

Spring 2017



CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN

CONTENTS INCLUDE

- ***SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017:
ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN BIRMINGHAM***
- ***WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017: VISIT TO TYNDALE HOUSE***
- ***SENIOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH OFFICER***
 - ***HELP! I RUN THE CHURCH LIBRARY***
 - ***SPEAKING VOLUMES FOR FIFTY YEARS***
 - ***JOLABOKAFLOD COMES TO THE UK***

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

●ANNUAL CONFERENCE: SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017

Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham. Includes seminar on "The Future of the Library and Information Professions" .

Details pp. 8-11.

●VISIT TO TYNDALE HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE, WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017

Details: p. 12.

●VISIT TO THE LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY IN, LONDON, MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017

Details: p. 13.

ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE: SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER 2017

St. Albans, with the Rev. Simon Carver. Details: p.13.

PRAYER NOTES FOR SPRING 2017

PLEASE PRAY FOR

●Forthcoming CLIS activities including our annual conference, visits to *Tyndale House* and *Lambeth Palace* and annual lecture.

●The work of the executive committee and for suitable candidates to come forward to fill vacant positions.

●. *Scripture Union's Guardians of Ancora* interactive game and its success in teaching Bible stories to technically aware young people.

● Kim Walker and her colleagues at the *Evangelical Alliance*.

●The *Christian Book Promotion Trust* in its fiftieth anniversary year and for a good response to its anniversary book project.

● Plans for *Libraries Week* and the *Jolabokaflod* campaign.

●The Persecuted Church in various parts of the world and the organisations campaigning on behalf of persecuted Christians.



FOUNDED IN 1976 AS THE LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

*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.christianlis.org.uk*

**CHRISTIAN LIBRARIAN: NEWSLETTER AND JOURNAL OF CHRISTIANS IN
LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES (ISSN 0309-4170) No. 74, Spring
2017. .**

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

Printing: Concisely Supplies 4 Business, Chelmsford, Essex. CLIS Logo Design:
Megan Andersen. .

Views expressed in this journal are those of the contributors and not necessarily those
of CLIS as a whole.

CLIS minimum subscription for 2017: £30.00 Reduced rate for student, retired and
unemployed members/subscribers: £20.00.

© Christians in Library and Information Services and contributors, February 2017

SELECTED CONTENTS

04: Eddie Olliffe: Push Open the Door

06: Robert Foster: Libraries and Churches

27: Karen Hans & Margaret Keeling: Faith and Fiction

30: Kim Walker: Senior Information and Research Officer

33: Sarah Etheridge: Help! I Run the Church Library

40: Paula Renouf: Speaking Volumes for Fifty Years

43: Christopher Norris: Jolabokaflod Comes to the UK

THE FIRST WORD

EDDIE OLLIFFE bids farewell to 2016 and expresses some hopes and prayers for the current year of 2017

PUSH THE DOOR OPEN



‘For a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries’. 1 Corinthians 16:9 (ESV)

The last day of 2016 has passed. We cannot enter the year ever again. Sometimes good, occasionally bad. Now the ‘*open door*’ of the New Year beckons - 2017 pulls us unmistakably forward. So what lies before of us?

Someone said that, *‘it has often been said that a pessimist is the one who sees a difficulty in every opportunity, whereas an optimist always sees an opportunity in every difficulty’!*

First and foremost, this verse is an **open door to deeper fellowship with God**, and secondly, it's an **open door for greater usefulness for Jesus Christ**. The Bible here is very clear; it talks about a door open for '*effective spiritual work*'.

We can push last year right away. It's done. It's gone. There is nothing we can do to bring 2016 back again. Moving into the current year, however, my greatest desire is that **I might become 'one' in a much deeper way with God**. Each step is a journey on the way to an enriched quality of life, regardless of current circumstance.

Scripture is also clear that there are '*many adversaries*'. There may be difficulties just ahead. These cannot be pushed away from us. Despite this, however, this verse gives us a real understanding that, we can move forward into all that God requires of us, as we go into this brand new year of 2017.

I pray that you will want to push the door '*widely open*' to move into all the opportunities God has for you.

May God bless you throughout this year.

Eddie Olliffe is Interim General Manager for *CLC International (UK)* and President of *Christians in Library and Information Services*. Eddie blogs at eddieolliffe.wordpress.com and tweets from [@eddieolliffe](https://twitter.com/eddieolliffe)

THE SECOND WORD

ROBERT FOSTER suggests that we should pray with hope in 2017 and not let what we hear in the media be our sole point of reference

LIBRARIES AND CHURCHES

Simon Jenkins, writing in the *Guardian* (22 December 2016), has commented that public libraries and churches face similar problems, in terms of sustainability, and has suggested that the way to preserve both would be for libraries to inhabit redundant church buildings. To some extent there is nothing too radical about having a library in a closed church: *Lincoln College Library* in Oxford moved into the nearby *All Saints' Church* more than forty years ago. But the article is about the crisis facing public libraries, and the article drew a number of on-line responses on that subject: a number argued that there was no need for public libraries to be in decline. Given the funding, they said, libraries would flourish, and many are busy places. Whilst there was some speculation about what the *Church of England* might do next, few respondents seemed to have the same passion to turn churches into public libraries that Simon Jenkins does.

What struck me though was that the article was published just three days before Christmas, at a time when churches up and

down the country see greater footfall than at any other time. People go to midnight communion in large numbers, for example. Whatever the season is called, there is a lot of activity celebrating the birth of Jesus. Nativity plays, concerts, Bethlehem scenes on cards, the Queen's message, all with the Christian celebration at their heart. It happens in workplaces too. I was struck when I once visited a London City church shortly before Christmas that it was hosting carol services at various times of the week for specific companies and charities within its parish boundaries. Last year *Classic FM* broadcast a series of carol services (complete with readings and prayers) at 8.00. p.m. in the week leading up to Christmas, in aid of charities and the people connected with them. Universities and colleges often have their carol services, sometimes repeated to accommodate all who want to attend. Did your workplace have a carol service or some similar Christmas event? I'd be interested to hear from you.

2017 has many challenges for churches and public libraries. It's not always easy to be optimistic, particularly if our point of reference is only what we hear about in the media, but just as there is evidently a need for public libraries doing what they do now being noticed by ***Guardian*** readers, we've also just had a season of Christian celebrations of quite surprising proportions. I trust you can pray with hope this year.

Robert Foster, BA, DipIM, MCLIP, is Chair of *Christians in Library and Information Services* and works as an Assistant Librarian at the *Royal College of Music*

CLIS

Christians *in*
Library *and*
Information
Services



WHAT FUTURE FOR THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION PROFESSIONS?

DON'T MISS OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017

From 10.30. a.m. – 4.45. p.m.

***CARRS LANE CHURCH
CENTRE, CARRS
LANE, BIRMINGHAM.***

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Members of *Christians in Library and Information Services* will be holding their Annual Conference on **Saturday 8 April 2017** in the **Bertha Wright Room, Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX**, from 10.30. a.m. – 4.45. p.m.

JOURNEY TO ANCORA

The guest speaker in the morning session will be **Maggie Barfield**, the Product Developer for ***Guardians of Ancora***, *Scripture Union's* interactive computer game designed to introduce Bible stories to technically aware young people.

Maggie's talk is to be entitled **Journey to Ancora** and will explain how *Scripture Union* developed the game out of a conviction that children were being lost to the Church and no longer "*doing*" the Bible. A way needed to be found to relate to them and research among UK parents, teachers and leaders suggested that children should be met where they are: on-line and mostly gaming.

As stated, Maggie Barfield

is the Product Developer for ***Guardians of Ancora***, a compelling and unique digital environment for children, with faith formation and Bible engagement at its heart. With twenty years at *Scripture Union*, applying theological training and practical experience to all areas of publishing (curriculum, devotional, print and digital books and periodicals) Maggie is relishing the adventure of creating an innovative and immersive place-and-space where children can meet God through the Bible and prayer.

