

THE SOCIETY FOR OLD TESTAMENT STUDY

Minutes of the Business Meeting held on 23rd July 2025 at the Summer Meeting in Durham under the Presidency of Prof Stuart Weeks

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 Eryl Davies, Douglas Earl, Janet Fyffe, Anthony Gelston, Holly Morse, George Nicol, Deborah Rooke, Chris Thomson, Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, Andrew Wilson, Pieter van der Zwan.

There was one notification of items for Any Other Business (see below).

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous Business Meeting (9th January 2025, 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. The first such matter to be noted was the inopportune experience of a fire alarm causing an evacuation of the meeting for 10 minutes just as the Retiring President began his remarks.*

4.1 The Retiring President, Dr John Jarick reported as follows:

We live in a time of considerable change in the world at large, and SOTS too has now fully entered a brave new world in which the changeover of Presidents takes place at the Summer Meeting of the Society rather than the former century-old custom of the changeover taking place at the Winter Meeting. The Summer Meeting is now the single in-person meeting of the Society each year, while the Winter Meeting is now an online event where no physical handover and signing of the Presidential Bible can be staged, and accordingly at which it is henceforth less meaningful for the Presidential Paper to be delivered.

In implementation of this new scheme, the Society's Summer Meeting of 2024 was the first at which the installation of the new President took place in the summertime. It was an honour for

me to receive at that time the presidential baton from Katharine Dell, and it is my pleasure at this year's Summer Meeting to be handing the baton on to Stuart Weeks at the second summertime staging of the presidential changeover. I might note in this report, as I mentioned in my remarks at the time of the previous handover, that Katharine, in being the transition President from the former wintertime arrangements to the new summertime arrangements, thereby joined a select band of Presidents of SOTS, namely those few individuals — just five of them prior to her tenure of 2023-24 — whose presidencies were expanded beyond the normal twelve-month term of office. SOTS is grateful to her for having graciously allowed the Society to extend her term on account of the transition from our old ways to our new ways in this regard; but I am sure that SOTS is also grateful that I am demitting office after the usual length of service — although actually, on account of last year's Summer Meeting in Oxford having taken place in September and this year's Summer Meeting in Durham taking place in July, a mere ten months apart rather than the usual twelve months between iterations, I have turned out to be, I suspect, the shortest-ever-serving President in the Society's history!

At last year's Summer Meeting (held at Mansfield College, Oxford, on 2nd–5th September 2024), in addition to my Presidential Paper on 'Echoes of the Planetary Gods in the Primary Judean Creation Myth', eleven other members of the Society presented research papers, five of those being the respective presenter's first paper to a SOTS Meeting, and a further four members made presentations on their contributions to the fine new volume of SOTS essays on the state of our discipline, *Understanding the Hebrew Bible*, edited by John Barton and published by Oxford University Press. The Meeting's special invited guest was David E.S. Stein, editor-in-chief of the Jewish Publication Society's newly revised biblical translation, who addressed the assembly on the topic of 'Challenges in Preparing a Gender-Sensitive Translation of the *Tanakh*'. The Meeting's outing was to the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford's unique anthropological and archaeological museum, following a talk on the facility's collections by George Kwaider, a long-time member of the museum's Visitor Experience Team. The Presidential Tea took place at Regent's Park College, where the Angus Library and Archive put on an exhibition of manuscripts and memorabilia associated with Old Testament scholarship at the college, especially items pertaining to the work of past SOTS Presidents Henry Wheeler Robinson and Gwynne Henton Davies. The Meeting also included two receptions, one sponsored by the Oxford Faculty of Theology & Religion and the other by the Oriel Centre for the Study of the Bible.

This year's Winter Meeting (held on 9th January 2025) was the second of the new-style online one-day conferences that SOTS is now staging as our winter event. There were three research papers from members of the Society, two of them being the respective presenter's first paper to a SOTS Meeting, and a roundtable discussion on biblical archaeology in which SOTS veteran Hugh Williamson and two guests, Israeli archaeologist Oded Lipschitz and Palestine Exploration Fund curator Felicity Cobbing, conversed on recent developments and directions in this field of study. The evening Public Lecture, recorded for posterity and available on the SOTS website, was delivered by SOTS Honorary Member Thomas Römer, professor of biblical environments at the College of France in Paris, on the topic of 'The Question of Wisdom Influence in the Composition of the Joseph Narrative'.

