

**English
Catholic**



**History
Association**

Reg. Charity No. 1072269

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2, No. 82

MARCH 2019

CONTENTS

News and Notes	4
Upcoming events	6
Visit Reports	11
Articles	14
Books	19
Future Programme	20 - 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/>

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.

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

Committee:

Chairman:	Dr Simon Johnson
Deputy Chairman:	Mr Bernard Polack
Treasurer:	Mr Vincent Burke
Secretary:	Mrs Angela Hodges
Members:	Mrs Sheila Mawhood
	Mr Nigel Parker
	Mrs Audrey Atter
	Dr Giles Mercer

Address for Correspondence: Mrs Angela Hodges
45 High Street, Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset. TA14 6PR
☎ 01935 823928 **E-mail:** secretary@echa.org.uk

Website: www.echa.org.uk

Website Administrator Mrs Lynne HUNTER JOHNSTON

Email: website@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

Newsletter Editor and Publicity Officer: 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

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

Email: sheilamawhood@aol.com

West Midlands (Birmingham and Shrewsbury): Vincent BURKE

South West (Clifton and Plymouth): Dr Simon JOHNSON

Wales and Portsmouth VACANT

NEWS & NOTES

- Greetings to you all. I hope that our March newsletter finds you fit and well. It is *that* time of year again. I enclose the annual subscription notice for those of you who don't pay by standing order. Incidentally, I see that Vincent has pointed out that a few people have not amended their standing order since the rates went up in 2015. Could you please check your bank records and see if you need to make this change? This form is also useful for telling us about any changes of address, phone number, email or even *twitter hashtag* – if you have one of them.
- It is not every day that a plaque commemorating the sacrifice of Jesuits is unveiled in a Church of England. But this is exactly what happened in London on 20th January 2019. Widely reported in the press, the unveiling of a memorial for seven Jesuit martyrs at St Giles-in-the-Fields (in the Diocese of London within the Church of England) marked a significant ecumenical moment. Friends and representatives of the Catholic community gathered together with members of the Anglican community at St Giles-in-the-Fields for a choral evening prayer and the dedication by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ, Parish Priest of Farm Street (Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mayfair) of the commemorative plaque. The inscription reads – ***“Remember before God the lives of all those laid to rest in this churchyard and among them those priests who died for the Catholic faith at Tyburn and were buried here including, in 1679, the Jesuits William Barrow, John Fenwick, John Gavan, William Ireland, Anthony Turner and Thomas Whitbread and, in 1681, Oliver Plunkett Died 01 July 1681 (remains transferred elsewhere, 1863).”***
William Barrow Died 30 June 1679, ***John Fenwick*** Died 20 June 1679, ***John Gavan*** Died 20 June 1679, ***William Ireland*** Died 24

January 1679, **Anthony Turner** Died 20 June 1679, **Thomas Whitbread** Died 20 June 1679, **Oliver Plunkett** Died 01 July 1681.

- And staying in London. Following on from John Whitbourn's presentation at last year's AGM on Bishop Richard Challoner, it is interesting to hear that the recently restored crypt at Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory at Warwick St, London W1B 5LZ (off Regent Street) has been named The **Challoner** Hall. *"..named after one of the towering figures of English Catholicism: Bishop Richard Challoner, Vicar-Apostolic of the London District during the anti-Catholic riots of 1780. Often in frail health, he was forced to spend much of his life in hiding, and frequently changing address, to avoid capture. A prolific writer and tireless apologist for the Catholic faith, one of his most famous works was a prayer book for the laity, the Garden of the Soul, published in 1740. The Hall was extensively refurbished in 2016 and was re-opened and blessed on 6th January 2017 by the then Apostolic Nuncio, H.E. Antonio Mennini."* (from the church website) The Challoner Hall is available for hire.

Now there's a thought.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY Saturday 11th PENRITH: Saint Catherine's Parish Centre, The Haydock Centre, Drovers Ln, Penrith CA11 9EL at 2pm

THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN PENRITH AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA presented by Professor Emeritus Michael Mullett .

We are very pleased to pass on to you a message from one of our ECHA members, Mr Christopher Robson. He has asked us to pass on to you – and your friends, an invitation to attend this presentation in Penrith.