WHAT FUTURE?

The afternoon session will include a presentation on **The Future of the Library and Information Professions** and the speakers will include **Karen Hans** (school librarian), **Michael Gale** (Librarian, *The Queen's Foundation*, Birmingham), **Susan Bates** (Patent Analyst, *Shell International*), and **Paula Renouf** (Director of the *Speaking Volumes* library scheme).

The afternoon will consider the future prospects both for traditional library and non-traditional information services. We will be looking at the possible

future development of electronic books and also hearing about recent developments in the Christian Book Promotion Trust's *Speaking Volumes* scheme which now offers 100% funding for collections of Christian books to be placed in libraries of all kinds.

These are all vital questions in these days of library closures, cutbacks, budget reductions and redundancies, and it is important that we discuss them and, hopefully, introduce a positive Christian perspective into the current debates.

We want to hear *your* views on the future of our professions, so please come along with your own ideas and be prepared to contribute.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The conference programme will include our annual general meeting for 2017, beginning at 11.20. a.m.

Nominations for the executive committee, and motions to be discussed at the meeting, should be in the hands of the Secretary not later than *Saturday 4 March 2017*.

Nominations are invited for the following executive committee positions: Secretary, Treasurer, Overseas Secretary, Webmaster, Library Assistance Manager, Recruitment Secretary, and Members Without Portfolio (two positions).

Each nomination needs to be supported in writing by a proposer and seconder and we also require written confirmation from the candidate that he or she is willing to serve.

Candidates are planning to stand for election or re-election to *some* of these positions but we are always pleased to hear from other members who are interested in serving on the committee, or who would like more information about what might be involved.

CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

The booking fee for the Conference, including lunch and refreshments, is £30.00 with a reduced rate of £25.00 for unwaged delegates. Non-members are welcome. This year CLIS is inviting students to attend the Conference free of charge and offering travel bursaries of up to £50.00 to enabl

two students to attend the conference.

Please make these arrangements known to any library and information students known to you.

Cheques should be made payable to *Christians in Library and Information Services*

THE CHURCH AT CARRS LANE

As usual the CLIS Conference will provide opportunities for Christian fellowship, networking, worship, and stimulating discussion.

The Church at Carrs Lane is situated in the centre of Birmingham and just a few minutes walk from *Birmingham New Street* station. It is likely to prove accessible to those coming by car or coach. The venue is likely to be especially convenient for delegates from our Midlands, Northern, London, Eastern and Western regions.

There has been a worshipping community at Carrs Lane since 1748. From 1832 Carrs Lane belonged to the newly formed *Congregational Union*, which became part of the *United Reformed Church*. The current

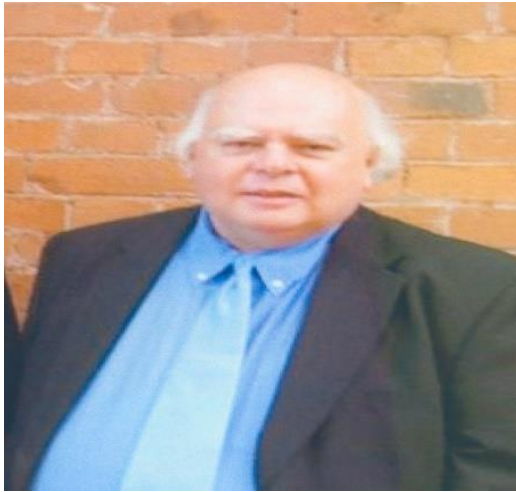
building is the fourth to be built on the site and was completed in 1970.

Notable past ministers have included John Angell James, founding father of the *Congregational Union* and the *Evangelical Alliance*.

Since November 2011 the Church has had the status of a *Methodist* and *United Reformed Church* local ecumenical project with Christians from both backgrounds forming part of the congregation.

Travelling directions will be sent to all conference delegates nearer the time.

Further details of the conference and the wider work of *Christians in Library and Information Services* are available from The Secretary, Graham Hedges, 34 Thurlestone Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG3 9DU. Tel. 020 8599 1310. Mobile 07465 429996. E mail secretary@christianlis.org.uk Web site www.christianlis.org.uk



CLIS NEWSLETTER

**From Graham Hedges,
MCLIP, Hon. FCLIP,
Secretary, 34 Thurlestone
Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG3
9DU. Tel. + 44 (0)20 8599
1310. E mail
secretary@christianlis.org.uk
Web site
www.christianlis.org.uk**

WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017: VISIT TO TYNDALE HOUSE

On Wednesday 10 May there will be an exciting opportunity to visit the *Library of Tyndale House*, an outstanding biblical research library in Cambridge, where our member, Dr Rachel Johnson, is currently working as an Assistant Librarian. For those who can get

to Cambridge in time we will start out with a traditional pub lunch at *The Granta*, before heading on to *Tyndale House*. Rachel will then be treating us to a tour of the Library, an introduction to Tyndale's work, given by the current Librarian and Chief Operating Officer, Simon Sykes, and a talk about the archives given by the voluntary archivist, Alison Stacey. We will be rounding off the visit in the best of fashions at around 4.00. p.m. with cake.

The itinerary for the day is to meet at Cambridge train station at 12.00 noon, although you are most welcome to meet us directly at *The Granta* pub at 12.30 p.m. instead, if that is more convenient for you (address 14 Newnham Terrace, CB3 9EX). After lunch, we will make our way to Tyndale House, just down the road (36 Selwyn Gardens, CBD 9BA), for our visit at 2:30pm.

If you would like to attend, please contact Sarah Etheridge, 5 Huntingdon Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6, E-mail recruitment@christianlis.org.uk by Monday 10 April 2017. Please advise of any special requirements, and please confirm whether you will be joining us at the train station at 12 noon, The Granta pub at 12:30pm, or Tyndale House at 2.30.p.m.

.MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2017: LAMBETH PALACE

On 11 September 2017 we will be visiting *Lambeth Palace Library*, the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury and the principal repository of the documentary history of the *Church of England*. Our recruitment secretary, Sarah Etheridge, currently works at the Library as Library Assistant / Acting Collections Librarian, and will be offering us a tour of the Library, Palace and (weather-permitting!) the beautiful gardens. There will be a chance to hear from different members of the library and archives staff, as well as to view a display containing a selection of highlights from the collections.

We will be starting off with lunch before the tour, hopefully in the newly re-developed *Garden Museum* next door to *Lambeth Palace* (Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 7LB). We will aim to meet at the *Garden Museum* at 12:45pm, before our tour of the Library at 2.00 p.m.

If you would like to attend, please contact Sarah Etheridge (recruitment@christianlis.org.uk) by Monday 21st August 2017. Please advise of any special requirements.

ANNUAL PUBLIC LECTURE

I am pleased to report that arrangements have been made for our annual lecture in 2017. The Rev. **Simon Carver**, minister of the *Dagnall Street Baptist Church*, St. Albans, and the regular film reviewer on *Premier Christian Radio*, has agreed to be our speaker. He will be speaking on *God and the Movies*, or some such theme, and he has agreed that we can hold the lecture at his church building in St. Albans. This will be on **Saturday afternoon 14 October 2017**, which coincides with *Libraries Week* (9-14 October 2017) as recently announced by the *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*. Please book the date now and plan to attend if possible.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

In a bid to attract more full and part-time students into CLIS membership we have decided to create a new category of student membership. Student members will be entitled to free membership for the duration of their courses but will only receive electronic versions of the CLIS magazines

and mailings rather than the printed copies.

In order to implement this plan we need to bring the arrangements to the attention of students themselves. If you know any students, through your library or your church, who might be interested please let them know about student membership. Alternatively you could send their details to our Membership Secretary, Janice Paine, at 22 Queensgate Gardens, 396 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London, SW16 6JN. E mail members@christianlis.org.uk

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NEWS

- **CILIP Update** for November 2016, p. 47, includes an obituary of our former President, Dr. **John S. Andrews**, who died in May 2016.

