

SummerAutumn 2015

CLIS Christians in
Library and
Information
Services



CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN

CONTENTS INCLUDE

- ***SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2015:
ANNUAL LECTURE IN SALISBURY***
- ***LONDON BOOK FAIR***
- ***CHALLENGES AT HOME AND OVERSEAS***
- ***ASSESSMENT IN THE LIBRARY***
- ***ELEMENT OF REDEMPTION***
- ***JUST A RE-WRITE?***

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

●SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2015: VISIT TO SARUM COLLEGE LIBRARY

19 The Close, Salisbury, SP1
2EE, from 11.00.a.m. Details: p.
10.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2015: ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE

The Gallery, First Floor,
Salisbury Library, Market
place, Salisbury, SP1 1BL, from
2.30.p.m. Kevin Carey: "The
Role of the Christian Librarian
in a Theologically Turbulent
Age". Details: pp. 8-11

SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2016: LCF/CLIS 40th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street,
London, W1C 2DJ, from 10.30.
Speakers: Nick Spencer
(*Theos*), Rev. William Morris
(*St. Martin-in-the-Fields*). Details:
p. 11-12.

PRAYER NOTES FOR SUMMER/AUTUMN 2015

PLEASE PRAY FOR

●Our forthcoming activities including our Annual Lecture in Salisbury and next year's LCF/CLIS 40th Anniversary Conference in London.

●The CLIS Executive Committee and its individual members. Pray, that suitable candidates will come forward to fill future vacancies.

●Christian library colleagues in the United States, including members of the *Fellowship of Christian Librarians and Information Specialists* and the *Association of Christian Librarians*.

●Other groups involved in Christian witness in working life, including the various professional groups, *Christians at Work*, *London Institute for Contemporary Christianity*, and *Transform Work UK*.

●Bob and Ada Hiley and the work of *Book Aid* in re-distributing Christian literature to overseas countries.

●The new *Marylebone House* fiction imprint from SPCK, its staff, and various authors.



FOUNDED IN 1976 AS THE LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

An organisation 'in liaison' with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.
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THE FIRST WORD

EDDIE OLLIFFE reports from a major book trade event held earlier this year

LONDON BOOK FAIR



The sun came out in April for the *London Book Fair*. The capital was hot for the time of year – and so was Olympia, as the re-located Fair was held under the heat and glare of its graceful glass roof! LBF had returned to this iconic, and recently renovated, London site for the first time since 2005. The beautifully engineered steel and glass vaulted roof provides plenty of daylight to the Grade II-listed Grand Hall. I must say I rather liked being back! Admittedly, the signage was rather confusing, and so were the transport links, although I had discovered the London Overground that meant my journey from the south was dramatically shorter!

I entered the Grand Hall on the first morning from one of the balconies. The view below was truly stunning, a far better space than at Earl's Court - light, airy and a good place to meet and to network. There were plenty of places to sit and talk, and even at busy times it felt reasonably spacious. *HarperCollins Christian*

Publishing had a key position on the main floor as part of the parent company. Many HCCP titles were heavily trailed on a huge digitised banner running constantly above the stand. The *Penguin Random House* stand was almost the size of a small country, and as difficult to get onto as crossing any border! The 'Market Country' focus was the very colourful Mexico.

Christian publishers exhibiting this year included *Abridge International, Baker Publishing Group, Broadman and Holman, Tyndale House Publishing, Lion Hudson PLC, Muddy Pearl, Hodder Faith, HarperCollins, Christian and Xulon Press*. I felt really sorry for those American publishers who had booked in as part of the ECPA group. They were situated directly behind an extremely hectic 'author HQ'. This location must have been extremely tedious for the ECPA folk due to the adjacent non-stop author seminars, the incessant noise and the loud amplification.

However, overall a good 2015 show.

LBF is back at Olympia next year from **12 to 14 April 2016**.

Eddie Olliffe is Interim General Manager for *CLC International* (UK). Eddie blogs at eddieolliffe.wordpress.com and tweets from [@eddieolliffe](https://twitter.com/eddieolliffe)

THE SECOND WORD

ROBERT FOSTER reports from our Conference in Leicester and reflects on his new role as Chair of *Christians in Library and Information Services*

KINDRED SPIRITS



Our annual conference affords us the opportunity to listen to some interesting talks, to worship together and to reflect on being a Christian at work. I hope that those of us who were in Leicester this year felt that this was true again. It's also been a chance, with the on-line survey, to ask ourselves how we can be more effective as an organisation, and to help us decide where we can devote our efforts. Some of the results of that survey are published in this issue, but it's worth highlighting the wish that some people feel for being '*in touch*' in some way with others in CLIS. For some this would be direct contact either in person or through the web; for others it is in receiving the publications. And I felt that those who were able to attend the conference had a good day in this respect too.

I have to say, this is all very encouraging for your new chairman, as it tells me that there is still a place for the Christian workplace organisation! One of the challenges for an organisation such as

ours is being connected in some way with each other. Something like ten years ago I attended a seminar at the *Christian Resources Exhibition* in Esher, when we heard from two workplace organisations which were flourishing. One was in a telecoms company and the other in a government department. Therein lay the crucial difference – the members worked for the same company or civil service department. They weren't '*Christians in Telecommunications*' for example, though of course there may well be such a thing. However, our more disparate structure is what we have to work with, and it's good to hear that can still be a source of Christian support.

Finding a kindred spirit in the workplace is a wonderful thing. You can be in your ideal job and still feel like you are going it alone. Despite all the good advice and intentions about being that person that makes a difference, there are times when most of us feel like we need some back-up. I'm reminded of that Bible verse which says '*Wherever two or three are gathered in my name, there am I*', and it reminds me that sharing and/or praying together is special. We can't necessarily meet up in person, but there are ways in which we can united 'in spirit'. I hope that this year you will continue to feel connected with others in CLIS one way or another.

Just as a footnote, I'd like to mention that our Secretary, Graham Hedges is looking to stand down from the committee in 2016 and as I'm sure you are aware, he does incalculable work for CLIS. Our AGM was fairly unanimous in saying that we can't expect one person to step straight into Graham's roles. With that in mind, and the value that our publications have for us, please let us know if you would be interested in that or in being involved in the administration in other ways.

Robert Foster, BA, DipIM, MCLIP, was elected as Chair of the Executive Committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* at the AGM/Conference held in Leicester on Saturday 19 April 2015.

**SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER 2015
THE GALLERY, FIRST FLOOR, SALISBURY
LIBRARY, MARKET PLACE, SALISBURY, SP1
1BL**

from 2.30.p.m.

KEVIN CAREY

CHAIR, ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR BLIND PEOPLE

“THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN IN A THEOLOGICALLY TURBULENT AGE”

Arranged by:



but all welcome – not only librarians!

**Details from:
Graham Hedges, CLIS Secretary, 34 Thurlestone Avenue,
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E mail secretary@christianlis.org.uk
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NEWSLETTER

From The Secretary:
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KEVIN CAREY LECTURE

The Role of the Christian Librarian in a Theologically Turbulent Age is the title of the annual public lecture of *Christians in Library and Information Services* (formerly the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*) to be held on **Saturday 17 October 2015 in the Gallery, First Floor, Salisbury Library, Market Place, Salisbury, SP1 1BL, from 2.30.p.m..**

The guest speaker is to be **Kevin Carey**, Chair of the *Royal National Institute for Blind People*.

Kevin Carey will suggest that the twentieth century was the most theologically fruitful since the sixteenth, seeking to address a wide range of issues, both systematic and ethical. Such diversity of approach and topic presents the librarian with a peculiar set of challenges whose resolution is vital to the non-academician seeking to broaden and deepen their Christian faith.

Kevin Carey is a Reader in the *Church of England* with a Masters in Systematic Theology. He has written three extended novels under the title of *The Third Testament for the Third Millennium*, re-telling the whole of the New Testament in twenty-first century terms, and has also written a critical commentary on the *Book of Common Prayer* Lectionary texts and an analysis of the Bible and ethics. Kevin also writes an annual book of Christmas verses and is a former member of the *General Synod*.

Kevin is the Chair of the *RNIB Group* and an expert on information technology and has undertaken extensive work on the access by blind and partially sighted people to specialist and mainstream libraries.

Kevin Carey is a distinguished figure in the fields of disability, information technology and fiction writing and we are honoured that he has agreed to

give our annual lecture. Please support the event if you possibly can, and encourage others to do the same.

SARUM COLLEGE LIBRARY

For those who can get to Salisbury in time, we have arranged a morning visit to the Library of **Sarum College, 19, The Close, Salisbury, SP1 2EE**, where Jayne Downey, Editor of the ***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries***, is the Librarian.

Sarum College Library is a leading academic theological library with a collection of more than forty thousand books.

Sarum College rose from the ashes of of the *Salisbury and Wells Theological College*, which closed in the mid-1990s and took over its library. This collection was begun in 1850 by the then Bishop of Salisbury, Walter Kerr Hamilton. Among his collection are two hundred and seventy-four mainly nineteenth century pamphlets, sermons, tracts and charges.

In the late 1990s, the Library acquired several thousand books from the former

Sowter and Clerical Library in Church House, Salisbury. Among these are the majority of the books that make up a local history collection.

Today the library is primarily an academic resource to support *Sarum College* courses, local clergy and anyone with an interest in theology, and ecclesiastical and local history.

LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

There is no need to book in advance for the afternoon lecture, but if you would like to book a place or places for the *Sarum College* Library visit, or would like to join CLIS members for lunch in a local restaurant, from 12.15., please let me know.

TRAVEL

We hope that Salisbury will prove an accessible venue especially to members from London, the South and the West of England.

Salisbury lies on the

intersection of the A30, the A36 and the A338 and is at the end of the A343, A345, A354 and A360. Car parks around the periphery of the are linked to the city centre by a park and ride bus service.

