

# Annual Report 2011



always planting ... always growing

## **From the Chair**

We are seeing another action-packed, fulfilling year in the life of Signs of God as you will read in the report of activities.

We welcome the fact that the Signs of God Board now has two Deaf trustees with considerable skill and connections within the Deaf Community. We also welcome the fact the Board - every trustee with unique skills - has maintained its integrity with effective action for another year in which our key objectives are achieved, again and again.

Signs of God acknowledges the increasing participation of the Deaf Christian Community within a range of diverse Church & Christian events - local, regional, national and international. Through choices of accessing mainstream and/or Deaf-only events, Signs of God has seen demand of its Christian Interpreters' Network growing to enable more parity for Deaf people involved in church & Christian occasions.

When we look at the statistics in the Report, the ripple benefits - within each participant of our workshops and each Deaf person accessing via BSL - have reached significantly higher numbers of people.

We have seen constant high levels of 'new faces' joining our workshops, increasing commitment to the University of Chester Church Colleges' Certificate in Ministry, and increased collaboration with Go Sign and Deaf Anglicans Together in updating the Sign Me In! Policy Document. We are thankful towards everyone in those endeavours.

Our website is an important access point and tool for all who wish to know about our work or participate in it.

Last year we looked at the metaphor of Signs of God as an Oak Tree, and it is so true as we pass through another twelve months. Most of us in the CIN have achieved professional status as BSL interpreters and Registered Interpreters, with a number currently in training positions. We have seen Deaf Christians and Deaf Christian leaders develop in assured confidence; therefore in both areas, seeds have become little oaks, little oaks flourish into mature oaks, seeds grow and fall into fertile soil... the cycle continues.

We look forward to witnessing another fulfilling year, and we thank God for His constant watching over all we do.

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 2012

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

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 2011**

### **Charity Development**

At our Annual General Meeting in June 2011 we were pleased to welcome Janice Silo to the Board of Trustees

The trustees have met formally twice this year and had one meeting via email as well as keeping in regular contact via email.

### **Workshops**

Workshops took place in:

Margate

Derby

Colchester

London

These were all well attended and appreciated by a wide range of people.

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

A new workshop was pioneered this year in Derby – a full day, slightly longer than usual, on BSL storytelling. This was very successful and may be repeated in other locations in the future.

### **Professional Training**

We ran professional training for interpreters in London and Belfast covering the subjects of Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms. These training days are always well attended and appreciated by professional interpreters working in the community

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

We were pleased that 7 out of 8 students successfully completed the Church Colleges' certificate in Ministry and were awarded their certificates by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Chester. One student was awarded a certificate of attendance from the Committee for Ministry of and Among Deaf and Disabled People (Church of England)

### **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. 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.

### **Support and information**

We are grateful to all those who support Signs of God both financially and with volunteer support and interest. We took the decision, this year, to inform our supporters that we would prefer to communicate with them via email and regretted that we were no longer able to communicate via post, except in specific circumstances. We retained postal communication for those who specifically requested it because they have no access to email.

The website enables us to send newsletters out regularly so keeping our supporters up to date with what is happening. We are also able to target information geographically, for example, to inform people about training opportunities.

We exhibited on a shared stall with Go! Sign at the Christian Resources Exhibition and at the "Deaf Day" at City Lit in London. WE were also represented at the BSL Consortium Day run by the British Deaf Association DA in London.

### **Sign Me In! Policy Document**

We have worked in partnership with Go! Sign and Deaf Anglicans Together to completely revise the Sign Me In! Policy Document aimed at churches trying to include Deaf people in the life of the church. This will be published both electronically and in printed form.

## **Summary of achievements**

1 new Trustee joined the Board of Trustees in order to share the workload

Approximately 250 of the general public attended Signs of God Workshops during the year.

Approximately 30 professional BSL/English interpreters attended professional training days in London and Belfast

The Christian Interpreters Network stands at 193 members of which 103 are trained interpreters.

Christian events interpreted by Signs of God teams enabled Deaf people to attend and access events of their choosing. Approximately 95 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.

Information about Signs of God was made available at the Christian Resources Exhibition (Esher) and "Deaf Day" (London) Signs of God was represented at the BSL Consortium Day (London)

Signs of God strengthened partnership working with Go! Sign and Deaf Anglicans Together (Sign Me In! Policy Document) and the University of Chester and the Church of England (Church Colleges' Certificate in Ministry).

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

In 2012/13 we have workshops planned for Ashtead, Huntingdon, Bournemouth, Chippenham and London.

