

THE SOCIETY FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 5^h September 2024 at the Summer Meeting in Oxford under the Presidency of Dr John Jarick

1. Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed Members to the Business Meeting of the Society.

There were approximately 60 people present.

The Secretary noted that apologies had been received from Adrian Curtis, Eryl Davies, Janet Fyffe, Anselm Hagedorn, Charlotte Hempel*, Hedy Hung, Sarah Nicholson, David Reimer, Mervyn Richardson, Viv Rowett, Bernd Schipper*, Simon Stocks*, Jonathan Stökl, Jim West, Pieter van der Zwan. (* indicates apologies for the Business Meeting specifically, having attended the conference)

There was no notification of items for Any Other Business.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Business Meeting (4th January 2024, online), which had been posted on the Society's website in the Members' Area, and also displayed on the conference notice board, were approved by the meeting. A physical copy will be signed by the President.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that would not appear on the agenda.

4. Reports from Officers

- *Additional matters raised and/or discussed during the meeting are added in italics in bullet point notes like this.*

4.1 The President, Prof Katharine Dell reported as follows:

The Summer Meeting of the Society for Old Testament Study was held at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, from 4th to 6th September under the Presidency of Professor Katharine Dell. The special invited guest was Professor Choon-Leong Seow of Vanderbilt University who gave a paper on Behemoth and Leviathan in Job, thus setting the tone for a wisdom theme for the conference (although not exclusively). Other members also came from abroad – Israel, Germany, the States and Australia - and there were up to 110 delegates at any one time. The College served us well with good accommodation and food and the McGrath centre and surrounding spaces made an excellent space for the lectures and book displays. There were 12 lectures over the two and a half days, and on the second afternoon there was an outing to Ely

cathedral. There were guided tours on offer, followed by a welcome from the Dean and a short concert entitled “Celebrating Wisdom and the Wise: a concert of biblical Song”, which featured pieces using texts from Ecclesiastes and the Song of Songs. This was performed in the Lady Chapel by singing members of St Catharine’s College and members of the Cambridge Early Music Consort. It included a world premiere composed by Howard Skempton and sponsored by Elizabeth Carmack, Founder and Director of the Cambridge Music Conference in memory of Norman Whybray (her stepfather and former President of SOTS). We were happy to welcome both of them to what turned out to be a very memorable occasion. The President’s tea was in the Almonry tea rooms nearby. It was a very successful conference, helped by excellent summer weather, and thanks go to those who gave papers, those who participated and to the College for making it such a memorable stay.

We then held our first SOTS online conference day on 4th January 2024, which was successful and attracted participants from a wider constituency of members, including those who find it difficult to come to meetings in person and many from abroad. The ‘day’ started at 2.15 with a welcome from the President, followed by two papers and then a new format of roundtable discussion with three participants on the topic of ‘Is E a distant memory now in Pentateuchal studies?’. This format was felt to have worked well and to be something the Society might continue. There was then a break followed by an evening session of invited external speaker, Professor William Brown from Columbia University.

Finally in July – 24th to 26th – the Dutch OTW hosted a ‘joint meeting’, except that it was in fact a three-way meeting with the South African OTW included too. The meeting was held at the Sint-Janscentrum, the Roman-Catholic Major Seminary of the diocese of ‘s-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands. Particular thanks go to Professor Archibald van Wieringen, President of the Dutch OTW, who organized the meeting, the topic of which was ‘Intertextuality as Reinterpreting Texts’. Papers were given by five SOTS members with other SOTS members also attending. There was a conference excursion of a guided tour of the splendid St John’s cathedral followed by a buffet supper and then a public lecture given by Frank Bosmon in the Sint Catharinakerk on Leonard Cohen’s song ‘You want it darker’ and intertexts with the Bible. It was a memorable and enjoyable conference and the proceedings will be published in a forthcoming volume of Brill’s *Oudtestamentische Studien* series.

So it has been a very busy year and a half with some excellent conferences for members to enjoy. I pass the baton of the Presidency over to Dr John Jarick and extend my thanks to the officers of the Society, in particular to the Secretary, Richard Briggs, for all their hard work.

4.2 The Treasurer, Dr Joseph Scales, reported as follows:

Account Balances at 28th August 2024

		(Sep 2023)
Barclays Current A/C	<u>£50,649</u>	<u>£35,709</u>
Barclays IAS (Business Premium) A/C	<u>£72,824</u>	<u>£72,031</u>
TOTAL	<u>£123,473</u>	<u>£107,740</u>

The funds are in excellent health. The full payment for this annual meeting has not yet been made but a deposit has been paid.

