



**CATHOLIC RECORD SOCIETY**

*British Catholic History*

Reg'd Charity no. 313529

*www.crs.org.uk*

**Annual Reports 2018-2019**

**&**

**Notice of Annual General Meeting 2019**

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## *Annual Report 2018-2019*

### *1. Membership of Council.*

- a. Mr George Sutton has resigned as a Custodial Trustee, and has been replaced by Mrs Judith Smeaton.
- b. Dr Thomas is on maternity leave, and her role as Conference Director has this year been divided between Mrs Smeaton and Professor Sheils.
- c. Mrs Smeaton has come the end of her second term on Council, and so is ineligible to be re-elected; but remains an ex-officio member as a Custodial Trustee.
- d. Professor Champ has expressed her intention to resign as Chair after the AGM of 2019, and does not wish to stand for re-election to Council on this occasion.
  - i. Council will elect a new Chair immediately after the AGM.
- e. There are therefore two vacancies on Council, to be filled at the AGM.

### *2. Annual Conference.*

The Society held its annual conference at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, in July 2018. The 2019 conference is being held from Monday 8 to Wednesday 10 July at The Bar Convent, York.

### *3. Sponsorship.*

The Society was delighted to co-sponsor the History Day at the Bar Convent, York, on Saturday 1 June 2019; and also the Centre for Catholic Studies' Early-Career Conference at Durham on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

### *4. Financial Report.*

As at 31 March 2019 the Society held liquid assets of £50,853 (2018: £32,934) and invested assets of £519,871 (2018: £481,849), including the capital donated and restricted to the purpose of the Society's research funds. The increase in assets reflects a good investment performance and reduced costs. Members not attending the conference may obtain a copy from the Hon. Treasurer, to whom questions may also be addressed: [treasurer@crs.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@crs.org.uk).

### *5. Membership Report.*

- a. The membership of the Society at 1 May 2019 was comprised of 191 individual members in the British Isles, 26 international individual members, and 20 religious houses and small libraries in the British Isles.
- b. The following have joined the Society: Vincent Burke, Dr Helen Kilburn, Victoria Love, Dr Joanne Myers (USA), Sr Magdalen O'Neill IBVM, Johanna Strong (Canada), Dr Liam Temple.
- c. Resignations were received from: Christine Newman, Fr John Pascoe, Paul Pickering, K. Schmude, Dr Victoria Van Hyning, Dr Francis Young. In addition the membership secretary has removed more than 30 members for non-payment of subscriptions (following two reminders).

d. The Society has noted with sadness the deaths of A. J. Foster, and the Rt Revd Francis Walmsley CBE.

d. As a result of a push to obtain email addresses for as many members as possible, the Society now has email contacts for 69% per cent of members. These members will be able to access *British Catholic History* online once the Membership Secretary has supplied email addresses to Cambridge University Press.

e. The response rate to the GDPR consent form was just under 50%. A further effort will be made to increase this rate when the next newsletter is distributed.

f. The Membership Secretary has worked closely with CUP during the year to ensure accurate lists for distribution of BCH. Only one copy of the May 2019 edition was return to CUP as ‘unknown’.

## 6. *Editorial Report.*

### *Volumes*

a. After a dry spell in the submission of suitable proposals for volumes, there is now a queue of projects for the coming years, including material from the 16th, 18th and 19th centuries.

b. *Little Malvern Letters* ran into delays but is now expected to be ready to send to the publisher by the end of 2019.

c. A collaboration has been agreed with the Surtees Society, for joint publication of *The Rites of Durham* at the end of 2019.

d. A similar collaboration is being explored with Toronto University Press, for publication of 17th-century papers from the English Convent in Brussels.

### *Journal*

a. *British Catholic History* continues to receive a good number of articles with a wide chronological range. The next edition (34:4), will be with the publishers this week, to appear in print in October 2019.

b. Most members of the journal’s editorial board, who represent the leading scholarship in our field, are reaching the end of their first term of service. All members of the board have been invaluable for the journal as it has made its transition to Cambridge University Press and continued to grow; with Council’s approval the Editor intends to invite them to serve a further term.

## 8. *Research Funds.*

a. As reported at the 2018 AGM, 5 awards were approved by Council from the Rogers and Williams Funds. It was agreed to treat these funds as interchangeable in the future, given the disparate capital in them.

b. It was agreed that research awards should normally not exceed £1500; but that these funds might also be extended, under certain conditions, e.g. provision of illustrations, appendices, to assist with the costs of publication of record materials. The extension of funding in such circumstances would not exceed £1000. These amendments would be noted on the website.

c. In the light of an earlier discussion at Council, it was agreed that the CRS PhD Scholarship should be suspended for three years while the Society absorbed the costs of the website and other administrative changes.

