



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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WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC LONDON

There is still time to book a place or places on the 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 12.15 p.m. 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.

AUTUMN ACTIVITIES

We have not arranged an annual lecture for autumn 2018 but we are hoping to arrange two visits to places of interest to librarians during September and October. If possible this will include a weekday visit and a Saturday visit.

Our first visit will be to the **Bible Society Library** at the **University of Cambridge** on **Wednesday afternoon 12 September 2018**, to be preceded by lunch in a local restaurant for those who can get to Cambridge in time. If you would like to take part in this visit, please let me know.

For our second visit we are exploring a possible return visit to **The Kilns**, the former home of C. S. Lewis in Headington, Oxford. Details are to be arranged but will be included in future issues of **Christian Librarian** and the **E-Newsletter**. In the meantime, if you would like to be kept informed, please let me know.

FREEDOM AND TRUTH

Eighteen members of **Christians in Library and Information Services** met on **Saturday 14 April 2018** for their annual conference at the Salvation Army's **Regent Hall** in Central London. The conference theme was **Freedom and Truth** and the speakers were **Mark Jones**, Chairman of the **Lawyers' Christian Fellowship**, and **Malcolm Martin**, Deputy Leader of the **Christian People's Alliance**. Mark spoke on the theme "**Gospel Freedom and the Workplace**" and Malcolm tackled the question "**What is Truth? And how do we tell it?**" Both were excellent talks and the transcripts should follow in due course in **Christian Librarian**

Our annual general meeting formed part of the conference proceedings and we were pleased to welcome **Richard Waller** as our new President in succession to **Eddie Olliffe** who had served in the role for the past four years. We are grateful for Eddie's contribution to CLIS and pleased to welcome Richard in his new role.

OXFORD WORKING PARTIES

Eight members and friends of **Christians in Library and Information Services** took part in another working party in the Oxford premises of **UCCF: The Christian Unions** during March 2018. This continued the work of an earlier working party last year which organised the UCCF archive collection. There will be a more detailed report in the next issue of **Christian Librarian**.

There is still work to be done on the UCCF book library and there are tentative plans for a further working party later in the year, possibly in October or November 2018. If this goes ahead, volunteers will be required and we will be especially grateful for assistance from members who have some experience in on-line cataloguing. Travel expenses, meals and accommodation would be provided by UCCF. If you are interested, or would like to be kept informed of developments, please contact Richard Waller, telephone 01942 205843, or e-mail randnwaller@blueyonder.co.uk

NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE

Next year's Conference is to be held on **Saturday 6 April 2019** at the headquarters of **UCCF: the Christian Unions** at **Blue Boar House, 5 Blue Boar Street, Oxford, OX1 4EE**. Although we have held several annual lectures in Oxford, this will be the first time that we have taken the conference to the city of dreaming spires, and we are hoping for a good attendance. Our speakers will include Dr. **Nigel Crook**, Head of the Department of Computing and Communication Technologies at **Oxford Brookes University**, who will speak on artificial intelligence and robotics and their implications for Christians and for the wider society. Please book the date now and watch this space for further details as they become available.

MARGARET KEELING REMEMBERED

Our Life Vice-President (and former President) Dr. **D. Margaret Keeling** died on Tuesday 27 March 2018 after a long running battle with cancer. Please

pray for Margaret's husband, Brian, and other members of their family, in this sad time of bereavement.

Margaret served for several years as the fifth President of the **Librarians' Christian Fellowship** (as we were) in which role she chaired conferences and lectures, wrote articles, and contributed to our "*review group*" of a few years ago. Before her retirement she headed up the public library services in Staffordshire and then, more recently, Essex. Further tributes to Margaret will appear in the next issue of **Christian Librarian**.

DEVELOPING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

A report from the **House of Lords Select Committee on Artificial Intelligence**, published on 16 April 2018, has stressed the importance of ethical considerations in developing the potential of the new technology. This first public enquiry into the development and use of AI has concluded that the law governing its effects "*is not currently clear*" and has asked the **Law Commission** to investigate whether UK law is "*sufficient*" when systems malfunction or cause harm to users.

The thirteen member committee received two hundred and twenty three pieces of evidence and took oral sessions from fifty-seven witnesses. Their report proposes a national and international "*AI Code*" based on five principles to ensure that Britain becomes "*a world leader*" in the application of artificial intelligence. These are based on principles of fairness, education, and the avoidance of wrong doing.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Rev. Steven Croft, served on the committee and has written, "*Artificial Intelligence is here to stay. It has the capacity to shape our lives in many different ways. This is the moment to ensure that humankind shapes AI to serve the common good and all humanity rather than allowing AI driven by commercial or other interests to shape our future and our national life.*"

The committee's report **AI in the UK: ready, willing and able?** Is published as a **House of Lords Paper** (HL Paper 100) and is also available on -line.

CARE ROBOTICS CONFERENCE

If you are interested in the subject matter of the **House of Lords** report mentioned above, and cannot wait to attend next year's CLIS Conference, you might like to consider attending a forthcoming conference on the same theme organised by the Christian organisation **CARE** (Christian Action, Research and Education).

The **CARE Robotics and AI Conference** is to be held on **Friday 29 June 2018** at the **British Library Knowledge Centre** in the Euston Road, London. The conference is intended for church leaders, and others interested in the implications of new technology, and the cost for the day is £35.00, including lunch. The expert speakers taking part in the day include Professor **John Lennox**, Dr. **Nigel Cameron**, **Nola Leach** and **Patrick Dixon**. You can find more information on the web site <https://www.care.org.uk/events/sake-future-robotics-conference>

LIBRARIES WEEK

Libraries Week is the annual showcase of all the creative, innovative and diverse activities that UK libraries have to offer. The annual campaign, sponsored by **CILIP**, the Library and Information Association, during the second week of October, is intended to highlight the range of things that users can do in their libraries and is not restricted to public libraries. Libraries of all kinds, in schools, workplaces and universities, can also get involved.

Last year I suggested that CLIS members could use **Libraries Week** to promote libraries in their local churches. For example, short articles on libraries could be included in church newsletters, or prayers of thanksgiving for books and libraries included in Sunday services. I asked members to let me know how they supported **Libraries Week**, but did not receive a single response (even from members of the executive committee!) Perhaps we can

do better this year. The next **Libraries Week** will take place from **8 - 13 October 2018** and you can find more information at www.librariesweek.org.uk

ON THE SILVER SCREEN

Our friends at **Damaris Media** have asked for our help in publicising the forthcoming feature film **Edie** due for release in cinemas on **25 May 2018** and starring **Sheila Hancock** in the title role. **Edie** tells the story of an elderly woman who decides to climb Mount Suilven in Scotland after the death of her husband. The production is described as a “*beautiful film*” with great themes dealing with regret and persistence in the face of adversity. This uplifting story is about re-discovering life’s joys and how it is never too late for a new beginning.

The team at **Damaris Media** have been hard at work preparing a free digital Companion Booklet intended to help church groups think about and discuss the issues raised by this film. This is available on-line at <http://filmblog.damaris.org/edie-companion-booklet-church-version> The film should also make a valuable addition to public library collections when it eventually becomes available on DVD and Blu-Ray.

You can find more information about **Damaris Media** on their web site at <https://www.damarismedia.com>

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