

The **NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

Promoting open discussion and greater
understanding in today's Church

Annual Report 2020 -1

www.newman.org.uk

***The* NEWMAN ASSOCIATION**

A Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in England and Wales No. 434364
Registered Office: Suite 1, Third Floor. 11-12 St James Square, London, SW1Y 4LB
Registered Charity: No. 1006769

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL 2020-21

President

Winifred Flanagan
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Acting Secretary

Brian Hamill
York Circle

Email: secretary@newman.org.uk

Retired January 2021

Acting Treasurer

Kevin Ryan
Cleveland circle

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Retired January 2021

Membership Registrar

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Chaplain

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Journal Editor

Barry Riley
Ealing Circle

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(Co-opted ex officio)

Council Members

Anthony Baker
Hertfordshire Circle

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Elected Treasurer 2021

Dr Harcourt Concannon

Manchester and North Cheshire Circle

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Dr Michael Jameson

Hertfordshire Circle

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Retired January 2021

Dr Ian Jessiman

Croydon Circle

Email: imjess@newman.org.uk

Co-opted June 2019

Retired January 2021

Alex Mthobi

Eastbourne and Bexhill Circle

Email: amthobi@yahoo.com

Sophie Rudge

Email: sophierudge@btinternet.com

Co-opted October 2019

Elected Secretary January 2021

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to present this report in the 79th year of the Association's existence, one of the most challenging years because of the Covid- 19 pandemic.

The Association's journal, *The Newman*, provided important continuity in its coverage, and our thanks are due to Barry Riley, the editor. Right at the start of the year *The Newman* recorded the canonisation of John Henry Newman in September 2019 by Pope Francis in Rome. There were articles by members who attended the canonisation, together with a list of celebratory events, ecumenical and other events arranged by local Circles. Other journal editions, in May and November 2020, contained the usual wide variety of articles, ranging from Catholic social teaching, via ideas of Purgatory and the understanding of the concept of papal infallibility, to reflections on gardening and on blackbird song. An important article by John Duddington reviewed the constraints on the free expression of Christian views in modern UK society.

The journal was a vital component of the Association's activity, at a period when events in the local Circles were badly hit by the pandemic restrictions on meetings. 35 planned lectures were cancelled or postponed, though some Circles quickly established ways of communication electronically by on-line facilities such as Zoom; this has now become an established pattern. One advantage of on-line lectures and discussions is that they allow some older members to join in, who otherwise would not wish to travel to local halls and churches. On-line meetings have also encouraged a new spread of "book groups" within Circles, where theological and social issues are debated.

The Association's governing Council also met regularly, and from March 2020 met roughly every 3 months through the Zoom facility. Council has put in place arrangements (including extra funding) to encourage local circles to adopt and use electronic communications, though this continues to be a difficulty for some Circles where members lack the necessary computer skills. A regular President's letter, written out to Circle members via Circle secretaries, has informed and encouraged members about national issues. Council also arranged periodic on-line meetings with local Circle representatives to ensure that communication both ways was maintained.

The two national lectures planned for the summer of 2020, by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald and by Austen Ivereigh in London, both had to be postponed. The national pilgrimage to Ravenna and the association retreat at Douai Abbey were both postponed until later in 2021. The Association's AGM, normally expected in the summer on 2020, was finally held on-line in January 2021. A new constitution for the Association was adopted by a large majority of those present and was then lodged with the Charities Commission, when approval was also sought for the Association to operate as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The AGM recorded its special thanks to Dr Ian Jessiman and Dr John Duddington for their hard work to bring the new constitution to its adoption.

Unfortunately the membership of the Association continued to decline as age and illness take their toll. Some new members have joined, almost always through local Circles, which highlighted again the challenge in a year when Circles could not meet face-to face. Council hopes that on-line publicity and wider use of electronic communications may help in the same way that it has encouraged some extra meeting attendance.

As may be seen below, the financial situation of the Association remains healthy, and ironically the reduced expenses on face to face meetings enabled a modest operating surplus to add to an increase in the value of investments. The Association continues to give financial support to the work of the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University, and Council has discussed ways in which it can use resources more widely in conformity with the wider objective to support the intellectual dimension of the Christian religion.

Despite the difficulties this year, the Association continued its involvement with the activities of the representative bodies the National Council for Lay associations and the National Board of Catholic Women. Members also continued to work more widely in their parish and local communities. In its own way the Association remains part of the Common Good in society, true to its role in nurturing faith and reason through the teachings of the Second Vatican Council and of Pope Francis.

Winifred Flanagan

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (INCORPORATING THE DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2021

The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended January 31, 2021. The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are listed on page 2.