There are also bus links to Southampton, Bournemouth and Andover.

Salisbury railway station Is the crossing point of the West of England Main line, from London Waterloo to Exeter St. David and the Wessex Main Line from Bristol to Southampton Hourly trains call from Cardiff Central, Bristol Temple Meads, and Bath Spa to Southampton Central and Portsmouth Harbour.

SEE YOU IN SALISBURY?

Although the afternoon lecture has a particular significance for librarians, it will also be relevant to others interested in education and in the theological debates and controversies of our times. Attendance is *not* restricted to librarians and the organisers are looking forward to welcoming a wider audience. Admission is free.

Please plan to attend the day's activities yourself, and

encourage friends and colleagues to come along as well.

Please let me know if you would like further details of the lecture, morning visit., or lunch. Contact: Graham Hedges, 34 Thurlestone Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9DU. Telephone 020 8599 1310, E mail secretary@christianlis.org.uk Web site www.christianlis.org.uk

SPURGEON'S COLLEGE VISIT

This issue may arrive in time to remind readers that a visit has been arranged to view the library of **Spurgeon's College, South Norwood Hill, London, SE25 6D**, which trains candidates for the Baptist ministry. This will be held on **Tuesday 18 August 2015, from 2.30.p.m.** CLIS member **Annabel Haycraft** is the College Librarian and our committee member **Janice Paine** also does voluntary work in the Library. If you would like to book a place or places please let me know as soon as possible.

40th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Next year will mark the fortieth anniversary of LCF/CLIS and we plan to mark the occasion with a special anniversary conference,

The Conference is to be held on **Saturday 23 April 2016**, at the *Salvation Army's Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2DJ*, from 10.30 a.m. Our speakers are to be **Nick Spencer**, Research Director of the think tank *Theos*, and the Rev. **William Morris**, of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, London., and the author of *Where is God at Work?*, reviewed later in this issue.

Plans have also been made for next year's Annual Lecture to be held on **Saturday afternoon 15 October 2016** at the **Methodist Central Hall, Warwick Lane, Coventry**. **Nick Page**, "*unlicensed historian*" and author of *A Nearly Infallible History of Christianity* and *Revelation Road*, will be our guest speaker. More details to follow.

BACK HOME AGAIN

Members of our executive committee rallied round when the present writer was taken ill in January 2015 and I am particularly grateful to **Janice Paine** and **Mary Wood** who took over many of the responsibilities for the April conference. Our President, **Eddie Olliffe**, gave much valuable advice and arranged for his colleagues at the *Christian Literature Crusade* to mail out the Spring 2015 issue of *Christian Librarian*. Also, last but not least, my neice, **Megan Andersen**, gave assistance by liaising between my family and members of the committee.

I am now back home again after two stints in hospital, and, hopefully, recovering, but temporarily housebound following surgery on my foot. Thanks are due to members and friends of CLIS for their prayers, "*get well*" cards, and messages of goodwill, including one from a member in Nigeria.

Since I have been out of circulation during past months we are making this issue of *Christian Librarian* a combined bumper issue covering Summer and Autumn 2015.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Once again this year we have distributed our **Membership Directory** by e-mail, along with a recent issue of our **E-Newsletter**.

If you have not received the Directory, or had any difficulty with the attachment, please contact our Web Site Manager John Wickenden at webmaster@christianlis.org.uk

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the list, please contact our Membership Secretary Janice Paine, 22 Queensgate Gardens, 396 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London, SW15 6JN. Tel. 020 8785 2174.

If your details do not appear in the Directory it is probable that we have not received your subscription for 2015. On the other hand it is always possible that we have made a mistake. Either way, Janice would be pleased to hear from you as soon as possible.

The subscription rates for 2013 is £27.00 with a reduced rate of £17.00 for retired, student and unemployed members and subscribers. Please make cheques payable to *Christians in Library and Information Services*.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

- From Janice Paine I am sorry to receive news of the recent passing of **John Barnes**, aged ninety-six, an old friend of our Fellowship.

John served for many years as Secretary of the *Federation of London Christian Unions* and the *Secretaries' and Administrators' Christian Fellowship* and spoke on the subject of Christian witness in the workplace at one of our meetings held in the crypt of *Holy Trinity Brompton* Church in late 1982.

Readers will want to give thanks for his life of service and remember his family and friends at this time of loss.

- If you find yourself in Oxford during the tourist season you might consider signing up for one of the literary and historical walking tours led by **Peter Berry**, who has arranged similar tours for LCF/CLIS members in the past.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays there is a **Literary Tour** taking in parts of the university and city where authors such as Graham Greene, Dorothy L. Sayers, Jonathan Swift and

T.S. Eliot lived and learned. On Wednesdays there is the ever popular **Inklings Tour** following in the footsteps of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Charles Williams and other members of the *Inklings* group.

Finally, on Friday afternoons there is an **Architectural Oxford** tour taking in the splendid architecture of the city while discovering how the city and university evolved through the ages.

For more details contact the *Blackwell Bookshop*, at 48-51, Broad Street, Oxford, OX1 3BQ, or visit the web site at www.blackwell.co.uk/oxford

- Our past speaker **Colin Duriez** is the author of *The Oxford Inklings: Lewis, Tolkien and Their Circle* (Lion, £9.99, ISBN 978-0745956343) and *Bedeviled: Lewis, Tolkien and the Shadow of Evil* (IVP USA, £10.91 from Amazon, ISBN 978-0830834174)

- CLIS President **Eddie Olliffe** recently addressed the *Christian Suppliers' Group* (of the *Publishers' Association*) on the tension between the Christian book trade as a ministry and as a business. *Mission for Business or Business for Mission?* appears

as an article in the book trade magazine ***Together***, May/June 2015, pp. 42-43.

Eddie has recently agreed to extend his appointment as Interim General Manager of the *Christian Literature Crusade* until the end of 2016. His report *A CLC International (UK) Update* appears in ***CLC World Magazine***, 2015/3, p. 24.

- Our past speaker **Ros Turner** was interviewed by **Andy Peck** on the *Premier Christian Radio* programme ***The Leadership File*** on Sunday 12 April 2015. Ros was able to speak about the work of *Transform Work UK* and its vision for transforming the nation through the workplace and opportunities for Christian witness in the world of work

EXHIBITION SEASON

This year's *Christian Resources Exhibition International* was held in its new venue at the *ExCel* Centre in London from **Tuesday 19 – Friday 22 May 2015**. I was sorry to miss my first exhibition since the event started in 1985 but will be pleased to hear from CLIS members and friends who attended. Please let me know

what you thought of the new location and especially those aspects of the exhibition (books, computers, periodicals, audio-visual materials, etc.) ,which will have been of particular interest to librarians

Our committee member Janice Paine enjoyed a day visit to the exhibition. She reports that the venue was easy to reach by *London Underground* or *Docklands Light Railway* but would have been less convenient for those coming by car. All the stalls were on one level, with special areas featuring films, education, worship, and disability. There was a restaurant at the side and a café in the middle. However, the new venue lacks a picnic area for eating one's own lunch, as at *Sandown Park*.

Seminars were all on the floor above, and easy to reach, though not too well signposted. Bookshops were scattered throughout the venue.

You can obtain more information about future CRE exhibitions, including a regional exhibition in Birmingham, from **7-8 October 2015**, from CRE, Trinity Business Centre, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG or from the web site www.creonline.co.uk

One of the many organisations exhibiting at CRE was the Christian Book Promotion Trust's *Speaking Volumes*

scheme in which local churches are encouraged to donate Christian books to public, school and other libraries.

Speaking Volumes also exhibited at this summer's *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Conference* held at the **St. George's Hall, Liverpool,,** between **2-3 July 2015**,

Details of *Speaking Volumes* are available from P.O. Box 1070, Whittlesford, Cambs., CB22 4WX. Web site www.speakingvolumes.org.uk

CLIS also put in an appearance at the CILIP event by placing publicity leaflets in the delegates' packs. Please pray that this initiative will prove effective in publicising our organisation, and will attract more Christian librarians and information staff into membership.

TRANSFORMING WORK

Transforming Work is a new project from the *London Institute for Contemporary Christianity*, described as "an innovative, liberating resource for Christians in the workplace - whether you've been working for one year or forty years."

Transforming Work is an eight session course, held over the course of a year, and is suitable for church and other groups of between eight and twelve people. Each of the eight sessions includes films on vital workplace issues, advice on reading the Bible with workers' eyes, prayer, and lively conversation.

To lead a group, you need to order a leaders' pack, price £15.00, from the LICC. This includes session guides, agendas, handouts, training materials and a DVD with over three hours of films. Individual members of the groups need a copy of the *Transforming Work* app which is packed with materials to help participants dig deeper and prepare for the next session. This can be downloaded free of charge from the LICC web site.

Is this something that your local church might wish to explore? You can get more information from the LICC at St. Peter's Church, Vere Street, London, W1G 0DQ, e-mail mail@licc.org.uk or from the web site www.licc.org.uk

SALVATION ARMY: 150 YEARS

July 2015 marked the one

hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the *Salvation Army* in the East End of London by William and Catherine Booth. This was marked by an exhibition on the Army's history and work organised by the public library service in *Tower Hamlets* in co-operation with the *Salvation Army International Heritage Centre*.

The exhibition could be seen at the *Idea Store*, Whitechapel, between Monday 29 June - Sunday 5 July 2015 and then at the *Tower Hamlets Local History and Archives* between Tuesday 7 July - Tuesday 13 July 2015. A number of free events were also arranged including an evening conference on *Poverty in the East End: Past and Present* on Monday 29 June and a workshop on *William Booth's East End* held on Tuesday 30 June 2015.

