

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2015

Church Society Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

Company No 79323



Company No 79323

**Financial statements for
the year ended 31 December 2015**

Church Society Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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Church Society Trust

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015

Directors	The Revd R W Farr (Chairman) The Revd Dr M E Burkill The Revd J A Cheeseman The Revd P T Darlington The Revd M D J Holdaway T R Musson Esq The Revd J Simmons
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Patronage Secretary	Mr J N Porter Goff
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Company Secretary	Mr M Cobb
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Company number	79323
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Registered office	Dean Wace House 16 Rosslyn Road Watford WD18 0NY
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Auditors	Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet 5 Robin Hood Lane Sutton Surrey SM1 2SW
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Business address	Dean Wace House 16 Rosslyn Road Watford WD18 0NY
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Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2015

The trustees, who are also directors of the company for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2015.

Objectives

The objectives of Church Society Trust are set out in its Memorandum of Association. They are to assist Church Society, a Registered Charity, in its patronage activities.

Church Society Trust exercises its patronage rights in the parishes of which it is Patron and represents the Society's interests in matters such as the protection of the patronage system, challenging the suspension of livings and the selection of suitable candidates for vacancies where the Trust has influence.

The Trust has no financial assets in its own right. All its expenses are paid from the funds of Church Society. It is managed by a Board of Trustees (known as Directors) who are selected from the Members of the Trust who themselves are appointed by the Directors, subject to the approval of the Council of Church Society. The Directors are confirmed in office annually by the Council of Church Society. They meet regularly to conduct their business. In order to assist in filling vacancies, they keep a register of candidates who might be considered. Candidates are expected to support the doctrine and worship of the Church of England as set out in the 39 Articles of Religion and the Book of Common Prayer as adopted in 1662 and to uphold the supreme and exclusive sufficiency and authority of Holy Scripture as containing all things necessary for salvation.

Review of the activities

The main business of the Trust is to exercise Patronage Rights and to support the ministry in the 116 parishes of which it is the Patron. In just under half of these, the Trust is the sole patron. In the remaining parishes, patronage is exercised jointly, in turns, or by a Board. Therefore, the Trust does not always have a decisive say in appointments. In addition, many benefices are suspended on becoming vacant because of the need to reduce clergy numbers. When the benefice is suspended a Priest-in-Charge is appointed which is legally the responsibility of the Bishop. However, there is an expectation that wherever possible the patrons and parish representatives are fully engaged in the appointment process. In practice this expectation is not always fulfilled although the Trust does all that it can to retain involvement.

Church Society Trust is also responsible for the ministry at the Gloucester Mariners Chapel, Christ Church, Düsseldorf (Germany) and Lightbowne Evangelical Church, an independent church in Greater Manchester.

The Chapel of St. James Ryde now has separate trustees partly appointed by the Council of Church Society. It is expected that Church Society Trust will remain involved in future appointments to St. James and two Directors are presently Trustees.

The Kirchengrundstücksgesellschaft mbH in Düsseldorf (KGG) is a German registered company with limited liability. The Chapel of Christ Church was the vision of William T Mulvany and the company was established by his daughter Miss Anabella Mulvany in 1911 with Church Association Trust the majority shareholder. The KGG owns all the land and buildings of Christ Church. Church Society Trust is now the sole shareholder and appoints Managers to oversee the affairs of the company who are also Trustees of the Christ Church Community eV (voluntary association). The share capital of the KGG was last registered in 1985 as DM50,000 equating to €25,594.59.

Church Society Trust has the right of appointment to the chaplaincy, which is exercised in partnership with the church council. However, the Trust does not exert influence on day-to-day management, nor supply funds. Neither is there any expectation of financial gain from the shareholding.

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2015

During the year appointments were made to benefices for which the Trust has patronage rights. For many of these benefices the patron's rights of nomination were suspended and the Bishop had responsibility for appointing a Priest-in-Charge. In most instances Bishops fully involve parish representatives in appointments and often also involve patrons. The Trust attempts to take as active a role as possible in the process and is pro-active in doing so. In most of these benefices it is likely that there will be pastoral re-organisation in the future illustrating the continued impact of the decline in clergy numbers leading to benefice or parish amalgamations.

