



Modern Church
faith in the world

Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2017

to be presented to the Annual General Meeting on

17th July 2018 at 2.15 pm at

High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts

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ABOUT MODERN CHURCH

Deeper understanding of 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 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 constructive relations between the faiths.

Report from the Chair

There are many voices and volunteers who contribute generously of their time and energy to make Modern Church the vibrant movement that it is. So I begin my report by thanking these unsung heroes, slightly too many to name, without whom we would be much less effective than we are. Their presence is hidden in the back rooms of administration and committee work, journal preparation and strategy, stimulating theological output, communications and general support. We should be pleased to acknowledge their contributions.

That said, undoubtedly the major shift in MC strategy this past year has been the appointment in September of the Rev'd Dr Jonathan Draper, who, as they say, hit the ground running. His thoughtful intelligence and insightful instincts have brought fresh thinking for MC at a time when many membership organisations are having to ponder their futures deeply.

Led by Jonathan, the Trustees and Council have endorsed a dynamic new logo and strapline, and we hope you like them. First impressions are important! 'Faith in the World' has echoes of 'Faith in the City', one of the better reports to have emerged from the churches in the 1980s. Our strapline promises an organisation with an outward focus. Guided by the capable technical skills of the Communications Officer, Kieran Bohan, we are developing a fresh design for the website which is experiencing increasing consultation as MC's shop window. These are the beginnings of a wider communications strategy. Two further developments have been the General Secretary's survey of MC membership and relationships with Greenbelt. The survey received a reasonably high response rate and has provided good background knowledge of members' views and a platform from which we can move forward. A deeper engagement with Greenbelt than we have had in the past will increase MC's profile and extend its reach. We are grateful to Jonathan for the stimulus he has brought to MC, particularly the need to think outside the box, and convincing us that what we stand for is capable of evolution in an ever-changing church and world. Jan van der Lely has acted in a line management role for the General Secretary through the year and we are grateful for her contributions. Jan has decided to step down now from this role.

There are changes in the pipeline regarding *Modern Believing*, our journal. We are thankful to the editor Steven Shakespeare, assistant editor Katharine Moody and reviews editor Michael Brierley for their dedicated work. Due to family circumstances Steven has had to resign from post as editor and at the time of writing this report we are in the process of seeking a new appointment.

This will be for a Managing Editor with a central role of coordinating an editorial committee and a strengthened relationship with the Trustees. One result of the survey was that there remains a continuing need for well-grounded accessible and enlivening liberal theology and MB hopes to provide this.

Anthony Woollard continues his excellent work with our newsletter *Signs of the Times*, which the survey showed was appreciated widely by the membership. There have been lively contributions throughout the year, particularly on central Christian themes, and Anthony's own editorials convey valued commentary as well as perspective for MC.

Our conference in 2017 was very well received, with its intriguing title 'God: None, One, Three or Many'. There was lively debate and a sense that it was good that MC had returned to the central idea of 'God' at its conference. The conference was led by our energetic President, Professor Linda Woodhead and Professor Jane Shaw, who has recently been appointed as Principal of Harris Manchester College, Oxford. Two of our Trustees, Jonathan Clatworthy and Adrian Thatcher, gave presentations.

Unfortunately, the heavy snow throughout the country in February/March meant that there was a smaller gathering of Council members at our annual 24-hour meeting at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, in March. The small number who made it, in spite of the travel hurdles, nevertheless enjoyed a full programme of discussion and decision-making, and especially were grateful to Kieran who assisted in setting up skype for the General Secretary to report to the group from his holed-up snow-bound residence in the south-west. All part of a developing communications strategy!

From time to time there is call for local groups to be established by MC, and this was highlighted also in the survey. There are signs now of one or two groups emerging into view, and this is yet another indication that the much-needed theological exploration championed by MC is taking off at local levels. The Trustees will be giving thought to how MC can properly support local groups, which initially often rely on enthusiastic individuals.

All in all, it has been a very busy year, and I am confident that MC is laying strong foundations for the future. It is clear that there is a need both in the churches and outside them for a theology and spirituality that is capable of accompanying many people on their many different journeys.

