

**English
Catholic**



**History
Association**

Reg. Charity No. 1072269

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, No. 78

MARCH 2018

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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:

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Feedback, comments and articles for publication are **always** welcome

Please send contributions to the Newsletter Editor: Mrs Sheila Mawhood, at the address on page 3. And send them by email please and, if possible saved with file extension of .doc in Word, and photos in .jpg format.

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NEWS & NOTES

News and Notes

- Hurrah, at last. Your ECHA newsletter for March is here. I have a lot of info for you in this edition. And as often happens I had a bit of a flood of things at the last minute. I do hope that this edition finds you all fit and well, not snowed in nor flooded out. Easter is upon us and all of us at ECHA Central would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Easter.
- Sad news to start with though. **New Chairman needed** We are sorry to have to inform members that our present Chairman, Dr Simon Johnson (Director of Heritage at Downside Abbey) has informed the Committee that, in view of his work commitments, he feels it necessary to relinquish the position. Is any member willing to take on this post (our friendly and supportive Committee meets three or four times a year) or can any member suggest anyone who could be invited to be our Chairman? The person does not have to be a professional historian or even particularly knowledgeable about English Catholic History (the present members can testify that they have learned much on that subject by being members of the Committee). If you are willing to serve, or can suggest anyone who could be approached, please inform the Secretary, Mrs Angela Hodges. We were lucky to have had Simon at the helm these past few years. I especially remember his recent talk on the subject of the archives at Downside Abbey, especially finding out about the variety of objects kept there under his care. They ranged from an elaborate Portuguese monstrance of King James II, to correspondence from Sir Walter Raleigh to a well-thumbed very old hand written cookery book containing a recipe for chicken curry. This had come with a donated collection from a recusant family home. Maybe we should pay another visit? But we thank Simon and wish him well.
- Sadly, we have lost two members of the Association in the past couple of months. Rex Kidd who died on 30th December 2017 had lived in Princes Risborough for many years and did invaluable work in researching the history of St Teresa's church and creating its archive. The other was Michael Protheroe. Those of you who went on the ECHA visit to Cornwall in 2009 might remember Michael's talk on King Arthur and Glastonbury. In fact he did a great deal for the Catholic Church in Glastonbury. Lynne Hunter-Johnson has written a few notes about Michael Protheroe's life

and she has also listed the publications which he completed in his lifetime. Please see page 5.

- Those of you who attended the AGM in Bath back in October will recall that I have started a lending library of sorts. I have been given a number of books, mostly from the very kind book reviewer at the Catholic Herald, Francis Phillips. I want to pass them on to you so that you can read them and then I ask that you pass them on. Not necessarily to another ECHA member, nor necessarily to another Catholic but to someone whom you feel might enjoy the book and get something out of it. So several books went out on the tide at the AGM. I have a few more and rather than wait until the next AGM, I will bring them to the meeting at Princes Risborough on 5th May which I am organising. So please help yourself. I will have a form inside for you to complete, just so that I know who has taken them. Please pass them on. After all, that's what we are here for - to disperse information about English Catholic History. This time I have a copy of the illustrated booklet (28 pages) written by Sr Beda Brooks OSB. I mentioned her book on *Saint Walburga (c710-779) Her Way of Loving* a couple of newsletters ago. Sister Beda lives in a convent in Germany, Abtei St Walburg in Eichstatt which lies roughly halfway between Munich and Nuremburg, What I have just discovered is that they operate a guest house there. I thought that you might be interested in that. Maybe your travels might take you to that part of Germany. To the day in Risboro' I will also have an information leaflet regarding the Gâsthaus (it's in German) if you would like to take a look. This is their website though www.bistum-eichstaett.de/abtei-st-walburg/
- As you already know, the ECHA provide funding to scholars engaged in research in the field of English Catholic History. At our last meeting, the committee approved an application from a lady completing her PhD at Bristol University. She will now be able to visit the Vatican Library in Rome to obtain further material concerning Catholic Martyrdom in a global (including England) context c1580/168. We can expect an interesting report from her at a later point. We all wish her well with her research.
- We continue to receive enquiries from visitors to our website. One of the most recent concerned a lady called Pamela Colman Smith, who was responsible for painting scenes on all the Tarot Cards. I'm not into Tarot Cards myself but maybe you know what these illustrations might look like? The enquirer added...*as a result, she is probably the most reproduced artist the world has ever known.* In 1909 she became a

