

Archive of the Wesley Deaconess Order

The Wesley Deaconess Order was founded in 1890 by the Wesleyan minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson (1839-1912), who recognized that an Order of dedicated women (referred to as deaconesses or sisters) had a valuable part to play in the life of the Church. His thinking was influenced by the work of Pastor Fliedner's Deaconess House at Kaiserswerth in Germany. Initially the Institute was closely connected with the Children's Home and Orphanage (later NCH and now Action for Children), but in time the two organizations became separate entities. Its first residential House was in London, named Mewburn House after its donor. Others were opened in Norwich (Bowman House), Leicester and Salford. Stephenson was Warden of the Order as well as Principal of the Children's Home and Orphanage until 1900 when he moved to the Ilkley Circuit. The headquarters of the Order, known as the Deaconess Institute, was transferred there when a former boys' school was purchased in 1902, providing accommodation for the warden and 27 students. The Order's combined headquarters and training facility remained in Ilkley until transferred to Birmingham in 1967, following the closure of Headingley College, Leeds. From 1968 to 1970 it was associated with Handsworth College; then followed it to Edgbaston, where its new headquarters in Pritchatt's Road were opened in 1971.

Until 1901 deaconesses were 'recognized'; between 1902 and 1936 they were 'consecrated'; and from 1937 on they were 'ordained', following an order of service included in the new *Book of Offices*. Ordination was to lifelong service, but until 1965 they were required to resign on marriage. They met together in an annual Convocation. The sisters engaged in pastoral, mission, evangelistic, social and prison work, and in nursing, teaching and work overseas. The home work was exercised mainly through attachment to chapels or circuits.

About the same time as Stephenson, the Rev. Alfred Jones (1833-1911), UMFC Connexional Evangelistic Secretary, had plans to use women for evangelism and visitation work, but failed to gain Conference support. However, the following year the Conference endorsed plans of the Rev. Thomas John Cope (1838-1927) for a Deaconess Institute organized along very similar lines. At the Union of 1907 the Deaconess Institute became part of the United Methodist Church.

The Primitive Methodist Church did not have an organized 'order', but there were deaconesses who 'learned on the job', though they attended some lectures at the UM Institute. With Methodist Union in 1932 the WM Order and UM Institute were united, with the 22 PM Sisters joining in 1934.

Following the opening of the presbyteral ministry to women, recruitment to the Order ceased in 1977 and remained closed until 1987 when the Order was renamed the Methodist Diaconal Order. In the following year, entry was opened to both women and men.

Before the entry of women into the ordained ministry in 1974, the deaconess work was the principal official means by which female ministry was exercised in British Methodism. The contribution made by deaconesses to the life of the Church was immense and had a particular, but not exclusive, impact on youth work and social ministry, especially in the inner city.

Source: *Online dictionary of Methodism in Britain and Ireland*, ed. John Vickers

The Deaconess Collection

The archive of the Deaconess Order was used by Dr E. Dorothy Graham in her authorship of *Saved to serve: the story of the Wesley Deaconess Order 1890-1978* (Methodist Publishing House: Peterborough, 2002) and was transferred in November 2012 on permanent deposit to the connexional archives at the Methodist Archives and Research Centre.

The collection consists of official papers, photographs, policy documents, personnel records and the personal papers of deaconesses and supervising staff. The records of annual Convocation and the Deaconess Institute are also well-represented in the archive. Some printed ephemera, such as news cuttings and publicity literature, have been retained within the archive and is therefore included in this catalogue. However, published volumes including periodicals have been processed separately from the archive and are to be found in the relevant library printed catalogues.

Access restrictions

Some institutional and personal papers within the collection fall within the closure period of 30 years from the date of creation imposed by the Methodist Church of Great Britain and are not to be made available to researchers without the archivist being consulted. In addition, the usual data protection and freedom of information provisions apply in accordance with relevant legislation.

