



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2003

Once again, the Society's services to its members during the year were centred on two main fields: events and publications.

Events

As is customary, a varied selection of church visits and tours was offered.

The programme, which took place largely in the summer, began with a coach tour of the churches of the North Downs. This was followed by whole day tours of some churches in the East Midlands, Cambridge churches and college chapels, Norwich city church and the Pugin churches in North Staffordshire. In addition one of our members, John Vigar, organised three visits to churches in Kent.

Three regular annual events took place in central London. The Annual General Meeting was held on 2 July 2003 at the Art Workers' Guild, in conjunction with an illustrated talk by Sarah Brown entitled 'Religion and Place in post-Reformation England: Work in Progress'. The Annual Conference, which was very well attended, at the Royal Institution of British Architects in October, had as its theme 'The invention of the Anglican church interior', and was presented by a team of distinguished speakers specialising in the history, liturgy, architecture and church furnishings of the period. This was followed by the now established Dykes Bower lecture and reception, held at the meeting room and library of the Linnean Society, which on this occasion was delivered by the Right Revd David Stancliffe, Bishop of Salisbury on 'The place of the altar in the Church in the 20th and 21st centuries'.

Publications

The Society's Journal, *Ecclesiology Today*, again formed the backbone of its publishing programme. Two issues were distributed to members during the year. As well as the familiar mix of news, book reviews and correspondence, its coverage included a numerous selection of short articles and reports on a wide diversity of subjects in the field of ecclesiology. The September issue of the Journal was held over for technical reasons, but in its place members received an extended separate copy of 'Churchcrawler', the news section of the Journal.

No monographs were published during the year. An extended paper by Trevor Cooper on the subject of the upkeep of parish churches was in course of preparation during the latter half of the year, but in the event its publication was to be delayed until the first quarter of the following year (2004).

The Society's website continued to be updated on a monthly basis, and attracted a good number of visitors.

Membership and Administration

56 new members were welcomed into the Society during the year, increasing the roll to 851 as at 31 December 2003, a net gain of 12.

The AGM agreed various changes to the Laws of the Society, to bring them into line with current practice and allow the necessary freedom for development of the Society.

With great regret, the Council records the deaths of the following members: the Revd Peter Ansdell-Evans, Denis Corble, Mrs A Ricketts, Herr H J Hollerbaum and Anna Zaharova. The last-named, who had been very active in the Society, was the subject of a brief obituary notice included with the Society's September mailing.

The Council continues to meet formally at about two-monthly intervals, to discuss the conduct and development of the Society's activities and administration.

As always, the Council are very grateful to members who provide active support to the Society in so many ways: organising and attending events of various kinds, contributing to the Journal, putting forward suggestions, and so on. With their help, the Society is indeed flourishing, and will continue to do so. In particular the Council acknowledges the assistance of Doreen Spurr and Brigid Ockleton for maintaining the list of members and distributing publications respectively.