Membership Subscriptions

I am pleased that many members continue to pay their subscription fees in good time. Many also responded to my email prompt earlier this year. There are currently 272 ordinary members who have paid their dues this year. There are 59 ordinary members in my records who have not paid their fee this year. Of the 272, there are 12 members who remain on the legacy rate. The total membership subs received this year is £7,146.

We continue to receive generous payments from our life members. Of my records, 60 life members continue to pay subscription fees. This year £1,578 has been received for our bursary fund.

Online payments for the most part appear to function, although cases have been reported where payments cannot be authenticated. My feeling is that this is something either to do with the browser that members have used to process such payments, or there is some reason that their bank authentication process is unable to initiate. I am aware that some members have been able to subsequently pay their membership fees when booking for the annual meeting.

Gift Aid

I thank the many members who have submitted their gift aid forms. I would like to request that any UK taxpayers who would like their membership dues to be claimed back through the society via gift aid send me a completed form. In future, I shall apply for gift aid in the month after the annual meeting, using the gift aid declarations I have had completed or renewed in the previous year.

- *Following discussion, JS agreed to send once more the Gift Aid request form to members.*

Official Matters

In the course of opening bookings for this year's annual meeting, the website was targeted by what I suspect was a cyber-criminal attempt to defraud the society. This took the form of a large number of attempts to order "products" through the website, such as the meeting deposit booking. Over around a week, perhaps as many as 65,000 attempts were made. In response, the information officer acted to put a password on the page, which added a layer of security to accessing the payments. This step prevented successful attacks. Of the attempts to process payment, a number were recorded on the website as successful. The "user" (although the name on the account appears to be fake) subsequently began to file chargeback requests through the online store. My belief is that the initial payments were never processed and these chargeback requests were the mechanism to defraud the society. A number of tells in the transactions, beyond simply their volume and the obvious automatic processing was that many of the card numbers closely resembled one another, and came from all over the world. I filled a report with Action Fraud who passed this information on to the UK Police. I have also disputed all of the chargeback requests, the bulk of which took place in late July. A few more continue to be made but these are low in volume. As far as I can see, no disputes have been settled by our payments service. I have provided information along with the notification of Action Fraud report to the payments service provider, and these seems to have resolved these chargeback requests without need to pay the "user."

Once we can account the payments from the annual meeting, I will be able to check whether any money from these transactions cleared into our account. Should any money have come through, I will report this further to the appropriate authorities.

In the last committee meeting, the Finance Working Party was formed to address some of the needs outlined in the previous Treasurer's report. Key suggestions from this Working Party were brought to the meeting verbally by JS (see 4.2.1 below).

- *The meeting thanked JS for his work on behalf of the Society in protecting against the work of the hackers.*

Thanks

My thanks to the other officers of the society for their work and efforts this past year. In particular, Suzanna Millar and Nathan Eddy for their close communication and support while we have planned this meeting.

4.2.1 The Treasurer, Dr Joseph Scales, also offered a verbal update on the work of the Committee's '**Finance Working Party**' and its interim recommendations for good practice for the Society, including seeking a permanent address for the Society in order to facilitate banking services. In order to progress these matters it was proposed to set up a 'Financial Oversight Group' (FOG), consisting of at least one past treasurer and up to four other members of the Society. This group's role will be to ensure that spending limits are adhered to or set (including the level desired in the capital fund), to consider funding opportunities which the Society can support and/or are suggested by Society members, and to ensure the audited accounts are reviewed (or even perhaps undertaken informally).

- *Expressions of interest were invited, and received from Jennifer Dines, Alastair Hunter, and Andy Lie.*

4.3 The Secretary, Dr Richard Briggs, reported as follows:

After several years struggling to fill committee posts, it is a pleasure to report that we have almost a full complement of people in posts this year. The main secretarial business has been seeking to enable the smooth running of our meetings in their new configuration. This included our first online winter meeting (4th Jan 2024), and the joint OTW/SOTS meeting in the Netherlands (24th - 26th July), both of which went very well. I noted that the OTW meeting operates on a model akin to SBL in one respect: central meeting space is booked but conference delegates are left to arrange their own accommodation locally. It may be interesting to ask whether this is a model worth consideration for SOTS, or has ever been tried.

