

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

The Annual General Meeting of the Ecclesiological Society was held at the St Alban's Centre on Saturday, 2 October 2010. Mr Trevor Cooper was in the Chair.

- 1 The Chairman opened the meeting at 5.35 p.m. by welcoming members; about 110 members and guests had been present for the immediately preceding Annual Conference, and some 25 remained for the AGM. The following members of Council presented their apologies: Paul Barnwell, Sarah Brown, Andrew Derrick, John Elliott, Kenneth Murta, and Christopher Webster. Apologies for absence had also been received from Patrick Cormack, and from the retiring President, Dr Donald Buttress.
- 2 The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 October 2009 at the Art Workers' Guild, London were approved without dissent, on the proposal of Valerie Hitchman, seconded by Josh Schwieso There were no matters arising.
- 3 The draft accounts for 2009 were presented. The accounts had been inspected by the Independent Examiner. He had not found, and does not expect to find, anything at all that causes concern, but he will discuss with the Council certain aspects of the way in which the accounts are presented, most particularly as regards the way that the expected future costs of printing of our publication, *Ecclesiology Today*, are presented. 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 Lynne Broughton seconded by Leslie Grant this motion was passed without dissent.
- 4 The Chairman introduced the Annual Report for 2009. He drew the attention of members to the lack of tours organised by the Society that year, whilst it rethought its policy on visits, given the disappointing attendance at some events. During 2010 the Society had begun to organise visits again, but fewer, and focusing on London visits. He reminded members that, as already notified, the publication on church seating would now be a standalone book rather than an issue of *Ecclesiology Today*, and would make up for the gap in production of *Ecclesiology Today* during 2009. Finally he wished to thank Dr Brigid Ockelton for her magnificent effort in creating and selling so many special-offer packs of the Society's back stock of publications. On the proposal of Paul Velluet seconded by Professor Bernard Hamilton the Annual Report was accepted without dissent.
- 5 The Chairman then moved on to the Presidency of the Society. He reminded members that our retiring President, Dr Donald Buttress, had been host at the Annual Conference which had immediately preceded the AGM, and at the end of the Conference he (the Chairman) had confirmed that, as many members knew, Dr Buttress was retiring from the role. He had thanked Dr Buttress for his many years of service as President, during which he had been a great support, smoothing the way in numerous matters (not least the 2004 Anniversary celebrations) and helping sort out the odd difficulty. He had

reminded everyone that that Dr Buttress had also been the public face of the Society at most of our conferences, introducing these events in a way which no-one could call anodyne. On behalf of the Council, Dr Buttress had been presented with a small token of thanks, and those attending the Conference had also shown their appreciation. Given that all those now attending the AGM had been present at the end of the Conference for those words of thanks and the presentation, he intended at this stage of the proceedings merely to put forward the name of the Right Revd David Stancliffe, recently retired as Bishop of Salisbury, whom he and the Council were delighted had agreed to become the Society's President. On the proposal of Trevor Cooper, seconded by Paul Velluet, this proposal was accepted without dissent.

- 6 The Chairman noted with sadness the death during 2010 of Peter Foster, one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, who as part of a distinguished career had been Surveyor of Westminster Abbey.
- 7 He 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 Paul Velluet seconded by Trevor Cooper met with the unreserved approval of those present.
- 8 The Chairman proposed, seconded by Paul Velluet, that if he should so wish, the retiring President should become a Vice-President of the Society. Dr Buttress had indicated informally that he would appreciate this form of continuing connection. The proposal was carried without dissent. [Note: subsequent to the AGM, Dr Buttress has agreed to become a Vice-President of the Society.]
- 9 The Hon. Officers and members of Council were elected as nominated, without dissent, on the proposal of Melvyn Jeremiah seconded by Roger Cline. They were *Treasurer*: Dr Suzanna Branfoot; *Director of Publicity*: Trevor Cooper; *Visits Organiser*: Ruth Watkinson; *Membership Secretary*: Dr Valerie Hitchman; *Editor of 'Ecclesiology Today'*: The Revd Dr Lynne Broughton; *Reviews Editor*: Christopher Webster; *Members of Council*: Dr Paul Barnwell, Sarah Brown, Dr John Elliott, Keith Lovell, Paul Velluet.
- 10 On the proposal of Keith Lovell seconded by Josh Schwieso, 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.
- 11 Trevor Cooper thanked his colleagues on the Society's Council for all their work, and their willingness to engage in vigorous debate. Paul Velluet then led those present in warmly thanking the Chairman of Council for his work during the year.