

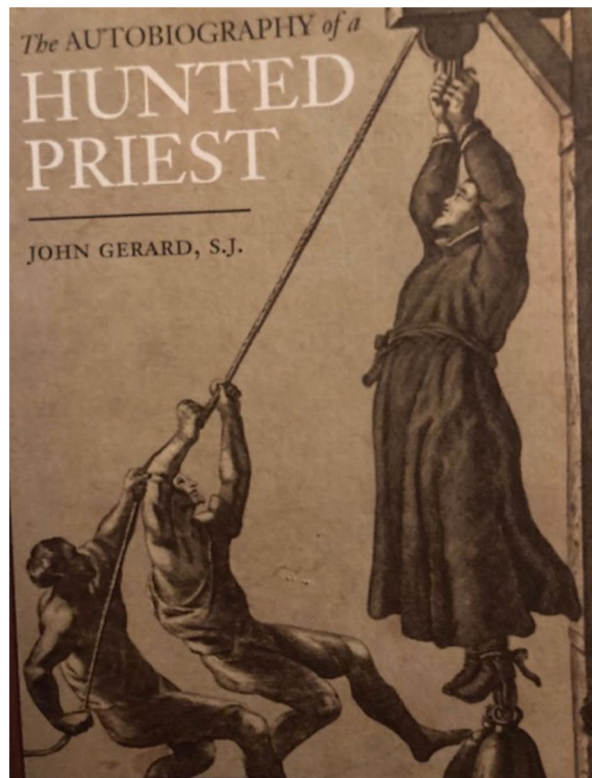


Hertford and Ware Local History Society

Please join us at St Andrew's Centre,
Rear of St Andrew's Church, St Andrew Street, Hertford
11th NOVEMBER 2021 – STARTS 8 PM

Local History talk given by Michael Maslinski

**THE HUNTED PRIEST: Father John Gerard SJ,
the English Mission and the Gunpowder Plot**



The religious differences of 400 years ago have played a significant role in shaping the society we live in today. During the reign of Elizabeth 1st, the practice of Catholicism was outlawed and priests entering the country from abroad were frequently tortured and executed. John Gerard, son of a Lancashire landowner, trained initially at Douai in the Spanish Netherlands and was ordained in Rome as a Jesuit priest. He landed by night on the North Norfolk Coast in 1588 in the immediate aftermath of the Spanish Armada. He led a perilous existence for the next 17 years, endeavouring to keep the Catholic faith alive in the face of state oppression. He made many daring escapes, suffered imprisonment and torture and famously escaped from the Tower of London to continue his work until 1605, when the infamous gunpowder plot forced him to flee the country, having been cited by Robert Cecil as the most wanted man in England. The talk is by his 'ten greats' nephew, local resident Michael Maslinski, who persuaded the BBC to withdraw inaccurate allegations in a documentary that he had been a central figure in the Gunpowder Plot.

NON MEMBERS WELCOME - £3.00 on the door.

For more information visit us at: www.hertfordwarehistory.org.uk
Twitter @hwlhs Telephone Enquiries 01992 558 622