Aims and Objectives

The object of the Association is to further the mission to the world of the Christian religion with particular reference to the Roman Catholic Church and in the light of the life and work of Saint John Henry Newman, by promoting greater understanding of the Christian faith and the application of its principles to the contemporary world.

Much of the activity of the Association is carried out through activities in local "circles", though some members are "unattached" where no circle exists locally. These activities, typically talks or conferences on religious subjects, are open to non-members including non-Catholics, non-Christians and those professing no religion. The trustees confirm that in governing the Association they have had regard to the Charity Commission statement on public benefit.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Newman Association is a charitable company limited by guarantee, founded in 1942, incorporated on 1 May 1947 and registered as a charity on 13 December 1991. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which defines its objects and powers, and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members may be required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Council

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of Council. The chaplain of the Association, while a member of Council, is not a director/trustee. Under the terms of the

Memorandum and Articles of Association, directors either may be appointed by the Council to fill a casual vacancy or are to be elected by the Society's members at the annual general meeting to serve a one-year (for officers) or two-year term of office. All appointed directors must submit themselves to election at the annual general meeting immediately following their appointment. There is no limit to the number of terms a director may serve, subject to approval of the membership in general meeting, though the periods of consecutive office as Council officer or ordinary member are specified in the Articles. Council meets at least four times each year. The company's success in meeting its aims and objectives is reviewed each year in the president's report.

New trustees are directed to the Charity Commission website, in particular those sections outlining the legal obligations of trustees under charity law. They also receive a copy of the previous year's annual report and accounts and a representative section of the Association's current literature. All trustees are encouraged to continue to make themselves aware of information published by the Charity Commission and to keep abreast of developments in Charity governance.

Financial Review

The directors and trustees regard as satisfactory both the financial position as at January 31, 2021 and the level of activity of the charity during the year. The Statement of Financial Activity shows a central account surplus for the year of £6146 (2019-20 surplus £4887). There was a small operating surplus, and in addition the value of the COIF investment increased, despite the market conditions associated with the COVID virus.

The trustees confirm their decision in September 2008 to seek to hold a basic financial reserve of around £80,000, which was then intended to provide an annual income to make grants, both to underwrite the Association's conferences and to promote appropriate activities elsewhere.

The intention remains to hold a further reserve sufficient to meet the working capital needs of the Association, including the probable fluctuations in income and expenditure over a five-year cycle. The trustees, confirm their statement in recent years that, over the next few years, they intend to continue to use reserves to finance projects within the Association, but also to make external grants in keeping with the Association's objectives.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Association will continue on that basis.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are

also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as directors of the company, we certify that:

- So far as we are aware there is no relevant audit information of which the company's independent examiner is unaware and
- As the directors of the company, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102) and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small entities.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 9 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Winifred Flanagan, President

Winifred Flanagan

**Statement of Financial Activities (including Income & Expenditure Account)
for the Year Ended January 31, 2021**

Balance Sheet

2020		2021
£		£
117,741	Net Assets brought forward	122,628
4,857	Net gain/ (loss) in the year	6,146
<u>122,628</u>	Net Assets carried forward	<u>128,774</u>
Represented by:		
82,993	COIF Charities Investment Fund	86,025
24,809	Cash in Banks managed by Newman Council	25,881
14,576	Cash in Circles' Banks	15,920
250	Debtors & Prepayments	2,886
<u>122,628</u>	Gross Assets	<u>130,712</u>
	Less Liabilities:	<u>1,938</u>
<u>122,628</u>	Net Assets	<u>128,774</u>

Operational Income & Expenditure

2020	Income	2021
12,370	Subscriptions	11,544
150	Donations	54
2,871	Gift Aid Receipts	2,236
200	London Newman Lecture	
236	Manchester Newman Lecture	
120	Annual General Meeting	

10,181	Circles' Income: Note	1,497
2,296	Bank Interest	2,517
	Increase/decrease in value of COIF	
7,451	investment	3,032
30	Other Income	
<u>35,905</u>	Total Income	<u>20,880</u>

Expenditure

	National Council Lay Associations	155
	National Board of Catholic Women	85
390	London Newman Lecture: Note 1	
561	Manchester Newman Lecture Note 2	
5,521	Newman Journal: Note 3	3,592
	Pax Romana	600
719	Public Liability Insurance	744
1,388	Annual General Meeting: Note 4	1,381
1,942	Council Meetings: Note 5	284
1,060	Website maintenance costs	2,523
14,949	Circles expenditure: Note 9	2,516
834	Publicity	
3,654	Miscellaneous Expenditure: Note 7	2,854
<u>31,018</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>14,234</u>
	Operational and Overall	
<u>4,887</u>	Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>6,146</u>

The notes below form part of these accounts.

