

ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2011

Events during the year

A group of twenty attended our first visit of 2011 in May to see the restoration and liturgical re-ordering of St Thomas of Canterbury, Fulham, Pugin's only complete parish church in central London. The evening tour was led by the project architect Martin Goalen who described the complexities of returning the church to its former glory. In June, Head Conservator at Westminster Abbey Vanessa Simeoni gave a fascinating talk on (literally) the Cosmati Pavement. She led us through the process of its evolution from its commission by Henry III to its current conservation via the inevitable (but respectful) Victorian restoration. In addition to these two well attended early evening weekday events, there were two Saturday tours. The first, a Focus Day in North Oxfordshire in September, looked at re-ordering and community use. A group of twelve visited six rural churches that had adapted, or were adapting, in an effort to make their buildings more sustainable for the future. At St Edburg's, Bicester and St Mary's, North Aston we heard from the churchwardens about the challenges this presented. Finally in November Allan Doig, author of *Liturgy and Architecture: From the early church to the Middle Ages*, led a walking tour of Oxford churches. The day gave a fascinating insight into the interplay between the original building design and changing liturgical expressions. The Council has been pleased that this mixture of Saturday and evening weekday events with two in London and two outside were well attended.

The thirteenth and fourteenth Stephen Dykes Bower Memorial Lectures were held in April and December. Both events, which were well attended, and continued the broad theme of conservation and change in churches today. On Thursday 12 April, Loyd Grossman, as Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust, spoke to members gathered in the St Martin's Hall in the recently completed St Martin-in-the-Fields Centre on 'Community, culture and conservation - The work of the Churches Conservation Trust in the new decade'. Loyd's enjoyable and informative lecture was followed by an informal reception in the newly created, spacious and day-lit atrium below the repaved churchyard.

On Wednesday 7 December, Fr Alan Moses, Colin Kerr of Molyneux Kerr Architects, Debra Collis of Taylor Pearce Restoration spoke to members gathered in the very recently restored interior of All Saints' Church, Margaret Street on 'Restoring the Glory – Celebrating the completion of the conservation of the interior of William Butterfield's All Saints' Church, Margaret Street'. We were most fortunate in being able to return once again to the Society's 'model church' and being able to hold the event just a few weeks after the completion of this exemplary scheme of repair and restoration, and to learn about detailed aspects of the works from those directly involved in leading, directing and implementing the project. The presentations were preceded by a Low Mass for those who wished to attend, at which we revived the Society's tradition of commemorating past members, and followed by an informal reception in the Parish Room below Butterfield's original choir school.

The fourteenth Annual Conference, which was attended by some 110 people, including a number of non-members, was held at the St Alban's Centre, Holborn on 1 October 2010. It had as its title 'The interior of the Victorian Church', with papers by a number of

distinguished speakers: James Bettley on colour in churches, Geoff Brandwood on seating, Michael Hall on wall decoration mimicking textiles, Martin Harrison on stained glass of the 1850s, Tony Herbert on floor tiles, and Mary Schoeser on embroidery. The event was a notable success, with many common themes and resonances emerging between the different speakers.

Publications

Some half a dozen e-newsletters were issued by the Society during the course of the year. These e-newsletters, which are free to anyone who wishes to sign up, advertise the Society's events, and draw attention to many other matters of ecclesiological interest, including events organised by other societies. There are about 1,500 recipients, of whom approximately 400 are members of the Society. Great care is taken that those members of the Society who do not receive the emailing are at no disadvantage in respect of the Society's events.

During the year the Society published its long-awaited book on church seating, *Pews, benches and chairs: church seating in English parish churches from the fourteenth century to the present*, edited by Trevor Cooper and Sarah Brown. This was distributed to all who were members at 1 April 2011. The book looks both at questions of history and at matters of current debate, and has been well received, with good reviews for example in *The Times*, the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Church Times*. Publication of the book received financial support from English Heritage. Due to the generosity of Luke Hughes and Company, a free copy was sent to each Diocesan Advisory Committee. The books are available for sale to those who are not members via our distributor, Shaun Tyas, and in January 2012 the Society's Council decided to subsidise the reprint of an additional three hundred copies, as the original print run had been exhausted.

