

# NEWMAN ASSOCIATION NEWS

March 2024

## **Newman Council – sharing of treasure**

I have recently been revisiting the Old Testament, partly as background for Ros Clarke's, *Forty Women: Unseen women of the Bible from Eden to Easter* (2021), recommended by the National Board for Catholic Women, and, partly to become reacquainted with the tradition of Covenant. So, it was interesting to channel my inner-prophet one morning after waking from a dream! Yes, I found gold coins! Only the week before, on 9 March, the Newman Council met and most of the issues requiring discussion and further discernment were related to the use of the Association's resources: its members, speakers, website and connections. Is this what my dream really related to? Here were the main themes:

- **Can our membership be expanded**, and can Associate Members become Full Members? A proposal is currently being circulated to members for their views.
- **How can we become more tech-savvy so more can access our talks?** Many members would like to hear talks being given in other parts of the country. Sharing of these through Hybrid meetings (as in Coventry), Recorded talks (as for Ealing, or National Association talks), and transcript publication currently occurs for only a very small percentage of talks. Tips for hosting hybrid meetings is being circulated alongside this newsletter.
- **How can our website be enhanced?** A group will meet to discuss changes to the website, to improve the search and retrieval of journal articles and visibility of recorded talks and circle calendars. Any members who would like to contribute should contact Sophie Rudge.
- **Can we help sponsor and host a conference in the UK?** Plans are being discussed with Pax Romana and potential venues about hosting a conference in Great Britain around the theme of *Artificial Intelligence, Relationality and the Future of Christianity*.
- **The Newman Awards schemes to universities**, which sponsored projects in 2022 and 2023, will need to be put on pause in 2024. However, all is not lost. The upcoming Newman Journal will feature an article on a successful collaboration between the Hertfordshire Circle and the University of Herts chaplaincy.

**AGM:** Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 1:30 followed by Mass and a talk by Margaret Hebblethwaite. Please plan to join and contact Sophie Rudge at [secretary@newman.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newman.org.uk) ahead of time.

### **Table of Contents**

Council News	1
Circle Contacts & Events	2
Recorded Talks	5
Celebrating members	
Dr Narishta Ratnanather	6
Prof Gerald Curruthers	7
Membership News	8
Useful contacts	8
Report from Andante	9

### **Newman Association News**

This newsletter is sent to all secretaries of Circles, as well as to unattached members whose e-mail addresses are known. Please contact [secretary@newman.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newman.org.uk) about any matters arising or with ideas for future issues.

Barbara Bolgiano, Acting Editor

***Happy Easter to all!***

# Events

For further information, please contact the designated contact for the particular Circle.

## Circle contacts

Cleveland – Patricia Egerton 01642-645732, [p.egerton123@gmail.com](mailto:p.egerton123@gmail.com)

Coventry – Jessica Moore

[jessica.moore1208@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.moore1208@gmail.com)

Ealing – Kevin Clarke 07710-498 510

Eastborne/ Bexhill – Alex Mthobi

[amthobi@yahoo.com](mailto:amthobi@yahoo.com)

Edinburgh – Bernadette Campbell

[bjcampbell512@gmail.com](mailto:bjcampbell512@gmail.com)

Glasgow – Arthur McLay

[alcmclay@btinternet.com](mailto:alcmclay@btinternet.com)

Hertfordshire – Janet Evers

[janet.evers1938@gmail.com](mailto:janet.evers1938@gmail.com)

& Mary Harber 01727-838 598

[marytharber@gmail.com](mailto:marytharber@gmail.com)

Manchester and N Cheshire – Chris Quirke

[dcq@mac.com](mailto:dcq@mac.com)

North Gloucestershire – Stephanie

Jamison, 01242-539 810,

[sjamison@irlen-sw.com](mailto:sjamison@irlen-sw.com)

North Merseyside – Helen Flynn

[helen.flynn8@gooqlemail.com](mailto:helen.flynn8@gooqlemail.com)