I extend my thanks to all the members who delivered papers at the meetings or who contributed in various ways to the success of the events, and I express my deep appreciation to the sundry Officers of the Society, who keep the meetings and the other ongoing activities of SOTS on an even keel.

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

Account Balances on 16th July 2025

		(Sep 2024)
Barclays Current A/C	<u>£21,315</u>	<u>£50,649</u>
Barclays IAS (Business Premium) A/C	<u>£73,873</u>	<u>£72,824</u>
TOTAL	<u>£95,158</u>	<u>£123,473</u>

The funds are in excellent health. The drop-off in the amount in our current account compared to previous years is due to the change in annual meeting booking this year, where payments are going directly to Event Durham.

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, and a subsequent email prompt to those members outstanding will be mailed out after this meeting. There are currently 264 ordinary members who have paid their dues this year. There are 54 ordinary members in my records who have not paid their fee this year, although I have been in contact with many of these members. I note that these numbers are similar to the statistics last year. Of the 264, there are 9 members who remain on the legacy rate, a drop-off from the previous year and likely due to the uptake of the online shop for membership dues. The total membership subs received this year is £6,788, slightly lower than the amount last year (£7,146 although by September).

We continue to receive generous payments from our life members. Of my records, 63 life members continue to pay subscription fees. This year £1,672 has been received for our bursary fund from these donations.

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, which will be mailed out in the next mailing after this meeting.

Official Matters

After last year's report, I mentioned that any amounts that cleared into the Society's account would be revealed after an accounting for the meeting had taken place. No such payments are apparent, and this confirms to me the fraudulent nature of the transactions in 2024.

It was agreed in the business meeting held in September 2024 that a Financial Oversight Group be established for the purposes of discussing the use of Society funds and other financial questions. The current members of this group include the treasurer, Alastair Hunter and Andy Lie. I am open to additional members participating, so if there is interest, then please contact me. We held our first discussion meeting during the 2025 Summer meeting. Recommendations from this group will be brought forward to the next Committee meeting. If members wish to

have an informal input on topics related to the remit of this group, or other aspects of the financial operation of the Society, then I encourage them to contact me directly.

2024 Annual Meeting Costings

I have drawn up a table of the costings for the annual meeting last year. These figures are provisional and await confirmation from the conference secretary.

Annual Meeting 2024 (Mansfield College) costings

Outgoings:

Purpose	Amount
Complete cost to Mansfield College for event hosting	£37,035.55
Keynote travel costs	£878.85
Public liability insurance (in order to hold event at Mansfield)	£224.80
Additional kosher catering	£108.00
Committee travel expenses ¹	£439.59
Total:	£38,686.79

Income:

Category	Amount
Reception sponsorship	£698.85
Bookings ²	£39,817.57
Total:	£40,516.42

The net income from the annual meeting 2023 was thus £1,829.63.

Ongoing expenses

In addition to the main expenses for the Society in the form of the annual meeting, I have thought it suitable to include an outline of the annual expenses for the Society in this report. At present, the Society pays an affiliation fee to TRS UK of £250 annually, and has website renewal costs which vary year on year. The contribution in recognition of the work undertaken for editing the SOTS *Book List* is currently £4,500 annually, which is split between the editor and the assistant editor, and paid out at six-month intervals.

Some additional payments were made in the year since the last annual meeting. These include indexing for the recent publication, edited by John Barton, *Understanding the Hebrew Bible: Essays by Members of the Society for Old Testament Study*, which was financially supported by the Society. In addition, and in recognition of the work done in digitising all the pre-Sheffield Academic Press volumes of the SOTS *Book List*, a payment of £1000 was made by the Society to Bangor University in November 2024.

¹ Due to illness, I in my capacity as treasurer was unable to travel and as such, recorded no expenses to attend the meeting.

² This total has been estimated using the intake through both the bank account and Braintree. It is possible that some membership fees have been included in this as it is difficult to sort out the Braintree takings, given the enormous amount of attempted fraudulent transactions to sort through from the previous year.

Thanks

My thanks to the other officers of the Society for their work and efforts this past year, and to all others who have contributed towards the operation and work of the Society. In particular, I would like to thank both Rosalie Moloney and Richard Briggs, who are stepping down from their roles this year, for their service.

