

Summer 2018

CLIS

Christians in
Library and
Information
Services



CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN

CONTENTS INCLUDE

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EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- **VISIT TO BIBLE SOCIETY LIBRARY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY: Wednesday 12 September 2018. Details: p. 9.**
- **CLIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE: SATURDAY 6 APRIL 2019: Blue Boar House, Oxford, with speakers including Dr. Nigel Crook, Oxford Brookes University. Details: p. 10.**
- **CLIS ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE: SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2019: Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath, with guest speaker Bob Hartman. Details: p. 10.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- **Forthcoming CLIS activities including our Autumn 2018 visits and Annual Conference in 2019.**
- **Those working towards an ethical approach to the development of artificial intelligence and robotics.**
- **The work of the Billy Graham Library and the library of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College.**
- **The work of the Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship and especially for the current library and archives project.**
- **This year's national Christian Resources Exhibition and the Premier Digital Conference.**
- **This year's Libraries Week planned for October 2018. .**
- **The work of the Arts Centre Group and similar organisations serving Christians in the arts, entertainment and media.**
- **Give thanks for the life and witness of our former President Margaret Keeling and pray for Margaret's family in their time of bereavement.**



FOUNDED IN 1976 AS THE LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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THE FIRST WORD

RICHARD WALLER introduces himself as the new President of *Christians in Library and Information Services* and pays tribute to his immediate predecessors

LOVING LIBRARIES, BOOKS AND LITERATURE



It is a great honour to be chosen to serve as President of CLIS and I thank you for your confidence in me. I would like to start this, my first official duty as President, by thanking Eddie Olliffe for his sterling service over the last few years. We first met Eddie in the 1980s when he was the Director of the *Faith in Print* (now *Speaking Volumes*) library scheme. He remained as a member of our Fellowship over the years, during which time he became a well known figure in the Christian book trade, and we were pleased when he accepted our invitation to serve as our first non-librarian President. He then helped us with a serious difficulty when Graham Hedges was so ill and unable to serve as secretary and

editor for some months. He allowed us to use the mailing service of the *Christian Literature Crusade* to send out the copies of ***Christian Librarian*** to you all, two issues you simply would not have got without his help. So thank you Eddie. You will be a hard act to follow.

I must also pay tribute to the late Margaret Keeling, whose funeral is being held on the day I write this. Margaret was a long-time member of the Fellowship, serving as both President and then as Life Vice-President. County Librarian of Staffordshire and then Essex, she was a lady of great ability and totally unafraid of challenging anything she felt was ill-considered or poorly thought out, but with good Christian grace. I was on the other end of several such incidents, sometimes I was right and sometime I wasn't, but we never fell out!

The Presidency is non-executive and has no powers under the constitution but it does have a great deal of clout in terms of influence and the ability to comment on what is going on. Both Eddie and Margaret have served us well in this way over a good many years between them and I would ask for your prayers that I will be able to live up to the standard these two folk have set.

Many of you know me after many years of membership. I joined in 1974 and was the first secretary (yes, there was time when Graham was not secretary!) and then chairman (as we called it then) of the executive committee and first organiser of the library assistance programme. Apart from being President, I am currently overseeing the library assistance programme's help to the UCCF/IFES library and archive in Oxford. This is good to do, as like many of us, I owe a debt to the university Christian Union and the *Universities' and Colleges Christian Fellowship* (then called IVF) is in some ways the

parent organisation from which the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* developed in the first place. Their help was essential in the early days, which is another reason to support them this way.

Outside of CLIS, I am church secretary of *Jireh Baptist Church*, a Grace Baptist Church in Wigan, a job that will soon disappear as our church merges with the local FIEC church five hundred yards down the road. This merger is keeping me very busy with the hundreds of details that need to be sorted out before it is all finally implemented.

I am also a railway modeller, being into G-Scale garden railways and editor of the *NW Area Group Newsletter*, a very different publication to my early efforts with the LCF's periodicals in the mid-70's, being a picture heavy and not very serious publication filled with the rather whimsical humour of the membership. G-Scale is the fun end of railway modelling not the serious one!

The great thing about CLIS is the sheer diversity, we are all sorts, public librarians like me, academic librarians, business librarians, and much more besides but we have this in common, we love libraries, books and literature and, above all, wish to serve the Lord together.

God grant that we will continue to do so for many more years.

Richard M. Waller, BD, was elected as the President of *Christians in Library and Information Services* at the annual general meeting on Saturday 14 April 2018. Until his retirement he worked for the public library service in the *Metropolitan Borough of Wigan*.

THE SECOND WORD

ROBERT FOSTER finds a deeper significance in a journal article on cataloguing and indexing

DEALING WITH THE IMPERFECTIONS

In an attempt to catch up with some professional awareness reading, I came across an article from a 2016 issue of ***Catalogue and Index***, which I thought was worth sharing. Just in case the very mention of the words '*subfield*' and '*identifier*' sends you off to sleep, I should say that what I would like to reflect on here is the motivation behind the article rather than the content.

The piece was written by Bernadette O'Reilly, who at the time of writing had oversight of cataloguing procedures at one of the UK's most important research libraries*. In the course of her work she had come across a couple of regularly occurring problems with completed catalogue records, on quite a big scale. The impact on their own catalogue was minimal but when the records were exported into databases such as *WorldCat*, something was going wrong, and for a legal deposit library which shares a lot of records, this was a concern. The problem was down to human error. Whilst the description and headings were fine, the coding elements - the bits which tell computers what the record is about - were not.

She went on to say how they had addressed the issue and what lessons could be learned for all of us engaged in this work, as her library was not the only one with the problem. She was not being critical of cataloguing staff, and mentioned that when she was

learning her trade, it was enough to know the cataloguing rules, subject headings and your own system. *"Now our cataloguers are expected to understand and make best use of a vast, varied and ever-changing network of data and processes, both local and external. They have to be up to date with what to trust, what to check, what to adapt, what to avoid entirely, so that they neither waste time on unnecessary checking of good data nor accept data which is not fit for purpose. It's a big ask."*

This seemed to me to be a gracious response, and a patient one. It was also brave for someone to write an article about a workaday problem, one which wasn't completely resolved in their own workplace. We are more used to reading articles about successful projects and plans, which show an individual or organisation in the best possible light. There is nothing wrong with this of course, and we need to read or hear about things which give us new ideas and better ways of doing things. But I was reminded of a politician at the *Christian Book Awards* one year who said that his job was about *"Dealing with the imperfections"*, and he was a former head of state. Picking up the pieces, correcting what has gone wrong are the sorts of things people in Christian work often have to do, and have done since the days of the Apostles, judging from Paul's Epistles. It's worth reflecting, I think, that *'dealing with the imperfections'* in the workplace needs either considerable professional responsibility, or else a dedicated individual, or both.

*O'Reilly, Bernadette. Why cataloguers need to care about how they talk to machines. ***Catalogue and Index*** 185, December 2016.

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CLIS NEWSLETTER



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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.

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. A more detailed report appears elsewhere in this 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.

NEXT YEAR'S LECTURE

The **CLIS Annual Public Lecture** returns on **Saturday afternoon 19 October 2019** when we will be meeting at the **Manvers Street Baptist Church** in Bath and hearing an address by the children's writer and master

storyteller **Bob Hartman**, author of such books as *The Lion Storyteller Bible* and *The Lion Storyteller Book of Parables*.

MARGARET KEELING REMEMBERED

Our Life Vice-President (and former President) **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 appear elsewhere in this issue of *Christian Librarian*.

