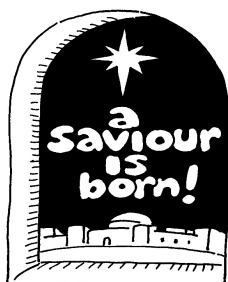


Winter 2008

# **CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN**



The Journal of the  
Librarians' Christian Fellowship

CONTENTS INCLUDE

- *UNITY AND DISUNITY*
- *BIBLES IN SWINDON*
- *CHRISTIAN LIBRARIANS INVADE WINCHESTER 2008*
  - *ISSUES FACING A THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY*
    - *INTO THE WEST*
    - *LIFE AFTER LIBRARIANSHIP*
  - *'NEITHER STARS NOR ANGELS'*

## **EVENTS AT A GLANCE**

### **●SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2009: ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

To be held at **St. Nicholas' Church, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham**, from 10.30.a.m. Speakers: Rev. **Rhona Floate**, former librarian now working as Priest-in-charge, Wool and East Stoke, and Rev. **Andii Bowsher**, St. John's College, Nottingham. Details: p. 8.

### **●TUESDAY 19 MAY 2009: VISIT TO WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL**

An opportunity to tour the Central Hall and see the Methodist archives stored there. Details: pp. 8-9.

### **●TUESDAY 14 JULY 2009: SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING**

**De Havilland Campus, University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield**, from 5.30.p.m. Guest speaker: Rev. **David Ronco**. Details: p. 9.

## **PRAYER POINTERS**

*The following "Prayer Pointers" from LCF were included on the Transform Work UK web site for part of November 2008.*

- Pray for the work of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship as it seeks to unite Christians in the library and information professions and identify current professional issues on which a Christian perspective is needed.
- Pray for LCF's attempts to recruit more librarians into the Fellowship, especially from the younger end of the profession.
- Pray for the members of LCF as they seek to share their faith with their colleagues and express a Christian viewpoint in contemporary library debates.
- Pray for organisations that are seeking to promote Christian books in the library service – especially the *Christian Book Promotion Trust* and their "Speaking Volumes" scheme.
- Pray for library staff as they come to terms with a changing professional climate and seek to cope with the demands of new media and technology.
- Pray for librarians who work in specifically Christian organisations.



# **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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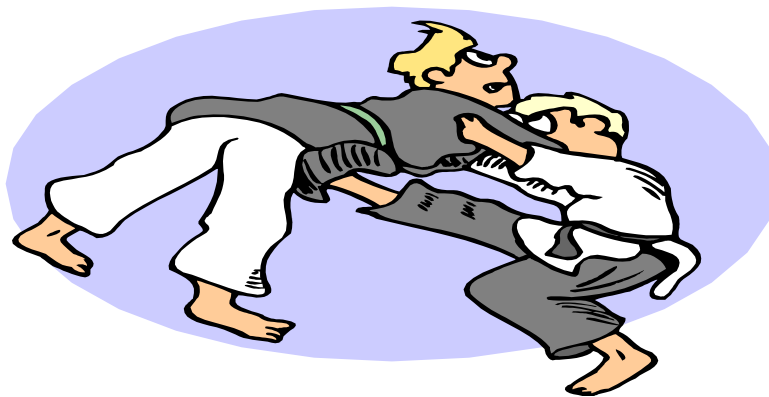
**37:Guy Marshall: A Bookshop With History**

**41:Margaret Keeling: 'Neither Stars Nor Angels'**

## THE FIRST WORD

**GORDON HARRIS** welcomes a recent study that highlights the radically different perspectives that can be found within the present day evangelical movement

# ***UNITY AND DISUNITY***



Debate over the spiritual dangers in children's literature has been reflected in the Letters page of *Christian Librarian* recently. All the letter-writers would probably describe themselves as Evangelicals – so why do they disagree? One answer is that the evangelical movement throughout the world has grown enormously over the last few decades. And the bigger a movement is, the more heterogeneous it will become, even when it follows a single authority i.e. the Bible.

The Bible itself is candid about disagreements within the church e.g. about what to eat (Rom.14), whether following Jesus is a matter of ritual rather than faith (1 Corinthians 7:18-20; Gal.5.6-7, 6.12-15), whether to give someone a second chance (Acts 15.38-40).

Differences of opinion within the modern evangelical movement in the West have tended to be about emphasis, future strategy, modernisation, and views of scripture. These trends are recorded in an important new study: *Reinventing English Evangelicalism*<sup>1</sup> by Rob Warner, Lecturer in Theology at the University of Wales.

Warner sees the break between Martyn Lloyd-Jones and John Stott in 1966 as the pivotal moment for a dis-uniting process within English evangelicalism. Stott rejected Lloyd-Jones' proposal to start an evangelical

<sup>1</sup> WARNER, Rob. *Reinventing English evangelicalism*. Paternoster, 2007. 284 pages. ISBN 978 1 84227 570 2.

denomination. This, Warner asserts, led over the following two decades to at least two types of evangelicalism. Firstly there was the entrepreneurial *conversionist-activist axis* represented by charismatic styles and Spring Harvest. The generally more traditional type was the theologically-centered *biblicist-crucicentric axis* with its emphasis on tight declarations of faith and penal substitution. These trends are examined from a focussed sociological viewpoint.

This book is definitely academic rather than devotional. It is confined to England rather than to the UK. But it is worth reading because it is based on a wealth of data gathered through statistics and interviews and on an enormous range of published sources (the Bibliography takes up eighteen pages!). And Warner tells it as it is: the over-inflated claims of growth and revival within the Evangelical Alliance in the 80s, the poor results of over-optimistic and unrealistic national evangelistic initiatives in the mid-90s, the nose-dive in use of Bible-reading notes (SU's *Daily Bread* sold 115,236 copies in 1985, and 48,471 in 2000). On the other hand, Warner acknowledges the success of Alpha (pp.115-131) and the modernising effect of Spring Harvest (pp.67-86).

The growing emphasis on integral mission, from Lausanne 1974 through the growth of Tearfund, and the rising influence of evangelicalism in the Church of England is covered in the later chapters. There is also a section (Chapters 8-11) contrasting the minutiae of declarations of faith, especially with respect to the status of the Bible and with respect to integral mission. It was interesting to read that the founding Declaration of Faith of the EA in 1846 was less precise about the Bible than those formulated by evangelical bodies in the last half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – but then it pre-dated *The Origin of Species*.

An omission in the historical treatment is Warner's neglect of the years since 2001, even though the book was published in 2007. He also gives the impression that there was no overlap between the *conversionist-activist* and the *biblicist-crucicentric* axes, when many evangelicals have identified with facets of both axes.

So yes, we don't all see things the same way. But that can easily distract from the enormous bulk of belief which we do all share. It is important to emphasise our agreed central message.

Paul wrote: "*For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself". If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other*" (Gal.5.14-15).

**Gordon A. Harris**, *BSocSc, MPhil, FCLIP, DipKM*, is President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* and works as Senior Corporate Information Officer for *Tearfund*.

## THE SECOND WORD

**LOUISE MANNERS** reports on a recent visit to Barcelona and reflects on different attitudes to worship and church life at home and abroad

# ***PLACES OF WORSHIP***



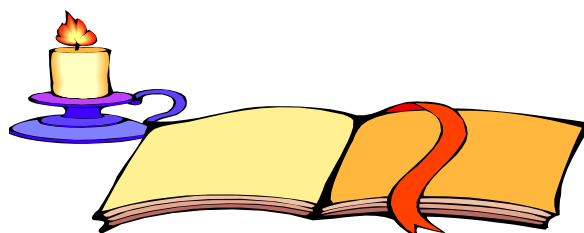
On a recent visit to Barcelona I found that the city has some very unusual places of worship. It raised the question of how you define a place of worship and what you expect to experience on a visit. The cloisters of the Gothic Cathedral are the home to a collection of thirteen Roman geese. The geese run around their quarters together and make high-pitched sqwarks. The cathedral itself is covered in scaffolding with an appeal for funding for the restoration, Help us! and the logo of the Santander bank group, which one supposes is aiding the funding of the restoration. The geese have been there since the fifteenth century and are said to represent the age and punishments of patron saint of Barcelona Santa Eulàlia.

Park Güell is a secular park, but I felt like a pilgrim as I left the metro station and, in a line of people who had got off the metro,

clambered up the steep hill towards it. The park is like a fantasy land, inhabited by strange, creatures of deliberately cracked mosaic, with an amazing atmosphere. The gatehouses are Hansel and Gretel houses, made from designs by Gaudi for an opera. The house where Gaudi lived, now a museum, had furniture designed by him that seemed incredibly modern today. The park was packed with people, tourists and locals.

The Temple Expiatori de la Segrada Familia remains a building site, one hundred and twenty six years after the foundation stone was laid. An immense amount of work has been carried out since I was last there but there is still a lot to do. The 1930s anarchists set fire to Gaudi's plans and models for its construction, leaving his colleagues and successors to piece together the models and speculate as to what he intended. People queued patiently for lifts to get a better view. The Nativity façade is appears extremely beautiful and modern.

In England when I go to different churches to play the organ I experience a variety of attitudes and worship styles. At one church a churchwarden at coffee time was offering chocolate. I said no, explaining that I had given up chocolate for Lent, and she was surprised. At some churches there are no children and the congregation is mainly retired. At other churches there are lots of young families. One church had recently merged with another church and the vicar explained that he had no idea how big the congregation would be.



