

CONFERENCE *of* RELIGIOUS

England & Wales

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

PRESIDENT: Sister Mary Rose Fitzsimmons HHS

VICE PRESIDENT: Fr Paul Smyth CMF

Sister Jane Bertelsen FMDM

Sister Kitty Ellard IJS

Brother Laurence Hughes FSC

Brother Patrick Lonsdale OFM

Father Terry Madden M. Afr

Sister Maureen Murphy FMSJ

Sister Frances Orchard CJ

Father Martin Shipperlee OSB

**Sr Sue Berry CSF, Associate Member
Anglican Representative**

SECRETARIAT STAFF

Br James Boner OFM Cap – General Secretary

Tel: 020 8566 7009

gensec@corew.org

Ray Wilson – Administrator/Technical Manager

Tel: 020 8566 7025

adviser@corew.org

Catherine Langridge – Administrative Secretary

Tel: 020 3255 1085

admin@corew.org

THE CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

CYNHADLEDD CREFYDDWYR LLOEGR A CHYMRU

Our Mission

The Conference of Religious seeks to be a dynamic and proactive presence of Church, particularly with those on the margins of society.

It aims:

- To unite its membership in collaborative initiatives translating gospel vision into reality
- To offer support to those in positions of leadership.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Conference of Religious in England and Wales is to represent the leaders of religious life.

This representation happens in two main ways:

1. **Supporting our Leaders**

We encourage collaboration among leaders on major issues facing religious today and promote programmes for future formation.

2. **Speaking to Society**

We aim to address current issues from a Catholic perspective, acting as a prophetic voice on behalf of religious.

Our Members

The Conference of Religious in England and Wales exists for the benefit of all religious in these countries. Its formal membership however is limited to the Major Superiors of each institute or in the case of his/her temporary absence, to an officially appointed delegate.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016

We are pleased to present the Annual Report to the members of the Conference of Religious (COR).. Members are asked to read the annual report in the Audited Accounts as a complement to this Annual Report.

Review of Activities during the Year

The task for the future is to promote a wider understanding of the ministry undertaken by Religious over the past 50 years which has had such a profound impact on the fabric of society up until the present time; while at the same time, recognising the profound social, economic and political changes within the wider society and inevitably within religious life itself. There has been rapid transformation in religious life resulting from these changing demographics in the early part of the 21st Century; in some cases growth, in others the diminishment of many religious congregations. Religious are faced with new and complex apostolic challenges on both a national and international scale. Financial security is essential in the light of all these demographic changes and retirement, and healthcare needs are a significant focus for so many on a practical level. There is a growing awareness by congregations to make provision for a 'Legacy' so that their particular charism is continued on these shores.

A major aim of the Conference is to help Religious face their challenges together, through development of collaborative and networking initiatives, providing strength and support through unity.

Religious also face the contemporary needs of keeping up to date with relevant legal policies related to matters of migration, ethics morality, and being informed of policies and procedures pertaining to issues of safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults. In their ministerial role they meet the needs of multicultural, multi-faith communities as well as facing the growth of secularism. Members frequently ask the question "*how can we demonstrate that the world will be a better place because we are here?*" An important aspect of the conference is to facilitate the 'voice of Religious' being heard in all echelons of society. It is of paramount importance that the vulnerable and those in need are cared for by society and that especially those called to a religious vocation are at the forefront of response.

The General Secretary has worked closely in this year to facilitate the work of the conference under the direction of the President and Executive (Trustees). The Executive try to meet at least five times during their term of office. They bring with them invaluable leadership and people skills which they use in deciding the signs of the times for congregations.

The Trustees are committed to assisting the membership in the manner in which they live their fruitful lives in this country and their outreach in other countries. The many affiliated groups and lobbying agencies assist the conference in attending to this mission. The 'Strategic Plan' is still to be fully implemented and is discussed periodically at meetings. It is recognised that the Conference will have to be adaptive in its leadership and management structure if its future is to be secure. The Executive are aware of the challenges that the secretariat face with a small office staff.

There is a strong desire by the membership that the 'voice' of religious women and men is heard in England of Wales so that their contribution to civil society and those most in need is represented and recognised. This part of the Strategic Plan has proved difficult to fully implement. However, there is discussion with specialists in the area of media which we hope will come to fruition in the following year. In recognition of the changes taking place in the way in which information is accessed, the trustees agreed to make substantial changes to the web-site.

THE MIXED COMMISSION



CBCEW

Archbishop Bernard Longley

Archbishop of Birmingham

Bishop Declan Lang

Bishop of Clifton

Bishop Alan Williams

Bishop of Brentwood

Robert Byrne C.O.

Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham

Fr Chris Thomas

General Secretary – CBCEW



COREW

Sr Mary Rose Fitzsimmons HHS

President of COR

Fr Paul Smyth CMF

Vice-President of COR

Abbess Joanna Jamison OSB

Association of British Contemplatives

Sr Josephine Mary Miller OCBE

Union of Monastic Superiors

Sr Francis Orchard CJ

COR Executive

Br James Boner OFM Cap

General Secretary - COR

Mixed Commission

The Mixed Commission is made up of five members from the CBCEW and five members from COR, ABC (Association of British Contemplatives) and UMS (Union of Monastic Superiors). They meet together with the general secretaries from both Conferences managing the administrative aspects of the meetings. This enables co-ordinated discussion on significant matters within the Church, between the Religious and the bishops in England and Wales.

In its meetings it has discussed issues of common concern, including the role of Vicars for Religious, identifying religious congregations not part of the safeguarding network, the re-structuring of safeguarding commissions, consecrated virgins, the points-based system of migration, building closer links with the contemplatives, and the topics of education and healthcare; diocesan religious communities; rights and privileges of religious in a diocese; and joint initiatives including the IICSA Inquiry - all with a view to further developing a collaborative 'One Church' approach to these matters through discussion between the two conferences. The commission is recognised as engaging the conferences in mutual dialogue with the common purpose of the Prophetic Voice of the Church being heard in England and Wales.

“This is important: to get to know people, listen, expand the circle of ideas. The world is crisscrossed by roads that come closer together and move apart, but the important thing is that they lead towards the Good”. Pope Francis.



UNITED KINGDOM VETTING & IMMIGRATION

The Conference has continued to monitor the development of the points-based system and its effects on the movement of Religious from overseas undertaking ministry in England and Wales. This has developed to include direct advice and 'Level One' administrative support by a member of the COR staff to COR leaders applying for sponsorship.

The Conference of Religious also has a role as verifier to demonstrate that applicants for sponsorship are 'bona fide' Roman Catholic congregations of Religious, and sends a letter of authorisation to the Home Office to this effect, validated for each individual by the General Secretary of COR. Many Religious Congregations have been assisted by the COR Secretariat to become official sponsors. It is recognised that there is a growing trend to invite Religious from other countries to assist and enhance religious ministerial outreach.

The Trustees are kept abreast of the developments in this field and seek to positively help all those requiring assistance. There has been substantial changes to the provision of Tier 2 and Tier 5 which have been clearly monitored by the Executive. It may be opportune in 2017 to hold a seminar to update members.

UKVI website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>

Staff

The National Office for Vocation has recently lost their Discipleship Promoter as Teresa Carvalho moved to the Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis.

Fr Christopher Jamison OSB continues to lead the office and works with Sr Elaine Penrice FSP, the Religious Life Promoter and Juliet Chiosso, the office administrator.

World Youth Day 2016

NOV participated in World Youth Day in Poland. Teresa Carvalho was the key coordinator for England & Wales and did a marvellous job in making sure it was a memorable experience. NOV provided three people to be available to the UK pilgrims; Fr Christopher, Teresa and Sr Elaine worked alongside other religious and seminarians who volunteered to be available at our Vocations Stand to talk to young people about their vocation. About 3,500 young people attended World Youth Day 2016 from the UK.

The next World Youth Day will take place in Panama from 22nd – 27th of January 2019.

Vocations Sunday

The theme for Vocations Sunday 2017 is Called: Extra Ordinary.

“Called” is the most obvious aspect of the theme, since vocation is a call felt within, but comes from God. With “extra-ordinary”, we hope to communicate both the extraordinary event of a call in the life of a person, and that we are called as ordinary people to do something extra in the life of the Church and in the name of Jesus. NOV worked in collaboration with Teresa Carvalho, Fr John Diver (Southwark Archdiocese) and Fr Nick Crowe OP in preparing the resources.

The material for 2017 is available for download on the NOV website, so that if anybody wishes to use the materials in their own way they are free to use as they wish.

Vocations Sunday 2016 materials:

23 religious communities

13 dioceses ordered materials.

Vocations Sunday 2017 materials:

9 religious communities

17 dioceses ordered materials.

NRVP

The National Religious Vocations Personnel conference which we held in November 2016 was attended by 95 religious. The speakers were Sr Margaret Taylor FMM and Professor Peter Tyler, who spoke on the psychology of vocation.

The 2017 NRVP conference will also be held in November. The Theme will be “New Wine, New Wineskins”. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP and Sr Lynne Baron FCJ will speak about their experience in accompanying young people through discernment to the early stages of formation. Because relatively few people are entering

congregations, many of us may feel out of practice, and others may be happy to learn new ideas from other people's experience. This will be a good opportunity to exchange ideas about what works! The other contributor to the day will be

Fr Christopher Jamison, Director of NOV, who will speak to us about the upcoming synod “Youth, faith and vocational discernment”. Fr Christopher is one of the people working on the Church's response to the preparatory documents. This will

be a chance for Vocations Personnel to learn about how the Church is moving in regard to Vocational Discernment.

Synod 2018

The preparation for this global event has already begun with preparatory documents and consultation. This is an exciting time for the National Office for Vocation as our work becomes an even more central focus for the Church's work at this time. NOV will keep the Vocations Directors up to date with developments...