In addition, one issue of *Ecclesiology Today* was published (number 44). This contained a miscellany of articles, together with an extended reviews section. The Council is aware that the publication schedule for the journal has slipped behind, and is making plans to catch up during 2012 and 2013.

In the past year Council decided to produce the news section *ChurchCrawler* as a stand-alone publication and to mail this separately between copies of *Ecclesiology Today*. At the same time the publication was expanded to include a new feature in the form of a description of a recent tour undertaken or a favourite church. The first such feature generated some positive feedback and it is hoped members will be inspired to contribute further articles.

The Society's website continues to attract visitors.

Membership and administration

With regret the Council noted during the course of the year the death of the following members, either in 2011 or earlier: Mr Colin J K Cunningham; Mr Michael Farrer; Dr Nigel Gilmour; Mr J H Kilby; Mr Malcolm R Low; Dr Judith Middleton-Stewart.

At the close of 2011, there were 938 active individual members in the UK (either Life or Honorary members, or with up to date annual subscriptions), at 872 different postal addresses (2010: 921 at 859 addresses).

Your Council continued to meet four times per year in central London, and transacted a variety of business. It now meets at Church House, and the Society is grateful to the Church of England authorities for allowing use of their premises in this way.

During the course of the year our long-standing Hon. Treasurer, Dr Suzanna Branfoot, resigned her post for personal reasons. Members of the Council are extremely grateful to her for her work in this regard over the past ten years or so, which, she reminded us gently, she originally took on only as a temporary measure! Anthony Gilmour kindly stepped into the breach as interim Treasurer, and is standing for election as Hon. Treasurer at the 2012 AGM.

Towards the end of the year, the Council received with considerable regret the resignation for personal reasons of Dr Lynne Broughton from the post of Hon. Editor of *Ecclesiology Today*. Temporary measures to produce the journal are being put in place, and a new editor will be sought.

As always, the Council is grateful to those members who provide active support to the Society in so many ways: organising and attending events of various kinds, contributing to the journal, and carrying out administrative tasks of one sort or another. The Council would particularly like to thank Brigid Ockelton for distributing publications. It is grateful, too, to Mark Ockelton for his willingness yet again to inspect the Society's accounts.

The Council of the Ecclesiological Society

ACCRUED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Figures rounded to nearest pound

	2011	2010	<u>Notes</u>
Income			
Subs and donations and sundry	9610	9228	
Life member subs	400	0	
Gift Aid	0	2527	1
Surplus/(loss) from conference	-748	320	2
Surplus/(loss) from other events	-183	649	
Sale of inserts into Eccl Today	150	0	
Sale of books and grant	4554	1251	3
Interest - Activity Fund	375	765	
Interest - Life Members Fund	193	424	
Interest - other Funds	327	487	
Income from subs, events etc	14677	15651	4
Expenses			
<i>Ecclesiology Today</i> printing, inserts, post, mailings etc	5923	10531	5
Printing and posting pews book etc	17440	0	
Admin, sundry & general post	1530	1646	6
Net subsidy to AGM	755	0	7
Website & publicity	139	200	
Total expenses	25786	12377	
Surplus of income over expenses	-11109	3273	8
Money drawn down / (transferred to) our Funds			
Transfer capital to Life Members Fund from income	-400	0	
Drawdown (of capital) from Life Members Fund	750	500	9
Drawdown from Pub and SP&M Funds for pews book	13000	0	10
Transfer into Funds	-2241	-3773	11
Net drawdown from / (transferred to) Funds	11109	-3273	

