

CLIS

Christians in
Library and
Information
Services



FOUNDED IN 1976 AS THE LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

An organisation 'in liaison' with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. Affiliated to: Christian Research Association; Christians at Work; Evangelical Alliance; Transform Work UK; Universities' & Colleges' Christian Fellowship. Web Site: www.christianlis.org.uk

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E-NEWSLETTER, No. 77, MARCH 2018

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There is still time to book for this year's **Annual Conference** which is to be held on **Saturday 14 April 2018** in the Princes Street Room at the **Salvation Army's Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2DJ**, from 10.30. a.m. The theme is **Freedom and Truth** and the speakers are **Mark Jones**, chairman of the **Lawyers' Christian Fellowship** and **Malcolm Martin**, deputy leader of the **Christian People's Alliance**. Mark will be speaking on the subject "**Gospel Freedom and the Workplace**" while Malcolm will be asking the question "**What is Truth? And how do we tell it**" with reference to current debates about "*post-truth*" and "*fake news*".

The booking fee for the conference is £30.00, including lunch and refreshments, with a reduced rate of £25.00 for unwaged delegates and free

admission for students. To book your place please send your payment, made payable to **Christians in Library and Information Services**, to our treasurer: **Diana Guthrie**, 5 Arden Mead, 4 Staveley Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 7LH. Telephone 01323 419181. E mail treasurer@christianlis.org.uk

Please note that, although the postal address of the **Regent Hall** is in London's Oxford Street, access to the Princes Street Room is via a separate entrance in Princes Street, a turning off Regent Street.

HISTORIC LONDON

Members and friends of CLIS are invited to take part in a historical walking tour of the City of London organised on our behalf by **Christian Heritage London**. This will take in many sites associated with influential Christian figures, among them John Bunyan, John Wesley, John Newton, William Wilberforce and Elizabeth Fry.

The tour takes place on **Wednesday 23 May 2018**, from 2.00. p.m., but those who can get to London on time will be having lunch together beforehand, from about 12.00. noon. The cost of the tour is £10.00 per head and bookings and payments should be made payable to **Christians in Library and Information Services** and sent to the present writer.

OXFORD WORKING PARTY

There may still be time to sign up for the second archives working party in the Oxford headquarters of the **Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship**. This has been arranged for **Monday 19 to Friday 23 March 2018**. Travel expenses, accommodation and meals will be provided by UCCF and previous experience of archives work is not necessarily required. If you can come to Oxford for all or part of the week, or would like more information, please contact **Richard Waller**, telephone 01942 205843, e-mail randnwaller@blueyonder.co.uk

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Will you, and your church, be supporting **Arts and Entertainment Sunday** on **Sunday 15 April 2018**? **Arts and Entertainment Sunday** is an initiative of **Christians in Entertainment**, with support from the **Arts Centre Group** and **Theatre Chaplaincy UK** and you can find more information about CIE at <http://www.cieweb.org.uk/> As Christian librarians we have good reasons for supporting the writers, film makers, musicians and others whose works are represented on our library shelves. Can you get involved, perhaps by arranging for a prayer of thanksgiving for the arts to be included in your Sunday service?

APPROACHING RETIREMENT

CARE (*Christian Action, Research and Education*) have announced “*an exciting new initiative*” for Christians who are fast approaching their retirement years, or who are already there. Those who are taking the leap into retirement will know that there are unprecedented opportunities today for people who are retired and active – and some challenges too.

AfterWorkNet is intended to grow into an interactive community – especially through its **Facebook** group – where readers can tap into the conversations and wisdom of others, raise questions and make their own contributions. If you are retired, or almost there, you are encouraged to join the **Facebook** group today.

If you are interested please visit www.afterworknet.com where you will find “*a vibrant collection of relevant information, ideas and stories*”. Every Monday morning CARE will post a blog to help readers start their week, many written by well known Christian leaders. They will address a variety of topics relevant to those who are retired and active and eager to live life to the full.

BILLY GRAHAM AND LIBRARIES

Many members of CLIS will have good reasons to give thanks for the life and ministry of the famous evangelist Dr. **Billy Graham**, who died on Wednesday 23 February 2018, aged ninety-nine years.

Dr. Graham's funeral, on Friday 2 March 2018, took place at the **Billy Graham Library** in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is a public museum and library documenting the life and work of Billy Graham. The 40,000 square feet complex, first opened in 2007, is located in the grounds of the international headquarters of the **Billy Graham Evangelistic Association**.

