



CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY
British Catholic History



Newsletter no.4: Summer 2020

FROM THE CHAIR OF COUNCIL

I hope this finds our members well, as these strange times continue. Had the Annual Conference been able to go ahead this year, the Annual General Meeting would have taken place at some point in the first half of the third week of July. It was not to be, but I know members will welcome this extra newsletter in place of the Annual Report to keep them in touch with the ongoing work of the Society. It is particularly good that the sign-in option for members is now up and running on the website, and huge thanks are due to Susan O'Brien and James Wigley for their work on this.

Together with the Treasurer and Secretary I attended the annual meeting of the Society's Custodial Trustees on 8 July, on Zoom. The Custodial Trustees are charged with overseeing the Society's overall financial wellbeing and in this role we are fortunate to have the services of Judith Smeaton and Peter Doyle—longstanding members of the CRS—and of Simon Jamieson and Alexander Fitzalan-Howard, two distinguished investment managers.

Thanks to the efforts of the Treasurer the Society is in as good a financial position as it could hope to be, given the international situation and its effect on the markets. Happily, therefore, we are able to offer the usual research grants, and have extended the deadline to 20 July.

Bill Sheils

FROM THE SECRETARY

As Professor Sheils notes, the Custodial Trustees met on Zoom this year—a first for the CRS. The meeting of Council in May was conducted by correspondence; the business of the Society has been ongoing, but at a distance. I am delighted to be able to say that the 2021 Conference will take place at the Bar Convent from 19 to 21 July; further details will follow, but please do make a note of the dates.

Three new volumes are anticipated by the spring, and several applications for the Society's research grants have already arrived. The Members' Section of the website will, we hope, also provide new directions of growth. It will soon contain a CRS blog, where members will be able to provide short written pieces about their research, or teaching, or other subjects of related interest. There will be a limit of 1000 words, and we would be glad to hear from potential contributors: *secretary@crs.org.uk*.

The Annual General Meeting has obviously had to be postponed, but as a Society we need to meet to fulfil our constitutional obligations. The Charity Commission has been very helpful in this respect, providing sensible advice to charities such as ours. Depending on the national situation we hope to meet in the autumn, perhaps in London. Hopefully what will be possible will become clearer in the next few weeks; we shall make firm plans as soon they can be made, and then let members know.

Serenhedd James

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY



Digital Access to British Catholic History has arrived! Current and back issues can now be accessed via the new Members' Section of the CRS website for those with an email address. Forms are attached with this newsletter. I am the administrator for this purpose, so if you have already notified us of your email address, then I will be able to check it against my list and admit you to the Members' Section. If you use a different email from the one on the list, I will follow this up with you to ensure we have the right person and email address. If you have an email address but haven't previously notified CRS of it, and would like to use it for access to the Members' Section, please email the information to me: membership@crs.org.uk.

Susan O'Brien

MEMBERS' NEWS

Dr Peter Nockles has been awarded the 2020 Gailliot Award by the National Institute of Newman Studies in Pittsburgh, PA, in recognition of "a lifetime achievement in promoting and advancing the study of the life, writings, and influence of St John Henry Newman." All being well, he will travel to Pittsburgh in November to receive the award and deliver a lecture as part of the celebrations. We send Peter our warmest congratulations on this well-deserved recognition of his work.



Lawrence Gregory and **Naomi Johnson** have secured the rescue of the archives of Arthur Riddell, third Bishop of Northampton, which having been sold off by his descendants were being split up and sold individually as 'curiosities' on eBay. The collection contains nearly 200 items dating between 1847 and 1908, including letters, sermon notebooks, and financial ledgers. It relates not just to Bishop Arthur Riddell, but also to his uncle Bishop William Riddell—sometime Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District—and includes numerous letters between most of the key members of the Catholic hierarchy of the period. We look forward to hearing more about this valuable collection in due course.



Recent books by members of the Society include *Ampleforth College: The Emergence of Ampleforth College as the Catholic Eton*, Gracewing (2019), by **Dr Peter Galliver** (Winchester College); *The Cowley Fathers: A History of the English Congregation of the Society of St John the Evangelist*, Canterbury Press (2019), by **Dr Serenhedd James** (Oxford); and *English Convents in Catholic Europe, c.1600-1800*, Cambridge University Press (2020), by **Dr James Kelly** (Durham).

