

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
6.30 PM, 9 DECEMBER 2020

The meeting was held by Zoom owing to restrictions arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chaired by Mark Kirby

Reports from Anthony Gilmour (Treasurer) and Becky Payne (Secretary)

Apology: Valerie Anderson

AGM papers: the agenda, the 2019 Annual Report and 2019 Annual Accounts had been made available at <http://ecclsoc.org/2020/10/28/2020-agm-and-lecture-2/>

1. Welcome from Society Chairman, Mark Kirby, who said that 252 people had registered for this event. Many would have done so no doubt to attend the annual Dykes Bower lecture which was to follow on from the AGM. 61 people were present for the majority of the AGM. A maximum of 155 people were present for the Dykes Bower lecture.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 1 May 2019. The Chair invited any comments via the Zoom chat facility. None were received and therefore the minutes were considered to be accepted.

3. Accounts for 2019. In his commentary on the accounts Anthony Gilmour said the Society's finances were in good shape and were expected to remain so. A major bonus had been the payment of £3292 from Publishers Licensing Services for copyright fees; further payments may be expected but at a reduced level now the backlog had been cleared. No comments about the accounts were received and they were thus deemed to be approved.

4. Annual Report. Becky Payne commented that 2019 has been a very positive year in terms of activities and publications which are set out in the report that had been made available online. No comments were received and the report was thus considered to be approved.

5. Appreciation of contributions by the President and Vice-Presidents. No comments were received so our unanimous gratitude is taken as read. We offer our congratulations to V-P Frank Field on becoming the Rt Hon. the Lord Field of Birkenhead. The Society also notes the retirement of V-P Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch and hopes it will be a long and happy one.

6. Election of honorary officers and members of the Council. The following nominations had been received: Chairman: Dr Mark Kirby; Deputy Chairman: Andrew Derrick; Minutes Secretary: Dr Geoff Brandwood; Editor of *Ecclesiology Today*: Nick Chapple; Editor of *Church Crawler*: Phil Draper; Treasurer: Anthony Gilmour; Conference Administrator: Christopher Moore; Secretary: Becky Payne; Reviews Editor: Christopher Webster; Membership Secretary: Graham White. Other members of Council: Dr Paul Barnwell, Trevor Cooper, Paul Velluet. No comments were received and they were thus deemed to be elected *en bloc*.

The appeal early in 2020 for volunteer assistance to help with conference and visit organising and IT had attracted no response, no doubt in part due to the uncertainty created by the Covid-19 crisis. We hope that in 2021 we shall be more successful in attracting volunteers for these roles which are crucial to maintaining the health and activities of the Society.

7. Honorary Auditor. In the absence of any discussion Mark Ockelton was deemed elected.

8. Any other business. No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm and was followed at 7.00 by an excellent lecture, '*The Challenges of English Cathedrals in the 21st Century*' by Becky Clark, Director of the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division for the Archbishops' Council and Secretary of the Church Buildings Council and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England.