Report from the General Secretary

This is my first Annual Report since starting my work as General Secretary of Modern Church (MC) at the beginning of September 2017, though I was also privileged to have attended the Annual Conference in July 2017 after my appointment had been made. It has been a very full nine months.

I have attended Trustees meetings in October (London) and December (Birmingham) 2017, and in January (London) and May (Birmingham) in 2018. I have also been asked to be MC's Partner Trustee on the board of Inclusive Church (IC). I have attended IC Trustees meeting (in London) in December 2017 and January 2018, and the AGM and Lecture at St Paul's Cathedral. I also participated in a four-day trip to Sweden with IC for a conference in the Diocese of Stockholm in April 2018 on inclusion and accessibility. I wrote a report for the MC Trustees on that trip and published a blog about it on the 7th June. I was unable, because of the snow (even in Exeter!) to make it to the residential MC Council Meeting in Leeds at the beginning of March. Thanks to our Communications Officer Kieran Bohan's technical capabilities I was, however, able to join the meeting over two long sessions by Skype.

When the Trustees met at the Annual Conference in July 2017 I undertook to produce a communications strategy for MC in time for the January meeting of Trustees. This formed the major piece of work for me during the autumn. As a part of that, I did a major consultation of the membership of MC to use as a part of the basis for the strategy. I am grateful to those members who took part in the consultation. There will be a presentation of the results of the consultation at the 2018 Annual Conference, but there are some things that stand out:

- MC members really appreciate the quality of the contribution that MC makes to theological debate and value the ways in which *Modern Believing* and our conferences stimulate thought.
- Members, however, also felt that there could be a wider range of more accessible theology alongside that significant and more academic contribution. Members would also like to have more opportunities between conferences to meet locally for stimulation and continuing support and friendship.
- Members also felt there was a need to attract both younger members and a wider range of people to the work that MC does. This is one of the reasons why we are taking a large role in the Greenbelt Festival in 2018.

The communications Strategy (and accompanying work plan outline and metrics for measuring success) was presented to and accepted by the Trustees in January and by

the Council in March. I am grateful, in particular, to Kieran for his help and guidance in preparing the communications strategy. I also had significant help before starting from Dr Karen O'Donnell of CODEC.

The communications strategy gave rise to a number of areas where work could be usefully done to broaden the reach, deepen the impact and create wider engagement with MC. As mentioned above, the strategy acknowledges the important strand of academic contributions that MC makes already through *Modern Believing* and the Annual Conference, but also looks to add to that a wider range of accessible theology which we hope will attract a new and younger range of members (and, perhaps, to different forms of membership).

A part of the strategy is to use social media better to attract people to the good things MC has to offer. A part of that is an emerging 'blog plan' which will include inviting well-known people to do an occasional blog for us. I have also been writing blogs for MC from time to time. In order to respond to the desire expressed in the consultation, MC will also be working with others (in partnership) to put on regional or local events. While this is very successfully done by a small group in the South West, we will team up with others in different parts of the country to put on events for members (and others who might be interested).

A visible outcome of the communications strategy has been a new logo (and new strapline), and this has been widely welcomed. This has led to further work on our website (led by Kieran Bohan), and we hope this will be up and running by the time of the Annual Conference. Less visible has been the work I have been doing with the Greenbelt Festival (GB). MC is, this coming August, 'sponsoring' three acts at Greenbelt and will be sharing a stand with IC and WATCH. MC will also be hosting a reception at GB. As part of the deal we are also able to use the GB network to publicise our events and blogs, etc., to an audience that we would not normally reach. This has been a major piece of work and involved a number of face-to-face meetings, a huge number of emails, Skype conversations with IC and WATCH, and significant work on the telephone. Kieran has, again, been of great help in getting this underway.

I also attended the annual Society for the Study of Theology (SST) conference in Nottingham in April specifically representing MC (which went down very well, as our presence was warmly welcomed). A number of ways of collaborating with the SST were discussed with the incoming President and with the Secretary and we hope to have a significant MC presence there next year in Warwick.

Having retired from a post (and career) defined by the morning and evening offices, endless meetings, and little time off, I have relished the opportunity working for MC has brought to work in a less regimented way (and I have weekends free...). And while my working pattern has not been what you might call regular, and while I have worked a lot more than my contracted hours, I have enjoyed the work enormously. I feel privileged to be a part of MC and to add what value I can to the already good work being done. I am grateful to Jan van der Lely for her supervision of my work, and to the Trustees for their encouragement and support.