devout Catholic, received into the Church at the Brompton Oratory and moved out of London to the Lizard Peninsula in Cornwall. More information on that period is what was sought. This time, various members of the committee managed to find some details for the man who had contacted us. As it so happened, Angie Hodges, ECHA Secretary had holidayed in that part of Cornwall last year and had even visited the church that Pamela Colman Smith attended. Do you remember in the last newsletter we mentioned an Australian lady who was asking after the Hartwell family? One of our ECHA members contacted us and we were able to pass on information to that enquirer. Job done.

- Please keep an eye on the website. As soon as we have news or more details of an upcoming event, you will see it first on the website. I have been oversubscribed with this newsletter and have had to hold a few items over for the June edition. But please, continue to send me any articles for publication or any news on anniversaries in your parish or diocese.
- A few of you have already responded to our suggestion of going on an organised visit to Spain, Santiago de Compostella, Valladolid and Salamanca. Please give it some thought. This is now on the drawing board and at this stage we would like to hear from more of you if you are interested in obtaining details.
- Finally, and on the subject of keeping in touch with one another and spreading the word. We plan to set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account for the ECHA,. Can you help us? Do you have a social media savvy friend or relative who could help us set up these accounts? We already reach out to people via our website but we need to do more. We can post news instantly and so can you. You could ask questions, answer questions and do it *now*, straight away. And so can anyone looking at our website. I often feel it is a pity that you only hear from us every 3 months via this quarterly newsletter. .This will on no account affect your paper newsletter. We know a number of you are not on email nor use the internet at all. But many of you do and the ECHA would be more accessible to people out there if we linked up with Facebook and Twitter, Please contact Angie Hodges if you can help us.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 19th April. ARUNDEL, West Sussex

Arundel Cathedral and guided walking tour of the town

We meet at Cathedral 11 a.m. Please bring or buy your lunch. Afternoon guided walking tour of the town with emphasis on Catholic history aspects.

We had initially planned to make this day in Arundel a visit to the historic medieval **castle**. But decided that you would get more out of the day if we arranged a tour of the Catholic Arundel Cathedral in the morning and a walking tour of the town in the afternoon. There would still be time, if you wished, to visit the Castle, but we will not be organising that. There is a load of information on the Arundel Castle website - www.arundelcastle.org/. The admission charges are a bit complex with gold, silver and bronze standard prices ranging from £13 to £22 per adult and £13 to £19.50 for concessions. They have a restaurant and a coffee shop. And on their website they mention a tulip festival in April, so their gardens would be a picture. They don't seem to have Mass in the Cathedral on Thursdays. They do however, at the Convent of The Poor Clares, Crossbush. You would have to ring this number the night before to obtain details - 01903 882536.

Our day will commence with a guided tour of the Cathedral at 11am. Here are a few notes from the Cathedral website.- <http://www.arundelcathedral.org/index.htm>
Arundel Cathedral, cathedral church for the Catholic diocese of Arundel and Brighton. Situated in a prominent position in London Road, Arundel, West Sussex, the cathedral overlooks the ancient town of Arundel on the west bank of the river Arun, where the valley opens out into the coastal plain.

The Cathedral was founded by Henry, 15th Duke of Norfolk, whose old established family own extensive estates around Arundel, and the building was completed on 1st July 1873 to designs of Joseph Hansom, inventor of the Hansom cab.

The original dedication was to St Philip Neri, founder of the Oratorian religious order. When the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton was created in 1965, the church of St Philip at Arundel was made its cathedral and rededicated to Our Lady and St Philip. In 1973 there was a further change in dedication to the recently canonised martyr St Philip Howard.