**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**



**From The Secretary: Graham Hedges, Hon. FCLIP, MCLIP, 34 Thurlestone Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9DU. Home tel. 020 8599 1310; Work tel. 020 8871 7467. E mail secretary@librarianscf.org.uk; Web site www.librarianscf.org.uk**

**NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE**

Next year's **Annual Conference** will be held on **Saturday 25 April 2009** at **St. Nicholas' Church, Maid Marian Way, Nottingham**, from 10.30.a.m. Speakers will include LCF member the Rev. **Rhona Floate**, a former librarian now working as Priest-in-Charge of Wool and East Stoke in the *Diocese of Salisbury*, and the Rev. **Andi Bowsher**, a member of the teaching staff at *St. John's College*, Nottingham. Please book the date now and plan to attend. Further

details will appear in later editions of the *E-Newsletter* and *Christian Librarian*.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

LCF's Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday 25 April 2009**, from 11.20. am as part of the annual conference at **St. Nicholas' Church, Nottingham**. Nominations for office and details of any motions to be put to the meeting should be sent to me not later than *Saturday 21 March 2009*. Nominations are invited for the following executive committee positions: *Chair, Secretary, Irish Regional Rep, Eastern Regional Rep, Midlands Regional Rep, London Regional Rep, Southern Regional Rep, and Members Without Portfolio* (two positions). Although current members of the committee may well be willing to continue in office, we are always interested in recruiting new members to our executive body. If you are interested in a particular post, and would like to know more about what would be involved, please let me know.

**VISIT TO WESTMINSTER  
CENTRAL HALL**

If you attended our annual conference in April 2008, you may remember that our guest speaker, **Richard Ratcliffe**, invited a group of



LCF members to visit the *Westminster Central Hall* to see the Methodist archives preserved there. We have now been able to arrange a visit for **Tuesday 19 May 2009**. Further details will follow, but please book the date now if you are interested in taking part in the visit.

## **UNDER THE UMBRELLA**

CILIP (*Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*) will be returning to the **de Havilland Campus** of the **University of Hertfordshire**, at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, for their next *Umbrella* Conference. The dates are **Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 July 2009**. As our contribution to this major professional gathering, we are organising another *Service of Thanksgiving*, to take place from 5.30.p.m. on the Tuesday evening. The Rev. **David Ronco**, a locally based Baptist minister, will be our guest speaker. Please support us with your prayers, and if possible your presence, whether or not you plan to attend the *Umbrella* event as a whole.

## **EBSCO PUBLISHING**

The Librarians' Christian Fellowship has recently entered into an electronic licensing relationship with *EBSCO Publishing*, a company

which describes itself as "*the world's most prolific aggregator of full text journals, magazines and other sources*". The full text of LCF's journal ***Christian Librarian*** will in future be available on EBSCO Publishing's databases. Subscribers will be able to retrieve articles from our publications and the Fellowship will receive a small commission for each article retrieved.

## **PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS**

- Following a recent appeal for help in merging two libraries maintained by the *Summer Institute of Linguistics/Wycliffe Bible Translators*, our member **Mary Barker** recently visited Aix-en-Provence to give some advice on the project. She will be writing a formal report suggesting ways of proceeding. Mary works as School Librarian at the *Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School* in London, W14.
- Our Devon member **David Moulder** has been called out of retirement and back to Sweden where he has been asked to temporarily resume his duties as Librarian of the *World Maritime University* at Malmo following the departure of the recent holder of the position. David hopes to be permanently back in Britain next Spring but in the meantime looks forward to renewed contact with the *International Church* in Malmo of

which he was formerly a member.

- An obituary of our long time supporter **Dave Parry**, who died in February, appeared on p. 47 of the September 2008 issue of ***Library and Information Update***. The writer, **Peter Greene**, mentions Dave's studies at *Jesus College*, Oxford, and *Strathclyde University*, his work as Technical Information Officer at the *Bell College of Technology* in Hamilton, and his move to Aberdeenshire to take part in voluntary pro-life activities. The obituary notes that Dave became a Catholic in his late teens and that his Christian faith was central to his life and work.

- LCF's associate member, the Rev. **John Waddington-Feather**, is publishing the second issue of ***Feather's Miscellany*** (ISBN 978 1841752952), a collection of his own short stories, poetry, essays and hymns. Copies can be ordered, price £9.99, from Feather Books, P.O. Box 438, Shrewsbury, DY3 OWN. Following a recent illness John has given up his role as Editor of ***The Poetry Church***. The new editor of the magazine is **Tony Reavill**, who is a poet, artist, musician and drama producer, among other things. He is a member of a group of poets at the *Ben Rhydding Methodist Church*, Ilkley, where he is also the organist, and can be contacted at [reavill@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:reavill@globalnet.co.uk)

## **NOT FOR SALE CAMPAIGN**

*Premier Christian Radio* have recently launched a campaign on behalf of the estimated 10,000 young women who are held as sex slaves in major cities across the United Kingdom. Many of these girls have been sold into slavery in their own countries (in Eastern Europe and elsewhere), smuggled into Britain, and forced to work as prostitutes in various parts of the country. It is believed that much of the demand for "adult services" is stimulated by advertisements in newspapers (including, perhaps, the newspaper which is currently on display in *your* local library). For this reason, the Premier Radio campaign is concentrating its attention on the members of the *Newspaper Society*, which represents some 1300 local newspapers across the UK. Over the past months there has been increasing pressure placed on newspapers to help stop sex trafficking in the UK by refusing ads that offer sexual services. The Newspaper Society has released a revised guidance to member newspapers advising them to stop accepting such advertisements. Two major newspaper chains have already agreed to comply with the guidance, but many have yet to accept the advice from their trade association. Supporters of the Premier campaign are invited to sign copies of a "Letter of Support" which will be delivered to the Newspaper Society as an indication of the level

of public concern about this issue. Donations are also being sought to help pay for the campaign. If you would like to give your support to this initiative, please contact Premier Christian Radio, 22 Chapter Street, London, SW1P 4NP. Tel. 020 7316 1300. E mail [premier@premier.org.uk](mailto:premier@premier.org.uk)

### **ANYONE FOR INDIA?**

Malcolm Walker, our Overseas Secretary, has received an appeal for assistance in re-establishing a library in a school and orphanage in a poor area of South India. Ideally, a librarian is needed who would be able to give two weeks in January or February 2008. The work would involve unpacking boxes of books, cataloguing them and putting a lending system in place. We are told that this would be a marvellous opportunity for a person with library skills to put them to very good use in a community where the books will be hugely valued. The people at the orphanage are very welcoming, but we are warned that conditions are basic (washing in buckets of cold water and rice and curry three times a day!) The person who comes would have to be self-financing (£1000 would be enough) and the task would be ideal for someone who enjoys travelling and has a sense of humour. The orphanage and school are Christian, so the person should feel comfortable working in a Christian environment. The books in the library, we are assured, are in English. Interested

in finding out more? If so, please contact Eve Kirby, who has been teaching at the orphanage on a voluntary basis. Eve can be contacted at: [sn-ea@kirby.uk.net](mailto:sn-ea@kirby.uk.net) or by telephoning her on 0121 454 3730.

### **BOOKS FOR THE LOGOS HOPE**

We were recently approached for help with choosing books for a children's library on the *Operation Mobilisation* ship *Logos Hope*. The organisers of the library do not want to limit the library to Christian books, but are experiencing difficulty as the contents of published lists often have material that they consider unsuitable. Three members of LCF have already expressed some interest in assisting with this project, but there may be scope for more. If you are interested, please contact our Library Assistance Manager: Christine Gagan, 5 Dalewood Drive, Beauchief, Sheffield, S8 OEA. Tel. 0114 221 4630. E mail [jmg8@tutor.open.ac.uk](mailto:jmg8@tutor.open.ac.uk)

### **CHRISTIAN BOOKS FOR SCHOOL LIBRARIES**

*Speaking Volumes*, a project of the *Christian Book Promotion Trust*, have recently offered schools a generous 60% discount on Christian books ordered for their school libraries. This offer was made in a leaflet circulated with copies of the

magazine of the *School Library Association*, sent out to four thousand school librarians in the United Kingdom and abroad. The project was developed in response to the charity's desire to see more Christian books in schools and an observation by several Diocesan Education Officers that even Church of England schools are often poorly stocked with Christian books. The *Speaking Volumes* office have already received orders for four packages of books, and several other enquiries, so it is already looking like a useful project to have undertaken. This direct approach to schools is, in some ways, a departure from the usual *Speaking Volumes* approach which is to encourage churches and groups of churches to donate collections of Christian books to school and public libraries in their areas. You can obtain information about the special offer for schools, and the wider work of *Speaking Volumes*, from Paula Renouf, P.O. Box 1070, Whittlesford, Cambs, CB22 4WX. Tel. 01223 832671, E mail [info@speakingvolumes.org.uk](mailto:info@speakingvolumes.org.uk) Web site [www.speakingvolumes.org.uk](http://www.speakingvolumes.org.uk)

## **MOONACRE ON THE SILVER SCREEN**

Following close on the heels of *Prince Caspian*, another children's classic by a Christian writer will be hitting our cinema screens in the new year. *The Secret of*

*Moonacre*, based on Elizabeth Goudge's *The Little White Horse*, is currently in production and is due for release in February 2009.

