



# **Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2014**

**to be presented to the Annual General Meeting on**

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at 2.15 pm at**

**High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts**

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**Registered charity no:** 281573

## **ABOUT MODERN CHURCH**

*Modern Church takes an open-minded and thoughtful approach to Christian faith.*

### **We understand that**

- genuine faith is committed to the search for truth, wherever it comes from
- it is possible to think and talk about God in ways that make sense in our time and culture

### **We encourage**

- open discussion: freedom to explore ideas, ask questions and change our minds without fear of disapproval
- critical scholarship: keeping up to date with good research, examining the implications of new insights and discoveries
- willingness to change: so that what we believe now can be expressed in the things our churches do and say.

### **We expect our theology to be**

- public: talking the language of ordinary people, not that of a religious club
- relevant: engaging with what is going on in society, informing our faith and how we live
- respectful: willing to learn from others, within and outside Christianity, since we accept that we don't have all the answers.

### **Public benefit**

As a charitable organisation we consider that our aims and objects have the following public benefits:

- we have a duty within our present-day society to present Christianity in a way which can be understood by ordinary people
- we encourage all church people, both ordained and lay, to play a full part in the governance and activities of their churches and foster greater engagement with the mission of the churches to support the poor, sick and needy in society
- by engaging in research and study we can help our fellow Christians come to a deeper understanding of their faith and how it has developed
- our approach to theology will encourage people of all faiths to better understand one another thus promoting better relations between the faiths.

## **Report from Chair and General Secretary**

During 2014 there were significant developments in Modern Church. The relationship with Liverpool University Press (LUP) as publisher of our journal Modern Believing continued to develop; the new look for the journal was well received, and initial glitches with distribution were resolved. We continue to work actively with LUP on promoting membership of Modern Church and marketing of the journal. We were delighted to appoint Steven Shakespeare as the next editor of Modern Believing, to take over when Jonathan Clatworthy stands down at the end of 2015. We are most grateful to Jonathan for his sterling work and we look forward to Steven coming on board with us. The special edition of MB focussing on Equal Marriage was launched at a well attended event in London.

The year saw the relaunch of our website with the assistance of Kieran Bohan. Kieran has also done great work for us in raising our Social Media profile. Modern Church now has a daily presence on Facebook and Twitter. The number of people contributing to the blog has increased over the year and we hope to see even more contributions from members to the blog in future.

Our 2014 conference on Spirituality, chaired by Rev'd Professor Martyn Percy, attracted considerable support and interest; we were delighted that Martyn accepted nomination as a Vice President, and he was duly elected.

Forward planning for conferences is well under way led by Tim Stead with Council members looking ahead as far as 2018; as a result we have themes and conference Chairs set up until then.

Having been without a President since John Barton sadly had to stand down, after discussion Council approached Professor Linda Woodhead who was appointed as President; Linda addressed Council in February 2015 and we look forward to her also chairing the 2017 annual conference.

During the year Modern Church has also engaged with other organisations working for inclusivity in the church through a campaign working together in anticipation of the General Synod 2015 elections, to see more inclusive minded candidates standing for General Synod. We had a presence at Greenbelt with a shared stall as before; thanks to Christine Alker, who puts a huge amount of work into this. There were difficulties however associated with the new site of Greenbelt, and numbers attending were lower.

Work continued both at Council and with members at the AGM on the parameters for our "Liberal alternative to Alpha" which we hope to launch in its initial form later in 2015.

***Rev Dr Jan van der Lely (Chair), Canon Guy Elsmore (General Secretary)***

### **Modern Believing – “*The Journal of Liberal Theology*”**

2014 gave *Modern Believing* a new appearance, a new cover and a new publisher, Liverpool University Press. From time to time over the years we have attempted to find a suitable academic publisher. A number have been approached; personally I have been involved in seven such negotiations. In 2013 Liverpool University Press made an offer which fitted our requirements very well and the January 2014 issue was the first under the new arrangement.

