

## **The Hymn Society of Great Britain and Ireland**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at the University of Wales Trinity St David Carmarthen Campus on Friday 21st July 2017**

The Executive President opened the meeting with prayer.

#### **17/A1 58 members were present.**

#### **17/A2 Apologies:**

Apologies were received from: Mr John Barnard, Revd John Bown, Revd Douglas Constable, Rt Revd Edward and Mrs Patricia Darling, Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith, Rt Revd John Flack, Revd Michael and Mrs Barbara Haighton, Mrs Gwen Hall, Drs Geoffrey and Rosemary Holmes, Revd Christopher Idle, Mrs Anne Jones, Revd Nigel Lemon, Mr David Lemmon, Mr William Llewellyn, Revd Canon Alan and Mrs Enid Luff, Revd John and Mrs Jackie Marsh, Mrs Ruth and Revd Alison Micklem, Revd Fred Olney, Mrs Annette Peters, Mrs Christine Purcell, Mr James Ransome, Mrs Valerie Ruddle, Professor David Smalley, Mr Malcolm Sturgess, Mrs Evelyn Todd, Professor J.R. (Dick) Watson

#### **17/A3 Memorials:**

Members remembered in silence and prayer those members who had died during the past year: Revd Michael P. Chappell (Scarborough, North Yorkshire), Mr Michael H. Jones (Weston Favell, Northampton), Mr Bernard A. Sharp (Sevenoaks, Kent), Revd John Waddington-Feather (Shrewsbury, Shropshire) and Mr Frank Weaver (Blackburn, Lancashire)

#### **17/A4 Minutes of the 2016 AGM:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th July 2016 at St Andrews University, St Andrews, Fife were approved and signed.

#### **17/A5 Matters arising:**

There were none.

#### **17/A6 Executive President's remarks:**

In his retiring remarks to the meeting, the Executive President struck a note of thanks. Remarking on it being the 50th anniversary of his joining the Society and that at that time there were two Chairmen, he expressed thanks to all officers, past, present and future, who had served the Society. Two pairs of three words, Ancient & Modern, Old & New, expressed the motivation of the Society, the important word being 'and' joining each. There was a need to reach out beyond conference, via Bulletins, Short Guides, the website and in other ways and to foster closer links with HSUSC and IAH.

### **17/A7 Reception of the new Executive President /exchange of Chair:**

The Executive President welcomed the Revd Dr Janet Wootton as the new Executive President, noting her considerable experience within the Society, the wider Church, and as a hymn writer and liturgist. She in turn expressed appreciation to Ian Sharp noting his fifty years of membership culminating in six years as Executive President. During that time much had been accomplished. His quiet vision, encouragement to look towards the future, encouraging outreach and extending the breadth and depth of scholarship, was inspirational.

### **17/A8 Secretary's report:**

Since the last AGM there had been 17 new UK members. Sadly, news of 5 deaths had been received. Membership stood at 420, comprising 339 members in Gt Britain & Ireland, 47 in USA and Canada, 22 in Europe/Scandinavia, 1 in Australia, 4 in Japan, 2 in South Africa, 3 in Nigeria, 1 in Cyprus and 1 in the Kingdom of Bahrain This represented a pause in the decline of the last few years but attracting new members remained a priority for the Executive. In addition, there were 43 libraries mainly overseas and 12 other institutions.

The Executive Committee had met on two occasions: in London in January and during the Annual Conference at Carmarthen. The Officers had met twice at the home of the Executive President in Liverpool. As Dr Ian Sharp concluded six years of service as Executive President, we were grateful for his diligence and care, as we welcomed his successor Revd Dr Janet Wootton. In this, the 80th year of the Society, a priority consideration continued to be how to effectively promote the Society and its aims in the 21st Century. A Regional Hymn Day with the RCM in London in February had been most successful and the efforts of all those who contributed to it, much appreciated. The Society continued to contribute a Hymn Festival to the Charles Wood Summer School in Armagh. The promotion of such regional events was a significant contribution to raising awareness of the Society and promoting its aims. The Society was immensely indebted to its new Web Administrator, Ken Cope, for his assiduous work in the relaunching and development of the Society's website as we continued to explore ways of using the medium more effectively; also to Gordon Giles and John Crothers who facilitated our presence on Twitter and Facebook respectively.

