

English
Catholic



History
Association

Reg. Charity No. 1072269

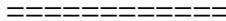
NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, No. 70

MARCH 2016

CONTENTS

News and Notes	Page 4
Forthcoming Events guide	Page 6
Feedback	Page 11
Book reviews	Page 13
Future Programme	Back cover



Membership of the English Catholic History Association

is open to all who are interested in furthering its aims.

Annual membership £11 with reductions for additional members at same address and students under 25

Membership forms and further details are available from:

The Secretary or Treasurer, addresses on page 3,

or on the website – <http://echa.org.uk/>

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND FEEDBACK

always welcome

Please send contributions to the editor Mrs Sheila Mawhood, the ECHA Publicity Officer at the address on page 3. [By email please and if possible saved with file extension of .doc in Word, photos in .jpg format.

Patrons: Rt. Rev. Dom Geoffrey Scott, OSB, MA, PhD, FSA, FRHist S
Abbot of Douai.

Lord Clifford of Chudleigh

President: Abbot Aidan Bellenger, OSB, MA, PhD, FSA, FRHist.S, FRSA

Committee:

Chairman:	Dr Simon Johnson
Deputy Chairman:	Mr Bernard Polack
Treasurer:	Mr Vincent Burke
Secretary:	Mrs Angela Hodges
Members:	Mrs Sheila Mawhood
	Mrs Clare McKenna
	Mr Nigel Parker

Address for Correspondence:

45 High Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset. TA14 6PR

☎ 01935 823928 **E-mail:** secretary@echa.org.uk

Web site: www.echa.org.uk

Programme Co-ordinators: Ursula and Bernard Polack (address below)

Membership Secretary: Mr Vincent Burke 16 Brandhall Court, Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68 8DE ☎ 0121 422 1573

Publicity Officer and Newsletter Editor: Mrs Sheila Mawhood (address below)

Regional Co-ordinators:

Leeds, Middlesborough, Hexham & Newcastle Mrs Lalage ROBSON, Dunelm, Black Dyke Lane, Upper Poppleton, York, YO26 6PT ☎ 01904 794929

South East (East Anglia, Brentwood, Arundel & Brighton & part of Southwark): Bernard POLACK, 4 Woodstock Grove, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 2AX. ☎ 01483 421412

Diocese of Westminster: Nigel PARKER, 17 Salcombe Gardens, Clapham Common North Side, London SW4 9RY ☎ 020 7978 4329

Email: nigel.parker349@btinternet.com

Kent: Christopher BULL, 48 Reed Avenue, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1ES

☎ 01227 451139 **Email:** abtaurusreed@gmail.com

South West: Mrs Lynne HUNTER JOHNSTON, The Close, Hewelsfield, Lydney, Gloucester, GL15 6UU ☎ 01594 530612

Email: elizabethhunterjohnston@gmail.com

Northampton and Nottingham Dioceses: Mrs Sheila MAWHOOD, 21 The Retreat, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0JG ☎ 01844 343669

Email: sheilamawhood@aol.com

West Midlands, North West England, Wessex and Wales: VACANT

NEWS & NOTES

- Greetings to you all. I hope you have survived the winter without being blown away or flooded out. We have devised a varied programme for the first half of 2016. I hope that you will find it interesting and hopefully, we will see you at one event or the other – or all of them with a bit of luck. I am sorry this edition is later getting to you than planned.. Please note that booking deadline for two-venue 14 April visit to Worth Abbey and West Grinstead is **31st March**. My apologies for the short notice.
- A great number of you have provided your email address and we felt that the time might have come to offer you the choice of receiving your quarterly newsletter electronically.

There are many advantages to providing your newsletters by email. You will get yours more quickly, up to a week before those posted. A number of photographs which I reproduce are in *colour*, *Glorious colour* which is lost in the b&w printing process but present when you view on screen.

Obviously our Treasurer would be delighted if I could reduce the printing and postage costs. And every pound saved that way is another pound available for organising events and for funding research.

Of course, many of you don't have email. Don't worry; your yellow-covered number will continue to land on your doormat four times during the year. You have nothing to fear, nothing to do.

And some of you who have provided your email address may not want to have newsletters sent electronically. That's fine too. Just let me know your wishes. Could you send me an email please?

What we definitely need to do now though, is to check that your details are correct. Vincent tells me that he needed to email a few of you regarding the change in your subs. And he had several mail failures.