Compass (CVP)

Although the Catholic Vocations Project is not technically part of the National Office for Vocation it might be helpful for people to learn about Compass.

This year Compass has 9 participants, 3 men and 6 women considering priesthood and consecrated religious life.

CVP members also are registered on the VISION Vocation Match website at 88% discount of the registration price (paid by their CVP membership fees). Between September 2016 and the beginning of March 2017 congregations in the UK who are registered have received over 100 enquirers.

Communications Conference

On the 13th of May there will be a communications conference organised by NOV.

Many congregations agree that their websites could benefit from some updating, and also that Social Media can be challenging. They will also recognise that it is an area where few feel confident, especially with the seemingly ever-changing technologies and language. Whether there will be a religious or an associate member or a paid employee managing our communications, it is important that congregations and their leadership understand what needs to be done, why and how. This conference aims to enable either the first steps to developing a communications strategy or improving their communications strategy. The main speaker at the conference will be Dr Bex Lewis, senior lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and an expert on communication. Bex is a popular speaker in other churches, and this will be her first contribution to the Catholic Church.

Walsingham Way

In collaboration with the National Marian Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, NOV participated in creating a new National Vocations event aimed at young people.

The Walsingham Way is a vocational pilgrimage which is intended to become an annual summer event. It consists of the opportunity to either book a room or come for camping, with all meals provided. There will be talks, workshops, one to one vocational discernment sessions, as well as prayer times and opportunities to make new friends. Religious can come with the people they are following and can book their rooms online.

Find more information at:

www.walsingham.org.uk/calendars/walsingham-way

Called Beyond Parish Vocations Week

One of NOV's current initiatives is Called Beyond: a Parish Vocations Week, a project designed to enable a parish to begin developing a culture of vocation over the long term. The resources have been developed using market research and the project will be trialled in pilot parishes in Liverpool and Lancaster dioceses in 2017, with national availability in 2018. This is a parish week, not a national week so in 2018 a parish will be able to choose to engage with Called Beyond at which point religious can be significant contributors.

Samuel Discernment Groups

Samuel Discernment Groups are independent groups run by religious and priests based on a model promoted by NOV. Handbooks are available on request from NOV.

This year, we are aware of two Samuel groups, one in London and one in Liverpool.

The North London group is small, with 2-3 members attending regularly. Sr Agnes Cullen and Fr Daniel Humphries are the guides.

The Liverpool group is led by Sr Mary Ann Francalanza FCJ, Sr Catherine Skelton FSP and Fr James Preston. They have 6 participants, 3 men and 3 women.

Vocation Guides Training

The NOV training in vocational guidance still proves to be a valuable opportunity for many congregations. These two-part courses provide small group learning environments where priests, religious and lay people can learn how to accompany young people discerning God's call in their lives. Ten people completed the course in 2017, which brought the number of trained guides to 69. There is another non-residential course this year in London.

The trained vocations guides become volunteer guides for people who ask for vocational guidance through the National Office for Vocation. There are not a high number of requests, but people are needed. There are large areas of the country where there are no trained guides, especially further north than Stanbrook and Ampleforth, help is particularly needed in the Newcastle area. Please see the map below showing the locations where we have trained guides.

Sr Elaine Penrice FSP

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY SAFEGUARDING GROUP - EASG

Following on from the 2015 report to the Conference, membership of the Executive Advisory Safeguarding Group (EASG) remains unchanged this year except for the addition of Fr Martin Shipperlee OSB who represents the CoR Executive at EASG meetings. Both Chris Pearson (Chair of the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission) and Colette Limbrick (Director of Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service) have attended EASG meetings at different times as well as meeting with the CoR Executive.

Through the EASG and funded by D.E. Ford Insurers, CoR offered two seminars aimed particularly at Religious Safeguarding Representatives, to consider this role and how it might be better supported. The seminars included input on the updates of CSAS Policies and Procedures, an introduction to the new EduCare online training resource, and clarifications pertaining to DBS applications for Religious. The Independent Inquiry into Childhood Sexual Abuse (IICSA) has continued with a focus this year on the Child Migration Programme. Members of the Catholic Council attended each session of the Public Hearings. You will remember that the aim of this Council is to co-ordinate the Church's work with the Inquiry, and to facilitate and ensure full and proper responses to the Inquiry by the different organisations within the Church.

CoR, BLM and Stone King law firms, D. E. Ford Insurers and Buzzacot accountancy firm collaborated in the provision of a series of seminars covering all aspects of the Independent Inquiry (IICSA). These presentations were made available to all religious and were well attended and much appreciated.

The NCSC has established a Survivor Advisory Panel as a sub-group in order to ensure that the NCSC receives appropriate and timely information and advice from the survivor perspective. The SAP has a lay chair and currently has recruited eight of an anticipated membership of twelve.

A different sub-group of the NCSC has been working on developing a Pastoral Support Service. This is intended to provide, through a telephone helpline, facilitation or signposting for those who have been abused, to the most appropriate resource to meet their need. This proposal has been accepted in principle by the Bishop's Conference and is due to be introduced to members of CoR in early 2017.

Lyndsay Spendelow rsm

EASG Members

Fr Richard Yeo OSB (Chair)
Sr Lyndsay Spendelow RSM
Sr Philomena McCluskey FMSJ
Fr Martin Shipperlee OSB

Br James Boner OFM Cap. (General Secretary).

Mrs Eileen Campling
Sr Frances Cullen CSFN,
Sr Clare Smith RSM
Br Laurence Hughes FSC

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD ABUSE (IICSA)

The impact of this far reaching inquiry into historical child abuse is seen as an important milestone in the life of this country. The Executive, in recognition of the importance of this inquiry, sought to engage proactively with the inquiry team; to assist them it was understood that a professional approach was required. In consultation and in collaboration with the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales a committee was formed, chaired by Baroness Nuala O'Loan. The committee named CCIICSA coordinates the response of the Religious and the Conference of Bishops'. The Executive recognise that the Inquiry as it progresses could inflict reputational damage to religious congregations. Therefore, as stated above the Executive are proactive in meeting with the Inquiry queries and are kept fully informed of the progress of the inquiry and its impact on religious congregations.

Members:

Baroness Nuala O'Loan DBE (Chair)

Fr Richard Yeo OSB

Sr Lyndsay Spendelow RSM

Sr Helen Costigan

Br James Boner OFM Cap

Bishop Marcus Stock

Fr Christopher Thomas

Mgr Gordon Read

Colette Limbrick



RELIGIOUS LIFE INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2016



VITALITY PROJECT: The Religious Life Institute [RLI] has had another successful year despite the uncertainties connected with the impending closure of Heythrop. Work at national and international levels continues, based on the outcomes of the Religious Life Vitality Project, funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, with presentations this year in Australia, Italy, France and Spain as well as at congregational and diocesan level in the UK.

STUDY DAYS continue to be well-attended. 2016 saw Dr. Nicholas King SJ and Prof. Celia Deane-Drummond give excellent days on scriptural foundations for discipleship and *Laudato Si* respectively. Prof. Myriam Wijlens, a Dutch canon lawyer from the University of Erfurt in Germany, gave a challenging and highly engaging day on Diminishing Human Resources in Religious Institutes: Planning for Future Challenges. CDs of the input for these days are available. Dr. Clara Kreis, a psychologist and Divine Providence sister working in Duquesne University, USA, will give a day in autumn 2017 on her research into life satisfaction among Catholic apostolic women religious.

The THEOLOGY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE COURSE continues to run successfully and we hope that it might be possible to continue this for another year at Heythrop, and later elsewhere, although the course cannot be credit-bearing in 2017-18.

Two new RESEARCH PROJECTS funded by the Hilton Foundation are gathering momentum. Ms. Catherine Sexton of the Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge [MBIT] heads up a project exploring questions of the sustainability of apostolic religious life in Eastern and Central Africa (Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania). The logistics of such an undertaking are hugely challenging, but after a fruitful consultation held in Zambia in September 2016, and with the support of the Union of International Superiors General in Rome and the African Sisters' Education Collaborative [ASEC], we are in the process of securing participation from both local and international congregations. **The support of CoR members in helping us to make firm contacts with their sisters in these countries is greatly appreciated.**

The second project, headed up by Gemma Simmonds CJ focusses on the hopes for and challenges of religious life for entrants, and those who have considered entering apostolic women's religious life since 2000 in the UK & Ireland. We have had some delays in getting a solid participant base for this project, particularly in Ireland, where the disbanding of CoRI and its reconfiguration as AMRI has taken a considerable time. Nevertheless the project is under way and interviews are beginning. **We would appreciate hearing from any CoR members who may be able to help with this crucial research for the future of religious life by helping us to contact potential participants, or who would like further information.**

TWO NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF have been appointed to help with the research projects. Ms. Yvonne Williams works in Durham University as Project Co-ordinator and Dr. María Calderón Muñoz works at MBIT as Research Assistant. The RLI general administration continues to benefit from the professional support of Ms. Annabel Clarkson of Heythrop.

THE FUTURE OF THE RLI is still under discussion. It needs to be embedded in an academic institution, and, with the closure of Heythrop, will need to find a new home. Our intention is to transfer the administrative and academic hub to the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge, but RLI activities will continue to take place largely in London and anywhere else that religious invite its services.

The Religious Life Institute was founded ten years ago to serve religious in the UK and it has already borne much of the fruit that its founders in CoR and among those responsible for initial and continuous formation hoped for. We have every hope that, in its new context, it will continue to be an effective and fruitful resource for individuals as well as for the wider body of religious.