Gareth Lloyd

Assistant Archivist (Nonconformist collections)

February 2013

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I. Minutes and related papers

1/1/- Wesley Deaconess Order

1/1/1. Volume labeled “Minutes of the Deaconess Committee”, comprising minutes and associated papers of the following committees and sub-committees:

- Index of minutes of the General Committee, December 1919 – December 1947
- Deaconess Committee, 14 November 1932 – 20 October 1933
- General Committee, 14 December 1933 – 7 July 1947
- The Sub-committee, 13 February 1937 – 28 April 1938
- Resolutions of the Special sub-committee, January 1936
- Executive Committee, 22 June 1937 – 26 March 1946
- Building Sub-committee, 20 April 1938 – 24 April 1939
- Committee on Future Policy, 24 July 1942
- Furnishing Committee, 20 November 1945
- Report of the Pastoral Committee, December 1947
- Index of minutes of the Finance Committee, March 1940 – November 1947
- Investments Committee, 21 October – 15 November 1939
- Finance Committee, 19 March 1940 – 5 November 1947

1/1/2. Folder labeled “Minutes of Special Committees” containing minutes and associated papers of the following committees:

- Conference Committee appointed to “enquire into the status of the Order of Wesley Deaconesses, and especially to examine what changes should be made ... to improve the Connexional status of the Order, to give increased recognition and security to the Deaconesses, and to assist the extension of this invaluable work, 11 September 1941
- Sub-committee [of the Conference Committee], 17 October 1941 – 5 November 1941
- Joint Sub-committee [of the Conference Committee], 20 March 1942
- Report of the “Special Conference Committee” [the same body as the Conference Committee]
- Pastoral Committee, 21 November 1947 – 11 March 1954 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/1/3. Bundle of correspondence concerning the business of the Conference Committee appointed to “enquire into the status of the Order of Wesley Deaconesses ...”, August 1941 – May 1942

1/1/4. Folder containing loose minutes of the following committees:

- General Committee, 5 July 1948 – 11 June 1973
- Wesley Deaconess Order Committee, 11 January 1974 – 3 March 1987 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/2/- Wesley Deaconess Order Finance Committee

1/2/1. Bundle of loose sheets comprising the index of minutes to the Finance Committee, 1928 – 1992

1/2/2. Bundle of loose sheets of minutes of the Finance Committee, 5 February 1948 – 22 May 1978 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/2/3. Bundle of loose sheets comprising the minutes of the Finance Committee, 3 January 1979 – 21 October 1991 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/3/- Wesley Deaconess Annual Convocation

1/3/1. Manuscript volume containing minutes of Convocation, 9 July 1892 – 22 March 1935

1/3/2. Folder containing loose minutes of Convocation, 29 April 1936 – 16 April 1969 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/3/3. Bundle of loose minutes of the Convocation Committee,¹ 3 March 1933 – 16 April 1969 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/3/4. Manuscript volume containing reports, minutes and associated papers connected with the local and general arrangements for the following Convocations:

- Liverpool, 1937
- Manchester, 1938
- Plymouth, 1939
- Sheffield, 1944

¹ Established for the purpose of organising and co-ordinating the arrangements for Convocation.

- Bolton, 1945
- Birmingham, 1946
- Liverpool, 1947
- Edinburgh, 1948
- London, 1949
- Manchester 1950
- Newcastle-on-Tyne, 1951
- Leeds, 1952

1/3/5. Volume labeled “Convocation Committees 1953-1975” containing minutes and associated papers of the following committees connected with the organisation of Convocation **[closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]**:

- General Arrangements Committee, 20 June 1952 - 20 May 1963
- Local Arrangements Committee, 2 June 1959 – 6 September [1974]
- Executive Committee, 1 October 1959 – 4 April 1960
- Synod Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Norwich Convocation, 25 April 1960
- Synod Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Bristol Convocation, 23 May 1963
- Deaconess Convocation Organising Committee, 25 March 1964
- Convocation Committee meeting, 15 October 1964
- Committee to consider the invitation to Cardiff of the Deaconess Convocation, 31 August 1964 – 2 May 1966
- Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Southport Convocation, 16 October 1967
- General Arrangements Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Newcastle-on-Tyne Convocation, 30 September 1968
- Executive Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Newcastle-on-Tyne Convocation, 5 February 1969

1/4/- Wesley Deaconess Institute

1/4/1. Volume labeled “Wesley Deaconess Institute Minute book” containing minutes and associated papers of the following committees:

