

THE CENTRE FOR MARIAN STUDIES

England & Wales · Charity number 1183579

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2019-05-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address c/o The School of Theology
St. Mary's University
Waldegrave Road
Twickenham
TW1 4SX

Phone 02085414821

Email info@marianstudies.ac.uk

Website www.marianstudies.ac.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE VIRGIN MARY, INCLUDING ANY THEOLOGY DEVOTION AND OTHER SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO HER, IN PARTICULAR BY THE PROVISION OF A LIBRARY, A PICTURE COLLECTION AND OTHER MATERIAL RESOURCES, THE UNDERTAKING OF ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE USEFUL RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC AND THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL COURSES AND LECTURES

Activities: The Centre for Marian Studies provides educational courses, promotes research and maintains a library, on subjects relating to the theology and wider cult of the Virgin Mary. It is open to members of any religious tradition and none.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£848	£524	-	-
2024-08-31	£1,262	£946	-	-
2023-08-31	£1,654	£2,249	-	-
2022-08-31	£995	£418	-	-
2021-08-31	£561	£261	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr Catherine O'Brien	Chair	2019-05-01
Dr Melanie Landman		2019-05-14
Michael Russell		2019-05-02
Professor ANDREW LOUTH		2019-05-14
Revd Canon Dr Paul Rhys Williams		2019-05-09
Sr Catherine Jones r.a		2023-09-30

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ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Centre for Marian Studies (the CMS), established in 1995, provides educational courses, promotes research and maintains a library, on subjects relating to the theology and wider cult of the Virgin Mary. It has no religious affiliation and is open to members of any religious tradition or none. Members of the CMS are dedicated to interdisciplinary collaboration to support and advance Marian scholarship.

The CMS was originally registered with a Trust Deed in 1997 as The Marian Study Centre (Registered Charity 1066253). In 2019 the decision was taken to register the charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Our registration was confirmed on 24th May 2019. This annual report covers the period from 1st September 2024 to 31st August 2025, as the latter is our accounting end of year date.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The CMS aims to advance the education of the public in all matters related to the Virgin Mary, including any theology, devotion, and other social and cultural activities pertaining to her, in particular for the provision of a library, a picture collection, and other material resources, the undertaking of academic research and the dissemination of the useful results to the public and the provision of educational courses and lectures.

In April 2021 the CMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with St Mary's University in Twickenham to develop mutual agreements for cooperation based on our respective academic and educational needs. St Mary's University is currently the official home of the CMS, and the CMS library collection has been established in the crypt of the church on the university campus. The collection enhances the theological resources held at the university and is available to researchers in Marian Studies.

The trustees have cross-referenced these objectives and activities with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The CMS website, which is maintained on a voluntary basis by a member of the CMS Management Committee, provides information on Marian news and events: www.marianstudies.ac.uk.

The trustees and members of the Management Committee of the CMS are actively engaged in Marian Studies and examples of their publications are listed on the charity's website: <https://www.marianstudies.ac.uk/publications>

In order to promote research, we have also now developed a scheme that allows people to apply to become Fellows, Members and Associates of the CMS. The full details are posted online on our website: <https://www.marianstudies.ac.uk/membership>

ONLINE EVENTS

We have continued to offer free online events in order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend. It is pleasing to note that we have welcomed guest speakers and audience members from a range of different countries, and this international dimension has enhanced our discussions.

3rd February 2025

Candlemas Lecture (via Zoom)

Thanks to the generosity of one of the CMS trustees, we have reinstated our annual Candlemas lecture, with the event now being held in honour of the late Dr Cathy Oakes, who was an art historian and one of the founding members of our charity. Cathy was an expert in medieval Marian iconography and her untimely death in 2019 was a great loss to the CMS on both a personal and academic level.

The fourth lecture (via Zoom) in this new series took place on 3rd February 2025. The invited speaker was the Reverend Dr Ayla Lepine, who is the Associate Rector at St James's Piccadilly in London and an art historian and theologian. Her lecture explored two works of art: *The Annunciation (A Study)* by Julia Margaret Cameron, who reimagined and reconfigured paintings by Renaissance artists including Perugino and Lippi; and a groundbreaking silkscreen print, *The Juiciest Tomato of All*, by the American nun Sister Corita Kent. By considering these two artworks by women from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as a pair, our guest speaker demonstrated how new ways of encountering Mary in art history, theology, and prayer emerge with unexpected resonance for the twenty-first century.

