



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2017

Visits

On Saturday 9th September a visit to a number of churches in **Bury St Edmunds** was organised by Christopher Moore, a member of Council. A feature of the day was that the places of worship of a variety of denominations were visited on foot, exploring the town's rich religious heritage. They included Garland Street Baptist Church (1834), the Friends' Meeting House (1749-50), the Unitarian Meeting House (1711) and the United Reformed Church (1692/1802/1866), together with two Anglican parish churches and the Cathedral. The latter has important work by our late President, Stephen Dykes Bower. Tea ended the day. Although numbers were low the day was much enjoyed by all.

DRAFT On Saturday 8th July a visit was paid to Edward Maufe's Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, **Guildford** to view the recently completed major works of repair and refurbishment. The foundation stone of the cathedral was laid in 1936, and work continued intermittently until completion in the mid 1960s. Maufe wrote that his plans were based 'on a desire to produce a design definitely of our time, yet in the line of the great English cathedrals; to build anew on tradition, to rely on proportion of mass, volume and line rather than on elaboration and ornament'. The result is an extraordinarily fine work of architecture and certainly bears comparison with other mid twentieth-century cathedrals. The party also visited S.S. Teulon and Ewan Chrstian's St Nicolas Church, Guildford to view the recently completed restoration of the Losely Chapel. The day was organised by Paul Velluet, a member of Council and, although numbers were low, was very much appreciated.

Annual conference

The twentieth Annual Conference which was attended by approximately 60 people was held at the St Alban's Centre, Holborn on Saturday 30th September 2017.

Entitled *From Citadels to Warehouses: some places of worship in Britain today.*, it was organised in close collaboration with the Chapels Society. The day looked at the buildings of six religious communities which have in the past been somewhat neglected. The illustrated lectures discussed how the various places of worship are used and how that has affected the design of the building.

The speakers in alphabetical order were Neil Dickson: *Brethren and their buildings*; Tim Grass: *Catholic Apostolic Churches*; David Goodhew and Anthony-Paul Cooper: *Warehouses, Garages and Pubs: New Church Buildings in Britain, 1980 to the Present*; Sally Lessiter: *Christian Science churches*; Steven Spencer: *Barrack, Citadel, Circus: Salvation Army halls*,

their development and use; Emily Utt: *Buildings of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*.

Lectures

The Annual Lecture immediately before the Society's AGM was held at the St Alban's Centre, Holborn on the evening of Thursday 27th April 2017, and was well attended. It was given by John Schofield on '*The Archaeology of Wren's St Paul's Cathedral*', and explored the ways in which archaeology has revealed its previous history. It became clear, that even with a relatively recent and well-recorded building, its development is not always fully understood from documentary sources – the arrangements at the west entrance being a case in point.

The twentieth Annual Dykes Bower Memorial Lecture was held at the premises of the Art Workers' Guild in Queen Square, Bloomsbury on the evening of Monday 5th December 2017 – attended by some sixty members of the Society and their guests. Our lecturer was Janet Gough, OBE, author of *Cathedrals of the Church of England* (2016) and *Churches of the Church of England* (2017) and formerly Secretary of the Church Buildings Council and Director of the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England. She spoke on *a Wing and a Prayer: Why we need to get serious about England's Unique Church Heritage – a Journey around the Church of England's Churches*.

The evening was agreeably concluded with the customary pre-Christmas reception for members and their guests in The Master's Room, and Janet Gough's signing copies of her recent books *Cathedrals of the Church of England* and *Churches of the Church of England*.

Publications

The Society sends out four **e-newsletters** during the course of the year. These are free to anyone who wishes to sign up, advertise the Society's events, and draw attention to many other matters of ecclesiological interest, including events organised by other societies. Members are very welcome to suggest items for inclusion. There are about 1,500 recipients, of whom approximately 500 are members of the Society. The Society's policy is that those members of the Society who do not receive the emailing are at no disadvantage in respect of the Society's events.

One edition of *Ecclesiology Today* was published, in October 2017, being number 54. Our late Vice-President Gavin Stamp contributed an article on the church of St Mary-at-Hill, a building regarding whose future he had campaigned for many years. We were saddened to hear of his death not long after, and an obituary will be carried in the next edition of *Ecclesiology Today*. Your Council is aware that the journal is running behind schedule, and will be giving consideration as to what steps might be taken in this regard.

