

**Company No 79323**

**Financial statements for  
the year ended 31 December 2009**

**Church Society Trust**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**Contents**

<b>Trustees' and Directors' report</b>	<b>1-4</b>
<b>Auditors' report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Balance sheet</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Notes to the financial statements</b>	<b>7</b>

# Church Society Trust

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2009

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<b>Directors</b>	The Revd R W Farr (Chairman) The Revd S G Bowen The Revd Dr M E Burkill The Revd J A Cheeseman The Revd P T Darlington (from 7 July 2009) P Gore Esq. (to 1 June 2009) T R Musson Esq The Revd Canon M W Walters
<b>Secretary</b>	The Revd D K Phillips
<b>Company number</b>	79323
<b>Registered office</b>	Dean Wace House 16 Rosslyn Road Watford WD18 ONY
<b>Auditors</b>	Skingle Helps & Co 28 Southway Carshalton Beeches Surrey SM5 4HW
<b>Business address</b>	Dean Wace House 16 Rosslyn Road Watford WD18 ONY

# Church Society Trust

## Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2009

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2009. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued in March 2005.

### 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 appointment process. In practice this expectation is not always fulfilled although the Trust does all that it 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.

The Kirchengrundstücksgesellschaft mbH in Düsseldorf (KGG) is a German registered company with limited liability. The Chapel of Christ Church was the vision of William T Mulvany and the company was established by his daughter Miss Anabella Mulvany in 1911 with Church Association Trust the majority shareholder. The KGG owns all the land and buildings of Christ Church. Church Society Trust is now the sole shareholder and appoints Managers to oversee the affairs of the company who are also Trustees of the Christ Church Community eV (voluntary association). The share capital of the KGG was last registered in 1985 as DM50,000 equating to €25,594.59.

# Church Society Trust

## Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2009

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Church Society Trust assists in filling vacancies as they arise at the chaplaincy. However, the charity does not exert influence on day-to-day management, nor supply funds. Neither is there any expectation of financial gain from the shareholding.

Two factors had a growing impact on the work of Church Society Trust in 2009. The first is the declining number of clergy leading to increased parish amalgamations. This leads to more and more situations where the Trust is only one of several patrons. On top of this several Dioceses are now facing serious financial difficulties. It became particularly noticeable in 2009 that officials in some Dioceses struggled to keep abreast of paperwork. Several Dioceses have a policy of only advertising posts internally, at least initially, and posts are being kept vacant for financial reasons. As a consequence of one or more of these the Trust has failed to receive the official notice of vacancy until several months after the vacancy arose. This prevents the Trust from acting whilst the 9 months time it has to act continues to tick away. In one Diocese restriction of presentation is being used improperly, but not without reason, to ensure posts are not filled to avoid bankrupting the Diocese. In other situations, where the Bishop was co-patron, the appointment process has been unnecessarily delayed. All this serves to make the work of the Trust much more difficult though the Directors had reason to be very encouraged by the appointments that have taken place, despite difficulties, during the year.

Also in the background has been the continuing uncertainty over whether legislation will be passed to consecrate women as Bishops. Proposals to ensure adequate provision for those who reject this as unscriptural have stalled and at the end of the year the report of the Revision Committee is still awaited. A new General Synod is to be elected in the autumn of 2010 and it looked increasingly likely that proposals would not go forward until after that. In addition the wider problems of theological liberalism, in particular manifesting itself in the promotion of sexual immorality, continued to tear apart the Church of England and wider Anglican Communion. There was some evidence that the uncertainty and problems were affecting men offering for ministry, which could impact on future appointments.

The new Ecclesiastical Offices (Terms of Service) Measure is scheduled to come into force in January 2011. The Secretary to the Trust has continued his work on the national Implementation Panel and arranged for three members of Church House staff to speak at the Evangelical Patronage Consultative Council in November. The Measure will not change the underlying legislation regarding appointments but it will raise expectations regarding processes and documentation.