We will be holding a Summer School during August 2012

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

The Church Colleges' Certificate hopes to recruit a new cohort for 2012/13

## **Finally**

As always, we give thanks to God for calling us all to share in the work of His Kingdom.



# Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts

Section A		Independent Examiner's Report	
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity Name SIGNS OF GOD		
On accounts for the year ended	030312	Charity no (if any)	1113882
Set out on pages	1-2. <small>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)</small>		
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,</li> <li>to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act), and</li> <li>to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</li> </ul>		
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.</p>		
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention (other than that disclosed below*):</p> <p>(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act;</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or</li> </ul> <p>(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p> <p>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</p>		
Signed	M. Corcoran	Date	10-8-12
Name	MEWVA CORCORAN		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any)	FCA		
Address	66 Pwllmelin Rd Cardiff CF5 2NH		

<b>Signs of God</b>	<b>Notes to the Accounts</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>
<b>Training</b>				
Derby Workshop		510.00	545.30 -	35.30
Rugby Workshop		321.40		321.40
Margate Workshop		322.45	65.10	257.35
Story Telling Workshop		525.00	419.00	106.00
London Workshop		1,135.00	759.12	375.88
Colchester Workshop		180.00	426.21 -	246.21
Bransgrove		165.00		
Chelmsford			40.00	40.00
CCCM Course		2,200.00	1,099.07	1,100.93
Summer School		14,040.00	1,904.00	12,136.00
Team Leaders Workshop			303.00 -	303.00
		<b>19,398.85</b>	<b>5,560.80</b>	<b>13,753.05</b>
<b>Donations</b>				
Standing orders		2,581.00		
One off donations		578.80		
Donated back gifts and expenses		60.00		
		<b>3,219.80</b>		
<b>Stationery, printing, computer supplies</b>				
Stationery			396.74	
Photocopying			29.85	
			<b>426.59</b>	
<b>Telephone &amp; internet</b>				
Website			443.75	
<b>Insurance</b>				
			457.92	
<b>Merchandise</b>				
DVDs		1,120.06	708.32	411.74
<b>AGM and Trustees meetings</b>			132.00	
<b>Representation and Interpreting</b>		943.80	1,215.55	
<b>Misc</b>				
Leisure Batteries			150.00	
AGM and Trustees meetings			100.00	
<b>Paypal Fees/Adj</b>		102.13	273.59	
HMRC		31.25		
Gift			100.00	
<b>Net Interest BMM</b>				
		7.30		
<b>Total for period : 04/03/11-03/03/12</b>		<b>25,202.19</b>	<b>9,861.64</b>	

Signs of God  
Accounts for the period 04/03/11 to 03/03/12  
charity number 1113882

<b>2010/11</b>		<b>2011/12</b>	
19,398.66	Balance bf Current account	9,892.04	
10,461.08	Balance bf BMM account	10,468.38	
	PayPal account	100.00	20,460.42
	<b>Incoming Resources</b>		
25,355.53	Workshops & Training	19,398.85	
1,054.50	Fundraising Merchandise	1,499.06	
3,144.30	Donations	3,219.80	
-	Representation and Interpretation	943.80	
7.30	Interest	7.30	
-	Gift Aid	31.25	
10.00	Adj Paypal Income	102.13	
19.12	Refunds		
<b>29,590.75</b>	<b>Total Income from 04/03/11</b>	<b>25,202.19</b>	
	<b>Expenditure</b>		
36,898.85	Workshops & Training	5,560.80	
161.94	Stationery, printing, computer supplies	426.59	
413.04	Merchandise	708.32	
207.80	AGM and Trustees meetings	232.00	
	Representation and Interpretation	1,215.55	
100.00	Examiner Fee	100.00	
453.60	Insurance	457.92	
542.50	Website	443.75	
26.00	Go Sign Exhibition	293.12	
17.98	Creditextra (refunded)		
10.00	Adj from Bank		
158.36	Paypal fees	273.59	
	<b>Assets</b>		
	Equipment	150.00	
<b>38,990.07</b>	<b>Total Expenditure from 04/03/11</b>	<b>9,861.64</b>	
<b>- 9,399.32</b>	<b>Balance during period</b>	<b>15,340.55</b>	
<b>100.00</b>	<b>Total Paypal account</b>	<b>100.00</b>	
<b>9,892.04</b>	<b>Total Current account</b>	<b>25,225.29</b>	
<b>10,468.38</b>	<b>Total BMM account</b>	<b>10,475.68</b>	