



Signs of God

*British Sign Language in Christian Settings
Training and Exploration*

**Welcome to our Summer 2026 Newsletter.
Please feel free to share with your church,
family, and friends**



Message from the Chair

What an amazing summer we are having now, the high temperatures, hardly any rain, farmers struggling and the discomfort we are experiencing in the extreme heat.

However, some of us may have found comfort in the coolness of our churches, in our homes with fans, closed curtains and blinds to keep out the heat.

In this edition, we will read about the AGM in July, and the June workshop at Bury St Edmunds – where people gathered, trying to keep cool whilst teaching and dealing with business! It is all rather uncomfortable, but the work carries on – the volunteers, interpreters, the Trustees, the Core Team continue to give their time and efforts to Signs of God throughout the Summer. I thank you all because without you, your support, your donations, and commitment to Signs of God, we would not be able to keep going.

This year we have faced racial unrest, war in Europe, and sharp increases in basic living costs. Anxiety levels have risen with every television news item and newspaper article reporting uncertainty and unrest throughout our part of the world, affecting each one of us.

I would like to encourage you all with 2 Corinthians 1:4:

**“He comforts us in all our troubles so
that we can comfort others”**

My love always,
Sarah Tupling,
Chair

Signs of God

signsofgod.org.uk
registered charity no.
1113882

Newsletter Highlights

- **Spring Harvest reflections**
- **New core team introductions**
- **AGM News**
- **Summer School and workshop updates**
- **30th anniversary memories appeal**

Signs of God Team at Spring Harvest

Tayo Igbintade

*Would you like to
submit an article for
the next newsletter?*

*Please email
editor@signsofgod.org
.uk*

Thanks

This year, I had the privilege of joining the Minehead team, a wonderful group of six led by Wendy Everingham. I invited everyone to share their reflections on what this experience meant to them, and I am delighted to share their heartfelt stories with you. In our last newsletter, we shared how Signs of God is passionate about supporting individuals, churches, and Christian organisations to find the right BSL interpreter for religious events, including conferences, courses and church services.

One of the highlights of our year is helping bring together teams of BSL interpreters for Spring Harvest, a vibrant all-age Christian conference that takes place over Easter. With two consecutive weeks, one in Skegness and one in Minehead, Spring Harvest is a time of renewal, worship and community.



**The team - Helen, Becci, Coralie,
Wendy, Tayo and Elise**

If you'd like us to help you source an interpreter or an interpreting team for your event such as conference/festival etc, please email interpreting@signsofgod.org.uk

Becci

“Wow! What a joy and an absolute privilege to serve among such skilled and committed interpreters at Minehead Spring Harvest 2026! Having served at Spring Harvest on youth teams and additional needs teams in previous years, I didn't quite know what to expect this time being part of the interpreting team.

As a very newly qualified interpreter, I felt nervous at first, but the support from the team and team leader meant I had no reason to worry. It was wonderful to worship with so many Deaf people and see God move amongst us; I left feeling encouraged, with new friendships, new confidence and just a little tired too!”

Coralie

“It was my first Spring Harvest and first time working an event of this size. The team were supportive and encouraging. It was nice to have some down time to get to know everyone better as well. I will definitely be back and hope to work with everyone again!”



**Team leader
Wendy Everingham**



**Two of the interpreting team with
various attendees**

Tayo

“It was a great privilege to serve with colleagues who are fellow believers, meet old friends, make new friends, and learn from each other. Everyone was very supportive, and each person brought different strengths.”

Wendy

“It was really great to serve the Lord in Minehead. The team worked hard to provide access to the Deaf guests. We were also in “the cupboard” interpreting on the livestream. This went out to people’s homes and prisons. It is good to show what accessibility looks like for other guests on site. I gave an interview on the livestream about how important access is for the Deaf Community and the important role Signs of God plays in this. It was a fun week - everyone worked very hard and went home tired but happy.”