The tribute by John's friend and university colleague, Graham Rand, records John's university library career at Leeds and Lancaster and his involvement in various *Library Association* activities. Reference is made to John's role as the longest serving President of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* (now CLIS), his membership of the

Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries, and his role in planning and leading services of thanksgiving at past LA Conferences.

Please let me know if you would like a copy of this obituary article.

- We were sorry to hear that **Elizabeth Barber** suffered a severe stroke in August 2016 and is now living in a care home in St. Albans.

Readers will know that Elizabeth was the founder of the *Librarians' Christian Fellowship* (as we were) and is one of our Life Vice-Presidents. She left library work in 1983 to work in her family's music shop business but retained her interest in LCF/CLIS and was present at our fortieth anniversary Conference in April 2016.

Please pray for Elizabeth as she comes to terms with this major change in her personal circumstances.

- Our past speaker, **Tony Jasper**, has written *Christianity and Religion in the Media in 2016*, which appears in the **Methodist Recorder** for 23/30 December 2016, pp. 26-27.

In addition to the more

obviously '*religious*' topics Tony's article takes in the Shakespeare anniversary, the Olympics, and the death of Leonard Cohen.

Tony is also the author of *Jesus in Jeans*, included in **Radius Performing**, the magazine of the *Religious Drama Society*, Winter 2016, pp. 5-7, which recalls the pioneering rock musical **A Man Dies** whose author, Ernest Marvin, died in 2016.

- Our committee member **John Wickenden** has written *The Changing Face of the Information Professional in the Pharmaceutical Industry*, including some material about his own career first used at the LCF/CLIS Conference a few years ago.

The article appears in **eLucidate**, the on-line journal of CILIP's *eInformation Group* which can be found at www.cilip.org.uk/uk-einformation-group/elucidate

John is the Secretary of the *eInformation Group* and serves on our own executive committee as our Webmaster.

LIBRARIES WEEK

CILIP, the *Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals*, has announced that **9-14 October 2017** has been designated as **Libraries Week** "a week-long celebration of Britain's much loved libraries." It is hoped that "*libraries will showcase the best they have to offer, encouraging people to discover what libraries can do for them*".

I hope that CLIS members will support *Libraries Week* in their libraries when appropriate. However, there are also opportunities for promoting libraries in a church context. Perhaps you would be able to give a short talk on libraries as part of a Sunday service or mid-week meeting or write a short article for a church newsletter or web site. This might mention the work of CLIS and the *Speaking Volumes* library scheme and the importance of using libraries as a source of Christian reading.

I would hope that *all* CLIS members could get involved in some way or another. Start to think about what your own contribution might be, and please keep me informed of your plans

You can find more information about *Libraries Week* at www.librariesweek.org.uk

RETIRED LIBRARIANS

I have written about the role of retired librarians in the past and questioned the decision of many librarians who allow their CILIP membership to lapse when reaching retiring age.

I was pleased to read that, after more than twenty years as a semi-independent body, the *Retired Members' Forum* is to be integrated into the main structures of CILIP as one of its special interest groups.

To encourage members to join the re-launched *Retired Members' Group*, CILIP are offering free group membership until 2019.

Two years' free membership is also on offer from the *Knowledge and Information Management Group*, which has been formed in place of the earlier *Information Services Group*.

Information about CILIP and its groups is available from 7, Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE or from the web site www.cilip.org.uk

EPWORTH LIBRARY

After several years in the basement of the *Westminster Central Hall*, the *Epworth Library* is being transferred to *Methodist Church House* at 25 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5JR.

Readers may recall that the *Epworth Library* is a collection of books from the now defunct *Methodist Publishing House* and *Epworth Press*. The bulk of the work involved in cataloguing stock and setting up the library was carried out by the library volunteers Janet White and Elizabeth Williams but, more recently, the present writer has made occasional visits to the WCH to catalogue and process additional books as they become available.

The library is a valuable resource for those studying Methodist history and theology but the use made of the collection at *Central Hall* has been disappointing and we hope that it will find new users in its new location. We wait to hear whether further voluntary help will be required at *Methodist Church House*.

HERE FOR YOU

Our friends at *Transform Work UK* have launched their *Here For You* campaign the aim of which is to encourage the Christian Workplace Groups they support that they exist not primarily for their own benefit but to reach out to their colleagues, co-workers and their organisations as a whole in ways that help sustain positive and productive work forces.

TWUK believe that with creative faith and an honest partnership with an employer Christian Workplace Groups – and allied professional groups – can help transform the workplaces of the nation.

This is achieved through personal contacts, news stories of what is going on, in other groups, and via materials and training sessions that show how Christians can be a positive influence in their workplaces.

However, TWUK is primarily a volunteer organisation funded entirely from voluntary contributions and to continue they need further financial support. Supporters are asked to partner with TWUK through regular financial giving.

You can sign up to give regularly or make one-off

donations on the web page www.transformworkuk.org/donate

For more information contact Michael Coveney on 07894 007996 or e-mail michael.coveney@transformworkuk.org.uk

LUTHER ANNIVERSARY

2017 is the five hundredth anniversary of the publication of Martin Luther's ***Ninety-Five Theses***, an event that sparked off the Protestant Reformation and changed the course of history. Various events have been planned to mark this anniversary. In the United Kingdom the *Council of Lutheran Churches* has launched a web site www.reformation500.uk which has a page of events in London and around the country. *The Lutheran World Federation* also has a web site dedicated to the anniversary which can be found at <https://2017.lutheranworld.org>

We know of at least two Luther-related pilgrimages to Germany during the anniversary year. The Rev. John Robinson, a minister in the *United Reformed Church*, is leading *In the Steps of Martin Luther*, a five day pilgrimage from **29 May – 2 June 2017**. You can obtain details from

John at revjohnnrc@outlook.com
The Rt. Rev. Michael Ipgrave,
Bishop of Lichfield, is leading *A Pilgrimage to Germany in the Steps of Martin Luther* from **10-19 July 2017**. Details are available from
Margaret.elkin@southwark.anglican.org

FACING THE SILENCE

On Monday 12 December 2016 I was privileged to represent CLIS at an advance showing of the film ***Silence***, at the Odeon, Leicester Square, London, courtesy of Damaris Media.

Silence is a recent film from director Martin Scorsese and is based on the classic novel by the Japanese Catholic novelist Shusaku Endo. It tells the story of the persecution of Christians in Japan during the seventeenth century. The central characters are two idealistic Jesuit priests who set off to Japan to aid the persecuted church and to try and find their mentor who is rumoured to have renounced his faith in the midst of persecution.

The film raises some hard questions and does not give easy answers. For example: Would it be right to deny one's faith if this would save the lives of others threatened with death? The film

graphically illustrates the way in which many Catholics were martyred during this period: by beheading, burning, drowning, and other horrendous means.

The reality of the persecutions faced by Christians, then and now, certainly makes disputes about whether Christians should be allowed to wear crosses at work seem trivial by comparison.

This is not a film for the fainthearted but I hope it is one that CLIS members would wish to support. Resources for churches, including discussion notes, film clips, etc. are available on the Damaris Media web site at <http://silence.damarismedia.com>

The storyline reminded me of ***The Power and the Glory***, Graham Greene's famous novel of the last priest in Mexico at the time of an anti-clerical purge.

It is sometimes stated that Buddhism is the most tolerant and peace-loving of the major religions. However, if the events of the film bear any resemblance to true events, it has to be said that one of the worst persecutions in history was carried out in the name of the Buddhist faith.

I suspect that the film will have completed its cinema run before these words appear in print but I hope that the eventual DVD will be widely stocked in libraries.

If you have seen the film, please let me have your reactions, and we will include them in a later issue.

