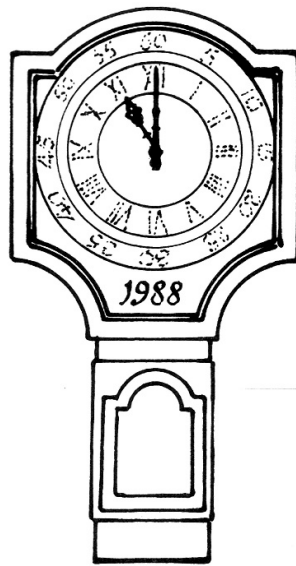


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts **2018**

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 and 8th July 2017.

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 2018 were Moira Ackers ~ Secretary, Peter Ackers, John Ellis ~ Treasurer, Jenny Freeman, Tim Grass ~ President, Stuart Leadley ~ Membership Secretary, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Kate Tiller, 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, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4ET.

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, Chester House, 68 Chestergate, Macclesfield SK11 6DY.

Complaints: Any complaint about the operation of the Chapels Society should be made in writing to the President in his capacity as Chair of the Trustees or failing that to the Secretary.

Review of Financial Activities 2018

The responsibilities of the Treasurer were passed from Mrs Jean West to Mr John Ellis in April 2018.

The General Fund relies for most of its income on members' subscriptions and these were sufficient to ensure a small surplus in 2018. The Publications Fund had a planned deficit due to the publication of a major occasional work made available free to members. The overall financial assets of the Society stood at £14,417 at the end of the year, virtually unchanged from a year before.

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 major part of the Society's assets continues to be held in COIF ethical investment accounts.

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

The Accounts have been considered by Dr Alexander Calder, the Society's Independent Examiner. He confirms that his examination of the 2018 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 5th March 2019.

The Chapels Society

(Charity No. 1014207)

Accounts for the Year ending 31st December 2018

General Fund

	2018	2017		2018	2017
<i>Income</i>	£	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£	£
Subscriptions			Newsletters	944.63	1,184.37
Received to date	3,384.00	3,315.50	Officers' travel & expenses	964.80	1,134.17
Drawn from Life Membership	200.00	200.00	Council expenditure	291.90	219.00
Prepaid Subscriptions	15.00	40.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	549.00	334.00
			Refunds of members		
Donations	72.01	31.01	subscriptions	10.00	60.00
Tax Recoveries (Gift Aid)	544.60	602.83	AGM Costs	145.00	160.00
Spring Visit	520.00	1,074.00	Spring Visit	480.00	953.50
Summer Visit	437.00	732.00	Summer Visit	185.00	502.19
Autumn Visit	618.00	867.00	Autumn Visit	660.00	857.00
Bank Interest	15.36	11.33	Website costs	-	-
Unrealised income gain			Transf. to Publications Fund	1,000.00	1000.00
(Fixed interest fund)	-22.29	169.99			
	<u>5,783.68</u>	<u>7,043.66</u>		<u>5,230.33</u>	<u>6,707.70</u>
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			Surplus of Income over		
			Expenditure	553.35	335.96
			Balance b/fwd	7,564.60	7,228.64
			Balance c/fwd	8,117.95	7,564.60
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Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions

	£	£		£	£
<i>Income</i>			<i>Expenditure</i>		
Life subscriptions	300.00	-	Life Members' Subs. to Gen Fund	200.00	200.00
Advance Subs. for future years	0.00	-	Advance Subs. to General Fund	15.00	40.00
	<u>300.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>215.00</u>	<u>240.00</u>
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			Surplus of Income over		
			Expenditure	85.00	-240.00
			Balance b/fwd	2,225.00	2,465.00
			Balance c/fwd	2,310.00	2,225.00
				-----	-----

