

THE ECCLESIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
6.30 p.m. 27 MAY 2021

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

Chaired by Mark Kirby, Chairman of Council

Apologies: Lord Cormack, Diana Evans, Prof. James Stevens Curl, Graham White

AGM papers: the agenda, annual report for 2020, accounts for 2020, auditor's certificate, accounts proformas and minutes for the 2020 AGM had been made available on <http://ecclsoc.org/2021/04/23/2021-annual-general-meeting/>

1. Welcome to all attendees from Society Chairman, Mark Kirby, who said that nearly 170 had registered for the AGM and lecture. He invited members with any questions or queries to submit these in the Q&A box on their screens.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM. No comments were received and therefore the minutes were considered to be accepted.

3. Accounts for 2020. In his commentary Anthony Gilmour, treasurer, said that income and outgoings for events were largely missing (because of the Coronavirus epidemic), nevertheless the Society's finances were in fairly good shape and were expected to remain so. Although the accounts showed a slight profit for the year, publication costs carried over to 2021 meant that we had in fact made a loss, as explained in the notes to the accounts. Commenting, Mark Kirby, said that, due to reduced publishing activity in recent years, there had been a build up of reserves but increasing publishing costs (with a slight fall in membership numbers) meant that this is now a time to consider an increase in the membership rate. Considering the benefits on offer to members, that is much lower than for comparable organisations. This matter will be carefully considered by the Society's Council.

No questions or queries were raised and therefore the accounts were considered as accepted.

4. Annual Report. Becky Payne, secretary, commented on the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic but noted that one physical event, to see the C16 Bacton altar-cloth at Hampton Court Palace had taken place before such events had to be curtailed. Publication had remained active with editions of *Church Crawler*, *Ecclesiology Today* 58, and the very well-reviewed chancel screens volume. We had welcomed 38 new members to our ranks. No comments were received so the circulated report was deemed to be accepted.

5. Appreciation of contributions by our President and Vice-Presidents. The meeting noted our grateful thanks for their support of the Society.

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: Dr Christopher Webster; Membership Secretary: Graham White. Other members of Council: Dr Paul Barnwell, Trevor Cooper, Paul Velluet. Online responses using the Q & A box (many in favour, none against) confirmed that the meeting was happy for those nominated 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. Mark Ockelton was thanked and commended for his careful scrutiny of the Society's accounts. It was proposed that he should be re-elected as Hon Auditor (independent examiner). Online responses (many in favour, none against) confirmed that he was elected.

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

The meeting closed at 6.58 pm and was followed at 7.00 by an excellent illustrated lecture, by Helen Wilson, *'The Remarkable Pinwill Sisters'*, dealing with a firm of highly talented Devon-based woodcarvers in late C19 and early C20.