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

The main secretarial business continues to be the organising of committee meetings and processing of resultant business, and helping to enable the smooth running of our meetings. Our second online winter meeting (9th Jan 2025) followed the format of the Jan 2024 day, and went well. I take this opportunity to remind members that the intention had been to have an openness to a variety of styles and formats of online events between the Summer meetings, and there is no requirement for a fixed pattern of online events/meetings. The committee works well at running and supporting both the online event (through IT support) and the Summer meeting (through a range of roles). It is a pleasure to facilitate committee members in making these meetings work.

Other secretarial responsibilities include:

- overseeing the bursary allocation for the Summer Meeting, with only three bursaries applied for (and awarded) this year
- overseeing the new SOTS Essay Prize administration, with 9 submissions in this inaugural year
- overseeing the applications of new members (see below)
- honouring those who have died since our last Summer gathering, and where possible sending condolences. Since my last report at the Summer 2024 meeting, the Society has been notified of the passing of several members:

We received belated notification of the following 4 deaths: Cynthia Engel (2022); James Kinner-Wilson (Dec 2022); Gillian Greenberg (Aug 2023); and Robert Paterson (June 2024). We also received the following 11 notifications during the course of the year: Norbert Lohfink (Sept 2024); Cheryl Exum (Nov 2024); Andrew MacIntosh (Dec 2024); Rex Mason (Feb 2025); Kenneth Kitchen (Feb 2025); Katherine White (Mar 2025); Leslie Allen (Apr 2025); David Payne (Apr 2025); Timothy Ashley (May 2025); Brian Mastin (May 2025); and Gordon Wenham (May 2025). In addition 2 honorary members died: Michael Fox (Jan 2025) and Walter Brueggemann (June 2025). In total this is 17 people. Of these, we note that Cheryl Exum was Society president in 2010, and Rex Mason was Society president in 1997. Condolences have been passed on, and the meeting paused to remember them with a moment's silence.

- *The Secretary noted that this was the 100th Summer Meeting of the Society.*

4.4 The Secretary for Honorary Members, Prof Susan Gillingham, submitted a report that was read in her absence:

I have been in regular touch with all the HMs, and most of them respond and keep in touch. Following the deaths (reported above) of Michael Fox and Walter Brueggemann, there are currently 14 members. See <https://www.sots.ac.uk/about-the-society/honorary-members/> The

following have no news to report but wanted to be remembered to the meeting: Professor Athalya Brenner-Idan (who is still learning to walk after her accident two years ago); Professor Bernhard Lang; Professor Carol Newsom; Professor Kirsten Nielsen; and Professor Bernd Schipper.

The following note for us their new publications:

- William Brown, *Sacred Tension: Embracing Dissonance and Dialogue in the Old Testament* (Upper Room: Nashville TN, 2025). Bill is still working on his OTL Psalms Commentary, hoping to submit the manuscript in 2026.
- Reinhard Kratz, *‘Väterliche Gesetze’ und das Gesetz des Mose* (Tria Corda 16), Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck 2024. Reinhard continues to lead the two projects at the Academy, namely the *Qumran Lexicon* and the *Edition of the Greek Psalter*.
- Christl Maier, *Jeremiah 1-25* (International Exegetical Commentary on the Old Testament), Stuttgart: Kohlhammer Verlag, 2025, which is the English version of *Jeremia 1-25* (Internationaler Exegetischer Kommentar Zum Alten Testament), Stuttgart: Kohlhammer Verlag, 2022.
- Ellen van Wolde, ‘What did Eve say? A Study of Genesis 4.1b’, *JSOT* 49/4 (2025) 435–448.
- *It was also noted that Reinhard Kratz was elected as an international fellow of the British Academy* (<https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/news/agm-welcomes-92-new-fellows-2025/>). (Alison Salvesen was also elected as an FBA at the same time).
- *The Secretary added that the Committee and the Secretary for Honorary Members were actively working to bring proposals for new Honorary Members to the Society, but had no names to present at this meeting. It was anticipated that 1 or 2 names would be brought at the next Winter Meeting.*

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

The total membership now stands at 484. We welcomed seven new ordinary members in September 2024 (three men and four women) and four in January 2025 one man and three women), and two new honorary members were elected. Sadly, however, I have to report seventeen deaths (four women and thirteen men). Nine members resigned, and two lapsed through non-payment of their subscription. Unfortunately a further nineteen members are at risk of lapsing through non-payment: they have not been recorded in the total as of this meeting.