Elizabeth Goudge (1900-1984) has been described as "*perhaps the greatest 'unknown' writer of the 20th Century. Though her books were both popular and critically acclaimed during her lifetime, most have fallen out of print*". *The Little White Horse* won the Library Association's Carnegie Medal in 1946 and was also the favourite childhood book of J.K. Rowling, author of the *Harry Potter* series.

Elizabeth Goudge's web site at <http://www.elizabethgoudge.com/> states that "*as an inspirational author and theological thinker, Goudge was on par with C.S. Lewis, though with a distinctly feminine voice and vision. She wove her faith into the fabric of her stories rather than writing abstract theology. Her biography of Jesus, **God So Loved the World**, is outstanding in its genre*".

*The Little White Horse* "tells the story of Maria, an orphan who goes to live in the old manor house of Moonacre, where she discovers a world of delightful people and enchanted creatures. But the Kingdom of Moonacre has fallen under a dark cloud, and only a new Moon Princess can restore its ancient glory ... " Lion Publishing currently publish the novel and will be bringing out a new tie-in edition (£6.99, ISBN 978 0 74596118 7) in January 2009 with photographs from the film *The Secret of Moonacre*.

## SACRED EXHIBITION

If you missed the British Library's popular **Sacred** exhibition last year, you will get another chance to see many of the exhibits when they move to the **John Rylands Library** at the **University of Manchester** shortly. **Sacred on Location - an exhibition from the British Library** will be on display in the Library's Christie Gallery from **8 December 2008 - 14 January 2009**. Like the original exhibition in London, *Sacred on Location* will explore the heritage of Christianity, Judaism and Islam by displaying many of the key texts and manuscripts of each religion. A programme of events is also being arranged to coincide with the exhibition. Please visit the library's web site at <http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/> for information as it becomes available.

Exhibits from the original **Sacred** exhibition have also been displayed in a number of other venues including the *Bruce Castle Museum* in the London Borough of Haringey. This display also included photographic works by a local artist, Gill Wallerstein. **Library and Information Update** for November 2007 included a photograph of LCF member Diana Edmonds, Haringey's Assistant Director for Adult Culture and Community Services, examining a large photographic work featuring antique Hebrew printing blocks.

## INTERNET HOAXES

When the Rev. G.P. Taylor – former Yorkshire Vicar turned best-selling children's writer – spoke to the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* last autumn, he told his audience that his books were about to be burned by an organisation known as the *Happy Endings Foundation*. This organisation, apparently, existed to eliminate sadness from children's books and intended to put Mr. Taylor's offending books to the torch in a public display in Richmond Park.

This story soon turned out to be a hoax, perpetrated by a public relations agency to promote a rival series of children's books. However, the original story was believed and reported by Internet news sites, the BBC and several major newspapers.

There have been numerous hoaxes over the years and in recent times many of them have been circulated by the Internet and e-mail. Did you know that Microsoft bought the Catholic Church in 1994? You can read this and other bizarre stories on the **Hoaxipedia**. This “on-line encyclopedia of hoaxes, pranks, urban legends, scams and other forms of mischief and misinformation” can be found at <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/Hoaxipedia/Special:Titles>

Another relevant site is to be found at <http://snopes.com> which provides an entertaining collection of rumours and urban legends that the Internet has helped to perpetuate. Christians and other religious people



are not immune from falling for these unlikely stories. The web site includes a large selection of stories under the heading "Religion". "Man contemplating suicide receives a phone call from Almighty God" is just one of the headings found on this enjoyable site.

In recent years there have been persistent reports that a group of NASA scientists have found evidence for a "lost day in time". This is supposed to prove the literal truth of the biblical accounts in Joshua 10: 12-13 (where God causes the sun to stand still) and 2 Kings 20: 8-11 (where a shadow cast by the sun moves backwards by ten steps or degrees). It's a good story – but is it true? The answer, almost certainly, is 'no'. The story of a lost day in time has been circulating for well over a century – long before the *North American Space Administration* came into existence – but in its present form it has been plaguing NASA since the 1960s. NASA have denied the story on their web site and it has been effectively debunked on a number of other web sites – see, for example, the "snopes" site mentioned above and the *Progressive Theology* site at <http://www.progressivetheology.org>

Christians are rightly concerned to bear witness to the essential truth of the Bible, but we do no favours to the cause of Christ if we are gullible and repeat tall stories for which there is no real evidence.

## CURRENT AWARENESS

- Juan Garces' article *The Codex Gives Its Vital Witness* describes a current project to make the entire **Codex Sinaiticus** available on the Internet. Discovered in the *Monastery of St. Catherine* at Mount Sinai in Egypt, the **Codex** contains the earliest complete edition of the New Testament, produced in the fourth century A.D. The various books are written in the vernacular Greek in which they were originally written. The **Codex** also includes part of the Old Testament from the Greek Septuagint translation which was very influential in early Christian history. The pages of the original **Codex** are currently divided between four different libraries - among them the *British Library* in London - and access to them is strictly limited. As a result of a collaborative project between the four libraries, the complete text is being made available on-line at [www.codexsinaiticus.org](http://www.codexsinaiticus.org) The complete text should be available by June 2009 but a first release of pages held at Leipzig, plus the Psalms and Gospel of Mark from the British Library, can now be consulted. The article appears in the **Church Times** for 22 August 2008, p. 9.

- A recent article draws attention to the **Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835** now available at [www.theclergydatabase.org.uk](http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk) This major database reconstructs the

lives and careers of Anglican clergymen in the pre-**Crockford's** era and is a collaborative project between *King's College*, London, the *University of Kent*, and the *University of Reading*. Researchers have painstakingly collated information from diocesan records. Some 1.5 million records of events in clergymen's lives have been collected and uploaded and the "person records" of more than 90,000 individuals are now publicly accessible. The BBC's ***Who Do You Think You Are?*** programme on 8 August 2008 showed actress Patsy Kensit consulting the ***Clergy Database*** to find details of a clergyman who was one of her ancestors. The article *History B.C. - Before Crockford*, by Arthur Burns, Kenneth Fincham and Stephen Taylor, appears in the ***Church Times*** for 8 August 2008, pp. 27-28.

- Kate Charles' article *The Chief Suspect? Chesterton* looks at the literary genre of "clerical crime" and provides a survey of crime novels which are either written by clergymen or which have a religious setting. G.K. Chesterton, whose Father Brown stories featured a priest who was also a detective, is identified as a pioneer in the field. Dorothy L. Sayers created a church setting for her Lord Peter Wimsey novel ***The Nine Tailors*** and later writers - such as Colin Dexter, P.D. James and Peter Lovesey - have also placed murder mysteries in ecclesiastical settings. The

phenomenon of the monastic detective came into its own with Ellis Peters' Brother Cadfael and Peter Tremayne's Sister Fidelma novels.

In the present century the clerical detective may well be a woman. Phil Rickman's Merrily Watkins, for example, is a parish priest as well as a diocesan exorcist. Clerical crime novels highlight the contrast between the ideal of holiness that the Church represents and the imperfections of the people who actually make up the Church. This article appears in the ***Church Times*** for 22 August 2008, pp. 16-17.

- Tomi Ajayi's article *A Life of Gentle Crime* highlights the work of Veronica Heley, a Methodist writer who has recently celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday and the publication of her sixtieth book. Veronica's published output has included crime novels, historical fiction and Christian children's books. Many of her crime novels feature "crime fighting, Bible-believing protagonists taking on the shady world of illegal activity while trying to maintain their faith". Her books in this genre include the *Eden Hall* series for Zondervan and the *Ellie Quicke Mysteries* written for the library publishers Severn House. The article appears in the ***Methodist Recorder*** for 4 September 2008, p. 24.

- Andy Peck's article *A New Chapter in Christian Fiction?* looks at the current success of William P.

Young's ***The Shack*** which has sold close to two million copies worldwide after being turned down by several American publishers. Many readers have found the novel's fictional account of God's answer to suffering and loss compelling, but others have been disturbed by the book and have claimed that its portrayal of the Trinity is heretical. Hodder and Stoughton have printed 25,000 copies for the UK market and the book has broken into the top ten bestsellers' list at W.H. Smith. This is despite an overall lack of interest in "Christian fiction" in the UK market. The article mentions some outstanding Christian novelists from earlier generations - among them George MacDonald, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien - and considers some of the strengths and weaknesses of Christian fiction. Some readers disapprove of fiction because it is not "*biblical truth*" but good fiction, has the ability to stimulate the imagination, ask questions and illuminate truth. The article appears in ***Christianity*** for October 2008, pp. 14-16, 18.

- A more hostile response to ***The Shack*** appears in an unsigned article in the ***Evangelical Times*** for October 2008, p. 30. The writer claims that "***The Shack contains some attractive elements or truths, but it lies within the spectrum of false teaching embraced by the Emerging Church. It elevates emotion and experience over propositional truth ... While Young presents some truths and some***

*intriguing metaphors of the Trinity ... he falls short of depicting the true sovereignty of God, the hierarchical nature of the Trinity and what submission to a holy God means*". Do you agree? If you have read ***The Shack***, please send me your comments and we will conduct a debate in these pages.