Those wishing to send donations in Margaret's memory are asked to contribute to the *St. Elizabeth Hospice, c/o E.B. Dutton and Sons Ltd., 24 St. John's Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 1EB*.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDERS

Renewal forms were distributed to members in early January for return by the end of April. If you have not already done so please complete the form and return it to us as soon as possible so that we do not have to send further reminders. Cheques should be made payable to *Christians in Library and Information Services* but, if you wish, you can pay through the *PayPal* service via the CLIS web site. In such cases we still need a completed form so that we can keep our records up to date.

Please make sure that you fill in the section of the form covering data protection. We would like to send you our *E-Newsletter* and *Membership Directory* but, under GDPR, the new data protection regulations that came into force in May 2018, we need your permission in order to do so.

Can I repeat my past pleas for more CLIS members to contribute to our social media groups? We have groups on *Facebook*, *Twitter* and *LinkedIn* and they provide great opportunities for raising issues for discussion and for commenting on articles in ***Christian Librarian*** and the ***E-Newsletter***.

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

- I have recently written book reviews for the *Evangelical Alliance*. You can read my reviews of ***Taking off the Mask*** (Claire Musters), ***Let Me Tell You a Story*** (Rob Parsons), ***Streams of Living Water*** (Richard Foster), ***A Spring Awakening*** (Chris Cottee), ***The Way of Wisdom*** (Timothy Keller), and ***You are the Beloved*** (Henri Nouwen) on the Alliance web site at <http://www.eauk.org/church/stories/new-year-reading-book-reviews.cfm> and www.eauk.org/culture/reviews/book-reviews.cfm

- We were sorry to hear of the death of our past contributor **Sam Berry** on 29 March 2018.

A number of distinguished figures have contributed to our meetings and publications over the years and Professor **R. J. Berry** was one such contributor. In 1983 he wrote an article for our ***Newsletter*** making the case for theistic evolution in response to one of our own members who had argued the case for a creationist viewpoint in an earlier issue.

Professor Berry held the chair in Genetics at *University College*, London, from 1974 to 2000. His many publications include ***Adam and the Ape*** (Church Pastoral Aid Society, 1975, ISBN 978-0854915620) and ***Christians and Evolution: Christian Scholars change their minds*** (Monarch, 2014, £9.99, ISBN 978-0857215246) He was well known as a Christian apologist and served as a Reader in the *Church of England*.

- Our past speaker, the Rt. Rev. **Pete Wilcox**, now the Bishop of Sheffield, was the preacher on BBC1's Easter morning service on Sunday 1 April 2018. Bishop Pete, who has previously served as Canon Chancellor of *Lichfield Cathedral* and Dean of *Liverpool Cathedral*, spoke on the history of the English Bible at our annual conference in 2011

PREMIER DIGITAL

This year's **Digital Conference**, organised by *Premier Christian Radio*, is to be held on **Saturday 3 November 2018**, from 10.00.a.m., at **The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London, EC1Y 4SD**.

Although not specifically organised for librarians, the Conference should be of interest to CLIS members keen to make the most of new technology in their libraries as well as in their churches and personal lives. The conference web site promises that the event will provide you with *'new ideas that you can use in your church, charity, or project, understand how digital tools can work for you in your context, and learn new skills that will help you grow your project or ministry'*.

The main conference will be followed by an evening dinner and awards ceremony that will *'seek to celebrate excellence, share best practice, and encourage those serving God on-line'*.

At the time of writing the speakers for this year's event have not been announced but it is still possible to book tickets on-line at an *'early bird'* rate. You can find information at <https://www.premierdigital.info/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 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! 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

ONE STOP SHOP

The *Christian Resources Exhibition*, sometimes nicknamed the '*ideal church show*' returns to the **Sandown Park** exhibition centre, in Esher, Surrey, from **16 – 18 October 2018**. The exhibition is described as a '*one stop shop for church supplies, resources and ideas*' – with everything from stained glass windows to public address equipment – but librarians will take a special interest in the extensive bookshop areas and displays from book publishers and suppliers of audio and visual materials.

CRE will also be arranging a northern exhibition at **Event City**, Manchester, from **13-14 March 2019**. You can find more details about the various events at www.creonline.co.uk

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.

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/>

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.

CRISIS MAGAZINE

Our past speaker **Tony Jasper** writes and edits an on-line arts magazine, ***Crisis***, and you can read the latest issue and earlier editions at <https://www.jasperian.org/crisis-magazine>

Issue 62 includes an article on CLIS (written by me) plus features on Billy Graham, the *Newport Folk Festival* and Martin Luther. Most issues have a strong musical emphasis, with articles on such subjects as Bob Dylan, Matt Redman, Gospel Music, Mavis Staples and Cornish Carols. There are also regular reports from gospel singer and activist Garth Hewitt. Other subjects are covered, however, and recent issues have included an introduction to the work of RADIUS, the *Religious Drama Society*, and articles on Dorothy L. Sayers, English Pottery and a tribute to writer and CLIS member, the late Rev. John Waddington-Feather.

ON-LINE ARCHIVE

Back in the 1970s I spent many happy hours helping to pack issues of the Christian magazine ***Buzz*** ready for mailing. Nearly five decades later I was pleased to discover the beginnings of an on-line archive of this pioneering publication at www.buzzmagazine.online/ At the time of writing only the first few years are available but the intention is to add further years in time. There are only a few years to go before my own first contribution to the magazine in October 1972 appears on line!

Buzz began as the monthly newsletter of the organisation *Musical Gospel Outreach* which was a support organisation for early Christian musical groups involved in what later became known as “*contemporary Christian music*”. The early issues were devoted to news of group activities, tips on song writing, and similar matters, but the scope of the magazine expanded over the next few years and it became a general purpose magazine for Christian young people.

The early issues now look rather primitive in these days of computers and desktop publishing, but the design and graphics became much more sophisticated over the next few years. The magazine underwent various mergers, changes of name and ownership and finally emerged as the present day **Premier Christianity** magazine.

I doubt if popular evangelical magazines are widely stocked in libraries but it is good to have access to back numbers courtesy of the World Wide Web.

PROLIFIC WRITER

Prolific writer and broadcaster **Brian Sibley** was the special guest at the Spring gathering of the *Arts Centre Group*, an association of Christians involved professionally in the arts, entertainment and media industries.

After an unsuccessful attempt to begin a career as an actor, and a period working in a bank, Brian began a career as a writer. His first break came when the BBC accepted a script he had written on the twelve days of Christmas.

A further breakthrough came when he was commissioned to write many of the scripts for the BBC radio adaptation of Tolkien’s ***The Lord of the Rings*** in 1981. Later Brian wrote several tie-in books to the **LOTR** and ***Hobbit*** films and wrote a biography of the films’ director, Peter Jackson.

Brian is currently working on a project based on the letters of Walt Disney. Some readers will have heard his BBC radio adaptation of T. H. White’s ***The Once and Future King***. Many of his writing projects stem from an interest in Walt Disney, Thomas the Tank Engine, Winnie the Pooh, and fantasy works by Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, and others. He wrote an early script based on the love story of C. S. Lewis and Joy Davidman, and later wrote a short biography of Lewis and Davidman to coincide with the television film ***Shadowlands***.

POETRY COMPETITION

The Arts Centre Group are inviting entries for their 2018 *Jack Clemo Poetry Competition* named to commemorate the noted Cornish poet who was a member of the ACG. Entrants are invited to submit a poem on the theme '*Those memories we always come back to*'. There is a cash prize of one hundred pounds for the winner with smaller amounts as prizes for the runners up. The winning entries will be published on the ACG's web site and the awards will be presented at a prestigious public event in the autumn.