On Saturday 4 July 2015 past LCF speaker John Anscombe presented a number of short films about the past and present work of the *Salvation Army* in East London.

CHRISTIAN MAGAZINES

2015 marks the sixtieth anniversary of **Crusade** and the fiftieth anniversary of **Buzz**, two

popular Christian magazines of earlier decades.

Crusade was launched in 1955 by the *Evangelical Alliance* in the immediate aftermath of the famous campaign by Dr. Billy Graham at London's Harringay Arena. The first issue declared that the magazine was "for evangelism and for Billy Graham" and many editions in the first year featured cover photographs of Dr. Graham or members of his team.

In addition to popular articles on aspects of the Christian faith, written by contemporary figures in the evangelical world, early issues of **Crusade** included regular reports of Billy Graham campaigns around the world.

The magazine is a useful source of information on changing attitudes among evangelical Christians during the 1950s and 1960s. Reviewing the film *Ben-Hur* in February 1960 the editor, David Winter, took it for granted that, despite the film's strong Christian theme, few of his readers would be going to see it. Evangelical Christians, it was assumed, were unlikely to visit the cinema. Within a few years, however, David Winter was meeting regularly with Cliff Richard, Cindy Kent, Nigel Goodwin and others to plan the *Arts Centre Group*, an association of Christians involved professionally in the arts, entertainment and media.

Buzz began in 1965 as the

newsletter of *Musical Gospel Outreach*, an organisation set up to support and co-ordinate the work of the Christian music groups of the time. This was the heyday of "coffee bar evangelism" and saw the beginnings of what was later called "contemporary Christian music". Early issues included news of up and coming groups, tips on song writing and performance, and songs that could be included in group repertoires.

Within a short time, however, it became apparent that there was a wider interest in the magazine than among musical group members alone. The magazine began to expand into a general Christian magazine with a youth emphasis, and this trend increased in early 1970 when **Buzz** was able to take over the circulation of the failing *Youth for Christ* magazine **Vista**.

Both magazines enjoyed a fairly long life but the 1980s and 1990s saw a bewildering number of name changes, mergers, and changes of ownership. The present magazine, **Premier Christianity**, owned by *Premier Christian Radio*, is the indirect successor of both magazines, and also of **Renewal**, originally the mouthpiece of the emerging charismatic movement in the 1960s. With its mix of "news, culture, faith, and apologetics" the current magazine offers essential reading for Christians

keen to keep up to date with developments in the wider Church and society.

You can get subscription details, and a sample issue of **Premier Christianity**, from the publishers at Broadway House, The Broadway, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1BR, or via the web site at www.premierchristianity.com

I doubt if any of these magazines have ever been widely stocked in libraries, which is a pity as past issues document a cross section of recent evangelical history not easily available elsewhere. We wish the current publication, and other magazines, well as they continue in the footsteps of their distinguished predecessors

CURRENT AWARENESS

- Q+A *William Morris* by Lucinda van Der Hart, appears in **Premier Christianity**, June 2015, p. 68.

William Morris is an ordained minister in the *Church of England* but also a corporate lawyer working in the business world. He thinks there is a suspicion of profit making organisations in some parts of the Church. However, he points out

that while a clergyman may see one hundred people on a good Sunday, a Christian at work may meet hundreds of people during a typical week.

Christian faith at work can help to make you responsible and trustworthy and give you a moral compass. William Morris's book *Where is God at Work?* (Monarch, £8.99, ISBN 978-0857215281, reviewed elsewhere in this issue) tackles such questions as "*where might God be in my boss?*" and "*How do we think about someone who works for us?*"

- Martin Saunders sets out the case for Christian engagement with popular culture in his article *The Rules of Engagement*.

The author now regrets the negative tone of an earlier article in which he suggested that "*Harry Potter is a large doorway to the occult, and if we lead children to it, there's a possibility they may nudge it open*".

In the current article Saunders refers to St. Paul's address to the philosophers of Athens which shows a surprisingly positive attitude to the pagan Greek culture of the day. There is much to admire in contemporary culture "*whether it's the on-the-nose Christian allegory of the Narnia stories, Thor, or the final chapters of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the spiritual

themes of ***The Shawshank Redemption***, ***Selma***, and ***Les Misérables***, or the songs of U2 and Mumford & Sons”.

Christians, however, should not be completely uncritical in their approach to culture: “Our mission as Christians is to follow Jesus and to help others do likewise.”

The article appears in ***Premier Christianity***, May 2015, pp. 18, 21, 22.

- While admitting to being an enthusiastic user of *Netflix*, Martin Saunders suggests that the growth of TV and video streaming services (*BBC iPlayer*, *Netflix*, *Amazon Instant Video*, etc.) raises certain ethical questions.

He argues, “*In the on-demand era there is no regulation on what we watch, when we watch it, or how long we spend doing so. Binge viewing has shifted from being the pursuit of a few movie marathon nerds to an activity of the masses*”.

He continues: “*In the new world of instant and multiple-choice media, we also tend to consider age ratings much less seriously.*”

Turning to on-demand music services, such as *Spotify*, the writer suggests, “*Many businesses that relied on selling physical media – including the once megalithic HMV – have*

either downsized or disappeared completely. Record companies are shifting their investment to live performances because of the bites that piracy and streaming services are taking out of the business.”

Bingeflix appears in ***Premier Christianity***, May 2015, pp. 14, 15, 17, 19.

- Leading New Testament scholar and best-selling author Tom Wright (N.T. Wright) is interviewed by Chine Mbubaegbu in her article *Gospel Truth: Why Jesus is Simply Good News*.

Dr. Wright talks about his Christian upbringing “*in a very understated middy-Anglican way*” and unresolved questions about why God appears to have commanded genocide during the invasion of Canaan. He explains the thinking behind his recent book ***Simply Good News*** (SPCK, £9.99, ISBN 978-0281073030) which identifies the heart of the gospel as the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth and the ultimate creation of a new Heaven and Earth.

The article appears in ***Idea***, magazine of the *Evangelical Alliance*, May/June 2015, pp. 18-19).

- The ***Church Times*** was one of many newspapers and

magazines to include obituaries of the crime novelist P.D. James, who died on 27 November 2014.

Phyllis James was born in 1920 but, despite a childhood ambition to be a novelist, was only able to become a full time writer after retiring in 1979 at the age of sixty. Her many crime novels were first rate literature, as well as page turners, praised for the depth of their characterisations as well as the ingenuity of their plots.

Kingsley Amis described her as "*Iris Murdoch with murder*". However, unlike Murdoch, Baroness James was a practising Anglican and Christian believer. Her books gave much consideration to the nature of good and evil and generally included at least one religious character. Some of her novels also display an extensive knowledge of church life.

Baroness James of Holland Park, by the Bishop of Worcester, the Rt. Rev. John Inge, appears in the ***Church Times*** for 5 December 2014, p. 28.

- Articles in ***The Christian Librarian***, the journal of the (American) *Association of Christian Librarians*, Volume 58(1), 2015, include *Solving the Reference Dilemma* (Mick Williams), *Resources on the Historical Study of Jesus* (Dennis

Ingolfsland), *Designing Information Instruction for Adult Learners* (Laura Rhoden), plus an annotated bibliography on *Views of the Cross* (compiled by Jeannie Ferriss).

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CHALLENGES AT HOME AND OVERSEAS

DIANA GUTHRIE reports on the CLIS Annual Conference held on Saturday 19 April 2015 in the Y Theatre, YMCA, Leicester

The Conference began in customary fashion with a time of worship, led by Richard Waller. This included readings from II Corinthians and Psalm 111, two hymns (with Robert Foster playing the piano accompaniment), the Nicene Creed and the prayer that was originally written for the LCF by Keith Lawrey, former Secretary-General of the Library Association.

This was followed by the Annual General Meeting (see the separate minutes) and then our two speakers.

Diana Edmonds, a long-time friend of LCF / CLIS, was

the first of our two speakers, on the 'Outsourcing and privatisation of library services'.

Diana has a long track record as a library entrepreneur, beginning with her establishment of *Instant Library*, set up to provide recruitment services to libraries, and she is currently in charge of the for GLL (*Greenwich Leisure Ltd*), the company running library services for *Greenwich* and *Wandsworth* Always ready to embrace a new challenge, her life now includes being the wife of a rural vicar!

Library services have traditionally been based within the organisations they serve, but in the late 1980s organisations began to look afresh at the various services they needed and wondered whether they really needed to do everything themselves; library and information services were included in this process.

For quite a while public libraries held out against this trend and continued to be run

by their local authorities, but gradually budget cuts forced authorities to look for alternatives to the traditional model – libraries were often seen as a low-priority, easily-cut-without-too-much-fuss service. Public libraries began to join the outsourcing trend, and in the mid-2000s Diana went to *Haringey Council* (with *Instant Library*) to act as library consultant and then to run the library service, which had scored badly in an *Audit Commission* inspection.

Outsourcing services can take several forms:

Private company (e.g. *Carillion*, which now runs library services for four London boroughs)

Large charitable social enterprise (e.g. GLL - *Greenwich Leisure Ltd*)

Local mutual societies

Community libraries run by volunteers (this is the least stable form, as enthusiasm can be difficult to sustain,

resulting in library closures and leaving the local authority with empty buildings and trying to get out of its statutory duty to provide services).

What are the attractions of outsourcing? One of the main reasons why organisations go down this route is cost; outsourcing can be cheaper. But traditionally-run services can also be inflexible, and outsourcing can offer a new model, giving a better service.

One of the first things tackled by GLL was improving IT services, but it has also worked on improving buildings, stock and staff. It was able to look at the local population served by each library and adapt its services accordingly. Staff are vitally important, and GLL (with its policy of integrated staffing of the library and leisure services) has made efforts to allay staff anxiety with tailored staff development

Questions and Comments

Volunteers can be trained for library functions, and many small organisations rely on them (the former Northumbria Bible College was instanced).

