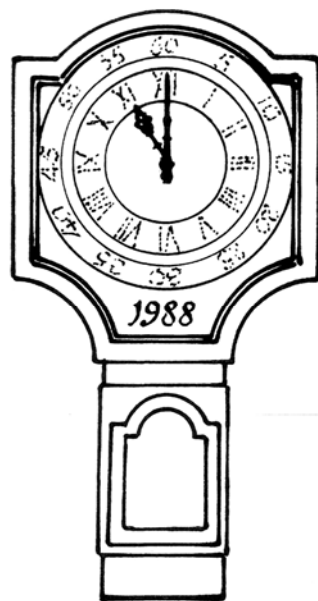


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts *2009*

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.

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.

Address for correspondence: Sara Crofts, Hon Secretary, 47 Salisbury Drive, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 7LD (or ChapelsSociety@gmail.com).

Trustees: The trustees of the Society in 2009, by virtue of being Council members, were John Anderson, Sara Crofts (Hon Secretary), John Ellis until 4th July, Paul Gardner, Celia Gibbs, Tim Grass (Hon Visits Secretary), Alan Petford, David Quick from 4th July, 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: John Bussey, 4 Brownberrie Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5PN.

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.

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 Hon Secretary.

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

Protection Registrar.

Review of Financial Activities 2009

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 stable at £2,358 (2008 £2,388). The running costs of the Society were less as one Council meeting was cancelled in February 2009 owing to adverse weather and the invoice for the winter *Newsletter* was not received in time to include it in the accounts. Tax recoveries were £484.85 (2008 £447.33). 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 £232.05 (2008 £180.00), although we continue not to budget to make a 'profit' on them. Bank interest fell sharply to £340.80 (2008 £899.69) as interest rates collapsed. The surplus of Income over Expenditure was £208.50 (2008 £143.54) and there would have been a deficit on the year but for the cancelled meeting and the delayed invoice from our printers.

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. One new Life Subscription was taken out at the rate of twenty times the annual membership. This fund continues to underpin the Society's financial stability.

The Publications Fund continued to benefit modestly from sales of *Nonconformist Communion Plate* and *Dissent and the Gothic Revival*. There were some pre-press expenses for the forthcoming *Miscellany 2: Chapels and Chapel People*.

The three funds had closing balances which totalled £14,429.02, an increase of £276.73 on the previous year. 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. The accounts were approved by Council on Tuesday 13th April 2010 and have received an unqualified report from Mr John Bussey, the new independent examiner.

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 Hon Treasurer if you have never made the once for all time Gift Aid declaration.

Chapels Society

(Reg. Charity No. 1014207)

Accounts for the Year Ending 31st December 2009

General Fund

<i>Income</i>	2009	2008	<i>Expenditure</i>	2009	2008
Subscriptions					
Received in the Year	2,054.00	2,060.00	Newsletters	1,415.08	1,916.37
Paid in advance for the Year	44.00	76.00	Officers' travel	670.75	931.50
Drawn from Life memberships	260.00	244.00	Council expenditure	764.38	768.30
Arrears from previous year	0.00	8.00	Subs to other bodies	303.00	226.00
Donations & Misc.	20.01	145.69	AGM Costs	50.00	75.00
Spring Visit	1,378.00	770.00	Spring Visit	1,175.00	630.58
Summer Visit & AGM	861.00	503.30	Summer Visit & AGM	859.00	407.42
Autumn Visit	339.00	436.00	Autumn Visit	311.95	491.30
Bank Interest	340.80	899.69	Refunds of members' subs	24.00	
Tax Recoveries	484.85	447.33			
	<u>5,781.66</u>	<u>5,590.01</u>		<u>5,573.16</u>	<u>5,446.47</u>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	208.50	143.54
			Balance b/fwd	3,560.18	3,416.64
			Balance c/fwd	3,768.68	3,560.18

Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions

Publications Fund

	2009	2008
<i>Income</i>		
Life subscriptions	160.00	320.00
Advance Subs. for following year	42.00	44.00
	202.00	364.00
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Life Members' Subs. to Gen. Fund	260.00	244.00
Advance Subs. to General Fund	44.00	76.00
	304.00	320.00
Balance b/fwd	4,074.00	4,030.00
Balance c/fwd	3,972.00	4,074.00

	2009	2008
<i>Income</i>		
Sales of <i>Dissent & Gothic Revival</i>	150.35	313.00
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	142.85	1,444.50
Grant towards <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>		1,000.00
Other Sales	7.50	86.00
	300.70	2,843.50
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Publicity & distribution of <i>D&GR</i>	12.86	17.09
Printing/pre-press of <i>NC Plate</i>		4,136.40
Publicity & Distrib'n of <i>NC Plate</i>	49.73	316.76
Pre-press/flyers for <i>Miscellany 2</i>	64.35	
Miscellaneous	3.53	
	130.47	4,470.25
Balance b/fwd	6,518.11	8,144.86
Balance c/fwd	6,688.34	6,518.11

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at Year End

	2009	2008
<i>Liabilities</i>		
General Fund	3,768.68	3,560.18
Life Membership & Advance Subs.	3,972.00	4,074.00
Publications Fund	6,688.34	6,518.11
	14,429.02	14,152.29

	2009	2008
<i>Assets</i>		
Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank	420.56	641.92
Nationwide Business Investor Account	8.46	10.37
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	14,000.00	13,500.00
	14,429.02	14,152.29

The above accounts and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Council of the Chapels Society on 13th April 2010 and were signed on its behalf by

Dr C Wakeling



Ms S Crofts



Review of Activities 2009

The Council continues to have regard to the guidance set out by the Charity Commission in relation to public benefit.