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

The General Secretary of Church Society acts as Secretary to the Trust with administrative assistance in the office. However, the Trust Directors and some Trust Members undertake much of the work. The staff have gradually sought to make more information about the work of the Trust, including details of all the parishes, available through the Trust section of the Church Society website.

During the course of the year Philip Gore, an acting Trust Director died after a long period in hospital. Philip was also a serving member of the Council of Church Society and Honorary Treasurer. Trevor Stevenson another Council member who had served as a Trust Director in the past, also died. The Trust had reason to thank God for the labours of both these men.

Michael Walters, having served as Chairman of the Trust for 20 years, stepped down from that role in the summer but remained as a Director. Dick Farr was appointed as Chairman in his stead.

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 2009 the following **appointments** were made:

# Church Society Trust

## Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2009

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- ANCHORSHOLME (Blackburn) - Stephan Dnistrianskyj was appointed as Priest-in-Charge (Joint patronage but suspended).
- BARTON SEAGRAVE (Peterborough) – Mark Lucas was appointed as Incumbent (Sole patronage)
- BLACKPOOL St. John (Blackburn) – Dan Connolly was appointed as Priest-in-Charge (Joint patronage but suspended).
- BRIXTON St Paul with St Saviour – Ben Goodyear was appointed as Priest-in-Charge as a part of a church plant.
- HIGH ONGAR with NORTON MANDEVILLE (Chelmsford) – Malcolm Peters was appointed Priest-in-Charge (Sole patronage but suspended)
- ROUTH (York) – Jeremy Fletcher was appointed to Beverley Minster and will take responsibility as Priest-in-Charge of Routh (Suspended).

Three suspensions were lifted leading to the Priests-in-Charge becoming Incumbent.

There were 11 further **vacancies outstanding, or about to become vacant**, at 31 December 2009.

The Directors were consulted about vacancies in ten other parishes.

There were 35 (31%) 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 fourteen parishes.

The following schemes came into effect:

- COMPTON CHAMBERLAYNE (Salisbury) – the final part of a scheme came into effect and made John Eade Team Rector.
- GREAT CHISHILL (Chelmsford) – to rename the new benefice which fact had been omitted from the earlier scheme.
- MEYSEY HAMPTON ETC (Gloucester) – to create a Team ministry based on the Fairford Deanery.
- MURSLEY (Oxford) – to add the parish of Drayton Parslow to the Benefice and the The Martyrs Memorial and Church of England Trust as one of the patrons.

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

The trustees (who are also the directors of Church Society Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees 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

# Church Society Trust

## Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2009

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them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. 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 and other irregularities.

### **Statement as to disclosure of information to auditors**

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make them aware of any audit information and to establish that the charitable company'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**

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# 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 2009 on pages six and seven. The financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 495 and 496 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees 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 trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees' (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and for being satisfied that the financial statements give a true and fair view are set out on page one.

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, are properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and are prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. We also report to you whether, in our opinion the information given in the Report of the Trustees is consistent with those financial statements.

In addition, we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records, if the charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made.

We read the 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 of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006; and
- the information given in the Report of the Trustees is consistent with the financial statements.

John Helps (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Skingle Helps & Co  
28 Southway  
Carshalton Beeches  
Surrey  
SM5 4HW

# Church Society Trust

## Balance sheet As at 31 December 2009

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	2009 £	2008 £
<b>Current assets</b>		
Bank and short term deposits	-	-
	-----	-----
	-	-
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	-	-
	-----	-----
<b>Net assets</b>	-	-
	=====	=====
	-----	-----
<b>Funds</b>	-	-
	=====	=====

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

The notes on page 7 also form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on  
signed on its behalf by:

2010 and were

Director

Director

# Church Society Trust

## Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 December 2009

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### 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, the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

The charitable company was dormant throughout the year ended 31 December 2009.

### 2 Income and expenditure

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

### 3 Employee information

	2009 £	2008 £
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 2009 (2008: £nil).

### 4 Commitments and contingent liabilities

#### 4.1 Contingent liabilities

The company had no material contingent liabilities at 31 December 2009 that have not been provided for in these accounts (2008: £nil).