



REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2002

Once again, the Society's services to its members during the year were centred on two main fields: events and publications.

Events

As is customary, a varied selection of church visits and tours was offered.

The programme, which took place largely in the summer, began with a tour by members' cars of the churches around Newark-on-Trent. This was followed by whole day walking tours of some of the city churches in Cambridge, Faversham and Norwich, a tour by members' cars of the Ripon area and a coach tour of Suffolk churches. In addition one of our members, John Vigar, invited members to three visits to churches in Kent and another member, John Fryer, organised a tour of Hertfordshire churches.

Three regular annual events took place in central London. The Annual General Meeting was held on 30 May 2002 at the Art Workers' Guild, in conjunction with an illustrated talk by Charles Tracy on *Continental Church Furniture in England: a Traffic in Piety*. The Annual Conference, which was very well attended at the Courtauld Institute in October, had as its theme 'The twelfth-century parish church: fit for *what* purpose?', and was presented by a team of distinguished speakers specialising in the history, liturgy, architecture and church furnishings of the period. This was followed by the now established Dykes Bower lecture, held at the Art Workers' Guild, which on this occasion was delivered by Michael Drury on Arts and Crafts Churches.

Publications

The Society's Journal, *Ecclesiology Today*, again formed the backbone of its publishing programme. The usual three issues were distributed to members during the year. As well as the familiar mix of news, book reviews and correspondence, their coverage included a numerous selection of short articles and reports on a wide diversity of subjects in the field of ecclesiology.

Two monographs were published during the year. As noted in last year's report, the illustrated monograph by our member, Dr John Thomas, on *Albi Cathedral and British Church Architecture* was published and distributed to members in early 2002. Later in the year, *The 'Twenty-Five' Churches of the Southwark Diocese* by Kenneth Richardson, a member of the Council, was published, a subject on which he gave an illustrated talk after the Annual General Meeting in May 2001. Both of these books have sold well to non-members, the latter particularly so.

The Society's website continued to be updated on a monthly basis. First published in September 1998, it has attracted a steadily increasing number of visitors, averaging about 3,000 visitors per month during 2002.

Membership and Administration

Some 105 new members were welcomed into the Society during the year, increasing the roll to 839 as at 31st December 2002: a net gain of 73.

With great regret, the Council records the deaths of the following members: Anthony Berridge and Cecil Farthing.

The Council continues to meet formally at about two-monthly intervals, to discuss the conduct and development of the Society's activities and administration.

As always, the Council are very grateful to members who provide active support to the Society in so many ways: organising and attending events of various kinds, contributing to the Journal, putting forward suggestions, and so on. With their help, the Society is indeed flourishing, and we believe will continue to do so. In particular the Council acknowledges the assistance of Mrs Doreen Spurr and Dr Brigid Ockelton for maintaining the list of members and distributing publications respectively.

Dr James Johnston, Secretary