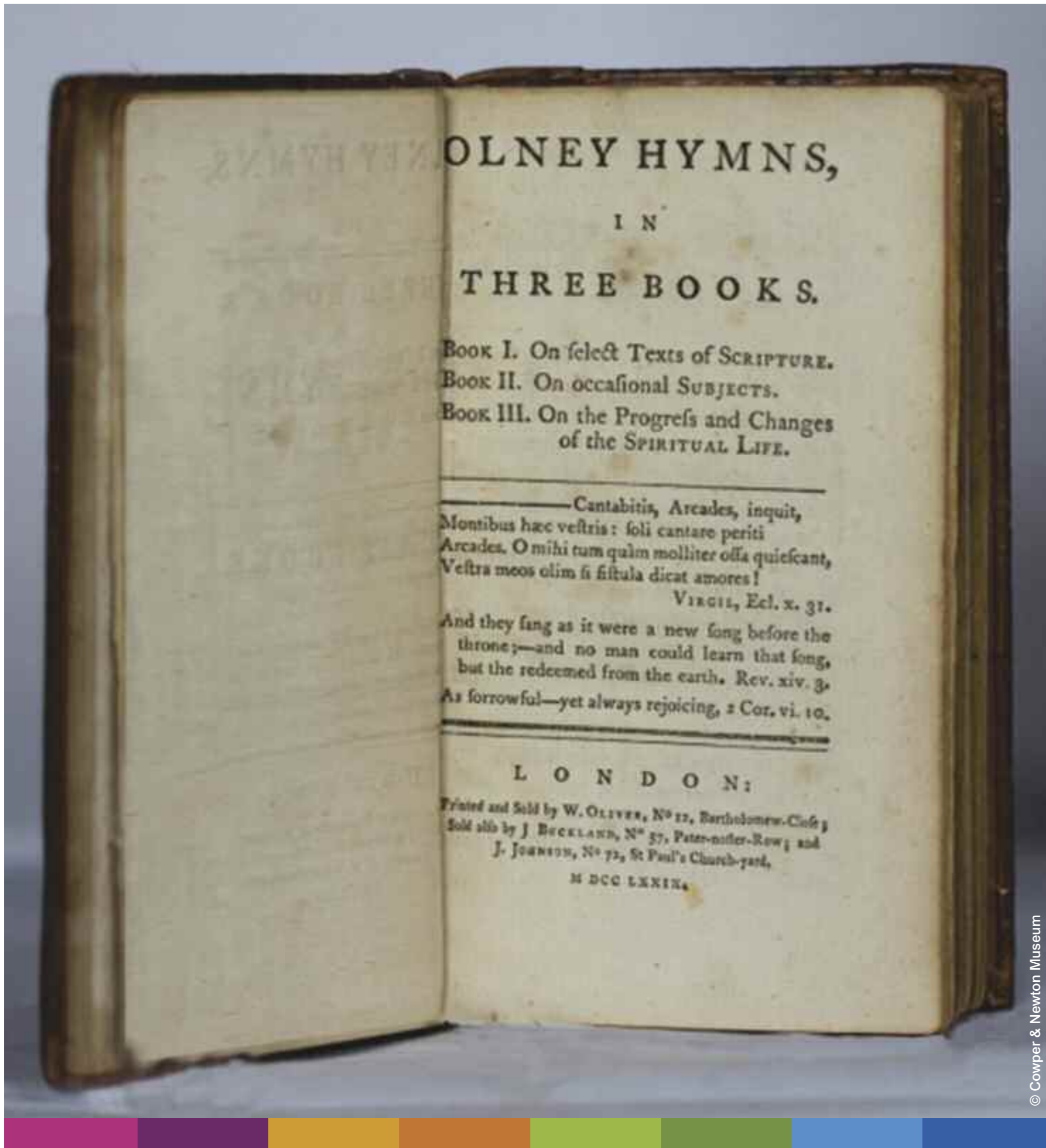


Explore Your Archive

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Relive Georgian Life – Olney



The 'Olney Hymns' hymnbook first edition 1779 'Amazing Grace' is number 41 and titled 'Faith's Review and Expectations'

We can find out about events in the past from a wide range of sources; for example letters, diaries, legal documents and newspaper articles.

Olney has another unusual source in the hymns written by John Newton and William Cowper. These were published in the 'Olney Hymns' hymnbook in 1779.