- Stephe-Lucia Engall and Sarah Wynter consider the future of Contemporary Christian Music in their article ***Christian Music Industry R.I.P?*** While interest in praise and worship music for congregational singing is growing, Christian pop and rock artists find it increasingly difficult to survive in the present climate. Relevant factors include the decline of Christian bookshops as a sales outlet for albums, and a reluctance of Christian radio stations to play rock music on anything other than an occasional basis. The growth of the Internet, however, has provided new opportunities for the marketing of Christian music. Christian artists - such as the late Larry Norman - have sometimes suffered an identity crisis in that they are considered too 'secular' for the Church and too 'religious' for the mainstream market. In the United States, some bands have made inroads into the mainstream music scene but have been reluctant to associate themselves with the CCM industry. Music promoter Ray Goudie admits that the Christian music scene has perpetuated the sacred/secular divide and expresses a hope that the



Church will set musicians free to impact and shape popular culture. This article appears in *Youthwork* for October 2008, pp. 12-13, 15-16.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

*The following "Thought" was prepared by the present writer for inclusion on the Transform Work UK web site during part of November 2008.*

#### **Bible Verses**

*"Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body" (Ecclesiastes 12: 12, NIV)*

*"Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25, NIV)*

#### **Thought**

Public libraries have been in the news again recently. A government minister was widely reported to have called on libraries to dispense with their traditionally sombre image. They were advised to drop their rules enforcing silence and banning mobile 'phones, and introduce coffee shops and bookshops into their premises. These suggestions drew a mixed response from the media, with one commentator suggesting that if she wanted a cup of coffee, she would go to the local

branch of Starbucks, not to the public library!

Practising librarians, and regular library users, will probably wonder where the minister has been for the last few years. Many library buildings already include coffee bars while very few enforce an absolute rule of silence. For many librarians there is only one thing worse than politicians not taking an interest in libraries. That is when politicians do take an interest!

The minister is right, though, that the present era is a time of change and challenge for libraries and librarians. The writer of Ecclesiastes may have felt overwhelmed by the volume of books produced in his own society, but he can hardly have anticipated the vast flood of books, CDs, DVDs, and other media that threaten to overwhelm the contemporary librarian. St. John's notion of the whole world being filled with books does not seem quite so far-fetched these days! Computers and the Internet are now a prominent feature of almost all libraries and new formats – such as electronic books – are providing an alternative to the traditional printed book.

Like Christian professionals in other walks of life, Christians in the library service see their everyday work as part of their service to God and to their fellow men and women. Many will see their role in controlling and organising the outpouring of knowledge and information as helping to fulfill the cultural mandate of Genesis in which humankind was commanded to fill the earth and

subdue it. For more than thirty years, the Librarians' Christian Fellowship (LCF) has sought to unite Christians from all branches of the library and information professions – not only the public library service – and provide a forum in which matters of professional concern can be discussed.

Over the years the Fellowship has addressed a number of issues that are of concern to librarians. For example: what about the vexed question of 'censorship'? Librarians have traditionally been committed to the "free flow of information" but this has sometimes caused difficulties for Christians who feel that certain materials reflect a moral and spiritual stance at variance with their own beliefs. The Sunday opening of libraries has also become a hot issue for some Christians in libraries in the recent past.

What about the provision of Christian books in libraries? The supply of religious titles on library shelves often (though not always) leaves something to be desired. For many years LCF has supported the Christian Book Promotion Trust whose *Speaking Volumes* project assists churches to donate books to their local school and public libraries.

If you are not a regular library user, why not drop into your local library sometime? You may be surprised at the range of services currently on offer. And please remember to pray for your local library staff, Christian and non-Christian alike, as they seek to serve their users in a rapidly changing society.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



*Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship held on Saturday 19 April 2008 in the Bell Room, Connaught Hall, Tavistock Square, London.*

About thirty-three members and friends of the Fellowship were present. The President, **Gordon Harris**, was in the chair. He began the proceedings by welcoming members and guests to the meeting. The meeting received "*apologies for absence*" from a number of members including John and Penelope Andrews, Ken Bakewell, Elizabeth Barber, Barbara Gilman, Karen Isaksen, David Moulder, Eleanor Neil, Elizabeth Pool, Susan Rugg, Richard Waller and Geoff Warren. Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 21 April 2007 was proposed by

Margaret Keeling, seconded by Diana Guthrie and agreed by the meeting. It was noted that, since the previous year's meeting, the *Christian Workplace Forum* had merged with another organisation and become *Transform Work UK*.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

LCF Chair **Kirsty Robinson** gave a report on the work of the Fellowship during the year ending March 2008.

Highlights of the year had included the conference *This is My Story ... This is My Song* held in Birmingham on 21 April 2007. Popular children's writer G.P. Taylor had given the annual public lecture in York in October 2007. The Fellowship had also arranged another *Service of Thanksgiving* during CILIP's *Umbrella* conference.

The annual lecture had been preceded by a visit to York Minster library, and members had also taken part in a *Through the British Museum with the Bible* tour and a walking tour of *The Wesleys' Oxford*.

Innovations during the year had included the launch of an LCF group on the social networking site *Facebook*.

Kirsty concluded by expressing appreciation for the support that she had received during her time on the committee and led a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of **Marion Arnold** and **Dave Parry**, whose deaths had been reported since the last annual general meeting.

Acceptance of the report was

proposed by Robert Foster, seconded by Christine Gagan, and agreed by the meeting.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Robert Foster** distributed copies of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2007.

The balance carried over from 2006 had been £4696.86. Income during the calendar year 2007 had been £7570.84. Expenditure had been £6928.58. Income, therefore, had exceeded expenditure by £642.26. The balance carried over into 2008 had been £5339.12.

It was noted that the Fellowship had finished the year with a healthy surplus despite significant expenditure on a new computer system for the use of the Membership Secretary. There were no proposals for an increase in subscriptions in 2009.

Janet Danels noted that there had been a decline in the level of 'donations' from publishers. The Secretary, Graham Hedges, explained that there had been less time available to approach publishers and encourage them to provide leaflets for LCF mailings, than in earlier years.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Sylvia Allaway, seconded by Vernon Burgess, and agreed by the meeting.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

As all candidates were unopposed, no ballot was held and the following candidates were declared to have been appointed to office.

President: **Gordon Harris**

*Proposed by: Executive Committee.*

Chair: **Louise Manners**

*Proposed by: Kirsty Robinson and Gordon Harris.*

Overseas Secretary: **Malcolm Walker**

*Proposed by: Prof. Donald G. Davis, Jr., and Dr. John S. Andrews.*

Western and Welsh Regional Representative: **David Moulder**

*Proposed by: Janice Paine and Margaret Keeling.*

Member Without Portfolio: **Janet Danels**

*Proposed by: Graham Hedges and Janice Paine.*

In the absence of formal nominations, it was proposed that the meeting should appoint **Nick Horley** as Treasurer and **Robert Foster** as an additional Member Without Portfolio. **Janice Paine** should be re-appointed as Membership Secretary and **Philip**

**Hayworth** should be re-appointed as Northern Regional Representative.

Acceptance of these recommendations from the Executive Committee was proposed by Vernon Burgess, seconded by Jean Plaister, and agreed by the meeting.

Thanks were expressed to Kirsty Robinson, who was retiring from the committee, and Robert Foster, who was giving up his role as Treasurer while remaining on the executive. Janet Danels and David Moulder were welcomed onto the committee for the first time.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS?**

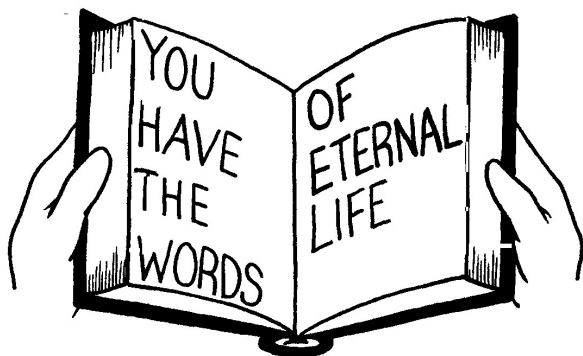
Graham Hedges announced a number of additional activities which were to take place during the remainder of the year including the annual lecture to be held in Winchester on Saturday 18 October 2008.

Mary Wood invited members to submit "case studies" of their career paths which could be included on the Fellowship's web site as an indication of the diversity of the membership.

Mary Wood and Sara Batts encouraged members to join the LCF group on *Facebook* and use this new medium to keep in touch and exchange views with other members.

There was no further business and Gordon Harris declared the meeting closed and led those present in prayer.

# **BIBLES IN SWINDON**



**A group of LCF members visited the headquarters of the Bible Society on Tuesday 16 September 2008. LOUISE MANNERS reports**

A group of nine Librarians' Christian Fellowship (LCF) members and friends were welcomed by Louise Sheppard at Bible Society headquarters, Swindon, and enjoyed a delicious lunch. Ms. Sheppard told us that the Bible Society's library collection has been deposited at Cambridge and researchers are referred there.

Sandra Tebbutt, Bible Society Regional Manager for an

area stretching from Birmingham to Jersey, filled in the background. The aim of the organisation is to make the Bible available, accessible and credible for everyone, everywhere. In the world there are nearly 7,000 languages. There are four hundred and twenty-nine complete translations of the Bible. It all started with a Welsh girl who wanted a Bible of her own. At the age of fifteen Mary Jones, having saved her pennies, set out with bare feet to walk over twenty-five miles over the mountains to the home of a Methodist minister Thomas Charles to obtain a Bible. She waited for more Bibles to be delivered. The Clapham Sect was informed about her story and The Bible Society was formed in 1804.