- Account by the Wesleyan minister Thomas Bowman Stephenson of the origins of the Wesley Deaconess Order, its objectives and the evolution of the Order’s training needs (extracted from Stephenson’s statement to the Special Committee established by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference – see printed Minutes of Conference 1894, p. 322)
- Council of the Institute, 19 June 1895 – 12 March 1901
- Executive Committee, 5 December 1895 – 8 February 1910
- Committee for the Examination of Candidates and Appointment of Deaconesses, 4 July 1896 – 1 July 1897
- The Sub-committee, 10 December 1896 – 22 January 1897
- Examination Committee, 29 November 1898
- General Committee, 12 September 1901 – 20 September 1910
- Discipline Committee, 12 September 1901 – 2 May 1908
- The Special Sub-committee, 21 January 1902
- Sub-committee for College alterations, 18 April 1902
- Sub-committee for the Wesley Deaconess Order and the Colonial Nursing Association, 7 May – 3 July 1903
- Finance and Emergency Committee, 18 May 1903 – 8 August 1907
- Executive Committee for the Examination of Candidates, 1903
- Sub-committee for consideration of cases of candidates for consecration, 18 March 1910
- Emergency Committee for the purpose of examination of candidates, 11 July 1910

1/4/2. Volume labeled “Wesley Deaconess Institute Minute book”, comprising the minutes of the following committees:

- Emergency Committee, 15 March 1911
- General Committee, 15 November 1911 – 11 July 1932

- Special Committee, 13 March 1911 – 4 July 1914
- General Committee for the purpose of examining candidates for the Order, 14 April 1912 – 10 April 1922
- Special Committee regarding The Insurance Act, 17 June 1912
- Executive Committee, 9 December 1912 – 27 June 1924
- Special meeting of the General Committee called on 20 February 1914 to:
 1. Approve the agreement with the Ilkley Wells Hydropathic Company regarding rights of light
 2. Consider when building operations ought to commence
- Finance and Emergency Committee to consider the case of candidates for Convocation, 20 March 1914 – 4 April 1916
- Executive Committee for the purpose of examining candidates for the Order, 8 July 1914 – 8 July 1915
- Special Committee appointed for Convocation and other purposes, 17 February 1917
- Sub-committee, 26 October 1917 – 21 March 1930
- Special sub-committee to consider the cases of probationers due to consecration, 4 April 1919 – 19 March 1920
- Special sub-committee to consider the cases of candidates for the Order living in London and the South, 4 June 1919
- Sub-committee to consider nominations for the wardenship, 17 February 1920
- Emergency Committee to consider the cases of probationers due to consecration, 8 March 1921
- Sub-committee to consider the question of a woman warden for the Institute, 8 June 1921
- Emergency Committee, 22 January – 11 April 1923
- Special Sub-committee, 22 April 1926
- Sub-committee to consider the matter of retiring funds, 27 January 1927

1/4/3. Folder containing loose minutes of the Executive Committee, 5 March 1948 – 2 February 1973 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/4/4. Bundle of loose minutes of the Oversight Committee,² 3 June 1966 – 25 November 1982 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/5/-. Wesley Deaconess Fellowship Group/All London Deaconess Group/All London Sisters Group³

1/5/1. Volume containing minutes of the Fellowship Group (All London District)/All London Deaconess Group, October 1933 - 19 May 1950

1/5/2. Volume containing minutes of the All London Deaconess Group/All London Group, 29 September 1950 – 16 July 1965 [closed to public access without the permission of the archivist]

1/6/-. United Methodist Deaconess Institute

1/6/1. Volume labeled “Deaconess Institute Minute book 1906 - 1917” containing minutes and associated papers of the following committees:

- [Institute] Committee, 20 December 1906 – 5 June 1913
- Consultative Committee, [1907] – 26 July 1916
- Sub-committee to arrange the curriculum, 13 January 1910
- Special meeting to consider the future working of the Institute, 7 December 1911
- Special sub-committee, 18 January 1912 – 6 June 1912
- General Committee, 3 July 1913 – 20 December 1916
- Retiring Allowance Special Committee, 29 October 1913
- Retiring Allowance Committee, 27 November 1913 – 17 June 1915
- Special Committee appointed to consider the draft proposals for the formation of a helpers league, 19 February 1914
- Joint meeting of Consultative and Retiring Allowance Committees, 23 September 1914

² Established for the purpose of considering cases of individual students at the Institute, whose performance, character or health were causing concern. The committee also considered recommendations for employment of students and their performance while engaged in such duties.

³ Established for the purpose of group spiritual fellowship and to hear addresses on related subjects, such as the importance of personal discipline and the contribution made by the Order to Methodist ministry in London.