Perhaps we have some budding poets within the CLIS membership, or perhaps there are poets in our members' libraries or churches who might be interested. However, entrants will have to be quick, as the closing date is 7 July 2018. You can download an entry form from <https://artscentregroup.org.uk/PoetryCompetition.php>

FILMS OF CHRISTIAN INTEREST

There have been at least two feature films of Christian interest on release in cinemas this year. I would hope that both productions would be widely stocked in public and other libraries when they are eventually made available on DVD and Blu-Ray.

Mary Magdalene takes a new look at the story of Mary and stars Rooney Mara in the title role and Joaquin Phoenix as Jesus. Although it is a fictionalised account of Mary's life, the film is probably closer to the biblical narrative than some earlier dramatic portrayals and firmly rejects the popular notion that Mary was a prostitute, an idea that appears to date back to Pope Gregory the Great in or around 591 A.D.

The gospels speak of Mary having been possessed by "seven devils" which were exorcised by Jesus, and as one of a group of women who travelled with Jesus and supported his ministry (See Luke 8:2). She has sometimes been described as "*the apostle to the apostles*" as she was the first witness of Christ's resurrection and took the news of his return from the dead to the male disciples.

Despite some deviations from the biblical story, this film is definitely worth seeing. Discussion resources, including questions and reflections, based on *Mary Magdalene*, have been published by *Damaris Media* and the *Mothers' Union*. A companion booklet is downloadable, free of charge, from www.mothersunion.org/mary-magdalene

Other recent films of Christian interest include the *Disney* production ***A Wrinkle in Time***, based on a 1962 novel by the American children's writer and Christian **Madeleine L'Engle**. This is a science fiction or fantasy story in the tradition of C. S. Lewis and tells the story of children who meet a trio of angels and travel to other planets in search of their missing scientist father. Although the script downplays some of the Christian themes that were featured in the original book, the film provides a classic account of the battle between good and evil, and should be enjoyed by adults and children alike.

CURRENT AWARENESS

- Danny Webster's *Can You Govern the World With 280 Characters* argues that President Donald Trump's use of *Twitter* is bad for western democracy.

It can be helpful when politicians chooses direct modes of communication rather than allowing their words to be mediated through the press. However, the role of the conventional media should not be dismissed since they play a vital role in scrutinising the statements of politicians.

Many of President Trump's statements on *Twitter* are demonstrably untrue. For example, he has claimed that America is the most heavily taxed nation in the world. In fact the USA is between the seventeenth and thirty-first highly taxed nation, depending on the measures used.

President Trump has become the "*cheerleader of politics for entertainment*" and uses social media to inflame opinion. Christians, however, should be committed to telling the truth. We can do little to change Donald Trump's use of social media but we can model grace in our own disagreements with others and refuse to spread falsehoods. The article appears in ***Premier Christianity***, April 2018, pp. 18-21, 23,25.

- Sam Hailes explores how technology is re-shaping human relationships in his article *Screen Romance*.

The Internet “was supposed to bring us all together as one big happy worldwide family” while social media were supposed to bring opposing viewpoints together in fruitful dialogue. Although these aims have largely failed to be achieved, many people have become addicted to their smartphones or social media accounts. Sixty nine per cent of under-eighteens say that their parents spend too much time on their mobile devices and another survey has suggested that parents spend as many hours looking at screens than they do in reading to their children.

Former ***Christianity Today*** editor Andy Crouch has questioned whether human beings are “*neurologically prepared to have all these things glowing at us [from screens] all the time*”.

Recognising these problems has led some people to attempt a “*digital detox*” in which they abstain from using electronic media for a period of time. Christians, however, have to live in the “*real world*”, even if the real world is now a virtual world as well. The new media can be used for good just as the Protestant Reformers used the newly invented printing press to encourage people to read the Bible. This article appears in ***Premier Christianity***, February 2018, pp. 16-17, 19, 21..

- Following the *Cambridge Analytica* scandal, one in twenty British users are said to have deleted their *Facebook* accounts. One such user is our former speaker, Roy McCloughry, who explains his reasons in *Enough is Enough: I’m Deleting Facebook*. Tanya Marlow reaches the opposite conclusion in *Show Christ to Others: I’m Staying on Facebook*. These articles appear in ***Premier Christianity***, May 2018, pp. 14-15.

- “*Social media dominate the landscape, but journalism still has a future*”. So argues Andrew Brown in his article *Rescue from the Facebook Whale*. This looks at the current position of journalism and newspapers in the age of the Internet and electronic media.

Facebook has taken away some of the advertising revenue that once would have gone to the traditional press. It has been claimed that targeted advertising on social media helped bring about the election of Donald Trump and the Brexit vote in the UK referendum. If this is correct then “*democracies will have to re-write their rules*” in the light of such advertising.

Compared to the traditional press, social media are effective in excluding competing voices. A customer buying a newspaper from a stand will at least be aware of the headlines on newspapers that he disagrees with. On *Facebook* or *Twitter* the customer need never read anything that will disturb him or make him consider alternative viewpoints.

The demand for good journalism will never entirely vanish, and may actually increase during the next year or two. Even the most expensive newspaper is cheaper than a cup of chain coffee! This article appears in the ***Church Times*** for 5 January 2018, p. 13

- Daniel Gooding's *Forbidden Knowledge Leads to Blood and Ruination* takes a new look at Umberto Eco's bestselling novel ***The Name of the Rose*** (Vintage, £7.99, ISBN 978-0099456031) where the monks in a medieval abbey are protected from the "dangerous seduction of knowledge" by the librarians.

William of Baskerville, a "learned Franciscan" with Sherlockian powers of deduction, is sent to the abbey to resolve a theological dispute but is soon called upon to investigate murders which appear to be linked to a particular forbidden book in the abbey's library. The article appears in ***Information Professional***, March 2018, pp. 50-51.

- *Builded Here: Jerusalem is invoked in rural Oxfordshire*, by Paul Handley, Ed Thornton and Adrian Becket, reports on the ***Church Times Faith and Literature Festival*** held at *Bloxham School* in February 2018.

The theme of the festival was *Building a New Jerusalem* and it featured more than fifty writers and performers. Francis Spufford read from his new volume of essays and from his novel ***Golden Hill*** which "absent-mindedly" traced out some of the fundamental Christian story and ended up being a "grace-and-redemption story". Novelist James Runcie discussed his series of *Grantchester* crime novels and the extent to which the clerical main character was based on his own father, a former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Poet Malcolm Guite reflected on William Blake's *Jerusalem* which he described as an "astonishing piece of poetry" which played with "the fanciful fantasy of *Glastonbury*". Theatre 17 performed a play ***A Fearful Symmetry*** by Stephen Loveless which explored Blake's thought, language and theology. The report appears in the ***Church Times*** for 23 February 2018, pp. 26-28.

- Sarah Meyrick's *Revisiting the Story of Sodom* is a profile of the work of Michael Arditti, whose latest novel ***Of Men and Angels*** (Arcadia Books, £16.99, ISBN 978-1911350269) takes a new look at the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as seen from the different perspectives of a Jewish exile in ancient Babylon, the actors in a medieval mystery play, a famous painter in Renaissance Florence, a bereaved rector in nineteenth century Palestine, and a homosexual actor in 1980s Hollywood.

This book, Arditti's tenth novel, explores the "*familiar Arditti territory*" of spirituality and sexuality. Arditti is one of the few literary novelists who write about faith. According to Philip Pullman, he is "*our best chronicler of the rewards and pitfalls of present day faith*". The article appears in the ***Church Times*** for 23 March 2018, p. 21.

