

Summer 2011

# ***CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN***



The Journal of the  
Librarians' Christian Fellowship

## CONTENTS INCLUDE

- ***CREDO: FORMAL BELIEF OR DAILY DIRECTION?***
  - ***2011: THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE***
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- ***A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE : THE CELTIC CHRISTIAN  
STUDIES LIBRARY ON HOLY ISLAND***
- ***RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE***

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

### ●TUESDAY 12 JULY 2011: SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield, from 5.30.p.m as part of CILIP's *Umbrella 2011*.  
Speaker: Rt. Rev. **Michael Langrish**, Bishop of Exeter.  
Details: p 7.

### FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2011: OXFORD WALKING TOUR

Follow in the footsteps of the Oxford translators of the **King James Bible**. Details: pp. 7 - 8.

### ●SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER 2011: ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE

RISC Centre, Reading.  
Speaker: **Dave Roberts**, author of ***The Twilight Gospel***  
on: *Spirits in the Material World: the resurgence of a spirituality of personal supernatural power in best selling literature*. Details: p. 8.

## PRAYER NOTES FOR SPRING 2011

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

●LCF's future activities including the *Service of Thanksgiving* and *Annual Public Lecture*.

●The work of LCF's Review Group as it considers the work of the Fellowship and makes recommendations for the future.

●Librarians facing job loss or uncertainty in the present economic climate.

●The work of the *Arts Centre Group* and its individual members in the arts and media.

●The future work of the *St. Albans Music Centre* and the *Quench* Christian bookshop who share their premises.

●The work of the *King James Bible Trust* and the *Biblefresh* project in this four hundredth anniversary year of the **King James Bible**.

●The work of the *Religious Archives Group* and the *Celtic Studies Library* on Lindisfarne.

●Give thanks for the life of Professor **Ken Bakewell** and remember his wife and daughter in their time of loss.



# **LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**CHRISTIANS IN LIBRARY, INFORMATION AND ARCHIVE WORK**

*An organisation 'in liaison' with the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.  
Affiliated to: Christian Research Association; Christians at Work; Evangelical Alliance; Transform Work  
UK; Universities' & Colleges' Christian Fellowship.  
Web Site: [www.librarianscf.org.uk](http://www.librarianscf.org.uk)*

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## THE FIRST WORD

“Our destiny is sure but Jesus never promised an easy journey”. MARGARET KEELING suggests a positive response to a time of change and uncertainty in the library and information professions

# **CREDO**

## **FORMAL BELIEF OR DAILY DIRECTION?**

During Holy Week *The Times* ran a daily short article by different religious leaders under the title of ‘Credo’, starting with one by Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York<sup>1</sup>. It had a challenging strap line: ‘*our destiny is sure, but Jesus never promised an easy journey*’ – words which will resonate with many LCF members.

As Christians we recognise a credo as a formal statement of belief, but this term has been adopted by the business world and the meaning shifts to anything from a sort of mission statement (‘*our credo is the customer is always first*’) to a personal or corporate reminder of what defines you.

Archbishop Sentamu’s ‘credo’ is much more than a professional or formal statement of belief. For him it is how ‘*we can orientate ourselves in this bewildering world*’, where ‘*uncertainty is the only real certainty, and knowing how to live with insecurity the only real security*’<sup>2</sup> Jesus’ death and resurrection is the fixed point which defines how we move through our lives, ‘*able to live in faith and hope, supporting each other*’

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<sup>1</sup> John Sentamu, Credo, *The Times* 18 April 2011

<sup>2</sup> Quotation from mathematics professor, John Allen Portos, *ibid.*

As you know, the LCF review group has started to meet. We value your prayers as we look back in thankfulness, for the ways God has used us in the past, and with Michael Coveney's help, consider what defines us as a Christian professional organisation at a time in which our profession is under pressure in so many ways, and in which individuals are facing unacceptable levels of change

As I follow the local budget cuts which if carried out as proposed, would decimate library services here in Suffolk, I am only too aware of how the crippling uncertainty and fear about the future affects so many people in Library and Information professions across all sectors. School library services are closing, academic libraries consider staffing cuts to offset rising costs, workplace libraries may be seen as a luxury, vacancies are not filled. What then is our professional 'credo' which responds to this uncertainty in support, faith and hope?

Times of uncertainty and change are when *'it's in Christ we find out who we are and what we're living for'* (Ephesians 1 v.11). It may be in work, out of work, in retirement, in the community, in the home, but it will be in the unique and personal place to which God has called us as *'ambassadors for the grace and hope of God, wherever we may be'*.

**D. Margaret Keeling**, BA, MA, MCLIP, PhD, was elected as President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* at the annual general meeting on Saturday 2 April 2011. She worked until her retirement as Head of Services for Libraries, Culture and Adult Community Learning for *Essex County Council*.

## THE SECOND WORD

**LOUISE MANNERS** attends a religious service in fancy dress and visits a World Heritage Site with its three Romanesque churches

# **TUDOR QUEENS AND PINK RABBITS**

Dressed as Queen Katherine Parr I walked up to the door of *St. Stephan's Church* in Konstanz, Germany on a Sunday. I did not know whether or not I would be able to get in or whether I would offend the Germans by wearing such an outfit. It was during *Fastnacht* and it turned out that the majority of the church congregation was in costume, mainly costume of the carnival groups. The *Niederburg* or Old Town marching band was playing at the service so relatives of band members and the band's flag-bearers were there in force. The priest called up young people to stand in front of the altar. It was astonishing to see two pink rabbits standing in front of the altar.

In his sermon the priest put into context Konstanz about to celebrate the anniversary of the Council 1414 to 1418, which ended the papal schism, and the foolery of the *Konstanz Fastnacht*, the origins of which are in pre-Christian times. Konstanz is inviting people to attend the anniversary celebrations to come from all the places which sent delegates in 1414 to 1481. The *Fastnacht* begins with the spirit of *Fastnacht* being called up out of the lake and ends with it being returned to the lake on Ash Wednesday. The priest ended with the *Konstanz Fastnacht* greeting "*Ho Narro*".

On the Saturday I was taken to the World Heritage site and former monastery island, the Reichenau Island, and shown around the three ancient Romanesque churches on the island. Reichenau was a centre of culture and learning; its scriptorium providing books for royal courts and Italian bishops. St. George, built around the end of the 9<sup>th</sup> century, served to keep the George relic and features wall murals of the miracles of Jesus, the oldest church paintings north of the Alps. Saints Peter and Paul, founded by Bishop Egino of Verona, has a stunning baroque interior. Medieval mural paintings discovered underneath the decoration compete with the baroque.

**Louise Manners**, *DipLib, MA, MCLIP*, was elected as Chair of the Executive committee of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* at the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 19 April 2008.

NEWS  
**LIBRARIANS'  
CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP  
NEWSLETTER**



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## **SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING**

This issue may arrive in time to remind readers that we will be organising another *Service of Thanksgiving* as our contribution to the CILIP *Umbrella* conference to be held at the **University of Hertfordshire**, at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, between **12-13 July 2011**.

LCF's service is to be held on **Tuesday 12 July 2011**, from 5.30. - 6.15 p.m. Our guest speaker will be the Rt. Rev. **Michael Langrish**, Bishop of Exeter, who will be speaking on the theme *Wisdom, Word and Wiki*. Other participants will include LCF's Life Vice-President **Gordon Harris**, CILIP's President **Brian Hall** and the music group

from *St. Mark's Church*, Colney Heath, Hertfordshire.

Unfortunately, due to the tight conference programme, our service will clash with the conference exhibitors' reception again this year. We hope our short time of worship and reflection will be well attended by conference delegates. However, we will also be grateful to other LCF members who make a special effort to come to Hatfield to attend the service.

We will need the services of one or two extra stewards who can welcome delegates on the door, and hand out service sheets. If you can help, please let me know.

The *Service of Thanksgiving* is one of the public faces of LCF within the wider library and information professions. Please support us with your prayers, and if possible with your presence.

## **OXFORD WALKING TOUR**

LCF's celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the **King James Bible** continues on **Friday afternoon 2 September 2011**, from 2.30. pm when we will be organising another walking tour of Oxford. This will be led by **Peter Berry**, official tour guide for *Blackwell's Bookshop*, who has led several earlier tours for members of the Fellowship. This time we will be following in the footsteps of the Oxford translators who worked on the text of the KJB and earlier translators with Oxford connections including John Wycliffe

and William Tyndale.

It is hoped that those who are able to get to Oxford in time will also be able to pay a morning visit to the Bodleian Library's summer exhibition *Manifold Greatness: Oxford and the Making of the KJV* and have lunch together in a local restaurant.

Please let me know if you would like to book a place or places on the afternoon walking tour and indicate whether you would also be interested in joining us for the Bodleian visit or for lunch.

## **ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE**

**Dave Roberts**, author of *The Twilight Gospel*, will be giving our annual public lecture at the **RISC Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading**, on **Saturday 1 October 2011**, from 2.30.p.m. Dave's lecture will be entitled *Spirits in the Material World: the resurgence of a spirituality of personal supernatural power in best selling literature*. The speaker will be suggesting that Harry Potter, Twilight's Bella and Edward, and the heroes of Dan Brown's fiction are all high profile evangelists of the power that is within you. Why has this theme emerged, what is its appeal, and what has the Christian world view to offer in response?

Please book the date now and plan to join us in Reading for what promises to be an informative and thought provoking lecture.

