



**CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY**

*British Catholic History*

Reg'd Charity no. 313529

*www.crs.org.uk*

**Annual Reports 2019-2020**

**&**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting 2020**

*Secretarial Address  
(for general correspondence):*

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## *From the Chair of Council*

This has been an interesting year in which to have served as Chair of Council and, as you will see from what follows, I am enormously grateful to my fellow Council members for all that has been done to advance the work of the Society across all its fields of endeavour.

Covid-19 has put extra pressure on what was already going to be a busy year, and the Society is fortunate to have Officers willing to give up their time so generously on our behalf. As the Hon. Secretary indicates, the affairs of the Society are in a healthy condition, and I have little to add to his report.

Our forthcoming *Rites of Durham* volume is a substantial tome with plenty of illustrative material, and should arrive later this year—it will be too big for most letterboxes. We are pleased with the collaboration with the Surtees Society on this volume, and especially glad to have a good friend of the CRS, Dr Margaret Harvey, as one of the co-editors.

Later this year we have arranged with Sacristy Press—with the agreement of Boydell & Brewer—to have copies of Dr Alana Harris's catalogue of John Ryan's *Tablet* and *Catholic Herald* cartoons from the 1960s distributed to CRS members. With luck this should provide you all with a nice stocking-filler in time for Christmas, as well as bringing back memories to members of my vintage of heady days in the life of the Church. To younger members it will stand as a valuable historical document, in the best tradition of our Records Series.

On more practical matters you will note that at the AGM I intend to propose, with the support of Council, that the Chair serve for a four-year term rather than be elected annually. Our view is that this will allow for more coherent forward planning in what are fast-moving times for scholarly societies such as ours. Unlike leaders elsewhere, I have no intention of seeking four more years, or for that matter to “make the CRS great again”—it already has that status!—but will be standing down as Chair in 2021.

I wish all our members well for 2021, and hope to see a good number at what already promises to be an excellent Annual Conference at the Bar Convent in July.

Bill Sheils

*chair@crs.org.uk*

**CRS Annual General Meeting 2020**

***Online – a link will be sent via email***

**Saturday 5 December at 11 a.m.**

## *From the Secretary*

I hope that this finds our members and their families well. It has been a remarkable year, and one which continues to present many challenges. At the time of the AGM in 2019 there were many exciting things to which to look forward in the Society's life, all of which fell victim to the national lockdown in response to Covid-19.

The cancellation of the Annual Conference was a painful decision for Council to have to make, particularly after the success of the move to York in 2019. Nevertheless, events soon demonstrated that it had been the right course of action. The Bar Convent has already been booked for next year, so do make a note of the dates: 19-21 July 2021.

It has not been all doom and gloom, however; behind the scenes the business of the Society has continued. The Treasurer reports that the Society's finances remain on a solid footing, and we have been able to make more than the usual awards to support research in our field.

Under the watchful eye of Dr Katy Gibbons *British Catholic History* has weathered the storm; the May edition initially appeared only online, but by now all print copies should have been delivered, and the October edition appeared as usual. Meanwhile, Dr Susan O'Brien has shepherded in a steady stream of new members to swell our ranks, and the Society's newsletter has kept members in touch with various developments.

The news that the monastic community at Downside is making plans to leave the Abbey has understandably caused concern. The CRS's archives are deposited in the Library there, and Council had just commissioned a project to have our papers fully catalogued when the pandemic struck. Be assured that we have the archives very much in mind, and that there is no immediate threat to their future.

The Society retains an obligation to demonstrate to the Charity Commission that it has taken all reasonable steps to ensure its ongoing good governance. As the Honorary Officer responsible for that aspect of our business, I sought formal advice about this year's AGM from the Custodial Trustees, who duly recommended that it take place online. Accordingly, we will now meet online on the morning of Saturday 5 December, at 11 a.m. Council is conscious that some members may not have access to this sort of technology, but it is the best that can be done under the circumstances.

