



# CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

## *British Catholic History*

### Newsletter No. 5

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL, DR SUSAN O'BRIEN

**Welcome** to the fifth edition of the Catholic Record Society Members' Newsletter. It is my pleasure to write to our members as the newly elected Chair of Council. We continue to hope, via this newsletter, to keep members informed of CRS activities and to exchange other news and information of interest.

On behalf of the Society I extend my sincere thanks to Professor Bill Sheils, who retired at the end of his term of office as Chair of Council at last year's online AGM (November 2021). Bill's skilful and generous approach helped to steer the Society through a difficult and lengthy period when one Conference (2020) had to be cancelled, the second (2021) moved online, and Council could not meet in person. Bill will continue as Chair of the Awards Committee and has duly been co-opted onto Council for the coming year.

Meanwhile, Dr Serenhedd James has been elected to the Awards Committee in succession to Professor Alison Shell; Council extends its gratitude to Alison for her contribution to this important part of the Society's work over a number of years.

Dr Hannah Thomas, Conference Director for several years, worked with Dr Helen Kilburn to steer the highly successful annual Conference, which was held online in 2021, as her final flourish in that role. Our thanks go to Hannah; she and Helen have combined warmth, immediacy, and efficiency as organisers: a model for what can be achieved.

Our appreciation also goes to Dr Katy Gibbons, Editor of *British Catholic History*, for her sterling work (along with the team at Cambridge University Press) during the worst of the pandemic to keep publication going. Some delays were inevitably experienced, but we think everyone has now received all the publications that they were due.

The Council has a planning meeting scheduled for May in which it will explore (among other things) how the website can be developed as a resource for anyone interested in Catholic history in England and Wales, and its wider connections.

#### ***Subscription Renewal for 2022-23***

Subscription renewals are due on 1 April 2022. The subscription remains unchanged, at £43 for UK Members and £68 for international members. Members who pay by standing order therefore need take no action. Members who pay annually will find details of alternative payment methods at the end of this Newsletter. Thank you for your prompt payment and your ongoing support of the Society's work in this way.

# THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE JULY 2022

*Helen Kilburn*

11-13th July | Bar Convent, York (UK)

*Livestream available*

## **Keynote speakers**

Dr Maria Power (Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University)

Dr Muiris MacGiollabhuí (Purdue University, USA)

Dr Kieran Taylor (University of Stirling, Scotland)

Our conference this year builds on the great success of last year's, which was the first in the Society's history to be held online, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whilst we now welcome the opportunity to gather once again in person, we learned that the conference and the work of the CRS was made more accessible when hosted online, and that this was greatly welcomed by all. Last year, we were able to engage a larger audience than ever before and from a wider range of locations around the world. Our record-breaking figure of 155 delegates was registered in locations that included the USA, India, Russia, and Australia as well as western Europe, Ireland and Britain. This was also true for our speakers, which meant that delegates were able to learn of research from more scholars who work outside of the British and Irish academy than ever before. At the same time, a far greater prevalence of research focused on the global diaspora of British and Irish Catholics was presented at the conference than in previous years.

Championing such innovation in British and Irish Catholic Studies has been a mainstay of the Catholic Record Society's mission. It is for this reason that we are excited to announce greater investment in the annual conference to ensure that we further develop our growth amongst various international audiences. This year, the 64th Annual Conference of the Catholic Record Society will be livestreamed globally. The Council has agreed to invest in the purchase of new items of videography equipment and E-Camm software that will allow delegates to join a live broadcast of the conference as it takes place at the

## **CONTENTS**

A message from the Chair  
*Susan O'Brien*

The Annual Conference  
*Helen Kilburn*

Research Awards 2021  
*Bill Sheils*

Publications 2022  
*Paul Arblaster*

CRS Archives News  
*Serenhedd James*

## **Members' News**

Congratulations

Publications

Archdiocese of Birmingham  
History & Archive Commission  
*Judith Champ*

Catholic Archives Society  
*Jonathan Bush*

Scottish Catholic Historical  
Association

Protecting Dispersed Collections  
*Jonathan Bush*

Forthcoming Events

CRS Council

Membership Renewal

Bar Convent in York, with the same ability to engage in the Q&A sessions with speakers and delegates via a chat-function. The livestream will also be recorded and hosted online in perpetuity using UScreen, so that delegates unable to attend live or in person may download a video of the conference for a small fee. This video will be complimentary to in-person and livestream delegates. Finally, the online conference last year helps us to support delegates with impairments using assistive technology, and we are presently researching ways to expand on this provision for the forthcoming conference.