STAGING SCREWTAPE

C.S. Lewis' ***The Screwtape Letters*** appeared on stage at London's *Park Theatre* from 8 December 2016 – 7 January 2017 in a theatrical adaptation by the American-based *Fellowship for Performing Arts*.

Written by Max McLean and Jeffrey Fiske and featuring Max McLean in the title role ***The Screwtape Letters*** was an entertaining and thought-provoking presentation of Lewis' famous treatise on the reality of temptation written during the Second World War in the form of a series of letters from a senior to a junior devil.

Aiming to create theatre "from a Christian worldview that engages a diverse audience" *Fellowship for Performing Arts* has other current productions, ***Martin Luther on Trial*** and ***C.S. Lewis on Stage: The Most Reluctant Convert***, which are being performed in New York but it is hoped that these will be brought to the UK at a later date. You can find more information at www.FPAtheatre.com

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION

Librarians, and others, who have enjoyed an annual visit to the *Christian Resources Exhibition* in order to catch up with the latest developments in Christian book and magazine publishing, music, audio-visuals and other materials will be pleased to know that the event will continue under the management of a new company. The new proprietor, Stephen Goddard, has assembled a team who have worked on various aspects of the event for many years, including our past speaker Gospatric Home, founder of the exhibition, as President.

Following consultation with exhibitors the first CRE under new management will return to its earlier home at the *Sandown Park Conference Centre*, Esher, Surrey, from **17-19 October 2017**.

Steve Goddard has worked as CRE's public relations officer since 1987 and was also, at one time, responsible for public relations for the *Library + information Show*. Steve has enjoyed a varied career as singer/songwriter, magazine editor, public relations consultant, and co-editor of the ***Ship of Fools*** web site. He was interviewed about his work in the ***Librarians'***

LOST MANUSCRIPT

The Search for the Lost Manuscript, repeated on BBC4 on Thursday 22 December 2016, told the story of **Revelations of Divine Love** (Penguin Classics, £8.99, ISBN 978-0140446730) by the medieval mystical writer Julian of Norwich.

In 1373 Julian became the first known woman to write a book in English, an accomplishment comparable to that of Geoffrey Chaucer and his **Canterbury Tales**. Julian's vision of the unconditional love of God, however, placed her at odds with a medieval church obsessed with divine judgement, and the book is said to have been suppressed for five hundred years.

Narrated by art historian Dr. Janina Ramirez the programme explained how the book was re-discovered in the twentieth century and followed the trail of the lost manuscript from Norwich to northern France.

Janina Ramirez is the author of **Julian of Norwich: A Very Brief History** (SPCK, £12.99, ISBN 978-0281077373.)

Books for Life at www.booksforlife.uk is a new on-line reviewing service for Christian books launched by the popular speaker and writer Dr. Krish Kandiah. Each month there will be a video interview with a well known Christian who recommends several of his or her favourite Christian titles.

The series began with an interview with Canon J. John whose book choices included **The imitation of Christ** (Thomas a Kempis) and **Chasing the Dragon** (Jackie Pullinger). Later interviews have featured the book choices of Pete Greig, founder of the 24/7 prayer movement, and Rachel Gardner, President of the **Girls' Brigade**. A **Books for Life Live** event was held in Cheltenham in October 2016 and speakers included Paula Gooder, Elaine Storkey, and Brian Draper.

BETTER TOGETHER

LCF/CLIS has been a member society of the *Evangelical Alliance* for more than thirty years and I was pleased to attend the Alliance's one hundred and seventieth anniversary celebrations at All Soul's Church,

Langham Place, London, on Thursday 10 November 2016.

The evening began with a dramatic reconstruction of scenes from the first great conference in 1846 when a dispute about whether slave owners should be allowed into membership almost derailed plans for a united international movement of evangelical Christians.

By 2016 there were one hundred and twenty nine national evangelical alliances affiliated to the *World Evangelical Alliance* representing possibly as many as a billion evangelical Christians throughout the world.

EA General Director **Steve Clifford** paid tribute to the “*fantastic team of people*” who work for the organisation and some of those staff members described the current projects in which they are involved. The *Public Leadership* programme exists to train Christians to play a leading role in politics, the professions and public life generally. Mission remains at the heart of the Alliance’s concerns and the recently launched *Great Commission* web site at <https://greatcommission.co.uk> contains resources for evangelism and video testimonies of people who have become followers of Jesus Christ.

Threads, the Alliance’s on-

line blog at <https://www.threadsuk.com> is intended for the generation now in their twenties and thirties who are often under-represented in the contemporary Church. The *Advocacy team* have a particular concern about the government’s plans to curb “*extremism*” believing that some of the proposals present a threat to religious liberty and freedom of expression.

The Alliance’s recent strapline is *Better Together* and there is to be a special emphasis on church unity in 2017 with all the major Christian festivals – from *Spring Harvest* to the *Festival of Life* – emphasising this theme.

You can contact the *Evangelical Alliance* at 176 Copenhagen Street, London, N1 OST or find information on-line at www.eauk.org

CLICKS AND BRICKS

The *Premier Christian Radio Digital Conference*, held in London on Saturday 12 November 2016, dealt with many issues relevant to the contemporary Church. Much of the conference was also relevant to librarians keen to develop their services within an on-line context.

"If Facebook was a country, it would be the largest country in the world". So claimed keynote speaker **Lucy Peppiatt**, of the *Westminster Theological Centre*, in her opening address. Lucy raised the question of how digital media might fit into our encounters with God and how we encounter each other as the body of Christ.

Dr. **Magnus Ramage**, from the *Open University*, claimed that information is foundational to today's society. Such diverse areas of life as money, music and friendship have been recast in terms of information.

Amaris Cole, Editor at the *Evangelical Alliance*, spoke on blogging, and the importance of building a blogging strategy. Amaris is responsible for the EA's **Threads** blog intended for people in their twenties and thirties. It has been estimated that people were more likely to survive the *Titanic* than to survive church into adult life. **Threads** has a particular concern for people who have turned their back on the church but not necessarily Jesus.

Bloggers were encouraged to identify their target audiences and to identify five to ten key words that summed up the purposes of their blogs. These should be fed into the content of the blogs as often as possible so that they would be picked up by

search engines. Bloggers were competing with the mainstream media but should seek alliances with other bloggers with similar aims who might otherwise be regarded as *"the competition"*. Advice was given on promotion (e.g. through social media), building a team, and the frequency of posting.

Jenny Imhoff, of *Prosper*, spoke on technology and the refugee crisis noting that there are an estimated 35,000 *Facebook* groups dedicated to refugees. Many refugees have smartphones which help them to find relevant information. Technology has saved a lot of lives but should be regarded as a tool, not a solution.

Abbie Gillgan, of the NSPCC, spoke on the dark side of digital drawing attention to on-line pornography, violence and the degradation of women, and the practice of *"sexting"* explicit images.

Pete Phillips, of the *CODEC Research Centre for Digital Theology*, at the *University of Durham*, raised the question of whether people still need to go to church now that we have access to Christian resources on-line. He believes that the more we digitise the more we need the real (including churches and libraries). Peter Kerridge, Chief Executive of *Premier Radio*, has

suggested that we need both “clicks and bricks”.

The EA’s **Chine McDonald** chaired a discussion panel on what to do when things go wrong on social media and **Mark Green**, of *Scripture Union*, spoke on reaching others on-line, highlighting SU’s **Guardians of Ancora** on-line interactive game which he had helped to develop.

The conference also included a lunchtime session on the *Museum of the Bible* due to open in 2017. This ambitious project “exists to invite all people to engage with the Bible through a museum currently under construction in Washington D.C., research, travelling exhibits, and education”. You can find more information on-line at www.museumofthebible.org.