I am happy (as a statistician manque) to report that this year my figures add up: the net loss of 15 members matches the reduction from 499 last year to 484 this year!³

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.

³ Last year’s total of 500 should have been 499 – there was a double entry in the master list which confused things. That has now been corrected.

The male/female ratio is 322M::162F, being 66.5% M and 33.5% F. This represents a modest improvement in the proportion of women this year (from 32.6 to 33.5%).

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 321 (66.3%) and the rest of the world 163 (33.7%).

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, 39 mailings were sent out since the last meeting.

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

DEATHS Sep 24 – Jul 25

[Note that the first four were only discovered retrospectively, and were therefore belatedly recorded.]

Engle, Cynthia, 2 Jul 22

Kinnier-Wilson, James V, 22-Dec-22

Greenberg, Gillian, 06-Aug-23

Paterson, Robert, 15-Jun-24

Lohfink, Norbert, 23-Sep-24

Exum, Chery, Nov-24

Macintosh, Andrew, 05-Dec-24

Mason, Rex, 17-Feb-25

Kitchen, Kenneth, 06-Feb-25

White, Katherine, 04-Mar-25

Allen, Leslie, 10-Apr-25

Payne, David, 25-Apr-25

Ashley, Timothy, 01-May-25

Mastin, Brian, 12-May-25

Wenham, Gordon, 13-May-25

HMs:

Fox, Michael, 12 Jan 25

Brueggeman, Walter, 5 Jun 25

4.6 The Book List Editor, Dr Samuel Hildebrandt, gave a brief version of his report, the full detail of which reads as follows:

The 2025 edition of the BL was published in June and covered around 250 items. As with the 2024 list, publishers sent books directly to reviewers which has again been an economic way of organising the dispatch process. Unfortunately, there was a significant oversight in the production process and the printed and online versions did not include indexes. SAGE has quickly responded and compiled the indexes and added them to the online versions. SOTS members will also receive them in PDF format in due course to supplement the print copies mailed out in June. The 2026 edition is in progress.

Mark Scarlata's Study Guide to *Exodus* as well as Julie Woods' Guide on *Jonah, Micah and Nahum* are posted on the Bloomsbury T&T Clark webpage with a pre-order option for 21 Aug 2025.

Some manuscripts are under review for SOTSMS and it is hoped that these can be produced by the end of 2025. The committee had some discussion about changing SOTSMS into a dissertation series and/or to set up a separate dissertation series. Since this would significantly change the character of the series, this would require a wider discussion with the membership. Moving forward, intentional advertisement (with support/led by CUP) and internal promotion among SOTS members and especially from SOTS doctoral supervisors to PhD candidates is recommended. Interested members may contact Anja Klein.

Archibald van Wieringen, the new editor of OTS, has agreed to the joint editing of the 2024 conference proceedings with Katharine Dell (then SOTS president). The production of the 2022 proceedings (edited by Hans Ausloos and Charlotte Hempel) has been completed and will be available through Brill 25 Sept 2025. It includes chapters by several SOTS members.

The question of how to access the SOTS Wiki for editing and transferring contents remains an urgent problem. David Firth has been in conversation with Suzanna Millar, the SOTS information officer, to pave a path forward. David has kindly agreed to continue the involvement with the Wiki during his forthcoming presidency.

The publications sub-committee has met online 29 Jan 2025 and convened during the SOTS 2025 summer meeting in Durham.

- *The publication during the year of the SOTS volume Understanding the Hebrew Bible (edited by John Barton and published by OUP) was noted and celebrated.*

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 thanked those in attendance, for coming to the Meeting. Some issues with the booking system (Event Durham) were noted, though it was also noted that these would not recur for SOTS in the near future, but feedback would be given to Event Durham for their own benefit. He reiterated that the practicalities of outsourcing conference booking through professional systems (such as Event Durham) were definitely the most promising route ahead for the Society, after experiencing the troubles of running booking through the SOTS webpage the year before. The Society will continue to seek the best way of arranging booking for its conferences that combines manageability with feasible workloads for committee members. The members of the Conference Team were also thanked for their service and practical help, and in particular the assistance of Janet Fyffe, Julie Woods and Rachel Lillycrop was noted.