We sincerely hope to see as many of members at the conference this year, in-person or online. More details are available on the Conference page of the website.

**REQUIRED** – a volunteer Conference Assistant to support the Conference Secretary in York, 10-13 July 2022.

The volunteer Conference Assistant will support the Conference Secretary in the following areas. Training will be provided on recording equipment and livestream software:

- Prior to the start of the conference (10 July): print and collate delegate packs; set up and test recording equipment and livestream software; act as a liaison with Bar Convent staff where appropriate, e.g. confirming delegate dietary requirements, etc.
- During the conference (11-13 July): check-in delegates on arrival; guide delegates to meeting rooms; support speakers and delegates with accessibility requirements as needed; manage recording equipment and livestream software; monitor online and in-person Q&A.

Essential skills required: confident use of Microsoft Office and Adobe Reader.

Desirable skills: familiarity with Ecamm livestream software and Canon camcorders (training will be provided as necessary).

All expenses, including the conference fee, will be covered. To find out more please contact Dr Helen Kilburn ([hkilburn@nd.edu](mailto:hkilburn@nd.edu)) by 17 June 2022.

## RESEARCH SUPPORT GRANTS 2021

Bill Sheils (Chair of the Awards Committee)

Due to covid restrictions and the difficulties of travel, research was very restricted in 2020-21 and the Society did not receive substantive applications for its awards scheme. However, the opening up of archives and libraries in late 2021 encouraged a flurry of applications and we have made the following awards.

- £362 to Helen Knight for work in archives of religious houses, to research the way in which religious institutes responded to the 1944 Education Act in order to make their schools 'efficient' and thus able to receive state support.
- £862 to Aidan Enright for research on the Chichester papers in Hull University Library, for a study of the relationship between English Catholic landlords and their Irish Catholic tenants in the later nineteenth century.
- £1500 to Emma Wall for archival research in Rome, on the Abbey of San Savino, Piacenza, and English and Welsh Catholics after the Reformation.

## PUBLICATIONS 2022

Paul Arblaster (Volumes Editor)

The usual pattern of CRS members receiving one volume every 12 to 18 months has been in abeyance recently due to unforeseen circumstances, but members will receive two volumes of the Records Series in 2022: Philip Perry's *Life of Grosseteste*, and the correspondence of Anne Percy, Countess of Northumberland.

## CRS ARCHIVES NEWS

Serenhedd James (Secretary)

I am delighted to be able to share with members an exciting development, which emerged late last year and has now come to fruition. Thanks to the efforts of members Lawrence Gregory and Fr Nicholas Hudson, we discovered that in 1949 the Society received a large bundle of assorted papers that originally belonged to the Catholic convert and solicitor Edward Healy Thompson (d.1891).



© Lawrence Gregory

On his death his executors, realising their significance, passed them to the Historical Association; they later came to us. My predecessor of the day deposited them in the Westminster Archdiocesan Archives for safe keeping. The material consists of selected letters from Healy Thompson's correspondence with various leading Catholics of his day. They include, however, no fewer than 34 letters from John Henry Newman.

At the moment these are being digitised by the North American Institute for Newman Studies at Pittsburgh, and will soon be available online as part of the NINS Rednal Digital Collections. Permission to reproduce them was sought and gladly granted; a dusty rummage in minutes *passim* now looms for the Secretary to try and tease out more about this fascinating collection. We look forward to seeing them online in the near future!

## MEMBERS' NEWS

### Congratulations

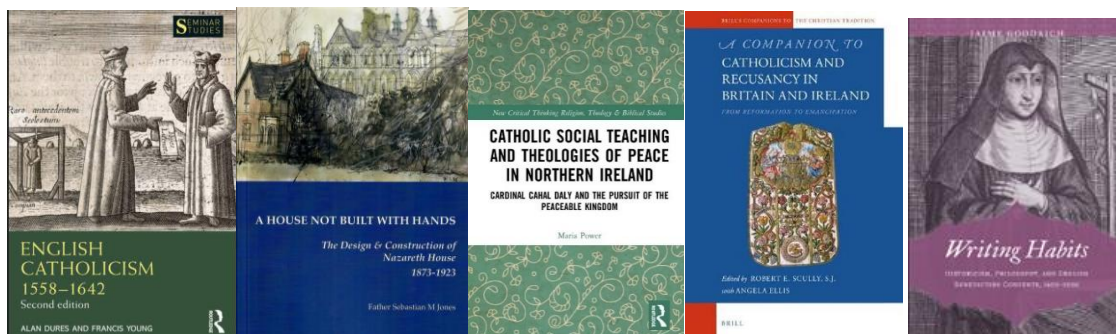
Jennifer Binczewski, whose research was funded in 2019 with a Michael Williams Research Fund grant, was awarded the 2021 Harold J. Grimm Prize for the best article in Reformation Studies for her essay 'Power in vulnerability: widows and priest holes in the early modern English Catholic community' published in *British Catholic History* (35:1).