Publications Fund

	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Sales of Journal 3	1,755.00	0.00	Production Journal 3	3,496.00	-
Sales of <i>Building the Church</i>	15.00	45.00	Previous Works	-	-
Sales of <i>Sitting in Chapel</i>	15.00	45.00	Postage - Books	20.44	4.62
Sales of <i>Chapel People</i>	0.00	35.00	Publicity & Distribution	-	-
Sales of pre-2010 Works	12.78	32.50	Postage - General	0.00	6.60
Transf. from Gen. Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00			
	<u>2,797.78</u>	<u>1,157.50</u>		<u>3,516.44</u>	<u>11.22</u>
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			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-718.66	1,146.28
			Balance b/fwd	4,707.64	3,561.36
			Balance c/fwd	<u>3,988.98</u>	<u>4,707.64</u>
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	£	£		£	£
Liabilities			Assets		
General Fund	8,117.95	7,564.60	Santander Account	3,918.01	4,307.00
Life Membership & Advance Subs.	2,310.00	2,225.00	Nationwide Account	606.77	518.19
Publications Fund	3,988.98	4,707.64	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
	<u>14,416.93</u>	<u>14,497.24</u>	COIF Fixed Interest Fund	5,757.15	5,779.44
	<u>14,416.93</u>	<u>14,497.24</u>	Uncashed Cheques and Credits	135.00	-107.39
	=====	=====		<u>14,416.93</u>	<u>14,497.24</u>
				=====	=====

Review of Activities 2018

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 (Stuart Leadley) and a Casework Officer (Michael Atkinson). For the last five years, the post of Visits Secretary has been vacant, However, we can now welcome John Anderson to the post. The Council also has a webmaster to manage the website (Sara Crofts).

Annual General Meeting: The Society's 30th AGM was held at 11.15am on 7th July 2018 at St Boniface German R.C. Church, 47 Alder Street, London during our summer tour of East London. Twenty-six members of the Society were present. As always, the AGM provided a good opportunity to reflect on the Society's extensive range of activities over the last year and the President gave a short report. He described how over the previous year Council had negotiated their way around adapting our practices to stay in line with changing legislation, namely Data Protection and Safeguarding. He also commented that other than this there had been the usual business of organising Chapels Society activities. The biggest challenge though is the slow decline in numbers of members. He stressed that we need to all think about how we recruit new members. We are now in our 30th year as a society. We need to look forward and ask what contribution we can make as an organisation in the ever-changing heritage environment.

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 website hosts information about the Society as well as details of relevant publications, information about visits, copies of visit notes and 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. It is to be noted that

most of our enquiries for information and support now come through this website. 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 2019 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 work that demonstrates justifiable damage and detriment to the significance of the nonconformist building stock across the United Kingdom. The Society encourages its members to make contact, by sending 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.

Publications: The third issue of *The Chapels Society Journal* was published in mid-2018 and was distributed to members of this Society and the Ecclesiological Society. It contained the first Christopher Stell lecture as well as papers on the buildings of the Brethren, the Catholic Apostolic Church, the Salvation Army, Christian Science and on the modern reuse of secular buildings by churches.

Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2018 and contained information about events of interest to members, short articles and reviews of books and other publications.

Back numbers of the *Newsletter* are available on the website two years after their publication.

Visits: The Society organised three very enjoyable, informative and illuminating visits in 2018, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society’s *Newsletter*. These were:

- A walking tour of Bournville (Birmingham) on 21st April 2018 (*led by Andy Vail*)
- A walking tour ‘Strangers’ churches in the East End’, London 7th July 2018 (*led by Jenny Freeman*) which incorporated our AGM and our second Andrew Worth Memorial lecture by our Dr Bill Jacob: ‘*Nonconformity in Victorian London*’ at St George’s German Lutheran Church.

- Visit to Horsham, West Sussex on 22nd September 2018 (*led by Tim Grass*)

Membership: Membership numbers have stabilised after several years of decline. There were five new members confirmed during 2018, the same number as during 2017, but the Society continues to lose members to the ravages of time.

Year	Personal	(inc. Life)	Corporate	Total
January 2015	263	(inc. 32)	24	287
January 2016	259	(inc. 32)	23	282
January 2017	245	(inc. 32)	23	268
January 2018	237	(inc. 30)	22	259
January 2019	238	(inc. 29)	22	260

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.

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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 21st May 2019.