A link for the meeting will be circulated in due course, but please regard this as the statutory thirty days' notice of the 2020 AGM (from 19 October 2020), which I am required to give under the Society's Constitution (2007), item 10a: "General Meetings". The Agenda appears on page 11; do join us if you are able, and please note that for the smooth-running of proceedings I must have Apologies, Matters Arising, and Any Other Business in advance.

Serenhedd James  
*secretary@crs.org.uk*

## *Annual Report 2019-2020*

### *1. Membership of Council.*

- a. Dr Jonathan Bush and Dr Carmen Mangion were elected to Council at the AGM.
- b. Professor Sheils was elected Chair of Council immediately after the AGM; this was ratified at the meeting of Council on 16 October 2019.
- c. Dr James has stepped down as Conference Secretary, but remains Honorary Secretary to the Society, and Development Officer.

### *2. Financial Report.*

As at 31 March 2020 the Society held liquid assets of £45,292 (2019: £50,853) and invested assets of £521,468 (2019: £519,871), 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 Hon. Treasurer, to whom questions may also be addressed: [treasurer@crs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@crs.org.uk).

### *3. Membership Report*

- a. The membership of the Society at 31 July 2020 was comprised of 203 individual members in the British Isles, 25 international individual members, and 21 religious houses and small libraries in the British Isles.
- b. The following have joined (or rejoined) the Society: Paul Allen; Wendy Brogan; Dr Aidan Enright; Christopher Graffius; the Revd Robert Hayes; Gill Hogarth; the Revd Daniel Lloyd; the Revd Dr Thomas McCoog (USA); John T. Massey (USA); Linda Ransom; the Revd Anthony Pellegrini; Maureen Pickering; Dr Martin Stone; the Revd John Tabor; Sr Mary Treacy SMA; the Revd Christopher Vipers; Hài gh là è gh Winslade; Stephen Withnell; Lambeth Palace Library.
- c. Resignations were received from Professor Edward Chaney; the Revd Andrew Foster; Yukari Mori (Japan); Sr Dominic Savio CP.
- d. The Society noted with sadness the deaths of the Revd Jerome Bertram CO; Dr J. R. Robinson; the Rt Revd Daniel Mullins; Richard Williams. *Jesu mercy; Mary pray.*
- e. Communication.
  - i. The new email address—[membership@crs.org.uk](mailto:membership@crs.org.uk)—through which membership business is now transacted, seems to be working well. More than 80% of CRS members have now provided an email address for ease of communication.
  - ii. Newsletters were sent out by email in April and July, and by post to those members who do not have an email address or have not provided one.

f. Subscriptions. During the year two new methods of payment—direct bank transfer and Paypal—were added to the existing standing order and cheque methods. 10 members have so far opted to pay by Paypal, which has been particularly welcomed by international members who do not have to pay fees and charges using this method. The payment situation has improved in the last year, with more members switching to standing orders as well as to Paypal and direct transfer. In keeping with the CRS data-protection policy Paypal invoices and direct transfers are managed by the Membership Secretary to keep use of data to a minimum.

g. In July the CRS “Members Only” section of the website went live; members were informed of the development in the Summer Newsletter. Online access to current and back copies of the Society’s journal is available through this part of the website. The Membership Secretary administers the system by which members gain access to the members’ only section. 40 members requested admission in the first 3 weeks.

h. Cambridge University Press is introducing a new system for the distribution of CUP journals, which requires a transfer of members’ name and addresses into a new spreadsheet. This internal administrative matter—which is intended to improve the accuracy of CUP’s response to missing issues and issues for new members—was held up by the impact of COVID-19. It is hoped that the new system will be in place before the distribution of the next issue of *British Catholic History*.

#### 4. *Editorial Report.*

##### *Volumes*

The joint volume with the Surtees Society on the Rites of Durham has gone to press, and will be with members in due course. The next volume of *Little Malvern Letters* remains in hand; it has been joined by a volume on the letters of Anne Percy, and another on Philip Perry’s work on Robert Grosseteste.

##### *Journal*

The pandemic has, as with other aspects of life, impacted on some aspects of activity relating to *British Catholic History*. Cambridge University Press paused all hard-copy printing at the height of the pandemic; this was later resumed, so hard copies of the May 2020 edition were subsequently produced.