“Michael Mullett is a graduate of the Universities of Wales and Cambridge and was, until retirement, Professor of Religious and Cultural History at the University of Lancaster. He has published many books and articles on, inter alia, early modern European popular culture and protest, the Radical Reformation, biographies of John Bunyan, Martin Luther and John Calvin, Catholic History and the Counter Reformation and Quaker history. Professor Mullett is currently writing a six-volume history of his beloved Penrith, where he and his wife Lorna took retirement. Of this series, four volumes, covering the history of the place from pre-history to the end of the 18th century, have already been published by Bookcase of Carlisle: obtainable from bookscumbria@aol.com and Hedgehog Books Little Dockray, Penrith.

Professor Mullett, who has always been committed to the cause of ecumenism, and who has considerable respect for and knowledge of both the Anglican and Nonconformist traditions, is anxious that representatives from all the churches in Penrith and its district should attend his presentation, which is about the story of Christianity in this part of Westmorland. Entrance is free, but for administrative purposes it would be helpful if you could contact me, Christopher Robson (01524 62465). A voluntary collection will be taken for Churches Together in Cumbria. There will be refreshments. Professor Michael Mullett will be the only speaker, and his talk should last about an hour.”

Entrance is free, but please contact the organiser, to book a place.

Christopher Robson 01524 62465, glospurrblack7@talktalk.net

**MAY Monday 27th. Walsingham Hall, St Teresa's Catholic Church.
PRINCES RISBOROUGH, Bucks HP27 0JN. 2:30 for 3:00pm.**

"Bede, Augustine and the Gregorian Mission to England in the light of the earliest evidence"

An illustrated talk presented by Dr Richard Shaw.

This event is presented jointly by the ECHA and the parish of St Teresa in Princes Risborough. The Venerable Bede's account of the advent of Augustine and the beginning of the conversion of the English is justly famous. Even now, thirteen centuries later, the *Ecclesiastical History* continues to dominate historians' understanding of events. Bede's sources for the period were, however, few and often unreliable. Moreover, Bede attempted to interpret them in the light of his own eighth-century assumptions – almost a century and a half since the Mission – even though the world had changed immensely in the meantime.

In this talk, Dr Richard Shaw, winner of the Eusebius Prize for ecclesiastical history, will offer a re-evaluation of the character and characters of early Christian England using only contemporary sources – those extracted from Bede's *History* as well as literary, architectural, archaeological, numismatic and other material from the time. The picture that emerges is one which differs radically from the traditional one, revealing not only Kent's connections with contemporary Gaul, but also its similarity to that world and society.

Dr Richard Shaw is the Chairman of the History Department at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in Canada. His first book, on *The Gregorian Mission to Kent in Bede's Ecclesiastical History*, was published in 2018. He won the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History's* 2014 Eusebius Essay Prize and was short-listed for the 2016 *Medium Aevum* Essay Prize. Richard has published on Antony of Egypt, Cassiodorus, Gregory of Tours, Augustine of Canterbury, Theodore of Tarsus, Bede the Venerable, Ælfric of Eynsham, Thomas Aquinas and François de Laval, as well as on early monasticism, Anglo-Saxon administration and Old English language and literature.

Following on from his first book, Richard has been contracted to write two further volumes: one on the process of composition of Bede's *History* and one on early Christian Kent.

Richard was educated at Downside School and Oxford University. On leaving Oxford, he worked for *The Catholic Herald* and then the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Richard moved with his wife and family to Canada in 2008 where he completed a doctorate. He began work at Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in rural Ontario, Canada, in 2013. He spent part of his youth in Monks Risborough where his parents still live; and he is very much looking forward to giving a talk at his old parish church, the beautiful St Teresa's, Princes Risborough.

Monday 27th May is the Feastday of St Augustine.

Admission is free. Refreshments: tea, coffee, soft drinks and wine will be available.

All welcome. **People of all faiths and none.**

Note: There is limited onsite parking.

Further enquiries:

Dr Anthony Shaw. - anthonymanshaw@gmail.com,
or Mrs Sheila Mawhood - sheilamawhood@aol.com

XXXXXX

JUNE Saturday 1ST York Catholic History Day 2019

The 2019 York Catholic History Day will take place at the Bar Convent, York on Saturday 1st June. Speakers: Dr Wilfred Hammond *Re-thinking the Rebellion of the Northern Earls, 1569*, Dr Emilie Murphy *Catholic music and memory in post-Reformation England* and Dr Peter Doyle *Keeping the World at Bay: Seminary Training in England and Wales, 1850 – 1950*. Tea and coffee available will be available from 10 am and throughout the day. The first talk is at 10.30 and the day will conclude at 4.30 pm with Mass in the Bar Convent chapel, which celebrates its 250th anniversary this year.