Online seminar series

We organised a second series of free online seminars, giving Marian researchers the opportunity to present their work in a supportive atmosphere. It proved to be an occasion for postgraduates to discuss one of their thesis questions, and for established Marian scholars to put forward a new area of investigation. The seminars took place on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm (in the UK) via Zoom and were chaired by Professor Sarah Jane Boss.

The topics for 2024-25 were:

23 October 2024: 'The Marian Signature of Singapore Catholicism' – Dr Michel Chambon (Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, coordinating the Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics)

13th November 2024: 'Theological and Philosophical Perspectives from Joseph Ratzinger and Peter Kreeft on Mary, the Mother of God: Providing the Grammar of Person in Humanity' – Dr Mary Frances McKenna (Fellow of the Centre for Marian Studies)

15th January 2025: 'Russia and Peace: the Apparitions of Fatima as Prophecy' – Dr Chris Maunder (Foundation Fellow of the Centre for Marian Studies)

26th February 2025: 'The Passion of Jesus (and Mary) according to Maria of Agreda and Anne Catherine Emmerich' – Fr. Edward Looney (Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Shawano, WI, USA; former President and currently Secretary of the Mariological Society of America)

26th March 2025: 'The Annunciation in Theology and Art: shedding new light on an old doctrine' – Professor Tina Beattie (Emerita Professor of Catholic Studies, the University of Roehampton)

9th April 2025: 'Mary's kenosis of faith' – Fr Jim Doyle (*Aumônier* of the Irish Chaplaincy, Paris, France)

14th May 2025: 'Aubrey de Vere's ecological Mary' – Professor Emma Mason (Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick)

11th June 2025: 'Our Lady of the Watersmeet: Marian shrines on the tidal rivers of southern Wales and Gloucestershire' – Professor Sarah Jane Boss (Foundation Fellow of the Centre for Marian Studies)

As the seminars were very successful, we are going to run a third series in 2025-26.

ONLINE JOURNAL

In 2021 the CMS relaunched *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* as a peer reviewed, online and open access journal. We have joined the mEDRA scheme to register the journal content for the Digital Object Identifier System.

During the period covered by this report, the CMS published two issues of the journal.

Issue 4.2 (November 2024) was a second special issue of *Maria* that focused on Mary in Asia, drawing on papers that were given at 'More Universal than Catholicism?', our online conference which took place in 2023 and was co-organised with the Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (ISAC) in Singapore. The topics covered gender, devotion, and place at the Peñafrancia Festival in the Bicol region of the Philippines; the pilgrimage to *Arrokiya Matha*, Mother of Health, at the Shrine Basilica of Vailankanni; and an illuminating investigation into 'Mary and the Origin of the Self', a new Chinese religious movement.

Issue 5.1 (May 2025) offered a range of Marian perspectives: an article on the *Treatise on the Love of God* by St. Francis de Sales; a clarification of Mary's role in faith and theology in the responses of Joseph Ratzinger/Pope Benedict XVI to Vatican II; personal reflections on the Marian writings of St. John Paul II and Yves Congar; and philosophical and theological approaches to the 'woman clothed with the sun' in Revelation 12.

Both issues also contained book reviews of important Marian publications.

The journal contributes to our commitment to publish innovative Marian research in the fields of theology, philosophy, literature, history, visual culture, music, sociology, anthropology and psychology. We warmly welcome original contributions on Marian topics in the form of refereed articles, discussion pieces, translations and book reviews.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Centre for Marian Studies: Accounts 2024-25

Year End: 31 August 2025

Balance at 1st September 2024	3561.31	
	Income	Outgoings
Candlemas lecture honorarium		100.00
Fellowship fees (8 fellows)	404.46	
Membership fees (13 members)	308.50	
Website		154.56
Website: domain		73.20
MEDRA journal DOIs		191.14
Donations via Crowdfunder	135.00	
Crowdfunder fees		5.40
TOTALS	847.96	524.30
Net income	323.66	
Balance at 31st August 2025	3884.97	
(Ringfenced for Candlemas lectures 100.00, gives disposable funds of:	3784.97	

The accounts for 2024-25 are not complicated and our internal review process is sufficient.