It has been good to see developments in the Society's move to online administration of conference booking. Despite teething troubles, reported elsewhere, this has gone well. Issues worth further reflection in the process include: booking possibilities for local attendees who wish neither to be resident nor to take meals; and the process for awarding bursaries, which had hitherto relied on people paying a deposit and then the bursary excusing them the rest of the payment. The result was that each bursary award had to be negotiated individually at the booking stage. This could be revised in the future.

- *In conversation some members of the Society requested greater information during the online booking process. These points were noted by the Conference Secretary, who addressed them under 4.7 below.*

Despite this point about the administering of bursaries, I note that in advance of the 2024 Summer Meeting we received requests for six bursaries. Not all of these arrived by the advertised deadline, but we were able to consider all six. We administered five bursaries. The sixth case raised a question about applying for a bursary because of retired status and therefore restricted income. In fact this applicant chose not to come, but the group that convened to look at this was minded not to award a bursary in this category. It may be worth the committee deciding whether to take a view on this in principle, and if so what view.

Since my last report at the Summer 2023 meeting, the Society has been notified of the passing of 11 members: Pekka Pitkanen (Aug 2023), Tryggve Mettinger (Oct 2023), Robert (Bob) Miller (Nov 2023), Michael Knibb (Dec 2023), Godfrey Ashby (Dec 2023), Gareth Lloyd Jones (Jan 2024), Sara Japhet (Mar 2024), Ronald Clements (Apr 2024), Charles Biggs (May 2024), Alan Millard (Jun 2024), Samuel Balentine (Jun 2024). Of these: Ronald Clements was a former president of the Society in 1985; and Tryggve Mettinger and Sara Japhet were Honorary Members of the Society. Condolences have been passed on, and the meeting paused to remember them with a moment's silence.

4.4 The Secretary for Honorary Members, Prof Susan Gillingham, gave a brief version of her full report which was available online. The full report was as follows:

I report on three deaths not recorded in previous Minutes:

Professor Cornelis de Moor, b. 1935, d. January 28th 2023;

Professor Tryggve Mettinger, b. 1940, d. October 23rd 2023; and

Professor Sara Japhet, b. 1934, d. March 27th 2024. (A Tribute by Marc Brettler and Tamara Eskenazi can be found on the SBL Website.)

Our membership now stands at 14. Correspondence resulted in the following information.

Professor Athalya Brenner-Idan reports that after a nasty fall in Amsterdam in February she is now recuperating in Haifa, after two operations on a multi-fractured hip. With health issues and the political situation, progress in writing has been slow.

Although **Professor Walter Brueggemann** will not make the meeting he wishes to extend his greetings to all members.

Professor Tamara Cohn Eskenazi reports the publication of *Ezra: A New Translation with an Introduction and Commentary*, Anchor Yale Bible Commentary 14A, New Haven and London: Yale University Press 2023. Selected papers include 'Conflict, Marriage and the Holy in Ezra-Nehemiah' in *The Formation of Biblical Texts: Chronicling the Legacy of Gary N. Knoppers*, eds. D. Fulton, K. Ristau, J. Green and M. Cohen, FAT 176, Tübingen: Siebeck Mohr 2024: 261-78; and 'The Political Theology of Ezra-Nehemiah' in *Political Theologies in the Hebrew Bible*, eds. Mark G. Brett and Rachelle Gilmour, JAJ Sup 35, Leiden: Brill 2023: 242-256.

We also congratulate Tamara on having been elected President of The Society of Biblical Literature (2024).

Professor Dr. Reinhard Kratz informs us that the second phase of the Academy project *Qumran Digital: Text and Lexicon* was approved by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft for a further period of 3 years (out of 12 years in total). For links to the project and the lexicon see <https://adw-goe.de/forschung/qumran-digital-text-und-lexikon/> and <https://lexicon.qumran-digital.org/v1/index.html>. A fourth volume of collected essays has been published as *Torastudien*, BZAW 558, Berlin: De Gruyter 2024, in addition to *Editing the Greek Psalter*, eds. R. Kratz and F. Albrecht, DSI 18, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht 2024. A new monograph will appear in September entitled „*Väterliche Gesetze*“ und das Gesetz des Mose: Die Rolle der Tora im jüdischen Aufstand gegen Antiochos IV, Tria Corda Series, Tübingen: Siebeck Mohr 2024.