There is no need to book for the afternoon lecture but if you

would like to join the LCF group for lunch beforehand, please let me know.

## **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

For the first time this year we are not including a printed membership directory as a supplement to the Summer issue of *Christian Librarian*.

In order to save on the high printing costs we have sent the 2011 directory out as an e-mail attachment to members and personal subscribers who are on the mailing list to receive our *E-Newsletter*. If you are on this list you should have received the directory early in June. If you did not, or have encountered problems with the attachment, please contact our Web Site Manager, Mary Wood at [mary@the-woods.org.uk](mailto:mary@the-woods.org.uk)

Members and subscribers who would like to receive a printed copy of the directory should get in touch with our Membership Secretary: Janice Paine, 22 Queensgate Gardens, 396 Upper Richmond Road, London, SW15 6JN. Tel. 020 8785 2174.

Have you remembered to pay your subscription for 2011? If your name does not appear in the directory, we have probably not received your payment this year. On the other hand, it is always possible that we have made a mistake. Either way, Janice will be pleased to hear from you!



## PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

- Past LCF speaker, the Rev. **Lionel Fanthorpe**, was the subject of a BBC Radio Four programme on Thursday 17 February 2011.

*The Priest, the Badger and the Little Green Men from Mars* told the story of Lionel's early career as the world's most prolific science fiction writer. In the late 1950s and early 1960s Lionel wrote one hundred and fifty science fiction novels for *Badger Books* under various names including eighty-nine written during a three year period when he was holding down a teaching job.

Lionel, still well known as a writer, broadcaster and non-stipendiary clergyman, gave LCF's annual public lecture back in October 1998.

- **Andrew Parker**, who works as a Higher Library Executive at the *House of Commons*, will shortly be treading the boards in a new theatrical production.

Andrew has a small part in a new production of William Nicholson's play *Shadowlands*, which tells the story of C.S. Lewis's marriage to Joy Davidman. This is being performed at the *Lantern Arts Centre*, Tolverne Road, Raynes Park, London, SW20 8RA, between Tuesday 12 and Saturday 16 July 2011 inclusive.

Performances begin at 7.30 pm., with an extra 3.00 pm.

performance on the Saturday. Tickets cost £12 (concessions £10.00.)

You can book tickets by calling the box office on 020 8944 5794 or obtain more information from [http://www.lanternarts.org/main.php?page\\_id=20](http://www.lanternarts.org/main.php?page_id=20)

- Past LCF speaker the Rev. **G.P. Taylor** was a speaker at this year's *International Christian Resources Exhibition* at Esher where his seminar *Sex, Violence, Vampires and King David* posed the provocative question, "is there a place in Christian literature for sex and violence, or should that be left in the Bible?"

- The Rev. **John Waddington-Feather** reports that his play *Edward* has been taken up by a New York literary agent who has high hopes of its being produced there after the success of *The King's Speech* and the recent royal wedding. John's play is an independent prequel to *The King's Speech* and deals with "the scandalous abdication" of King Edward VII.

*Edward* has been published by Feather Books, P.O. Box 438, Shrewsbury, SY3 0WN, price £5.00.

- LCF subscriber Canon **David Winter** has recently had his fortieth book published.

*Finding the Light* (Bible

Reading Fellowship, £6.99, ISBN 978-1841018355) relates the book of Revelation to contemporary issues such as natural disasters and the ongoing threat of terrorism. The author also explores the historical context in which Revelation was originally written.

David formerly served as editor of **Crusade** magazine and as head of religious broadcasting at the BBC. His earlier books include a biography of Cliff Richard, an anthology of poetry, and many others on biblical and religious topics.

## **THE ULTIMATE CHRISTIAN LIBRARY BOOK**

LCF readers will welcome the presentation of the second *Ultimate Christian Library Book Award* to Brad Lincoln's **One Dad: Encountering God** (Bible Reading Fellowship, 2010, £6.99, ISBN 978-1841016780)

The Award is sponsored by the *Christian Book Promotion Trust*, organisers of the *Speaking Volumes* library scheme. The winning book was chosen from a shortlist of five recent titles by members of the public who cast their votes on-line or by post.

The award was presented at the recent *International Christian Resources Exhibition* by the popular writer and speaker Jeff Lucas.

The *Christian Book Promotion Trust* has done much to raise the

profile of Christian books with their *Speaking Volumes* scheme in which churches are encouraged to donate books to public and school libraries. The *Ultimate Christian Library Book* award is a further step in this process and will give welcome publicity to a book that deserves to be widely stocked in public and other libraries.

You can obtain more information about the *Christian Book Promotion Trust* and *Speaking Volumes* from Paula Renouf, P.O. Box 1070, Whittlesford, Cambridge, CB22 4WX. E-mail [info@speakingvolumes.org.uk](mailto:info@speakingvolumes.org.uk) Web site <http://www.speakingvolumes.org.uk>

## **VOLUNTEER LIBRARIAN**

**Karen Stahl** is an experienced church librarian from Arizona, USA, where she has established a parish library in her local Catholic church, catalogued the entire holdings on computer, and trained and supervised about twenty volunteers. In addition, as reported elsewhere in this issue, she organised and catalogued the *Celtic Studies Library* on Lindisfarne, Holy Island, during January 2009.

If anyone needs help in cataloguing their church, school, or convent/monastery library, Karen would be interested in volunteering to do that in return for room and board. The best time for Karen and her husband to return to the UK

would be during the summer of 2012 when they would be available for 1-3 months. It would be very helpful to have additional volunteers to prepare the items for shelving, including affixing spine labels, adding pockets and date due slips (if desired) and covering the volumes.

If you could make use of Karen's labours, or know someone who might benefit from her assistance, contact her at [kstahl755@gmail.com](mailto:kstahl755@gmail.com)

## **BOOKS AT GREENBELT**

If you could give any book to a child or young person, what would you give them?

Ben Whitehouse, who co-ordinates the literature programme at the annual *Greenbelt Festival*, would like to host the biggest kids' book giveaway the Festival has ever seen. He would like to be able to give the children who come to Greenbelt books to inspire them, fire their imaginations, delight them, scare them, and feed their souls.

Does this sound like a good idea and something that you would like to be involved in? All you need to do is buy a copy of the book you have in mind and drop it in the post to Ben Whitehouse, Literature Programme, Greenbelt Festival, 83 London Wall, London, EC2M 5ND.

Well established as a leading Christian festival, *Greenbelt* offers an impressive line-up of speakers

and musicians. This year's event takes place at the **Cheltenham Racecourse** between **26-29 August 2011**, and you can find more information on the web site <http://www.greenbelt.org.uk>

## **CURRENT AWARENESS**

- The workplace is often a hostile environment in which to practice faith, and many Christians are tempted to treat their faith as a private hobby for evenings and weekends. However, it can be beneficial to join a Christian professional association and to make common cause with other Christians in the same occupation or profession.

The *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* is an example of such a group but associations also exist for actors, farmers, social workers, doctors and engineers, among others.

Christian associations have had to adapt in recent years, often becoming Internet communities, offering support through web-sites and social media. LCF has to try and offer support to members suffering from cuts in budgets, redundancies and restructuring.

Christian associations exist to make a positive contribution to working life, not to provide a refuge from the world of work.

Rose Manley's *Faith and the Workplace* appears in the

**Methodist Recorder** for 12 May 2011, p. 15.

- An American Eastern Orthodox theologian, Dr. David Bentley Hart, has been awarded the *Michael Ramsey Prize* for the best recent book on a theological theme.

Dr. Bentley Hart received the award at the recent *Telegraph Hay Festival*. ***Atheist Delusions: the Christian revolution and its fashionable enemies*** (Yale University Press, £14.99, ISBN 978-0300164299 ) was said to “take no prisoners in its response to fashionable criticisms of Christianity”.

Ed Thornton's *Critic of New Atheists Wins Archbishop's Prize* appears in the ***Church Times*** for 3 June 2011, p. 4.

- Ann Widdecombe's *God's Own Gumshoe* provides an introduction to Father Brown, G.K. Chesterton's shambolic priest-turned-detective who made his first fictional appearance a century ago this year.

Chesterton's style and language now seem very dated, and his plots implausible, but his stories are still read today. To Father Brown, his talents as a detective present no very great mystery. He spends his life listening to men's sins and is therefore well acquainted with the workings of human nature.

Chesterton was not a Catholic when he started writing the stories but later became one. It is possible that Father Brown assisted in the conversion of his own creator! The

character certainly played a part in the conversion of Alec Guinness, whose road to Catholicism began when he played Father Brown in a film.

The article appears in the ***Radio Times*** for 7-13 May 2011, pp. 124-125.

- Paul Tankard's *Forbidden Art* describes the unlikely friendship between C.S. Lewis and the drama critic and producer Kenneth Tynan.

The article includes a transcript of an interview with Lewis on the subject of “*Eros in the Arts*”. This was filmed for a television arts programme produced by Tynan in the 1960s but almost certainly never broadcast.

Although Lewis argued against the inclusion of explicitly erotic material in literature, his arguments were unexpected and original and are said to have wrong footed the interviewer who had anticipated a more predictable Christian response.

Kenneth Tynan is still best known for his involvement in the sexually explicit stage revue ***Oh! Calcutta!*** However he had studied under Lewis at Oxford, and retained a lifelong respect for his former teacher, asking for an extract from Lewis's sermon *The Weight of Glory* to be read at his funeral.

The article appears in the ***Times Literary Supplement*** for 11 March 2011, pp. 13-15.

