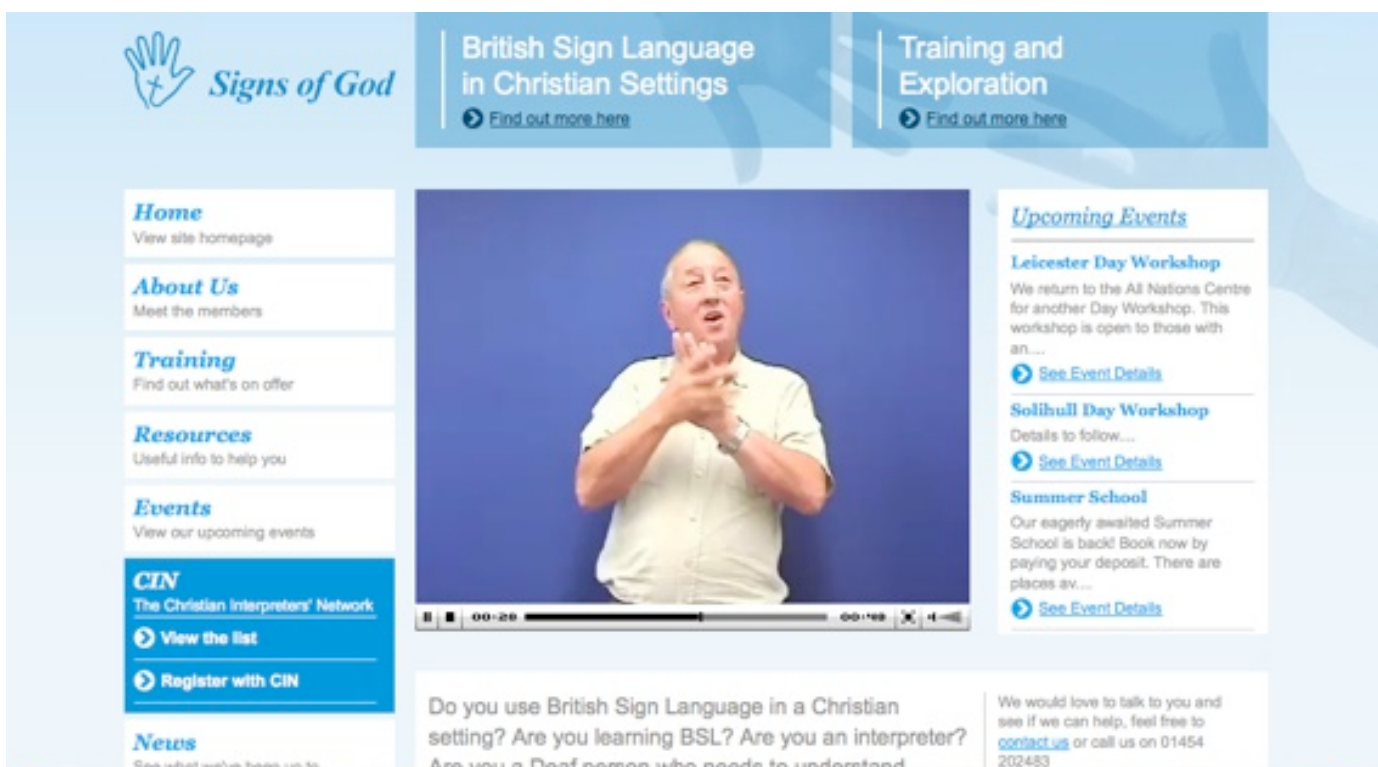


# Annual Report 2009



British Sign Language in Christian Settings  
[Find out more here](#)

Training and Exploration  
[Find out more here](#)

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The Christian Interpreters' Network  
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See what we've been up to

**Upcoming Events**

**Leicester Day Workshop**  
We return to the All Nations Centre for another Day Workshop. This workshop is open to those with an...  
[See Event Details](#)

**Solihull Day Workshop**  
Details to follow...  
[See Event Details](#)

**Summer School**  
Our eagerly awaited Summer School is back! Book now by paying your deposit. There are places av...  
[See Event Details](#)

Do you use British Sign Language in a Christian setting? Are you learning BSL? Are you an interpreter? Are you a Deaf person who needs to understand...  
We would love to talk to you and see if we can help, feel free to [contact us](#) or call us on 01454 202483

## Going live – staying live!

2009 saw the launch of our new website but Signs of God is more than just a presence on the internet!

