

## THE HYMN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held at Bishop Burton College, York Road,  
Bishop Burton on Friday 27th July 2018

The Executive President opened the meeting with prayer.

### **18/A1 57 members were present.**

### **18/A2 Apologies:**

Apologies were received from: Mr John A. Bell, Revd David Blanchflower, Mr Ken Bowden, Mr Philip and Mrs Pam Carter, Revd Douglas Constable, Dr Adrian le Coq, Rt Revd Edward and Mrs Patricia Darling, Rt Revd Timothy Dudley-Smith, Revd Alan and Mrs Winifred Gaunt, Prof. David and Mrs Caroline Gill, Mr Rhidian Griffiths, Revd Michael and Mrs Barbara Houghton, Mrs Gwen Hall, Mr John Hardiman, Drs Geoffrey and Rosemary Holmes, Revd Christopher M. Idle, Mr Paul Inwood and Ms Kathryn Christmas, Revd Leslie Ivory, Mr Alan Owen, Mr James Ransome, Prof. David Smalley and Prof. J.R. (Dick) Watson.

### **18/A3 Memorials:**

Members remembered in silence and prayer those members who had died during the past year: Revd Anthony B. Andrews (Ladbroke Grove, London), Mr Gordon Appleton (Ripon, North Yorkshire), Miss Grace Caudrey (Wollaton, Nottinghamshire), Mr Stanley E. Chandler (Sheffield, South Yorkshire), Mr David Clark (Dunstable, Bedfordshire), Mr Derek E. Jordan (Hartfield, Sussex), Revd John Leslie (Bedworth, Warwickshire), Mrs Ruth P. Micklem (Pocklington, North Yorkshire), Revd John Mullett (Wardy Hill, Ely, Cambridgeshire), Mrs Eleanora Speight (Sevenoaks, Kent) and Mrs Cecily Taylor (Sanderstead, Surrey). In addition, although not members of the Society, Mr Jack Stringer, Revd Kim Fabricius and Revd Dr Ian M. Fraser were also remembered.

### **18/A4 Minutes of the 2017 AGM:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st July 2017 at the University of Wales Trinity St David Carmarthen Campus were approved and signed.

### **18/A5 Matters arising:**

There were none.

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

The Executive President affirmed that she was having a great time, the Society had achieved and was achieving much, membership was holding, and the website was attracting new members. Conference had been uplifting, the speakers inspiring, and Bishop Burton had proved a good venue. The Executive President was enthusiastic about ideas emerging for creating links with other organisations.

### **18/A7 Secretary's report:**

Since the last AGM there had been 30 new UK members. Sadly, there had been 11 deaths. Membership stood at 434, comprising 344 members in Gt Britain & Ireland, 53 in USA & Canada, 24 in Europe/Scandinavia, 2 in Australia, 4 in Japan, 2 in South Africa, 3 in Nigeria, 1 in Cyprus and 1 in the Kingdom of Bahrain. This represented an encouraging small net increase largely due to online applications; we watch with interest to see whether this will be sustained. In addition, there were 45 libraries mainly overseas and 9 other institutions who received our publications.

Under the guidance of our new Executive President, Revd Dr Janet Wootton, the Executive Committee had met on two occasions: in London in February and during the Annual Conference at Bishop Burton. The Officers had met twice at a new venue, kindly hosted at the Diocesan Office in Birmingham. It had in many ways been a challenging year, not least with the imposition of GDPR. We were extremely grateful to our Executive Vice-President, Martin Leckebusch, who had invested an immense amount of time and expertise in piloting the Society through these tricky waters. Just over 50% of members had so far responded and we awaited the remainder with anticipation. Work on reviewing the Constitution continued. This included reassessing the revised procedures for electing the Executive which, whilst intended to be more democratic, were proving onerous and not working in practice.