- ***Radius Performing***, the magazine of the *Religious Drama Society of Great Britain*, Spring 2018, includes several articles of wider interest to readers interested in the links between faith and the arts. Margaret Hunt reports on the *Arts Centre Group's* 2017 drama competition and provides impressions from a lecture on "*the art of unknowing*" by Peter Moreton of the *Applecourt* theatre company (pp. 3-4). There is also a report of a conversation between Tony Jasper and drama critic Michael Billington on the religious theatre of the past fifty years (pp. 5-7).

- Articles in the ***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries***, Volume 24, Number 3, Autumn 2017 include *American Theological Library Association Update* (Carol Reekie), *Digital Copyright for Practising Librarians* (Michael Gale), the *Fred Pratt Green Collection on Hymns and Hymnology at Durham University Library* (Christine Purcell) and *Crowdfunding for Theological Libraries* (Anna James).

- Articles in ***The Christian Librarian***, Journal of the (American) ***Association of Christian Librarians***, Volume 60 (2), 2017, include *Same Titles, Different Formats: Does Print or Electronic Get More Use?* (Alex Rolfe and Merrill Johnson), *Current State of Scholarship in Christian Liberal Arts Schools* (Craighton Hippenhammer and Garrett Trott), *Maximising Institutional Archives with Limited Resources* (Beth Arjona), *Academic Libraries and Remedial Students* (Lindsay Hallam) and *Librarians as Disciples and Disciple-Makers* (Nancy J. Warwick). The issue also includes an annotated bibliography of "*clean*" graphic novels compiled by Robert Burgess.

Please let me know if you would like to read any of the articles mentioned in this feature.

NORMA WALLER reports on a second working party spent organising the extensive archives of the *Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship*

ANOTHER WEEK IN OXFORD ... PROBABLY NOT THE LAST

By the end of our first “Archives” week last November, we had ninety-eight acid free boxes with basically indexed contents – and what an encouragement it was to hear that the next week someone wanted information and got it!

In March there were eight of us working on the archives again, members and friends of CLIS, and we were able to finish our sorting and to leave the Blue Boar House staff with the task of moving over a hundred boxes from the top floor down to the basement. What a good thing there is a lift.

What is in the boxes – what did we find of particular interest? There were a good number of Christian Union minutes books, but by no means with full or even coverage, for example Aberdeen had just one book, Newcastle quite a few. These were sorted by Philip Hayworth, an old hand at working parties, while Peter Barker, the son of Mary Barker, a long-time member of LCF/CLIS, was able to join us for a couple of days.

Our friends Hilary (a librarian and archivist who volunteers at *Wells Cathedral* archives) and her husband Phil spent most of the week sorting through masses of paperwork, eliminating duplicates and sorting often undated records into some sort of order. Josie Butterworth and

Clare Stockbridge Bland waded through box after box of photographs, often faced with completely unidentified groups of students, with no idea of which CU or what date to assign them.

Josie had perhaps the most interesting and poignant find of the week – a set of small photos of CICCUCU (*Cambridge Inter-collegiate Christian Union*) members from the early 1910s. She was able to identify some of these and discovered that while some had been killed during the First World War, others survived to go on to Christian service as medical missionaries, ministers and *Inter-Varsity Fellowship* workers. For one there was a later photo of him taken in Casablanca as Archbishop of North Africa.

As ever, we were looked after so well by the UCCF staff, with lunch served on the premises and what we have come to look forward to, an evening meal in one or other of Oxford's many eating places, accompanied by a different host each time.

We had thought that this might be our last visit, but Richard was able to give a brief demonstration of the *CollectorZ* system in use in the library, and there was general agreement that it would be good to try to finish the work needed there. As you'll see elsewhere, tentative plans for this are under discussion.

Plans are also underway to hold next year's CLIS Conference in Oxford at *Blue Boar House*. Hopefully a tour of the library and maybe a look at some of the archives will be part of the programme....

Norma Waller, BA, DipLib, is a founder member of LCF/CLIS, a past committee member, and worked until her retirement as a School Librarian and Supply Teacher.

ROBERT FOSTER reports on this year's Annual Conference held on Saturday 14 April 2018 at the Salvation Army's *Regent Hall* in Central London

FREEDOM AND TRUTH

There can't be too many organisations who have their annual conference in London's Oxford Street. Twice in three years now, CLIS has conducted its main event at the Salvation Army's *Regent Hall*, literally a stone's throw from Oxford Circus. There on a warm April day we gathered for our AGM and to hear two excellent talks both of which could hardly have been more topical at the time. There was also a short act of worship, featuring some boldy sung hymns, and time to meet and chat with other delegates.

Just a few weeks before the conference, there was some sad news that our former President and Vice-President, Margaret Keeling had died. Prayers were said for her family, and we were reminded of her warmth as a person, and of her very significant contribution to CLIS. As a former head of public library services in Staffordshire, and then Essex, she had many years of experience to draw upon, and we were grateful for her wisdom, empathy and sense in a number of situations, both as a CLIS leader and as a past conference speaker.

It was fitting then that our first speaker had some particularly practical advice to share with us. **Mark Jones** from the *Lawyers' Christian Fellowship* had as his title '*Gospel freedom and the*

workplace'. I confess I wondered if the talk would cover some high-profile disputes over religious expression, with an emphasis on the difficulties Christians sometimes face. This was not the case, though; his talk was more about what the law currently permits, and how we can continue to maintain our Christian witness without fear. He acknowledged that there had been good cases lost in the courts, but pointed out that other losses were the result of bad cases. It came as a surprise to most of us, I think, to learn that there are serious financial penalties for employers who discriminate unfairly on grounds of religion, more so than for example, on age. Some other key points were the need for us to be gentle and respectful, not pressing Christian doctrine when colleagues don't wish to talk about it (which could be deemed harassment); yet to be straightforward and transparent, as the more unusual it becomes for people to mention matters of faith, the less acceptable it will be as far as the law is concerned.

There were a number of questions which followed. It was asked if it was ever right to talk to clients or customers about beliefs; Mark Jones said it could be, but it was necessary to be even more winsome than with colleagues, and to bear in mind the appropriate boundaries. Could Christian organisations ask for a Christian in a job ad? Yes, so long as the nature of the job itself required it. What was the difference between being offended and harassment? The law clearly indicates that it is a matter of perception, but the complaint still has to be reasonable to be upheld. How do people from other religions deal with our laws? This depends very much on their religious calling, and on their own response to the rule of law.

After an ample buffet, which was included in our conference fee, **Malcolm Martin** from the *Christian People's Alliance* spoke on 'What is truth and how do we know it?' He pointed out that fake news starts with a story which gains credibility; is also based on what the listeners or readers would like to believe (or would suspect is the case); and which is then confirmed by others, creating what is called an 'echo'. It is the combination of these three elements which determines how big an effect the news story will have. We were shown a series of hoaxes, from the amusing if astonishing pictures of a super-giant anaconda in the Amazon, to Alex Malarkey's book ***The Boy who came back from Heaven*** which, to the sadness of many, had turned out to be fiction. But it is the world of sensational news stories, often picked up across social media in the first place, which presents us with a particular problem, because in most cases the source of the story is unknown or disguised. Fortunately, web addresses can be monitored for activity, and this tends to show up suspect sources: those which are active twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, clearly can't come from an individual, and may even be automated so as to provide a stream of news designed to alter perceptions. Most of us don't have that kind of monitoring technology, but Malcolm Martin was able to give us some pointers to help us spot fake news: pronouncements of outright denial, stories designed to create or amplify conflict, and perhaps most obviously, prose in poor English should be all treated with caution.