Diana agreed, but thinks that volunteer-run libraries can easily run into problems when the initial enthusiasm has run out.

What about faith books?

These are bought in the same way as other specialist stock.

What about special collections, which are often of historical interest and not usually very relevant to the local readership?

These can be a problem, regardless of who is running the library service.

What would Diana's advice be about stock donations from the public?

Diana advised gracious acceptance with the proviso that the library could cherry-pick the donations.

If staff are trained to fill a lot of different positions, what happens if they show little aptitude for some tasks?

Diana would try and appoint staff for their ability, but also for their flexibility and willingness to learn.

Eddie Olliffe, CLIS President and bookseller, commented that the outsourcing model is being adopted by the bookselling profession.

Our after-lunch speaker was **Emmanuel Oladipo**, former International Secretary of Scripture Union, on '**Famine in the African church: books, libraries and information services**'.

Emmanuel began with a quotation from Pliny the Elder, '*Ex Africa semper aliquid novi*' ('There is always something new in Africa'). Is this still true?

Well, yes, but often Africa seems to produce a depressing litany of bad news, which forms the context of the current famine

of good books, libraries and information services on the continent. The number of Christians in Africa is growing enormously, but the books and knowledge needed to feed them is not keeping pace, and the prophet Hosea's message is still true, '*People are destroyed by the lack of knowledge*'.

Christians are sometimes described as '*the people of the Book*'. Most of Africa's first post-colonial leaders were the products of missionary education, and what has endured is the link between church and learning. In the Christian context, the publisher has been the gatekeeper, the arbiter of accepted theology. But there is now information overload; the computer has enabled do-it-yourself publishing (in many formats), thus removing the publisher's traditional job of filtering out poor-quality material.

In Africa, the Christian book / information famine is especially acute, caused by poor reading habits, very poor publishing standards,

the cost of buying books, and the lack of libraries; access to information technology is a rare privilege. What's needed is African books for the African reading public.

But the situation is not hopeless, and Emmanuel made some suggestions for improving Africans' access to good Christian reading matter:

Get children into the reading habit early, although the lack of decent school libraries must be tackled. Emmanuel himself has set up a project for a small school library in the village where he grew up.

Africans think in terms of community, and they could pool their resources to create a small library of very relevant materials (probably short books and booklets, which are more readable than large tomes).

The African church is trying to

address these issues, but Africans need help in their struggle to catch up with the fast-moving world of publication, and honourable mention must be made of initiatives such as the Oxford-based *African Books Collective* which distributes African publications, and the *Sovereign World Trust*, based in Kent, which works in partnership with African church organisations to set up and run small libraries in several countries.

The mobile 'phone generation in Africa has embraced information technology, which is a powerful potential tool for e-publishing; Christian publishing should take advantage of this, so that the African church grows not only large, but well-nourished.

Questions and Comments

In the ensuing discussion, mention was made of language difficulties (though Emmanuel said that most African countries use English, French, Arabic or Portuguese

as their *lingua franca*); the enormous inequalities of income; whether donations of e-material can help; some commercial websites have taken on fund-raising for charities, so might something similar be done on behalf of African libraries?

Asked what practical thing we could do, Emmanuel spoke of his particular concern for village schools, where the reading habit should start.

In closing the Conference, Robert Foster thanked both the speakers, Richard Waller for organising the worship session, Eddie Olliffe for presiding, Mary Wood and Janice Paine for the many practical arrangements, the staff of the venue who'd been so helpful, and lastly Graham Hedges for doing so much to ensure a worthwhile and enjoyable day.

Diana Guthrie, MA, is Treasurer of *Christians in Library and Information Services*

BOOK AID RE-VISITED



**KAREN HANS reports
on a return visit by
Christian librarians on
Wednesday 13 May 2015**

Ada Hiley – who founded *Book Aid* twenty-six years ago with her husband Bob – kindly hosted a CLIS group at their London warehouse and shop in Kangley Bridge Road, Sydenham, South London.

Ada began by telling us

the story of faith and circumstance that God brought Bob and her through to establish and develop *Book Aid*. They had both begun working for the *Christian Literature Crusade*. Bob's role taking him abroad, at a time when foreign currency restrictions prevented many in African and Asian countries from purchasing Christian books. This made Bob determined to find a way to get Christian literature to those countries; he was eventually successful in working with *Tearfund* on a scheme to fund development work in Nigeria and Zambia by sending new books rather than cash, the books would then be sold in bookshops and the cash passed to the *Tearfund* partners on the ground.

The scheme was workable in the richer

African countries, but Christians in much poorer countries such as Uganda found out about books becoming available and lobbied Bob to provide for them too, not just to look after Christians in the richer countries! Bob and Ada had been committed to providing Christians abroad with new, high quality, resources. At this point, however, they recognised the practical difficulty of ever being able to send only new materials to very poor Christians around the world. They realised that many second hand resources would still be welcome and useful to others and the *Book Aid* ministry of collecting, sorting and sending mainly used materials was begun.

Ada told us that they are still very careful to only send books that are in

physically good condition and also to select books which are theologically sound and culturally appropriate. An exception to this is that some students of theology require critical texts as part of their studies. *Book Aid* have the freedom to send these when appropriate, whereas if the ministry was officially part of CLC that would be more difficult.

Today *Book Aid* volunteers collect books from all over the UK, sorting them carefully to meet the actual needs they are aware of via the partner shops, Bible schools and churches on the ground. The links that *Book Aid* have with Christian publishers mean that donations of new books and Bibles are sometimes given, a recent example being a lot of boxes of the ***Good News***

Bible - the publishers having produced a new edition.

We saw the sorting tables with different categories of books, the multitude of boxes still waiting to be opened and the neat new fully packed boxes, labelled and piled high on pallets waiting to be shipped. *Book Aid* ship over one million books abroad every year! Books are sold to local Christians at a small charge, more money if raised for the operation thorough the five UK second hand bookshops, but most of the shipping costs are covered by individual *Book Aid* partners who covenant to donate £100 each per year. More of these partners and needed and more volunteers around the country to collect, transport and sort the books

We were able to hear from a volunteer called Philomena who has been developing the work of *Book Aid* in Kenya. A Kenyan herself, Philomena has lived in the UK for many years, but with a burden for Christians in her home country. She could see when she visited Kenya that the Pastors were without the materials they needed to study the Word of God more deeply and develop their ministries. Philomena is now able to select materials here in the UK and oversee their distribution in Kenya, including God working in miraculous ways to provide bookshop premises.

At the end of our visit we were served refreshments in the bookshop above the London warehouse, which was an amazing sight for Librarian eyes! I fully

recommend a trip there, with a strong bag or case for carrying away the many treasures you will want to buy. Don't confuse it with the secular book sending organisation *BookAid International*, which is also based in South London! The bookshop is open Monday to Thursday 9am-5pm and the other shops are located in Barnard Castle, Ranskill, Warrington and Northern Ireland.

In closing, please remember *Book Aid* in your prayers. Philomena will soon be back in Kenya. Bob has health issues which mean he has recently needed to step back from most of the tasks he was doing. Others are learning to pick up these tasks, such as the correct paperwork for international shipping, and Bob's daughter is taking on his strategic role in the

organisation. She needs prayer for wise decisions in how to take the ministry forward. Ada is still very involved, but will also be caring for Bob. It was a real blessing to meet her.



Karen Hans, BSc, MA, MCLIP, is Prayer Secretary for *Christians in Library and Information Services* and works as School Librarian of the *St. Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls*.

CLIS

Christians in
Library and
Information
Services



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held
on Saturday 19 April 2015
in the Y Theatre, YMCA,
Leicester**

The meeting was chaired by the CLIS President, Eddie Olliffe.

Apologies were received from: Arabella Wood, Elizabeth Pool, Janet Danels, Jean Woods, Derek Jowett, Karen Hans and the Secretary, Graham Hedges (his first absence from the AGM in about thirty years).

Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting (Saturday 5 April 2014)

These were approved as correct. There were no matters arising.

Annual Report from the Chair and Secretary

In the absence of both these officers, this report, circulated in advance of the AGM, was read out by Robert Foster.

He mentioned the re-launch of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* as *Christians in Library and Information Services*, the Public Lecture in Bedford, and visits to *Fulham Palace* and the *Salvation Army International Heritage Centre*; four issues of both the ***Christian Librarian*** and the ***E-Newsletter*** had been published, plus press releases for *National Libraries Day*.

Robert thanked Louise Manners, Mary Wood and Nick Horley for all that they had done as Committee members and gave especial thanks to the Committee in general for dealing with the paperwork taken over from Graham Hedges at very short notice.

Mary Barker and Eleanor Neil had continued to deal with requests for library assistance, and a considerable sum of money had been raised at the launch of CLIS for the library of the *Chaima Christian Institute* in South Sudan.

There were one hundred and fifty five members of CLIS, plus eleven subscribers (mainly institutional), and thirty-five

complimentary subscriptions to the ***Christian Librarian*** were sent out.

In reply to a question about new members following the LCF / CLIS launch, Janice Paine (Membership Secretary) reported that five new members had been added during 2014.

The report was accepted.

Treasurer's Report (Nick Horley)

In the absence of an official report, Nick Horley reported that as the organisation is still losing members, and those that remain are increasingly paying the reduced subscription, CLIS income continues to fall, and it is likely that 2014 will show a deficit of over £1,000. Most of CLIS' expenditure is on the ***Christian Librarian***.

Eddie Olliffe reported that the financial situation had been discussed at the January meeting of the Executive Committee, and that decisions needed to be taken to streamline some operations.