Our income this year was £847.96. We received £712.96, made up of fees from Fellows and Members, and online donations via our Crowdfunder Page of £135.00.

Our outgoings were £524.30, which included the honorarium of £100 to our speaker for the 2025 Candlemas lecture. We made our annual payment to mEDRA for the DOIs for our online journal (£191.14 in 2025); and we paid £227.76 for the maintenance of the WIX website and the renewal of our domain name. There was also a Crowdfunder fee of £5.40.

At present, the funds are unrestricted, i.e. not earmarked for specific purposes. The funds held by the CMS are also too small for the holding of reserves.

We have concluded that the CMS has the funds and resources for it to be an ongoing concern for 2025-26. If fundraising is successful in the future, it will be necessary to undergo external financial monitoring.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The CMS is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has used the Charity Commission's template for its governing document.

All trustees must be aged over 16 years and at least one of the trustees of the Centre for Marian Studies must be 18 years of age or over. The maximum number of charity trustees is twelve and the minimum number is three. If the number falls below the minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee. The quorum for a trustees' meeting is two. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Centre for Marian Studies.

Management of the charity

The Centre for Marian Studies is currently run by six trustees and four members of the Management Committee, all of whom contribute to the aims of the charity on a voluntary basis.

Trustees

Sr Dr Cathy Jones (co-editor of our journal)

Dr Melanie Landman

Professor Andrew Louth

Dr Catherine O'Brien (Chair of Trustees)
Mr Mike Russell
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Dr Chris Maunder (Treasurer)
Mrs Natalie Maunder (Website coordinator)
Professor Jacob Phillips (Conference organiser)

The full committee meets twice a year, usually in September and March.

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CONFERENCES AND ONLINE EVENTS

We are pleased to be able to organise in-person conferences with a Zoom option at St Mary's University. The in-person conferences offer a preferential rate for students and attendees on reduced income.

We have also continued to offer free online events in order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend.

2nd December 2023

On Advent Eve: The Mother of God in Art, Theology and Music

We held a one-day conference at St Mary's University (with the option to attend via Zoom) to explore the significance of the Mother of God in images, words and music. Our guest speakers were Dr. Darrelyn Gunzburg, who teaches Cultural Astronomy and Astrology at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David; the Reverend Canon Dr. Paul Williams, who is Domestic Chaplain to HM The King and Rector of the Sandringham Group of Churches; Professor Jacob Phillips, who is Dean of the Faculty of Education, Theology, and the Arts at St Mary's University; and Professor Emeritus Fr. Richard Price, who taught the History of Christianity at Heythrop College, London. The event concluded with a performance of Marian music led by Cherry-Willow Pauls.

1st February 2024

Candlemas Lecture (via Zoom)

Thanks to the generosity of one of the CMS trustees, we have reinstated our annual Candlemas lecture, with the event now being held in honour of the late Dr Cathy Oakes, who was an art historian and one of the founding members of our charity. Cathy was an expert in medieval Marian iconography and her untimely death in 2019 was a great loss to the CMS on both a personal and academic level. The third lecture (via Zoom) in this new series took place on 1st February 2024. The invited speaker was Professor Laura Saetveit Miles (University of Bergen, Norway), author of the highly acclaimed monograph *The Virgin Mary's Book at the Annunciation* (Boydell & Brewer, 2020). Her presentation, entitled 'Reading alongside the Virgin Mary in Late-medieval Books of Hours Annunciation Scenes,' focused on two rare and fascinating versions of the standard Annunciation scene, as they developed in both devotional literature and illuminations in Books of Hours.

Online seminar series

In October 2023 we began a monthly series of free online seminars. The aim was to give Marian researchers the opportunity to present their work in a supportive atmosphere. It proved to be an occasion for postgraduates to discuss one of their thesis questions, and for

established Marian scholars to put forward a new area of investigation. The seminars took place on Wednesday afternoons at 3pm (in the UK) via Zoom and were chaired by Professor Sarah Jane Boss.