The issue of state-sponsored counterfeit news and cyber-crime came up at various stages, and unsurprisingly this drew a number of responses. One delegate pointed out that in the ***Times*** newspaper that day, a lecturer from a UK university had agreed with the Russian view that the recent chemical bombing in Syria was a

western strategy. Another person asked whether the Russian involvement in the Skripal poisoning had actually been proven. What about fake news before the internet? This topic was picked up by someone who remembered the claim and counter-claim surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy. The speaker felt that in some cases we could stand back and see clear evidence for responsibility and notice the tell-tale signs of fake news where we can. And what about us as Christians? Are we prone to gullibility? It was pointed out that some Christians had made much of the report of a 'lost day' in the solar system, attributed to NASA, as a confirmation of an Old Testament account of the sun standing still. We do well to be circumspect, it seems.

The day was rounded off by our new President, Richard Waller, giving a vote of thanks. He reinforced the tribute given in the AGM to Eddie Olliffe for his outstanding leadership of CLIS, particularly when Graham Hedges was in hospital. Graham in turn was thanked for his efforts in arranging the day, and not least for his continuing work as Secretary and Editor of our publication, which has now reached the forty year milestone. As always, back issues of ***Christian Librarian*** were on display for people to take away.

Another excellent conference thus ended, giving us questions to ponder and much to reflect on, not least in the worship time when Karen Hans had reminded us how difficult it is to be a Christian in some countries. The presence of petitions on the information desks reminded us that we shouldn't take what we have for granted, and that we can still have a workplace Christian organisation.

Robert Foster, BA, DipIM, MCLIP, is Chair of *Christians in Library and Information Services* and works as an Assistant Librarian at the *Royal College of Music*.

OBITUARY

TRIBUTES TO MARGARET KEELING



GORDON HARRIS recalls a former President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* who passed away on Tuesday 27 March 2018.

My first recollection of Margaret was in 2001 when I gave a talk to the then *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* Annual Conference at *Carrs Lane Church* in Birmingham. She participated in group work very competently. I later learned that she was County Librarian for *Staffordshire*. I remember being astonished that such a personable Christian lady, who had not long returned to her career after raising a family, seemed so comfortable in a very senior role, where she would have had to battle for resources to keep the service going. Already doubts were being expressed at national and local government level about the value of public libraries.

But Margaret was game for more challenges, as she was later appointed County Librarian for *Essex*, and she and her husband Brian moved from their beloved Lichfield to the very different environment of South-East England. And there she thrived.

She still found time to attend LCF events, and in 2010 she supported me in setting up a Review Group. This Group considered LCF's strengths and weaknesses and was expertly chaired by Michael Coveney. Margaret was an active member of this Group. I always remember her emphasis on the prompting of the Holy Spirit. "*What does God want? What is God doing?*" she would repeat across several meetings, as we ploughed through a raft of issues.

I was glad after nine years as President of CLIS to hand over to Margaret. She was the obvious choice - a lady of professionalism, vision, warmth, and deep spirituality.

I met Margaret for the last time at the CLIS Annual Conference in Leicester in 2015. Leicester had been in the news for the re-burial of Richard III in *Leicester Cathedral* only three weeks beforehand, and Margaret was keen to see his tomb. She set off as soon as the Conference was over, and I then decided to follow her as I wanted to see it too. She must have walked at quite a pace because she was already some distance away. I tried to catch up, but by now she was a speck on the horizon. I eventually lost sight of her completely.

Gordon Harris, *Bsoc, MPhil, FCLIP, DipKM*, is a former President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* (now CLIS) and has worked as a librarian in the academic and charity sectors.

PAULA RENOUF was able to attend Margaret's service of thanksgiving on Friday 20 April 2018 where she paid the following tribute

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you what a huge impact Margaret made to our work.

Speaking Volumes is a small trust offering Christian Books to all sorts of libraries including public libraries, schools, prisons – anywhere a book can be borrowed to bring comfort, knowledge and help to anyone in need.

Margaret's role was to help select the books that we offered. We also ran book awards and Margaret helped choose the short list for that. I asked our longest serving trustee when it was that Margaret joined the selection panel but even he couldn't remember, just that she'd been with us a long time.

I was pretty green to the role when I found myself in place thirteen years ago. I can't say that I would have known then what a good Christian book entailed so I relied very heavily on Margaret's and other people's expertise and pretty much left them to get on with selecting the books. It wasn't for several years until I was able to meet Margaret.

I regretted instantly that I had not met her earlier – she's just someone you '*warm to instantly*' and I came to relish time with Margaret. Apart from the fact, that (I'm sure you would all acknowledge) Margaret and Brian were very welcoming to their lovely home – with tea, and cake and good conversation. It was evident that Margaret's life long career in books was not merely a vocation but an absolute life-long passion. And, boy, did she know a good book when she saw one! I would send or bring books and she would diligently read them and set aside the ones worth being on our list. I learnt to trust implicitly every recommendation she

made. And as we talked about their merits she helped me understand what makes a good book rather than a mediocre one, or even worse, one that should never have seen the light of day! Margaret's help was incalculable, we know that books change people and that God speaks through the written word. We can be sure that Margaret's care to select a good Christian book for a library shelf has indeed changed people's lives.

When Margaret started to be ill I was probably rather selfish – I didn't want to lose her expertise and I certainly didn't want to lose her loveliness in my life either so I persuaded her to stay on. I think she hid how ill she was, she didn't manage to complete the last batch of books sent, maybe she didn't even start, not that it matters, I just hope there was some comfort for her, in knowing there was still an unread book about the home to be picked up - I don't know. But what I do know is that I will miss Margaret's clear thinking, good humour, hospitality and generous spirit and not necessarily in that order.

In the Bible, John 14:2, it says '*My Father's house has many rooms*'. I'm glad of that, because we often hear that Heaven will be a noisy place, full of celebration and worship of the King and I've no doubt Margaret will be amongst the throng. But I can see that she will also need a quiet place, since now and again, I think she'll want to settle into a nook of one of those rooms and lose herself in a book.

If I may be permitted to add that Margaret was also President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* (now *Christians in Library and Information Services*) in the past and the current Secretary wishes me to express his condolences and express his thankfulness for her contribution to the fellowship.

Paula Renouf is the Director of *the* Christian Book Promotion Trust's *Speaking Volumes* scheme which makes grants for Christian books for libraries of all kinds.

Our reviewers consider recent fiction titles, including a venture into fiction by a leading New Testament scholar and a new title from a controversial but popular children's writer. We also look at a novel that combines an interest in the Christian faith with clinical psychology, and recommend a book from a past Conference speaker that provides insights into Christian living in the workplace.



FICTION AND FACT

PHOEBE: A STORY: PAULINE CHRISTIANITY IN A NARRATIVE FORM

Paula Gooder

Hodder and Stoughton, 2018, £14.99, Hardback, 320p., ISBN 978-1473669727

As a reader of Christian Fiction I find that the writers seamlessly weave Christian teaching in to the stories and although I am entertained I also come away with food for meditation and prayer. On those grounds ***Phoebe*** does not disappoint: it is a very enjoyable and interesting story with lots of extra-biblical historical detail given. Some of the vocabulary is quite uncommon and that could be off-putting for some readers, but once Phoebe's back-story begins to unfold I think that most will read on!

The main character Phoebe is based on a real woman, named in Paul's letter to the Romans as the person who carried the letter from him to the Christians in Rome. She is also described by Paul as a church deacon and a benefactor. The author explains more of what this means (and the different

views) in her notes and has incorporated these known elements into the story. She also introduces the reader to other early Christians such as Prisca and Aquila.

