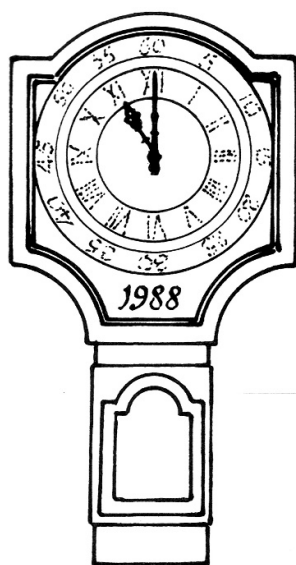


THE CHAPELS SOCIETY



Annual Report and Accounts 2022

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 2022 were John Anderson, Gerard Charmley, Matt Davis ~ Editor, John Ellis ~ Treasurer, Roger Holden, William Jacob ~ President, Stuart Leadley (from July), Caitriona McCartney (to July), Edward Royle, Ian Serjeant, 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.

The Chapels Society

Statement for the Period ending 31 December 2022

	Full Year 2022	Full Year 2021		Full Year 2022	Full Year 2021
	£	£		£	£
General Fund					
Income			Expenditure		
Subscriptions			Newsletters	2,100.99	1,441.10
Received to date	3,230.00	3,332.50	Officers' travel & expenses	80.72	21.80
Drawn from Life memberships	200.00	200.00	Council expenditure	0.00	312.75
Prepaid Subscriptions	50.00	15.00	Subscriptions to other bodies	344.00	592.00
Donations	355.76	1,202.20	Refunds of members' subscription	0.00	0.00
Tax Recoveries from Gift Aid	643.41	569.59	AGM Costs	109.00	98.40
Spring Visit	1,021.00	0.00	Spring Visit	907.50	0.00
Summer Visit	306.00	0.00	Summer Visit	299.00	0.00
Autumn Visit	211.00	456.00	Autumn Visit	219.00	352.80
Conference	970.00	1,785.00	Conference	3,572.10	42.00
Bank Interest	38.87	0.49	Website costs	-	-
Unrealised income gain (Fixed Interest Fund)	-635.16	-265.10	Transfer to Publications Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
	<u>6,390.88</u>	<u>7,295.68</u>		<u>8,632.31</u>	<u>3,860.85</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-2,241.43	3,434.83
			Balance b/fwd	14,211.43	10,776.60
			Balance c/fwd	11,970.00	14,211.43
				=====	=====
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	70.00	Advance Subs to General Fund	50.00	15.00
	<u>15.00</u>	<u>70.00</u>		<u>250.00</u>	<u>215.00</u>
	=====	=====		=====	=====
			Surplus of Income over Expenditure	-235.00	-145.00
			Balance b/fwd	1,780.00	1,925.00
			Balance c/fwd	1,545.00	1,780.00
				=====	=====

Publications Fund

	£	£		£	£
Income			Expenditure		
Sales of Journal 4	0.00	0.00	Production Journal 4	52.80	0.00
Sales of Building the Church	0.00	30.00	Previous Works	-	-
Sales of Sitting in Chapel	0.00	0.00	Postage - Books	2.15	33.86
Sales of Chapel People	20.00	35.00	Publicity & Distribution	-	-
Sales of Reduced & Older Works	0.00	64.50	Postage - General	4.73	1.76
Transfer from General Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00		59.68	35.62
	1,020.00	1,129.50	Surplus of Income over Expenditure	960.32	1,093.88
			Balance b/fwd	7,346.49	6,252.61
	=====	=====	Balance c/fwd	8,306.81	7,346.49
				=====	=====

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	£	£		£	£
Liabilities			Assets		
General Fund	11,970.00	14,211.43	Santander Account	12,179.45	13,060.40
Life Membership & Advance Subs	1,545.00	1,780.00	COIF Fixed Interest Fund	5,642.36	6,277.52
Publications Fund	8,306.81	7,346.49	COIF Charities Deposit Fund	4,000.00	4,000.00
	21,821.81	23,337.92			
	21,821.81	23,337.92	Uncleared Cheques & Credits	0.00	0.00
	=====	=====		21,821.81	23,337.92
				=====	=====

Review of Financial Activities 2022

The General Fund covers costs linked to the regular activities of the Society. We are grateful to members who add a donation to their subscription so that the basic subscription can be held at as low a level as possible. A number of additional members agreed to allow us to claim Gift Aid on their present and past subscriptions, which boosted the amount of tax recovered. The three visits broadly broke even, as is our intention when pricing them. Our very successful Conference was priced in the expectation of needing to be subsidised, which the Council regarded as a good use of our funds.

The Publications Fund has been building up ready to finance the Conference edition of the Journal, which will cost around £6,000.

The overall financial assets of the Society stood at £21,822 at the end of the year.

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 reserves 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 2022 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 were approved by the Council of the Society on 16th February 2023.

Review of Activities 2022

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 (Ian Serjeant). The Council also has a webmaster to manage the website (Sara Crofts).

Annual General Meeting: The Society's 34th AGM was held on 2 July 2022. Twenty-seven members of the Society were present at the meeting, which was followed by The Andrew Worth Lecture, given by Professor Clyde Binfield.

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 regularly updated, and items of news and general interest are posted. 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 2022 continue to be at risk, and vulnerability has been exacerbated by Covid-19. The Society encourages its members to make contact, by sending an email using the Society's dedicated casework email address – chapelsocietycasework@gmail.com to raise the profile of any Chapels susceptible to change. Our Casework Officer, Ian Serjeant, has been co-ordinating this work since July 2021.

Publications: Four editions of the *Newsletter* were produced and distributed in 2022, an increase from the three editions of previous years, reflecting Council's and members' enthusiasm for this publication. The *Newsletter* contains 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 post-Covid programme of visits for the year brought trips to Congleton (May), London (July), and Brighton and Hove (October).

Day Conference: A successful day conference on 'Communities of Dissent 1850-1914' was held at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, on 30 April. Papers given at the conference, and other related research material, is in preparation for publication in the Chapels Society's *Journal*.

Membership: Overall membership of the Society remains broadly stable. We were able to welcome eight new members during 2022, 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
Jan 2022	229	26	23	252
Jan 2023	228	25	22	250

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 16 May 2023.