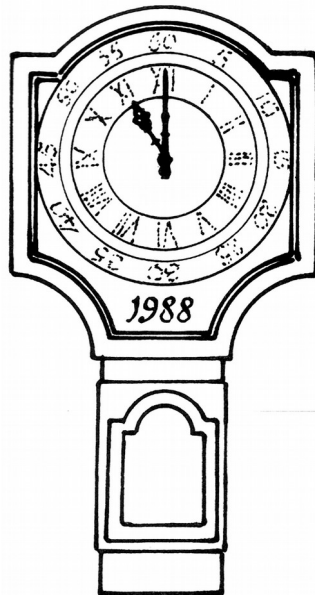


# THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



## *Annual Report and Accounts* *2015*

*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:** Moira Ackers, Secretary, 1 Valley Rd, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3PX (or [ChapelsSociety@gmail.com](mailto:ChapelsSociety@gmail.com)).

**Trustees:** The trustees (Council members) of the Society in 2015 were Moira Ackers (co-opted) ~ Secretary, Peter Ackers, Rod Ambler, Michael Atkinson, Jenny Freeman, Paul Gardner ~ Membership Secretary, Tim Grass ~ President, Alan Rose, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, 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 2015**

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 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 COIF accounts.

In 2014 £5,000 was deposited in a COIF Fixed Interest Fund and an unrealised income gain of £115.17 has been notified. There has again been a reduction in officer's travel costs.

The Council considers that the reserves continue to be appropriate to the scale of the Society's activities.

The closing balances of the bank accounts and COIF totalled £14,198.33, an increase of £1,163.43 on the previous year.

The Accounts were approved by the Society's Council and have been considered by Dr Alexander Calder, the Society's Independent Examiner. He confirms that his examination of the 2015 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 Accounts and Statement of Assets & Liabilities set out on the following pages were approved by the Council of the Chapels Society on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015.

# The Chapels Society

(Charity No. 1014207)

## Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2015

### General Fund

	2015	2014		2015	2014
<i>Income</i>	£	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£	£
Subscriptions			Newsletters	2,303.84	2,316.67
Received to date	3,772.35	3,770.89	Officers' travel & expenses	899.91	1,158.29
Drawn from Life memberships	275.00	275.00	Council expenditure	233.20	226.56
Arrears from previous year	-	-	Subscriptions to other bodies	320.00	320.00
Donations	68.41	56.01	Refunds of subscription	20.00	50.00
Conference	-	2,134.75	AGM Costs	-	-
Spring Visit	746.00	434.00	Conference	-	1,317.72
Summer Visit	964.00	552.00	Spring Visit	621.97	428.51
Autumn Visit	746.50	1,056.00	Summer Visit	786.00	407.70
Bank Interest	22.82	36.65	Autumn Visit	690.55	977.61
Tax Recoveries (Gift Aid)	582.19	569.74	Web site costs	8.38	-
Unrealised income gain (Fixed interest fund)	115.07	-	Transferred to Publications Fund	520.00	520.00
Uncashed Chq. added back	60.00	-			
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	7,352.34	8,885.04		6,403.85	7,723.06
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	948.49	1,161.98
			Balance b/fwd	5,055.20	3,893.22
			Balance c/fwd	6,003.69	5,055.20

### Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions

	£	£		£	£
<i>Income</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
Life subscriptions	-	-	Life Members' Subs. Transferred to Gen. Fund	275.00	275.00
Advance Subs. for 2016-7	45.68	0.00	Advance Subs. to General Fund	-	16.39
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	45.68	0.00		275.00	291.39
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-229.32	-291.39
			Balance b/fwd	2,870.00	3,161.39
			Balance c/fwd	2,640.68	2,870.00

**Publications Fund**

	£	£		£	£
<i>Income</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
Sales of <i>Dissent &amp; Gothic Revival</i>	17.50	65.50	Exp: <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	-	-
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	-	17.50	Postage - <i>Sitting in Chapel, etc.</i>	-	29.67
Sales of <i>Chapel People</i>	-	15.00	Publicity & Distribution	-	-
Sales of <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	-	148.86	Postage - General	7.74	10.96
Sales of 'Out of Print' books	-	10.00			
Transf. from Gen. Fund	520.00	520.00		7.74	40.63
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	537.50	776.86	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	529.76	736.23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	Balance b/fwd	4,984.20	4,247.97
			Balance c/fwd	5,513.96	4,984.20
				<hr/>	<hr/>