We expect to break for lunch at *about 12:30*.

At 2pm we embark on a walking tour of Arundel, led by staff from Arundel Museum in groups of 15 per guide. We will meet up at the Museum in Mill Road which is at the bottom of the town and set off from there. If you would like to make your lunch break a quick one, you could visit the museum itself before the town tour. The admission charge is £1.

Here are the phone number and website link for the Museum - 01903 885866

office@arundelmuseum.org They mention *relaxing with a cup of coffee* but whether or not they also serve meals is not stated. Maybe give them a ring if you fancy lunching there?

Here is the Cathedral address for your SatNav - London Road, Arundel BN18 9AY. There appear to be several car parks and even free street parking. You might find the parkopedia website helpful in that regard. The London terminus for this line is London Victoria

If you want to stay the night, you might find this website useful for finding accommodation <http://www.arundel.org.uk/accommodation/hotels>.

The booking form is enclosed with this newsletter. Bernard would appreciate hearing from you with booking form and payment by 6th April but he will try and accommodate any late applications.

Saturday 5th May, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire

at St Teresa's Church and Walsingham Hall (next door)

Tour of the church conducted by Dr Liz Duffy

Morning speaker – Mrs Margaret Osborne, Archivist Emeritus Northampton Diocese - **Laurence Walter Youens, 6th Bishop of Northampton**

Afternoon speakers – Lindsay and John Mullaney - **The Founding of Reading Abbey, with a glimpse at its Art, Architecture and Music.**

People often do a double-take when they first catch sight of St Teresa's Church in Princes Risborough. It is located opposite Tesco on the first roundabout as you come into town from Aylesbury (or the last roundabout as you proceed out of town from the Wycombe direction). You can't miss it. At first glance, it possibly does more resemble a mosque than your conventional Catholic church. But the large high cross on the largest of the domes puts that theory to rest. The design of this church has been described as *Modern Byzantine*. And modern, indeed it is, having been consecrated as recently as 1938. Inside, the church has many unique features and all will be revealed in the brief tour of the church which will follow Mass and refreshments on your Saturday morning visit to Risboro'. Your guide will be Dr Liz Duffy.

Mrs Margaret Osborne is the author of several publications, many on the subject of the Bishops of the Diocese of Northampton. She will be discussing one of the Bishops, the sixth, one Laurence Walter Youens.

Youens was a local boy. He was born in High Wycombe in 1872 and was brought up in the Anglican faith. He was a choirboy, probably singing at The Church of All Saints in High Wycombe. After his conversion to the Catholic faith, with the aim of joining the foreign missions, he studied for the priesthood in Country Cork, then to France, Lyons where he was ordained in 1901. Father Laurence Walter Youens

was then sent to Egypt. But his missionary work definitely and his LIFE almost, came to an abrupt end when he was set upon and nearly murdered by Arabs in Zagazig (in the Nile Delta). A traumatised and battered Fr. Laurence Walter Youens returned home from Egypt and into the care of his family and the Diocese of Northampton. In due course, in 1902, the Bishop, wisely, sent him to St Augustine's Catholic Church in High Wycombe where he recovered his health whilst serving as an assistant priest to Father John Flint PP.

Fast forward to 1937. **Bishop** Laurence Walter Youens, on Whit Monday 1937 came to Princes Risborough where he laid and blessed the foundation stone of St Teresa's Church. He conducted the Solemn Opening of the Church exactly a year later, on Whit Monday 1938.

And he was also responsible for the restoration of the Slipper Chapel at Walsingham in 1938.

Our speaker, Mrs Margaret Osborne will fill in all the gaps and provide you with an engrossing account of the life of a saintly man who cared about the disadvantaged and had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And so to lunch. You could bring your own sandwiches or if you prefer, there are several cafes a short walk away. a chippy and a pub.

There will be two speakers in the afternoon, Lindsay Mullaney and John Mullaney, Their subject will be - *The Founding of Reading Abbey, with a glimpse at its Art, Architecture and Music.*

The Hidden Abbey Stones Project (HASP) is a new venture, instigated by John and Lindsay Mullaney. The Project's aim is to involve the people of Reading in the rediscovery of the fabric of the great Benedictine Abbey of Reading, founded by King Henry I in 1121. They hope to establish whether the Abbey changed much during its 400 years as an active monastery. *To what extent will we find evidence of changing styles of architecture? And from this information can we say more about what life in the Abbey and in Reading may have been like?*

After his death in France, King Henry I was buried in Reading Abbey. Whereas the main aim of project is not to find the King's remains, their discovery would be a great bonus. Music associated with the Abbey will be examined and played during the afternoon's proceedings, including that from the Douai Cantatorium .

A brief look at how pilgrimage developed in the years following the Abbey's foundation will be presented. Why did Henry choose Reading as his mausoleum? What happened to the Abbey during the anarchy of the wars between Matilda, the Lady of the English and King Stephen?

The other day, John Mullaney told me that he and others in the working party had recently made a very significant discovery when clearing rubble and undergrowth from the back of St James' Church in Reading (this Catholic church lies within the

ancient Abbey's boundaries). They found the base of a pillar which had not seen the light of day for many a year. There is a lot of useful information on this website - <https://www.readingabbeyhistory.com/> Click on the Hidden Abbey Project button and find out how Philippa Langley MBE became involved with the Reading Abbey project.. Philippa Langley? She is the lady who led the search for the remains of King Richard III in that carpark in Leicester.

The booking form is enclosed

The charge will £15 for whole day, to include refreshments. Or,if you wish to come for a half day, the charge will be £8.50 for the morning and £8.50 for the afternoon's proceedings.

Saturday 2nd June York Catholic History Day

As we go to press, details for the 2018 York Catholic History Day are not finalised. The event will take place at the Bar Convent starting with tea and coffee at 10.am and the first talk at 10.30, the second speaker after lunch. As this year is 450th anniversary of the founding of the English College at Douai, to train priests for the English mission, Fr. Peter Phillips, Archivist of the Diocese of Shrewsbury and known to many ECHA members, will speak on **The Recusant Clergy, 1569 to 1829**. If you keep an eye on the Bar Convent website www.bar-convent.org.uk, more details on the day's proceedings will be posted and if you fancy stopping the night you will also find availability and room rates on the website.

The event is being organised by Judith Smeaton and you should book tickets for the History Day with her judith.smeaton@btinternet.com

Sunday 24th June LONDON Holborn Annual Martyrs' Walk

We won't be *organising* this event as such but if you would like to come, could you please contact Nigel Parker (details below) so that he can give numbers to Joanna Bogle.

The day will start with 11am Sung Latin Mass at St Etheldreda's Church (Ely Place) in Holborn. Nigel says that this is one of the oldest Catholic churches in Britain with its stained glass windows and statues of the martyrs around its walls. After Mass, gather at the back of the church and you will be taken on a tour of the church.

You could bring your own lunch or buy a sandwich or something grander locally. Joanna Bogle's Martyrs' Walk sets off from the churchyard of St Sepulchre's Church, Snow Hill near The Old Bailey ending up at Tyburn Convent at Marble Arch with stops at several churches on the way.

People generally walk to Soho and then either walk or take the bus to Tyburn Convent. Free bus travel in London for those with bus passes of course.

At or about 4pm there will be Benediction at Tyburn and the Nuns will serve tea afterwards

There is no charge as such for the day but donations will be invited by the organisers of the Walk

Please refer to the enclosed information form and please contact Nigel for any enquiries and if you would like to join in.

July 2018 THE MALVERNS, Worcestershire 2018 (date to be advised)

Visit to the church of St Wulstan, Little Malvern, with a talk on the Elgar connection and to St Leonard's Newland, Malvern. We will be joining the Midlands Catholic History Society - <https://midlandcatholichistory.org.uk/> on this visit to Worcestershire and as we go to press it is work in progress. I will have more information and a booking form in the June newsletter. But keep an eye on the MCHS website for news as it breaks. And our website as well of course.

Saturday 22nd September 2018 – WINCHESTER Hampshire.

At St Peter's Catholic church. Our day begins at 11am with a presentation from the John Thornhill, Archivist at St Peter's on the subject of the church and on the archive itself. A buffet lunch will be provided. You will also be able to see a display of some of the materials and objects in the archives. Audrey Atter is organising this ECHA event and she tells me that among the treasures you can see in the archive display is a 1st edition of *De Ratione Conscribendi epistolis* by Erasmus (1522), also medieval orphreys and processional cross, and a 17th century silver-gilt pyx with its contemporary pouch.

In the June newsletter I will have your booking form and more information. But if you plan to go please consider using the Park and Ride and don't even *think* of trying to park in town.

Saturday 20th October 2018. Day conference and AGM.

This is still on the drawing board. The venue and the speakers presenting on the day will follow in the June and September newsletters. But for now, please note the date in your diary.

ARTICLES

We don't often discuss Latin poetry or epitaphs in our newsletter but I thought it was impressive how the errors in this epitaph from so long ago were identified by John Trappes-Lomax. A good piece of detective work. John T-L has published "Catullus: a Textual Reappraisal" (Swansea 2007) and "The Lingard-Lomax Letters" (CRS 2000) and various articles in the field of English Catholic history and

Latin textual criticism. He explained that Abbot John Reeve's tomb was destroyed presumably under the Commonwealth - it was at the chancel steps - so Weever is really the only source for what it said.

THE EPITAPH OF JOHN REEVE LAST ABBOT OF BURY ST EDMUNDS

John Reeve of Long Melford became Abbot of Bury St Edmunds in 1514. His life reflects the first stage of the religious changes of the 16th century. For 20 years as Abbot, he was a great spiritual and temporal lord, and within the banna leuca that extended for a mile in each direction from the town, he was subject directly and immediately to the Pope in spirituals and to the King in temporals; in 1533 he presided at the last great ceremony of Catholic England, the interment in Bury of Mary Tudor, sister of Henry VIII, widow of Louis XII of France, wife of Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk; he acknowledged Henry as Supreme Head on earth of the Ecclesia Anglicana; he surrendered the Abbey on 4 November 1539; he died in Bury on 31 March 1540 and was buried there in St Mary's Church. It is therefore of some interest that there exists a version of his otherwise lost epitaph, preserved at p731 of John Weever *Ancient Funerall Monuments* (London 1631), who with the marginal note `John Kemis (sic) Abbot the last` records the following:-

Buria quem Dominum ac Abbatem nouerit olim,
 Illius hic recubant osso sepulta viro.
Suffolcae Melforda nomen nato Iohannem
 Dixerunt Kemis, progenie, atque pater.
Magnanimus, prudens, doctus fuit atque benignus,
 Integer et Voti Religionis amans.
Regni qui cum Henrici Octavi viderat annum
 Ter decimum ac primum Martius atque dies
Unum terque decem. ... flamine terras
 Occidit. o anime parce benigne Deus.

Such, more or less, is the form in which the epitaph has been from time to time reprinted, most recently by Francis Young *The Abbey of Bury St Edmunds* (Norwich 2016) p132 n80, except that he inadvertently omits *qui* in line 7. Yet the epitaph as it stands is unmetrical and ungrammatical; it misnames the person commemorated; in its penultimate line it is visibly defective. This raises two

questions:- 1) Is there a better text or further relevant information? The answer is No. The Society of Antiquaries possesses Weever's note-books and kindly permitted me to examine them; however, the first part of his note-book for the Diocese of Norwich is lost and with it his record of the Abbot's epitaph. 2) Why is the text so bad? Firstly, as he informs us (loc. cit.) 'The funerall monuments in this Church are almost all defaced, especially such as are of any antiquitie.' Secondly, at the end of his introduction, dated 28 May 1631, he writes 'Many are the errataes, I am afraid, which will be found in the printing, the greatest I have met withall I have amended, not doubting but some also of consequence have escaped mee; and for those of lesser note, I have passed them over, desiring my reader to correct and pardon.' He was dead within 10 months (probate granted 29 March 1632), and it is likely that his health or his eyesight or both were already gravely impaired. To take one example, no grammar-school boy would have supposed *osso* (line 2) to be a Latin word, and few would have been unable to emend it to *ossa*, which is required by sense and metre.

As a knowledge of the principles of Latin versification can no longer be presumed, I mention that the epitaph consists of five elegiac couplets and that elegiac couplets comprise a mixture of spondees (two long syllables) and dactyls (a long syllable followed by two short syllables); therefore, sequences of three shorts or of a single short sandwiched between two longs (cretics) should not occur. I shall now go through the poem couplet by couplet, making the necessary changes and translating the corrected version. Finally, I will print the whole in what seems to me to be the closest possible approach to the original.

In line 1 we have a sequence of three shorts *Domin(um) ac* (the *-um* suffers elision before the following vowel); the cure is simple, though - so far as I know - not yet prescribed; metre can be restored by writing *atque*, the alternative form of the copula, in place of *ac*. In the penultimate word, the third letter has been smudged in the printing and could in fact be *n* rather than *u*; it is certainly not *v* which it ought to be and which those who have reproduced the epitaph rightly print. More importantly, *noverit* is the wrong tense, a fact which seems to have been overlooked. The perfect *novit* has a present sense ('he knows'), so the future perfect *noverit* has a future sense ('he will know'); what is needed here is the pluperfect *noverat* which has an imperfect sense ('he used to know'). In line 2 we

should read *ossa*, as already remarked. We also need the genitive *virii* in agreement with *illius*. The two latter changes are old and can be found at Richard Yates *An Illustration of the Monastic Antiquities of Bury St Edmunds* (London 1843) p222. The whole now means:- `The bones of that man whom Bury once knew as her Lord and Abbot lie buried here.`

The second couplet has suffered most in transmission. Metrically, it contains two cretics (*forda nom* and *to lohann*; the *l* is certainly consonantal), and the name of the Abbot has been signally falsified. The former fault can be most economically cured by placing *Melforda* after *nato*. The correction of *Kemis* to *Revis* is old and can be found in Yates; if the top of an *R* is rubbed away, the result can easily be misread as *K*. The ablative *progenie* is awkward; nor is it improved by the surrounding commas which should be deleted. Even with these changes, the Latin is clumsy to say the least; perhaps readers will be able to improve it further.

Anyhow, the meaning - if that is the right word - seems to be:- `Melford of Suffolk and his father called their offspring's name John from the progeny of Reeve.`

The third couplet is correctly transmitted:- `He was magnanimous, prudent, learned and kind, honourable and a lover of his Vow of Religion` (i.e. as a Benedictine).

The fourth couplet is correct in itself, but the sense runs on to *occidit*, and Weever found one word in line 9 illegible. The meaning is:- `When he had seen the 31st year of the reign of Henry VIII and when March had seen one and thrice ten days, he died`. The date is expressed rather obscurely, so it will perhaps be helpful to note that *Martius* is nominative and that the only verb of which it can be subject is *viderat* understood from the previous clause. We must now deal with *flamine terras*. *terras* is accusative, but cannot be the object of *occidit* which is intransitive; therefore it must be the object of a verb which fitted in the gap before *flamine* and agreed with it so as to make an ablative absolute. So what was the wind (*flamine*) doing to the lands in 1540? The answer is that 1540 saw the most severe and prolonged spell of drought and extreme heat in Western Europe that has ever been recorded; such an event necessarily involves a hot dry wind from the south. Information on this topic can be found by a computer search for `drought 1540`. The fullest academic treatment is by O. Wetter and others `The year-long unprecedented European heat and drought of 1540 - a worst case`, *Climatic Change* (125) 2014 pp349-63. The writer of the epitaph thought the coincidence of Reeve dying on the 31st day of the month in the 31st year of the reign worth mentioning; it would be natural for him to also mention the devastating drought of

the same year. Horace at *Satires* 1.5.78 describes the mountains of his native Apulia thus:- *quos torret Atabulus* ('which the Sirocco parches'). The same verb would be appropriate here, so the restoration <torrenti> *flamine terras* ('while the wind parched the lands') is likely to be correct. Strictly speaking, an ablative absolute should use the alternative form of the present participle which ends in short -e, but this would not scan and our author may well not have known or cared about this refinement.

The last five words, meaning:- 'O spare his soul, kind God', are of course correct. So the best text that I can give runs as follows:-

Buria quem Dominum atque Abbatem noverat olim
 Illius hic recubant ossa sepulta viri.
Suffolce nomen nato Melforda Iohannem
 Dixerunt Revis progenie atque pater.
Magnanimus, prudens doctus fuit atque benignus,
 Integer et Voti Religionis amans.
Regni qui cum Henrici Octavi viderat annum
 Ter decimum ac primum Martius atque dies
Unum terque decem <torrenti> flamine terras
 Occidit. o anime parce benigne Deus.

John Trappes-Lomax

Michael Protheroe 1948-2017 - RIP

“Like many others I was very sad to hear of the death of Michael Protheroe last December. Michael spoke for us at ECHA on the subject of King Arthur and Our Lady of Glastonbury during the ECHA visit to Cornwall in 2009, and that is when I met him and we remained friends.

Michael came from the Wirral and studied History at Oxford University. He was especially interested in medieval history and perhaps his studies influenced him to become a Catholic which he did in his 20s. After University he was a teacher of History at Calday Grammar School, West Kirby, and while there he wrote the history of the school. He left teaching, feeling increasingly drawn to religious life and he tried his vocation at Pluscarden Abbey in the 1980s. After some years of discernment he eventually left and settled finally in Glastonbury. He was a committed member of the Shrine Church of St Mary’s, supporting its mission with his fervent prayer and his indefatigable research into the history of Glastonbury, believed to be the most ancient Christian settlement in Britain dating from apostolic times, and home to what is claimed to be the oldest church dedicated to Our Lady.

His publications on this subject are numerous and are listed after this article insofar as I have been able to find details of them.

Michael was instrumental in securing the return of a significant statue of the Virgin Mary to Glastonbury. Carved by Eric Gill and placed in a niche on the outside of the first Catholic church in Glastonbury to be built after the Reformation, it was removed when that church was demolished to make way for the current shrine church. It then spent many years in the garden of the convent of the Sisters of St Louis, whose convent was adjacent to the shrine. When the convent closed, the statue was moved to the diocesan archives for safe keeping. Michael was aware of its existence and together with Fr. Kevin Knox-Lecky and Dr Tim Hopkinson-Ball, who was at that time a Trustee of Glastonbury Abbey, they secured the permission of Bishop Declan Lang for its return. It now has pride of place in the Glastonbury Abbey museum which well worth a visit.

Michael’s Requiem Mass was held on 22 December 2017, and he is buried in the green, natural burials end of the beautiful hillside cemetery on the Wells Road leading out of Glastonbury. Our Lady of Glastonbury pray for him.”

Lynne Hunter Johnston

Michael's Publications

A History of Calday Grange Grammar School, West Kirby, 1676-1976. Published by The Old Caldeian Union and the Parents Association 1976.

A Hidden History of Roman Catholicism in Glastonbury over the last 400 years, Glastonbury Conservation Society Newsletter, No 108, 2003.

In Somerset Notes & Queries VOL XXXVI

Gildas, Glastonbury and the Genetrix: A Historiographic Review, March 2008, Part 367, No.36.

St Wilfrid and Glastonbury, March 2009, Part 369, No.48.

Glastonbury's 'Holy' Well Demystified, Sept 2009, Part 370, No.58

Glastonbury's Urtext, March 2010, Part 371, No.63

New Light on the Mystery of Glastonbury's Old Church, Sept 2010, Part 372, No.70

In Somerset Notes & Queries VOL XXXVII

Pre-Conquest Glastonbury and Montacute, March 2011, Part 373, No.5.

Glastonbury as Roma Secunda: An Excursus, Sept 2011, Part 374, No.6.

Glastonbury and Tintagel: Parallels and Links? Sept 2011, Part 374, No. 11

Blake, 'Jerusalem', and Glastonbury, March 2013, Part 377, note.

The Iconography of the North Doorway of Glastonbury's Lady Chapel, Sept 2013, Part 378, note.

Saxon Somerset and the Eternal City: Links in a Chain, Sept 2014, Part 380, No.50

Saints of Glastonbury and the Making of 'Engalande': The 'Secgan' Evidence, Sept 2015, Part 382, No.63.

In Cornwall and Dorset Notes & Queries

St Aldhelm in Dumnonia, Autumn 2011.

The Chapel at Golden: a conundrum resolved? Autumn 2016

The Origins of Buckfast in context: A reassessment. Autumn 2017 On the
ECHA website (audio) www.echa.co.uk
King Arthur and Our Lady of Glastonbury, Tintagel, 2009.

BOOKS

Ref visit to Princes Risborough on 5th May and the morning speaker, Mrs Margaret Osborne.

Mrs Margaret Osborne's literary works still in print are only available from the Northamptonshire Record Society (NRS),

Please contact Mr Harris, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton NN4 8BQ

They are in the Northampton Past & Present for 1994-5;

The Second Spring, Roman Catholicism in Victorian Northamptonshire,

2011 The Roman Catholic congregation in mid C19 Northampton

2014 Bishop Charles D Cary-Elwes, a re-appraisal.

Also online are the memory corners accessed through The Vine Newspaper

Northampton; past editions and 100 years ago in the diocese in the Northampton

Diocesan Year books 1997-2018 covering Bishop Riddell Bishop Keating and the Great War

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The Gem of the Diocese, St Augustine's High Wycombe by Sheila Mawhood
£6 (incl postage in UK) 2003
b/w illus 88pp 17 x 24.5cm,
paperback
Gemini Press

Cheques payable to: St Augustine's High Wycombe
obtainable from

Mrs Sheila Mawhood, 21 The Retreat, Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0JG

This is the authorised history of St Augustine's Church in High Wycombe, written in anecdotal style, containing many notable photographs including one of GK Chesterton with JM Barrie and George Bernard Shaw, another of Saint Mother Theresa.

There is a chapter devoted to Bishop Laurence Walter Youens, 6th Bishop of Northampton and there are many notes from the diaries of Wycombe's Parish Priests on the development of the Parish of St Teresa and the Child Jesus in Princes Risborough

2018 PROGRAMME

APRIL Thursday 19th ARUNDEL, West Sussex. Guided tours of Arundel Cathedral and Arundel Museum.
Booking form enclosed.

MAY: Saturday 5th PRINCES RISBOROUGH, Buckinghamshire at St Teresa's Church and Walsingham Hall
Tour of the church conducted by Dr Liz Duffy
Morning speaker – Mrs Margaret Osborne, Archivist Emeritus Northampton Diocese - **Laurence Walter Youens, 6th Bishop of Northampton**
Afternoon speakers – Lindsay and John Mullaney - **The Founding of Reading Abbey, with a glimpse at its Art, Architecture and Music.**
Booking form enclosed

JUNE: Saturday 2nd YORK, Bar Convent, York Catholic History Day.
Organiser: Judith Smeaton judith.smeaton@btinternet.com

JUNE: Sunday 24th June LONDON Holborn Annual Martyrs' Walk
Co-ordinator Nigel Parker, information leaflet enclosed

JULY: THE MALVERNS, Worcestershire 2018 (date to be advised).
This is a joint ECHA - MCHS event and the organiser is Vincent Burke.
Details and booking form to follow in June newsletter.

SEPTEMBER: Saturday 22nd. WINCHESTER Hampshire
St Peter's Catholic church, more information and booking form in June

OCTOBER: Day Conference and AGM. Details including venue to follow