Tynemouth – Sue Oxley

[sueoxley3030@gmail.com](mailto:sueoxley3030@gmail.com)

Wimbledon – Rock Tansey

[rockonqc@btinternet.com](mailto:rockonqc@btinternet.com)

Worcester – John Duddington

[duddingtonjohn@gmail.com](mailto:duddingtonjohn@gmail.com)

Wrexham – Carole O'Toole

[carolegtotoole@aol.com](mailto:carolegtotoole@aol.com)

York – Judith Smeaton

[judith.smeaton@btinternet.com](mailto:judith.smeaton@btinternet.com)

Some Zoom links for talks may be available from Circle Contacts closer to the date.

# Mar-2024

Glasgow

**Thursday, 7 Mar @ 7:30 PM**

A talk on *Life and Legacy: The Jesuit Martyrs in El Salvador*

by Prof Stephen McKinney

at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall  
2049 Maryhill Road, Glasgow G20 0AA

Cleveland

**Wed, 13 Mar @ 7:30/7:45 PM**

A talk on *'Madonna House' spirituality: more than meets the eye*

by Jeanne Guillemette

at Middlesborough Cathedral Hall  
Coulby Newham, TS8 0TW

Bexhill and Eastbourne

**Monday 18 Mar @ 7:30 PM**

*The Work of the Eastbourne Street Pastors*

by Tim Deaves

Christ the King Parish Room  
3 Princes Road, Eastbourne  
BN23 6HT

Coventry

**Tuesday, 19 Mar @ 7:30 PM**

A reflection on Edith Stein's philosophical position *On the Problem of Empathy*

by Veronica Carroll, Circle member

North Merseyside

**Thursday, 21 Mar @ 7:15/7:30 PM**

A talk on *Walking in the Winter of Life*

by Dr Karen Groves \*\*\*

at St. Helen's Parish Centre  
Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ

Worcestershire

**Thursday, 21 Mar @ 7:30 PM**

A talk on *Christianity and Human Rights: a challenge for the Church today*

by John Duddington, editor of *Law and Justice*, the Christian Law Review

at St. Georges RC Church Parish Hall,  
Sansome Place Worcester WR1 1UG

# Apr-2024

## North Gloucestershire

**Tuesday, 2 April @ 2 PM**

Nature, Grace and Glory in the  
Theology of Rev E.L. Mascal  
By Rev Duncan Munro, Councillor,  
Charlton Kings Village Council  
*note earlier start time*

## Hertfordshire

**Sat, 13 April @ 10:30 AGM/11 AM Talk**

AGM followed by talk at 11 AM  
By The Venerable Joanne Kelly-Moore,  
Dean of St Albans Cathedral  
on her *Church Journey from New Zealand to  
St Albans*  
at St Alban & St Stephen Parish Hall,  
Beaconsfield Road, St Albans AL1 3RB

## Edinburgh

**Monday, 15 Apr @ 7:30 PM**

*The Bible: a Mosaic*  
by Rev Dr Scott McKenna  
Spiritual Lead, Ayrshire Hospice  
at Mayfield Salisbury Church  
18 West Mayfield  
Edinburgh EH9 1TQ

## Hertfordshire

**3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays @ 1/2 PM**

Book Club – *Interior Castle* by Teresa of Avila

## York

**Monday, 15 Apr @ 10 AM**

A talk followed by lunch at Bar Convent  
*Marriage and 'Fiducia Supplicans'*  
- *the historical context.*  
Discussion of church blessings.  
Brian Hamill, President of the Newman  
Association,  
Followed by lunch at the Bar Convent Café  
*booking essential, note venue change*

Ealing *This talk will be recorded.*

**Thursday, 18 Apr @ 7:30 PM**

*The Vatican and the question of Jerusalem*  
by Dr Anthony O'Mahony  
Blackfriars Hall, Oxford University  
at The Parish Hall, Ealing Abbey Church  
of St Benedict, Marchwood Crescent,  
Ealing, London W5 2DZ

