

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 2001

The Annual General Meeting of the Ecclesiological Society was held at St. Anne's Church Centre, Dean Street, London, on Thursday 31st May 2001.

1. The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.45pm by welcoming members to it; 29 members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from Sir Patrick Cormack, Professor Kenneth Murta, Dr. John Elliott, Dr. Christopher Webster, Mr. Ian Watt, Mr. William Palmer, the Revd. Dr. Michael Peel and Mrs. Peel. Dr. Peel had asked that his appreciation be recorded for the Society's highly successful day's events in Cambridge earlier this year.
2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th June 2000 were approved, on the proposal of Mr. Kenrick, seconded by Mr. Henman.
3. The Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. Branfoot, introduced the audited annual accounts for 2000 and drew attention to the significant features. Whilst income from membership subscriptions and donations had not by itself quite matched the Society's total running costs, its aggregation with other income had produced a comfortable overall surplus for the year. Much of this surplus had arisen because the Society's publishing programme had fallen into arrears, thus diminishing expenditure. It was gratifying to record that some 80% of membership subscriptions were now paid by Banker's Order, reducing postage costs. The Society had reviewed and, where necessary, switched its investment funds, so ensuring the continued security of its general financial position. The asset value of the Society's bookcases at St. Mary Abchurch, previously subject to a small annual depreciation, had now been written off. The annual accounts were received, on the proposal of Dr. Brandwood, seconded by Mr. Henman.
4. The Chairman presented the Report of the Council for the year 2000. He observed that the Society's membership was not as predominantly London-based, a development reflected by an increasing number of its activities and events being held outside the capital. Printing problems with the Journal had been resolved and its production quality had now reached a very high standard. The Society's tally of members continued to rise and was now growing toward 800; new enquiries, mostly resulting in membership, were steadily coming in. The Annual Report was received on the proposal of Mr. Kenrick, seconded by Mr. Henman.
5. On the proposal of Miss Rust, seconded by Mr. Richardson, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Society for the ensuing year, as nominated on the Agenda, were elected *en bloc*. It was noted with pleasure that Dr. Buttress, re-elected President, had received the award of DLitt. from Lambeth Palace in recognition of his achievements as Surveyor of Westminster Abbey.
6. On the proposal of Dr. Brandwood, seconded by Mr. Kenrick, Honorary Officers of the Society, as nominated on the Agenda, were elected *en bloc* to serve for the ensuing year.
7. Whilst Dr. James Johnston had been willing to accept nomination once again as the Society's Honorary Auditor, he pointed out that this would contravene the Charity Commission's requirement that the accounts should be subject to annual check by an independent examiner. Having now been elected as an honorary officer of the Society, he no longer fulfilled this requirement. The Chairman suggested that Dr. Johnston's nomination as Honorary Auditor should

be withdrawn and that this item on the Agenda should be amended to read ‘To approve the Council’s appointment of an Honorary Auditor at its discretion’. This amendment was accepted on the proposal of Mr. Cook, seconded by Mrs. Pocha.

8. Under the item ‘Any other business’ the Chairman drew attention to the activities and events organised by, or in co-operation with, the Society for the remainder of the year. In particular, he asked that members -proposing to attend the events at Bristol and York should let the organisers know in good time.

9. The meeting closed with expressions of thanks to the authorities at St. Anne’s Church Centre for permission to use their premises for the meeting. The Chairman thanked the honorary officers of the Society for their support during the year and, on behalf of the membership as a whole, Mr. Richardson led those present in warmly applauding the Chairman for his leadership and dedication.