- Mike Riddell's *Launching a Kiwi Moon Mission* describes the long process by which his novel ***The Insatiable Moon*** (HarperCollins

1997, ISBN 1-869502388) was brought to the cinema screen.

The finished film was first seen at the *New Zealand International Film Festival* in July 2010, where it was warmly received, and given gala premiere showings in London and Birmingham in October 2010.

The original novel proved controversial in Christian circles and the book's theme of a Maori man with mental health issues who believes himself to be the "second son of God" cost Riddell his job as a lecturer at a Baptist training college in Auckland.

The article appears in the *Church Times* for 4 March 2011, pp. 22-23.

- As the *King James Bible* reaches its four hundredth anniversary, a new wave of atheists, rationalists and scientists are rushing to re-interpret and even replace the Christian Scriptures. David Sexton asks whether such writers are simply attempting to fill the God gap in their own lives.

Melvyn Bragg's *Book of Books* (Hodder and Stoughton, £20.00, ISBN 978-1444705157) sings the praises of the Authorised Version and its influence on society. In his last chapter, however, Bragg admits that he regards "the whole idea – God, Genesis, Christ, Resurrection – [as] a moving metaphor, a poetic way of attempting to understand what may be forever incomprehensible".

A.C. Grayling's *The Good Book: a Secular Bible* (Bloomsbury, £25.00, ISBN 978-

0747599609) is a dogged pastiche of the real Scriptures, bringing together texts from the past which do not mention "gods, souls, the afterlife, religion or any associated topic". The end result, according to Sexton, is the "disco re-mix from Hell", all rendered into Grayling's own banal modern English.

*The Bible Bashers* appears in the London *Evening Standard* for 5 April 2011, pp. 20-21.

- Arnold Hunt's *Gone But Not Forgotten* argues that predictions that the *King James Bible* would be largely forgotten by the year 2000 have proved to be premature.

Contemporary translations of the Bible have a short life expectancy and it is difficult to imagine any of the modern versions still being read in four hundred years time.

Recent celebrity endorsements of the KJB, by Jeanette Winterson, Boris Johnson, and even Richard Dawkins, suggest that the modern editions have not made much of a dent on the popularity of the 1611 translation. On the other hand, T.S. Eliot had a point when he argued that "those who talk of the Bible as a monument of English prose are merely admitting it as a monument over the grave of Christianity".

The article appears in the *Church Times* for 4 March 2011, pp. 24-25.

- Norman Jones's *Final Word – or Flawed Translation?* recognises the merits of the *King James Bible* but suggests that its beauty also has

a negative side.

He concludes, "*The story of the KJB is ... not a story of perfection. It is the story of an exceptionally powerful, though imperfect, translation which was born out of an intimate relationship between the spiritual and the political, and which grew up, so to speak, as the adopted child of one of the most powerful empires the world has known*".

The article appears in the **Church Times** for 25 February 2011, pp. 18-19.

## **KING JAMES AND BEYOND**

*Lambeth Palace Library*, in Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7JU, is currently hosting an exhibition entitled *Out of the Original Sacred Tongues: the Bible and Translation* which runs until 29 July 2011. Admission costs £6.00 and visitors need to book in advance. You can book a visit on line at [www.lambethpalacelibrary.org](http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org) or by calling 0871 230 1107.

Items on display at Lambeth include Wycliffe's fourteenth century English translation, prohibited in England by the church authorities; an early edition of the Pentateuch, used by Martin Luther for his German translation; and the first printed edition of Erasmus' Greek New Testament.

Taking the story of Bible translation into the twentieth century, the display also includes an edition

of the **New English Bible** marked up for recording by well known actors including Sybil Thorndike, Michael Flanders, and Judi Dench.

The King James anniversary has been marked by many books. Notable titles include Gordon Campbell's **Bible: the story of the King James Version** (O.U.P., £16.99, ISBN 978-019557592) and Melvyn Bragg's **The Book of Books: the radical impact of the King James Bible 1611-2011** (Hodder and Stoughton, £20.00, ISBN 978-1444705157).

Adam Nicholson's **When God Spoke English: the making of the King James Bible** (Harper Press, £9.99, ISBN 978-0007431007), is linked to a recent television programme shown on one of the BBC's digital channels.

**God's Dangerous Book: the surprising history of the world's most radical book** by Nick Page (Authentic, £8.99, ISBN 978-1850789017) tells the story of how the Bible came down to us and answers such questions as "*who decided which books were to be included and which ones should be left out?*"

Maggi Dawn's **The Writing on the Wall: high art, popular culture and the Bible** (Hodder and Stoughton, £16.99, ISBN 978-0340980033) re-tells well known stories from the Bible and illustrates their contemporary significance with reference to literature, art and music.

The Bible continues to be published in a number of different versions and editions. Perhaps the most unusual is the **C.S. Lewis**

**Bible** (HarperCollins, £25, ISBN 978-0007383160) which combines the complete text of the *New Revised Standard Version* with extracts from the writings of the twentieth century's most popular Christian writer, C.S. Lewis.

Tom Wright, until recently the Bishop of Durham, is widely recognised as one of our leading biblical scholars. His writings on the life and times of Jesus and St. Paul have shed new light on the New Testament for many readers. Stephen Kuhrt's ***Tom Wright for Everyone*** (SPCK, £9.99, ISBN 978-0281063932) provides an overview of Wright's theology, and suggests ways in which his insights can be put into practice in the ministry of the wider church.

In an earlier generation Professor F.F. Bruce (1910-1990) was respected as one of our leading evangelical scholars involved in New Testament studies. The story of Bruce's life and career at the *University of Manchester* is told in a new biography, ***F.F. Bruce: a life*** (Authentic, £14.99, ISBN 978-1842277379) by Tim Grass. Professor Bruce gave LCF's annual public lecture, back in 1982, and my name appears in a footnote in this new account of his life!

## ***STILL KNOCKIN' ON HEAVEN'S DOOR***

24 May 2011 was the seventieth birthday of one of our most

celebrated songwriters and performers, **Bob Dylan**.

Remarkably, for an artist who first emerged as part of the youth culture of the 1960s, Dylan is still on the road and performing concerts and, after a comparatively fallow period, his recent albums have been praised by critics and fans alike.

During his career, Bob Dylan has appeared in a number of different guises. After first attracting attention as a folk singer, and writer of protest songs, he went on to explore other musical styles, including rock, country and even reggae. His songs presented him in the contrasting roles of social critic, visionary, contented husband and family man, and vengeful lover.

In the late seventies and early eighties Dylan appeared in his most unexpected role as a born again Christian and writer of gospel songs. His albums ***Slow Train Coming***, ***Saved***, and ***Shot of Love*** presented an uncompromising Christian message but their confrontational tone alienated many of his existing fans.

Sadly, Dylan's overtly "Christian period" proved to be short lived and within a few years there were rumours (never officially confirmed) that he had abandoned Christianity and/or returned to the Judaism of his early years.

Michael J. Gilmour's ***The Gospel According to Bob Dylan*** (Westminster/John Knox Press, £10.99, ISBN 978-0664232078), however, looks at Dylan's work and demonstrates that an interest in the Bible and spirituality have been

constants throughout his career.

BBC Radio broadcast several programmes on Dylan around the time of his birthday including ***Blowing in the Wind: Dylan's Spiritual Journey*** which examined his religious roots in Judaism and Christianity.

What happened to Dylan's faith? We can only speculate on the reasons for his apparent withdrawal from the more overt Christian commitment of thirty years ago. However, we have to admit that it can be difficult for Christians in the public eye to maintain a Christian witness and remain part of the Christian community. Even Cliff Richard, the entertainer who has most strongly identified himself as an evangelical Christian, has admitted that he finds involvement in church life difficult.

It is important that Christians in the arts, entertainment and media should receive support and encouragement, not least from believers in their own professions.

2011 marks another significant birthday: the fortieth anniversary of the **Arts Centre Group**.

Established by Cliff Richard, David Winter, Nigel Goodwin, Cindy Kent and others, the ACG continues to offer spiritual help and support to Christians who earn their living as musicians, writers, actors, broadcasters and artists. These efforts are vital in our present media age and they deserve our prayers and financial support.

Although formal membership of the ACG is limited to Christians who are involved professionally in

the arts and media, there is also a category of *Friends of the Arts Centre Group* for others who are interested in the work and want to support Christians in the artistic community. You can obtain more information from Colin Burns, Administrator, Arts Centre Group, Menier Chocolate Factory, First Floor, 51 Southwark Street, London, SE1 1RU, telephone 0207 407 1881, or you can visit the web site at <http://www.artscentregroup.org.uk>

In the meantime Bob Dylan continues to knock on Heaven's door (to quote the title of one of his best known songs) and we should be grateful for his legacy of songs including a number on explicitly Christian themes. A belated happy birthday Bob!

## **EBSCO PUBLISHING**

The Librarians' Christian Fellowship has an electronic licensing relationship with *EBSCO Publishing*, "the world's most prolific aggregator of full text journals, magazines and other sources". The full texts of our two main publications - the ***Librarians' Christian Fellowship E-Newsletter*** and ***Christian Librarian*** - are available on EBSCO Publishing's databases. Subscribers are able to retrieve articles from our publications and the Fellowship will receive a small commission for each article retrieved.