## North Merseyside

**Thursday, 18 Apr @ 7:15/7:30 PM**

A talk "*My God, my God, why have you  
forsaken me?*": *Despair on the Cross?*  
by Mr John Potts  
at St. Helen's Parish Centre  
Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ

## Worcestershire

**Thursday, 18 Apr @ 7:30 PM**

A talk on *Catholic Social Teaching*  
by Fr. Richard Finn, Las Casas Institute  
Blackfriars, Oxford.  
at St. Georges RC Church Parish Hall,  
Sansome Place Worcester WR1 1UG

## Coventry

**Tuesday, 23 Apr @ 7.30**

A talk on *The Media and Young People*  
by Natalie Orifice  
This is a hybrid meeting held both on Zoom  
and in-person at St Thomas More Church  
Margaret Roper Room,  
112 Knoll Drive, Coventry CV3 5DE  
The zoom link remains the same:  
[https://marriagecare-org-uk.zoom.us/j/  
88909267597?pwd=ZVgvSzNsVzRYV3VpMnhidW1laHNtdz09](https://marriagecare-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88909267597?pwd=ZVgvSzNsVzRYV3VpMnhidW1laHNtdz09)

## Cleveland

**Wed, 24 Apr @ 7:30/7:45 PM**

A talk *Catholic Ecumenical Engagement,  
a failure or a blessing for our churches?*  
by Fr Tony Curren, Consultant to ARCIC III  
at Middlesborough Cathedral Hall  
Coulby Newham, TS8 0TW

# May-2024

## Glasgow

**Thursday, 2 May @ 7:30 PM** provisional  
Talk by Fr Nicholas King SJ is off.  
*Details of a possible replacement will be communicated.*

## Edinburgh

**Monday, 6 May @ 7:30 PM**  
*Paul's Disciples and the Changing View of Women*  
Prof Helen Bond, School of Divinity,  
Edinburgh University  
at Mayfield Salisbury Church  
18 West Mayfield  
Edinburgh EH9 1TQ

## North Gloucestershire

**Tuesday, 7 May 2024 AGM @ 2 PM**  
**followed by talk @ 2:20 PM**  
*The Clifton Cathedral Story: The Building and its People*  
by Revd Peter J Harrison, associated with Clifton Cath.  
as priest, lay parishioner and author of a book to  
celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
at Sacred Heart Church Hall,  
Charlton Kings, Cheltenham GL53 9AU

## North Merseyside

**Thursday, 16 May @ 7:15/7:30 PM**  
Talk followed by AGM  
*Stuart England's Catholic Queens*  
by Mr Roger Mitchell  
at St. Helen's Parish Centre  
Alexandra Road, Crosby L23 7TQ

## Coventry

**Tuesday, 21 May @ 7.30 PM**  
*The Holy Spirit, Culture Change and Synodality:*  
*Theological and Practical Reflections*  
a talk by Clare Watkins

This is a hybrid meeting held both on Zoom and in-person at St Thomas More Church Margaret Roper Room,  
112 Knoll Drive, Coventry CV3 5DE  
The zoom link remains the same:  
<https://marriagecare-org-uk.zoom.us/j/88909267597?pwd=ZVgvSzNsVzRYV3VpMnhiZW1laHNtdz09>

## Cleveland

**Wed, 22 May @ 7:30/7:45 PM**  
Circle AGM with informal supper  
at Middlesborough Cathedral Hall  
Coulby Newham, TS8 0TW

## Worcestershire

**Thursday, 23 May @ 7:30 PM**  
A talk "It is beautiful to be old":  
Reflections on care for the ageing-  
how to do it well.  
by Peter Kevern Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
at St. Georges RC Church Parish Hall,  
Sansome Place Worcester WR1 1UG

