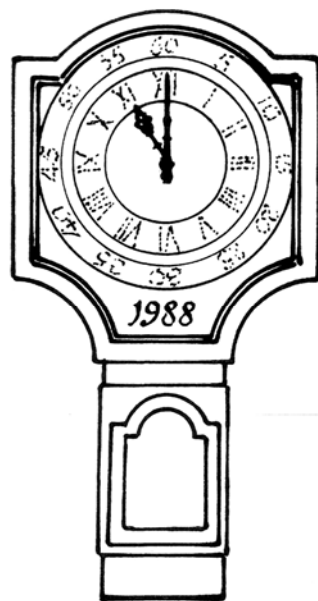


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts 2008

Registered with the Charity Commission No. 1014207

If you are planning to attend the AGM please bring this document with you.

Overview

Full name: The Chapels Society.

Charitable status: Registered with the Charity Commission (No. 1014207).

Governing document: Constitution adopted 24th September 1988, revised 3rd July 2005.

Address for correspondence: 47 Salisbury Drive, Swadlincote DE11 7LD (Hon Secretary).

Trustees: The trustees of the Society in 2008, by virtue of being Council members, were John Anderson, Sara Crofts (Hon Secretary) from 21 June, John Ellis, Paul Gardner, Celia Gibbs, Tim Grass (Hon Visits Secretary) from 21 June, Rosalind Kaye (Hon Visits Secretary) until 21 June, Robin Phillips (Hon Secretary) until 21 June, Alan Petford, Chris Skidmore (Hon Editor), Roger Thorne, Christopher Wakeling (President) and Andrew Worth (Hon Treasurer).

Bankers: Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank, Merseyside, GIR 0AA; Nationwide Business Investor, St Michael's, High Street, Stamford PE9 2AW; Charities Official Investment Fund, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DZ.

Independent examiner of the accounts: Cedric Hallam, Holmhurst, The Turnpike, Halam, Newark, Nottingham NG22 8AE.

Insurance: The Society is included in the group insurance policy of the British Association for Local History, PO Box 6549, Somersal Herbert, Ashbourne DE6 5WH.

Data Protection Act 1998: The Society is exempt from notifying the Data Protection Registrar.

Objectives: The Chapels Society seeks to foster public interest in and knowledge of the architectural and historical importance of all places of worship and their related structures in the United Kingdom, loosely described as Nonconformist. These primarily comprise the buildings of Christian bodies (Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox) outside the Established Church but may include those of other faiths. We seek to promote the survival of Nonconformist places of worship, their buildings and furnishings, by offering advice and encouragement to those responsible for their upkeep.

Organisation: The Annual General Meeting elects a President and six Council members (serving for three years). The Annual General Meeting also appoints the Society's four Honorary Officers - the Secretary, Treasurer, Visits Secretary and Editor. Council normally meets four times during the year. All Officers' posts are honorary and unpaid although expenses may be claimed. The Society also has a Membership Secretary, currently Robin Phillips.

Complaints: Any complaint about the operation of the Chapels Society should be made in writing to the President in his capacity as chairman of the trustees, or failing that to the Secretary.

Review of Activities During 2008

General: Council met in February, April, September, and December at Friends House in London. The Society continues to take part in Heritage Link and assists with its responses to government policy consultations where appropriate. The Society also continues to take an interest in the recently formed Places of Worship at Heritage Link (POWlink) group.

Annual General Meeting: The Society's AGM took place on 20th June 2008 during the visit to Huddersfield. Officers reported on their respective fields of work and the Treasurer confirmed that new rules from the Charity Commission had not, as expected, made necessary any change in the format of the accounts. The sad death of Dr Thomas Cocke was also noted. Robin Phillips and Rosalind Kaye advised the members that they wished to stand down from their posts and were heartily thanked for their efforts. Sara Crofts and Tim Grass were appointed to the roles of Secretary and Visits Secretary respectively.

