



CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY
(Regd. Charity No. 313529)

Annual Report 2017–2018
&
Notice of Annual General Meeting 2018

Secretarial Address
(for general correspondence):

Dr Serenhedd James
Oriol College, Oxford, OX1 4EW
serenhedd.james@theology.ox.ac.uk

Membership Secretary
(for correspondence on subscriptions, changes of address &c):

Dr Susan O'Brien
membership@catholicrecordsociety.co.uk

www.catholicrecordsociety.co.uk

Patrons

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

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Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Westminster

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Michael Hodgetts, Esq

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Elected Members of Council

Dr Paul Arblaster, *Volumes Editor**
Professor Judith Champ, DSS, *Chair*
Dr Peter Doyle
Dr Katy Gibbons, *Journal Editor**
Dr Serenhedd James, *Honorary Secretary**
& Conference Secretary
Dr Peter Nockles
Dr Susan O'Brien, *Membership Secretary**
Patrick Powell, Esq, *Honorary Treasurer**
Professor Bill Sheils
Mrs Judith Smeaton
George Sutton, Esq
Dr Hannah Thomas, *Conference Director**

* Honorary Officer of the Society

1. *Membership of Council.*

- a. Following the last AGM, Professor Judith Champ DSS was elected by Council as Chair of the Society.
- b. Following the resignation of Dr James Kelly and Dr Liesbeth Corens as Hon. Secretary and Membership Secretary, the Council appointed Dr Serenhedd James and Dr Susan O'Brien as their respective replacements.
- c. Dr Kelly's resignation and Dr James's subsequent appointment to the Secretaryship has created two vacancies on Council.

2. *Annual Conference.*

The Society held its annual conference at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, in July 2017. The 2018 conference is being held from Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 July at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge.

3. *York History Day.*

The Society was delighted to co-sponsor the History Day at the Bar Convent, York, on Saturday 18 June 2018.

4. *Financial Report.*

- a. As at 31 March 2018 the Society held liquid assets of £15,757 (2017: £37,057) and invested assets of £481,849 (2017: £473,402), including the capital donated to and restricted to the purposes of the Society's research funds. The small increase in assets reflects strong financial markets reduced by increased expenditure in the year. The fully audited accounts for the financial year 2017/18 will be available at the start of the Annual Conference and will be proposed for adoption at the AGM. Members not attending the conference may obtain a copy from the Hon. Treasurer.
- b. The Society is most grateful to members who subscribe by banker's order which saves substantial sums in ever-increasing postal charges. Similarly, valuable revenue accrues to the Society when UK members take advantage of the Gift Aid Scheme, which allows income tax to be recovered on their subscriptions. To join the scheme it is necessary only to inform the Hon. Membership Secretary: 'I wish the CRS to treat as Gift Aid donations my annual subscription and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise.' A bequest can be made as follows: 'I give to the Catholic Record Society, Registered Charity No. 313529, the sum of £____ free of all duties payable on my death and I declare that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or other proper officer of the Society for the time being shall be a sufficient discharge for the same.'

5. *Membership Report.*

- a. On 1 April 2018 the membership of the Society was comprised of 220 individual members in the British Isles, 40 international individual members, and 18 religious houses in the British Isles.

- b. The following have joined the Society: Reverend Paul Keane, Oscott; Fr Sebastian Mary Jones CongOrat, Cardiff; Yakari Mori, Aichi, Japan; and Dr Neil Young, Leicester.
- c. The Society notes with sadness the recent deaths of Professor Ron Taylor, Dr Ian Doyle, John Tobias, and Philip Harris.
- d. There have been 4 resignations from the Society (all UK).
- e. There continues to be positive liaison between the Society, Cambridge University Press, and Boydell & Brewer in order to ensure that individual membership and distribution lists are accurate. The Membership Secretary is grateful to both publishers for their generous assistance.

6. *Editorial Report.*

Volumes

- a. *The Chronicles of Nazareth (The English Convent) Bruges 1629-1793*, edited by Caroline Bowden, has been issued as Records Series volume No. 87.
- b. *Little Malvern Letters* is expected to be ready for publication by the end of the year.
- c. All back volumes have all now been digitized, and will be available online in due course. A presentation outlining this development will be given during the conference on the afternoon of 24 July.

Journal

- a. The latest edition of *British Catholic History* 34, 2 (October 2018) is already with the publishers; and work for the next edition is ongoing.
- b. Cambridge University Press reports a positive outlook overall with regard to subscriptions in what is a very competitive market.

8. *The Society's Research Funds.*

- a. As reported at the 2017 AGM (see below) one award from the Michael Williams Fund and two from the David Rogers Research Fund for travel and subsistence expenses in 2017/18 were approved by Council.
- b. The CRS PhD Scholarship was awarded to Helen Kilburn.
- c. The Society's awards are based entirely on the quality of the intended research and are made without regard to gender, race, religion or status, and are not dependent on membership of the Society. The application form will be found on the Society's website.

9. *Thanks*

The Society remains very grateful to the Jesuit Fathers of Mount St, London, for providing rooms for its Committee and Council meetings; and also to the Dominicans at Blackfriars, Cambridge, for their hospitality during the conference.

