



# Signs of God

Welcome to our first edition of 2026. We aim to send out up to three newsletters each year. Please feel free to share with your church, family, and friends.

**“The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace”  
Psalm 29:11**

## Message from the Chair



As I look out of the window it is raining, the sky is overcast with grey clouds, and my thoughts go towards what is there to look forward to? I have just been out to do my shopping and was greeted with daffodils for sale in the shop! Of course, Spring is

round the corner and this reminded me of how every year Spring brings the promise of something new. Young, green shoots of life start to grow. The gloomy skies begin to break as the sun burns through again. Warmth begins to return to a cold world. The world is starting to yawn into life after its long winter rest. It is the season of transformation!

A reminder to us all that our God is amazing, awesome and good. He is ever present always and this can only make us ‘shine’! As we set our gaze on Jesus, we find ourselves renewed and fortified by our Good Shepherd. He will walk each step of the road with us, no matter what twists and turns await, leading us all the way to that final transformation when we will joyfully join Him in His glory forever.

It is a few months now since we had our Summer School. Already the trustees are busy planning Summer School, 2027. We have now booked and look forward to being together again with you all for a time of fellowship, friendship, learning, worship, fun, laughter and prayer.

Workshops are to be planned this year both face-to-face and on-line – watch this space! Our work continues and it is with thanks to you all for your support, donations as well as prayers that we can move forward with our work.

Sarah Tupling, Chair

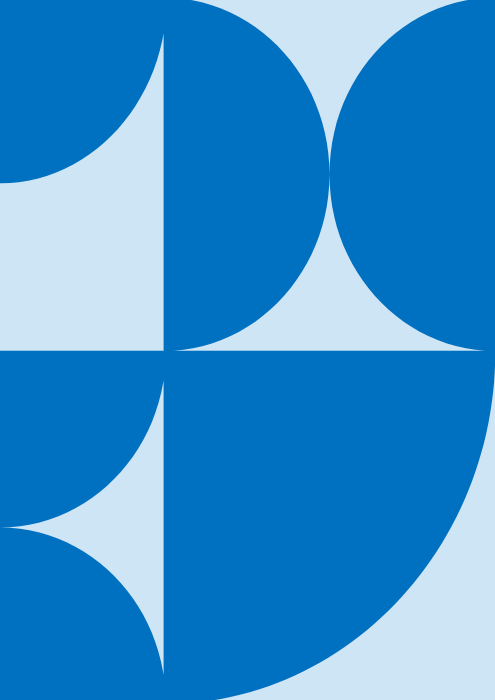
### Signs of God

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signsofgod.org.uk  
registered charity no  
1113882

### Newsletter

### Highlights

- AGM Update
- Team Updates
- CIN News
- Summer School round up
- Workshop news
- STOP PRESS announcement



# Annual General Meeting Update

During the Signs of God AGM on 18 August 2025 at the Hayes Christian Conference Centre in Derbyshire, the following announcements were made:

Hannah Robinson has stepped down as Trustee/treasurer. Hannah has been a trustee for 9 years and has been invaluable during her time with us. She has done so much including – Intern Coordinator for Summer School, Treasurer, Tutor and so much more. We appreciate her time, dedication and contribution to Signs of God. Hannah remains a member of the Core Team.



## Team changes

Mark Peel and Beatrice Osborn have been elected as trustees. We are grateful for them and look forward to everything they bring to Signs of God in their new roles. We are excited to welcome Yvonne Selby and Omotayo Igbintade as new Core Team members. Yvonne will be bringing her financial expertise to work with Beatrice to support the trustees with the budget and accounts, and Tayo will be taking on the Newshound role as editor supporting with the Newsletter. A huge welcome to all.



As Tayo and Yvonne join the Core Team, we would like to thank: *Catherine Moxon, Bob Shrine and Catherine Carlyon* who are stepping down. They have given so much to the work of Signs of God. We send them our heartfelt thanks, and may the Lord bless them in all that they do.

## Bursary Fund

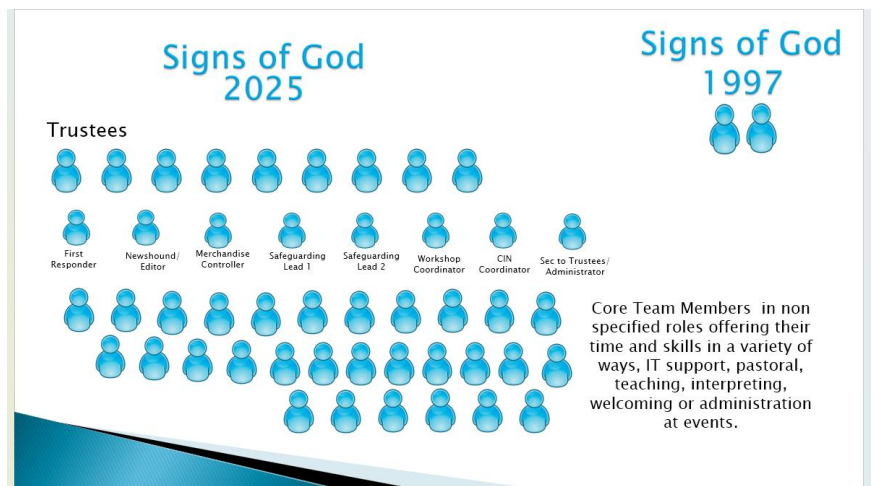
Huge thanks to all who made donations to the Summer School Bursary Fund last year. Your generosity meant that 20 participants received part or full bursary support.