Everybody - what to do if there is an error in your address details (please check the envelope this newsletter arrived in).

Could you please write/email/ring me and give me any corrections?

My contact details are on Page 3 of this newsletter.

If you have email could you please send me an email giving your name, address, phone number and **email address**. I will check that the email address, and other details which you had previously provided match our records.

Please indicate your wishes regarding receiving newsletters by email. If I don't hear from you I will assume that your details are correct and I will email your newsletters from June 2016. Many thanks, in anticipation for

considering this change. It will help us keep our records up to date and we will be able to contact you with last minute news as well.
Important note: Newsletters will be emailed BCC – **blind** copy.

- Our first outing of the year will be to Worth Abbey in the morning and the Shrine at West Grinstead in the afternoon. I have seen reports in the press that the Worth Abbey **School** Choir will be heading off to Rome to sing with the Sistine Chapel Choir at a Papal Mass in St Peter's Basilica on 24th April.

A former pupil of the school, Mark Spyropolous has brought this about. He is the first Englishman since the Reformation to get a contract to sing with the Sistine Chapel Choir. He was recently at his old school putting the choir (mixed choir, girls and boys) through their paces.

The Worth Abbey School Director of Music, Mark Oakley, added that "*Papal Masses are very difficult to get an invitation to, so this is something of a rare honour.* It certainly is.

But on our visit to Worth Abbey on 14th April we will content ourselves with listening to the Abbey Community singing Psalms at Midday Prayers.

- The Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation at West Grinstead, West Sussex which is in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, has one of the *additional* Holy Doors (additional to that at the Cathedral at Arundel) for the Year of Mercy.

Other nominated Holy Doors in the Diocese are located at The Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest at Weybridge, Surrey and the Chapel at Mayfield School in East Sussex.

If you can make it to our visit on 14th April you can see it for yourself.

- **Important note.** Bernard is organising the two-venue outings on 14th April and 3rd June. Please note that if you wish to attend just *one* of the two events on either day, the charge has been adjusted. To visit both centres £15, to visit one centre £7.50.
Please book by **31st March** for the Worth Abbey/West Grinstead visit.
- This is a useful website for getting directions to the various places we shall be visiting over the coming months. We don't all have a Sat Nav. And Sat Navs can sometimes send you down a blind alley.
http://www.theaa.com/route-planner/classic/planner_main.jsp
- As you know I am always delighted to receive emails from you with feedback or news of something going on in your neck of the woods which I can publicise here and on our website. But have you ever considered writing a review of the visits and meetings that we organise?

- Very often, one or other of us on the committee does the write-up but in the past it has often come from the wider membership. (Often after we have tapped a willing soul on the shoulder) I would be very happy to publish your review. If you fancy having a go, please speak to Bernard (who is organising 2 of our forthcoming days out) or myself regarding the Westminster one. Maybe add a note to your booking form?
It would be preferable, as always, to get any reviews by email but if I know it is coming, I can handle a handwritten one.. Please give it some thought.

News of David Pearce. Those of you who attended the 2013 AGM will remember him vividly.

He had us on the edge of our seats, doubled up with laughter one minute and pondering quietly the next. His subject was John Incent (or Innocent) who managed to keep his head when many others went to the scaffold during Henry VIII's reign. Incent was appointed Dean of St Paul's Cathedral by his Monarch but the principal link that day between subject and presenter was *Berkhamsted School*.

The school, founded by Incent in 1541, more recently rejoiced with the appointment of David A R Pearce Head of the English Department and a boarding housemaster.

Please turn to the Book Reviews and see the review from the Amazon website. I understand that one of his poems is on the subject of the Annunciation. David is battling serious illness at the moment. We send our best wishes and prayers.

XXXXXX

FORTHCOMING EVENTS GUIDE

Visit to Worth Abbey on Thursday 14th April 2016

Please refer to the booking form for timings. I saw the following on their website:

“Worth Abbey is easily accessible by road, rail, and air. Located close to Crawley and the M23, in the heart of the Sussex countryside, it is 32 miles from London, and 22 miles from Brighton, while London Gatwick Airport is only 6 miles away.”

Here is the full address **Paddockhurst Rd, Crawley RH10 4SB.**

Tea and coffee will be available from 10:30am. At 11am we will have a talk and then a tour of the Abbey

We are invited, "indeed encouraged", to join the Community for midday prayer at 13.00, "...which is a short service of approximately 10 minutes when the Community sing the psalms". In addition to exploring the Abbey Church we are also welcome to visit the Quiet Garden and their extensive grounds (weather permitting, of course).

