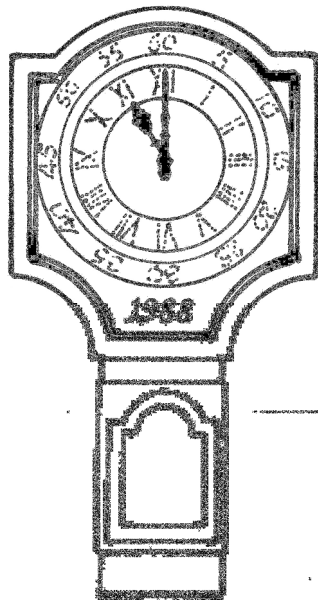


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts *2013*

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. 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).

Trustees: The trustees (Council members) of the Society in 2013 were Peter Ackers (from July), Rod Ambler, Michael Atkinson, Sara Crofts ~ Secretary, Jenny Freeman (from July), Paul Gardner (until July), Tim Grass (as President from July), David Quick, Alan Rose, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Roger Thorne (until July), Christopher Wakeling ~ President (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 2013

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.

Although bank interest remains low the implementation of the membership subscription increase in 2012 has made a noticeably positive impact on the Society's income and has placed the organisation on a steady footing once again. We have also been able to submit a substantial Gift Aid claim covering the last three years, which has provided an additional welcome boost to our assets.

The major expenditure in 2013 related to the printing and publication of *Sitting in Chapel*. Happily, these costs were offset by a grant from English Heritage though sales have not been as high as we might have hoped.

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.

The Society ended the year with a modest surplus of £412.46, a little down on last year's figure but still welcome. The three funds had closing balances which totalled £11,362.58.

The Accounts were approved by the Society's Council and have been considered by Mr Alexander Calder, the Society's Independent Examiner. He confirms that his examination of the 2013 Accounts brought no matter to his attention that gave him reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the following requirements have not been met:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act.

The Chapels Society

Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2013
(Charity No. 1014207)

General Fund

Income	2013	2012	Expenditure	2013	2012
Subscriptions			Newsletters	2,309.02	2,381.14
Received in the year	3,699.89	3,376.00	Officers' travel and expenses	1,747.26	1,170.91
Paid in advance for 2013	55.00	201.00	Council expenditure	383.89	347.46
Drawn from life memberships	275.00	275.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	330.00	323.00
Arrears from previous year	0.00	0.00	Refunds of members' subscriptions	55.00	0.00
Donations			AGM costs	0.00	75.00
Subscriptions	7.01	14.01	Transfer to Pubs Fund	520.00	0.00
Fliers	30.00	0.00			
Activities			Activities		
Conference	0.00	2,065.00	Conference	0.00	1,481.17
Spring visit	1,244.00	1,140.00	Spring visit	1,094.16	942.50
Summer visit	1,305.00	440.00	Summer visit	1,011.96	434.02
Autumn visit	839.00	1,020.00	Autumn visit	762.50	821.00
Bank interest	58.22	86.31			
Tax recoveries	1,113.03	0.00			
	<u>8,626.15</u>	<u>8,617.32</u>		<u>8,213.69</u>	<u>7,976.20</u>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	412.46	641.12
			Balance b/forward	3,480.76	2,839.64
			Balance c/fwd	3,893.22	3,480.76

Life Membership and Advance Subscriptions

Income	2013	2012	Expenditure	2013	2012
Life subscriptions	0.00	0.00	Life members subs to General Fund	275.00	275.00
Advance subs for the following year	16.39	55.00	Advance subs to General Fund	55.00	201.00
	<u>16.39</u>	<u>55.00</u>		<u>330.00</u>	<u>476.00</u>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-313.61	-421.00
			Balance b/forward	3,475.00	3,896.00
			Balance c/fwd	3,161.39	3,475.00