Two editions of *Church Crawler* were published in this year, continuing with a mix of news and features from members. The Spring edition contained an obituary written by Paul Velluet to Stephen Humphrey, former Hon. Secretary of the Ecclesiological Society, and a piece on the quirky Royal Naval Hospital Chapel in Plymouth from Alec Hamilton. The Autumn edition had a well-received article on St James-the-Less, Pimlico, London written and beautifully illustrated by Geoff Brandwood. Members continue to send items of news to the editor, which are gratefully received if not always used.

Website

The Society's website was available without interruption throughout 2017. It was visited by a total of 4,959 users who collectively made 23,942 page-views. Visits to the website had an average duration of 2 minutes and 22 seconds. After the home page the most popular page was the events page.

Finances

The draft accounts for 2016 are attached to this annual report, and Anthony Gilmour, the Hon. Treasurer will comment on them at the AGM.

Membership

With regret the Council noted during the course of the year the death of the following members, either in 2017 or earlier: Rev. A. B. Andrews, Mrs. Ruth Bayes, Rev. T. M. Davidson Kelly, Mr. B. S. M. Iverson, Rev. Dom Cuthbert Johnson (Life Member), Mr. D. Redman, Dr. G. M. Stamp, and Mr. Richard Warby.

At the close of 2017, there were 843 active individual members in the UK (either Life or Honorary members, or with up to date annual subscriptions), at 795 different postal addresses (2016: 829 at 786 addresses). Of these, 10 were overseas members, and 96 were Life Members. Around 40 per cent of subscriptions were at the retired rate.

During the year there were 5 resignations and we lost contact with 2 members whose mailings were returned with no further information. We removed 17 members for failing to pay their subscription.

The estate of the late Stephen Humphrey

The Society received from the executors of the late Stephen Humphrey, one time Secretary of the Society, some papers relating to the work of the Society from the late nineteenth century onward. The papers, which included several Minute Books, have been deposited with the RIBA British Architectural Library.

Changes to Council members

Ruth Knight has taken up the role of Marketing Officer and is in the process of working up some ideas on how to promote the Society to a wider field.

Other volunteers

As always, the Council is grateful to those members of the Society who provide active support to the Society in so many ways: organising and attending events of various kinds, contributing to *Ecclesiology Today* and *Church Crawler*, and carrying out administrative tasks of one sort or another. The Council would particularly like to thank Jonathan McCafferty who took on the role of Visits Co-ordinator at the end of 2017 and Brigid Ockelton for distributing publications. It is grateful, too, to Mark Ockelton for his willingness to inspect the Society's accounts.

The Council of the Ecclesiological Society 12 April 2018

Details of the Society

The Ecclesiological Society is a registered charity, number 210501.

Address: c/o the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS. General correspondence should be sent to: 68 Scholars Road, Balham, SW12 0PG. Email: admin@ecclsoc.org

Website: www.ecclsoc.org

Twitter user name: Ecclsoc

The Laws of the Society describe its aims and how it is governed. They were last modified and approved by the AGM of 19 April 2012. The Society's affairs are administered by a Council, and the Laws describe how members are elected by the membership onto the Council, or are co-opted onto that body.

Continuing to meet four times a year in central London, the Council has transacted a variety of business in pursuance of the aims of the Society. In exercising its duties, it has taken due regard of the guidance published by the Charity Commission, including guidance on public benefit. The Council normally meets at Church House, and the Society is grateful to the Church of England authorities for allowing use of their premises in this way.

The Council has reviewed the training received by new members of Council. As at present, it is intended that this training will draw as appropriate from the history of the Society, its Laws, its policies and the supporting evidence, its recent and planned activities, and general guidance on the responsibilities of a Trustee.

Members of Council are the Trustees of the charity, and at the end of 2017 they were as follows: Dr Paul Barnwell, Dr Geoff Brandwood, Clive Chapman, Nick Chapple, Trevor Cooper, Andrew Derrick, Phil Draper, Anthony Gilmour, Mark Kirby, Ruth Knight, Christopher Moore, Becky Payne, Sarah Perons, Paul Velluet, Dr Christopher Webster.