This year’s *Premier Digital Conference* is to be held on **Saturday 4 November 2017** at *The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London*, and you can find further information on the web site at www.Premierdigital.org.uk/Premier-Digital-Conference

CURRENT AWARENESS

- Self confessed “bookaholic” Dr. Krish Kandiah explains his passion for books and reading in *The Believer That Books Built*.

Krish loves the feel and touch of physical books but is more concerned that Christians should read than that they should choose a particular format. He believes that reading bonds us together and quotes the line in the C.S. Lewis biopic **Shadowlands** “we read to know we are not alone”.

He quotes the nineteenth century Christian leader C.H. Spurgeon who believed “the man who never reads will never be read; he who never quotes will never be quoted. He who will not use the thoughts of other men’s brains proves he has no brains of his own”.

The article quotes the writer Nicholas Carr who suggested that digital literacy may be eroding general literacy. This can be counteracted by the “deep reading” of books alongside the “scan reading” that we experience on the Internet.

Krish Kandiah recently launched the **Books for Life** web site out of a conviction that Christians are no longer reading because few church leaders

recommend books to their congregations.

The article appears in **Premier Christianity**, January 2017, pp. 42-47.

- Barry Cooper's *How to Steal Past Watchful Dragons* stresses the importance of storytelling in communicating the gospel message.

The author quotes C.S. Lewis who realised that "*stories ... could steal past a certain inhibition which had paralysed much of my own religion in childhood*".

Many people adopt a defensive posture as soon as they hear criticism or freeze up emotionally if they are told how they ought to feel. Stories, which at the outset seem to be about someone else, "*slink past the twitchiest of radars*".

The article appears in **idea**, the magazine of the *Evangelical Alliance*, for November/December 2016, pp. 18-19.

- Huw Spanner's *The Word of God Grew and Multiplied* is a survey of different versions and translations of the Bible, beginning with the **Great Bible** of 1539, the first English Bible legally available in Britain, and concluding with contemporary

paraphrases such as the **Living Bible** and **The Message**.

Ian Metcalfe, of *Hodder Faith*, thinks that Bible publishing is arguably the most cynical area in publishing because "*we're essentially taking the same product, and re-packaging it, and selling it to people over and over again.*"

There have been many editions of the Bible targeted at particular interest groups among them the **Green Bible** (NRSV), the **Poverty and Justice Bible** (CEV) and the **God's Justice Bible** (NIV).

The *Bible Society* is reported to be working on a "*dyslexia friendly*" version of the Bible with simple large print in a single column.

There have also been several attempts to re-tell the Bible stories in comic strip form, beginning with Lion's **Graphic Bible** in 1998 and including the **Manga Messiah** in 2006 which told the story of Jesus in the Manga format popularised by Japanese comic publishers.

The article appears in the **Church Times** for 2 December 2016, pp. 20-21.

- Steve Parish's *The Spiritual Landscape of Leonard Cohen*

pays tribute to the poet, singer and songwriter who died in late 2016, aged eighty-two.

Cohen's songs are littered with biblical allusions, and even during his time exploring Zen Buddhism, his Jewish identity remained formative. The life and death of Jesus was an infrequent but recurring theme in his work. His best known song, *Hallelujah*, written in 1984, draws on the biblical stories of David and Bathsheba and Samson and Delilah.

Cohen's song *If It Be Your Will* appeals to the mercy of God and religious, even Christian, references persist in his final album ***You Want It Darker***, released shortly before his death.

The article appears in the ***Church of England Newspaper***, 18 November 2016, p. 10.

- Articles in ***The Christian Librarian***, journal of the (American) Association of Christian Librarians, Vol. 59 (2), 2016, include *Teaching Library History: engaging the Academic community* (Ben Brick), *Using Library Events and Programs to Reach Out to Patrons* (Robert Lee Burgess), and *Religious Accommodations for Sabbatarian Observance Among Library Staff* (Paul A. Hartog).

- Articles in the ***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries***, Vol. 23, No. 3, Autumn 2016, include *Equipped to Serve: a Christ-centred approach to delivering theological education through e-learning* (Kate Wiseman); *Information Literacy for Theological Librarians* (Michael Gale); *Some Tips for Supporting information Literacy in a Theological Setting* (Helen Stocker); and *Surviving a Copyright Licensing Agency Audit* (Jacquie Gunn).

Please let me know if you would like to read any of the articles mentioned in this feature.

EBSCO PUBLISHING

Christians in Library and Information Services 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 ***E-Newsletter*** and ***Christian Librarian*** - are available on **EBSCO Publishing's** databases. Subscribers are able to retrieve articles from our publications and CLIS will receive a small commission for each article.

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
e-mail members@christianlis.org.uk**

Listed below are those who have renewed their membership or changed details since October. We would like remind current members that subscription renewals are now due for 2017. It would be greatly appreciated if payment could be sent **before the end of April**. Minimum subscription rates for 2017 are: £30 (full rate), £20 (retired, unemployed), £20 each for 2 members at the same address, students free (eOnly); overseas (outside Europe) please add £5.00 for postage. If you have **changed address, job, etc.**, please let us know as soon as possible.

LATE RENEWALS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CHANGES TO ADDRESS, JOB ETC.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REVIEWS

FAITH AND FICTION

SILENCE

Shusaku Endo

Translated by William Johnston

***Marylebone House, 2016, £12.99, Hardback, 302p.,
ISBN 978-1910674277***

Silence is a novel re-released to coincide with the new film of the same name from director Martin Scorsese, who has written the introduction. The story occurs during the seventeenth century, a time of persecution for Christians in Japan. The central characters are two Catholic priests who go to Japan to serve and encourage the persecuted church and to try and find their mentor, who is said to have renounced his faith – though they find this almost impossible to comprehend.

I have long had an interest in supporting and staying informed about the persecuted church in our own time, so I was keen to enter the world of the novel. However, I found the whole book very bleak and somewhat disjointed and I doubt I would have read very far had I not been obliged to write a review!

Having persisted and finished I can testify that it is a book that has stayed with me and provoked unsettling questions:

- Does my life of ‘ease’ make my faith unfit for the test of persecution?
- Are there ways I can choose to live in order to guard against this?
- Why does a person betray others and would the same person have

been feted as an '*upright Christian*' in easier circumstances?

- Would it be right to renounce my faith (even superficially) if this would save the lives of others being tortured and threatened with death?
- Does it make a difference if these others are avowed Christians or are themselves apostates?
- What is the purpose of suffering and persecution, more specifically is God silent or is He present with his people?

I found the way that the novel explored the '*silence of God*' question quite frustrating. It seemed to me that the narrative did show that there were true believers who were martyred believing that they would see God, rather than fatally doubting, so I found the journey to apostasy of some of the priests to be unconvincing. In my own life I have found that God reveals Himself in a deep and loving way through times of testing (though of course these are nothing compared to the suffering described in the book).

Though not a book to '*enjoy*' or a conclusion I would wholeheartedly endorse, I would recommend the novel as a thought-provoking examination of one's faith, motive and purpose in life. We are living in times where, as in seventeenth century Japan, the teaching of the Bible is not seen as necessarily moral or good and our living by it is not universally appreciated by society or the authorities. Sooner or later we may indeed be told to apostasise, or face consequences of ostracism or worse. Would we be able to stand strong for God, despite the doubts and fears that may come?

Karen Hans, BSc, MA, FCLIP, is a School Librarian and serves on the executive committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* as Prayer Secretary.

THE PILGRIM

Davis Bunn

Marylebone House, 2016, £8.99, Pbk., 165p., ISBN 978-190674406

This short novel ably meets its publisher's criteria to produce fiction attractive to those with little or no faith. Davis Bunn, an American author with a previous career as an international financier, now lives in Oxford as Novelist in Residence at *Regent's Park College*. He has sold more than seven million books in over twenty languages and been nominated four times for the *Christy Award* to promote excellence in Christian fiction.