Jonathan Draper, General Secretary

Modern Believing

Editorship

For personal reasons, I have stated my intention to step down from the editorship in July 2018, making the October 2018 issue the final one I will be involved in preparing.

The Trustees met to discuss options for my successor and are currently advertising for a Managing Editor position.

Issues

The end of 2017 saw a very strong issue guest edited by Susannah Cornwall on issues of sexuality, gender and law in the churches. I would encourage members to make this widely known.

January's issue featured a debate inspired by Adrian Thatcher's article on Christology, with substantial contributions from Keith Ward and Lisa Isherwood and a reply from Adrian. I felt this worked very well as a model of interactive discussion – as far as a journal permits! It would be good to explore similar approaches in the future.

The April issue was a general one, though a loose theme of ecclesiology and the church's relation the public realm could be detected among the contributions.

The July issue will contain contributions inspired by last year's conference, and will be guest edited by the conference chairs.

Plans are in place for a number of other special issues, which continue to engage with radical aspects of contemporary theology.

Conference

There has been some discussion of the relationship between the journal and the annual Modern Church conference. One issue of the journal each year usually contains suitably **revised** presentations from the previous annual conference. This year, the conference chairs have acted as guest editors and chose a slightly different approach. This meant that not all of the conference presentations are included in the July 2018 issue.

I think there is an argument for involving conference chairs as guest editors if they are willing, and exploring alternative approaches, as has happened this year. However, I appreciate there is a view among trustees that there should be an expectation of considering all the conference talks for publication. I have advised that it would be helpful for my successor if this were explicitly stated on record.

Delays

For different reasons, the October 2017 and January 2018 issues were delayed, and I apologise for the concern this has caused trustees and members in general. It was agreed that potential delays should be discussed and cleared with trustees in future, though the appointment of a new Managing Editor will no doubt entail new procedures.

Thanks

I am extremely grateful for the hard work, commitment and enthusiasm of Katharine Sarah Moody (assistant editor) and Michael Brierley (reviews editor), without whom the journal would not be possible.

Steven Shakespeare, Editor Modern Believing

Modern Church Website

In March 2017 I completed the first year of my three-year contract as Communications Officer for Modern Church. Following a report to Modern Church Council in March 2017, in which I identified that I needed to request additional hours in six of the twelve months of that year for work related to Council, Conference, and other extra activities such as urgent media releases and website technical support, Council members agreed to increase my weekly hours

to six per week, to accommodate these additional activities so the role is more likely to remain within budget in future.

Highlights of the year include:

Website

On December 31st 2017 I published on social media the top ten most viewed website pages of 2017, listed in the table below. The controversy over the appointment of Philip North as Bishop of Sheffield dominated; extra activity around General Synod in February 2017 also paid off. The greater emphasis on topical news items rather than blog posts is noticeable.

Rank	Webpage	Views @ 31/12/17
10	The Bishops' Report and Scripture: A missed opportunity by Jennifer Strawbridge: http://ow.ly/ViXT30huZJR	2227
9	Setting God's people free to do what they are told by Jonathan Clatworthy: http://ow.ly/unw430huZO3	2287
=7	The Archbishop of Canterbury, irreconcilable difference and 'copping out' by Jonathan Draper: http://ow.ly/ZQnR30hv10E	2345
=7	Modern Church responds to Synod vote on sexuality and marriage: http://ow.ly/yivw30hvlc6	2345
6	Martyn Percy responds to Bishop of Sheffield designate: http://ow.ly/7N5x30hvlCP	2397
5	House of Bishops report 'lacks compassion' says senior cleric http://ow.ly/z8Za30hvlVM	2865
4	Not a matter of opinion: Discernment, difference and discrimination by Martyn Percy: http://ow.ly/aX7q30hv29L	3025
3	Meet our new General Secretary: http://ow.ly/RsFY30hv2t2	3144
2	Oxford theologian invites bishop-designate of Sheffield to decline nomination: http://ow.ly/MliU30hv2Dd	8121
1	Philip North affair exposed theological weakness of 'traditionalism' by Linda Woodhead: http://ow.ly/pjcs30hv2JA	11809

Following technical problems, a couple of times during the year, we have now subscribed to additional technical support to ensure the website stays online and secure at all times. We have begun working on a strategy to refresh the appearance of the website and make it more accessible on mobile devices in 2018.