Dr Scholastica Susan Jacob has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation: *From Exile to Exile: Repatriation, Resettlement and the Contemplative Experience of English Benedictine Nuns in England 1795-1838* (Durham University, 2022).

### Publications

Congratulations to Dr Alan Dures on the publication of the second and revised edition of his popular *English Catholicism 1558-1642* (Routledge Press); to the Revd Sebastian Moore for his study of the architecture and building of Nazareth House in Cardiff; to Dr Maria Power for her examination of Catholic social teaching and theologies of peace in Northern Ireland (Routledge Press); and to Dr Jaime Goodrich on her in-depth examination of the texts produced in English Benedictine convents between 1600 and 1800 (University of Alabama Press).

Meanwhile, *A Companion to Catholicism and Recusancy in Britain and Ireland* edited by Fr Robert E. Scully SJ (Brill) includes essays from several members of the 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 Secretary (secretary@crs.org.uk) so that items may be included in the newsletter in future.*

## Archdiocese of Birmingham History & Archives Commission

Judith Champ

Within the Archdiocese of Birmingham, a new commission has been formed, chaired by Professor Judith Champ, in close collaboration with Naomi Johnson, the Birmingham Archdiocesan Archivist.

Its purpose is to enhance awareness and understanding of the history of Catholicism among the laity and clergy of the Archdiocese. Commission activities will include provision of online resources on the diocesan website, public events, contact with parishes, schools and communities, and support for research of the history of Catholic life within the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The commission's membership reflects archival and historical expertise, within and beyond the Catholic community, and represents higher education, Catholic schools, parishes and clergy. As the commission develops, it will engage further with individuals and institutions across the Archdiocese.

On 3rd May 2022, the eve of the feast of the English Reformation Martyrs, the commission will host its first open History Day at Harvington Hall, Worcestershire, with a theme of secrecy and disguise among Elizabethan Catholics. Further information, and booking details are available on the Archdiocese of Birmingham website: [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk).

Enquiries about the work of the commission can be emailed to [hac@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:hac@rcaob.org.uk).



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## Catholic Archives Society

Jonathan Bush (Chair of CAS)

The Catholic Archive Society, like many societies, found itself needing to connect with its membership in new ways as a result of the pandemic. The use of technology became paramount to ensure expedient updates of the society's work could be sent to the membership. Social media engagement also became key to keeping our activities alive and accessible and to help promote the work of fellow archives.

The situation also provided an opportunity to relaunch the blog series on our website; which has proved popular and has covered a series of topics, from home working – what can you do for your archive when you cannot access it, to covering ideas on how to provide access to material when archivists, but not the public, were able to go back in.

The latest series is exploring artefacts within our collections – from how material culture is used (and often hidden) in many of the documents we store – through to rediscovering the lost stories associated with material culture that is stored, often unlabeled and forgotten, in boxes or on shelves. We are delighted to receive short articles from anyone, on this theme, or an appropriate subject matter – please do get in touch.

We were delighted to also be able to use the power of technology to host a joint event with the Centre for Catholic Studies, entitled: Living Archives in the Catholic Church - Recording the past, informing the present, inspiring the future. You can re-watch the event online, here: <https://youtu.be/IKqJR5ZcQtM>

The society has recently issued a number of publications including an updated advice on Access to Adoption and Care Records (available free on the website); The Care of Artefacts in Archival Collections (Occasional paper available to purchase at a cost of £6.00) and most recently, a volume by the late Mgr Michael Williams, *Not bread but yeast*.

After many years of service as Patron's to the society, both Bishop John Arnold and Mgr Cifres Gimènès have stepped down and we are delighted to say that Bishop Robert Byrne and Dr Carmen M. Mangion have taken up the mantle.

The society also had to say a sudden farewell to one of its own. Our stalwart treasurer and vice-president, Jim Hughes, sadly passed away at the end of November and is sorely missed, both on a personal and on a professional level. The society is still seeking a treasurer, so please do get in touch if you are interested in the role or would like more details about this important role.

After two years away, we are delighted to announce that the annual conference is back. This year we are being hosted by Hinsley Hall, on Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th May. The full program is available to view online <https://catholicarchivesociety.org/conference-2022/> and places (for members and non-members) are now available to book.

