

## MINUTES

Friday 4 September 2020

5.00–6.00 pm on Zoom, hosted by Durham  
University

**Present:** Francis Watson (President); Steve Walton (Secretary); Tom de Bruin (Treasurer), Paul Middleton (Information Officer), 54 other members, and 9 guests.

The President welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 2019 meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands.
2. **Matters arising:** Archives
  - a. The Secretary reported on the Society's Archives.

Physical archives: The Secretary has been collating past programme books and now the Society seeks an honorary archivist to scan them for preservation.

Oral history: The Society would like to capture its origins through interviews with founders, past presidents etc. The Society is seeking someone to record interviews and will cover any cost incurred.

To express interest/suggest suitable people for either role, email: [Secretary@bnts.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@bnts.org.uk)

### 3. **President's report**

Due to the abnormal situation, there was no President's report. The President hopes we are back to normal next year and stated that the Society is still in great shape with approx. 240 attendees, and flourishing plenaries/seminars.

### 4. **Accounts and report on finances 2019–20**

The members received and approved the Treasurer's finance report 2019-20 (pre-circulated by email).

The Treasurer reported further on:

Reserves: Following the General Meeting 2019, the Committee approved that the Society should endeavour to hold between two and four years' expenditure in reserve. This range was achieved when the books were closed. The income from Liverpool 2019 (received late due to COVID) and Durham 2020 has led to the range being exceeded. As a result, the Society will consider another round of funding for small grants, as in 2019-2020. The President pointed out that due to the current favourable financial situation, projects which further the subject in this country will be looked upon favourably. The Secretary will email members about future grant rounds.

Post-Graduate travel grants: Travel grants for the Liverpool 2019 conference were given to 12 PGRs (all who applied).

Small grants: Seven grants were awarded; only four were paid in the period due to COVID-19 event delays.

Durham 2020 online donations: The online collection amounted to £555. The generosity of members has allowed PGRs/unwaged attendees not supported by institutional funding to apply for a grant towards the registration fee.

### 5. **Election of committee members for 2020–23**

The President thanked Dorothee Bertschmann for her three years of service.

Sydney Tooth (nominated by Matthew Novenson) stood for the vacant place, was the sole candidate, and her appointment was approved by acclamation.

The President thanked Steve Walton for his work and service in the role of Secretary over the previous three years.

Michelle Fletcher has served as Secretary designate 2019-2020. She was formally elected as Secretary 2020-23.

## **6. Mentoring Scheme**

Candida Moss & Sean Adams introduced a pilot mentoring scheme (initially for one year) for PGRs/ECRs, unanimously and enthusiastically supported during the Committee Meeting. It was stressed that the mentor is not taking on supervisory duties but is someone outside the mentee's institution who can offer additional advice & support on how to navigate the discipline. Established scholars were encouraged to sign up as mentors. More information and application forms will follow in an email from the Secretary.

## **7. Seminars**

The Secretary thanked Seminar Chairs who had served their five-year period & reported on their successors.

Book of Acts: Monique Cuany succeeds Matthew Sleeman

Synoptic Gospels: Kent Brower & Tim Carter succeed Elizabeth Shively & Andy Angel

A new seminar has been approved by the Committee for 2021:

NT and Christian Theology; Chairs: Erin Heim & Jamie Davies

## **8. Promoting and Informing about the Society**

The Information Officer informed the Society that the role exists to publicise the range of activities carried out by the Society's members. Twitter & Facebook are the main platforms. Please send information and pictures of any papers you are giving, research seminars, book launches, if just passed viva, etc.

Follow the BNTS on Twitter (@BNTsoc) & use our hashtags at meetings #BNTS20\*\*

Email: [info.officer@bnts.org.uk](mailto:info.officer@bnts.org.uk) or DM on Twitter. The Secretary will send an email to remind members.

The role of Information Officer will become vacant next year. If interested, email [Secretary@bnts.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@bnts.org.uk)

## **9. Future meetings**

Elizabeth Shively invited the Society to hold the 2021 conference at **University of St Andrews, 19-21 August 2021.**

The Secretary informed the Society that locations for 2022 & 2023 were still being finalised.

## **10. Members who have passed away**

The meeting remembered Jimmy Dunn (past President and BNTS co-founder), Larry Hurtado (past President), and Lars Hartman.

## **11. Any other business**

N/A