Introducing core team members *Tayo Igbintade and Yvonne Selby*



Tayo Igbintade

I first found out about Signs of God in 2011 when I attended a workshop in London. I met Shaunett there and she told me all about Summer School. She did such a good job of sharing the benefits that I decided to sign up for it in 2012. I arrived and realised that I did not know a single person (apart from Paul Pryce-Jones who I had met at the same workshop). Unfortunately Shaunett was unable to attend due to work commitments.

Cont'd

I was extremely shy at the time, and found the experience overwhelming, but very valuable at the same time. I found myself returning time after time, having made so many friends and becoming part of the Signs of God family. I believe that Signs of God has helped me grow as a Christian and an interpreter, blending the call to serve all of God's children with the vocation of providing access to our Deaf peers to the resources of His kingdom.

A couple of years ago, Shaunett encouraged me to join the core team. Although I wasn't ready then, her support and encouragement never wavered. I am delighted to share that I accepted the invitation and am now responsible for the newsletter as the newshound. I am excited to become more involved in the work Signs of God does and to contribute to our shared mission.

- Did you know?

I'm a Star Trek fan – just The Original Series, The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine and Voyager. However, I do not like Star Wars!



Yvonne Selby

My name is Yvonne Selby. I have been a Christian since the age of 8 and have been blessed by being brought up in a Christian family. I still live in Derby, the city where I was born and brought up. I have always loved children, and although I have never had any of my own, I have cared for them in many ways as an auntie, godmother, Compassion sponsor, Teacher of the Deaf, and foster carer.

My cousin, one of my godchildren, was diagnosed deaf at the age of three, and that is what started me learning BSL. I am currently studying for my Level 6 qualification with the aim of better serving the lovely Deaf community we have at my church, most of whom are Ukrainian.

Cont'd

My interests include crocheting, cross stitch, playing the piano and gardening. However, along with fostering, work, my course and signing at church, these all came to an abrupt halt recently when I fell and broke my wrist. It has been a challenging year, but I am grateful to God for all His provision through difficult times. I have been especially blessed by good Christian friends and church family who have prayed for and supported me through a challenging foster placement and, at times, an overwhelming number of responsibilities. As they say in Africa, God is good all the time, and all the time God is good — and that is His nature. Wow.

A couple of fun facts:

I love sheep and my sign name is sheep.

I am a world record breaker, as I took part in a challenge to get the most people together crocheting in one place at the same time. You can get my autograph when you see me!

The Wintershall Passion Play at Trafalgar Square ***Mandy Buddle***

I wanted to become a BSL interpreter so Deaf people could access the good news of Jesus as fully as hearing people. I had seen the Wintershall Passion Play in Trafalgar Square years earlier and remembered the interpreters doing an amazing job, so when the call came for volunteers this year, shortly after I qualified as an RSLI, I knew I wanted to help.

The script felt daunting at first, but previous teams had divided it into workable sections. Four of us volunteered and worked in pairs across the two performances, which made preparation manageable and reassuring. Working alongside experienced RSLIs was invaluable. We prepared carefully, asked questions, clarified difficult sections, and were briefed on how the performance and interpreting arrangements would work. When we arrived at Trafalgar Square, the square was already filling with people waiting for the production. Some clearly knew what was coming, while others paused out of curiosity to see what was happening. A section of steps had been cordoned off for people who needed to see the interpreters, and we had to protect the space as the crowd grew. Several Deaf people were already waiting, and others joined us before the play began.

The play brought the story vividly to life, from Palm Sunday through Gethsemane, the trial, Crucifixion, and resurrection. Interpreting these scenes was challenging because we needed to reflect both the emotion of the performance and the reverence of the story, while managing our own responses.

It was a joy and privilege to be part of the interpreting team, and I pray the audience was inspired, challenged, or comforted as each person needed. Sadly, this was Wintershall's last Passion Play at Trafalgar Square because of production costs, although performances may continue at Wintershall Estate. If the opportunity came again, I would gladly volunteer.



