

English
Catholic



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Association

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NEWSLETTER

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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

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The Secretary or Treasurer, addresses on page 3,
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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

- Greetings to all of you, members of the ECHA and our growing band of friends. I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer. With autumn upon us, it is lovely to see the fields turning green again after the scorching summer.
- I bring sad tidings. Ursula and Bernard Polack were saddened to learn, from the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Ramblers' Club, of the death of Barbara Bridle, who was, as they are, a member of both organisations. Barbara was the organiser of our visit to Aylesford Priory in May, 2010. Rest in Peace.
- We were sorry to have to cancel the visit to Winchester which Audrey Atter was organising for Saturday 22nd September. We had very few takers for the event which would have included a lovely lunch, a lecture about and look around the extensive archives which are held in this historic Catholic church, St Peter's Winchester. But we are hopeful of rescheduling it on another occasion.
- So, our next and final ECHA event for the year will be the AGM and Day Conference. Only this year it will be an *afternoon* conference. And it will be held at Westminster Cathedral in the Hinsley Hall which is reached from Morpeth Terrace, the road down the right hand side when you face the cathedral entrance. And the date - Saturday 20th October. You might recall we had a meeting there a few years ago, the one about St Nicholas Owen, Priest Hole Maker.
- We hope you can make it to the AGM. We scheduled it for early afternoon to allow travelling time into London. Additionally, you could then attend the Saturday evening Vigil Mass if you wish and maybe stay the night in the capital. There are more notes about the speaker and his topic on page 7.
And you can pay on the door. The charge for the talk will be £5. No need to book. Just let us know you are coming (see booking form) and bring your friends with you.
- Going back to the AGM. we would like to hear from you, on the day. if you are coming, or by email or letter, regarding the type of events you

would like to see the ECHA organising for you in 2019. Do you prefer attending a talk in a convenient location which can be reached easily? Do you relish the idea of visiting some landmark/church/location which is relevant to English Catholic history? Do you have any suggestions? We would value your opinions – which could be sent to me or to Angie Hodges our Secretary. We won't disclose your name. Think about it. We aim to please. We have our next committee meeting in November and this is when we will start laying plans for 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER Saturday 6th Annual Mass at the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor, Westminster Abbey at 4:30 pm

This Mass, an annual event is organised by The Guild of Our Lady of Ransom who are based in Walsingham. I attended this special Mass a few years ago and it was very moving. Here are a few relevant notes from the guild's website -

<http://www.guild-ransom.co.uk/>

St Edward the Confessor was the first patron Saint of England. He had a deathbed vision of the Reformation and the subsequent revival which began in the 19th century.

"The patron saint provides a model of charity; we are assured of his intercession."
Catechism article 2156

The Mass is celebrated at the ancient Shrine of St Edward in Westminster Abbey. It will be on Saturday 6th October at 4.30 pm. Please arrive at 4.15 pm latest. Please apply to the Guild office for tickets which are free but a suggested donation is £15 each.

Booking is essential as places are limited. Please ring 01328 801 007

More news from Walsingham (from the Guild website)

The Walsingham Walk - 6th to 14th October 2018

Applications are now invited for the 2018 London to Walsingham Walk. Normal fitness is all that is required and full guidance will be given. If you are a Catholic man and interested in a traditional walking pilgrimage, you will be very welcome to join us. A driver for our support minibus is also needed. For further details, please go to the following website and use the contact details:

<http://www.walsinghamwalkers.co.uk/aboutus.html>

The Winchester Lectures

You might recall that we have two new members on our ECHA committee, Audrey Atter and Dr Giles Mercer. Audrey is an active member of the Winchester Catholic History Group, so I am now going to be able to pass on to you in every newsletter, any news of upcoming events in Winchester.

The Group organises monthly lectures. Mostly on a Monday evening and they are held at either The Pastoral Centre, St Peters Church Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RY or in the Milner Hall, St Peter Street which is very close by.

