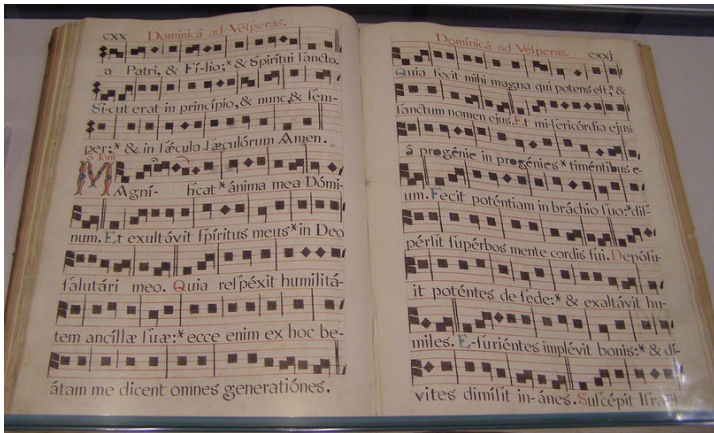


BULLETIN

of the

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Spring 2018



BULLETIN 2018

The *Bulletin* is published by the Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries as a forum for professional exchange and development in the fields of theological and philosophical librarianship. ABTAPL was founded in 1956 to bring together librarians working with or interested in theological and philosophical literature in Great Britain. It is a member of BETH (European Theological Libraries). The *Bulletin* is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Autumn) and now has a circulation of approximately 200 copies, with about one third of that number going to libraries in Europe, North America, and the Commonwealth. The *Bulletin* is indexed in LISA (Library & Information Science Abstracts). ISSN 0305-781X

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***Bulletin of the Association of British Theological
and Philosophical Libraries***

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The photo on the front cover is by Keith Lang, Librarian, LST.
It shows an C18th manuscript ‘Book of Plain Chant’
from the ‘Faith in Exile’ exhibition at Ushaw College,
visited by the delegates at the ABTAPL conference in Durham

NOTICE OF MEETINGS

MONDAY 11th JUNE 2018

12:00 – 17:00pm

**ABTAPL visit to University of Edinburgh Theological
Libraries, focussing on Christianity and Islam**

(organized by Christine Love-Rodgers)

The visit will include a sandwich lunch, a discussion about digital collections in this subject area, a tour of New College Library and a visit to collections for Islamic Studies at the IMES Library and the Main University Library. Please book a place online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/visit-to-university-of-edinburgh-theological-libraries-tickets-45590986869>

2018 ABTAPL AUTUMN CONFERENCE

details to be confirmed

2019 ABTAPL SPRING CONFERENCE & AGM

Thurs 4th – Sat 6th April 2019

Regents Theological College
West Malvern Road
West Malvern
Worcestershire
WR14 4AY

Details to be confirmed

Editorial

This issue of the Bulletin includes several articles based on presentations at the Durham conference:

- Michael Gale summarizes Ken Farrimond's presentation about the SCM Press ebooks initiative related to the Common Awards scheme;
- Christine Love-Rodgers discusses the history of New College Library, the Divinity Library of the Edinburgh University, and how an agreement made in 1962 can be made relevant to the present day;
- Emily Jones explores how a project to facilitate reciprocal borrowing arrangements between four libraries is being worked out;
- Judy Powles reflects on coping with retirement...

... which leads neatly into noting that this is a time for welcomes and farewells! We welcome Rachel Champion as the new chair of ABTAPL, and she introduces herself on p4-5. At the conference we welcomed Cassandra Gilbert-Ward as our first ABTAPL Conference bursary student, and (if you wondered what ABTAPL looks like to a complete outsider) she shares her reflections on p17-18. And we say farewell to Chris Leftley, librarian for many years at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford; and welcome Hannie Riley, his replacement; see Chris's farewell on p23-24.

And don't forget to look at the 'Notice of Meetings' page opposite; and especially the visit to the University of Edinburgh Theological Libraries on June 11th.