## Bexhill and Eastbourne

**Thurs, 30 May @ 7:30 PM**  
*Sexuality and gender issues within contemporary Catholic thought*  
by Fr Kevin Dring  
St Martha's Church Hall,  
Cooden Sea Road, Little Common,  
Bexhill TN39 4SP

# June-2024

## Glasgow

**Thursday, 6 Jun @ 7:30 PM**

A talk by Dr Linden Bicket,  
*Conversion and a Literary Marriage:  
Ann and George Scoott-Moncrieff*  
at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall  
2049 Maryhill Road, Glasgow G20 0AA

## Hertfordshire

**Sat, 8 June @ 10:30/ 11 AM**

A talk by Bishop John Gladwin  
at St Bartholomew's Catholic Church  
Vesta Avenue, St Albans AL1 2PE  
*Please verify the time in advance*

## York

**Monday, 10 Jun & @ 7.15 PM**

AGM, followed by talk at 7.30 PM  
*Arnold Rowntree, A Pacifist in Time of War,  
M.P. for York, 1909 – 1918*  
by Sarah Sheils, Lecturer and  
Local historian Principles and Politics  
Bar Convent

## Cleveland

**Wed, 12 Jun**

Summer Outing to Ampleforth  
Sext at 1 pm, tour of new facilities,  
Café refreshments

## Hertfordshire

**Sun, 30 Jun PM**

Garden Party

*I particularly appreciated hearing from a Newman Circle given the sense I have that St John Henry Newman's intuitions about the "Development of Doctrine" and "Consulting the Laity" are going to have increasing significance as the Synod progresses.*

*Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson in response to a letter from Hertfordshire Circle 29 Mar 2024*

## Recorded talks

The Ealing Circle are hosting 4 talks in 2024 which are recorded and posted on **St Benedict's Catholic Parish** YouTube Channel under *Videos* so you can access them when it suits you.

Links to the first 2 talks from Ealing

1<sup>st</sup> -

*50 and Beyond: Finding hope and encouragement after hard knocks and when the churches may have let you down* on 22 February  
by Professor Francis Davis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymW478e62g>

2<sup>nd</sup> -

*Synods and Synodality*  
by Dr Peter Coughlan,  
Margaret Beaufort Institute

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9FcM55-sbs>

*These are words that are heard increasingly in the Church today, but what do they mean? What is their origin and purpose and, as the people of God, what are we being called to do in response?*

*Dr Coughlan holds a licentiate in philosophy, theology and canon law from the Gregorian University and a doctorate in theology from London University.*

*This talk provides a timely and informative explanation of the background and purpose of this ongoing initiative of Pope Francis, and his call for each and everyone of us to play our part as active participants under the continuing guidance of the Spirit.*

## *Celebrating the life of Dr. Narishta, wife of Percy Ratnanather*



NARISHTA was born in Colombo in 1932 and attended St Bridget's school in Colombo and the University of Ceylon from where she qualified as a doctor in 1959. She and Percy married in London in 1963 and a son Tilak was born. He was profoundly deaf and needed to attend a special school. The Winston Churchill School in South Woodford had a very good reputation and it was for this reason that the family settled in Woodford. From there Tilak got a place at University College London to read Mathematics and subsequently went to Jesus College, Oxford where he obtained a D. Phil. also in Mathematics. He now has a career at the University of Johns Hopkins in Baltimore USA as a research scientist.

Narishta meanwhile worked as a paediatrician for the NHS at Newham. In 1997, she became a Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. She and Percy joined the Newman Association and were committed members of the London Circle as well as going on a number of the pilgrimages led by Kevin Lambert.

Narishta was definitely a Vatican 2 Catholic, very radical in her thinking and particularly interested in the social encyclicals from *Rerum novarum* and *Quadragesimo anno* onwards. She retained a lively interest in the modern church despite declining physical health in recent years.

