



CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

British Catholic History

Reg'd Charity no. 313529

www.crs.org.uk

Annual Reports 2021-2022

&

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2022

Secretarial Address
(for general correspondence):

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Membership Secretary
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Dr Carmen M. Mangion
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From the Chair of Council

A year ago, my predecessor Professor Bill Sheils noted that once again the Catholic Record Society was not able to meet in-person for its annual Conference and the AGM. July 2022 finds us experimenting with a hybrid conference and AGM, with some delegates gathering at the Bar Convent in York and others participating online. Experimentation and adaptation, along with gratitude, are very much the themes of this report from my first few months as Chair of Council, which begins with formal thanks to Bill for his wisdom and calmness as Chair during the exceptional years between 2019 and 2021.

With the expert guidance of Dr Helen Kilburn, our new Conference Director, the Society has bought new equipment to stream and video the 2022 Conference and any future Day Conferences we may host. We are aiming for a genuinely blended experience to build on what was achieved last year in making the Conference more accessible and international. As last year, Helen has worked hard not only to put together an exciting Conference programme but to think through the ways it can work well for those in the room in York and those in their own rooms at home. We will be learning as we develop, but I want to record here my thanks to Helen for leading the Society on this new and exciting path.

Change is proceeding rapidly, too, in the world of journal and book publishing. Members will have received their copies of Volume 89 in the CRS Record Series: Philip Perry's *Essay on the Life and Manners of Robert Grosseteste*, edited by Jack P. Cunningham. This volume represents the first to be overseen by our Series Editor, Dr Paul Arblaster, with a flow of forthcoming volumes now firmly in the pipeline. The volumes represent an important continuity of our work since 1904, now adapting to new technologies and expectations. Future volumes (and the recent backlist) will be soon be available via print-on-demand and as e-books published by Boydell & Brewer for individual and library purchase; members will continue to receive hard copies.

Likewise, the transformation of academic publishing means that Cambridge University Press is moving all its journals towards Open Access publishing. In this model, as some of you will know, the funding comes not from sales but from authors and their institutions. It is a complicated business for all humanities publishing, and particularly for a learned society such as CRS which encourages and values the work of authors from within and outwith academic institutions. It is our intention to sustain this mix, and we are grateful for the thoughtful advice and leadership generously given by Dr Katy Gibbons, the Editor of *British Catholic History*, with the support of the Editorial Board. In the coming year we expect to appoint an Editorial Assistant to help Katy in the vital work that she does for the Society.

As archives begin to re-open and researchers to return (albeit tentatively) it has been heartening to see the resumption of applications for CRS research grants this year. Please continue to make use of these modest funds and to draw them to the attention

of younger scholars who might benefit. Our own CRS archives have been the subject of attention; we have now moved them from Downside Abbey to a new temporary home within the Bar Convent Archives in York. Sorting and cataloguing have begun, and we are indebted to Judith Smeaton for the firm and expert grip she has kept through many a challenge—including removal van shortages at the crucial moment—and to Dr Hannah Thomas at the Bar Convent for her generous support and involvement.

Throughout all these adaptations and developments the Society has been able to plan and to take the necessary action because of the healthy state of our finances, which continue to be looked after with quiet dedication by our Treasurer, Patrick Powell, along with the Custodial Trustees. We are very fortunate to have a Treasurer who keeps his questions to the point: “What do you want to do and why?”; “How much will it cost?”; “Is that good value for money?” It makes an enormous difference.

Dr Carmen Mangion has succeeded me as Membership Secretary, and in February she took on the task of compiling and sending out a CRS Newsletter; we anticipate a post-Conference newsletter being circulated in late summer or early autumn. We want to be able to continue to disseminate members’ work in this way as well as through social media, so please do send items for inclusion to Carmen at *membership@crs.org.uk*.

As of 1 July 2022, the number of individuals following the CRS Facebook page had reached 600, a helpful reminder that there are many people interested in the Catholic history of this island and its connections further afield. Through your commitment to the Society as members and as researchers and communicators it becomes possible to reach into this wider constituency. The potential for doing more in this way, making use of the website as well as social media, is a high priority for Council during 2022 and 2023.

Finally, we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr Serenhedd James, who in addition to his role as Secretary of the CRS has supported the website and the Facebook page over the past few years. Serenhedd gave us a year’s notice that he would retire as Secretary at the AGM, which makes this the ideal moment for me to thank him formally on your behalf for all he has given the Society. His particular ability to combine good humour, kindness, and wit with attention to the details of our Constitutions, the Charity Commission, and Council business has been greatly appreciated. We thank him, and wish him well.

Whether you are able to join the AGM in person, online, or are simply through reading this Annual Report to catch up with the latest news, be assured that your continuing friendship and support of the Catholic Record Society is greatly valued.

Susan O’Brien
chair@crs.org.uk

Annual Report 2021-2022

1. Membership of Council

- a. The Society's Honorary Officers were confirmed in their offices, and Professor Judith Champ, Fr Peter Harris, Dr Peter Nockles, and Dr Maria Power elected to Council at the AGM 2021 (Minutes, Item 5).
- b. Dr Helen Kilburn is now Conference Director.
- c. Dr James now sits on the Awards Committee; he will retire as Hon. Secretary of the Society at the AGM.

2. Financial Report

At March 2022 the Society held liquid assets of £45,450 (2021: £49,977) and invested assets of £718,050 (2021: £643,242) including the capital donated and restricted to the purpose of the Society's research funds. Members may obtain a copy of the full accounts from the Honorary Treasurer, Patrick Powell, to whom questions may also be addressed: treasurer@crs.org.uk.

