

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2005

The Annual General Meeting of the Ecclesiological Society was held at the St Anne's Church Centre, Soho, London, on Wednesday 25 May 2005. Mr Trevor Cooper was in the Chair.

- 1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.40 p.m. by welcoming members; some thirty were present. Apologies for absence had been received from Kenneth Richardson, Jennifer Beazley, M J Wilson, Mark Ockelton, Christopher Webster, Prof. Kenneth Murta, and John Elliott. Delayed in the post and received after the meeting were apologies from Canon David Bishop and Harry Coles.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 July 2004 at the St Anne's Church Centre, Soho, London were approved without dissent, on the proposal of John Bowman seconded by Christopher Butler.
- 3 The Chairman introduced the annual accounts for 2004. The independent examiner had given his verbal approval and his written confirmation of this is awaited. Members were invited to approve them. There were no questions and the accounts were received without dissent on the proposal of Dr Thomas Cocke seconded by Paul Velluet. The 2003 accounts had also received verbal approval from the independent examiner, and his written confirmation is also awaited. These accounts had been accepted in draft by the previous AGM, subject to his approval, and they were therefore now formally accepted.
- 4 Trevor Cooper and the Hon. Secretary explained that the amended Laws agreed at the 2003 AGM had been sent to the Charity Commission for their records. It turned out that the copy of the Laws on their files dated to 1944. The Chairman had prepared a list of the changes made to the Laws since 1944, and this had been sent to the Charity Commission. Within the last few days, the Charity Commission have requested copies of certain recent minutes and once provided this should be the conclusion of the matter.
- 5 The Hon. Secretary presented the Report of the Council for the year 2004. He highlighted the 125th anniversary events, a number of successful church visits, and the Conference and Dykes Bower lecture, as well as the Society's publications, which had been well received. Seventy-two new members had been elected in 2004, and the roll of members stood at 872 at the end of the year. The Annual Report was received without dissent on the proposal of John Henman seconded by Richard Halsey.
- 6 The President for the ensuing year, as nominated on the Agenda, was proposed by Trevor Cooper and seconded by Dr Thomas Cocke and was elected without dissent. The Chairman paid compliment to the personal interest that Dr. Buttress showed in the work of the Society.
- 7 The Chairman invited those members present to express their appreciation of the contribution to ecclesiology made by the Vice-Presidents of the Society, and this proposal met with the unreserved approval of those present.
- 8 The Chairman paid tribute to Ian Watt, who, having become a postulant at Downside Abbey, was not seeking re-election, and thanked him for all that he had done for the Society. The Hon. Officers and members of Council were elected as nominated, without dissent, on the proposal of Christopher Butler, seconded by Dr Paul Barnwell. They were: Treasurer: Dr Suzanna Branfoot; Editor of 'Ecclesiology Today': Dr John Elliott; Director of Publicity and Publications (Acting):

Trevor Cooper; Membership Secretary: John Henman; Director of Visits: Christopher Webster; Secretary: Dr James Johnston; Members of Council: Keith Lovell, Sarah Brown, Professor Kenneth Murta, Paul Velluet.

- 9 On the proposal of Roger Cline seconded by John Henman, Mark Ockelton, MA, BD was proposed as Hon. Auditor (the Society's traditional title for the 'independent examiner' of its accounts). He was elected without dissent.
- 10 Trevor Cooper thanked his colleagues on the Society's Council for all their work, and others who were also vital to the smooth running of the Society. The Chairman then proposed a vote of thanks to the Churchwardens and PCC of St Anne's Church, which was warmly received. Paul Velluet led those present in warmly thanking the Chairman of Council for his work during the year.