

Anon letter

Dear Carole

I attended the Leeds get together with the hope that we would be able to discuss "Is the Newman Association worth saving?"

We congratulate you on setting up this weekend and for raising the question which we feel is timely and important.

The Newman Association means a great deal to us, and while we wish to agree that it is worth saving – we also have serious doubts as to whether we have the resources to adequately do so.

Speaking for the *** Circle, we value what we do, both in terms of the talks we manage to organise and the camaraderie that exists between the members and friends of the Circle, however many of us are increasingly suffering from health problems and the limitations of old age! We sometimes wonder how much longer we can carry on

While we welcome the inspiration coming from Pope Francis, and feel the Newman Association has much to offer the Church at this time, it is obvious that we really don't have what it takes to make that contribution significantly. Sadly I suspect many Circles are similar to us.

As for the future, we look forward to hearing from Council about the results of the deliberations at Leeds and hope to cooperate with any suggestions proposed.

In particular, I would find it helpful if some of the following issues emerged:

A mission statement for the Association

Effective cooperation between Circles

Research into the needs of the Church today and where we fit in

Modernisation and simplification of the membership process

If and when we have to give up, how best to do so

...I thank Council very much for giving us the opportunity to come together to share our experiences and ideas.

Yours etc