



**CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY**

*British Catholic History*

Reg'd Charity no. 313529

*www.crs.org.uk*

**Annual Reports 2020-2021**

**&**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting 2021**

*Secretarial Address  
(for general correspondence):*

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## *From the Chair of Council*

I hope that you have all been able to manage the roller-coaster of lockdowns and releases over the last year without too much disruption to your well-being and that of your families and friends. It is a pity that yet again we are unable to meet in person for our AGM, but I am confident that this will be rectified by next summer's conference. I hope that we will be able to share each other's company once again by then and provide the mutual support for which the Catholic Record Society is well-known, particularly to younger scholars and others starting out on research projects for whom the chance to talk about and share ideas is so important.

We have all missed out on those exchanges in the last eighteen months, despite the opportunities provided by digital contact. At the same time we have taken full advantage of those opportunities as the success of our Zoom Conference revealed, in increasing the numbers attending and widening our range of participants and speakers by enabling overseas members to engage with us. I am particularly grateful to our outgoing Conference Secretary, Hannah Thomas, and our incoming Conference Secretary, Helen Kilburn, for the huge amount of work they put into arranging the programme and for the friendly manner in which they introduced the meetings and persuaded chairs to lead discussion; it was a success of which they can be proud. We are now examining ways in which to develop virtual and hybrid conferences and day meetings in the future, to strengthen links with our overseas members. This is also the time and place for Council to thank Dr Thomas formally on your behalf for the work she has done over the past few years, and I am glad to say that she will continue to be a presence at our York conferences.

You will see from the reports of the Honorary Officers the details of our activities over the past year and note from those that the CRS is active and in good health; this is a view shared by our Custodial Trustees. Our membership numbers are holding up well, and Susan O'Brien has taken in hand our digital and manual records so that we now have very clear information. This has been a not insignificant task over the past two years as technology moves on, and I am grateful for all that Dr O'Brien has done to ensure its smooth running.

During lockdown Council met on Zoom, but we were pleased to be able to meet in person and online in September. In such circumstances information flows are important and Serenhedd James, as Honorary Secretary, has kept matters moving along quietly and without fuss. Combining this with the role of Development Officer, he has been busy keeping up the website and liaising with other groups, out of which came our first Winter Lecture, jointly with the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham, given this year by Carmen Mangion. At Dr James's own suggestion Council has agreed that the purpose

of the Development Officer's role has now largely been met and that it is time to retire the brief, so it is appropriate that I should thank Dr James for all his work on this and to express our gratitude along with our relief that he intends to continue as Secretary of the Society for another year.

Council is currently exploring ways to provide more structured support for our publications and digital-communications activity through some paid work, and expects to be able to present a case to the Custodial Trustees in due course. This is chiefly possible through the healthy state of our finances, which have been carefully and effectively cared for by our Treasurer, Patrick Powell, who is always ready to look positively at suggestions put forward.

Publications are healthy; *British Catholic History* is now well established among the Cambridge Journals, and Katy Gibbons has ensured a steady flow of high-quality issues for us. This year we have also produced, in collaboration with the Surtees Society, a substantial and well-illustrated volume, *The Rites of Durham*, in addition to sending all members Alana Harris's *Sink or Swim: Catholicism in Sixties Britain Through John Ryan's Cartoons*. As you will see from his report Paul Arblaster has also ensured a good list of forthcoming volumes, covering a wide range of topics. We thank Dr Gibbons and Dr Arblaster for their ongoing work with editors and contributors.

Our archives remain to be dealt with, but with Judith Smeaton's help we have secured a cataloguer and once Covid restrictions allow the person and material to be together in the same place we will be ready to address this. One other interruption of Covid, probably compounded by the absence of an annual conference in 2020, has been a sharp drop in applications for research support; we have not made any grants this year. The conference may produce some applications for the coming year, but this is an opportunity to remind members engaging in research and who might find a modest grant of about £1000 helpful in pursuing their work to apply—or to encourage others to do so.