Wilfred Hammond has researched the political engagement of the Lancashire Catholic Gentry in the reign of Elizabeth I.

Emilie Murphy is a lecturer in Early Modern History at the University of York.

Peter Doyle's *History of Upholland College* was published by the North West Catholic History Society in 2018.

The cost is £18, payable on the day, students £9. This includes tea and coffee but not lunch. Light lunches are available in the Bar Convent café,

and can be booked on the day. For more details please contact Judith Smeaton 01904 704525, judith.smeaton@btinternet.com

Next month, on 26 April, The Bar Convent will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the opening of their chapel, on 27th April 1769. Unfortunately, bookings for this big day have closed but if you make it to the History Day on 1st June, you could visit the special exhibition. Here is a link to the Bar Convent website <https://www.bar-convent.org.uk/>

XXXXXXX

JULY Saturday 6th: Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral Morpeth Terrace (beside Westminster Cathedral), SW1P 1EQ 2pm

Afternoon lecture "***Cardinal Newman - the next Doctor of the Church?***" presented by Fr Marcus Holden (PP of St Bede's Clapham Park and former Rector of St Augustine's Ramsgate)

This event is being organised by Nigel Parker our co-ordinator for the Diocese of Westminster. There is Mass in the Cathedral at 12.30 on a Saturday, so that will leave you time for lunch in the Cathedral café or one of the many places to eat nearby before coming on for the talk. Nigel also tells me that the Cathedral's Holy Souls chapel contains a mosaic of Cardinal Newman and references to The Dream of Gerontius, Newman's poem famously set to music by Elgar and which had its first London performance in the Cathedral in 1903.

Our presenter, Fr Marcus Holden, is a priest of Southwark Diocese, the co-author of the CTS "Evangelium" course on the Catholic Faith and has recently returned to London after 8 years as parish priest in Ramsgate where he has done great work in restoring Pugin's church and establishing a Shrine of St Augustine. Even though there is no need to book – and you can pay your £5 on the door, it would help with logistics if you could please contact Nigel if you are planning to come. And don't forget, ALL are welcome. Bring a friend or two.

Here are his contact details telephone (07930 955692) or email (nigel.parker349@btinternet.com) or by post (17 Salcombe Gardens, London SW4 9RY).

More details on the booking form enclosed.

If you can make a weekend of it you might find that this website <https://www.visitlondon.com> shows some of the events being staged in London on that weekend. I see that the ICC Cricket World Cup will be underway and the tennis at Wimbledon of course. Sunday 7th sees the last day of the Chelsea Flower Show. I believe that people turn up and buy the exhibits on this final day and then struggle home on the train with their prized coconut palms and slabs of stone from the feature gardens. Good luck. Or you could just have a browse around the museums, art galleries or sail down the river on a sunny Sunday afternoon with a bit of luck

VISIT REPORTS

Voices from the Cloister: Medieval Treasures at Downside: March 7th 2019, exhibition at Downside Abbey for ECHA members 1.30 – 4 p.m.

The afternoon visit was in three inter-connected parts: an exhibition in the sacristy of the Abbey Church; a tour of the Abbey Church; and an exhibition of sacred texts in one of the Gallery Chapels.

In the sacristy were exhibited nine extraordinarily precious items selected by Dr Simon Johnson, Director of Heritage at Downside Abbey and ECHA chairman, who spoke about each one to our group of twenty-two. The sacristy is the largest in the UK, designed by Frederick Walters and built in 1910 in the late-Gothic perpendicular style. The woodwork of the large cupboards, drawers, and vesting benches was of local craftsmanship. The items on display, 'the tip of the iceberg' in Dr Johnson's words, had not been seen before by the public or even, in some cases, by the present monastic community itself. They throw light on the history of Downside and more widely on the history of Catholic Christianity. They are of European importance. The exhibition is only one of the many fruits of a three-year heritage lottery grant and of a partnership between the Downside Heritage Centre and the University of Bristol's Department for Religion and Theology. In the near future the objects on display will form part of a national exhibition in London, details of which will be forthcoming in due course.