Dr. Gemma Simmonds CJ
Director, Religious Life Institute



A Light Shining in a Dark Place of Human Trafficking

THE MEDAILLE TRUST

REPORT FOR THE 2017 CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS (ENGLAND AND WALES)

Introduction

This report has been prepared for COR to inform them of the work of the Medaille Trust during the year 2016. We are so grateful to the Orders, Congregations and individual Religious who have been so generous with their prayers, time, financial donations, property loans and volunteering. We acknowledge also the great work being done by Religious fellow travellers at TRAC, RENATE and others. Without this vital assistance the support available to our clients as victims of trafficking would likely be seriously diminished. The remainder of this short report sets out key work which has been ongoing in 2016 and continues into this year.

Support Delivery

Support delivery continues to expand as we now have nine safe houses in our services. The following table indicates the capacity of our services across the country, and the provision for males, females and families. Whilst we do not specifically provide accommodation for child victims of trafficking, only adult victims, we do have children in our service who are dependents of some of our adult victims.

Our services have expanded in 2016 with the addition of two safe houses marked on the following table as Mersey and West London respectively. We are indebted to our Brothers and Sisters for their assistance in making these services possible.

Service	Houses	Male	Female	Families	Totals
Northern	2	26	0	0	26
Mersey	1	6	0	0	6
Southern	2	0	9	0	9
Coastal	1	0	0	18	18
East London	1	0	9	0	9
West London	1	0	24		24
Central	1	0	14	0	14
Grand Totals	9	32	56	18	106

Service Provision 2016/17

The table indicates that we now have capacity for up to 106 individuals at a given time to stay in our safe house accommodation and receive a high standard of support and care from our trained and committed staff teams. The Medaille Trust continues to work in a holistic manner to deliver accommodation and support services to the victims of human trafficking and their dependants. The model of service delivery developed by the Medaille Trust continues to stand us in good stead and we have worked with a significant number of victims, with some degree of success, in the nine houses we now operate.

Highlights of 2016 include:

- International preventative work in Albania and Kenya
- The holding of a third criminal justice conference in Bled, Slovenia with some of our partners including Different and Equal (Albanian NGO), Mary Ward Women (Albanian NGO), Salesian Sisters (Slovenian) and the Metropolitan Police, as well as other police representatives from the UK and Europe
- The network of Diocesan Representatives have been working across the UK raising awareness about human trafficking - four Dioceses are now covered with further recruitments underway
- The acquisition of two new safe houses in London and the North West of England which will open in 2017.

Service Impact

The assessment process we undertake with victims is continuous and victims and staff mutually agree achievable objectives and progress against these is closely monitored and recorded in personal files. The Trust is required, as a victim support provider, under the Home Office monitoring regime, to report *'percentage of needs arising during assessment that are met'* and we can confirm that scores of 100% have been achieved during the period covered. We are pleased with this performance as the environment in which we operate continues to become more and more challenging as the Government introduces changes to benefits and immigration legislation that do not make our task any the easier.

In our last report to COR we provided some feedback quotations from victims to highlight the point that the work of the Trust continues to have significant, positive impacts on the lives of the victims we are privileged to assist. Below is a collection of the latest feedback received from some of our clients at the conclusion of their time in our care:

"To all the staff...we saying thank you and we appreciate it so much that we will never forget...we love you all God bless you all and continue to give you the strength to save more lives that needed to be saved"

"Thanks to all for your prayers and good wishes. It gave me the strength to persevere and washed my heart. Thank you is the least I can say to you to show my appreciation for everything you have done for me in life, thanks you, thanks you to all"

"I call it the magical house. For me it is magic to be able to sleep whenever I want and eat whatever I want. I can cook my own food and I am not alone. The house is clean and I can do my own cleaning. I have my own room. My room is amazing and has a beautiful colour. It is room number seven, a magic number. I can not believe it.

I like the manager Bernice a lot from the time she picked me from the station, she said hey and hugged me. I thought "oh my God, I found someone I like". My first impression was that she is honest and welcoming. I was very happy when I was told I will receive 50 pounds every week. I couldn't believe it; I thought wow that is too much money. I liked it even more when they explained the rules of the house. It made me very happy when I learned that I can go out at any time."

A recurring theme in the feedback we receive from our clients is that they have been changed by their experience in our services. Often victims arrive to a safe house in a truly terrible condition, physically and psychologically. It seems reasonable to posit that through the provision of care, love and support provided by our teams, clients who enter our services as 'victims' may rightly be said to leave our services as 'survivors'.

Summary

2016 has been a busy period with increased staff recruitment and new safe houses to be setup and managed. It remains our core aim to serve our clients well and enable them to achieve a good standard of recovery by the time they leave our services. Whilst we should never be complacent, as the testimonials above suggest, this seems to have been achieved.

REPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE OF RELIGIOUS (COR) MAY 2017



Established in 1984, CARJ is a movement of grassroots Catholics working, with people from diverse backgrounds, to bring about a more just, more equal, more cooperative society. In addition to responding to issues and concerns as they arise, the following are some of our ongoing priorities:

After the Referendum – A Period of Reflection and Discernment.

In the wake of the referendum, there is considerable uncertainty as to how BREXIT might influence relationships between groups in the UK. The government is reviewing the UK commitment to the European Convention on Human Rights. We have also seen the publication of a series of Reports highlighting the divisions and inequalities that persist in our society.

With all this a matter for public debate, CARJ has been organising a period of reflection and discernment to consider these issues and how we are called to respond. Key moments in the process so far have included Urban Network meetings and our Annual General Meeting on 5 November.

Schools & Young People's Project.

CARJ currently has three Associates working with schools and young people. During the current academic year we have been working weekly in St Anne's RC Primary School in Vauxhall, working with small groups of young people who are in danger of under-achieving. St Anne's has agreed to partner with CARJ to reflect on this approach as an appropriate way to support young people.

We are planning two Stepping Stones Events - one will take place at St Brendan's Sixth Form College in Bristol and the second will focus on the education of Traveller children. We have been available during the year to respond to invitations from schools to provide workshops on black history, racial justice and other related issues. These have included a five-session series of workshops at Cardinal Vaughan School in west London. Finally, we have continued the Project working with schools and young people in Liverpool

Urban Network.

The Urban Network includes 125 priests, religious and lay people interested in the well being of poor urban communities. The Urban Network meets three or four times a year and keeps in touch by email.

The Urban Network Retreat took place on 22-23 October 2016 at St Mary's Retreat Centre in Handsworth. More recently the Urban Network met on 16 March and discussed the Casey Review and the Housing White Paper.

CARJ Travellers Support Network

The Travellers Support Network includes 50 priests, religious and laypeople who have an interest in the well being of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers. The Network met on 6 July, 13 September and 7 December 2016. We are supporting Fr Dan Mason, the newly appointed National Coordinator of Pastoral Ministry to Travellers.

We have raised the issues facing GRT communities in our submission to the Women and Equalities Committee Inquiry into inequalities faced by GRT communities. We will continue to raise awareness of these issues through the Network and with partners like the Travellers Movement.

Partnerships.

We continue to work with the Office for Migration Policy at CBCEW to organise the annual RJS, and we will cooperate and support one another where our work priorities overlap.

Over recent months, we have been working with CSAN on a variety of issues. We will continue to develop this partnership with CSAN including participation in their Criminal Justice Forum.

CARJ is a member of Christian Anti Caste Discrimination Network which is led by Voice of Dalit International (VODI) and St Anselms Parish in Southall. CNACD has been meeting regularly in Southall and they are planning a Conference for 2-3 May 2017.

Contact

Gloria Oham

Administrator

CARJ

9 Henry Road

London N4 2LH

020 8802 8080

Charity number 291601

ASSOCIATION OF PROVINCIAL BURSARS

The Association, which provides support and Networking for Bursars of Religious Orders and their Teams, has had another busy year. Membership continues to grow and widen, with an increasing number of lay Bursars being involved as well as professional firms who are “Friends” of the Association.

Compliance with statutory agencies continues to dominate our work. Also; as many Religious Institutes continue to reduce numerically (at least in the northern hemisphere), more assistance and guidance is being given to members about the implications of merging Provinces and on the charitable status of their assets within the United Kingdom and ensuring the continuance of their patrimony. This will be a theme at our conference later this year.

The Annual conference, held (as usual) at High Leigh during the first week in October, attracted great support from the membership and attendance by other members of Trustee bodies and professional firms. We are already in advanced planning stages for this year’s conference from 2nd to 5th October and hope to see many of our friends from COREW there. We hope to have a draft programme available by early June.

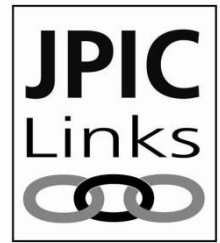
The new Executive was elected at the AGM and details of those now serving can be found on our web site: www.apbursars.org.uk

I am pleased to say that, following my decision to retire, a replacement for the position of General Secretary has been made and we hope to have an official announcement about this in the coming weeks.

Michael Barwick (General Secretary)



JPIC LINKS 2016 – 2017 'TO SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE'



In Evangelium Gaudium Pope Francis said that, “Messengers of the joy of the Gospel are men and women who stand at the crossroads of life and experience the frontiers, welcome outcasts, so that their lives may be filled with the liberating message of the Gospel’. We at JPIC Links consider that this statement could be our Mission statement.

In 22-24 April 2016 over 40 people gathered for our conference at High Leigh Conference centre, entitled, ‘Reconciling Mercy and Justice’ the weekend was facilitated by Dr Mary Grey. During the weekend we explored ‘Becoming mystical communities’ – What are killing systems of the moment? Becoming communities of prophecy – What should be the priorities for a prophetic community? Mercy in the Christian tradition – Mercy is precisely for those who do not deserve it: Laudato Si – When our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one (#92) and Non violence – When one in three refugees in the world is Palestinian how are we challenged by Jesus’ way of non-violence.