Council: The Annual General Meeting elects a President and six Council members (each serving for three years). The Annual General Meeting also appoints the Society's four Honorary Officers – the Secretary, Treasurer, Visits Secretary and Editor. The Council normally meets four times during the year in February, April, September, and December. This year the February meeting was cancelled due to bad weather which adversely affected travel arrangements. All Officers' posts are honorary and unpaid although expenses may be claimed. The Society also has a Membership Secretary and Website Administrator, currently Robin Phillips.

Annual General Meeting: The Society's AGM took place on 4th July 2009 during the visit to Rutland. Thirty members of the Society were present. The President noted that it had been a very busy and rewarding year and thanks were expressed to Council member, John Ellis, who was standing down after six years of diligent and thoughtful service. Of the current Council, Alan Petford was the only member due to stand for re-election. He was duly elected alongside new Council member, David Quick.

Casework: The list of major casework items dealt with during 2009 is given below. The page references relate to entries in the relevant volume of Christopher Stell's *Nonconformist Chapels and Meeting Houses* gazetteer.

- Dodington United Reformed Church, Whitchurch, Shropshire (*Grade II, 1813, Shropshire & Staffordshire p206*)
- Whitfield's Tabernacle, Kingswood, Bristol (*Grade I, 1741, Gloucestershire p85*)
- Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Braunston, Northamptonshire (*Not listed, 1797 with alterations and additions 1875, Northamptonshire & Oxfordshire p137*)
- Trafalgar Street Evangelical Church, Kingston-upon-Hull (*Grade II, 1906, George Baines and Son*)
- Etruria Methodist Church aka Etruria Wedgwood Chapel, Stoke-on-Trent (*Grade II, 1820, Jesse Shirley, Shropshire & Staffordshire p219*)
- The New Room, Broadmead, Bristol (*Grade I, 1739, George Tully?, Gloucestershire p68*)
- Leodest Chapel, Andreas, Isle of Man

Interestingly, a significant proportion of the cases listed above have now been under discussion for a number of years, highlighting the occasionally fraught nature of proposing changes to listed buildings. In many of the cases the Society made comments in support of those made by other organisations such as English Heritage and the Victorian Society. Although this led to the refusal of listed building consent or planning permission by the local authority in a couple of instances it is difficult to describe these as successful outcomes on the basis that refusal of permission meant that these chapels remained empty, unused and at risk.

Visits: The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2009 which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- Abingdon, Wallingford & the Vale of White Horse on 16th May 2009 (led by Chris Skidmore).
- Oakham and Rutland on 4th July 2009 (led by Anthony Earl) including the Annual General Meeting and a lecture by the Revd Prof David Thompson on '*Nonconformity in East Leicestershire and Rutland: a Neglected Minority*'.
- Newcastle on 10th October 2009 (led by Nigel McMurray).

Publications: Work on the production of *Miscellany 2*, subtitled *Chapels and Chapel People*, progressed during 2009 with its publication now scheduled for mid 2010. Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2009 and contained information about events of interest to members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications such as individual chapel histories. Of particular relevance to the Society's work was a challenging article by Colin Dews about the listing of Nonconformist chapels. This thread was picked up and continued by Ian Serjeant in the following edition. We were also encouraged by features on successful contemporary alterations to chapel buildings both in religious and secular use. The Hon Editor continues to welcome contributions from members.

Membership: Ordinary personal membership of the Chapels Society remains at £8 for an individual or £12 for a couple at one address. The following table gives an overview of membership in recent years.

Year	Personal	(inc. Life)	Corporate	Total
January 2007	289	(inc. 32)	23	312
January 2008	295	(inc. 32)	23	318
January 2009	282	(inc. 33)	24	306
January 2010	277	(inc. 34)	25	302

The Council noted that membership numbers are currently declining and is considering how it might address this worrying trend through wider publicity. It is hoped that a substantial number of new members may be recruited in 2010.

Publicity: The Society's website, hosted by the Council for British Archaeology, continues to be the main opportunity to advertise our activities to a wider audience. Along with general information about the Society, the website also includes details of a dozen or more books written by our 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.

Links with other organisations: The Society continues to take part in Heritage Link (now The Heritage Alliance) and assists with its responses to government policy consultations and other matters where appropriate. The Society is also a member of the Places of Worship sub-group (now known as POWalliance). In addition, the Society is a member of the Association of Denominational Historical Societies and Cognate Libraries, the Historic Chapels Trust, the British Association for Local History and the Council for British Archaeology.

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The Council declares that it has approved the Annual Report and Accounts as laid out above.

Christopher Wakeling

13th April 2010

Signed by Christopher Wakeling, President, on behalf of the Council.