#### *9. Website, Social Media & Branding*

The CRS's new website is now up and running: *www.crs.org.uk*. Office holders have designated email addresses, and the subcommittee hopes that members will be pleased with the result.

The Society's Facebook page has been updated regularly this year, promoting members' publications, appropriate events being run by other societies, and relevant news items. The Twitter feed has also been active, thanks to Dr Gibbons and Dr Liesbeth Corens.

As part of the process of raising the Society's online profile, the CRS logo has been updated: the new logo, which draws on the original of 1904, appears on the front of this report. From now on the words "Catholic Record Society" will appear with *British Catholic History*, to reinforce the Society's link with the journal.

#### *10. Thanks*

The Society remains grateful to the Jesuit Fathers of Mount St, London, for providing rooms for its Committee and Council meetings.

Serenhedd James  
*Honorary Secretary*  
secretary@crs.org.uk

## ***Treasurer's Report 2018-2019***

The Treasurer is 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 2019 have been drawn up by King Hope Chartered Accountants and independently examined. Copies of the full accounts are available by email upon request to the Treasurer.

### **Information/comments on incomings/outgoings**

(a) The Society's incoming resources were made up as follows:

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Donations	1300	2885
Subscriptions	8410	7644
Investment income	16677	17127
Conference income	8860	9036
Sales, royalties	4354	3983
Gift Aid/tax refund	(2700)	.....
	<b>36901</b>	<b>40675</b>

(b) The resources expended were:

Grants	6700	4212
Publications	15201	1781
Conferences	11099	11589
Management and admin.	1297	2591
Governance	4642	4635
	<b>38939</b>	<b>24808</b>

Total net resources were 15,867 compared to a negative (2038) for 2018. The main reason for this significant difference of around 17900 was reduced costs, as below.

### **Income**

Increased donations	1585
Increased conference income	176
Increase in investment income	450
Reduced subscriptions	(766)
Gift Aid adjustments	2700
Reduced sales/royalties	(371)
	<b>3774</b>

### **Expenditure**

Grants decreased	2488
Publications decreased	13420
Consultancy	(2000)
	<b>17908</b>

(c) The value of the Society's investments at 31 March 2019 stood at 519,871: an increase of 38,022 compared to 2018.

(d) Cash held at 31 March 2019 was 50,853: an increase of 18919 compared to 2018.

Patrick Powell  
*Honorary Treasurer*  
treasurer@crs.org.uk

## *Minutes of the AGM of 2018*

*held at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge on 24 July*

1. Professor Champ took the chair; 30 members were present. Apologies for absence were received from Drs Arblaster, Gibbons, & O'Brien, and from Mr Sutton.
2. The *Minutes* of the 2017 AGM were accepted.
3. The *Annual Report 2017–18* was presented. The Report was adopted on the motion of Mrs Smeaton, seconded by Fra' Duncan Gallie.

### *4. Treasurer*

Mr Powell noted that the full accounts for 2016–17 were now available. They had been scrutinized by the Custodial Trustees and accepted. The Society's finances remained sound; although there had been a number of one-off costs which had amounted to an overspend of c.£2000.

Dr Bowden asked whether the Charity Commission had taken a view on the sum that appeared in the Society's investment account. Mr Powell observed that the Charity Commissioners do not advise on that matter, the responsibility for which rests with the Trustees.

Mr Fenwick asked about the status of the Gift Aid rebate. Mr Powell explained that it had become apparent that the benefits provided to members exceeded the value of the membership cost, which meant that Gift Aid was not claimable on subscriptions. The total sum of the Society's assets included the ring-fenced funds.

Mr Powell invited the members of the Society to contact him for any information they might like to have, and Professor Champ thanked him for his work. The accounts were adopted for submission to the Charity Commission on the motion of Mr Fenwick, seconded by Dr Thomas.

### *5. Editors' Reports*

#### *Volumes*

- a. *The Chronicles of Nazareth (The English Convent) Bruges 1629-1793*, edited by Caroline Bowden, had been issued as Records Series volume No. 87.
- b. Michael Hodgetts' *Little Malvern Letters* was expected to be ready for publication by the end of the year.

#### *Journal*

- a. The latest edition of *British Catholic History* 34, 2 (October 2018) was already with the publishers; and work for the next edition was ongoing.
- b. Cambridge University Press had reported a positive outlook overall with regard to subscriptions in what is a very competitive market.
- c. It was noted that Cambridge University Press might be adjusting their submission processes in the near future, and so the appointment of the proposed Editorial Assistant had been deferred for the time being.

## 6. Elections

a. There were two vacancies for elected membership of the Council; and nominations had been received for Fr Peter Harris (proposed by Mr Fenwick and seconded by Mrs Smeaton) and Fr Stewart Foster (proposed by Mrs Smeaton and seconded by Mr Fenwick). Frs Harris and Foster were duly elected, *nem con.*

b. The office-holders were confirmed in their offices, *nem con.* Professor Champ thanked the office-holders for their work and support.