In her notes the writer explains that as she is not a novelist she is not writing fiction, but is engaging in "*historical imagination*". I feel the term "*historical fiction*" or "*biblical fiction*" would suffice, but she has certainly brought more theological discussion into the narrative and dialogue than the average novel based on a biblical figure. This is due to her field of study being Pauline theology and the book explores the different views of Paul himself, Paul as reported by others and Paul's writings that would have been found just as much in AD50-60 as they are now.

The author has succeeded in portraying Paul, who does not actually appear "*on stage*" in the narrative, as a rounded character: passionate, focused on the gospel alone and invariably giving offence by thereby overlooking more incidental matters. The apostle Peter does feature centre stage in the book and also has his strengths and difficulties. There is much focus on forgiveness in the book and Peter gives first-hand his account of the Lord Jesus forgiving him and explains how that is a complex issue and not a magic-wand.

The book has the early Christians sharing stories of and by Jesus as well as discussing Pauline theology. The parable of the prodigal son is not retold but there is a scene between two of the central characters which draws on it and the experiences of guilt, shame, regret and anger are explored alongside forgiveness. The book also touches on a range of other theological issues, for example the place of women / slaves / Jews / Gentiles in the early church, whether to live quiet lives or openly evangelise, what it means to '*count the cost*' when following Christ. As a reader who enjoys historical fiction and has an interest in theology **Phoebe** was definitely the book for me.

Karen Hans, BSc, MA, FCLIP, works as School Librarian of the *Forest Hill School* and serves on the executive committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* as Prayer Secretary.

LA BELLE SAUVAGE: THE BOOK OF DUST VOLUME ONE

Philip Pullman

Penguin Random House and David Fickling Books, 2017, £20.00,
Hardback, 560p., ISBN 978-0385604413

I very much enjoyed Pullman's *Northern Lights* when it was published back in the 1990s: the almost, but not quite, *Oxford University* setting at the start, the interesting character of Lyra and especially the fascinating *daemons* with their hints of their humans' personality. I was disappointed in the sequel, though, *The Subtle Knife*, as I felt it had a more contrived feel to the ideas in order to move the story on in a certain way. Others I have spoken to have often felt similarly about it. For this reason I did not look forward to reading the final part, *The Amber Spyglass*, so when the reviews came out explaining how it was really just a polemic against the established church and religion I decided to definitely give it a miss!

I was therefore reluctant to read Pullman's newest offering, a prequel to the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, so having the chance to review it was a useful motivator. In fact once I had begun to read I realised how wrong I was to have put it off as I really enjoyed the story and found it was beautifully written on the whole. It is the story of Lyra as a baby (one does wonder quite how and why her estranged parents got together!). Those who care about her for various reasons are fighting for her survival against enemies in high places and a child and teen get drawn into her story and end up on an adventure to save her. There is lots of high drama, lots of lovely detail (including descriptions of the intriguing *alethiometer* which is used by those who can read it to discern the truthful answers to questions) and hints of the bigger picture of the '*dust*' being researched and what it might mean - presumably the ideas which come to fulfilment in *The Amber Spyglass*. I finished it looking forward to the next instalment and am curious to know how the rest of the *Book of Dust* trilogy will unfold.

Karen Hans, BSc, MA, FCLIP, works as School Librarian of the *Forest Hill School* and serves on the executive committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* as Prayer Secretary.

A SPRING AWAKENING: SOMETIMES WHEN THINGS SEEM TO BE BETTER, THEY REALLY AREN'T. THEY REALLY, REALLY AREN'T

Chris Cottee

Instant Apostle, 2018, £8.99, Paperback, 333p., ISBN 978-1909728790

This is a follow up to an earlier novel, ***A Christmas Calling***, which followed one man's journey towards Christian conversion in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Working on several different levels, that novel functioned as a love story and a psychological study in which the main character had to dig deep into his subconscious mind in order to come to terms with traumatic events in his childhood.

The author, Chris Cottee, is a vicar in Watford, and has also studied clinical psychology, and these influences are well to the fore in the new story. The lead character, David Sourbrook, continues his relationship with Angela, the woman who, with friends from the parish church, led him to Christ, but there are still obstacles to be faced. With the aid of counselling, David has to overcome bouts of depression as well as a sense of spiritual oppression, which is eventually traced back to exposure to a ouija board in early childhood.

David has to respond to false allegations of child abuse levelled at him by a teenager in the church youth club, and face up to cracks in his relationship with Angela which threaten their plans for an Easter wedding. Further traumas are uncovered from David's childhood before the story is able to come to a happy resolution.

The author shows clearly that problems can remain even after someone has made a commitment to Christ and illustrates the value of counselling and psychology. The cover announces that this is Book Two of ***Seasons of the Soul***, so perhaps we can look forward to further episodes to come and more problems to be faced by the main characters.

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

LOVE THY COLLEAGUE: BEING AUTHENTICALLY CHRISTIAN AT WORK

William Morris

Monarch, 2017, £8.99, Paperback, 192p., ISBN 978-0857217165

The request that I review this book came at a time when I had recently felt a personal challenge to be a better Christian at work. I try to be a good manager and departmental colleague and have become more consistent with asking God to inspire me when stuck on dealing with issues (as I am a School Librarian this might involve answering a pupil's enquiries about a certain kind of book to borrow for example). At the same time there have been incredible pressures at work and I am not good at responding to these regular frustrations in a Christ-like way and certainly not without having a moan to others. I therefore began reading with the hope that William Morris's book would be able to help me with these issues.

The book begins with an excellent introduction about needing to focus on faith at work and see colleagues and customers as the neighbours God tells us to love. Morris reminds the reader that God will use our neighbours at work to teach us if we are willing to learn, including much about our own areas of weakness. In other words those most irritating colleagues or customers can be an aid in our sanctification as we relate to them in God's love and strength. This is no trite theory from a cleric who has spent life away from the secular '*cut and thrust*'; rather it is obvious from the start that Morris has a handle on exactly what difficult colleagues can be like! He lists a wide range of stereotypical personalities that I have come across in the various libraries and other places I have worked.

The challenge is given to Christians, including himself, to move beyond transactional relationships in the workplace to intentionally showing care to the '*undeserving*':

"It is not that I consciously, selfishly, refuse to help someone in need. It's more that in the murkiness and complexity and pressure of daily life, I'll seek the easier route, staying in my comfort zone and passing by on the other side." Morris says *"whatever our frustration [our] engagement must be thoughtful and generous rather than mean-spirited and judgemental."* He counsels that often the answer is not to tackle a 'problem colleague' head on but to *"seek to gently subvert rather than openly confront"*. This can lead to having to allow them to take the credit when things go well and actually it was your idea. Or it could be necessary, for example with a blindly optimistic CEO, to be a brave prophet of doom or to work very hard on ensuring the inevitable crash is minimal.

In the possible suggestions of personalities we come up against and ways to respond with mercy I wondered if true nastiness was really addressed. We sometimes have to deal with the person trying to deliberately undermine ourselves or others, who won't take kindly to our interference however gentle and reasonable. Morris says *"what God wants ... is for you to get in there and do something about it - to be the neighbour to that colleague"*. A related question for me is what about dealing with issues of injustice? Morris seems to answer *'be ye merciful'*, so we are to realistically face and deal with the issues, but justly and not viciously or vindictively. The wisdom and mercy Morris is advocating in the book goes far beyond the workplace and can be applied to all our relationships. He (and by implication God) is almost asking the impossible from us in both skill-set and character but then it is the fruit of the Spirit we need not our own strength to truly love our colleagues as God loves us and gave himself for us.

