



Modern Church  
faith in the world

# **Annual Report of the Trustees for the year 2019**

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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 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

Although this is meant to be a report on MC's previous year's activities it is difficult to ignore our current cultural moment under Covid-19 lockdown. So I ask this question of myself: when I clap on a Thursday evening stood on my doorstep, what do I think I am doing? Rejoicing at and being thankful for NHS and Care Worker frontline staff – yes. Turning these workers into plaster saints when what's really wanted is recognition through the payroll of their saving work all the year round – oops. Being glad that I don't have to bear the brunt on the frontline while someone else does – mmmm. Enjoying a moment of connection with neighbours whom I hardly see at other times – a bit. Claiming some kind of basic existential human solidarity in the face of threat – perhaps getting closer. Whatever's going on, the clapping and the sounds of clattering noises are akin to the noise that is encouraged in the Easter Dawn Eucharist when it is declared 'Christ is risen!' and we are about to sing the Gloria as the church lights are switched on. In the face of death – even execution in Jesus' case – or maybe on the other side of it, there is something to cheer. It is an audacious thing to do. It is a way of saying that negative nihilism does not have the last word.

Thoughtful theological reflection in the face of threat has been in short supply. Perhaps thoughtfulness requires time and more will emerge in due course. There has not been a great rush to theodicy and the defence of God in pandemic times – is there much left to say in this vein? Thoughtfulness now impinges on issues of 'faith' in relation to 'health, science and society'. Modern Church stands ready to play its part in the name of such thought-provoking thoughtfulness. 2019's annual conference on faith in the public square mapped out some of the ground that will need covering and it was rightly lauded for such; we are grateful to our President, Professor Elaine Graham, for coordinating that conference. Future planned conferences will take up other challenges, particularly in the continuing debates over gender, and also in relation to Climate Change, a context which many commentators observe has been eclipsed by the pandemic.

During the year, Rebecca Paveley stood down as our Communications Officer. Although she had been in post for only a short time she made a considerable impact and was instrumental in helping MC improve its social media communications and redesign of Signs of the Times, as well as helping with our presence at Greenbelt. We wish her well in her new employment. Joseph Priestley was subsequently employed and already has made a considerable impact, especially through the design and establishment of a much-needed new web site for MC.

Our General Secretary, Dr Jonathan Draper, has been his usual busy self during the year and in addition to ensuring MC's presence at Greenbelt last summer, he initiated contact with the Faith and Literature Festival at Bloxham where MC had an impressive stall which generated much interest among many of the festival goers. Jonathan also helped us

to broaden our membership options with a new 'affiliate' option for groups or individuals who wish to be associated with MC while not being full members. We remain grateful for his energy and inspiration.

There are many volunteers who contribute generously of their time and energy to make MC the vibrant movement that it is. In this regard, let me pay tribute to the Trustees and Council who contribute so much to our work. Most especially we are grateful to Diane Kutar, our Administrator, for keeping us focused and organized. We are grateful too to Professor Adrian Thatcher who took on the role of Managing Editor for Modern Believing with great enthusiasm and presented the Council with a thoroughly worked-out exciting plan for the journal for the next few years. Canon Dr Michael Brierley continues as Book Reviews editor, a role which he fulfils with consummate skill and for which we are thankful. Anthony Woollard continues with equal enthusiasm as editor for the redesigned Signs of the Times and we are grateful for the enormous work that he puts into each production. We are pleased also that Canon Trevor Pitt agreed to take on the role of Book Reviews editor for SOTT.

As mentioned above, Professor Elaine Graham agreed to be our President from the July 2019 conference and we are enormously grateful that she accepted the position. She is greatly respected as a theologian and has contributed much wisdom to MC's life and purpose for many years.

In conclusion, let me note that there are rumours of the establishment of a church theological and ecclesial response to the coronavirus pandemic. If the rumours become more public I feel confident that MC will want to make its voice heard and offer its own theological perspectives to whatever begins to emerge. There remains much for liberal Christian thought to do. Thank you to all our members for what you contribute and what you stimulate.