It's a prequel to *The Fragment*, one of his historical thrillers set in 1920s Paris, but here he goes back to the original legend of the finding of the True Cross and St. Helen (Helena's) pilgrimage to do so.

It's also a classic '*pilgrimage story*' set in Caesarea and Judea as a small group of unlikely pilgrims join Helena on her quest. Her guard, a Roman soldier, a bishop whose church has been destroyed by Diocletian, a group of '*failed*' believers who renounced their faith when persecuted, follow an ex-Empress, divorced from Constantine, and expected to hide away in shame.

In the tradition of all pilgrimages their stories unfold as they travel as does Helena's faith in the power of God to guide them through every hardship and to protect them from murderous assassins intent on her murder.

Helena is not well known within the Christian church, but the book comes over as well researched, bringing to life one of the significant early Christians. Lives are changed and miracles occur as her followers are challenged by her courageous faith and the evidence of God's power at work.

It has to be said that this is more of a quick read than a novel of great depth, but it is one that engages its reader as a fast moving page turner with a message of forgiveness and hope.

Margaret Keeling, BA, MA, FCLIP, PhD, is a Life Vice President of *Christians in Library and Information Services*.

ARTICLES

If you contact the *Evangelical Alliance* with an enquiry or question about the organisation's work the chances are that you will speak to a member of *Christians in Library and Information Services*. KIM WALKER does a huge amount behind the scenes and in the following article she describes a typical day in her life as the Alliance's

SENIOR INFORMATION AND RESEARCH OFFICER

I usually wake up between five and 5:30 am and the first thing I do is look at the train apps on my phone to check if my usual trains are running. If so, I jump out of bed and have a shower. I then spend far too much time doing my hair and make-up, before my husband drives me to the station.

I live near Brighton, and so it's a long commute to King's Cross. I look at any emails that have come in overnight while on the train, and type up some replies. The rest of the journey is for me – I read, listen to music or watch some television I've downloaded.

When I arrive at the office, I like to have a wander around the office and find out how everyone is as I'm not in London every day. Then, it's time to clear the emails before getting on with my To Do list. It's never the same – every day is different because I'm constantly responding to what the members and staff are asking for, so although I have a plan each day, I have to be flexible.

At 9:30 am we all gather for staff prayers. It's a good way of

starting the day. We get a chance to pray for all the work we're involved in, as well as personal things.

I'm responsible for looking after the archives. That can be finding answers to enquiries in the archive or looking for stories that we're going to write about on the web-site or magazine. I also do research for the staff at the Alliance – anything from finding out about a town or an area where somebody is going to be speaking to statistics on church attendance or the history of what relationships the Alliance has had with certain organisations over the years.

I'm really pleased to also use my information management skills to manage all of the Alliance's electronic information and files. This means when we moved to Cloud storage, I was invited to organise how our files would be structured – basically where staff save their work and how. It sounds boring, but actually it's really important. If people can't find their work, it's a disaster. Whatever skills you've got you're invited to contribute here – it's one of the best things about the Alliance.

This morning I'm reading some articles from an old magazine of ours from 1903 and choosing ones to prepare for an article we're going to write.

We're very fortunate to have material in our archives going back to 1846 and it's really good to be able to tell stories from the archive because it helps explain why we're doing what we're doing today.

I have lunch as early as possible. As I have such an early start to my day, I get hungry. I have a quick sandwich in our library, and then get back to work. Lunch is really just the start of food for me – I like to have nibbles throughout the afternoon!

My afternoon might involve having a look how my volunteer Graham is doing and thinking about what work he could help us with next. He's a retired Chartered Librarian, so he helps with the cataloguing and indexing of archive material, which is really helpful.

I have worked in public libraries for twenty years, and when I became a Christian I quickly felt I should move into using my skills

for a Christian organisation. I love working at the Alliance because it's very varied. I care very much about what the Alliance is trying to do, and everybody who works here is really amazing.

I leave the office at about 4:15 pm and walk to the station. Getting home on the trains can be very challenging! I save a favourite TV show and some chocolate for the journey as a treat. I'm a bit slipper and pipe!

When I get home, between half past six and seven, I usually have an amazing meal made for me as my daughter's a great cook. I eat, and then we tend to watch television together as a family. If I haven't been working in the office, I look forward to going to an exercise class in the evening. I arrive early to have a drink and chat beforehand. The teacher's wife is Taiwanese, and she brings in lots of different teas from Taiwan to try. I love standing around chatting and drinking the tea.

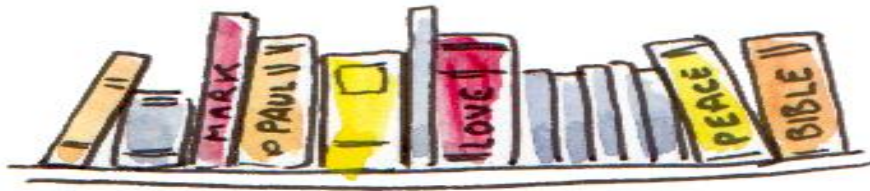
I try not to do too much before bed to make it easier to go to sleep. I read somewhere that the optimum time for getting to sleep is 10:34 pm – so I aim for that!



Kim Walker, BA, MCLIP, works as the Senior Information and Research Officer at the *Evangelical Alliance* and this article, which originally appeared in the September/October 2016 issue of *idea* magazine, is reprinted by kind permission.

Even professional librarians may be unsure where to start if they are invited to organise lending libraries in their local churches. SARAH ETHERIDGE shares her experiences as a volunteer church librarian and suggests some practical tips

HELP! I RUN THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Church libraries play a vital role in helping their congregations to access the great Christian literature that is continuously being produced. Yet setting up or looking after a church library can feel a daunting task, and sometimes a tricky road to navigate. I've looked after two church libraries, the first of which I took on before I had any experience in library work. For me, one of the main challenges has been working in isolation: managing the library is often assigned to one volunteer, you don't always have library experience or contact with library managers at other churches, and you can often feel that you're having to re-invent a rather tricky and unexpectedly time-consuming wheel!

For anyone currently in the throes of taking on church library management, I've therefore put together my top ten tips from the lessons I've learnt from things I've got right and (usually) wrong in the course of my church library experience. It would be great to

hear back from other church library managers and Christian LIS professionals with your recommendations and advice!

Strategise with church leaders

For me, a key first step is to establish what the church leadership would like to see in the library, and whether they have any particular requirements for how they would like it to run.

It can also be useful to establish a position on potentially tricky issues before they arise, possibly even writing this down as a policy. An issue in point can be donations: occasionally donations offered may not fit well with the library's collection, due to their condition, theological perspective, literature type etc. It can then be more straightforward and less personal to turn down items if you can refer back to a policy: for example, that items over a certain age aren't accepted, or that items are accepted at the discretion of the library manager and vicar (as it's often more appropriate for the vicar to explain why s/he is not happy for an item to be added if it is for theological reasons).

Look for the best books on a breadth of subjects, in the best condition

Church leaders can often recommend publishers and booksellers, as well as particular titles/authors. Signing up to the bookseller or publisher's mailing list and looking out for book reviews from trusted sources helps to keep abreast of new releases.

While not every book in the library needs to be a recent release – there are of course lots of classics that readers will benefit from – making sure that the copies held are in good condition and ideally up-to-date editions can prevent the library looking out-dated and unappealing.

Support the church's teaching plan

Look ahead at the church's programme for the year, and seek books that will support it. If your church runs small groups or one-to-one Bible reading sessions, how about finding study guides on the upcoming topics? To help your congregation follow up the teaching themes, readable commentaries or books exploring the topic may help. If your library is also supporting church leaders who are preparing sermons, more detailed commentaries may assist.

Seek an annual budget and good deals

While donations from church members can be a great way of stocking the library, it's often not sufficient for getting the latest, immediately relevant books into the library. Other costs such as protective coverings for books can also add up, so even a small budget from the church for books and materials can make a big difference in helping the library stay appealing, relevant, and lasting.

