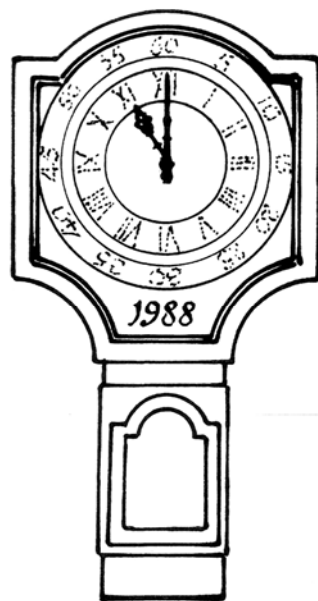


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts 2010

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 (Council members) of the Society in 2010 were John Anderson until 3rd July, Sara Crofts (Hon Secretary), Paul Gardner, Celia Gibbs until 3rd July, Tim Grass (Hon Visits Secretary), Alan Petford, David Quick, Alan Rose from 3rd July, Chris Skidmore (Hon Editor), Roger Thorne, Christopher Wakeling (President), David Watts (Hon Treasurer) from 3rd July and Andrew Worth (Hon Treasurer) until 3rd July.

Bankers: Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, GIR 0AA; Nationwide Business Investor, St Michael's, High Street, Stamford PE9 2AW; COIF, 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 2010

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 £2,732 (2009 £2,358). The running costs of the Society at £3,582 were slightly up on the previous year (2009 £3,227). Of the Society's income £402.70 came from tax reclaims 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 £338.78 (2009 £232.05), although the Society continues not to budget to make a 'profit' on them. As the detailed figures show, surpluses vary considerably. Bank interest fell sharply to £71.48 (2009 £340.80) as interest rates collapsed. The surplus of Income over Expenditure was £302.59 (2009 £208.50). This would have been wiped out if the printers bill for the last 2010 newsletter had not been delayed (it was actually paid in April 2011).

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. 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* but was sharply reduced due to the publication of *Miscellany 2* whose printing costs were £4,645. There have been sales so far to the value of £1,547. There were also some publicity expenses for *Miscellany 2*.

The three funds had closing balances which totalled £11,250.09, a decrease of £3,178.93 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 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.

The Chapels Society
Charity No. 1014207

Accounts for the Year
Ending 31st December 2010

General Fund

	2010	<i>2009</i>		2010	<i>2009</i>
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions			Newsletters	1,596.02	<i>1,415.08</i>
Received in the year	2,110.00	<i>2,054.00</i>	Officers' travel	714.00	<i>670.75</i>
Paid in advance for			Council		
2010	42.00	<i>44.00</i>	expenditure	765.16	<i>764.38</i>
Drawn from life			Subscriptions to		
memberships	260.00	<i>260.00</i>	other bodies	303.00	<i>303.00</i>
Donations &			AGM costs	75.00	<i>50.00</i>
Miscellaneous	34.01	<i>20.01</i>	Refunds of		
Surplus on Visits: Spring	228.36	<i>203.00</i>	members' subs	8.00	<i>24.00</i>
Summer / AGM	13.42	<i>2.00</i>			
Autumn	97.00	<i>27.05</i>			
Received in advance for					
IoM	340.00				
Bank interest	84.21	<i>340.80</i>			
Tax recoveries	402.77	<i>484.85</i>			
	<hr/> 3,611.77	<hr/> <i>3,435.71</i>		<hr/> 3,461.18	<hr/> <i>3,227.21</i>
			Surplus of Inc.		
			over Expend.	150.59	<i>208.50</i>
			Add balance		
			b/fwd	3,768.68	<i>3,560.18</i>
			Balance c/fwd	3,919.27	<i>3,768.68</i>

Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions

Publications Fund

	2010	2009
Balance b/fwd	3,972.00	4,074.00
Income		
Life subscriptions	0.00	160.00
Advance subs for the following year	72.00	42.00
	<hr/> 72.00	<hr/> 202.00

	2010	2009
Balance b/fwd	6,688.34	6,518.11
Income		
Sales of Miscellany 2	1,547.00	
Sales of Dissent & Gothic Revival	46.00	150.35
Sales of Nonconformist Plate	30.00	142.85
Other sales	97.50	7.50
	<hr/> 1,720.50	<hr/> 300.70

Expenditure

Expenditure

Life members' subs to General Fund	260.00	260.00
Advance subs to General Fund	42.00	44.00
	<hr/> 302.00	<hr/> 304.00