Richard Johnson
(editor)

Introducing the new Chair of ABTAPL



My name is Rachel Champion and as you may already know, I was voted in as the new Chair of ABTAPL at the recent AGM.

I've been the Learning Resources Tutor at Luther King House in Manchester (picture below) for eighteen years and I've been involved in ABTAPL for almost all of that time. I've attended many Conferences and training sessions over the years, all of which have benefitted me immensely. I've given papers at some recent Conferences and I served as ABTAPL's Conference Secretary from 2010 until 2013. I'm delighted to have another opportunity to serve and contribute to an organisation which has helped me so much over the years.

I came to Luther King House from a large University library where I'd worked for five years. I had no background in theological libraries and the support I received from ABTAPL in making the transition was absolutely invaluable – I don't think I would have lasted long in post without it. It wasn't just the advice and guidance on day to day matters that helped me, but also the sense that as a newly-solo librarian, I was part of a wider community and had colleagues and friends with whom I could connect, network and share ideas and best practice as well as, on occasion, having a good moan!



I will be contributing two articles to the next Bulletin. One will be a personal reflection on where I see ABTAPL at present, its value and strengths, and a vision for its future. The other will be a report on the ATLA (American Theological Libraries Association) Conference that I am due to attend in June. ATLA are strong supporters of ABTAPL and have generously given me a bursary to attend this

Conference. The topic is *Creative Collaboration in a Changing Landscape*. ABTAPL is very much a collaborative organisation (there will be more on this theme in my other article!) but it is important to remember that ABTAPL itself also needs to work collaboratively with other like-minded organisations in this day and age, in order to remain outwardly focused as well as ensuring that it remains fit for purpose and is beneficial to all its members, whatever their library environment. As Chair, I will do all I can to nurture and extend relationships between ABTAPL and other organisations such as ATLA and I am very excited to be attending this Conference as I see the benefits for the whole of ABTAPL, not just for myself.

ABTAPL's diversity is one of its most important features. Whether you are retired, a student, currently unemployed or working in a large University library or a small, specialised collection that serves a specific community of users, ABTAPL can support you by representing your interests and concerns as well as providing professional guidance, networking opportunities and valuable professional development as we learn from each other. As Chair, I welcome this diversity and I want to ensure that your interests are represented within ABTAPL and that whatever your role or sector, you continue to have a voice in the organisation and feel that it is relevant to you.

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The Common Awards – SCM Press e-books initiative: some reflections on Ken Farrimond’s presentation at the ABTAPL Conference in Durham

Back in February 2016 a group of Common Awards librarians met at Lambeth Palace for a day conference convened by Dr Ken Farrimond, VLE and Blended Learning Officer for the Ministry Division of the Church of England ¹. Common Awards is a partnership between Durham University and the Church of England to provide ministerial training, and with a critical mass of over two thousand full-time equivalent students (FTEs) across the Church’s training institutions, the partnership provides an opportunity for the sharing of expertise and resources which was not possible when each institution was validated separately.

The first benefit to emerge from this partnership from a library perspective was the Common Awards Hub, an online platform for sharing electronic resources via Moodle. JSTOR, Ebsco’s Religion & Philosophy collection and the ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials are all now available to Common Awards institutions via this platform.

But the key idea to emerge from the Lambeth conference was the potential for a deal with publishers for the provision of e-books. Librarians in the small theological library sector have long been frustrated that so few of the books which are required reading for our students are available as e-books via suppliers such as Dawsonera and Ebsco, or at least at an affordable price. Publishers are – for obvious reasons – reluctant to jeopardize their print sales by making core titles available in this format. So we were delighted that representatives of Hymns Ancient & Modern, an umbrella group of theological publishers which includes SCM Press, joined us at Lambeth Palace in 2016, and were clearly keen to engage with us to find a solution to this predicament.

¹ For a report of the conference see *ABTAPL Bulletin* 23:1 Spring 2016

Since 2016 Ken Farrimond has been working with SCM Press and Common Awards librarians to negotiate a deal, and he joined us at our conference in Durham to report on the progress which has been made in the context of a wider reflection on online resource discovery and curation.