Morris is generous in giving us the benefit of his mistakes as well as his successes. He notes that *"Part of our insensitivity [to what others need] is caused by our sensitivity - that is we become so wrapped up in ourselves that we fail to notice what others need."* and quotes a colleague's advice to *"never be a bigger pain in the rear than you have to be."* It may seem that Morris is advocating a self-denying life to the extent that we constantly sacrifice ourselves and be the solution to everyone else's problems, whether specifically workplace (e.g their need for training or mentoring) or a personal issue that is impacting their work.

He addresses this, however, and says that leisure, not laziness, is an important antidote to frenetic over working (for us and also for those God has placed us in proximity to in our workplaces). It is important to take time for quietness, appreciating beauty, meeting with friends etc. or we will burn out and will miss something important in who and how we are supposed to be.

This also involves the active virtue of patience and can help *"prick the illusion that we are always in control. It can suggest there are some rhythms we should not seek to speed up. It can remind us that people are more important than things."* Control over our own lives and time (and by extension control over those closest to us) is an illusion, but this is something we learn the extent of as we journey with God. *"The strength that we need comes from knowing we cannot control everything or even anything, comes from knowing that , nevertheless, we should still try to make things better because, whether we succeed or fail, God's grace, bought for us on the cross, will keep replenishing (and replacing) the glass however much we mess up. This is mercy."*

At the end of the book Morris deals with the topic of workplace change. Sometimes change can be very negative, though the scenario Morris writes about stops short of the impact of redundancy and the financial and psychological impacts that brings. *"Love thy colleague"* contrasts with an earlier book I reviewed which majored on us being salt and light in the workplace without always speaking about why (and reminded the reader that we are employed to do a job of work and not to spend workplace time evangelising, which in fact could indicate a lack of godly integrity). Morris advocates walking with work colleagues through hard times, but also being vocal about the reason for the love that constrains us. The book gave me a timely change of perspective on the way God can empower us to show mercy in the workplace and truly (and prayerfully and creatively) love our neighbours there. It can also apply to our relationships at church or in other settings. I would certainly recommend it.

Karen Hans, BSc, MA, FCLIP, works as School Librarian of the *Forest Hill School* and serves on the executive committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* as Prayer Secretary.

KAREN HANS shares her experiences of organising and running a lending library in her local church in South London

CHURCH LIBRARIES REVISITED



My experience of assisting with a church library is definitely not an exemplar of Sarah Etheridge's good practice guidelines in a former article in ***Christian Librarian***. However, it is probably very similar to many other church library situations. The library is sited in a small dingy room that is in practice a walkway from the main church building to the kitchen and toilets. Until two years ago the books were not at all organised and were entirely un-used. They were a collection that my dad, a former pastor of the church, had acquired with the aim of forming the basis of a church library. My dad himself was a keen and extensive reader and collector of books, so when I was recently asked to take the '*church library*' in hand there were many of my dad's books to be added to the shelves as well as many of the original collection to be weeded.

This was truly a family affair, as I was helped in the tasks of weeding, acquisition and categorisation by my husband, who is passionate about theology and theological books. He was able to

recognise the vast majority of topics and authors and judge better than I could whether they were suitable for the congregation or not - on the basis of the theological bent of the church and academic level! Those which were less useful in our church context were taken to *Book Aid Charitable Trust*, who send books to needy churches abroad and also sell second-hand books. This freed up more room on the shelves for relevant books donated from my dad's home library, my own home library and new books purchased by me with money made available by the church elders.

The books were then sorted into Christian non-fiction categories, with the top shelves housing the most academic of the remaining titles. I printed large labels for the categories and tried to keep these as simple as possible. There is a separate section of the library in the Young People's Fellowship room which contains books of greater interest to teens and their leaders, including Christian fiction and Bible reference materials. Volunteers from the Young People's Fellowship placed "*Christ Church Library*" stickers on every book and a note book is provided for congregants to note down any books they have borrowed. The library was launched with an article in the church magazine as well as notices in church. The article included a couple of reviews of books in the library (a biography and a parenting help guide) and I occasionally submit further book reviews to the magazine, especially when new books are added to the collection.

I cannot claim that the library has been a great success, as very few books have been borrowed (certainly very few have been noted in the book - there may be more than that circulating!), but I am glad that the library does exist and is organised so that it is available and ready to be used by the church family if and when required.

Karen Hans, BSc, MA, FCLIP, works as School Librarian of the *Forest Hill School* and serves on the executive committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* as Prayer Secretary.

PHILIP HAYWORTH looks back on a varied career in libraries and recalls some amusing characters met along the way

LIBRARY MEMORIES

I started work as a very raw recruit at *Dudley Public Libraries* on 1 February 1952, just a few days before the death of King George VI. On the second day I met Ken Bakewell, later to become President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*, and at the tea break Miss Gwen Hobbs said to me "*Mr. Hayworth, have you had a cake? Bakewell's got his ALA*".

As a junior member of staff I did shelving of books day in and day out and it could be a bit arduous at times, but I stuck it out and did other jobs as well. I seemed to get on very well with the rest of the staff. Miss Nora Tyler, the Chief Assistant, wrote me a very kind letter when she retired in which she said that she could always rely on me for doing anything she asked of me.

We had a reading room where tramps and homeless people would come and read the newspapers, and one night there was an argument between two men over a newspaper. The man who started the argument used to place his stick on the table and every paper that his stick touched was his until he left the reading room. Woe betide anyone who took one of the papers! One night someone did. The two men started whispering at one another, then it got louder, and eventually a senior member of staff had to intervene. It was quite a topic of conversation at the tea break the next morning.

After a period of National Service in the RAF I went to work in the headquarters of *Worcestershire County Library* where a mixed bunch of readers used the library. I remember one reader by the name of Mrs. Tayleur and woe betide anyone who called her "*Mrs. Taylor*". She expected special treatment because she was the sister of the Chairman of the County Council.

The Chief Librarian was Bob Lawson and I remember when he was wanting to put some new system into operation among the village libraries he encountered a bit of opposition. One Branch Supervisor recalls that he was scared of one of the village centre librarians who said to him, "*Now, listen here, young man, if you'd been doing this job as long as I have, you would realise it's not as easy as you think*".

One of the Branch Librarians remembers the Chief coming to the branch and attempting to serve a person on the counter only to be told by the lady in question, "*I don't want you, young man, I want the proper librarian*"!

Then there was the lady who used to dispense acid drops to the staff and who must have spent pounds buying the sweets. When I left to go to my first professional post as Assistant Librarian at the *National Central Library* she gave me a packet of chocolates to eat on the train going up to London.

I used to do branch relief work quite often and there was one place where there was no toilet or washing facilities and assistants had to wash in the River Severn!

While I was at *Worcestershire County* I was given leave to attend the library school at *Leeds College of Commerce* from 1957-1958. It was very much a cramming year. I don't know whether modern library education is so intense. A friend of mine told me of his library school experience and said that in the first term you were broken in, in the second term you were killed, and in the third term you were brought back to life again. Graduates who had been on the course said that they had taken more notes in the nine months

at library school than they had in the whole of their three years at university.

I managed to pass Groups B, C and D of the old Registration Exam of the *Library Association*. The head of the library school was Neville E. Dain, and Philip Whiteman was also there and lectured in Organisation and Cataloguing and Classification.

