

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

The Annual General Meeting of the Ecclesiological Society was held at the St Anne's Church Centre, Soho, London, on Wednesday 30 May 2007. Mr Trevor Cooper was in the Chair.

- 1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.00 p.m. by welcoming members; about 55 members and guests had been present for the preceding lecture, and some 32 remained for the AGM. The following members of Council presented their apologies: Paul Barnwell, Sarah Brown, John Elliott, John Henman, Kenneth Murta, and Christopher Webster. The President of the Society also offered his apologies. Apologies for absence had been received from a number of members.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 29 June 2006 at the St Anne's Church Centre, Soho, London were approved without dissent, on the proposal of Mark Ockelton seconded by John Cook. There were no matters arising.
- 3 The accounts for 2005 and 2006 were presented by the Hon. Treasurer, Dr Sue Branfoot. She reported that the Society is in sound financial position, as can be seen from the relatively stable state of the Life Members Fund and the Income Fund. The move to two issues of the journal per year would not lead to members receiving any fewer pages, but would assist with print and postage costs. In 2006 we had deliberately used up the majority of our Publications Fund in printing and posting the book on Sir Ninian Comper. She hoped members felt it was a worthwhile use of the Society's money (general approval).
- 4 The Chairman thanked the Hon. Treasurer for her report, and pointed out that Gift Aid now provides a useful additional source of income.
- 5 The accounts were currently in the hands of the Independent Examiner. The Chairman proposed that the meeting accept the accounts with any amendments requested by the Independent Examiner, on the basis that if such amendments were material they would be explicitly brought to the attention of the next AGM. On the proposal of Dr Thomas Cocke seconded by William Parker this motion was passed without dissent.
- 6 The Chairman introduced the Annual Report for 2006. He highlighted the role played by Mrs Doreen Spurr in maintaining the mailing list and (for many years) physically stuffing envelopes for the Society: the Council was grateful to her.
- 7 The Chairman mentioned that a survey had been carried out in early 2007 of members' views of *Ecclesiology Today*. Details would no doubt be reported to members at some stage in the future, but three points had particularly struck him: the small number of similar societies to which members belonged (suggesting that the journal might become more systematic in reporting future events); the support for Church Crawler; and the clear desire for more book reviews.

- 8 On the proposal of Paul Velluet seconded by Dr Thomas Cocke the Annual Report was accepted without dissent.
- 9 The President for the ensuing year, as nominated on the Agenda, was proposed by William Parker and seconded by Michael Green and was elected without dissent. The Chairman paid compliment to the continued interest that Dr. Buttress showed in the work of the Society.
- 10 The Chairman invited those members present to express their appreciation of the contribution to ecclesiology made by the Vice-Presidents of the Society in a formal motion, and this motion (proposed by Trevor Cooper, seconded by Alan Taylor) met with the unreserved approval of those present.
- 11 The Hon. Officers and members of Council were elected as nominated, without dissent, on the proposal of Melvyn Jeremiah, seconded by Michael Green. They were: *Treasurer*: Dr Suzanna Branfoot; *Director of Publicity and Publications (Acting)*: Trevor Cooper; *Membership Secretary*: John Henman; *Director of Visits*: Christopher Webster; *Members of Council*: Dr Paul Barnwell, Sarah Brown, Andrew Derrick, Dr John Elliott, Keith Lovell, Professor Kenneth Murta, Paul Velluet.
- 12 On the proposal of Trevor Cooper seconded by Paul Velluet, 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. The Chairman paid tribute to the active and helpful way this role had been pursued by Mark Ockelton in previous years. It was thankless task.
- 13 Trevor Cooper thanked his colleagues on the Society's Council for all their work, and for the positive and lively way in which they approached their meetings. Paul Velluet then led those present in warmly thanking the Chairman of Council for his work during the year. Those present then adjourned for refreshments.