The school campus is out-of-bounds unfortunately - although the visit will be in the school holidays, other groups will be using the school.

Please note that tea and coffee will be provided so don't forget to bring a packed lunch or your Fortnum and Mason's hamper.

Bernard envisages that we would eat our packed lunches before midday prayer and then depart for West Grinstead afterwards.

And so to the afternoon visit, **The Shrine Church of Our Lady of Consolation The Priest's House, Park Lane, West Grinstead, Horsham West Sussex RH13 9LT**

We can expect a talk by the shrine historian, tour of the Priest's House and Secret Chapel followed (if all goes well) by Benediction.

The Priest's House at West Grinstead has a history of recusant Catholicism and a secret chapel. Father David Goddard (the Shrine Custodian) remembers our visit in May 2005 and will be delighted to welcome us again. He says *"I am delighted to tell you that we now have our own shrine historian: Mr Geoff Callister. He is more than able to make up for the deficiencies in my health and mobility. Very sadly, my physical incapacity precludes my presiding at Benediction these days, but I may well be able to find a local priest or deacon to preside at it for me"*

XXXXXX

Saturday 14th May in London - Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral.
"Saint Nicholas Owen, Priest-Hole Maker" - Tony Reynolds

We plan to sell any unsold tickets at the door but at this point we don't know if there will be any unsold tickets. Maybe we shall have an instant sell out. So, if you would like to come but can't commit until nearer the time, please contact me nearer the date for availability. My email address and phone number are on the booking form. And on page 3 of this newsletter

The Hinsley Room is located in Morpeth Terrace, SW1 beside Westminster Cathedral. I see on the Cathedral website that there is an *adjoining pleasant garden with patio and fountain*. That would be lovely to explore but we may be otherwise occupied. Let's hope it is a nice day and who knows? There is ramped access for the less mobile and toilets with wheelchair access. I can recommend a

nearby pub if you come early and are looking for somewhere for lunch – or afterwards for that matter.

The Windsor Castle previously called **The Cardinal**. It is in the street behind the Cathedral. 23 Francis St, London SW1P 1EQ. tel.: 020 7834 7260.

Our speaker for our afternoon meeting is the book's author, Tony Reynolds.. Here are a few more notes about St Nicholas Owen and a few about Tony Reynolds.

“During the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I, it was high treason, and therefore death, to be a Catholic priest in England. It was consequently vital that there be somewhere to hide when the pursuivants came battering at the door.

One name is prominent in the construction of priest-holes - that of Nicholas Owen. A very short and later crippled man, he built the majority of these shelters, so saving the lives of untold numbers of priests and fugitives. His early apprenticeship as a joiner and his knowledge of construction served him well as he burrowed into walls and constructed near-invisible entrance holes. Although a well-known figure in Recusant studies, and almost invariably mentioned in histories of the Gunpowder Plot, this is his first detailed biography.

St Nicholas Owen was born in Oxford, the son of a carpenter. Two of his brothers were to train as Catholic priests on the continent. A third, Henry, the first apprentice at what was to become the Oxford University Press, went on to assist the Mission with the production of Catholic books and pamphlets. Nicholas was himself apprenticed to an Oxford joiner in 1577. Acting as a servant to Fr Henry Garnet SJ for nearly twenty years, Owen had many adventures, narrowly evading capture, and assisted in the escape of the Jesuit Fr John Gerard from the Tower of London in 1597. St Nicholas was tortured at the Poultry Compter in 1594 but later released. He was finally taken in one of his own priest-holes during the rigorous pursuit of Catholics that followed the failure of the Gunpowder Plot, and died upon the rack in the Tower of London in 1606. Evidence of St Nicholas Owen's work is still visible in country houses and mansions across England, and recent research has unveiled greater detail of his fascinating career assisting the English Mission at the close of the 16th and beginning of the 17th centuries.”

“**Tony Reynolds** read Architecture at University College London in the 'sixties, and became interested in the application of computers to architecture, then very much in its pioneering stages. A staunch member of the caving club at college, this love of confined spaces combined with his architectural training may have given him special insight into the construction of priest-holes. Working as a computer manager and resident programmer, he has published several textbooks on computer use by architects, and, most recently, a well-received book of pastiche Sherlock Holmes stories.”