# **2011: THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE**

**DIANA GUTHRIE reports from LCF's Annual Conference, held on Saturday 2 April 2011 at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham**

As is our custom, the Conference began with a time of worship, on this occasion led by Mary Wood (the Midlands Regional Representative); it included two hymns (one modern, one traditional) and a series of readings (both from the Bible and from the works of Christian writers) on the theme of 'God speaks through ...'; the time of prayer included the *Biblefresh* prayer, which focuses on The Word – especially relevant to a gathering of librarians!

The Annual General Meeting came next and followed the normal course of LCF AGMs. Points to note:

- The Review Group (set up to take a long, hard look at the Fellowship and make recommendations for its future) has met once so far, but its

members communicate much more frequently by e-mail; the worrying decline in LCF membership over the last ten years is one of the points being addressed by the Review Group, which will report in November to the LCF's Executive Committee, who will make recommendations to the AGM in April 2012.

- Gordon Harris stood down as President, to be succeeded by Margaret Keeling, a long-standing and active member of the LCF. Gordon was elected as a Life Vice-President and Kirsty Robinson, a previous Chair, was elected as a regular Vice-President.

- Nick Horley, the Treasurer, reported a modest profit during 2010.

The rest of the morning and the afternoon were taken up with two excellent slide-illustrated talks on aspects of the Bible; this theme had been chosen to fit in with the national celebrations of the four hundredth anniversary of the publication of the *King James Bible* (the *Authorised Version*).

Dr. **Rob Cotton**, Network Manager at *Biblefresh*, began with some tongue-in-cheek comments he'd received after his Facebook announcement that he was going to be talking to a group of librarians, but he soon homed in

on his theme: our relationship with the most important book in our lives. He likened this to the changing relationship between a married couple: the excitement of newly weds; the familiar and more predictable later stage; the wish for a more refreshing and productive relationship.

The *Bible Society* recently published its report, ***Taking the Pulse***, on biblical literacy in church congregations; only three in ten church attenders read the Bible for themselves (yet seven in ten people claim to have a Bible at home), and church leaders have a much more optimistic perception of Bible teaching in a church context than those in the pew do.

The *King James Bible Trust* (which is concentrating on the four hundredth anniversary of the ***King James Bible***) launched the anniversary with a reception at the Banqueting Hall in Westminster and also arranged for the Queen to visit a London primary school where that version was being read aloud – this featured in her Christmas Day speech, thus garnering international publicity. Since then there have been three thousand hits a day on the *KJ Bible Trust* website.

*Biblefresh*, by contrast, is concentrating on the accessibility of the Bible (in whatever version is preferred) to everyone, and aims to give people confidence in and a

passion for reading the Bible, building on the affection that many English-speakers have for the ***King James Bible***.

*Biblefresh* is encouraging Bible reading in four main ways:

- Reading – many special Bible reading initiatives are being promoted, such as communal reading, listening to the words via an iPod or CD, and study groups.
- Training – helping leaders to teach other people, using many different methods.
- Translation – this is focused on the Bible needs of the Bissa people in Burkina Faso, with funds being raised to pay for the Bible to be translated (some UK churches are sponsoring the translation of individual books).
- Experiences - making the Bible more real to more people, using events, competitions and partnerships within local communities.

*Biblefresh* needs our support: partners in churches, pledges of help and, most of all, prayer for the many activities it is coordinating.

The ***King James Bible*** was the first time that the Bible was put into the hands of ordinary people in a language they could understand; four hundred years

on, the *Biblefresh* vision is the same: to make the Bible fresh to everyone, whether they've ever read it for themselves or not.

Our second speaker was Dr **Pete Wilcox**, Canon Chancellor of *Lichfield Cathedral* (and a distant cousin of Graham Hedges!). His position includes responsibility for the Cathedral Library, which has a wonderful collection of manuscripts and early printed Bibles, and his talk covered the centuries leading up to the publication of the ***King James Bible***.

John Wycliffe (sometimes known as the 'Morning Star', as he's considered to herald the dawn of Reformation thinking), completed the earliest surviving translation of the Bible into English from the Latin ***Vulgate*** in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. He was also the leader of a radical group known as the Lollards, who'd become restless with the Norman social and political hierarchy and wanted England to return to its Saxon roots. This included the use of English for literary works, and it's interesting to note that Wycliffe and Chaucer, both writing during the same period and in (Middle) English, shared John of Gaunt as a patron.

The Papacy felt threatened by the Lollards, because of the social reforms they advocated, and declared Wycliffe a heretic after his death. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century

vernacular versions of the Bible were being freely published in France and Italy, but in England translation of the Bible into English was made a capital offence, so it is all the more astonishing that Lichfield Cathedral possesses the 1410 manuscript of a *Wycliffe Bible*; it is a beautiful artefact and was probably commissioned on the black market at great risk to both maker and buyer; it is one of the first Bibles to include study notes.

The next Bible translator of note was William Tyndale, an intellectual giant who could read Greek and Hebrew, as well as several Western European languages. His ambition to translate the Bible into English from the original Hebrew and Greek provoked opposition, and he had to flee to Europe, living for a time in Antwerp; he managed to complete the New Testament, but only parts of the Old Testament.

Tyndale was not only a gifted translator, but had a superb mastery of English, with a bias towards Saxon-origin, monosyllabic words and a simple subject-verb-object sentence structure, resulting in a translation of great beauty and simplicity. It is estimated that 90% of the ***King James Bible*** is taken directly from Tyndale, where his translation exists. Tyndale was executed for heresy in 1536, but ironically the following year Henry VIII took

England out of Roman Catholicism, and by 1539 every church in England was ordered to have a copy of the Bible in English.

This was the **Great Bible**, based on the version of Miles Coverdale, who'd begun work soon after Tyndale's death. Working on the Continent, he supplemented Tyndale's translation (where one existed) with translations from the German and Latin, as he knew no Hebrew or Greek. (Part of his translation survives in the Psalms section of the **Book of Common Prayer** of 1662).

The political vagaries of the next few years had an unexpectedly favourable effect on the Bible in England. Persecution during the reign of Mary Tudor forced many Protestant thinkers to flee abroad, particularly to Geneva, where they came in contact with teachers of Hebrew; this resulted in the **Geneva** (or **Breeches**) **Bible**, printed with numbered verses, a more modern and attractive typeface and study aids, such as alternative readings. It was Shakespeare's favourite version.

The Elizabethan Protestants weren't happy with this version, but being rooted in both the Puritan and the Anglo-Catholic traditions they couldn't agree on the best way of producing a new Bible translation, and their

**Bishops' Bible** of 1568 was very uneven in quality.

In 1604 King James I initiated a new version of the Bible. Forty seven scholars worked in six 'companies', each concentrating on one section of the Bible; their brief was not to make a new translation but to take the best of those already in existence. Tyndale's version was used as a basis (although his name was omitted from the introduction, for reasons of political expediency). The finished product was a classic compromise in terms of physical style, reverting to the older 'Gothic' typeface, but retaining the **Geneva Bible's** use of numbered verses. And this is the version, minus its vagaries of spelling, that has captured the hearts of so many throughout the world.

Again there were many questions after the talk. Dr Wilcox recommended: [www.biblos.com](http://www.biblos.com) as an easy way of comparing many versions of the Bible.

The Conference closed with a vote of thanks given by Margaret Keeling not only to the speakers for such excellent talks, but also to Gordon Harris for his nine years of dedication to the LCF as President.

**Diana Guthrie, MA**, serves the Librarians' Christian Fellowship as Southern Regional Representative.

## ANNUAL REPORT

**GRAHAM HEDGES and LOUISE MANNERS** report on the recent work of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship and mention some current problems that need to be addressed in the years to come

# ***PAST AND FUTURE***



The Annual Report of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship for the year April 2010 – March 2011. Presented to the Fellowship's Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2 April 2011 at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham.

### Major events

There were two major events during the year. The Annual Conference on 24 April 2010, "*Of Making of Books There is No End*", was held at a new venue, the *Hughes Parry Hall*, in London. The speakers were **Tony Jasper** and **Eddie Olliffe**. The Annual Public Lecture, with the Rev. Dr. **Alan Garrow** talking about the "*Five Lord's Prayers*", was held at the *Manvers Street Baptist Church*, Bath, on Saturday 23 October 2010.

### Visits

There was a visit to *Wesley's Chapel*, London, on 18 May 2010. The Scottish members visited *Stirling Castle* on 18 September 2010. The Northern Group

visited the *John Rylands Library* in Manchester on 23 June 2010. There was a visit to the *Evangelical Library*, in new premises at Bounds Green, London. On 21 September 2010. There was also a visit to *Bath Abbey* (prior to the annual lecture), on 23 October 2010.

### **Publications**

Four issues of *Christian Librarian* were published. Four issues of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship E-Newsletter* were dispatched. Topics covered have included: public librarians and the Comprehensive Spending Review; the four hundredth anniversary of the *King James Bible*, priests and poets in the Romantic Period, the on-line church and other subjects. Talks from LCF meetings by **Tony Jasper**, **Eddie Olliffe**, and **Alan Garrow** were published in *Christian Librarian*. The regular "Eye on the Profession" series in CL highlighting current library issues as featured in the professional press continued.

The LCF presence on the Internet via the LCF web site and the *Facebook* group was maintained. There is a need for more member involvement in the latter.

### **Outside Publicity**

News items, letters, and diary entries mentioning LCF were published in such publications as *Library and Information Update*, *Library and Information Gazette*, *The Bookseller*, *Church Times*, *Baptist Times*, *Methodist Recorder*, *Christian Marketplace*, and others.