If you would like to attend any of the lectures you could email the parish office St Peter's and find out which venue is being used. Here is the website office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

The lectures starts at 7:30pm Admission (at the door) for non-members is £5, students £2.50. ALL welcome

OCTOBER: Monday 1st St Peter's Church or Milner Hall WINCHESTER, Hampshire

Bishops or Bureaucrats? Thomas Wolsey & Stephen Gardiner

Dr Brian Collins, Winchester Cathedral

NOVEMBER: Monday 5th St Peter's Church or Milner Hall WINCHESTER, Hampshire

Saint Philip Neri

Fr Daniel Seward, Oxford Oratory

DECEMBER: Monday 3rd St Peter's Church or Milner Hall WINCHESTER, Hampshire

A Vision of Salvation , The Art, Architecture & Archaeology of the Medieval Parish Church.

Dr Simon Roffey, University of Winchester

**OCTOBER Saturday 20th - Afternoon Conference and AGM.
Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral. LONDON**

Our AGM will commence at 1:30pm. This will be followed by our afternoon speaker John Whitbourn, on the subject of Bishop Richard Challoner and we wrap up with tea at approx. 3:30pm

Please send your booking form in this time but you will be able to pay at the door when you arrive, no need to send a cheque. The princely sum of £5 is the charge.

Richard Challoner (1691–1781) Vicar Apostolic of the London District from 1758 is buried in The Chapel of St Gregory and St Augustine in Westminster Cathedral. Here are some notes which you will find, along with beautiful illustrations and photographs on the Cathedral website:

“This Chapel is dedicated to the saints who first brought the gospel to England. Above the altar, St Gregory, as Pope, sends St Augustine and his companions to these shores. Higher up, St Augustine is received by the pagan Ethelbert, King of Kent. Augustine was later to become the first Archbishop of Canterbury. On the ceiling are portrayed early saints of these isles, including St Wilfrid, St Benedict Biscop, St Cuthbert, St Edmund, St Bede the Venerable, and St Osmund.

In the panel in the arch, we see St Gregory in the Forum at Rome. Upon asking the origin of some slave children, he was told they were Anglo-Saxons. Above, in Latin, are the words he is reputed to have said, "Not Angles, but angels, if they were but Christians".

In this Chapel lie buried two of the greatest Christian leaders of this country.

Bishop Richard Challoner (1691 - 1781) lived during a period of great difficulty and unpopularity for the Catholic Church in England. Despite having to work in secret, he founded schools and charities for the poor, and ministered faithfully to the small Catholic population of London. He wrote the popular spiritual classic, "The Garden of the Soul", while his revision of the Old and New Testaments was the standard English translation for two hundred years. Bishop Challoner narrowly escaped attack in the anti-Catholic Gordon Riots of 1780, but died soon afterwards.

Cardinal George Basil Hume (1923 - 1999) was born in Newcastle, and took his solemn vows as a monk of Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire, in 1945. In 1963, he was elected Abbot, where his wisdom and holiness earned him great respect. Basil Hume was installed as ninth Archbishop of Westminster on 25 March 1976 and was created Cardinal by Pope Paul VI on 24 May 1976."

You might want to go and have a look for yourself either before after the AGM. And here are some notes about our speaker, John Whitbourn

John Whitbourn is a published author, with numerous novels, short stories and historical articles to his name, subsequent to winning a joint BBC & Victor Gollancz publishers prize with '*A Dangerous Energy*' in 1991. His work has received favourable reviews in The Times, Telegraph, and Guardian, amongst others, and is generally based in the 'Alternative History' sub-genre of Science Fiction, wherein the outcome of a significant past event (say, the Battle of Hastings or American Civil War) is altered and the possible consequences extrapolated into the present. For instance, a number of his novels are set in a world where the Reformation was defeated and modernity is now guided by the benevolent rule of Mother Church! John is a former archaeologist but now professes to '*be going straight*'. A press interview with him in 2000 was intriguingly entitled '*Confessions of a Counter-Reformation, Green, Anarcho-Jacobite*'.

Mr Whitbourn's interest in Bishop Richard Challoner (1691–1781) arises from the intriguing contrast he perceives between the Bishop's towering achievements for English Catholicism at the nadir of its fortunes in the 18th century, and the relatively meagre acclaim he has received for them. John makes no claim to be a professional historian but ventures to make a case for better recognition of this idiosyncratic English figure, 'the Bishop in a periwig', who ensured English Catholicism's survival until the 19th century revival.

VISIT REPORTS

Sunday, 24th June, 2018 - The Martyrs' Walk, London

Some six or seven members, including one from Bath and one from Bristol, accepted Nigel Parker's suggestion that, before the afternoon walk, we attend the sung Latin Mass at the Church of St. Etheldreda, Ely Place. Before the Mass we spoke to a former member, a lady who had come up from Brighton. Nigel gave her a copy of our Newsletter, in the hope that she would rejoin. After Mass, Nigel gave us a talk on the history of the church.

Originally the chapel of the London palace of the Bishop of Ely, it was put to various uses after the Reformation until, in 1874, it was purchased and brought back into Catholic use by the Institute of Charity (the Rosminian fathers), in whose care it remains. Nigel explained the significance of the images in the great stained glass window (of modern construction but very traditional in style) and pointed out the arms of the various Bishops of Ely in many smaller stained glass windows and

the statues of important martyrs around the walls. A richly-decorated casket is said to contain relics of St. Etheldreda.

After a lunch break we joined a party of about 50 people for the Martyrs' Walk. We assembled in the churchyard of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (known colloquially as St. Sepulchre's) opposite the Old Bailey, which occupies the site of Newgate Prison in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. That was the usual place of incarceration of the martyrs and other criminals, from where they would be dragged on hurdles along streets and then a country road to Tyburn for execution.

After an introductory talk by Joanna Bogle, the leader of the walk, and a religious talk by Father Robert Nicoletti, an American priest, we set off. Our first stop was the Church of St. Etheldreda in Ely Place, outside which we had (as was usual at each of our stops) an historical talk by Joanna and a religious talk and prayers by Father Nicoletti.

Proceeding west along Holborn and turning left into Kingsway we came to the Church of St. Anselm and St. Cecilia. The present church was built in 1909. An earlier church on the site had been the Chapel of the Sardinian Embassy and was the first public Catholic chapel to be opened in London after the Reformation. It was used by Bishop Challoner as his "cathedral" and was virtually destroyed in the Gordon Riots of 1780.

Our next stop was the churchyard of the Anglican church of St. Giles-in-the-Fields. Originally the chapel of St. Giles' Leper Hospital founded by Queen Matilda in 1101, it became a parish church after the Dissolution. Because it is the Parish Church for Tyburn, the bodies of a number of the Popish Plot martyrs, including Archbishop Plunket, were buried here. St. Oliver's bones were subsequently removed to the Continent and then to Downside Abbey, but the others remain.

Our final church stop was the church of St. Patrick, Soho Square, built originally to serve the large Irish immigrant population which existed in that area. The fine interior has recently been restored. After the usual talks and prayers, Father Nicoletti was able to bless us with the relics of St. Oliver Plunket and St. Cuthbert Mayne.

The original martyrs' route to Tyburn would have been along present-day Oxford Street. Because this is crowded with shoppers, even on a Sunday afternoon, we followed slightly quieter streets, roughly parallel to Oxford Street, to reach Park

Lane and to cross to Tyburn Convent. Here, after Benediction conducted by Father Nicoletti, we were treated to very welcome refreshments by the nuns. So ended our day.

Bernard Polack

ARTICLES

A happy co-incidence in London has resulted in the article which follows. Liz McKernan attended the Martyr's Walk in London back in June (see Bernard's visit report) and got chatting to Bernard and Ursula Polack and to Nigel Parker, who had co-ordinated things. Nigel gave her a copy of our ECHA newsletter asking if she had heard of us and indeed Liz had. I believe she may have been a member in the past. But as you can see from the article below, Liz collects religious postcards. What an unusual hobby but what a lovely one.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH in BRITAIN on PICTURE POSTCARDS

A rich source of visual information on Catholic Social History, and still largely untapped, are picture postcards which celebrated their centenary in Britain in 1994.

In spite of the Post Office perpetuating the image of the Seaside Comic by issuing special stamps in April that year, picture postcards do depict a wealth of other subjects many of these being relevant to the study of the history of the Catholic Church in Britain.

It was commonplace during the early years of the last century for local photographers to take pictures of First Communion Processions and Corpus Christi Festivals. Laying the Foundation Stone of a Church was also depicted and I have one showing this event of my own parish church. Priests and Bishops were often photographed and then turned into postcards to sell to the public and 'The Late Cardinal Newman' appears on several postcards published some years after his death.

Churches were once a popular subject found on postcards and many are now sought by those researching their Family Trees. Interiors are not as prolific as exteriors but when found are an important record of how pre-Vatican II churches once looked.

The Consecration of Westminster Cathedral in June 1910 is well documented in two series of postcards and before the Crucifix was hoisted to the ceiling a photograph was taken of it on the floor of the Cathedral and published as a postcard by J. Beagles and Co.

This year (2018) there is a Eucharistic Congress taking place. The last one was in London in 1908 and was documented on a set of 24 postcards published by Burns & Oates. There was also a set of 12 cards (published by a firm in Bristol) showing scenes from the same Congress. Various cards in these series show the impressive procession which took place but omit mentioning that permission was not granted to carry the Blessed Sacrament at that time.

Even political events such as the Catholic Protest against the Education Bill were photographed and turned into postcards. I have one of these cards in my collection and the picture is enhanced by the message written and sent in May 1906 which refers to the event itself. A pilgrimage to Rome for the princely sum of 9 guineas is advertised on another card produced by the Catholic Association in 1905.

Postcard collecting was revived in the 1960s and the interest has grown considerably since then. The hobby supports a network of dealers and fairs across the country and there is even a monthly magazine devoted to picture postcards. However, religious subjects are not widely collected and the sections marked 'Religion' in dealers' stocks seem rarely to be looked at. Owing to a great interest in 'local' cards by collectors cards which used to be filed under 'Religion' are now to be found in the 'County' boxes and prices have risen accordingly. Even so prices are still relatively low in comparison to more collectable subjects but perhaps not as low as when I first started putting my collection together with examples often found in boxes of 'Cheapos.'

Until the resurgence of interest in postcard collecting in the 1960s many cards were consigned to the dustbin or burnt. It is a sad fact that much of interest has been lost in this way. Parishes, which may in the past have kept old postcards of parish events, have spring-cleaned and thrown these

valuable documents away. Those that are left deserve to be kept and treasured as witness to the history of the Catholic Church in Britain during the first half of the 20th Century.

Liz McKernan

BOOKS

We don't normally hear from authors before their book is published. But we do now.

You might recall reading in the March 2018 Newsletter that an author had contacted us via the ECHA website asking for information regarding the Catholic Church in Cornwall in the early 20th century?

Well, as often happens, one thing led to another and below I have some notes from Dawn Robinson the author of a forthcoming publication on the story of Pamela (Pixie) Colman Smith. The book is presently with the publishers and I hope to have more details in a future newsletter.

This is what Dawn has to say about her book...

Artist, Pamela Colman Smith, is best known for illustrating the Rider-Waite-Smith tarot deck published in 1910. It is difficult at first sight to see how this relates to Catholicism but, curiously, Pamela was received into the Catholic Church in 1911, remaining a devoted believer until her death in Bude in 1951. So, while she had been a member of an occult organisation, the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, working to illustrate the tarot deck, she was simultaneously preparing for a serious change in faith and direction, working towards her reception into the mighty Catholic Church. It is this intense sense of faith which led her from London to Cornwall, and this aspect of her life which has been previously ignored but has proven most fascinating and enigmatic.

Author Dawn Robinson first encountered Pamela while writing her popular local history books on the coastal town of Bude for Amberley Publishing. She grew increasingly intrigued by the mystery of Pamela (also known as Pixie). She was especially perplexed as to why Pixie gave up her life in bohemian London, where she was an illustrator and storyteller, socialising with luminaries like Ellen Terry, Bram Stoker, and Henry Irving, simply to move to the stunning but isolated Lizard in Cornwall. Was she on some kind of evangelical Catholic mission?

Dawn, having read as many sources as she could access, contacted the ECHA to find out more about the growth of Catholicism in Cornwall, receiving very helpful information from Angie Hodges who had also visited Pamela's home on the Lizard this summer. Some of Angie's husband's photos are included in the book (publication due 2019) for when Dawn had visited the house it was locked and derelict. Fittingly, the house is now owned by an artist and her family. Dawn also

visited the Catholic Diocesan archives (with its beautiful collection of vestments) in Exeter to inform her research, meeting the extremely helpful Sisters there. There is no team of researchers behind Dawn's book, to be published by Fonthill. It has been a real labour of love, fuelled by her fascination for Pamela combined with her love of Bude, the beautiful town where Pamela moved to with her friend, Nora Lake, during 1943. There is still much that is not known about Pamela, but Dawn hopes her book, while not the complete story, will shed some additional light on the woman who, following her conversion, became an enduring Catholic, embracing a total change of lifestyle and promoting worship on the non-conformist Lizard.

Pamela (Pixie) has an increasingly large following for her tarot artwork (it is the world's best-selling deck) but Dawn wants to set the record straight for she sincerely believes that, to Pamela, her Catholic belief was much more important than what went before it.

Working from the studio of artist Lynne Holehouse in Bude, Dawn was reminded of Pamela every hour as the bells of the Anglican Church where Pamela is buried (the Catholic Church in Bude has no burial ground) pealed. Meanwhile, Lynne was so taken with the story of Pamela that she painted an artistic impression of her, which Dawn hopes will be used as the book cover.

Dawn Robinson

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Vatican I: The Council and the Making of the Ultramontane Church

by J W O'Malley £17.95 ISBN 9780674979987 £17.95

Published 2018 by the Belknap Press, Harvard University

The book repays the effort. Although the Council does not start until page 137 (out of 248), there is a lucid introduction to 18th and 19th century thought and action, drawing together the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, and the growth of secularism and atheism.

Was there an ultimate authority to counter and indeed trump trends so unwelcome to the Church? Christ's "Thou art Peter" was the obvious basis, but if that rendered Peter's successors infallible, how did they relate to the authority of bishops individually or to general councils?

Rather like BREXIT, an abstract concept such as infallibility was open to several interpretations and aroused strong feelings. Did it apply to all aspects of a Pope's

personal life, or to all statements made on ecclesiastical matters, or only to solemn pronouncements made from St Peter's chair? Then would infallibility override conflicting laws of the nations? Gladstone was to make great play of this.

The Church was divided on these matters. There were those such as Pope Pius 9th enthusiastically in favour of a strong definition, a minority opposition coming from those who believed that it would be inopportune to do so, fearing that it would bring down the wrath and mockery of the secular world on the Church. And that was even before the full force of the modernist crisis, involving New Testament studies, broke around 1900.

English Catholics had a notable part to play, with Cardinal Manning amongst the pro infallibility supporters and Bishop Clifford of Clifton a leading inopportunist. One can see the seedbed of the traditionalist conflicts, during the second Vatican Council and its aftermath, with liberal pragmatists. That Council had also been expertly covered by Father O'Malley in his book published in 2008. In between his books on the Vatican Councils, he published one in 2013 on the Council of Trent. As a general reader I found that his comprehensive, but never dull, account told me all that I believe that I need to know about the first Vatican Council. Those of us who lived through the pontificate of Pope Pius 12th will probably recognise the Church that emerged from it.

Alan Whaits

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The September catalogue of PostScript Books (www.psbooks.co.uk) offers the book described below for £7.99 (original price £20)

**INSURRECTION Henry VIII, Thomas Cromwell and the Pilgrimage of Grace
Susan Loughlin**

In autumn 1536, Henry VIII had broken with Rome and was eyeing the wealth of the monasteries. In the north of England, 30,000 men loyal to the Catholic Church took arms against him in the uprising known as the Pilgrimage of Grace. Using the rebels' own testimony, this narrative history examines their motives and beliefs, charts the course of the ill-fated insurrection, and describes the rhetoric, rewards and retribution employed by Henry's minister Thomas Cromwell to thwart them.

2018 PROGRAMME

**OCTOBER: Monday 1st St Peter's Church WINCHESTER, Hampshire
Bishops or Bureaucrats? Thomas Wolsey & Stephen Gardiner**

Dr Brian Collins, Winchester Cathedral

Organised by the Winchester Catholic History Group

OCTOBER Saturday 6th Westminster Abbey, LONDON.

Annual Mass at the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor.

Organised by the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom.

Booking is essential as places are limited, telephone the number given.

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 enclosed

**NOVEMBER: Monday 5th St Peter's Church WINCHESTER, Hampshire St
Philip Neri**

Fr Daniel Seward, Oxford Oratory

Organised by the Winchester Catholic History Group

**DECEMBER: Monday 3rd St Peter's Church WINCHESTER, Hampshire SO23
8RY**

**A Vision of Salvation , The Art, Architecture & Archaeology of the Medieval
Parish Church.**

Dr Simon Roffey, University of Winchester

Organised by the Winchester Catholic History Group