Election of Executive Committee Members

President: Eddie Olliffe
Proposed by the Executive Committee

Chair: Robert Foster
Proposed by Louise Manners and Mary Wood

Secretary: Graham Hedges
Proposed by Kim Walker and Janet Danels

Treasurer: Diana Guthrie
Proposed by Mary Barker and Karen Hans

Scottish Secretary: Anne MacRitche
Proposed by Myrtle Anderson-Smith and Moira Mitchell

Overseas Secretary: Eleanor Neil
Proposed by Karen Hans and Diana Guthrie

Web Site and E-Newsletter Manager: John Wickenden
Proposed by Mary Wood and Janice Paine

Library Assistance Manager: Mary Barker
Proposed by Shirley Shire and Sue Mills

Minutes Secretary: No nomination

Member Without Portfolio: Andrew Parker
Proposed by Janice Paine and Malcolm Walker.

These were voted in en bloc.

Eddie Olliffe thanked retiring Committee members, with especial thanks going to Mary Wood and her husband Trevor for all the work they'd done in getting CLIS functioning so well on-line.

Motion proposed by the Treasurer on behalf of the Executive Committee

'That the annual subscription to Christians in Library and Information Services should be £30.00 from 1 January 2016, and that the reduced rate for two members living at the same address, and for retired, unemployed and student members, should be £20.00 each'.

This motion was approved by the meeting, with one vote against.

Statement from the Executive Committee concerning the position of Secretary/Editor (given by Robert Foster)

'During the illness of CLIS Secretary Graham Hedges interim arrangements were made to cover his duties. Those

arrangements will stay in place as long as appropriate.

'Graham has indicated that he would like to step down from the Committee in 2016. CLIS members who are interested in either the role of Secretary or Editor are encouraged to contact one of the officers'.

It was proposed that the large amount of CLIS work done by the Secretary be split into at least two roles, with possibly a reduction of overall CLIS activities.

The following suggestions were made :

(Richard Waller, Alison McNab): That there be three roles - Secretary, Publications Editor, Conference and Public Lecture Secretary.

(Mary Wood): That individual events and visits be arranged by ad hoc organisers, under an overall coordinator.

(Margaret Keeling): That Graham produce a job description and instructions for each of his present roles, and that new people in those roles shadow him until takeover.

That a General Secretary, plus Speakers Secretary and Events Organiser were needed.

(Christine Gagan): That **Christian Librarian** be reduced to three issues per annum.

Richard Waller commented that the original concept of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* had majored on publications; the Annual Conference and Lecture were only added later to the Fellowship's remit.

This agenda item closed with prayer for Graham and the situation, which was forcing the organisation to take seriously the matter of a new Secretary.

Any Other Business

Eleanor Neil had forwarded a request from the Nepal Baptist Bible College for assistance with putting their library catalogue online; this will publicised in the next **E-Newsletter**.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm with a poem by Nigerian member Daniel Olorunkosebi, read by Eddie Olliffe.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**News from the Membership Secretary:
Janice Paine, MCLIP, 22
Queensgate Gardens,
396 Upper Richmond
Road, Putney, London,
SW15 6JN. Tel. 020
8785 2174**

We would greatly appreciate it if payment could be sent before the end of April.

If you have changed address, job or e-mail, please let us know as soon as possible.

CHANGES TO ADDRESS, JOB ETC.

MATSVERRU, Mr David, Librarian, Ohangwena Region, P.O.Box 1144, Ohangwena, Namibia - Librarian, Ohangwena Region. Tel: +264813235680 - Email: dmatsveru@gmail.com

SIME, Mr Wayne C., 7 Haybluff Drive, Great Ashby, Herts SG1 6HA - Director of Library Services, Royal Society of Medicine. Tel: 01438 557967 - Email: ljsime@gmail.com

ANNUAL REPORT

LOUISE MANNERS and GRAHAM HEDGES look back on the year in which the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* was re-launched as *Christians in Library and Information Services*

YEAR OF CHANGE

The Annual Report of Christians in Library and Information Services for 2014-2015, first presented to the Annual General Meeting held in the Theatre, YMCA, 7 East Street, Leicester, LE1 6EY, on Saturday 19 April 2015.

Major Events

After operating for thirty-eight years as the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*, LCF re-launched in 2014 under the new name of *Christians in Library and Information Services*, emphasising that our membership is open to Christians in information related occupations of all kinds, not only traditional libraries. We held our re-launch annual conference on 5th April 2014 in London under the title "*Moving Forward*". The morning speaker was Dr. Neil Hudson of the *London Institute of Contemporary Christianity*. The afternoon speaker was the noted church statistician Dr. Peter Brierley of *Brierley Consultancy*.

The Annual Public Lecture took place in Bedford on Saturday 18th October with publisher Tony Collins, and his novelist wife Penelope Wilcox, talking about Christian fiction. This was preceded, in the morning, by a return visit to the John Bunyan Museum and Library at the Bunyan Meeting church.

Visits

On Tuesday 10 June 2014 CLIS visited *Fulham Palace*, the former home of the Bishops of London, where we were shown round by our retired member Vernon Burgess who works as a volunteer guide at the Palace.

On 17 September 2014 CLIS visited the *Salvation Army International Heritage Centre*, opposite Denmark Hill station in London, where we were able to view historic items from the archives as well as the book library and museum of *Salvation Army* history.

Publications and outside Publicity

Four issues of *Christian Librarian* were published during the year. The issues included reports of LCF/CLIS activities and talks from meetings. Louise Manners' short article on Bahrain, from the Spring 2015 issue, is to be re-published in the Mortlake with East Sheen Parish Magazine. Four issues of the *E-Newsletter* were also published in 2014.

Press releases were sent to Christian weekly newspapers and

radio programmes encouraging support for *National Libraries Day* in February 2015.

News items and reports about CLIS activities appeared in printed publications such as *CILIP Update* and the *Evangelical Times* and on various web sites including those of *Christians at Work* and *Transform Work UK*. Radio and TV personality Pam Rhodes also mentioned our re-launch and conference on her *Premier Christian Radio* programme and dedicated a hymn to us.

Officers of the Fellowship

Karen Hans re-joined the executive committee after a long absence. Her post is Prayer Secretary. Eddie Olliffe, as President, attended committee meetings and made worthwhile suggestions. Our Life Vice President, Philip Hayworth, was taken out for lunch by the executive committee to celebrate his eightieth birthday and later attended a committee meeting. Mary Wood retired from the committee in April 2015 to spend more time on English language teaching and her church activities and Nick Horley has stepped down after a number of years as Treasurer. Our Chair, Louise Manners, retired from the committee in April 2015 due to now living and working in Saudi Arabia. Four meetings of the executive committee were held during the year. When CLIS Secretary Graham Hedges was taken ill the entire committee rallied round to assist. Special thanks are due to President Eddie Olliffe and to our Membership Secretary, Janice Paine.

Library Assistance

Our committee members Mary Barker and Eleanor Neil continue to be available to give advice to Christian organisations, at home and abroad, maintaining libraries. Until his recent illness Graham Hedges continued to make occasional visits to the *Methodist Central Hall*, Westminster, to catalogue additional books for the *Epworth Library*. Our members Clare Stockbridge Bland, Diana Guthrie, Graham Hedges and Janice Paine, also spent two sessions placing plastic book jackets on Methodist worship books in the Central Hall basement. We have received a recent approach from the *London School of Theology* which may also lead to a future library project.

Membership Statistics

We currently have one hundred and fifty five members including some thirty five who have still not paid their subscriptions for 2015. Are you one of them? We have an additional eleven personal and institutional subscribers to *Christian Librarian* and an additional thirty-six complimentary copies of the journal are sent out to individuals and organisations.

Louise Manners, *DipLib, MA, MCLIP*, served until April 2015 as Chair of *Christians in Library and Information Services*.

Graham Hedges, *Hon. FCLIP. MCLIP*, is the Secretary of *Christians in Library and Information Services*.

SURVEY

Members were asked to take part in a survey on the future direction of *Christians in Library and information Services*. KAREN HANS summarises some of the responses

WELL, WHAT DID YOU THINK?

Thank you to all those who filled in the recent CLIS survey of members, either on-line or in paper format. There was roughly a 33% response rate, which in survey terms is not bad. The CLIS committee will be considering the results and ideas at our next full meeting and I would be very pleased to hear from any members who did not complete the survey, but would like to have their views taken into account. At the recent CLIS committee meeting we looked briefly at the main results and I thought it would be good also to feed these back to members as soon as possible, hence this summary.

The most important reasons for belonging to CLIS are the publications: firstly *Christian Librarian* and, not too far behind, the *E-Newsletter*. Other important reasons are being able to identify as a Christian in the profession and the opportunities to pray for people. (On that note, I was pleased to gain a couple more volunteers for the CLIS prayer group - the group receives periodic prayer requests regarding members, friends and any responses to the prayer form on the CLIS web site).

Library Assistance projects of the past featured very highly in the good memories members shared, however they come very far down the list of why members currently belong to CLIS. Retired members felt that their skills may be out-dated and therefore not of use in this way anymore. This seems to be a great pity as retired members might theoretically have more time to help on such programmes.

Meeting together with other members was also very low on the list of reasons to belong, whether the conference, lecture or visits. Some practical suggestions were made, such as more regional events, evening

visits / socials or an annual combined conference / lecture rather than two separate events, these will be looked at by the committee in due course.

Members felt that CLIS resources should be focussed most on workplace issues and promoting Christian values in libraries; that CLIS should have a stronger campaigning voice, more emphasis on spirituality and a stronger engagement with social media. It is encouraging, especially as many members are retired, to see that there is such a heart for reaching out and being salt and light to the current and future generations of Library workers and users. Less altruistic spending of resources, such as on more issues of ***Christian Librarian***, did not feature highly at all.

