



## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2021

### Introduction

Covid-19 meant that 2021 like 2020 was a year of challenges in respect of being able to conduct our normal business and events. We had to learn new skills and find new ways to continue with our normal activities as best we could. However, much of the Society's normal activity is based around bringing people together in one place, and so it was disappointing that we had to postpone the summer visits programme and both the AGM and the annual conference had to take place via Zoom.

We were able to hold a second Conference in 2021, a celebration of Leeds Minster which was our first attempt at holding a hybrid event. For a report see below.....

In November, we were shocked and deeply saddened by the sudden death of our friend and Council colleague, Geoff Brandwood. Geoff managed to be a stalwart of no fewer than three voluntary organisations – The Ecclesiological Society, The Victorian Society, and The Campaign for Real Ale – and brought unfailing energy and commitment to them all. His expertise on ecclesiology is well-known through his books, all illustrated with his own superb photographs. Less obvious to many was the way in which there was no job needing to be done for which he would not volunteer, and no subject on a Council agenda on which he would not express an opinion. Geoff made things happen. We will miss him.

### Visits

Our visits programme was for a second year disappointingly curtailed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

**Two of the proposed visits, already postponed from 2020**, a walking tour of medieval churches in York (led by Rob Andrews) and a tour of two J.F. Bentley's London churches (by Peter Howell, author of a recent book on Bentley), are now taking place on 14<sup>th</sup> May and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022 respectively.

### Conferences

Despite the challenges posed by Covid, we held two conference this year. The Society's Council is extremely grateful to all those who spoke at these two events and shared their expertise so engagingly, and to the many others whose work 'off stage' helped to make them successful occasions.

### ***Leeds Minster Conference***

This was an additional Conference held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 under the title *'Leeds Minster: 'noblest among the noble' of the early-Victorian churches'*, an event organized with support from the Leeds Civic Trust.

Leeds Minster – formerly the parish church of St Peter – was rebuilt in 1837-41. It was the largest new church since St Paul's and 'as grand as any cathedral'. It is also the most important church erected in England around 1840, at that heady moment when Anglicanism was moving in a Higher direction thanks to the Tractarians, and Gothic authenticity was being promoted energetically by the Cambridge Camden Society. And it remains almost entirely unchanged. However, its importance goes beyond its architecture; it had profound liturgical influence by promoting alternatives to Georgian auditory worship and here, probably for the first time outside the cathedrals, was a robed choir placed in the chancel. The project was led by the new vicar, the dynamic Dr W.F. Hook, and Anglicans across the country watched with anticipation, seeing this as the first serious attempt by the Church of England to reassert itself in an industrial town and challenge the worrying spread of Nonconformity. All these themes were included in the day's programme as follows:

Dr Kevin Grady: *The Medieval Parish Church of Leeds, c. 730-1838.*

Dr Christopher Webster: *The rebuilding of the Parish Church, 1837-41.*

Kenneth Powell: *'There's High Church, Low Church and there's Leeds Parish Church': the liturgical tradition.*

Janet Douglas: *Class, congregations and community at Leeds Parish Church 1841-1914.*

Dr Christopher Hammond: *'For every poor man a pastor and for every poor child a school.'*

Alex Woodrow: *'... a good service ... ': the musical tradition at St Peter-at-Leeds.*

This event was held as a hybrid event and attendance was available either 'live', in the Minster, or via Zoom and was attended by 108 including speakers. The event was a great success and, after a great deal of stress in setting up the technicalities, went very smoothly on this front. Feedback was very positive and we also learnt a few key points around addressing the particular needs of the two different audiences.

All those 'attending' are due to receive by post a complimentary copy of the day's proceedings. This will be a high quality, full colour publication of around 200 pages and will be ready by Autumn 2022.

### ***London conference***

The Society's conference – The Lay Experience of the Medieval Cathedral – had been postponed from 2020, and took place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021. It was intended that the conference would take place as a 'live' event at the St Albans Centre but in the end, the decision was taken to hold the event online. Various reasons, not least the continued prevalence of Covid meant that the majority of people who registered had recorded a preference for attending online. In fact, the bookings rose dramatically from 46 at the time an in-person event was switched to online to a final total of 118.

This conference, was originally organised to coincide with the designation of 2020 by the Association of English Cathedrals as 'The Year of Cathedrals and Pilgrimage', and as part of

a year-long series of events across the country. 2020 was also the 850th anniversary of the murder of Thomas Becket, whose martyrdom cult made Canterbury Cathedral the most venerated pilgrimage destination in England. This conference sought to set out how cathedrals were seen and experienced by ordinary lay folk in the Middle Ages— whether as part of a pilgrimage or more generally. The speakers looked at the impact of cathedrals on lay visitors: the architectural surroundings, how spaces were used, the use of colour and art on walls and in glass, of music, and of all these on worship and lay people’s religious experience. The conference programme was as follows.