It remains for me to close by saying that I will be standing down as Chair of Council after the AGM. It has been an honour to fill that office, and I am grateful to all members of Council for what they do on our behalf, as well as to those of the wider membership who assist with refereeing or reviewing our various activities. These have been 'unprecedented' years, employing what appears to be the current favoured adjective, but I think that in Chesterton's phrase, we have turned an inconvenience into an opportunity and I am in confident that the future of the Society is in good hands. Thank you for your friendship; this comes with my best wishes for the coming year, when I hope to see many of you at our conference.

Bill Sheils  
[chair@crs.org.uk](mailto:chair@crs.org.uk)

## *From the Secretary*

As the Honorary Officer responsible for preparing the Annual Report, I get to see what has been written before it is circulated to the membership; I must therefore take this opportunity to thank the Chair of Council for his kind remarks, and also write a little about my decision to resign as Secretary of the Society at next year's AGM.

The Society's Constitutions envisage its Officers serving for four-year terms, after which renewal is possible; Constitution 4 (b) was the helpful tool by which we effected last year's general extension in difficult circumstances. By the AGM 2022 I will have held the office for nearly five years, and I think that it is long enough.

I have given a year's notice so that I can help the new Chair of Council settle into the role, but also so that Council can begin the process of identifying my successor. It is my hope that this will ensure a suitable handover period, so that the Society's work can continue uninterrupted.

On that note, I now draw your attention to business. At the AGM Fr Foster and Fr Harris come to the end of their term of office on Council. Dr Nockles reached the end of his term of office at the AGM 2020, but in the extraordinary circumstances was co-opted for a year under the provisions of Constitution 4 (a) iv (*see Annual Report, below, Item 1a*); a similar situation applies to Professor Sheils. All are eligible for re-election.

There are therefore four Council vacancies for the next triennium, and I reproduce below the relevant information for members.

#### **4. Election of Council.**

(a) The Elected Members of the Council shall be elected by the Society at the A.G.M.

(i) Election to the Council shall be for three years. An Elected Member of the Council shall retire at the A.G.M. falling three years after his or her election and shall be eligible for re-election for a further term of three years after which term a period of one year must elapse before he or she shall be eligible for re-election.

(ii) Nominations for Elected Members of Council shall be sent by members of the Society to the Honorary Secretary on a prescribed form so as to be received not later than thirty days before the A.G.M. A nomination must be signed by a proposer and a seconder (both of whom must be members or honorary members of the Society) and countersigned by the nominee so as to confirm his or her willingness to serve on the Council.

(iii) Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot at the A.G.M.

In the present circumstances it seems wise for common sense to prevail regarding Constitution 4 (a) ii; I therefore ask members wishing to propose and second candidates for election to Council to contact me directly before Saturday 13 November, so that I may prepare the papers and communicate with the relevant parties.

Serenhedd James

*secretary@crs.org.uk*

**CRS Annual General Meeting 2021**

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

**Saturday 20 November at 11 a.m.**

## *Annual Report 2020-2021*

### *1. Membership of Council*

- a. The Society's Honorary Officers were confirmed in their offices, and Dr Nockles co-opted onto Council, at the AGM 2020 (Minutes, Item 6).
- b. Dr Helen Kilburn is now Conference Secretary, and has been co-opted onto Council.
- c. Dr James will step down as Development Officer at the AGM 2021; he remains Hon. Secretary of the Society, but intends to retire from that office at the AGM 2022.
- d. Professor Sheils will step down as Chair of Council at the AGM 2021.

