

## **Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 December 2018**

The Trustees present their Report together with the Receipts and Payments Accounts of the College of Preachers for the year ended 31 December 2018

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The College of Preachers Trust - Charity No. 220764

#### **Trustees during the year**

The Revd Paul Burden (resigned 30 November 2018)

The Revd Canon Dr Vicky Johnson

Mr Graham Pearcey

The Revd Canon Roger Spiller (Chair)

The Revd Canon Christopher Stone

Director of Training - Revd Jennifer Brown (appointed 5 September 2019)

Hon Treasurer - Mr David Barlow

Editorial Board - Revd Canon Christopher Burkett (editor), Deacon Duncan Macpherson, Revd Liz Shercliff, Mr Graham Pearcey and Father Brett Ward

Principal address, Diocese of Rochester, The Diocesan Office, St. Nicholas' Church, Boley Hill, Rochester, Kent. ME5 7SU

Independent Examiner – Mrs Gill Taylor ACCA

Bankers - Barclays Bank, Notting Hill Gate, London

Investment Managers - CCLA Investment Management Limited, The CBF Church of England Funds, 80 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6D

### **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

#### Governing Document

The College was established by Trust Deed dated 15 March 1962, supplemented by a Deed of Variation of Trust dated 27 November 1968 and with further variations to the Deed of Trust in 2011 and 2017.

#### Appointment of Trustees

The College is managed by the Trustees of the Charity, sitting as an Executive Committee. The Executive can also vote on to the Committee other Members as they see fit. All other members of the Executive except the Treasurer are Trustees.

#### Organisation

The Executive Committee met regularly in 2018. In addition, the members of the Committee are, if necessary, consulted by email on major issues, and from time to time the Executive Committee sets up small Working Groups to consider various issues and report back to the Executive Committee.

Within the policy set by the Executive Committee, it has been normal practice for the responsibility for the day to day operations of the College to be delegated to the Director. We are delighted that a new post of Director of Training was filled in September 2019 with the appointment of Revd Jennifer Brown. The administration of the College continues to be handled by the Executive. The bookkeeping is carried out by members of the Finance Department of the Diocese of Rochester to whom we give our thanks.

With the appointment of Hymns Ancient and Modern to produce and market the Preacher magazine in 2018, as was practical, the Executive Committee are more of a strategic body with individuals taking responsibility for specific projects and reporting back to the Committee.

#### Related Parties

Since 1998 the College has worked in partnership with Spurgeons College at South Norwood, training students for a Masters Degree; since 2006 Spurgeons have been responsible for most activities in this area. Since January 2018 Hymns Ancient and Modern have published "The Preacher" magazine, paying a commission to the College to do so.

#### Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review the risks that the College might face; which normally relate to the level of membership and the finances of the College. They consider that arrangements have been set up to mitigate such risks as have been identified. No major risks have been identified at this stage and the review of risks is now an on-going task in accordance with the advice of the Charity Commission.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

### Objectives

The primary object of the College is the advancement and promotion of religion generally and in particular by the provision of religious education and training. The College is ecumenical and covers all Christian denominations. Subsidiary purposes contained in the original Trust Deed include: the establishment and maintenance of a College to assist those who are engaged in preaching and teaching the word of God; and the organisation of courses of lectures and the provision of individual tuition to those engaged in preaching.

### Activities

The Activities employed to achieve the College's objectives include:

- publishing a quarterly journal (The Preacher) with articles on preaching, outline sermons relating to the lectionaries in general use and other material relevant to preachers;
- holding short courses on various aspects of preaching, either at the request of particular religious groups or on an open basis;
- holding occasional major residential conferences and other events on preaching;
- maintaining a website ( [www.collegeofpreachers.co.uk](http://www.collegeofpreachers.co.uk) ) aimed at supporting preachers;
- providing advice and support to persons engaged in preaching and those training preachers;

### Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit. They consider that the College is of public benefit by, inter alia, encouraging the proclamation of the Christian religion; encouraging ecumenical cooperation between different strands of Christianity; and providing unrestricted education in skills and methods of public speaking.

## **REPORT ON THE COLLEGE AND ON ITS ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2018.**

### **Changes to the constitution of the College of Preachers**

The year has been dominated by securing changes to the constitution resulting from our partnership with Hymns A & M and by concluding that the time is right to proceed to appoint a Director of Training in 2019.

The Vice Chair wrote to all the members of the College at the beginning of the year, setting out the changes to the constitution of the College that we wanted to put to the membership at a General Meeting of the College on 15 February 2018 so that our structures were consonant with our new partners and also to simplify the complex three tier structure that had been built up over time.

At the General Meeting the (slightly simplified) motions were:

1. The Members of the Charity be renamed as the Subscribers of the Charity.
2. The Executive Committee and the Trustees, currently referred to as separate entities within The Constitution, shall merge to become one governing body known as the "Trustees".
3. The number of the Trustees shall be 5. (Quorum of 3)
4. That The initial Trustees shall be Canon Roger Spiller, Canon Christopher Stone, Mr Graham Pearcy, Canon Dr Vicky Johnson The Revd. Paul Burden
5. Any replacement Trustee shall be appointed by way of nomination by an existing Trustee, and then by way of simple majority vote by the Trustees at a meeting on reasonable notice to ratify their appointment.

Twelve people attended the meeting and the motions were all carried unanimously with no abstentions.

