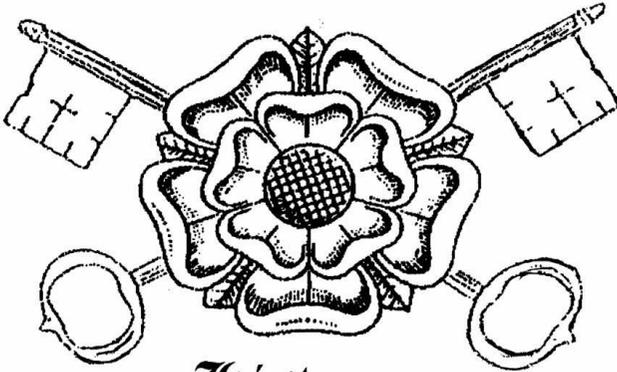


**English
Catholic**



**History
Association**

Reg. Charity No. 1072269

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, No. 79

JUNE 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:
The Secretary or Treasurer, addresses on page 3,
or on the website - <http://echa.org.uk/>

Feedback, comments and articles for publication are **always** welcome
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West Midlands, North West England, South West England, Wessex and Wales: VACANT

NEWS & NOTES

- Greetings to you all. I hope you are enjoying this pleasant warm weather. We have quite a busy couple of months coming up. Several visits that we hope you will want to join.
- We continue to receive enquiries from all over the place via our website. Here are some of the latest – a man researching 19th century poet, James Dryden Hosken asked about Catholic institutions in Cornwall. We were able to pass on to him a few useful addresses.
A lady in the USA writing a biography (for children) of Madame de Beaumont, 18th century Catholic who wrote *The Beauty and the Beast* wanted information regarding the author's time when she lived in London. We pointed her in the direction of the Westminster Cathedral Archives and the British Library.
Not all of the enquiries that we get concern Catholic Institutions or prominenti. Sometimes they come from people who are trying to define their family history and the only clues they have are a particular Catholic church or religious order. Whereas we are not competing with the ancestry websites we are delighted to help where we can.
- And on the subject of websites and emails, I have an important message for you regarding GDPR.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR)

The ECHA, like many other organisations, has considered its policy on the collection, storage and processing of data in the light of the GDPR. The ECHA needs basic personal data about individuals to carry out its objectives and to provide what individuals may reasonably expect from us as members. That data is held securely and is processed by the ECHA because we have a legitimate interest in doing so. Our policy will be posted on the website and if anybody has a query or would like a copy of the policy or a copy of the data held by the ECHA about them, they should write to the Secretary.

- And a final word about the ECHA website - <https://echa.org.uk/> Please check it out when you can. We post the audio podcasts from our events. So you can listen in if you were not able to attend. Our website administrator Lynne Hunter-Johnson keeps it up to date with breaking news, as and when we get it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 24th June LONDON Holborn Annual Martyrs' Walk

News update. It is still possible (just) for you to go on this London Walk if you are interested but please make contact ASAP with Nigel Parker (his details are on p3). Nigel will be saying a few words at the back of the church after Mass at St Etheldreda's. The priest who would have taken us on a tour of the church is not now available,

And if you missed this last time....We won't be *organising* this event as such but if you would like to come, could you please contact Nigel Parker 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 **at 2pm** 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

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JULY: Monday 2nd St Peter's Church WINCHESTER, Hampshire

The Roy Wake Memorial Lecture

Professor Martin Biddle

The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Recent Discoveries, New Perspectives

Organised by the Winchester Catholic History Group

This lecture is the latest of the series of events organised by the Winchester Catholic History Group. Their monthly events are held in the Pastoral Centre, St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester.