The ancient practice of clergy freehold was replaced early in 2011 with Common Tenure. Clergy will remain as office holders rather than employees and will continue to have the freehold of benefice property for the duration of their office. However, the new legislation means that the terms of their Office must be spelt out and in particular can be terminated under certain circumstances.

It was hoped that the practice of suspending the rights of the patron in appointments would become the exception rather than the rule. However Dioceses continue to suspend in cavalier fashion under Common Tenure.

Something Common Tenure promised was a six month appraisal of the working agreement following an appointment. The uptake on this would seem to be patchy and we continue to ask our new incumbents to let us know how their Diocese is applying this.

The process of making appointments continues to get harder as more Dioceses followed their own appointment strategies. Particular bones of contention were the delay in issuing the notice of vacancy, and the widespread and unnecessary use of suspension.

Thanks to the ReNew conference there is a growing recognition within Conservative Evangelical churches of the need to be well prepared for a vacancy. The Trust continues to offer advice both on paper and in person.

The Directors welcomed the appointment of the Bishop of Maidstone and encourage parishes to seek leadership and counsel from the Bishop.

The Directors have worked hard to improve relations with our parishes through visits, preaching and regular contact every six months. Trust members have been encouraged to be part of this important work. The parishes are prayed for regularly in line with the Prayer Diary.

The Directors have given careful thought to succession planning amongst their own numbers. During the year, the directors welcomed the Revd MDJ Holdaway as a fellow director of the trust

In addition, 2015 saw the retirement of Mr Michael Locke as Company Secretary after many years of faithful and diligent service for which the Directors are thankful. He was succeeded in June 2015 by Mr Marcus Cobb.

The Trust is represented at the Patrons Consultative Group (formerly Private Patrons Consultative Group) and the Evangelical Patronage Consultative Council (EPCC).

The roles of Company Secretary and Patronage Secretary are distinct and undertaken by two people. Together with administrative help from the Church Society office, the Trust Directors and some Trust Members undertake much of the work. The Trust section of the Church Society website continues to be updated with information about the work of the Trust, including details of all the parishes. The database of information (most of which is available on the website) is updated most months. All new pastoral schemes are scanned and included on the website and many older schemes have been added as have scans of photographs and some documents from the archives.

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2015

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the income and expenditure of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Jacob, Cavenagh and Skeet have expressed their willingness to continue in office. A resolution proposing their re-appointment will be put to the forthcoming annual general meeting.

The above report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the Directors



Revd R W Farr
Chairman
Company No 00079323

27th September 2016

Independent Auditor's report to the members of the Church Society Trust

We have audited the financial statements of Church Society Trust for the year ended 31 December 2015 on pages seven and eight. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 495 and 496 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's directors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the directors as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement (set out on page 3), the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's (APB's) Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors' report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2015 and of its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

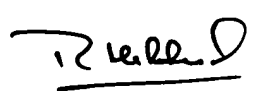
In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the directors' report.

5 Robin Hood Lane
Sutton
Surrey
SM1 2SW


Richard Haffenden MA (Cantab) FCA
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet, Statutory Auditor

29 September 2016

Church Society Trust

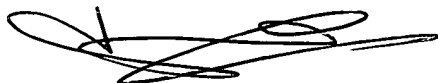
Balance sheet as at 31 December 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Current assets		
Bank and short term deposits	-	-
	_____	_____
	-	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-
	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Net assets	-	-
	=====	=====
	_____	_____
Funds	-	-
	=====	=====

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The notes on page 8 also form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15th September 2016 and were signed on its behalf by:



The Revd R W Farr
Director



The Revd P T Darlington
Director

Company number: 00079323

Church Society Trust

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2015

1 Accounting policies

The following accounting policies are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the Companies Act 2006.

The company was dormant throughout the year ended 31 December 2015.

2 Income and expenditure

The trust received no income and incurred no expenditure during the year.

3 Employee information

	2015 £	2014 £
Staff costs	-	-
	=====	=====

There were no employees during the year apart from the Directors.

The Directors did not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the company for the year ended 31 December 2015 (2014: £nil).

4 Commitments and contingent liabilities

4.1 Contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 December 2015 that have not been provided for in these accounts (2014: £nil).