Three of the four issues in 2014 were devoted to a specific topic, and two had guest editors. The January issue was edited by Linda Woodhead, now our President, and described the findings of her surveys into what religious people believed. The April issue was edited by Savitri Hensman and addressed the topic of same-sex marriage. In view of its topicality we held a special launch at Bloomsbury Baptist Church in London. The collection of short articles on liberal theology, initially proposed by my predecessor Adrian Thatcher, came to fruition in October.

Normally the articles in a journal like ours need preparing well in advance. However we were obliged to produce the January and April issues within a very short timescale, partly because of the changeover to the new publisher, with new deadlines, and partly because of a shortage of material dating from the editorial developments in 2013. We are particularly grateful to Linda Woodhead and Savitri Hensman not only for producing such excellent issues, but also for doing so at very short notice.

We are already seeing benefits from having a professional academic publisher to promote the journal. It is being advertised much more widely than before, the quality of production is of the highest standard and we have been able to distribute attractive leaflets at suitable venues.

I would like to offer my thanks to those who have worked with me:

- the authors of the articles, whose willingness to contribute gives the journal its quality;
- the staff of Liverpool University Press, who have helped us through the publishing changeover and provided facilities for development;
- the Editorial Advisers, with their constructive advice and support;
- Michael Brierley, the Reviews Editor, who has done a first class job consistently and reliably;
- and Anthony Freeman, the Assistant Editor, whose vast editing experience has proved invaluable in maintaining a high editorial standard.

We are delighted that Steven Shakespeare has agreed to edit the journal from 2016, and we look forward to seeing how it develops.

***Rev Jonathan Clatworthy, Editor Modern Believing***

### **Modern Church Website**

I agreed to take over the development of the Modern Church website in late October 2013. However, following a family bereavement soon afterwards I did not begin the work substantially until January 2014.

The first phase of work was to:

- assist Jonathan in maintaining the old site and map its content to inform the new site.
- design the new layout and transfer content from the old site to the new.

Due to the size of the site (600+ pages, 100+ downloadable files, 900+ menu items) and unforeseen technical difficulties, the site was re-launched in time for last year's conference in July 2014.

I am grateful to the trustees for the additional investment in the website last year in recognition of the scale of the task which exceeded expectations. I hope you can now agree that it has been worth this investment, in terms of the benefit to the profile of the organisation and the potential to reach a wider demographic.

The online payment facility was completed in time for conference bookings to begin in October 2014, and content from the Modern Church tumblr blog was transferred around the same time. Jonathan Clatworthy has asked me to transfer selected articles from the earlier Blogspot website (2007 – 2013) – this should be complete

by the 2015 conference. I also assisted Christine with creating a new template for a regular e-newsletter for members.

I created a 'House style' guide for site contributors and bloggers (now in its third edition following users' feedback), and we have seen a significant increase in active contributors. Christine, Jonathan and I are the main administrators. We have also had interest from 12 people about becoming a blogger, 4 of whom have published on the site at least once.

Since the website relaunch there have been some technical issues and an increase in cost, which require a change of web host in March 2015. One of these is with site statistics (how many visitors per day, week etc.), which are not as easy to access, hence more difficult to report. The last accurate reports on this are from July 2014 around the time of the website relaunch, when there were 202 unique visitors (168 recorded for the first time, 35 returning) who viewed 427 pages. This is an average of 50 visitors a week, viewing an average of eight pages. However, the number of views per page is visible, and I used this to share the top ten most popular articles on social media at the end of December. The most viewed post received 545 views in three months.

Social media has increased website engagement. In April 2014 the Modern Church Facebook page had 71 'likes' and the Twitter profile had 312 followers. By the end of December we had 97 'likes' on the Facebook page and 364 Twitter followers, with increasing interaction on both platforms.