*Alan Race*  
*MC Chair Trustees and Council*

### **Report from General Secretary**

The period since my last report has seen my work and the work of Modern Church (MC) focused on a wide range of activities. Apart from the routine of Trustees' Meetings and the annual Council residential, I spent a lot of my time in 2019 on the re-design and re-launch of Signs of the Times and Modern Believing, on the sponsorship of two major events (the Society for the Study of Theology conference and Greenbelt), giving papers at conferences (the jointly sponsored day conference on 'Liberal Approaches to Evangelism' in Liverpool, and our own annual conference in July), MC's patronage of St Matthew's Hammersmith, and appointing a new Communications Officer for MC. I will say a few words on each.

### *Signs of the Times and Modern Believing*

At the Council meeting in March 2019 ideas for a re-design of Signs of the Times (SOTT) were agreed and the period between March and July was spent working with a designer (Richard Remington) and Rebecca Paveley on a new design for SOTT. The first issue was ready in time for free distribution at the Greenbelt (GB) Festival. There have been some tweaks in the design since then, but the new SOTT has been very warmly received. In launching it, MC also announced a new membership category – Affiliate – focussed specifically on SOTT. This has produced some fruit to date, though has yet to really take off. Anthony Woollard has continued his excellent editorship and produced good articles and editorials.

During the year Adrian Thatcher took over the editorship of Modern Believing (MB). He has gathered an editorial committee and introduced a new approach to content and publication. I have met with Adrian and Rebecca Paveley (since finishing as Communications Officer she has been working with us on a freelance basis) a number of times to plan a redesign of the journal and its re-launch. A new design approach was agreed at the Council meeting in March, and a timetable for the re-launch. We are planning (Covid-19 permitting) a re-launch event in October 2020.

### *Sponsorship*

In 2019 MC part-sponsored (with SCM publishers) a reception at the Society for the Study of Theology (SST) conference at the University of Warwick. I attended as a representative of MC and our 'official' presence was warmly welcomed. At the reception I was able to speak about MC to the conference delegates (about 220 academic theologians from Europe and North America).

In August 2019 I also attended the Greenbelt Festival on behalf of MC (also in attendance 'officially' from MC were our Chair of Trustees – Alan Race – and our Communications Officer – Rebecca Paveley). MC sponsored two speakers: Michael Leunig (from Australia) and Nadia Boltz-Weber (from the USA). I was able to speak from the stage about MC before each spoke and introduce them. We also gave away 600-700 copies of the new SOTT through the G-store. Apart from these official activities, I was able to have many conversations with representatives of other groups, and with a range of individuals. While we agreed to sponsor GB again in 2020, the Festival, sadly, has been cancelled because of Covid-19.

### *Papers*

It was a pleasure to put on with St Bride's Liverpool a day conference on 'Liberal Approaches to Evangelism', at which I and a number of other MC people gave papers. The conference was attended by over 100 people and was warmly appreciated. The papers from the conference have been published in MB. A number of participants

commented on how valuable it was to gather with other like-minded people to discuss an important topic and to feel supported. This, perhaps, indicates an area of work for the future: encouraging and supporting local MC groups (such as the very successful one in the South West).

I was also privileged to be able to present a paper at the MC annual conference at High Leigh on 'Theology after Brexit'. Of course Brexit hadn't happened by then and I looked instead at what the Brexit process was doing, theologically and ethically, to the churches and the nation. It was an excellent conference on 'Theology in the Public Square'.

#### *St Matthew's Hammersmith*

It was brought to my attention at our 2019 annual conference that MC is patron of the parish of St Matthew's Hammersmith. During the time of the present incumbent the parish has moved from MC, as it were, to Forward in Faith and is under the episcopal care of the Bishop of Fulham. Richard Truss and Nick Henderson and I had a very cordial and fruitful meeting with the Bishop of Fulham about the process and our desire to be fully involved, which the Bishop welcomed. The Patronage has since been suspended pending a local re-organisation. I have been in touch with the Churchwardens, and we await the possibility of further meetings Covid-19 permitting.