## **From the Chair**

Signs of God, during 2009, ventured further within its aims of quality BSL for Deaf people in Christian Settings.

New members from the Deaf Community joined our training team, which was a significant development.

The new Signs of God website is proving a 'hit' with everyone who uses it - BSL Learners, Interpreters and trainees, Churches, organisers, Deaf people, the list is endless.

Demand for Christian Interpreters remain high; we were thrilled to notice how national Christian and Church organisers are regarding Signs of God as the gateway to efficient and relevant BSL access for Deaf attendees.

There was one workshop in 2009 which was a success. We hope to increase our workshops next year and already have a number booked. In the same year more Deaf people achieved qualifications in Church roles.

The expertise of our own training team and allied experts in Church teaching continues to grow.

We are aware of the growing workload for our excellent administrator, Gill. We thank her and our thanks to God for this unstinting work: we have started the process of how this aspect of Signs of God's national work could be delegated for the next phase.

Teamwork, within the Trustees, BSL Interpreting teams at events and workshops continues apace. This is further reinforced as SoG develops a niche within the professional BSL interpreting world.

We look forward to the new decade in the 21st Century, onwards and onwards as part of the Kingdom we serve in maintaining high standards and greater access for Deaf People.

**Penny Beschizza**

## 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

tel/fax/minicom 01454 202483

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 2010

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 – Ashtead

Catherine Moxon – Blackburn

Roma Parrick – Oakham

Di Phaisey - Telford

Janice Silo – Derby

Anna Smith – Derby

Mark Smith – Derby

Rachel Smith – Cardiff

Chris Williamson – Birmingham

## Report of the Activities of Signs of God in 2009

### Charity Development

At our Annual General Meeting in June 2009 we were pleased to agree the following new members: Raymond Abernethy from Belfast, Di Phaisey from Telford, Jerry Hanifin from Derby and Chris Williamson from Birmingham.

Three members resigned in 2009 – Sarah Gallagher, Barrie Curtis and Wayne McMillan.

The trustees have met formally three times since the last AGM and have also kept in regular contact via email.

At the AGM in June 2009 Members agreed a flexible Reserves Policy to take into account that the Summer School runs every two years..

2009 saw the development and launch of a new Website for Signs of God. Our developers Worthers, listened carefully to what we needed and produced a website that is clean, accessible and fits in well with our new publications style. The website has several very useful features:

- BSL translations of the main information
- Sign Language Interpreters on the Christian Interpreters List are listed and are searchable by town name or postcode
- events are listed and may be booked on-line with payment made via paypal,
- an emailer facility enables us to stay in touch with our supporters more easily, and
- the Signs of God database is easily updated and backed up securely.

### Workshops

We ran a workshop in Leicester in November which was very well attended.

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

### The Church Colleges' Certificate in Ministry

- 7 out of 10 students completed the Church Colleges' Certificate in Ministry and were presented with their certificates in December. The feedback from the external examiner was very positive and praised the course as providing a unique opportunity for Deaf students. The university of Chester monitoring process also noted that the course *produces graduates who fill a specific, and essential, role in the wider community.*

### 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.

### Support and information

Our administrator deals with an average of a hundred email enquiries a month. These are usually requests for interpreters and requests for our publications and information. The e-group is well used for advice and information on a wide variety of subjects.

The new website has enabled people to contact us more easily but has also added considerably to the Administrator's work load.

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 1400 supporters on our mailing list. About half of these people receive information via email which reduces our postage costs.

## **Summary of achievements**

Signs of God has worked towards enhanced access for Deaf people to various churches and Christian events as 60 people attended a one-day workshop to develop their BSL/presenting/interpreting skills and confidence.

Christian events interpreted by Signs of God teams enabled Deaf people to attend and access events of their choosing. A total of 63 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.

