



Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2011

Office address:

9 Westward View, Liverpool, L17 7EE, UK

Website: www.modernchurch.org.uk

Registered charity no: 281573

ABOUT MODERN CHURCH

Modern Church was known, until July 2010, as the Modern Churchpeople's Union. It is a theological society which seeks to promote a liberal approach to Christian believing. Founded in 1898, its liberalism is expressed in affirming a balance of Scripture, reason and tradition, accepting that all are fallible and new insights are always possible. It therefore affirms

- open exploration of religious questions
- critical scholarship to keep up to date with good research and examine the implications of new insights, and
- willingness to change so that current understandings can be expressed in doctrines, liturgies and ethics.

Modern Church is a registered charity, operating under a constitution and managed by trustees. A new constitution was agreed at the 2010 Annual General Meeting and came into effect on 1 August. This provides for the election by the membership of a treasurer and a Council of up to 30 members, none of whom serves for more than 3 years before re-election. The Council elects the Trustees, one-third of whom retire each year but are eligible for re-election. There are no selection or training procedures for Trustees but they are kept informed of any relevant guidance from the Charity Commission.

The duties of the Council include, amongst others: to represent the membership, to maintain good working relationships with other groups which are in sympathy with Modern Church, to advise the Trustees on direction and priorities and to consider the budget and significant policy proposals in consultation with the Trustees. The Trustees of Modern Church have responsibility for the financial management of the charity and for doing all that is necessary for the achievement of its objects. Modern Church is mindful of its duty to provide a public benefit and does this through its conferences and publications. It offers the tools for constructive dialogue and working relationships between Christians of different persuasions, unbelievers and adherents of other faiths, grounded on informed understanding. Those same tools also serve individuals in their personal lives. It holds an annual conference addressing a contemporary issue through theological reflection. Its publications include the journal *Modern Believing* and the newsletter *Signs of the Times*, both quarterly.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I must begin by thanking Modern Church for inviting me to be its President in succession to John Saxbee, who is a very hard act to follow. In my first six months I've begun to appreciate something of the MC style, and I've come to admire the extremely hard work done by its officers and committees. Coincidentally I was one of the speakers at the conference on the Bible in July 2011, and so was able to get to know a good many members of Modern Church straight away.

These are not easy times for liberal theology. The Anglican Covenant, which as I write has just been rejected by a majority of the dioceses of the Church of England, represented (to my mind) an attempt to keep Anglicans together through an ultimately authoritarian model of the church, very uncongenial to liberals. We owe a lot to Jonathan Clatworthy for writing strongly against it, and also to Jean Mayland, whose part was highlighted in a report in *The Times* on 2 April 2012. Not all liberals were against the Covenant, but most Modern Church members see it as an attempt to impose the kind of constraining structures against which liberalism in theology is a protest. But even if the Covenant dies, the forces behind it will not go away. I found it troubling that such strong support for the Covenant came even from 'moderate' (including Open Evangelical) bishops. It looks as though the Church of England and the Anglican Communion are nowadays at risk of veering in a less inclusive and more tightly controlled direction. Modern Church's witness to freedom in Christian commitment is therefore badly needed.

I have just been reading the exciting study by A. J. Joyce, *Richard Hooker and Anglican Moral Theology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2012). All kinds of Anglican like to claim at least a bit of Richard Hooker (1554-1600), who is the closest we have to a 'founding' Reformer in the manner of Luther or Calvin. There is an 'Anglo-Catholic Richard Hooker' and there is an 'evangelical Richard Hooker', and it may seem that a 'liberal Richard Hooker' is just as implausible as either of those. But as writers for Modern Church have urged over the years, and as Joyce shows clearly, Hooker does encapsulate a liberal

style of theology, even though the word wasn't used till long after his time. His 'liberalism' comes out not least in his ability to laugh, and make his readers laugh, at the vagaries of human religiosity in its more extreme forms. Above all he is important for his insistence that in religion *not everything is a matter of principle*. We are allowed (indeed, that it's part of our God-given freedom in Christ) to make up our own minds about matters on which Scripture and tradition are ambiguous or unclear, or simply silent.