During the first half of 2020 a limited number of new articles were submitted, and the conditions under which authors, reviewers, and members of the editorial board were working understandably meant that the usual process of peer review, resubmission &c, could be more protracted.

Similar issues mean that the October 2020 edition, which will soon be available, is shorter than usual. The submission of articles has picked up in recent months, however, so subsequent issues should return to a more substantial length. Thanks are due to CUP for its flexibility and support in these difficult times.

The new CRS prize for an article will be awarded for the first time in 2020; details will follow.

## 5. *Research Funds*

The Society has made seven awards to researchers covering the full chronological range of its subject, and a wide geographical area.

- i. For a study of the writings of Augustine Baker OSB, towards a biography of this important 17th-century scholar of late medieval spirituality.
- ii. For research in the Pisa diocesan archives, as part of a study of matrimonial and sexual-abuse cases involving British women in the Mediterranean regions in the early modern period.
- iii. For a study of the publications of the Holyrood Press 1686-1688, established by James VII & II to support his policies.
- iv. For an assessment of the role of the Duchess of Kendal in early Georgian Catholicism.
- v. For research towards a compilation of statistical sources for Scottish Catholicism since 1880.
- vi. For assistance with the referencing and publication of a historic guide to St Elizabeth's Church, Scarisbrick—an important Pugin building.
- vii. For research at Leuven as part of a study of the film archive of British and Irish Female Religious Communities, at home and on the missions since 1945.

£5643 has been allocated to these projects, a little more than is usual. In this pandemic-affected year some of the awards were made to cover unexpected expenses, which arose from the disruption to planned research as archives and libraries closed. As usual, most of the recipients are scholars in the early stages of their careers, but it was especially good to be able to assist a local group working on the history of their parish church.

Professor Alison Shell has declared her intention to resign from the Awards Committee; Council thanks her for her advice and support over recent years. An appropriate replacement will be sought in due course.

## 6. *Thanks*

The Society remains grateful to the Jesuit Fathers of Mount St, London, for providing rooms for its Committee and Council meetings.

## ***Treasurer's Report 2019-2020***

I am pleased to report that the Society's finances remain sound, as demonstrated by the figures set out below. Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 have been drawn up by King Hope Chartered Accountants and independently examined. Copies of the full accounts are available by email upon request.

### **Information/comments on incomings/outgoings**

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

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Donations	2885	2000
Subscriptions	7644	9506
Investment income	17127	17948
Conference income	9036	4035
Sales, royalties	3983	3445
	<b>£40,675</b>	<b>£36,934</b>

(b) The resources expended were:

Grants	4212	2677
Publications	1781	1926
Conferences	11589	5137
Management and admin.	2591	4798
Governance	4635	4243
	<b>£24,808</b>	<b>£18,781</b>

Total net resources were **£18,153** compared to £15,867 for 2019. The main reason for this increase was a reduction in costs.

(c) The value of the Society's investments at 31 March 2020 stood at **£521,468**: an increase of £1,597 compared to 2019.

(d) Cash held at 31 March 2020 was **£45,292**: a decrease of £5,591 compared to 2019.

Patrick Powell  
*treasurer@crs.org.uk*

## *Minutes of the AGM of 2019*

*held at The Bar Convent, York, on 9 July*

1. Bp Hudson took the chair; 37 members were present. Apologies had been received from Dr Bush, Professor Champ, Dr Corens, Fr Foster, Dr Gibbons, Dr Gilley, Fr Harris, Dr Hagerty, Canon Harding, Mr Hodgetts, Sr Christina Kenworthy-Browne CJ, Dr Mangion, Dr Mercer, Sr Magdalen O'Neill IBVM, Fr Phillips, Mr Powell, Abbot Scott, Dr Thomas, Mr Turner, and Professor Whitehead.

2. The *Minutes* of the 2018 AGM were accepted.

3. The *Annual Report 2018-19* was presented. Item 6d required correction: the potential collaboration on publication of 17<sup>th</sup>-century papers from the English College in Brussels was with the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto, and not with Toronto University Press. The amended Report was adopted on the motion of Mrs Smeaton, seconded by Fra' Duncan Gallie.