Copies of Tony's book will be on sale at the event.

Friday 3rd June Wass Abbey and Malton North Yorkshire,

This is another two-venue day and is being organised by Bernard Pollack. This is the day before the York History Day meeting at the Bar Convent in York so you could spend two very rewarding days in North Yorkshire.

I found an article in the Catholic Herald archives which concerns Wass Abbey and the distinguished actress Patricia Routledge. I wish I had room to reproduce it all here. But let's make do with the photo which accompanies the article and the first couple of paras.

The celebrated actress who loves tea, cake and debate with nuns

by [Isabel Westby](#) Friday 6 July 2012



Patricia Routledge with nuns of Stanbrook Abbey (Photo courtesy of Patricia Routledge)

Patricia Routledge tells Isabel Westby why she is supporting a new appeal by Stanbrook Abbey.

When actress Patricia Routledge received a surprise invitation to be Patron of a very special appeal, she was delighted and immediately said yes. She joins fellow patrons Bishop Terence Patrick Draine of Middlesbrough and Bishop Arthur Roche of Leeds (soon to take up a Vatican post as secretary to the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments), in an appeal to raise £2.4 million for the building of a church and hospitality wing as part of the new Stanbrook Abbey at Wass in North Yorkshire. The community of Benedictine nuns who moved there three years ago from Callow End, Worcester, have a very particular place among a wide variety of Patricia's friends.

Now known to millions throughout the world as the redoubtable Hyacinth in Keeping Up Appearances and as the elderly sleuth in Hetty Wainthropp Investigates, Patricia is one of Britain's most distinguished actresses, regarded for her work in theatre, film, television and radio.. In 2006 she agreed to play the role of Dame Laurentia McLachlan, the distinguished 20th-century Abbess of Stanbrook, whose three-way correspondence with the atheist and art expert Sir Sydney Cockerell and the agnostic George Bernard Shaw had been turned skilfully by Hugh Whitemore into a play called The Best of Friends. It was to be directed by James Roose Evans (himself a non-stipendiary Anglican priest and long-standing friend of the Stanbrook community), and Routledge asked if it would be possible to visit Stanbrook Abbey in order to learn more about the life of the community and to understand the role of the Mother Abbess. (It had been a very valuable exercise some years earlier when she visited the community of Anglican Benedictines nuns at West Malling in preparation for her BBC Omnibus role as Hildegard of Bingen, the 12th-century abbess soon to be declared a saint and Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XVI.) Here's a link to the article <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2012/07/06/the-celebrated-actress-who-loves-tea-cake-and-debate-with-nuns/>

It looks like we will see the results of that appeal as Bernard tells us that the new Church was consecrated on Sunday, 6th September. 3015. The booking form is enclosed.

XXXXXX

FEEDBACK

The Downside Monastic Library and Archives, the most important repository of Catholic History in the UK opened its doors to the public in 2015. The Library collection contains over 60 incunabula, 175 Papal Bulls and a large collection of Vatican State Papers. It is the only library in the world which has a complete collection of Early English Catholic Recusant Publications (1514 – the late eighteenth century). Our Chairman, the Keeper of the Library is Dr Simon Johnson and he has overseen the project to make the collections more accessible.

It is interesting though, to see how the local press have followed up. I have paraphrased a bit here (space restraints) but here is the story which was published in the Western Daily Press on 18th January 2016.

Monks discover chicken curry recipe in 200-year-old cookbook

Monks at Downside Abbey have discovered a handwritten recipe book, dating from 1793, in their Monastery Library. With recipes as diverse as Turtle Soup, Chicken Curry and Fricassee of Pigs Feet and Ears, there is also a controversial recipe for the historic Sally Lunn bun.

Fr Christopher Calascione, a Downside monk, recreated the Sally Lunn recipe for the BBC recently, with a taste-test at the renowned Bath eatery.

The handwritten pages were compiled by generations of cooks in the kitchen of Begbrook House.

But when the house in Frenchay, near Bristol, was burnt down by Suffragettes in 1913, the fragile book of 142 recipes was passed on to the monks at Downside Abbey.

It was newly discovered by Benedictine monks at the Abbey in Radstock, Somerset, while exploring a private collection.

Among the carefully recorded recipes is one for fricassee of pigs' feet and ears – meat served in a white sauce – and turtle soup.

But there are also some more recognisable recipes, such as an early version of chicken curry, as well as a semolina pudding, pancakes, carrot soup and even mince pies.

