

Present: Helen Bond (President); Catrin Williams (Incoming President), Michelle Fletcher (Secretary), Tom de Bruin (Treasurer), James Crossley (Information Officer), Andrew Byers (TRS-UK rep), 57 members, 8 guests

The President welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 2023 meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands.

2. **Matters arising**

Andrew Byers reported on the recent meetings of TRS-UK, joining their Zoom meeting in March, then attending their day conference at the University of Birmingham in June. Anxieties over the future of TRS in UK universities has been voiced. There have been some signs of hope in recruitment of overseas MA students and relationships with RE Teachers and sixth-form colleges. It is clear that a significant recruitment pool for TRS applicants are religious communities. Overall, TRS-UK is doing some serious introspective work that will surely benefit BNTS members across the UK in their institutions.

3. **Constitution Alteration**

The President introduced a vote on altering the constitution to extend membership to residents of the Republic of Ireland, as previously circulated by the Secretary with the General Meeting notification. The vote was carried out by ballot papers overseen by the Treasurer. There was a unanimous vote to make this alteration. The new constitution is now available on our website.

4. **Accounts and report on finances 2023–24**

Our Treasurer reported on the accounts.

Income last year matched outgoings, and we end the year with similar general reserves as last year. The Treasurer raised the fact that although our accounts look quite healthy, costs continue to increase, including hosting the conference. The conference prices are likely to need to rise in coming years, and we are always looking for venues that would be willing to host.

The Treasurer thanked members for their donations of £429 in 2023 for the unwaged support. We received requests for 20 grants and paid £2450 to unwaged members. We

will continue to give out grants as long as the money continues but we are receiving far more requests than donations and so are transferring money between funds to cover this.

A cash collection was taken and bank account details shared. A total of £295 was collected, as well as £130 by bank transfer.

At year end, the Society had £18,048.13 of reserves in the bank, split over £3,346.50 in unwaged support and £14,701.63 in general reserves. The latter serves to guarantee 3–4 years of BNTS running costs in case of conference cancellation etc. Members were asked to contact the Treasurer (tom.debruin@ru.nl) if they have any further questions.

5. **Election of committee members for 2024–27**

President: The President stated that this was her final year in the role, and announced that Catrin Williams had been appointed as the new President. This was, as is the Society's process, by vote of the committee from a list of proposed names. Catrin Williams was appointed by acclamation. Paul Foster thanked Helen Bond for her time as President.

Committee members: Helen Bond thanked Garrick Allen and Elizabeth Corsar for their 3 years of service.

Cor Bennema was nominated by Steve Walton. Kelsie Rodenbiker was nominated by Martina Vercesi. Both were elected to the committee for 2024–27.

6. **Seminars**

Helen Bond informed the Society that the committee had been discussing how seminar groups are run, including the number of seminars and the units offered. The committee will continue to discuss this matter, running a seminar-chair meeting, and emailing the Society to gather feedback from members.

The Secretary thanked all the Seminar Chairs for their work.

She also reported on Seminar Chairs who had served their 5-year period/stepped down & informed the Society of their successors who will serve 2024–29:

Later Epistles: Nick Moore to succeed Katy Hockey.

7. **Promoting and Informing about the Society**

a) Information Officer's Report

James Crossley reported on promoting the Society.

The number of followers continues to rise year by year. X/Twitter: 2,975 followers. The public Facebook account (vetted for academic credentials/appropriateness) has around 2,700 members. X/Twitter has the most activity in terms of shares, likes, daily

engagements; Facebook has weekly activity. Twitter/X has more discussion/promotion of forthcoming BNTS papers; Facebook has more individuals promoting their work. The annual conference is a key focus, with a series of tweets dedicated to highlighting every BNTS 2024 paper.

The continued use of our social media is appreciated, and we encourage others to join in and send us your activities and achievements.

Helen Bond thanked James Crossley for his work, as he will be finishing his role at Christmas.

Follow the BNTS on Twitter (@BNTsoc).

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.

8. Future meetings

Helen Bond stated that the Society is finalising a venue for next year. Once this has been confirmed, the Secretary will email the Society.

9. Members who have passed away

The Society remembered Keith Elliot in silence.

10. PhDs awarded

Helen Bond read out the names of those who had successfully completed their PhD since the last meeting, and the Society applauded their success.

Alexander Chantziantoniou, *University of Cambridge*, “Paul and the Politics of Idolatry: Ancient Mediterranean Cult Images and Iconic Ritual in the Letters of Paul”

Anthony P. Royle, *University of Glasgow*, “Early Christian Citation Practices and Textual (Re)Production: Tracing Paul's Use of Scripture through Manuscripts”

Andrew Patton, *University of Birmingham*, “The Development of Catenae on the Gospels”

Emanuele Scieri, *University of Birmingham*, “Multilayered and Multiple-Text Catena Manuscripts on the Acts of the Apostles”

Clark Bates, *University of Birmingham*, “The Pseudo-Oecumenian Catena on Ephesians: Text, Translation, and Commentary”

Tyler Hoagland, *University of St Andrews*, “Jesus Christ, King of the Kingdom of God: Royal Discourse in Christian Literature before 150 CE”

David Flood, *University of Edinburgh*, “The Manuscripts of John of Damascus on Paul”

Ellen Howard, *University of Edinburgh*, “The Verbal Aspect of Perfect and Pluperfect Verbs in Narrative Literature of the New Testament”

Cho Suen (Josh) Ip, *University of Edinburgh*, “The Soteriology of Jews and Non-Jews in Paul's Thought”

Denis Lima Salgado, *University of Edinburgh*, “The Textual Tradition of Romans in the Greek Lectionaries (9th-13th century)”

Daniel Hayter, *King’s College London*, “Inaugurated Resurrection in Earliest Christianity”

Samuel L. Voo, *University of Wales Trinity St David*, “Themes, Lexemes, and ‘Mnemes’: Composite Allusions in the Gospel of John and other Jewish Literature”

Olabisi Obamakin, *University of Exeter*, “Constructing a Feminist Afropean (Nigerian/British) Hermeneutical Lens for Reconfiguring New Testament Female Characters”

Alistair Harper, *University of Exeter*, “Can Subversive-Fulfilment Provide a Fresh Approach to Understand the Engagement between the Christian Assembly and the Surrounding Cultures (Judaism, the Nations, and the Roman State) within the Narrative Flow of the Acts of the Apostles?”

Ben Leighton, *Trinity College, Bristol*, “The Agency of Sin in Romans 5–8: Contemporary Pauline Perspectives in Dialogue”

Anna Grotoli, *University of Edinburgh*, “But These Things Are Written: Lives, Rewriting and the Gospel of John”

Daniel Lam, *University of Edinburgh*, “Divinised Humans in Ancient Judaism”

Edmund Leung, *University of Edinburgh*, “The Characterisation of Jesus the Davidic Shepherd in Mark’s Gospel: A Narrative Analysis Through the Lens of Metalepsis”

John Nelson, *University of Edinburgh*, “Christ’s Physical Appearance: Biography, Christology, Philosophy”

David Bell, *University of Manchester*, “Children’s lives and deaths in 1 Thessalonians: the significance of the presence of children for interpreting context and text”

Mireia Vidal Qintero, *University of Edinburgh*, “The Empty Tomb Tradition. Its Origins and Early Development in light of Cultural Trauma Theory and Ritual Lamentation”

Edward Wong, *University of Edinburgh*, “Representations of Trauma in the Fourth Gospel”

Melissa Tan, *University of Aberdeen*, “Centring a Relational Paradigm for Honour–Shame from Confucianism for Biblical Interpretation”

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