4. The *Treasurer* had sent his apologies to the meetings; but full accounts had been made available, and Mr Powell had invited questions in writing. Mr Fenwick asked about the financial details relating to the Society's publishing arrangements with Cambridge University Press and Boydell & Brewer. Prof Sheils noted that Council was kept regularly updated on the matter. The Secretary referred Mr Fenwick to the Treasurer for further details.

### *a. Adoption of the annual accounts 2018-19*

The accounts were adopted for submission to the Charity Commission on the motion of Professor Sheils, seconded by Fra' Duncan Gallie.

## *5. Editors' Reports*

### *a. Volumes Editor*

Dr Arblaster referred members to the *Annual Report*, item 6i. After a dry spell in the submission of suitable proposals for volumes, there was now a queue of projects for the coming years, including material from the 16th, 18th and 19th centuries. The *Little Malvern Letters* ran into delays but was now expected to be ready to send to the publisher by the end of 2019; while a collaboration had been agreed with the Surtees Society, for joint publication of *The Rites of Durham*. A similar collaboration was being explored with the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, Toronto, for publication of 17th-century papers from the English Convent in Brussels.

### *b. Journal Editor*

Dr Gibbons had sent her apologies to the meeting. The Secretary referred members to the *Annual Report*, item 6ii. *British Catholic History* continued to receive a good number of articles with a wide chronological range; the next



edition (34:4) would appear in print in October 2019. Most members of the journal's editorial board – representing some of the leading scholars in the field – were reaching the end of their first term of service, and the Editor intended to invite them to serve a further term. The Secretary invited members to contact Dr Gibbons with any outstanding questions.

## 6. *Elections*

Two names had been put forward to fill two vacancies on Council. Dr Jonathan Bush was proposed by Mrs Smeaton and seconded by Dr O'Brien; and Dr Carmen Mangion was proposed by Dr Doyle and seconded by Dr O'Brien. Both were elected *nem con* to serve a three-year term.

## 7. *Awards Committee Report*

Professor Sheils reported that Council had approved the following:

- £1000 to Jennifer Bincewski, Instructor at Washington State University, in partial support of an extended research trip in the UK to work on a book on widows in the Catholic community in early-modern England.
- £487 to Mark Shearwood, PhD student at Leeds University, to support a one-week research trip to examine archives in the Isle of Wight where 2000 Catholic soldiers were interned in 1689, having fought for James II, before being deported to the Habsburg Empire.
- £1190 to Dr Jack Cunningham, Bishop Grosseteste University, to support a fortnight's research trip to Maynooth to examine the records of the Irish College at Salamanca, as part of a proposal to write a history of that college.

He hoped that some of this research might be presented at the next conference. The meeting noted the awards, and thanked the committee for its report.

## 8. *Development Officer*

Dr James referred the meeting to the *Annual Report*, item 9. The Society's engagement with other societies has increased, and a partnership with the Centre for Catholic Studies had been established – the Society had co-sponsored its early-career Conference at Durham in June 2019. It was hoped to co-sponsor a University of Notre Dame history lecture in London in the near future, and also to host a joint event with the Scottish Catholic History Association. It remained to be seen how successful the various initiatives for promoting the Society would be. Dr Rowlands mentioned contacts with Local and Regional Catholic History Societies; Dr James observed that while this was planned for the future the complications of contacting individual secretaries and securing addresses, etc, made this difficult. Responding to Mr Fenwick, Dr James confirmed that contact had been made with a number of local Catholic history societies, but that partnerships with major institutions needed to be a priority. Dr Kilburn suggested contacting the American societies; Dr James would take this forward.

## 9. Website

The new website was now up and running, and had been presented to delegates immediately before the AGM.

## 10. Date and venue of annual conference and AGM in 2020

The general mood of the meeting was that the next conference and the 2020 AGM should take place at the Bar Convent in the last fortnight of July 2020, avoiding weekends, depending on availability, and bearing in mind other conferences in an effort to avoid clashes. Council would take this forward.