Casework: Once again a recurrent theme was the desire for major internal alterations to facilitate domestic or commercial use. Sadly, a handful of proposals to demolish chapels were also received as well as notification of the sale by auction of Hocking's House Bible Christian Chapel, St Cleer, Liskeard (*Grade II**, 1846). The Society responded to a number of cases including proposals for the following churches and chapels:

- Trafalgar Street Evangelical Church, Kingston-upon-Hull (*Grade II*, 1906, *Baines & Son*)
- City Temple, Hessle Road, Kingston-upon-Hull (*Grade II*, 1879, *W Freeman*)

- United Reformed Church, Dodington, Whitchurch, Shropshire (*Grade II, 1813*)
- Hope Methodist Church, High Street, Higham Ferrers (*CA, 1902-3, Thomas Dyer*)
- Providence Chapel, Stone Street, Cranbrook (*Grade II*, 1795*)
- Waterloo Baptist Church, Liverpool, Merseyside (*Grade II, 1910, attributed to G Baines and Sons*)
- Former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Braunston, Northamptonshire (*Not listed, 1797*)
- Chapel at Cane Hill Hospital, Coulsdon, Surrey (*Locally listed, 1882, Charles Henry Howell*)
- Garrs Lane Congregational Church, Grassington (*Grade II, 1811*)
- Chard Baptist Church, Chard (*Grade II*, 1842*)
- Guards' Chapel, Chelsea Barracks Site, London (*Not listed, George Morgan, 1859*)

Visits: The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2008 which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's Newsletter. These were:

- London: Sloane Square to Kensington on 26 April 2008 (led by Andrew Worth)
- Huddersfield on 21 June 2008 (led by Ted Royle) including the Annual General Meeting
- Canterbury on 4 October 2008 (led by Paul Gardner)

All visits were very well attended with the London visit in particular attracting a record number of participants as well as some glorious spring sunshine. In June we also expressed our thanks to Rosalind Kaye who stepped down from the role of Visits Secretary after several years in post and welcomed Tim Grass, a distinguished writer and tutor at Spurgeon's College, London.

Publications: This has been an exciting year in terms of publications with the launch of Christopher Stell's *Nonconformist Communion Plate and Other Vessels* in September. Favourable reviews appeared in the *Newsletter of the Ancient Monuments Society* and *Transactions of the Unitarian Historical Society* although sales have been fairly slow with just over 100 copies sold by the end of 2008. The production of *Miscellany 2* continues apace with publication scheduled for the latter part of 2009.

Two editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2008 and a decision was taken to increase the frequency of the *Newsletter* from two to three times a year (January, May and September) from 2009 onwards. The *Newsletter* is intended to contain information about events of interest to members, short articles of original research, and reviews of books and other shorter publications such as individual chapel histories. The Editor welcomes material from members.

Membership: Ordinary personal membership of the Chapels Society costs £8, or £12 for a couple at one address. An updated *List of Members* was published in December 2008 and sent to all members. The following table gives an overview of membership in recent years.

Year	Personal	(inc. Life)	Corporate	Total
January 2005	274	(inc. 25)	28	302
January 2006	272	(inc. 29)	26	298
January 2007	289	(inc. 32)	23	312
January 2008	295	(inc. 32)	23	318
January 2009	282	(inc. 33)	24	306

Publicity: The Society's website, hosted by the Council for British Archaeology, continues to be the main opportunity to advertise our activities. Along with general information about the Society the website also includes details of a dozen or more books written by our own members, information about visits and summaries of our own publications. The website serves to advertise the Society's existence but is also frequently the first point of contact for those informing us about chapels at risk, seeking help with research queries or requesting back numbers of the *Newsletter* and other publications. The website is diligently maintained and updated by Robin Phillips.

Review of Financial Activities

The accounts are drawn up on an income and expenditure basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2006. The Accounts are reported as three distinct Funds to aid comprehension of the Society's affairs but the assets are not held separately.

The General Fund shows that subscriptions were slightly up at £2,388 (2007 £2,334). The running costs of the Society rose significantly because of the decision to publish a third Newsletter. Tax recoveries were £447.33 (2007

£619.66, boosted by Gift Aid on life memberships). Approximately two thirds of the personal members have so far signed Gift Aid declarations which enable the Society to obtain this valuable additional support. The three visits in aggregate produced a surplus of £180, although we do not budget to make a 'profit' on them. Bank interest was up again at £899.69 (2007 £747.28) because of higher average balances in the year. The surplus of Income over Expenditure was much lower than in the previous year at £143.54 so no transfer was made to the Publications Fund.

The Life Membership and Advance Subscriptions Fund is where subscriptions are posted until transferred across to the General Fund at the start of each year. Two new Life Subscriptions were taken out at the rate of twenty times the annual membership and these continue to underpin the Society's financial stability.