Minutes of the AGM held at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge on 26 July 2017

1. Mr Hodgetts took the chair; 28 members were present. Apologies for their absence were received from Abbot Scott; Sr Dominic Savio Hamer; Canon Tony Harding; Prof McClelland; Dr Mercer.
2. The Minutes of the 2016 AGM were accepted.
3. The *Annual Report 2016–17* was presented. The *Report* was adopted on the motion of Fra' Duncan Gallie and Dr Peter Doyle.
4. *Treasurer*. Mr Powell noted that the full accounts for 2015–16 had been made available for inspection at the start of the annual conference. They had been scrutinized by the Custodial Trustees and accepted. He distributed and spoke to a one-page summary and reported that the situation was looking healthier after some belt-tightening. There had been an increase in income from £39,202 to £43,294 from the end of the financial year in 2016 to the end of the financial year in 2017. Expenses had decreased from £46,202 to £23,454. Reflecting general market conditions, the value of investments had risen to £473,402. Mr Powell said the society was moving its investments from UBS to CCLA and that he was in the process of setting up online banking to allow direct payments. The accounts were adopted for submission to the Charity Commission on the motion of Mrs Smeaton and Dr James.
5. *Volumes*. Dr Arblaster sent his apologies to the meeting, and had only just taken over as Volumes Editor. It was noted that the next volume in the Records Series (an edition of the Chronicle of the English Convent, Bruges by Caroline Bowden) was currently in preparation and members would receive it before the end of 2017.
6. *Journal*. Dr Dillon said it had been a truly successful year for *British Catholic History* with the journal now present globally.
 - a. Dr Dillon reported that Council had agreed to her proposal that from 2018 onwards, each issue would increase by 12.5% in length: c. 20 extra pages.
 - b. Dr Dillon thanked the editorial board for their advice and reported their recommendation that an essay prize be created.
 - d. Dr Dillon announced her intention to stand down as editor on 31 December 2017. She thanked all at CUP who she had worked with, as well as Mr Hodgetts for supporting the move to the publisher in his role as chair. The editorial board had recommended that Dr Katy Gibbons, the current reviews editor, should succeed Dr Dillon as editor on 1 January 2018.
 - e. Dr Shell paid tribute to Dr Dillon as an outstanding and visionary editor, which was greeted by applause. Mr Hodgetts thanked Dr Dillon on behalf of the Council and the Society for all her work, in particular navigating the complex negotiations with CUP.
7. *Elections*. Drs Corens and Nockles and Mr Hodgetts each completed their three-year term as Elected Members of the Council. Mr Hodgetts had served two consecutive terms on Council so could not stand again, and Dr Corens had become an

honorary officer. Prof Sheils, Drs Nockles and O'Brien were elected to the Council.

a. Officers. Dr Kelly was re-appointed as Secretary; Dr Thomas was re-appointed as Conference Director. Dr Corens was appointed Membership Secretary; Dr Arblaster was appointed Volumes Editor; Dr Gibbons was appointed Journal Editor for 3.5 years from January 2018.

8. *Awards*. Prof Sheils reported the following:

a. From the Williams Fund, £1000 to Kristof Smeyers (Antwerp) for travel in Ireland to examine the case of the Tyrolean stigmata who arrived in England in early 1842 and subsequently visited Ireland.

b. From the Rogers Fund, £340 to Elizabeth Biggs (Durham) for UK library visits to examine copies of books owned by Bishop Cuthbert Tunstal of Durham which have subsequently gone to other libraries, in order to examine the intellectual milieu of conservatives like Tunstal in the generation following the break with Rome, chiefly through some of his chaplains; a partial award of £360 to Laura Verner for UK travel to examine the relationship between sacred space, material culture and Tridentine devotional practice, and to examine possible continuities over the Reformation period.

c. Dr Kelly reported that the PhD scholarship committee had been unanimous in recommending Helen Kilburn, a final year fulltime PhD student at the University of Manchester, for the award. The title of her thesis is: 'Black Serfs: The Influence of Feudalism, Religious Conflict, and Englishness on the Institutionalisation of Slavery in Maryland under the Proprietorship of the Lords Baltimore, 1634-1689'. She argues that English Catholic political philosophy was as influential in the development of slavery in seventeenth-century Maryland as the political philosophy of English Protestants. The committee wished to convey how innovative they believe this work to be, plus how exciting it was for the CRS to be involved in potentially funding work of this quality and imagination. The candidate had received an award from the Rogers Fund in the previous year, further underlining the Society's commitment to supporting the development of young, leading scholars.

9. *Conference Director*. Dr Thomas said that attendance stood at 43. This was down on previous years, and she asked for views. It was agreed to investigate different venues, to include more Short Communications and to advertise the conference much earlier. The AGM voted to hold its next Annual Conference in Murray Edwards College from Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 July 2018.

10. Mr Hodgetts thanked the Society's Council for its support and hard work; Drs Thomas and James for organizing the Conference; the conference speakers; and the college. As his term as Chair was ending, Mr Hodgetts thanked all the Council, especially Dr Kelly, Mr Powell and the editors for carrying out their time-consuming jobs on the Society's behalf.

11. Dr James thanked Mr Hodgetts for his long and distinguished service to the Society, a sentiment that was greeted with applause.

The Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Record Society will take place at noon on Tuesday 24 July 2018 at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2017 AGM and any matters arising.
3. Adoption of the Annual Report 2017-18.
4. Treasurer
 - Adoption of the annual accounts 2017-18.
5. Editors' Reports
 - a. Volumes Editor
 - b. Journal Editor
6. Elections
 - a. Two vacancies for members of Council to serve for three years.
7. Awards Committee Report.
8. Date and venue of annual conference and AGM in 2019.
9. Votes of thanks.
10. Any other business.