Dr Emma Wells: *A ‘Matter’ of popular piety or divine discipline? - Reflections on lay devotion and the cathedral in medieval England.*

Dr John Crook: *The architectural setting of pilgrimage shrines and their design.*

Dr John Jenkins: *Time and the seasons in the later medieval lay experience of the cathedral.*

Dr Miriam Gill: *‘Near the public path where many persons pass by and go out’: Imagery framing the lay experience of pilgrimage.*

Prof Dee Dyas: *Spiritual cues for the senses and the construction of pilgrim experiences: Some medieval accounts.*

Dr Matthew Cheung Salisbury: *The practice of Lady Mass and Lady Office in late medieval English institutions.*

Jon Cannon: *Lay devotion, the Lady Chapel, and architectural space.*

The conference proceedings will be published at the end of 2022, and all members of the Society will receive a copy.

## Lectures

**The Annual Lecture** immediately before the Society’s AGM was held via Zoom on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The speaker was Helen Wilson who spoke on the Pinwill Sisters based on her book *The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters: From ‘Lady Woodcarvers’ to Professionals*. The Pinwill sisters, Mary, Ethel and Violet, learnt to carve as teenagers, during the restoration of their father’s church at Ermington, Devon. With the patronage of architect Edmund H. Sedding, they established a professional woodcarving business, Rashleigh, Pinwill & Co. in 1890, which later relocated to Plymouth. After about 1907, Violet ran the business single-handedly, with a workforce of nearly 30 carvers and joiners, establishing one of the best wood and stone carving companies in the West Country.

**The Twenty-Fourth Stephen Dykes Bower Memorial Lecture** was held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Based on the theme Three Faiths: Three New Places of Worship, it took the form of three presentations on three new places of worship.

Significantly, it was the first event that the Society has organised focusing on places of worship of other faiths in addition to those of the Christian faith. Significantly too, the event focussed on the challenging issues arising from designing new places of worship for the needs of today. We were most fortunate to have Julian de Metz of de Metz Forbes Knight, Architects speaking on his firm’s design for the new Finchley Reform Synagogue; Architect, Chris Oakley speaking about the design and development of the Church of St Francis at The Engine Room, Tottenham Hale – the first Church of England church built in London for forty years; and Julia Barfield of Marks Barfield, Architects, speaking about her firm’s RIBA National

Award winning Cambridge Central Mosque – shortlisted for this year’s Stirling Prize. Despite the significant differences between Judaism, Christianity and Islam, there emerged in the presentations and in the discussion afterwards a remarkable number of common themes in the challenges and opportunities arising from the design and development of new places of worship today. Whilst the new buildings illustrated were very different architecturally and their settings even more diverse, each reflected the desire to create a modern sacred space that also provided extensive ancillary accommodation to meet the social and other needs of worshippers today.

It was most regrettable that for various reasons and at short notice we were unable to return to the Art Workers Guild for the first time in two years for what we had planned as both a live lecture and reception, but with Zoomed coverage too. Thankfully, however, the event went ahead by Zoom only. However, we apologise to those members who had booked to attend the live event and had to be disappointed.

It is to be very much hoped that next year more members may wish to return to 6, Queen Square for the Dykes Bower Lecture and enjoy an evening focussing on issues relating to the design of new churches and other places of worship or the conservation and enhancement of existing churches and other sacred places to meet the needs of public worship and private prayer today.

**Publications** The Society sends out four **e-newsletters** during the course of the year, which are free to anyone who wishes to sign up. These newsletters 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.

We published two volumes of *Ecclesiology Today* in 2021. Issue 59 came out in June. It contained a collection of articles on a wide variety of subjects: ‘Post-Reformation Benefaction Boards and Related Artefacts in English Churches’ by Sally Badham, ‘An Early Ecclesiological Tour’ [on the book *Hierologus* by J. M. Neale] by Graham Parry, ‘Investigating Painted Schemes in Churches Using Raman Spectroscopy’ by Christopher J. Brooke and Howell G. M. Edwards, and ‘Standards, Guidons and Colours: Regimental Remembrance in our Churches’ by Andrew Greenwood. Our customary book review section comprised reviews of fifteen new books on ecclesiological and related subjects.

In December we published Issue 60, which contained articles on ‘Church-Building in Nineteenth-Century Belfast’ by Julie Taylor, ‘George Goldie, a ‘rampant Gothicist’ in Ireland’ by Caoimhín de Bhailís, and ‘Adapting Medieval Churches for Pre-Tractarian Worship: Evidence from South-East England’ by David Parsons. The book review section began with an essay by our President, David Stancliffe, reviewing *A History of the Church through its Buildings* by Allan Doig. Reviews followed of another ten new books. Because there was no conference in 2020 we were unable to publish a volume of conference proceedings in 2021.

