

A grant was awarded to Dr. Claire Bartram in 2020 to help with the costs of the production of banners required for an exhibition on “Kentish Saints and Martyrs”.

Summary:

Under the direction of Dr Claire Bartram, as one of the co-directors of the Centre for Kent History and Heritage, this project on ‘Kentish Saints and Martyrs’ is part of the celebrations for Becket 2020/21 that situates St Thomas amid the wider Kent hagiographical context from St Augustine to the Catholic and Protestant sixteenth-century martyrs. Initially conceived as comprising a series of lectures to be held in Canterbury churches over the period of a week (from Monday to Saturday) with a concurrent exhibition to be held in Eastbridge Hospital in late August/early September 2020, these activities will now be rescheduled for the same time in 2021. Nevertheless, work on the project is continuing, firstly the invited scholars have agreed to present their research in the lecture series next year and Stefanie Barnes, a postgraduate student, has been researching and designing thematic pop-up banners on these Kentish saints and martyrs for the exhibition under Dr Bartram’s and other members of the Centre’s direction.

The CHAS grant will now allow four of the six proposed banners to be printed. This will be done in the autumn and the banners stored for use as part of the exhibition and then the appropriate banner will be gifted by Dr Bartram to one of the six churches involved. To mark CHAS’s contribution, the Society’s logo will be included on the four banners and an electronic version will be available for inclusion on the CHAS website, as well as that of the Centre, thereby providing access to a worldwide audience. In addition to the banners, the exhibition will include a museum-standard case of cultural objects involving items connected to St Eanswythe, and a ‘Young Pilgrims’ programme for children.