### *2. Financial Report*

As at March 2021 the Society held liquid assets of £49,977 (2020: £45,292) and invested assets of £643,242 (2020: £521,468) 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 2021 comprised 200 individual members in the British Isles, 22 international individual members, and 18 religious houses and small libraries.
- b. The following have joined (or rejoined) the Society: Christine Brennan (UK); Dr Brian Casey (UK/Ireland); Dr Liam Chambers (UK/Ireland); Dame Scholastica Jacob OSB (UK); Neil MacKinnon (UK); Dr Michael J. McDade (UK); Alun Rowland (UK); Joe Simons (UK); The Revd Dr Terry Tastard (UK); Professor Randolph Trumbach (USA); Dr Lucas Volkman (USA).
- c. Resignations were received from Canon J. A. Harding; Mr Brian Harrison; The Revd Dr James Pereiro; Mr Douglas Wilson; St John's Seminary, Womersley; Woodford Green Friary.
- d. The Society noted with sadness the deaths of Miss Mary Bradbury; Mr Tony Cross; Canon Gerard Hetherington; Mr Jim Lancaster; The Revd David Milburn; Dr Mary Remnant; Dr John Robinson; Mrs Joy Rowe. *Jesu mercy; Mary pray.*
- e. Membership lists and publication distribution. Boydell & Brewer has commissioned Wiley to distribute its publications, and has shifted to a DPS-style delivery service; for CRS this means the volumes in the Record Series and occasional publications. A new Wiley-format database has been constructed during the year, which includes email addresses as required by Wiley for the delivery service. Members with email addresses were notified about this change, and the new list was trialled for the *Rites of Durham* volume.

f. Members-only area of the website. Apologies to members who were unable to log in automatically to Cambridge Core to access online copies of the journal between October 2020 and the end of January 2021. The problem originated in Chrome and was not visible to CUP for some time. In turn, the pandemic slowed correspondence between CRS and CUP; a fix was not secured until January 2021. Any ongoing problems may be reported to *membership@crs.org.uk*.

#### 4. *Editorial Reports*

##### *Volumes*

The joint volume with the Surtees Society on the Rites of Durham was distributed to members, as was Alana Harris's *Sink or Swim: Catholicism in Sixties Britain Through John Ryan's Cartoons*. The next volume of *Little Malvern Letters*, and the volumes on the letters of Anne Percy and Philip Perry's work on Robert Grosseteste, remain in the pipeline; they have been joined by an edition of the letters of Mother Magdalen Taylor.

##### *Journal*

The prize for the best article of 2020 was won by Daithí Ó Corráin, for "The Pope's Man in London: Anglo-Vatican Relations, the Nuncio Question and Irish Concerns, 1938-82." The unavoidable interruptions of last year were not repeated; the latest issue of *British Catholic History* contained research articles spanning four centuries. Members are asked to encourage colleagues and fellow scholars to consider submitting work for consideration. Conversations with Cambridge University Press about the possibility of *BCH* transferring to an online content management system have continued; it is felt that this will be a constructive development. Meanwhile, Council has committed to funding an Editorial Assistant to assist with the Society's publications.

#### 5. *Research Funds*

No awards were made this year. Council and the Awards Committee recognize that this is an anomalous situation, and the matter is being kept under review.

#### 6. *Archives*

The professional cataloguing of the Society's archives will commence as soon as circumstances allow.

#### 7. *Thanks*

The Society remains grateful to the Jesuit Fathers of Mount St, London, for providing rooms for its Committee and Council meetings, and similarly to the University of Notre Dame in England.

## *Treasurer's Report 2020-2021*

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 2021 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>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Donations	2000	1000
Subscriptions	9506	8419
Investment income	17948	9284
Conference income	4035	(294)
Sales, royalties	3445	2911
	<b>£36,934</b>	<b>£21,320</b>

(b) The resources expended were:

Grants	2677	5643
Publications	1926	4100
Conferences	5137	-
Management and admin.	4798	5918
Governance	4243	2796
	<b>£18,781</b>	<b>£18,457</b>

Total net resources were **£2863** compared to £18,153 for 2020. The reason for this decrease was a planned reduction in dividends in favour of capital growth, and increased grants and contributions to publications.

(c) The value of the Society's investments at 31 March 2021 stood at **£643,242**: an increase of £121,774 compared to 2020.

(d) Cash held at 31 March 2021 was **£49,997**: an increase of £4685 compared to 2020.