In the area of politics a public theology think-tank *Theos*, run by Paul Wooley, provides a Christian presence in the public sphere. It will comment on issues of the day, such as the reduction in hospital chaplaincy hours. Bible Society presence in the area of culture includes such initiatives as over two hundred events in Greater Manchester linked to a poster campaign based on "Bible riddles". A fashion show on the Good Samaritan theme was particularly successful. There has been media coverage of the **Poverty and Justice Bible**, with relevant verses highlighted in orange and the march for tackling

poverty in London during the Lambeth Conference in which Bibles were prominently featured.

Resources for schools and churches were produced to accompany the DVD version of the BBC's *Miracles of Jesus* series. Similar resources linked to the *The Passion* were due to be published on 22 September.

Turning to the international dimension, the Bible Society is involved in the production of over 80% of the world's Bibles. Papua New Guinea has a tradition of ancestor worship. Nearly 10,000 people gathered for the launch of the books of Ruth and Matthew. The genealogy of Jesus had overcome barriers. In China fifty four million Bibles have been printed. Five thousand Bibles were distributed after the flooding of the Yellow River. Bibles were distributed at the Olympic Games. In Ghana every child entering high school receives a Bible. The Government of Nepal is allowing a day off for Christmas for the first time. The distribution of the Bible can be dangerous work. The manager of the Bible bookshop of the *Palestinian Bible Society* was abducted and murdered in November 2007 and the bookshop was bombed.

We saw a video featuring the story of a woman prison visitor in Rwanda who forgave the young man who murdered her husband and helped him when he left

prison.

Derek C. Hill talked about the physical side of Scripture publishing and how full advantage has been taken of changes in technology. Translating a Bible took an average of thirty years in the past. Now the target time is ten years. Mother tongue speakers are educated in Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament). Paratext software is available on laptops. Typesetting and printing follows. Distribution is by ship and by national Bible societies. There are printing and binding plants in China, South Korea, Brazil, Columbia and elsewhere. Binding is highly automated. Mistakes are very costly so are carefully avoided. The Bible is also available as an electronic book, on the Internet and as a mobile 'phone download.

Looking toward the future an investment is being made in help materials so that the text can be engaged with anywhere at any time. New formats at a low cost are being investigated with the possibility of a "publishing on demand" programme for some editions of the Bible.

Bible Society staff were thanked for a fascinating visit.

**Louise Manners**, *DipLib, MA, MCLIP*, is Chair of the Executive committee of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship.

**CHRISTIAN  
LIBRARIANS  
INVADE  
WINCHESTER 2008**



**LOUISE MANNERS enjoys a visit to Winchester Cathedral Library on Saturday 18 October 2008 followed by a thought-provoking lecture on Work/Life Balance.**

Just outside Winchester Cathedral on a sunny morning was where thirteen members of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship and friends met to view the **Winchester Bible** on display and visit the Morley Library. Claire, a librarian at the university and volunteer at the Morley Library, gave us a brief history of the **Winchester Bible** and described the collection.

The display cases have the **Winchester Bible** in four volumes permanently on display and a changing exhibition of other works of interest. When we were there the theme was the Reformation, with some works specific to Winchester, for example a listing of bishops at Winchester during the Reformation. The **Winchester Bible** was probably commissioned by Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester from 1129 to 1171. It was made in the scriptorium of Winchester Cathedral between circa 1160 and circa 1175. The text used is that of St. Jerome's translation of the Greek and Hebrew texts in Latin, commonly known as the Vulgate. It is complete. The artists working on the illustrations took twenty-five to thirty years and did not finish. They used lapis lazuli from Afghanistan for the blue and gold leaf for the gold. One particularly fine page was sold and is now housed at the Pierrepont Museum Library in New York. The fourth volume, the lightest, is sometimes carried in procession in the Cathedral.

Bishop George Morley, 1597 to 1684, was a prolific collector of books, buying many during exile with the future Charles II. There are also 1,000 books given or bequeathed in advance of Bishop Morley's bequest. The books are in a number of languages and a great variety of subjects. The

Borrower's Book was on display. Bishop Morley left money to pay for the two globes, which were on display. The terrestrial globe shows California as an island. The celestial globe shows the constellations.

After a hearty lunch LCF members and friends gathered at the United Church in Jewry Street to hear Paul Valler, Associate Speaker with the *London Institute for Contemporary Christianity*, give his thoughts on juggling work, family and church commitments and read from his book on the subject. Mr. Valler was introduced by Gordon Harris, LCF President. Mr. Valler has experience of the corporate world, finance and personnel. Lives are lived nowadays at such a breathless pace that periods devoted to thought can be lost. Our sense of identity is caught up in always being busy. People who give up work can lose their sense of identity. The pattern of behaviour can become very damaging. We show different faces to different people. We may be mentoring others. Mr. Valler gave the example of what happens when a family member is diagnosed with a fatal brain tumour.

We have an identity as a Christian so should not be so needy for an identity that we work impossible hours to achieve it. We should seek to learn more about what we are good at so we

can use that in our work and in our church life, such as listening to people. We are not all called to be high-flyers. We should use our Church community more and we should learn to say 'no' more. Loneliness is an acute problem. We should write our personal mission statements and learn from them. Mr. Valler has a chapter on leading a low-debt lifestyle as a Christian in his book, ***Get a life: winning choices for working people***, IVP, 2008, ISBN 9781844742172. Financial discipline is the key to freedom.

After breaking up into small groups to discuss Mr. Valler's words, representatives of the groups summarised the discussions. Sue Rugg from London region gave the vote of thanks and the conversation continued over tea.



**Louise Manners**, *DipLib, MA, MCLIP*, is Chair of the Executive committee of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship.



# ***MEMBERSHIP MATTERS***

***News from the Membership Secretary:  
Janice Paine, MCLIP, 22 Queensgate Gardens,  
396 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London,  
SW15 6JN.***

***Tel. 020 8785 2174***

Listed below are those who have renewed their subscription or changed their details since July. Please inform the Membership Secretary of any changes of address, job etc.

## **LATE RENEWALS**

**CLARKE**, Mrs Gloria J., 94 Salisbury Road, Reading, Berks RG30 1BN - Open Learning Centre Manager, Gillotts School. Home Tel: 0118 9613069 - Email: gloria.clarke@talk21.com

**FIELD**, Ms Winette E., 7 Clintons Green, Bracknell, Berks RG42 1YL - Libn., William Booth College. Home Tel: 01344 482301 - Email: winette@ladyshot.demon.co.uk

**GILLINGS-GRANT**, Mrs Faydene L.A., 29 Cornyx Lane, Elmdon Heath, Solihull, West Midlands B91 2SQ - Community Libn. & Lib.Manager, Sheldon Lib., Birmingham Lib.Services. Home Tel:

0121 694 9623 - Email: flagg@blueyonder.co.uk

**HARDING**, Mr Oliver L.T., Library, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone, Mount Aureol, Freetown, Sierra Leone - Senior Libn. & Acting Head. Home Tel: 033 460330 - Email: oltharding@yahoo.com

**HILL**, Mrs Sarah, 77 Amesbury Road, Feltham, TW13 5HH - Corporate Information Officer, Tearfund. Home Tel: 0208 744 8316 - Email: sarahhill61@googlemail.com

**SMITH**, Miss Judith H., 112 Brickley Lane, Devizes, Wilts SN10 3BT - Info. & Archives Officer, Barnabas Fund. Home Tel: 01380 720488 - Email: judith@barnabusfund.org

**WELBY**, Mrs Jane P., 8 Stibb Cross, Torrington, Devon EX38 8LH - College Libn., Shebbear College. Home Tel: 01805 601527 - Email: jpw55@hotmail.com

## **CHANGES TO ADDRESS, JOB ETC.**

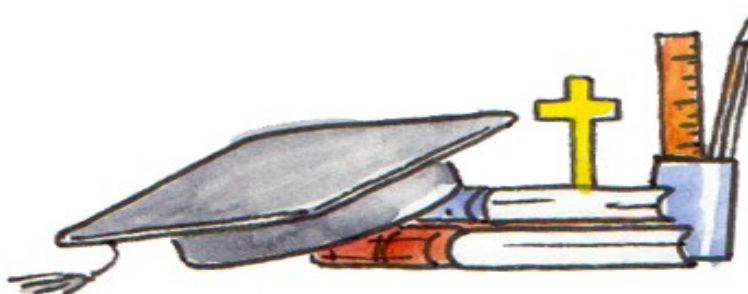
**GARVIE**, Mr Donald, 5 May Avenue, Bangor, County Down BT20 4JT N.I. - Lib. Asst., Union Theological College, Belfast. Home Tel: 02891 472521 - Email: donald.garvie@talk21.com

**URQUHART**, Mr John C.C., 467 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh, EH17 7JG - p/t temp. Locum Minister, Tron Kirk, Moredun. Home Tel: 0131 666 2584 - Email: jccurquhart@gmail.com

## MAIN ARTICLES

**WINETTE FIELD** describes some of the current concerns that demand her attention in her day to day work as Librarian of the Salvation Army's William Booth College

# ***ISSUES FACING A THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY***



There is no such thing as a typical day in the life of a Librarian. Much of the work is determined by user need. Thus the challenges are not unique and trying to define which block to align myself with as a professional is near impossible. Solo, theological, special, academic, technical all have a role to play in the day to day practice of my skills.

