

The Chapels Society ~ Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting

- 1) The 24th Annual General Meeting of the Chapels Society took place at **Heath Street Baptist Church, Hampstead, London on 7th July 2012**. The President, Christopher Wakeling, took the chair at 11.20am and called the meeting to order. Apologies for absence had been received from Rod & Margaret Ambler, Anne Anderson, John Ellis, David Oldham, Alan Petford, William Pickering, David Quick, Roger & Roslyn Thorne, David Watts, and Peter & Jean West.
- 2) The minutes of the 23rd Annual General Meeting, held in Sidwell Street Methodist Church, Exeter on 9th July 2011, were unanimously adopted by the meeting and signed by the President as a correct record.
- 3) The President thanked members and officers present and elsewhere for their support of the Society over the previous year. In particular he thanked Alan Petford and David Watts who were standing down from the Council and Robin Phillips who had handed over the role of Membership Secretary to Paul Gardner. He then invited the Honorary Officers to give their reports on the Society's activities during the year.

The Hon Secretary (Sara Crofts) noted that there had been very little casework notified to the Society in 2011 although she had no explanation for this change. The Society has no statutory casework remit and therefore it relies on being alerted to cases by members or conservation officers. It is possible that the reduction in local authority resources might be partly responsible for the decline in referrals. She advised members of the good news that the Society had appointed a Casework Officer in the person of Michael Atkinson, an architect based in North Shields. She was also pleased to report that the Society's new website had been launched and that further information would be added on a regular basis.

The Hon Editor (Chris Skidmore) thanked members for their contributions to the Society's Newsletter and encouraged more people to consider writing articles. He was also in need of volunteers to review books – this was not an onerous task and reviewers are allowed to retain the books they review. He had a couple of publications with him that he hoped to find reviewers for. Chris also noted that although there had been no publications released in 2011 he was working on the first of the new triennial publications, which would be issued free to members. This is due for publication in early 2013 and will contain the proceedings of the recent 'Sitting in Chapel' conference.

The Hon Visits Secretary (Tim Grass) gave a brief summary of the previous year's visits. There had been successful visits to the Isle of Man (April), Exeter (July), and Reading and Henley (October). The first of the 2012 visits to Kidderminster and Bewdley in April had also been well received. Tim noted that the Society tries to ensure a good geographical spread; we are always open to suggestions regarding visits to 'strands afar remote'. The final visit of 2012 will take members to Harrogate and Nidderdale in the company of David Quick in September and plans for 2013 are well in hand. There will be a visit to Stowmarket in Suffolk on 13th April 2013, led by Tim and the Taunton area of Somerset led by Peter Daniel and David Dawson in September. We do not yet have a venue for the AGM next July, but are thinking in terms of Liverpool. Further ahead, we are looking at another visit to Kent led by Paul Gardner. Warm thanks are due to those who organise these visits. Finally, Tim announced that the Society will need to find a new Visits Secretary to take over with effect from July 2013. The basic requirement is for someone who is organised and Tim encouraged anyone who might be interested to have a conversation with him when convenient.

As the Hon Treasurer (David Watts) was not able to be present the Hon President presented the Society's Accounts to the AGM. The adoption of the *Annual Report and Accounts 2011* was proposed by Stephen Duckworth, seconded by Ted Royle and agreed nem con.

- 4) The President expressed sincere thanks to the membership for their help during the process of revising the annual subscriptions. The transition had been more difficult than expected due to

inevitable problems with banks and exacerbated by a change in the Society's sort code as a result of the Alliance & Leicester being taken over by Santander. There are still a few unresolved issues that the Society is working hard to rectify. He encouraged members to contact Paul Gardner, the Hon Membership Secretary, if they had any queries.

5) The President noted that David Watts was stepping down as the Society's Treasurer. There had been one nomination for the post of Treasurer – Jean West proposed by Colin Baxter and seconded by Roger Thorne. The Society's other officers were willing to stand for re-election as follows:

- Secretary: Sara Crofts – proposed by David Quick, seconded by Chris Wakeling
- Editor: Chris Skidmore – proposed by David Watts, seconded by Paul Gardner
- Visits Secretary: Tim Grass – proposed by Jean West, seconded by Sara Crofts

The President asked if the candidates might be approved en bloc – the meeting unanimously agreed to elect all four officers. The President then explained that the Society currently has six elected members of Council each serving three-year terms. Alan Petford has reached the end of his second term and must stand down. As the meeting had elected Jean West to the position of Treasurer this meant that there were two vacancies on the Council for which two nominations had been received. Rod Ambler had been proposed by Tim Grass and seconded by Paul Gardner and Michael Atkinson had been proposed by Sara Crofts and seconded by David Quick

Of the current Council members Christopher Wakeling (President until 2013), Paul Gardner (until 2013), Roger Thorne (until 2013), and Alan Rose (until 2013 and then eligible for re-election) were willing to continue serving. David Quick had reached the end of his first term but was willing to stand for re-election and had been proposed by Sara Crofts and seconded by Tim Grass. The President therefore asked if all three candidates might be approved en bloc. The meeting agreed and David Quick, Rod Ambler and Michael Atkinson were elected nem con.

6) The Council had decided at its last meeting that it would be best not to appoint a new Independent Financial Examiner until a new Treasurer was elected. This would allow a suitable person to be identified – hopefully in the same geographical location as the Treasurer for the sake of administrative ease. He therefore asked the meeting if they would agree to delegate authority for appointing a new Independent Financial Examiner to the Council. The meeting ratified this proposal nem con.

7) There was no other notified business.

8) The President thanked everyone for their attention and reminded members that there are still copies of a number of the Society's past publications available for purchase. He hoped that the introduction of a new regime of triennial publications issued free to members would prove to be a good incentive to others to join the Society and encouraged people to make others aware of this new development. He also congratulated Council member Paul Gardner on his recent award of Master of Theology. The President then concluded proceedings by thanking everyone for attending the AGM and wished them an enjoyable day of visits in Hampstead before closing the meeting at 11.50am.

Attendees: John Anderson, Judith Bartlett, Timothy Bartlett, Richard Bateman, Clyde Binfield, Noreen Binfield, Stella Bond, Alan Brooks, Christopher Buckwell, Tony Coates, Sara Crofts, John Dearing, Barry Denton, Belinda Denton, Stephen Duckworth, Tony Earl, Mary Ede, Paul Gardner, Celia Gibbs, Tim Grass, Alec Hamilton, Roger Holden, Rosalind Kaye, Petra Laidlaw, Angus McCormack, Brian O'Connell, Patrick Palmer, Barbara Phillips, Robin Phillips, Diana Ridley, Ted Royle, Chris Skidmore, Christopher Stell, Jean Stell, Albert Taylor, John Thompson, Chris Wakeling, Marianne Wakeling, Richard Wellington, Susan Wellington, Andrew Worth.

Guests: Julie Witherall