Ken began with an account of how learning is changing. Most students are now permanently “connected”. He also identified a pedagogical problem associated with subscribing to a database such as Ebsco’s eBook Religion collection. The titles in the collection are not – by and large – the sort of texts which appear on undergraduate reading lists (many are postgraduate level texts), but if they are made available online, students (especially distance learners with poorer access to libraries) may read them in preference to titles which are only available in print. This consideration was another of the drivers for the deal with SCM Press.

The initiative, which is due to be launched in mid-May, differs in some respects from other e-book deals. For one thing, SCM is not hosting the content, or providing the platform. The collection does not utilise digital rights management (DRM) software, which regulates how much of a text can be copied or printed. The e-books are not downloadable, though the screen can be adapted for convenient reading on a smartphone. The text is presented in the “Moodle book” format, broken down by chapter and subchapter, and while the usual copyright restrictions apply, there is no technical limit on copying. There is no restriction on multiple access, and no system of credits, such as that employed by Dawsonera, which limits the number of times a book can be viewed during the course of a year.

All the hosting costs are being borne by Common Awards. Ken has persuaded Moodle to create a plug-in for the ePub format, so SCM simply supplies the electronic files, which are then made available on the Common Awards Hub.

So what does the deal consist of? One hundred titles have been identified, some of which are part of SCM’s *Study Guide* and *Core Text* series. Other titles have come from the indicative bibliographies which

are common to all Common Awards institutions. A few have been chosen because SCM believe they merit wider exposure (or perhaps they haven't sold as well as SCM think they should!), and there are also some titles from Canterbury Press, another imprint of Hymns Ancient & Modern.

The deal will run for a two-year trial period, with no guarantee that new titles will be added during that time, so there is a risk that the list could become quite dated. The titles will be available to all students at Common Awards institutions (not just Anglican ministerial students or Durham-registered students). The full cost is being borne by the Church of England and will not be passed on to institutions. One of the benefits to SCM is the opportunity to showcase their stock, and students will be encouraged to join their Friends scheme, which comes with a 10% discount on print purchases.

But no one really knows how the deal will affect print sales. Will the exposure prompt students to buy more books for themselves, or will the online availability of the text have the opposite effect? Will libraries buy fewer multiple copies? If print sales decline, will it be by more or less than the income generated by the deal itself? Both SCM and Common Awards will monitor the statistics closely, but from a library perspective it is clearly a positive development. It directly addresses one of our most pressing concerns, namely, the challenge of providing access to core texts to our increasing numbers of distance learners and part-time students.

At the Lambeth conference in 2016 Ken articulated a vision to resource the church more widely, a vision which might include alumni access, for example, and the wider ABTAPL community. The SCM model could also be used to develop relationships with other publishers and e-book providers, and Dawsonera has already expressed an interest in discussing such a deal with the Common Awards institutions. With its critical mass of students, Common Awards is now bigger than any university faculty, and is in a strong position to influence e-book provision across the theological library sector.

Michael Gale, Librarian, The Queen's Foundation

“The books belonging to the Church in the Library...” Renewing the relationship between Church and University

In 1962, the Church of Scotland came to an agreement with the University of Edinburgh about New College Library, the Divinity Library of the University^[1]. (This agreement followed a much larger discussion between these two bodies about the New College buildings used for theological teaching and research.) At that point in time, both the New College Library building and the books other collections that it held were acknowledged to be in the ownership of the Church of Scotland, and had continued to be managed separately from the main University Library. The 1962 agreement, ratified by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, stated that the books belonging to the Church would be given on loan to the University on conditions which included that:

- The Church retained the right to terminate the loan and take the books back with 12 months notice
- The Church books must remain available for the purposes of the Faculty of Divinity
- The books must remain at New College and not be moved elsewhere except by permission of the Church
- All persons and bodies who had access to the collections in 1962 must continue to have access going forward

Roll forward the years to 2017. Fifty five years after the 1962 agreement, New College Library has a collection of nearly 260,000 printed books (plus significant archive collections). Of these at least 130,000 of the printed books are known to have been in the library collections before 1962 and can thus be identified as belonging to the Church of Scotland. New College Library’s historic collections, which include about 25,000 pre-1800 early printed books, have preserved the historic library collections of the Church of Scotland and the intellectual record of Presbyterian Church in Scotland largely intact, and at the original New College site. New College

Library is a thriving theological library which has recently extended its opening hours, and has attracted investment in online cataloguing projects for its historic collections. The Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland continue to freely access the New College library building and all its collections for theological study and research. These are significant achievements, to which the 1962 agreement has contributed.

