



# CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY

(Regd. Charity No. 313529)

## **Annual Report 2015–2016 & Notice of Annual General Meeting 2016**

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### *Web-site*

<http://www.catholicrecordsociety.co.uk>

## **Patrons**

The Most Reverend Archbishops of England

## **President**

The Right Reverend D. J. Mullins, BA, Bishop Emeritus of Menevia

## **Vice Presidents**

The Right Reverend G. Scott, OSB, MA, PhD, FSA, FRHistS

The Lord Mark Fitzalan Howard OBE

Professor V. A. McClelland, MA, PhD, FRHistS

## **Custodial Trustees**

P. Doyle, PhD

A. Fitzalan Howard

S. Jamieson

G. Sutton

## **Elected Members of Council**

The Right Reverend Dr A. Bellenger, OSB, PhD

Dr L. Corens, PhD, *Conference Secretary*

Dr A. K. Dillon, BSc, MA, PhD, *Journal Editor\**

Dr J. Hagerty, PhD, *Membership Secretary\**

Mr M. Hodgetts, *Chairman*

Dr J. E. Kelly, BA, MA, PhD, *Honorary Secretary\**

Mr P. Powell, *Honorary Treasurer\**

Dr P. Nockles, PhD

Rev Dr P. Phillips, PhD

Mrs J. Smeaton, BA, MA

Dr H. Thomas, BA, MA, PhD, *Conference Director\**

Dr F. Young, PhD, *Volumes Editor\**

\* Honorary Officer

## 1. *Membership of Council.*

- a. Following the last AGM, Mr Hodgetts was re-elected by Council as Chairman of the Society.
- b. Following the resignation due to ill health of Mr Meredith as Honorary Treasurer, the Council appointed Mr Patrick Powell as his replacement.
- c. At the AGM Abbot Bellenger, Rev Dr Phillips and Mrs Smeaton each complete their three-year term as Elected Members of the Council. Mrs Smeaton has indicated that she is willing to stand again for election. Abbot Bellenger and Rev Dr Phillips do not desire to stand for a further term.
- d. These changes leave three vacancies as Elected Members of Council to be filled at the AGM. Mrs Smeaton, Dr Judith Champ and Dr Serenhedd James have so far been nominated. Other nominations, giving the names of the proposers and seconders together with the signed consent of the nominees, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary by 20 June 2016.

2. *Annual Conference.* The Society held its annual conference at Downing College, Cambridge, in July 2015. The 2016 conference will be held from Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 July at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. The programme and booking forms are available on the website.

3. *York History Day.* The Society is delighted to co-sponsor the next History Day at the Bar Convent, York, on Saturday 4 June 2016. The day will begin with coffee at 10am, and will conclude with Mass at 5pm. Full details can be obtained from the Society's web-site, or [judith.smeaton@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.smeaton@btinternet.com) or Tel. 01904 704525.

## 4. *Financial Report.*

- a. The Society holds liquid investment assets of £28,085 and £410,535 in investments, including the capital donated to and restricted to the purposes of the Society's research funds. The Society's brokers during the year were UBS but changes in that company's offering to charities of our size required a change and CCLA – who specialize in advising charities – were appointed by the Custodial Trustees in June 2016. The fully audited accounts for the financial year 2015/16 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 2016 the membership of the Society was comprised of 288 individual members in the British Isles, 40 international individual members, and nineteen religious houses in the British Isles. There were 2,048 institutional subscriptions to *British Catholic History* in 2015.

b. The following have joined the Society: Dr Jonathan Bush, Ushaw; Mr Anthony Hadland, Farringdon; Dr Karly Kehoe, Glasgow; Mr Brian Kelly, Preston; Ms Victoria Love, London; Mr Gerard MacAtasney, Lurgan; Dr Rosamund Oates, York; Ms Karen O’Connor, London; Fr John Pascoe, Shifnal; Dr Marie Rowlands, Birmingham; Mme Sophie Vezier, France; Mr Michael Walsh, London; Mr Daniel Waterfield, Cambridge.

c. Notification has been received of the deaths of Mgr Michael Williams, Professor John Bossy and Professor Nancy Pollard Brown. The annual Mass for deceased members will be offered during the Annual Conference.

d. 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.*

a. In 2015, *The Gages of Hengrave and Suffolk Catholicism, 1640–1767*, by Francis Young, was published and distributed to members as Monograph Series volume No. 8.

b. Before the end of the year, *Mannock Strickland (1683–1744), Agent to English Convents in Flanders: Letters and Papers from Exile*, edited by Richard Williams, will be issued as Records Series volume No. 86.

c. Another volume in the Records Series (an edition of the Chronicle of the English Convent, Bruges by Caroline Bowden) is currently in preparation and members can expect the next volume in 2017.

#### 8. *The Society’s Research Funds.*

a. As reported at the 2015 AGM (see Minutes, paragraph 8, below) two awards

from the Michael Williams and one from the David Rogers Research Funds for travel and subsistence expenses in 2015/16 were approved by Council, as well as one PhD scholarship.

b. The closing date for applications to the Research Funds for subsistence and travel grants in 2016/17 is **1 July 2016**. 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. The Society is most grateful to the Jesuit Fathers of Mount St., London, for providing rooms for its Committee and Council meetings.