The topics were:

“‘A phoenix from the ashes, a throne amongst the ruins’’: antiquity and memory at Bartolo Longo's Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary in Pompeii’ – Dr Jessica Hughes (The Open University)

‘Three Marian Shrines in Sixteenth Century England’ – Tim Guile (Chair of the English Catholic History Association)

‘Women at the centre: A Feminist Art-Theological exploration of women in Reformation period Christian art’ – Ninnaku Oberhozler (King’s College London)

‘A Voice of Her Own: Embodiment Theology in Conversation with Protestant Mariology’ – Major Emma Moore (Eva Burrows College, The Salvation Army Australia Territory. Ph.D. Candidate, University of Divinity, Melbourne, Australia)

‘Mary as *Pontifex* and the Marian Dogmas: a relationship centred interpretation’ – Fiona Li (Regis College at the University of Toronto, Canada)

‘The Virgin Mary in Ethiopia: Marian Veneration, Africanity, and the Female Element’ – Cressida Marcus (The Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, University of Oxford)

‘Pierced: Comparing the Mystical Hearts of Mary and Teresa of Avila’ – Barbara Bradley (University of Edinburgh)

‘The Apocalyptic Mary: the Labour of Creation and the End of the World’ – Reverend Professor Steven Shakespeare (Professor of Continental Philosophy of Religion at Liverpool Hope University)

As the seminars were so successful, we are going to run a second series in 2024-25.

ONLINE JOURNAL

In 2021 the CMS relaunched *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* as a peer reviewed, online and open access journal. We have joined the mEDRA scheme to register the journal content for the Digital Object Identifier System.

During the period covered by this report, the CMS published two issues of the journal. Issue 3.2 (November 2023) contained an article on the subject of medieval depictions of the crucifixion on a Madonna lily; an argument for the dogmatic definition of Mary as Co-redemptrix; a paper that sheds new light on the Marian visions of Julian of Norwich; and a theological reflection on the significance of Elizabeth Kindelmann’s writing on devotion to Mary’s Immaculate Heart. It also included the translation of an extract from a work by Jean-

Jacques Olier; and a review of Amy Peeler's recent monograph entitled *Women and the Gender of God*.

Issue 4.1 (May 2024) was a special publication dedicated to the inspiring Marian research that was addressed by five of the speakers at our online conference entitled *More Universal than Catholicism? Mary among Asian Religions*, which we co-organised with the Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (ISAC) in May 2023. The articles focused on 'Universal Belief and Local Apparition: Holy Mary and Inculturation in Taiwan'; 'Devotion and Miracles in the late Seventeenth-Century Spanish Philippines'; 'Regulating *Marialis Cultus* in Macau'; 'The Virgin Mary with the Face of Gwan-eum: Theological Reflection on Korean sculptor Choi Jong-tae's Artworks'; and 'Three Faces of Mary in the Vietnamese Diaspora'.

The journal contributes to our commitment to publish innovative Marian research in the fields of theology, philosophy, literature, history, visual culture, music, sociology, anthropology and psychology. We warmly welcome original contributions on Marian topics in the form of refereed articles, discussion pieces, translations and book reviews.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Centre for Marian Studies: Accounts 2023-24

Year End: 31 August 2024

	Income	Outgoings
Balance at 1st September 2023	3244.73	
December conference	563.90	466.82*
		(*Registering speakers 180.00, travel for speakers 63.58, accommodation for speakers 98.24, restaurant meal 125.00)
Candlemas lecture honorarium		100.00
Fellowship fees (7 fellows)	354.35	
Membership fees (11 members)	273.50	
Associate fees (2 associates)	20.00	
Website		183.60
mEDRA journal DOIs		195.44
Donation (from <i>Origins of the Cult of the Virgin Mary</i>)	50.69	
TOTALS	1262.44	945.86
Net outgoing	316.58	

Balance at 31st August 2024	3561.31	
(Ringfenced for Candlemas lectures 200.00, gives disposable funds of:	3361.31	

The accounts for 2023-24 are not complicated and our internal review process is sufficient.

We received £638.85 made up of fees from Fellows and Members. Other income came from our December 2023 conference (£563.90); and a kind donation of royalties (£50.69) from the sale of a book entitled *Origins of the Cult of the Virgin Mary* (Burns & Oates, 2008), edited by Dr Chris Maunder, who is one of our Foundation Fellows.