Library Access for Ministers

However the 1962 agreement had other consequences for New College Library. This agreement stipulated that all persons and bodies who had access to the collections in 1962 must continue to have access, which had been interpreted primarily to allow access for ministers. This meant that until recently, New College Library was operating access arrangements for ministers and ministry students unique within the University library system, based on a complex set of local and historical arrangements. There were several issues, such as historic anomalies in membership eligibility. For instance, Free Church of Scotland ministers borrowed without charge but Church of Scotland ministers had to pay. Staff were also asked about library access by church employees who are not ministers, (such as family workers), who are not mentioned by the 1962 agreement. There were practical issues of identification, as neither Church of Scotland or Free Church of Scotland ministers have ID cards and staff were generally accepting them on trust as to their status as ministers. This was unclear for temporary staff covering the New College library helpdesk who were normally based at other university site libraries, e.g. the Law Library. When setting up membership Helpdesk staff had to ask what denomination a minister belonged to and were sometimes challenged about this, as ministers from different denominations were being offered a different entitlement. Finally the unique borrower membership categories had always operated as a local arrangement and were not advertised on the library website.

To address these issues I took a paper to the University Library Committee in March 2017, which proposed that the University

should offer free external borrower membership to all ministers, retired ministers and employees of the Church of Scotland and Free Church of Scotland. To register for this free membership, presentation of either an ID card or an official letter confirming the individual's status within the Church would be required. This membership would recognise the historic contributions of these Churches to the University of Edinburgh's Library collections through the collections of New College Library.

For the Church, this presented a significant enhancement to the level of access set out in the 1962 agreement. For the University, this made the access arrangements much simpler for us to administrate. For the first time, access arrangements for the Church were clearly advertised on the library website^[2] and I also promoted access in the Church's magazine, *Life and Work*^[3].

Managing the Library Collections

The issues of library access for ministers were relatively simple to solve, but the underlying issue of collection ownership and the collections management legacy it had created was much less simple to address. Collection growth, the impact of digital collections, increased collection demand and the need for collections rationalisation at scale were all making the management of the New College Library Collections into a very different landscape to the one encountered in 1962. The very substantial New College library collections had a number of legacy issues, including large collections needing retrospective online cataloguing, and an older classification system needing conversion, which were causing problems for discoverability. With such large collections, a large amount of resource is required to solve these problems. However for the University to commit this additional resource would pose a significant financial risk when it was possible that the Church could decide to remove the collections on 12 months' notice. Collection ownership and lack of clarity on rights was also a barrier to digitisation, with less than 1% of the Special Collections digitised. The need to enable the Church to approve moving their books out of the building (and recoup the value of their property when making

any withdrawals) – meant that New College Library had been operating unique disposal arrangements, including a regular library booksale, which were not in alignment with the University of Edinburgh Collections Policy. In 2016-2017 staff changes to the long serving team meant that operating any former ‘workarounds’ needing staffing resource was no longer possible. That was when we opened a dialogue with the Church of Scotland to enable change.

It took a whole year of discussion with senior library staff before the decision to approach the Church of Scotland to discuss the 1962 Memorandum of Understanding was made. It felt like there was a window of opportunity to tackle these longstanding problems, with senior figures in both the Library and the Church engaged with the issues. We formulated a document as a basis for that discussion which began by stressing the University’s commitment to maintaining the Church’s historic collections at New College. We then set out three scenarios for the future management of the collections with risks and benefits, of moving the collections into University ownership, of no change at all, and of creating a new Memorandum of Understanding between Church and University. Initial discussions with Church representatives and the Church legal team clarified that moving the collections into University ownership was not possible, because charity law prevented the Church from handing over such a large asset. Discussion then focused on developing an amendment to the 1962 Memorandum of Understanding and what that might look like. Step by step discussions are proceeding slowly, and the final agreement will need to be ratified by both the University Court of the University of Edinburgh and the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

So what will these changes achieve?

