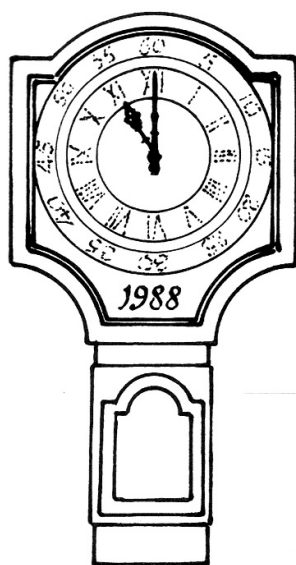


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts 2019

Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales No. 1014207

Overview

Full name: The Chapels Society.

Charitable status: Registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1014207).

Governing document: Constitution adopted 24 September 1988, revised 3 July 2005 and 8 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: Martin Wellings, Secretary, 26 Upland Park Road, Oxford OX2 7RU.

Trustees: The trustees (Council members) of the Society in 2019 were Moira Ackers ~ Secretary, Peter Ackers, John Ellis ~ Treasurer, Jenny Freeman, Tim Grass ~ President, Stuart Leadley, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Kate Tiller, and Martin Wellings to the AGM, and then John Anderson, Gerard Charmley, John Ellis ~ Treasurer, Roger Holden, Willam Jacob ~ President, Stuart Leadley, Caitriona McCartney, Ted Royle, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Kate Tiller and Martin Wellings ~ Secretary.

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 2019

The General Fund relies for most of its income on members' subscriptions and these were sufficient to ensure a surplus in 2019. The Publications Fund also increased as there was no major publication in the year. The overall financial assets of the Society stood at £16,360 at the end of the year, an increase of £1,944 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 bank account with the Nationwide Building Society, once used as the current account, was closed during the year.

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 2019 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 Society on 10th March 2020.

The Chapels Society

(Charity No. 1014207)

Statement for the Period ending 31 December 2019

	Full year 2019	Full year 2018		Full year 2019	Full year 2018
	£	£		£	£
General Fund					
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions			Newsletters	1,217.35	944.63
Received to date	3,421.00	3,384.00	Officers' travel & expenses	571.99	964.80
Drawn from Life memberships	200.00	200.00	Council expenditure	775.08	291.90
Prepaid Subscriptions	0.00	15.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	379.00	549.00
Donations	137.07	72.01	Refunds of members' subscription	0.00	10.00
Tax Recoveries from Gift Aid	586.13	544.60	AGM Costs	175.00	145.00
Spring Visit	508.00	520.00	Spring Visit	414.48	480.00
Summer Visit	996.00	437.00	Summer Visit	675.00	185.00
Autumn Visit	1,018.00	618.00	Autumn Visit	1,083.50	660.00
Bank Interest	28.44	15.36	Website costs	-	-
Unrealised income gain (Fixed Interest Fund)	375.91	-22.29	Transfer to Publications Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>7,270.55</u>	<u>5,783.68</u>		<u>6,291.40</u>	<u>5,230.33</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	979.15	553.35
			Balance b/fwd	8,117.95	7,564.60
			Balance c/fwd	9,097.10	8,117.95
				=====	=====
Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions					
	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Life subscriptions	-	300.00	Life Members' Subs to General Fund	200.00	200.00
Advance Subs for future years	20.00	-	Advance Subs to General Fund	0.00	15.00
	<u>20.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>		<u>200.00</u>	<u>215.00</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-180.00	85.00
			Balance b/fwd	2,310.00	2,225.00
			Balance c/fwd	2,130.00	2,310.00
				=====	=====

Publications Fund

	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Sales of Journal 3	15.00	1,755.00	Production Journal 3	0.00	3,496.00
Sales of Building the Church	0.00	15.00	Previous Works	-	-
Sales of Sitting in Chapel	0.00	15.00	Postage - Books	28.49	20.44
Sales of Chapel People	140.40	0.00	Publicity & Distribution	-	-
Sales of pre-2010 Works	17.50	12.78	Postage - General	0.00	0.00
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00		28.49	3,516.44
	1,172.90	2,797.78	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	1,144.41	-718.66
			Balance b/fwd	3,988.98	4,707.64
			Balance c/fwd	5,133.39	3,988.98

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	£	£		£	£
Liabilities			Assets		
General Fund	9,097.10	8,117.95	Santander Account	6,277.43	3,918.01
Life Membership & Advance Subs	2,130.00	2,310.00	Nationwide Account	0.00	606.77
Publications Fund	5,133.39	3,988.98	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
	16,360.49	14,416.93	COIF Fixed Interest Fund	6,133.06	5,757.15
			Uncleared Cheques & Credits	-50.00	135.00
	16,360.49	14,416.93		16,360.49	14,416.93

Review of Activities 2019

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), a Casework Officer (Michael Atkinson) and a Visits Secretary (John Anderson). The Council also has a webmaster to manage the website (Sara Crofts).

Annual General Meeting: The Society's 31st AGM was held at 11.00am on 6 July 2019 at Longton Methodist Central Hall during our summer tour of the Potteries. Thirty-four 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.

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 'Featured Chapel' slot

are always welcome, and these can be sent either directly to our webmaster Sara Crofts or to the Secretary.

Casework: Chapels in 2020 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: Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2019 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 2019, which were subsequently written up in detail in the Society's *Newsletter*. These were:

- A walking tour of Wakefield on 28 May 2019 (*led by David Leyshon and Colin Dews*)
- Visit to the Potteries (*led by John Anderson*) on 6 July 2019, which incorporated our AGM and the Stell lecture by Prof. Peter Ackers: 'Nonconformist Chapels as Local Worlds of Labour, Social History and Cultural Christianity' at Longton Central Hall.
- Visit to Norwich and Waveney Valley on 28 September 2019 (*led by John Clements*)

Membership: Overall membership of the Society remains broadly stable. We were able to welcome eight new members during 2019, the largest number for some years, but the Society unfortunately continues to lose members to the ravages of time.

Year	Personal	(inc. Life)	Corporate	Total
Jan 2015	263	32	24	287
Jan 2016	259	32	23	282
Jan 2017	245	32	23	268
Jan 2018	237	30	22	259
Jan 2019	238	29	22	260
Jan 2020	238	29	24	262

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 William Jacob, President, on behalf of the Council
on 19 May 2020.

W.M.Jacob