Printing of Miscellany 2	4,645.20	
Pre-press/flyers for Miscellany 2		64.35
Publicity & Distribution of Misc 2	158.64	
Publicity & Distribution of D&GR		12.86
Publicity & Distribution of NC Plate	16.18	49.73
Miscellaneous		3.53
	<hr/> 4,820.02	<hr/> 130.47

Balance c/fwd	3,742.00	3,972.00
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Balance c/fwd	3,588.82	6,688.34
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Liabilities

Assets

	2010	2009
General Fund	3,919.27	3,768.68
Life membership & advance subs	3,742.00	3,972.00
Publications Fund	3,588.82	6,688.34
	<hr/> 11,250.09	<hr/> 14,429.02

	2010	2009
Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank	1,249.13	420.56
Nationwide	0.96	8.46
COIF	10,000.00	14,000.00
Cash	0.00	0.00
	<hr/> 11,250.09	<hr/> 14,429.02

The above accounts and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the President and Hon Secretary of the Chapels Society on 8th June 2011.

Dr C Wakeling.....

Ms S Crofts.....

Review of Activities 2010

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 up to 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. 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 3rd July 2010 during the visit to Notting Hill, London. Thirty-six members of the Society were present. The President expressed thanks to Council members, John Anderson and Celia Gibbs, who were standing down after six years of dedicated and enthusiastic service. Of the current Council, Paul Gardner and Roger Thorne stood for re-election. Both were re-elected alongside new Council member, Alan Rose.

Casework: The list of major casework items dealt with during 2010 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*)
- Cemetery Chapels, Ince Cemetery, Wigan (*Grade II, 1855-7, Alfred Waterhouse*)
- Canterbury Baptist Church, Canterbury (*Unlisted, 1863*)
- Whitefield's Tabernacle, Kingswood, Bristol (*Grade I, 1741, Gloucestershire p85*)
- Ebenezer Methodist Chapel, East Ayton, Scarborough (*Grade II, 1842*)
- Cambridge Hall, Cambridge Avenue, Willesden, Greater London (*Grade II, 1863*)
- Stowmarket URC, Ipswich Street, Stowmarket (*Unlisted, 1953-5, Alan D Cooke*)
- Our Lady of the Angels at Brownhill, Chalford (*Grade II, 1930-7, William Douglas Caröe*)

- Score Valley Cemetery and Chapel, Ilfracombe (*Grade II, 1855, Edward Ashworth*)
- Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel, Dukinfield (*Grade II*, late C16 or early C17*)
- Congregational Chapel, Baddesley Ensor (*Unlisted*).

The Society responded to a wide variety of requests for assistance with casework and provided a range of formal and informal advice in 2010. The requests continue to come from a range of sources including Chapels Society members, colleagues in other amenity societies and also from conservation or planning officers. In a few cases the contact came via the Society's website and shows that the Society's expertise in this area is publicly recognised.

Visits: The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2010 which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- Buckinghamshire on 17th April (*led by Julian Hunt and Alan Petford*)
- Notting Hill on 3rd July including the Society's AGM (*led by Andrew Worth*)
- Rugby on 2nd October (*led by John Anderson*).

Conference: Over seventy people attended the conference entitled '*The Shaping of Nonconformist Architecture*' held on 8th May 2010 organised by the Centre for Dissenting Studies in association with the Chapels Society. The conference was a considerable success and the four presentations given by Vic Nierop-Reading, Ian Serjeant, Clyde Binfield and Christopher Wakeling were very well received.

Publications: Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2010 and contained information about events of interest to members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications such as individual chapel histories. The Society also published *Chapels and Chapel People: Miscellany 2* in time for a launch at Gee Cross Chapel, Hyde on 19th June. Favourable reviews of *Miscellany 2* have been received from Dr Leonard Smith and the Baptist Quarterly magazine. By the end of 2010 a total of 127 copies had been sold.

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
January 2011	291	(inc. 33)	28	319

The Council notes that membership numbers have returned to the levels enjoyed in 2008. This is extremely good news but it is hoped that members will continue to recruit further new members to ensure that there is a steady increase in numbers.

Publicity: The Society's website, hosted by the Council for British Archaeology, continues to be the main opportunity to advertise the Society's 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 members, information about visits and summaries of the Society's publications. In 2010 Council started to consider how the website might be developed in the future and researched a number of possible options for its replacement. These discussions are ongoing but in the meantime the website continues to be diligently maintained and updated by Robin Phillips.

Links with other organisations: The Society continues to hold membership of The Heritage Alliance and assists with its responses to government policy consultations and other matters where appropriate. The Society is also a member of POWalliance – a sub-group for organisations with an interest in place of worship. 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.

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

Christopher Wakeling
8 June 2011