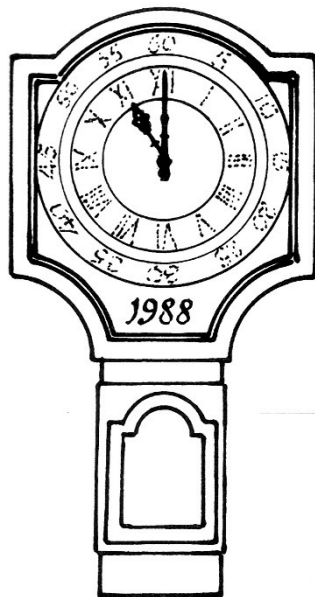


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts *2016*

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

Trustees: The trustees (Council members) of the Society in 2016 were Moira Ackers ~ Secretary, Peter Ackers, Rod Ambler, Michael Atkinson, Jenny Freeman, Tim Grass ~ President, Stuart Leadley, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Jean West ~ Treasurer, and Martin Wellings.

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: Dr 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 2016

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 £494.38 has been notified for 2016.

The main expenditure in 2016 related to the printing and publication of Journal No 2 – *Building the Church*.

The closing balances of the bank accounts and COIF totalled £13,255.00, a decrease of £943.33 on the previous year but this does include a pre-payment of £105.00 for Council expenditure in 2017.

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

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 2016 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 4th May 2017.

The Chapels Society

(Charity No. 1014207)

Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2016

General Fund

	2016	2015		2016	2015
<i>Income</i>	£	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£	£
Subscriptions			Newsletters	1,385.53	2,303.84
Received to date	3,705.00	3,772.35	Officers' travel & expenses	1,134.17	899.91
Drawn from Life Membership	200.00	275.00	Council expenditure	215.02	233.20
Arrears from previous year	-	-	Council expenditure (Pre-paid)	105.00	-
P Prepaid Subscriptions	45.68	-	Subscriptions to other bodies	334.00	320.00
Donations	56.01	68.41	Refunds of subscriptions	90.00	20.00
Conference	-	-	AGM Costs	75.00	-
Spring Visit	670.00	746.00	Spring Visit	529.50	621.97
Summer Visit	340.00	964.00	Summer Visit	110.00	786.00
Autumn Visit	608.50	746.50	Autumn Visit	527.66	690.55
Bank Interest	18.75	22.82	Web site costs	-	8.38
Tax Recoveries (Gift Aid)	592.51	582.19	Transferred to Publications Fund	1,000.00	520.00
Unrealised income gain (Fixed interest fund)	494.38	115.07			
Uncashed Chq. added back	-	60.00			
	<u>6,730.83</u>	<u>7,352.34</u>		<u>5,505.88</u>	<u>6,403.85</u>

Surplus of Income over Expenditure

1,224.95 948.49

Balance b/fwd

6,003.69 5,055.20

Balance c/fwd

7,228.64 6,003.69

Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions

	£	£		£	£
<i>Income</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
Life subscriptions	-	-	Life Members' Subs. Transferred to Gen. Fund	200.00	275.00
Advance Subs. for 2016-7	70.00	45.68	Advance Subs. to General Fund	45.68	-
	<u>70.00</u>	<u>45.68</u>		<u>245.68</u>	<u>275.00</u>

Surplus of Income over Expenditure

-175.68 -229.32

Balance b/fwd

2,640.68 2,870.00

Balance c/fwd

2,465.00 2,640.68

Publications Fund

	£	£		£	£
<i>Income</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
Sales of <i>Dissent & Gothic Revival</i>	-	17.50	<i>Building the Church</i>	3,019.77	-
Sales of <i>Nonconformist Plate</i>	-	-	Postage - Books	6.35	-
Sales of <i>Chapel People</i>	-	-	Publicity & Distribution	-	-
Sales of <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	30.00	-	Postage – General	6.48	7.74
Sales of <i>Building the Church</i>	50.00	-			
Transf. from Gen. Fund	1,000.00	520.00			
	<u>1,080.00</u>	<u>537.50</u>		<u>3,032.60</u>	<u>7.74</u>
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-1,952.60	529.76
			Balance b/fwd	5,513.96	4,984.20
			Balance c/fwd	3,561.36	5,513.96
				-----	-----

