

**LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
E-NEWSLETTER, No. 45,  
April 2012**

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

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***Annual Conference Special Edition***

**SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012: ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

There is still time to book for this year's Annual Conference which is to be held on this date in the **Chancellor's Room, Hughes Parry Hall, 19-26 Cartwright Street, London, WC1**, from 10.30. a.m – 4.45.p.m. The theme for the day is **Librarians and Disciples in a Time of Trouble**. Guest speaker **Michael Coveney**, of *Transform Work UK*, will be speaking on the subject *Flourishing in a Time of Trouble* and LCF members **Gordon Harris**, **John Wickenden** and **Sara Batts** will be leading a session entitled *Three Views of Discipleship and Ambition*.

The morning programme will include the Fellowship's Annual General Meeting and we intend to allow some time to discuss the executive recommendations of the LCF Review Group which appeared in the Spring 2012 edition of ***Christian Librarian***. Please come along and let us know how **you** think that the work of the Fellowship should be developed in the future. Please see below for the Annual General Meeting agenda plus our annual report for 2011-2012.

The conference booking fee is £25.00, including lunch and refreshments, with a reduced rate of £20.00 for unwaged delegates. Please plan to attend and let me have your booking and cheque as soon as possible.

## **CHURCH TIMES VISIT**

We have been able to arrange a visit to the offices of this leading church newspaper which this month moves to new premises in **Golden Lane, London, EC1**.

The visit has been arranged for **Thursday 17 May 2012** and the plan is that members of the LCF group will arrive at the **Church Times** offices at 12.00. noon for a look round, a chat, and a chance to meet some of the staff. We will then move to a local pub for lunch and questions, finishing about 2.30. p.m. Paul Handley, the Editor of the **Church Times**, will be available to talk about the newspaper and the other activities of the **Hymns Ancient and Modern** group of which it is a part (**Third Way** magazine, SCM-Canterbury Press, Church House Publishing, Church House Bookshop, etc.)

This visit will provide us with a valuable opportunity to see behind the scenes of a major church publication and to learn more about Christian journalism and publishing. If you would like to book a place or places on the visit please let me know as soon as possible and I will send details when available.

## **THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE**

We have booked a limited number of tickets for an afternoon performance of a new stage production of C.S. Lewis' children's classic **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** to be performed in London's Kensington Gardens this summer. Join us for a combination of *"live theatre and breathtaking special effects performed in a state-of-the-art rainproof theatre tent"*!

The performance will be on **Saturday 16 June 2012, beginning 3.00.p.m**, and the tickets cost £39.50. If you would like to book a place or places and see the show in the company of other members and friends of LCF please let me know **urgently** as I need to confirm the numbers for our group reservation. Tickets will be allocated on a "first come, first served" basis, so you may wish to check with me that tickets are still available before sending your cheque made payable to *Librarians' Christian Fellowship*.

I expect that some members of the LCF group will wish to have lunch together before the afternoon performance, say from 12.30.p.m. If you would be interested in joining the lunch party, please let me know.

If you wish to see the show, but are not free on 16 June, you may like to know that the production runs from **8 May – 9 September 2012**. You can obtain more information by calling the box office on 020 7379 1357 or by visiting [www.albemarle-london.com](http://www.albemarle-london.com)

## **ULTIMATE CHRISTIAN LIBRARY BOOK**

If you are planning to visit this year's *Christian Resources Exhibition* at the *Sandown Park Exhibition Centre*, Esher, Surrey, you may wish to attend the awards ceremony for the third *Ultimate Christian Library Book*. This will be held on **Wednesday 9 May 2012** in the Park View Suite, in the Eclipse Pavilion on the Second Floor.

The winners in both the adult and children's categories (as voted for by members of the public) will be announced and the awards will be presented by LCF subscriber Canon **David Winter**, broadcaster and author. The session will also include an interview with David and shortlisted authors will be available to sign their books. This will be followed by a seminar from David Winter on his new book ***The Highway Code to Retirement*** (CWR, £6.99, ISBN 978-1853456688),

CRE takes place for four days from 8-11 May 2012 and you can find more information on the web site [www.creonline.co.uk](http://www.creonline.co.uk)

## **APPEAL FROM THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA**

The *Phnom Penh Bible School* <http://www.ppbs.edu.kh> is seeking a volunteer Librarian for at least six months. The primary objective is to provide the young, full-time, Cambodian Library Assistant with the training required to run the library. It is expected that this would be an intensive one-to-one teaching and mentoring role.