Currently it is the start of a new academic year. The first years have been welcomed and offered both compulsory library induction and optional interactive practical opportunities. The latter's focus is on study skills and getting the best out of the OPAC.

There is a tension in all educational spheres between getting students independent, and confident, through relevant sessions whilst still ensuring that no one is missed out. Taking part in the study skills week is beneficial both as a means of getting to know new cohorts and clearing up loose ends regarding how resources impact upon essay writing.

Our approach is to set an essay of eight hundred words. It is used to iron out problems, such as citations or how to trace resources, before an assignment carrying marks significant to the course takes place. Further research sessions will be offered later in the use of electronic journals and indexes. Library surveys, however, indicate that this approach has increased the number of successful searches using our

catalogue. It has also reduced the number of technical problems experienced with the LMS a few years ago.

As Librarians we know that being on site near open access computers always leads to us being the first port of call when users get into difficulties. Thus it was that the first week of term saw lots individual work regarding how to log on in order to take the ICT test.

A member of our Strategic Information team then used the library to clear up problems regarding those who had failed to complete it or appeared not to have done so.

As the second years returned from placement IT issues invariably took up more time. Students required assistance to re-register with our partners the *University of Gloucestershire*. Some discovered electronic journals for the first time. Others faced issues relating to organisation provided equipment.

In some situations IT staff are based on site. Indeed some Learning Resource Centres have merged with Media Resource and IT staff to form multi-disciplinary teams. In others students are utilised. In my case remote help is provided via a help desk. Thus Business Services is the face of another department facilitating assistance when unable to deal with the issue ourselves.

Our second year students had four pieces of work to complete in a short space of time. Competition for resources was as fierce as ever. Reservations abounded as do attempts to link the practical placement into academic theory. *'How do open air meetings, or surveys of café users, link into mission?'* *'What is available on these topics?'*

At the same time some are preparing for seminars on the nature of evil. Help is required in sourcing quotations attributed to Augustine and Desmond Tutu.

The whole year group has just completed part of the management module. Distance learners have joined residential counterparts. As they do so stock used over the summer months, to undertake work on John and Revelation, is returned.

Shelving needs to be done together with shelf tidying, the Cinderella of a Librarian's work. Simultaneously new stock arrives which needs cataloguing, more book orders are made, and preparations for the bookseller's visit to students are well underway. Key reading for first years is on display and much gossiping of the stock takes place between the shelves. *'Which introduction should I buy?'* *'Which books go out most?'* *'I want to use my vouchers wisely.'*

This year we have nineteen distance learners. These live as far away as Latvia and Manchester. Unique challenges both to the Training

Co-ordinator (Distance Learning Programmes) and the Librarian as they lead us down new paths in terms of innovation and individual support. Thankfully most members of this group are eligible for SCONUL + library membership. This enables them free access to library collections closer to home.

Our students involved in the BA in Pastoral Care and Psychology are not so fortunate. Despite this, in partnership with *Havering College of Further and Higher Education*, we have just held our first degree level graduation.

These students are all mature front line workers who study on-line or for concentrated periods at the college. There are recall days scattered throughout the course which lasts about 2.5 years. Balancing their needs and those of the Officer training level students has seen the stock diversify and loan categories multiply as the In-service Department Library integrated with the main college library.

In many ways the needs of this group are similar to regular distance learners – postal loans, e-mail enquiries, phone conversations. Many times I have received questions re referencing techniques or the tracing of journal articles on a particular topic. On one occasion I was asked to talk a client through their use of Athens via the phone although I could not see their screen because of the restrictions placed on access to the service.

As a small library we do not have our own subscription to many of the more expensive journals or electronic facilities. Partnerships and consortia enable us to widen what we offer. However that inevitably means resources being restricted to specific groups.

Shortly the Diploma in Management studies students will return for another week of intense study. Their presence has resulted in further stock development and enhancement. All of which places pressure on collection management and space.

Anecdotally I'm told that the stock was once heavily weeded. Facing the future, these decisions may need to take place again. However such things impact another user category – the denominational specialist.

The college can in no way replace the *International Heritage Centre*. However nine historians access the library to look at items specifically relating to the denomination's history. In the last few weeks I've been asked for information on 'expression of spiritual gifts in meetings'. Key books by Wiggins, Wiseman and Bramwell Booth have been essential in answering this enquiry.

E-books and secure password protected course reader platforms

are all future possibilities. Enabling us to overcome both space and distance issues. However what about the casual browser who picks up a journal and stumbles upon a new avenue of thought because it is there?

Every year the college holds a summer school for its non-commissioned officers. These Territorial Envoys spend up to two weeks doing introductory level studies. All are made temporary members and receive guidance on how to use the service. Days are long with timetabled study taking place in the evening. For me this is a small glimpse into the lives of other Librarians who are learning to deal with out of hours courses.

There are others offering insights into their lives beyond our walls. Reading a newspaper while they wait to return to King's College Hospital. Passing through on their way to meetings at our Territorial Headquarters or on site. Remembering time spent here in the past when the rose bushes were smaller and training was training. Undertaking Master or Doctorate level studies but needing to look over classic Salvationist texts.

The final group of users – but by no means the smallest or the least – are the various staff members. Employees, Learning Development Officers, Tutors, Candidates' Unit staff all need support in their work. That work not only includes training, teaching, recruiting, course administration, finance, child care, property, general administration, room bookings, reprographics along with a whole host of other roles but also platform preparation. My own boss, Business Services Director, recently led: harvest meetings, café church, and our own Monday koinonia.

In common with other Librarians, I have a second manager following the academic route – Training Programme Director. This ensures that the library stays relevant to the curriculum. She too works beyond the boundaries of the college and is a representative on the denomination's International Doctrine Council.

The assistance provided covers everything from copyright information and the identification of new resources through to assistance in the use of self issue equipment.

Users dictate the pattern of my day. No longer can one say that teaching takes place in the classroom in the mornings. Classes evolve and group work preparation spills out into the library. Modern communication means that I can be instant messaged by those off site. The OPAC is accessible remotely. APEL learners may undertake self directed study in the library. Occasional visits occur from Officers or employees visiting the college on other business.

The solo Librarian has to empower; support; facilitate; develop and promote. In such an environment the ability to contract out, a route taken by some theological libraries to deal with intranet sites or catalogues is curtailed by expense. Yet there is a tension between the practical and the cerebral. Some get over this by using student labour and indeed some roles here are undertaken by students on a rota basis – although none in the library.

As part of the Business Services Unit the library is a central resource. Users are encouraged to take ownership of the space; to exercise consideration for others; to shelve the items they have used themselves; to support those who are struggling with the copier and so forth.

The college is unique within *The Salvation Army United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland*. The link with others via the *Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries* is invaluable. Members come from different traditions. They vary in size, location and resources. But pooling of knowledge and experience enables us all to serve better.

To conclude, the work here is concerned with empowering and equipping God's people to be disciples, lead others into faith, actively serve the community and fight social injustice. Seeing men and women step out as commissioned leaders is a great moment. Hearing the work they are involved in a great encouragement. As surely as I serve them my users encourage and build me in my faith. That is a very special thing and worth thanking God for.



**Winette E. Field, BA, MCLIP**, is the Librarian of the *William Booth College* and a former member of the Executive Committee of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship.

In the early days of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship, members took part in library working parties at the South Wales Bible College, which later became the Evangelical Theological College of Wales. MARCUS HOBSON brings the story up to date

## ***INTO THE WEST***

I came to work as librarian at what was then called the *Evangelical Theological College of Wales* in 2001. At that point there hadn't been a full-time librarian and I arrived to a desk with no telephone or computer, fortunately those things changed quickly. There was much work to be done as the college had inherited a large collection of about 30,000 books which were still stored in a block which had no damp-proofing. Sadly some of the books were damaged beyond repair but we managed to rescue others including works from the 17th Century in English and Welsh.

Today the library is computerised, the number of theological journals is growing, and through our partnership with *University of Wales, Lampeter* we have access to a range of electronic resources.

*Wales Evangelical School of Theology* (WEST) as we are now called began life as the *South Wales Bible College* in 1936. This was originally based at Barry but moved to Bridgend in 1985 to begin a new work as the *Evangelical Theological College of Wales*. The library began its life there in one half of the table-tennis room, it is now based in what used to be the chapel with several adjoining rooms.

My own desire to come to WEST when I finished my MA in Librarianship was motivated by sharing in the College's aims of training men and women for Christian work. I'd had a personal interest in theology and church history for some time but could see the need for good training for the sake of the church. Sometimes seminaries have been described as 'cemeteries' killing off spiritual life in their students but good theology should motivate a love for God and his people.

Many of the issues we face would be similar to other libraries



in small colleges, a lack of space and funding, and trying to cope with significant academic demands. WEST began offering degrees in 1991, now a large part of the work for the library is helping research students as well as under-graduates. Obviously research students have to visit other university libraries but we are trying to build up a collection with theological depth.