Publications Fund

Income	2013	2012	Expenditure	2013	2012
Sales of <i>Dissent & the Gothic Revival</i>	17.00	62.50	Printing <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	3,279.25	0.00
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	22.50	47.00	Postage of <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	240.96	0.00
Sales of <i>Chapel People</i>	6.00	364.00	General postage	46.75	29.64
Sales of <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	380.00	0.00	Publicity etc.	0.00	0.00
English Heritage grant	0.00	2,000.00		<u>3,566.96</u>	<u>29.64</u>
Sales to Sandpiper Books	325.00	0.00	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-2,296.46	2,443.86
Transfer from General Fund	520.00	0.00	Balance b/forward	6,544.43	4,100.57
	<u>1,270.50</u>	<u>2,473.50</u>	Balance c/fwd	4,247.97	6,544.43

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities	2013	2012	Assets	2013	2012
General Fund	3,893.22	3,480.76	Santander	2,269.78	3,140.20
Life membership & advance subs	3,161.39	3,475.00	Nationwide	92.80	434.99
Publications Fund	4,247.97	6,544.43	COIF	9,000.00	10,000.00
	<u>11,302.58</u>	<u>13,500.19</u>		<u>11,362.58</u>	<u>13,575.19</u>
Uncleared cheque	60.00	75.00			
	<u>11,362.58</u>	<u>13,575.19</u>			

The above Accounts and Statement of Assets & Liabilities were approved by the President (Tim Grass) and the Hon Secretary (Sara Crofts) of the Chapels Society on 29th April 2014.

T.G. Grass

Sara Croft:

Sara Crofts

Review of Activities 2013

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. For the last year the post of Hon Visits Secretary has been vacant and the oversight of the Society's programme of activities has been undertaken by Tim Grass. 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 13th July 2013 during the summer visit to Liverpool. Forty-one members of the Society were present. Christopher Wakeling stood down from the role of President and was succeeded by Tim Grass. Roger Thorne and Paul Gardner came to the end of their second terms of office as Council members and stood down; Alan Rose was elected for a second term and Peter Ackers and Jenny Freeman were newly elected to the Council after a vote. As always the AGM provided a good opportunity to reflect on the Society's successes over the previous twelve months. It was also an opportunity to reflect on the excellent leadership provided by Christopher Wakeling over the previous six years. The Society noted its appreciation for this hard work and enthusiasm for our aims and welcomed Tim Grass as a worthy successor.

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 (www.chapelssociety.org.uk). 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 continued to administer the Society's steady stream of incoming casework during the year. The list of major casework items dealt with during 2013 is given below.

- Naunton Baptist Church, Gloucestershire, 1850 (G II)
- Seven Kings Methodist Church, Ilford, 1905 (G II)
- The Old Meeting House (Unitarian), Marshfield, Gloucestershire, 1752 (G II*)
- Dukinfield 'Old Hall Chapel', Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, late C16 /early C17 (G II*)
- Birdhopecraig URC, Rochester, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1826 (G II)

Items of casework can be send directly to the Casework Officer using the dedicated casework email address – chapsoc.casework@gmail.com

Visits: The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2013, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- Stowmarket on 13th April – led by Tim Grass
- Liverpool (including the AGM) on 13th July – led by Chris Wakeling and Alan Petford
- Taunton and the surrounding area on 28th September – led by Peter Daniel and David Dawson with assistance from Roger Thorne

Publications: Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2013 and contained information about events of interest to members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications such as individual chapel histories. However, the major event of 2013 was the publication of the first in a new series of *Journals* that will be issued on a triennial basis. The first edition contains the papers delivered at the 'Sitting in Chapel' conference and was very well received across the heritage sector with a number of very favourable reviews. The Society would wish to note its gratitude to English Heritage for providing a grant of £2,000 to help cover the cost of printing the volume.

Membership: Paul Gardner continues to act as the Society's Membership Secretary and attends Council Meetings on a regular basis. Although membership numbers remain broadly stable there was once again a modest net loss of 7 in terms of membership numbers in 2013. This was partly due to a revision of the roll and a general updating of the database records. The Society continues to make strenuous efforts to recruit new members and was pleased that the promotional membership offer advertised with the *Sitting in Chapel* publication was successful in recruiting a healthy number of new members. The following table gives an overview of membership in recent years.

Year	Personal	(inc. Life)	Corporate	Total
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
January 2014	272	(inc. 31)	30	302

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.

oOo

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

Signed by Dr Tim Grass,
President, on behalf of the Council
on 29th April 2014