The mentoring of young professionals was suggested in the comments box and I wonder whether some of those members who are retired would feel this is a role they could volunteer to do if the committee decided to put some guidelines together? Dealing in a godly way with difficult managers or co-workers, for example, is a timeless issue and one which requires maturity in life and in the faith. Offering an occasional listening ear and committing to pray for a specific younger Librarian would be an invaluable help and one that is not always offered by churches. Do let me know your views on this, as it was not a specific question on the survey so it would be helpful for the committee to have an idea of members' response to this suggestion.

In closing, thank you again for responding (whether you have done so already or are about to write to me now...). There was great affection and appreciation for CLIS in your comments and a mixture of views on the way forward: a realisation that CLIS is not the only group with falling commitment from new members, some pessimism as to what can be done and a call to prayer for God to show the way forward and enable us to keep blessing Christians in Libraries and Information Services and keep being a witness to those who do not yet know Him. Please do pray in the coming weeks and months that the committee will make inspired decisions with God directing us.

Karen Hans, BSc, MA, MCLIP, is Prayer Secretary for *Christians in Library and Information Services* and works as School Librarian of the *St. Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls*.

REVIEW

FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

WHERE IS GOD AT WORK?

William Morris

Monarch, 2015, £8.99, ISBN 978-0857216281



William Morris writes in a lively, entertaining yet astute and wise way and is very convincing that God is and should be present in the workplace even in the most difficult situations. He is a tax lawyer and an ordained Anglican priest – part of the ministry team at *St. Martin in the Fields* and manages to combine these two seemingly very different roles successfully.

In the first part of the book he quotes the story of Jacob's dream of a ladder to heaven and waking to say "*surely the Lord is in this place and I didn't know it*". This is very relevant to the workplace

as how we interact with colleagues, users, customers and bosses is a very important way of witnessing.

Work's dilemmas and where God is in them is the focus of the second part and includes what to do if you're asked to do something against your Christian beliefs, to complete against your colleagues. Also if you're asked to work harder and harder, if your boss asks you to lie, or if you do something bad in the workplace. There aren't always easy answers to any of these dilemmas but acting with integrity and according to your Christian beliefs can achieve a good outcome.

In the final part - *Where is God at work in the Bible?* is based on the parable of the Talents, taking in turn the servant who is given five talents and doubles them, then the servant given two talents who doubles them and lastly the servant given one talent who hands it back intact, with a final chapter on the master of these servants.

In the epilogue William Morris concludes that we all can and should witness at work by our words and actions but this should always be done with care and never in conflict with workplace rules and care is especially needed with influencing financial decisions. There are questions for study groups at the end.

Anne MacRitchie, BSc, is the Scottish Secretary of *Christians in Library and Information Services*.

ARTICLES

How effective is your library? Writing from an American and academic library perspective, BETH AVERY considers

ASSESSMENT IN THE LIBRARY

Whether we call it assessment or rating, assessment happens all the time and everywhere. We make judgments on how products and services meet our needs based on our own experience or that of others. In the past we relied on printed reports from trusted sources, now we go to the Internet at *Yelp* or even *Google* maps. Libraries are rated by our users, administrators, and funders. External drivers for this include accountability and justification of funding requests, and a need to meet accreditation and other standards. Internal drivers include improving services/collections and developing marketing campaigns to promote library resources and services to users and potential users.

We assess to develop and understand what we are doing which will then allow us to build on what we are currently doing that works, find ways to improve what we are doing, compare ourselves to a standard, and understand how our individual work contributes to the overall service offered. In order to collect the information needed, demonstrate the value of your library and make changes to improve your values assessment needs to become a part of your everyday routine in your library.

Assessment methods

Traditional methods of assessment include inputs and outputs. These are based on numbers that libraries found easy to collect. Common inputs

look at how big or how much of something we have, such as size of the budget, number of books, size of the staff, size of the facility. The thought behind this was the more of something the better it had to be. The more staff you had the better the services. The more books held the better the collection. But is this necessarily true? It could be that the number of people who come in to the library is high because you have a faster Internet connection than they have at home, or you have lots of books because for the past twenty years the friends group gave the library all the books left over from their book sale.

With the realisation that counts didn't demonstrate use, we started to document the amount of use our library gets, or outputs. Outputs include measures such as the number of books checked out, the number of hits on the web page or a database, the number of people attending workshop/instruction sessions. This type of counting also makes some assumptions. If a person checks out a book, it is read. If you look at a webpage or use a database you use the information you get from it. We can't actually know that. Perhaps the book sat on a desk until it was renewed the maximum number of times. Perhaps you didn't find the information you needed on the web site or database. Inputs and outputs are quantitative measures that use numbers to demonstrate

Taking assessment a step further we attempted to find out the contribution of the library to the organisation and began to look at the outcome of the interaction between the library and the user. Outcomes change the orientation of assessment from how good is it by the numbers to how much good the library does for its users. These measures look at things like the changes in knowledge, behaviours, attitudes, skills, or status of the user. Outcomes are generally qualitative methods and can include questionnaires and quick surveys, interviews, personal reflections, focus groups, observation and mining data to see what users actually do, and usability studies.

Implementing assessment in your library

Assessment can be seen as a burden or just "*one more thing to do*" that doesn't have any impact. In order to assess your library it is important to

start by creating a culture of assessment.

“A Culture of assessment is an organisational environment in which decisions are based on facts, research, and analysis, and where services are planned and delivered in ways that maximize positive outcomes and impacts for customers and stakeholders.” (Lakos, and Phipps)

You need to make it clear to staff and users that the data collection has meaning and purpose. If you make it short and simple, respect their time so it fits into the staff's normal routine and doesn't disturb the user's reason for their visit to the library, and say thank you, there is a better chance that you will get buy-in and co-operation.

Outcomes assessment frequently centres on the user experience (UX). It can answer questions such as:

Are library services and programmes valued by our patrons?

Are we meeting the needs of our users and non-users? By identifying what is most important to them and seeing if we are providing it?

How can we improve?

Assessment starts with planning. A typical plan, according to the ARL, value of Academic Libraries, contains :

1. Purpose – defines what you want to learn from assessment.
2. Links to strategic documents (mission, vision) - ties assessment to the basic purpose of the library.
3. Structure – defines how the assessments will be conducted. Does one person or a group coordinate it? How will the information be used?
4. Resources needed – considers staff time involved, and materials and expertise needed.
5. Data policies – address institutional requirements for inclusion of human subjects in your assessment process and how their rights and privacy will be protected; how the data will be stored and used.
6. Goals and outcomes – define what you are looking for, what are the measurable outcomes.
7. Timeline – gives exact dates from the

beginning of the assessment to the final report.

What do we do with what we find out?

Assessment should not be a separate activity, it should be part of a continuous improvement circle. This circle looks at:

What we want to achieve

Criteria for success – what does what we want to achieve look like

How we will assess – what evidence, data, information is needed and how will it be collected

Analysis – what we learn from what we have collected and what problems/issues are revealed.

Continuous improvement – what changes are necessary and how will we implement them?

There is no reason to wait until all the data is collected to start thinking about possible solutions. The results from a well-planned assessment can be used to develop short, medium and long terms solutions to problems. Carlson observes that *“When data is part of the daily workflow, the questions which can be asked of it are not limited to a specific project.”* For example, as the data from a study of the reference desk (Carlson) was made available to the staff trends started to be noticed early on:

Short term identified specific issues, such as why are students having trouble finding known articles in the databases and the suggested solution was to implement an article finder.

Medium term looked at the role of the staff at the reference desk and the need to continue to have a reference desk staffed by professional librarians.

Long term identified the bottleneck that students where having in doing library research.

Once we have implemented changes, after sufficient time for them to become practice we then start the circle again to make sure the changes were successful or if they did not hit the target for improved services or collections.

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One of the book world's most prestigious literary awards has a long standing history of stirring up controversy. KAREN HANS comments on this year's Carnegie shortlist

THE CARNEGIE AWARD DOES IT AGAIN THIS YEAR

The title of this piece refers to the fact that the Carnegie Award has yet again stirred up controversy amongst librarians. Perennial questions include: why are the short-lists so wide ranging in target age? Why can't the shadowers choose the winners? Why wasn't my favourite on the short-list? Why was that one on the short-list? etc.

This year most of the debate amongst school librarians was focussed on ***When Mr Dog bites*** by Brian Conaghan. The cover (and hence the Carnegie Award promotional poster) advertise the fact that there is likely to be foul language within the book with the use of *\$# type symbols and the review quote "*funny, foul-mouthed, fantastic*". This quote seems to me to be part of the issue: the author's defence of the language used is that the main character suffers with a version of Tourette's syndrome that involves swearing and thus cannot help himself (though wishes he could). The review quote, however, and the type faced used for it seems to me to be trying to appeal to readers who may just want to enjoy a '*foul-mouthed*' book for the sake of it.

The author further defended his use of foul language by the fact that he had worked as a teacher and all the pupils spoke that way, therefore it was authentic. (Please do view the Carnegie Award author interviews for yourself on the shadowing website if you can: http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/shadowingsite/watch_listen.php). Working in an inner London school, and having children aged eleven and twelve years, I know there is pressure for children and teenagers to speak that way, but also that they do not all bow to that pressure - my daughter, for example, having persuaded her classmates to swear less. Using that as a reason makes it harder to present a different possibility of life to

young people. I agree with C. S. Lewis that "we read to know we are not alone" and thus need books which reflect our life and concerns, however I also think that swearing in books or life is lazy and thus limits vocabulary and the understanding that grows with an extensive vocabulary. I worry that a young person cannot 'unread' something - much like not being able to erase images once seen and I think it is possible and more skilful to write 'authentic' characters without being explicit or offensive.

