

**The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Chapels Society held at
11.00am on 6th July 2019 at Longton Methodist Central Hall,
The Strand, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 2JH.**

AGENDA

1) The President Tim Grass took the chair at 11.00am and called the meeting to order. Apologies for absence had been received from Michael Atkinson, Judith & Tim Bartlett, Ian Serjeant, Rosemary Taylor, Roger & Roslyn Thome and Mark Watson.

2) The President asked if there were any corrections or amendments to the minutes of the 30th AGM held at 11.15am on 7th July 2018 at St Boniface German R.C. Church, 47 Alder Street, London. 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 gave a short report. He welcomed such a good turnout. This was his last duty as President of the Chapels Society having served two terms in office. He was glad to be able to welcome several new members to the Council, which will be at full strength this year including a Visits Secretary. It was encouraging to see younger people willing to become Council members. The membership had stayed steady and the years visits had been successful. Tim reminded us that we should looking forward to organising another Conference.

The Hon Secretary's report was given by Moira Ackers. She is also standing down and thanked Martin Wellings for taking on the role. She thanked the retiring Council members for their involvement in the running of the Chapels Society. Last year we had reported about the new challenges of GDPR and Safeguarding and she was glad to report that the Society had made provision and that to date there had been no further issues. However, this needs to be regularly reviewed. She made a request for 'Chapel of the Month' submissions for the website, reminding members that this was probably our best way to promote the Society. We are a small Society however; we have specialist knowledge. We need to be involved with the larger heritage organisations such as the National Trust, Church Conservation Trust and Historic Chapels Trust, not only reminding them of the importance of the Chapels in their care but also sharing our expertise with them.

The Hon Treasurer's report was given by John Ellis. He referred to the accounts on page 4 & 5 in the Annual Report. His opening statement was 'Steady as she goes'. Members subscriptions provide 70% of the total income, which funds our activities. The years visits provided a modest surplus which would underwrite any short fall in future visits. This year the unrealised gain on investments was a minus of £22.29 but should not prove a trend. The Publication Fund shows a deficit in 2018 which is nothing to worry about as Volume Three of our Journal was published in 2018 and the Fund is designed to allow for occasional major publications.

The Hon Editor's report was given by Chris Skidmore. This year *All Chapels Great and Small* our third Society Journal had been published. The articles were the result of our joint conference with the Ecclesiological Society in 2017. The Newsletter comes out three times a year and articles were always very welcome.

The President then commended the Society's Annual Report and Accounts 2018 to the AGM. As there were no questions, the adoption of the Annual Report & Accounts was proposed by Christopher Wakeling and seconded by Kate Tiller and agreed nem. con.

4) Membership subscriptions. No change in subscription rate in view of the financial report.

5) Election of Trustees. Tim Grass came to the end of his second term as the President and stood down.

There was one nomination for the role as President: Rev. Dr Bill Jacob – proposed by Tim Grass and seconded by Kate Tiller and elected unanimously.

Honorary Officers are elected annually, and the following were elected en bloc: Chris Skidmore as Editor and John Ellis as Treasurer.

Moira Ackers is resigning from her post as Secretary, with effect from this AGM. Rev Dr Martin Wellings was elected to this post, as was John Anderson as Hon Visits Secretary.

The Society currently has five elected members of Council, each serving three-year terms. Two Council members – Peter Ackers and Jenny Freeman – are due to stand down this year. Martin Wellings is standing as Hon Secretary. Current Council members willing to continue serving are therefore as follows: Stuart Leadley (until 2021) and Kate Tiller (until 2021)

The following members were nominated as members of Council: Roger Holden, Caitriona McCartney, Gerard Charmley and Edward Royle. All were elected nem.com.

Stuart Leadley continues as Membership Secretary and Michael Atkinson as Casework Officer.

6) Alexander Calder was reappointed as the Independent Financial Examiner.

7) There was no other notified business.

8) The President closed the meeting at 11.45am

Members attending; Moira & Peter Ackers, Rod & Margaret Ambler, Anne & John Anderson, Mary Bryceland, Christopher Buck, Gerard Charmley, Robert Cochrane, John Dearing, Stephen Duckworth, John Ellis, Jenny & Roger Freeman, Tim Grass, Paul Griffiths Roger Holden, Ian & Esther Hume, Bill Jacob, M.G. Jones, Mike King, Stuart Leadley, Angela Lee, Caitriona McCartney, George Morton, Edward Peters, Ted Royle, Chris Skidmore, Kate Tiller, Christopher & Marianne Wakeling, David Watts, Martin Wellings.