### Thank you!

If you would like to make a donation to the bursary fund, you can. Please email [treasurer@signsofgod.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@signsofgod.org.uk) for more details.

Please see our new Core Team visual on the next page:





## Christian Interpreter Network (CIN) by Judith Hillary

As part of Signs of God, we offer to support individuals, churches and Christian organisations who are looking for a BSL Interpreter for religious related events. This can be for those all-important life events, conferences, courses, church services etc.

As 2025 has come to an end and we start 2026, we would like to thank all our CIN members for being part of the network. Thank you for when you respond to emails, especially those for baptisms, weddings and funerals. We know that those who request your services really appreciate this and we do too, thank you. We also thank all the wonderful members providing access for events such as Greenbelt, Spring Harvest, New Wine, Awaken, Focus, Passion of Christ and Creation Fest as well as those covering conferences, courses and other meetings. We are pleased to see more churches looking to make their Sunday services more accessible. This can be difficult as interpreters need to balance serving with having personal time to worship. I am reminded of Jesus' interaction with Mary and Martha in Luke 10.

Our network has not grown much over the past few years but covering so many more requests. It would be great to have more experienced BSL level 6, qualified and trainee interpreters, as well as Deaf translators join our network to support the many requests we receive throughout the year. You can find more information and a link to register on our website:

<https://www.signsofgod.org.uk/cin-info>

Signs of God do not expect interpreters to provide services for free or at a reduced fee; this is at their discretion. Financial arrangements are entirely between the interpreters and those making the request.

Once again, a massive thank you and if you have any questions, please contact me at [interpreting@signsofgod.org.uk](mailto:interpreting@signsofgod.org.uk)

# Introducing new trustees



## **Beatrice Osborn**

My first experience of Signs of God was Summer School 2008. I was part way through Level 2 BSL, and I went on my own, so it was a bit 'in at the deep end'. But I've returned to every Summer School since and every time I learn, about God, sign language and myself. I also attend and support day workshops.

I started interpreter training in January 2018 so was asked to join the intern team interpreting at Summer School that year. I was invited to join the Core Team at the AGM in 2022. I qualified as an interpreter in October 2023. Then in June 2025 I was asked if I would consider becoming a Trustee and Treasurer. I am honoured, and not a little daunted, at taking on the role, especially after Hannah Robinson's amazing work, but had to take the opportunity to give back to such a wonderful organisation, which has taught me and supported me so much. I would not have taken it on without Yvonne Selby also agreeing to be the bookkeeper – she keeps all day-to-day banking and reporting going. I shouldn't be surprised really that God gives me roles and skills which, as life continues, equip me for what He has next for me to do.

I love the hymn "Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I go" by Charles Wesley. Verse 2 reads:

The task Thy wisdom hath assigned,  
O let me cheerfully fulfil;  
In all my works Thy presence find,  
And prove Thy good and perfect will.



## **Mark Peel**

I regularly speak at various deaf churches in the Southwest; I regularly go to Riverside Church in Exeter, as well Torquay Deaf Church.

Earlier this year I was asked to be part of the trustee team. Janice Silo asked me a few years ago, and I held off responding till I had a better idea of what Signs of God was about. I am glad to say, that after being more involved as a core team member with workshops, and monitoring/supporting interpreting teams at Spring Harvest, I agreed to being more involved.

I look forward to working with a great team of dedicated people to promote BSL within Christian settings and seeing an increasing number of deaf people being able to be actively part of the wider Christian community, after all, we have good news to shout/wave about!! 🙌

## **Core Team**

Current Core Team numbers: 46

Core Team members can nominate people to join. A vote would take place at the next AGM, Sat 18 July 2026. Core Team, keep an eye on your email inbox for details in due course.

# Summer School 2025



The Signs of God Summer School biennial event was held in the Hayes Conference Centre, Derbyshire, from Friday 15th August to Wednesday 20th August 2025. As usual we had an

eventful time packed with BSL learning, studying, equipping for Christian walk with God, fun, and fellowship. Deaf and hearing people from all walks of life, different levels of BSL skills, but all interested in learning more about BSL and the church, enjoying practical workshops to improve their BSL skills. Summer School is more than a course or CPD opportunities. It's a community of people with a common purpose – breaking down barriers to deaf people accessing church life.

Regular attendees and first timers all bonded together over the lectures, meals, workshops and services, supporting each other with signing prayers, songs, Bible readings and lectures. There were opportunities to relax, reflect and as always, the entertainment was fantastic, with even the interns joining in.