For the Church of Scotland, full access is retained to its historic collections which will continue to be kept securely and appropriately. New College Library continues to provide outstanding collections for the theological training of the ministers of the Church of Scotland, and now offers clear, transparent and inclusive access to ministers and church workers for CPD. The proposed changes to the

1962 Memorandum of Understanding will enable the University to rationalise and reimagine collections, including key working collections for ministry such as the Church of Scotland publications. The door will be open to create digitised New College Library collections which are open access for all of the Church to use. And the University will be better positioned to develop outreach projects and programmes to the communities of the Church, such as the General Assembly. The stage is set for us to move forward into a new era for New College Library.

Christine Love-Rodgers
Academic Support Librarian – Divinity, University of Edinburgh

[1] Scotland, C.o., *Minute of Agreement between the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland ... and the University Court of the University of Edinburgh. Reports to the General Assembly with the Legislative Acts*, 1962: p. 243.

[2] Edinburgh, U.o. *Joining the Library : Church of Scotland and Free Church of Scotland*. 2017 [cited 2018 13 March]; Available from: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/information-services/library-museum-gallery/using-library/join-the-library/church-of-scotland-and-free-church-of-scotland>.

[3] Love-Rodgers, C., *Libraries welcome for General Assembly visitors*, in *Life and Work [Magazine of the Church of Scotland]*. 2017. p. 29.

Reciprocal Borrowing between ABTAPL Libraries

This contribution is based on the TeachMeet Presentation I delivered at the ABTAPL Spring Conference 2018 in Durham on reciprocal borrowing. Here I consider the context of the reciprocal borrowing arrangement between the libraries of Cliff College, International Baptist Theological Study Centre, Luther King House Library and Nazarene Theological College. I also offer some initial reflections on the process.

Context

The question of whether we could facilitate reciprocal borrowing between members of ABTAPL libraries was being explored on the ABTAPL mailing list. At the same time, some of the partner institutions of the University of Manchester were considering a similar arrangement. Nazarene Theological College, Luther King House, International Baptist Theological Study Centre and Cliff College offered to pilot a reciprocal scheme and report back.

The thread on the mailing list prompted a range of individual solutions and responses that I cannot fully summarise here. A key idea that did emerge was that such an arrangement would have to be truly reciprocal; there would have to be a potential benefit for each institution and each library would need to have something to offer.

Reservations and considerations

- The impact upon 'home-institution' library users, especially in terms of access to key texts and workspaces.
- The amount of extra work that could be created by the arrangement.
- The possibility of being 'used' by under-resourced colleges in lieu of investment in their own learning resources.
- A need to protect the stream of income from external members who pay to use library facilities and resources.
- Some ABTAPL libraries may be in much higher demand than others due to location and size.

- Our libraries have been formed in different contexts; our resources, buildings and library user needs are diverse: a “blanket” approach seems unlikely to work.

Partners of Manchester meeting

The Librarians from Cliff College, Luther King House, International Baptist Theological Study Centre and Nazarene Theological Centre and I met to form our reciprocal borrowing arrangement.

The individuality of our libraries was clear as we discussed the differences between our opening hours and facilities, but we found that we were able to offer a broadly similar service to one another. There were, of course, some differences. For instance, IBTS has been able to offer reciprocal borrowers ten books for thirty days, whereas the other libraries are offering up to three loans for 14 days.

All four institutions are allowing reciprocal borrowers to renew their books twice (subject to no reservations) and we all require prospective reciprocal borrowers to visit and register during staffed hours. Most of us have asked for an appointment to be made. By insisting that the first visit is during staffed hours, we have the opportunity to induct new library users and this should help to reduce the risk of an overwhelming number of students appearing unexpectedly!