It's very hard for religious people to defend their decisions and opinions as merely sensible human judgements in the light of the gospel, rather than as infallible divine decrees. But Modern Church is committed to the belief that sometimes less is more. Treating one's own opinions as also God's does not make the gospel more persuasive. This does not mean that *nothing* is a matter of principle: that would be a travesty of Hooker. But we do need his quiet wisdom in refusing to claim more for our beliefs than the evidence will support. Sometimes we have to make decisions about faith or morality without knowing for sure that God agrees with them, in the confidence that God trusts us to do our best in an ambiguous and puzzling world.

That is true liberalism—not imposing 'liberal' views on others (in a deeply illiberal way!), but accepting that everyone is fallible, ourselves included, and that we can only make our case by argument, not by shouting louder than others. For that reason Modern Church will always seem to have a certain weakness, as compared with more 'dogmatic' groups (Forward in Faith or Anglican Mainstream, for example). But many people are attracted by this greater stillness and lack of stridency, and we should promote it. Paul Badham's leaflet *A Christianity that can be believed in*, for example, shows just how attractive liberal Christianity can be. It addresses people where they are, rather than trying to talk them into accepting dogmatic claims. I hope that Modern Church will do much work of this kind. Sometimes this will be through the public debate we rightly engage in, but sometimes through quieter means. I would like to propose Richard Hooker as our patron saint for this mixture of styles: a writer who was prepared to make a case (often with sharp wit), but who also knew

when there were matters that were important and needed a decision, and yet could not be proved. Refusing to claim the high ground, and instead putting forward your own views as simply reasonable and sensible, comes hard to many religious people. But Hooker shows us how it can be done. It is because I believe that Modern Church stands where he stood on this that, as an Anglican priest, I want to affirm and support all that MC represents.

Professor John Barton

CHAIR'S REPORT

We have had a particularly active year not only in campaigning against the Anglican Communion Covenant but also as Standing Committee and Council have been giving attention to some of our core functions. This will be assisted by the change to be introduced in 2012 in having a 24 hr residential meeting of Council in place of the two afternoon meetings that we have had in the past. This will give the opportunity to have one focused meeting with opportunities for informal as well as formal discussion over an extended time. Not only do we hope it is a more efficient and effective use of Council's time but also that it is more economical than two separate meetings. In particular this gives us an opportunity to welcome and get to know our new President, Professor John Barton.

More detailed information about Modern Church finance can be found in Richard's report; however it has been one area that Standing Committee and Council have given attention since our expenditure continues to outpace our income. This is partly a reflection of our increased activity but also of the way that people are now participating in groups such as ours. What we have noted is that support, including financial support, often is associated with specific projects. Council have given thought to how this might be developed.

The work on the Covenant, led by Jean Mayland, Jonathan Clatworthy and Paul Bagshaw has been a good example of this trend leading to an increase in individual membership from those who wish to support the

campaign. Modern Church's success in leading and resourcing the successful campaign to vote the Covenant down in dioceses before it reached General Synod in July 2012 cannot be underestimated.

Adrian Thatcher has taken over the editorship of Modern Believing and engaged Standing Committee and Council in a thorough review of its purpose and production. He has challenged us to consider how Modern Believing can more effectively promote Modern Church by increasing readership and continuing to raise the academic quality of the content. As Modern Believing is one of our core functions this has rightly taken considerable attention.

Conferences are being reviewed. A more robust planning process has been suggested together with a larger group to manage the planning of specific annual conferences once the theme and chair have been identified. Dave Marshall's continual improvements to our website now mean that though Paypal, conference bookings can be taken online. In addition consideration has been given to how we might make it easier for students to participate. Council have also suggested that we look to offer a number of one day or weekend conferences. 2013 gives us an opportunity to explore this by promoting and supporting a number of events to mark the 50th anniversary of Honest to God.

Publications have been going well. The SPCK series "Making sense of ..." is progressing as are our joint publications. A review of our leaflets is underway and an updated and visually improved range will be available and will be downloadable from the website in 2012.

The active promotion of Modern Church remains an important objective not only through campaigns and publications but in better links to theological colleges and active promotion at events such as Greenbelt. In 2012 MC will collaborate with Inclusive Church and PCN in order to make the most of the space that is on offer to us as a group.