For the year ended January 31, 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year ended January 31, 2021 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Trustees in October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

X *Winifred Flanagan*

Winifred Flanagan
President & Director

Anthony Baker

Anthony Baker
Treasurer & Director

Notes on the 2020-1 accounts

	£	£
	2020	2021
1. London Newman Lecture		
Cost of venue	50	
Catering	90	
Speaker honorarium and expenses	250	
	<hr/> 390	
Income	200	
Net Cost	<hr/> 190	
2. Manchester Newman lecture		
Cost of venue	314	
Speaker honorarium and expenses	247	
	<hr/> 561	
Donations	236	
Net Cost	<hr/> 325	
3. Newman Journal		
Printing & postage	5,374	3,431
Editors postage	147	161
	<hr/> 5,521	<hr/> 3,592
4. AGM costs		
Printing	1,053	1,381
Lunches	180	
Speakers fee & expenses	20	
Room hire	135	
	<hr/> 1,388	<hr/> 1,381
Receipts	120	
	<hr/> 1,268	<hr/> 1,381
5. Council Meetings		
Room hire	410	80
Travel Council Meetings	1,532	204
	<hr/> 1,942	<hr/> 284
7 Miscellaneous		
Grant to Centre of Catholic Studies, Durham	1,000	1,000
Examiner 's Honorarium	420	360
Registered office service	512	561
Chaplain's stipend	600	600
Postage Print & Stationery	1007	150
Miscellaneous smaller items	115	183
	<hr/> 3654	<hr/> 2,834

8. Memberships

Pax Romana	600
Andante	
National Council of Lay Associations conference	155
National Board of Catholic Women	85

9. Circles Income & Expenditure

Income

Meetings Income	3,686	931
Gross Income from functions	5,992	
Donations	30	
Other	483	566
	<u>10,181</u>	<u>1,497</u>

Expenditure

Room hire	2,960	175
Speakers' expenses	1,203	1,473
Speakers' fees/honoraria	4,343	
Cost of functions	5,449	100
Secretarial expenses	405	
Other expenses	589	768
	<u>14,949</u>	<u>2,516</u>

10. Trustee remuneration and related party transactions

No member of the Board of Trustees received any remuneration during the year.
(2019-2020: £nil).

No trustee or any other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the year save as potential beneficiary of the charity in the normal course of its activities. (2019-2020 none).

Travel expenses amounting to £204 (2019 £1,531) were reimbursed to 4 trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE NEWMAN ASSOCIATION

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 January 2021 which are set out in pages 6 to 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Trustees (who are also directors of the Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006 and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met or

- (2) To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

DAVID A. SWALLOW F.C.A.
COMMERCIAL HOUSE
BRIDGE ROAD
STOKESLEY
TS9 5AA

September 2021

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During these last months there have been members and ex-members of the Newman Association who have died: some we have been told about, others we may not be aware of. We pray that God welcomes all into his eternal kingdom - may they rest in peace.

Since the last Annual Report was produced, we have been delighted to welcome the following as new members of the Association:

Canon Edward Stewart (*Coventry Circle*); **Mrs Bernadette Campbell** and **Dr Paddy Ferry** (*Edinburgh Circle*); **Mrs Elizabeth Hines** and **Mrs Helen Merritt** (*Herts Circle*); **Mr Christopher Bentall** and **Ms Joanna Vials** (*N Glos Circle*); **Mrs Anita Dowsing** (*unattached*); **Mrs Indra Ramasamy** (*Worcester Circle*).

Despite these nine welcome newcomers, the overall number of members of the Association continues to fall. The number of members now (October 2021) is 535; in the Report 2019-20 it was 585, and in the Report 2018-19 it was 623.

No-one will be surprised that the Newman Association has been affected by the COVID pandemic. Obviously many, if not most, of our activities have been curtailed or cancelled. At the present time it is unclear how many circles are active, with an ongoing programme of events. Several are making valiant efforts to continue, using electronic communications as well as face-to-face sessions. Only time will tell how many other circles will be able to arise from their 'comatose state', and resume the activities that make Newman membership so worth-while.

Circle	Roll	Roll	Change
	01/04/2020	01/10/2021	
Birmingham	12	12	0
Cleveland	31	27	-4
Coventry	45	44	-1
Ealing	25	24	-2
Eastbourne & Bexhill	13	13	0
Edinburgh	17	16	-1
Glasgow	34	32	-2
Hertfordshire	63	58	-5
Manchester & North Cheshire	38	38	0
North Gloucester	17	16	-1
North Merseyside	21	17	-4
Overseas	3	3	0
Surrey Hills	9	7	-2
Swansea University	7	6	-1
Tyneside	29	23	-6
Unattached	129	116	-13
Wimbledon	19	18	-1
Worcester	29	29	0
Wrexham	22	19	-3

York	22	18	-4
TOTALS	585	535	-50