

Highlights from 2025 – 2026

From the Chair:

What an amazing 12 months we've had; it fills me with joy as I remember the busy but wonderful Summer School. We have seen various role changes, and we said goodbye to Hannah Robinson as our Treasurer. We welcomed new Trustees, Mark Peel and Beatrice Osborn, and were delighted to have Yvonne Selby and Tayo Igbintade join the Core Team. Both willing to take on specific roles within the organisation. Wendy Everingham took over as Workshop coordinator and has been very busy arranging lots of in-person events, you can read about all this and more in our Newsletters.

The past year has brought significant changes, challenges, and blessings, yet through it all we have witnessed God's provision and grace. We rejoice in all that the Lord has accomplished during this past year and eagerly anticipate what He has planned.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Teamwork fosters growth, accountability, and mutual improvement. Proverbs 27:17

Sarah Tupling
Chair, Signs of God

Volunteers

Signs of God is so grateful to all its volunteers as we serve together in this ministry. The charity does not have any employed staff; all activities and governance are carried out by volunteers (both Core Team Members and non-members). Volunteers are sought for specific roles and tasks as the need arises; roles are usually held for a minimum period of two years although some for longer. We look to build capacity in the organisation as well as enable volunteers to hand over tasks should they need to step back.

Over the reporting year volunteers have supported in a variety of ways such as planning events, reviewing policies, website maintenance and data processing, technical support, advisory roles, contributing to and editing the Autumn newsletter, being part of teams for workshops, respond to enquiries, deal with merchandise purchases, social media presence, and administration.

Governance

The Trustees and Secretary to the Trustees (Administrator) held regular meetings either in-person or online to discuss governance and planned charitable activities.

Signs of God is an Associate Member of Churches for All and represented by a member of the Core Team at their meetings.

Signs of God is a member of and represented by a Trustee at BSL Alliance meetings.

The Annual General Meeting took place during Summer School on Monday 18 August 2025. The first part of the meeting was open to visiting students providing an opportunity to hear more about the work of Signs of God. This was a hybrid meeting enabling Core team members the option to attend either in person or online.

Lucy Dunhill stood down as Workshop coordinator and Wendy Everingham took on this role.
Tayo Igbinde took on the role of News editor.
Yvonne Selby took on the role of Bookkeeper.

The current number of core team members is 46 (nine of the Core Team are also trustees).

Summary of what we have been doing

- Approximately 88 members of the public attended Signs of God workshops.
- The Christian Interpreters' Network (CIN) received and responded to approximately 150 requests amounting to over 215 interpreting places.
- Volunteers wrote and emailed occasional Brief News updates, prayer requests, and greeting cards to those subscribed to the mailing list, giving details of events and articles to engage those having shown an interest in the work of the charity.
- Funds were rewarded to a further 17 applicants of the Bursary Scheme enabling them to attend Summer School residential in August 2025.
- Monitoring of interpreting teams at Christian conferences took place. This is to offer support, observe, and gather feedback from Deaf delegates and event organisers.
- Summer School 2025 saw approximately 100 people of all walks of life come together to learn and grow and create new friendships.
- Autumn newsletter was produced and links emailed to our general mailing list (approx. 1000 people and/or organisations).

Workshops

Signs of God held three workshops which were attended by approximately 88 members of the public. Our in-person workshop took place in Glasgow, Scotland which had 39 members of the public attend, and this was our very first all Deaf tutor team. Two further workshops were held online. They were a great success with positive feedback.

Some participants had no previous knowledge of sign language and/or were new to the Deaf community. Being open to this group of people not only offers an introduction to sign language and its culture but it increases further awareness amongst members of the public of the specific issues faced by Deaf people in accessing religious services and events.

You can contact the Workshop Coordinator by emailing workshops@signsofgod.org.uk

Summer School

A Summer School residential training week was successfully held and saw over 100 people come together to learn about Deaf history, culture, biblical understanding, sign language, church history, and much more. Six visiting lecturers presented on interesting and varied Deaf and other related topics. The staff team consisted of 16 people teaching on a variety of themes and topics relating to sign language, church, faith and Deaf community or providing pastoral or admin support.

