



CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 8, November 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

Susan O'Brien, Chair

This month's newsletter rightly reflects and celebrates the research and publications of members across a wide range of topics in British and Irish Catholic history, local and global. Equally importantly, it marks the commitment of many to make that history accessible and better understood through exhibitions, family history, and conferences.

Accessibility to Catholic records that were privately held was a founding impulse of the Catholic Record Society, leading to the regular publication of the volumes which now form the longstanding Record Series. The CRS Council is considering how best to take the Society's foundational and charitable purpose forward through the greater use of its website and through increased use of digitisation.

In this spirit we have just launched a new resource, [Catholicism in Numbers](#) which is now available on the CRS website. Focused largely on the twentieth century, with some statistics from the nineteenth, we hope it is the beginning of a project that will grow through collaboration with individuals who want to share and publish online their own datasets. This first set of statistics has been prepared by Tim Kinnear, a PhD student at St Mary's University and was commissioned by member Dr Alana Harris of King's College London, funded by Kings, CRS, the Catholic Family History Society, and the English Catholic Historical Association. Dr Liam Temple is generously maintaining and publicising the website as part of his responsibilities for the website and social media. Please visit the website and read more about [Catholicism in Numbers!](#)

A second project will be to turn the Record Series Volumes 1-79 (1906-2006), already digitised under the editorship of Dr Peter Doyle and available freely on the website to any reader, into a searchable resource. The software and costs of such an undertaking are currently being explored. This initiative has a high priority because it would make a rich resource so much more useful to scholars and to anyone researching parish, local or family history.

Along with the increased digitisation of resources, the Council has also taken steps to make sure the format of its publications meets the changing needs of libraries which often opt for e-books and e-journals. Cambridge University Press have been publishing and distributing *British Catholic History* to institutional subscribers for several years and this has allowed CRS members to have access to current copies and the entire back catalogue of *Recusant History* in digital format. Similarly, the new Agreement between CRS and Boydell & Brewer as publisher of the Record and Monograph Series offers the general public the option to purchase either an e-book or a Print-on-Demand book. This will remove the expenses CRS incurs for holding an inventory of books.

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For some, particularly those with limited space and little opportunity to visit library collections, e-publication and Open Access are a significant boon. A number of scholarly societies are now offering a choice of print or e-books to their members and CRS is able to do the same. Members will continue to receive print copies of *British Catholic History* and the upcoming volumes unless they opt-out and request digital copies by contacting membership@crs.ac.uk.

We are excited to announce the latest addition to the Record Series, to be published early in 2024, will be *The Life and Letters of Lady Anne Percy* edited by Dr Jade Scott. If members are interested in receiving the volume as an e-book, contact membership@crs.ac.uk by 31 December.

There is much to consider and also much to celebrate as the Catholic Record Society continues its important role in stimulating knowledge and interest in Catholic history.

THE 66th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

Helen Kilburn, Conference Secretary

By popular demand, the Catholic Record Society 66th Annual Conference will once again take place at Hinsley Hall, Leeds on Monday 22nd July - Wednesday 24th July 2024.

As requested by many, we have reserved twenty rooms for check-in on Sunday 21st July which will be allocated on a first come first served basis when registration opens, with priority given to delegates and speakers in need of an accessible room. All other rooms are available for check-in on Monday 22nd July.

We are also pleased to once again offer a limited number of early-bird tickets at a 10% reduced price, and this year these tickets will be released to **members only** 48 hours in advance of general sale release.

Finally, for the cost of £25 we will be able to offer day-delegates the option to upgrade their tickets to include attendance at a formal, three-course conference dinner which will take place on Monday 22nd July.

Registration will open in mid-May and a call for papers will be circulated in the new year.



Delegates and plenary speaker Dr James Callison enjoying the 65th annual conference this year. [Photograph by Susan O'Brien]

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

Scholastica Jacob, Secretary

We are about to undertake a full review of the CRS Constitution; this is our governing document which sets out our charitable objects and the administrative provisions by which the Society operates. Our current Constitution was drawn up in 1964 and, apart from very minor changes, has not been amended since then. The Constitution as presently set out, requires review. It no longer reflects, or allows, for the way we work today. The Council is therefore preparing a clause-by-clause review of the Constitution to ensure it is fit for today's management purposes. This will NOT alter the Charitable Objects which will remain the same, viz: The Advancement of Education in Connection with the History of Roman Catholicism in England and Wales since the Reformation.

It is intended that an amended draft will be circulated to members for comment prior to presentation at the AGM for adoption next year. If any members wish to know more about the review or have any comments on the administrative clauses, please contact me at Secretary@crs.org.uk. I can provide copies of the present Constitution for those members who are interested.

RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS

Bill Sheils, Chair of the Awards Subcommittee

Thanks to the generosity of the late Dr David Rogers and the late Mgr Michael E. Williams, both members of the Society, we are able to offer small annual grants. These are to support specific research projects or, occasionally, to assist with the publication of research in British and Irish Catholic History. The amounts awarded do not usually exceed £1000. There is no application form; applicants are asked instead to give a brief account of the proposed research project, stressing its significance, and indicating likely plans for publication. This should be accompanied by detailed costings, and a short CV with the names of two referees. Applications should be addressed to the Chair of the Awards Subcommittee, Professor Bill Sheils, at bill.sheils@york.ac.uk.

Membership at the 2023 AGM agreed to enable Council to award bursaries (subject to the availability of funds) at its periodic meetings during the year rather than waiting until the AGM at the Annual Conference. Applications can be made for research expenses at any time during the year.

Recent awards have been given:

- a) to enable the building of an oral archive of the work of clergy and religious during the period of 'The Troubles' in Northern Ireland and
- b) for a research project examining the depiction of St Ignatius Loyola in English seventeenth-century drama and poetry written by both Catholics and Protestants.

Our most recent report is from Dr Ana Saez-Hidalgo of the University of Valladolid, who received an award to enable her to conduct research at the Venerable English College in Rome, at Stonyhurst College Archives and at Ushaw College Archives for a comparative study of sixteenth-century Spanish and English Catholic historians writing about Henry VIII's reign. Ana gave a paper at the Early Modern British and Irish Catholicism Conference in Durham showing that there were considerable transnational overlaps in the histories written at that time and tells us that the grant will provide the foundation for what will eventually become a monograph.

LEAVING A LEGACY TO THE CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

Peter Harris, Treasurer

Many members have benefitted from learning about how Catholic history is so deeply interwoven with the wider history of Britain and Ireland and want to continue playing their part in making sure that there are the resources for continuing the proud record of historical research and publishing that belongs to the Catholic Record Society. Leaving a legacy gift to the Catholic Record Society will help the Society to continue to support research into the history of the Catholic Church in Britain and Ireland through publishing (*Catholic British History* and the Record and Monographs series), conferences and research bursaries.

To leave a legacy, your solicitor needs to be given our registered charity number 313529. Leaving a gift in your will is a very personal decision and there is no need to tell us about it. However, if you felt able to let us know of your plans, we would welcome the opportunity to thank you and to keep you up to date with our work, so that you can be sure that your gift will make a lasting difference.

If you would like to ask questions about leaving a gift in your will, please email treasurer@crs.ac.uk.

CATHOLIC FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

We are saddened by the news that the Catholic Family History Society has made the decision to close the Society at the end of this year. They have offered a valuable service over the past 40 years to scholars of Catholicism, offering advice to family historians, publishing members' research in the *Catholic Ancestor*, offering research funds to scholars, and importantly, transcribing early Catholic Registers and making available the Margaret Higgins Database of Catholics 1607-1840. They held successful annual day conferences and from 2021 ran a series of online talks. We thank them for their great service over the past 40 years. The Margaret Higgins Database will remain free to use/download via the [Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society](#), which already sells their publications. For more information on the Catholic Family History Society and their published material see <http://catholicfhs.online/index.php>.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Publications

We are pleased to announce the five-volume *Oxford History of British and Irish Catholicism* has been published by Cambridge University Press. Many of the editors and contributors are members of the Catholic Record Society. The upcoming issue of *British Catholic History* will include a roundtable discussion with the editors on the history of British and Irish Catholicism, its past, present, and future. More details on individual chapters and authors are located [here](#).

John McCafferty (University College Dublin) and James E. Kelly (University of Durham) - General Editors of the Series and Editors of Volume I: *Endings and New Beginnings, 1530-1640*

John Morrill (University of Cambridge) and Liam Temple (University of Durham), Editors of Volume 2: *Uncertainty and Change, 1641-1745*

Liam Chambers (Mary Immaculate College), Editor of Volume 3: *Relief, Revolution, and Revival: 1746-1829*

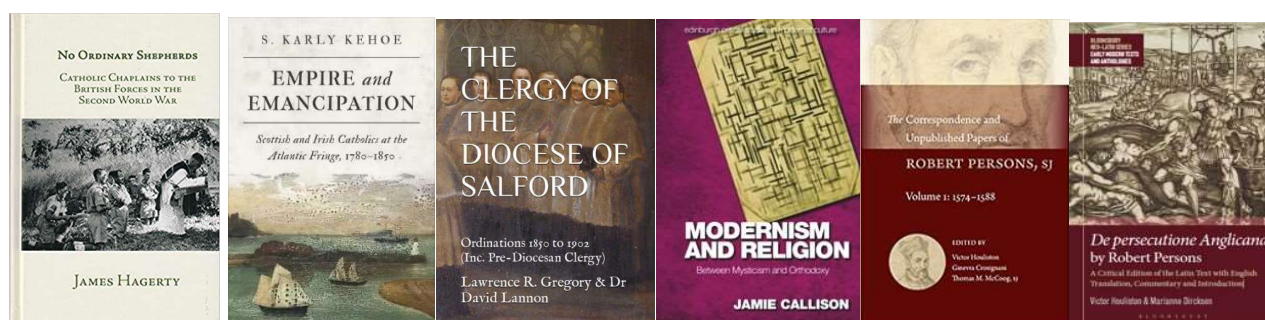
Carmen M. Mangion (Birkbeck, University of London) and Susan O'Brien (University of Cambridge), Editors of Volume 4: *Building Identity, 1830-1913*

Alana Harris (Kings College London), Editor of Volume 5: *Recapturing the Apostolate of the Laity, 1914-2021*



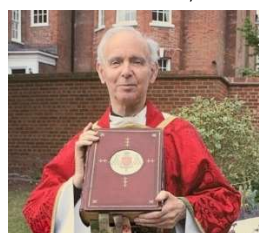
Also, congratulations to members James Hagerty for *No Ordinary Shepherds: Catholic Chaplains to the British Forces in the Second World War* (Gracewing, 2020); S. Karly Kehoe on the publication of *Empire and Emancipation: Scottish and Irish Catholics at the Atlantic Fringe, 1780-1850* (University of Toronto Press, 2022); and Lawrence R. Gregory and David Lannon, *The Clergy of the Diocese of Salford* (2023). Jamie Callison's recently published *Modernism and Religion* (2023) is available open access and can be downloaded [here](#).

Member Victor Houlston is the editor of a 3-volume edition of the correspondence and unpublished papers of Robert Persons SJ, which builds on the work of Leo Hicks (his CRS edition of letters and memorials up to 1588, and his transcripts and translations at the Jesuit archives in London). These volumes also include the letters of Roberts Persons, SJ. The first volume, *The Correspondence and Unpublished Papers of Roberts Persons, SJ* was published in 2017; the second *De Persecutione Anglicana by Robert Persons* will be published in 2024. The third volume will be published in 2027.



