

CLIS Christians in
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Affiliated to: Evangelical Alliance; Transform Work UK; Universities' & Colleges' Christian Fellowship. Web Site: www.christianlis.org.uk

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E-NEWSLETTER, No. 86, CHRISTMAS 2019

DATES 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**, Director of Marketing and Communications at the **Pilgrims' Friend Society**.

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.

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.

LIBRARY ASSISTANCE PROJECT

We have been approached by Pastor Simon Green who, in addition to serving as one of the ministers of **Emmanuel Church** in Salisbury, is also a trustee in what has become the **Salisbury Reformed Seminary**. He has been given the task of trying to organise and catalogue the seminary's growing library and he would be grateful if any members of CLIS were willing to assist with this project.

The library is split across two rooms and contains somewhere in the region of five to six thousand books some of which are antiquarian. Pastor Simon is aware of a number of duplicate volumes which would need to be removed from the library due to space restrictions and given away to the students. Can anyone help? If you are interested, or need more information, please contact Rachel Johnson, our Library Assistance Manager, at wanderinglibrarian56@gmail.com You can find more information about the **Salisbury Reformed Seminary** at www.salisburyseminary.org

LEWIS AND ANTI-LEWIS

C. S. Lewis' classic children's story **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** has been adapted for the stage on several occasions and the latest version is currently being performed at the **Bridge Theatre, Potters Fields Park**,

London, SE1 2SG where it will run until 2 February 2020. Lewis' story of four children who stumble into the land of Narnia through an enchanted wardrobe can be interpreted in multiple ways and Sally Cookson's inventive production, first seen at the **Leeds Playhouse** two years ago, emphasises that this is a story about a family of evacuees confronting the perils of wartime.

Interestingly, the **Bridge Theatre** will also be staging a theatrical adaptation of **La Belle Sauvage**, the first volume in the **Book of Dust** trilogy by C. S. Lewis' great nemesis Philip Pullman. This is scheduled to run at the theatre between **11 July – 10 October 2020**. You can find more details about both productions, including ticket prices and performance times, on the web site <https://bridgetheatre.co.uk> or by telephoning 0333 320 0052.

ALL ABOARD NOAH'S ARK

Visitors to Ipswich can look forward to a visit to what is described as "*the world's only floating exhibition of Bible stories*". Created by a Dutch television and theatre producer, **The Ark** is a half-sized replica of Noah's Ark, as described in the Book of Genesis, and can be visited at the town's **Orwell Quay** for three months from 15 November 2019.

The Ark is described as an educational and cultural celebration of many of the Bible's best known stories including the stories of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Abraham, Moses, David and Goliath and many more. Covering two thousand square metres and four floors the biblical stories are brought to life through an array of wooden carved sculptures, the centre of which is the Tree of Life growing up through the middle of the ship. You can find more details, including opening hours, ticket prices, and travel information on the web site <https://arkmuseum.eu> or by e-mailing info@arkmuseum.eu

WORD FOR THE WORLD

Bible 2020 is a forthcoming project from the **Scottish Bible Society** and the **United Bible Societies** intended to create a worldwide community speaking

the words of the Bible together across cities, towns, villages, streets and continents. The idea is that a smartphone app will deliver daily readings for a year that can be received in multiple languages providing access across the world. Originally conceived as a project for Scotland, the intention is now to make **Bible 2020** available globally and it is expected that, when the scheme goes live at the beginning of 2020, there will be some two thousand Bible translations available in different languages. You can find more information on the official web site at www.bible2020.org This project is being linked with the **AD 2020 Global Year of the Bible** initiative launched by the **World Evangelical Alliance** with backing from the **Lausanne Network**, **Youth With a Mission**, **Biblica** and many other organisations. For more information see www.bibleyear2020.com

HOME SWEET HOME

You can read my review of Jo Swinney's book **Home: the quest to belong** on the **Evangelical Alliance** web site at <https://www.eauk.org/news-and-views/book-review-home-the-quest-to-belong> Members of CLIS will especially appreciate the chapter on feeling at home in working life. Some librarians choose librarianship as a first choice of career but others will identify with the author's struggles to find a role in working life before becoming a writer and administrator for a Christian charity. She also tells the story of King David who was a shepherd, musician, soldier and outlaw before fulfilling his destiny as King of Israel. **Home** is published by Hodder and Stoughton, RRP £14.99, ISBN 978-473648654.

STRONGER TOGETHER

As reported in the Winter 2019 issue of **Christian Librarian**, our recent guest lecturer Bob Hartman received two awards at **Christian Resources Together**, the annual retreat for members of the Christian book trade. **Bob Hartman's Rhyming Bible** (SPCK, RRP £14.99 ISBN 978-0281077946) was recognised as the year's best children's and youth title while Bob's overall contribution to Christian publishing was recognised with a special award sponsored by the **Association of Christian Writers**.

During the same awards ceremony the leading New Testament scholar Paula Gooder won a prize for **Phoebe** (Hodder and Stoughton, RRP £8.99, ISBN 978-1444791747), her first venture into biblical fiction, while the late Billy Graham won an award for the best biographical work with his **Hear my Heart** (Authentic Media, RRP £9.99, ISBN 978-1780781174). Christian music was also recognised and Lauren Daigle, who has recently been given extensive airplay on BBC radio as well as on Christian stations, won an award for her album **Look Up Child** (Integrity Music).

The theme of the retreat was *Stronger Together* and it attracted several hundred booksellers and publishers to **The Hayes** Conference Centre, Swanwick, between Tuesday 17 – Wednesday 18 September 2019. Speakers during the main conference included the well known Christian writers Andrew Roberts, Patrick Regan and Krish Kandiah, while those who arrived early on the Monday evening were entertained by stand-up comedian and television writer Paul Karenza. Next year's CRT retreat has been planned for **Tuesday 15 – Wednesday 16 September 2020** at **The Hayes** conference centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, and you can find more information at www.christianresourcestogether.co.uk

CHRISTMAS READING

One of the attractions of the **Christian Resources Together** retreat is the opportunity to meet well known Christian writers and to receive signed copies of their books. At this year's event I was especially pleased to meet writer and broadcaster Brian Sibley. Brian is probably best known as the script writer for the BBC radio adaptations of **The Chronicles of Narnia**, **The Lord of the Rings**, and, more recently, T. H. White's **The Once and Future King**, but he has written books and radio scripts on many other subjects.

Brian's latest book is **Joseph and the Three Gifts** (Darton, Longman and Todd, RRP £9.99, ISBN 978-0232534160). The publishers suggest that although we are all familiar with Joseph from the Christmas story, and countless Nativity plays, for many he remains a shadowy figure about whom we know very little. Brian Sibley's story, imagined as it might be told by the archangel Gabriel, helps us to understand who Joseph was and the part he

was called to play in the story of Jesus. **Joseph and the Three Gifts** follows Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to Egypt, and a return to his work as a carpenter in Nazareth. As the story progresses Jesus grows from boy to man to Messiah. The story also suggests what Joseph might have done with the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh presented to the infant Jesus by the wise men from the east.

Joseph and the Three Gifts is described by its publishers as “*a wonderful story for all ages*” which would make perfect reading for Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.



This issue of the E-Newsletter comes with best wishes and Christian greetings for Christmas and the New Year from the Officers and Executive Committee of Christians in Library and Information Services.

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