1/6/2. Volume labeled “Deaconess Institute Minute book” containing minutes and associated papers of the following committees:

- Index
- Minutes of the Consultative Committee, 14 February 1917 – 11 August 1931
- Minutes of the General Committee, 25 April 1917 – 16 December 1931
- Minutes of the Emergency Committee, 16 February 1932

1/6/3. Volume labeled “Minute book” containing minutes and associated papers of the following committees:

- Index
- General Committee, 20 May – 21 July 1932
- Emergency Committee, 28 June 1932
- House Committee, 14 December 1932 – 15 July 1935
- Trustees of the Deaconess Institute, 26 February 1934

1/7/-. Union Committee

1/7/1. Bundle of papers relating to the work of the Union committee established to consider the impact of Methodist union on the deaconess work. The papers consist mainly of minutes and correspondence, 1932-33

2. Official papers other than those created by committees (Wesleyan Methodist and post-1932 Methodist Church)

2/1. Manuscript volume labelled “Wesley Deaconess Order Secretary’s Register 1906” compiled by the Wesleyan minister John Elsworth (1858-1928) and containing the following:

- Manuscript notes arranged by year, recording appointments of deaconesses to appointments at home and overseas, 1890-1905
- Printed roll of deaconesses listing the names of members of the Order, 1901 – 1903
- Printed updates of the activities of named deaconesses, 1901 – 1904
- Manuscript notes arranged by year of admission to the Order relating to the future careers of deaconesses, 1888 – 1906

2/2. Folder containing printed lists (officially termed “rolls”) of members of the Order. The information comprises name, date of entry, date of consecration/ordination and date of death, 1903 – 1959

2/3. Manuscript volume listing deaconesses in residence at the institute. The information includes the following:

- Date of entry to the college
- Name of candidate
- Name of visiting student
- Names of candidates sent by the Mission House
- Remarks
- Date of leaving college and reason for the same
- Names of staff and visitors, with their permanent place of residence and appointment

January 1931 – September 1954

2/4. Bundle of loose letters written to members (and former members) of the Methodist Deaconess Order by staff of the Deaconess Centre reporting news of activities both at home and in the mission field of individual named deaconesses. The correspondence contains a wealth of information that is not necessarily contained in other sources, 1954 - 1956

3. Official papers other than those created by committees (Non-Wesleyan Methodist)

3/1. Bundle of unsorted loose letters sent from the United Methodist Deaconess Institute on miscellaneous official business, 1917 - 1931

3/2. Bundle of loose “monthly letters” to members (and former members) of the United Methodist Deaconess Order from the former warden of the United Methodist Deaconess Institute Robert William Gair (1872-1938) and (from September 1935) from Sister Ann Mary Ireland (Secretary and tutor at the Deaconess training institute) enclosing monthly cheques and reporting news of activities both at home and in the mission field of individual named deaconesses. The correspondence contains a wealth of information that is not necessarily contained in other sources, 14 September 1922 – 28 July 1936

3/3. Scrap book containing news cuttings reporting the work of United Methodist deaconesses, Christmas 1922 – 1931

3/4. Typescript list of Primitive Methodist Deaconesses containing the following details:

- Name
- Year of birth
- Place of training
- Years of service
- Present Church

[c.1932]

3/5. Typescript list of former Primitive Methodist deaconesses in the Wesley Deaconess Order containing the following details:

- Name
- Year of birth
- Home town
- Place of training
- Years of service
- Location of ministry
- Year of retirement

September 1937

4. Images

4/1. Bundle of black and white photographs of deaconesses who held the office of Vice-President of the Order during the second half of the 20th century. Some of the photographs are unlabelled, but others name the subjects as follows:

- Vera Vandersteen
- Sheila Parnell
- Gertrude Wright
- Margaret Siebold⁴

4/2. Bundle of mostly black and white photographs of Deaconess Institute staff. Most are labelled with the names of the subjects, 1914 - c.1970

4/3. Bundle of mostly black and white photographs relating to the Wesley Deaconess Institute at Ilkley. Scenes include sport activities, classroom work and exterior photographs of the college buildings and surrounding areas. Many of the images are postcards sent to the Warden William Harold Beales (1886-1967) and contain notes/letters from sisters on the back c.1939 - c.1960

4/4. Two photograph albums containing black and white photographs relating to the Wesley Deaconess Institute at Ilkley. Scenes include sport activities, interior and exterior photographs of the college buildings and grounds, c.1920