Our outgoings were £945.86, which include the honorarium of £100 to our speaker for the Candlemas lecture; and £466.82 to cover the expenses of our four guest speakers at our in-person conference in December 2023. We make an annual payment to mEDRA for the DOIs for our online journal (£195.44 in 2024); and we paid £183.60 for the maintenance of the WIX website and the renewal of our domain name.

At present, the funds are unrestricted, i.e. not earmarked for specific purposes. The funds held by the CMS are also too small for the holding of reserves.

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CONFERENCES AND ONLINE EVENTS

We are now able to organise in-person conferences (with a Zoom option) but we have continued to offer some free online events so as to give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend. The in-person conferences offer a reduced rate of £10 for students and attendees on reduced income.

10th September 2022

Alone of all her sex? A Marian Study Day on 'Mary and Gender' with guest speakers Sr Dr Cathy Jones (St Mary's University), Dr Mary McCaughey (St Mary's College, Oscott), Dr Catherine O'Brien (The Centre for Marian Studies) and Dr Karen O'Donnell (Westcott House, Cambridge).

1st February 2023

Candlemas Lecture (via Zoom)

Thanks to the generosity of one of the CMS Trustees, we have reinstated our annual Candlemas lecture, with the event now being held in honour of the late Dr Cathy Oakes, who was an art historian and one of the founding members of our charity. Cathy was an expert in medieval Marian iconography and her untimely death in 2019 was a great loss to the CMS on both a personal and academic level. The second lecture (via Zoom) in this new series took place on 1st February 2023. The invited speaker was Dr Cecelia Dorger, an art historian and adjunct professor at the Mount St. Mary Seminary and School of Theology in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. Dr. Dorger gave a paper entitled "Soul Sisters: Late Medieval and Renaissance Nuns' Devotion to the Nursing Madonna image". 200 people registered for this free online event.

25th March 2023

New Beginnings: A Celebration of Marian Scholarship

On the Feast of the Annunciation, we formally celebrated the establishment of the Centre for Marian Studies at St Mary's University, and the new location of the Marian library collection. It was also the occasion on which we welcomed our first Honorary Fellows: Professor Tina Beattie, Rev. Professor Andrew Louth and Rev. Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch. They shared their expertise during this one-day conference alongside Dr Chris Maunder and Dr Sarah Jane Boss, who founded the Centre for Marian Studies in 1995.

10th – 12th May 2023

More Universal than Catholicism? Mary among Asian religions (via Zoom)

We co-organised an online conference with the Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics (ISAC) in Singapore: <https://www.isac-research.org>

270 people registered for this free event, and we heard excellent papers on a rich range of Marian topics. Speakers joined us from the US, Mexico, Portugal, Germany, Japan, China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, the Philippines, Taiwan and Australia. We are grateful to Dr Michel Chambon of ISAC who ran the Zoom meeting from the National University of Singapore.

JOURNAL

In 2021 the CMS relaunched *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* as a peer reviewed, online and open access journal. During the period covered by this report, the CMS published one issue of the journal in May 2023 (3.1) that contains articles on Marian apparitions, Mary in Asia, and a Pneumatological recentring of Mary's ecclesial motherhood; translations of three Marian texts; and two book reviews. We have joined the mEDRA scheme in order to register the journal content for the Digital Object Identifier System. The journal contributes to our commitment to publish innovative Marian research in the fields of theology, philosophy, literature, history, visual culture, music, sociology, anthropology and psychology.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Centre for Marian Studies: Accounts 2022-23

Year End: 31 August 2023

	Income	Outgoings
Balance at 1st September 2022	3839.19	
September conference	625.10	216.00
Candlemas lecture		100.00
March conference	453.50	1116.27
Fellowship fees	305.69	
Membership fees	270.00	
Website		116.88
MEDRA journal DOIs		199.60
Donation to Franciscans		500.00
TOTALS	1654.29	2248.75
Net outgoing		594.46
Balance at 31st August 2023	3244.73	
(Ringfenced for Candlemas lectures £300, gives disposable funds of:	2944.73	

The accounts for 2022-23 are not complicated and our internal review process is sufficient.

We received £575.69 made up of fees from Fellows and Members. Other income (£1,078.60) came from the two conferences that we organised in September 2022 and May 2023.