The main galleries within the library display numerous "*presentations, pictures, music, artefacts and voices*" from throughout Dr. Graham's ministry. Certain features of the library may strike some readers as a little bizarre. For example, visitors are greeted by a mechanical "*talking cow*" which talks about Billy's early years as a member of a family of dairy farmers and gives a welcome speech. The complex also includes a gallery devoted to Billy Graham's wife, Ruth Bell Graham, a dairy bar cafe, and a bookshop. You can find more information about the Library at <https://billygrahamlibrary.org>

The work of Billy Graham is also commemorated in the Library at the **Billy Graham Center** at **Wheaton College**, Illinois, which offers researchers, students and the public a comprehensive record of evangelism and missions in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The archives section collects and preserves unpublished information that tells the story of North American Protestant and inter-denominational missions and evangelistic activities through the years. You can find more information at <https://www.wheaton.edu/academics/academic-centers/billy-graham-center/>

I am sure that, like me, some CLIS members will have attended Billy Graham's British campaigns in the 1960s or 1980s or his **Spre-e '73** (*Spiritual Re-Emphasis*) event at **Earls Court** in 1973. I was too young to attend the first great crusade at **Harringay Arena** in 1954 but, much more recently, I had the interesting experience of cataloguing the minutes books from that campaign which form part of the archive collection of the **Evangelical Alliance**, the organisation that sponsored that original series of evangelistic meetings.

EASTER AT THE CINEMA

A production of Handel's **Messiah** from Bristol's **Old Vic Theatre** is to be screened in cinemas across the United Kingdom and Ireland for one night only on **Wednesday 28 March 2018**.

The Christian organisation **Damaris Media** suggest that this will be a moving performance of a classic work centred on Jesus Christ. Visit the **Damaris Media** web site at <https://www.damarismedia.com> for articles to help Christians engage with the production, further information about the showing (including details of the cinemas where the performance can be seen) and other current and recent **Damaris Media** projects. Perhaps CLIS members will be able to promote the showing by displaying relevant information in their libraries or their churches.

Cinema-goers can look forward to two films of Christian interest scheduled for release this month: **Mary Magdalene** and **Paul, Apostle of Christ**. Keep an eye on the media for further screening details.

Graham Hedges

EASTER MEDITATION

There is nothing even remotely sensible sounding about Easter! It doesn't in the least conform to the '*way things should be done*' in the view of most people. This has always been how it is and why Christmas is much preferred to Easter as a time for general celebration. How many people actually know why there are crosses on the top of hot cross buns? The cross is a mystery that is out in the open, it simply isn't understood.

As Paul observed: "...*not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.*" (1 Corinthians 2:6b-8 NIV)

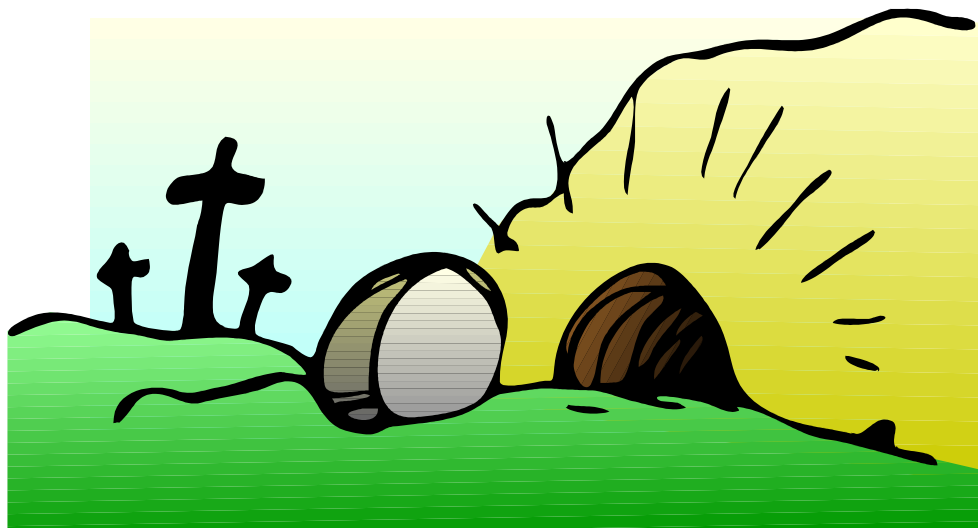
Not understanding the message of the cross has been a problem since before it happened! It wasn't understood by the dark powers that incited the crucifixion. It wasn't understood by the authorities that wanted to be rid of the troublesome preacher. It wasn't understood by Jesus' own friends. All of them had the Scriptures with their prophecies and the latter group had Jesus' own warnings!

On Easter morning all of them had a surprise as God showed his victory over all the powers of sin and death. For some this was wonderful, for some it was the ultimate disaster. For all it was final.

Sensible sounding or not, our God, who works in the shadows through the small things that look insignificant, brought about a great salvation for all who believe. We understand the mystery and *"thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:57 NIV)

Hallelujah, He is Risen Indeed! Happy Easter!

Richard M. Waller



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