7 Deaf students successfully completed the Church Colleges Certificate in Ministry enabling them to take roles of leadership and responsibility within their churches.

Information and updates on the work of Signs of God was made available to over 1500 regular contacts and approximately 1000 informal contacts.

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

We are looking forward to our 2010 Summer School. With 80 participants of whom about half have advanced BSL skills this will be our most challenging Summer School yet.

We are hopeful that a new group of students will start the Church Colleges' Certificate in Ministry in October 2010.

Three workshops have been planned in Guildford, Stoke and Rugby with two others (Scotland and Oxford) to be confirmed.

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 04/03/09 to  
 03/03/10  
 charity number 1113882

<b>2008/09</b>		<b>2009/10</b>
14,388.40	Balance bf Current account	7,574.77
4,022.79	Balance bf BMM account	9,522.22
	<b>Incoming Resources</b>	
27,471.63	Workshops & Training	17,896.55
244.00	Fundraising	179.00
4,154.10	Donations	5,429.82
107.20	Interest	6.68
802.83	Gift Aid	932.18
- 0	Consultation and Representation	- 0
<b>32,779.76</b>	<b>Total Income from 04/03/09</b>	<b>24,444.23</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
30,958.70	Workshops & Training	3,684.28
132.31	Consultation and Representation	- 0
767.54	Stationery, printing, computer supplies	313.35
0	Fundraising merchandise	1,546.86
56.50	Admin Support	46.50
617.98	AGM and Trustees meetings	465.30
- 0	Examiner Fee	50.00
453.60	Insurance	491.40
150.63	Website	64.63
20.00	Bank Charges	
	Gift Aid	41.66
	<b>Assets</b>	
936.70	Equipment	89.99
	Website	4,887.51
<b>34,093.96</b>	<b>Total Expenditure from 04/03/09</b>	<b>11,681.48</b>
<b>-1,314.20</b>	<b>Balance during period</b>	<b>12,762.75</b>
	<b>Restricted Funds - Tent</b>	
228.00	Income	- 0
228.00	Expenditure	- 0
- 0		
4,600.00	Money transferred to BMM account	
<b>7,574.77</b>	<b>Total Current account</b>	<b>19,398.66</b>
<b>9,522.22</b>	<b>Total BMM account</b>	<b>10,461.08</b>
17,096.99		29,859.74

<b>Signs of God</b>	<b>Notes to the Accounts</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	
	<b>Workshops</b>			
	Stoke	208.00	90.00	
	Coventry	279.50	189.50	
	Cardiff	- 0	98.74	
	Team Leader	- 0	151.00	
	Leicester	419.05	281.00	
	Tamworth	110.00	5.94	
		<b>1,016.55</b>	<b>816.18</b>	<b>200.37</b>
	<b>Training</b>			
	Summer School	16,880.00	1,705.20	
	CCCM		1,162.90	
		<b>16,880.00</b>	<b>2,868.10</b>	<b>14,011.90</b>
	<b>Donations</b>			
	Standing orders	2,805.00		
	One off donations	2,625.00		
		<b>5,430.00</b>		
	<b>Fundraising - merchandise</b>	179.00	1,546.86	
	<b>Net Interest BMM</b>	6.68		
	<b>Gift Aid</b>	932.18	41.66	
	<b>Stationery, printing, computer supplies</b>			
	Stationery		309.85	
	Photocopying		3.50	
			<b>313.35</b>	
	<b>Equipment</b>			
	Leisure Battery		89.99	
			<b>89.99</b>	
	<b>Telephone &amp; internet</b>			
	Web Site		4,952.14	
	<b>Admin Support - Travel</b>		46.50	
	<b>Insurance</b>		491.40	
	<b>Examiner Fee</b>		50.00	
	<b>AGM and Trustees meetings</b>		465.30	
	<b>Paypal adjs/fees</b>	0.36	0.54	
	(net 18p deducted from donations)			
<b>Total for period : 04/03/09-03/03/10</b>		<b>24,444.77</b>	<b>11,682.02</b>	<b>12,762.75</b>