Please do get in touch, if we can be of any help, at [catholicarchivesociety@gmail.com](mailto:catholicarchivesociety@gmail.com) or join our growing community online on Twitter - @CatholicArcSoc or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/893811031448380/>

## Scottish Catholic Historical Association

### The Bernard Aspinwall Postgraduate Memorial Prize

Bernard Aspinwall was a lecturer and scholar, who worked for many years at Glasgow and Strathclyde universities. His research output in Scottish Catholic history was prodigious. The Association supports young scholars through this bursary scheme named after him.

Applications from scholars and postgraduate students are welcomed. The £250 prize will be awarded for the best submitted essay on any aspect of Scottish Catholic history. Deadline is 31 May each year, with notification within 6 weeks. Please submit application with a covering letter containing your address, email address and a contact telephone number to the Secretary of the SCHA at [scha.1950@gmail.com](mailto:scha.1950@gmail.com).

## Protecting dispersed collections: a framework for managing the at-risk heritage assets of Catholic religious institutes

Jonathan Bush

Many members will be aware of the challenges faced by religious institutes in finding a long-term solution for their archive, library and other heritage assets. This has notably been the case in recent years, with a rapid decline in membership numbers encouraging many religious institutes to actively consider their future and legacy.

The archives of religious institutes are more than a corporate record of their activities; the communities themselves view these documents as forming an essential part of their charism and identity, long after the community itself has physically disbanded. Just as vital is the importance of their collections to national and international history and knowledge. Collections of religious communities reveal the key role they played in movements now considered secular, whether through the development of health care and education, attitudes towards exile and migration, and international campaigns against human trafficking and modern slavery. To lose these stories is to leave us all with a seriously compromised and incomplete record in terms of historical understanding.

I have recently been awarded a RLUK-AHRC professional practice fellowship to carry out the first major research project into this area and investigate a range of potential solutions, from relatively small interventions to larger-scale initiatives, including the possibility of building a bespoke archive repository to store, preserve, and make accessible collections of religious institutes to the wider research communities (such a model has already been successfully implemented in other countries, see for example, the [Erfgoedcentrum Nederlands Kloosterleven](#)). The study would be informed by the results of a comprehensive survey of English and Welsh Catholic religious institutes to ascertain the extent, condition, storage/access arrangements and long-term plans for their cultural holdings, to establish how best to secure their future.

The fellowship will begin in July and is still very much in the initial stages of planning but if any members have any comments or suggestions, or just simply interested in hearing more about the project, then please feel free to email me ([jonathan.bush@durham.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.bush@durham.ac.uk))

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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](mailto:membership@crs.org.uk)

28 March 2022: English Benedictine History Commission 43rd History Symposium will be held at Douai Abbey, Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ and will commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Charles Walmesley OSB (1722-1797), monk of St Edmund's, Paris. Please contact Abbot Geoffrey Scott (Douai Abbey) [abbot@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:abbot@douaiabbey.org.uk) for programme and booking form.

3 May 2022: History Day at Harvington Hall, Worcestershire, with a theme of secrecy and disguise among Elizabethan Catholics. Further information, and booking details are available here [www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk)

4-5 June 2022: Historians of Women Religious of Britain and Ireland (H-WRBI), 'Women Religious: Lives and Life Stories', Further information, and booking details here <https://historyofwomenreligious.org/annual-conference/callforpapers/>

11 June 2022: Returning after a two year gap, the 25th York Catholic History Day will take place at the Bar Convent. Further information, and booking details will be published on CRS website as soon as the details are confirmed.

### Catholic Family History Society

<http://catholicfhs.online>

The Catholic Family History Society (CFHS) was established in 1983 to encourage those who have Catholic ancestry to research their family history. Membership of the Society entitles you to receive copies of the *Catholic Ancestor*, have your research interests listed and join in the activities of the Society. The Society website has a link to GENfair and Parish Chest to purchase membership and publications online. Other pages of the website list material that might be helpful, give research pointers and provide links to other Roman Catholic sources. There is a Members' page with several transcriptions of smaller registers.

Talks are given every two months on Zoom at the moment, details are on the website.

**26 March 2022:** Anne Marie Coghlan ISOGG (Fellow of the Cork Genealogical Society) on the documents and data sets that help located Irish ancestors

**21 May 2022:** Lawrence Gregory (Archivist National Institute for Newman Studies) on the Cardinal Newman Archives. Further information, and booking details here <http://catholicfhs.online>

### English Catholic History Association

The English Catholic History Association encourages interest in the Catholic history of England and Wales. We organise visits to places associated with the Catholic faith, and arrange conferences on subjects relating to our Catholic history. We also support research into subjects of Catholic interest and seek to prevent the destruction of Catholic archives. We have our own archive library. The Association developed from the English Catholic History Group that was formed in 1991.

