



ANGLO-CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter—May 2012

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

The Winter lecture on the novelist Barbara Pym was well attended and much enjoyed. It was good to have a meeting devoted to a literary subject, a first for the Society, and especially one that reflected post-War Anglo-Catholicism. I have been planning a programme of lectures for a few years ahead and it is now almost complete; I will say more of what's in store at the AGM.

We must congratulate John Hawes, a Committee member, on his promotion to Head Verger at Derby Cathedral. He has settled in and had a very hectic Holy Week during which he tells me some of the Cathedral electricians failed! He finds it a complete contrast to his previous job at St Margaret's, Westminster. The Anglo-Catholic history of Derby is pretty extensive, so there may be material locally for a lecture and perhaps a visit.

The Society has made a donation to the Church of England Record Society (CERS) in order to cover research expenses for a future volume of the Papers & Correspondence of Archbishop Richard Neile by Dr Andrew Foster. He will cover the period from c.1595 when Neile was household chaplain to the Cecil family to his death as Archbishop of York in 1640.

Neile was a major ally of Archbishop Laud and a leading patron of the Arminian faction during the reign of Charles I. This work will therefore make an important contribution to the history of seventeenth century High Church Anglicanism and Dr Foster has agreed to address the Society in the future. His lecture will complement the one given some years back on Archbishop Laud by Professor Kenneth Fincham.

I am most grateful to fellow members of the Committee for all they do and especially our Secretary who bears an increasing workload. With the production of two Occasional Papers last year the amount of office work was quite substantial and Brent Skelly is acting as both Secretary and Treasurer. We are grateful for the help received from Don Young with the accounts. If other members of the Society wish to come on board, please don't hold back!

One of those Occasional Papers was, of course, the life of Canon Peter Green. To be frank, we were initially rather unsure how well this would sell. Canon Green was a famous parish priest of yesteryear but was, we felt, rather a forgotten figure and more in the Prayer Book Catholic tradition. In the event, however, Bishop Frank Sargeant, the author, did a splendid job in marketing and selling the book in the North West where Green's reputation still lingered and 250 copies were sold. Some of the sales were due to the St Denys Theological Bookshop at Manchester Cathedral, the first new bookshop to take our publications.

It is perhaps worth ending with a few words about the Society web-site, www.achs.org.uk It is good that we have one of such good quality and so informative. We are grateful to Mark Adams the webmaster for all he does.

I asked him about the number of "hits" or visits. It seems that the total has gradually over last year, with the peak months September (941) and October (969). People search us via Google in a number of ways, some, to me, not that obvious!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the June AGM and lecture.

Perry Butler



THE FEBRUARY LECTURE

Tim Burnett's insightful and lively talk on *Barbara Pym and Anglo-Catholicism* has now been printed and circulated to members.

Further copies are available at £4.00 post free from George Skelly at 24 Cloudesley Square, London N1 0HN.

ACHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting of the Society is on Monday 11th June 2012 at St. Matthew's Church, Great George St, Westminster. The AGM will be at 6.30 pm. After the AGM, at 7.00 pm the Reverend Dr Peter Davie will deliver a lecture entitled: "The French Connection: the Influence of the French Roman Catholic Church upon the Anglo-Catholic Pastoral Care and Parochial Missions". This promises to be an interesting and novel subject and hopefully there will be a good turn out for it and for the AGM before.

With regard to the AGM, a copy of the Agenda and Accounts Report is posted separately enclosed to members.

SUMMER EXCURSION BY COACH

The annual coach trip will be on Saturday 14th July 2012. Details and booking form [Downloadable here](#).

ADVANCE NOTICE – THE AUTUMN CHURCH WALK

The London Church Walk, planned and led by Michael Yelton, will be on Saturday October 6. Details will be announced later.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Canon Peter Green

Late last year the Society published a biography of Canon Peter Green entitled "A Complete Parish Priest". Bishop Frank Sargeant who is a member wrote it. Although Peter Green is not primarily remembered as an Anglo-Catholic leader, in his day he was widely regarded as an outstanding pastor who spent a lifetime serving a poor parish in Salford, refusing a number of church preferments.

With regard to this book, the Rev T.W.L. Parker wrote to the Society:

I was privileged to be present at what was probably the last "semi-public" occasion when he spoke in the summer of 1951 at a meeting for ordinands of the Manchester diocese hosted by the diocesan, Bishop W.D.L. Greer. I remember that his books on Pastoralia were required reading at Kelham Theological College where I received my ordination training from 1951-55.

In my third curacy I was assistant priest at St Luke's Church, Skerton, Lancaster to Canon H.G. Moss who had served his only curacy from 1913-21 under Peter Green at St Philip's so I was told a lot about him.

When Canon Moss heard of Peter Green's death in the final years of his own ministry, he wrote a biography of him. It was rejected by SPCK as being insufficiently researched



but my recollection is that when H.E. Sheen wrote his biography of Green, he made acknowledgement to the fact that it was largely based on Canon Moss' work.

