

CTF Library Newsletter

May 2025



Welcome to the May issue of the CTF Library newsletter!

Welcome to another newsletter from sunny Cambridge. As we enjoy some spring sunshine, we send best wishes to all our students preparing for exams and assessments (and to all the staff setting and marking papers!)

Perhaps reflecting this hardworking mood, this month's acquisitions have a particular academic trend, from research skills and reflective practice to skills for Christian academic writing. As always, our new books range widely across the interests and specialisms of our members: women in the Orthodox tradition, the sacred architecture of Ely cathedral, neurodiversity in the church (p.2), 19th-century mission in southern Africa (p.5).

For more from the CTF community, we're highlighting some recent and forthcoming book launches and research celebrations (p.6). If you or your house are holding a book-related event that celebrates the CTF's vibrant research community, we'd love to hear about it!

Finally, you never know what you might find on the CTF shelves. Within the pages of a beautifully illustrated Victorian poetry book, the library team discovered pressed flowers and a birthday bookmark - traces of the life of a past reader preserved within the library (pp.3-4).

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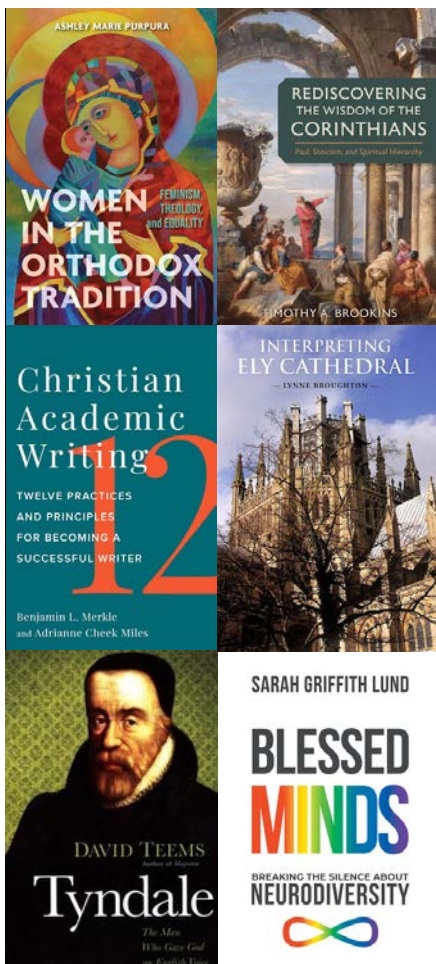
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Jane and Grace
The Library Team



What's new in CTF libraries?

Highlights from collections across the CTF.

- **IOCS:** Purpura, Ashley Marie, *Women in the Orthodox tradition : feminism, theology, and equality* (2025).
- **Ridley:** Brookins, Timothy A., *Rediscovering the Wisdom of the Corinthians* (2024).
- **Wesley:** Merkle, Benjamin L., *Christian academic writing : twelve practices and principles for becoming a successful writer* (2024).
- **Westfield:** Broughton, Lynne, *Interpreting Ely Cathedral* (2011).
- **Westfield:** Teems, David, *Tyndale : the man who gave God an English voice* (2012).
- **Westminster:** Lund, Sarah Griffith, *Blessed minds : breaking the silence about neurodiversity* (2025).

What's new in eDiscover?

Explore highlights from this month's new ebook acquisitions & many more on eDiscover.

- Gibson, William, *The Ashgate Research Companion to World Methodism* (2016).
- Greenman, Jeffrey P., *The Sermon on the Mount Through the Centuries: From the Early Church to John Paul II* (2007).
- Gubi, Peter Madsen, *Reflective Practice Groups for Clergy* (2021).
- Hancock, Dawson R., *Doing Case Study Research : a practical guide for beginning researchers* (2021).
- Kalantzis, George, *Evangelicals and the Early Church : recovery, reform, renewal* (2011).
- Marshall, Ellen Ott, *Though the Fig Tree Does Not Blossom: toward a responsible theology of Christian hope* (2015).

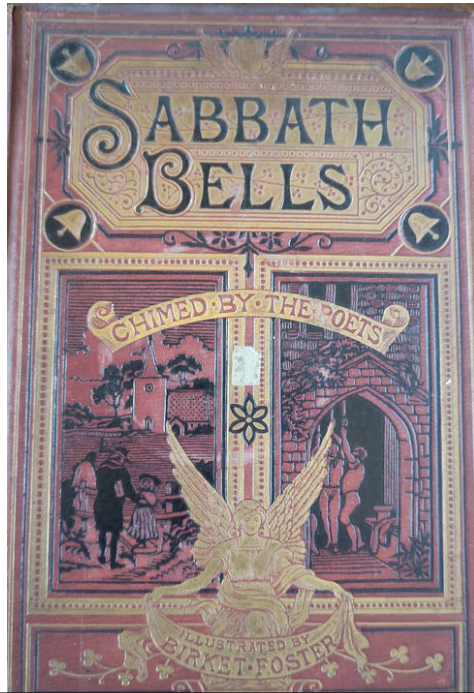


Spotlight: Elias Library of Hymnology

Sabbath Bells: Chimed by the Poets

By little brooks that, with a lapsing sound,
Like playful children, run by copse and lea!
Each in its little plot of holy ground,
How beautiful they stand,
Those old grey churches of our native land!

