

Present: Francis Watson (President); Michelle Fletcher (Secretary); Tom de Bruin (Treasurer), Paul Middleton (Information Officer), 18 members & 3 guests online, 32 members & 2 guests in Durham.

The President welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 2020 meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands.
2. **Matters arising:**
 - a. PhDs Awarded

The Secretary announced a new component for next year's General Meeting: a list of PhDs awarded (including titles and institutions) will be read out so that members can applaud these achievements. These will also be put on the website. The Information Office will compile a list during the year. Please email: info.officer@bnts.org.uk or DM on Twitter @BNTsoc

3. **Accounts and report on finances 2020–21**

The members received and approved the Treasurer's finance report 2020-21 (shared via zoom).

The Treasurer reported further on: The Treasurer reported further on:

Post-Graduate conference grants: £770 of grants were awarded for Durham online 2020 to 22 PGR/unwaged members to support conference attendance. £555 was raised from the generous donations of our members. The President also thanked the generosity of our members this year who donated to the important cause of supporting PGR/unwaged attendance.

Small grants: £1363.62 were awarded in grants to members but £500 of that is yet to be paid due to COVID-19 event delays.

Conference Attendance support fund: A large surplus from Durham has led to the committee putting aside £2500 for future support of PGR/unwaged members in their conference attendance. Any suggestions as to how we can offer support to unwaged members can be emailed to either the Treasurer (tdebruin@newbold.ac.uk) or Secretary (Secretary@bnts.org.uk).

Reserves: Following the General Meeting 2019, the Committee approved that the Society should endeavour to hold between two and four years' expenditure in reserve. The funds are now in that range.

Please email the Treasurer (me@tomdebruin.com) with any queries:

4. **Election of committee members and Election of new President for 2021–24**

President: The Secretary thanked Francis Watson for his work and service in the role of President over the previous three years, and also for his work as conference organiser for both this and the previous year.

Helen Bond was elected as the new President for 2021–24 by acclamation.

Information Officer: The Secretary thanked Paul Middleton for his work and service over the previous three years.

James Crossley was elected as the new Information Officer by acclamation.

Committee members: The Secretary thanked Susan Docherty and Elizabeth Shively for their three years of service.

Three nominations had been received for the two vacancies:

Garrick Allen (nominated by Sean Adams), Elizabeth Corsar (nominated by Jeremy Duff), and Charlotte Naylor Davis (nominated by Kimberley Fowler).

Elections were held for the vacancies (via anonymous online vote overseen by the Treasurer and ballot papers for in-person voters overseen by Kimberley Fowler and Nicholas Moore). The results were announced: Garrick Allen and Elizabeth Corsar were elected as committee members for 2021–24.

5. Mentoring Scheme

Sean Adams gave feedback on the pilot mentoring scheme (initially for one year) for PGRs/ECRs. 30 mentees and 8 mentors signed up. Responses at the end of the year have shown that mentees found the experience validating and enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions of someone from outside of their institution. More mentors are needed for the scheme to continue and the Secretary email with further information.

6. Seminars

The Secretary thanked all the Seminar Chairs for their work to make a hybrid conference possible this year.

She also reported on Seminar Chairs who had served their five-year period & informed the Society of their successors:

Book of Acts: James Morgan succeeds Sean Adams

Early Christianity: Jane McClarty & Kimberley Fowler succeed Dominika Kurek-Chomycz & Francis Watson

New chairs are in the process of being appointed for Later Epistles: to succeed David Moffitt; Johannine Literature: to succeed Cor Bennema; NT and Second Temple Judaism: to succeed Susan Docherty.

Please check the seminar pages on the website for updates on chairs.

7. 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 members. Twitter has seen a huge growth, moving from 269 followers in 2019 to 999 this year. As well as promoting the Society's conference, BNTS Twitter also amplifies active social media users to promote research seminars and the work of members, showcasing UK research to an international audience. Please send text (max. 240 characters) and pictures of: any papers you are giving, publications, research seminars, book launches, if just passed viva, etc. Also, you can promote your events on our Facebook group.

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

Email: info.officer@bnts.org.uk or DM on Twitter

To promote larger events/vacancies etc. of interest to the whole society, contact the Secretary (Secretary@bnts.org.uk) who can email the Society mailing list.

8. Future meetings

Elizabeth Shively invited the Society to hold the 2022 conference at **University of St Andrews**, Thursday 18–Saturday 20 August 2022

The Secretary informed the Society that locations for 2023/24 were still being finalised.

9. **Members who have passed away**

The meeting remembered John Muddiman.

10. **Any other business**

N/A