Mandy Buddle



**Beatrice Osborn interpreting
The Wintershall Passion Play**



The Passion Play - live action

Signs of God in the Book of Wow

Signs of God is very grateful to Spring Harvest for including us in their free resource 'Book of Wow', created to equip and inspire local churches to bring the 'wow' to their local communities. You can access it here

[Book of Wow](#)

Signs of God AGM – Saturday 18th July 2026

Judith Hillary

Thank you to our Core Team members who had been in touch, attended in person or via Zoom, for their continued support and encouragements.

We enjoyed fellowship over shared lunch to then present on the past reporting year (March 2025-2026). It is good to have opportunities to ask questions and to hear about the things which are not always in Newsletters.

Beatrice Osborn stood down as Treasurer but remains an active trustee and we thank her for all the work she put in over the past year.

Paul Pryce-Jones chose not to stand for re-election as trustee and thankfully he has decided to remain a part of our Core Team; we value his skill and knowledge to continue to benefit our ministry.

Susan Myatt was appointed as trustee. We welcome Susan back as trustee and she will be the new Treasurer. She brings a lot of lived experience and knowledge not only in biblical understanding, BSL language and Deaf culture but also from being the Treasurer of another organisation(s).

Let us pray for one another as we continue to seek where and how God calls each of us to serve.

Then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2:2



Susan Myatt - returning trustee

Reflections from the AGM

Lyn Kirwan



Lyn Kirwan

At our AGM on Saturday 18 July, members joined both in person and online to hear Sarah Tupling review an encouraging year of workshops, interpreter bookings, and Summer School. The Scotland workshop was a particular highlight, with Deaf members in the majority for a welcome change.

Two more workshops are planned this year — 10 October in Carmarthen and 17 October in Newcastle and others — so please share the details from <https://signsofgod.org.uk/events> with anyone nearby. Deaf members interested in teaching can shadow or co-work with experienced tutors while they build confidence, and two Deaf tutors are also developing training for future tutor-team members.

I was also reminded that Signs of God still offers professional workshops alongside the general workshops. These can support interpreters and other professionals with religious and Deaf awareness training, including terminology, use of interpreting skills in church settings, resources, weddings, and baptisms. A full-day workshop can be arranged for around 10 people, which makes it a valuable and affordable training opportunity. Please contact admin@signsofgod.org.uk for more information.

Dawn Lynch spoke about team monitoring and peer feedback offered to interpreters at Signs of God events. Although being observed can feel daunting, it is a valuable way to develop, especially for interpreters who often work alone and rarely receive feedback. If you are an RSLI or TSLI and are not yet part of CIN, please consider joining and serving on an event team; it can be challenging, affirming and great fun.



Here are some tips for saving towards the cost:

- If you regularly interpret church services, consider asking your church to contribute towards this as a training opportunity or as thanks for your ministry.*
- Regularly put aside £10, £20 or £50 a month — it is surprising how quickly it adds up.*
- Consider sponsored activities to raise support.*
- Consider applying to the bursary fund which is now open.*

Bookings for Summer School 2027 opened on 1 August 2026. The non-refundable deposit is £150 and, due to changes at The Hayes, a second non-refundable deposit of £150 will be due by 1 February 2027.

You can pay the balance in instalments, and a bursary scheme is available to help those who may need financial support.

Many Summer School 2025 attendees were blessed by generous donations to the bursary fund. Please consider donating so that people who may not otherwise be able to attend can come and be blessed at Summer School 2027.

