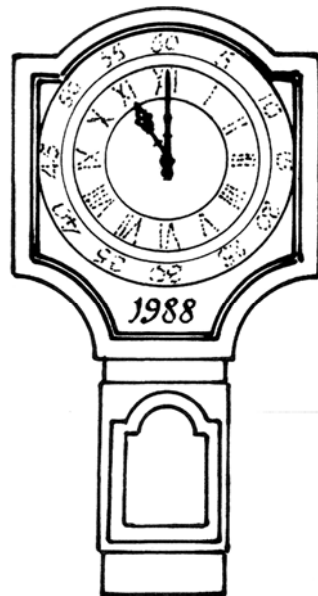


# THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



## *Annual Report and Accounts* 2012

*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 by offering advice and encouragement to those responsible for their upkeep.

**Address for correspondence:** Sara Crofts, 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 2012 were Rod Ambler (from July), Michael Atkinson (from July), Sara Crofts ~ Secretary, Paul Gardner, Tim Grass ~ Visits Secretary, Alan Petford (until July), David Quick, Alan Rose, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Roger Thorne, Christopher Wakeling ~ President, David Watts ~ Treasurer (until July) and Jean West ~ Treasurer.

**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:** Mr Alexander Calder, Mallard House, Checkley Lane, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7PA.

**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 Secretary.

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

## Review of Financial Activities 2012

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 key financial activity in 2012 has been the implementation of the new subscription rates from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. The rates were increased 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. Despite some initial problems with the standing orders and various banks failing to process instructions correctly most members have now paid at the appropriate rate. The Council would like to thank the membership for supporting this necessary increase and for amending their standing orders accordingly.

The Publications Fund continued to benefit from good sales of *Miscellany 2 (Chapels and Chapel People)* and modest sales of *Dissent and the Gothic Revival* and *Nonconformist Plate* but there was little expenditure as the Society did not undertake any new publishing work in 2012. However, a grant was received from English Heritage to assist with the cost of publishing the papers from the 'Sitting in Chapel' conference.

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.

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. Due to the work involved in making a Gift Aid claim this has not been done for the last couple of years but a full claim that covers the last three years will be made in 2013.

The Society ended the year with a modest surplus of £641.12 leaving our finances in a relatively healthy state. The three funds had closing balances which totalled £13,575.19, an increase of £2,738.98 on the previous year.

The Accounts were approved by the Society's Council and have received an unqualified report from Mr Alexander Calder, 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 2012  
(Charity No. 1014207)*

### General Fund

<b>Income</b>	2012	2011	<b>Expenditure</b>	2012	2011
Subscriptions			Newsletters	2,381.14	1,872.41
Received in the year	3,376.00	2,057.00	Officers' travel and expenses	1,170.91	936.78
Paid in advance for 2013	201.00	72.00	Council expenditure	347.46	529.48
Drawn from life memberships	275.00	275.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	323.00	245.00
Arrears from previous year	0.00	0.00	Refunds of members' subscriptions	0.00	24.00
Donations	14.01	0.01	AGM costs	75.00	0.00
Conference	2,065.00	0.00	Conference	1,481.17	0.00
Spring visit	1,140.00	1,515.00	Spring visit	942.50	1570.35
Summer visit	440.00	450.00	Summer visit	434.02	498.00
Autumn visit	1,020.00	1,134.00	Autumn visit	821.00	965.00
Bank interest	86.31	66.28	Miscellaneous	0.00	7.90
Tax recoveries	0.00	0.00		<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>		7,976.20	6,648.92
	8,617.32	5,569.29			
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	641.12	-1,079.63
			Balance b/forward	2,839.64	3,919.27
			Balance c/fwd	3,480.76	2,839.64

## Life Membership and Advance Subscriptions

<b>Income</b>	2012	2011	<b>Expenditure</b>	2012	2011
Life subscriptions	0.00	300.00	Life members subs to General Fund	275.00	275.00
Advance subs for 2013	55.00	201.00	Advance subs to General Fund	201.00	72.00
	<u>55.00</u>	<u>501.00</u>		<u>476.00</u>	<u>347.00</u>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-421.00	154.00
			Balance b/forward	3,896.00	3,742.00
			Balance c/fwd	3,475.00	3,896.00


## Publications Fund

<b>Income</b>	2012	2011	<b>Expenditure</b>	2012	2011
Sales of <i>Dissent &amp; the Gothic Revival</i>	62.50	35.25	Publicity and distribution	0.00	0.00
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	47.00	0.00	Postage	29.64	0.00
Sales of <i>Chapel People</i>	364.00	476.50		<u>29.64</u>	<u>0.00</u>
English Heritage grant	2,000.00	0.00			
	<u>2,473.50</u>	<u>511.75</u>			
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	2,443.86	511.75
			Balance b/forward	4,100.57	3,588.82
			Balance c/fwd	6,544.43	4,100.57