### **Involvement in outside organisations**

LCF continued to be affiliated to: the *Evangelical Alliance*, *Christians at Work*, *Transform Work UK*, the *Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship*, and the *Christian Research Association*. LCF was signed up as an official partner organisation for the *Biblefresh* project.

## Membership

At the time of writing the Fellowship has one hundred and thirty three paid up members with a further forty-two still to pay their subscriptions for 2011. We have an additional eleven paid up personal and institutional subscribers to *Christian Librarian* with a further five still to pay.

## Officers and Executive Committee

There were four meetings of the Executive Committee during the year. **Sara Batts** has retired from the committee as our London regional representative.

**Gordon Harris** is stepping down as President after nine years and is becoming a Life Vice-President. LCF welcomes **Margaret Keeling** as the new President and **Kirsty Robinson** as a Vice-President.

## Library Assistance Programme

LCF is currently involved at the *Methodist Central Hall*, Westminster, cataloguing the *Methodist Publishing House* book collection. LCF is represented by our Dartford member, **Janet White**.

Various other enquiries and news of possible projects have been received, for example from the *New Testament Church of God*, and the *South Wales Baptist College* who have a possible Welsh cataloguing project.

## Initiatives for the future

The LCF review group was established to consider the present and future work of the Fellowship and make recommendations for the future. **Michael Coveney** of *Transform Work UK* was appointed as an independent chairman. Other members are: **Louise Manners**, **Mary Wood**, **Vernon Burgess**, **Tayo Ajibade**, **Gordon Harris** and **Margaret Keeling**.

Current problems facing the Fellowship include an ageing and decreasing membership, reflecting that of the wider CILIP membership. There is the possibility of reduced publicity through CILIP following the

withdrawal of the ***Library and Information Gazette*** and its calendar of events. There is the need to find new ways of publicising LCF that do not depend on CILIP. Individual members should be encouraged to recruit Christian colleagues to the Fellowship. Please don't assume that colleagues will not be interested just because they have not already joined the Fellowship!

### **Deaths in 2010/11**

We were sorry to hear of the passing of several members and friends of the Fellowship during the year 2010/11. Readers will wish to give thanks for the lives of the people mentioned below and remember their families and friends in their prayers.

**Roger Devenish**, a founder member of LCF, lived in Sussex and worked in various branches of the library profession. He was a former (corresponding) member of our committee as our Southern regional rep. Roger died in December 2010 as a result of an earlier cycling accident.

**Jonathan Morgan**, who died in October 2010, was an LCF subscriber, and lived in London and Sussex. He was formerly the Archivist of *Dr. Williams' Library* in London.

**Joyce Woolford**, who died in June 2010, was a long standing member of the Fellowship since 1977, and for many years a well respected and knowledgeable Children's Librarian in the public library service in Reading.

**Edward England**, who died in April 2010, was a past LCF speaker, and a notable figure in Christian publishing. He served as head of religious publishing at *Hodder and Stoughton* for many years and later became a literary agent and founder of *Highland Books*. He spoke on Christian publishing at LCF's Coventry Conference in 1983 and preached at our *Service of Thanksgiving* during the *Library Association* Conference in Brighton, in September 1989.

**Maurice Hobbs**, who died in May 2010, was another past conference speaker and a retired school teacher who taught in Africa for some years. Maurice wrote a classic book on teaching in a multi-cultural society. He was Past Chair of *Evangelical Christians for Racial Justice* and spoke on racial justice and multi-cultural issues at our 1987 Coventry conference.

**Louise Manners**, *DipLib, MA, MCLIP*, and **Graham Hedges**, *Hon. FCLIP, MCLIP*, serve on the Executive Committee of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* as Chair and Secretary respectively.



## OBITUARY

**GRAHAM HEDGES** pays tribute to a former President of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship who was well known and respected in the wider library world and in his own local Christian community

### ***KEN BAKEWELL REMEMBERED***



LCF readers will have been sorry to hear that our Life Vice-President, Ken Bakewell, died on Thursday 31 March 2011, after a period in hospital.

Ken Bakewell became a member of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* in 1980, after attending a service that we organised at that year's *Library Association, Aslib* and *Institute of Information Scientists* joint conference in Sheffield. He became a regular attender at our meetings, and was a speaker at our annual conference in 1982 when he spoke on the subject *The Library and the Church*. After several years as one of our Vice-Presidents, he was elected as President in 1997 and served in that role until 2002, after which he became a Life Vice-President of the Fellowship.

Ken chaired many of our meetings and conferences and prepared and led some of the services of worship that we arranged during *Library Association* conferences. He also wrote many articles and book reviews for our publications. He took a great interest in the work of the Fellowship and his advice and support were appreciated over many years.

During his last few years health problems prevented Ken from attending meetings but he continued to write for ***Christian Librarian***. His most recent contributions were an article and book review in our Spring 2011 issue. I was extremely grateful and impressed to receive these promised contributions as they were written in the immediate aftermath of the death of one of his daughters, Linda, who had died in

tragic circumstances in November 2010.

Sadly, news of Ken's death did not arrive in time for our annual conference in Birmingham on Saturday 2 April 2011. Members at that meeting signed a birthday card which we planned to send to him to mark his eightieth birthday which would have fallen in July 2011.

Kenneth Graham Bartlett Bakewell had a distinguished career in librarianship and library education. He was born in Dudley in 1931 and began his library career in that city's library service, where he eventually became a Branch Librarian.

Ken's career in public librarianship included time on the staff of *Derbyshire County Library* and *Bexley* libraries. He moved into special libraries in the 1960s and worked successively as Chief Cataloguer at *English Electric* and as Librarian of the *British Institute of Management*.

In 1964 he moved to Liverpool for the first time, taking up an appointment with *Liverpool City Libraries*.

Ken originally chose a career in librarianship on the advice of a Youth Employment Officer who advised that he would make a better librarian than teacher. He later remarked that it was ironic that he should spend so much of his career as a college lecturer teaching library school students.

Ken moved into library education in 1966 when he became a Lecturer in the former *Liverpool College of Commerce*, which later became *Liverpool Polytechnic* and then *Liverpool John Moores University*. He held a succession of teaching, research and administrative positions, finally becoming Professor of Information and Library Management. Upon retiring in 1993, he was granted the title of Emeritus Professor.

Ken was a prolific writer, who wrote a number of books, among them ***Cataloguing*** (co-written with Eric J. Hunter) and ***Business Information and the Public Library*** as well as periodical articles and conference papers. He edited ***Library Management*** for several years and served on the Editorial Advisory Committee for ***New Library World***, eventually receiving the publisher's Outstanding Service Award in 2009.

Ken's professional interests included cataloguing, library management and indexing. He served as Chairman and then President of the *Society of Indexers* and received a number of awards including the *Library Association* Wheatley Medal for compiling an outstanding index.

Ken was a committed Christian and an active layman in the Church of England. After his retirement he trained to become a Reader in the Anglican church. He was licensed as a Reader in 1997 and served at

St. Hilda's Church, Hunts Cross, Liverpool.

Ken's funeral at St. Hilda's Church on Wednesday 13 April 2011 attracted a large congregation, reflecting Ken's high standing in both Christian circles and the library profession. The Rev. Jane Durham paid a warm tribute to Ken and his lifetime of Christian service. She noted his involvement in both the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* and the *Society of Indexers* and read a passage from his final article for ***Christian Librarian***. She recalled that Ken had rarely written a book review without drawing attention to the book's lack of an index, or the limitations of the index that *had* been provided.

The present writer represented the Fellowship at the funeral service, along with our Vice-President Richard Waller and his wife Norma.

I met Ken Bakewell for the first time in 1981, not at one of LCF's own meetings, but at an informal meeting at Ridgmount Street for representatives of the various organisations "*in liaison*" with the *Library Association*. He was present to represent the *Society of Indexers*. Many years later, in 1997, I was delighted to accept an invitation to attend the service in Liverpool Cathedral where he was formally licensed as a Reader in the Church of England.

Our Life Vice-President, Donald G. Davis, Jr., a retired library professor from the University of Texas at Austin, writes: "*My best memories of Ken Bakewell were from our year in Britain (1980-81) when I was an exchange faculty member at the Birmingham library school. At various gatherings that year and subsequent years at IFLA conferences, we cherished our Christian commitment and our professional collegiality. We were two of the very few intentional and public Christians involved in the higher levels of library and information education anywhere. I remember Ken as being very warm and supportive and well regarded by all our mutual colleagues. Ken knew the full measure of adversity and sorrow. May he now luxuriate in the green pastures to which the Good Shepherd brings him. Requiescat in pace*".

Ken Bakewell will be sadly missed, both within our own Fellowship and in the wider library and Christian communities. LCF readers will want to give thanks for his life and work, and remember his wife Agnes, and daughter June, as they come to terms with this second family bereavement within a few months.

**Graham Hedges**, *Hon. FCLIP, MCLIP*, is the Secretary of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*.

## REVIEWS

# ***THE BOOKWORM'S SUMMER HOLIDAY***



### ***THE PEOPLE'S BIBLE: THE REMARKABLE HISTORY OF THE KING JAMES VERSION***

***Derek Wilson***

***Lion Hudson, 2010, £14.99. Hardback,  
222pp., photos, bibl., ISBN 978-0745953519***

As we mark the four hundredth anniversary of the publication of the King James/Authorised Version (KJV) of the Bible, how much do we actually know about it? This book will fill the gaps in our knowledge, giving the background of Bible translation into English from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, explaining why the KJV was undertaken, and discussing its influence up to the present day. Along the way it gives insight into the politics, history and religious life of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries in particular. It concludes with an assessment of the KJV's strengths and weaknesses and a discussion of more recent English translations.