Professor Dr. Bernhard Lang is currently working on a second, enlarged edition of *Handbook of the Vulgate Bible and Its Reception: Annotated Bibliography – Latin Glossary – Textual Notes*, published by the Vulgate Institute in 2023 (open access: vulgata-dialog.org). He asks that if anyone is interested in giving a short paper on a Vulgate-related subject at the IOSOT conference in Berlin, August 2025, they should contact him (address on the SOTS website).

Professor Kirsten Nielsen produced, in 2023, an edited work on the theology in modern Danish hymns (*Hvor jord og himmel mødes. Teologien i nyere salmer* / *Where Earth and Heaven Meet. The Theology of Modern Hymns*). A new edition of *En indføring i Bibelen* / *An Introduction to the Bible* (2010) has been published under the title *Bibelens store linjer og mange stemmer. En indføring i Bibelen* / *The Long Lines and Many Voices of the Bible. An Introduction to the Bible*, co-edited with Gertrud Yde Iversen.

Professor Martti Nissinen co-edited with Jutta Jokiranta (originally as part of the *Centre for Excellence*) *Changes in Sacred Texts and Traditions: Methodological Encounters and Debates*, SBL Resources for Biblical Study 106, Atlanta: SBL Press 2024, and in this publication co-authored, with Jutta Jokiranta, ‘Scholarly Community at Work: What Have We Learned?’ (pp. 1-20), and, with Dalit Rom-Shiloni, ‘Methodological Challenges in the Study of Prophecy and Prophetic Books: A Conversation’ (pp. 103-54). Other articles include ‘Homo-Sodoman synty ja huoli miehuudesta’ [Homosexualizing Sodom and the Concern for Masculinity] in *Teologinen Aikakauskirja* 129 (2024): 122–139; ‘Male Desire in Akkadian and Hebrew Love Poetry,’ in *Trinkt von dem Wein, den ich gemischt habe! / Drink of the Wine which I have Mingled: Festschrift für Silvia Schroer zum 65. Geburtstag*, eds. Stefan Münster, Nancy Rahn, and Patrick Wyssmann, *Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis* 303, Leuven: Peeters 2023: 362–380; ‘Male Action in Akkadian and Hebrew Love Poetry’, in *Deciphering Assyria: A Tribute to Simo Parpola on the Occasion of His 80th Birthday*, eds. Raija Mattila, Robert Rollinger, and Sebastian Fink, *Melammu Workshops and Monographs* 9, Münster: Zaphon Verlag 2023: 299–316; ‘Female Voices in Akkadian Love Poetry’, in *Reading the Song of Songs in a #MeToo Era*, eds. Elaine T. James and Simeon B. Chavel, *Biblical Interpretation Series* 212, Leiden: Brill 2023: 135–162; and ‘Ezekiel, Ethnicity, and Identity’ in *Studia Orientalia Electronica Special Issue: Mesopotamian Identities in the Last Centuries of Cuneiform Writing*, eds. Sebastian Fink and Saana Svärd, *Studia Orientalia Electronica* 11 (2023) 53–71.

Professor Thomas Römer writes that his commentary on Abraham has finally been published. See *Genèse 11,27–25,18. L’histoire d’Abraham*, CAT IB, Genève: Labor et Fides, 2023. (An

English edition will be published in the Hermeneia Series). He is also part of a group that uses algorithms and AI to gain a more precise diachronical approach to the formation of biblical texts. See, for example, A. Bühler, G. Yoffe, N. Dershowitz, E. Piasetzky, I. Finkelstein, T. Römer, 'Exploring the Stylistic Uniqueness of the Priestly Source in Genesis and Exodus through a Statistical / Computational Lens', *ZAW* 136 (2) 2024: 165-190. A fourth edition of his *Dieu obscur. Sexe, cruauté et violence dans la Bible hébraïque*, Genève: Labor et Fides, was published in 2024 and is now considered a "classic".

Professor Bernd Schipper continues as President of IOSOT until 2025, culminating in the IOSOT Congress in Berlin (August 11-15).

It was noted that some of our Honorary Members had been in attendance in the conference.

Proposals for 2 new Honorary Members were brought later in the meeting.

4.5 The Membership Secretary, Dr Alastair Hunter, gave a brief version of his full report, the full detail of which reads as follows:

The total membership now stands at 500. We welcomed nine new ordinary members in September 2023 (four men and five women) and seven in January 2024 (five men and two women), but sadly I have to report eleven deaths (all but one male). Two former members were reinstated, eleven resigned, and one lapsed through non-payment of their subscription.

I reiterate the customary plea to members to keep me informed of any changes to their postal addresses and e-mails. It is open to anyone to update their details on the member database on the SOTS website. If you choose to do this, please let me know, since there are other records which require to be updated at the same time. Those who receive the printed Book List are especially reminded that an erroneous address may lead to their copy going astray.

The male/female ratio is 337M::163F, being 67.4% M and 32.6% F. While this balance has remained virtually unchanged over the last few years, there is a modest improvement in the proportion of women this year.

Members by country of residence. These figures are limited to members in the UK and Ireland on the one hand, and in the rest of the world. The proportions are UK & Ireland 334 (66.8%) and the rest of the world 166 (33.2%).

I have endeavoured to present regular mailings to members in such a way as to make the contents as clear as possible. I would be more than happy to receive any comments on presentation which would help to make this service better. For the record, 43 mailings were sent out since the last meeting.

Finally, my thanks to fellow officers for their help and cooperation

4.6 The Book List Editor, Dr Samuel Hildebrandt, reported as follows:

With my first year in this new post completed, I open this report by conveying my thankfulness to my predecessor John Jarick who has executed a detailed and patient transition and has been

immensely helpful for helping me set up my own rhythms for the SOTS Book List. The warm reception from publishers has been a clear sign of the status of the Book List in the academic landscape — the fruits of many decades of astute editing and reviewing.

With the support of Kengoro Goto, the 2024 edition of the BL was published in June and covered around 250 items. Our contacts at SAGE (Monti Rogers and, from June 2024, Sara Markovic) are quick to respond and very supportive. Virtually all reviewers requested print copies; with the rare exception, publishers were happy to meet those requests. Since SOTS now only meets once a year, I am asking publishers to send books directly to members. This comes with some complications (e.g., lacking phone numbers for delivery, members relocating during the year) but reduces workload, shipping footprint, and SOTS mailing costs (the 2024 edition only accrued £131.36 postage). The 2025 edition is in progress.

As for other SOTS publications, Megan Warner's OT Guide on Genesis has been released in Jan 2024. The latest publication in *Oudtestamentische Studiën* (joint series of OTW, OTSSA, and SOTS) has been Konstantin Stijkel's *Visualising the Vision: A Study of the Plan of Ezekiel's Temple*. The proceedings from this year's joint meeting will be edited by A. van Wieringen. Most of the contributions from last year's meeting have been submitted and are on good course towards publication. The publication sub-committee is currently considering to rebrand the SOTS Wiki as 'Quick Guide to the OT' to have it stand alongside the printed Guides series as an online resource.

- *A call was offered to the meeting for manuscripts for the SOTS Monograph Series – details of which may be found on the Society's website.*
- *The forthcoming Society Volume, Understanding the Hebrew Bible, edited by John Barton and due from OUP in early 2025, had already been the subject of a session at the conference, and was noted again as a major forthcoming SOTS publication*

The publications sub-committee met online in Jan 2024. Andrew Mein's membership, which had already been extended by a year, ended this August. Laura Quick has kindly agreed to take over this position from Sept 2024 until Sept 2027 and the sub-committee recommends her to be elected at the 2024 business meeting.

- *Tabled below.*

Finally, the version of the SOTS Essay Prize that came to the Committee Meeting in Jan 2024 has been revised by John Jarick and myself. This was discussed at the Committee Meeting immediately preceding the present conference, and verbal announcement was made, with full details to follow online.

- *The Society is refreshing its offer of a SOTS Essay Prize. A finalised indication of full details to be circulated to the membership and posted on the Society's website.*

4.7 The Conference Secretary, Dr Nathan Eddy, gave a verbal report to the meeting of matters relating to the present conference and ongoing issues with the arrangements for conferences. He noted that he had felt welcomed into the role of Conference Secretary, and had received good support from many, including those with former experience of organising Society conferences. Online booking had been trialled successfully, to a large degree, while noting the comments and suggestions made in response here and at other points in the meeting. It was intended that a short survey would be undertaken, perhaps after this meeting or another meeting soon, to review the booking process and assess user satisfaction. The Conference Secretary thanked the Oxford postgraduates who had assisted in running the present conference (Rahel

Lamperth, Rebekah Van Sant-Clark, and Sarah Wisialowski); and also thanked those whose previous experience and wisdom had eased his own work: Janet Fyffe, Julie Woods, Joseph Scales, Suzanna Millar, and James Patrick.

