

Company No 79323

**Financial statements for
the year ended 31 December 2007**

Church Society Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

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Church Society Trust

Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007

Directors	The Revd Canon M W Walters (Chairman) The Revd S G Bowen The Revd Dr M E Burkill The Revd J A Cheeseman The Revd R W Farr P Gore Esq T R Musson Esq
Secretary	The Revd D K Phillips
Company number	79323
Registered office	Dean Wace House 16 Rosslyn Road Watford WD18 ONY
Auditors	Skingle Helps & Co 28 Southway Carshalton Beeches Surrey SM5 4HW
Business address	Dean Wace House 16 Rosslyn Road Watford WD18 ONY

Church Society Trust

Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2007

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Objectives

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

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

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

Review of the activities

The main business of the Trust is to exercise Patronage Rights and to support the ministry in the 113 parishes of which it is the Patron. In just under half of these, the Trust is the sole patron. In the remaining parishes, patronage is exercised jointly, in turns, or by a Board. Therefore, the Trust does not always have a decisive say in appointments. In addition, many benefices are suspended on becoming vacant because of the need to reduce clergy numbers. When the benefice is suspended a Priest-in-Charge is appointed which is legally the responsibility of the Bishop. However, there is an expectation that wherever possible the patrons and parish representatives are fully engaged in the appointments process. In practice this expectation is not always fulfilled although the Trust does all that is can to retain involvement.

In addition to its patronage work, Church Society Trust is responsible for the ministry at the Gloucester Mariners Chapel, Christ Church, Düsseldorf (Germany) and Lightbowne Evangelical Church, an independent church in Greater Manchester. The Chapel of St. James Ryde now has separate trustees partly appointed by the Council of Church Society. It is expected that Church Society Trust will remain involved in future appointments to St. James and two Directors are presently Trustees.

A number of issues within the wider Church are affecting, or may have significant impact on the work of the Trust and parishes for which it has responsibility.

The promotion of homosexual immorality and the underlying rejection of the authority of Scripture has been a major issue within the Anglican Communion. This has also caused problems within the Church of England not least in some ordinands being unwilling to be ordained by Bishops who teach error and in parishes breaking fellowship with their Bishop in some way. The Trust has sought to keep in touch with particular situations where this has been a problem and to support the churches, clergy and ordinands concerned.

The General Synod has continued consideration of a new Terms of Service Measure. The Trust Directors have mixed feelings about aspects of this Measure. One provision allowed for Parsonage houses to be transferred from being held in trust by the incumbent to being held in trust by a Diocesan Board. This was consistently opposed by the Trust and Church Society and was finally rejected by the General Synod after the year end in February 2007. The other fundamental change to be included in the legislation is the replacement of Clergy freehold with Common Tenure. This will have undoubted benefits in that many clergy will gain much more

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Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2007

protection in law. In addition it is expected that there will be no need to suspend presentation (one exception to this has yet to be resolved) and therefore patrons will have far more involvement in appointments. However, the removal of freehold and the uncertainty about what Common Tenure will mean in practice has been a concern. In addition many posts will have conditions attached, such as willingness to accept re-organisation, which may be problematic in some cases. Part of the provision is also the introduction of ministerial development review and capability together with general guidance on good practice in appointments. There is again concern about how this will work in practice. The Chairman and Secretary met with the legislative revision committee and the Secretary is serving as a member of the Terms of Service Implementation Panel on behalf of private patrons.

Legislation to permit the consecration of women as Bishops is also being considered by the Synod. This innovation could have significant impact on the work of the Trust and on some of its parishes. Church Society spearheaded a second joint submission with Reform and the Fellowship of Word and Spirit and a joint presentation was made to the drafting group.

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

Consideration was also given to the possible impact of the Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure which was given final approval in February 2007 but is being implemented in stages in 2008. One aspect of this allows the creation of Mission Initiatives, with the approval of a Bishop but without the necessary approval of an incumbent.

The General Secretary of Church Society acts as Secretary to the Trust with administrative assistance in the office. However, the Trust Directors and some by Trust Members undertake much of the work.