4/5. Two black and white photographs of Deaconess Institute staff and distinguished visitors attending the college's golden jubilee celebrations – one of the photographs is labelled with the names, 1952

4/6. Bundle of black and white photographs of groups of deaconess ordinands and related pictures, which appear to have been taken mainly at Convocation. Some of the photographs are labelled with the names of the subjects, c.1910 – 79 (incomplete coverage)

4/7. Xerox copy of a black and white photograph of the first United Methodist deaconess home, c.1910

4/8. Bundle of black and white photographs relating to the Wesley Deaconess Institute at Ilkley. Scenes include sport activities, classroom work and interior/exterior photographs of the college buildings and surrounding areas, c.1939 - c.1960

4/9. Two black and white photographs of the Wesley Deaconess Retirement Home, Albemarle House, Cleethorpes, and a fund-raising leaflet for the home, c.1960

⁴ Vice President of the Order in 1966

- 4/10. Colour photograph of a house at St James's Road, Birmingham, March 1990
- 4/11. Bundle of black and white photographs of Ilkley House, Pritchatt's Road, Birmingham, c. 1960
- 4/12. Bundle of black and white photographs of groups of deaconesses. Many of the photographs were taken at the Institute in Ilkley and are often labelled with the names of the subjects. Other photographs show deaconesses at work in the community and a few are of a personal nature, such as wedding photographs, c.1930 – c.1960 (incomplete coverage)
- 4/13. Bundle of black and white photographs and related documents relating to deaconess ministry at Puttur in Ceylon, Jamaica and Hankow in China. Many of the photographs are labelled and relate principally to the ministry of Sisters Gladys Stephenson, Elizabeth Baker and Jessie Kerridge, 1924 – 2001
- 4/14. Three black and white photographs – one of a large group of deaconesses and two of Sister Stella Bullivant, c.1970
- 4/15. Bundle of colour photographs of the service at Convocation, labelled with the names of the subjects, 1983-88
- 4/16. Black and white photograph of the Methodist minister Herbert Cooper (1873-1949) with a group of sisters from the Manchester Mission, 27 October 1936
- 4/17. Black and white group photographs of deaconesses, including staff and students from the Deaconess Institute, Ilkley. Many of the photographs are labelled with the names of the subjects, 1890s, 1896, 1903 – 04, 1910 – 12 and 1918
- 4/18. Black and white group photographs of staff and students from the Deaconess Institute, Ilkley. Many of the photographs are labelled with the names of the subjects, 1919 – 22, 1924, 1927 – 28 and 1932
- 4/19. Black and white group photographs of staff and students from the Deaconess Institute, Ilkley. Many of the photographs are labelled with the names of the subjects, 1933 – 45
- 4/20. Black and white group photographs of staff and students from the Deaconess Institute, Ilkley. Many of the photographs are labelled with the names of the subjects, 1946 – 60
- 4/21. Black and white group photographs of staff and students from the Deaconess Institute, Ilkley. Many of the photographs are labelled with the names of the subjects, 1961 – 66 and 1968
- 4/22. Black and white photograph of Sister Sarah, c.1910
- 4/23. Black and white photograph of Sister Grace, c.1910
- 4/24. Black and white photograph of Deaconess Nurse Marion Braithwaite with a patient, c.1900

- 4/25 – 26. Black and white photographs of Sister Dora Stephenson, c.1900
- 4/27. Black and white photographs of Sister Lily Gustard, c.1910
- 4/28. Black and white photographs of Sister Elsie Slack, c.1905
- 4/29. Bundle of unlabelled group photographs of deaconesses at the Institute, 1910, and six undated [pre-1920]
- 4/30. Bundle of black and white photographs relating to the Wesley Deaconess Institute at Ilkley. Scenes include classroom work, photographs of individuals and informal small groups and interior/exterior photographs of the college buildings and surrounding areas. A couple of the photographs are labelled with the name of the sitter, c.1910 - c.1970
- 4/31. Black and white group photograph of deaconesses attending the Convocation in Sheffield, 1912
- 4/32. Black and white group photograph of deaconesses attending the Convocation in Liverpool, The photograph is labelled with the names of the subjects, 1947
- 4/33. Black and white group photograph of deaconesses attending the Convocation in Leeds, 1952
- 4/34. Small box of lantern slides containing images of deaconess work, c.1900

5. Papers relating to overseas missions

5/1. Manuscript diary of Sister Lucy Solomon covering the period from when she left England to serve in Sierra Leone and her early time in West Africa, 30 April 1910 – 9 August 1912

5/2. Manuscript Mende grammar book used at the Wesleyan Girls High School, Freetown, Sierra Leone, undated [20th century]⁵

5/3. *Bundle of loose items relating to service in the foreign mission field as follows:*

- Printed pamphlet entitled *Celebration of Eight-five years of Medical Work – “Hospital of Universal Love”*. Methodist General Hospital, Hankow, Central China, 17 May 1864 – 17 May 1949 (personal copy of Sister Gladys Ethel Stephenson)
- Printed pamphlet entitled *Mary McCord, Methodist Deaconess, 1890-1975* (personal copy of Brian Collins)
- Commemorative brochure celebrating *Missionary Service 50 Years in Sri Lanka 1931-1981: Golden Jubilee 6-9-81* with a particular focus on Sister Elizabeth Baker
- Typescript document regarding Sierra Leone, entitled “A trip up the Scarcies River to Kambia and Forracarriah” made by an unnamed deaconess [possibly Elsie Dukes] and a party of male and female missionary colleagues (signed Elsie Dukes), 10 – 27 April 1918
- Black and white photograph of two European men (missionaries?) and a group of African bearers – unlabelled but probably taken in Sierra Leone, c.1920
- Black and white postcard showing the lighthouse in Freetown, Sierra Leone, sent by Sister Elsie Grace Dukes in Freetown to Sister Lucy Solomon in Newport, Monmouthshire, 7 December 1921
- Black and white photograph of a group of Chinese children, c.1920
- Black and white photograph of a group of Chinese children and one elderly woman washing clothes, c.1920
- Black and white photograph of the Chinese “babies class”, c.1920
- Black and white portrait photograph (taken at Ilkley) of Sister Julia Borges of Kaisersworth, c. 1900
- Black and white group photograph of the “Foreign Service Group” – labelled with the names of the subjects, early 1930s

⁵ The Mende people are the largest ethnic group in Sierra Leone comprising 31% of the total population.

6. Personal papers

6/1. Manuscript diary of Sister Thirza Masters, 1 October 1894 – January 1911

6/2. Manuscript diary of Sister Elizabeth Ann Potts, 5 January 1900 – February 1902

6/3. *Bundle of correspondence, chiefly relating to Thomas Bowman Stephenson (TBS), as follows:*

6/3/1. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 23 August 1907

6/3/2. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 29 August 1907

6/3/3. TBS to unnamed correspondent 29 August 1907

6/3/4. TBS to Sister Esther, 2 September 1907

6/3/5. TBS to Sister Esther, 4 September 1907

6/3/6. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 5 September 1907

6/3/7. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 28 September 1907

6/3/8. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 14 October 1907

6/3/9. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 29 October 1907

6/3/10. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 2 November 1907

6/3/11. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 12 November 1907

6/3/12. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 16 November 1907

6/3/13. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 11 December 1907

6/3/14. TBS to the Wesleyan minister William Bradfield (1859-1923), 9 January 1908

6/3/15. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 11 January 1908

6/3/16. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 24 January 1908

6/3/17. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 31 January 1908

6/3/18. Blickensderfer Co. Ltd., of London, to William Bradfield, 4 February 1908

6/3/19. TBS to William Bradfield, 25 April 1908

6/3/20. TBS to William Bradfield, 10 June 1908

6/3/21. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 13 July 1908

- 6/3/22. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 5 August 1908
- 6/3/23. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 2 October 1908
- 6/3/24. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 2 October 1908
- 6/3/25. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 5 October 1908
- 6/3/26. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 22 October 1908
- 6/3/27. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 18 November 1908
- 6/3/29. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 17 December 1908
- 6/3/30. TBS to unnamed correspondent, 25 June 1909
- 6/3/31. Ella Stephenson to William Bradfield, 17 September 1909
- 6/3/32. TBS to "My dear Warden", 19 September 1910
- 6/3/33. Ella Stephenson to Mr Allcock, 25 August 1911
- 6/3/34. Ella Stephenson to Sister Esther, 5 December 1911
- 6/3/35. Unnamed correspondent to Mrs Stephenson, 24 January 1912
- 6/3/36. Unnamed correspondent to Mrs Stephenson, 24 January 1912
- 6/3/37. Unnamed correspondent to Mrs Stephenson, 20 February 1912
- 6/3/37A. Ella Stephenson to Sister Esther Taylor, 26 February 1912
- 6/3/38. Ella Stephenson to William Bradfield, 5 June 1912
- 6/3/39. Telegram announcing the death of TBS, 17 July 1912
- 6/3/40. Ella Bowman Stephenson to William Bradfield, 3 August 1912
- 6/3/41. Unnamed correspondent to Mrs Stephenson, 13 August 1912
- 6/3/42. Ella Stephenson to William Bradfield, 7 October 1912
- 6/3/43. TBS to unnamed correspondent, undated
- 6/3/44. Unnamed correspondent to William Bradfield, 15 July no year
- 6/3/45. Unnamed correspondent to William Bradfield, 17 July no year
- 6/3/46. Ella Stephenson to William Bradfield, 19 February no year
- 6/3/47. Ella Stephenson to William Bradfield, undated

6/3/48. Unnamed correspondent to TBS, 11 June no year

6/3/49. TBS to Sister Esther [Taylor], undated

6/4. Bundle of correspondence and a few associated papers relating to William Harold Beales (WHB) including reminiscences of Beales' ministry as warden of the Deaconess Order between 1940 and 1952. The letters appear to have been passed to Beales' widow Edith after his death for use in researching a proposed publication concerning his life and ministry. The papers comprise the following:

6/4/1. Two typescript Warden's "monthly letters" to the Deaconess Order on the same sheet – one from the outgoing Warden William Russell Maltby (1866-1951) and the other from WHB upon commencement of his wardenship, 31 August 1940

6/4/2. Group photograph of WHB with a group of deaconesses at the Sheffield Convocation, 1944

6/4/3. WHB to the deaconess ordinands, 15 May 1947

6/4/4. WHB to Sister Vera Vandersteeen,⁶ 11 October 1948

6/4/5. Bundle of letters from WHB to the Deaconess Order, 28 July 1952 – December 1960

6/4/6. Bundle of letters from WHB to Dorothy Taylor (nee Bull), 8 August 1952 – 27 June 1962

6/4/7. Bundle of letters from WHB to Celia Clemens, 11 June 1953 – 3 August 1955

6/4/8. Bundle of letters from WHB to the Deaconess Order and (separately) to Dorothy Taylor (nee Bull), with a covering letter of 11 February 1970 from Dorothy Taylor to Mrs Edith Beales, December 1953 – 5 June 1957

6/4/9. WHB to Dorothy Owens, 23 December 1954

6/4/10. Bundle of letters from WHB to Elizabeth Richards, 31 October 1949 – 10 January 1950

6/4/11. Bundle of letters (and one photograph) from WHB to Sister Blanche Baker, 4 September 1953 – 6 December 1955

6/4/12. Sister Nora Fowler to WHB, 25 January 1965

6/4/13. Anne Greaves to Mrs Edith Beales, 9 February 1968

⁶ Vice President of the Deaconess Order, 1978-79

6/4/14. Bundle of letters and miscellaneous papers sent by former deaconesses to Mrs Edith Beales containing their recollections of WHB, c.1970

7. Miscellaneous

7/1. *Bundle of miscellaneous printed ephemera comprising the following:*

7/1/1. Leaflet entitled "Brief Puttings for Busy People" publicising the work of the Deaconess Order and asking for financial support, [1902-10]

7/1/2. General regulations of the Wesley Deaconess Institute as approved by the Wesleyan Conference of 1908

7/1/3. Calendar for 1912 listing worship events at Springfield Hall Wesleyan Methodist Church, London. Names and photographs of the staff include Sisters Lydia Shadworth and Donna Levy, 1912

7/1/4-5. Two general information leaflets on the work of the Order and asking for charitable donations, c.1940

7/1/6. Pamphlet containing a brief history of the Deaconess Order and describing its activities, probably published to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Order, [1940]

7/1/7. Pamphlet containing a brief history of the Deaconess Order and describing its activities, January 1949

7/1/8. Bundle of invitations/programmes to the Annual Overseas Missionary Anniversary held at the Deaconess Institute, Ilkley, 1950 – 1961 and 1963

7/1/9. Handbook containing general information and rules/regulations regarding the Wesley Deaconess Order, c.1950

7/1/10. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Manchester, 21 - 27 April 1950. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the two Manchester districts during Convocation (personal copy of the Methodist minister William Harold Beales)