There had been no Regional Hymn Days but several possibilities were being explored for the coming year and members were encouraged to initiate an event in their own locality; such occasions raised the profile of the Society and promoted its aims. The Society continued to contribute a Hymn Festival to the Charles Wood Summer School in Armagh. The Society remained very appreciative of our Website Administrator, Ken Cope, for his assiduous work in further developing the Society's online presence. Amongst other things, he had updated the digital Bulletin Index and was now in process of digitising all Bulletin issues back to 1937; an invaluable academic resource. We were grateful to the Pratt Green Trust for grant funding this latter project. Thanks also to Gordon Giles and John Crothers who continued to facilitate our presence on Twitter and Facebook respectively.

This year marked the publication of the Index to Volume XX of the Bulletin. This was an extraordinary achievement by Terence Atkins who had researched and assembled all twenty indexes. In addition, we were indebted to Michael and Viv Garland who prepared them for publication. We were grateful to Martin Leckebusch and the Publications Committee who continued their work on the Society's behalf; Occasional Papers by Gordon Giles and J.R. Watson had been published and the '70 Treasures' had been increased to '80' marking the passage of another decade. Thanks were expressed to Bulletin Editor Andrew Pratt and his team who had continued their diligent work in producing our quarterly publication. Our Pastoral Link Person, Claire Wilson, continued to keep in contact with members, fostering the unique feeling that the Society was very much a family. As always, thanks to the Secretary's wife, Jenny Canham, for her invaluable work and support.

At another successful Conference, we were grateful to our lecturers Christine Purcell: (*Faith of our fathers: 200 years of hymns at St Cuthbert's College, Ushaw*); John Barnard: (*Hymn Texts and Tunes: marriages made in heaven?*); Anne Harrison: (*Hymnody and the Great War*); Dick Watson: (*Cecil Frances Alexander and John Mason Neale: bicentenary reflections*); Louise Counsell and Sue Gilmurray: (*A tale of two tunes*); and Robin Knowles Wallace (*"My life flows on": A multidimensional study of this song and its history*). We were grateful to John Matthews, Scott Hyslop (USA), and Adam Carlill for contributing Sectionals and to our four participants in Short Metre. We were grateful to our chaplains Hazel and Gordon Taylor and to Michael Garland for presiding at Communion who together had offered meticulously prepared and inspirational worship and to those who had contributed during the week to musical accompaniments; to Martin Leckebusch, Nicholas Page and Ian Sharp for a memorable Festival of Hymns in Cherry Burton Parish Church and for the invaluable help of Graham Spicer in handling the Conference bookings. We were grateful to David Lee for overseeing the technical facilities, to Terence Atkins and Alan Hall for managing our book sales and to Alan Owen for bringing his collection of hymn postcards which was now lodged with the Pratt Green Library in Durham. We were also especially grateful to Bishop Burton College for their exceptional hospitality.

## **18/A8 Treasurer's report and Presentation of the 2017 Accounts:**

The Treasurer reported on a satisfactory year. Subscription income had realised £7,146 from members and £1,471 from Libraries, the latter being down a little on the previous year. Income from Dividends and Interest remained similar to 2016. A Gift Aid payment of £974 was just over £200 higher than in the previous year. Once again the Society was grateful to the Pratt Green Trust for their annual grant of £1,800 which had been in place for a significant number of years and had enabled the Society to issue four instead of three Bulletins a year. The cost of printing and distributing the Bulletin had increased by around 10%, however, in 2016 these costs had been lower than the previous year. An Occasional Paper had cost £949. Administration remained similar to the previous year. Thanks were expressed to Website Administrator Ken Cope whose development and expansion of the website had proved a valuable means of outreach for the Society with a number of new members being welcomed in consequence. Overall, 2017 had yielded a small surplus of £285. The 2017 Carmarthen Conference had resulted in a surplus of £531. The Secretary was congratulated for his careful calculations which made this possible. In the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, at 31/12/2017 the various cash assets stood at £18,780 and the value of the Charifund Investment was £21,503. The Society was in good financial health. The Conference Account had been opened in 2014 and received its first income from receipts for the Cirencester Conference. An initial deposit (£7,000) for the Cambridge International Conference in 2015 together with other advance payments had been made in previous years and these together with gains and losses from Annual Conferences in 2014-2017 had been considered when presenting the state of funds. It was for this reason that the Conference Account showed an apparent deficit of £523. The Treasurer expressed gratitude for all the help and guidance he had received from Mr Chris Tappin and Roger Downes (Andorran) in preparing the accounts. The receiving of the accounts was proposed by Sharon Canning, seconded by Gordon Giles and endorsed by the meeting. The Executive President expressed the thanks of the Society to both Secretary and Treasurer.