I would like to thank Christine Alker for her continued invaluable work in support of Standing Committee and Council as well as all the officers who have worked extremely hard over the year. ***Rev John Plant***

GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The decision, in July 2010, to change the name of our organisation from Modern Churchpeople's Union to Modern Church, could have set the agenda for a busy year in 2011 even if we had done nothing else. All our publications needed updating. While Dave Marshall had updated the website with his usual speed and accuracy, printed matter took longer. It turned into an opportunity to review what was needed.

We continue to cooperate with allied organisations on the Together in Hope series of booklets for small group discussions. They are selling well, indicating that they meet a need. Our own series of short books, 'Making Sense of Christianity', began to appear in 2011. Copies of the books by Lorraine Cavanagh and Helen-Ann Hartley sold well at our Annual Conference; the plan is to produce two more in 2012 and another two in 2013.

Judging by the hits on our website, what most raised our profile this year was our contribution to the debate on the proposed Anglican Covenant. In a sense it expressed Modern Church in characteristic mode: a theological society rather than a campaigning one, but nevertheless offering the kind of liberal theology which rolls up its sleeves and contributes to the issues of the day. We cooperated with the international No Anglican Covenant Coalition and, in England, with a variety of concerned members of General Synod and diocesan synods. In practice we did more than just provide theological resources. We also gave financial support, and Jean Mayland worked unceasingly to provide resources to diocesan synod members despite needing to care for her supportive but sick husband Ralph.

At the time of writing a majority of English dioceses have rejected the Covenant, and most commentators think there is no realistic prospect of reviving it. Nevertheless, throughout 2011 the matter looked very different indeed. We thought it important to present our case regardless of the voting. One of the best features of Anglican theology, arguably its most distinctive contribution to modern western Christianity, is its commitment to permitting diversity of opinion and open debate so that

bad ideas get rejected because they are bad ideas, not because some authority has repressed them. We believed that when (!) the Covenant came into force, either it would end in tears or its weaknesses would become apparent and it would be quietly dropped. In either case, our arguments against it might eventually contribute to a new arrangement. So we believed; even at the end of the year the diocesan voting was 4-4, and we had no reason to expect events to turn out the way they have.

Looking to the future, with the demise of the Covenant and the forthcoming retirement of the Archbishop of Canterbury, both the Church of England and the Anglican Communion seem at a point when new directions are possible. Some organisations have already begun lobbying. We hope to contribute constructively.

Rev Jonathan Clatworthy

MODERN BELIEVING

Throughout 2011 Professor Paul Badham continued to edit our journal, *Modern Believing*. The January issue focussed on the 2010 conference, making available the excellent papers presented on the financial crisis and its theological significance. In April we celebrated the centenary of *The Modern Churchman/Modern Believing* with an article on the contribution of Henry Major its founder and for forty-six years its editor. July's issue included a theological critique of recent developments within the Anglican Communion by Professor Marilyn Adams. Finally, December's issue included articles on women bishops, Matthew's infancy narratives and digital privacy.

After five years as editor, Professor Paul Badham has handed over the baton to Professor Adrian Thatcher, a scholar committed to liberal values and to the life of the Modern Church. The trustees and the membership of Modern Church owe a great debt to Paul for the dedication and wisdom he has brought to the work of editor. We also thank Abi Hyde who has served as Editorial Assistant.

The Reviews section of the journal is much appreciated by our readers and we thank Revd Michael Brierley for all his work as he continues in the very important role of Reviews Editor.

In May 2011, the new editor, Adrian, discussed future editorial policy with the Standing Committee. It was agreed

- i) that the aims of *Modern Believing* be displayed in the journal as follows: “*Modern Believing* is the journal of *Modern Church*. Its areas of interest are Modern Theology, Christian Ethics and current affairs in relation to these. It aims to promote liberal theology internationally for a wide academic, lay and clerical readership”.
- ii) that *Modern Believing* must remain both a) an academically excellent journal in which aspiring academics will want to publish; and, b) accessible to specialist and non-specialist readers (as now).
- iii) that membership of the editorial board be reviewed and updated.
- iv) that Adrian should write letters of introduction/invitation to the Directors of Research in Departments of Theology/Religious Studies, beginning in the UK and then extending more widely, drawing attention to *Modern Believing* and asking that they suggest to appropriate research students the possibility of publishing in the journal.
- v) that Adrian should write a new ‘Invitation to Authors’.
- vi) that there should be an expectation of peer review which would protect the academic integrity of the journal

In the months since that meeting in May, Adrian has carried through these recommendations. His editorial assistant is Caroline Major who has many years experience of work in editing and publishing. The handover to this new team has not been easy but together they have worked to streamline the production and raise the profile of our journal. We are grateful to them both and look forward to reaching a wider readership and attracting more writers of quality and distinction in the years ahead.

Christine Alker

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2011 accounts and their explanatory notes appear below. They have, as before, been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, not on the full accruals basis required for companies and larger charities. The main effects of not using an accruals basis are on accounting for Gift Aid and life membership (Note 1), the miscellaneous income of £935 mentioned in Note 4 and the annual conference (Note 8).

The surplus for the year was £1,643. Last year's surplus of £2,495 was attributable to the quite exceptional receipt of over £9,000 in legacies and donations. On an accruals basis (after adjusting for the matters in the previous paragraph and some smaller items) I estimate that there would have been a loss for 2011 of about £1,850, but this has not been approved by the independent examiner. The result is better than I had expected. As shown by the Membership Administrator's Report, this is partly because membership held up fairly well and also because, as I have requested in the past, some members who are retired have decided to pay the full subscription if they can afford to do so. We are very grateful to them. The facility to join online by credit card (via PayPal), introduced in the year, has made it easier to join.

The largest single expenditure heading is for Modern Believing and Signs of the Times, particularly the former; it consists mainly of printing costs. E publishing is of course gaining ground rapidly but we consider that there is still a need for a paper edition.

Looking ahead to the likely result for 2012, a deficit of several thousand pounds is likely. We need some more members. We also welcome donations and are planning to invite contributions for a few theological students to attend the annual conference.

Finally, although I have agreed to stand for re-election as treasurer I hope that someone else will come forward this time next year.

Richard Hall – Hon.Treasurer

Income and Expenditure account

Year ended 31 December 2011

2010		
£	INCOME	£
19,369	Subscriptions (note 3)	20,174
	Gift Aid tax repayments (in respect of two years)	5,948
7,408	Dividends	7,445
113	Deposit and other interest	234
2,361	Books, publications (note 5)	2,913
11,435	Donations and legacies (note 6)	219
1,065	Miscellaneous (note 4)	1,104
<u>41,751</u>		<u>38,037</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
15,648	<i>Modern Believing</i> , newsletter, etc. (note 5)	16,916
5,315	Employment – incl. 50% (2010 100%) insurance	6,067
4,530	Office and administration expenses	5,529
170	Advertising	-
4,369	Meetings	3,246
304	Books, publications (except <i>Modern Believing</i>)	788
5,764	Events and projects (note 7)	2,945
22	Sundry expenses	79
3,134	Deficit from conference account	824
2,495	Excess of income over expenditure	1,643
<u>41,751</u>		<u>38,037</u>

Balance Sheet

As at 31 December 2011

2010 £	FUNDS	£
199,759	Balance at 1 January 2010	216,403
2,495	Surplus for year	1,643
2,750	Adjustment to Gift Aid tax reclaimable	-1,500
11,399	Investment appreciation (depreciation)	-9,815
<u>216,403</u>	TOTAL FUNDS (note 2)	<u>206,731</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Investments		
CBF for the Church of England Investment Fund – 15,500 Income Shares		
169,868	at year-end value	160,053
Current Assets (liabilities)		
7,500	Estimate of Gift Aid tax reclaimable	6,000
13,773	Cash at bank: General Account	14,304
1,876	Conference a/c [2010]/PayPal [2011]	150
23,536	CBF Deposit Fund	26,224
-150	Provision for accountant's fees	
<u>216,403</u>		<u>206,731</u>

Conference Account

Year ended 31 December 2011

2010		
£	INCOME (Note 8)	£
11,944	Conference fees for current year	19,965
105	CD sales [2010]/Other income current year	219
3,465	Conference fees for following year	1,575
<u>3,134</u>	Excess of expenditure over income	<u>824</u>
<u>18,648</u>		<u>22,583</u>
	EXPENDITURE (Note 8)	
13,147	High Leigh Account	17,764
549	Advertising	150
—	Refunds	345
782	Speakers' expenses	756
224	CD production and distribution	-
163	Other conference expenses	808
2,026	Booking deposits current year +1 and later	1,859
<u>1,757</u>	Other conference expenses for CY +1	<u>901</u>
<u>18,648</u>		<u>22,583</u>

Notes to the accounts

1. Basis of accounts (and see Note 8)

The accounts are on a cash received and paid basis and there is no matching of receipts in one year against expense payments in another.

