

The Catholic National Library



July 2010

Open Day brings in the crowds!

Volume 1, Issue 1

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The first Open Day at the Library's new home at St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough took place on Saturday May 22nd.

As a result of national advertising in The Catholic Herald and in newsletters across the Portsmouth, and Arundel & Brighton dioceses, the librarian Joan Bond and her team of volunteers were able to welcome over fifty visitors to the library.

All were impressed by the historic collection of books, periodicals, pamphlets and more recent publications which were saved from being mothballed by the Rt. Reverend Dom Cuthbert Brogan OSB, the Abbot of St

Michael's Abbey, and the Empress Eugenie Memorial Trust. Dom Cuthbert kindly arranged tours of the Abbey Church and crypt.

The staff were kept busy all day giving tours of the premises, helping people research their family history, and demonstrating the catalogue systems. Mrs. Bond was so pleased to see some old friends who had been members of the library when it was in London, and was able to renew their memberships.

From time to time the library finds that it has duplicates and even triplicates of its current stock, mainly due to the donation of books, and

therefore took the opportunity to sell some of these on a stall outside the building, which raised some much needed revenue for the library. See page 2 for further information on book sales

Mr. Antony Tyler, Secretary to the Trustees said "The whole day had an air of buzz about it which I found most gratifying".



Special points of interest:

- Open day was a success
- Online catalogue completed
- Hundreds of new acquisitions
- Towards Advent 2010
- Joan Bond's 30 years of service

The Online Catalogue

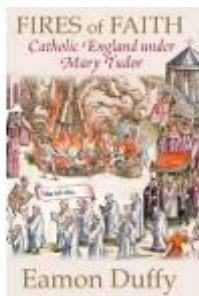
2010 has seen the completion of the online catalogue, which can be viewed at www.catholic-library.org.uk Since the library still has a manual catalogue system, all data from the books - which includes author, title, publisher and date of

publication - has had to be entered onto our database by hand and then double checked for errors. This has taken four years by the dedicated library assistants.

However we now wish the catalogue system to be brought up to date and

upgraded so as to be in line with other libraries world wide. As usual we are seeking money for this venture. All donations gratefully received - including bequests - please contact Ron Kearney at the library for details.

New acquisitions



CATCHING UP...

The three year break whilst the library was being re-housed has meant that some important publications were not bought for the library and we have been gradually addressing this by carefully choosing books which we think will be of interest to our readers. These are listed from time to time on our website. However we will always welcome suggestions by our members.

BOOK SPONSORS WANTED

The library is adding new books all the time: there are many books which are essential both to fill in gaps in the library stock and to enable it to provide a better and up-to-date service. However many book prices, often over £50.00, place them outside our current budget. Would you be prepared to sponsor such a book? All sponsors will have their names on a book plate which will be adhered inside the book or books they are

sponsoring.

LIBRARIAN'S CHOICE

Newly acquired by the library—

DUFFY, Eamon. Fires of Faith: Catholic England under Mary Tudor. Yale University Press, 2009

Duffy's *Fires of Faith* is an excellent study of the struggle to restore the Catholic Faith during the reign of Mary Tudor by preaching, teaching, and the burning of dissenters.

(review by Mary Pole-Baker)

Visitors from across the water

"the Catholic National Library is a hidden jewel and treasure that needs to be better known and preserved at all costs!"

Prof Glen Janus and his wife Bridget from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, USA visited us in October 2009, with the intention of researching the English Cardinals (Morton, Wolsey, Fisher, Pole and Allen) of the Tudor era with a focus upon the religious, spiritual and cultural legacy of these men. They were most

impressed by the library, and said that "the Catholic National Library is a hidden jewel and treasure that needs to be better known and preserved at all costs!" May God Bless each of you for all you do on behalf of your "special treasure."

Melody Layton McMahon
Director of the Library

Paul Bechtold Library, Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, visited in March and was amazed at our resources; similarly Dr Helge Clausen, chairman of the board of the corresponding library in Aarhus, Denmark, who visited us in May with his wife, and was particularly impressed with our postal

Date for your diary....



The 10th Festival of Catholic Culture, otherwise known as "Towards Advent", is an annual event which takes place in Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, Westminster SW1P 1QW

Please come on

Saturday November 6th

10am -5pm

There will be many stalls run by Catholic organizations as well as our own, and there will also be guest speakers.

We will be selling our surplus books, many for as little as 50p.