#### *Communications Officer*

Towards the end of the autumn of 2019 Rebecca Paveley let me know she was taking a new job (Communications Director for the Bishop of Bath & Wells) and would no longer be able to continue her work with MC. Rebecca had been instrumental in the re-design of Modern Believing (among many other things) and I was devastated that she was going, though pleased for her in her new post. In the autumn of 2019 the Trustees initiated a search for a new Communications Officer and in December 2019 we were able to appoint Joe Priestley. Joe began work in January 2020.

I would like to pay tribute to Rebecca Paveley and the work she did for MC and am delighted that she has been able to work with us since on the re-launch of MB.

Each of these activities has, of course, a wide range of 'sub-activities' within them: meetings, emails, telephone calls, papers to write, and, even occasionally, time and space to think. In all of that I am grateful to Alan Race for his gentle and encouraging supervision of my work, and for the support and encouragement of the Trustees.

***Jonathan Draper, General Secretary.***

## Modern Believing Report

The 60.1 (Jan.) edition, 'Method, Pedagogy, Power and the Question of a Black Queer Theology' was the first for which the new Managing Editor, Karen O'Donnell, was responsible. However, she resigned in February, so 60.2 (Apr.), 'Theology and Childlessness' was her second and last edition. I was appointed by the Trustees in March 2019. Thankfully, copy for the 60.3 (July) edition, edited by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, on 'Reclaiming Evangelism: Positive Liberal Theologies of Mission', had already been prepared.

My first task was to acquire information about pre-existing plans, commitments, and articles awaiting possible publication; about the reasons for late postal deliveries of the journal; and for the difficulties regarding internal communication mentioned in Karen's resignation letter. The Editorial Team recommended that Katharine Sarah Moody's post of Assistant Editor, which was due for renewal in July, be discontinued. Due acknowledgement of, and thanks for, her important work for the journal is made in 61.1 (Jan. 2020), especially for providing continuity over three editorships, and seeking, obtaining and preparing guest edited editions.

Copy for 60.4 (Oct.) was required by the publisher by 1st July. It was possible to find, and include, 3 peer reviewed articles, and to offset the loss of a fourth article with an enlarged reviews section. There was little or no reserve of articles for possible publication. Katharine had begun work on two more guest-edited editions, but in May I learned that the planned 61.1 (Jan. 2020) edition (on 'Theology and Affect Theory') had collapsed. In September, I cancelled the second planned edition (on 'Death of God Theology'), having failed to receive assurances from the guest editor that prospective authors could be relied on to deliver. It is fair to say that, behind the publication of the excellent edition 60.3 in July, there was a legacy of difficulties to address.

The Managing Editor is required to convene, at least once a year, an Editorial Team, consisting of the Managing Editor, Assistant Editor, Reviews Editor, 2 members of the Editorial Board, at least one MC Trustee, 'with the Chair of Trustees acting as an alternate'. The team was not convened under Karen's editorship, but has since met twice (in July and September). (It has not yet been possible to find any Board members willing additionally as members of the Team: the Assistant Editor's role has been discontinued, and the Chair and General Secretary have attended both meetings). I have been pleased to share the difficulties with the Team, and I am most grateful for their understanding, advice, and assistance with policy-making.

There has been detailed discussion in 2019 by the Council and Trustees of Modern Church, and by the Editorial Board and Editorial Team, of editorial policy.

The principal changes are:

- i) to cease to rely on uncommissioned, peer-reviewed articles for the non-conference editions;
- ii) to invite articles from established scholars in accordance with themes for each edition, decided by the Editor; and
- iii) to provide a sharper focus for the journal, based on the need a) to update our readers with developments in the different branches of Theology, and b) to provide a progressive alternative to 'theology-lite' conservative assumptions and positions.

