

Minutes

Tuesday 2 September 2025

4.45 pm

Theatre A, University Place, University of
Manchester

<http://www.bnts.org.uk>

Present: Catrin Williams (President), Michelle Fletcher (Secretary), Tom de Bruin (Treasurer), Julia Snyder (Incoming Treasurer), Dominika Kurek-Chomycz (Incoming Secretary Designate), Siobhán Jolley (Information Officer), Andrew Byers (TRS-UK rep), 49 members, 6 guests

The President welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** 2024 meeting minutes were approved by a show of hands.
2. **Matters arising**

TRS-UK: Andrew Byers reported briefly on the recent activities of TRS-UK. They have been busy advocating for the subject as departments close or merge. However, there is still a good level of interest in RE at school level and they continue to work with partner organisations to promote the importance of TRS for society.

3. **Accounts and report on finances 2024–25**

Our Treasurer reported on the accounts, highlighting that we made more money last year than we had budgeted (£2337.04). This was because Glasgow made more profit than expected and we received an overdue sponsorship payment from Exeter. We have decided to put the extra income into the unwaged fund. The Treasurer thanked members for their donations of £425 in 2024 for this fund. We received 20 requests for grants and paid £1060 to unwaged members.

Therefore, at year end, the Society had £20,385.17 of reserves in the bank, split over £2,711.50 in unwaged support and £17,673.67 in general reserves. The latter serves to guarantee 3–4 years of BNTS running costs in case of conference cancellation etc. which fits within the legal requirements.

A question was raised in relation to the financial success of Glasgow, and this was largely due to more numbers attending than budgeted for, meaning that our fixed costs were spread across more people. However, this year, we have 20 people less attending the conference, and so budgeting conservatively is important. The extra money generated will support PGRs.

Members were asked to email tom.debruin@ru.nl with any further questions.

The accounts were accepted by a show of hands.

Steve Walton thanked Tom for all their work as Treasurer, including their work on the website.

4. **Election of committee members for 2025–28**

Committee members: the President thanked Jennifer Strawbridge for her 3 years of service.

Julia Lindenlaub (nominated by Elizabeth Corsar) was the sole candidate and was elected to the committee for 2025–28 by acclamation.

Treasurer: The President thanked Tom de Bruin for their six years of service as Treasurer. The committee proposed to the meeting that Julia Snyder be appointed as Treasurer for 2025–28. This was approved by acclamation.

Secretary: This coming year is Michelle Fletcher's final one as Secretary. Therefore, the committee has proposed that Dominika Kurek-Chomycz be appointed as Secretary designate (following previous precedents for appointing a new Secretary), to work alongside the Secretary during 2025–26, with a view to being elected at the 2026 General meeting to serve for 2026–29. This was approved by acclamation.

GMH Representative: The President announced the co-opting of Sofanit Abebe onto the committee for a year as a Global Majority Heritage representative. This will involve developing working groups in relation to EDI issues. This was approved by acclamation.

5. **Seminars**

The Secretary thanked the Seminar Chairs for their work.

She reported on Seminar Chairs who had served their 5-year period and informed the Society of their successors who will serve for 2025–30:

NT & Christian Theology: Sydney Tooth to succeed Erin Heim.

New chairs are in the process of being appointed for *Book of Acts*: to succeed Monique Cuany; and *Synoptic Gospels*: to succeed Tim Carter.

We have a new group: *Reception, Critical Theory, and Interdisciplinary Studies*, chaired by Tom de Bruin and Siobhán Jolley

The Secretary stressed the importance of people committing to the seminar that they have signed up to, in order to facilitate networking etc. She announced that an email had been sent to the Society about the current set-up for seminars. The responses will be collated. The committee actively wants to hear Members' views and interests in this matter so that BNTS can reflect current research and continue to do what it does well.

6. Promoting and Informing about the Society

Siobhán Jolley reported on promoting the Society.

X/Twitter continues to grow, with 3164 followers. The public Facebook account is our main platform and has members from 100 countries, although engagement comes from quite a small group. We have joined Bluesky. To increase updates, we are implementing a quarterly newsletter, highlighting publications, PhD completions, media appearances, grant or job acquisition.

Please send information for the newsletter to: info.officer@bnts.org.uk

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.

Follow the BNTS on Twitter (@BNTsoc); Bluesky (@bntsoc.bsky.social)

7. Future meetings

Séamus O'Connell has invited the Society to St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, for the 2026 Meeting. The dates will be Monday 24 August to Wednesday 26 August 2026.

8. Members who have passed away

The Society remembered Zachary Skarka and Professor Cecil McCullough in silence.

9. PhDs awarded

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

Joel MacInnes, *London School of Theology/Middlesex University*, 'Unveiling Wisdom: A Literary and Theological Study of Wisdom Traditions in the Book of Revelation'

Stefanus Kristianto, *London School of Theology/Middlesex University*, 'Jesus's Use of Hyperbole in the Gospel of Matthew'

Judson Greene, *University of Cambridge*, 'Cosmic Eschatology in the Epistle to the Hebrews'

Kendall Davis, *University of Edinburgh*, 'Jesus and the Anointing of God: Messianic Christology According to Luke and Acts'

Richard Cleaves, *University of Gloucestershire*, 'Imagining Luke-Acts in Roman Britain'

Dorothy Yu WANG, *London School of Theology/Middlesex University*, 'Honourable Subordination: Reading 1 Peter in the Light of Contemporary Graeco-Roman Texts'

Nicholas List, *University of Cambridge*, 'The Letter of James and Middle Platonism: Tracing Early Christian Engagements with Greek Philosophy'

Noel Cheong, *University of Oxford*, 'Gentiles and Israel in 1 Peter's Ethnic Imagination'

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

Geon Kang, *University of Edinburgh*, 'The Law in the Messianic Age'

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.

10. Any other business

A question was raised about whether the auditors will need to be reappointed. The Treasurer responded that this was not necessary.