Ernest Bowcott, former Lecturer in Education at Durham University, has contributed this personal memory of Green's time as Sub-Dean of Manchester Cathedral.

I knew Peter Green as Sub-Dean for a number of years after the end of the War. As a speaker, he was inspiring beyond words. For three years in succession he was invited to present prizes at William Hulme's Grammar School, one of Manchester's leading schools; it is not often that a school prize giving is a joy and inspiration. At Manchester Cathedral – despite heavy War damage - his addresses brought enlightenment to a very dark time. Peter Green's combative struggles with local bookmakers, whom he saw as robbing his parishioners of what little money they had, was fearsome to behold. The fact that he was a first class mathematician ensures he understood the business of odds better than the mostly illegal takers of bets themselves.

William Henry Lewthwaite (1817-1892)

An Original member of the Cambridge Camden Society

A Note by Tim Cockerill, a member of ACHS

On Ascension Day in 1839 a small wine party took place at Trinity College, Cambridge to launch the Cambridge Camden Society. John Mason Neale was elected President and Benjamin Webb Secretary. Amongst those present was a distant relative of mine, William Henry Lewthwaite, and over the years I have tracked down some details of his subsequent ecclesiastical career.

Lewthwaite was born in 1817 at Adel Rectory, near Leeds, a stone's throw from the small Norman church, sometimes known as the Kilpeck of the North. His father, the Reverend George Lewthwaite, who was Rector from 1809 until his death in 1854, came from an old Cumbrian landowning family. His mother, Martha Birley was an aunt of Edward Cardwell, cabinet minister and Army reformer. After early schooling locally and Oakham School, Rutland, Lewthwaite graduated at Cambridge in 1840 (BA Trinity College).

It was probably at Cambridge that he first became interested in the High Church movement that dominated the rest of his life. Unfortunately we know very little about his father's brand of churchmanship at Adel, but the Rector was sympathetic to Dr Hook of Leeds and was clearly not an Evangelical. Studying the Rector's writings it looks as if he was a down to earth, diligent parson of the old school, perhaps none too keen on changing the status quo. He restored his little Norman church without spoiling its essential features.

In 1840 William Henry Lewthwaite was ordained deacon at Ripon and was his father's curate at Adel for the next two years. He spent the following nine years as the perpetual Curate of St Luke's, Clifford. Here he put into practice the doctrines, ideas and ritual learnt at Cambridge as well as being much influenced by the Oxford Movement. He took public services twice daily, strictly observed the Feasts, built a new school and assiduously devoted himself to the care and well being of his parishioners. By 1844 the strain was beginning to tell and he suffered some form of breakdown, followed by several months of recuperation in the West country.



In addition to his parish duties, he kept in touch with his father's old friend, the High Church Dr Hook of Leeds, becoming one of the first members of Hook's Leeds Rubric Club. In 1848/49, Lewthwaite returned to Leeds, helping at St Saviour's Church during the cholera epidemic. For a couple of years thereafter, not much is on record about his life and career, until the dramatic announcement of his admission into the Roman Catholic Church; on the 3rd of April 1851 he made his solemn profession of faith at St Anne's, Leeds, in the presence of John Henry Newman. The latter gave the address to a packed congregation, only a few months after the re-establishment of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in England.

Lewthwaite began his novitiate in the Order of Charity at Ratcliffe College, Leicester and afterwards at Rugby. In 1854 he was ordained to the priesthood and in the following year was sent to assist his friend Father Lockhart in the foundation of a new mission at Kingsland, North London, entrusted to the Order by Cardinal Wiseman. Here Lewthwaite remained until 1863. He served at Ratcliffe College until returning to the Kingsland Mission in 1867. Father Lockhart again sought his help, this time in the centre of London. Lockhart, himself a convert, brought out of Chancery the beautiful 13th Century Gothic chapel of St Etheldreda, Ely Place, Holborn and restored it to public worship. Here the two priests ministered together for the next nine years.

By 1883 Lewthwaite was in his 67th year and his health, never robust, was causing some anxiety. A change of air was recommended and in August of that year he began acting as the procurator of the newly established novitiate at Wadhurst in Sussex where he soon regained his well-being. He took up his last appointment in 1884 as chaplain to St William's Catholic Reformatory at Market Weighton in Yorkshire. There he remained until his death on Easter Day 1892. He was buried at Ratcliffe College.

I possess a photograph of Father Lewthwaite which portrays a thin rather severe looking elderly priest in a biretta. His obituary, however, paints a somewhat more appealing picture, for behind the "seemingly rough exterior and hasty manner lay a kind, good man, very generous to the poor". Although the obituary goes on to describe him as "an active and rather forbidding man" it is something of a relief to hear that he was not above driving the pigs he had just bought at Loughborough market along the public roads back to Ratcliffe College. Whether the Cambridge Camden Society would have approved of this activity seems doubtful but one gets the impression that Father Lewthwaite was never too worried about what others might think.

