Dear Herbert in Cambridge Participants:

It now has been more than a month since our last communication regarding the rescheduled Sixth Triennial Conference of the George Herbert Society at Cambridge University, and we are pleased to have much good news.

**First and foremost,** mark your calendars for **Thursday-Sunday 17-20 June 2021!** Our theme will remain **‘Lovely Enchanting Language: George Herbert and Eloquence’.**

**Second**, we are delighted to announce that **all of our** **plenary speakers** (**Sidney Gottlieb**, **Helen Wilcox**, **Rowan Williams**, **Malcolm Guite**, and **Seamus Perry**) have **re-committed**;

**Third**, we also are very pleased to announce many of the same **confirmed venues**: **Magdalene College**, **Girton College**, **Leighton Bromswold**, and **Little Gidding**; along with new venues also in the heart of Cambridge: **Clare College** and **Little St Mary’s Church** adjacent to Peterhouse. Although **Trinity College** has been unable to reschedule our space, we certainly will plan a tour of Herbert’s alma mater.

In addition to this excellent news about speakers and venues, we wish to reiterate the following policies already announced:

--All panelists for 2020 automatically will be offered berths for 2021;

--All currently paid registrations will be rolled over into 2021 at no further charge, and registrants who need to withdraw may request a refund;

--Refunds will consist of all meal charges plus 75% of each particular registration fee—and by special application, 100%;

--Those cancelling may, if they wish, treat their fees as donations to GHS, for which they will receive giving receipts;

--All those with papers accepted who have not yet registered for 2020 **will be allowed to register at a later date for 2021 at the same rates as for 2020**;

--**In the event of future COVID or similar crises in 2021**: This conference **will meet at these places on these dates unless governmental or institutional policy makes it impossible—or unless further developments make it unwise—to do so**; in such cases, **GHS will make plans to offer the conference online**, with **similar policies** as those outlined above **for registration rollovers, cancellations and refunds**.

**Now that the new conference dates are clear, we ask the following**:

**First**, **by Monday, May 25**, **2020** please send an email to [herbconf@uncg.edu](mailto:herbconf@uncg.edu) confirming your participation as definitely as possible, or withdrawing if necessary;

**Second**, that those recommitting bear in mind that the 2021 program inevitably will be shaped somewhat differently from the one currently posted at <https://english.uncg.edu/george-herbert-society/>; nevertheless, the 2021 gathering will reflect a similar scope and variety, and we can hope for a good deal of continuity.

**Third**, that those withdrawing indicate whether they are requesting a refund.

A few concluding notes:

--Once it is clear how many and who will be recommitting, we will solicit more submissions;

--Indeed, one silver lining of our rescheduling has been that a number of those who would not have been able to join us in June 2020 probably will be with us in June 2021!

We hope that this good conference news finds you well, and perhaps more sympathetic towards conditions in George Herbert’s time, when “health closings” (The Plague) not infrequently interrupted public life, emptying churches, schools, ‘cities, theatres, gardens, parks, and courts’. We are particularly grateful for your loyalty and patience—three-quarters of you had already registered by this March, and we have so far had not a single cancellation!—and we also wish to thank our plenary speakers and the staff at each venue for their extraordinary kindness and cooperation. **As Her Majesty the Queen recently observed, “We will meet again.”**

For questions, concerns, and suggestions, please contact [herbconf@uncg.edu](mailto:herbconf@uncg.edu).

The Conference Planning Committee:

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