

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2015

The meeting was held at the St Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, London EC1N 7AB, on 9 April 2015, and was chaired by Trevor Cooper.

1. The meeting opened at 7.47pm following a lecture by Geoff Brandwood entitled 'The Churches of Sir Gilbert Scott', which had been much appreciated by those attending. The Chairman welcomed attendees and introduced the members of Council who were present.

2. The minutes of the AGM on 10 April 2014 at the St Alban's Centre were approved unanimously (proposed by George McHardy, seconded by Richard Halsey).

3. In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, the Chairman introduced the draft accounts. He explained that the Society had healthy, stable finances and that income was up by some £2,000 due to the subscription rise. The draft accounts were approved unanimously (proposed by Paul Velluet, seconded by Christopher Webster), on the basis that any material matters raised by the Independent Examiner would be reported to the next AGM.

4. The Annual Report of the Council had been put before the attendees. The following points were made in relation to the report:

a) The Chairman stressed that members who did not have email are not disadvantaged regarding the Society's activities as they get information about these by paper copies.

b) Phil Draper, editor of *Church Crawler*, told attendees that he would welcome items for the publication such as news relating to churches and also items describing people's favourite churches.

c) The Chairman mentioned the successful appeal to restore the grave of William Butterfield in Tottenham Cemetery and that this was something of which the Society could be justly proud. He thanked the Society members who had responded so generously to the appeal, and Paul Velluet and Geoff Brandwood who had seen the project through. Paul Velluet gave a short description of what the project had involved.

d) The Chairman noted with regret the deaths of Society members John Bray (who created the drawings for the Society's Southwark churches book), John Henman (former Membership Secretary of the Society), Prof. Kenneth Murta (architect and former Secretary of the Society), the Revd Dr Michael Peel (former Chairman of the Council), and Sir Donald Sinden (actor and enthusiastic ecclesiologist). The report was accepted unanimously (proposed by Richard Halsey, seconded by William Parker).

5. The meeting was asked to put on record its appreciation of the contribution made by the Society's President and Vice-Presidents to the standing of the Society and ecclesiology, as follows: The Right Reverend David Stancliffe (President), DD, MA, FRSCM; Dr Donald Buttress (President Emeritus), OBE, LVO, DLITT, MA, FSA, ARIBA, Surveyor Emeritus of Westminster Abbey; The Rt. Revd & Rt. Hon. Richard Chartres, KCVO, DD, FSA; The Lord Cormack, DL, FSA; The Rt. Hon. Frank Field, MP; Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Kt, DD, FBA; M. J. Saunders, MBE, MA, FSA; Professor Gavin Stamp, Hon. FRIAS, Hon. FRIBA, FSA;

Lady Wedgwood, FSA. This motion was approved unanimously (proposed by Trevor Cooper, seconded by Christopher Webster).

6. Honorary officers and members of Council. Dr Lynn Broughton (one-time editor of *Ecclesiology Today*) resigned in 2014, and Dr John Elliott and Sarah Brown were not standing for re-election. The Chairman reminded members of John Elliott's major contribution in raising the status of *Ecclesiology Today*, which had been spoken of at a previous AGM at the end of his period as editor. The Chairman also expressed thanks to Sarah Brown for her contribution to the Society, including her involvement in the book on pews.

The following nominations were put forward for 2015-16: *Director of Publicity and Publications (Acting)*: Trevor Cooper; *Membership Secretary*: Dr Valerie Hitchman; *Reviews Editor*: Christopher Webster; *Editor of Ecclesiology Today*: Nick Chapple; *Editor of 'Church Crawler'*: Phil Draper; *Treasurer*: Anthony Gilmour; *Visits organiser*: Ruth Knight; *Minutes Secretary*: Dr Geoff Brandwood; *Secretary*: Becky Payne; *Members of Council*: Dr Paul Barnwell, Andrew Derrick, Paul Velluet. The nominations were approved unanimously (proposed by William Parker, seconded by Ann Hignell).

7. Mark Ockelton was approved unanimously as Honorary Auditor, the Society's name for the Independent Examiner of its accounts (proposed by Christopher Webster, seconded by Nick Chapple). The Chairman also took the opportunity to thank Brigid Ockelton for her continued work in sending out orders for the Society's publications.

8. Three matters were raised under 'Any Other Business'.

a) Graham White asked if there could be more events in the north. The Chairman and Christopher Webster explained that, based on an earlier analysis, two-thirds of the membership lives within 100 miles of London and that several previous attempts to organise events in the north had failed for want of support. However, the Society would welcome the opportunity to run northern activities if an organiser steps forward with a viable event.

b) George McHardy stressed the importance of indexing *Ecclesiology Today*.

c) The Chairman explained that good progress is being made with the construction of the new website

9. No other business was raised and the Chairman concluded the meeting with an expression of thanks to the Council. The meeting closed at 8.12pm and retired for refreshment.