The fairly dense text looks somewhat daunting at first, but although the content is scholarly and detailed it is written in an easy style and is in no way abstruse or boring. The author is an historian rather than a theologian, but specialises in church history and whilst not an evangelist for the KJV writes from a position of respect for the Bible, giving an objective account and assessment of the version's origins, importance,

impact and imperfections. There is an extensive bibliography for those who wish to read further on specific topics.

Whether or not we use the KJV or have abandoned it for more modern translations we need to be informed about it as it is so much part of our Christian, cultural and literary heritage. There has been a plethora of books published on the subject this year but I would certainly recommend reading this one at least. I think everyone would learn much from it and find it interesting and eye-opening

**Susan Rugg, BA, DipLib, MCLIP**, works as a part time Assistant Librarian at the IET Library in London.

***THANK YOU KING JAMES: THE TOUGH LIFE OF  
ROBERT HICKS  
James Hastings  
Day One; 2010; Pbk., 160p.,  
ISBN 978-1846252327***

If you attended either of LCF's public lectures at the *Manvers Street Baptist Church*, Bath, in 1993 or 2010, you may remember Robert Hicks, who gave the closing vote of thanks on both occasions.

Robert has a distinguished record, both as a businessman and Christian communicator. He was responsible for the mass distribution of gospels at the time of the Millennium celebrations. More recently, he has been a leading figure in *Back to Church Sunday*. As a publisher he has helped to pioneer international co-editions of Christian books. His recent projects include ***Open Your Bible***, an all-in-one guide published in CD-ROM format.

This recent biography, however, reveals that Robert's progress through life has been far from easy. Raised in poverty in inner city and rural areas, and the victim of child abuse, for many years he suffered from a speech impediment that could have been cured by a simple surgical procedure if his parents had bothered to seek medical advice.

His life was turned around when he discovered an old King James Bible in a cupboard in his family home. Encouraged by his speech therapist to copy out the text by hand, and read it aloud, he experienced conversion to the Christian faith which had a radical impact on his

future.

Robert enjoyed a successful business career in the retail trade, during which he introduced many innovations that are now taken for granted in the world of supermarkets. His entrepreneurial spirit proved less welcome when he first moved into Christian bookselling and publishing, however, and found that his ideas on marketing were too radical for the staid staff of a major Christian organisation. Later, he formed his own publishing company, *Creative Publishing*, which continues until this day.

Life has continued to be tough, however, and the book includes a moving account of the death of Robert's first wife from cancer.

***Thank You King James*** provides an impressive account of the way in which the Christian gospel can change people's lives. It also shows, in this four hundredth anniversary year of the King James translation, that the authentic Word of God can still be encountered in the seemingly archaic language of the seventeenth century.

**Graham Hedges**, *Hon. FCLIP, MCLIP*, is the Secretary of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship.

### ***BEYOND THIS WILDERNESS***

***John Thomas***

***Twin Books, P.O. Box 3667, Wolverhampton,  
WV3 9XZ, £10.55, 144p., ISBN 978-0953430468***

This historical/Christian/gothic novel was both enjoyable and thought-provoking. It features a 'story within a story' as the testament of a clergyman from the 18<sup>th</sup> century is uncovered by the present day incumbent of the parish. The tale told in the testament drew me into the language and atmosphere of the past. As the eerie and horrific events unfold, the unfortunate William Evans agonises over his seeming inability to affect the present or future, however he somehow holds onto his faith. I was moved by his dying thoughts, particularly as a Christian friend of mine had just passed away after a battle of her own – in her case against disease, another manifestation of evil in this imperfect world, this 'wilderness' we will one day move beyond. I had not guessed the full nature of the revelations which came towards the end of the

testament and the author skilfully weaves them in with the modern day happenings.

Having been asked by Graham Hedges to review ***Beyond this Wilderness*** I also spent a really interesting hour or more reading some of John's online 'thoughts' (His ideas on Christian writing can be found at: <http://www.affirmingthefaith.com/Christianwriting.htm>) and it was very encouraging to read intelligent articulations of Christian ideas, which John puts so well. One of John's interests is deliverance ministry and this is also an aspect of the novel.

I have known John since 1994, when I was a library assistant at *South Bank University* and he was the Deputy Librarian of our faculty (the Built Environment – appropriate as John is also very knowledgeable about church architecture, another feature of the novel.) John also has past connections with LCF, joining the first LCF visit to the Kilns, C.S. Lewis's home, and contributing an article on the inscription on C.S. Lewis's gravestone. John Thomas has written other books, including the equally thought-provoking novel ***Department E***, all of which can be found at [www.twinbooks.co.uk](http://www.twinbooks.co.uk)

**Karen Hans, BSc, MA, MCLIP**, is School Librarian of the *St. Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls*.

### ***THE RADICAL DISCIPLE***

***John Stott***

***Inter-Varsity Press, 2010, Pbk., 160p., ISBN  
978-1844744213***

The title of this book suggests some heavy subject matter, yet in a number of ways this is only partially true, and on the whole it is an accessible study rather than a daunting one. The eight chapters, printed in a large font and set out with generous margins, cover eight characteristics of a Christian disciple as selected by Stott. They are: non-conformity, Christlikeness, maturity, creation-care, simplicity, balance, dependence and death. A preface explains that the term radical means 'root', whilst a brief conclusion simply says 'over to you' with a few guidelines.

This book is not a course, and unlike David Watson's ***Discipleship*** (Hodder, 1981) it contains no programme or even questions. Some of the chapters might possibly lend themselves for discussion, but overall

this is not how this book feels. Instead it has a pastoral quality about it. This is particularly evident in the chapter on dependence, where the author reflects on his own physical frailty as an elderly person in quite a candid way, and in the final chapter on death, which is human and yet hopeful. However, it does add something to earlier studies in so far as the issues of concern need to be kept relevant. Stott identifies materialism as a snare (as did Watson) but he adds pluralism, ethical relativism and narcissism. And the subjects creation-care and simple lifestyle are surely two of the most contemporary matters for us to consider.

Most of the book contains original material although a substantial chunk of 'simplicity' comes from a 1980 symposium, and 'Christlikeness' is more or less a transcript of Stott's final public speaking engagement, his address at Keswick in 2007. The latter is a particularly welcome inclusion and says very clearly and yet somehow quite gently that being an imitator of Christ is about service, love, patience, not paying evil-for-evil, and entering other people's worlds in the sense of understanding where they are coming from. Being Christlike, he says, is the surest way to see the Kingdom grow.

I have not always found John Stott the most appealing author to read, and I found the chapter on balance less interesting. The chapter on maturity, which reflects on the lack of depth in much Christian living, could also be difficult in the sense that it could come over as more of an address. But his use of scripture passages to show how immaturity was a problem which the apostles had to deal with, and his discussion of the Greek term 'teleios' are particularly helpful. Growing in maturity, says Stott, starts with a better vision of Jesus and it something for all Christians to aspire to, not for an elite.

This is John Stott's final book and it concludes with a farewell postscript. It was a particular pleasure to read there how much he has enjoyed books and reading, which he regards as a 'much neglected means of grace'. This is an uplifting as well as a thoughtful and challenging book and I doubt there could there be a more uplifting note to finish on for a Christian librarian.

**Robert Foster**, BA, DipIM, MCLIP, serves the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* as a committee member without portfolio and works as Deputy Counter Supervisor in the Maughan Library, *King's College*, London.



## ARTICLES

LCF's founder ELIZABETH BARBER left librarianship in 1983 in order to work in her family's music shop in St. Albans. In the following article she describes her debt to librarianship and her experiences in the different – but not entirely dissimilar – working environment of music retailing

# ***LIFE AFTER LIBRARIANSHIP***



I'm sitting in my sunny living-room, birdsong and sunshine streaming in. I'm sixty-five and don't feel it. I live in a first-floor maisonette in a retirement complex full of spry octogenarians. Trees, space and peace.

I've looked after the *St. Albans Music Centre* since 2001, the year my Dad died - Jim Barber, engineer and amateur musician with a talent for fixing things and a passion for catalogues - very different in character from Ruth, my Mum, the professional music teacher with an irrepressible sense of humour, but so alike in all the things that really matter. I miss them both so much, and can hardly believe I've been trying to represent them both for ten years now.

Could I be doing my present job without library experience? Definitely not! Although I myself hadn't thought of librarianship as a career until teaching classics ceased to be an option, I can now see that the Lord had it in mind all the time. I went to *Loughborough Technical College* as a post-graduate library student; there I met a bunch of lively young Christians who were keen to introduce me to their Friend, Jesus Christ, and did so. The whole course of my life changed, and it was as a very new Christian that I embarked on what was to be an interesting and challenging thirteen years in librarianship, which ended abruptly when I realised that I had to go home from Oxford to St. Albans to fill, somehow, the places of two *St. Albans Music Centre* staff.

Cat. and Class. had never been my "forte" at library school but I soon learned that to make a music retail business work you've got to have a place for everything, and everything in its place, as the saying goes. You've also got to do loads of enquiry work, and order items as quickly as possible. So very like librarianship, and thus a congenial environment. But there were factors that I found difficult to cope with. I had to start at the bottom as a salaried junior, learning the ropes the hard way and constantly having to ask for help. And I was once again under parental jurisdiction after all those years of independent living in Oxford. I wish I'd been a bit less impatient with Mum and Dad than I so often was! I had to take a lot of disciplining and now realize what priceless training this was.

Music retailing has never been easy - lots of job satisfaction but, after everyone involved in the production of a piece of music has been paid, very little financial reward! As alternative means of obtaining sheet music began to rear their heads, the trade began to struggle. After I found myself in charge of SAMC, a costly programme of refurbishment had to be undertaken, and we had to trim our sails according to the wind.

The present team can only be described as having been made in Heaven! The reaction to the news that the firm was very likely facing its imminent end was met by their determination to reduce their hours rather than see the firm suffer ( I must point out that they put 101% into each of the hours they work.) I don't know what may be in store for SAMC and its tenant, the St. Albans branch of the Christian bookshop chain *Quench*. Do we sell up? Relocate? Drastically reconfigure? Well, we may know in a matter of days what the Lord has planned for both firms. Whatever it is, it'll be the best possible future.

It's been so good to share this with my fellow-LCF members. My lack of involvement with the Fellowship, due to the demands of the business, is a matter of regret. I owe so much to librarianship, to LCF, to SAMC, and above all to our dear Lord who sees that, for those who love Him, everything works together for good.

**Elizabeth M. Barber, MA**, is the Proprietor of the *St. Albans Music Centre* and a Life Vice-President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*.

**ROSEMARY SETON** describes a ground-breaking project to map the archival records of religious organisations in the United Kingdom and considers some of the conclusions that have emerged from this undertaking

## ***A NATIONAL SURVEY OF RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES***

Last year the *Religious Archives Group* (RAG), in partnership with the *Archives and Records Association* (ARA), and with funding from *The Pilgrim Trust* and *The National Archives* (TNA), carried out a survey of Religious Archives in the UK. It was the very first time that a comprehensive survey of the archives of both Christian and non-Christian faiths practised in the UK had been attempted. The Report of the Survey was launched at a ceremony in London in November 2010, presided over by the Bishop of London. The document can be seen and downloaded at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/religiousarchives/> .

The Religious Archives Group is an informal network of archivists, librarians and others interested in the administration, care and use of religious archives, and was formed in 1989. We meet annually at conference, maintain a mailing list and provide news, guidance and advice on religious archives on the Group's web site, which is hosted by the *University of Manchester* at <http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/rag2/>. It has long been one of our aims to carry out a mapping of religious archives throughout the UK, and we were delighted when funding was offered by The Pilgrim Trust in the summer of 2009. The National Archives generously agreed to host the survey project as well as to part-fund its cost. Work on compiling the questionnaire and deciding the scope and methodology of the survey began late in 2009, and the first questionnaires were sent out early in 2010.

The main aim of the survey was to fill gaps in our knowledge about lesser documented materials. Questionnaires, therefore, were not sent to national or specialist repositories and libraries whose holdings are well known, but to those bodies thought to have archives about which little or nothing was known. Between January and June 2010 questionnaires were sent to two thousand, six hundred and eighty nine bodies and six hundred and ninety leading religious figures. These included Anglican, Roman Catholic, Non-Conformist and inter-denominational Christian bodies, as well as Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Inter-faith organisations. Individuals approached were those whose contact details could be found in *Who's Who* or the various directories. The response rate of fifteen per cent for institutional archives was somewhat disappointing, with a particularly low response from Hindu, Muslim and Sikh bodies. Even so the results represent an advance on what was previously known. The response rate of thirty per cent from the individuals approached was all the more encouraging.

The main findings from the responses were as follows:

- 74% of those responding have retained records over twenty years old
- 53% hold material written in languages other than English
- 44% provide storage with protection against flood, fire and theft. 27% monitor humidity and temperature levels in storage areas
- 52% are able to offer some degree of public access to their collections
- Staffing is predictably a problem for many: 28 % employ professional archivists; 41% are run by volunteers
- 17 % have fully listed their collections. 75% have begun some sort of cataloguing
- 40% of individuals approached have made or intend to make provision for their papers. 44% would welcome advice on how to do so.

The survey has confirmed the importance of religious archives as a salient part of the national archival heritage, and also of the heritage and identity of different faith communities. As a result of the survey we have gained more information about the content of archives which were hitherto insufficiently known. The new data will be added to the *National Register of Archives* maintained at TNA. More needs to be done, however, to identify and engage with the custodians of religious archives outside existing networks.

### **Main Recommendations**

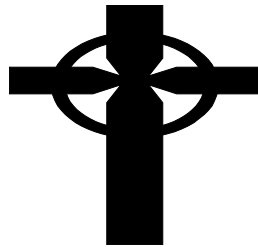
- More guidance, advice and resources should go those bodies retaining their archives
- The culture of record-keeping among faith communities needs to be strengthened
- High-level advocacy is required to raise the profile of religious archives
- The *National Archives*, the *Archives and Records Association*, the *Religious Archives Group*, and other interested bodies should provide support and encouragement for the continuing development of the religious archives sector.

As a first step TNA and RAG held a consultative meeting early in April 2011 to discuss the findings and recommendations of the Survey. This was an extremely well-attended event, with some excellent presentations and lively discussion. For future developments check the RAG Web Site or, better still, join the RAG mailing list: RELIGIOUS-ARCHIVES-GROUP@JISCMail.AC.UK

**Rosemary Seton**, BA, MA, DipEd, DipArchStud, FRHistS, is the Secretary of the *Religious Archives Group* and the Head of Archives at the *School of Oriental and African Studies*, University of London.

**KAREN STAHL** recalls how a Retreat on the island of Lindisfarne led to a wider involvement in cataloguing and re-organising a unique collection of Christian resources

## ***A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE***



### ***THE CELTIC CHRISTIAN STUDIES LIBRARY ON HOLY ISLAND***

Holy Island, Lindisfarne is the home of the *Community of Aidan and Hilda*, a dispersed ecumenical body of Christians committed to living out the unique spirituality of the Celtic saints. Members live on four continents. A small resident staff on Holy Island conducts regular retreats at their historic retreat centre *The Open Gate*, offers daily liturgy for the wider community, organises study weeks on Celtic Christianity, and encourages the understanding of Celtic Christianity around the world.

I first discovered the fascinating *Celtic Studies Library* of the Community in September 2006, when I travelled from my home in Arizona to Holy Island to attend a retreat called *The Celtic Way of Life for Busy People*. It was conducted by Ray Simpson, founder and guardian of the Community. Arriving a little before check-in time, I was invited to spend some time at the Celtic Studies Library across the street from The Open Gate, housed at a small cottage, then Ray's home, called the Lindisfarne Retreat. What I discovered was a living room crammed full of bookshelves and overflowing with books of every subject and vintage. The collection seemed to contain fascinating and valuable resources, loosely organised by topic, but because there were

very few shelf labels and absolutely no spine labels on any of the books, I found it hard to know what the library contained. There didn't appear to be a card catalogue; certainly no computer catalogue, and the collection, though obviously focused on Celtic spirituality, also included a wide variety of other materials. I was curious to know what "pearls of great price" were lurking on these shelves!

As I looked around in amazement, I thought to myself, "*Oh boy, does this place need some organisation!*" For six years I had worked to develop the parish library at my home church, *St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church* in Sierra Vista, Arizona. That library had evolved from an unused Sunday School room filled with boxes of donated books to over five thousand books for children and adults, DVDs and CDs on beautiful, hand-made oak shelves. All the items were catalogued on computer, covered, labeled and displayed attractively. I suspected that the Celtic Studies Library could experience a similar face-lift, with a little tender-loving care, the right software program, and some time. I could envision the changes that would make it patron-friendly and transform it into a valuable resource for pilgrims, pastors, and retreatants coming to the Island.

It turned out that the Celtic Studies Library was Ray's personal library, most of which he had brought with him to Holy Island after serving the Christian community of Bowthorpe, Norwich for seventeen years. In between the talks he gave at the retreat, I found an opportunity to visit with him about his library. I discovered that his vision was to stock every serious work in English on Celtic Christianity, along with significant books on each of the ten principles of the Community's Way of Life, including lifelong learning, spiritual formation, soul friendship, and healing the land.

I asked him whether he would be interested in having his library catalogued on computer, and told him about the computer program we had successfully used with our own parish library (*Concourse*, published by *Book Systems* in Huntsville, Alabama). He asked, "*Well, how would I go about that?*" After some discussion, I agreed to come back the following summer, bring the software to install, and train one of his staff on how to do the cataloguing. (He suggested that his secretary might be ideal).

My husband and I arrived the next summer with software and supplies in my suitcase, only to find out that Ray's secretary had resigned the month before! Fortunately, one of the volunteer cooks that week was a former librarian, and a member of the Community. She (Judith Line) was interested in helping catalogue the library. Although

she lived five and a half hours away in Bozeat, Northamptonshire, she was willing to learn the process and carry on after I left. We counted about two thousand books on the shelves, and realised that the project would take both of us hundreds of hours. We agreed to spend the month of June 2008 back on Holy Island to get started. And then we both decided to come back for the entire month of January 2009 to try to finish the cataloguing. The Community graciously provided us with room and board, supplied us with innumerable cups of tea, and offered to let us read all the books we wanted!

The process of cataloguing an existing library and deciding on the most effective way to shelve the materials is a challenge, especially when it consists of someone's personal collection. With Ray's input, we decided to use the *Dewey Decimal Classification* within the categories that made the most sense to him. Eventually we ended up with sixty-four different categories! The areas containing the most holdings were: Worship, Psychology and counselling, Biblical studies, Biographies of the Celtic saints, the Emerging Church, Celtic history, Church history, Soul friendship, Pilgrimage, Spirituality and Mission. We were excited to discover that Ray had amassed many valuable academic and primary Celtic source materials.

During the month of January 2009 we entered about eighteen hundred books into the computer database, printed out and affixed spine labels to each item, pasted in pockets and cards, completely re-organised the shelving, including shelf labels and signage, added a rug and comfortable chairs, and even hosted an inaugural open house for Holy Island residents to rejoice with us in the launching of the newly organised collection!

Unfortunately I have not been able to return to Holy Island since then, but Judith has overseen a complete re-organisation of the library, partly because of re-modelling projects at the cottage where it is housed. New shelving has been put in and the books efficiently re-shelved. The next development will be a purchasing policy to take account of present gaps in the holdings and future use projections. At present, the library is used by students and pilgrims to the Island, as well as for reading weeks. It is a fully integrated part of the new Celtic Studies Introductory Course, *Igniting the Flame*, which Judith developed for the Community of Aidan and Hilda. The course was trialled over 2010-11 and hopefully will be launched via the Community web-site in 2012.

Now that the re-modelling work is completed, the library is an important asset to the retreat programmes at The Open Gate. The



library is very much a work in progress, evolving as the Community itself evolves. At the current time approximately two thousand five hundred books are now catalogued, with about two hundred books a year being added. Unfortunately there is no inter-library loan programme available at the present time; all books must be used on the Island and returned before leaving.

What was the vision that lit the flame for this massive project? For Judith and me, who are school and parish librarians at home, the process grew out of a deep love for books and for reading. But more importantly, all this effort is a means to an end. The end is not books organised logically on shelves or labels perfectly centred on the spines. The end – the goal – the purpose of all this is **use**. The vision was that this special collection of Celtic resources and ministry materials would be **used**, and **user-friendly**. Now that the library is catalogued, it stands ready for patrons to come, browse, search the computer for a favourite author and title, easily find the resources on the shelves, spend time reading, or writing, or praying, and go away changed. As the resource librarian, Judith has been able to make many subsequent trips to Holy Island, cataloguing new purchases and assisting students, pastors, pilgrims, and guests to discover the rich legacy of Celtic spirituality and history in print that Ray has so lovingly assembled.

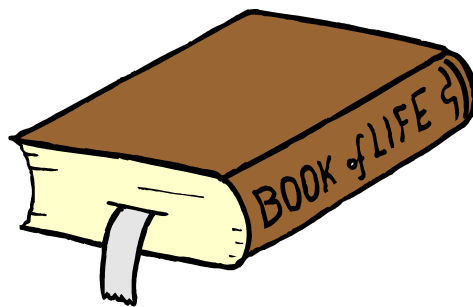
My vision for the Celtic Studies Library was always this: that once the library was completely catalogued and organised, people for whom a visit to Holy Island was part of God's plan for their lives would be drawn to this little cottage with its hidden treasures, and would find just what they needed for their understanding of Celtic spirituality, for their own scholarship, and for their personal growth. Who knows the lifelong learning, the creativity, the discoveries, the healing, and the nourishment that may come out of this small, little-known, holy and literary pear on Holy Island?

For more information about the Celtic Studies Library, contact Judith Line: [jeline@btinternet.com](mailto:jeline@btinternet.com) For information about the Community of Aidan and Hilda, log onto the Community web-site, [www.aidanandhilda.org](http://www.aidanandhilda.org) or contact the Community Office manager: Carol Few: [admin@aidanandhilda.org](mailto:admin@aidanandhilda.org)

**Karen Stahl** is a Church Librarian from Sierra Vista, Arizona, USA, and has worked as Project Manager for the *Celtic Christian Studies Library* on Lindisfarne.

**GRAHAM HEDGES** provides a librarian's guide to reference materials that help to shed light on a book that millions acknowledge as the Word of God

## ***RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR OF THE BIBLE***



2011 marks the four hundredth anniversary of the *King James Bible* (KJB), still regarded by many as the definitive version of the Scriptures, and as a major landmark in English culture and literature. The anniversary has been widely celebrated in books, radio and television programmes, exhibitions and lectures. These celebrations are being co-ordinated by the *King James Bible Trust*, whose web site at <http://www.kingjamesbibletrust.org> includes a listing of relevant activities plus a facsimile of the KJB as it first appeared in 1611.

There have been a number of special anniversary editions of the KJB and I particularly like the Bible Society's version (£14.99, ISBN 978-0564090648) which combines the traditional text with a contemporary type face, short introductions to each of the biblical books and a foreword by the Prince of Wales, patron of the *King James Bible Trust*.

The *King James Bible*, however, no longer holds the pre-eminent position that it once held among Bible translations, and in recent decades numerous contemporary English translations have emerged to challenge its monopoly. One would expect to find at least two or three modern versions in any reasonably sized reference collection. Librarians trying to decide which versions to choose should be aware that the *New International Version* (NIV) is widely regarded as being the most popular of the current editions, steering as it does a middle

course between the archaic language of the KJB and the colloquial approach of some modern translations. Hodder and Stoughton have recently issued the latest revision (***NIV Popular Bible***, £16.99, ISBN 978-1444701487) and there is no doubt that the basic text will be re-packaged in a number of different formats over the coming months and years.

Those who prefer on-line sources to the printed page should know about **Bible Gateway** at <http://www.biblegateway.com> and **Biblos** at <http://www.biblos.com>. These sites include the complete text of the Bible in numerous translations alongside such study aids as atlases, concordances and commentaries.

Most readers of the Bible will require some assistance in understanding and applying the ancient texts, and there is no shortage of Bible commentaries on the market. ***The New Bible Commentary*** (edited by D.A. Carson, et al, Inter-Varsity Press, £30.99, ISBN 978-0851106489), representing the views of scholars from the conservative evangelical end of the theological spectrum, has appeared in several editions and is widely used and appreciated.

For those who prefer a more liberal perspective on the Scriptures, ***Peake's Commentary on the Bible*** (edited by M. Black and H.H. Rowley, Routledge, £60, ISBN 978-0415263559) is a standard and well respected text. The ***Oxford Bible Commentary*** (edited by John Barron and John Muddiman, O.U.P., ISBN 978-0199277186) reflects recent scholarship and includes articles from scholars who hold a variety of viewpoints on religious matters.

While it is important to keep up to date with the latest biblical research and scholarship, we should not neglect the spiritual heritage and understanding of earlier centuries. Some reference librarians may wish to stock the ***New Matthew Henry Commentary*** (edited by Martin Manser, Zondervan, £19.99, ISBN 978-0310253990), a contemporary abridgement of a classic commentary first produced by a Presbyterian divine of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries which is still held in high esteem by writers and preachers.

There are many commentaries on individual books of the Bible, but these are too numerous to discuss in detail here. Librarians, however, may wish to be aware of the popular ***For Everyone*** series, written by Tom Wright, the former Bishop of Durham, and published by SPCK. Wright's commentaries now cover most of the books of the New Testament and combine impressive scholarship with the ability to communicate to a popular readership.

At the popular end of the market, the ***Lion Handbook to the***

**Bible** (edited by David and Pat Alexander, Lion £20, ISBN 978-0745953700) offers useful introductory articles on the Bible and its historical background alongside photographs, maps and diagrams in full colour. Lion Publishing offers many books that help to popularise biblical studies. A Muslim user of my library keen to learn more about Christianity has recently expressed his appreciation for Andrew Knowles' **The Bible Guide: an all-in-one introduction to the Book of Books** (Lion, £14.99, ISBN 978-0745951898). Peter Atkinson's **Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible** (Lion, £14.99, ISBN 978-0745960104) complements the **Lion Handbook** and is a useful resource for both adults and children.

Bible dictionaries offer articles on biblical characters and themes in an alphabetical sequence and one of the best known examples is the **New Bible Dictionary** (edited by A.R. Millard et al, Inter-Varsity Press, £30, ISBN 978-0851106595) published as a companion to the **New Bible Commentary** and reflecting a similar theological viewpoint. Other Bible dictionaries include W.R.F. Browning's **A Dictionary of the Bible** (O.U.P., £11.99, ISBN 978-0199543984).

Finding a particular verse or quotation in the Bible can be difficult, and most serious readers will want to make use of a biblical index or concordance. The best known is probably still **Cruden's Complete Concordance** (Hendrickson, £6.99, ISBN 978-0917006319), first produced in the eighteenth century by the biblical scholar and eccentric Alexander Cruden. Modern compilers of concordances can make use of computer technology and are less likely to suffer the same fate as Cruden, whose labours are said to have driven him insane!

Maps have a part to play in providing the settings for the biblical stories and Bible atlases include Adrian Curtis' **Oxford Bible Atlas** (O.U.P., £12.00, ISBN 978-0199560462)

It is ironic that although there are more aids to reading the Bible available than at any previous time in history, the Bible is now a largely unread book for many people in British society. Perhaps the King James anniversary, and the current "*Year of the Bible*" will encourage readers to take another look at a book that many millions, around the world, acknowledge as the Word of God to humanity.

**Graham Hedges**, *Hon.FCLIP, MCLIP*, is the honorary Secretary of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*. This article was commissioned for publication in **Refer**, the journal of CILIP's *Information Services Group* and is reprinted by kind permission of the Editor.