- *Discussion reiterated the desirability of clear advance information and (for some) the usefulness of a downloadable and printable pdf of the programme. (The Secretary notes: the programme may easily be copied from the Society's website, and can then be printed by those who wish to have their own paper copy.)*

4.8 The Information Officer, Dr Suzanna Millar, gave a brief version of her report, the full detail of which reads as follows:

This year, I did not make any major changes to the website, but undertook its routine maintenance, including uploading and updating information where appropriate. In collaboration with the archive at Bangor, I uploaded the back catalogue of Book Lists, most of which are now available online. The one exception is the 1938 list, which we cannot locate (if any member knows where to find a copy, I would be grateful to hear of it).

I was also responsible for the technical administration of the online winter meeting in January 2025. This was a successful one-day conference held on zoom, involving three short papers, a panel discussion, and a closing lecture. The lecture was recorded and is available on the SOTS YouTube channel and website.

This year, I was not involved in running the online booking system for the summer meeting, which instead was outsourced to Event Durham.

- *Discussion again requested easily downloadable information for conferences. It was also noted that the Society's Facebook account remains active with notifications of members' publications currently being a feature. The page is currently moderated by Heather McKay, to whom thanks were offered.*

4.9 The EDI Rep, Dr Holly Morse, submitted a report that was read in her absence:

I have spent the first year in post reviewing existing work that has taken place to identify potential areas for development by the Society in relation to EDI. In addition to the SOTS survey and meeting with colleagues in equivalent/related roles in other learned Societies such as BNTS and SST. I am now seeking to set up an EDI working group to deliberate on my initial findings and to identify potential actions to present to the Society at the Winter meeting. Initially, I anticipate holding 2-3 meetings online of the working group, with a clear aim of identifying a maximum of 2 actions. Members are all welcome to be in touch with me if they would be interested in being a part of the working group. Please contact me via email initially: holly.morse@manchester.ac.uk

In addition to this update, I would also like to share the following update from the Race and Class in UK Religious Studies and Theology project:

The project is now well underway.

- Information about the project and its goals is available from our website: <https://abdn.ac.uk/racrest>
- A form on the website allows people to sign up to join our mailing list and/or our Staff & Student Reference Group, which will meet twice a year to receive project updates and offer feedback.
- In September and December we'll be running online workshops aimed at discussing participants' experiences of how race and class functions in the UK TRS academy, which we will use to inform the design of a subsequent survey. We'll be circulating details of those to our mailing list, to subject association representatives, and to subject contacts at different universities. Anyone interested can join our mailing list to make sure they are among the first to hear.

4.9a [RB notes: Dr Holly Morse is also SOTS' TRS-UK rep, and adds the following additional report:]

On 27 June I attended TRS UK meeting follow up one year after their day conference in June 2024; discussion included building solidarity in our subject area. In particular focus was given to a Report shared earlier this year with the British Academy TRS Section, as well as discussing preparations for REF2029 and responses to specific challenges facing TRS colleagues at a number of institutions.

At this stage, the TRS UK report prepared for this meeting is available on request only, please email me directly (holly.morse@manchester.ac.uk)

Further research will be forthcoming later in the year.

Members of the committee were also signposted to findings presented in Prof John Barclay's (former president of TRS UK) article on the "[Can smaller subjects thrive when small is no longer beautiful? Reflections from Theology and Religious Studies](#)".

At the time of the TRS UK meeting there were two vacancies coming up for nomination in December 2025: President and Secretary. Please contact either Opinderjit (O.Takhar@wlv.ac.uk) or Russell Re Manning (rrm24@cam.ac.uk) with informal enquiries.