4.8 The Information Officer, Dr Suzanna Millar, reported as follows:

In addition to ongoing attention to general matters of the Society's online presence, the year had been occupied in particular with:

- website management, and members were invited to send any updates or corrections as appropriate
- running the January online meeting on Zoom, which had run smoothly
- setting up and overseeing online booking, which had come across the problems noted earlier in the meeting, but seemed to have resulted in no major negative repercussions

4.9 It was noted that the Society had appointed an **EDI Rep**, Dr Holly Morse, at its January 2024 business meeting, and that in future it was anticipated that there would be an annual report from this role at each Summer meeting.

4.10 The Archivist, Prof Eryl Davies, was not able to be present, so the Secretary read Prof Davies' brief update as follows:

There is nothing to report from the archive on this occasion, apart from the fact that the process of digitising the Book List is progressing slowly but surely.

5. Proposals for New Members

The following seven people were proposed and elected into membership of the Society: Rabbi Robyn Ashworth-Steen, Dr Dylan R. Johnson, Dr Michal Karnawalski, Revd Dr Helen Paynter, Dr John Ritzema, Dr Rebekah Van Sant-Clark, Dr Young Gil Lee,

6. Nominations

The proposals brought forward from the committee were accepted, namely:

1. President (for 2026-27) – David Firth
2. ECR/PG Rep on the Committee – Kengoro Goto
3. General Committee Posts – Lizzie Hare and Olga Fabricant-Burke
4. Programme Subcommittee – it was noted that the elections of Kengoro Goto as ECR/PG Rep and Holly Morse as EDI Rep would bring them both on to the programme subcommittee
5. Publications Sub-Committee – Laura Quick
6. Other Posts – Holly Morse has offered to act as the Society's TRS-UK rep. We continue to look for a representative on the Arts and Humanities Alliance (which at the moment is monitored through emails by the Secretary)

All those accepted would take up the relevant term of office on Jan 1st 2025 (except where otherwise noted).

A call was made for expressions of interest for the role hitherto described as ‘Social Media Rep’, though the Committee was considering how to reimagine the role as that of an ‘external communications officer’ (or equivalent). There is a possibility of setting up a working party to look at what the role might involve.

Finally, two new Honorary Members were proposed by Sue Gillingham, after work in the Committee on considering various proposals and soliciting informal expressions of interest.

- William Brown
- Christl Maier

Both were approved by the meeting to become Honorary Members, with immediate effect.

7. Proposals and Items of Interest

7.1 Proposal for a Society Medal

A proposal was brought from the Committee by Nathan MacDonald about a possible Society medal:

Like all scholarly societies, the Society for Old Testament Study would not function without the generous service of certain members. The Society currently has no way to honour such members. It is proposed that the Society have a medal that could be awarded to ‘those who have made a sustained and substantial contribution to the Society’. Whilst it is not envisaged that future or former Presidents of the Society be excluded from being awarded a Society Medal, the Society Medal would offer an appropriate way of recognizing the contribution of a member of the Society who might not be elected President. It is not envisaged that the award of the Medal would be a regular occurrence, but an occasional award to recognize an exceptional contribution to the flourishing of the Society.

The award of the Medal would be marked by having a medal struck and presented to the awardee at a reception during a meeting of the Society. The cost of the medal and the reception would be borne by the Society. A list of those awarded with the Medal would be kept by the Society on the website.

- *Discussion was appreciative while noting the difficulty of having clear and appropriate criteria. It was agreed by vote to proceed to a formal written proposal that could be considered by the Committee and brought back for final acceptance.*

8. Any Other Business

It was noted that on the very day of the Business Meeting it had been announced that Society member Prof George Brooke had been awarded the British Academy’s Burkitt Medal for Biblical Studies in 2024. The meeting offered warm congratulations.

Other small practical items were noted as the conference was brought towards a conclusion.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

The Society intends to hold future meetings as follows:

Winter 2025 - Online 1-day event – Thurs 9th January 2025

Summer 2025 – Durham, Summer Meeting, provisionally in the 3rd week of July (21st – 24th July 2025). It was anticipated that the same length of programme would be held as had been tried in the present Oxford meeting, in light of positive feedback on this change.

There being no further business, the President declared the Business Meeting closed.

Signed:

Date:

(version 3 of the minutes, incorporating corrections, and approved online 9/1/2025)