The Bursary Fund scheme benefits members of the public who, due to financial hardship, may otherwise not be able to attend a training event. During the reporting year, funds were awarded to a further 17 applicants (20 in total), making their attendance at Summer School 2025 possible.

During Summer School we had 13 people join the intern programme. While this provided full access for all attendees it also offered those in training (and trained interpreters) the opportunity to work together in this specialist domain. It offers valuable opportunities of co-working, with interns receiving constructive and structured feedback on their work from both tutors and peers.

Our training is available to all Christian denominations, as well as other faith groups or those with no faith connections. It also offers valuable opportunities of co-working; receive constructive and structured feedback on their work from both tutors and peers.

You can contact the Summer School Coordinator by emailing summerschool@signsofgod.org.uk

Christian Interpreters' Network (CIN)

CIN consists of approximately 243 people. It is a network (not an agency) of Deaf Translators, trained interpreters both qualified and trainees, and those with a high level of BSL (minimum Level 6) who can offer communication support. When available, they will respond to requests and liaise directly with requesters.

Sourcing interpreters for various Christian events and services is one of the main ways in which Signs of God seeks to benefit members of the public. Anyone can contact us to help source support in making an occasion or event inclusive for those who use British Sign Language. During the year we dealt with approximately 170 enquiries, amounting to over 280 interpreting places.

Opportunities to be part of a team offers a chance for peer feedback and is a great introduction for less experienced people. This can support their training, give them confidence and skills to offer communication support in other settings.

We helped source skilled interpreters to give access for Deaf people attending significant life events, vocational training, ministry placements, pastoral, church community and prayer meetings. This widened their ability to attend a range of faith-building activities and events of their choosing, both in person and using online platforms.

There is no charge by Signs of God for this service, and we do not get involved in financial arrangements. The interpreter may offer the support on a voluntary/reduced-fee basis, charge a fee and/or have travel reimbursed. Some organisations offer a fixed honorarium and accommodation.

Those who were part of a Signs of God interpreting team were offered the opportunity to give anonymous feedback, via an online survey. This is used to improve our practice in supporting those who offer their time and experience in this way. In turn this will help improve accessibility and inclusivity for future Deaf attendees of these types of events/conferences.

You can contact the network co-ordinator by emailing interpreting@signsofgod.org.uk.

Finance

The end of year accounts were signed off by the independent examiner. The Annual Report and Accounts will be available via the Signs of God website and the Charity Commission website following each AGM.

Signs of God gains funds from donations – individual donations currently stand at just below £455 per month including a regular donation to the Bursary Fund; funds are also received from occasional one-off donations.

The Bursary Scheme supported those who otherwise would have been unable to attend training events; it received regular donations as well as one-off donations. This financial year a total of £9,579.50 was awarded enabling a further 17 recipients to attend Summer School in August 2025 (one recipient could not attend).

Surplus from activities – Sometimes events result in a small surplus for the charity, the funds enable Signs of God to develop new work and training.

Fundraising – we have a small range of branded goods for sale that result in a small amount of funds. The purpose of such merchandise is mainly to publicise the Charity.

Charity expenditure supported the events and achievements as outlined above, all of which fall under the Charity's two objects. Consideration is given to each training activity to try to ensure that participants' fees cover all the costs of the event with a small surplus.

You can contact the Bookkeeper by emailing treasurer@signsofgod.org.uk

Thank you

Thank you to all who served during this time - organisers, welcomers, teachers, prayer partners, translators, lecturers, technical support, trainers, advisors, interpreters, faithful givers and all those who attended our events.

A heartfelt thank you for your continued support for this ministry, we very much value your prayers and giving in the many ways.

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance. Jude 1:2



Registered Charity: 1113882