I have just proof-read a draft of a new Young Adult novel set in East London and it was very bleak and very realistic, but with not a single expletive or graphic 'intimacy' scene - both are skilfully painted as part of the picture, the reader has no doubt that the main characters are in a full relationship and that other characters are nasty pieces of work, but it is all written without the need to rub the readers' faces (or minds) in it - the writer is leaving it to the readers' imaginations to fill in the gaps and therefore the reader is able to interpret at a level that they are aware of / comfortable with. It does not shy away from themes of youthful lust, teenage parents, rebellion, drugs, crime, postcode gangs, alienation from parents and society and lack of hope. I would call that appropriate and award winning Young Adult writing.

I wondered if the author of ***When Mr Dog bites*** had considered giving his protagonist a different type of Tourette's as I would then have had less of a problem in promoting the whole short list to the Year Seven class (eleven and twelve year olds) shadowing the Award this year. As a church school we are generally more careful than many schools or public libraries would be about access and recommendations. I classed ***When Mr Dog bites*** and ***More or less*** by Patrick Ness as Sixth Form fiction and explained this to the class. Beyond the swearing, which I could understand being present due to the form of Tourette's syndrome, I was more concerned by the attitude and thought language of the main character towards a girl with whom he wanted to have a relationship.

As a class we discussed these issues (having watched the interview with the author) and I was surprised that many of them agreed with my view, others were of the opinion that if the swearing offended you could choose not to read the book, but objected to it being restricted access. The discussion between school librarians was more strongly pro-access and even pro-promotion of the book. A minority (or maybe a silent majority - who can tell?) of us expressed the view that there is a huge difference

between stocking a book and actively promoting it. I don't agree that it is censorship to decide not to actively promote a given book, especially to children aged eleven and twelve. Yes of course we stock the teenage angst novels and when they feel the need they will be there for them, but I am not comfortable about exposing all pupils to explicit language let alone encouraging them to read it.

There are many eleven and twelve year olds who, sadly, have been allowed or encouraged to absorb adult media in all its forms and we also have many girls at our school in very difficult out-of-school situations with terrible pressure on them from gangs, etc, but I am pretty sure that there are also many who are perfectly happy still reading books which are not full of teen angst - we have to be mindful of all our '*customers*' and support the parents who are being gradual and responsible about their child's upbringing .

I am sure I cannot be the only parent in the UK who attempts to teach their child to be thoughtful / critical about what they are feeding their minds with and why and the effect that media has on us. Learning to be mature and responsible is a positive adult thing, being exposed to Adult / Young Adult media as a child, however, is not wholly positive. In the event the winner of the Carnegie Award 2015 was the less controversial, but no less '*difficult*' or issue-based ***Buffalo Soldier*** by Tanya Landman, a historical fiction which involves contextualised rape and racism. I would be very pleased to hear from other CLIS members who maybe have different views to those I have expressed – that's the Carnegie for you!

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ALISON BARR introduces the new *Marylebone Road* fiction imprint launched by the *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge*

ELEMENT OF REDEMPTION

The development of the *Marylebone House* list reflects SPCK's commitment to reach beyond an established Christian readership to those on the fringes of the church; those with an interest in '*spirituality*', however vaguely defined, and those who would profess no Christian faith at all. A recent visit to our archives in *Cambridge University Library* confirmed this to be reassuringly consistent with the vision of our founder, Thomas Bray (1658-1730). Under Bray's guidance, SPCK presented the Christian message in ways that were appropriate for his time and society. Today, through publishing good fiction, which offers an insight into a Christian worldview and an element of redemption, we are making contact with people we could never hope to reach through prayer books, hymn books or Bibles. The non-threatening nature of novels, which tend to be read for pleasure in a relaxed and open frame of mind, is one of their real strengths.

The response to the new list from our major customers has been thrilling. Secular wholesalers and booksellers alike have remarked to our sales reps that this is a side of Christianity that makes them sit up and take notice. As Catherine Fox, author of ***Acts and Omissions***, remarked in an extensive interview with the ***Church Times*** ('*Christian fiction in a novel form*', 12 September .2014), people want to read intelligent, compassionate writing about human experience: '*There's a hunger for it.*' The potential appeal of the *Marylebone House* list

to Christian and general readers alike may be illustrated by the fact that, in the same week, ***Acts and Omissions*** was chosen as a Christmas Book by the ***Church Times*** and as one of the Best Books of 2014 by ***The Guardian***.

Acts and Omissions, set in the contemporary fictional diocese of Lindchester, is an affectionate homage to Trollope's ***Barchester Chronicles*** and originally appeared as a weekly blog between January and December 2013. When we began discussing publication with Catherine, it quickly became clear that there was considerable enthusiasm for a sequel: consequently, ***Unseen Things Above*** was accordingly blogged between April and December 2014, and appeared in published form this June. Diarmaid MacCulloch writes of the book, '*What a treat it is to have some Fresh Expressions from the diocese of Lindchester. Catherine Fox's second helping of bad language, sex and Evensong is Anglicanism at its best; her wit, compassion and rueful optimism are irresistible.*' By popular demand, a third book, ***Realms of Glory***, will be blogged between Advent 2015 and Advent 2016 and published in 2017.

Though highly enjoyable, Catherine's books have a serious contribution to make in the way they address contentious theological issues. Kelvin Holdsworth (Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow) writes, '*This is a novelist who is never frightened to enter ecclesiastical territory where bishops fear to tread. She writes not merely with affection but with love for an institution that is creaking under the weight of its own contradictions.*'

We plan to reissue the last of Catherine's Durham-based trilogy, ***Love for the Lost*** in October, following ***Angels and Men*** in July 2014 and ***The Benefits of Passion*** in February 2015.

Kate Charles' novels also stem from a deep affection for the *Church of England*. The clerical detective, Callie Anson, first appeared in ***Evil Intent*** (Allison and Busby, 2005) as a young curate facing male colleagues bitterly opposed to the inclusion of women in the priesthood. In ***False Tongues***, published in June, she is largely removed from the scene of the crime – the brutal stabbing of a young teen caught up in a world of cyber-bullying. While her police officer fiancé supports the victim's family through a bewildering investigation in which nothing is as it seems, Callie attends a theological college reunion with her clueless ex in Cambridge – and finds herself confronted by the equally challenging mysteries of the human heart.

In June and July we re-issued Kate's '***Book of Psalms***' novels, which have delighted reviewers and many thousands of readers over the last twenty years: '*No one is more skilled [at the modern ecclesiastical mystery] than Kate Charles. With the lightest of touches, she weaves the goriest murders into a convincing and provocative backdrop of clerical politics . . . Thoroughly entertaining, even to those of no religious bent*' (***The Times***). Each of the five volumes comes with a new introduction, explaining its original context: the outing of a priest with a hidden gay past (***A Drink of Deadly Wine***); a visit to Walsingham for the National Pilgrimage (***The Snares of Death***); the vote to ordain women (***A Dead Man Out of Mind***); the early 1990s goings-on at Lincoln Cathedral (***Appointed to Die***); and the Church Commissioners' losses through unwise investments (***Evil Angels Among Them***). As Kate writes, '*The Church is the perfect setting for a crime novel precisely because human nature at its ugliest is most evident set against the ideal which the Church represents.*'

Kel Richards, a veteran Australian journalist, is the bestselling author of ***The Corpse in the Cellar*** and ***The Country House Murders*** – the first two titles in a projected series of 1930s

murder mysteries due out this summer. We hope people will be drawn in by the nostalgic appeal of the beautiful English setting, and hooked by the entertaining style of writing. However, the reason we are so pleased to be publishing these titles is that the murder mystery in each case is tackled by ‘the brilliant mind and larger-than-life personality of C.S. “Jack” Lewis (beloved creator of Narnia)’. Woven throughout the story is an engaging conversation between a young former student, Tony Morris, and Lewis, which offers readers an easily-digestible insight into Lewis’s Christian worldview.

Kenneth Steven is one of Scotland’s leading poets, and the lyricism of his new novel, ***The End of the North Wind***, deepens its impact and makes it a joy to read. Set on Iona in the time of Columba, it tells the widely appealing story of a young boy involved in the making of the Book of Kells, and his struggle to find himself spiritually.

Over the next few years, we aim to develop a range of literary, middlebrow and accessible *Marylebone House* titles (following the SPCK model of publishing books for all sectors of the Christian market). Just at the moment, we’re delighted to be finalising a film tie-in of a major motion picture of ‘*one of the finest historical novels written by anyone, anywhere*’. The scope of our publishing is potentially extensive, and that makes us very excited indeed!

Alison Barr works for the *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge* as the Publisher for the *Marylebone House* imprint.

RACHEL JOHNSON describes the origin and publication of her book *A Complete identity: the Youthful Hero in the Work of G.A. Henty and George MacDonald*, Eugene, OR, Wipf and Stock, 2014

JUST A RE-WRITE?

In the spring of this year, Graham Hedges asked me to submit an article for *Christian Librarian* on the subject, production, and what I have learned from the experience of writing, and finding a publisher for, *A Complete Identity: the Youthful Hero in the Work of G. A. Henty and George MacDonald*. A year after publication, it is possible to take a step back and reflect a little on the process, which began with a random idea of no great significance to anyone's life, or so I thought. Perhaps the best way to approach this recollection is backwards, from maturity to gestation, with three questions which I will attempt to answer and concluding, like any fable with a *'what have I learned?'*

What exactly is this book about?

In this book I offer an investigation of the hero figure in the second half of the nineteenth century, the youthful hero of the title, focused through the lens of the writing of George Alfred Henty (1832-1902) and George MacDonald (1824-1905). It is not a comparative study. If it is given a label it would be a study in complementarity, re-assessing the oppositional critiques of the writing of these two authors in order to demonstrate the complementary characteristics of the hero figure which construct *'a complete identity'* commensurate with the ideal hero of this part of the *'Victorian'* (1837-1900) period. This construct is set against the social, political and religious conditions of the historical period and points to the way in which these writers interact with the conditions and ideologies of

their time. By such historical embedding, I discover a relationship between the expansion of the British Empire and youthful heroism, in the construct of the child and the construct of the hero.