Dr Johnson set the scene by speaking of the coming together of English Benedictines in exile in 1619 and of the oldest Benedictine mission in this country at Bath, established in 1669. The establishment of Downside Abbey in 1814, therefore, was a kind of coming home to the south-west, given the proximity of the abbey to Bath and to Glastonbury, its great medieval model.

It was in Glastonbury Abbey that the first object had been held, the relic of the true Cross, believed by Michael Wood to have formerly been in the ownership of King Alfred. The relic had come to Bath in about 1660, was later authenticated by the Bishop of Clifton, and is often still venerated at Downside. The plainness of the reliquary was in stark contrast to the lavish neo-Baroque decoration of the next object, a monstrance given to Downside by the Pereira family, wealthy Portuguese merchants, in 1899, just when the Abbey was established (having been a Priory until then).

Next and more English in style was the Hardman chalice of 1878, an aspect of that neo-medieval, Gothic-revival movement in Victorian Britain. The base is decorated with precious stones that had belonged to a lady-in-waiting of Empress Joséphine. Such are the twists and turns of European history in which Britain has been deeply involved.

We were then shown a group of chasubles and copes: an English chasuble of c. 1310 with glove motifs to point to the donor, Robert Glover; two fifteenth-century chasubles and part of a cope, fine examples of *Opus Anglicanum* (a style that was principally English but also found in the Netherlands); a mid-eighteenth-century Italian chasuble with secular decorative elements and in very fine condition (and which has only recently been discovered); the so-called *Haslemere* cope, very late-eighteenth-century Italianate, with secular motifs, showing perhaps a shift into a post-Counter-Reformation less assertive spirit. Some of the vestments had been made from pieces taken from other vestments, in a re-working. Downside Abbey had its own vestment-making department until the 1960s which often did work for other Benedictine monasteries.

For the second part of the visit, Steven Parsons, the Abbey Outreach Officer, gave us a fascinating tour of the Abbey Church, beginning in the transept, which served as the first church, designed in 1882 by Dunn and Hansom (the latter designing St John's Church in Bath, then a Downside mission). We surveyed the nave designed in 1925 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott (the architect of Our Lady and St Alphege, a second Downside parish in Bath), reflected on the war memorial and the tomb of Abbot Leander Ramsay, buried in the nave 'with his boys', 107 of them commemorated, minus two Polish boys who had fought for the Austrians. Funds ran out for the completion of the west end of the nave. We gave attention to the relics of St Oliver Plunkett, the last English Catholic to be martyred (in 1681), whose feast day on 1 July still draws pilgrims from far and wide, and to the Compton organ encased in wood taken from HMS Bellerophon (1786) on which Napoleon surrendered in 1815. We paused at the tomb of Bishop Peter Augustine Baines, the Ampleforth monk and founder of Prior Park College in Bath, to whom Downside charitably gave a final resting place. In the Lady Chapel we admired the work of Sir Ninian Comper, the stained-glass windows depicting Downside boys who had died at school and those killed in the Great War who had intended to enter the monastery, and the sixteenth-century recumbent statue of Our

Lady depicting her dormition, with slippers made in the 1960s by Dom Van Zeller. In St Benedict's Chapel Sir Giles Gilbert Scott designed the magnificent tomb to the larger-than-life Cardinal Gasquet. We heard at Bishop Charles Walmsley's tomb how he had stopped for good his brilliant mathematical cogitations when he felt they distracted him from prayer. Finally, we stopped at the sixteenth-century Rhineland wooden sculpture of the Madonna and Child, carved from one piece of German oak, and showing the Blessed Virgin Mary unusually without head-covering.

Finally, we went up the stone steps to a Gallery Chapel to see eight incunables and books: monastic rules; a twelfth-century codex of Old Testament prophets and Mass lectionary from Lambach Abbey, Austria; two fifteenth-century devotional and processional manuals from a Dominican female convent at Poissy, near Paris; and the 1470s' Sunday sermons on saints of Thomas Ebendorfer, professor at the University of Vienna.

We thus ended an afternoon of enormous religious richness, historical depth, European-wide culture, and even greater variety than one has learned to expect from the wonders of Downside Abbey's world-heritage collection. Our gratitude to Simon Johnson and Steven Parsons is great and lasting.