## Minutes of the AGM held at Downing College, Cambridge on 21 July 2015

1. Mr Hodgetts took the chair; 31 members were present. Apologies for their absence were received from Abbot Scott; Sr Kenworthy-Browne; Rev Drs Broadley, Phillips; Prof McClelland; Mr Meredith.
2. The Minutes of the 2014 AGM were accepted.
3. The *Annual Report 2014–15* was presented. Mr Hodgetts commented on the Society's officers and membership of the Council:
  - a. Mr George Sutton has accepted the invitation from the Council to fill the vacant custodial trustee position.
  - b. Mr Meredith is standing down as treasurer due to ill health.

The *Report* was adopted on the motion of Fr Lannon and Dr Young.

4. In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, Mr Sutton said that the full accounts for 2014–15 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 there had been a slight decrease in income from £40,399 to £39,466 from the end of the financial year in 2014 to the end of the financial year in 2015. Expenses had increased from £38,870 to £53,116, the loss being explained by the publication of a volume, unlike the previous year. However, the investments returned an unrealized gain of £25,976, meaning that the total value of funds had risen from £448,510 to £460,816. Mr Sutton expressed his happiness at the Society's financial situation. The accounts were adopted for submission to the Charity Commission on the motion of Dr Hagerty and Mrs Smeaton.

5. The Membership Secretary, Dr Hagerty, said that Cambridge University Press now liaises with all institutions. He noted that CUP had been very helpful and all had gone smoothly. Dr Hagerty said that he dealt only with individual members and it was vital to continue recruiting them. On this front, CUP would provide a list of new institutional subscribers each year to be approached to purchase the volumes. He provided a breakdown of the membership as of 1 July 2015: individual members UK, 281; individual members international, 43; Religious Houses, 19; total, 343.

6. Mr Hodgetts reported that, since the end of the financial year, Rev Dr Broadley has resigned as Volumes Editor due to increased parochial commitments. Dr Francis Young had accepted the invitation of Council to take up the position; adopted on the motion of Mr Hodgetts and Dr James. Mr Hodgetts said that Rev Dr Broadley would continue to oversee the negotiations with Boydell & Brewer regarding electronic publication of the volumes. Francis Young's *The Gages of Hengrave* was ready for dispatch to members as Monograph Series, 8. Mr Hodgetts' second volume of Little Malvern letters or Richard Williams' volume on Mannock Strickland's correspondence with the English convents would appear in 2016 depending on which was ready first.

7. Dr Dillon reported that on 1 January 2015, the contract for the renamed journal, *British Catholic History*, with CUP became effective. She reported that it was also available electronically, including back numbers, with access free to members of the CRS. Dr Dillon recorded her gratitude to CUP for their help and support in making the transition so smooth.

- a. Dr Dillon said that the journal's editorial board had met twice. Dr Salvador Ryan (Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth) had been added to the editorial board and Dr Katy Gibbons (Portsmouth) had accepted the invitation to be the book reviews editor.
- b. Dr Dillon reported that in July 2014, 193 institutions had subscribed to the journal; in July 2015 it stood at 1,973 with the journal present in institutions in every continent. Developing countries had been offered a special deal and the journal was now taken up by institutions in

Africa. She said that there had been a large increase in the number of articles submitted to the journal since the move to CUP but stressed that non-academics would not be ruled out from having their research published.

c. Dr Dillon thanked the Council for supporting the move, as well as Dr Thomas and Dr Corens for their social media efforts in promoting the journal.

d. Mr Fenwick congratulated Dr Dillon on her efforts but asked about the loss in income resulting from the decrease in institutional members of the society. Dr Dillon replied that the saving made on printing and distribution costs (judged to be over £5,000 as non-incurred expense), as well as the royalties and the £1,000 given by CUP for editorial expenses, was significant. Dr James said that the results had been superb and it was a very exciting time for the society.

8. Awards. In Prof McClelland's absence, Dr Kelly read the report.

a. There were two awards from the Williams fund: Aislinn Muller for work on the 'quantifiable' effects of the excommunication of Elizabeth I within a European context, £1,300; Alexander Lock for help towards the publication of his life of Sir Thomas Gascoigne (1745-1810), located within *Catholicism, Identity and Politics in the Age of Enlightenment*, £300.

b. There was one award from the Rogers fund: Cathryn Spence for assessing the evidence of the changing of religious beliefs in sixteenth-century Scottish Testaments, £800.

c. Dr Kelly reported that Council had agreed that funds were available for a £5,000 PhD scholarship. A committee to judge the applications for this award had been created and its members wished to record the strength of the applications received. They had recommended the award be made to Aislinn Muller, who is engaged in research for a PhD at Cambridge about the excommunication of Elizabeth I.

9. The Conference Director, Dr Thomas, said that attendance stood at 55. The AGM unanimously voted to hold its next Annual Conference in Downing College from Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 July 2016.

10. Mr Hodgetts thanked the society's council for its support and hard work; Dr Thomas and Miss Corens for organizing the conference; the conference speakers; and the college.

**The Annual General Meeting of the Society will take place at  
Noon on Tuesday 26 July 2016 at Downing College, Cambridge**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM and any matters arising therefrom.
3. Adoption of the Annual Report 2015-16.
4. Financial Matters:      a. Adoption of the Annual Accounts 2015-16
5. Editorial Reports:      a. Volumes Editor  
                                  b. Journal Editor
6. Elections:
  - a. Election of three nominees to serve for three years as Elected Members of Council.
7. Awards Committee Report:
8. Date and venue of Annual Conference and AGM in 2017.
9. Votes of thanks.
10. Any other business.