[Ratcliffe College, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, Leicester, is now a HMC Catholic school]

BOOK REVIEWS

Anthony Symondson by Stephen Dykes Bower (RIBA Publishing, £20.00)

Stephen Dykes-Bower (1903-94) is best known for his reconstruction and extension of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and as a former Surveyor of Westminster Abbey. One of his lesser known works is to be found in a far from glamorous quarter of Salford. St Paul's church, a modest 1850s structure, was virtually derelict and facing demolition when Fr. (now Canon) David Wyatt took up the living in 1968. Over the next decade Fr Wyatt and Dykes-Bower repaired the church and enriched it with fittings mostly rescued from redundant and demolished churches in the Manchester diocese. The church became, and remains, a symbol of renewal, a potent spiritual presence amongst a desert of high-rise housing. Working largely pro bono, Dykes-Bower also designed a new vicarage and hall set around a cloister garden. A few miles away, Dykes-Bower achieved an equally



miraculous transformation of the previously barren interior of Christ Church, Moss Side, with an organ case from Northampton, a Tapper font cover from Southend, and Bodley's magnificent reredos from the demolished St Edward, Holbeck, Leeds, amongst its adornments. How tragic that his reconstruction of Holy Spirit, Southsea, following severe war damage, using fittings rescued from Scott Junior's St Agnes, Kennington, was despoiled in a recent reordering justly condemned by Fr Symondson as "abrasive in its modernity... brutally insensitive and unnecessary".

Symondson, a former Anglican priest, now a Jesuit, presents a highly sympathetic picture of Dykes-Bower as "an Anglican gentleman and devout High Church Tory with a love of England and an allegiance to Church and State". Dykes-Bower was the natural successor of Bodley, Comper and Temple Moore. Much of what he stood for was out of tune with post-war Britain, but he found sympathetic clients amongst traditionalist and Anglo-Catholic clergy, lovingly restoring Bodley's churches at Tue Brook, Liverpool, and Pendlebury. His church of St John, Newbury, is a wonderful reinterpretation of the Victorian tradition of brick building, tough and austere – it replaced a blitzed church by Butterfield.

This is a book in which the subject comes to life – cat lover, keen gardener, someone who "rose early and wrote letters, listened to the wireless solely for the weather, foreswore television"... Dykes-Bower's achievements never received adequate recognition. His Surveyorship of the Abbey was marked by controversy, with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) waging an "implacable feud" against him. His proposal for flooring the nave of the Abbey in marble was defeated. His repairs to the roof, which involved the removal of medieval timberwork, fuelled further controversy. It was probably the influence of the Duke of Grafton, sometime chairman of the SPAB and close to the royal family, which ensured that Dykes-Bower received no honour on his retirement from the Surveyorship. Grafton, seated in Suffolk, was highly critical of Dykes-Bower's proposals for St Edmundsbury, condemning his designs for the new central tower as "thoroughly un-English". Work at the cathedral extended over half a century, with Dykes-Bower's assistant, Warwick Pethers, taking charge after the latter's death. His central tower is a magnificent creation, though the arrival of a new Dean in 2006 saw Pethers dismissed, with detrimental results for the project.

Symondson makes a strong case not only for Dykes-Bower as a highly significant 20th century architect but equally for the validity of traditional design today. As the Church increasingly questions the destructive impact of Vatican II on its liturgy and buildings the work of this great traditionalist deserves to be more widely known and better understood.

Kenneth Powell Hon FRIBA

A Church in a Landscape: a History of South Creake Church by Roger Arguile

This is a small and well-written illustrated book which deals with the history of the Church of Our Lady St. Mary, South Creake, Norfolk. It is one that will be familiar to many members because of its proximity to the Shrine at Walsingham and because of the long and flamboyant ministry of Father L.H. Michael Smith from 1944 to 1977. Father Arguile's account however aims to place the church against the wider history of its times, although the last section, intriguingly entitled "War, ritualism and depopulation (1905-1992)" is relatively short. From the perspective of the ACHS it would have been interesting to read more on Father Smith and on his predecessors, Father Charles Hepworth (who introduced Anglo-Catholicism to the parish from 1921 onwards) and Father Bernard Ventham (vicar 1927-44). Hepworth was popular and outgoing so the parishioners responded to his changes. Ventham, who was a slightly sinister figure who had been ordained as an episcopus vagans and was no stranger to the ecclesiastical underworld, drove people away by his rigidity and personality. This is an interesting read at a realistic price.

Michael Yelton



(This is an attractive A5 size softback book, 80pp, illustrated in colour throughout. It may be purchased from Barbara Allen, Morley's Farm, South Creake, Fakenham, Norfolk, NR21 9JE. Cheques (£9.00 post included) should be made payable to South Creake PCC).