Notes

1. The Gift Aid shown in 2010 is for subscriptions received in two previous years. Later Gift Aid has not yet been claimed.
2. Some previous conference costs were carried over to this year (2011).
3. We received a grant of £2,250 from English Heritage towards the publication of the book on church seating, and have also recovered some of the costs of our printing from sales of the book, as well as more general sale of back stock.
4. Note that income does not take account of the change in market value of our financial assets.
5. In 2011, one edition of *Ecclesiology Today* (ET44) was seen through the press, being sent to members in January 2012. There were other mailings, and some previous ET mailing costs were carried over to this year.
6. For part of the year (2011) expenses included the hire of a room for Council meetings in central London. It also includes general post, cost of sending out back copies to newly joining members and authors, cost of dealing with review copies, and travel costs of Council members to Council meetings.
7. The AGM in 2010 formed part of the Annual Conference, so needed no subsidy.
8. As anticipated, in 2011 our expenses were considerably greater than our income, for the most part because of the cost of printing the book on church seating. As planned, we covered this shortfall from money set aside for the purpose in our Funds (see note 10).
9. In addition to interest, some capital is drawn down from the Life Members Fund each year.
10. We used £12,000 from our Publications Fund to support the cost of printing the book on church seating, together with £1,000 from the Special Purposes and Memorial Fund, representing a donation from the estate of the late Dr James Johnston. See also note 3.
11. In 2011 we produced only one issue of *Ecclesiology Today*, instead of the normal two. We have therefore added to the Publications Fund to support the cost of the next issue, and also added to the Activity Fund.

INVESTMENTS, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (DRAFT)

Figures rounded to nearest pound

	Investments		Interest earned	Interest reinvested	Sold / withdrawn	Mkt price movements	Value 31-Dec-11
	Value 31-Dec-10	Value 31-Dec-11					
£125.51 3.5% War Stock	88	88	4	0	0	0	88
129 Electra Investment Trust ordinary share	2129	2129	0	0	0	-323	1806
CBF CoE Fixed Interest Fund 1F	74	74	4	4	0	4	82
CBF CoE Fixed Interest Fund 2F	27191	27191	631	631	0	2403	30226
	29481	29481	640	636	0	2085	32202

	31-Dec-11	31-Dec-10
Financial assets		
Investments at market value (as above)	32202	29481
CBF CoE Deposit Fund	36643	36388
Cash at bank and in hand	2579	15280
Income expected, not yet received	0	0
Total financial assets	71424	81150

Cash Liabilities

Expenses incurred, not yet paid **9876** 10577 At Dec 31 2011 includes ET44 and other outstanding expenses

Surplus of financial assets over cash liabilities

Net financial assets (surplus) **61548** 70573

Note: The change in this surplus correctly does not equal the income for the year for a number of reasons (e.g. includes change in market value; liabilities and accrued income have been revalued)

ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS (DRAFT)

Figures rounded to nearest pound

Allocation of financial assets

	31-Dec-11	31-Dec-10	Comment
Harrison Fund	82	74	Residue of the Harrison Fund, for publications relating to City churches
Life Member Fund	17150	17500	Funds Life Members, from interest and capital. Topped up with new Life Members.
Special Purposes and Memorial Fund	3000	4000	See note below
Publications Fund	6500	15000	See note below
Activity Fund	34816	33999	See note below
Total Funds	61548	70573	
Set aside for cash liabilities	9876	10577	Our estimate of what we owed at the end of the year
Total financial assets	71424	81150	

FUNDS

Capital from the Special Purposes & Memorial Fund is used from time to time for special projects, usually outside the routine of the Society's activities.

The Publications Fund is used amongst other things to print the free volumes distributed by the Society. The next call upon this Fund is likely to be the delayed edition ET45 of *Ecclesiology Today*, and support for the reprinting of the book on church seating.

The Activity Fund is used to expand the range and accessibility of activities carried out by the Society beyond what would otherwise be affordable. It currently provides an income of very approximately £400 per annum.

NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Society possesses a stock of books and booklets. Their value at the lowest of cost and retail value is estimated to be less than one thousand pounds.

The Society possesses an old Kodak carousel projector of little or no value.

The Society possesses a part-set of *The Ecclesiologist*, used by the Editor of *Ecclesiology Today* for reference purposes.