The agreed policy, stated on the website, is:

The aims of Modern Believing are to publish fresh, exciting, tradition-informed, responsible, open-minded, accountable, challenging, easily readable theology to keep its readers in touch with recent developments in all branches of Christian theology, and with progressive accounts of Christian beliefs and doctrines.

The aims of Modern Believing are achieved, in partnership with our co-publication Signs of the Times, by inviting articles from established and emerging scholars establishing themes for each edition publishing reviews of books, especially books which illuminate the themes of each edition publishing edited presentations from the annual conference of Modern Church.

The policy takes effect from 61.4 (Oct. 2020), and coincides with a planned relaunch of the journal. I am pleased to report that many established theologians whom I approached in the summer to write themed articles or co-edit editions, have accepted my invitation. The response has been remarkable. There is already a complete plan for 2020, a nearly complete plan for all 4 editions of vol. 63 (2021), and a detailed outline for vol. 64 (2022). Despite the difficulties over the editorship and supply of articles in 2019, there have been substantial contributions in the journal towards 'the advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public'. From 2020 on readers will be able to enjoy the benefits of the bold decisions taken in 2019.

I thank Michael Brierley for his 10th year as Reviews Editor; the Trustees, Team and Board for their enthusiasm, advice and support; the authors who have shared their wisdom; and the team at Liverpool University Press for their professionalism and courtesy.

## **Annual Conference 2019**

The theme of the 2019 annual conference, held as usual in July at High Leigh, was Theology in the Public Square.

Prof Elaine Graham, Modern Church's incoming President, chaired the conference and introduced a range of speakers bringing practical applications of sound theological thinking to the issues of the day- including BREXIT.

Revd Ruth Fitter, the conference chaplain, provided a rich diet of worship throughout the conference with opportunities to sing and pray in the morning, afternoon and evening each day.

Having set the scene on the opening afternoon, Elaine then steered participants and speakers through a stimulating three days of demonstrating the relevance and presence of theology in the public sphere.

The topics addressed and speakers included:

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| The Church and Politics Today         | Malcolm Brown   |
| Theology after Brexit                 | Jonathan Draper |
| Theology and the Media                | Rosie Dawson    |
| Faith and Multi-Culturalism           | Adam Dinham     |
| The Politics of Dissent               | Maria Power     |
| The Tradition of Community Organising | Anna Rowlands.  |

In addition to the formal presentations there were discussion sessions, allowing participants at an early stage to formulate questions that they sought to be addressed, and later in the conference a panel, constituted of some of the speakers, stimulated further discussion – which continued into the bar and into the night.

Those who missed the conference will be glad to know that the speakers agreed that their papers should be published in a conference edition of Modern Believing for which Prof Graham will act as guest editor – and through which those who were present will be able to remind themselves of the any insights that they might have mislaid.

The conference concluded with an inspiring communion service at which Ruth Fitter presided and where Prof Graham preached, bringing together the themes of the conference and sending participants out with enthusiasm to apply their theological thinking to their 'every day' lives.

*David Simon, Conference Secretary*

## **Signs of the Times Report**

2019 proved a crucial year in the history of Signs of the Times.

First, we made a new beginning with the introduction, in the summer issue, of a brand-new design template which has been widely welcomed as making the publication far more attractive and visually communicative, both to new members and to enquirers – and a large number of copies was given away at Greenbelt. Along with our website, Signs has become in a real sense our principal “shop window”. If any members would like extra copies to distribute to enquirers in their own church or neighbourhood, or at events which they attend, they should request these from Diane Kutar ([office@modernchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@modernchurch.org.uk)) and she will try to accommodate them; Trustees will be considering the size of the print run so that such requests can be more readily accommodated.

Second, Signs is now distributed separately from Modern Believing (our main quarterly mailing) so that communications to members are more evenly spaced throughout the year.

