

# Annual Report 2010



**Signs of God:  
rooted, growing, spreading!**

2010 saw the best ever Summer School, more Christian Interpreters in the network, more events using interpreters as well as our usual programme of training and equipping.

## From the Chair

The past year for Signs of God has been like seeing a mature oak tree adding another ring of bark around its trunk and branches, more twigs and acorns appearing. This is a good picture of our on-going endeavours through meeting many requests to provide interpreting teams, access support, training team leaders and people attending the day workshops all over the UK.

The Summer School last August exceeded expectations. At the same time, we are more conscious of the need for Signs of God to maintain its status as a stable and consistently creative professional organisation in an ever-changing world. We thank Gill Behenna and Sarah Haynes for the wonderful Summer School timetable with a Christian Year theme every day for the worship services. Everyone commented on how beneficial it was.

In this we remind ourselves of continuing to focus on the two main aims - to open up more access and parity for Deaf People and improving the quality of British Sign Language within Christian settings. It is always a joy to see increasing participation and leadership amongst Deaf Christians in varied settings.

We praise God for the increased number of trained Sign Language Interpreters within our mailing list, CIN and teams, plus those who determinedly climbed up each ring of the BSL qualification ladder during the last year.

We do thank God for the excellent teamwork amongst the trustees and teaching team members who successfully continued with Signs of God's work whilst our administrator, Gill Behenna, took a well-deserved study leave. We look forward to seeing the results of her BSL poetry project in due course!

The Team Leaders' training day and our day workshops show evidence of the demand of our high-quality training skills and resources.

Like the well-known image of a British oak tree in our green pastures, Signs of God can say it is seen to be thriving every season; everyone - YOU, yes - is involved - trunk, branch, twig, leaf and acorn! Therefore, whatever you are doing, with us or for us, you are part of that lovely large Oak tree!

Thank you for your support.

We give thanks to our God, our bedrock.

Blessings,

Penny Beschizza (Chair)

May 2011



## Administrative Information

Charity Number: 1113882

### The Objects of Signs of God

To advance the use of British Sign Language in Christian settings

To promote and enable full participation in the Christian faith of people who use British Sign Language

### Trustees

Penny Beschizza	Chair
Trudy Field	Secretary
Rachel Smith	Treasurer
Sarah Haynes	

### Registered Office:

1 Saxon Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 9AR

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sms administrator: 07715 707135

email: [info@signsofgod.org.uk](mailto:info@signsofgod.org.uk)

Website: [www.signsofgod.org.uk](http://www.signsofgod.org.uk)

Administrator: Gill Behenna

Bank: HSBC 46 Cardiff Road, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2DT

Independent Examiner: Melva J Corcoran BA MBA FCA CTA

Cunningham Wishart business advisers and chartered accountants

"Pren Ceirios", 66 Pwllmelin Road, Cardiff CF5 2NH

### Members

Members will be individuals who actively contribute to the objects of the Charity by

1. Teaching
2. Interpreting
3. Consultation
4. Administration
5. Developing training

### Members at 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

Raymond Abernethy – Belfast

Rosie Addis – Edinburgh

Gill Behenna – Bristol

Penny Beschizza – London

Beccy Field – Leeds

Jonathan Field – Leeds

Trudy Field – Scunthorpe

Ali Fuller – Harrow

Jerry Hanifin – Derby

Debbie Harvey – Camborne

Ros Hunt – Manchester

Sarah Haynes – Bristol

Tj Jobson – London

Jo Lindley – Hull

Esther Maycock – Ashted

Catherine Moxon – Blackburn

Susan Myatt – Tamworth

Roma Parrick – Oakham

Di Phaisey – Telford

Debby Phillips – Nottingham

Janice Silo – Derby

Anna Smith – Derby

Mark Smith – Derby

Rachel Smith – Cardiff

Nicki Stevenson – Peterborough

Chris Williamson – Birmingham

## **Report of the Activities of Signs of God in 2010**

### **Charity Development**

At our Annual General Meeting in August 2010 we were pleased to agree the following new members: Nicki Stevenson from Peterborough, Susan Myatt from Tamworth and Debby Phillips from Nottingham.

The trustees have met formally three times this year and have also kept in regular contact via email.

### **Workshops**

Workshops took place in:

Tamworth

Egham

Stoke

Oxford

Rugby

These were all well attended and appreciated by a wide range of people. Now that bookings can be made via the website, it is easier to attract a good number of people.

Signs of God is always open to invitations to run workshops.

### **Summer School**

Our Summer School took place at King's Park, Northampton in August with 80 students. For the first time, we decided to hold our Annual General Meeting on the first evening of Summer School so we could showcase some of the work of Signs of God. This was very successful and it is likely we will repeat this in future years.

Once again, the Summer School was very successful. Many participants returned from previous years, but over half the participants were at the Summer School for the first time. 45% of all the participants had advanced BSL skills and this presented a real challenge to us to ensure they were well taught and catered for. We were glad to welcome some new tutors to the team to enable us to provide a good learning environment for all the students.

### **The Church Colleges' Certificate in Ministry**

A new cohort of 8 students started the course based at the University of Chester. One was unable to continue due to personal circumstances. 7 have continued and completed the taught elements of the course.

### **Christian Interpreters' Network**

Signs of God continued to provide good quality interpreting teams to a wide range of Christian holidays and conferences thus enabling access for Deaf participants. An additional event this year was the Christian Resources Exhibition where we supported Deaf exhibitors and speakers in the Churches for All Zone as well as providing interpreting for visitors to the exhibition. In addition, many people now contact Signs of God for interpreters for single events such as weddings and funerals. These events often need interpreters at short notice and members of the Christian Interpreters' Network are very good at responding.

### **Team Leaders' Training Day**

In February 2011 we held a training event aimed at those who would be leading interpreting teams at Christian events or who would consider doing so in the future. Topics such as "managing the team" and "giving and receiving feedback" were covered, as well as some discussion and advice over conflict resolution.

## **Support and information**

The administrator took Study Leave from January – March 2011 and the Trustees took over the administration of the charity between them. This included managing the bookings for workshops, handling interpreter requests and dealing with orders for merchandise.

We have a small, but committed, core of people who support us in regular financial giving. From time to time we also receive one-off gifts and donations. We are extremely grateful to everyone who supports the organisation in any way.

We have over 1500 supporters on our mailing list. About half of these people receive information via email which reduces our postage costs.

In November, we exhibited at the Go! Sign Festival Day along with other Deaf Christian organisations.

## **Summary of achievements**

3 new members joined the tutor team to increase our capacity for providing training.

Approximately 230 of the general public attended Signs of God Workshops during the year.

10 Qualified and experienced interpreters attended Team Leader Training, enabling us to build capacity for future interpreting teams.

The Christian Interpreters Network stands at 172 members. Of these, 98 are trained interpreters.

Christian events interpreted by Signs of God teams enabled Deaf people to attend and access events of their choosing. Approximately 80 interpreting places were filled at these events.

Skilled Christian interpreters have enabled and supported Deaf presenters and speakers to contribute to major Christian events, raising the level of Deaf awareness at the events and helping to promote a positive view of deafness.

The website has enabled more user-friendly information to be made available to organisers of Christian events, Deaf people and the general public, enabling Deaf people's access to a variety of events.

8 Deaf students enrolled on the Church Colleges Certificate in Ministry.

80 students attended the Signs of God Summer School.

## **Into the future...**

In 2011/12 we have workshops planned for Derby, Margate, Colchester and London, with other enquiries for Manchester and Bournemouth.

We hope to be providing professional training in London and Belfast

Sign Language Interpreters will once again be provided at major Christian events.

## **Finally**

We give thanks to God for everything begun, achieved, and continued in His name.

Signs of God  
Accounts for the period 04/03/10 to 03/03/11  
charity number 1113882

<b>2009/10</b>		<b>2010/11</b>
7,574.77	Balance bf Current account	19,398.66
9,522.22	Balance bf BMM account	10,461.08
	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	
17,896.55	Workshops & Training	25,355.53
179.00	Fundraising Merchandise	1,054.50
5,429.82	Donations	3,144.30
6.68	Interest	7.30
932.18	Gift Aid	-
	Adj from bank	10.00
	Refunds	19.12
<b>24,444.23</b>	<b>Total Income from 04/03/10</b>	<b>29,590.75</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
3,684.28	Workshops & Training	36,898.85
313.35	Stationery, printing, computer supplies	161.94
1,546.86	Merchandise	413.04
46.50	Admin Support	0
465.30	AGM and Trustees meetings	207.80
50.00	Examiner Fee	100.00
491.40	Insurance	453.60
41.66	Gift Aid	-
64.63	Website	542.50
	Go Sign Exhibition	26.00
	Creditxtra (refunded)	17.98
	Adj from Bank	10.00
	Paypal fees	158.36
	<b>Assets</b>	
89.99	Equipment	
4,887.51	Website	
<b>11,681.48</b>	<b>Total Expenditure from 04/03/10</b>	<b>38,990.07</b>
<b>12,762.75</b>	Balance during period	-
	Total Paypal account	<b>100.00</b>
<b>19,398.66</b>	Total Current account	<b>9,892.04</b>
<b>10,461.08</b>	Total BMM account	<b>10,468.38</b>
29,859.74		20,460.42

<b>Signs of God</b>	<b>Notes to the Accounts</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>
<b>Training</b>				
Tamworth		580.00	239.70	340.30
Stoke		385.28	420.85 -	35.57
Oxford		525.00	259.70	265.30
Rugby		275.20	249.25	25.95
Colchester		480.00	88.00	392.00
Derby		433.05	-	433.05
Team Leaders Training		-	54.50 -	54.50
Summer School		22,677.00	34,561.90 -	11,884.90
CCCM			1,024.95 -	1,024.95
		<b>25,355.53</b>	<b>36,898.85 -</b>	<b>11,543.32</b>
<b>Donations</b>				
Standing orders		1,865.00		
One off donations		828.00		
Donated back gifts and expenses		451.30		
		<b>3,144.30</b>		
<b>Stationery, printing, computer supplies</b>				
Stationery			107.44	
Photocopying			54.50	
			<b>161.94</b>	
<b>Telephone &amp; internet</b>				
Website			542.50	
<b>Insurance</b>				
			453.60	
<b>Merchandise</b>				
		1,054.50	413.04	641.46
<b>AGM and Trustees meetings</b>				
			207.80	
<b>Misc</b>				
Go Sign exhibition			26.00	
Examiner Fee			100.00	
Creditextra (refunded)			17.98	
Adj		10.00	10.00	
Refunds		17.98		
<b>Paypal</b>				
Fees			158.36	
Verify account (refunds)		1.14		
<b>Net Interest BMM</b>				
		7.30		
<b>Total for period : 04/03/10-03/03/11</b>		<b>29,590.75</b>	<b>38,990.07</b>	
Held in Paypal Account		588.05		
To be transferred to Paypal account			83.59	