[*At a meeting of Council immediately after the AGM Professor Champ was re-elected as Chair.*]

## 7. Awards

Professor Sheils reported the following awards.

- Dr Cormac Begadon: £600 towards *English Benedictines Abroad in the Eighteenth Century.*
- Dr Christopher Gillett: £1250 towards *Catholicism and Revolution in the British World, 1630-1670.*
- Dame Scholastica Jacob OSB: £1000 towards *Returning Benedictines Nuns, 1795-1838.*
- Dr Maria Power: £862.40 towards *The Catholic Women's League and the Catholic Laity, 1906-2013.*
- Derek Taylor: £500 towards *George Conn, Papal Legate to Charles I, 1636-39.*

Professor Sheils also noted that as the awards appear on the Society's website, the Awards Committee was pleased that applications often came from abroad. He felt, however, that the Society should indicate that its funds are limited, and suggested that it be made clear that grants are normally awarded up to c.£1,250; but also that applicants should contact him for further details. Speaking to a point made by Miss Kilburn, he felt that it was important that the Society gave itself space for discretion when making awards.

The Society encourages those in receipt of awards to present their research to Conference in due course.

## 8. Conference Director

Dr Thomas noted that conference attendance was rising again. After feedback over the last couple of years it has been decided that the Conference should move to York for the 2019 session: it will take place at the Bar Convent, 8-10 July. Information had been circulated to delegates, and more information would appear on the website later in the year. Dr James would be standing down as Conference Secretary, having become Secretary of the Society.

[*At the meeting of Council in October 2018 Dr James succeeded himself in the office he had just vacated. He intends to step down again as Conference Secretary this year...*]

## 9. Thanks

Prof Champ reiterated her thanks to the members of Council, and for the members'

forbearance in a period of flux, and for the support of Mgr Hudson, the new President. She also expressed the Society's appreciation to the Jesuit Fathers at Mount Street and the Dominican community at Blackfriars for their hospitality in London and Cambridge respectively, and to Murray Edwards College as the Conference prepared to move to York.

#### 10. *AOB*

- a. Professor Champ noted that all back CRS volumes had now been digitized, and would be available online in due course. A presentation outlining this development would be given later on in the conference. She thanked Dr Doyle and Mrs Smeaton for their work on this project.
- b. The Society was looking to develop its website as an important tool for wider engagement; for increased communication with the membership; and as a first point of contact for those with interest in our work. It was hoped that a volunteer might come forward to help with the upkeep of the website.
- c. Professor Champ noted the need to focus on the future direction of the Society in the next couple of years. She referenced Dr O'Brien's recent efforts as Membership Secretary to provide a new and accurate list of members; and that Dr James would also serve as Development Officer for the next two years, in addition to his work as Secretary.
- c. Mr Fenwick raised the issue of Downside and the Gillow Library; while Fr Foster noted that this also included the Trappes-Lomax papers and the CRS archives. Prof Sheils volunteered to take this matter forward.
- d. The late Philip Harris's funeral would take place on Wednesday 8 August at 11 am in Brentwood Cathedral. The Society would be formally represented.

The meeting closed at 12.40.

**The Annual General Meeting of the Catholic Record Society will take place at noon on Tuesday 9 July 2019 at The Bar Convent, York**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2018 AGM and any matters arising
3. Adoption of the Annual Report 2018-19
4. Treasurer
  - a. Adoption of the annual accounts 2018-19
5. Editors' Reports
  - a. Volumes Editor
  - b. Journal Editor
6. Elections
  - a. Two vacancies for members of Council to serve for three years
7. Awards Committee Report
8. Development Officer
9. Website
10. Date and venue of annual conference and AGM in 2020
11. Any other business
12. Votes of thanks

## **Patrons**

His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster  
The Most Revd the Archbishop of Birmingham  
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

## **Elected Members of Council**

\*Dr Paul Arblaster, *Volumes Editor*  
Professor Judith Champ, DSS, *Chair* (2016)  
Dr Peter Doyle (2017)  
Fr Stewart Foster (2018)

\*Dr Katy Gibbons, *Journal Editor*  
Fr Peter Harris (2018)

\*Dr Serenhedd James, *Honorary Secretary,  
Conference Secretary & Development Officer*  
Dr Peter Nockles (2017)

\*Dr Susan O'Brien, *Membership Secretary*  
\*Patrick Powell, Esq, *Honorary Treasurer*  
Professor Bill Sheils (2017)  
Mrs Judith Smeaton (2016)

\*Dr Hannah Thomas, *Conference Director*

\* Honorary Officer of the Society