4.10 The PG/ECR Rep, Mr Kengoro Goto, gave a brief version of his report, the full detail of which reads as follows:

I took up the role in January 2025. Since then, particular attention has been given to the following matters:

- the compilation of a list of postgraduate and early career members as a starting point— currently including 16 members, with the intention of expanding this to include all eligible individuals.
- the organisation of a session during the Summer Meeting to provide postgraduate and early career members with the opportunity to present short papers on their research projects and to receive feedback from other members.
- the proposal to establish a dedicated Slack workspace for postgraduate and early career members of the Society, aimed at enhancing communication, collaboration, and timely information sharing. This will help the Representative more effectively relay their perspectives to the SOTS committee. [*The Secretary adds: this was approved by the Committee at its meeting earlier in the week.*]

I am keen to receive feedback and suggestions regarding further support for postgraduate and early career members.

- *A clarification was given in response to a question: the Society operates with a definition of 'Early Career Researcher' which is that the person is within 5 years of the successful completion of their Doctoral Viva.*
- *The Meeting's EC/PGR session was warmly welcomed, with a request given to consider the timings of such papers and whether longer papers in this session would be desirable. The Programme Sub-Committee will consider this.*

4.10 The Archivist, Prof Eryl Davies, was not able to be present, and had noted that there is nothing to report from the archive on this occasion.

5. Proposals for New Members

The following nine people were proposed and elected into membership of the Society: Ms Hannah Bash, Mr John Dawson, Dr George Heath-Whyte, Professor Aaron Koller, Rabbi Natasha Mann, Revd Dr Aboseh Ngwana, Mr J. Alberto Paredes, Mr Ivan Petrovski, and Dr Fabien Troivaux.

6. Nominations

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

1. President (for 2027-28) – Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer
2. Secretary – Zoltan Schwab
3. General Committee Post – Deborah Kahn-Harris
4. Arts and Humanities Alliance Rep – Elizabeth Hare

A further call was made for expressions of interest for the role hitherto described as ‘Social Media Rep’, noting the possibility of setting up a working party to look at what the role might involve.

All those accepted would take up the relevant term of office on Jan 1st 2026 (except where otherwise noted).

In addition:

1. Programme Subcommittee – it was agreed that the EDI Rep (currently Holly Morse and a member of this Subcommittee) would henceforth be on the Programme Subcommittee *ex officio*.
2. Publications Sub-Committee – no new member was needed.

It was noted that proposals for new Honorary Members were anticipated in the near future.

7. Proposals and Items of Interest

7.1 Proposal for a Society Medal

A revised 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. The Presidency has a public and administrative aspect and some leadership functions, and is not simply honorific; honorary membership is limited to those domiciled outside the British Isles. Some other learned societies have awards that recognize the contribution of individuals to a scholarly society or to the flourishing of a discipline. It is proposed, therefore, that the Society have a medal that could be awarded to ‘those who have made a sustained and substantial contribution to the Society and/or the flourishing of the academic study of the Old Testament within the British Isles’.

- It is not envisaged that the award of the Medal would be a regular occurrence, but an occasional award to recognize an exceptional contribution. No more than two medals would be awarded per annum.
- Nominations could be received from any member of the society with a form similar to that used for the presidency and honorary members.
- Nominees must have been a member of the society for no less than 10 years.

- Nominations could be made for (i) sustained and substantial service to the society, (ii) exceptional support of junior scholars, or (iii) promotion of the study of the Old Testament to the public at large.

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.

- *After brief discussion the proposal was accepted. The President invited anyone with expertise in medal design or manufacture to get in touch to assist in developing the actual medal.*

7.2 SOTS Essay Prize

It was noted that the Secretary had received 9 submissions for the inaugural revised SOTS Essay Prize – the deadline having been the beginning of the present Summer Meeting. One or two small adjustments to the process were desirable in light of the experience of receiving submissions (such as requiring anonymous submission – the Publications Subcommittee would be revising the rubric slightly in light of this). All 9 met the criteria. The President and others would now constitute a review process to determine a winning entry by the time of the next Winter Meeting.

8. Any Other Business

A question was asked about whether the meeting had lower numbers than was usual, and what could be done about this. The numbers were indeed slightly lower, though not excessively so. Members were encouraged to continue to encourage others to attend meetings.

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 2026 – Online 1-day event – Thurs 8th January 2026

Summer 2026 – a late problem with the anticipated venue meant that a venue was still being sought for this meeting. It was hoped that it would be in the 3rd week of July 2026, but details would be announced as soon as they were available.

There being no further business, the President declared the Business Meeting closed at 1.17pm.

Signed:

Date: