



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

Secretary and Publications Editor: Graham Hedges, MCLIP, Hon. FCLIP.
34 Thurlestone Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9DU, England.
Tel. +44 (0) 20 8599 1310. Mobile 07465 429996.
E-mail secretary@christianlis.org.uk

E-NEWSLETTER, No. 87, EASTER 2020

CONFERENCE PLANS FOR 2020 AND 2021

We regret to announce that the CLIS annual conference for 2020 has been cancelled in response to the *Coronavirus* pandemic which has affected the United Kingdom and many other countries of the world. Readers will know that many other events – Christian and secular - have been postponed or cancelled in an attempt to minimise the spread of the virus and that the government have requested the curtailment of social gatherings of various kinds.

Refunds are being issued to delegates who have booked for the conference and we are hoping to re-convene the conference for April 2021 if the same speakers and a suitable venue are available.

Readers will recall that the 2020 Conference was to be held on Saturday 25 April 2020 at the Salvation Army's **Regent Hall**, in London, The theme for

the conference was to be **2020 Vision: Communications in a Digital Age** and our speakers were to 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**. Please pray for the CLIS committee as we consider alternative plans for 2021 and for the government, health professionals, library and information workers and others as they respond to the current health crisis.

OTHER EVENTS PLANNED FOR 2020

We have not yet made a decision about the other CLIS events planned for 2020 which include an afternoon walking tour of Westminster on Wednesday afternoon 20 May 2020 led by our friend **Ben Virgo** from **Christian Heritage London**. If you are interested in taking part in this tour please check with me before sending in your booking.

We will also have to make a decision about this year's Annual Lecture currently planned for Saturday 10 October 2020 in York, with guest speaker **Paul Burbridge**, Artistic Director of the **Riding Lights Theatre Company**. Please watch this space for future announcements.

LONG SERVING MEMBERS

We have recently received the sad news that our member, **Philip Hayworth**, aged eighty-five, has died. Philip was a long standing member of LCF/CLIS and attended many of our events. He served as our northern regional rep for many years and became one of our Life Vice-Presidents in his later years. Philip also played an active role in our library working parties at the **Northumbria Bible College, Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship**, and elsewhere. He enjoyed a varied career in librarianship, which he wrote up for **Christian Librarian**, and ended his working life as the Chief Cataloguer for the public library service in Bolton.

We were also sorry to recently receive news of the death of another long serving member, **Ann Winsor**, who joined the **Librarians' Christian Fellowship** (as we were) in 1975, before the Fellowship had been officially constituted and before the first committee had been elected. Ann spent some time in Papua New Guinea where she organised a library for the **Wycliffe Bible Translators** and later gave an illustrated talk about her experiences at an early LCF Conference. During her retirement Ann worked as a part time volunteer for the **Sussex Archaeological Society**.

We give thanks for Philip and Ann's past support for our Fellowship, and their lives of Christian service and we would remember their families and friends at this time of bereavement.

FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE

On Thursday 12 March 2020 your Secretary took part in a 'phone-in programme on Christian faith in the workplace broadcast on **Premier Christian Radio**. I discussed the role of Christian professional groups (including our own) with the presenter, John Pantry, and stressed the value of such groups in supporting Christians in similar areas of work and providing opportunities for discussing professional issues from a shared Christian perspective.

BIKING FOR BOOKS

In our Spring 2020 issue of **Christian Librarian** we recorded that our past speaker, **Paula Renouf**, was planning a sponsored cycle ride around many of the Christian booksops of the United Kingdom in order to raise funds for the **Christian Book Promotion Trust** and its **Speaking Volumes** library scheme.