Third, a corollary of the new design is that there is now, even at an increased size of 20 pages (but reduced format), somewhat less space to fill with text. That means that the editorial team can be more selective in considering contributions – though members’ offerings are emphatically still welcome and we will do our best to make use of them as soon as space allows. There has, in fact, been an increasing flow of high-quality contributions from a number of sources. Particularly memorable have been a mini-series on non-realist theology and an article from the heart of Extinction Rebellion. Unfortunately, this has meant less space for book reviews, and we are still working through a backlog here.

Fourth, the management of book reviews has passed, after Chris Savage’s faithful and hard work over the past few years, to Trevor Pitt. Notwithstanding the backlog, Trevor is always looking for books to review and people to review them, and your suggestions will always be appreciated.

Thanks are due to him, and to the other members of the editorial team – our General Secretary, our Communications Officer, and Lorraine Cavanagh and Helen Burnett – and to our designer Richard Remington; but above all to our contributors.

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

## **Communication Officer's Report**

Since starting my role and my first meeting of the Trustees, I have been focussing on updating Modern Church's web presence and building a robust structure for the site to grow. Whilst our print publications had been significantly updated and redesigned, the Modern Church website was looking rather dated. The decision was therefore taken to improve the site and create a new look for Modern Church. I am delighted that the new website was launched ahead of schedule and has received positive reviews since launch on Palm Sunday. Since then, it has received around 5,000 views, which I expect to grow significantly as Google begins to index the redesigned site. I have made blogging the firm focus of the new site, both in terms of ease of use for our readers and contributors.

This really forms the backbone of a renewed online communications plan which will see a decrease in regurgitated content from the Church Times and instead an emphasis on producing our own, high quality content. The website is yet to see a formalised launch but I hope this will be possible following the meeting of the Trustees in May.

Our content at present reflects the current Coronavirus pandemic, offering unique perspectives on the impact on churches, worship and theology. I am sure this will only grow in coming months as the church continues to grapple with its responsibilities in the light of this pandemic and it is only right that we continue to question the official response. However, we are still due a Living in Love and Faith report, with no indication of a changed publication timeline as a result of Covid, so it would be worthwhile to also consider our response to this.

**Joseph Priestley, Communication Officer**

## Membership Report

2019 was the sixth full year for which the subscriptions to Modern Church were managed by Liverpool University Press (LUP) and operating on a calendar year subscription. During the year the practical administration of membership passed from Turpin Distribution to LUP who are now sending out invoices and processing payments in house. The numbers of subscribers for the three year previous period were as follows:

| Subscription Type    | 2016       | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | Note |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| Individual Members   | 314        | 291        | 275        | 218        | 1    |
| Joint Members        | 22         | 21         | 21         | 21         | 2    |
| Life Members         | 10         | 9          | 9          | 8          |      |
| Honorary Members     | 16         | 0          | 0          | 0          |      |
| Student              | 0          | 9          | 20         | 12         |      |
| <b>Total Members</b> | <b>362</b> | <b>330</b> | <b>325</b> | <b>252</b> |      |

### Notes

1. Of which 69 paid the concessionary rate (88 in 2017).
2. Of which 10 were both concessionary rate and two one concession (10 in 2017).

*Diane Kutar, Administrator*

## Treasurer's Report 2019

### Overview

The accounts for 2019 set out on the following two pages show an operating deficit of about £40k on the year, of which about £27k is on legacy projects. This was more or less in line with the budget for the year, the main deviation deriving from the continued absence of an invoice for about £6k that would have been paid from the legacy fund and is now likely to fall within the receipts and payments account for 2020.

During the year 2019 the investments appreciated by c£80k during the year, thus the charitable funds have increased by about £40k over the course of the year to £538k.

The accounts have been drawn up to show the major items of expenditure (Legacy Projects, Publications, Communications and Conferences) through which Modern Church seeks to fulfil its charitable objects which are:

The advancement of the Christian faith for the benefit of the public, in particular through (but not limited to):

- (a) the promotion of open and critical study of the Christian faith and its relevance in the contemporary world; and
- (b) offering resources for individuals and groups in parishes, institutions and public life to support an open-minded and thoughtful approach to matters of faith and religion.

