Dear Members and Friends of the George Herbert Society:

Here is the latest news about our rescheduled Sixth Triennial Conference of the George Herbert Society at Cambridge University.

**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;

**Fourth**, to fill gaps in the programme created by cancellations, and to invite new participation, we have announced a **Supplementary Call for Papers** (please see link at <https://english.uncg.edu/george-herbert-society/>).

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

--All panelists for 2020 automatically were offered berths for 2021;

--All currently paid registrants who requested it have been rolled over into 2021 at no further charge, and registrants who needed to withdraw have received refunds;

--Refunds 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;

--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**.

We ask that the large majority who now have recommitted to the conference 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.

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—a large majority of you have recommitted—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.

The Conference Planning Committee:

Adele Davidson, Kenyon College Sidney Gottlieb, Sacred Heart University
Kenneth Graham, University of Waterloo Malcolm Guite, Girton College, Retired, Cambridge University Christopher Hodgkins, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Simon Jackson, Peterhouse, Cambridge University
Anne Myers, University of Missouri-Columbia
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