Obituaries

With sadness, we note the death of Fr. Brian Croughan (18 August 1939 – 29 April 2023).



He was born in Portsmouth, and after studying for the priesthood at St. Alban's College, Valladolid, was ordained for the diocese of Portsmouth on 29 June 1963 serving several parishes in the diocese. He was linguist, fluent in five languages, and enjoyed travel and talking about travelling. He was also a scholar, with a great love of both theology and history. He

studied for further degrees in patristics and church history and was a member of several societies relating to these subjects. A member of the Catholic Record Society for many years, he regularly attended the annual conference, where he enjoyed the lectures, the visits, and the convivial atmosphere. His interest and knowledge of Catholic history led to his appointment as diocesan archivist and his membership of the Catholic Archives Society.

If you are aware of news concerning individual CRS members, such as awards and publications, or of any members who have died in the recent past, please inform the Membership Secretary (membership@crs.org.uk) so that items may be included in the newsletter in future.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

The Religious Collections and Heritage Group conference will be held jointly with St Mungo Museum of Religious Life & Art. An online Conference will be held on 10-11 November on the themes of Conserving our Stories, Audiences and Spaces & Places. CRS Member Dr Judith Champ will be one of the speakers. An in-person Conference at St Mungo Museum, Glasgow will take place on 16 November, followed in the afternoon and the following morning by visits to religious collections and places in Glasgow. This event will celebrate the museum's 30th anniversary.

The Franciscan Tradition: Retrieval and Innovation, 12–14 March 2024, at Durham University, UK.

Women religious, Materiality and Technology, H-WRBI, 31 May – 1 June 2024 at St Andrews, Scotland UK.

The English Catholic History Association organises visits to places associated with the Catholic faith and arranges lectures on subjects relating to Catholic history. Their list of future events can be found [here](#).

Bar Convent Exhibition, York. The current Exhibition introduces a world of secrecy and spies and explores the impact of the Tudor monarchs on Catholicism, York and the founding sisters of the Bar Convent. Discover fascinating artefacts from the reformation, interactives including a priest's hole, and the stories of those who continued to practice their faith despite the dangers. Meet Yorkshire woman Mary Ward (1585-1645). Find out how she faced fierce opposition from the Church authorities in her beliefs that religious women should be able work as missionaries- and how she insisted that girls should receive the same education as boys. More information on the Exhibition can be found [here](#).

Exhibition: **Reformation Cardinal: Reginald Pole** in sixteenth-century Italy and England. (5 October – 15 December 2023). You can visit 'Reformation Cardinal' in person at Lambeth Palace Library or view the digital exhibition [here](#).

Members are welcome to publicise any forthcoming public events related to the work of CRS. Please contact the Membership Secretary at membership@crs.org.uk.

CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY COUNCIL (2023)

*Dr Paul Arblaster, *Volumes Editor*

Professor Judith Champ (2021)

§Dr Peter Doyle

*Dr Katy Gibbons, *Journal Editor*

Fr Peter Harris (2021), *Treasurer*

*Dr Scholastica Jacob, *Secretary*

+Dr Helen Kilburn,
Conference Secretary

Dr Carmen M. Mangion,
Membership Secretary

Dr Peter Nockles (2021)

*Dr Susan O'Brien, *Chair* (2022)

Dr Maria Power (2021)

+Professor Bill Sheils, Awards
Subcommittee

§Mrs Judith Smeaton

Dr Liam Temple (2022)

**Honorary Officer of the Society*
+ *Co-opted*

§ *Custodial Trustee*

If you have received this newsletter by post, this is because we do not have an email address for you. If you do use email, please send your email address to the Membership Secretary at membership@crs.org.uk. If you do not have access to email, we will continue to send the newsletter by post for the foreseeable future.