Dr Simon Johnson, Keeper of the Abbey's archives and library, said: "*You can tell it's been very well used. It's in a pretty good condition, but there are a few splatters of something or other all over it.*

"It's in the hand of the actual cook and there's a variety of recipes such as plum loaf and how to cure a ham. It seems to be a working kitchen cookbook as opposed to being for special occasions."

"It's evoked so much interest because it's a Georgian, Regency cookbook. I think people are generally interesting in the more domestic parts of history ". The social history is forgotten – the day to day running of a house."

Treasures within the Library include Cardinal John Henry Newman's personal copy of the Bible, early Bibles printed in English, a beautifully illustrated 14th-century Book of Hours and other medieval manuscripts, rare theological texts, and unusual donated collections.

These include books on sundials, birds, archaeology and local history, along with the archives of the English Benedictine Congregation dating back to the 17th century. Members of the public can access the collections by contacting collections@downside.co.uk 01761 235323.

Simon shall have the last word

First and foremost we are a Monastic library and our specialisms are in history, theology and philosophy....but yes we do have unusual material such as cookbooks which are just as useful to a monk's education as Thomas Aquinas

XXXXXX

BOOK REVIEWS

The Lives and Times of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales 1535 – 1680

Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged

by **Malcolm Pullan**

ISBN 9781909878945

Paperback 670 pages

New Generation Publishing, 2013

(I paid £16.99 for this through a local Christian book shop; Aid to the Church in Need were advertising it for £14.99)

This monumental work of reference (a paper-backed book more than an inch and a half thick) should be much more widely-known. I became aware of it only when I saw it mentioned in the *Catholic Voice*, the diocesan newspaper of the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The author, who can trace descent from a well-known recusant family, the Pulleyns of Yorkshire, tells us that the book is the result of over thirty years spent studying the lives of the martyrs. And what a result it is – an absolute mine of information about these 37 heroes and 3 heroines of our Catholic past. These were thirteen secular priests, three Benedictines, three Carthusians, one Bridgettine, two Franciscans, one Augustinian, ten Jesuits and seven laymen and women.

In eight chapters, the stories of the martyrs, and much, much more, are related, conveniently and correctly, to the reigns of the various monarchs:

The Henrician Martyrs and the Aftermath

Edward VI and Mary Tudor

(there were no Catholic martyrs during the reign of Edward VI, but this chapter describes the general and religious history of those times)

The Elizabethan Persecution, 1559 – 1603

The Elizabethan Martyrs, 1577 – 1601

The Jacobean Martyrs, 1603 – 1625

Charles I and the Civil War Martyrs, 1625 – 1649

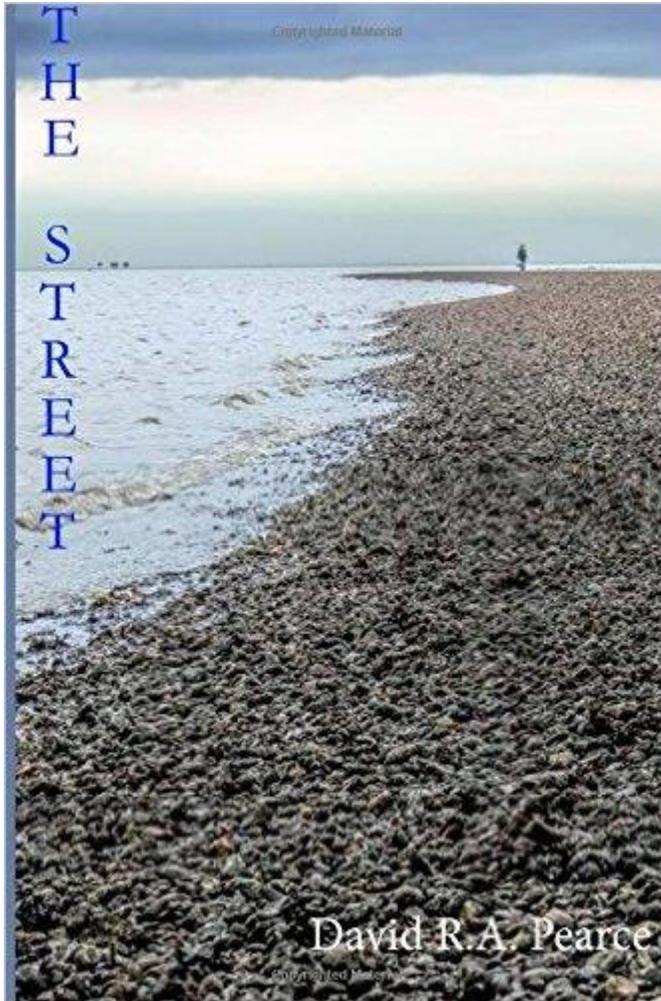
Puritan Parliament and the Commonwealth

Charles I and the “Popish Plot”, 1660 – 1685.