Throughout the weekend members presented ‘signs of hope’ together with a moving reflection on their symbol. This brought to the room the diverse work for Justice and Peace members are involved in. The symbols were added to a visual focus around which our Eucharist was celebrated which celebrated Pope Francis’ words from Laudato Si’, ‘When our hearts are authentically open to universal communion, this sense of fraternity excludes nothing and no one’ #92



On 2nd October 47 Anglican and Catholic religious, associates and third order members gathered at Notre Dame de France refugee centre for the JPIC Links Linking Day, ‘Only friends who haven’t yet met’. In the morning Nicolette Busuttii from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) spoke about ‘the further raft of policy changes by the UK government which have made it even tougher for refugees’. She appealed for contributions to help their resources go further and support their outreach work. Some ways she mentioned were– with friendship, by speaking their language, by hosting, by writing to people in detention (Pen pal scheme), by visiting those in detention, by organising a toiletries collection, in your parish, school etc (JRS give out 15,000 bottles a year), by donating and by prayer. In the afternoon we heard from Scott Albrecht from the Catholic Worker farm in Hertfordshire which provides accommodation, food, English lessons, counselling and other services for 21 destitute female asylum seekers and their children.



Many religious present shared how their communities are already supporting refugees and asylum seekers and others were inspired to continue to act on what they had heard. eg Sisters have been involved in working with refugee families in Blackpool, Liverpool and Manchester. One Congregation is working with Syrian refugees in Blackpool, distributing vouchers and goods at Christmas and collaborating in Christian Unity week services in Blackpool week to engage with the theme of Solidarity with Refugees through enabling Syrian and DRC families to share their story. Religious are seizing every opportunity such as Christian Unity week, Churches together, Justice and Peace groups, youth groups and Interfaith and ecumenical groups to make known and address the issues in practical ways. Others have lobbied senior civil servants from Westminster on the failure of the benefits system. Religious continue to lobby MP's on these issues. One sister commented, "Were it not for all the voluntary sector involvements in addressing food poverty and other aspects of social deprivation the situation would be far worse".



Religious continue to be passionate, committed people who together with our Associates and Third order members continue to work in partnership with others to influence political decisions that will impact on the vulnerable people in our world. During the course of the year our members have continued to meet with women and men at the frontiers of existence and have continued to work in partnership with them to build effective programmes. We have raised issues in the Catholic, Local and National press as well as International online forums. Members have been involved in lobbying, letter writing, demonstrations, article writing and actions on a range of issues in the UK and elsewhere, dealing with health, (including TB, polio, neglected tropical diseases, vaccines and universal health coverage): cuts to the NHS, the arms trade, undernutrition, disability, workers' rights and

education for all. JPIC Links members are working with migrants and migrant domestic workers as well as with prisoners. Our members are involved in a variety of initiatives to protect the environment and halt climate change. We have been involved with campaigns to safeguard UK aid and continue to inform ourselves and others about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

Trafficking in Human Beings is now one of the biggest businesses in the world, second only to the Arms Trade. At present there is an estimated 21 million people living in slavery in the world. Every year 1 million children are trafficked. 80% of those trafficked are women and girls, mainly for the sex industry. Women religious all over the world are leading the fight against this awful crime.

Members of Links are also involved in this fight. In London 18 religious congregations are members of TRAC (**T**rafficking, **R**aising **A**wareness and **C**ampaigning), meeting about every 6-8 weeks in Chigwell. They have given talks to schools, parish groups, J&P groups etc and have had post card campaigns to raise awareness of the issue.

On a European level Renate (**R**eligious in **E**urope **N**etworking **A**gainst **T**rafficking and **E**xploitation) have a membership of 24 countries. There is a Core group and a Working Board. One of our JPIC Links members represents the UK on the board and took part in a training session in Rome last November. While there they attended an audience with Pope Francis who has spoken several times about the evils of trafficking.

At present religious are campaigning to end the demand which fuels the supply of trafficked persons. The original Nordic Model which decriminalises the women in prostitution but criminalises the buyers of sex has been extended to Iceland, Norway, France, and Northern Ireland and only in the last few weeks in the Republic of Ireland. They would like to see this here in England, Wales and Scotland. It is a long fight but as Mao said “the march of 1000 miles begins with one step” and we are proud that religious are involved with this initiative.

Future JPIC Links events include:

AGM and Conference – 24 – 26 March AGM and Conference,
'Half the sky – Holding up and holding on' facilitated by Tina Beattie (High Leigh Conference Centre)
Linking Day – 7th October 2017 St Aloysius Church Hall, Phoenix Road, Euston 'The arms trade'
AGM and Conference – 13 – 15 April 2017 TBA (High Leigh Conference Centre)
Please see COR web site for further details – all are welcome

In his homily on February 2nd 2017 for the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life' Pope Francis said, 'We do well to take up the dreams of our elders, so that we can prophesy in our day and once more encounter what originally set our hearts afire.' At JPIC Links we value the times when we can get together and share how we are carrying on these dreams. Through JPIC Links we re-ignite the sparks of the flames that set our hearts afire.

Sister Gillian Price FC
March 2017



Office 16, Shakespeare House, 37-39
Shakespeare Street, Southport. PR8 5AB

01704 533708

Email: secretariat@cmu.org.uk



2016 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CATHOLIC MISSIONARY UNION OF ENGLAND & WALES

Dear friends,

Liaison with the bishops

One of the primary purposes of the CMU is to act as a liaison between the missionary community in England & Wales and the bishops. With them, we have been actively involved in the Committee for Overseas Mission and the work to update the guidelines and criteria for mission appeals in parishes.

Leadership and strategic Planning

Since 2015 Fr Terry Donnelly CSSp and Fr Martin Devenish MCCJ have been our President and Vice President respectively.

Giving value to the members

The CMU has almost 40 members drawn from a range of organisations ranging from the congregations founded for overseas mission to others which have taken up a strong presence in particular overseas countries. We are also including in our membership lay missionary groups and the 'new' missionaries from global South who are present here.

In 2016 two 'Working Groups' were developed – one on education and one on the missionary vocation. The education Working Group will oversee a pilot project called 'meet a missionary' to provide input to young people. You can find out more about this project at www.meetamissionary.org.uk

The CMU has been working with Missio, Heythrop and the Jesuits to present a World Mission Conference each year since 2015. This year it takes place on 11th October and the keynote speaker is Fr Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator SJ the Jesuit President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Africa and Madagascar. The book a free place contact the office.

New members

We welcome new members to the Catholic Missionary Union – organisations which place world mission as a part of their work.

**Yours sincerely in Christ,
Richard Owens, Secretary**

Thanks to the Conference of Religious and other CAFOD supporters, as well as over 6,000 volunteers we are better able to stand with our brothers and sisters across the world and help them to build more secure lives for themselves and their children. This report details just a selection of the work made possible by your support during the past year

Here is how we have lived our values:

Compassion

CAFOD supporters gave £3.5m in response to the Nepal earthquake and just over £1million towards the Ethiopia Food Crisis.

Dignity

CAFOD's 'Family Portraits' series raised the visibility of the refugee crisis. The series was seen by 758million viewers globally via media and online channels and raised over £286,000 for the Refugee Crisis Appeal.

Hope

CAFOD's East Africa appeal, launched in March 2017 has to date raised over £2million. This means we are able to provide practical help and hope to those who are most vulnerable and who are in most desperate need.

Partnership

In 2015/16 over 104,000 supporters had engaged in our work – 3,000 more than last year – working together to bring God's kingdom on earth.

Stewardship

Research amongst Mass-going Catholics showed that 91 per cent of our supporters trust us 'a great deal' or 'quite a lot'. This has risen from 88 per cent in 2014/15. We are privileged to have your trust.

Solidarity

Together with SCIAF and Trócaire, we gathered over 40,000 signatures from across the UK, calling on the Prime Minister to take urgent action to prevent climate change pushing people deeper into poverty.

Sustainability

As part of one of a community-based advocacy and influencing project in Brazil, 2,285 families are now able to access secure housing and 1,912 families have access to better toilets and sanitation.

How you are changing lives

- In 2015/16 CAFOD raised £53million and spent £57million – such is the magnitude of our reach and impact – and our commitment to work in solidarity with the poor.
- We made 571 grants to 45 different countries – reflecting the diversity of our work – the needs of communities that we serve – a confirmation of our holistic approach to social and economic justice.
- In 2015/16 we also achieved a major milestone, since our inception in 1960 we have fundraised over £1billion, nearly three quarters of which has been given by supporters.

All of this was made possible due to the support and commitment of nearly 6,000 volunteers, staff and supporters.

Here are some highlights we would like to share...with thanks

CAFOD Fast Days

Harvest Fast Day in 2016 focused on CAFOD's partnership with communities in Bolivia's Altiplano region and raised over £1million. It was a wonderful boost to our commitment to poor farming communities as they worked to build a sustainable future whilst respecting the gift of the land and of water, overcoming malnutrition and hunger.

This Lent Fast Day we have taken as our focus the work our partners are doing in Zambia. Florence, 41, from Zambia received training from our partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. The sisters have worked in Zambia for over 20 years, and provided Florence with training in fish farming, giving her tools and some starter fish.

Florence dug a pond, tended to her fish and then began selling them at market.

Thanks to your support and Florence's determination, something as small as the size of your thumb - a tiny tilapia fish - became something amazing: a future for her children.

We are very grateful to the overwhelming generosity of the Catholic community in England and Wales for its support of our Lent appeal.

Brazil

During the Olympics in 2016, we took the opportunity to shine a light on the vital work of our partners in Brazil. Although poverty levels have fallen in some areas in recent years, inequality is still rife and the country's most vulnerable communities are often excluded from progress and economic growth.

In rural areas, many people struggle to support themselves and their families and are forced to migrate to cities such as São Paulo, where they frequently end up living in overcrowded and unsafe housing in informal settlements known as favelas.



