

The Chapels Society – Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting DRAFT

1) The 29th Annual General Meeting of the Chapels Society took place at Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford, OX1 2DH, on 8th July 2017. The President, Tim Grass, took the chair at 1.15pm and called the meeting to order. Apologies for absence had been received from Margaret & Rod Ambler, Michael Atkinson, Judith & Tim Bartlet, Christopher Buckwell, John Dearing, Mary Ede, John Ellis, Paul Gardner, MG Jones, Stuart Leadley, David Oldham.

2) The President asked if there were any corrections or amendment to the minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held at Lumen United Reformed Church, 88 Tavistock Place, London on 16th July 2016. 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) stressed the move to hold more joint conferences with other interested organisations such as the forthcoming *From Citadels to Warehouses: some places of worship in Britain today* in collaboration with the Ecclesiological Society on the 30th September 2017. He also reminded members that we need to actively recruit new members.

The secretary (Moirra Ackers) thanked the Council for their continued support. Following on from the President's comments, she drew the meetings notice to the need for an up dating and reprinting of the Chapels Society information and membership leaflet. Which was to be circulated at various events. As part of this drive to both promote the Chapels Society and recruit new members she listed where the Chapels Societies activities where presently advertised and asked for further suggestions. She also asked on behalf of Sara Crofts our webmaster for items - especially 'Chapel of the month' - for the website.

The Editor (Chris Skidmore) reported that our third journal should be published next year drawing on articles from the forth coming joint conference with the Ecclesiological Society. He also asked for more copy for the Chapels Society's Newsletter.

The Treasurer (Jean West) reported on the state of the Society's finances, which remain stable. The major expenditure of the year was The Journal: Building the Church and this was paid from the reserve fund. She also reminded the members that she would be standing down at the 2018 AGM and to aid the handover process John Ellis would be co-opted on to Council to be able to take over responsibilities after the end of the accounting year on 31st December 2017.

The President then commended the Society's *Annual Report and Accounts 2016* to the AGM. As there were no questions, the adoption of the *Annual Report & Accounts 2016* was proposed by Mark Watson and seconded by Jenny Freeman and agreed *nem con*.

4) Membership subscriptions. These will remain the same as last year. Membership has stayed fairly stable but again there was an emphasis on recruitment of new members.

5) Amendment of the Chapels Society Constitution. Following last year's AGM, the Council proposed to add to Clause 5 (details in *Newsletter 65*). Following discussion, the new amendment to the constitution was proposed by Mark Watson and seconded by Sara Crofts. Carried *nem con*.

6) Election of Trustees. Tim Grass was elected in 2016 to serve for a second three-year term. Honorary Officers are elected annually and the following were elected en bloc carried *nem com*.

The post of Hon Visits Secretary has been vacant for four years: this post is open for nominations.

The Society currently has six elected members of Council each serving three-year terms. Current Council members willing to continue serving are therefore as follows: Rod Ambler (until 2018), Michael Atkinson (until 2018), Stuart Leadley (until 2018), Peter Ackers (until 2019), Jenny Freeman (until 2019), Rev Dr Martin Wellings (until 2019).

Paul Gardner will stand down from his post as Membership Secretary at the end of the year and his post will be taken by Stuart Leadley. The AGM recommended that a record of warm thanks should be recorded for Paul Gardner's contribution and that a 'letter of greeting' should be sent by the President.

7) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner. The Council recommended that Alexander Calder is reappointed as the Independent Financial Examiner. This was carried by application.

8) The President thanked all those in attendance and closed the 2017 Annual General Meeting at 1.41pm.

Members Attending: Moira Ackers, Peter Ackers, Clyde Binfield, Stella Bond, Sara Crofts, Christine Denwood, Jenny Freeman, C F Gibbs, Tim Grass, John Hamilton, Roger Holden, Rosalind Kaye, Denis F Keeling, Frank Law, Ruth Law, John Lenton, M G Mackintosh, Angus Macormick, Edward Peters, A Pugh-Thomas, R B Pugh-Thomas, David Pulford, Chris Skidmore, William Waddilove, Chris Wakeling, Marianne Wakeling, Mark Watson, Martin Wellings, Jean West, Peter, West, Richard Willington, Susan Willington