpson	P
21/16	North Lancashire	Emma Holroyd	P
22/3	Nottingham (East)	Tim Nash	L (M)
22/13	Borders Mission	Nicola A Briggs	P
22/13	Borders Mission	David Hopkinson	L
22/13	Borders Mission	Harold Smith	L
22/28	South Derbyshire	Joyce Greenwood	L
23/5	Banbury	Hazel Stagg	L
23/7	Leicester (Trinity)	Jo Kay	L
23/7	Leicester (Trinity)	Sue Moore	L
23/11	Hinckley	Neville Spark	L
23/19	Kettering and Corby	Maureen Ownsworth	L
23/19	Kettering and Corby	Philip Rice	L
23/19	Kettering and Corby	Kate Horrix	L
24/10	South Devon	Rachel A Mitchell	L
24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Courtney Drew	L
24/11	Bude and Holsworthy	Michael Reeves	L
24/16	Tiverton and Wellington	Anne Browse	L
24/16	Tiverton and Wellington	Hilary Young	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Sylvia Edwards	L
24/22	South Molton and Ringsash	Gloria Manning	L
24/22	South Molton and Ringsash	Arthur Mildon	L
24/23	Torrige	Elsie Potter	L
24/24	West Devon	Daisy Bray	L
24/24	West Devon	Barry Searle	L

24/25	West Somerset	Margaret Lintern	L
24/27	Ringsash	Colin Rice	L
25/15	Barnsley	Claire E Rawlinson	P
25/17	Rotherham and Dearne Valley	Wayne Ashton	L
26/4	Basingstoke and Reading	Terry Rowell	L
26/4	Basingstoke and Reading	Sarah Whithorn	L
26/5	Yeovil and Blackmore Vale	Jennifer Gardner	L
26/6	Meon Valley	Rosie Banks	L
27/32	Bradford North	Stuart Ayrton	L
27/36	North Kirklees and Morley	Raymond F P Borrett	P
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Shalome MacNeill Cooper	P
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Sue Matthews	L
28/3	Shropshire and Marches	Jacob Molyneux	L
28/14	Gornal and Sedgley	William Caldwell	L
29/26	Nidd Valley	Grace R Cauldwell	P
32/1	Lerwick and Walls	David M Lees	P
34/4	South Bedfordshire	Martin Wallis	L
34/7	Tendring	Christine P Preece	P
34/9	Chelmsford	Esther A Hume	L
34/9	Chelmsford	Sue Johnson	L
34/9	Chelmsford	Gillian Songer	L
34/14	West Hertfordshire and Borders	Mmasape Zihle	P
35/28	Blackheath and Crystal Palace	Alberta Konadu-Yiadom	P
35/31	Barking, Dagenham and Ilford	Kido Baek	P
36/2	Berkshire Surrey Borders	Sharon M Gardner	P
36/18	Weald of Kent	Richard Cannam	L

#### LIST C – Renewals after two years initially granted in 2016

Circuit no	Circuit name	Application	Cat
1/1	Cymru (Bathafarn)	Elizabeth Jones	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Maelor)	Philip Davies	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Maelor)	Goronwy Ellis	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Maelor)	Maryl Rees	L
1/1	Cymru (Glannau Meirion a Dyfi)	Eluned Williams	L
1/1	Cymru (Powys)	John Ellis	L
1/1	Cymru (Powys)	Tom Ellis	L
5/13	Mid-Warwickshire	Trevor Pethick	L
6/5	Wigan	Jim Whelan	L
9/4	Whitehaven	David Andrews	L
9/4	Whitehaven	Alan Moore	L
9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	David Askew	L



9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	Wilf Capstick	L
9/7	Kirkby Stephen, Appleby and Tebay	Donald Marston	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Bob Mantle	L
9/16	South West Cumbria United Area	Janet Ladds	L
12/1	Camborne-Redruth and Hayle	Marquis Honeychurch	L
12/3	Falmouth and Gwennap	Mike Ely	L
12/3	Falmouth and Gwennap	Jenny Lockwood	L
12/5	Newquay, Perranporth and St Agnes	Christine Roberts	L
12/7	St Austell	Sheila Allen	L
12/7	St Austell	Bernard Goudge	L
12/7	St Austell	Mary Lightfoot	L
12/7	St Austell	Tony Warren	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Anita Baker	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Val Sterling	L
12/8	Bodmin, Padstow and Wadebridge	Myra Williams	L
12/20	Camelford and Week St Mary	Glenton Brown	L
12/20	Camelford and Week St Mary	Robin Heywood	L
12/20	Camelford and Week St Mary	Brian Parkman	L
15/1	Isle of Man	Nicholas Owen	L
17/6	East Lincolnshire	Deryck Hand	L
17/6	East Lincolnshire	Keith Locke	L
17/6	East Lincolnshire	Roger Maidens	L
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	John Moorley	L
22/14	Mid Derbyshire	Valerie Rollisson	L
23/12	Melton Mowbray	Jenny Oliver	L
23/14	Rugby and Daventry	Christine Herrington	L
23/28	Amersham	John Poston	L
23/28	Amersham	Pamela A Sitford	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Geoffrey Harding	L
24/20	Ilfracombe and Barnstaple	Brenda Prentice	L
24/23	Torrige	David Ley	L
25/14	Doncaster	Sue Pickering	L
25/17	Rotherham and Dearne Valley	Anne Holmes	L
26/2	Winchester, Eastleigh and Romsey	Fay Spencer	L
26/4	Basingstoke and Reading	Patricia Jose	L
26/5	Yeovil and Blackmore Vale	Margaret Whitford	L
26/11	Isle of Wight	Margaret Potts	L
26/11	Isle of Wight	John Wells	L
27/18	Skipton and Grassington	Jane Jolly	L
36/21	North Kent	Bart Woodhouse	L (M)