



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2010

Activities during the year

Events

As reported previously, a new policy has been adopted for tours. As previously, the tours organised by John Vigar were advertised by the Society and in addition two London events and one Focus Day were organised. The London events were both walking tours. On 14 October 2010, Andrew Derrick led a tour of modern work in City of London churches, and on 4 December Paul Velluet led a visit to Orthodox Cathedrals and other churches in London. Both were well attended, and tended to confirm the Council's views that London visits are attractive to members, especially when experts are on hand to explain the churches being visited. The Focus Day, on 21 September, was a visit to Little Gidding and Leighton Bromswold churches, led by Trevor Cooper, who is researching these seventeenth-century interiors. The attendance was at a level appropriate for the minibus which had been hired, and it was unfortunate that (due to a breakdown) a 47-seater coach was sent instead!

The twelfth annual Stephen Dykes Bower Memorial lecture was on the subject 'Westminster Abbey: For Ever New', by the Very Revd Dr. John Hall, Dean of Westminster, and dealt with the past and future of the Abbey, especially in the light of planned developments there. This was held on Tuesday 1 December, 2009 in the Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster Abbey. (This event was not recorded in our report for 2009.) No Dykes Bower lecture was held during 2010, the thirteenth in the series being held over until Spring 2011 in order to accommodate the December walking tour described above.

The thirteenth Annual Conference, which was attended by some 110 people, was held at the St Alban's Centre, Holborn on 2 October 2010. It had as its title 'Medieval English Wall Paintings'. The Annual General Meeting for 2009 was held immediately afterwards.

Publications

The Society's website continues to attract a good number of visitors.

The Council made strenuous efforts to publish *Ecclesiology Today* on a regular basis, and the two editions planned for 2010 (numbers 42 and 43) appeared as intended in July 2010, and

immediately after the New Year 2010/2011. Both of these issues were themed editions. The first of these was edited by Geoff Brandwood, and was entitled 'Seven church architects 1830–1930', and the second was edited by Sally Badham, under the title of 'One thousand years of English Church monuments'. The volumes have been extremely well received, and we are grateful to both these individuals for conceiving of these volumes, and seeing them through to fruition. For these editions, the cover of the journal was redesigned to allow the volume to display a title, the design also being suitable for the Society's normal unthemed editions.

It has previously been reported that the Society was working to prepare a book devoted to pews and church seating, looking both at questions of history and at matters of current debate, being edited by Trevor Cooper and Sarah Brown. At the time that this report is being prepared (May 2011) the book is at the press.

Membership and Administration

With regret the Council noted during the course of the year the death of the following members, either in 2010 or earlier: H. Barkley, the Revd Canon D. H. Bishop, Sir David Mansel Lewis. As noted at the AGM held in late 2010, the year also saw the death of Peter Foster, one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, who as part of a distinguished career had been Surveyor of Westminster Abbey.

At the close of 2010, there were 921 active individual members in the UK (either Life or Honorary members, or with up to date annual subscriptions), at 859 different postal addresses (2009: 919 at 860 addresses).

Your Council continued to meet four times per year in central London, and transacted a variety of business. As always, the Council are grateful to those members who provide active support to the Society in so many ways: organising and attending events of various kinds, contributing to the Journal, and carrying out administrative tasks of one sort or another. The Council would particularly like to thank Brigid Ockelton for distributing publications and Phil Draper for continuing to provide the 'Church Crawler' section of *Ecclesiology Today*. We are grateful, too, to Mark Ockelton for his willingness yet again to inspect the Society's accounts.