

The Chapels Society

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting

1) The 20th Annual General meeting of the Chapels Society took place at Huddersfield Methodist Mission, Lloyd Street, Huddersfield on 21st June 2008. The President, Christopher Wakeling, took the chair at 12.15pm and called the meeting to order.

2) Apologies for absence had been received from Clyde and Noreen Binfield, Tony Coates, Tony Earl, Celia Gibbs, Tim Grass, John Brook Hamilton, Nigel Lemon, Tom and Bonnie Martin, Jonathan Morgan, Nicholas Page, David Quick, Alan and Joy Rowe, Christopher and Jean Stell, John Thompson, Christina van Melzen. Thirty-five other members and guests were present.

3) The draft minutes of the 19th AGM, held at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Worcester, on 30th June 2007, had been distributed. After two minor corrections, they were unanimously adopted and signed by the President as a correct record.

4) The President then introduced the *Annual Report and Accounts for 2007*. The Hon Secretary (Robin Phillips) reported developments which had taken place since the approval of the report last April. Total membership at the last count was 318. Since the last AGM we had lost five members through death, Mrs Joyce F T Banks, Mr Michael Brook, Dr Thomas H. Cocke, Mrs J E Kenrick, and Mr David R Kenrick. We were pleased to report that Anthony Rossi had been appointed CBE, and the Rt Hon Sir Alan Beith MP, a Knight Bachelor.

In Liverpool the community around the Gustavus Adolphus Church (1883, Caröe, grade II) was negotiating with the Church of Sweden Abroad in hopes of avoiding its closure. The former URC at Whitchurch, Shropshire, associated with the composer Edward German, was the subject of proposed development, which we were opposing.

The Hon Treasurer (Andrew Worth) reported. New rules from the Charity Commission had not as expected made necessary any change in the format of the accounts. Our financial position was sound, with a balance of £17,250.

Chris Skidmore (Hon Editor) reported on our publishing plans. The *Newsletter* had been published, and *Dissent and the Gothic Revival* was still on sale. *Nonconformist Communion Plate* by Christopher Stell was now in the printer's hands, and would appear this autumn. Members should order at the reduced rate before 1st September 2008.

The second *Miscellany* volume was at an advanced stage, and likely to appear early in 2009. The Hon Visits Secretary (Rosalind Kaye) reminded members to book for the Canterbury visit. There were no questions arising, and on a motion by Ted Royle and Alan Rose the meeting adopted the *Annual Report and Accounts 2007* nem con.

5) Election of trustees (Officers): The President explained that this year Rosalind Kaye and Robin Phillips wished to stand down, and thanked them for their work. We had been very fortunate to find Sara Crofts, an architect working for S.P.A.B., to take on the task of Secretary, and Dr Tim Grass of Spurgeon's College, who unfortunately could not be with us in person, was willing to work as Visits Secretary. The remaining officers were willing to continue if re-elected.

The outgoing Secretary asked for the (four) candidates listed to be approved *en bloc*:

Secretary: Sara Crofts (proposed by Chris Wakeling and Robin Phillips)

Treasurer: Andrew Worth (proposed by Roger Thorne and John Anderson)

Editor: Chris Skidmore (proposed by Chris Wakeling and Rosalind Kaye)

Visits Secretary: Tim Grass (proposed by Rosalind Kaye and Roger Thorne)

The meeting unanimously agreed to elect all five officers.

6) Election of trustees (Council members): This year no Council members were retiring. John Anderson, John Ellis, Paul Gardner, Celia Gibbs, Alan Petford and Roger Thorne were all willing to continue serving, and no election was therefore required.

7) Independent Financial Examiner: Robin Phillips and Chris Skidmore proposed the re-election of Cedric G Hallam, and the meeting agreed unanimously.

8) The President drew attention to the note announcing the visit to Berkshire and Oxfordshire on 16th May 2009, and next year's AGM in Oakham, Rutland, on Saturday 4th July 2009. He felt that the Society was in good heart and that in our casework we were doing a valuable task and could punch above our weight.

He expressed our thanks to Ted Royle for undertaking the arrangements for today's visit to Huddersfield. Next week in Halifax would afford an opportunity to hear Ted speak to the Wesley Historical Society on '*When did Methodists stop attending their parish churches?*'.

9) There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 12.57pm.