



## **FOUNDED IN 1976 AS THE LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

*Affiliated to: Evangelical Alliance; Transform Work UK; Universities' & Colleges' Christian Fellowship. Web Site: [www.christianlis.org.uk](http://www.christianlis.org.uk)*

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## **E-NEWSLETTER, No. 85, SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE**

Readers are reminded that our annual public lecture will be held on **Saturday 19 October 2019**, from 2.30. p.m., in the **Manvers Street Baptist Church, Manvers Streer, Bath, BA1 1JW**. Our speaker will be the well known children's writer and master storyteller **Bob Hartman**. Bob's theme will be **Telling the Story – Again and Again** and he will be talking about what is involved in re-telling a Bible story, why he does it, and how he manages to re-tell the same story in different ways over and over again. Bob is a very entertaining speaker, for adults as well as children, and we are hoping for a good attendance at this year's lecture.

Bob Hartman is the author of many books among them **The Lion Storyteller Bible** (Lion Hudson) and **Bob Hartman's Rhyming Bible** (SPCK) He was also commissioned to write **A World of Difference** (CWR) to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the **Christian Book Promotion Trust** in 2017.

We have not arranged an official *“morning activity”* before the afternoon lecture but there is plenty to do and see in the historic city of Bath for those who can get there in time. However, we have made a reservation for a group of CLIS members and friends to have lunch together in the restaurant of the **Royal Hotel**, also in Manvers Street, from 12.00 noon. If you would like to book a place or places for lunch please let me know. The restaurant staff are likely to ask for our menu choices in advance of the 19 October, so please book early in order to avoid disappointment.

Bath is one of our most convenient venues as **Manvers Street Baptist Church** and the **Royal Hotel** are both located a short walk from Bath Spa railway station. If you visit the church’s web site at <https://www.manversstreetbaptist.wordpress.com> and look at the *“How to find us”* section you will find a map showing the location of the church and hotel plus details of car parking facilities and the local *“Park and Ride”* arrangements.

Attendance at the lecture is not restricted to CLIS members or librarians, so please pass the details on to friends and colleagues likely to be interested. Admission is free, and there is no need to book in advance. We hope to see you in Bath.

## **LIBRARIES WEEK 2019**

There is still time to get involved in this year’s **Libraries Week** which takes place from **7 - 12 October 2019** and will celebrate the role of libraries in the digital age. I hope that CLIS members will support **Libraries Week** in their libraries and also in their churches. Members could write short articles on libraries for their church newsletters or contribute brief *‘library spots’* to Sunday or mid-week meetings. These might include prayers of thanksgiving for our rich heritage of books, libraries, and digital materials, or encouragement to use libraries as a source of Christian books. You can find more information about **Libraries Week** at [www.librariesweek.org.uk](http://www.librariesweek.org.uk) Please let me know how *you* get involved in **Libraries Week**, whether in your library, your church, or the wider community, and we will include a report in a future issue of the **E-Newsletter** or **Christian Librarian**.

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## **CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION**

Although this year's **Christian Resources Exhibition** offers everything from "*lecterns to lighting, communion wine to computers*" many librarians will take a special interest in displays from Christian publishers and bookshop chains. The exhibition takes place from **Tuesday 15 – Thursday 17 October 2019** at **Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ** and you can book tickets and find more information about the exhibitors and the extensive arts and seminar programmes on the web site [www.creonline.co.uk](http://www.creonline.co.uk) Our retired members may take a special interest in the daily seminar programme for retired Christians, provided by **AfterWorkNet**, and involving our own past speaker, Peter Meadows.

## **VISIT TO KNELLER HALL**

CLIS members are warmly invited to join member **Annabel Haycraft** and friends for a visit to the **Museum of Army Music** at **Kneller Hall**, Twickenham, on **Thursday 14 November 2019** at 2.00 p.m. The collection includes memorabilia associated with military music in the last two hundred years, and features a bugle that sounded at the Charge of the Light Brigade.

The cost is £5.00 per person for the guided tour (by the Curator) and refreshments are available at £1.50 per head, both payable on the day. Meet at the Guard's Gate (to the left of the main building) just before 2.00 p.m where a soldier will escort us in. The address is: **Kneller Hall, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 7DU** and the nearest train station is Whitton. Please contact Annabel on [annabelhaycraft@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annabelhaycraft@yahoo.co.uk) by Monday 4 November 2019 if you wish to attend.

## **CLIS EVENTS FOR 2020**

Next year's Annual Conference is to be held on **Saturday 25 April 2020** in the **Princes Street Room** at the Salvation Army's **Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London, W1C 2DJ**, from 10.30. a.m. The theme for the conference is **2020 Vision: Communications in a Digital Age** and our speakers will be

the Rev. **Mark Woods**, former editor of the **Baptist Times** and the **Christian Today** on-line newspaper, and now working in an editorial role at the **Bible Society**, and **Alexandra Davis**, Projects and Digital Content Lead at the **Evangelical Alliance**.