Theological students have changed since those of the past, there are more mature students with greater pressure on their time, more distance learning students who are quite difficult to provide with adequate resources and international students who sometimes have less experience of using libraries. All of these factors place greater demand on librarians to be able to cater for varying needs and understand and communicate with students.

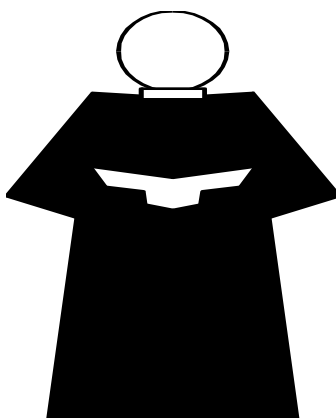
The effects of the digital age on libraries has been discussed widely. As far as theology is concerned it is welcome that so much material has been made freely available. Debate flows on a multitude of blogs, classic works are available at sites like the ***Christian Classics Ethereal Library*** [www.ccel.org/](http://www.ccel.org/) Preachers from across the globe can be listened to at the click of a mouse. So where do the dusty theological tomes that still to some extent fill library shelves come in? There is still a large range of theological literature which isn't available electronically and there is also the desire to build up a balanced collection which aids study so that theology matures like good wine. Unproven information and arguments from the internet need to be considered with discernment, so that theology doesn't leave the safe moorings of Scripture for some new idea.

Theological colleges in other parts of the world would no doubt be envious of the library we have and that other theological colleges in the U.K. have. There is no doubt that a good library can enrich theological education and help students develop their own study patterns, and become exposed to thinking from different ages in the history of the church. If we are people of the book who love the Bible and want it to be studied and taught well theological libraries have an important role to play.

**Marcus P. Hobson, BA, MA**, is College Librarian of the *Wales Evangelical School of Theology*.

**Professor KEN BAKEWELL recalls his post-retirement service as a Reader in the Church of England – but discovers that fame in indexing and library circles can be short-lived**

## ***LIFE AFTER LIBRARIANSHIP***



I suppose I had quite a bit of life after librarianship as the last twenty-six years of my career were spent teaching. Was it Bernard Shaw who said those who can't practise teach?

In 1992 the vicar of my church asked me if I would consider applying to become a reader. A Reader in the Church of England is allowed to preach, lead services, conduct funerals and take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound but not to conduct weddings or except in an emergency to baptise. I told the vicar that I could not possibly do this while I was still working (though many Readers do – I don't know how), but that I was thinking of taking early retirement the following year and if I did I would consider it. I duly took early retirement in 1993, was accepted for training as a Reader and after three years fairly intensive study and some very enjoyable tutorials, was licensed by the Bishop of Warrington (now Bishop of Ripon and Leeds) in 1997. As a friend put it, I swapped one set of robes for another. It was good to have the support of several former colleagues from Liverpool John Moores University at the licensing service, including the Vice-

Chancellor and his wife, who gave me a very nice book of prayers. (In the same year I was elected as President of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship and it was good to have the support of the Fellowship's Secretary, Graham Hedges, at the service.)

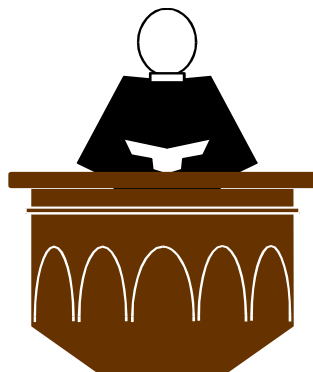
There is controversy in the Church of England about women priests. The Director of Studies for the Reader course was a woman priest, my tutor was a woman priest and I did my placement with a woman priest. I had, and still have, tremendous admiration for all three of them, and so am firmly in the pro women priests (and women bishops) camp. The present priest-in-charge of my church is also a woman and a real blessing to the community. The vicar who asked me to become a Reader left for pastures new well before I was licensed but he was at my licensing service and I received good support from both his successors. Having always liked the sound of my own voice, I enjoyed preaching and leading worship.

A link with my previous existence came when I was asked to act as co-ordinator of the Diocesan Reader Appraisal scheme (later re-named Ministerial Review because 'appraisal' was considered too threatening!) I had taught appraisal at university and also been both an appraiser and an appraisee. I enjoyed this activity, not least because it enabled me to have closer contact with a Reader from a neighbouring parish, now clustered with my own parish, who was the training officer for the Ministerial Review scheme. She also acted as chauffeur for our visits to Deaneries to explain the scheme, as I do not drive.

When I reached the age of seventy, in 2001, I had to return my license, in accordance with Diocesan regulations, and apply annually for the Bishop's permission to officiate. This was granted each year until 2006 when I had to give up because of problems with my voice, due to a paralysed vocal cord, and my balance, the reasons for which have only recently been identified, and I am now a Reader Emeritus. I miss preaching and leading worship, but it's nice to have two Emeritus titles, having left university as an Emeritus Professor. I am still able to carry out various activities including taking Holy Communion to a ninety-seven year old lady, leading a house group and contributing articles on the psalms to the parish magazine.

Two other links with my previous existence include acting as an assessor for Diocesan courses and membership of the Editorial Advisory Board of ***New Library World***. The editor of ***New Library World***, my friend and former colleague Linda Ashcroft, keeps me well supplied with articles for review.

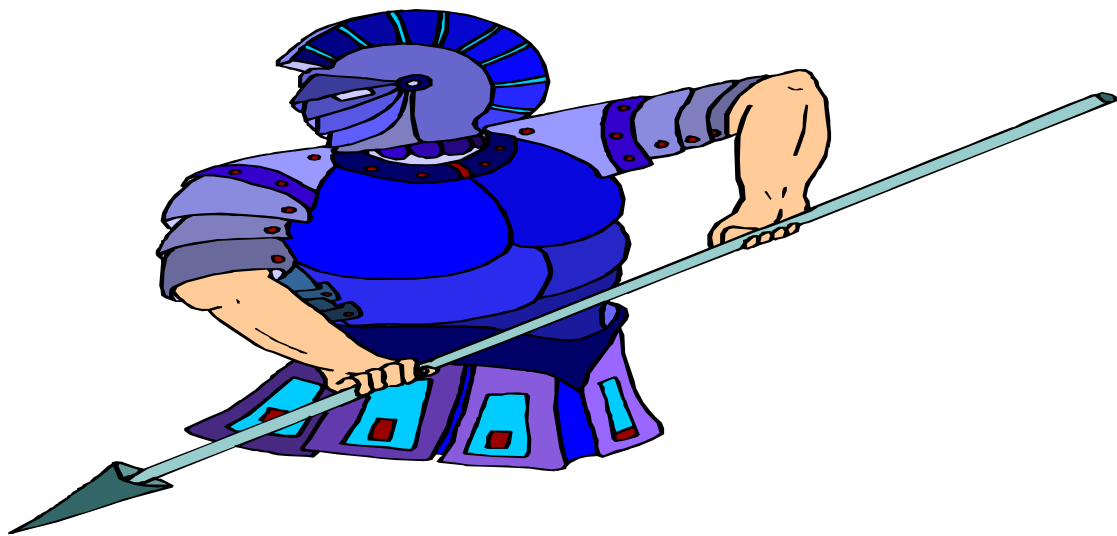
My balance problem means that I am not able to attend as many meetings as I would wish but I did manage to attend a meeting last year of the *Society of Indexers* North Western Group in the conference suite at Liverpool Central Library. I had worked at Liverpool City Libraries but was unaware of a conference suite. It turned out to be what in my day had been the City Librarian's office but was now in a very run down state and with a toilet that was out of order! Having been Chairman and President of the *Society of Indexers*, and having been awarded the Wheatley Medal for my index to AACR2, I thought I was reasonably well known in indexing circles and it was a blow to my ego to find that only one of the assembled twelve, a lady I've known for years, had heard of me! Fame is short lived but life after librarianship can be very rewarding.



**Kenneth G.B. Bakewell**, MA, MCMI, FCLIP, is a Life Vice-President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* and Emeritus Professor of Information and Library Management at the *Liverpool John Moores University*. This article was originally published in the September 2008 issue of ***Post-Lib***, the magazine of the *Retired Members' Guild* of the *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*, and is reprinted here by kind permission of the author and editor.

In our Summer 2008 issue we reported that St. Andrew's Christian Bookshop in St. Albans is now sharing premises with the music shop owned by LCF's founder Elizabeth Barber. In this article GUY MARSHALL puts the ministry of his bookshop into a broader historical perspective

## ***A BOOKSHOP WITH HISTORY***



Six hundred and fifty years ago soldiers and archers rushed up Holywell Hill followed by mounted knights, in the First Battle of St. Albans. They would have gone right past where St. Andrews' bookshop now trades alongside St. Albans Music Centre.

This was a time of political power struggles between the Duke of York and the House of Lancaster during the reign of Henry VI. In those days political differences were sorted out on the battlefield rather than through the ballot box. Two battles took place in St. Albans during the Wars of the Roses, the first in 1455 and then again in 1461, the only city in Britain to make this claim!

In the 15<sup>th</sup> century music was played on instruments like shawms, cornettos, flutes, lyres and slide-trumpets. In The White Hart on Holywell Hill the locals would have been singing madrigals and ballads, while over in the

Abbey the monks would have been chanting plainsong.