Our outgoings were £2248.75. These payments included the honorarium of £100 to our speaker for the Candlemas lecture; and £1,332.27 to cover the expenses of our nine guest speakers at our two in-person conferences. We have annual costs to mEDRA for the DOIs for our online journal (£199.60 in 2023); and £116.88 for the maintenance of the WIX website. In addition, we made a donation of £500 to the Franciscans in gratitude for a collection of valuable books that they kindly gave to the CMS to enhance our library collection.

At present, the funds are unrestricted, i.e. not earmarked for specific purposes. The funds held by the CMS are also too small for the holding of reserves.

We have concluded that the CMS has the funds and resources for it to be an ongoing concern for 2022-23. If fundraising is successful in the future, it will be necessary to undergo external financial monitoring.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The CMS is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has used the Charity Commission's template for its governing document.

All trustees must be aged over 16 years and at least one of the trustees of the Centre for Marian Studies must be 18 years of age or over. The maximum number of charity trustees is twelve and the minimum number is three. If the number falls below the minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees or appoint a new charity trustee. The quorum for a trustees' meeting is two. Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees. In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the Centre for Marian Studies.

Management of the charity

On 11th March 2023, Dr Eileen Rubery resigned as a Trustee of the CMS. We are very grateful to Dr Rubery for her dedication to our charity over many years. As a result, the Centre for Marian Studies is currently run by five trustees and five members of the Management Committee, all of whom contribute to the aims of the charity on a voluntary basis.

Trustees

Dr Melanie Landman
Professor Andrew Louth
Dr Catherine O'Brien (Chair of Trustees)
Mr Mike Russell
Reverend Canon Dr Paul Williams

Members of the Management Committee

Professor Sarah Jane Boss (Secretary, librarian and co-editor of our journal)
Sr Dr Cathy Jones (co-editor of our journal)
Dr Chris Maunder (Treasurer)
Mrs Natalie Maunder (Website coordinator)
Professor Jacob Phillips (Conference organiser)

The full committee meets twice a year, usually in September and March.

Reference and administrative details

The Centre for Marian Studies

Registered Charity 1183579

c/o The School of Theology, St Mary's University, Waldegrave Road, Strawberry Hill,
Twickenham, TW1 4SX

Email: info@marianstudies.ac.uk

THE CENTRE FOR MARIAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183579

Accounts

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The Centre for Marian Studies (the CMS), established in 1995, provides educational courses, promotes research and maintains a library, on subjects relating to the theology and wider cult of the Virgin Mary. It has no religious affiliation and is open to members of any religious tradition or none. Members of the CMS are dedicated to interdisciplinary collaboration to support and advance Marian scholarship.

The CMS was originally registered with a Trust Deed in 1997 as The Marian Study Centre (Registered Charity 1066253). In 2019 the decision was taken to register the charity as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, whose only voting members are its charity trustees. Our registration was confirmed on 24th May 2019. This annual report covers the period from 1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022, as the latter is our accounting end of year date.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The CMS aims to advance the education of the public in all matters related to the Virgin Mary, including any theology, devotion, and other social and cultural activities pertaining to her, in particular for the provision of a library, a picture collection, and other material resources, the undertaking of academic research and the dissemination of the useful results to the public and the provision of educational courses and lectures.

In April 2021 the CMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with St Mary's University in Twickenham to develop mutual agreements for cooperation based on our respective academic and educational needs. St Mary's University is now the official home of the CMS, and the CMS library collection will enhance the theological resources held at the university and be available to researchers in Mariology. The library collection is in the process of being established in the crypt of the church on the university campus.

The trustees have cross-referenced these objectives and activities with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The CMS website, which is maintained on a voluntary basis by a member of the CMS Management Committee, provides information on Marian news and events: www.marianstudies.ac.uk.

The Trustees and members of the Management Committee of the CMS are actively engaged in Marian Studies and examples of their publications are

listed on the charity's website:

<https://www.marianstudies.ac.uk/publications>

In order to promote research, we have also now developed a scheme that allows people to apply to become Fellows, Members and Associates of the CMS. The full details are posted online on our website:

<https://www.marianstudies.ac.uk/membership>

International events (via Zoom)

Although some of our face-to-face activities were curtailed because of the repercussions of the Covid pandemic, we made use of the Zoom platform to meet for administrative and educational purposes. Online technology has also allowed us to join more regularly with international colleagues and hold joint events.