Following our earlier walking tour of the City of London, and guided tour of the **British Museum**, we have arranged a walking tour of Westminster for **Wednesday 20 May 2020**. This will visit sites with connections with such well known Christian figures as Martyn Lloyd-Jones, John Wesley, William Wilberforce, and Lord Shaftesbury. The tour will again be led by our friend Ben Virgo from **Christian Heritage London**. The tour should commence at 2.00. p.m. but we anticipate that those who can arrive in time will have lunch together in the cafe at **Westminster Central Hall** from 12.30.p.m. More details will follow in due course.

Next year's Annual Lecture is to be held on **Saturday 10 October 2020** at the **Belfrey Hall, 52A Stonegate, York, YO1 8AS**, from 2.30.p.m., and our guest speaker is to be **Paul Burbridge**, Artistic Director of the **Riding Lights Theatre Company**. Further details will be published as they become available but please book these dates and plan to attend.

## ***BIBLICAL CREATION LIBRARY***

Our Library Assistance Manager, **Rachel Johnson**, has received details of a possible cataloguing and classification project which might be of interest to members of CLIS with time and expertise to offer. The **Biblical Creation Trust Collection** is based in Soham, Cambridgeshire, and consists of some two thousand items, including books, journals, pamphlets, conference proceedings, audio-visual presentations, videos, and DVDs. Some material has been digitised and is available on CD. You can find more information about the **Biblical Creation Trust** on their web site <https://www.biblicalcreationtrust.org>

If any CLIS members are interested in assisting with the cataloguing and classification of this material the Trust has funds available to reimburse travelling expenses and Rachel and her husband Terry are willing to offer limited accommodation at their home in Ely, which is quite close to Soham,

and transport from Ely to Soham. If you are interested in assisting with this project, or would like more information about what might be involved, please contact Rachel at [wanderinglibrarian56@gmail.com](mailto:wanderinglibrarian56@gmail.com) or telephone her on 01353 968564.

## **MICHAEL RAMSEY PRIZE**

The 2019 **Michael Ramsay Prize** for theological writing has been awarded to the Rev. Canon **Mark Oakley** for his book **The Splash of Words: believing in poetry** (Canterbury Press), a collection of forty poems on theological themes published alongside personal reflections by the author.

The winner was announced at the **Greenbelt Festival** on Sunday 25 August 2019 by the current Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, who was a member of the judges' panel. The award is named in memory of an earlier Archbishop, Michael Ramsey, and is given every three years in recognition of distinguished Christian writing. The winner receives a prize of £10,000 while the other shortlisted writers each receive awards of £1000 each.

## **LIBRARIES IN THE NEWS**

According to recent news reports a church-run playgroup has been banned from a local library following complaints that their nursery rhymes mentioned God. Helpers from the **Noah's Ark** playgroup, sponsored by the **King's Church**, Mid-Sussex, had been meeting at the **Burgess Hill Library** for the past eight years to sing songs including occasional songs based on Bible stories. However library officials in **West Sussex** have made the decision to exclude the volunteers from their "*baby rhyme times*" and asked them to take their sessions elsewhere following comments from one member of the public who questioned the Christian references in a couple of the songs.

Meanwhile in the United States the Kentucky creationist Ken Hare, builder of a 551-foot-long replica of Noah's Ark, is reported to have recently urged parents to keep their children away from libraries because he believes they have become "*LGBT sewers*" promoting unbiblical views of the homosexual lifestyle.

CLIS members will support the principle of free speech and the view that public libraries should include materials reflecting a wide variety of viewpoints. However, Christians who hold to a traditional biblical view of human sexuality may question whether that view is always adequately represented on library shelves. Some may even have experienced a crisis of conscience if they have been asked to arrange library displays for “*LGBT History Month*” or similar events. Has this been *your* experience? Please send me your views and we will conduct a debate in a future issue

## **PROMOTING BIBLE READING**

Throughout next year, evangelical Christians and churches worldwide will be working to promote a deeper engagement with the Bible. The **World Evangelical Alliance** is to launch the **AD 2020 Global Year of the Bible** to lay the foundation for more Christians making a lifelong commitment to live by God’s Word. The initiative will seek to encourage Bible reading by individuals and in group settings while also seeking to further translation work for people groups that still do not have the scriptures in their own languages.

The work will be overseen by the WEA’s **Bible Engagement Advocacy Team** which will partner with national Evangelical Alliances and WEA member organisations to mobilise evangelicals around the world in celebrating the Bible. The initiative will have its official launch at a conference to be held this month at the **Museum of the Bible** in Washington DC. You can find more information about this, and the wider work of the **World Evangelical Alliance**, on the web site <https://www.worlddea.org>

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