The lecture starts at 7:30pm

Admission (at the door) for non-members is £5, students £2.50. All welcome

Here is a link to their website for more information on the Group and their programme <http://www.hampshiredownswinchester.org/catholic-history-group-and-parish-history/>

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04 July 2018 - THE MALVERN, Worcestershire

Visit to the Church of St Wulstan, Little Malvern, pub lunch and then an afternoon visit to St Leonard's Newland, Malvern. We will be joining the MCHS (Midlands Catholic History Society) - <https://midlandcatholichistory.org.uk/> on this visit to Worcestershire. Cost £15, lunch extra**. Booking form is enclosed

****Payments.** For visit. Please make cheque payable to Midland Catholic History Society.

Payment for lunch. To enable a speedy departure from the Swan Inn after lunch, you are asked to make your menu choices in advance. Could you please ask Vincent for the menu when you send your booking form and payment off to him? He will send you the menu. Then send your menu choices and payment for lunch back to him. If you prefer to take a packed lunch and skip the pub lunch option, that is fine too, but please tell Vincent when you send your booking form and payment for the visits.

Back to the programme. Father Edward Crouzet PP will start his talk at 10:45.

Lunch at the Swan Inn at Newland will be at 12:45. The afternoon visit to St Leonard's Newland will be at 2:15 and you will be plied with tea and biscuits at 3:45 before you hit the road again.

St Wulstan, Little Malvern

At the dissolution of the monasteries, the domestic buildings of Little Malvern Priory were bought by the recusant Russells whose descendants, the Beringtons, still live there, and converted into a house, Little Malvern Court. Little Malvern is one of the few Catholic parishes in England where Mass has probably been celebrated without a break since the Middle Ages. It was said in the Court until St Wulstan's church was opened in 1862. This was designed by Charles Bucknall, although never completed, and is served by monks of Downside. Benedictines provided chaplains from 1760-87 and continuously from 1824. Sir Edward Elgar is buried in the cemetery

St Leonard's, Newland

The first church at Newland was dedicated to St Michael, c1215 and rebuilt in the fifteenth century. When it was demolished in 1865 the chancel was rebuilt to become the mortuary chapel of the Almshouses. Some of the fixtures and fittings were used in St Leonard's.

At the beginning of the 1840s Charlotte, Countess Beauchamp, began working on plans for the building of Almshouses for the poor of the parish. Her dowry was to be set aside for this great work. Sadly she died in 1846 at the age of 58. Her husband, John Reginald Pindar, 3rd Earl Beauchamp was to carry out her wishes and when he died in 1853 he bequeathed her dowry of £60,000 so that her vision could be realised. However, it was through the work and vision of Frederick Lygon, second son of the 4th Earl, that the Almshouses and church were finally built.

Frederick, who became the 6th Earl in 1866 was a leading Tractarian. His vision for the Almshouses & Church was to be a 'Gothic Heaven' the perfect union of Frederick's imagination, his Anglo-Catholic principles, his deep spirituality and his Victorian philanthropy.

The architect of the Almshouses and St Leonard's church was P C Hardwick, who also designed Charterhouse School. The church's Grade I listed status is due entirely to the frescoes. The Beauchamp Almshouses and the church of St Leonard were completed in 1864 for the benefit of retired workers from the Madresfield Estate and for the poor of the parish. From the outset the community enjoyed daily Anglo-Catholic worship which continues to the present day. Residency in the community has been expanded to welcome worshipping Anglicans from anywhere in the country.

The tour includes: St Leonards Grade I listed church; All Souls medieval chapel; The Cloister; Newland theological library; Great Hall; Historic buildings in the grounds

Getting there and other info.

Here is a link to the website of St Wulstan's Catholic Church <https://www.saint-wulstans.org.uk/>. And here is a link to St Leonard's new revamped website beauchampstleonard.org

Here are the addresses for your SatNav

St Wulstans Church, Wells Road, Little Malvern. WR14 4JL

St Leonard's - Beauchamp Community & St Leonard's Church
Newland, Malvern, WR13 5AX

If you get a minute, please take a look at St Leonard's website, whether you plan to go or not. There are some magnificent photos. There is a shot of the church spire "crowned" by a magnificent rainbow.

This will be a very rewarding day and it always so nice to meet up with other Catholic History groups on their visits.

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Saturday 22nd September 2018 – WINCHESTER Hampshire.

At St Peter's Catholic Church. Our day begins at 10:30am with registration and coffee in the Pastoral Centre.

From 11 am to 12:15 we will be taken on a tour of the church by John Thornhill, Archivist at St Peter's

Lunch is next on the agenda, an hour long repast. I have it on good authority that this will be a very fine buffet lunch indeed.

From 1:15 to 2:30 we will be able to visit the wonderful archive at Milner Hall which I told you about in the last newsletter.

From 2:30 we will be visiting the nearby St Peter's *Street*.

I had a look at the **Visit Winchester** website

<http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/7-st-peters-street> and saw this interesting para - *This claims to being one of the prettiest streets in town. The Bunch of Grapes dates from the 16th century and has been run by the Pink family for 4 generations. The last house of the right before the churchyard, Hope House, was once a young ladies school. There is a story that a French Officer, a Napoleonic prisoner of war, dropped a letter over the wall addressed to one of the ladies. The resulting scandal led to the closure of the school.*

At 3pm the final event of the day will be tea/coffee and CAKE to send you on your way home.

Very important note. The archivist has set a limit of 20 people for the tour. People to be accepted on first come first serve basis. So please don't delay in applying for a place in this visit to historic Winchester.
The Booking form is enclosed.

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Saturday 20th October 2018. Day Conference and AGM. Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral. LONDON

You might remember that we held one of our meetings at the Hinsley Room a few years ago, the talk on **St Nicholas Owen, Priest Hole Maker**. So, we have planned to have our AGM in London this year, at the Hinsley Room.

We thought it would give all of us who live out of town more time to travel into London if we kicked off in the early afternoon. The precise timings and the booking form will follow in the September newsletter but for now this is what you can expect.

Approx 1:30pm AGM. This will be followed by our presentation of the day - **Bishop Challoner – An Unsung English Catholic Hero** by John Whitbourn.

We will lay on tea at 3:30.

The Vigil Mass is at 6:00pm and there are Evening Prayers in the Cathedral before that at 5:30

You will have the opportunity of visiting Bishop Challoner's grave in Cathedral, probably before the AGM or maybe after Mass.. In the September newsletter, I will give you more info

We are trying to keep the cost down and expect that the charge will be £5 and you will be able to pay at the door if that suits. More to follow. But please put the date in your diary.

VISIT REPORTS

We were sorry that we had to cancel the visit to Arundel as there were insufficient bookings. Maybe another day??

But the visit to Princes Risborough in Buckinghamshire went ahead and was very well attended.

Here are the reports on the various presentations of the day.

Saturday 5th May, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire

Visit to Princes Risborough – History of and tour of the church.

Our day commenced with a talk on the resurgence of Catholicism in Princes Risborough in the last ninety-six years, a talk on the design of the Church of St. Teresa of the Child Jesus and a guided tour of the church itself, all given, with great erudition, by Dr Liz Duffy (a parishioner and wife of Deacon Rev. Sean Duffy). The resurgence was due, very largely, to the efforts of one man, Alan Turner, a 20-year-old convert to Catholicism. By his efforts, a new Catholic "Mission" in Princes Risborough, dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, was officially set up on 21st October, 1922. He soon began organising for various priests to come on Sundays to offer Mass. The first Mass to be celebrated in Princes Risborough since the Reformation was offered on 11th February, 1923, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, in the hired Chalfont Hall (now the Walsingham Hall) next to the present church and Sunday Mass continued to be celebrated in the hired hall for over five years. Then, in 1928, Fr Beauchamp of Halton offered a former army tin hut to act as a church, on condition that the church and Mission be

dedicated to the new saint, Teresa of the Child Jesus, who had been canonised in 1925. This building was erected on a piece of land offered to the Catholics, at a low price, by Alan Turner's father (himself a Baptist). For eight more years Sunday Mass was celebrated by visiting priests but by 1935 funds had been raised for the building of a presbytery and the first resident priest, Fr Dreves, a Mill Hill priest, arrived in June 1936. He was determined to have a permanent church on a more central site. The site of the tin hut church and the newly-built presbytery was sold and the site of the present church was acquired in 1937. The new church was opened formally on 6th June, 1938. Benefactors from two local families gave a substantial sum towards the building of the new church and continued to support the project until the church was not only built but furnished and adorned inside.

The architect of the new church was Giuseppe Rinvoluceri, an Italian civil engineer who had come to this country with his English wife. He had already designed four Catholic churches, three in Wales and one in Ludlow. He described his method of design as follows: first, to visit the site and consider the landscape and the setting, second, to "dream" the possibilities, third, to paint a watercolour and fourth, to prepare the drawings. He tells us that he envisaged St Teresa's as a shrine to the saint and he described the style as Modern Byzantine. He experienced some opposition to his unusual design but he defended it strongly from liturgical, spiritual and artistic points of view. The church is built of brick with a high hexagonal concrete dome. The shape of the church in plan is a triangle with an apse on each side. The points of the triangle form the original entrance and the two side chapels. The original main entrance doors were either side of the exterior statue of St Teresa, facing the roundabout. The entrance is now at the back, because the church was "turned round" in 1974, in order to fulfil the spirit of the Second Vatican Council and to allow the people to be gathered around the altar. This change also meant that the altar could be seen from every section of the church.

Dr Liz Duffy then took us to the church for a guided tour of the exterior and the interior, pointing out, inside, the many interesting, beautiful and artistic items of fittings and furnishings. The original marble High Altar was moved, when the church was re-ordered, into St Teresa's Chapel and the recumbent statue of St Teresa from the original shrine in the temporary church lies across it. The oak benches, with integral kneelers, were made from oak provided by one of the benefactors. Carved communion rails, with symbols of six of the sacraments, were erected across the original sanctuary in 1955. The sacrament of the Eucharist is not depicted because the Blessed Sacrament, always present in the tabernacle on the High Altar, was visible through the middle. These communion rails were removed from the original sanctuary at the re-ordering and are now in

front of St Teresa's Chapel. The wooden communion rails bought for the temporary church in 1928 were used across the sanctuary in the present church until replaced by the carved ones and are now in front of Our Lady's Chapel. The original plain and austere interior of the church has been "softened" over the years by the addition of a fine set of carved Stations of the Cross, a fine carved triptych, coloured gold, behind the altar, stained glass windows in Our Lady's Chapel and St Teresa's Chapel and a set of high level stained glass windows, embracing the sanctuary and depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments in which God allows his power to be seen, half of them on the theme of water and half on the theme of fire.

This tour of the church and Dr Liz Duffy's excellent account of its history gave us a useful introduction to the presentation which followed, Bishop Lawrence Walter Youens, Bishop of Northampton

Bernard Polack

Laurence Walter Youens, 6th Bishop of Northampton
Mrs Margaret Osborne, Archivist Northampton Diocese

In the last issue of the Newsletter there was an outline of Bishop Youen's life. Margaret Osborne amplified on this and illustrated his personality. She introduced him as a large-hearted martyr who laid down his life for his people.

Born in 1872 Laurence Walter Youens was from a High Wycombe family involved in the local trade of weaving chairs and baskets out of willow. He was a sincere Anglican with an interest in brass rubbing. While pursuing this interest he ended up at a Roman Catholic Church where Bishop Riddell was addressing a confirmation class. He decided to become a Catholic and dedicate his life to the African missions and was ordained in 1901. In Zagazig (in the Nile Delta) there was a fire in a local village, he and other missionaries went to put it out, the locals decided they were responsible and attacked them. Traumatized, he returned to High Wycombe in 1902 to recover, and gentle duties with Father Flint helped restore his health.

In 1907 he was moved to Shefford to run the boys' home, St Francis' Boys' Home. He had to raise all the money to run the home. He did this by preaching and visiting in the Northampton and Nottingham Dioceses. During his 26 years there he was a real father to the boys, making a home for them and modernising their education, including introducing typing and business skills, encouraging Boy Scouts and sports. He found them jobs and grieved when he heard of the death of his boys during the 1914-18 War. Pure charity and love kept the Home going.

In 1933 the Pope decided that a local man would be the next Bishop of the Diocese of Northampton. He was very reluctant when he received the letter appointing him as Bishop, There was an unsubstantiated rumour that he had a heart attack while being consecrated Bishop.

His work at Shefford meant he had visited every parish in the Diocese, so he knew the Diocese. He will be remembered for bringing back devotion to Our Lady of Walsingham in 1938. He wanted a Shrine to Our Lady of Walsingham in every Church in the Diocese. He also wanted to establish a Diocesan Seminary as the Diocese was very short of priests.

Although the Diocese never had a rich benefactor, he continued to open churches throughout the Diocese, but not in the Victorian Gothic style. At Gorleston Eric Gill designed a Church with the altar in the body of the Church, at Kettering there was an Art Deco Church, whilst in Corby trees had to be cleared to build the new Church. Many Glaswegians had walked to Corby for work in the new steelworks and on a Sunday thousands of men would be kneeling outside the Mass centre. Luton was also growing at a fast pace.

His generation had worked for peace, so when war was declared in September 1939 it was a shock. Bishop Youens and most of his Canons died before 1942. In November 1939 Bishop Youens was writing his Advent Pastoral Letter to the Diocese urging them to pray to Our Lady for the struggles they were going to face, he had a heart attack and died. He is buried at Belmont Abbey, where he had gone on retreat.

Margaret said she felt he did the unwelcome job to the best of his abilities, like St Therese his life was one of simple quiet service. She felt his greatest achievement was to advocate prayer as a weapon, particularly to Our Lady. We can forget that the Church is a vehicle of prayer.

Anne Milton

Founding of Reading Abbey, with a glimpse at its Art, Architecture and Music.

Lindsay and John Mullaney

Lindsay and John Mullaney together gave us a very full account of the founding of the Royal Abbey of Reading, its art, architecture and music.

We learned that the Abbey was founded in 1121 by King Henry 1, in memory of his only legitimate male heir who had been drowned off Honfleur. It was dedicated to the Virgin and St. John the Evangelist. This was a time of great political and religious upheaval in Europe and great advance in the Arts and Sciences. The Abbey became a leading example of Romanesque architecture, and a major centre for sculpture with an influence throughout England.

The site chosen for the abbey was probably that of an earlier religious building and so took advantage of the land which was already a major transport hub, as it is today. It was commensurate with Westminster Abbey and was erected as a pilgrim church on the Way of St. James. We were shown an illustration of the plans for the proposed abbey and for its likely model, Cluny Abbey in Burgundy. Pilgrims were encouraged to perambulate the building and deposit their offerings at the many places provided for this very purpose. King Henry, a patron of Cluny, brought monks over from France to develop what became for 200 years a Cluniac foundation before finally following the Benedictine rule.

As a pilgrimage centre, the Abbey contained many relics. A document in the British Library gives an extensive list, including fragments of the True Cross, Christ's sandal and bread left over from the feeding of the five thousand. There were altogether 230 pieces considered at the time to be authentic and worthy of veneration. The most famous relic was the hand of St. James the Great, given to the Abbey by Henry 1's daughter, the Empress Matilda. This relic, together with the stone, or capital of the Coronation of the Virgin, miraculously survived the dissolution. The piece of sculpture is now in Reading Museum. The hand of St. James, discovered by workman digging the foundations of Reading Gaol in 1786, was concealed in an iron chest in the remains of a wall. It eventually found its way to St. Peter's Church, Marlow, in 1897, where it remains.

In 1136, the body of King Henry 1 was buried before the High Altar of the still incomplete Abbey which was finally consecrated in 1164 by St. Thomas Becket. The Lady Chapel was added in 1314.

In this Twelfth Century Cluniac Monastery, the monks would have spent the main part of their day in Opus Dei and the many chants they would have used have happily survived. We were shown beautiful illustrations of the manuscripts of this polyphony whilst listening to the music itself. This was a real joy. We heard the chants for Christmas Day, the Kyrie and Salve Regina, dating from 1200, from a chant book in the library of Douai Abbey. We saw early representations of the Crowning of the Virgin, Mater Ecclesiae, and listened to the Regina Caeli. However, the most famous piece of music emanating from the Abbey is 'Sumer is acumen in'.

Following the Abbey Revealed Project, the surviving elements of the church and chapter house will be opened to the public on June 16th 2018. We were very well prepared for a visit to this most important site of our Catholic Heritage.

Thea van Dam

BOOKS

Monks in the Military Benedictine Chaplains in the British Armed Forces during the Twentieth Century

Military chaplaincy is an old and honourable aspect of the Catholic priesthood. The ordained man serves those fighting for their country by administering the sacraments and providing the comfort of religion.

In the wars of the twentieth century, many Catholic priests served in the British military as chaplains to the forces and some of these were Benedictine monks. This is the story of those Benedictines from the abbeys and priories of the English Benedictine Congregation and from British houses of other European Benedictine Congregations who served as chaplains to the British Armed Forces in the twentieth century.

This detailed and moving study takes us from the veldt of South Africa to what Victorian soldiers would have known as the Northwest Frontier – from Cape Colony to Afghanistan.

This book shatters the myth of monks being confined to monastery or cloister. £15 from Downside Abbey <https://www.downside.co.uk/>

The King and the Catholics: The Fight for Rights: 1829 by Lady Antonia Fraser.

£25. Published in 2018 by Weidenfeld and Nicolson

Confusion, splits in the cabinet, attempts at compromise angrily rejected, the significance of Ireland, conflict between Lords and Commons, refusal of the Ultras to accept defeat. No, not BREXIT, but the run up to Catholic Emancipation in 1829, with the added dimension that George III and George IV agonised over being true to their coronation oaths; the younger Royals were players in the game and there was even a non fatal duel between the Duke of Wellington and Lord Winchelsea.

It is well trodden ground. Monsignor Bernard Ward wrote seven volumes (2,263 pages) on the dawn of the Catholic revival and the eve of and sequel to Emancipation between 1781 and 1850, published between 1909 and 1915. 1929 saw the publication of Philip Hughes' "The Catholic Question 1688 to 1829" (316 pages), and in 1964 C Mackin's "The Catholic Question in English Politics 1820 to 1830" (194 pages) was published.

The story has been fascinatingly retold in a recent book by Lady Antonia Fraser, which I found, in modern parlance, "a page turner." Lady Antonia, at 85, remains on good form, and as a general reader I strongly recommend it as a worthy success to her book on the first Parliamentary Reform Bill of 1832. However, your reviewer is not a professional historian, so lacks the forensic knowledge to fault anything that she has written. Suffice to say that there was nothing there that contradicted my general appreciation of the period, which began with the anti-Catholic Gordon Riots in 1780. Some of her gossipy items are delicious, but I must not steal her thunder.

Daniel O'Connell, the liberator, emerges as the hero, and the British Establishment, often with extreme reluctance, and through clenched teeth, was forced to accept emancipation as the lesser of the evils, as violent unrest in Ireland was a real possibility. Without emancipation would we have had "the Second Spring", and the great converts: Newman, Manning, W G Ward and others during the 25 years after the Act was passed?

Alan Whaits

2018 PROGRAMME

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

JULY: Monday 2nd St Peter's Church WINCHESTER, Hampshire
The Roy Wake Memorial Lecture
Professor Martin Biddle
The Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. Recent Discoveries, New Perspectives
Organised by the Winchester Catholic History Group

JULY: Wednesday 4th THE MALVERNNS, Worcestershire 2018
This is a joint ECHA - MCHS event and the organiser is Vincent Burke.
Details and booking form enclosed

SEPTEMBER: Saturday 22nd. WINCHESTER Hampshire
St Peter's Catholic Church, their archive and visit to the famous St Peter's
Street.
Booking form enclosed

OCTOBER: Saturday 20th Westminster Cathedral. LONDON
Conference and AGM on the Hinsley Room
Bishop Challoner – An Unsung English Catholic Hero
by John Whitbourn.
Booking form to follow in September newsletter

