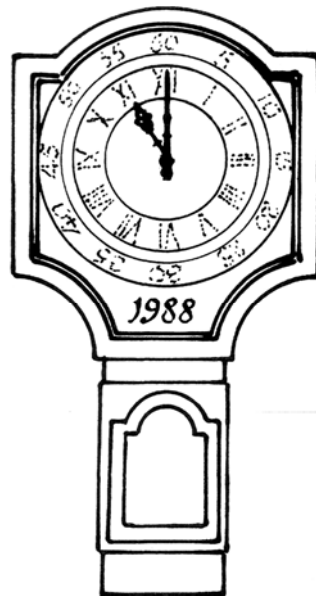


# THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



## *Annual Report and Accounts* *2011*

*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 24<sup>th</sup> September 1988, revised 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. The Society seeks 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](mailto:ChapelsSociety@gmail.com)).

**Trustees:** The trustees (Council members) of the Society in 2011 were Sara Crofts (Hon Secretary), Paul Gardner, Tim Grass (Hon Visits Secretary), Alan Petford, David Quick, Alan Rose, Chris Skidmore (Hon Editor), Roger Thorne, Christopher Wakeling (President), David Watts (Hon Treasurer) and Jean West (from 9<sup>th</sup> July).

**Bankers:** Santander PLC, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside L30 4GB; Nationwide Building Society, St Michael's High Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2AW; CCLA, COIF Charities Deposit 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 2011

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 down in 2011 at £2,057. The running costs of the Society have remained largely static with the increase in Council members' travel costs being balanced out by the reduced cost of hiring rooms for Council meetings. Due to the large amount of work involved in changing the subscriptions rates Gift Aid was not claimed in 2011 and this has resulted in a drop in income. A full Gift Aid claim will be made in 2012 to ensure that the Society continues to benefit from this valuable additional support. Bank interest continues to be disappointing with only £66.28 generated in 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 from good sales of *Miscellany 2* and modest sales of *Dissent and the Gothic Revival* but there was no expenditure as the Society did not undertake any new publishing work in 2011.

Overall, the Society's expenditure exceeded its income by £1,079.63, a position that is not sustainable in the longer term but will be partly addressed by the rise in subscription rates in 2012. The three funds had closing balances which totalled £10,836.21, a decrease of £413.88 on the previous year.

Small working balances are maintained in the Society's two current accounts but the major part of the Society's funds continues to be held in the COIF Charities Deposit Fund. The reserves continue to be considered to be appropriate to the scale of the Society's activities.

The accounts were approved by the Society's Council and have received an unqualified report from Mr John Bussey, the 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 Chapels Society members will remember the Society if they decide to take advantage of this 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

*Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2011  
(Charity No. 1014207)*

### General Fund

<b>Income</b>	2011	2010	<b>Expenditure</b>	2011	2010
Subscriptions			Newsletters	1,872.41	1,596.02
Received in the year	2,057.00	2,110.00	Officers' travel	936.78	714.00
Paid in advance for the year	72.00	42.00	Council expenditure	529.48	765.16
Drawn from life memberships	275.00	260.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	245.00	303.00
Donations & miscellaneous	0.01	34.01	AGM costs	0.00	75.00
Spring visit	0.00	228.36	Refunds of members' subscriptions	24.00	8.00
Summer visit	-48.00	13.42	Miscellaneous	7.90	0.00
Autumn visit	169.00	97.00			
IOM visit	-55.35	340.00			
Bank interest	66.28	84.21			
Tax recoveries	0.00	402.77			
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	2,535.94	3,611.77		3,615.57	3,461.18
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-1,079.63	150.59
			add balance carried forward	3,919.27	3,768.68
			Balance c/fwd	2,839.64	3,919.27

**Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions**

	2011	2010
Balance b/fwd	3,742.00	3,972.00
<b>Income</b>		
Life subscriptions	300.00	0.00
Advance subs for 2012	201.00	72.00
	-----	-----
	501.00	72.00
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Life Members' subs to General Fund	275.00	260.00
Advance subs to General Fund	72.00	42.00
	-----	-----
	347.00	302.00
Balance c/fwd	3,896.00	3,742.00