News

The number of news items on the website (usually with accompanying media releases) continued to increase in 2017 to 18 stories (from 8 in 2015 to 11 in 2016).

Blog

We published an average of seven posts a month - higher than usual due to Jonathan Clatworthy's series around the time of the General Election: 'Why Christians should vote for a different government', and the addition of our new General Secretary, Jonathan Draper's contributions. Jonathan Clatworthy and Lorraine Cavanagh remain the most regular correspondents - we also had posts from six other contributors including Linda Woodhead. I continue to encourage new contributors and would welcome contributions from members and guests on an occasional or regular basis. We are focussing on this as part of our communications strategy for our 120th anniversary year in 2018.

Social media

I have maintained a pattern of scheduling an average of one post every day featuring key content from the MC website, as well as any blog posts and news items we publish, and occasionally articles of interest from other sources, up to a maximum of four posts a day. On Facebook, we saw a growth from 387 page likes on 31/12/16 to 476 on 31/12/17 - a growth of 89 or 23%. On Twitter, we saw a growth from 883 followers on 31/12/16 to 1164 on 31/12/17 - a growth of 281 or 32%.

2017 Council

In addition to reporting on my own role, I also shared highlights on social media from the event, and quotes from our keynote speaker Lorraine Cavanagh's paper, 'Reclaiming the soul of Modern Church', which was published in full on the website.

2017 Conference

I attended conference to provide speakers with audio-visual support and ensure that contributions were recorded. I created social media content during the talks where possible, and shared photos from the event which generated interest and interaction. I also supported two students to take part in the conference as helpers

thanks to generous donations from members - both contributed greatly and shared some good quality photos of the event.

Events

I assisted with publicity for events organised by the growing south west regional group - the review and keynote speech from their event 'Populism & the Post Truth society: How should the churches respond?' have proved popular on the website. I aim to update our 'Partner Events' page on the website regularly – I welcome suggestions for events to include on our Partner Events page which may be of interest to Modern Church members.

E-Newsletter

Following a series of reports from members that they were receiving spam email purporting to come from Modern Church, in June 2017 we transferred our e-newsletter over to Mailchimp to improve the security of our members' email addresses. This move had the added benefit of improving the quality of our email communication in the presentation of the latest content on the website plus other news, events and vacancies from Modern Church and our partners.

Publications

The production of the *Signs of the Times* quarterly newsletter and the publication of content from it and the *Modern Believing* journal has been delayed due to late distribution by Liverpool University Press (LUP) following issues with the editorial process which are now being addressed. I continue to promote all the other publication series on social media monthly.

Kieran Bohan, Communication Officer

Membership Report

2017 was the fourth 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. It had been hoped that the new system would be fully embedded with members this year but there is still significant work involved in contacting members who have not cancelled standing orders.

The numbers of subscribers for the three year previous period were as follows:

Subscription Type	2015	2016	2017	Note
Individual Member	332	314	291	1
Joint Members	9	11	12	2
Life Members	10	10	9	
Honorary Members	8	16	11	
Total Members	368	362	330	

Notes

1. Of which 105 paid the concessionary rate (122 in 2016).
2. Of which 9 paid the concessionary rate (10 in 2016).

Diane Kutar, Administrator

Signs of the Times Report

Our popular newsletter continues to flourish, despite the increasing importance of other forms of communication (notably the Modern Church blog and website).

2017's issues were notable for the large number and diversity of book reviews, commissioned by the Book Reviews Editor Chris Savage. Whilst some members contributed articles, and in particular reports from Modern Church's ever-lively South-West Regional Group, there was a slight shortage of these until after the very rich Annual Conference which drew forth reactions from several in the October edition. That edition also began to feature contributions from our new General Secretary who has contributed so much subsequently to our policy discussions.

Another increasingly common feature, sadly, is obituaries and recollections of past members. Memories of both Joan Dorrell and Paddy Lewin featured prominently in earlier editions in the year.