### *Legacy Projects*

The main projects which it has continued to be possible to undertake by virtue of the generous legacy received in 2017 has been the employment of a General Secretary to promote the objects of the charity and the continued sponsorship of the Greenbelt Festival. In addition some work on the website was undertaken using legacy funds. This latter amount was relatively minor and has been shown under the heading of the costs of the website rather than legacy projects, explaining the difference between the figure shown in the receipts and payments account for Legacy Projects General Secretary & (£27,209) and that shown in the Statement of Funds (£27,475).

### *Publications*

Modern Church has two major publications, each of which, is distributed four times a year. Signs of the Times has been substantially reengineered this year to provide an attractive and easily accessible way for general readers to learn of developments in critical theological thinking. In making the change to the format, printing and distribution process the trustees recognised that this would entail substantially increased costs, but deemed that the change would be to advantage in advancing the charity's objects.

The more academic publication, Modern Believing acquired a new editor in 2019, Prof Adrian Thatcher, who is one of the charity's trustees. The trustees formally resolved that he should be entitled to the annual honorarium that has always been paid to the journal editor while remaining a trustee, and that this would not constitute his benefitting from his trusteeship. In addition to ensuring the publication of the journal in 2019, the new editor has planned interesting and relevant content for the journal for 2020 and beyond.

### *Communications*

It was recognised during the year that increasingly people are using the web to enhance their knowledge and therefore considerable effort and investment was made (with substantially more planned for 2020) in ensuring that the Modern Church website was attractive, accessible and up to date.

### *Conferences*

The main Modern Church Conference in 2019 conference on Theology in the Public Square made a small loss (of the order of £2k) as a result of lower than expected attendance. Taking one year with another conferences have covered their cost and are expected to continue to do so. However, the trustees are clear that the annual conference and the papers arising from it which are usually published in the journal Modern Believing constitute a legal and proper use of charitable resources in promoting the charity's objectives.

Some minor sponsorship towards the 2019 annual conference of the Society for the Study of Theology helped to promote the objects of Modern Church among practising academics.

During Spring 2019 a Modern Church Council residential conference was held at which theological as well as policy matters were discussed for which there was a small cost.

Some local branches of Modern Church held day conferences during the year without cost to the charity beyond meeting the expenses of Modern Church Officers who attended and supported those events

### *Subscriptions*

The creation of the new Associate Membership category launched during 2019 has not generated any significant increase in revenue or members and the trustees will be giving attention to alternative revenue models for the future during their meetings in 2020 and beyond. While the receipts from subscriptions appears to be lower than in previous years and on budget this can be attributed to the timing of the cash flows: since the journal publisher collects the subscription income and forwards the remainder after deducting the printing and circulation costs . The receipt of the subscriptions and the statement of the amounts collected and expended do not always (and did not in 2019) fall within the calendar year for which the receipts and payment accounts are being drawn up.

### *The Future*

The trustees have drawn up a budget for 2020 based on their policy decisions to upgrade and re-launch both website and the journal (Modern Believing) which entails a deficit of the order of £70k

This major investment will prove feasible in addition to continuing to fund a paid General Secretary and sponsor Greenbelt in 2020 within the funding available from the generous legacy, of which something in excess of £160k remains available at the end of 2019.

In addition to the legacy funds, the trustees hold about £100 k in undesignated funds and £250k designated to reserves in order to generate investment income. The trustees are therefore confident that financially Modern Church will be able to promote its charitable objectives for the foreseeable future.