In September 2021, Sarah Jane Boss, Chris Maunder and Mary Frances McKenna gave papers at a seminar organised by the Mariological Society of America (MSA) during the International Pontifical Marian Academy conference; and Catherine O'Brien was invited by the MSA to give a paper on Marian images in the cinema.

Thanks to the generosity of one of the CMS Trustees, we have reinstated our annual Candlemas lecture, with the event now being held in honour of the late Dr Cathy Oakes, who was an art historian and one of the founding members of our charity. Cathy was an expert in medieval Marian iconography and her untimely death in 2019 was a great loss to the CMS on both a personal and academic level. The first lecture (via Zoom) in this new series took place on 1st February 2022. The invited speaker was Dr Chloë Reddaway from King's College London and Duke University, and she gave an inspiring paper entitled 'Re-Visiting Creation: Signs of the New Creation in Christ in Images of the Visitation'. This presentation explored the locations, typology, iconography, and pneumatology found in images of the Visitation, illuminating connections between the Visitation, the New Creation in Christ, and the female role in creative redemption.

In June 2022, the CMS held an online book launch of *Mary, Founder of Christianity* (Oneworld Publications, 2022) by Chris Maunder, the co-founder and treasurer of the CMS. Chris presented his monograph, and his colleague Sarah Jane Boss offered a response, before the meeting was opened up to general discussion. Our charity endeavours to provide a forum for debate about the significance of the Mother of Jesus in theology and cult, and this event contributed to that aim.

Journal

In 2021 the CMS relaunched *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies* as a peer reviewed, online and open access journal. During the period covered by

this report, the CMS published two issues of the journal. The second issue (January 2.1) contained four articles and two book reviews; and the third issue (July 2.2) contained four articles, one translation and one book review. We have joined the mEDRA scheme in order to register the journal content for the Digital Object Identifier System.

The journal contributes to our commitment to publish innovative Marian research in the fields of theology, philosophy, literature, history, visual culture, music, sociology, anthropology and psychology.

Financial review

Centre for Marian Studies: Accounts 2021-22

Year End: 31 August 2022

	Income	Outgoings
Balance at 1st September 2021	3262.49	
Donations	125.13	
Fellowship fees	200.00	
Membership fees	170.00	
Candlemas lectures	500.00	
Crowdfunder fees		1.00
Speaker honorarium for the Candlemas lecture		100.00
Postage (for the transfer of books in the CMS collection)		126.24
mEDRA journal DOIs		191.19
TOTALS	995.13	418.43
Net income	576.70	
Balance at 31st August 2022	3839.19	

(Ringfenced for Candlemas lectures 400, gives disposable funds of:	3439.19)	
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The accounts for 2021-22 are not complicated and our internal review process is sufficient.

We received £995.13 made of up of donations, and fees from Fellows and Members. The donations include £500, which has been ringfenced to pay for the annual Candlemas lectures.

Our outgoing payments were £418.43. These payments consisted of £1.00 for Crowdfunder Fees; the honorarium of £100 to our speaker for the Candlemas lecture; £126.24 to cover postage for the transfer of CMS books; and £191.19 to mEDRA for the DOIs.

At present, the funds are unrestricted, i.e. not earmarked for specific purposes. The funds held by the CMS are also too small for the holding of reserves.

We have concluded that the CMS has the funds and resources for it to be an ongoing concern for 2022-23. If fundraising is successful in the future, it will be necessary to undergo external financial monitoring.

Structure, governance and management

The CMS is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and has used the Charity Commission's template for its governing document.

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Management of the charity

During the past year, we appointed Sr Cathy Jones as a new member of our Management Committee. As a result, the Centre for Marian Studies is currently run by six trustees and five members of the Management Committee, all of whom contribute to the aims of the charity on a voluntary basis.