#### **Aims for 2015:**

- schedule regular social media updates to promote website content e.g. information about how to get involved with Modern Church, details of the conference, content from Modern Believing and Signs of the Times, as well as articles of interest from other websites.
- Transfer website to new host to reduce cost and improve technical support.
- Improve website statistics to more accurately measure site interaction.
- Complete transfer of old blog posts.
- Complete update of book review pages with Amazon links / photos: As Modern Church is an Amazon Associate, Modern Church will generate a small amount of income from any books purchased via links on the website. This is in place in some places on the site but needs to be consistent and better promoted to increase the potential for income generation.

***Kieran Bohan, Website Editor***

## **Signs of the Times, Modern Church's Newsletter**

Our popular newsletter continues to flourish, despite the increasing importance of other forms of communication (notably the Modern Church blog). 2014's issues began with very full reviews of the various events in the previous year commemorating *Honest to God*. Not unrelated to those, April saw the beginning of a conversation amongst members, initiated by Jonathan Clatworthy, on different understandings of "liberal" Christianity – a theme which has continued right into 2015. Then, following our highly successful conference in July, members contributed thoughts on that conference and its plea for a positive and indeed passionate liberal spirituality. And a series of articles by Guy Elsmore on interfaith issues began a new theme leading up to our 2015 Conference on that topic. Some twenty members have contributed to the newsletter during the year – only a few of them more than once – and, on many of the matters referred to above, have offered a remarkable spread of views. However, we could be still more representative of our diverse membership.

An increasingly prominent feature of the newsletter has been reviews of 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. It would also be good to have suggestions of such books for review.

Contributions on any issues of potential interest to the membership, of a less academic kind than would be appropriate for our learned journal, are always welcomed. For technical reasons, as well as in recognition of the increasing volume of contributions, deadlines are now earlier – around the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, June, September and December. The quality of the material depends on our members, and lively, concise and if possible illustrated contributions are particularly appreciated.

***Anthony Woollard, Editor, Signs of the Times***

## Membership Report

2014 was the first full year for which the subscriptions to Modern Church were managed by Liverpool University Press (LUP) and operating on a calendar year subscription. All practical details were carried out by LUP's agents, Turpin Distribution who sent out invoices and processed payments. The new system has led to a great deal of extra work this year; this has included: explaining the process to those who could not make sense of their invoices, contacting the many members who had not cancelled standing orders and arranging refunds, liaising with Turpin Distribution when members have contacted me and assisting the treasurer with gift aid payments.

The numbers of subscribers at the end of 2013 and 2014 were as follows:

<b>Subscription type</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>
Individual member	416	344 <sup>1</sup>
Joint member	33	31 <sup>2</sup>
Life member	10	10
Honorary member	10	10
<b>Total members</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>395<sup>3</sup></b>

### Notes

1. Of which 154 paid the concessionary rate (170 in 2013).
2. Of which 21 paid the concessionary rate (23 in 2013).
3. During 2014 22 new members joined (40 in 2013 of which 20 were gift memberships).

*Christine Alker*

### **Annual Conference: 14 – 17 July 2014**

#### **A Liberating Spirit? Exploring Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The Annual Conference was chaired by the Revd. Canon Professor Martyn Percy at High Leigh Conference Centre. The conference focussed on the question of what it might mean to identify a 'liberal' approach to spirituality. With many in our world seeming to have lost interest in institutions, and weary with dogmatic arguments, is there a credible 'liberal spirituality' that is engaged with contemporary culture?

The speakers at the conference presented a range of papers, each of which suggested that many today are looking for authentic, intelligent and accessible ways

of reflecting on the realities and mysteries of life, and which can actually make a difference to their own lives. The conference offered participants – around 100 delegates – the chance to explore some of the contemporary approaches to spirituality – through the lens of open minded and well-informed enquiry.