***David S Simon, Treasurer***

**MODERN CHURCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENT ACCOUNT**

|   |                       | <b>2019</b> | <b>2019</b>    | <b>2018</b> | <b>2018</b>    |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
|   |                       | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>       |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                           |                       |             |                |             |                |
| Subscriptions                             | Subscriptions         | 9,665       |                | 10,960      |                |
|   | Gift Aid              | 0           | 9,665          | 1,619       | 12,578         |
| Investment Income                         |                       |             | 15,643         |             | 13,805         |
| Conferences                               | Annual Conference     | 13,991      |                | 19,984      |                |
|   | Council Residential   | 882         |                | 685         |                |
|   | Other                 | 0           | 14,872         | 0           | 20,668         |
| Miscellaneous                             | Donations             | 638         |                | 831         |                |
|   | Publication           | 1,274       |                | 122         |                |
|   | Other                 | 0           | 1,912          | 0           | 952            |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                     |                       |             | <b>42,092</b>  |             | <b>48,004</b>  |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                           |                       |             |                |             |                |
| Legacy Project                            | Gen Sec               | 17,500      |                | 17,500      |                |
|   | Green Belt & Projects | 7,556       |                | 15,004      |                |
|   | Gen Sec Expenses      | 2,153       | 27,209         | 1,303       | 33,808         |
| Publications                              | Modern Believing      | 4,272       |                | 2,522       |                |
|   | SOTT                  | 4,053       |                | 1,654       |                |
|   | Editors               | 3,500       |                | 1,865       |                |
|   | Expenses              | 0           | 11,824         | 0           | 6,041          |
| Communications                            | Comms Officer         | 6,680       |                | 8,121       |                |
|   | Website costs &c      | 2,509       |                | 2,544       |                |
|   | Advertising           | 1,638       | 10,826         | 765         | 11,429         |
| Admin                                     | Administrator         | 7,710       |                | 7,511       |                |
|   | Officer Expenses      | 1,268       |                | 616         |                |
|   | Trustees Meetings     | 190         |                | 489         |                |
|   | Misc Admin Expenses   | 3,222       | 12,389         | 4,001       | 12,618         |
| Conferences                               | Annual Conference     | 15,772      |                | 15,332      |                |
|   | Council Residential   | 2,845       |                | 1,502       |                |
|   | Other                 | 270         | 18,887         | 0           | 16,834         |
| <b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>                     |                       |             | <b>81,136</b>  |             | <b>80,730</b>  |
| <b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT CASH FLOW FOR YEAR</b> |                       |             | <b>-39,044</b> |             | <b>-32,726</b> |

**MODERN CHURCH ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2019**

**FUNDS STATEMENT**

| <b>Members Funds</b>                                   | <b>2019</b> | <b>2019</b>    | <b>2018</b> | <b>2018</b>    |
|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|
|  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>       | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>       |
| <u>Opening Balances</u>                                |             |                |             |                |
| Undesignated   | 38,833      |                | 41,992      |                |
| Designated   | 263,429     |                | 263,429     |                |
|  |             |                | 224,530     |                |
| Restricted   | 871         | 493,855        | 1,015       | 530,966        |
| Surplus/Deficit Cash Flow                              | -39,044     |                | -32,726     |                |
| Unrealised Holding Gains/Losses                        | 83,224      | 44,180         | -4,385      | -37,111        |
| <b>Closing Funds</b>                                   |             | <b>538,035</b> |             | <b>493,855</b> |
| <u>Represented by:</u>                                 |             |                |             |                |
| Undesignated   | 110,908     |                | 38,833      |                |
| Designated   | 263,429     |                | 263,429     |                |
|  |             |                | 190,722     |                |
| Restricted   | 451         |                | 871         |                |
| <b>Total Funds</b>                                     |             | <b>538,035</b> |             | <b>493,855</b> |
| <u>Members Assets</u>                                  |             |                |             |                |
| Barclays Bank current account                          |             |                | 0           |                |
| CAF Bank Current Account                               | 22,981      |                | 16,284      |                |
| CCLA Investment account                                | 1,324       |                | 27,213      |                |
| PayPal   | 1,461       | 25,767         | 1,314       | 44,811         |
| CBF Investment Fund (year end valuation)               |             | 512,268        |             | 449,044        |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                                    |             | <b>538,035</b> |             | <b>493,855</b> |
| <br><b>NOTES</b>                                       |             |                |             |                |
| <br><b>Legacy Projects</b>                             |             |                |             |                |
| Legacy funds brought forward                           |             | 190,722        |             | 224,530        |
| Legacy funds received                                  |             | 0              |             | 0              |
| Legacy expended during the year                        |             | 27,475         |             | 33,808         |
| Legacy Funds remaining at Year End                     |             | 163,247        |             | 190,722        |
| <br><b>Student Conference Place Grants</b>             |             |                |             |                |
| Grants brought forward                                 |             | 871            |             | 1,015          |
| Donations received                                     |             | 165            |             | 456            |
| Grants Awarded   |             | 585            |             | 600            |
| Grant Funds remaining at Year End                      |             | 451            |             | 871            |
| <br><b>Annual Conference Accounts (Accruals basis)</b> |             |                |             |                |
| Conference Fees Received                               |             | 14,145         |             | 17,898         |
| Conference Costs                                       |             | 16,742         |             | 15,633         |
| Deficit (-)/Surplus                                    |             | -2,597         |             | 2,264          |