3. Membership Report

- a. The membership of the Society at 30 June 2022 comprised 195 individual members in Britain and Ireland, 28 international individual members, and 20 religious houses and small libraries.
- b. The following have joined (or rejoined) the Society: Dr Mary Brooks (UK); Mel Eyeons (UK), Dennis Flynn (USA); Dr Stephen Gregson (UK); Michael Shuter (UK); John Moissen (UK); Charles Molineaux (USA), Bryan Muller (UK); Amina Wright (UK); Oscott College Library (UK).
- c. The Society has noted with sadness the deaths of Professor Rosemary Mitchell, the Revd B. Taylor, and Mr Tim McCann. *Jesu mercy; Mary pray.*

4. Editorial Reports

Volumes

Jack Cunningham's volume on Philip Perry's *Essay on the Life and Manners of Robert Grosseteste* was distributed to members. The next volume of *Little Malvern Letters*, and the volumes on the letters of Anne Percy and, those of Mother Magdalen Taylor remain in hand.

Journal

Jennifer Binczewski's article 'Power and Vulnerability: Widows and Priest-holes in the Early Modern English Catholic Community', published in *British Catholic History* in 2020, was awarded the Harold J. Grimm Best Essay Prize by the Sixteenth Century Society. The *British Catholic History* Best Article Prize was awarded to Gregory Tirenin for his article 'From Jacobite to Loyalist: The Career and Political Theology of Bishop George Hay'.

5. Research Funds

£842.60 was awarded to Dr Aidan Enright, to support his work on Charles Raleigh

Chichester and the English Catholic experience in Ireland, 1845-91; £360 to Helen Knight, to support her work on convent schools and the 1944 Education Act; and £1500 to Emma Wall, to support her work on the English and Welsh connections with San Savino Abbey, Piacenza.

6. Archives

The professional cataloguing of the Society's archives is now under way.

7. Thanks

The Society remains grateful all those whose generosity has ensured its smooth-running and ongoing success in the last year.

Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain sound. Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 have been drawn up by King Hope Chartered Accountants and independently examined. Copies of the full accounts are available by email.

Information/comments on incomings/outgoings

(a) The Society's incoming resources were made up as follows:

	2021	2022
Donations	1000	1000
Subscriptions	8419	8488
Investment income	9284	18,384
Conference income	(294)	-
Sales, royalties	2911	1673
	£21,320	£29,545

(b) The resources expended were:

Grants	5643	2703
Publications	4100	4906
Conferences	-	-
Management and admin.	5918	2923
Governance	2796	3116
	£18,457	£13,648

Total net resources were **£15,897** compared to £2863 for 2021; the increase was due to the recognition of potential dividend income. No dividends were paid

(c) The value of the Society's investments at 31 March 2022 stood at **£718,050**: an increase of £74,808 compared to 2021.

(d) Cash held at 31 March 2022 was **£45,540**: a decrease of £4628 compared to 2021.

Patrick Powell
treasurer@crs.org.uk

Minutes of the AGM of 2021

held online on Saturday 20 November 2021, at 11 a.m.

Present: Dr Jonathan Bush; Professor Judith Champ; Dr Geoffrey Chorley; Dr Peter Doyle; Dr Aidan Enright; Mr Lawrence Gregory; Dr James Hagerty; Fr Peter Harris; Mr Michael Hodgetts; Dr Scholastica Jacob; Dr Serenhedd James (Secretary); Dr Peter Nockles; Dr Susan O'Brien (Membership Secretary); Ms Johanna Strong; Dr Carmen Mangion; Dr Joanne Myers; Professor Bill Sheils (Chair of Council); Mrs Judith Smeaton; Dr Hannah Thomas (Conference Director); Dr Michael Walsh; Ms Háìghlèàgh Winslade.

The Chair of Council welcomed members to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies** had been received from the Abbot of Douai, Fra' Duncan Gallie, Mr Patrick Powell, Sir Simon Towneley, and Dr Margaret Turnham.
- 2. Minutes of the AGM 2020.** These were accepted as a true record; there were no further matters arising.
- 3. Annual Report 2020-21.** This was adopted *nem con*. It was noted that Canon Gerard Hetherington remained alive and well (*Item 3d*), for which *Deo gratias*.
- 4. Annual Accounts 2020-21.** These were adopted *nem con*.
- 5. Council.** Professor Judith Champ, Fr Peter Harris, Dr Peter Nockles, and Dr Maria Power were elected for a three-year term. The Chair recorded the Society's gratitude to Fr Stewart Foster for his service; the Secretary would write to the new Council members with the dates of forthcoming meetings.
- 6. AGM 2022.** In the ongoing national uncertainty the date and venue of the next AGM would be confirmed in due course.
- 7. AOB.** The Secretary proposed a Vote of Thanks to Professor Bill Sheils, the outgoing Chair of Council, who retired from office at the end of the meeting. This was warmly endorsed by the members in attendance.

The meeting ended at 11.07; an informal and congenial conversation took place afterwards.



*The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Record Society
will held at the Bar Convent, York, at 12 noon on Tuesday 12 July*

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** for absence *to be taken as read, having been submitted to the Secretary in advance.*
2. **Minutes of the 2021 AGM & Matters Arising**
3. **Adoption of the Annual Report 2021-22**
4. **Adoption of the Annual Accounts 2021-22**
5. **Council**

Dr Bush comes to the end of his first three-year term at the AGM, but does not intend to seek re-election. There is therefore one Council vacancy to be filled.
6. **Date and venue of AGM in 2023**
7. **Any Other Business** *to be submitted to the Secretary in advance.*

CRS Annual General Meeting 2022

The Bar Convent, York

Tuesday 12 July at 12 noon