Speakers included, Professor Martyn Percy (Oxford University) on liberal spirituality, Professor Grace Davie (University of Exeter) on understanding the “centre” in British religion today, the Revd. Canon Mark Oakley (St. Paul’s Cathedral) on poetry and spirituality, the Revd Dr Emma Percy (Trinity College, Oxford) on ‘breastfeeding as a metaphor for grace filled service’, and the Revd. Dave Bookless (A Rocha) on worldly spirituality and ecology. Professor John Peacocke (Oxford) spoke on ‘Mindfulness’ as an ancient Spiritual practice for a modern secular context, Dr Abby Day (university of Kent) on religion and spirituality today – finding the spirit of ‘Generation A’, and finally, Dr Rachel Muers (University of Leeds) on ‘why silence isn’t doing nothing’ (and why it might be all right to do nothing – a reflection on the spiritual challenges from Quaker tradition to contemporary culture). Workshops were led by the Rev Carla Grosch-Miller (Psalms Redux – Radical translations of the Psalms), Revd Jan van der Lely (Labyrinth spirituality), the Revd. Tim Stead (Mindfulness) and on Modern Church’s Liberal Alpha Project.

The Conference basked in some of the warmest weather of the year, and we are profoundly grateful to the organisers, and to our hosts at High Leigh. The number attending continues to affirm the growing interest in liberal approaches to scripture and Christian tradition, and the engagement of churches with the wider world. Our thanks go to all those who spoke at the gathering, and to all who shaped and organised the programme for this year.

***Martyn Percy, Conference Chair***

### **Day Conference: “Believable Creeds”, 1 November 2014**

The numbers attending this day conference were disappointing, but the 19 people who did attend (including a student and chaplain from Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln) enjoyed a stimulating time. Canon David Jennings who led the day did a superb job in presenting the background to our creeds and explaining the current situation; he held people's attention and maintained their interest and active engagement throughout the whole day; long though it was for a few, and not long enough for the rest of us! Everyone thought the day very well worthwhile, and were very grateful to Modern Church for encouraging and supporting it. Eight of us

carried on after tea, and were still conversing enthusiastically up to 4-00pm when our booking time ran out!

***Rev Dr Jeyan Anketell, Conference Organiser***

### **Conferences: Planning for the Future**

In the last couple of years we have been reviewing our approach to conferences and here are some of the decisions made and plans for the future:

1. Annual conference.

- i) Length. There seemed to be strong support for a slightly shorter conference but with broadly the same amount of input. So we have made the decision to move to a two night rather than three night conference from 2016.
- ii) A.G.M. This will still take place on the middle day of the conference as it seemed the best time to get the most number of members present.
- iii) Themes. We have been working with input from council members to plan conference themes further ahead so that we have more chance of attracting top names both to chair and to speak. Themes for the coming years are:
  - 2015. Seeking the Sacred. Chair: Alan Race.  
Christianity in dialogue with other religions and the world
  - 2016. Marking Shakespeare's anniversary. Chair: Alison Milbank.  
Performing the faith: Shakespeare in the world
  - 2017. Monotheism in the modern world. Chair: Linda Woodhead.  
Exploring monotheism alongside other contemporary understandings of God: explicit or implicit.

Possible future themes:

- The future of Worship, liturgy and ritual
- Liberal approaches to the bible: the use and abuse of a "sacred" book
- Liberal apologetics/ liberal evangelism
- Theology and church action/ public theology: a global perspective
- Theology in the media

## 2. Other conferences/day conferences

Conscious that many of our members and sympathisers are simply unable to come to our annual conference either because of work or geography, we are keen to encourage more local, one day conferences around the country. The trustees do not feel able to organise these ourselves but would love to see more happening and would be keen to support them in whatever way we can.

***Rev Tim Stead***

### **Treasurer's Report Modern Church 2014**

Members will be aware that during the course of this year, Modern Church has completed the transfer of the publication of *Modern Believing* to Liverpool University Press (LUP) with responsibility for managing subscriptions to Turpin Distribution. While I am sure that in general members are more than happy with the results of the transfer to LUP, there have been ongoing concerns regarding the management of members' subscriptions.

Despite all our best efforts, and probably inevitably, a number of members have failed to cancel their standing orders. In part, this has been because the communications from Turpin have not made the new process sufficiently clear and we apologise for this. It is also unfortunate that Turpin are currently unable to use the Direct Debit system, but this facility should become available to members for 2016 subscriptions.

As you can see from the accounts this financial year we have ended with a surplus. This is in part due to the change from printing by Orphans Press to publication by Liverpool University Press and also to the success of the annual conference. It is the first time we have achieved this in many years and should provide members with confidence for the future.

In order to put our finances on a secure footing for the next 3-5 years, with regret we were obliged to increase our membership fees and we are most grateful for our members who have supported us in this. We very much hope that the changes we have made will mean that no further increases will be required for some time.

Last year's annual conference was as financially successful as it was in all other ways and it is currently looking as if the 2015 conference will similarly be a financial success. This means that the conference is a support to the work of the Modern Church, rather than being in need of subsidy as has sometimes been the case – and I am grateful to all those who contributed to this success. Please see the breakdown of each conference to get an impression of what this means in practice.

For several years the conference has benefited from the presence of students who have contributed enormously to the experience for all participants. Last year we had three students who helped with the sound system and recording and enabled a disabled member to negotiate the maze that is High Leigh if you are a wheelchair user. It was a policy decision by the Trustees to fund up to three students and the cost was partly covered by restricted donations made for this specific purpose of £235 (the marginal cost of a free place being approx £170).

Thanks are due in no small measure to our Administrator, Christine Alker, for her work to support the transfer of membership to Turpin. She has done this in addition to her normal administration duties and has managed to keep track of all the anomalies over membership that have occurred during the course of the year. I am personally tremendously grateful for all the support she has provided to a rather green rookie treasurer.

As most people will be aware by now, Christine has intimated that she plans to retire at the end of 2015 and I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks for all that she has done to support the Council and Trustees during her time as Administrator. She will be greatly missed and has set a high standard for her successor to follow.

For some years now Modern Church has had a presence at Greenbelt. This is quite a big financial commitment, but more than that it has been an immense commitment for Christine and her rather small band of supporters. With regret the Trustees decided that in 2015 we would take a break but we will keep lines of communication open both with Greenbelt and with our partners PCN Britain, St Mark's CRC and Inclusive Church and we very much hope that it will prove possible to have a presence at Greenbelt again in the future.

We are keen to expand our influence and develop links with liberal Christians worldwide as well as in the UK. Accordingly we always make budget provision for special projects and support for partner organisations. During 2014 we contributed £1000 to Inclusive Church for work on the elections to General Synod. We continue

to work with Progressive Christianity Network (PCN) Britain and St Marks Centre for Radical Christianity (CRC) on the Joint Publications project. We are always open to requests for support as issues arise which seem particularly to require the support of liberal church organisations.

I am grateful to Christine and the Trustees for their support during the last year which has been challenging in a number of ways. However, financially we are now in a good place with the freedom to develop resources and thinking to equip the liberal/emerging Church as it responds to an ever-changing world. We can look to the future with confidence.

I am also especially grateful to our Independent Examiner, Jonathan Rudge, for painstakingly going through the accounts and making sure I have not made any obvious errors – however, any errors which may nonetheless have crept in are all my own.

***Rosalind Lund***

### **Notes to the Accounts**

1. The Conference account for 2014 is incorporated into the main accounts on the Income and Expenditure page. However, for clarity I have shown separate reports for the Annual Conference for 2014, 2015 and 2016 expenditure and income to date, Greenbelt and Joint Publications as income and expenditure for these runs across more than one financial year.
2. Since September 2013 the costs of Administrator have included membership and the handover of the membership administration to Turpin Distribution. For 2014 there have been additional Membership costs of 192 hours over the year (approx £2016).
3. Other projects and conferences includes a £1000 contribution to Inclusive Church re elections to General Synod.
4. Cheques written but not cashed at 31/12/14 totalled £91, but two cheques sent out to repay overpaid membership fees and still not cashed at 5 April 2015 have been treated as donations.
5. Gift Aid - the income and expenditure account shows £4931 reclaimed for 2011 and 2012, which is £5790 (actual amount received) less £859 which is the difference in the debtor carry forward from 2013 to 2014 (see Funds).