**Payment to Trustee**

A payment of £2,500 was authorised by the Trustees to Prof Adrian Thatcher for his work as editor of Modern Believing.



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

## **Independent examiner's statement**

# **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Modern Church For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 Registered Charity no. 281573**

## **Independent examiner's statement**

I report on the accounts of the Modern Church ("theTrust") for the year ended 31 December 2019, which are set out on the attached pages and show a revenue deficit of £39,044, together with funds totalling £538,035

## **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

## **Independent examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which 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  
9<sup>th</sup> March 2020

## Modern Church Officers and Post-holders: 2019

|                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>President</b>             | Prof Elaine Graham              |
| <b>Chair of Council</b>      | Canon Alan Race                 |
| <b>Vice Chair of Council</b> | Mr Anthony Woollard             |
| <b>General Secretary</b>     | Jonathan Draper                 |
| <b>Secretary</b>             | Rosalind Lund                   |
| <b>Treasurer</b>             | Rev David Simon (from July AGM) |

### **Vice Presidents:**

Prof Paul Badham  
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 2019

**Rev Dr Jeyan Anketell**

Mrs Jean Barnett

Dr Charlie Bell

Mrs Pat Boyd<sup>1</sup>

**Rev Dr Lorraine Cavanagh**

**Rev Jonathan Clatworthy**

Rev Canon David Driscoll

**Rev Ruth Fitter**

Rev David Howard

Rev David James

Rev Tom Keates<sup>1</sup>

**Mrs Rosalind Lund**

Rev Stephen Parsons

**Canon Trevor Pitt<sup>1</sup>**

**Canon Dr Alan Race<sup>1</sup>**

**Rev David Simon<sup>1</sup>**

Rev Tim Stead<sup>1</sup>

David Storey

**Prof. Adrian Thatcher**

Rev Miranda Threlfall-Holmes

Kenneth Wilkinson-Roberts

**Rev Dr Jan van der Lely**

**Mr Anthony Woollard**

**In bold** – current trustees

<sup>1</sup> Term of office ends at the 2020 AGM but can stand for re-election

Addendum:

At the Trustees meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

Trustees resolved that due to Government instructions preventing General Meetings it is not possible to convene an Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 15 July 2020 as scheduled then in accordance with Rule 33 2 d of the Charity's Constitution:

1 No Annual General Meeting will be convened in 2020;

2 Officers, Council Members and Trustees whose elected terms of office would have terminated in 2020 shall have their terms of office extended by a full year;

3 The information that would have been submitted to the Annual General Meeting shall be made available on the charity's website;

4 Members will be made aware of this resolution by way of an announcement on the charity's website and an editorial note in the charity's journals;

5 A notice of this resolution will be submitted to the Charity Commission with the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts.