



the Company of Servers

Membership Report to the Annual General Meeting

Saturday, 13th April 2013

The Company has continued to grow overall in terms of membership, both lay and ordained, during the last twelve months. We now have chapters covering the dioceses of Exeter, Leicester, London, Norwich, Ripon and Leeds, Salisbury, Southwark, St Albans, Worcester and York. Since the last Annual General Meeting new chapters have been founded for the dioceses of Bangor, Blackburn and Liverpool, Bristol and Lichfield. Sadly the Bath and Wells Chapter has disbanded. Unfortunately no contact has been received from the Salisbury and York Chapters in the last year which is a continued cause of concern.

Chapter	Companions	Affiliate Companions	Associate Companions	Total
Bangor				
Blackburn and Liverpool	9	1	2	12
Bristol				
Exeter	46	0	5	51
Leicester	35	0	3	38
Lichfield				
London	60	0	4	64
Norwich	15	2	1	18
Ripon and Leeds	45	0	0	45
Salisbury	47	0	2	49
Southwark	60	0	3	63
St Albans	28	0	14	42
Worcester	8	0	1	9
York	4	0	1	5
TOTALS	357	3	36	396

Last year the AGM heard that we have approximately 300 Companions: this year that has risen to 357, which does not include figures from Bangor, Bristol and Lichfield as they have not yet been received. It is important that individual chapters keep the National Membership Officer informed of changes to its membership, both new companions and those who have left. These figures are used to calculate the proportion of subscriptions each chapter pays to the Central Committee. The figures are also influential in determining the location of the National Festival. Membership lists are available to Chapter Committees from the National Membership Officer if they would like to check what details are held; alternatively it may be worth sending your own membership list to the National Membership Officer so that central records can be updated.

I believe that work needs to be done to improve the uniformity of record keeping across chapters and to develop an efficient way of achieving this as well as monitoring the collection of subscriptions. The current position of the Company, which applies to all chapters, is that subscription renewals are due on the anniversary of each companion's admission to the Company.

It is unquestionable to me that the role of National Membership Officer, as it currently exists, is too much for one person and that this is a problem that will only get worse as the Company grows. In my opinion it would be sensible to split the post into two jobs. One person would have responsibility for the establishment of new chapters; the other would have responsibility for the maintenance of the membership database, collecting subscriptions, and insignia. I think that this will make the workload manageable for any person to handle when/if they have to combine this commitment with full-time employment. Unless it is thought that the size of Central Committee needs to be increased to accommodate this, a change to the constitution would not be necessary and I commend it for discussion by the Central Committee in time for elections at the Annual General Meeting 2014.

Alexander Hobbs
National Membership Officer
13 April 2013