For its own business the Trust refers to the parish for which it holds the advowson although often a benefice is known by a different name. During 2007 the following **appointments** were made:

- BEBINGTON, St Andrew (Chester) - Philip Venables was appointed as Incumbent (Sole patronage).
- BEEBY (Leicester) - Martin Dale was appointed as Priest-in-Charge.
- Burlingham (North) (Norwich) - Christine Wheeler was invited by the Bishop to take pastoral responsibility for the parish on a short-term basis.
- BURLINGHAM (South) with LINGWOOD (Norwich) - David Wakefield was appointed as Priest-in-Charge.
- CAMBORNE, St. Martin & St. Meriadoc (Truro) - Michael Firbank was appointed as Priest-in-Charge (The Trust was not involved in this appointment.)
- FRODINGHAM NORTH (York) - James Grainger-Smith was appointed as Incumbent (Joint patronage).
- GLOUCESTER MARINERS CHAPEL - Douglas Drane was appointed as Chaplain (Church Society being Trustees) but without the Bishops' licence.
- LYDFORD-ON-FOSSE (Bath & Wells) - Trevor Cranshaw was appointed as Priest-in-Charge (The Trust was not involved in this appointment.)
- MURSLEY (Oxford) - Lawrence Meering was appointed as Priest-in-Charge.
- REEPHAM (Norwich) - Christopher Morgan-Cromar was appointed as Priest-in-Charge (The Trust was not involved in this appointment.)
- RINGSFIELD (St. Eds & Ips) - Paul Nelson was appointed as Priest-in-Charge (The Trust was not involved in this appointment.)
- RODDEN (Bath & Wells) - Andrew Chalkley was appointed as Priest-in-Charge.
- SURBITON HILL, Christ Church (Southwark) - John Birchall was appointed as Incumbent (Sole patronage)
- THE CHISHILLS (Chelmsford) - Rod Doulton was appointed as Priest-in-Charge
- WEMBDON (Bath & Wells) - Ed Moll was appointed as Incumbent (Sole patronage)
- WORTHING, ST. GEORGE (Chichester) - the appointment of Brian Penfold as Incumbent was announced (Sole patronage).

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Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2007

There were 10 further **vacancies outstanding, or about to become vacant**, at 31 December 2007.

There were 37 (32%) benefices suspended at the end of the year awaiting possible pastoral re-organisation.

During the year, the Trust Directors considered proposals for suspensions, re-organisation and other **pastoral schemes** in respect of seventeen parishes. A scheme came into effect creating a new parish of HAWKSWOOD, Emmanuel mainly out of the existing parish of HAILSHAM St. Mary in Chichester Diocese. The Trust was given sole patronage and Stan Tomalin became the first incumbent. Matters and proposed schemes were also considered in relation to properties or boundaries in ten parishes.

The Directors of the Trust are the Shareholders of the Kirchengrundstücksgesellschaft mbH in Düsseldorf. The Directors hold the right to appoint a Trustee of St. John's School Blackpool Trust and are represented on the Trustees of St. Stephen on the Cliffs, Blackpool.

Statement of directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the trustees/directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year giving a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of its financial results for the period. The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and with current charity law in the form of 'Accounting by Charities', the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). In preparing those financial statements, the trustees/directors are required to: -

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- follow applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees/directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud or any other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- as the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

Skingle Helps & Co have expressed their willingness to continue in office. A resolution proposing their re-appointment will be put to the forthcoming annual general meeting.

By order of the Directors

D Phillips
Company Secretary

20th May 2008

Independent auditors' report to the members on the audited accounts of Church Society Trust

We have audited the financial statements of Church Society Trust for the year ended 31 December 2007 which comprise the Balance sheet and the related notes set out on pages 5 and 6. These financial statements prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 6.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the directors/trustees and auditors

The responsibilities of the trustees (who are also the directors of Church Society for the purposes of company law) for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out on page in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities on page 3.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether in our opinion the information given in the Annual Report of the Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the Annual Report of the Trustees and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error.

In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2007;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985; and
- the information given in the Annual Report of the Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

Skingle Helps & Co
Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors
20 May 2008

Church Society Trust

Balance sheet As at 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 £	2006 £
Current assets			
Bank and short term deposits		-	-
		_____	_____
		-	-
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		-	-
		_____	_____
Net assets		-	-
		=====	=====
		_____	_____
Accumulated Reserves		-	-
		=====	=====

The notes on page 6 also form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 20th May 2008 and signed on their behalf by

M Walters
Director

J Cheeseman
Director

Church Society Trust

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2007

1 Accounting policies

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

1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The provisions of "Accounting by Charities", the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) (revised 2005), have been adopted in these financial statements.

2 Income and expenditure

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

3 Employee information

	2007 £	2006 £
Staff costs	-	-
	=====	=====

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

The Directors did not receive any remuneration in respect of their services to the company for the year ended 31 December 2007 (2006: £nil).

4 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2007 £	2006 £
Amounts owed to Church Society	-	-
	=====	=====

5 Commitments and contingent liabilities

5.1 Contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 December 2007 that have not been provided for in these accounts (2006: £nil).