Giles Mercer

ARTICLES

The Archive of the Parish of St. Peter & the Winchester Martyrs, Winchester

In the presbytery at Winchester there is a framed list of resident priests who have served the city and surrounding area faithfully since 1674 – twenty-six in 344 years.

The recusant history of the city goes back even further (five men were executed for the faith the Elizabeth I's time) but for me as Parish Archivist, this list is a particular reminder of Winchester's rich Catholic history. Names spring out, such as James Shaw who in 1740 constructed in his back garden, a free-standing, and highly illegal, Catholic chapel; or James Nolan, who died in 1779 from disease caught while ministering untiringly to French prisoners-of-war. After him came Dr. John Milner, historian, antiquarian and great protagonist for Catholic emancipation, who replaced the chapel with the first post-Reformation Catholic church to be consecrated in England. Later there came Ignatius Collingridge, whose legacy eventually contributed to building the present St. Peter's in 1926 by John Henry King, and Luke Gunning (Canon King's predecessor) who served the parish for fifty-three years until his death.

In his heyday, Provost Gunning had been a great collector, seeking out documents, books and historic artefacts. However, he was no organiser. When Canon King arrived in 1923, he found Fr. Gunning bed-ridden and unable to give much of an account of things. He was to die the following year, age 79. Canon King, destined to be ordained Bishop of Portsmouth in 1938 and later Archbishop *ad personam*, kept a record of his early years in the parish, which includes what he called his "discoveries" – items which form the core of the parish archive today.

The Parish Registers were extant. Started in 1721 by Rev. Robert Berry – a dangerous act, since the penal laws were still in force – it

is a little plain leather-bound inconspicuous book. Mr. Berry was the first priest to sign himself, *Parochus* [Parish Priest]. A notable baptism by Rev. James Nolan on 6 February 1771 was of the future priest and great historian, John Lingard, noted particularly for his five-volume *History of England*, completed in 1830. Born in Winchester, his father, also John, was a carpenter in the city and acted as Dr. Milner's 'clerk-of-works' in the building of the new chapel in 1792.

When Milner departed Winchester as Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District in 1803, most of his papers went with him. However, Canon King found documents relating to the building of the new chapel, household accounts, lists of parishioners, and (what is one of our most important items) Milner's account of the early history of the parish and St. James' Catholic cemetery.

The parish church of St. James had stood outside the city walls from Norman times until the mid-14th century, when virtually all the parishioners were wiped out by the Black Death. The building became derelict, leaving only its churchyard. In 1589, a local gentleman, Nicholas Tichborne, died in Winchester gaol having been imprisoned for his Catholic faith. He was denied burial in consecrated ground; however, an old man recalled the abandoned graveyard and Nicholas was interred there. From that time, St. James has continued to be used exclusively by Catholics, initially from a wide area.

Records of burials at St. James' appear in the Parish Registers from 1779 and a Sexton's Register was begun in 1807. Obviously much troubled by rheumatism, the sexton recorded inside the front cover his prescription:-

“Recept for the Rumetisom. 2 Onces Gum Guacacam, 1 Ounce purified niter [*nitre – saltpetre*] put into one pint Good old Rum well shuk to gather for some Days take 2 Tea spoonsfull

ever other night well mixt to gather with one Tea spoonful of
Honey in a glass of water every other night”
The spelling is equally idiosyncratic throughout the book!

In the 1930s, Canon King gave us another valuable resource by surveying and recording all the readable inscriptions in the cemetery, annotated with any information he had learned about the deceased. When the Hampshire Genealogical Society re-surveyed in 1989, many of those inscriptions had disappeared or become illegible. These various documents, along with the Parish Registers, are now frequently used for people exploring their family tree.

Other items found included bundles of theological notes and pamphlets, and sermons, dating back to the early 1700s. The length of the early sermons is testament to the stamina of congregations, and priests! There were pictures and photographs, ledgers and account books, Mass lists, assorted documents, various correspondence of past priests, and others, relating to the mission. The earliest documents were 17th century, including deeds relating to several properties in Jewry Street and St. Peter Street, close to where St. Peter’s church now stands.

Also uncovered was a large quantity of books. Inscriptions in the volumes showed that many dated back to the very early days of the mission, including the famous Twyford School, the forerunner of St. Edmund’s College, Old Hall Green. Canon King’s list of the collection is in the archive. Regrettably, most of the books were sold in the mid-1960s, although those belonging to the French priests sheltering in Winchester from the Revolution in their country were retained.

The archive now houses a small collection of books, largely about the Catholic history of Winchester and the surrounding area, and a

complete run of the Catholic Record Society volumes, in which many of Winchester's early documents have been transcribed. Canon King was a member of the Society from its early days. As a keen historian of recusancy times, he became renowned for his knowledge of the 'penal days', especially of Hampshire, and an important element of our archive comprises his writings and historical notes.

Although Canon King brought together a significant amount of archive material, and produced his own, he did not put it into order. Following his death in 1965, age 84, it lay largely neglected and unconsidered until Canon Nicholas (Nick) France came to Winchester in 1983. The following year he asked my predecessor, Peter Bogan, recently retired as Headteacher of St. Peter's School, to look after the parish archive. Finding the "archive" comprised a jumble of papers and objects, mostly kept in a large tin box, Peter approached the City Archivist for advice. With her help, the papers were sorted and listed, and stored it in archival acid-free boxes. The most significant items were recorded on microfiche, including Parish Registers, available to researchers (now in the Hampshire Record Office). These have now been "sealed" for 110 years in line with the Catholic Bishops Conference 2014 requirements regarding access to personal data. The boxes were returned to the parish to a designated secure archive room. In this we are exceptionally lucky – many parishes struggle with a single store cupboard. Although there was no space for a reading room, material can be used by appointment in the Pastoral Centre at Winchester. The Centre also has a glass case for changing displays of archive items.

My initial encounter with the archive was while writing my MA dissertation on Catholic emancipation in Hampshire. Peter Bogan was hugely supportive and we got on well. After 25 years as parish archivist, he was looking to step down. With my interest in Catholic

history and background as a Chartered Librarian, Canon Paul Townsend (then our parish priest) asked me to take on the role.

The first task was to discover what the archive held; my second was to seek out what it lacked. Trawling through the parish files for material of historical interest, it was a surprise to find that so much had been discarded. So was born my mantra; oft repeated (very politely) so that it seems to have taken hold – *“Please, don’t throw anything away without asking me first”*. Individuals, parish groups and organisations are also giving or depositing material. I am sure every archivist has heard *“But you are only interested in history”*; my response *“Tomorrow; today will be history”*.

The parish has changed much since Archbishop King’s time. Covering a larger area of the Hampshire Downs, the (recently renamed) Parish of St. Peter & the Winchester Martyrs includes two churches and a primary school in Winchester, a church in Alresford and one in Stockbridge. The archive seeks to reflect all this and its scope has widened to meet growing needs and demands. As well as the expected materials, the archive now curates all the church plate and historic vestments, pictures and artefacts in the parish. The current challenge is how to manage and archive the electronic record.

In a nutshell, the archive’s role is to collect and preserve the record of our Catholic history, both past and present; to disseminate it as widely as possible; and to pass it on in the best possible condition and order to those who come after us.

John Thornhill, Parish Archivist January 2019

BOOKS

CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINT MILBURGA, CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE

Diocese of Shrewsbury 1898 to 2018

With additional information St Walburga's, Plowden and St Andrew's, Craven Arms

A Tribute to a Shropshire Country Parish

Author: Christopher Magner

This is the dedication in the author's booklet: *"This publication has been produced as a tribute to the local Catholics who steadfastly persevered through many difficult situations in order to ensure the survival of the Catholic Faith and Tradition in St Milburga's Parish, Church Stretton and also to all those who have lived, loved, served and worshipped to the 'Glory of God' within the boundaries of the Parish."*

Church Stretton, Craven Arms and Plowden are towns, a fair distance apart from one another in Shropshire. Christopher Magner relates the steps leading up to the establishment of the three Catholic churches and their status today.

To obtain a copy please contact him directly -

chrismagner45@yahoo.co.uk, or 01746 761124

XXXXXX

The Knights Hospitaller in Great Britain in 1540

Author: Michael Hodges

September 2018 Paperback. Illustrated with more than 500 colour photographs.

£20 plus £5 P&P

This book is the first comprehensive guide to the possessions of the Knights Hospitaller in the British Isles in 1540 at the time of their dissolution by Henry VIII. They were in 1540 the largest individual owner of land after the Crown.

The Knights Hospitaller were founded in the Holy Land in the 11th century as the Knights of St John of Jerusalem. Initially set up to look after the poor and the sick, they rapidly became a military order, building castles such as Krak des Chevaliers. After the end of the Latin Kingdom

of Jerusalem in 1291 they moved to Rhodes until evicted by the Turks in 1522. They moved their headquarters to Malta in 1531. They arguably saved Christian Europe from Turkish invasion at the time of the Great Siege of 1565. Evicted from Malta in 1798 by Napoleon they ultimately moved to Rome where they continue to function to this day as the Order of Malta.

In the Middle Ages, the funds for the defence of the Holy Land and then Rhodes came from their huge, donated, possessions in Western Europe. In 1312 the Knights Templar were dissolved and the Knights Hospitaller were in the main given their lands, thereby roughly doubling their wealth. In 1540 the Knights Hospitallers in the British Isles had some forty "commanderies" through which they administered their possessions. They also had the advowsons of well over 200 churches.

Michael Hodges studied at Eton and Balliol before spending forty years as a banker focusing on the Middle East. He is currently Chancellor of the British Association of the Sovereign Military of Malta. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire.

Orders should be placed with, and cheques addressed to:

**The Grand Priory of England, Craigmyle House. 13 Deodar Road
London SW15 2NP**

XXXXXX

Midlands Catholic History Society

As you probably know, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Vincent Burke is our contact with the Midlands Catholic History Society. Here's a link to their website <https://midlandcatholichistory.org.uk>. And from now on, I plan to tell you about the events that they are organising as it is often possible for ECHA members to join in.

I expect to have more and better information for the June newsletter but here are provisional plans for MCHS's calendar of events for 2019

If you would like more details please contact Vincent on 0121 422 1573, Or keep an eye on that website.

MAY: Thursday 16th.

**Visit to the Church of St John the Baptist, GREAT HAYWOOD,
Staffordshire and Tixall Gatehouse.**

JULY: Wednesday 3rd

Visit to Reading Abbey led by John and Lindsay Mullaney.

Programme:

10.30 Arrival and coffee at St James' church

11.00 ***Reading Abbey: From Foundation Charter to recent research'***

The Foundation Charter of Reading Abbey compared to those of other Cluniac and Benedictine monasteries – talk by Lindsay Mullaney

Recent architectural and archaeological evidence, incl. newly published documents concerning the annual commemorative liturgies for Henry 1

– talk by John Mullaney

12.15 Mass in St James' church

1.00 – 1.30 Lunch – members will have to bring sandwich lunch because of the limited time available. Hot drinks will be available

1.30 Guided tour of the Abbey ruins

2.30 ***The Turbulent Lifetime of Thomas Vachell'*** – illustrated talk by Tony Hadland

(Thomas Vachell was MP for Reading between the 1530s and 1550s)

3.30 Tea and departure

Booking forms for this visit will be sent out with the June newsletter but if you wish to register an interest in attending you may contact Vincent

Burke either in writing or by email vburke44@blueyonder.co.uk,

SEPTEMBER: Thursday 12th. *An afternoon visit to Aston Hall led by Michael Hodgetts*

XXXXXX

Catholic Record Society and the Catholic Archives Society

We have been sent announcements regarding forthcoming conferences being organised by the **Catholic Record Society** (CRS) and the **Catholic Archives Society** (CAS) and I am pleased to now pass them onto you.

Did you know that The Catholic Record Society *“was founded in 1904 to make available the material necessary for the study of the Roman Catholic history of England and Wales since the Reformation. It publishes the journal “British Catholic History” with Cambridge University Press.”*

Their 2019 conference is being held at the Bar Convent, York from 8th to 10th July. Planning of the programme is well under way. The main speakers will include **Dr Adam Morton** (University of Newcastle) on “Popery” in British History, **Dom Alban Hood** (Douai Abbey) on Bishop

Cuthbert Hedley, and **Dr Eilish Gregory** (University College, London), on her research into Catholic sequestrations during the 17th century, Keep an eye on this website to get more details

<http://catholicrecordsociety.co.uk/conference/>

The **Catholic Archives Society** is a voluntary organisation founded in 1979 to promote the care of the archives of the Roman Catholic Church in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, so enabling them to be used for the efficient administration of the diocese, parish, religious foundation or lay society they concern.