## Statement of Assets and Liabilities

<b>Liabilities</b>	2012	2011	<b>Assets</b>	2012	2011
General Fund	3,480.76	2,839.64	Santander	3,140.20	547.25
Life membership & advance subs	3,475.00	3,896.00	Nationwide	434.99	288.96
Publications Fund	6,544.43	4,100.57	COIF	10,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>13,500.19</u>	<u>10,836.21</u>		<u>13,575.19</u>	<u>10,836.21</u>
Uncleared cheque	75.00				
	<u>13,575.19</u>				

The above Accounts and Statement of Assets and Liabilities were approved by the President and Hon Secretary of the Chapels Society on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.

Dr C Wakeling 

Ms S Crofts 

## Review of Activities 2012

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, May, 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 Officer (Michael Atkinson).

**Annual General Meeting:** The Society's AGM took place on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2012 during the summer visit to Hampstead. Forty-one members of the Society were present. David Watts stood down from the role of Treasurer and was succeeded by Jean West. David Quick reached the end of his first term and was re-elected; Rod Ambler and Michael Atkinson were newly elected to the Council. As always the AGM provided a good opportunity to reflect on the Society's extensive range of activities over the last year though the President reminded those present that we ought not to be complacent – there is a continuing need to recruit new members and generally to raise awareness of the Society and its endeavours.

**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. The new website was launched in September 2011 on the new 'www.chapelsociety.org.uk' domain and has received positive feedback from members and others. The website hosts 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. The website is frequently updated and items of news and general interest are posted regularly.

**Casework:** Michael Atkinson has been settling into the role of Casework Officer and has been dealing with incoming enquiries during the year. A new email address has been set up to allow people to contact him directly - [chapsoc.casework@gmail.com](mailto:chapsoc.casework@gmail.com). The list of major casework items dealt with during 2012 is given below.

The volume of the Society's casework picked up a little in 2012 and included a number of chapels that have now featured in the *Annual Report* on several occasions. This is perhaps an indication of the length of time that it takes for proposals to be developed, discussed and implemented. It is also worth noting that several enquiries related to chapels under threat of sale or demolition.

- The Old Meeting House (Unitarian), High Street, Marshfield, Gloucestershire (1752, *Grade II\**)
- Whitefield's Tabernacle, Kingswood, Bristol (1741, *Grade I*)
- Horningsham Congregational Chapel, Horningsham, Wiltshire (c.1700, *Grade II\**)
- Neston Gospel Hall, Corsham, Wiltshire (c.1856, *Unlisted*)
- Seven Kings Methodist Church, Ilford, Essex (c.1905, *Unlisted*)
- Leatherhead Methodist Church, Leatherhead, Surrey (c.1893, *Unlisted*)
- Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel, Dukinfield, Cheshire (*Late C16 or early C17, Grade II\**)
- Former URC Church, Dodington, Whitchurch, Shropshire (1813, *Grade II*)

**Visits:** The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2012, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- Kidderminster, Stourbridge and Bewdley on 14<sup>th</sup> April (*led by Christopher Wakeling and David Watts*)
- Hampstead with the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> July (*led by Andrew Worth*)
- Harrogate and Pateley Bridge on 22<sup>nd</sup> September (*led by David Quick*)

**Publications:** Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2012 and contained information about events of interest to members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications such as individual chapel histories. During 2012 the Society drew up proposals for the first of the new series of *Journals* that will be issued on a triennial basis. The first edition will contain the papers delivered at the 'Sitting in Chapel' conference and will be published in 2013.

**Membership:** Paul Gardner took over the role of Membership Secretary in January 2012 and carried out a thorough review and audit of the Society's membership records. A small number of anomalies were identified and have since been rectified. Sadly there was a modest net loss of 6 in terms of membership numbers in 2012 despite considerable efforts to recruit new members and there is a need to continue to seek opportunities to promote the benefits of membership of the Society to new audiences. The following table gives an overview of membership in recent years.

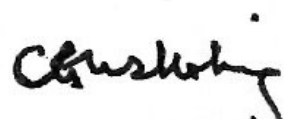
<b>Year</b>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>(inc. Life)</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Total</b>
January 2009	282	(inc. 33)	24	306
January 2010	277	(inc. 34)	25	302
January 2011	291	(inc. 33)	28	319
January 2012	286	(inc. 33)	29	315
January 2013	280	(inc. 33)	29	309

**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 Dr Christopher Wakeling,  
President, on behalf of the Council  
on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

  
2 May 2013