(L.E. [Letitia Elizabeth] Landon, p.19)

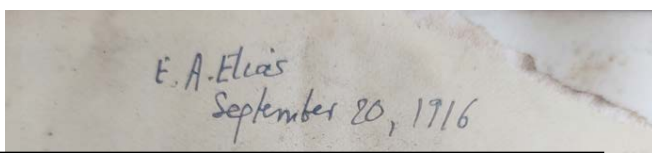


The distinctive binding of *Sabbath Bells*, EL910 SAB in Westminster College Library

This beautiful book is *Sabbath Bells: Chimed by the Poets*, an anthology of pastoral Christian poetry, illustrated by noted English watercolourist, Myles Birket Foster, and printed by wood-engraver Edmund Evans.

The original work was published in 1856, and we believe that this copy, the 'new edition' bound in distinctive red, was published around the turn of the century. The book was, as Ruari McLean noted in his exploration of Victorian book design, both extremely pretty and distinctly successful, seeing numerous reprints throughout the latter half of the nineteenth century.[1]

The owner of this copy — perhaps a missionary — may have been particularly elegiac toward the English church tradition. Inside, a short pamphlet published by the Society for Promoting the Due Observance of the Lord's-Day is marked with the library stamp of the Young Men's Christian Association of Brisbane, Queensland, which has been supporting local communities in the area since 1864.[2]

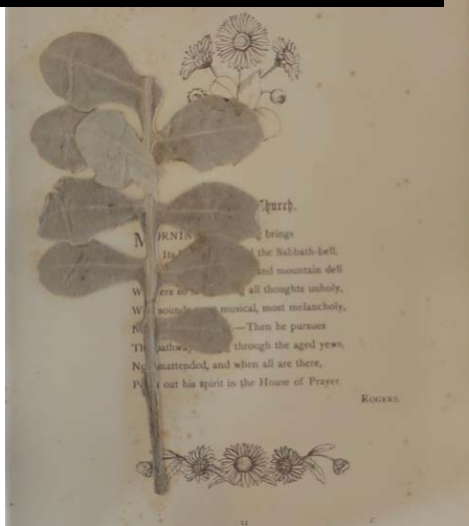


Signature of Edward Alfred Elias, noting the date this text was added to the collection.



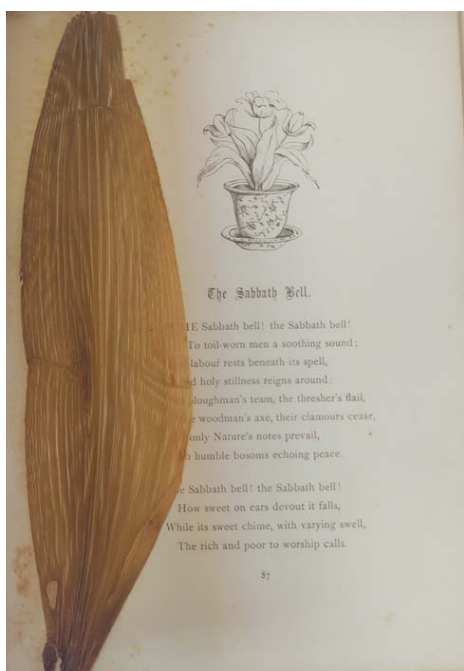
Pamphlet from the Society for Promoting the Due Observance of the Lord's Day

Pressed leaves inside *Sabbath Bells*.



In accordance with the rustic spirit of the poems, a previous owner has used the book to press flowers alongside the engravings they resemble. A clipping of a stem and leaves has been particularly well-preserved.

Though the library team urge our readers *not* to leave any botanical specimens in our books, items like these can emphasise the historicity of our special collections, and remind us of the lives our books lived before coming to the library!



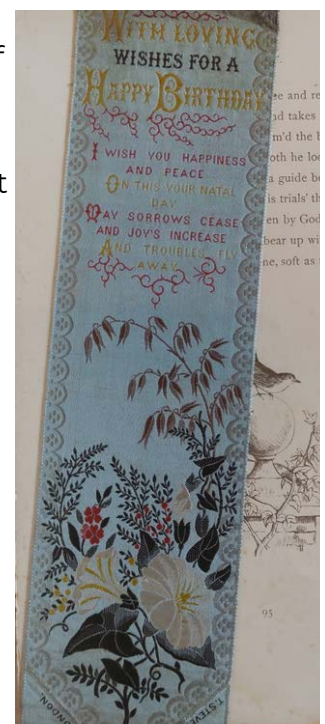
'Sunday Morning' by Myles Birket Foster



Inside, as above, illustrations of a sentimental, rural idylls are emblematic of the Victorian attitude to nature. Myles Birket Foster was said to be inspired by the countryside of Surrey and Hertfordshire.

