

Alcuin Club AGM, Monday 2 June 2025, Christ Church, Oxford.

Chairman's Remarks

I am pleased to report that we have managed to maintain the membership of the Club and currently have just shy of 500 members; moreover, as we will hear from our treasurer, we remain in a relatively healthy financial condition, and as the editorial secretary will report, we also have a fairly buoyant publishing schedule for the JLS series and the Collections – which, as we mentioned last year, will now publish biennially. Both series hit their 100th publication this year – and given the uncertainties of publishing these days, this is a significant milestone.

The core activity of the Club is the publishing of work to encourage the study of liturgy, and I am delighted to inform you formally that the Club has now signed a contract with Boydell Brewer for the future publishing of our Collections. Recent publications have included one-off contracts with publishers such as Messenger, the Irish Jesuit publishing house, and this year the Sacristy Press, who have done a superb job with this year's Collection by Dr David Jasper. In recent years we have enjoyed a good relationship with the Liturgical Press in the USA, but alas, the cost of buying in publications, especially from the USA is now rather exorbitant. It was clear to the Club trustees that we needed to regain a bespoke relationship with a British publisher who was able to offer us manageable rates for publishing. We explored some possibilities and then negotiated with Boydell Brewer. The Boydell Press has wide experience in working with a broad range of academic societies and also has a broad international reach which we hope may well assist in extending our overseas membership to individuals and academic institutions. Overall, we are confident that the Boydell Press will serve our need to produce a broad range of liturgical subjects to promote the study of worship and liturgy for students and practitioners. In partnership with GROW, we will continue our arrangement with the Canterbury Press for the publication of the Joint Liturgical Studies and distribution of our books to members.

Speaking of the Joint Liturgical Studies series I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the author of our 97/98 JLS, *Eucharistic Praying in Ritual Context*, Dr Nathan Chase, who sadly and prematurely died this year. Nathan was a younger American liturgist, a noted teacher and writer whose scholarly interests, as indicated in our recent JLS ranged very broadly. He was a prolific writer and when he died, he had no less than four titles in the process of being published. Nathan will be missed by his colleagues in the American Academy of Liturgy, and beyond. May he enjoy the delights of the heavenly banquet about which he had studied at depth and about which he wrote in such an erudite and engaging style. There are, inevitably, other former members of the Club who are sadly no longer with us. A number who, having retired have downsized their accommodation and reluctantly decided to cancel their subscription to the Club. We wish them well too, welcome those who are new to the Club and thank our current membership for keeping us in business.

The business of the Club falls to the members of the trustees, the Club Committee, and we must extend our thanks to them all for their work and commitment. A great deal of work falls to the treasurer, Paul Kingdom, and to the editorial secretary, Gordon Jeanes, and special thanks are extended to them. The Committee has had four full zoom meetings during this past year, and some business has been transacted by email. In addition, of course, some members have been engaged in other meetings such as the Joint Editorial Board of the JLS series. Sue Moore, known to some of us through her work as Secretary to the Church of England's Liturgical Commission, has convened the recent meetings of the Committee, and if she is still willing, I would like to propose that she becomes a trustee and meeting Secretary. Catherine Reid has continued her work in publicising the work of the Club and in working closely with Dr David Duce, who as a volunteer has given us much help updating the website and posting new items on its News feature. Thank you, David for all that you do for us. Thanks too are also due to Br Patrick Souter of the Community of the Resurrection, who cares for the back stock of books stored at Mirfield and handles their sales.

Finally, I must thank again Dr Matthew Salisbury for his excellent keynote address today, and last but no means last, express our thanks to the Revd Peter Moger, the Sub-Dean of Christ Church and to the Cathedral for their very generous hospitality. Meeting in the beautiful space of the recently refurbished Chapter House and in such an historic context is a real joy. Thank you, Peter, and please do convey our thanks to all who have made our meeting here such a happy one.

Christopher Irvine

May 2025

Alcuin Club AGM Agenda

2 June, Christ Church, Oxford

1. Welcome: +Stephen
2. Apologies
3. Receive and Approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements
4. Appoint an Independent Examiner
5. Reports
 - Chair: CI
 - Editorial Secretary: Gordon Jeanes
 - Any other
6. AOB