In each chapter, after a thorough review of the history of the period, the author gives an amazingly detailed description of the lives of those of the Forty who were martyred in that period. The title, however, does not do justice to the full coverage of the book, because, in Notes at the end of each chapter, the author gives shorter biographies of many other of the Catholic martyrs and of certain other persons mentioned in the text.

The range of the author’s research is illustrated by the fact that the List of Sources runs to fourteen pages and the wide coverage of the book by the fact that the Index of Persons runs to twenty-four pages. The author explains that “The sources for the lives and deaths of the martyrs are well established. Every writer on the subject inevitably draws on these same sources and subsequently upon each other. My work is no exception. There is no new, hitherto unpublished material and I make no claim to originality or great erudition.”

Bernard Polack



The Street

David R A Pearce

Price: £4.13

Paperback: 76 pages, English. Dimensions: 15.2 x 0.5 x 22.9 cm

Publisher: Mountain Arbor Press 16 Feb. 2016 Editor: Phillip S Hodges

Cover design: David Woodnutt

ISBN-10: 1631830015

ISBN-13: 978-1631830013

For those who love poetry, David R.A Pearce has written a unique, beautiful, and impressive collection of sonnets (103 in all) and other poems in 'The Street.' The poems, together, form a very personal and honest account of a challenging and interesting period in his life. 'The Street', off Whitstable, Kent, is an enticing narrow promontory of shingle, shell and pudding-stone extending some mile, or mile and a half, into the sea. It is completely covered at high tide, with rising waters encroaching from both sides. One has to be careful not to be cut off. ~David Pearce~ 'The Street' is in itself a metaphor because the author is being cut off. He has been diagnosed as having terminal cancer, and the writing of these poems, mostly in the last two years, has been a therapy for him – and, so far a successful therapy. He hopes that the poems may be an encouragement and pleasure to others just as they have been for him.

Reader's review: "The light may be dying but it is still light, and this poet makes marvellous use of it, not by raging but by talking. Distinctive voice, rich experience, masterly grasp of language and of poetic forms, he confronts death with life-giving verbal energy and witnesses to "what we'd wish to live again" from making marmalade to ingenious encounters with Satan and a deep, if questioning, awareness of God. Keep this book by you, for we are all on the same journey."

XXXXXX

The 'Making of Men': The Idea and Reality of Newman's University in Oxford and Dublin

by **Paul Shrimpton** £25 October 2014

ISBN-10: 0852448244

ISBN-13: 978-0852448243

Paperback: 652 pages

Publisher: Gracewing Publishing



A new book shows that Blessed John Henry Newman was a man of action and an indefatigable administrator . Universities could learn a lesson from Newman

Anyone acquainted with the portrait of Blessed John Henry Newman in his cardinal's robes, painted by Millais, might be tempted to form an opinion of him based on this image alone: a man whose features reflect an otherworldly austere beauty and refined sensitivity. But this is only one aspect of Newman's many-sided genius. In a book that has recently absorbed me, **The 'Making of Men': The Idea**

and Reality of Newman's University in Oxford and Dublin, by Paul Shrimpton, I have been confronted by an entirely different Newman: a man of action, an indefatigable administrator, someone of infinite pains and great energy – indeed, a person who, in another (lesser) sphere, might have reached the top of a government department. Central to the book is Newman's emphasis on the pastoral dimension of university life: how to assist the development of character, ie. the virtues, in young men (women were not then admitted to higher education) at a critical time in their lives. Shrimpton demonstrates how this conviction was present in Newman's thinking while a tutor at Oriel and later when struggling, single-handed, to found the Catholic University in Dublin. Indeed, as a curate in St Clement's, Oxford, he had preached in a sermon before the age of 25 that "all education should be conducted on the principle that it is a means to an end, and that end is Christian holiness."