Author focus

By Fr. Nicholas Schofield

My first publications originated (perhaps rather unusually) from my time in seminary, contributing with other students to *The Forty-Four - Martyrs of the Venerable English College, Rome* (2000), a guide book to the College (2000) and *Saints of the English Calendar* (2004). As editor of *The Venerable* journal I put together an anthology of

articles, old and new, in *A Roman Miscellany* (2002). More recently as archivist of the Archdiocese of Westminster I co-authored (with Fr Gerard Skinner) *The English Cardinals* (2007) and *The English Vicars Apostolic* (2009). I currently combine my archival responsibilities with parish ministry at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael, Uxbridge, but still find time to

write, which I find hugely recreational. I have a weekly Church History column in *The Catholic Times* and I am finalising a biography of Fr William Lockhart, the first of Newman's disciples to leave Littlemore for Rome and himself an important figure in Victorian Catholicism. I am also delighted to have recently become a Trustee of the



Fr Nicholas Schofield

Open Day photos



Rev. Alan Bond assists with the book sales



Mr Ron Kearney (Trustee and Library accountant) and Miss Amanda Hill (assistant) take a well earned rest

Staff focus: Joan Bond—a lifetime of dedication

Joan Bond, the Librarian, has been working at the library for 30 years. She first worked in the Camberwell Public Libraries which was followed by a period as librarian at St Thomas The Apostle College, Peckham. She transferred to the London Borough of Lewisham until 1980 when

she came to what was then the Catholic Central Library in Francis Street, Westminster, run by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. However when the Friars went back to the USA the library had to find a new home and Joan had to organize the whole move, with the help of

volunteers to Lancing Street, Camden, and as the lease ran out after six years she organized a second move to our present home at St Michael's Abbey. She rather hopes that this will be its permanent home! She was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice medal for her work

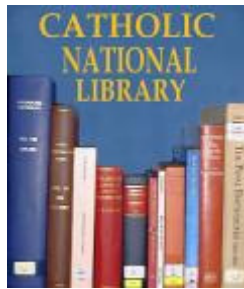


Mrs Joan Bond and Rev. Alan Bond

The Catholic National Library

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History: The collection started in 1912 in the porch of the Catholic Church in Bexhill-on-Sea, from the private library of an American, Mr William Reed-Lewis. It moved to Victoria, London in 1922 and was then established as the Catholic Central Library in 1936.

In July 1959 the Friars of the Atonement took over its staffing and financing, then from 1997 the running was transferred to a board of Trustees. Premises were leased in Lancing Street, London but the lease expired in 2003 and the Library was without a home. However thanks to the Abbot of St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough and the Empress Eugenie Memorial Trust which own the assets of the Abbey, the entire Library is now housed in its precincts, with the new name of the Catholic National Library.

We're on the web!

www.catholic-library.org.uk



St. Michael's Abbey

The Abbey of St Michael is set in superb grounds at Farnborough on the Surrey/Hampshire border. The Abbey is a treasure trove of faith, history and architecture. The Empress Eugenie, widow of Napoleon III, crushed by her exile from France, and the loss of her husband and only son, the Prince Imperial, who had been killed while with a British expeditionary force in the Zulu War, commissioned a Mausoleum and a Monastery at Farnborough in their memory. It was to be both a witness to the presence of God and to the history of France. After more than a century St Michael's Abbey remains a place of prayer and pilgrimage. In accordance with the Benedictine tradition the community welcomes guests and visitors. Applications to stay at the monastery should be addressed

Librarian Wanted

The Catholic National Library seeks a qualified Catholic Librarian with reasonable IT skills and a strong knowledge of the Catholic Faith to start in the Autumn of 2010. Cataloguing experience a necessity as is the ability to work as a member of a team.

This will be a voluntary post with the number of hours to be negotiated, bearing in mind that currently the library is open three days a week (10.30-3.30). Travelling and other library expenditures will be reimbursed. Applications in



Books for courses

The Library is stocked to cater for people undertaking theological and other religious courses not just for A-level and undergraduate courses but also for people doing Masters and PhDs. We find that many students benefit from our postal service which can be sent to all parts of the UK. However we do of course welcome all visits for research and borrowing purposes. New books are added all the time and we are always open to suggestions from our readers for new titles especially for those needed for course work. Please see our online catalogue for current stock.



Editor: Bernie Fife-Schaw