**Publications Fund**

	2011	2010
Balance b/fwd	3,588.82	6,688.34
<b>Income</b>		
Sales of <i>Miscellany 2</i>	476.50	1,547.00
Sales of <i>Dissent and the Gothic Revival</i>	35.25	46.00
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	0.00	30.00
Other sales	0.00	97.50
	-----	-----
	511.75	1,720.50
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Printing of <i>Miscellany 2</i>	0.00	4,645.20
Publicity and distribution of <i>Miscellany 2</i>	0.00	158.64
Publicity and distribution of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	0.00	16.18
	-----	-----
	0.00	4,820.02
Balance c/fwd	4,100.57	3,588.82



**Liabilities**

	2011	2010
General Fund	2,839.64	3,919.27
Life membership & advance subs	3,896.00	3,742.00
Publications Fund	4,100.57	3,588.82
	-----	-----
	10,836.21	11,250.09

**Assets**

	2011	2010
Santander	547.25	1,249.13
Nationwide	288.96	0.96
COIF	10,000.00	10,000.00
Cash	0.00	0.00
	-----	-----
	10,836.21	11,250.09

The above accounts and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the President and Hon Secretary of the Chapels Society on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012.

Dr C Wakeling .....  ..... Ms S Crofts .....  .....

## Review of Activities 2011

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 (Paul Gardner) and a Casework Co-ordinator (Michael Atkinson).

**Annual General Meeting:** The Society's AGM took place on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 during the summer visit to Exeter. Thirty members of the Society were present. No members of Council were due to stand down in 2011 but Jean West was elected to the vacant position on the Council. The AGM was also asked to approve a rise in the subscriptions rate from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 to the following levels: Individual members - £15; Two members at one address - £20; Full-time students - £8; Life members - £300; Corporate members - £20; Individual overseas members - £20. This proposal was agreed by members and new standing order forms were issued with the September edition of the *Newsletter*.

**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. Having discussed a number of options for upgrading the existing website during the year the Council decided to build and maintain a new website 'in house' using open source software. The Hon Secretary agreed to take on the task of creating the new website and it was launched in September 2011 on the new 'www.chapelsociety.org.uk' domain.

The website continues to host general information about the Society as well as details of relevant publications, information about visits, copies of visit notes, an index of the Society's *Newsletter* and general items that may be of interest to members. Further information and resources will be added in due course. The Council wishes to thank Robin Phillips for his hard work creating and maintaining the previous Chapels Society website.

**Casework:** The list of major casework items dealt with during 2011 is given below. The volume of the Society's casework decreased markedly in 2011 although the reason for this dip in activity is not known. It is interesting to note that all the cases that did come to the Council's attention relate to former chapels rather than chapels in use.

- Former Congregational Chapel, Bromyard (*Grade II, Early C18*).
- Former Fishergate Baptist Chapel, Preston (*Grade II, 1858, James Hibbert*).
- Former Ebenezer Chapel, Midland Road, Bristol (*Unlisted, mid C19*).

In order to allow the Hon Secretary to devote more time to the maintenance and updating of the Society's new website Council decided to recruit a casework co-ordinator to help process casework enquiries. Architect Michael Atkinson, who is based in North Shields, agreed to take on the role.

**Visits:** The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2011, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- Isle of Man from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2011 (*led by Tim Grass*)
- Exeter and the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (*led by Roger Thorne*)
- Reading, Henley and environs on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2011 (*led by Chris Skidmore*)

The weekend visit to the Isle of Man was a departure from the usual day visits but provided an excellent opportunity for a number of members to become acquainted with some of the wonderful Nonconformist places of worship in splendid sunshine in this beautiful location. Tim Grass was greatly assisted by local historian Frank Cowin and members of the Manx Methodist Historical Society. Their warm welcome and enthusiasm for the subject was much appreciated by those in the party.

**Publications:** Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2011 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 did not undertake any new publishing work in 2011 but did give consideration to its future publications strategy. It is likely that the Society will aim to publish a Journal every three years from 2012 onwards.

**Membership:** Robin Phillips stepped down as Membership Secretary at the end of 2011 after several years of dedicated service in the role. The Council would like to recognise his generous contribution to the Society and would also like to thank him for producing the triennial 'List of Members' at the end of the year. Paul Gardner took over the role of Membership Secretary in January 2012.

There has been a modest net loss of 4 in terms of membership numbers in 2011 despite considerable efforts to recruit new members. The following table gives an overview of membership in recent years.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>(inc. Life)</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
January 2012	286	(inc. 33)	29	315

The Council was heartened that members accepted the proposal to raise the membership subscription levels at the AGM in July. Although it seems that the majority of members are supportive of the rise, the actual effect on membership numbers is not yet known.

**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. 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  
on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012