One famous aspect of the medieval Abbey was the Scriptorium, where monks spent weeks and months producing beautifully illustrated hand-made books for rich patrons and church use. There were not yet any bookshops in the town, the age of printing was just beginning. Gutenberg first used the technique of moveable type for book production in 1439 at Mainz in Germany. He was soon followed by others like William Caxton, who by 1479 had printing presses in Westminster and St. Albans, possibly at the boys' school, where his printer was John Insomuch the school master. The printing press revolutionised communication, but not in time for the battles in St Albans when outriders on horseback had to relay messages as fast as they could go.

St. Andrew's has moved into premises on Holywell Hill which has a rich heritage of serving the local community, bringing back a bookshop to the street sadly vacated by Paton's in 2007. There is also an ironic link with the Abbey which once had a chapel dedicated to St Andrew that stood on the north side of the Nave; this may be the reason for the saltier on the Abbey flag, the same shape as Scotland uses for its flag, whose patron saint is St. Andrew.

Guy Marshall at the bookshop said, *"We are committed to continue the work of bookselling and ministry in St. Albans. We have opened another chapter in the history of books in St. Albans following on from the Abbey Scriptorium, William Caxton's printing press, many publishing houses in the town and the Crusader Book Centre. We look forward to many successful years in our new site on Holywell Hill sharing with Elizabeth Barber and her Music Centre team."*

Last year St. Andrew's celebrated fifty years of selling Christian books, sharing the gospel and helping churches find the resources they need for their ministry. Steve Barnett, Managing Director of St. Andrew's has said, *"Christian literature has a crucial ministry. Through it, people who do not know God can be presented with the claims of Jesus Christ, and the church can be encouraged in their walk with God as they seek to work out their faith in the world today. Our position on the 'high street' in St Albans is a development of this ministry."*

Visitors to St. Albans today are unlikely to see archers and pikemen on Holywell Hill; but if travelling by car, rather than horse and cart, the nearest parking is on Holywell Hill, behind the shops on the east side of Holywell Hill, vehicle entrance in London Road; Westminster Lodge, and the multi-storey car parks in the city centre.

**Guy Marshall** is the Manager of the *St. Andrew's Bookshop*, which is now based at 20 Holywell Hill, St Albans, AL1 1DD. Tel. 01727 834236. **He is also a trustee of the *Christian Book Promotion Trust*.**

## REVIEW

**ANNE MACRITCHIE** welcomes a new biography published to coincide with the four hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of Britain's greatest poets and political writers

# **JOHN MILTON**



***JOHN MILTON: A BIOGRAPHY***

*Neil Forsyth*

*Lion Publishing, 2008, £10.99, Pbk., 256p., ISBN 978-0745953106*

This is an excellent account of Milton's life – the author admits there is plenty of material which is unusual for a poet living in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Milton was certainly a man of great principle and a complex character. He lived through very turbulent years in the history of Britain including the Civil War and the Restoration when he had to hide for fear of his life. I hadn't realised that he was a Civil Servant for Oliver Cromwell when his great knowledge of Latin was put to good use.

Milton was born in 1608, into a wealthy family (his father was a money lender). He studied Latin at school and then at Cambridge University and had a great talent for languages: he had command of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, Spanish and Italian. Milton's father wanted him to go into the Church but Milton resisted this as

he was disillusioned with the established Church and remained so for the rest of his life. He followed his main inclination and became a poet. Before setting down properly he undertook a Grand Tour of Europe where he made many friends in intellectual circles.

Neil Forsyth covers many influences on Milton's poetry – a lot of them from the Latin and Greek classics where I found I got a bit lost but that's due to my ignorance!

He wasn't surprisingly influenced much by Shakespeare or Spenser. Milton's main poetical works are ***Paradise Lost***, ***Paradise Regained*** and ***Samson Agonistes***. These were all written towards the end of his life which is all the more impressive when you learn he became completely blind in middle age so had to rely on scribes taking down his words which is perhaps why his poems are so powerful.

Milton was far from being only a poet he also wrote many tracts notably in reply to the Royalist Eikonklastes. He also wrote ***Areopagitica*** defending the freedom of the press and about divorce and just a few years ago his arguments were used in the French parliament – Milton believed in the freedom of the individual.

Milton was married three times, his first two wives died in childbirth and two of his children died in infancy so his life was certainly touched with tragedy. I found it sad to learn that his relationship with his three surviving daughters remained distant.

This biography of Milton is not partisan, and is very readable and certainly leaves you with a greater understanding of the man.

**Anne MacRitchie**, BSc, works for *NHS Grampian* as an Information Assistant and serves the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* as our Regional Representative for Scotland.

*Readers are reminded that many of the books mentioned or reviewed in **Christian Librarian** can be ordered on-line from St. Andrew's Bookshops. Any books ordered via the LCF web site at <http://www.librarianscf.org.uk/bookshelf/index.html> will earn a small commission for the Librarians' Christian Fellowship.*



## THE LAST WORD

Concerns about the Saturnalian excesses of the festive season have been around for a long time. MARGARET KEELING calls for a celebration of Christmas that is marked by integrity and simplicity

# 'NEITHER STARS NOR ANGELS'



*'Fearful retailers invoke the Santa clause even earlier'* screamed a **Times** headline on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>:

According to analysts, Christmas stock promotions are being introduced earlier, in part to help consumers spread Christmas spending over a longer period, in part to encourage them to part with their pennies earlier<sup>2</sup>

Through the credit crunch we are being brought face to face with the reality of a Christmas stripped of everything but economic significance

Any discomfort with the notion of starting preparations earlier and earlier is compounded by concerns over the pagan nature of the way Christmas is celebrated:

<sup>2</sup> Marcus Leroux, 'Fearful Retailers Invoke the Santa Clause Even Earlier' *Times*, 16 October 2008, p.43

What should we call this feast? It isn't a feast at all! There is no real friendship behind all the presents. Everyone wants to get presents. Those who give them are ill tempered and those who receive them pass them on to more prominent people. This so called festival causes nothing but debts and grief.<sup>3</sup>

Bishop Asterius of Amasea writing in the year 400 is warning his Christian Community not to get caught up in Saturnalian excess. We are well aware of the '*debts and grief*' which lie in wait for so many people when reality does not measure up to the myths we have created of 'perfect' family celebrations

For Christians, Christmas as a festival can be deeply ambivalent - the wish to celebrate the coming of God into our world fighting with the wish to avoid getting caught up in the consumerism, greed and excess. Perhaps that's why, in August I started my own preparations early by buying a book called ***Doing December Differently*** (see below). It is an exploration of '*how people of faith and goodwill might mark ... the Christmas Festival with integrity and simplicity*'. It has to start inside: in David Adam's words, '*we will see neither stars nor angels if we do not look for them*'<sup>4</sup> We face a dilemma which will not be resolved by tinkering at the margins of our personal practice (no presents? charity presents? no bought presents?) or mounting an anti-materialism campaign. We may well find ourselves, professionally or socially implicitly supporting a secularised Christmas.

For Asterius the Christian feast was explicitly the Advent journey from darkness into light, from the pagan world into the light of Christ, which, was then being celebrated at the darkest time of year. I live in a village without street lights and one of the compensations for the short days of midwinter is the way the stars become so much more visible in the blackness. So much of our news is about darkness; so much of our Christmas celebrations seem to be a hectic attempt to keep the darkness at bay.

A light in shining out in darkness speaks of hope in despair, of '*stars and angels*' not '*debts and grief*'. '*The Life-light blazed in the darkness, the darkness couldn't put it out*' (John 1. 9, **The**

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<sup>3</sup> Sermon by Bishop Asterius, paraphrased, in Nicola Slee and Rosie Miles, *Doing December Differently :An Alternative Christmas Handbook* (Glasgow, Wild Goose Publications, 2006) p.120.

<sup>4</sup> David Adam, *A Celebration of Autumn* (London, SPCK, 2005) Introduction.

**Message).** Christ becoming God in our world turns our value systems upside down. He came to the marginalised and the dispossessed not the powerful; to the poor, not those with material security; to the hopeless not those who have everything worked out. So as I struggle with the tensions in finding a way of celebrating Christmas with '*simplicity and integrity*' I can only return to that incarnation to find a way of living which also embodies Christ's light in the everyday. Again, in the word of one of David Adam's Celtic prayers:

Into our world of darkness,  
Into our places of strife,  
Into our troubles and weakness,  
Come, Lord.  
Come down, come in, come among us.

Into our joys and celebrations,  
Into our homes and loved one,  
Into our work and our achievements,  
Come, Lord  
Come down, come in, come among us<sup>5</sup>.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

**Margaret Keeling, MA, MCLIP, PhD,** is a Vice-President of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship and worked until her retirement as Head of Services for Libraries, Culture and Adult Community Learning for Essex County Council..

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<sup>5</sup> David Adam, *The Rhythm of Life: Celtic Daily Prayer* (London, SPCK, 1996) p.122.

# **SEE YOU IN ROBIN HOOD COUNTRY?**



*Please make a note to join us for LCF's next Annual Conference*

**SATURDAY 25 APRIL 2009**

**at ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH,  
MAID MARIAN WAY, NOTTINGHAM,  
from 10.30.am – 4.45.p.m.**

## **SPEAKERS**

**Rev. RHONA FLOATE**

*Former Librarian, now working as Priest-in-Charge, Wool and East Stoke*

**Rev. ANDII BOWSHER**

*St. John's College, Nottingham*