## **18/A9 Appointment of Independent Examiner:**

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

## **18/A 10 Election of Officers:**

The Secretary explained that the process of a staggered introduction of three-year terms of service for Officers had begun in 2017. There were two to submit in the current year. The following were then proposed en bloc by Anne Harrison, seconded by Alan Hall, and approved by the meeting:

Executive Vice-President Mr Martin Leckebusch (for 3 years)

Secretary The Revd Robert Canham (for 3 years)

The Editorial Team, comprising Miss Elizabeth Cosnett and Dr Ian Sharp which remained an annual appointment was proposed by Graham Deans, seconded by John Matthews, and approved by the meeting.

## **18/A11 Election of Executive Committee:**

The Secretary reported that as the new procedure for nominating members of the Executive Committee had failed to produce enough nominees, it had been necessary to revert to the previous system of receiving nominations at Conference. This, having resulted in three nominations for three vacancies, the following were approved by acclamation to serve as

members of the Executive (for three years): Revd Professor Elsabe Kloppers, Mr Nicholas Markwell and Dr Gillian Warson.

#### **18/A 12 Constitutional matters:**

The Executive President reported that two years of trialling the new procedures had highlighted deficiencies and the need for clarification. The revised system of nominations, though in theory more democratic, had not worked in practice. This was therefore still work in progress. The proposed timetable was for the Executive President to submit a paper for consideration and amendment by the Officers. This would then be considered by the Executive before being returned to the Officers' meeting for finalisation and submission to the Charity Commission for consideration which, if accepted, could then be brought to the AGM for approval.

#### **18/A 13 Future Conferences: 2019:**

a two-day Conference would take place at the University of Kent, a little north of Canterbury, from Tuesday 23rd - Thursday 25th July 2019.

2020: Due to a conflict of dates for the Executive President the usual dates were problematical. The meeting was asked whether Tuesday 14th - Friday 17th July 2020 or Tuesday 28th - Friday 31st July 2020 was preferable. A straw poll suggested the earlier date was preferred. The 2019 IAH Conference would take place in Halle, Germany from Monday 29th July - Friday 2nd August 2019 and members were encouraged to consider attending.

#### **18/A 14 Any Other Business:**

Malcolm Sturgess expressed thanks to the Society's Pastoral Link Person, Claire Wilson, for her diligent and sensitive pastoral contacts during his recent illness, a sentiment heartily endorsed by the entire meeting.

**Executive President**.....

**Date**.....

#### **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2018 - 2019 with dates of election:**

Executive President: The Revd Dr Janet Wootton (2017-2020), Executive Vice-President: Mr Martin Leckebusch (2018-2021), Honorary Secretary: The Revd Robert A. Canham (2018- 2021), Honorary Treasurer: The Revd Canon Michael Garland (2017-2019), Bulletin Editor: The Revd Dr Andrew Pratt (2017-2020).

Committee: (RSCM) Ex-officio vacant, 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 Elsabe Kloppers (2018\*), Mr Nicholas Markwell (2018\*), Mr John A.W. Webber (2017), Dr Gillian Warson (2018), The Revd Claire Wilson (2016\*).

\* = completing a second 3 year term of service and, therefore, not eligible for re-election for a year when their term is complete.