The Society was grateful to Terence Atkins and Michael and Viv Garland for their continued work indexing the Bulletins, volumes XVII and XVIII being issued in printed format recently. It was hoped to ensure that the digital Index would soon be similarly updated and made available through the website. In January the procedure for electing members of the Executive, approved at the 2016 AGM, had been implemented. The efficacy of the process would need to be carefully monitored to assess whether its intention to make the process inclusive and participatory for more members of the Society was being realised. During the

year there had been one addition to the Online Short Guides bringing the number currently available to twenty-seven. As well as being available through the website, these Guides were now gradually being circulated via the quarterly mailings as space permitted. Whilst there had been no further issues of Occasional Papers, several were in process of preparation and the Society was grateful to Martin Leckebusch and the Publications Committee for their work on its behalf. Pastoral Link Person, Claire Wilson, continued to maintain contact with members in times of trouble and in joy which was much appreciated.

At another successful Conference we were grateful to our lecturers David Thompson (*The Life, Hymns and Hymn Tunes of Erik Routley 1917-1982*); Anne Harrison (*"Go forth and tell!" The Jubilate Group from Youth Praise to ResoundWorship*); Paul Inwood (*New light on the life and hymns of James Quinn*); Rhidian Griffiths (*Folk roots of Welsh hymn-tunes*); Janet Wootton, Martin Leckebusch, Alan Gaunt (*Hymns and the 500th Anniversary of The Reformation in 1517*); Wyn James (*William Williams of Pantycelyn and the evolution of the Welsh Hymn*); and Gordon Giles and Huw Williams (*Introducing the Revised English Hymnal*). This year we were also grateful to Alison Micklem, Ruthie Thomas and Andrew Pratt for contributing Sectionals and to our participants in Short Metre; to our chaplain, Vincent Canning, whose worship evoked the essence and spirit of Wales as well as insights into both our own lives and the world; to John Webber and others who had assisted with the accompaniments; to Rhidian Griffiths, Huw Williams and Michael Garland for a memorable Festival of Hymns in Christ Church, Carmarthen; to Rhidian Griffiths and Wyn James for their local knowledge and help, especially with the outing to William Williams's house at Pantycelyn and to the amazing coach drivers who had got us there; and to Gordon Taylor for his capable handling of Conference bookings. We were grateful to Andrew Pratt and Gordon Giles for overseeing technical facilities, and to Terence Atkins and Alan Hall for managing our book sales. As always, thanks to the Secretary's wife, Jenny Canham, whose work and support is immeasurable.

In response to a question about progress on the revised Constitution, it was hoped to bring this to the next AGM. The delay was however proving beneficial as it was providing the opportunity to test the system.

#### **17/A9 Treasurer's report and Presentation of the 2016 Accounts:**

In presenting the 2016 accounts, the Treasurer reported on a satisfactory year. The new subscription rates (effective from 01/01/2016) had yielded increased amounts (£6,599 from Members and £1,738 from Libraries), £1,500 more than the previous year. Dividend and Interest income was up by just over £200 and there had been a Gift Aid payment of £758. The Society was grateful to the Pratt Green Trust for their annual grant of £1,800 which covered the production of a Bulletin mailing. Printing and distributing the Bulletin remained the largest