The book collection of five thousand items in English and approximately five hundred in Khmer is classified with Dewey. The library software package is *Bookmark* <http://www.bookmark.sa.edu.au> Photos of the library are available at <http://www.ppbs.edu.kh/index.php?campusphotos/library>

The right person will have a sense of adventure, be financially independent, and have a desire to be of real help to Cambodian pastors in training, as well as to the Christian librarian. There are a number of expats on the staff, who will be very supportive. For more information, please contact LCF's Overseas Secretary, Eleanor Neil, at [LCFoverseas@etelligence.info](mailto:LCFoverseas@etelligence.info)

# **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP 2011-2012**

Prepared by **Louise Manners**, Chair of the Executive Committee.

## **Major events**

The Annual Conference was held on Saturday 2 April 2011 at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham. The theme was '2011: *The Year of the Bible.*' The conference was arranged to mark the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **King James Bible**. The speakers were the Rev. Dr. Rob Cotton, Network Manager of the *Bible Society* and *Evangelical Alliance* "Biblefresh" project, and the Rev. Dr. Pete Wilcox, Canon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral.

The Service of Thanksgiving was held on Tuesday 12 July 2011 as part of the CILIP *Umbrella* conference at the University of Hertfordshire. It was led by Gordon Harris with an address by the Bishop of Exeter, the Rt. Rev. Michael Langrish. CLIP's President Brian Hall also participated. The music group from St. Mark's Church, Colney Heath, led the music with gusto. The service attracted a good and enthusiastic attendance despite the 'clash' in timing with the conference exhibitors' reception.

The Annual Lecture at the Reading International Solidarity Centre featured Dave Roberts, speaker and writer, talking about "*Spirits in the Material World*", a Christian response to themes in recent fiction, especially Stephenie Meyer's ***Twilight*** and Dan Brown's tomes. The lecture was timely because more fiction is being published on these themes. I have recently been trying to source fiction which does not feature vampires!

## **Visits**

These continued with the theme of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **King James Bible**.

The Tuesday 24 May 2011 visit was to All Hallows By the Tower Church, London, for the exhibition of historic Bibles mounted by the *Museum of the Book*.

The Friday 2 September 2011 visit was to Oxford following in the footsteps of the Oxford translators of the KJB. In the morning there was a visit to Bodleian Library exhibition "*Manifold Greatness: Oxford and the Making of the King James Bible*". In the afternoon there was a walking tour of Oxford led by Peter Berry, tour guide for *Blackwell's Bookshop*.

On Wednesday 16 November 2011 four members of LCF (and one guest) attended the Westminster Abbey service to mark the conclusion of the KJB anniversary year. The preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury.

## Publications and Outside Publicity

Four issues of ***Christian Librarian*** and four issues of the ***E-Newsletter*** were published. The printed magazine included the texts of talks given at the Annual Conference, Service of Thanksgiving and Annual Lecture, plus articles on such subjects as Life after Librarianship (from LCF founder Elizabeth Barber), the *Celtic Christian Studies Library* on Lindisfarne, the national survey of religious archives, and the role of Christian professional groups.

The “*Eye on the Profession*” series continued to monitor the professional librarianship press and highlight issues likely to be of concern to Christians in library and information work.

The ***E-Newsletter*** covered such matters as the KJB anniversary, Christmas resources available on the Internet, and religious themes in the songs of Paul Simon. The LCF web site has continued to be maintained by Mary Wood though Mary needs to find a successor.

The article “*Contending for the Faith or Spoiling for a Fight*” by Graham Hedges was also included on the web sites of *Transform Work UK* and *Christians at Work*. References to the work of LCF were included in such periodicals as ***CILIP Update***, ***Methodist Recorder***, ***Christian Marketplace***, ***Baptist Times***, and ***CWR Today***. The Service of Thanksgiving was mentioned on *Premier Christian Radio*.

Graham Hedges was invited to write an article on biblical reference sources for ***Refer***, journal of CILIP's Information Services Group, to mark the KJB anniversary, and later asked to review the ***Oxford Encyclopedia of the Books of the Bible***.

## Outside organisations

Our usual affiliations continued: CILIP, *Christian Research Association*, *Christians at Work*, *Evangelical Alliance*, *Transform Work UK*, *Universities' and Colleges' Christian Fellowship*. Members were encouraged to vote in the Christian Book Promotion Trust's poll to find the “*Ultimate Christian Library Book*”. Members were also encouraged to support National Libraries Day in February 2012.

## Officers of the Fellowship

Margaret Keeling was elected as President of the Fellowship at our April 2011 Conference in succession to Gordon Harris, who became a Life Vice President. Kirsty Robinson was elected as a Vice-President, though she will be stepping down from this role this year due to other commitments. Eleanor Neil, currently living in New Zealand, was elected as our Overseas Secretary, the first time we have had an Overseas Secretary living overseas.

