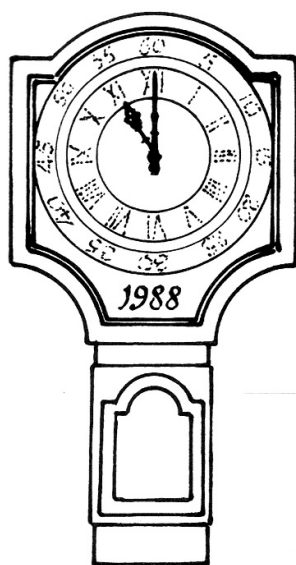


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts 2020

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, 31 Long Lane, Finchley, London, N3 2PS.

Trustees: The trustees (Council members) of the Society in 2020 were John Anderson, Gerard Charmley, John Ellis ~ Treasurer, Roger Holden, Willam Jacob ~ President, Stuart Leadley, Caitriona McCartney, Edward Royle, Chris Skidmore ~ Editor, Kate Tiller and Martin Wellings ~ Secretary.

Bankers: Santander PLC, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB.

Independent Examiner of the accounts: Dr Alexander Calder, Mallard House, Checkley Lane, Nantwich, Cheshire CW57PA.

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 2020

The General Fund covers costs linked to the regular activities of the Society. With the disappointing restrictions on what was possible during the Coronavirus crisis expenditure was low, leaving this Fund with a significant surplus in 2020. By contrast, the increase in the Publications Fund balance was intentional. A major publication is planned for 2021, which will be paid for from this Fund and provided free to members. The overall financial assets of the Society stood at £18,954 at the end of the year, an increase of £2,594 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. No increase in subscription rates is thought necessary.

The Accounts have been considered by Dr Alexander Calder, the Society's Independent Examiner. He confirms that his examination of the 2020 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 24th February 2021.

The Chapels Society

Statement for the Period ending 31 December 2020

	Full Year 2020	Full year 2019		Full Year 2020	Full year 2019
	£	£		£	£
General Fund					
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions			Newsletters	1,232.36	1,217.35
Received to date	3,281.00	3,421.00	Officers' travel & expenses	134.54	571.99
Drawn from Life memberships	200.00	200.00	Council expenditure	117.95	775.08
Prepaid Subscriptions	20.00	0.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	532.00	379.00
Donations	288.01	137.07	Refunds of members' subscription	0.00	0.00
Tax Recoveries from Gift Aid	580.79	586.13	AGM Costs	63.50	175.00
Spring Visit	0.00	508.00	Spring Visit	15.00	414.48
Summer Visit	0.00	996.00	Summer Visit	0.00	675.00
Autumn Visit	0.00	1,018.00	Autumn Visit	15.00	1,083.50
Bank Interest	10.49	28.44	Website costs	-	-
Unrealised income gain (Fixed Interest Fund)	409.56	375.91	Transfer to Publications Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>4,789.85</u>	<u>7,270.55</u>		<u>3,110.35</u>	<u>6,291.40</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	1,679.50	979.15
			Balance b/fwd	9,097.10	8,117.95
			Balance c/fwd	10,776.60	9,097.10
				=====	=====
Life Membership & Advance Subscriptions					
	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Life subscriptions	-	-	Life Members' Subs to General Fund	200.00	200.00
Advance Subs for future years	15.00	20.00	Advance Subs to General Fund	20.00	0.00
	<u>15.00</u>	<u>20.00</u>		<u>220.00</u>	<u>200.00</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-205.00	-180.00
			Balance b/fwd	2,130.00	2,310.00
			Balance c/fwd	1,925.00	2,130.00
				=====	=====

Publications Fund

	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Sales of Journal 3	18.50	15.00	Production Journal 3	0.00	0.00
Sales of Building the Church	0.00	0.00	Previous Works	-	-
Sales of Sitting in Chapel	15.00	0.00	Postage - Books	51.27	28.49
Sales of Chapel People	0.00	140.40	Publicity & Distribution	-	-
Sales of Reduced & Older Works	154.00	17.50	Postage - General	17.01	0.00
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00		68.28	28.49
				=====	=====
	1,187.50	1,172.90	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	1,119.22	1,144.41
	=====	=====	Balance b/fwd	5,133.39	3,988.98
			Balance c/fwd	6,252.61	5,133.39
				=====	=====

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	£	£		£	£
Liabilities			Assets		
General Fund	10,776.60	9,097.10	Santander Account	8,411.59	6,277.43
Life Membership & Advance Subs	1,925.00	2,130.00	COIF Fixed Interest Fund	6,542.62	6,133.06
Publications Fund	6,252.61	5,133.39	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
	18,954.21	16,360.49			
			Uncleared Cheques & Credits	0.00	-50.00
	18,954.21	16,360.49		18,954.21	16,360.49
	=====	=====		=====	=====

Review of Activities 2020

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 32nd AGM was held on 5 December 2020. Seventeen members of the Society were present at this online meeting. As always, and in spite of the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM provided an opportunity to reflect on the Society's 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 2021 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 unjustifiable 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. A new Casework Officer will be taking up responsibility for co-ordinating this work from the 2021 AGM.

Publications: Three editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2020 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 planned programme of visits fell victim to the pandemic, but it is hoped to carry forward the 2020 tours into 2021-22.

Membership: Overall membership of the Society remains broadly stable. We were able to welcome two new members during 2020, 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
Jan 2021	234	27	24	258

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 17 May 2021.