Help can be found: *Speaking Volumes*, for example, is a trust that gives grants to book- and DVD-lending community spaces, including church libraries, to purchase Christian material. They

also run the *Speaking Volumes Christian Book Awards* – a great place to hear about the latest highlights in Christian literature. *Speaking Volumes'* website is www.speakingvolumes.org.uk.

Christian exhibitions, such as the *Christian Resources Exhibition*, and conferences can be great places to find a bargain.

Protect the Books

Covering books with tacky-back or crystal jackets (often known as '*lyfjackets*') keeps them looking fresh and lasting longer. Tacky-back is cheaper and suits non-standard sized items, but can't be replaced if it wears, and can be a nightmare to apply! Crystal jackets offer more protection and a pleasant feel, and they can be replaced once worn, but the price adds up. Eden.co.uk can be a good place to source covers.

Stamping books can be a quick way to remind people that a book they find in their house came from the library! Web-sites like Vistaprint.co.uk allow you to order rubber stamps with your text (e.g. church name) added.

Organise shelves simply

You may want to use an established classification system, or to design one that works for your collection. Generally, thinking about the kinds of books that you aim to have in the library, and dividing these into easily-communicated categories (Biography, Christian Living, Commentaries, Doctrine, for example) can be a good place

to start with this.

Once categories or a scheme are chosen, these can be marked on shelves and added to a spine label on the book, possibly in class-mark format. If using an in-house system, a class-mark can be created, for example, by adding the first few letters of the author or title after a book's category name or abbreviated name: a book on doctrine by Stott might be class-marked as 'Doctrine STO' or 'D STO'.

Catalogue the books

Printed lists by author and subject, card indexes and online catalogues can all be good ways to log what you have and to make it searchable.

For me, if your congregation members are used to using computers or smartphones at all, then having an on-line catalogue is invaluable in allowing the church family to get into the habit of checking the library whenever they hear of a book they'd like to read, or a topic they'd like to investigate.

On-line catalogues can be cheap, easy and efficient: sites such as www.librarything.com are free for up to two hundred books, and cost \$10 per year or \$25 for lifetime membership for up to 20,000 books. They offer a shortcut to a thorough catalogue – LibraryThing, for example, has an App allowing you to scan the books' barcodes using a smartphone camera, and it will add them to your catalogue and pull in item details from a library or bookseller.

Keep track of where your books are – simply and discreetly

Simple check in/out

The easier it is to check books in and out of the library, the more likely it is that people will do it. When I first took on a church library, I tried to simulate a mini public library system, without success. While electronic library management systems can be found cheaply and can offer everything from a check in/out function to statistical reports, this only really works if the church will have a computer/tablet available by the library, ready to go at all times. It also often puts off all but the most computer-loving individuals. However, if this route would suit your church, options such as Readerware Books Database (www.readerware.com, costing \$39.95) may be affordable.

No-frills paper-based systems can work well. My current strategy is to have Borrowing Slips (a simple form that people fill in with the book title and author, plus their name and e-mail/phone number) and Returning Slips, which people put in a Borrowing Box or Returning Box. I then have a '*Recently returned*' desktop shelf for people to put returned books on, saving them time, helping to avoid mis-shelving, and creating an instant display of books to get other people's interest. It is then still possible to add '*on loan*' statuses/tags to an online catalogue if you want to give people an idea of whether a book will be on the shelf (though this is only as up-to-date as when you last input the slips).

Similarly, keeping loan periods simple (for example, one month) seems to work well.

Discrete check in/out

As Christian books sometimes address sensitive life issues, a confidential way of checking in/out books can help readers to feel uninhibited from borrowing whatever they need. Even a simple system like putting borrowing slips into a box that only the library manager can access can provide a reassuring offer of privacy.

Promote the books

A slot up-front in a service, book reviews in the newsletter, post-it notes of recommendations from church members can all help to encourage people to explore. Book displays and even just positioning selected books front-forward on a bookstand all add to the library's capacity to engage

Remember God's got it in hand

Finally, and most importantly, as Christians we know the amazing reassurance that God is in control – every good work that we do was prepared by God for us and can only be done in His strength (Ephesians 2:10, Philippians 4:13). So thankfully we don't need to panic! It's a privilege to play a part in God's plans, and He's far bigger than our shortcomings – whether our library is in perfect order or not, God will use it exactly how He wants.

Sarah Etheridge, BA (Hons), MA (LIS) works at *Lambeth Palace Library* as a Library Assistant / Acting Collections Librarian and is Volunteer Library Manager at *All Saints Church*, Crowborough. Sarah serves on the executive committee of *Christians in Library and Information Services* as Recruitment Secretary.

PAULA RENOUF announces an anniversary book project which will highlight the contribution of Christians throughout history and celebrates the life and work of a leading philanthropist whose influence ripples ever outward in the charity sector

SPEAKING VOLUMES FOR FIFTY YEARS



The *Christian Book Promotion Trust* is celebrating its fiftieth birthday! I've been associated with the Trust for a mere twelve years, unlike your secretary – Graham Hedges – who's been involved since 1981.

The purpose of the Trust is '*to advance the Christian religion and its injunctions by the issue of literature, including books and the promotion of existing books*'. With so much literature available now to explain Christianity and help people grow in faith, it is hard to imagine that, just fifty years ago, it was scarce. So scarce, in fact, that when Cecil Jackson-Cole's first wife died, he could not find any Christian literature that would help him in his bereavement. He set up the *Christian Book Promotion Trust* to fill that gap.

We're celebrating our birthday by replicating our first project, which was to sponsor David Winter's book ***Hereafter***, published by Hodder in 1972 (ISBN 978-0340160039). This came in response to Cecil's wish to help the bereaved. Now, fifty years later, we're commissioning a new book for children – which again, in Cecil's words, includes '*a record of some of the achievements of the Christian religion*'. It's being written by popular children's storyteller Bob Hartman and published by CWR. Our ambition is to distribute a copy to every primary school in the UK during October, which is *International Schools Library Month*.

The book is intended for pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 or the beginning of Key Stage 2. We've had input from an educational advisor to ensure that it will appeal to teachers and students beyond the RE curriculum. Additional material for teachers such as assembly ideas and special needs resources will be available online.

The book will feature twelve notable Christians whose faith influenced the great social changes they instigated, such as the abolition of slavery, prison reform and poverty relief. Cecil, our founder, will feature as one of them.

You would be forgiven for wondering who Cecil was (or CJC as he was fondly known as in his day). Only now is his phenomenal contribution to the world being recognised. His contribution was indeed global... He was a founder member of *Oxfam*, and created *ActionAid*, *Help the Aged* and about sixty other charities. He set them up on a sound financial footing and seconded personnel from his own business to manage them. Essentially, he is responsible

for creating the blueprint for charities as we know them today.

CJC died in 1979, leaving a most powerful legacy, not least the scheme that CBPT operates today to enable any library to stock a range of good-quality Christian literature. That scheme is now called *Speaking Volumes* but has also been known as *Faith in Print* and *Christian Book Promotions*. We provide grants of up to £1,000 per library to enable them to offer a range of books about the Christian faith to their readers. You'll hear more about the scheme at your annual conference but, in the meantime, you'll find more information on the website: www.speakingvolumes.org.uk

Many lives have been influenced by reading a Christian book in a library. I recently spoke to a *Prison Fellowship* representative who became a Christian in his city library ten years ago after reading a book there. How many lives has he gone on to impact? CJC's influence ripples ever outward and we hope and pray that this new children's book will create ripples too. All too often, I hear the (usually rhetorical) question, '*What has Christianity ever done for us?*' Maybe this book will help children to understand fully ... what indeed!

Paula Renouf is Director of the Christian Book Promotion Trust's *Speaking Volumes* scheme and can be contacted (until November 2017) via P.O. Box 1070, Whittlesford, Cambridgeshire, CB22 4WX.