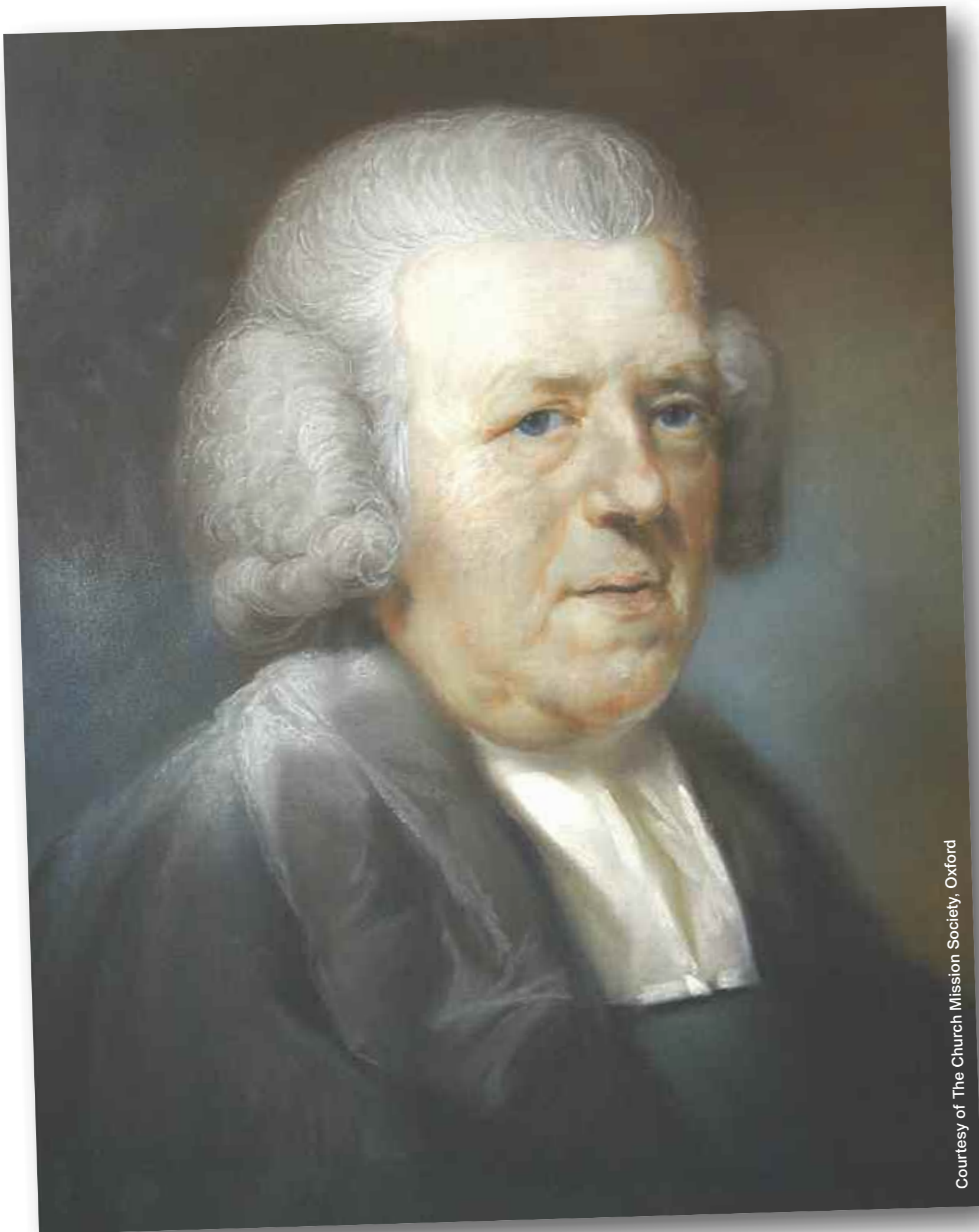
There were large town fires in 1777, 1783 and 1787. The Rev John Newton wrote Hymn 69 'On the fire at Olney. September 22, 1777' to comfort his congregation. There is a detailed account of the 1783 fire by William Cowper in a letter to a friend and there are articles from 1787 in *The Northampton Mercury* asking for donations from people to support those who had lost their homes, businesses and belongings.

On the subject of the late Earthquake.

Rev John Newton's diary is owned by Princeton University

Image courtesy of the John Newton Project via the John Newton Collection CO199 at Princeton University Library
Newton's handwritten notebook of the hymn is available to view online at Library.Harvard

We also know from the Rev John Newton's hymn 'On The Earthquake September 8, 1775' that an earthquake was felt in the area. It is thought to have centred on Swansea.



Reverend John Newton. Artist: John Russell, portrait painter to George III, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1788



William Cowper, by William Blake (1801)

