

The Chapels Society ~ Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting

1) The 28th Annual General Meeting of the Chapels Society took place at Lumen United Reformed Church, 88 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9RS. The President, Tim Grass, took the chair at 1.00pm and called the meeting to order. Apologies for absence had been received from Clyde Binfield, Tony Coates, John Ellis, Paul Griffiths and David Oldham.

2) The President asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held at the Churches of Christ, Christians Meeting House, Oxford Street, Loughborough on 27th June 2015. As no revisions were required, the adoption of the minutes was unanimously agreed by the meeting and they were duly signed by the President as a correct record.

3) The President (Tim Grass) emphasised the development of shared conferences with other interested organisations. This year with the Association of Denominational Historical Societies and Cognate Libraries, 'Nonconformist Attitudes to War and peace in the long Twentieth Century' at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ on September 16/17th and next year with the Ecclesiological Society on 30th September 2017.

The Secretary (Moirra Ackers) thanked all those who had helped her in her first year as secretary and then drew peoples' attention to the need for 'Chapel of the Month' articles, the website being a very important presence for the Chapels Society.

The Editor (Chris Skidmore) reported that the second *Journal: Building the Church* is now out. He also drew members' attention to a recent issue with the *Newsletter* this is the slimmest issue so far and we need more material.

The Treasurer (Jean West) reported on the state of Society's finances, which remain healthy especially as the visits programme continues to produce a modest surplus. She also noted that officer's travel expenses were down.

The President then commended the Society's *Annual Report and Accounts 2015* to the AGM. As there were no questions, the adoption of the *Annual Report and Accounts 2015* was proposed by Chris Wakeling, seconded by Jenny Freeman and agreed *nem. con.*

4) Membership rates are kept under review by the Council the number of members of the Society remains fairly stable although there is a need to continue to try to recruit new members. Members were encouraged to make their annual subscription by standing order.

5) Amendment of the Chapels Society Constitution. The proposal had been published in *Newsletter 62*. This was discussed and no objections were raised to the Council having the power to co-opt, however, it was felt that the issue of voting at Council meetings needed to be clarified. The Council will discuss this further and bring this back to the next AGM.

6) Election of Trustees.

The President is elected to serve for a three-year term. Tim Grass came to the end of his first term at this AGM and was willing to stand for re-election.

- President: Tim Grass – proposed by Michael Atkinson, seconded by Jenny Freeman

Honorary Officers are elected annually and the following were willing to stand for re-election:

- Treasurer: Jean West – proposed by Rod Ambler, seconded by Peter Ackers
- Editor: Chris Skidmore – proposed by Jean West, seconded by Stuart Leadley

Sara Crofts had resigned from the post of Hon Secretary in 2015 due to a change in her work commitments. Moirra Ackers has been seconded as Secretary and now presented herself for election.

- Secretary: Moirra Ackers – proposed by Chris Skidmore, seconded by Tim Grass

The Officers were elected en bloc, proposed by Sara Croft, seconded by Stephen Duckworth, and carried unanimously.

The Society currently has six elected members of Council each serving three-year terms. Peter Ackers and Jenny Freeman had reached the end of their first term and were eligible to stand for a second term. Current Council members continuing to serve are Rod Ambler, Michael Atkinson, and Stuart Leadley (all until 2018)

Current Council members eligible and willing to stand for re-election are as follows:

- Peter Ackers – proposed by Michael Atkinson, seconded by Jean West
- Jenny Freeman – proposed by Chris Skidmore, seconded by Stuart Leadley

Nominations for election to the Council – there is one vacancy – further nominations are welcome.

- Rev Dr Martin Wellings – proposed by Tim Grass, seconded by Jenny Freeman

Bill Jacob Proposed the election of these three members to council, John Anderson Seconded, carried unanimously.

7) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner. The Council recommends that Alexander Calder is reappointed as the Independent Financial Examiner. Proposed by Chris Wakeling, Seconded by Chris Skidmore, carried unanimously.

8) Other notified business, Chris Wakeling mentioned the possibility of the Society being mentioned in members wills. The Council will explore this further.

9) Closing remarks from the President, the members were asked to hold a minutes silence in remembrance of members who died this year.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm.

Members Attending: Moira Ackers, Peter Ackers, Margaret Ambler, Rob Ambler, Anne Anderson, John Anderson, Christopher Blackwell, Stella Bond, Sara Crofts, John Dearing, Stephen Duckworth, Christine Evans, Jenny Freeman, Paul Gardner, Tim Grass, Valerie Grist, Roger Holden, John Humphries, Bill Jacob, MG Jones, Rosalind Kaye, Petra Laidlaw, Stuart Leadley, Angus McCormick, Edward Royle, EJE Semper, Chris Skidmore, John Thompson, Christopher Wakeling, Marianne Wakeling, Martin Wellings, Jean West, Peter West.