Two editions of *Church Crawler* were published in 2021. As well as the usual news items in both, the Spring edition had the first of an occasional new feature ‘Web Watch’ which looked

at Andrew Wood's amazing achievement photographing every London church; there was also an article looking at the effects of the pandemic and social distancing on church re-ordering and visiting in the south-west. The Autumn edition took us again to Somerset and to Fi Rosen's favourite destination of Minehead, where she introduced us to two very different churches in the town.

Members continue to send items of news and interest to the editor Phil Draper, which are very gratefully received if not always used. Any members who have ideas for a feature or article that they would like to see in a future *Church Crawler* should contact the editor.

### **Finances**

The draft accounts for 2021 will be posted on the Society's website in due course here <http://eccsoc.org/annual-reports-etc/>

### **Membership as at 31 December 2021**

Individual/Retired: 667

Life: 89

Honorary: 9

Total: **765**

(there are currently 37 2021 non-payers currently in suspension excluded from the above figures. They have been 'chased' and given a year's grace but unless they've paid for 2022, their membership will be ended).

Overseas: 11

Corporate: 14

### **Joining us in 2021 – 46 new members**

Dr Alan Ireland

Dr Helen Wilson

Dr Edward Willatt

Mrs Linda Hall FSA

Mr Luke Butterworth

Mr Christopher Roberts MA

Ms Stephanie Finch

Ms Ann Roberts

Ms Sophie Cawthorne

Ms Lesley Bird MA

Mrs Linda Hone

Mrs Pat Sharpe

Revd Valerie Bonham ALA

Mr Nicholas Mole

Revd Canon Dr Nicholas Cranfield FSA

Ms Susan Newland

Mr Duncan Neill

Mr Anthony Clarke

Mr Mark Richards

Mr Andrew Matthews  
Mr Henry Sanders AABC ARB  
Mrs Janet Roberts  
Mrs Jane Ainsworth  
Mr Joseph Mirwitch  
Ms Aleta Doran  
Dr Gerard Hyland  
Revd Canon Dr Anthony Howe MA FSA  
Mr David Beattie CMG  
Mrs Kathryn Barnes  
Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson MA (Cantab) PhD  
Dr Chris Skidmore  
Mr Keith Johnston  
Professor Pauline Rose PhD  
Mr Anthony Taylor  
Dr Roger Elias & Mrs R Elias  
Ms Kate Bowgett  
Mr Paul Hale MA FRCO ARCM FRSCM FGCM FRSA  
Ms Sue Preston  
Mr Austin Bennett  
Mr Matthew Thompson  
Mr Robin Downes  
Mrs Frances Cook  
Miss Felicity Brown  
Mr Peter Youatt  
Mrs Fran Hollinrake MA MSc  
Ms Bonita Hopkins

**Those who left us in 2021:**

**Deaths**

Mr C G L Sparks  
Professor John F Potter  
Mrs Marian Gower  
Dr David Martlew  
Rev B Taylor FSA  
Mr David Lambert  
Dr Geoff K Brandwood  
Mr Brendan Lehane  
Mr & Mrs Michael Short  
Mr P Sutherland  
Mr William F C Parker

**Resignations:** Robert Kilgour  
Dr & Mrs D J Murray-Bruce  
Mr Loyd Grossman OBE, FSA  
Mr John Spargo

Mr Matthew Newton

### **Changes to Council members**

There were no changes to the membership of Council in 2021. Shortly before the first Covid-19 lockdown, the Chairman of Council wrote to members seeking volunteers to take on three roles: Conference Coordinator, IT Coordinator and Visits Secretary. Understandably given the circumstances, no volunteers were forthcoming. It was decided that due to the continual presence of Covid and latterly Omicron, that it was not worth re-advertising during 2020 or 2021. Christopher Moore very kindly agreed to continue as Conference Coordinator *pro tem*, and Geoff Brandwood likewise took up the reins as Visits Secretary. The Council will re-advertise these posts early in 2022.

### **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 Mark Ockelton for inspecting the Society's accounts.

*The Council of the Ecclesiological Society, 21 April 2022*

## **Details of the Society**

The Ecclesiological Society is a registered charity, number 210501.

Registered 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](mailto:admin@ecclsoc.org)

Website: [www.ecclsoc.org](http://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.

Meeting four times a year, over the last year on Zoom, (more normally 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 2021 they were as follows: Dr Paul Barnwell, Nick Chapple, Trevor Cooper, Andrew Derrick, Phil Draper, Anthony Gilmour, Dr Mark Kirby, Christopher Moore, Becky Payne, Dr Christopher Webster, Graham White, and Paul Velluet.