

Present: Helen Bond (President); Michelle Fletcher (Secretary via Zoom); Tom de Bruin (Treasurer), James Crossley (Information Officer via Zoom), Sydney Tooth (TRS-UK representative), 56 members, 11 guests

The President welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 2021 meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands.
2. **Matters Arising**
 - a) [TRS-UK](#) representative report

Sydney Tooth fed back on the most recent work of the organisation. They have been addressing 3 strategic priorities: 1) To increase the pool of undergraduate applicants. They have produced videos of graduates to promote the subject, which the Society helped fund. These are being used successfully by TRS departments and are available on the [TRS youtube channel](#). 2) Develop deeper collaboration with RE school teachers. The goal is to link up teachers with TRS departments and academics, so teachers can reach out to departments for help. 3) Enhance the public understanding of religion. They partner with the [Religion Media Centre](#) who produce daily news briefings and provide fact sheets. They would like to encourage academics to write these. Do follow their social media platforms on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. They are keen to promote you.

Contact Sydney for more information on the above or anything else TRS-UK related. (After the meeting, an email with TRS-UK links was distributed to the mailing list by the Secretary).

The President thanked Sydney for her work as our TRS-UK representative.

3. **Accounts and Report on Finances 2021–22**

The Treasurer reported on the accounts, which have been approved by an independent examiner. Despite having a balanced budget, we had slightly more than £780 excess last year. This was because our webmaster was not replaced and we were not billed by TRS-UK

We gave around £1350 of grants to PGR/unwaged members. Conference attendees were thanked for their generosity as we received £950 from donations last year to enable this support.

The Society has around £20,500 of reserves in the bank. This is to cover 3 or 4 years of expenditure in case of cancellation etc. If we exceed this amount, we usually spend the excess on grants.

Please contact the Treasurer (me@tomdebruin.com) if you want to ask any questions.

The accounts were received and approved by acclamation.

4. Constitution Language Alteration

The President introduced a vote on altering the language of the constitution from the 'generic he' to inclusive language, as previously circulated by the Secretary with the General Meeting notification (and resent to meeting attendees). The vote was carried out by ballot papers overseen by the Treasurer. There was a unanimous vote to accept the alterations. The new constitution is now available on our [website](#).

5. Committee members for 2022–25

Treasurer: The President thanked Tom de Bruin for his work as Treasurer over the last 3 years. He agreed to be re-appointed for a second term, and this was approved by acclamation.

Information Officer: The President announced that James Crossley was willing to stand as Information Officer for another year. She thanked him for his work. He was re-elected by acclamation.

Committee member: The President thanked Jamie Davies for his three years of service.

Jennifer Strawbridge was nominated by Matthew Novenson. As the only candidate, she was elected as committee member for 2022–25 by acclamation.

6. Seminars

The Secretary thanked all the Seminar Chairs for their work.

She also reported on Seminar Chairs who had served their five-year period & informed the Society of their successors who will serve 2022–27:

Johannine Literature: Julia Lindenlaub to succeed Andrew Byers

NT & Second Temple Judaism: Yael Fisch to succeed Crispin Fletcher-Louis

Paul: Andrew Boakye to succeed Dorothee Bertschmann

7. Promoting and Informing about the Society

a) Information Officer's Report

James Crossley reported on his promoting of the activities of the Society e.g., publications, PhD awards, media appearances, conference papers, and research seminars. The audience is those active in academic biblical studies and wider religious studies. Twitter is particularly popular, with 2488 followers. Facebook is a public group, with vetting for academic credentials and post content. Profiles have been updated recently with images that are suitable for a learned Society. A younger generation have increased our Twitter presence, with academic related content including publications, conferences, interviews etc. Our account focuses particularly on Annual Conference promotion: call for papers, registration, hashtags, livestream, etc. This year, social media has also helped with rail-strike-related issues. The continued use of social media is appreciated and if you are not active as a department, you are encouraged to join in and share your seminars.

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 our mailing list.

b) Website updates

The Secretary showcased the new-look website, thanking the Treasurer for his work on the site's architecture. It is now more streamlined, has an updated colour scheme, more images, and a clearer menu layout. In addition, past meeting tabs have the necessary information: clear links to the meeting programme and plenary speaker information. The Secretary continues to do all content management, so please email her (secretary@bnts.org.uk) with suggested updates/revisions/corrections.

A question was raised about who was a member vs who could attend the conference. The Secretary clarified that anyone who met one of the 3 criteria [here](#) were warmly welcomed to attend the conference. To be a member, you also need to be resident in the UK. This allows you to vote in Society matters.

8. Future Meetings

David Horrell invited the Society to the **University of Exeter** for the 2023 Meeting, **31 August to 2 September 2023**.

9. Members who have passed away

N/A

10. PhDs awarded

For this new agenda item, the President read out the names of those who had successfully completed their PhD since the last meeting, and the Society applauded their success.

Owen Edwards, University of Chester, “Hebrews, Allegory, and Alexandria”

Emily Gathergood, University of Nottingham, “The Midwifery of God: Tokological Deliverance in 1 Timothy 2:15 in Light of Early Jewish and Christian Readings of Genesis 3:16”

Siobhán Jolley, University of Manchester, “Reimagining the Magdalene: Liberative Reception Criticism and the Counter-Reformation Magdalene”

Thomas J. Parker, Vrije Universiteit/Queens Foundation, “Jesus and Scripture: A Comparative study of the Use of the Old Testament and Jesus Traditions in Hebrews, James, 1 and 2 Peter”

Nathanael Vette, University of Edinburgh, “Scripturalized Narrative in the Gospel of Mark”

Joshua D. A. Bloor, University of Manchester, “Purifying the Consciousness: Cult, Defilement, and the Perpetual Heavenly Blood of Jesus in the Epistle to the Hebrews”

Brian Bunnell, University of Edinburgh, “Kingdom of God in the New Testament”

Florenc Mene, University of Edinburgh, “Nomina Sacra in the Corpus Paulinum in the First Millennium: The Textual and Visual Transmission of θεος, κυριος, ιησους, χριστος, and υιος in the Papyri and Majuscules of Romans, 1 Corinthians, Philemon, and Hebrews”

Jim Leavenworth, University of Edinburgh, “Suffering for Our Sakes: The Soteriological Thought Process of Ignatius of Antioch”

Grace Au, University of Edinburgh, “Paul’s Designations of God in Romans”

Bertalan (Berti) Józsa, University of Edinburgh, “‘Work’ in the Gospel of John - a Cognitive Perspective”

Sofanit Abebe, University of Edinburgh, “Apocalyptic spatiality in 1 Peter and selected 1 Enoch literature: a comparative analysis”

Ezekiel Shibemba, Nazarene Theological College, “Refreshing and Restoration in Acts 3:19-21: The Role and Impact of Isaiah 2:1-5”

If you want to be included in next year’s announcement, email the Secretary (secretary@bnts.org.uk) with your name, university, and thesis title.

11. Any other business

N/A