Mr. Dain told us of one former student who was rather an odd character in that he would come to lectures dressed as if he was going to climb a mountain in climbing boots, plus furs and what Mr. Dain termed a Norfolk Shooting Jacket with large gamekeepers' pockets. He would come to college with bottles of Ribena and milk and he also had a battery of fountain pens in one of his pockets and several different bottles of coloured inks. The different coloured inks and the pens enabled him to embellish his notes so that they looked as if they had come out of a monastic scriptorium. I asked the folk on the final course if he would go to job interviews dressed in his hiking gear and they said that he would. He was quite a jovial sort of chap and went off with some of the students at the end of the course on a walking holiday.

I've said that my first job as an ALA was as an Assistant Librarian at the old *National Central Library*. There we had an eccentric fellow who was deaf and had a hearing aid which he used to shut off when he didn't want to hear what someone was saying. He even used to do this with the Chief Librarian of the *National Central Library*. With another chap he used to play chess and as they passed one another in the corridor he sometimes said, "*Pawn to King Four, my boy*".

While I was in London at the NCL I went to the *British Museum* at times to do any bibliographical work that couldn't be done at NCL and there I saw quite a lot of strange users including some who looked like Old Testament prophets. There was a woman who used to come into the Reading Room in a windcheater and cycling shorts and she'd be brandishing a cycle pump. She used to do oriental

translation for an oriental publication and was known to the library staff as "*Venus in Shorts*".

One of the trustees of the National Central Library was William Charles Berwick Sayers, of *Introduction to Library Classification* fame. I heard that at one time they had a new person on reception and Berwick Sayers came to the window of reception and said, "I'm Mr. Berwick Sayers". The receptionist said, "What can I do for you, sir?" "I'm Mr. Berwick Sayers", and the receptionist said, "Yes, sir, what can I do for you?" "I'm Mr. Berwick Sayers", and this interchange went on for some time until in the end she rang up to the Chief Librarian and said, "There's a man saying he's Mr. Berwick Sayers". She was asked to send him up.

After a return to *Leeds Library School* for another year, which was not very successful in that I did not get through the Final Exam of the *Library Association*, I obtained the post of Assistant Librarian at *Trinity College Carmarthen*. This was a *Church in Wales* College of Education and was completely bi-lingual and students could do the whole of their course through the medium of Welsh. I was introduced to Welsh culture and there were some fanatical *Plaid Cymru* folk on the staff and among the students. There was one lady whom I used to nickname the President Elect of the Welsh Republic and she used to call me an Empire Loyalist.

While I was there one of the Welsh lecturers gave the English speaking staff some lessons in Welsh. It was done in a conversational style and it did cause some amusement when I got mixed up with my words. I meant to say "*the girl is on the organ in the church*", but instead I said, "*the cow is on the organ in the church*".

There was a lady musical director at the college and I've heard that on one occasion when she was due to conduct a choir in the town she turned up with a needle and thread hanging by her side and this was hanging on her dress as she conducted. She used to conduct on occasion like Boadicea riding her chariot. Whenever she was rehearsing the choir in the college chapel the students used to watch her because she was so comical to watch.

She could be a right dragon of a woman but she met her match when we had a ***Songs of Praise*** rehearsal in the college chapel. The director said to her, "*I'll cue you when you are to start dear*". "No dear", she replied, "*I'll cue you, don't you fret*". The students and the congregation lapped it up and were so amused.

The Principal of the college was the Rev. Canon Thomas Halliwell and he used to annoy me - and my Chief Librarian - because we only had a small book fund and he and his wife would purchase books for the college which we already had in stock.

From Carmarthen I came up to my last but one professional post as Assistant Reference Librarian at *Bolton Public Libraries* and while there I encountered the celebrated Miss Gent who presided over the staff tea room. She always used to get the numbers wrong for the tea sessions. In the morning she would make the coffee in a big saucepan and it would be alright if you were on the first break, but by the time you went on the third break it was a sort of witch's brew. The Deputy Librarian wouldn't drink this coffee and so Miss Gent used to pour him a cup of hot water.

The Chief Librarian, Thomas Ashworth, used to hold court in the staff room, sitting at the head of the long oak table. On Saturday mornings he used to have some members of the Library Committee in and a 'phone call would go down to Miss Gent "*Miss Gent, I have Councillor Gledhill and Alderman Lucas in the office. Would you send up some tea?*" Miss Gent would then send tea up to the office. One of the assistants called these folk the "*Saturday morningers*".

Miss Gent had originally been employed as a Dusting Assistant when books were in the old heavy bindings which gathered a lot of dust. She could also be a dab hand at pasting labels in books.

We had our share of strange readers in the Reference Library including one Brian Worthington whom a colleague used to call "*Worthy Worthington*". At times he almost seemed to live in the

reference library. Mrs. Worthington must have been a very long suffering wife. Frequently wife and daughter used to come with him and I remember occasions when the little girl used to poke her head round the Reference Library door and shout to him, "*If you don't come now, Daddy, we are going without you*".

One night I picked up the 'phone and it was Mrs. Worthington. He had not come home for his tea and Mrs. W. wanted him to do some child minding because she was going to a meeting that evening. Was he in Ref? He used to use the department as a sort of answering service and ask "*Any messages for me?*" He knew a lot about the locality, but never wrote it down, so that all his vast knowledge went down to the grave with him.

When he put on an exhibition the mother and daughter were roped in to help set it up. I remember going to a lantern lecture at the library when he gave a talk and Mrs. W. was working the projector. He would say, "*Next slide, please*" and Mrs. W. would say, "*I can't hear you above the noise of the fan*". This caused quite a bit of amusement to the audience. At the end of the lecture Mrs. W. said, "*I think I ought to have a salary for doing this.*"

One of the extra-mural lecturers went to see Worthy Worthington at his home and she was greeted on the doorstep by Mrs. W. who said to him, "*You can have him!*"

We had a genealogical research worker by the name of Mrs. Norris and she used to wear two pairs of glasses one on top of the other. She was quite knowledgeable about the locality, but she used to monopolise the one and only microfilm reader we had. She used to charge so much an hour, plus expenses, and she liked dealing with Americans because they'd pay on the nail.

We had other strange people including the Smith brothers. Albert Smith had been a librarian at one time but he was rather inclined to be insubordinate. He had a row with Bollinger, the Librarian of the *National Library of Wales*, and I think Bollinger must have warned the then Chief at Bolton not to employ him. He also did some teaching but used to indoctrinate pupils with Socialism.

He would get them to sit in a circle and say, “*All gather round me and we’ll talk about Socialism*”. During the war he was arrested on Chorley Old Road for not having a ration book and identity card and he was in *Strangeways Prison* for quite a time. While there he assisted in the prison library.

He had a brother who lived with him and he was known as Fred Smith. He used to turn the pages of books over with a pen knife. Both brothers used to come into the Reference Library from time to time. Abert used to wear plus fours and one of my colleagues used to call him “*Plus Four Smith*”.

Other regulars in the library included “*Welly Boots*” and “*Lumpy Luxton*”. Welly Boots made out that he was quite learned and one of our assistants said, “*He claims to have been to Harvard*”.

When I became Chief Cataloguer I was not so involved with public departments and I didn’t encounter the “*odd bods*” so much. I was given early retirement at the age of fifty-seven and, quite honestly, I am glad I took it because things were beginning to deteriorate in the library service.

There were quite a lot of strange people I encountered in my library career including the odd job man at *Trinity College* they used to call “*Gwyn the Bin*”. Maybe I will talk about some of them at one of our CLIS conferences. I hope this light-hearted account of my professional life will be interesting for folk to read.

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