Some regret was expressed that people had lost their membership of the College that they valued. However, it was appreciated that this was necessary to bring us into line with the provisions operated by Hymns in respect of other magazines and journals they produce. It was also recognised that membership, as such, had not created the level of interest and ownership that has been hoped for. It was also pointed out that the Annual General Meetings, which would cease, attracted little interest from members.

Some questions were directed at the unspecified length of term for Trustees and the loose arrangements for appointing new Trustees. The Trustees have, however, agreed, that after seeing in the changes, Trustees should serve for an initial three year period with the possibility of renewal for a maximum of two terms, and that all subscribers should be invited to put people forward to serve as Trustees as and when vacancies occur. There is also the provision for inviting people to join the Trustees for a particular project or to co-opt as a possible trial before standing as a Trustee. The same arrangements will be applicable to the Editorial Board.

The new constitutional arrangements were finally approved by the Charity Commission, after a key legal document was tracked down to Lambeth Palace Library, in November 2018.

### **Personnel**

The former Chair of the College, the Bishop of Chelmsford accepted the role of President of the College. It is good to have him, as a prominent speaker and passionate advocate of preacher, to participate in preaching and training events for the College.

The Revd Paul Burden resigned as a Trustee in November 2018. He remains as a tutor for the College and it was good to have his wisdom to see us through a challenging period in the life of the College.

Our new Treasurer David Barlow occupied the post from the beginning of the year. David who comes from Blackburn, is a Reader and brings an immense amount of experience of financial planning, strategy and marketing to the College and has been active in efficiently administering our accounts backed up by the finance team at Rochester Diocese.

### **Thanks to past agents of the College**

In opening a new chapter on the College, it is timely to express thanks to a number of people who served the College during the previous phase. Paul Johns our former Director has been a doughty and creative leader for the College and continued several years after he gave notice of his wish to retire. With him, we also remember Dai Rees who was our Treasurer and took a wide interest in the College until his death in December 2016. We have reason to think that Dai would have been satisfied by the agreement reached with Hymns, as is Paul Johns. Our Administrator Karen Thorpe gave assiduous attention to the membership payments and renewals for *The Preacher* and was involved in the College from its relocation of the College from Muswell Hill to Nottingham. Tim Ellwood produced *The Preacher* and some arresting artwork as well as providing web and other technical support. Finally, Jenny Robinson was a diligent Minutes Secretary for a long stretch as well as willingly undertaking the tedious tasks of fixing dates, booking meeting rooms and sending agendas.

### **The restyled Preacher**

A successful partnership was entered into with Hymns Ancient & Modern (Hymns A&M), best known for their extensive Christian publishing activities and the Bloxham Literary Festival. Hymns A&M have taken on the redesign, production and marketing of *The Preacher* whilst the College maintains editorial responsibility through an Editorial Board. Hymns A&M also provides marketing and administrative support for the workshops and seminars that will continue to be the responsibility of the College

The first, restyled edition of *The Preacher* appeared in April and feedback has been encouraging. The College website has also been changed. But we recognised that a redesign was overdue but without the partnership we would have struggled to meet the costs involved.

The aim now, is to increase the circulation. In July the Trustees met with the Marketing Director at Hymns, and others to consider a strategy paper aimed at increasing the circulation of *The Preacher*.

The magazine may be ordered direct from Hymns and paid to them by Direct Debit.

### **Archives**

During the year as robust effort was made to sift through and bring together potentially archive material which had been occupying a massive amount of space over several years in three or more homes of former officers of the College. We have the use of storage space at the Norwich offices of Hymns after historical material has been lodged with Lambeth Palace Library.

### **Other training and educational activities**

There were very few training events run by the College in 2018. There was one sponsored by the Diocese of St Asaph at Gladstone's Library, and another for curates in the Peterborough Diocese. The ongoing training provided by us in the Diocese of Chelmsford is continuing. Roger Spiller undertook to edit the *Canterbury Preacher's Companion* for a limited period.

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The College prepares its financial statements using the Income and Expenditure method, having used the Receipts and Payments method in previous years. We believe that this provides a better view of the financial affairs of the organisation following the change in constitution and working arrangements.

In 2018 the College's incoming resources were £10,212; expenditure of £9,477 led to a small surplus of £975. This compares favourably with a deficit of £7,729 in 2017. The balance of funds carried forward at the end of the year was £73,620 (2017 £73,218) following a small decrease in the value of investments of £573 at December 2017.

### **Reserves**

To enable the College to maintain its core activities, the Trustees consider that liquid reserves equivalent to at least six months regular operating expenditure are required. As will be seen from the details of the accounts, more than this in reserve. The Trustees consider the finances to be satisfactory considering the changes proposed for the future.

### **PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

At the end of 2018, the trustees of the College were encouraged by the first year of partnership with Hymns A&M and are confident that we will be able to concentrate on developing and delivering the resources that can be offered to promoting the ministry of preaching. With attention caught up with the partnership and overseeing constitutional changes in the College, the training programme has somewhat withered. We agreed, therefore, that we needed to consider making an appointment of a new officer for the College; a Director of Training. Of course, our finances were depleted as a result of a lack of income through training. However we believe that we now have the foundation to making the appointment that would help us to revitalise our training opportunities.

For and on behalf of the Trustees,

The Revd Canon Roger Spiller  
(Chair of the Trustees)

16 August 2019