As a methodical person, she made careful plans in the event of her demise. She died in Whipps Cross hospital on 29 December 2023, and a short burial service was held in a local cemetery by our Parish priest and a few nearby mourners including Tilak. As she planned, a Memorial Mass will be held for the wider family and friends at the church of St Thomas of Canterbury on Saturday 13 April at 11am. Tilak and Narishta's sister, Enoka and brother Diva will come over from the USA. It will be held in the chapel at the back of the church and should be available to follow online. She is undoubtedly very much missed by husband Percy and son Tilak. *May she rest in peace.*

Anthony Baker comments: *I remember Narishta particularly from the Newman Pilgrimages. She was always good for some cheerful banter, alongside my discussions with Percy, with whom I had friends/acquaintances in common from the Mathematics dept at UCL. Percy and I both betrayed our 1950s college style by wearing tweed jackets on all possible occasions. I rather think that Percy acted in a treasurer type role when I first came into Council in 2004, but Narishta tended to support more public functions like the London Newman Lecture. On behalf of our Herts Circle I arranged a Mass for Narishta on 11 February here in St Albans, and it will be good to have the public Mass [with Newman present] in April.*

*Celebrating award-winning member of Glasgow Circle who received Queen's Prize at the Palace:  
Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow*



FORMER President of the Newman Association (2009-11), Professor Gerry Carruthers was recently at Buckingham Palace with his colleagues from the University of Glasgow to receive the Queen's Anniversary Prize for 2023. The prize, the equivalent of a knighthood for a research centre, was awarded for the work of the Centre for Robert Burns Studies (CRBS), which Professor Carruthers founded in 2007. CRBS is the home of the multi-volume Oxford University Press edition of the Collected Works of Robert Burns, inter-disciplinary activity around the testing of manuscripts (including involvement aiding police enquiries) and studies of the economic impact of Burns on the tourist economy. Funded by government money, a report by Professor Murray Pittock calculated that Burns contributed £204 million per annum to the Scottish economy and the Centre's Burns Supper project, featuring an interactive map, examined the historic importance of the Burns Supper (celebrated every year by over 9M people around the globe):

<https://burnsc21.glasgow.ac.uk/supper-map/>.

CRBS has garnered over £4M of UK research funding for its projects, as well as substantial private donations. It has worked with many national and international partners and has produced award winning teaching courses, including a MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) which has to date garnered over 30,000 learners. The Burns Centre has commissioned numerous song recordings and produced documentaries and other resources which have had a wide public impact. It has also worked with virtual and enhanced reality to create resources in the museum sector.

Recently, Professor Carruthers edited the *Oxford Handbook of Robert Burns*, at 250,000 words likely to be the biggest critical compendium on Scotland's national poet that will ever be produced. In a signal honour, Professor Carruthers was appointed the first Honorary Fellow of the international World Burns Federation. Among his ongoing work, completing the OUP edition, a critical monograph and a new intellectual biography, Professor Carruthers has been exploring, particularly, the warm links between Burns and Catholics during his lifetime. A little told story is that Burns's international reputation happens to begin with the Scottish seminaries and religious houses in Europe which early on obtain copies of his work.

Professor Carruthers reports that Queen Camilla was a most pleasant and gracious figure awarding the QAP, telling him afterwards that she and her husband, King Charles, adore Burns's songs. He joked with her that CRBS, among a number of awardees, was the only recipient with its own theme tune, as the RAF band played 'A Red Rose' during the ceremony!

*The 120 year-old image of Robert Burns in stained glass is from the Nichol Memorial Window in Bute Hall, University of Glasgow. See also <https://www.queensanniversaryprizes.org.uk/winners/editing-and-curating-robert-burns-for-the-21st-century/>*

## **Membership News** as of 5 Mar 2024

There are at present 442 members in the Newman Association of which about 355 are in active Circles.

The Newman Association has recently welcomed the following new members:

Mrs Barbara Cookson of the York Circle; Mrs Patricia Burrows of the North Gloucester Circle; Mr David McAuley and Dr Christine McAuley also of the North Gloucester Circle, Ms Florence Boyle of the Glasgow Circle and Dr Anthony Cole who has re-joined the Worcester Circle.

