

# *The Gospel Standard Baptist Library*

Newsletter Number 19

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## **Progress on Computerising the Library Systems**

The aim of this project is to have all of the Library accessible to our readers, whether they are able to visit Hove or not, and that the hidden corners of the library – books and pamphlets which our readership are not necessarily aware of should be easy to find. Almost all serious libraries have taken advantage of the digital age to do this already. The Gospel Standard Baptist Library is a unique and valuable collection of Reformed, Puritan and Particular Baptist literature and it was felt we should make it as widely available as possible to interested readers. However, this project has been slower to come to fruition than expected. It has been underway since October 2022 when the Library Trustees gave the go-ahead for us to begin. There are seven stages:

1 Researching the alternatives and presenting a coherent presentation to the Trustees which outlined the costs, work involved and possible benefits. This was done by October 2022.

2 We had to begin from scratch, as details about individual books were unrecorded on any of the existing databases. So we began the painstaking task of capturing some 12 different items of information about every book and pamphlet in the Library. At the same time the existing work of lending and returning books, repairing them and cataloguing new books continued without a pause. A number of volunteers kindly helped us in this phase, which had mostly finished by July 2023. Two complicated sections only remained to be done after this date.

3 Every book and pamphlet had to be barcoded. We ordered 15,000 bar codes, most of which have been used.

4 Every entry had to be checked as some mistakes were bound to creep in, especially when ten different people were all engaged in entering large quantities of data for each book. Different volunteers took different sections of the library. This process is about 75% finished.

5 Every entry has to be proof read for typos and spelling mistakes. This has now been achieved for about 60% of the catalogue. We are very grateful to Mrs Ruth Parish from Swavesey for her time and patience in carrying out this essential task of proof reading some 250,000 words and phrases.

6 Part of the catalogue has been loaded onto the Bailey Simple Software Library so that we can try it out, familiarise ourselves with the way it works, and check for difficulties. We have found some problems. For example, when we recorded bar codes, the excel spreadsheet automatically took off the noughts at the front, so recording 002460 as 2460. However, when we tried to use the library system, it would not recognise 2460 without the noughts on the front, so they had to be reinstated. Problems such as this sound small, but diagnosing the issue often takes

time. So far we have loaded about 35% of the catalogue to allow us to practise the different tasks.

7 Finally, the equipment needs to be in place – computer, barcode scanner and tablet for those borrowing books when the librarians are not present; a manual for users needs to be available, everybody concerned has to be trained; the final product has to be fully loaded and our supporters and customers made aware – perhaps via the next Library newsletter.

If any of our readers would like to look at what we have done so far, the link is: <https://gospelstandard.slls.online>.

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## Charles Breed

Who was Charles Breed? Mr Breed was a Strict Baptist minister, although not associated with the Gospel Standard churches. He was pastor (1925-1945) at Manor Park Chapel, Stepney.



Charles Breed

While cataloguing we have become aware just how many books in the library's collection belonged to Charles Breed and which bear his signature alongside a note of how he obtained them. A large proportion of these books also carry his notes and corrections. How Charles Breed's books came to the Gospel Standard Library is unknown, but they provide particularly valuable coverage in the areas of the Biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew), Bible background and theology.

From 1947 to 1962 he was Principal of the Strict Baptist Bible Institute. This organisation was set up to provide some teaching for Strict Baptist ministers. His lectures on theology were published after his death in a little book entitled "Lectures on Christian Doctrine." These are simple, clear, explanations of the key truths we believe. His lectures on "The Church" were similarly published, with an introduction by the late Mr David Oldham. If any of our readers wanted an introduction to what we believe and how our churches are run on Scriptural lines, these two little books would be a good starting place.

Recently the library has acquired a complete set of Charles Breed's lecture notes, kindly donated by one of the last students that he taught. These cover many topics, but in particular there are notes on every book of the Bible, giving background, a brief sketch of the entire content, showing how it is structured, its key messages, and its relationship to the rest of the Bible. These valuable notes are now all scanned and we hope to eventually be able to make them more publicly available. It seems fitting that these notes should find a home alongside the large collection of his books already housed at the Library.

After his retirement, Charles Breed continued to preach until his death in 1967. He occasionally preached in Gospel Standard churches.

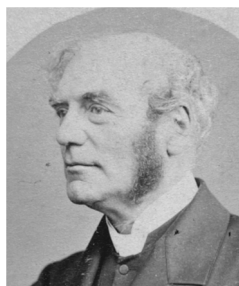
## New Additions to the Library's Stock

The Library has continued to add to its collections. We are grateful to people who donate books to us, and to Publishers who give us new titles. If you have read a good book which uses the AV/KJV and you feel other readers would profit from it, you might like to consider donating a copy to the library so that those who cannot afford or do not have space to keep books might be able to read it (please contact us first if this is the case to ensure we do not already have a copy). Below we highlight a few of the more recent additions.