To be available for research and cultural uses.

The Society does this by providing information, advice and training opportunities for anyone with responsibility for the identification, cataloguing, care and preservation of these archives.

The Society is not an archive repository and does not hold or collect archives.

The annual Catholic Archives Society Conference will take place from Monday 20 to Wednesday 22 May 2019 at Ushaw College, Durham.

The programme includes the following sessions:

Digital Preservation Coalition: 'Getting Started with Digital Preservation'

David Bracken (Diocese of Limerick) 'The pastoral function of the church archivist: minister of memory and hope in a time of uncertainty'

Dr John Jenkins (University of York) 'Lessons from the past: archives and the 'visitor experience' at Westminster Cathedral'

Joint Durham University Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies/Centre for Catholic Studies Ushaw Lecture: **Prof Alison Shell** (University College London): 'Staging magic in English Catholic college drama'.

Claire Marsland (Ushaw College) and **Naomi Johnson** (Birmingham Archdiocesan Archives) 'The care of artefacts in archival collections'

Further details and booking form here:-

<https://catholicarchivesociety.org/training-events/conference-agm/conference-2019/>

Winchester Catholic History Group Programme 2019.

Upcoming Lectures.

These lectures are held in The Milner Hall, St Peter's Street, Winchester SO23 8BW, usually on the first Monday of the month and they commence at 7:30pm.

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

This programme is sent to us by Audrey Atter who is on our committee and our contact for the Winchester Catholic History Group. If you have any enquiries about their lectures could you please contact the parish office on 01962 852804 or email them at office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

APRIL Monday 8th

Rubens and the Counter Reformation

Presented by Matthew Morgan, The National Gallery

MAY Monday 13th

Los Reyes Catolicas – Isabel of Castille & Ferdinand of Aragon

Presented by Dr Elena (Ellie) Woodacre, The University of Winchester.

JUNE Monday 3rd

The Impact of the Black Death (1348-1349) on the Diocese of Winchester

Presented by John Merriman, The University of Winchester

JULY Monday 1st

The Roy Wake Memorial Lecture: Thomas Cranmer – Who was he?

Presented by Professor Diarmid MacCulloch Kt. MA PhD Camb, MA DD Oxf, FBA. St Cross College, The University of Oxford. Please note: as we went to press arrangements were not yet finalised. The **venue** will be announced in the June newsletter.

2019 PROGRAMME

MAY: Saturday 11th PENRITH: Saint Catherine's Parish Centre, Drovers Ln, Penrith CA11 9EL at 2pm

The History of Christianity in Penrith and its Surrounding Area presented by Professor Emeritus Michael Mullett.

To make a booking, though entrance is free, please contact the organiser -

Christopher Robson 01524 62465, glospurrblack7@talktalk.net

MAY: Monday 27th PRINCES RISBOROUGH. Walsingham Hall, St Teresa's Catholic Church. Princes Risborough, Bucks HP27 0JN at 2:30pm for 3pm start

Bede, Augustine and the Gregorian Mission to England in the light of the earliest evidence

An illustrated talk presented by Dr Richard Shaw.

Admission free, no booking form required.

JUNE: Saturday 1st YORK. The Bar Convent, 17 Blossom Street, York YO24 1AQ

York Catholic History Day 2019: *Re-thinking the Rebellion of the Northern Earls, 1569* Dr Emilie Murphy ***Catholic music and memory in post-Reformation England*** and Dr Peter Doyle ***Keeping the World at Bay: Seminary Training in England and Wales, 1850 – 1950.***

10:30 to 4:30 ending with Mass in the Convent Chapel. More details from Judith Smeaton 01904 704525, judith.smeaton@btinternet.com

JULY: Saturday 6th: LONDON Hinsley Room, Westminster Cathedral Morpeth Terrace, SW1P 1EQ at 2pm

Afternoon lecture ***"Cardinal Newman - the next Doctor of the Church?"*** presented by Fr Marcus Holden. This event is being organised by Nigel Parker our co-ordinator for the Diocese of Westminster. Please contact Nigel Parker if intending to attend. Information (booking) form enclosed.