The balance sheet shows the total assets and liabilities. The investment fund shares are included at their market value, but changes in value from year to year are taken straight to Total Funds in the balance sheet, not to the ordinary income and expenditure account. Changes in the estimated Gift Aid tax repayments receivable are also taken straight to total funds.

No financial provision is carried forward to future years for the cost of continuing to provide publications, etc., to life members in future years (when they will pay no further subscription).

There has been some minor reclassification between captions in the 2010

Notes to the accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2011

2. Purposes for which funds are held

All funds are considered to be unrestricted. The Trustees regard the funds as held for the following:

	£
Value of investment fund, to produce income	160,000
Conference (fees in advance, reserve for possible loss)	11,000
General working capital and contingencies	16,000
Special projects and events already in train at year-end	4,500
Balance for other special projects and events	15,231
	206,731

3. Subscriptions

This is the amount after refunds of amounts paid to MC in error.

4. Miscellaneous income

This includes £ 935 from Council members towards the cost of a residential meeting in 2012. The 2011 accounts do not include the corresponding cost of the meeting.

5. Books, publications

The income heading represents sales of publications, single copies of *Modern Believing*, royalties (£ 2,160) for online viewing of *Modern Believing*, and commission from Amazon on sales arising from the MC's website link to Amazon. The expenditure heading shows the cost of printing or purchasing items for sale.

6. Donations and legacies

Last year's exceptional figure included a donation of £ 500 and legacies totalling nearly £ 11,000 from the estates of Diana Burrell and Simon Tebbutt.

7. Events and projects

The main items are:

Setting up online payments facility on website	£ 1,000
Presence at Greenbelt	£ 959
Opposing the Anglican Covenant	£ 699

8. Conference receipts and payments

This account shows only the receipts and payments during the accounting period, not the overall result for the conference held in the period. Taking account of receipts and expenses in all years, the 2011 conference loss was £ 244 (2010 conference: £ 3,400 loss).

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Modern Church

I report on the accounts of Modern Church for the year ended 31 December 2011, which are set out on pages 1 to 2.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Jonathan H. Rudge FCA
20 Blackthorne Close
Solihull B91 1PF
22nd June 2012

SIGNS OF THE TIMES REPORT

Our popular newsletter continues to go from strength to strength, thanks to increasing contributions from the membership. A common theme running through the 2011 editions was inevitably the argument against the Anglican Covenant – an argument which, thanks to the intellectual labours of Jonathan Clatworthy and others, was eventually, and against much hope and expectation, subsequently won. Those who have been party to all this can indeed feel that *Signs of the Times* has proved itself a “journal of record”.

But much else has happened during the year which we have recorded richly. The 2011 conference was noted not only for the quality of its inputs and discussions, which subsequent articles in the newsletter reflected, but also for the publication of the first two books in the “Making Sense Of...” series which were duly celebrated and reviewed. Another, sadder event which figured largely in our pages was the death of Donald Barnes, such a doughty fighter for so long in the cause of so much for which Modern Church stands.

On a lighter note, the newsletter continues to carry news of groups and indeed individuals labouring in the same vineyard – where, and only where, such news is notified to us! It is also beginning to make a feature of reviewing books which might not be as academically rigorous as those reviewed in *Modern Believing* but which are thought to be of interest to the membership – and our Reviews Editor, Alan Wolfe, would welcome more reviewers to his panel. Most importantly of all,

Signs of the Times is continuing to provide a forum for members who are not in the “inner circle” of Council and Standing Committee but who have valuable contributions to make to our debates.

Such contributions, of a less academic kind than would be appropriate for our learned journal, are always welcomed. The formal deadlines are normally around the 20th of the last month in each quarter (March, June, September and December), though copy is usually closed around 7 December because of possible delays in the Winter mailing due to Christmas, and the amount of material submitted often means that we have to close before the official deadline – so please send in material in really good time! The quality of the material depends on our members, and lively, concise and if possible illustrated contributions are particularly appreciated.

Thanks are due to David Morling who formats the text for the printers every quarter.

Anthony Woollard

WEBSITE REPORT

The main innovation during 2011 has been the implementation of online payments. It is now easy to pay Modern Church subscriptions, book places at the annual conference and buy our publications with a few mouse clicks and some payment details. All sensitive personal information is encrypted and processed by PayPal on their secure website.

The site consists of over 400 pages with a consistent style and easy to use navigation. Content includes the main features from *Signs of the Times* since 2005 and editorials and books reviewed in *Modern Believing* since 2008. The full text of *Modern Believing* is archived in the ATLA Serials database used by academic institutions, with access available to Modern Church members on request. Conference pages list topics and speakers for this and previous years’ annual conferences as far back as 2002, with audio recordings of talks since 2009. There are

also pages describing our publications, a list of 130+ links to other sites, bookshop pages showing 370+ titles with purchase links to Amazon UK, and a section about Modern Church and its history.

The number of recorded visitors has again averaged around 300 per week who together viewed an average of more than 90 pages each day. *The Covenant Pages*, a comprehensive set of linked pages about the Anglican Covenant, and other Covenant-related resources continue to be well-read and referred to by other websites.

David Marshall

REPORT ON THE 2011 CONFERENCE

“Can These Bones Live?” - Reading the Bible Today

I believe Modern Church owes a huge debt to Adrian for his vision and leadership and we thank him for this. It was his vision that gave the conference its theme and focus, and which made it so hugely valuable and enjoyable.

I hope Modern Church will remember from this conference:

1. Seating round tables is a (much better) alternative to sitting in serried ranks.
2. Audience participation in small groups during the presentation is much better than those dreadful workshop/discussion groups.
3. Cabarets and theatricals can work.
4. People can cope with a heavy programme if they know they can opt out of this and that.

Over half the attendees who completed an evaluation, and of these, a large majority found the conference to be challenging, stimulating and very worthwhile. Some members would have liked a more historical-critical approach but this would have made it a quite different conference.

The new meal arrangements at High Leigh (especially breakfast) are streaks better than before even if the late notification of this did cause some unwelcome last minute programming for Adrian and Christine.

I would like to underscore our experience that speakers are much more likely to respond positively (sometimes respond at all) to a letter from a professor at a university than from an obscure vicar in North Derbyshire (with or without the Modern Church logo!).

Rev John Goldsmith

Notes:

1. The full texts of most of the papers given at the conference appear in Volumes 53:1 and 53:2 of Modern Believing
2. Elizabeth Darlington is known to many because of her excellent work as booking secretary of the annual conference. When illness forced her to pass on this task in May 2011 we discovered how much she and Richard had been doing to enable conferences to run smoothly. We are grateful to Jan van der Lely who has taken over conference bookings and we thank Elizabeth for all she has done.

NORTH WEST GROUP

Dick Martin has, for the past eight years, organised meetings of the North West group of Modern Church; these have been held at Gladstone's Library. In 2011, one was a "do-it-yourself" day on the theme of the annual conference: "Reading the Bible Today" and the second was on the theme of The Resurrection, led by Professor Paul Badham. Both days provided opportunity for vigorous and animated discussion. Dick has decided that he and Joan should hand over the organisation of this group but to date no one has come forward to take on this work. It would be a great shame to lose the impetus already built up by Dick and Joan; we thank them for all they have done and hope that someone else in the North West might feel they can continue this good work.

Christine Alker

MEMBERSHIP ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

During 2011 overall numbers have remained close to those for last year. The most significant change is that fewer members have taken advantage of the concessionary rates we offer, choosing instead to increase their support by paying the full rate. The number of new members during the year to 31 December 2011 has also increased, although the reporting periods for 2010 and 2011 overlap by 4 months. The 2009 report referred to below gave the position at 29 May 2010, the report for 2010 at 29 April 2011. The intention is that future reports always reflect the preceding calendar year.

The number of individual subscribers at the dates of the last two annual reports and on 31 December 2011 are:

Subscription type	2009	2010	2011
Individual member	470	449	448 [1]
Joint member	52	54	50 [2]
Life member	10	10	10
Honorary member	6	7	8
Total members	538	520	516 [3]
Institution	101	96	94
Journal exchange	14	9	8

Notes

1. Of which 204 paid the concessionary rate (238 for 2010).
2. Of which 29 paid the concessionary rate (39 for 2010).
3. During 2011 a total of 42 members have joined (31 for the 2010 reporting period), with 46 either cancelling or not renewing their subscription.

David Marshall

ELECTED MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES DURING 2011

Name	Standing Committee/ Trustees	Posts
Mrs Jean Barnett Re-elected until July 2012		
Mrs Pat Boyd Re-elected until July 2014		
The Revd Jonathan Clatworthy Re-elected until July 2012	Ex-officio Trustee	General Secretary
Dr Susannah Cornwall Elected July 2011 until July 2014		
Mrs Elizabeth Darlington Until July 2011	Elected Trustee until July 2011	Conference Bookings Sec until May 2011
Miss Joan Dorrell Until July 2011		
Revd Canon David Driscoll Re-elected until July 2013		
Revd Catherine Dyer Until July 2011		
Revd John Goldsmith Re-elected until July 2012		2011Conference Secretary
Revd Chris Halliday Re-elected until July 2013		
Revd Tim Laundon Elected July 2011 until July 2014		
Revd Peter Law-Jones Until July 2011		
Revd Franklin Lee Re-elected until July 2013		
Revd Jan van der Lely Elected July 2011 until July 2013		Conference Bookings Sec from July 2011
Mr Patrick Lewin Re-elected until July 2013		
Mrs Suzanne Long Re-elected until July 2014	Elected Trustee from July 2011	
Mrs Rosalind Lund Re-elected until July 2012	Ex-officio Trustee	Vice Chair

Mr David Marshall Re-elected until July 2014	Attends	Membership Administrator/ Website Manager
Revd Jean Mayland Re-elected until July 2013		
Revd. Clare Nicholson Re-elected until July 2014	Elected Trustee	2012 Conference Secretary
Rev Canon Trevor Pitt Elected July 2011 until July 2014		
Revd John Plant Re-elected until July 2012	Ex-officio Trustee	Chair
Revd Canon Dr Alan Race Re-elected until July 2012		
Mrs Mary Roe Re-elected until July 2013	Elected trustee from July 2011	
The Revd Tim Stead Re-elected until July 2014	Elected Trustee	
Mr David Storey Re-elected until July 2013		
Prof Adrian Thatcher Re-elected until July 2012		Editor Modern Believing from Jan 2012
Mr Anthony Woollard Re-elected until July 2012	Elected Trustee	Editor: Signs of the Times

Other Council Members

Name	Standing Committee	Posts
Prof John Barton		President from July '11
Mr Richard Hall	Ex-officio Trustee	Treasurer
Mrs Christine Alker	Attends	Administrator
Prof Paul Badham	Attended during 2011	Editor: Modern Believing Vice President
Prof Elaine Graham		Vice President

Revd Dr Nicholas Henderson		Vice President
Prof. McCord Adams		Vice President
Dr Peter Mills		Vice President
The Most Revd Barry Morgan		Vice President
The Rt Revd John Saxbee		President until July 2011 Vice President
The Rt Revd Brian Smith		Vice President
The Rt Revd Tim Stevens		Vice President
The Revd Canon Richard Truss		Vice President
The Rt Revd Martin Wharton		Vice President
Ms Hilary Topp		SCM, Observer

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual : Full £35 (non UK: £42)

Without Modern Believing £28 (non UK: £33)

Concessionary: Full £25 (UK only)

Without Modern Believing £18

Joint : 75% of combined rates

Member organisation: £55 (non UK: £62)

Life Membership: Age under 65: £685 (non UK: £780)

Age 65 or over: £460 (non UK: £550)

Membership enquiries: Mr David Marshall, 15 Morledge, Matlock,

DE4 3SB Tel: 01629 583958 Email: membership@modernchurch.org.uk

General enquiries: Christine Alker, administrator, tel: 0845 345 1909,

Email: office@modernchurch.org.uk