Philip Hayworth celebrates twenty years this year as our regional representative for the North of England. Thanks to Philip.

Four meetings of the executive committee have been held since the last annual general meeting.

## **Library Assistance**

The major achievement of the year has been the completion of the cataloguing of the *Epworth Collection*, the library of books from the former *Methodist Publishing House* and *Epworth Press*, at the *Westminster Central Hall*. This was carried out by volunteer librarians Janet White and Elizabeth Williams. Frank Waller, Assistant Visitor Services Manager, at the Central Hall, has written about the project in recent issues of ***Christian Librarian*** and the ***Methodist Recorder***.

Mary Barker (Library Assistance Manager) and Eleanor Neil (Overseas Secretary) have continued to deal with occasional enquiries from Christian organisations with an interest in library matters. Members are asked to help us in making known our willingness to help with Christian library projects.

There is some involvement in Christian library projects by individual members of the Fellowship: Arabella Wood is involved in cataloguing books at the *Evangelical Library*. Graham Hedges is helping the Information Team at the *Evangelical Alliance* and, when required, assisting visitors to the *Epworth Collection* at the *Westminster Central Hall*.

## **Review Group**

The Review Group met to consider the future work and development of the Fellowship four times during the year, under the independent and inspiring chairmanship of Michael Coveney (*Transform Work UK*). (Members of the Review Group now know a lot more about model helicopters than they did before.) The recommendations of the group were considered by the executive committee at meetings in November 2011 and January 2012. A summary of the recommendations was included in the Spring issue of ***Christian Librarian*** and views are welcomed from the wider membership. Many thanks to Michael Coveney and to members of the review group for all their hard work.

The need for recruitment is a major priority for the Fellowship. The assistance of existing members is requested in bringing the Fellowship to the notice of Christian friends and colleagues and encouraging them to join.

## **Farewells**

We were sorry to hear of the deaths of two past and current members of the Fellowship, Professor Ken Bakewell and Norah Sayer, who died in March 2011 and November 2011 respectively.

Ken Bakewell was Life Vice President of the Fellowship and a former President 1997-2002. He was Emeritus Professor of Information and Library Management at *Liverpool John Moores University* and a lay Reader in his local *Church of England*

parish. Graham Hedges and Richard and Norma Waller represented the Fellowship at Ken's funeral at St. Hilda's Church, Liverpool, on 13 April 2011. Ken's involvement in LCF was mentioned in both the address given at the funeral service and in the obituary published in **CILIP Update**, August 2011.

Norah Sayer was the widow of Gordon Sayer, *Librarian of the Evangelical Library*, and an LCF Vice-President 1984-85. She was the mother of our member, and former committee member, Heather Lewis. Norah worked at the *Evangelical Library* for many years and had a special responsibility for the Library's local branch libraries.

Members are encouraged to give thanks for the lives of these past members and prayer is requested for their family and friends.

**AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE  
LIBRARIANS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TO BE HELD ON  
SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012 IN THE CHANCELLOR'S ROOM,  
HUGHES PARRY HALL, 19-26 CARTWRIGHT GARDENS,  
LONDON, WC1 from 11.20 a.m.**

**Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 2 April 2011** [included in *Christian Librarian*, Winter 2011]

**Matters Arising**

**Annual Report from the Chair and Secretary**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving - Robert Foster**

**Treasurer's Report for 2011 – Nick Horley**

**Election of Officers**

**President:** Candidate: **Margaret Keeling**

Proposed by Executive Committee

**Chair:** Candidate: **Louise Manners**

Proposed by: Graham Hedges and Janice Paine

**Secretary:** Candidate: **Graham Hedges**

Proposed by: Janet Danels and Kim Walker

**Membership Secretary:** Candidate: **Janice Paine**

Proposed by: Margaret Stone and Thelma Morgan

**Northern Regional Rep.:** Candidate: **Philip Hayworth**

Proposed by: John Marrison and Richard Waller

**Southern Regional Rep.:** Candidate: Diana Guthrie  
Proposed by: Kirsty Robinson and Mary Barker

**Welsh Regional Representative:** Candidate: **Mary Barker**  
Proposed by: Diana Guthrie and Graham Hedges

**Motion:** Proposed by: **Nick Horley** for the Executive Committee

*“That from 1 January 2013 the annual subscription of the Librarians' Christian Fellowship for both members and subscribers should be £26.00. The reduced rate for student, unemployed and retired persons should be £16.00.; the rate for two members/subscribers living at the same address and receiving one copy of each LCF publication should also be £16.00 per person.”*

**Discussion: The Next Thirty Years: Recommendations of the LCF Review Group**

**Any Other Business and Close of Annual General Meeting**