The Publications Fund was again active with the publication of *Nonconformist Communion Plate* and continued steady sales of *Dissent and the Gothic Revival*. There was still an outlay of £2,008 on *Nonconformist Communion Plate* at the year end but sales of all previous publications have exceeded expenses and this generates the working capital for our future publication projects.

The three funds had closing balances which totalled £14,152.29, a decrease of £1,439 on the previous year primarily because of the latest publication. Small working balances are maintained in two current accounts but the major part of the Society's funds continues to be held in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund to produce a high income without risk to the capital. The reserves continue to be considered to be appropriate to the scale of the Society's activities. Following an unqualified report by the independent examiner, the accounts and report were approved by Council on Monday 20th April 2009.

Your Tax Refund: From April 2004, people who complete a self-assessment tax return have been able to nominate a charity to receive all or part of any repayment due to them. We hope that you will remember the Chapels Society if you decide to take advantage of this new facility. The Society's code number, which has to be quoted on your tax return, is PAL96GG. This scheme does not replace the existing Gift Aid scheme; please contact the Treasurer if you have never made the once for all time Gift Aid declaration.

The Chapels Society

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Commission (No. 1014207)

Accounts for the Year Ending 31 December 2008

General Fund

<i>Income</i>	2008	2007	<i>Expenditure</i>	2008	2007
Subscriptions					
Received in the Year	2,060.00	1,998.00	Newsletters	1,916.37	1,160.26
Paid in advance for the Year	76.00	76.00	Officers' travel	931.50	994.25
Drawn from Life memberships	244.00	256.00	Council expenditure	768.30	619.49
Arrears from previous year	8.00	20.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	226.00	226.00
Donations & Miscellaneous	145.69	102.01	AGM Costs	75.00	50.00
Spring Visit	770.00	576.00	Spring Visit	630.58	509.00
Summer Visit & AGM	503.30	360.00	Summer Visit & AGM	407.42	325.00
Autumn Visit	436.00	616.00	Autumn Visit	491.30	610.00
Bank Interest	899.69	747.28	Refunds of members' subscription		16.00
Tax Recoveries	447.33	619.66	Transfer to Publications Fund		400.00
	<u>5,590.01</u>	<u>5,370.95</u>		<u>5,446.47</u>	<u>4,910.00</u>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	143.54	460.95
			Balance b/fwd	3,416.64	2,955.69
			Balance c/fwd	3,560.18	3,416.64

Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions

	2008	2007
<i>Income</i>		
Life subscriptions	320.00	320.00
Advance Subs. for following year	44.00	76.00
	<u>364.00</u>	<u>396.00</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Life Members' Subs. to Gen. Fund	244.00	256.00
Advance Subs. to General Fund	76.00	76.00
	<u>320.00</u>	<u>332.00</u>

Balance b/fwd	4,030.00	3,966.00
Balance c/fwd	4,074.00	4,030.00

* The apportionment of 2007 Income in the Publications Fund has been restated from the previously published accounts after the discovery of errors; there are no changes to the total. Council has accepted the Treasurer's apologies for these oversights.

Publications Fund

	2008	2007
<i>Income</i>		
Transfers from General Fund		400.00
Sales of <i>Dissent & Gothic Revival</i>	313.00	1,842.50
Grants & block sale of <i>D&GR</i>		3,250.00
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	1,444.50	
Grant towards <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	1,000.00	
Other Sales	86.00	43.00
	<u>2,843.50</u>	<u>5,535.50</u>
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Printing of <i>Dissent & Gothic Revival</i>		4,357.00
Publicity & distribution of <i>D&GR</i>	17.09	298.57
Printing/pre-press of <i>NC Plate</i>	4,136.40	
Publicity & distribution of <i>NC Plate</i>	316.76	
	<u>4,470.25</u>	<u>4,655.57</u>
Balance b/fwd	8,144.86	7,264.93
Balance c/fwd	6,518.11	8,144.86

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at Year End

	2008	2007		2008	2007
<i>Liabilities</i>			<i>Assets</i>		
General Fund	3,560.18	3,416.64	Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank	641.92	84.04
Life Membership & Advance Subs.	4,074.00	4,030.00	Nationwide Business Investor Account	10.37	7.46
Publications Fund	6,518.11	8,144.86	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	13,500.00	15,500.00
	<u>14,152.29</u>	<u>15,591.50</u>		<u>14,152.29</u>	<u>15,591.50</u>

Signed by the President on behalf of Council
Monday 20th April 2009

C. W. H. King
20th April 09