We have received notification of the deaths of the following members:

Dr Narishta Ratnanather, Dr Michael Ryan and Miss Moira O'Connor in January 2024, and Mrs E A MacNamara and Dr Christine Newman in February 2024. *May they rest in peace.*

It was lovely to receive a letter from a member, who is now unattached, but receives the Newsletter by email and was able to join the excellent meeting from Coventry by Zoom along with a number of other different circle members as well as those of the Coventry circle.

Please send any email addresses for additional members who would like to receive information.

*Cindy Hamill, Membership Registrar*

membership@newman.org.uk

### **Newman Journal**

Articles for publication should be e-mailed directly to the Editor at [editor@newman.org.uk](mailto:editor@newman.org.uk)

The next issue of *The Newman* is due to be published in May (Issue 118) and mailed to members. Thank you to Barry Riley (Editor) and the Editorial Committee. The website has digital issues going back to 2007.

See <https://www.newman.org.uk/TheNewman.html> for back issues to December 2022.

### **Useful contacts**

**President** Brian Hamill [president@newman.org.uk](mailto:president@newman.org.uk)

**Vice President** Alex Mthobi [amthobi@yahoo.com](mailto:amthobi@yahoo.com)

**Secretary** Sophie Rudge [secretary@newman.org.uk](mailto:secretary@newman.org.uk)

**Treasurer** Anthony Baker [treasurer@newman.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@newman.org.uk)

**Webmaster** [webmaster@newman.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@newman.org.uk)

### **Representatives of Linked organisations**

Andante [www.andante-europa.net/](http://www.andante-europa.net/) - Sophie Rudge - see report on the following page

National Council for Lay Associations [ncla.org.uk/](http://ncla.org.uk/) - Anthony Baker

National Board of Catholic Women [www.nbcw.co.uk/](http://www.nbcw.co.uk/) - Barbara Bolgiano

Pax Romana, the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and

Cultural Affairs [www.icmica-miic.org/](http://www.icmica-miic.org/) - Alex Mthobi



## *News from the Andante Study Days*

Sophie Rudge helped to organise and participated in the Study Days held by Andante in Augsburg, Germany last October which focused on interfaith dialogue, with participants from Jewish and Christian traditions, and a trip to a mosque. The tangible outcome is in the form of a Statement entitled, **Interreligious and intercultural dialogue from a woman's perspective.**

The statement calls for urgent dialogue to achieve global peace.

***As Catholic women we recognise the social doctrine of the Catholic Church which calls all women to dialogue with all members of the world's religions in the pursuit of world peace.***

***We acknowledge that the absence of war does not mean peace and the lack of conflict does not mean community.***

The voices of individuals echo many of the themes from Rome today.

*Dialogues are fundamental for peace.*

*In interreligious dialogues it is helpful to work with biographical approaches. Sharing episodes of one's life facilitates meaningful encounters and brings people closer together.*

*Many religions profess a divine creator of all reality.*

*We see change in our Catholic church and will continuously speak up for women's spirituality and vocations in order to allow women to reach their full potential as God sees men and women equal in baptism.*

Andante encourages its Member Organisations:

- 1. to engage in interreligious and intercultural dialogue, respecting different realities of women's lives, in order to promote peace,**
- 2. to organise a women of faith coalition thus uniting the various skills, wisdom, charisma, experiences and different points of view in order to have a greater impact on making peace possible** - the whole is greater than its parts! It is also time to find new ways and solutions to act more effectively,
- 3. to mobilise and establish connections between grass roots movements and decision-making bodies in church and society in order to advance an inclusive, gender-balanced and more effective dialogue:** be it in a framework of hierarchy (vertically) or within different groups (horizontally). One of many examples is the World Day of Prayer (<https://worlddayofprayer.net>)

The 2-page report can be viewed on Andante's website <https://www.andante-europa.net/statements-our-causes/>.