Trustees

Dr Melanie Landman
Professor Andrew Louth
Dr Catherine O'Brien (Chair of Trustees)
Dr Eileen Rubery
Mr Mike Russell
Reverend Canon Dr Paul Williams

Members of the Management Committee

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THE CENTRE FOR MARIAN STUDIES

England & Wales - Charity number 1183579

Accounts



CENTRE FOR MARIAN STUDIES

Registered Charity 1183579

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The CMS aims to advance the education of the public in all matters related to the Virgin Mary, including any theology, devotion, and other social and cultural activities pertaining to her, in particular for the provision of a library, a picture collection, and other material resources, the undertaking of academic research and the dissemination of the useful results to the public and the provision of educational courses and lectures.

In April 2021 the CMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding with St Mary's University in Twickenham to develop mutual agreements for cooperation based on our respective academic and educational needs. St Mary's University is now the official home of the CMS, and the CMS library collection will enhance the theological resources held at the university and be available to researchers in Mariology.

The trustees have cross-referenced these objectives and activities with the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

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In order to promote research, we have also now developed a scheme that allows people to apply to become Fellows, Members and Associates of the CMS. The full details are posted online on our website: <https://www.marianstudies.ac.uk/membership>

International conference

Although some of our activities were curtailed because of the pandemic, we made use of the Zoom platform to meet for administrative and educational purposes. The in-person conference that we had intended to hold in July 2021 (postponed from 2020 because of the Covid-19 lockdown) was transformed into an online event that ran from 8th - 10th July 2021. As the CMS has no religious affiliation and is open to members of any religious tradition or none, it was fitting that this first international collaboration with St Mary's University (our new home) was entitled 'Bridges and Boundaries: the role of the Virgin Mary in faith and culture' and included presentations on Christianity, Judaism and Islam. We were joined by eighteen speakers from the UK, US, Mexico, Ireland, Germany and Taiwan. There was no charge to attend the event and we were delighted to see registrations from many countries. The conference succeeded in bringing together different faith communities as we explored the way in which the Virgin Mary has inspired diverse works of culture (both religious and secular) across the centuries.

Journal

On 8th July 2021, during the 'Bridges and Boundaries' conference, the CMS relaunched its journal entitled *Maria: A Journal of Marian Studies*, which last appeared in print format in 2003. The new journal is peer reviewed, online and open access. The first issue contained three articles, two translations of Marian texts not previously available in English, as well as three book reviews: <https://www.marianstudies.ac.uk/nsvol1july2020>

In order to register the journal content for the Digital Object Identifier System, we have joined the mEDRA scheme. The cost of setting up the initial account, which included 15 DOIs, was £260.80.

The journal contributes to our commitment to publish innovative Marian research in the fields of theology, philosophy, literature, history, visual culture, music, sociology, anthropology and psychology. It is hoped that many of the papers from our July 2021 conference will subsequently appear in *Maria*. It is our intention to publish the journal twice a year in January and July.

Financial review

Centre for Marian Studies: Accounts 2020-21

Year End: 31 August 2021

	Income	Outgoings
Balance at 1st September 2020	2701.68	
Donations	167.94	
Fellowship fees	250.00	
Membership fees	35.00	
Conference payment St Mary's	368.00	
Paypal test	0.67	
mEDRA journal DOIs		260.80
TOTALS	821.61	260.80
Net income	560.81	
Balance at 31st August 2021	3262.49	

The accounts for 2020-21 are not complicated and our internal review process is sufficient. We received £560.81 made of up of donations, fees from Fellows and Members, and an outstanding payment of £360 from St Mary's University that relates to a conference held in December 2018. Our only outgoing payment was the fee of £260.80 to mEDRA for the DOIs for the journal. If fundraising is successful in the future, it will be necessary to undergo external financial monitoring.

At present, the funds are unrestricted, i.e. not earmarked for specific purposes. The funds held by the CMS are also too small for the holding of reserves.

We have concluded that the CMS has the funds and resources for it to be an ongoing concern for 2021-22.

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Management of the charity

During the past year, one member of our Management Committee resigned because of additional work commitments. We are also very sad to record that the Very Reverend Dr Kevin Alban, who was a dedicated member of our charity, died in May 2021. As a result, the Centre for Marian Studies is currently run by six trustees and four members of the Management Committee, all of whom contribute to the aims of the charity on a voluntary basis.

Trustees

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Professor Andrew Louth
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Dr Eileen Rubery
Mr Mike Russell
Reverend Canon Dr Paul Williams

Members of the Management Committee

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