A.C.H. van Vuuren, a Dutch author, has produced a version of the Pilgrim's Progress aimed at teenage readers. It takes the Pilgrim's Progress and explains the imagery and the lessons to be learnt from it. Illustrated throughout, several younger children have read it and found it interesting and profitable.

A new collection of short biographies of godly members of the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, who lived in the far North East of Scotland has been produced: *Trees of Frankincense*. These accounts are original, interesting and spiritually profitable.

A book by Octavius Winslow called *The Sympathy of Christ* is now available. It very beautifully shows how Jesus is touched with sympathy to his people. We have also received a copy of a recent biography of Winslow, *Heart to Heart*. Winslow's last pastorate was in Brighton and he died in a house just a short distance from the library.



Octavius Winslow

A commentary (really addresses) on the book of *Esther* by Thomas McCrie makes a valuable addition to the Commentary section. *Esther* is a short book but contains much practical teaching for the Lord's people concerning Providence and the Lord's working all things for good in the lives of his people. Similarly, a book of sermons on *Daniel: From the Mouth of Lions* by Rev Hugh Cartwright of Edinburgh, provides much spiritual teaching from the well-known account.

Two new items are related to Jonathan Ranken Anderson, whose ministry has long been esteemed in our churches. *The Alarm!* was a very rare magazine produced by him for a short period. Roy Middleton's recent biography of Anderson explores his links with the Gospel Standard Strict Baptists and how they came to publish his sermons.

We have had a significant number of new biographies. These include Stephen Pickles new biography of Benjamin Beddome, biographies of Arthur Wilcockson (the first editor of *Zion's Witness*), Mary Lundie Duncan (the author of the hymn, "Jesus, tender shepherd, hear me"), Lady Glenorchy (the Scottish equivalent of the Countess of Huntington, a biography produced by her chaplain and including many gracious letters), Mary Slessor (missionary to Nigeria), Dr John Kidd (a godly minister in Aberdeen in the early 1800s), and William Ward (an early Baptist Missionary to India).

On the biblical front we have been able to add David Daniell's magisterial history of the Bible in English—a fascinating read of God's providence and the

sacrifices willingly made to give us a faithful translation of the Bible in our own language. Also a copy of Tyndale's translation of the first five books of the Old Testament, and several volumes of Lewis Lupton's history of the Geneva (and other Reformation editions) of the Bible.

We have also added a number of older and rarer titles, including series of the Manchester Chapel Pulpit and Gower Street Pulpit Sermons. More recent sermons are represented in a book of the late Mr Norman Roe's sermons preached in 2020.

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## What do you read?

Every worthwhile and profitable activity is surrounded with traps and snares and reading is no different. We are told 'to redeem the time for the days are evil' so how needful it is that we should use our time wisely and seek for discretion in regards the books that we read.

Of course the most important book to read is the Holy Bible and that should come first praying that the Lord may bless it to us. But there are many books of value. Biographies, particularly of gracious people may have spiritual and natural benefit and be an encouragement to those who are seeking to know the Lord. Well written historical books give cause to marvel at the Lord's goodness and care of his people delivering them from peril and sword and sometimes giving them holy boldness to face even martyrdom with constancy and faith. Then books dealing with the natural world around and God's handiwork, all tend to lift our hearts in praise to the Lord but care needs to be taken that they are consistent with the Scriptures.

May the Lord give us each wisdom from above in our reading. It is important to make good use of the time available to us for reading, and not indulge in books which merely capture the imagination or lead away from the Truth.

## How to Use the Library

**Borrowing Books:** To borrow any of the books mentioned in this newsletter, you do not have to visit the Library, or become a subscriber. Simply phone or email the librarian (contact details below) with the book title you wish to borrow and your address. The book will be posted to you free of charge. You have three months to read and return the book. Similarly, you can borrow any book from the catalogue (except those marked as being in the reserved collection); the catalogue is available on the website.

**Surplus Books:** The Library sells books surplus to requirements to raise money for the maintenance and expansion of the Library's collection and general upkeep. If you wish to receive emails with details of books for sale, please let us know.

**Donations:** Donations towards the library's costs are always appreciated. Our bank account details are: The Gospel Standard Baptist Library Fund, Acc. No. 00333934; SC. 30-98-74. Gift aid forms are available.

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