None of the libraries are offering reservation rights to reciprocal borrowers. Coupled with the shorter loan limits and borrowing times, this goes some way towards protecting external borrowing memberships; in effect, this is a different borrower category. It also means that the most popular texts can only be borrowed for a short time by reciprocal borrowers if a ‘home-institution’ student needs them.

We agreed to trial the agreement from 1st March to 31st August 2018. An important aspect of the arrangement is that any library can amend the agreement in consultation with the other libraries.

Helen Stocker kindly compiled the reciprocal arrangement document which is available for potential borrowers. The document displays:

- Contact details for participating libraries
- Brief introductions to the collections
- Borrowing rights and limitations
- Library facilities
- Restrictions (Staffed hours, no reservations etc.)

The user-friendly table format works well in showing our individual nuances very clearly.

Reflections

At the time of writing, we are still in the trial period. After the trial period has ended, the reciprocal borrowing arrangement will be evaluated – so watch this space!

I am looking forward to meeting with the other participating libraries again to discuss our experiences of the scheme. It will be particularly interesting to measure the agreement's impact on each library.

The process of creating a reciprocal borrowing agreement benefitted from us meeting face-to-face (and via Skype for Pieter van Wingerden at International Baptist Theological Study Centre); meeting in this way meant that we could make changes instantly and develop the agreement in one sitting.

We did not begin this trial at the beginning of the academic year (on purpose!). A scheme like this might spread best by word-of-mouth which, naturally, takes time to develop. It is important for the arrangement to be a sustainable one, so perhaps this approach has encouraged a gradual rise in participants. We will see!

While our agreement may not suit other ABTAPL libraries who want to form reciprocal arrangements, it is tricky to edit a blank page.

Hopefully the trial offers encouragement those who are interested in pursuing similar links.

On another (final) note, it was a really useful experience to present at the TeachMeet; ten minutes really do go faster than you think that they will! It was encouraging to receive insightful questions and comments at the Conference on this topic. I welcome further discussion!

Emily Jones
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Reflections on the Durham Conference

This year I was lucky enough to be the inaugural recipient of the ABTAPL Conference student bursary – huge thanks to the committee for organising the bursary and awarding it to me! This gave me a great experience to attend a conference that would not have otherwise been on my radar, and meet a great range of wonderful people. The conference was a packed few days, so what follows are only my brief reflections on the experience.

Part of what drew me to apply for the bursary was seeing that the conference was being held in Durham, with visits arranged to a number of amazing libraries. These visits did not disappoint! I always enjoy getting the chance to see how other libraries work and the treasures of their collections. I particularly enjoyed hearing about Durham Cathedral Library's 'adopt a book scheme', which has successfully funded the conservation of several books from their collection thanks to donations from the public. As a Durham alumna,

it was also great to see the changes that have happened to the Bill Bryson Library since my graduation – sadly I experienced all of the building work with none of the beautiful results during my studies!

Another highlight of the conference was the teachmeet, which I participated in. I enjoyed the chance to talk about a unique aspect of my work at the National Art Library, though sticking to time was a bit of a challenge! I also regretted not having had the chance to try out my presentation on anyone outside the NAL in advance, as I may not have successfully gauged the level of background knowledge. Overall, though, giving the presentation was a really great experience. I equally enjoyed all the other presentations; the format was a great chance to get a slice of insight into a wide variety of topics.

Finally, any recounting of my conference experience would be incomplete without mentioning the wonderful people I had a chance to meet and speak to throughout the days. It has always been my experience that events which bring librarians together are always friendly and enjoyable, and the ABTAPL conference was no exception. I thoroughly enjoyed the chance to speak to a range of people throughout the days of the conference, and find out more about an area of librarianship I had never really considered. I'll be finishing my MA in September, and may begin to consider new horizons post-qualification; it's great to have a bit more knowledge of one more area to consider!