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	£	£		£	£
<i>Liabilities</i>			<i>Assets</i>		
General Fund	7,228.64	6,003.69	Santander Account	3,215.86	4,758.47
Life Membership & Advance Subs.	2,465.00	2,640.68	Nationwide Account	429.69	324.79
Publications Fund	3,561.36	5,513.96	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
			COIF Fixed Interest Fund	5,609.45	5,115.07
	<u>13,255.00</u>	<u>14,158.33</u>			
Uncashed Cheques	-	40.00			
	<u>13,255.00</u>	<u>14,198.33</u>		<u>13,255.00</u>	<u>14,198.33</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====

Review of Activities 2016

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 four years, the post of Visits Secretary has been vacant, and the oversight of the Society's programme has been shared by the Council members. The Council also has a webmaster to manage the website (Sara Crofts).

Annual General Meeting: The Society's AGM took place on 16th July 2016 at Lumen United Reformed Church, 88 Tavistock Place, London at 1pm during our summer walking tour of Bloomsbury. Thirty-three members of the Society were present. Peter Ackers and Jenny Freeman were re-elected having reached the end of their first term. Martin Wellings 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 the President emphasised the development of shared conferences with other interested organisations. In 2016, we held a joint conference with the ADHSCL on: 'Nonconformist Attitudes to War and Peace in the long Twentieth Century', and this year we have a forthcoming joint conference with the Ecclesiological Society on 30th September. There is a continuing need to recruit new members and generally to raise awareness of the Society and its endeavours, and to this end Council have agreed this year to re-print our leaflet, which will be circulated at conferences and other events.

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, There is an index of the Society's *Newsletter* together with an archive of back issues. 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. Items for the website such as contributions for our ‘Chapel of the Month’ slot are always welcome and these can be sent either directly to our webmaster Sara Crofts or to the Secretary Moira Ackers.

Casework: Chapels in 2016 continue to be 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 to 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 2016 is listed below:

- Providence Chapel, Barton-upon-Humber, 1806 (Grade II)
- Avebury United Reformed Chapel, Wiltshire, c1707 (Grade II)
- Berwick upon Tweed Methodist Church, 1797 altered 1878 (Unlisted)
- Falmouth Road Chapel, London, 1888 (Grade II)

The Victorian Society has included on its annual ‘Top Ten’ endangered buildings list the large and impressive gothic St. Joseph’s RC Seminary, 1883 extended 1928 by Pugin and Pugin (Grade II).

Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register 2016 has confirmed a steady increase over the past three years of places of worship at risk in a poor condition, 82.4% of those on the register fell into this category in the latest published records. Of greater concern is that 67% of all register entries have no solution agreed. The HLF’s recent decision to close their Places of Worship Grant Scheme will put additional pressure and competition for chapels to seek important grant funding.

Publications: Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2016 and contained information about events of interest to members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications. We now have a settled and effective relationship with Joshua Horgan of Oxford who both design and print our *Newsletter* and mail out material to members.

2016 saw the publication of the second issue of *The Chapels Society Journal* – entitled *Building the Church*. Four excellent articles were published – on the architect James Weir; on the building of Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford; on the Nonconformist history of Skipton; and on the development of Nonconformity in the Garden Cities.

Visits: The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2016, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- North Cumbria on 23rd April (*led by Michael Atkinson*)
- A walking tour of Bloomsbury on 16th July (*led by Chris Skidmore*) which incorporated our AGM and our first Andrew Worth Memorial lecture by our President Tim Grass: *Edward Irving and his Churches*
- Leicester on 8th October (*led by Paul Griffiths*)

Membership: Membership numbers have decline slightly over the last few years. Council have discussed plans for a membership push in the next year.

Year	Personal	(inc. Life)	Corporate	Total
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
January 2017	245	(inc. 32)	23	268

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.

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