## 11. AOB

The Secretary read a communication from Professor Maurice Whitehead, sending greetings to the AGM and requesting donations of pertinent books to the research library at the Venerable English College, Rome. The President alerted the meeting to the work of the *Fondation Catholique Anglaise*, which offers burses for English and Welsh Catholic students seeking to study at *L'Institut Catholique*, Paris.

## 12. Thanks

The President thanked the Sisters at the Bar Convent for welcoming the Society to their home; and the organisers of the conference: Mrs Smeaton, Professor Sheils, and Dr James. He also led the meeting in sending its thanks to Professor Champ for her leadership as Chair of Council, and its best wishes for a speedy recovery. The Secretary thanked Bp Hudson for his ongoing support of the Society, and also the delegates for their attendance at and engagement with the conference.

The meeting closed at 13.05.

**The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Record Society  
will be conducted online on Saturday 5 December at 11 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies** for absence *to be taken as read, having been submitted to the Secretary.*

2. **Amendment of Constitution**

*The Secretary has received the necessary notice as laid out under Section 14(a) of the CRS Constitution (2007), “Amendment of Constitution”. This business requires a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, under Section 14(b) of the Constitution.*

a. The Chair of Council will propose Section 10 of the Constitution, “General Meetings”, be amended by the addition below.

*10 (e). Any business of the Society that would normally be conducted by some or all of the membership meeting in person may also be conducted by means of remote electronic communication, subject to such conditions (including conditions as to voting) as the Council may determine, in consultation with the Custodial Trustees.*

*Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Dr Doyle*

b. The Chair of Council will propose that Section 3 of the Constitution, “Management”, be amended as below, with effect from the AGM 2021.

*3 (b). The Council shall elect one of their number as Chairman of the Council ~~annually~~ **for a term of four years at the first meeting of the Council after the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) after the office has fallen vacant.***

*Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Mrs Smeaton*

3. **Minutes of the 2019 AGM & Matters Arising**

*Any matters arising to be submitted to the Secretary in advance.*

4. **Adoption of the Annual Report 2019-20**

*Proposer: Mrs Smeaton; Seconder: Mr Powell*

5. **Adoption of the Annual Accounts 2019-20**

*Proposer: Mr Powell; Seconder: Dr James*

6. **Council**

The Chair of Council will propose—under Section 4 of the Constitution, “Election of Council”—that all Honorary Officers be confirmed in office until the AGM 2021.

*Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Dr Doyle*

7. **Date and venue of AGM in 2021:** *20 July 2021 at The Bar Convent, York.*

8. **Any other business** *to be submitted to the Secretary in advance.*

## **Patrons**

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster  
The Most Revd the Archbishop of Birmingham  
The Most Revd the Archbishop of Cardiff  
The Most Revd the Archbishop of Liverpool  
The Most Revd the Archbishop of Southwark

## **President**

The Rt Revd Mgr Nicholas Hudson,  
Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Westminster

## **Vice Presidents**

Lord Mark Fitzalan Howard OBE  
Professor V. Alan McClelland  
The Rt Revd Geoffrey Scott, OSB  
Michael Hodgetts, Esq

## **Custodial Trustees**

Dr Peter Doyle  
Alexander Fitzalan Howard, Esq  
Simon Jamieson, Esq  
Mrs Judith Smeaton

## **Members of Council**

- \* Honorary Officer of the Society
- \*Dr Paul Arblaster, *Volumes Editor*  
Dr Jonathan Bush (2019)  
Fr Stewart Foster (2018)
- \*Dr Katy Gibbons, *Journal Editor*  
Fr Peter Harris (2018)
- \*Dr Serenhedd James, *Honorary Secretary  
& Development Officer*  
Dr Carmen Mangion (2019)  
Dr Peter Nockles (2017)
- \*Dr Susan O'Brien, *Membership Secretary*
- \*Patrick Powell, Esq, *Honorary Treasurer*
- \*Professor Bill Sheils, *Chair* (2017)
- \*Dr Hannah Thomas, *Conference Director*