Maristely and her family outside their home in São Paulo.

São Paulo is Brazil's largest city, home to eleven million people. Our local partner Movement for Defence of Favelas (MDF) works alongside the poorest and most vulnerable people in 40 favelas across the city. They help communities improve their access to utilities and services like clean water, sanitation and electricity.

Maristely is a young leader with our partner MDF. 'At the beginning, the favela houses were made from cardboard,' she said. 'Most didn't have electricity or running water and human waste used to run down the street.' Our partner supported Maristely and her community to stand up for their rights and advocate for improvements to their housing. 'First we got the authorities to pave the streets, then they sorted out the sewage, water and electricity,' she said.

MDF also helps to prevent evictions and supports families, including Maristely's, to gain certificates of ownership for their homes and legal rights to their properties, so they can feel safe and look forward to a brighter future.

'Being a part of MDF has given me many good things, like awareness of my dignity as a person and critical thinking,' she said. 'Yes, I live in a favela, but because of my perseverance it is a better place and we are recognised for that.'

Uganda

When Margaret trained as a mechanic, she faced doubt and suspicion from the men in her village.

Uganda's north-eastern Karamoja region is plagued by drought as well as tribal and military violence. In the face of these challenges, Margaret has fought to keep the boreholes in good working order. Now, more than 8,000 people in ten villages depend on her to keep them supplied with clean water and she trains others in the trade



Margaret Lotee in Karamoja, Uganda, was trained as a water pump mechanic thanks to your support.



'Now things have changed,' she said. 'When the borehole in a village breaks, the men are the first to come for help.'

Just by doing what she does best, Margaret has challenged the local perception of women.

'Now we have the respect of the villagers. The men look at us and see we have values in common. Now everybody comes to village meetings. I want to empower women – to have both women and men working together.'

Humanitarian and emergency response

East Africa Crisis Appeal

Over 16 million people across South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya are in urgent need of food, following months of drought. In mid-March 2017 CAFOD launched an appeal and participated in the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal

In South Sudan alone, 4.9 million people – more than 40 per cent of the country's population – urgently need food, and nutrition assistance. In many places, such as South Sudan, the crisis has been exacerbated by conflict and economic collapse.

We have been working with our local Church partners on the ground, who are providing vital aid to communities affected by hunger and drought.

Inspiring response from the Catholic community

Our supporters have once again shown enormous generosity since we launched our East Africa Crisis Appeal, raising over £2 million to date.

Jo Kitterick, Head of Parish and Volunteer Engagement at CAFOD, said:

“We cannot thank our supporters and volunteers enough for once again showing such great faith and trust in CAFOD. The enormous response from our supporters has been humbling; schools, parishes and individuals across the Catholic Community of England and Wales are donating, fundraising and praying; a testament to our commitment and willingness to be witnesses of putting our faith into action”.

South Sudan

Millions of vulnerable families desperately need food, as famine has been declared in parts of South Sudan: the world's newest nation is in the grip of a devastating humanitarian crisis. In Unity State, 100,000 people face starvation and fears are growing that more vulnerable families in other parts of the country are on the brink of famine. Without homes and safety, nearly 4.9 million people across the country urgently need food and nutrition. As part of the Caritas network, with our sister agency Trócaire, we are already working with local Church partners on the frontline of this crisis. In Yirol in central South Sudan, we are getting food and essential items to people most in need.

Since December 2013, a brutal conflict has devastated the lives of millions of South Sudanese and more than 3 million people have been forced to flee their homes.

Somalia

The UN estimates that the number of people in need of food aid has increased from 5 million in September 2016 to 6.2 million between February and June 2017. This means that 50 per cent of the population do not have enough food to eat and are at risk of famine; with more than 363,000 acutely malnourished children and 70,000 severely malnourished children in need of urgent life-saving support. Our two long standing sister agencies have been present in Somalia since 1992 and 2011 respectively, and responded to the devastating drought and food crisis of 2011. They have strong networks of local partners who are working with the most vulnerable families in need of nutrition, health and cash transfers to buy available food.

[Help us save lives by donating today](#)

Ethiopia

Back-to-back seasons of poor or non-existent rainfall in 2015, exacerbated by the strongest El Niño phenomenon on record in the same year, led to the worst drought in decades in northern Ethiopia. The number of people in need of food sky-rocketed from 3 million at the beginning of 2015 to 10.2 million twelve months later in January 2016.

Failed autumn rains in 2016 have led to a new drought affecting 5.6 million people in the southern and south eastern regions of Ethiopia – which has resulted in critical shortage of water and pasture in lowland pastoralist areas leading to a sharp deterioration in condition of livestock and livestock deaths in some places. For these communities, the loss of livestock means a loss of or decrease in milk production - often one of the only sources of protein for families.

Our programme staff and local partners continue to respond where the needs are greatest with food, nutrition, water and sanitation.

Kenya

In February 2017, the Kenyan government declared drought a national disaster, affecting more than 2 million people the north of the country. This was due to the failure of the rains. The communities in the north of the country are primarily pastoralists: nomadic and semi-nomadic herders who rely entirely on their cattle and livestock as a means of maintaining a sustainable way of life and living. They depend on the two rainy seasons and when they fail, the effects can be catastrophic as they lose cattle and valuable pastures to drought. CAFOD is working with its long standing local Caritas partners to get food, healthcare, water and sanitation delivered in the northern county of Marsabit.

Syria

Since fighting began in 2011, the conflict in Syria has escalated beyond recognition.

An estimated 280,000 people have been killed and more than 6.5 million have been driven from their homes to seek safety elsewhere in Syria.

More than 4.5 million have fled over the borders, the vast majority to neighbouring countries such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.



When she grows up Dania wants to be a doctor. Thanks to our local partner, Dania is now attending school

A total of 13.5 million people still inside Syria need urgent help. These vast numbers are almost impossible to comprehend, but as Alan Thomlinson, our Emergency Programme Manager for Syria, has said, *“We must not forget that behind every single number there is a human story of loss and suffering, hope and courage.”*

Since the conflict began, our supporters have responded generously by donating over £3.5 million to our Syria Crisis Appeal. Thanks to you, we have been addressing the complex needs of people affected by the conflict in Syria and throughout the region. In Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Turkey, we have been working to support refugees and those sheltering them by providing food, shelter, education and medical care, linking our emergency relief with projects to strengthen the country for the long-term, building resilience and promoting reconciliation and ensuring that our local partner organisations’ voices are heard at national and international level.

Learning is light

Amar and her family fled Syria with only the clothes on their backs. Now, as the children gather around in their small apartment in Amman, Jordan, they are full of smiles and laughter.

Thanks to the programme provided by CAFOD, Caritas Jordan and Catholic Relief Services, they are receiving a vital education. Most refugee children have had their education disrupted, which risks harming their futures.



Three of Amar’s children study at home.

Caritas Jordan provides catch-up lessons, tutoring and kindergarten classes to help young children develop and prepare them for school. Now all four children have successfully completed catch-up classes, enrolled in public schools and are receiving ongoing tutoring and psychosocial support. Amar has also noticed that they are less fearful and anxious. When asked why education is so important, Amar responds with an Arabic saying, “*Learning is light.*”

Campaigns update

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us to care for our world, our common home we share. Throughout the past year Catholic dioceses, parishes and individuals all across the country responded to this call by putting their faith into action.

18 dioceses switch to renewable energy

In 2016, we shared with you that 16 of 22 Catholic dioceses have already switched to sustainable energy sources such as wind and solar. A further two dioceses, Wrexham and Southwark, have chosen to make the switch and it is hoped that the remaining four dioceses will join as soon as they are able. Churchmarketplace, a not-for-profit collaborative buying group for the Catholic Church in England and Wales, and Interdiocesan Fuel Management will now provide renewable energy services for 18 dioceses. This is a wonderful way for Catholic community to protect our world from climate change.

24th *livesimply* parish announced

Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Patrick parish in Walthamstow, Brentwood diocese, became the 24th *livesimply* parish. The *livesimply* award recognises the commitment of Catholic parishes to living simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with poor communities.

Parishioners have coordinated various *livesimply* activities including; reducing their energy use, holding a Walk to Mass Sunday, and using Fairtrade tea and coffee. They have also sheltered homeless people in the church hall over the winter months.

For the Love of...

In February 2017, CAFOD, as part of the The Climate Coalition, celebrated Valentine's Day with by showing love for our planet.

A film was produced and campaigners made green hearts to draw attention to our climate campaign.

Over 1,000 CAFOD campaigners have contacted their MPs to ask them to speak up for renewable energy.



Year in Pictures 2016

Year of Mercy

We were overwhelmed by the Catholic community's response to the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Parishes around the country held special services, retreats and study days to reflect on what the Year of Mercy meant to them.

Many were inspired to pray for refugees and to organise pilgrimages focussed on the current refugee crisis, such as the walk of witness which took place in Plymouth (right).



Although the Year of Mercy has ended we encourage you to keep using our refugee solidarity liturgy and to send your messages of hope to refugees.

We shared your messages of hope with refugees in Greece.



Nigel took a Lampedusa cross on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela to help him reflect on the refugee crisis.

CAFOD Ambassador and ITV newsreader Julie Etchingham and her son James wrote a message of hope that was passed to an 18-year old Afghan girl living with her family in a refugee camp in Athens.



Schools and young people also got involved with the Year of Mercy by taking mini-pilgrimages around their school grounds or local area.

Young CAFOD volunteers Leah and Ryan (left) travelled to Lebanon to meet with refugees who had fled from Syria, Iraq and Palestine. Your donations have helped thousands of vulnerable families



In addition to helping refugees in the Middle East and further afield, you donated generously to our Ethiopia Crisis Appeal.

In June 2016 Herit and her family were struggling through the drought in Ethiopia. Herit says, "looking back, the future was thanks to the support given to us we now have a good harvest and a good future to look forward to."



The money you've raised this year really does make a difference to people living in communities affected by disasters like the 2015 Nepal earthquake.

Our partners in Nepal are still working with people like Rama and her husband to help them replace the crops which were destroyed during the earthquake.



***Do you know someone who might be interested to hear about CAFOD?
Please do pass on this report to them and share the work
that you have made happen***



REPORT TO COR 2016- HOUSING JUSTICE REPORT

This year homelessness has continued to increase. The number of people counted sleeping rough in England in the Government snapshot figure for November 2015 was 3,569, an increase of 30% from the same figure in 2014. At the end of December 2015 there were 69,140 homeless households in Local Authority provided temporary accommodation, including 106,140 children. This was 12% more than the same date in 2014 and there is no sign that either of these figures will go down during 2016.

In 2016 we are marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Housing Aid Society. Maisie Ward was a writer, theologian and the daughter of a prominent Catholic publisher. Molly Walsh and her husband, Bob, ran a House of Hospitality during the depression. Molly and Maisie met through the Catholic Evidence Guild. They shared a concern about the needs of young families in Britain after the war. Especially as they saw the damage done to children who were being brought up in dreadful slum conditions and the lasting impact on family life. Molly and Maisie joined forces to persuade the Catholic Church to respond to the needs of people who were homeless or living in poverty – a witness of the Catholic community to the problem, but a service to the entire community. In 2003, when CHAS merged with the Churches National Housing Coalition, Housing Justice picked up this baton. Our aim remains that everyone should have a home that truly meets their needs and that Christians play their part in bringing this about. We remain extremely grateful for the donations and especially the prayer support of religious orders for our work – without this our task would be so much more difficult.

Sixty years on Housing Justice, as the successor organisation to CHAS, continues to work to meet a need that is tragically, just as great today. Throughout this year we will have a renewed emphasis on persuading the churches to rise to the challenge of preventing homelessness and helping homeless people into secure, genuinely affordable accommodation. As an ecumenical organisation we will be issuing the same challenge to all the churches in England and Wales – and to parishes, schools and individual Christians.

There will a number of events marking this diamond jubilee but we are particularly asking local groups, parishes and schools to hold a Housing Justice event to reflect on the current situation and commit to taking action to make a difference. And to start the year off well we have a special prayer written by our Chair of Trustees, the Bishop of Rochester, and a prayer card with the CHAS Jubilee prayer and an invocation to St Benedict Joseph Labre, the patron saint of homeless people. We are also carrying on the tradition of not waiting for the Government to sort out a problem but instead taking the action we can to make things better. And not being afraid to use our prophetic voice to speak truth to power about the impact of Government policies.

Church and Community Night Shelters

Over the winter 2014-15, around 500 Churches, Church Halls, Synagogues and Mosques opened their premises for use as night shelters providing hospitality and support between October 2014 and May 2015. 2,171 guests were accommodated and an estimated 231,000 volunteer hours given to be alongside them through 70,000 separate volunteering attendances. During the year we helped new shelters open up and assessed others for the Housing Justice Quality Mark. We provided a holiday break for shelter guests and volunteers at the Scargill Community in Yorkshire and brought shelter coordinators together in regular forums in London and the South East and in Wales.

Mentoring and Befriending Project

Our own Mentoring and Befriending project wound up at the end of the year. However, we are still providing a tool kit on our website for other organisations to set up their own programme of mentoring and befriending people who are making the difficult transition from homelessness to housed. We regularly provide volunteer training and support to new programmes like this around the country.

Faith in Affordable Housing

Our FiAH team are currently working with churches, housing associations and local authorities across England and Wales. We have a new England Coordinator, Jackie Cottingham, and a case worker based in Cumbria, Judith Derbyshire. We are always looking for new sites and are able to provide support and guidance from the first considerations through to the completion of the building and new residents moving in. Please do get in touch if you think we can be of assistance.

Migrant Destitution

In response to the signs (and needs) of the times, and utilising some of the expertise of our team freed up by the ending of our mentoring and befriending project, we have opened up a new area of work. Nationally we are a member of the **Strategic Alliance on Migrant Destitution** which brings together homelessness and refugee and migrant agencies with the aim of increasing the amount of accommodation, advice and humanitarian aid for destitute migrants who are already in the UK. An important part of this work is the development of **London Hosting**, a scheme to match hosts with spare rooms with destitute migrant guests who need accommodation in the Greater London area.

Homeless Sunday

Homeless Sunday 2016 was on 24th January. Unfortunately, this clashed with Racial Justice Sunday because the Bishops' Conference Liturgy Office moved around some of the special Sundays in the year but did not announce the changes until all our materials were prepared. In 2017 Homeless Sunday will be on **22nd January**. So far as we know this does not clash with any other special Sunday. We are always pleased to receive prayers and reflections which can be incorporated into the resources for the day, so please send any contributions to a.gelder@housingjustice.org.uk.

Events

We held Roadshows in Manchester, Exeter, London and Preston. We launched the CHAS Diamond Jubilee celebrations with a reception in the House of Lords in April 2016. We continue support regular prayer and action forums for Christians involved in homelessness work in London and Birmingham, as well co-organising the annual service of commemoration for people who have died homeless at St Martin in the Fields in November. Our London Christian Homelessness Forum now meets twice termly, alternating between late mornings in our office and evenings at Mount St Jesuit Centre. For more information please check our website: www.housingjustice.org.uk or email info@housingjustice.org.uk

Advocacy

We have briefed Catholic Parliamentarians and Anglican Bishops as the Housing and Planning Bill is making its way parliament.

Further information from Alison Gelder: a.gelder@housingjustice.org.uk, or on our website: www.housingjustice.org.uk, or call 020 3544 8094.

REPORT TO COR AGM ON TRAFFICKING. 2016/17

According to Government statistics Trafficking is on the increase year on year. The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a Government safeguarding body whom trafficked people are referred to for help mainly by the police. From 2015 to the end of 2016 the NRM has reported at 17% increase in trafficking. According to them the most common type of exploitation and slavery is labour exploitation.

But the statistics are only as good as the reported crimes. We have to ask ourselves why there is so little reporting of sexual exploitation. In meeting with concerned people there is a feeling that the NRM is inadequate and maybe it is but right now it is all we have. Women trafficked for sex will not get help unless they go into the NRM and then they are found accommodation etc.

TRAC (**T**rafficking, **R**aising **A**wareness and **C**ampaigning) along with Renate (**R**eligious in **E**urope **N**etworking **A**gainst **T**rafficking and **E**xploitation) believe that the demand for cheap sex and labour is fuelling the market.

The Republic of Ireland has joined Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, France, and with some exceptions Canada in enacting law that decriminalises prostituted people and criminalises the buyers of sex. Scotland is beginning to look at this model also but it has not been passed as law yet. The aim of this law known as the Swedish Model (because Sweden was the first country to pass this law nearly 20 years ago) is to combat the multi-billion dollar sex trade and its economic engine, sex trafficking. Today we tend to use the "Nordic Model" to describe this law.

In England and Wales we have yet to have a serious debate about how we can go about enacting this law here. The arm of Government looking into the whole area of prostitution is the Home Affairs Select Committee. An interim report from this committee who have been looking at the legalisation of all elements of prostitution in the UK, found that all the countries they looked at like New Zealand (who has legalised not only prostitution but pimps, brothels, and other exploiters of women) and Germany of course with its super brothels would not suit as such in the UK. However they have not entirely ruled these models out. With the General Election approaching now is a good time to talk to our elected representatives about where they stand on the position of the buyers of sex. The law will not be changed here until we can convince parliament that it is necessary to stop this exploitation of women.

The theatre group Ten Ten are working with TRAC to put on a one woman show in the Spring for schools outlining how young women are groomed and forced into the sex trade.

Sr. Marie Power HFB

ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH CONTEMPLATIVES 2016

It has been an eventful year in unexpected ways. First of all, for a variety of reasons, we had to abandon our plans for a General Assembly in the autumn. Secondly early in November Sr Mary of the Holy Spirit resigned as Chairwoman of the ABC for health reasons. We owe her a deep debt of gratitude for her twelve years of devoted service to the Association. At a meeting of the Executive we proceeded according to the our statutes which state that in the event of the Chair becoming vacant the Deputy holds office until the next election. Encouraged by the members of the Executive I agreed to accept the office.

We now have a General Assembly planned for 21st ~ 24th May 2018 in Hinsley Hall. The main speaker will be Sr Fernanda Barbiero SMSD who gave inspirational input at last year`s Retreat for Religious organised by The Sacred Congregation. We are delighted that our Assembly promises to be a welcome “spin~off” from that very successful Roman Retreat. We intend to initiate a review of the ABC, its structure and purpose, in an attempt to note developments since its formation in 1994, and to ensure that we are meeting the current needs of our communities. We recognised that the ecumenical nature of the Association requires strengthening.

In January of this year Clare Walsh, Consultant Archivist,began putting on order the Archive of the Economic Commission founded in 1972 to assist the Contemplative Communities in practical matters. The Conference of Major Religious Superiors gave its approval, a legacy (to relieve poverty and advance education in Contemplative communities) supplied funds, and the Holyrood Trust established.The Economic Commission was part of CMRS until 1975 when an Economic Consultant was appointed to run the office, visit the communities etc. In 1980 Sr Kate Coombes MM,took over the EC office, and she is responsible for keeping detailed records of the immense service rendered by the Economic Commission to our Contemplative communities until 2012. When Clare Walsh has completed her task the Archive will find its permanent home in the Downside Archive thanks to the kindness of Fr Prior & Community. With permission from the Executive Committee of the ABC researchers will have access to the material.

Also in January The Executive met to reflect on the recent Constitution for contemplatives from Pope Francis ~ VULTUM DEI QUERERE. This text has been much appreciated in our communities especially as it is clear that the consultative process initiated by the Congregation in 2014 has been read and understood. Miracles do happen ! Howeverthe text concludes by informing us that a new Instruction is being prepared on “ matters calling for discernment and renewed norms “ ie Formation, Prayer, Word of God, Fraternal life,Autonomy, Federations,Cloister etc. So we await this document and pray that it will be truly life~ giving to our communities

We drafted a letter to the Congregation expressing our appreciation of the Constitution and the need for flexible legislation as communities today struggle with smaller numbers, care of the elderly and much slower recruitment And the need for quality formation rather than the proposed lengthening of formation, especially important in the UK where candidates come later in life.

I hope that these few lines give you a taste of the year.

All good wishes

Sincerely yours

S Joanna Jamieson OSB

Deputy Chairwoman
Association of British Contemplatives



THE ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARIES AND RELIGIOUS OF IRELAND (AMRI)

is an amalgamation of two of the largest existing religious membership organisations, the Conference of Religious of Ireland (CORI) and the Irish Missionary Union (IMU), in a response to a desire to energise and support the life and ministry of the Church, both in Ireland and overseas.

CORI was first established under the title Conference of Major Religious Superiors of Ireland (CMRS) in November 1960 and has a combined membership of approximately 9,000 from 138 religious congregations. The IMU was set up in 1970 for the broad purpose of providing a collaborative network of missionary groups, with 1,500 Irish Missionaries from over 80 member congregations currently engaged in 84 developing countries.

The purpose of AMRI will be to represent and promote active collaboration between Religious Institutes, Societies of Apostolic Life and Missionary Organisations. Key strategic programme areas include Mission & Education at home and abroad; Justice, Peace and Environment; Health and Pastoral Care; and Support to its Membership.

THE ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR RELIGIOUS 2016 – 2017

The Association of Senior Religious has one hundred and twenty-six communities from all over Britain subscribing for the current year. Each community receives a copy of the Summer and the Winter Newsletters published by the National Executive. The Newsletter is contributed to by the membership and is the main organ of communication and support between the Members, and between the Members and the National Executive.

In April 2017, eighty-three Religious are booked to attend the three-day ASR National Conference held in Bournemouth from 3rd-6th April. Our speaker this year is Fr. Mariathas Selvaratnam OMI. Fr. Selvam has chosen as his theme 'Our ongoing call to Solitude and Contemplation. Our conference is a great time for Religious from all over the country to get together to socialise and pray together and enjoy some first-class spiritual input. We are all looking forward to it.

Three members of our National Executive will need replacing at our AGM in April: the Deputy President, Sr. Shirley Aeria FMDM, the Secretary, Sr. Ann Heaney SP and the Deputy Treasurer, Sr. Bridie Healy RSM. We thank these three Sisters for their long service to the Association and pray God's blessing on them.

Sister Hazel Buckley FMDM
ASR National President



Maryfield Convent, Mount Angelus Road, Roehampton, London SW15 4JA

UISG REPORT For COREW AGM 2017

UISG is the International Union of Superiors General – for women’s orders. It was established in 1966, inspired by the 2nd Vatican Council, to promote deeper collaboration between female congregations of Apostolic Religious Life. (USG is a separate Union for male religious.)

Plenary meetings take place in Rome every three years with an attendance of 850-950 women leaders. The Union is divided into a number of Constellations. The UK belongs to one of two Northern European Constellations. Other countries in our English-speaking Constellation are Norway, Ireland, Netherlands and Malta. The Constellation meets once in the three year cycle. The UK group has a membership of approx. 25 Congregation Leaders who currently meet three times a year to discuss issues of common interest and to provide mutual support for members. Meetings generally take place in March, July and October and are held at St. Philomena’s Convent, Euston Square.

This year, the UK Constellation group hosted the European C1 Constellation meeting at Hindsley Hall, Leeds in April. The title of the Conference was:

LEADERS IN THIS EVOLVING WORLD

Exploring the call, the gift and the challenge.

The title of the Conference was chosen to build on the excellent plenary session, Weaving Global Solidarity for Life – held in Rome last year.

Sr. Jane Bertelsen FMDM facilitated the Conference day and led us through a most wonderful day of exploring, in the context of religious life and leadership, 'Evolutionary Consciousness'. Jane shared most generously from her own lived experience of religious life and ministry. The 31 participants from UK, Ireland and the Netherlands also enjoyed a pilgrimage to the historic Durham Cathedral and the Centre for Catholic Studies where Professor Paul Murray, Director of the Centre, gave excellent input. The day concluded at Ushaw College where the students gave a guided tour of this historically significant place in the story of the church in the well-known and ancient part of the UK.

I would recommend membership of the UISG to any Congregation Leader as it is a very positive means of support and companionship in the fulfilling of one’s role as Superior General.

UISG Initiatives – internationally:

- Solidarity with South Sudan – an inter-congregational project.
- Talitha Kum is an Anti-trafficking project of UISG which co-ordinates, at international level, networks of women religious.
- UISG and USG collaborate in different commissions.

If you would like further information on membership of UISG please contact me on email: mary.whelan@psmgs.org.uk or telephone 07534903578.

Mary Whelan SMG

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF ANGLICAN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES (CLARC)

Mirfield College of the Resurrection was the venue of the Conference of Leaders of Anglican Communities again this year. The CLARC members joined the community for all the monastic offices and we ate our meals in the community refectory.

Elections to Bishop's Advisory Council were well contested. Those elected were – Sister Anita CSC, Sr. Mary Stephen OSB, Sister Joyce CSF, Sister Mary Julian CHC, Sister Alison OSB, Sister Heather Francis OHP, Sister Margaret Theresa, SLG, Abbot Stuart Burns OSB, Father Peter Alan CR, Brother Philip Bartholomew SSF, and Fr. Colin CSWG as secretary is not an elected member.

The Chair is Bishop David Walker (Manchester) Bishop Tim Dakin (Winchester) Bishop Tony Robinson (Wakefield) and Bishop Jonathan Clark (Croydon.) Also Rev Ian Mobsy, Revd. Tim Watson and Dr. Peta Dunstan was co-opted.

The Revision of Handbook of Religious Life is nearing completion.

The Report on Episcopal Visitations prepared during meeting of CLARC 2014 will be circulated to all Episcopal Visitors..

The next edition of the Anglican Religious Life which documents all the traditional and acknowledged communities is due 2017 autumn.

Mother Rita-Elizabeth, SS.B. stepped down as representative of the Anglican Leaders on the executive committee of the Conference of Religious (RC) after 6 years service and was replaced by Sr. Sue, CSF.

The conference heard input sessions from Dr. Marcelo Claria – an Argentinean psychiatrist who was the leader of the Focolare in the North of England and Scotland before being recalled to Rome. He had experience of living in small communities as well as working professionally with people with a wide range of mental and psychological disorders. He is currently a member of the Focolare community in London. Fr. Jonathan Cotton, OSB works as a parish priest near Preston in Lancashire and is a member of Focolare. They both spoke about their experience of Focolare and the inspiration they receive from the life and writings of Chiara Lubich. Their experiences of living in small communities was felt to be most relevant to us and this enabled some considerable discussion about the joys and sorrows of community life.

The Leaders of Anglican Communities requested a meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury's new Chaplain who was appointed in January. She is Revd. Isabelle Hamley. As well as her duties as Chaplain she has responsibility for developing the Archbishop's priority of prayer and the renewal of religious life, especially through the Community of St Anselm. A meeting took place on March 14th at Lambeth Palace attended by most of the Leaders and it was a useful opportunity to share with her our hopes and requests as well as our resources in the mutual concern we all have to raise the priority of prayer and retreat within the church as a whole.

In a sermon preached to a congregation including a large number of ecumenical religious and lay supporters the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of his priority for the Religious Communities. We were encouraged by his concern. He said, "There seems to be much call in this nation, at this time, for the visible, the grand gesture, the quick solution, the strong answer. But it is the hidden that is essential. It is what is seen in the sight of God that is essential. Not only in the response of the church to what is the greatest opportunity for many years to reshape the values of our society; not only is that contribution essential, but it is only going to be a valuable contribution when it springs out of the hidden life of prayer and of the religious communities. Let us not deceive ourselves. What you are, what you have been, what in the grace of God you will be, is as essential, if not more so, than ever it was. The church is not only diminished by a decline in Religion, it has a chunk of it amputated in a way that is deeply dangerous to its future life. You are essential, albeit hidden."



UNION OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCES OF MAJOR SUPERIORS

UCESM, a Church association of Canonical Right and also an International Non-Profit-Making Association of Belgian Right (AISBL), is a union at the service of Religious Life in Europe. For the time being (April 2017), UCESM gathers **39** national Conferences of **28** European countries for a total of about 230.000 religious.

ACTIVITIES IN 2016

Meetings at which members of the Committee / members of the General Secretary took part

On 3rd-4th February 2016, the 17th General Assembly of UCESM took place in Rome, Italy. Its topic was: "*UCESM: Memory and Prophecy*". The purpose of this short Assembly was to re-read the path taken since the creation of UCESM back in 1981, better identify the current challenges and refine the prospects for the future. Speakers were Fr. Mariano Sedano Sierra cfm, then councillor of UCESM, who gave a lecture on the historical background of UCESM from its beginning; Fr. Bruno Secondin o.carm who spoke about 'present-day challenges of consecrated life in Europe'; and Fr. Alessandro Perrone rcj who addressed the assembly about the prospects to cope with these challenges. A new Executive Committee was elected: Fr. Giovanni Peragine crsp (AL) was re-elected President, Sr. Danièle Faltz dcn (L) was elected Vice-President, and Sr. Hedvig Deák op (H) and Fr. Nicolai Dubinin ofm conv (RU) were elected councillors.