## Modern Church Treasurer's Report 2014: Income and Expenditure Account

	2014 Income	2014 Expenditure	2013 Income	2013 Expenditure
Advertising		£2,647		£1,021
PCNBritain (Joint Publications) (inc £750 loan)		£1,104		£1,465
Trustee and Council meetings		£4,616		£4,575
Publishing		£1,758		£176
Greenbelt		£1,348		£4,287
Other projects and conferences		£1,349		
Annual conference room hire and expenses		£17,739		£14,729
Books purchased (inc copies of MB)		£960		£498
Miscellaneous (printing Annual Report etc.)		£127		£141
Refunds (membership)		£2,229		£221
Administrator (inc membership admin)		£7,655		£6,178
Website		£5,911		
Administration and office expenses (inc website for 2013)		£2,374		£5,064
MB Orphans Press etc				£17,797
Gift Aid tax repayments (2011 and 2012)	£4,391			
Books and publications (inc £3518.41 royalty from LUP in 2014)	£4,944		£3,030	
Annual conference income (2014/2015)	£24,568		£16,736	
Donations	£326		£5,541	
Interest	£133		£141	
CBF Income Fund	£7,860		£7,707	
Subscriptions	£4,208		£15,530	
Council residential	£1,588		£586	
Other conferences (inc Honest to God conf £2144.86))	£2,455		£866	
Restricted donations (towards 3 student places at High Leigh)	£235		£295	
Greenbelt	£266		£2,963	
joint publications	£1,165		£643	
	£52,679	£49,817	£54,037	£56,151
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>£2,862</b>		<b>-£2,113</b>	

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2014

2013		2014
£218,880	Balance at 1 January	£237,322
-£2,113	Surplus (Deficit) for year	£2,862
£20,555	Investment appreciation (depreciation)	£10,464
<u>£237,322</u>	<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>£250,648</u>

### Represented by:

£8,296	Barclays Bank current account - cash	£11,751
£911	Paypal at 29-12-14	£1,044
£26,609	CCLA Deposit Account	£26,742
£5,000	Estimate of Gift Aid tax reclaimable	£4,141
	Central Board of Finance (CBF) Investment Fund	
£196,506	- year end share value	£206,970
<u>£237,322</u>		<u>£250,648</u>

### Notes:

CBF Investment fund shows a revaluation of shares held up from previous year - the number of shares held remains the same

<b>Budget for 2015</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014 budget</b>	<b>2014 (actual)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administrator (inc membership costs)	£7,500	£5,460	£7,655
Administration costs meetings etc	£7,000	£6,500	£6,990
Advertising	£3,000	£3,000	£2,647
Annual Conference	£18,000	£17,000	£17,739
Greenbelt		£1,500	£1,348
Modern Believing and Signs of the Times (inc refund members)	£5,000	£7,600	£3,189
Publishing (including Joint Publications)	£1,000	£1,650	£2,862
Projects and other conferences	£1,500	£2,500	£1,349
Website	£4,500	£3,000	£5,911
Membership costs		£1,500	
Other	£800	£590	£127
<b>Total</b>	<b>£48,300</b>	<b>£50,300</b>	<b>£49,817</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Membership	£6,000	£7,000	£4,208
Annual Conference	£21,500	£18,000	£24,568
Council	£1,500	£600	£1,588
Greenbelt		£0	£266
Publishing	£3,000	£1,000	£6,109
Gift Aid	£4,000	£15,000	£4,931
CBF Income Fund	£7,700	£7,700	£7,860
Donations	£1,600	£1,000	£326
Other	£1,000	£0	£368
Conferences	£2,000		£2,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>£48,300</b>	<b>£50,300</b>	<b>£52,679</b>

## Conference 2014 and Projects

	Expenditure	Income
<b>Annual Conference 2014</b>		
Receipts 2013-14		£22,318.00
Advertising 2013-14	£938.10	
Christian Conference Trust 2013	£1,660.50	
Christian Conference Trust 2012	£200.00	
Christian Conference Trust 2014	£15,116.62	
Restricted donations		£270.00
Expenses	£585.92	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£18,501.14</b>	<b>£22,588.00</b>
<b>Net credit</b>	<b>£4,086.86</b>	
<b>Annual Conference 2015</b>		
Deposit paid 2013	£200.00	
Christian Conference Trust 2014	£1,849.95	
Receipts and restricted donations		£4,490.00
Advertising	£756.33	
<b>Annual Conference 2016</b>		
Deposit paid 2014	£200.00	
<b>Greenbelt 2014</b>		
Costs to MC	£1,348.06	
Inclusive Church and PCN		£266.33
<b>Total cost to MC</b>	<b>£1,081.73</b>	
<b>Joint Publications</b>		
Brought forward from 2013		£35.85
Expenses	£16.00	
Income 2014		£1,164.79
Paid to PCN	£1,104.10	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>£1,104.10</b>	<b>£1,200.64</b>
Balance due to PCN	<b>£96.54</b>	
Loan to PCN continued through 2014	£750.00	

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Modern Church**

I report on the accounts of the Modern Church for the year ended 31 December 2014, which are set out on pages 1 to 2 and show a revenue surplus of £2,862, together with funds totalling £250,648.

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 MA FCA  
20 Blackthorne Close,  
Solihull B91 1PF 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2015

## Modern Church Officers and Post-holders: 2014

<b>President</b>	Prof Linda Woodhead
<b>Chair of Council</b>	Rev Dr Jan van der Lely
<b>Vice Chair of Council</b>	Rev Tim Stead
<b>General Secretary</b>	Canon Guy Elsmore
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Rosalind Lund

### Council Members during 2014

#### Trustees since 2014 AGM

Rev Dr Jeyan Anketell  
Rev Dr Lorraine Cavanagh<sup>1</sup>  
Canon Guy Elsmore  
Rev Ruth Fitter<sup>1</sup>  
Rev Anthony Freeman  
Prof Elaine Graham  
Rev Dr Jan van der Lely  
Mrs Rosalind Lund<sup>1</sup>  
Canon Trevor Pitt  
Canon Dr Alan Race  
Rev Tim Stead  
Mr Anthony Woollard<sup>1</sup>

#### Trustee prior to 2014 AGM

Rev Clare Nicholson

Mrs Jean Barnett<sup>1</sup>  
Helen Burnett  
Mrs Pat Boyd  
Rev Jonathan Clatworthy  
Rev Canon David Driscoll  
Rev John Goldsmith<sup>1</sup>  
Mr Richard Hall  
Rev David Howard<sup>1</sup>  
Rev David James<sup>1</sup>  
Rev Tom Keates  
Rev Tim Laundon<sup>2</sup>  
Rev Peter Law-Jones<sup>2</sup>

Rev Franklin Lee  
Mr Patrick Lewin  
Mrs Suzanne Long  
Mr David Marshall<sup>2</sup>  
Mr Hugh Rock  
Prof Adrian Thatcher<sup>1</sup>

#### Vice Presidents

Prof Paul Badham  
Prof Elaine Graham  
Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson  
Rev Prof M McCord Adams  
Dr Peter Mills  
The Most Rev Barry Morgan  
The Very Rev Prof Martyn Percy<sup>3</sup>  
The Rt Rev Dr John Saxbee  
The Rt Rev Brian Smith  
The Rt Revd Tim Stevens  
Rev Canon Richard Truss  
The Rt Rev Martin Wharton

<sup>1</sup>Term of office ends at the 2015 AGM but can stand for re-election

<sup>2</sup>Term of office ended at 2014 AGM

<sup>3</sup>Elected at 2014 AGM