By linking the rapidly changing social, political and religious conditions of the time, I explore the connection between uncharted exotic, geographical space (Henry Morton Stanley's '*one wide enormous blank*'¹) and the unknown, psychological space so evident in the works of MacDonald. This connection is made through examination of how '*the other*', as a threat to the status quo, is represented in the stories of Henty and MacDonald whether the '*other*' is perceived as foreign, female, child, colonial or domestic.

In the second strand of the work, beginning with the chapter headed '*Genre, Mode and Ideology*', I focus on the concept of a continuum between realism, romance, fantasy and fairy tale and the blurring of boundaries within the narratives of both authors. In this section, close reading of the chosen texts supports my discussion, which includes Henty's use of fairy tale motifs and narrative structure, and MacDonald's employment of both ostensibly realistic narratives and the literary fairy tale to address social issues in the society in which he lived.

Having established the historical and literary position of the authors, in true librarian fashion, I move from the general to the particular by addressing the construct of the child and the construct of the hero as these constructs formed and developed from small adult, through the child of Romanticism, to the ideal of the nineteenth century. This section includes a discussion on 'the gendered hero' since both Henty and MacDonald created strong female heroes who often took a leading role in whatever 'adventure' was needed.

Finally, since many of the characteristics of the hero found in the nineteenth century ideal have transferred into the twenty-first century hero, female or male, I briefly discuss the relevance of these writers to, and their influence on, the study of contemporary children's literature, to show: "*that the concerns driving the (current) reprinting programmes reflect the same concerns that made Henty and MacDonald popular authors in their own time*"ⁱⁱ are an instance of Leon Garfield's statement that "*history becomes a mirror in which we see ourselves*".ⁱⁱⁱ

How did it all begin?

At this point we need to take another step back to the origin of the book in the thesis, a step necessary to give the book a birth point. Finished in 2008, the gestation of the thesis lay in a long-standing interest, enthusiasm, some might say obsession, with the work of George MacDonald and a life-long awareness of G. A. Henty^{iv}, despite having read very little of his writing.

The thesis was the outworking of an idea, or thought, that floated into consciousness in that moment in the early morning when one's mind is clear, before the demands of the day take over and one feels as though clear rational thought is an impossible dream. The idea was simply that although George MacDonald's writing and the work of Henty are critiqued as oppositional, they might not be as polarised as their many and various critiques assume.

The next, and unexpected, development came after a conversation that began with a question about the possibility of acquiring a copy of Winnie-the-Pooh in Icelandic (if anyone can tell me how to do this, I would be grateful since that question was never conclusively resolved). The conversation was with the Director of the *International Forum for Research in Children's Literature* (IFRCL) at the *University of Worcester*^v, who went on to ask if I had thought of doing any further study and if so what? Five minutes discussion on the random idea and she had set up a 'formal' interview a few days later. After one more important conversation, with Terry, my long-suffering husband, I had signed every spare moment of life outside of the day job away for the next five years. If he had not been so supportive the project would have been impossible.

To encapsulate the stimulating, exciting, often stressful, often exhausting years that followed, would need more than another article. To quote just one comment from my research journal, the process was, '*like life, messy and unpredictable*'. It included: times of the usual intense self-doubt, supervisions fuelled by tea or hot chocolate, meeting many interesting and helpful people, travelling to many far-flung conferences and building friendships, two magnificent external Supervisors and many hours of hard work and eventually the result was a thesis fit to submit to examiners.

By the end of 2007, with thesis submitted, viva survived, and minor amendments completed, I would have been content to never have to think about '*the image of the hero in the work of*' again.

Who would want to publish this book?

Rarely does life move with clear cut markers, especially when one has friends who make suggestions. One of my external Supervisors, whom I am now privileged to call friend, encouraged me to seek a publisher. Realising that neither MacDonald nor Henty are a majority interest in the UK, I initially sent off a book proposal with one or two re-written chapters to a UK publisher, anticipating a rejection letter by return and expecting a lack of understanding as to the wider application of the hero figure represented in the work of Henty and MacDonald not only in the wider context of the historical period in which they wrote but also in terms of influence on subsequent children's literature. You might say I was less than optimistic, which at the time held a certain sense of relief, since I felt a rest would be welcome. The letter of rejection came, but with enough encouragement to make me think it might be worth pursuing, especially as the message from my former Supervisor was '*you can't give up just because one publisher has said no*'.

The next attempt was made after a little more thought. I contacted a fellow MacDonald enthusiast who published material on MacDonald, Lewis, and the Inklings amongst other projects^{vi} for a wide market. I knew he would not be interested in an academic proposal so was able to email him for advice in the knowledge that there would be no conflict of interest. He immediately suggested investigating *Wipf and Stock*^{vii}, a Christian publishing house with a number of imprints including *Pickwick Publications*, an academic imprint with an interest in re-written doctoral theses. I duly investigated their website, submitted a proposal with two re-written chapters and with a sigh of relief, settled down to the four-to-six week wait noted on their website for response.

Within a week Wipf and Stock responded to say they were interested. My anticipated month of peacefulness disappeared, but clearly, having got that far I needed to pull myself together and get down to some work.

Just a re-write?

I read through the referencing and formatting requirements, both of which appeared far more daunting than the prospect of re-writing the thesis for readers as opposed to writing for examiners. Re-writing was enjoyable and positive. It gave me the opportunity to exclude some of the terminology required for examination and to include some concepts and explanations not in the thesis. Having read a practical and helpful publication^{viii} two years before, just in case it came in handy, I noted the key principles suggested and tried to keep them in mind whilst re-writing.

I could bore even librarians, who might be interested in such things, with the vagaries of referencing, but will be content to say that it was not possible to use bibliographic software (as I had done for the thesis) therefore the existing software had to be taken out and replaced manually with the style needed. Anyone who has tried to do such an exercise may know that the software fights back and sometimes sneakily re-inserts the references taken out, overnight, so that when you come to the work the next day ... I leave the rest to your imagination.

What happened next was astonishing. I sent two chapters of re-referenced and formatted work to the unfortunate editor allocated to me, and received an immediate reply telling me that the chapters and referencing were fine and that he lived in Worcester (UK), which was where we were living at the time. He is the only Wipf & Stock editor who lives in the UK.^{ix} He suggested we meet for coffee. After an hour, mainly talking about George MacDonald but also touching on the process of production, the final and only formatting query I could not solve was sorted. *'Don't worry'* he said, *'just send it to me; I can fix it with one click on my computer'*. And so the re-writing and re-referencing continued until I had a complete typescript to send for publication.

A small diversion

Throughout the period of study and re-writing I continually asked myself *'is this the right thing to be doing at the moment?'* *'Should I be spending time differently?'* In other words *'does God really want me to be doing*

this?' Given that I had fallen into the situation 'backwards', without looking for it, that unanticipated support and encouragement had come at crucial times, and that the book proposal had been accepted, I took the answer to be 'yes, *get on with it*'. That my editor was not only in the UK but in Worcester and was happy to provide any help needed appeared to me as a definite confirmation that for some reason, this was the task I had been given at that particular time. This confirmation leads me on to the final question.

What have I learned?

Firstly, trust: meeting up with the editor was yet another instance of my need to be constantly reminded that our faith is in a trustworthy God, not someone who gives us, to paraphrase Alice, '*six impossible things to believe before breakfast*' and then abandons us to the impossibility.

Secondly: the process of the study and subsequently the production of the book was a constant reminder of limitations to physical and mental energy. This 'lesson' was one of slowly learning that just because any given project is interesting and the right one, it doesn't necessarily mean the physical resources are there to undertake that project and everything else in life as well. Adjusting time management to take this limitation into consideration is a constant difficulty.

Thirdly, and on a more practical note, the entire experience taught me not only the efficacy of the project management edict to break down any given project into manageable packages, but to focus on the completion of each step before becoming distracted by the next. This approach does not mean no planning, if anything it necessitates more careful planning and priority setting, and the need to learn to say no to extraneous demands sometimes.

Fourthly: know when to give in. Despite the temptation to do so, I was aware for example, that to produce the book index myself was beyond the time and other limitations already mentioned that I was learning to recognise.

Fifth and last: never underestimate the time and effort involved in the apparent peripherals, such as the stylistic requirements, providing the publisher with the relevant information and contacts for marketing and the ongoing requirements to respond to queries or requests for articles for example. Taking these five main points into consideration, I reflect that it wasn't 'just a rewrite', rewriting is the easy bit.

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ⁱ Ashcroft, Bill. "Primitive and Wingless: the Colonial Subject as Child." In *Dickens and the Children of Empire*, edited by W. Jacobson, 184-202. Basingstoke, UK: Macmillan, 2000. p. 187

ⁱⁱ Johnson, Rachel E. *A Complete Identity: the Youthful Hero in the work of G.A. Henty and George MacDonald*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2014. p. 210

ⁱⁱⁱ Garfield, Leon. "Historical Fiction for our Global Times." *The Horn Book Magazine* Nov/Dec 1988, 736-42. p. 738

^{iv} The reason for this awareness is another story.

^v This person became my Director of Studies, the best, I believe, anyone could wish to have.

^{vi} Winged Lion Press

<http://www.wingedlionpress.com/>. Anyone interested in C.S. Lewis and the Inklings will be excited by the publications produced by Winged Lion Press.

^{vii} Wipf and Stock Publishers

<http://wipfandstock.com/>

^{viii} Germano, William. *From Dissertation to Book*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

^{ix} Robin Parry is a Christian theologian particularly known for advocating Christian universalism. For more information on his work see his blog <http://theologicalscribbles.blogspot.co.uk/>