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

	£	£		£	£
<i>Liabilities</i>			<i>Assets</i>		
General Fund	6,003.69	5,055.20	Santander Account	4,758.47	3,814.92
Life Membership & Advance Subs.	2,640.68	2,870.00	Nationwide Account	324.79	219.98
Publications Fund	5,513.96	4,984.20	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
			COIF Fixed Interest Fund	5,115.07	5,000.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>			
	14,158.33	12,909.40			
Uncashed Cheques (2)	40.00	125.50			
	<hr/>	<hr/>			
	14,198.33	13,034.90		14,198.33	13,034.90
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## **Review of Activities 2015**

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). For the last three years the Visits Secretary has been vacant, and the oversight of the Society's programme has been shared by the council members. The Council wishes to create a position on the Council for a webmaster to manage the website.

**Annual General Meeting:** The Society's AGM took place on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2015 during the summer visit to Charnwood, Leicestershire. Thirty-six members of the Society were present. Michael Atkinson and Rod Ambler were re-elected having reached the end of their first term. Stuart Leadley was elected onto Council for his first term. 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 and has received positive feedback from members and others. The website hosts information about the Society as well as details of relevant publications, information about visits, copies of visit notes, and an index of the Society's *Newsletter*. The website is frequently updated

and items of news and general interest are posted regularly. This website was felt to be a very important way both to make the presence of the Society known but also to share our knowledge and interest with others.

**Casework:** A busy 2014 for casework has been followed up by a somewhat quieter period of enquiries throughout 2015. This however has not signified a shift in the level of danger that Chapels are at risk; be they undergoing significant alteration, slipping into redundancy, under threat of demolition or at worst lost altogether. There remains an ever-present need to campaign and make representation against casework that demonstrate justifiable damage and detriment to the significance of the nonconformist building stock across the United Kingdom. The Society encourages its members to make contact, send an email using the Society's dedicated casework email address – [chapsoc.casework@gmail.com](mailto:chapsoc.casework@gmail.com) or raise the profile of any Chapels susceptible to change.

Casework continues to be co-ordinated on behalf of the Society by Michael Atkinson. A selection of the major casework items reported and dealt with in 2015 is listed below:

- Over Baptist Church, Cambridgeshire, 1810 (Grade II)
- St Gregory the Great RC, 1873-75 (Grade II)
- Lynton Methodist Church, Devon, 1910 (Grade II\*)
- Jesmond Old Cemetery, Newcastle upon Tyne, 1836 (Grade II\*)

Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register 2015 has confirmed that 6.3% (930) of all Places of Worship are at risk. Notable new entries on this year's register include the grade II listed Church of St Thomas More, Birmingham - a 1968 Roman Catholic church built entirely from concrete, by nationally-important architect Richard Gilbert Scott. In the North East cemeteries are the highest priority at risk which do tend to have associated nonconformist chapels within their curtilage.

We have been informed of threats to several Tin Tabernacles across the country. The Society would be pleased to hear from our members who have specialist knowledge of this chapel typology which to date has had little research into their distribution and condition.

**Publications:** Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2015 and contained information about events of interest to

members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications. Our long-standing arrangement with Oblong Creative to layout and print the *Newsletter* came to an end. They are still very much involved with *The Chapels Society Journal*, of which the second issue was prepared for the press in late 2015.

**Visits:** The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2015, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- Edinburgh on 2 - 4 May (*led by Tim Grass & Sara Crofts* )
- Charnwood on 27<sup>th</sup> June (*led by Moira & Peter Ackers*)
- Cleethorpes & Grimsby on 12<sup>nd</sup> September (*led by Rod & Margaret Ambler*)

**Membership:** Membership numbers continue to be steady at just under 300 but new members are always needed.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Personal</b>	<b>(inc. Life)</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	<b>Total</b>
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
January 2015	263	(inc. 32)	24	287
January 2016	259	(inc. 32)	23	282

**Links with other organisations:** The Society continues to hold membership of the Heritage Alliance. 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 Tim Grass, President, on behalf of the Council

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