With the new energy imparted to our fellowship by our General Secretary, there is an increasing number of articles from members, some of them substantial, in the pipeline for the future. However, we could be still more representative of our diverse membership, in a way which reflects their different views on many issues whilst respecting the open and questioning ethos of Modern Church.

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 8th of March, June, September and December. The quality of the material depends on our members, and lively, concise and (where relevant and possible) illustrated contributions are particularly appreciated.

Anthony Woollard, Editor, Signs of the Times

Annual Conference: 10th to 12th July 2017

God: None, One, Three or Many?

The aim of the conference was to offer opportunity and provocation to help think and talk honestly about God – however we conceive her/him/it or them. We had the right speakers and the right audience, and it came together very well. The range of views both from the platform and the floor was wide, and made for some very interesting and lively discussions.

It may have been the first MC conference to have co-chairs, certainly two female ones: Professor Jane Shaw from Stanford University, USA and Professor Linda Woodhead from Lancaster University UK. This was a deliberate policy in order to encourage conversation and pluralism from the outset.

Day 1 was on 'Visions of God' – in order to set out some parameters of discussion. The chairs began by asking one another in public about their own beliefs, and which person of the trinity they relate to most closely in their own spiritual lives. For Jane it was God the Creator, for Linda the Spirit. Adrian Thatcher then spoke on 'Why the Trinity Matters', followed by Jonathan Clatworthy on 'Divine Harmony as a Basis for Ethics.'

Day 2 was on 'Living God' – with a deliberate double meaning. David Stancliffe opened with a talk on 'Imagination, Liturgy and God', followed by Nicola Slee, 'Feminist Perspectives on Liturgy, Prayer and God'. In the afternoon Rachel Muers spoke on 'To Serve a Living and True God', followed by Vincent Strudwick and Lorraine Cavanagh each introducing books they had recently published on the topic 'The Naked God' and 'Waiting on the Word' respectively. After dinner the historian Dominic Erdozain set some things in context with a lecture on 'An Inward Music: Christianity and the Modern Self'.

Day 3 on 'Knowing God' began with Linda Woodhead talking about 'Unknowing God' and how her own understandings of God had had to be undone in order to be recovered in a new way. This was followed by open discussion, with Jane and Linda and others representing MC closing the conference at 3pm.

After every lecture there was chaired discussion, plus spots for plenary discussion and discussion at tables every day. People shared a great deal, and we left having had our own ideas challenged, and having learned some new things. The conversation over meals in breaks continued the themes. The feedback was

pleasingly positive, with appreciation of how well the co-chairing had worked, and the lively discussion. The main disappointment was that Hugh Rock's absence due to sad family circumstances had left a hole where some people had hoped there would be more discussion of atheism, negative theology, the death of God and the rise of 'no religion' – a good theme for a future conference, perhaps.

The conference issue of the journal is currently in press. It brings together a series of short, personal reflections on how the authors get – or get to – God. They come from several directions and disciplines - theology, sociology, art, historical theology, preaching, liturgy, prayer and poetry. Each is written from the particular, deliberately autobiographical, standpoint of the writer. We received such a rich spread of papers of different kinds from the conference that they will be appearing on the website and in at least two issues of the journal. In the current issue we have pulled together the papers which took a more autobiographical approach to 'getting God', and we encouraged the authors to amplify the 'confessional' aspect of their reflections.

We are grateful to Modern Church for making the conference possible, to Anthony Woollard and others for helping to plan and orchestrate the conference, to participants and delegates for wonderful conversations, to Lorraine Cavanagh providing creative and meditative worship throughout the conference, to the two postgraduates offering support, and to Katherine Moody for her assistance in editing.

*Chairs: Linda Woodhead, Jane Shaw
Chaplain: Lorraine Cavanagh*

Treasurer's Report 2017

This has been a busy and exciting year in which some momentous decisions for the long-term future of Modern Church have been taken.

Legacies

First of all the Trustees were delighted to receive a very substantial legacy from the estate of former long-term member of MC, Paddy Lewin. Paddy served as both a Council and Standing Committee member for a number of years. We were also grateful to receive a legacy from the estate of Joan Dorrell, another long-time member of MC, who will no doubt be remembered by many for the way she nipped round taking photos of attendees at the Annual Conference. Joan was for

many years Secretary to the Council and Standing Committee, remaining on the Council even after she retired as Secretary.