This principle did not prevent Newman from considering every aspect of university life in the formation of an educated laity: their intellectual studies, embracing the nascent sciences as well as medicine, the humanities, languages and the classics; also, crucially, the kind of residential setting best suited to the volatility of youth. To read the book is to be in awe of the responsibilities he willingly undertook, especially in Dublin. People today talk of the work involved in starting a primary free school. Try starting a university from scratch, with all the obstacles that Newman encountered, both among the Irish middle classes and the Irish hierarchy.

The book's author, who has spent nine years researching and writing the book – alongside his full-time work as a history teacher at Magdalen College School, Oxford, for the last 28 years – tells me that "Newman in action – dealing with problems, deciding priorities, comparing systems of organisation, anticipating future trends and developments" shows that his ideas "are not just attractive (and beautifully expressed) but eminently practicable."

Newman's attempts to start a Catholic university in Dublin between 1854 and 1858 are usually considered a failure. Paul Shrimpton is at pains to explain that although many circumstances conspired to prevent him fulfilling this project, Newman was not impractical in the way he set up and ran the university. His book shows, admirably and with a wealth of research, how Newman "practiced, as opposed to preached about, education."

Shrimpton emphasises that Newman's celebrated book on higher education, **The Idea of a University** "does not convey his full vision" as it "only hints at the importance of the pastoral dimension of education" – a crucial part of Newman's teaching and tutoring experience at Oriel College. In Dublin, his abiding aim "was to create the best possible conditions for human flourishing". His thinking is reflected in his remark that "residence without examinations comes nearer to the idea of a University Education than examinations without residence."

All this is a far cry from modern universities, designed by those who run them and those who study at them, as merely a means to a career.

This is the antithesis of Newman's outlook as a great modern Christian humanist and educator, wanting to teach young people, as the author states, "not how to make a living but how to live." Shrimpton hopes his book will show Newman "nurturing a university into existence, guiding both teachers and taught and promoting human flourishing within lecture hall, library and laboratory as well as by means of student journalism, debating and sport."

Shrimpton comments that modern universities "wash their hands of the non-teaching side of student life" and that "virtually no-one has challenged the process and asked why." He believes Newman would have objected strongly: "He witnessed the beginning of that unrestrained quest for professional training and mere technical knowledge urged by the liberals and the utilitarians of his day and saw an antidote in both a genuinely liberal education and a collegiate education."

For Newman, the author reminds me, the moral education of the whole person "was an essential part of a liberal education, an education supposed to form and shape character and inculcate a sense of responsibility to society." As a teacher himself of long experience, engaged in preparing students for university, Shrimpton is convinced that "pastoral oversight and a healthy living environment are needed today more than ever, for students are exposed as never before to the self-destructive temptations of popular culture and only lip service is paid to the idea of 'pastoral wellbeing' – surely a consequence of a postmodern society where there is no consensus of what it means to be a well-formed person."

Shrimpton thinks that being a schoolmaster himself has helped him to be more on Newman's wavelength. He adds, "Yet while my profession attuned and sensitised me to many of Newman's ideas, at the same time his ideas have in turn influenced how I approach my work in countless ways. His rich understanding of the human

condition is so wonderfully inspirational – and challenging – that it is difficult to resist the influence of his lofty vision.”

His book has certainly inspired me – and changed the way I view Newman. Last week, my grandson, who has just started at Newman’s old college, Trinity, showed me round the college. Outside Garden Quad I saw the famous bust of the Cardinal. Unlike the Millais portrait his features look resolute and authoritative – indeed, those of a gifted administrator and man of action.

This book review by Francis Phillips was first published in the Catholic Herald.

2016 PROGRAMME

- **APRIL: Thursday 14th West Sussex** - Worth Abbey and The Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead.
Booking form enclosed
Organiser Bernard Polack

- **MAY: Saturday 14th London.** Hinsley Hall, Westminster Cathedral.
Afternoon meeting, 3pm.
Tony Reynolds – “**St Nicholas Owen, Priest-Hole Maker**”.
Booking Form enclosed
Organiser Sheila Mawhood

- **JUNE: Friday 3rd North Yorkshire,** Wass Abbey and Malton. Full Booking Form enclosed..
Organiser Bernard Polack

- **JUNE Saturday 4th York** Catholic History Day at the Bar Convent.
Programme will be published on www.catholicrecordsociety.co.uk
Bookings and enquiries: judith.smeaton@btinternet.com