Patrick Powell  
*treasurer@crs.org.uk*



# ***Minutes of the AGM of 2020***

*held online on Saturday 5 December, at 11 a.m.*

1. **Apologies.** Mgr Allen, Dr Chapman, Mr Fitzalan-Howard, Mr Freeman, Fr Hetherington, Bishop Hudson, Dr Kelly, Mr Meredith, and Dr Nockles.

## **2. Amendment of Constitution**

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

a. The Chair of Council proposed that 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. **Passed nem con.***

b (i). The Chair of Council had proposed 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.***

b (ii). The Chair of Council requested that (after correspondence with a member of the Society on a procedural matter) his proposed amendment be itself amended, thus.

*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. In the event of his or her term of office as an ordinary member of Council ceasing during that time, he or she will be co-opted as a member of Council until such time as his or her time as Chair ceases, whereupon a fresh election to the Chair will be made by Council following the election of members to Council at the Annual General Meeting, in the ordinary way.***

*Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Dr James. **Passed nem con.***

b (iii). Professor Sheils’ amended amendment was put to the vote.

*Proposer: Professor Sheils; Seconder: Mrs Smeaton. **Passed nem con.***

Responding to Dr Doyle, the Hon. Secretary confirmed that was no restriction on an outgoing Chair being elected for a further term of office.

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

There were no matters arising, and the Minutes of the 2019 AGM were deemed to be a true record.

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

No questions to the Officers of the Society had been submitted; the meeting duly voted on the adoption of the Annual Report.

*Proposer: Mrs Smeaton; Seconder: Mr Powell. Passed nem con.*

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

No questions to the Treasurer had been submitted, and the meeting duly voted on the adoption of the Annual Accounts.

*Proposer: Mr Powell; Seconder: Dr James. Passed nem con.*

### 6. Council

The Chair of Council proposed—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. Passed nem con.*

Responding to Professor Sheils, the Hon. Secretary confirmed that he had corresponded with Dr Nockles, whose term of office on Council had now come to an end. To avoid a constitutional anomaly it would be proposed that Dr Nockles be co-opted onto Council until the next AGM.

7. The **AGM in 2021** would take place on 20 July 2021, hopefully at The Bar Convent, York, or online if necessary.

8. No **Other Business** had been submitted.

Professor Sheils thanked members for their attendance, and extended particular appreciation to the Honorary Officers and the other members of Council for their work on behalf of the Society in the course of a very difficult year. Should the Annual Conference 2021 not be able to meet in York, it would take place online; an online option might well become a permanent fixture for the benefit of the Society’s international members. The CRS would enter into partnership with The Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham, and co-sponsor its Winter Lecture this year (Dr Carmen Mangion). A volume of John Ryan cartoons, edited by CRS member Dr Alana Harris, was on its way to all members, as a Christmas gift.

*The meeting ended at 11.17. An informal and congenial discussion continued, during which it was particularly good to welcome and hear from some overseas members of the Society.*

**The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Record Society  
will be conducted online on Saturday 20 November at 11 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. **Apologies** for absence *to be taken as read, having been submitted to the Secretary by Saturday 13 November.*

**2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM & Matters Arising**

*The AGM did not take place at the Bar Convent on 20 July 2021 (Item 7). Any other matters arising to be submitted to the Secretary in advance, by Saturday 13 November.*

**3. Adoption of the Annual Report 2020-21**

*Proposer: Mrs Smeaton; Seconder: Mr Powell*

**4. Adoption of the Annual Accounts 2020-21**

*Proposer: Mr Powell; Seconder: Dr James*

**5. Council**

*There are four Council vacancies to be filled in succession to Fr Foster, Fr Harris, Dr Nockles, and Professor Sheils. In the present circumstances, the Secretary asks members wishing to propose and second candidates for election to Council to contact him directly before Saturday 13 November ([secretary@crs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@crs.org.uk)), so that he may prepare the papers and communicate with the relevant parties.*

**6. Date and venue of AGM in 2022**

7. **Any other business** *to be submitted to the Secretary in advance, by Saturday 13 November.*

## **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*