We regret to announce that this proposed tour is another casualty of the current *Coronavirus* outbreak but it is hoped that the cycle ride will be re-arranged for 2021. In the meantime you can obtain more information about

Speaking Volumes from the web site <https://www.speakingvolumes.org.uk>
or by e-mailing info@speakingvolumes.org.uk

EPWORTH LIBRARY

Readers may recall that, following the demise of the **Methodist Publishing House** and **Epworth Press**, a few years back, volunteers provided by CLIS organised a library of books first published by these two publishing houses. The library was originally housed in the basement of the **Westminster Central Hall**. Unfortunately, the collection received very little use in this location and a decision was made to look for a more suitable home elsewhere.

After a long delay we were recently pleased to hear from our contact at the **Methodist Church** that, at a convenient time, the collection will be transferred to the **John Rylands University Library** in Manchester which already houses a great deal of archival material from religious denominations. When this move takes place it may be that the Rylands Library would welcome voluntary help in shelving the books and sorting them back into order. If you would be interested in helping with this, please let me know, especially if you live in the Greater Manchester area.

Graham Hedges

BIBLICAL CREATION TRUST LIBRARY

The **Biblical Creation Trust**, based in Soham, Cambridgeshire, promotes research in creationist science and theology. The Trust's library is currently located in the home of its one full-time employee but the organisation is looking to re-locate to a dedicated site elsewhere.

The library stock consists of around fifteen hundred books in the main collection and a further seven hundred and fifty titles in storage. The collection covers the full range of Christian thought from theistic evolution to

young Earth creationism and represents the whole creation/evolution controversy since before the time of Darwin.

Volunteers are sought to help produce a catalogue listing that can be made publicly available and to set the catalogue up as an Excel spreadsheet. The stock also needs to be classified using the **Core Academy of Science** specialised scheme.

Work on this project is unlikely to start before the autumn of 2020 at the earliest but for the moment we are asking for expressions of interest from CLIS members who might be willing to take part in working parties. If these go ahead the Trust has undertaken to provide meals and accommodation and to repay travel and other expenses.

If you are interested, or require more information, please contact Richard Waller who has agreed to serve as project manager. You can contact Richard at randnwaller@blueyonder.co.uk

Let the Peace of God rule in our hearts this Easter

In common with many of the founder members of CLIS back in 1973-74, I am getting older. Some of us (and by no mean just those getting older) are in that unfortunate grouping of '*pre-existing medical conditions*' that seems peculiarly liable to fall prey to the *coronavirus* that is causing such alarm as I write this on the evening after the Prime Minister made the first announcement of restrictions due to the pandemic. Who knows what will have happened by the time you read this.

However, one thing is certainly true, covid 19 is coming but so is Easter. Of the two, Easter is more important. This world may be full of trouble and alarm, and people are panic buying, filled with a fear that isn't altogether justified, although in all truth the situation is serious enough. Easter tells us that no matter what happens, God is still on his throne and rules over the affairs of mankind. The Lord of History is not surprised by the advent of pandemic *coronavirus*.

Christ has died and risen again and the triumph of God is fully assured and those who trust in him are in his hands. Christ is the first fruits of the victory that God has achieved over the fallen world. We have his promise, guaranteed to us, that he cares for us and will look after our best interests. Others can panic if they like, it isn't fitting that the community of the redeemed, trusting in the risen Christ, should be filled with fear, but rather filled with the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Maybe this Easter will be unlike any other any of us can remember. Will it be safe to hold church services by then? Who knows? The future is in the hands of God and the power and truth of Easter does not lie in the services, although we will miss them if they don't happen, but in the power of God who raised Jesus for our justification as the Scriptures tell us. We can keep Easter in our hearts no matter what is happening outside. Easter is what it is all about, sin is defeated, death is defeated, there is life eternal for all who trust in the risen Lord.

May God bless us all with his peace at this Easter time.

Richard M. Waller.



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

Copyright: **Christians in Library and Information Services.**
Extracts from this newsletter may be reproduced and distributed on condition that the following acknowledgement is included:
From: **CLIS E-NEWSLETTER**, No. 87, Copyright: Christians in Library and Information Services, April 2020..