These legacies have led to the Trustees revising the Reserves Policy and we have now agreed to spend the majority of these new funds over the course of the next five years. Having decided to fund the employment of a salaried part-time General Secretary we were very pleased to be able to introduce Jonathan Draper to members who attended the AGM in 2017. It has now become apparent that an important part of Jonathan's role will be to initiate projects which it is hoped will raise MC's profile and enable us to be recognised as a leading liberal voice and resource for the wider Church. Some of these projects are highlighted in the Budget for 2018 and as part of raising our profile, we have decided to increase the budget for the website. This year we will once again have a presence at Greenbelt and we have agreed to sponsor a speaker. For more details of Jonathan's plans for the future, I refer you to his Report.

Legacy Policy

As already mentioned, MC has been very fortunate to receive a number of fairly substantial legacies from former members over the years. We wish to encourage members to remember the Society in their wills as this is a good way for members to ensure that the work continues for future generations of church people. We have therefore decided to produce some literature explaining how this may be done.

Reserves Policy

In light of the receipt of a substantial sum in the form of legacies during the course of 2017 and the decision to pay a salary to our General Secretary, it has been agreed to modify our Reserves Policy for the time being. Thus the legacies received during 2017 will be considered as a project fund to pay for the General Secretary's salary and expenses and to provide the necessary support for him to develop the work of MC over the next five years. This will enable us to continue to maintain the reserves built up over a period of years and which currently provide an annual income towards the day-to-day running expenses of MC of over £8,500.

Gift Aid and Funds

Having dealt with the backlog of Gift Aid claims, I anticipate that we will normally claim for one year's donations in the following year, so it has been decided not to

list any speculative amount in the Funds section and simply treat the Gift Aid claim as income in the normal way.

Banking and subscriptions

The decision to move our current account for day-to-day banking from Barclays Bank to CAF Bank was made in 2017 and will be shown in the 2018 accounts. Although this entails a £5 a month account charge, we are confident that the convenience of being able to make direct payments to our suppliers and staff electronically will mean that it more than pays for itself in savings of postage and paper, not to mention the Treasurer's time!

We will continue to keep the Barclays account for the time being, but I would urge all members who still have standing orders to review these and, if possible, set up a direct debit to pay their membership dues through Turpin/Liverpool University Press. Any members having difficulties setting up their new direct debit or who is concerned that they may have dropped off our membership list should speak to our Administrator for help and advice. Otherwise please follow the instructions set out in the renewal of membership letter which you can expect to receive in November/December.

Treasurer

By the AGM of 2018 I will have served five years in the role. I am most grateful to all members of Council and Trustees and our two Administrators who have worked with me to ensure that the accounts are kept in order. And as always I am most grateful to our Independent Examiner, Jonathan Rudge, for checking through the accounts in advance of publication.

Rosalind Lund, Treasurer

Modern Church Accounts 2017

Receipts and Payments Basis	Notes	2016	2016	2017	2017
		<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Annual Conference		16,678		17,515	
CCLA		7,055		8,570	
Other conferences		1,075		0	
Council contribs to residential		1,224		579	
Donations and legacies		1,605		237,166	
Gift Aid	3	2,073		2,529	
Interest		126		71	
Membership subscriptions and royalties		13,501		12,157	
Miscellaneous		0		100	
Publishing (inc Joint Publications)		267		908	
From/To(-) Reserves					
Payments					
Administration costs meetings etc			5,919		-5,588
Administrator costs			7,715		-7,880
Advertising			1,824		-2,479
Annual Conference			14,815		-17,399
General Secretary costs			0		-6,682
Modern Believing and SOTT			7,820		-5,926
Other			1,529		-803
Projects and other conferences			1,017		0
Publishing - Joint Publications			268		0
Website			4,357		-6,286
Total		43,604	45,264	279,596	-53,044
Surplus/Deficit (-) for year		-1,660		226,552	

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2017

	2016	2017
Members Funds at Start of Year	42,645	40,985
Members Funds at Year End	40,985	267,537
Designated Reserves at Start of Year	218,019	240,888
Revaluation during Year	22,869	22,541
Designated Reserves at Year End	240,888	263,429
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS AT YEAR END	<u>281,873</u>	<u>530,966</u>

Closing Balances

1 Barclays current account	12,945	254,763
2 CCLA Investment account	27,014	12,085
3 Paypal	1,026	688
Sub Total	40,985	267,537
CBF Investment Fund (Designated Reserves)	240,888	263,429
Total Liquid Assets	<u>281,873</u>	<u>530,966</u>

Notes:

- 1 Bank balance of £255,170 less uncashed cheques (103625/6) at 31-12-17 of £406 = £254,764.
- 2 CCLA/CBF investment fund was reduced during 2017 to cover deficit.
- 3 Gift Aid was listed as funds in previous years; in line with Charity Commission advice. This is now removed as we account purely on a receipts and expenditure basis - see text of report for details.

2018 Budget	2017 budget	2017 Actual	2018
Income	£	£	£
Annual Conference	18,000	17,065	18,000
CCLA	7,500	8,570	8,500
Other conferences	1,000	0	500
Council contribs to Leeds residential	1,000	579	800
Donations	1,000	954	1,000
Gift Aid	2,000	2,529	2,000
Greenbelt			
Interest	100	71	70
Membership subscriptions	13,100	12,157	12,000
Miscellaneous		100	100
Publishing (inc Joint Publications)		1,358	100
From Reserves/Legacies	16,500	9,526	50,430
	60,200	52,909	93,500
Expenses			
Administration costs meetings etc	6,000	5,615	6,000
Administrator costs	8,000	7,880	8,000
Advertising	2,200	2,479	3,000
Annual Conference	18,000	17,399	18,000
General Secretary post	12,500	6,682	25,000
Greenbelt			15,000
Modern Believing and SOTT	7,500	5,926	7,500
Other	500	642	500
Projects and other conferences(Logo)	1,000	0	2,500
Publishing - Joint Publications		0	0
Website	4,500	6,286	8,000
Total	60,200	52,909	93,500
Surplus/Deficit (-) for year (from Reserves)	-16,500	-9,526	-50,430

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Modern Church

Independent examiner's statement

I report on the accounts of the Modern Church for the year ended 31 December 2017, which are set out on pages 18 and 19 and show a revenue surplus of £226,552, together with funds totalling £530,966.

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 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

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts (financial statements) in accordance with *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities* published on 16 July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) in preference to the *Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice* issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has since been withdrawn.

We understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

12th June 2018

Modern Church Officers and Post-holders: 2017

President	Prof Linda Woodhead
Chair of Council	Rev Dr Jan van der Lely (until July AGM) Canon Alan Race (from July AGM)
Vice Chair of Council	Rev Tim Stead
General Secretary	Jonathan Draper (July 2017 onwards)
Acting General Secretary	Rev Dr Lorraine Cavanagh (until July 2017)
Secretary	Rev Dr Jan van der Lely (July 2017 onwards)
Treasurer	Mrs Rosalind Lund

Vice Presidents:

Prof Paul Badham
Prof Elaine Graham
Rev Dr Nicholas Henderson
Dr Peter Mills
The Most Rev Barry Morgan
The Very Rev Prof Martyn Percy
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
Rev Jonathan Clatworthy

Council Members during 2017

Rev Dr Jeyan Anketell

Mrs Jean Barnett¹

Rev Helen Burnett

Mrs Pat Boyd

Ms Rachel Brooke

Rev Dr Lorraine Cavanagh¹

Rev Jonathan Clatworthy

Rev Canon David Driscoll

Rev John Goldsmith¹

Mr Richard Hall

Rev David Howard¹

Rev David James¹

Rev Tom Keates

Mrs Rosalind Lund¹

Rev Stephen Parsons

Canon Trevor Pitt

Canon Dr Alan Race

Mr Hugh Rock

Rev David Simon¹

Rev Tim Stead

Prof. Adrian Thatcher¹

Rev Dr Jan van der Lely

Mr Anthony Woollard¹

¹ Term of office ends at the 2018 AGM but can stand for re-election

In bold – current trustees