Cassandra Gilbert-Ward

Retirement – a strategy for preparing and coping

[Based on a presentation given at the Teach/Meet session at the recent ABTAPL Conference in Durham. Although some of the audience were either already retired or approaching retirement, almost all the delegates who were still in post were managing retired volunteers so the hope was that the presentation would be of some relevance to everyone present, and not just retirees.]

Beginning with my personal situation, I retired from my post at Spurgeon's College in July 2014 to coincide with the first receipt of my state pension. After being in post for 29 years it was quite a wrench to give up and indeed I still enjoyed my job greatly and could have gone on for some time. However my late husband, John, had advised me in his last months to retire as soon as I received my pension. He had told me, once retired, to go and do the things we had been going to do together and not to wait. "Carpe Diem" (Seize the Day) were his exact words as none of us know what is round life's corner. Also by then my first grandchild had arrived and so I wanted to be there for the family. I didn't want to say that I couldn't help because I had to go to Library Committee!

The best piece of advice that I was given was to take a "gap year" and to learn to say no. I was warned that as soon as people learn that you are retiring/newly retired they will start queuing up to ask you to volunteer in a number of different areas or stand for committees and so on. This was certainly the case for me. If you tell everyone right from the beginning that you are taking some time out, it gives you a good excuse to work out your priorities for the future rather than taking on far too much and then finding your diary is even more full than when you were at work. Also it then means that you don't have to let people down when you realise you have taken on too much and have to pull out.

So in my gap year after retiring I said "No" a lot of times. Also I drank a lot of coffee as I met up with friends whom I hadn't seen for a long time, in some cases for years and in one case over 40 years. I started attending various groups at church but with no responsibility,

and, of course, I did a lot of babysitting and helping out. And finally I bought a Fitbit to make me go out every day.

Once my gap year was over I started volunteering at Dulwich Picture Gallery and also went onto the rota for some of the church groups I was attending. I was asked to set up a small library in the church and more recently have taken on the role of church archivist (though this could turn out to be very time consuming!).

I have also been appointed as a Trustee of CILIP's Benevolent Fund. Though this was described as being essentially 4 meetings a year each one followed by a meal, in practice it has turned out to be slightly more onerous now that I have taken on the responsibility for the website. It is worth pointing out here that many people are under the misapprehension that the Fund is only there for retired people who are current members. This is definitely not the case as the Fund offers help to anyone who has ever been a member of CILIP or its precursors, regardless of age. It can help with any unusual or unexpected expenses causing hardship, such as urgent house repairs, the replacement of essential household equipment, helping with unexpectedly large heating bills, or debts accumulated because of illness. For more details look at the website <https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/benevolent>

As previously mentioned, my husband had encouraged me to travel to see the places we had been hoping to visit together. Therefore in 2017 I took the plunge to do a singles holiday, despite serious misgivings beforehand about the group being full of "Dulwich ladies" (apologies to the residents of Dulwich where I live but people probably know the type I mean). It wasn't and I haven't laughed so much in a long time. I have now done 2 such holidays and made lots of new friends and seen places I wouldn't otherwise have seen. There is more travelling to come.

More recently I have joined the U3A, learning new skills and enjoying in particular the Music group. Although there are many interesting groups on offer, I just don't have the time to join them

especially as I now have 3 grandchildren with another on the way and so much of my time is spent babysitting but it is all good fun.

Possibly one of the most difficult questions in retirement is that of keeping in touch with one's former employer and/or successor - or not – especially where one has been in post for a long time. In my case I have answered questions from my successor but only when she has been in touch. I have tried to keep a respectful distance. This has been hard in some respects as obviously so much of my life revolved around Spurgeon's for so many years and it would have been easy to retain a sense of protectiveness especially where the archive was concerned. However I was advised by others to “let it go” and this has proved to be sound advice.

And so, looking at the future, I may undertake some more academic study developing some of the ideas I looked at on my MA course in Victorian studies from 2008 to 2010. Also there may be more volunteering opportunities which I can take on (this will definitely not involve working in a public library as I have very strong views about not taking jobs away from paid library staff). Keeping fit and healthy is a high priority so I intend to look for something more structured such as a pilates class. But the diary remains full and it is hard to fit more in so I shall have to prioritise.

Summing up, from my own experience, for anyone approaching retirement I would strongly recommend the following:-

- 1) Take a gap year.
- 2) Learn to say No.
- 3) Learn to cope with having no specific role in society, i.e. answering the “What do you do?” question. Don't be defensive about being retired. See it as a positive and be proud of any volunteering or other role that you have taken on. In my case it was quite strange at first to suddenly be referred to as “Mr Powles' mother” (my son is a local

primary school teacher). I had to find a new identity for myself.

- 4) Keeping fit is definitely a high priority so buy a Fitbit or similar and get up and out – and exercise.
- 5) Deal with the tricky question of keeping in touch (or not) with your previous employer and your successor. Almost certainly let it go.
- 6) Be VERY careful when you take things on that the job/volunteering opportunity is not more time consuming than you think. Try to obtain a job description and make sure that you know exactly what you are being expected to do. It is always sensible to have a fixed probationary period as this makes it much easier for the arrangement to end amicably if it isn't working out. (To anyone who uses volunteers, retired or otherwise, it makes sense to provide a proper description of what you are expecting your volunteer to do. Also do set a probationary period as this will save unnecessary embarrassment).

And my final piece of advice for retirement is to do less of the sitting around doing one's knitting, and do much more of the going out and having fun.

Enjoy your retirement!

Judy Powles

Out with the old, in with the new...

I have had a wonderful career at University College London, Royal Geographical Society (Kensington), Royal Automobile Club (Pall Mall), BP (Barbican & Heathrow), St Clare's Oxford, University of the South Pacific (Fiji), Wolfson College and Wycliffe Hall Oxford, where I've spent the last eighteen years. I wouldn't have swapped it for anything, and have met some wonderful people along the way.

In particular, I'd just like to put on record my thanks to everyone at the Durham Conference for their generous tributes, and to re-iterate that ABTAPL has easily been the most valuable resource in my professional life at Wycliffe Hall – not to mention the friendships which have grown up over the years.

So I thought this little verse might express it in my own way:

There was an old lad at ABTAPL
Whose Library was next to the Chapel.
When he got up to Durham
Said: Librarians – I love 'em
Then left, the world for to travel

Roni and I wish everyone all the best for their future endeavours.

I am also very pleased to announce that **Hannie Riley** has been appointed the new Librarian at Wycliffe Hall, w.e.f. Mon 21st May. Here is an extract from her biog.:

“Hannie brings over 15 years of library and information experience, having been working for the University since 2006, starting in the Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library. Prior to her arrival at Wycliffe Hall, she was in the Sainsbury Library at the Saïd Business School. Her work had a particular focus on copyright compliance for Executive Education reading materials and she also oversaw Executive Education collections. Before the Business School, she worked in the China Centre Library, Oriental Institute Library, and Korean Collections, Bodleian Oriental Section, where she was

involved in various projects related to untouched Korean collections, which led to the “Korean Treasures” exhibition (2011) and its publication, and the “Window on Korea” project.

Hannie holds an MSc in Library Science from City, University of London, and an MA in Education and a BA in Psychology from Kyungnam University, South Korea.

She has been attending St Aldates Oxford with her two boys and husband Nick since 2006. They lead a small group together.”

Hannie is keen to meet fellow ABTAPLERS, and her contact details are librarian@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk, tel. 01865-611146.

Chris Leftley

USEFUL WEBSITES

ABTAPL

<http://www.abtapl.org.uk/>

ABTAPL Bulletin online archive

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_abtapl_01.php

ANZTLA Ejournal

<http://ejournal.anztla.org>

ATLA

<http://www.atla.com>

ATLA Religion Database with ATLASerials

<http://www.ebscohost.com/academic/atla-religion-database-with-atlaserials>

BETH

<http://www.beth.be>

Christians in Library and Information Services

<http://christianlis.org.uk/>

Theology on the Web: <https://theologyontheweb.org.uk/>