Applications are invited from students/researchers for financial assistance to help defray costs incurred in the pursuit of their research. The research should have as its principal focus the history of Catholicism in England and Wales, should be in accordance with the objects of the



English Catholic History Association ('to advance the education of the public in English Catholic History') and should be intended for publication or in pursuit of an academic qualification. For more information: <https://echa.org.uk/research-grants/>

26 March 2022, 2pm: Ann Marie Coghlan FCGS, ISOGG on Irish Records for Family History, via Zoom. Please contact Sylvia at [cfhsr@gmail.com](mailto:cfhsr@gmail.com) for Zoom link.

4 May 2022: VISIT to Wardley Hall, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2ND.

Wardley Hall is the residence of the Bishop of Salford, with connections to the martyr, Ambrose Barlow (executed 1641). More details at: Information and further details at <https://echa.org.uk/whats-on/>

### Centre for Catholic Studies

The Centre for Catholic Studies has launched an international research network, ISHWRA (International Scholars of the History of Women Religious Association). The network's specific focus is to promote and facilitate enquiry into the history of Catholic female religious through a global perspective. It will host a monthly research seminar and a biennial workshop on a specific theme, with all seminars hosted virtually to allow for global participation. The seminar series will allow for the tracking of major international research themes, including the relationship between female religious and education, faith and spirituality, gender, politics, race, and social care.

The network's launch workshop was hosted virtually by the CCS and examined the experience of women religious during the French Revolution, with a collection of essays on the topic already planned. ISHWRA's convening committee includes the CCS's Cormac Begadon and Sarah Barthélemy, and James Kelly is on its Advisory Committee. The seminar schedule is as follows:

**6 April 2022, 2pm:** Dr Michel Chambon (National University of Singapore) on 'The Ministry of Chinese Catholic Nuns, Past and Present', Zoom. Registration opens 3 weeks before each seminar at <https://centreforcatholicstudies.eventbrite.com>

## CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY COUNCIL (2022)

*Council members are elected at the AGM (normally held as part of the Annual Conference). Prior notice of vacancies and nomination papers will be circulated in June.*

\*Dr Paul Arblaster, *Volumes Editor*

Dr Jonathan Bush (2019)

Professor Judith Champ (2021)

§Dr Peter Doyle

\*Dr Katy Gibbons, *Journal Editor*

Fr Peter Harris (2021)

\*Dr Serenhedd James, *Secretary*

+Dr Helen Kilburn,  
*Conference Secretary*

Dr Carmen Mangion,  
*Membership Secretary*

Dr Peter Nockles (2021)

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

\*Patrick Powell, Esq, *Treasurer*

Dr Maria Power (2021)

+Professor Bill Sheils

§Mrs Judith Smeaton

\**Honorary Officer of the Society*  
+ *Co-opted § Custodial Trustee*

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS (DUE 1 APRIL 2022)

Carmen M. Mangion (Membership Secretary)

The annual subscription remains at £43 for UK members and £68 for international members.

Payment can be made by any of the following methods:

- a) **Bankers' (Standing) Order.** Requests for the Banker's Order form to the Membership Secretary at [membership@crs.org.uk](mailto:membership@crs.org.uk). To set up a Bankers' Order we ask that you complete the reference box by using your full name (surname then first name) which will enable us to identify your payment on the CRS bank statements. Please email the Membership Secretary to confirm you have made a payment it would be much appreciated.

If you have set up a Bankers' Order, thank you, but we ask you to check the amount to make sure you are paying the current amount (see above) and, if not, to make the amendment before the end of March.

- b) **Online bank transfer** to the Catholic Record Society:

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

Account No. 11471579

Sort code 16-00-16.

For international members: IBAN: GB43 RBOS 1600 1611 4715 79 BIC:RBOS GB 2L

We ask that you complete the reference box by using your full name (surname then first name) which will enable us to identify your payment on the CRS bank statements. Please email the Membership Secretary ([membership@crs.org.uk](mailto:membership@crs.org.uk)) to confirm you have made a payment it would be much appreciated.

- c) **PayPal** for International Members who have a Paypal account.

Email [membership@crs.org.uk](mailto:membership@crs.org.uk) to request payment via this method and the Membership Secretary will send you an invoice.

- d) **Cheques** can be made out to the Catholic Record Society and sent to the CRS Membership Secretary at 54 Highgate Hill, London N19 5NQ.

*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](mailto: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.*