7/1/11. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Newcastle upon Tyne, 6 - 12 April 1951. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the Newcastle district during Convocation (personal copy of the Methodist minister William Harold Beales)

7/1/12. List of Lady Associates, Corporate Associates and Subscribers to the work of the Order arranged by district, June 1951

7/1/13. Commemorative pamphlet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Deaconess College at Ilkley, 1952

7/1/14. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Leeds, 25 April - 1 May 1952. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of

appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the Leeds district during Convocation

7/1/15. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Bristol, 17 - 23 April 1953. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the Leeds district during Convocation

7/1/16. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Nottingham, 14 - 20 May 1954. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the Nottingham district during Convocation

7/1/17. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Sheffield, 22 - 28 April 1955. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the Sheffield district during Convocation

7/1/18. Leaflet advertising for recruits to the Order entitled "Doers of the Word", c.1960

7/1/19. Brochure and programme for the Annual Convocation held in Wolverhampton, 27 April - 2 May 1962. The publication includes a detailed timetable of events and a list of appointments of deaconesses to give public addresses in the Leeds district during Convocation

7/1/20. Report to the Methodist Conference by the Wesleyan Deaconess Order reporting principally on training and finance, 1965

7/1/21. Regulations for the accommodation of deaconesses, 1967

7/1/22. Leaflet entitled "Helpful suggestions to any who need them", 20th century

7/1/23. Information for Intending Candidates, 20th century

7/1/24. Wesley Deaconess College - Directions and Advice to Residents, 20th cent.

7/1/25. Leaflet entitled "A Ministry of Love – The Women's Auxiliary in Indian Villages (published by the Women's Auxiliary of the WMMS, undated)

7/1/26. Memorial to Sister Emily Orr, 20th cent.

7/2. Bundle of miscellaneous manuscript notes that appear to comprise drafts of general letters sent to the Order by William Harold Beales in his capacity as Warden, c.1953 – 1955

7/3. Tape recording of an interview with the Primitive Methodist Sister Margaret Redhead recorded in 1984

7/4. Bundle of printed ephemera connected with the ministry of William Russell Maltby (1866-1951), including a poem and a sermon, 20th cent.

7/5. *Bundle of miscellaneous printed ephemera comprising the following:*

7/5/1. “Joyful Seekers – Some account of the doings of the Sisters of the United Methodist Deaconess Institute and Home during the 23rd year of its existence” (London: [1914])

7/5/2. Newsletter sent to the Deaconess Order from Esther Taylor of the Wesley Deaconess Institute reporting the death of Sister Emily Orr, 1 March 1919

7/5/3. Newsletter sent to the Deaconess Order from William Bradfield, Warden of the Deaconess Order informing them of his retirement, 30 December 1919

7/5/4. Newsletter sent to the Deaconess Order from William Bradfield, Warden of the Deaconess Order, 25 July 1920

7/5/5. Programme of the service to mark the 32nd anniversary of the United Methodist Church Deaconess Institute, 14 May 1923

7/5/6. Appeal for funds to raise money to support the work of the Deaconess Order, 1926

7/5/7-8. Programme of the events to mark the 41st anniversary of the United Methodist Church Deaconess Institute and reunion of Sisters, 7-11 May 1932

7/5/9. Publication entitled “The Wesley Deaconess Order” containing information about the Order, including its role, allowances, appointments, Deaconess Institute and notes for intending candidates, 1936

7/5/10. Address given by the Methodist minister William Christopher Jackson (1874-1944) at the memorial service in Rochdale to the Methodist minister Robert William Gair (1872-1938), Warden of the United Methodist Deaconess Order between 1922 and 1935, [1938]

7/5/11. Order of ceremony at the unveiling of the Brookwood Memorial to Officers and Men of the Land Forces of the Commonwealth by Queen Elizabeth II, 25 October 1958

7/5/12. Typescript notes regarding Methodist female ministry in Sierra Leone from the earliest days, with particular but not exclusive reference to the contribution made by deaconesses, [late 20th cent.]

7/5/13. Publication entitled “The Methodist Diaconal Order in Action, 1993”

7/5/14. Information leaflet about the Methodist Diaconal Centre, [c.1993]

7/5/15. Report by the Faith and Order Committee to the Methodist Conference concerning the Diaconal Order, 1993

7/5/16. Typescript "Facts about the Wesley Deaconess Order", undated

7/6. Bundle of tributes to William Harold Beales, c.1967.