On 31st August-2nd September 2016, Fr. Giovanni Peragine was invited to take part at the 20th International Congress of Renovabis (the Solidarity action of the German Catholics with Eastern Europe) in Freising (near Munich) as a speaker. Under the general topic "*Witnessing to the Gospel – Shaping the world*", he said in a panel discussion about "*Religious orders in the 21st century: New challenges - New ways*" referring to the communist and atheistic past of Albania (where he has been a missionary since about 18 years) with its numerous martyrs and the tragedy of the refugees: "*We as religious must also take up this challenge and not only avoid simplifications, but above all be a model of the prophetic freedom based on the following of Christ. The martyrdom of our brothers and sisters in faith urges us to face a fundamental requirement: let the Christian faith emerge as a positive force that does not condemn, but save, a voice that brings hope and not evil, which is able to read the work of grace in the heart of history*". Owing to the religious diversity in the countries of Eastern Europe and the strong religiousness, i.e. the demand for spirituality and sense of life, especially in Albania, Fr. Giovanni underlined the great challenge of working with the laity and also the problem of vocations which is of quality and not merely of numbers.

On 15th-18th September 2016, Fr. Giovanni Peragine also took part as a speaker at a European meeting at the occasion of the Holy Year of Mercy in Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina) on the invitation of the CCEE (= Council of European Bishops' Conferences) Commission *Caritas in Veritate*. Presenting a corporal work of mercy *Sheltering the homeless*, he spoke about the action of all the religious who, throughout Europe, every day and without sparing themselves, endeavour to meet the human and spiritual needs of the man of today.

On 30th November 2016, the new Secretary General of UCESM, Sr. Marjolein Bruinen op, met the Apostolic Nuncio to the European Community in Brussels, Mgr. Alain Paul Lebeaupin. They spoke about the European process, the Christian roots of Europe and the relations between the many Catholic organizations working in Brussels in close relationship with the European institutions.

On 20th December 2016, Sr. Marjolein Bruinen op met Br. Olivier Poquillon op, the new Secretary General of COMECE (Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the European Community), at the COMECE-HQ in Brussels. They had an exchange about their new mission in Brussels, their past tasks and challenges, and assured that they will go on working in close collaboration in the future.

Durham University's CCS is the UK's first permanent centre devoted to pioneering world-class research and teaching in Catholic theology in the public academy. We operate within the UK's premier research Department of Theology and Religion (as assessed in the two most recent government assessments, RAE 2008 and REF 2014), and work in close partnership with Religious Congregations, the Catholic Church and other organisations, in multiple ways, to produce future leaders, foster talent, and foment Catholic scholarship locally and globally.

The CCS was established in October 2007 and launched in May 2008, coinciding with the establishment of the first endowed chair in Catholic Theology since the Reformation, the Bede Professor in Catholic Theology, which was funded by significant donations from the **Sisters of Mercy** (Oaklea), the **Sisters of La Retraite** (Britain and Ireland) and the Catholic Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle. The current holder is Professor Karen Kilby who is heavily engaged in local and regional outreach, whilst working with 17 **Sisters of La Retraite** in Britain and Ireland to understand and research the relation of suffering to love.

Our second endowed post, the St Hilda Chair, is the UK's first in Catholic Social Thought and Practice (Catholic Social Teaching), and the only such Chair in a secular university in the world. It was established with support from the **Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** and the **Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of Peace**. The post is linked to the **UK Centre for CSTP**, led by our Deputy Director, Dr Anna Rowlands, which together with **Las Casas Institute** (Oxford), the **Von Hügel Institute** (Cambridge), **CAFOD** and **CSAN**, is tackling issues and informing policy on social justice, refugee crises, human trafficking, poverty, and destitution.

Each year the CCS:

- Pursues numerous research projects in the areas of Constructive Theology, Catholic Social Thought and Practice, and the History of Catholicism with developing interests also in Catholicism, Arts, and Culture and the Social Scientific Study of Catholicism;
- Supports seven core staff and over 20 wider faculty in their personal research;
- Offers various research seminars, lectures and conference to over 950 students and visitors;
- Currently supports over 45 exceptional postgraduate students, c.15 with scholarships;
- Engages in outreach work, especially through the work of the Bede and the St Hilda Chairs;
- Serves as the key intellectual forum for the UK and broader Catholic community;
- Trains the next generation of English-language University-level teachers of Catholic theology, with our alumni employed in the US, Australia, Rome, Ireland, Germany, Low Countries and the UK; and others having entered religious life and secular priesthood.

Aims of the CCS:

- To provide a distinctive forum for the creative analysis of key issues in Catholic thought, culture, and practice;
- To engage, inform and shape public and ecclesial life;
- To engage the breadth and depth of Catholic tradition in conversation both with the full range of disciplines and perspectives in a leading university and with a range of other faiths;
- To develop and pursue major collaborative and interdisciplinary research projects;
- To model a vibrant and inclusive community of scholars and practitioners of Catholicism;
- To form outstanding theologians who will shape the future from the richness of Catholic tradition in the church, academy, and public life;
- To foster and develop excellent working relationships with relevant regional, national and international public and ecclesial bodies.

Report from the Dean-Director, Professor Paul D. Murray

Since its foundation, the CCS has provided an explicit space for world-class research and teaching in Catholic theological studies in the UK academic mainstream. The establishment of two endowed Chairs, a core Executive, the attraction of a critical mass of staff members across academic disciplines, a range of public events, significant undergraduate teaching, and the training of more than ten cohorts of postgraduate students, are all allied to international quality research and our mission in Catholic Theology. This is testament to the strength of the partnerships which underpin the CCS, not least the growing relationship with COREW.

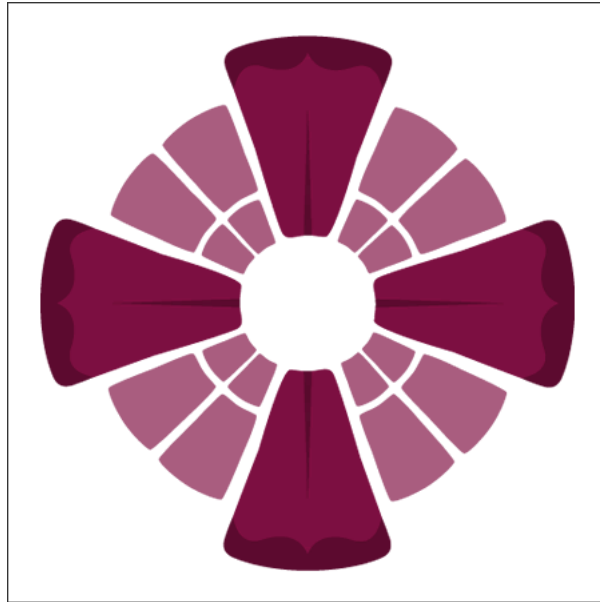
The **Institute of our Lady of Mercy** (Yeadon) and the **Congregation of Jesus** (UK Province) continue to fund the Catherine McAuley and Mary Ward postgraduate bursaries respectively, providing the majority of our scholarship funding on an annual spenddown basis. In 2017 we welcomed the **Institute of Christian Education** as new partners, who are generously supporting PhD scholarships over the next three years through the *Louis LaFosse Bicentenary Fund*. It is our hope that by building and extending further such partnerships, we will ultimately be able to endow our scholarships and bursaries on a permanent basis.

2016/17 also marks the start of the second phase of the Hilton Religious Life Vitality Project in partnership with the **Religious Life Institute** (Heythrop) and the **Margaret Beaufort Institute** (Cambridge). We were also delighted to welcome the Anglo-Irish group of the European Constellation of the **International Union of Superiors General** (UISG) in April, led by Sr Colette Cronin RSM. This year, we also celebrate the transition of the Sepulchrine Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Hannah Thomas, who was funded by the **Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre** to research and document the history of their unique graveyard in Chelmsford, which is to be published later this year. We are delighted that Hannah will continue to share in the work of the Canonesses, and the CCS, and wish her well in her forthcoming role at the Bar Convent.

We have received substantial support towards our goal to endow a permanent senior post in the History of Catholicism from the **Congregation of Jesus** and the **University of Notre Dame** whose support was amplified thanks to substantial private donations. The recent announcement of the £2m investment planned for the Durham University **Residential Research Library** at Ushaw College (RRL) is a major milestone in a longstanding relationship with Ushaw and the Trustees; this represents a huge opportunity to attract top international scholars to Durham with a programme of visiting library fellowships. The collections at Ushaw, taken together with the University's own special collections at Palace Green, allied to the finest medieval monastic library in situ at Durham Cathedral, makes it one of the finest regional collections of its kind in the world. Durham recently took over the Catholic National Library and already houses the collections of the Darlington and Woodchester **Poor Clares**, among others.

As the scope and reach of the CCS continues to develop, we are still pursuing the essential funding to underpin our core professional team and the Dean-Director's post in perpetuity (the latter is currently a gift of the University to the CCS). As consequence, we continue to explore strategic opportunities for active national and international partnerships that will help to secure the funding, influence, and stability for us to achieve our aims into the future. As many congregations discern their continued mission and presence in the UK, we hope the CCS can offer an attractive, sustainable venue to carry your history, witness and charism into the future. The transference of mission from one generation to the next is enabled and secured only through the transfer of resources into energetic fields of mission. We hope for those of you concerned with education, spiritual discernment and vocation, and the training of future religious and lay leaders for our society will consider the CCS a vital, strategic facet of that broader long-term planning exercise.

Finally, it is only due the dedication of our staff and the generous support and shared vision of our partners that we are able to accomplish such things and I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you most sincerely for your trust, vision, prayers, and active partnership.



“God always has patience”.

Pope Francis