CHRISTOPHER NORRIS suggests that the well established Icelandic tradition of giving books at Christmas can be translated into a British context

JOLABOKAFLOD COMES TO THE UK

Origins of Jolabokaflod

The retail cycle each year in Iceland, from the launch of new books to the reading of these books at Christmas, is known as *Jolabokaflod* which translates roughly into English as '*Christmas book flood*'.

This tradition began during World War II once Iceland had gained its full independence from Denmark in 1944. Paper was one of the few commodities not rationed during the war, so Icelanders shared their love of books even more as other types of gifts were in short supply. This increase in giving books as presents reinforced Iceland's culture as a nation of bookaholics – for example, a study conducted by *Bifrost University* in 2013 found that half the country's population read at least eight books a year.

Every year since 1944, the Icelandic book trade has published a catalogue – called ***Bokatidindi*** ('*Book Bulletin*', in English) – that is sent to every household in the country in mid-November during the *Reykjavik Book Fair*. People use the catalogue to choose the books they would like to receive as presents and to order books to give friends and family for Christmas.

During the festive season, gifts are opened on 24 December and, by tradition, everyone reads the books they have been given straight away, often while drinking hot chocolate or a Christmas ale cocktail called *jolabland*.

In October 2015, I was invited by *Book Machine* to write a regular blog posting for members of this international publishing community to read, having written a well-received piece about the future of publishing: *Publishing 2020: an Advent Calendar of Change*. As I researched topics to write about, I read an detailed review in ***The Bookseller*** about the book trade in Iceland, *In Depth: Iceland's Book Market* and came across *Jólabókaflóð* for the first time.

As I was a pioneer of *World Book Day* in the UK, serving on the steering committee for the inaugural event in 1996-7, I realised that the Icelandic tradition of *Jólabókaflóð* offered a fabulous opportunity to promote book buying and reading within the same initiative, so the seeds of the *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* were planted.

Urged on by the *Book Machine* executive, I launched *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* at an *RSA Bounce* event in London for entrepreneurs in November 2015.

In December 2015, on a business trip to New York, I met with Hlynur Guðjónsson, Consul General and Trade Commissioner at the Consulate General of Iceland in New York, to share the vision of spreading the custom and practice of *Jólabókaflóð* to the UK and beyond. Mr. Guðjónsson gave the *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* his endorsement and facilitated contact with Icelandic organisations of potential mutual interest, including embassies and book trade bodies such as the *Reykjavik UNESCO City of Literature* and the *Icelandic Literature Center*, both players in annual '*Christmas book flood*'.

At Christmas 2015, the *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* encouraged people all

over the world to experience the joy of giving books as gifts and reading them over the festive period in a series of published articles and blog postings.

In my role as Head of Crowdfunding at *CrowdPatch*, I saw the opportunity to release people's enthusiasm and creativity for running crowdfunding campaigns along *Jolabokaflod* principles – to buy books to give to others for active reading.

Between March and October 2016, I set up and ran the first *Jolabokaflod* Patch project at *CrowdPatch* – called *The Icelanders Cometh* – which built on the strong connection with Icelandic literature by seeking funds for UK libraries to spend on books published in English by Icelandic authors. The project successfully raised £2365.00, 103% of its target figure, which will soon be available for five participating library authorities around the country to spend.

There is great potential for people to raise money via *Jolabokaflod* crowdfunding to spend on books for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in local communities – for example: schools, libraries, unemployment groups, hospitals and prisons. This will be an evolving focus for the *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* over the coming year.

Jolabokaflod at Christmas 2016

I had dual aims for Christmas 2016. In November last year, two concurrent digital media campaigns were launched: one to introduce the spirit of *Jólabókaflóð* to the UK and beyond, to encourage people everywhere to make the Icelandic tradition part of the way they celebrate Christmas; and the other to promote a UK version of the ***Book Bulletin*** online, to capture book recommendations to share with people seeking to buy Christmas gifts for their friends and families.

So, I created a buzz to encourage people to integrate *Jolabokaflod* into the way they celebrate Christmas and – via the **Book Bulletin** catalogue – to provide ideas for great books for people to buy to give to their loved ones.

There are always moments in every household when there is a temptation to switch on the television or play a computer game. *Jolabokaflod* encourages people to make time for family reading over the festive season and reminds everyone that reading for pleasure is fun and therapeutic

From the book trade perspective, *Jolabokaflod* creates a fabulous new opportunity to promote and sell books. A publisher, for example, only had to sell one book to be in profit after making a financial contribution to the Book Bulletin Crowdfunding Campaign, which raised money for the *Jolabokaflod* 2017 programme. The *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* publicises book recommendations in the catalogue via digital media, so we actively support publishers in their ambition to sell more books.

Libraries of all types can benefit from the spotlight shone on reading over Christmas, perhaps by targeting marketing and publicity efforts in December on borrowing books to read over the festive season. As the campaign grows this year, we shall be designing a palette of opportunities for libraries to take. This is a dynamic conversation, so I encourage everyone with ideas about what events and projects would work well in their libraries to contact me via e-mail and to engage with *Jolabokaflod* via social media.

My overriding hope for last year's *Jolabokaflod* campaign was to create market awareness in the book trade – an objective met successfully – and to increase recognition of the tradition in time for a bigger campaign this year.

How you can help to spread the tradition of Jolabokaflod in 2017

Jolabokaflod is essentially a simple, viral concept – to encourage people to buy books as Christmas presents to give to friends and family for reading over the festive season. There are many ways in which you can help this Christmas tradition to spread throughout 2017: here are a few ideas:

- Tell friends and family about *Jolabokaflod* in person: word of mouth is still a potent way of sharing messages.
- Include the Jolabokaflod.org website URL in your email signatures
- Follow and ‘like’ *Jolabokaflod* on social media – *Twitter*: @Jolabokaflod; *Facebook*: /Jolabokaflod – and like and re-post messages you would like to share with your networks
- Recommend your favourite books via the next [Book Bulletin crowdfunding campaign](#), and encourage other people to do so, too
- Think of an innovative library crowdfunding campaign you would like to set up and run via the Jolabokaflod Patch at CrowdPatch in 2017, and tell other people about this opportunity as well

Summary

Although *Jolabokaflod* is essentially a retail campaign attached to a reading initiative, I proved via *The Icelanders Cometh* project that funds can be raised successfully via the *Jolabokaflod Patch* at *CrowdPatch* to support library and information service causes.

From a Christian perspective, the *Jolabokaflod* emphasis on Christmas is a boon. Library and/or information service campaigns could be run via *CrowdPatch* to support literacy projects managed on-site or in local communities. These campaigns could be linked to churches or else offer

outreach opportunities in the neighbourhood.

Let's invite everyone in our congregations to make this wonderful tradition part of the way in which Christmas is celebrated. Let's promote *Jolabokaflod* to remind everyone why books are so essential to our lives.

Christopher Norris is a media, publishing and social entrepreneur with over twenty five years' experience of joining the dots between crowdfunding, book publishing, digital media, television, music and film by being passionate about making things happen, publicising excellence, and helping others achieve their creative goals.

Chris is the Founder and Curator of the *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign*, a not-for-profit enterprise to introduce the Icelandic tradition of *Jólabókaflóð* to the UK and beyond. He is also Head of Crowdfunding at *CrowdPatch*, the crowdfunding platform for social entrepreneurs. He can be contacted at Christopher.norris@jolabokaflod.org

He has managed many crowdfunding campaigns at *CrowdPatch* with a success rate of 100% – including *Jolabokaflod Book Campaign* projects *The Icelanders Cometh* and *Book Bulletin*.

In his senior executive role at *CrowdPatch*, Chris serves on the *All-Party Parliamentary Group for Crowdfunding* that meets regularly at the *House of Commons* under the chairmanship of Barry Sheerman MP.