Please note the dates:

16-22 August 2027,

The Hayes Christian Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Alfreton, DE55 1AU

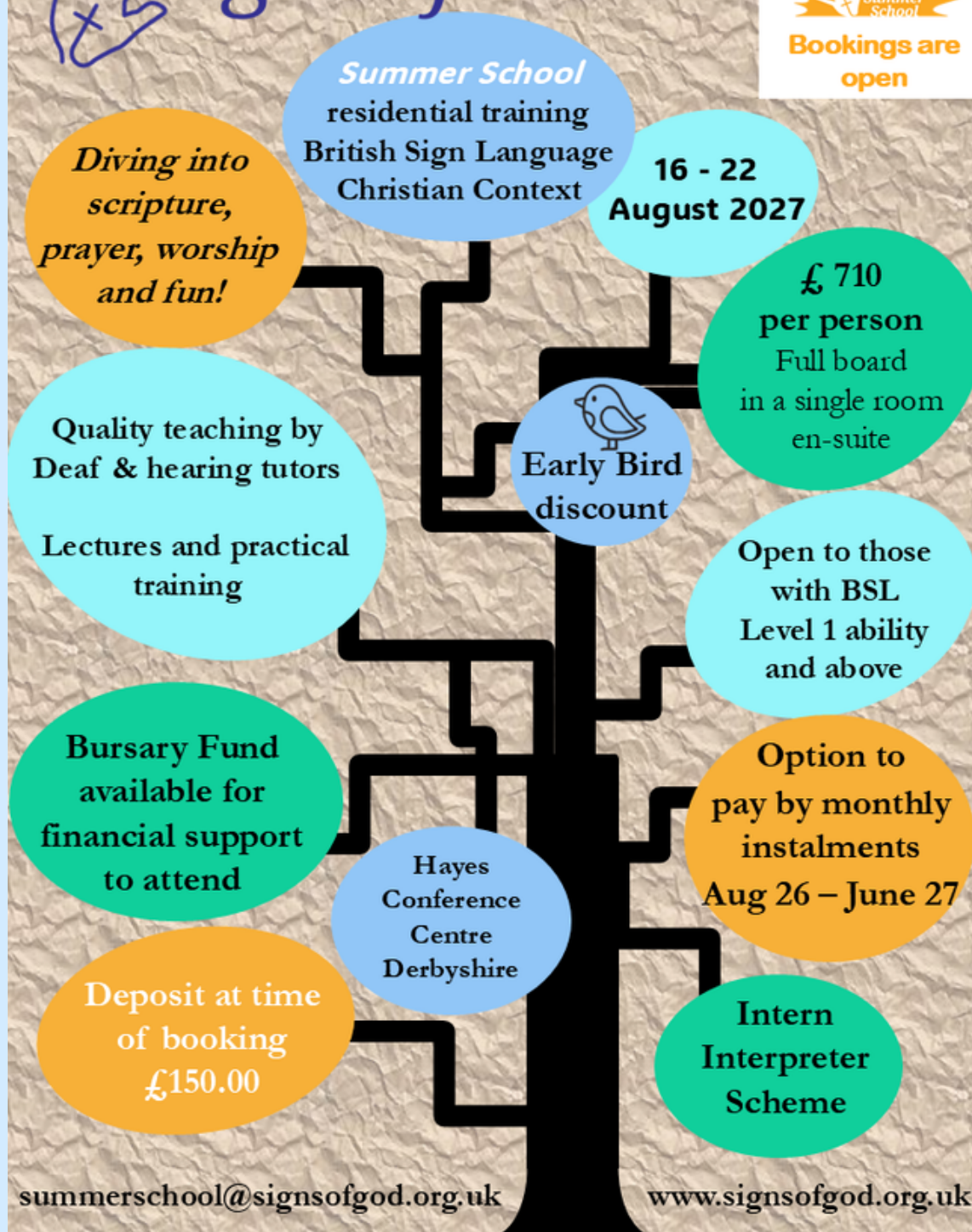
Donate to the bursary fund:

<https://www.signsofgod.org.uk/merchandise>

Signs of God



Bookings are open



I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

[Tickets here](#)

Bury St Edmunds Workshop 20th June 2026

Wendy Everingham

Hi, this is Wendy Everingham, Workshop Coordinator for Signs of God. If you have emailed about a workshop since August 2025, I will probably have been the person replying.