A machine-embroidered birthday bookmark was also found: a typical keepsake of the period.

By Grace Collingwood



References:

- [1] McLean, Ruari, *Victorian Book Design & Colour Printing* (London: Faber & Faber, 1963), p.179.
- [2] The Y, 'Home', <<http://ymcaqueensland.org.au/>>



Janet W. Parsons here introduces the book collection that she recently gifted the CCCW library:

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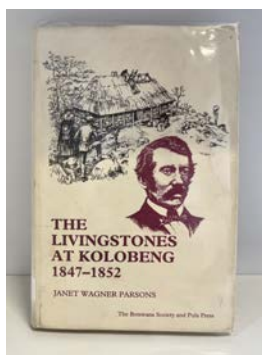
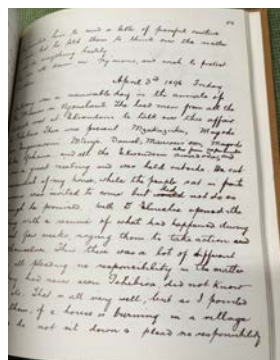
A central theme of the collection is mission endeavour in Southern Africa from the early 19th-century: Christian Missionary outreach from the Cape (Moffat of Kuruman and ‘The Travellers’, who chronicled their journeys and lent support to missions). Much of the collection relates to Nyasaland (Malawi) that became an early and dominant mission field, led by David Livingstone and Scots Presbyterians and followed by The Universities’ Mission (Anglican) and eventually Catholics.

Central to its value are items relating to the history of the Dutch Reformed Mission in Nyasaland, a significant presence that has received little study until recently. For researchers with an interest, the CCCW Archive holds the autobiography (in Dutch) of A.C. Murray, founder of the DRC mission in Nyasaland/Malawi: *Nyasaland en mijne ondervindingen aldaar* [Nyasaland and my Experiences There], as well as a handwritten translation into English of the memoir of that Mission’s co-founder, T.C.B. Vlok: *Elfjaren in Midden Afrika* [Eleven Years in Central Africa]. Also included are contemporary studies of Christianity and indigenous beliefs in Malawi.

Less related geographically are two studies of Botswana nationhood as well as reminiscences of participants in and descendants of The East African Revival in Uganda. Such disparate items in the collection reflect the donor’s interests and experiences as a resident – later, cross-cultural worker in mission – in four African nations in the Post-Missionary Era.

”

--- Janet W. Parsons, scholar, writer, cross-cultural worker in mission



If you wish to consult this collection, a list of the books given can be obtained from Ruth MacLean, the librarian. They are catalogued and ready for loan on the open shelves or on the STACKS shelves in the archives basement room, and they are all searchable on the university catalogue, iDiscover.

CTF Book Events

Book Launch:

Elizabeth Hewat: Historian, Missionary, Mould-Breaker, by Ian Randall

On Wednesday 14th May, MBIT and CCCW celebrated the launch of Ian Randall's new biography of Elizabeth Hewat (1895-1968).

Elizabeth Hewat was the first woman to graduate BD at New College, Edinburgh (1926), and to complete a PhD there (1934). She had five years of service in China and 20 years as Professor of History, Wilson College, Bombay (Mumbai). In 1966 she received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Edinburgh University, the first woman to do so. Her inspiration contributed to the ordination of women to the ministry in the Church of Scotland.

The event had a great turnout - see more photos [here](#), or borrow the book from Westminster BV2061 HEW RAN.

Upcoming Event:

Celebration of CTF publications, Westminster College, Friday 30th May, 5-6pm

Westminster College, Westcott House and Wesley House will host a CTF Research Day, co-sponsored by the Cheshunt Foundation. There is a session during the day for the celebration of recent CTF publications (articles, chapters, theses, books, or anything in-between). Even if you can't make it to the rest of the day, you would be most welcome from 5.00-6.00pm, where staff and students will share summaries of their recent research. More details and registration via [Eventbrite](#).

Are you hosting a book launch or bibliographic event you want the CTF community to know about? We'd love to hear from you! Just get in touch library@theofed.cam.ac.uk



May Library Team Updates

What else we've been up to this month...

- Costing up next year's reading lists for 2025-2026
- Cataloguing, cataloguing, cataloguing!
- Responding to research enquiries from students



Thank you for reading!

Contact us:	library@theofed.cam.ac.uk
Or browse all library resources:	Library and Digital Resources on Hedwig