expenditure but in 2016 costs were lower than in 2015. An Occasional Paper had cost £924. Administration costs were also lower than previously. The Society was grateful to Ken Cope (Website Administrator) for his time and expertise improving and expanding the website. This was reflected in a higher expenditure of £735. Overall, 2016 had yielded a surplus of £909. In the Conference Account the St Andrews Conference had resulted in a surplus of £893. The Conference Account, opened in 2014, received its first income from the 2014 Cirencester Conference. An initial deposit (£7,000) for the 2015 International Conference together with other advance payments had been paid prior to that and had been taken into account in the presentation of the Balance Sheet. The Conference Account therefore showed a deficit of £1,054. Other adjustments, a grant of £500 in March 2016 from the Ecclesiastical Music Trust for the International Conference in 2015, and residual expenditure of £340 had been made. The Balance Sheet indicated various cash assets of £17,772. The Charifund Investment valuation at the end of 2016 was a little over £20,000. The Society was in good financial health. The receiving of the accounts was proposed by James Dickinson, seconded by Graham Deans and endorsed by the meeting.

**17/A10 Appointment of Independent Examiner:**

The appointment of Mr Roger Downes of Andorran Chartered Accountants, Cheltenham as Independent Examiner was proposed by Kenneth Bowden, seconded by Margaret Garland, and approved by the meeting.

**17/A11 Elections:**

The Secretary stated that the election of Officers would be in accordance with the new procedures adopted at the 2016 AGM, Officers now being elected for three years. However, in order to avoid all Officers coming up for re-election at the same time, it had also been agreed to introduce the system gradually.

Executive Vice-President (Mr Martin Leckebusch, proposed by the Executive for one year to then be followed by three years). The proposal was approved by acclamation.

The following were then proposed en bloc by Kenneth Bowden, seconded by Alan Hall, and approved by the meeting:

*Secretary:* The Revd Robert Canham (for 1 year)

*Treasurer:* The Revd Canon Michael Garland (for 2 years)

*Editor of the Bulletin:* The Revd Dr Andrew Pratt (for 3 years)

*Editorial Team:* Miss Elizabeth Cosnett and Dr Ian Sharp (for 1 year)

The Editorial Team would remain an annual appointment.

**17/A12 Election of Executive Committee - announcement of result:**

Under the new provisions, nominations had been sent out with the Winter mailing. There had been three nominations for the three positions. The following names were therefore presented to, and received by, the meeting:

Mrs Lesley Butland  
Revd Dr Graham Deans  
Mr John A. W. Webber

The Secretary reported the resignation from the Executive of Mr Martin Ellis. In order to maintain the balance of elections, his place would remain vacant until next year.

#### **17/A13 Future Conferences:**

2018 A three-day Conference at Bishop Burton College, near Beverley from Tuesday 24th – Friday 27th July 2018.

2019 (provisional) A two-day Conference at the University of Kent, a little north of Canterbury, from Tuesday 23rd – Thursday 25th July 2019.

The possibility of three-day Conferences beginning on Mondays was raised but the Secretary responded that Sunday commitments made this problematical.

#### **17/A14 Additional items of Business:**

There was none.

#### **The Executive Committee 2017 - 2018 with dates of election:**

*Executive President:* The Revd Dr Janet Wootton (2017-2020), *Executive Vice-President:* Mr Martin Leckebusch (2017-2018), *Honorary Secretary:* The Revd Robert A. Canham (2017-2018), *Honorary Treasurer:* The Revd Canon Michael Garland (2017-2019), *Bulletin Editor:* The Revd Dr Andrew Pratt (2017-2020).

*Committee:* vacant (RSCM) Ex-officio, Mrs Lesley Butland (2017), The Revd Dr Graham Deans (2017), Mr John Crothers (2016\*), The Revd Dr Gordon Giles (2016\*), Mrs Anne Harrison (2016), The Revd Professor Dr Elsabé Kloppers (2015), (2015\*), Mr Nicholas Markwell (2015), Mr John A.W. Webber (2017), The Revd Claire Wilson (2016\*).

\* = completing a second three-year term of service and, therefore, not eligible for re-election for a year when their term is complete.