Organising a workshop takes time and brings frustrations, but the feedback afterwards makes it worthwhile. The Signs of God team works hard, and participants leave having learned something new and refreshed their love for BSL.

I went to the Bury St Edmunds workshop to observe how everything worked on the ground, wearing my coordinator hat rather than attending as a participant. It was a lovely town to visit, and after staying nearby the night before, I had only a short drive to the venue.

The venue was an old Victorian-style school with several rooms, and the team was already setting up breakout spaces and sorting the technology when I arrived. It became a very warm day, so water jugs quickly became more important than the urn!



Participants at the Bury St Edmunds workshop



Participants showing what they have learned

I welcomed participants by the main door beside the Signs of God banner. People arrived with real enthusiasm, including one participant who had missed the previous workshop after her car broke down, reminding us how far people travel because Christian BSL teaching is still scarce.

After introductory sessions, everyone split into groups according to skill level. Interpreters are always available, so even those with limited BSL experience can take part in a supportive learning environment.

There was plenty of energy in the rooms — Group C were laughing so much that Group B had to close their door, even though it was warm.

The day ended with a session on Deaf people's experience in church, followed by each group sharing what they had learned. In just a few hours, everyone's confidence had grown, and it was lovely to see everyone take part.

I came away with useful lessons for future workshops, including the need to bring Blu Tack and to have two people available for admin and unexpected issues. It was a worthwhile visit to Suffolk and a helpful look behind the scenes of a workshop. If you would like to host one, please contact workshops@signsofgod.org.uk. Core Team members who have not volunteered recently are warmly encouraged to consider joining a future team; the more volunteers we have, the more workshops we can offer.

Wendy Everingham

Christian Interpreting Network

Judith Hillary

The Christian Interpreters' Network continues to connect churches, Christian organisations, and individuals with BSL interpreters and Deaf Translators for Sunday services, conferences, training, baptisms, weddings, funerals, webinars, and many other events. We are grateful to everyone for their willingness to serve in this way, making Christian events more accessible to Deaf people across the UK.

This year we have been able to successfully cover many requests that arrived at very short notice — a testament to the generosity and flexibility of our network. At the same time, as demand continues to grow, we are finding it increasingly difficult to source full interpreting teams for some of the larger conferences and festivals coming up.

We would love to welcome more qualified interpreters, regulated trainees, Deaf Translators and BSL Level 6 signers with experience in Christian settings. If you meet the joining criteria and are interested, I encourage you to join the network via our online form: [click here](#)

Thank you to everyone who continues to respond to requests throughout the year. Your commitment, professionalism and willingness to serve help make Christian events more accessible to Deaf people across the UK.

If you have any questions or would like to know more about joining the Christian Interpreters' Network please email me at interpreting@signsofgod.org.uk

Signs of God at 30!

Were you there?

Gill Behenna

What are your memories of Signs of God over the years?

- Did you ever attend one of the residential workshops at Boar's Hill in Oxfordshire? (1997-2003)
- Were you there at our first Summer School in Exeter in 1998?
- Did anything amazing happen to you during a Signs of God event? (Did you meet the love of your life?)
- Did you come to a Signs of God Deaf Space event?
- Did you serve on an interpreting team during the Easter or Summer holidays?

Next year, in 2027, Signs of God will be 30 years old. We want to make sure our whole history is complete and documented, so please send us your stories and photos. Let's write our history together!

You can email Gill Behenna g.behenna@signsofgod.org.uk or send a video in BSL by email or WhatsApp: 07715707135

We are especially looking for photos of early events 1997-2003 and it would be helpful to have the names of people in any photos you send so we can ask for permission to use them.

If you have any newsletters from before 2003, please scan them and send them.

Thank you.