## Feedback/testimonies

“This year was my first time attending Summer School, and it was an incredibly enriching experience. I gained valuable knowledge, improved my signing skills, built my confidence, and learned so much about myself along the way. I found it a valuable and also deeply emotional experience. I also had the pleasure of meeting the most wonderful people. I will definitely be returning.”

“My first experience at summer school was really good. It has helped to improve my signing, met some really lovely people along the way, and God-willing, look forward to the next one and to see where the Lord takes me on this incredible journey.”

**Details for the  
Summer School 2027  
coming up...**

Keep reading...



# Summer School 2025

## Feedback/testimonies cont'd

“So grateful for summer school, such a safe environment God has provided for each of us to learn and practice our skills; I have come away with valuable knowledge - so a massive thank you to the teachers, lecturers, interpreters, and interns”



“As a newly qualified interpreter I came to Summer School to consolidate all my learning from my course. I hoped to gain confidence in my ability as a newly qualified practitioner without the pressure of assessments. Summer School did not disappoint! I was part of a supportive learning group where all our session tutors each brought a different aspect for us to consider and have the opportunity to put into practice thinking about the Deaf Way of signing and encouraging, exploring more visual BSL ways. Not only were these thought provoking, challenging and informative they were enormous fun too!”

“Opportunities to 'work' through the week as an intern were great opportunities too for receiving feedback given in ways that were affirming yet instructive.

I particularly enjoyed preparing for and interpreting Alison Grey's lecture on exploring the translation from Hebrew into BSL the word 'visit'. I learnt so much. It was a real challenge to interpret but one I really enjoyed.

Thank you to everyone for a thoroughly enjoyable and informative week!”

## Workshops 2025

As you know, Signs of God exists to promote British Sign Language in Christian settings, and we organise Workshops for that very purpose. We regularly receive requests and glowing feedback from the workshops we deliver; a day of BSL learning, worship, fun and friendship for a wide range of people - Deaf and hearing. We recently held 2 workshops: one in person in Glasgow in November 2025, and two online in December 2025.

## Glasgow Workshop Nov 2025

The Glasgow workshop was the first we delivered in Scotland for a long while and it was worth the wait. The participants had varying levels of BSL - from beginners to Deaf people and qualified

...cont'd

## Would you like a workshop in your area?

Please email [workshops@signsofgod.org.uk](mailto:workshops@signsofgod.org.uk) for more info



*Participants at the Glasgow Workshop*

**...cont'd**

interpreters. Unfortunately, the day before the workshop, one of our tutors dropped out due to unforeseen circumstances, but the remaining tutors regrouped, changed things around and made it work. The 3 groups had a session with each tutor and ended the day with each signing a Christmas song/carol and giving their feedback on the day.

Participants praised the supportive, encouraging, and positive atmosphere. The training content was described as "excellent," "fun," and "brilliant". People enjoyed having different teachers for each session to experience various styles. The use of three different but linked workshop levels was also well-received. Comments were made about the practical nature of the learning for example translation of songs and hymns.

We want to extend thanks to Baillieston Community Church for hosting the event and giving everyone a warm welcome. Lots of the participants wanted to stay in touch and develop a network across Scotland for those with a heart for the Christian Deaf Community in that part of the UK so that people would feel supported in their faith journey.

**Feedback received:**

"I just wanted to send a wee email of thanks for the workshop this past weekend in Glasgow. It was such an encouraging, fun day and I learned a lot. Importantly, I felt pointed to Jesus. The leaders and everyone involved in organising and running the day were brilliant. Also, the host church did a great job of welcome and keeping us full of lovely refreshments."

"Thank you for such a great day."

# Online Workshop Dec 2025



We hosted two on-line workshops with a Christmas theme in early December 2025. These were so popular they filled up very quickly.

Both workshops had the same content. Participants found the tutors to be knowledgeable and lovely, with specific praise for useful tips on visual BSL, and the session on 3D picture description. Everyone enjoyed the learning opportunities embedded in prayer and worship. There were technical challenges to the day, which created learning points for next time!

We plan to run an online workshop on the theme of Easter. We are also considering different sessions for separate levels of BSL as this could work better for participants. So, watch this space!!

If you would like a face-to-face workshop in your area, then please get in touch with our workshop coordinator Wendy Everingham. Email [workshops@signsofgod.org.uk](mailto:workshops@signsofgod.org.uk).

## STOP PRESS!

### Summer School 2027

At the end of Summer School 2025, we announced the dates and a change of venue for 2027. Well, we have recently secured, and once again booked The Hayes Christian Conference Centre, hoorah!



Please mark your diary –  
**16-22 August 2027,**  
**The Hayes Christian Conference Centre,**  
**Swanwick, Alfreton, DE55 1AU**

We would like to share some tips on saving towards the cost:

- If you regularly interpret church services, consider asking them to donate towards this as a training opportunity, or as a thanks for your ministry for them.
- Regularly put aside £10/£20/£50 a month, it's surprising how quickly it adds up!
- Sponsored activities
- Put aside the cost of x2 cups of coffee from your favourite coffee shop every week... (controversial...? ☺)
- Consider applying to the bursary fund when applications open