

New Interactive Website for ACE

As we go to press, a new interactive website is being designed by our new Webmaster, Steve Watkins. If all goes to plan, it will be up and running by the time you receive this issue of *The ACE*. So do go and have a look at it at www.ac-editors.co.uk – you will be amazed at the improvements.

- You can join ACE simply by filling in a form on the website. Or you can download a Membership Application Form to give to a friend, a good way of increasing ACE membership.
- You will be given a password to the Members Area. The first time you use this you will then be asked to choose your own password.
- Your membership details can be accessed on-line; only you will be able to see your own details. And you will be able to update your details on-line, for instance, if you move house, and this will help us to keep our records up-to-date.
- You will be able to take part in the Members' Forum – ask your own questions and help others by answering their questions from your own experience. Add your own tips that will help other. Got a problem? Look here for help or ask the question.
- We can e-mail information and news to you quickly and easily.
- Looking ahead are are planning to add a section for news items where you can add news about your magazine, your church or your community for others to see.

Visit ACE regularly at
www.ac-editors.co.uk

ACE 'Oscars' Attract 85 Entries

Special London Occasion for First-Time Church Magazine Awards

They are really here – the ACE Church Magazine Awards 2005! Tuesday 29 November will be the big day when the results will be revealed at the ACE Awards Occasion to be held in the heart of London.

All 85 entries have been judged and assessed by a team of independent judges comprising editors and journalists in the religious media. Their task was to scrutinise their allocated entries to nominate which they considered worthy to receive Diplomas and Awards.

The Diplomas are to recognise achievements in all aspects of editorial content, including design, typography, use of photographs and, especially, local outreach into communities.

We can reveal that, in true 'Oscars style', over forty church magazine editors, all members of ACE, will receive one or more Diplomas.

In addition, a further special panel of judges representing the communication directors of the leading churches have closely studied nominations to select which individual entries will receive one of the new coveted Awards: ACE In-house Church Magazine Award, ACE Quarterly Church Magazine Award, ACE Church Magazine Outreach Award and the John King Trophy for the best article on faith. It is regretted that as only one entry was submitted in the ACE Free Issue Church Magazine category, this Award has been withdrawn.

All ACE members nominated to receive Diplomas and/or Awards will be personally advised by post. Following the presentations, all entries will be returned with the judges' comments and advice.

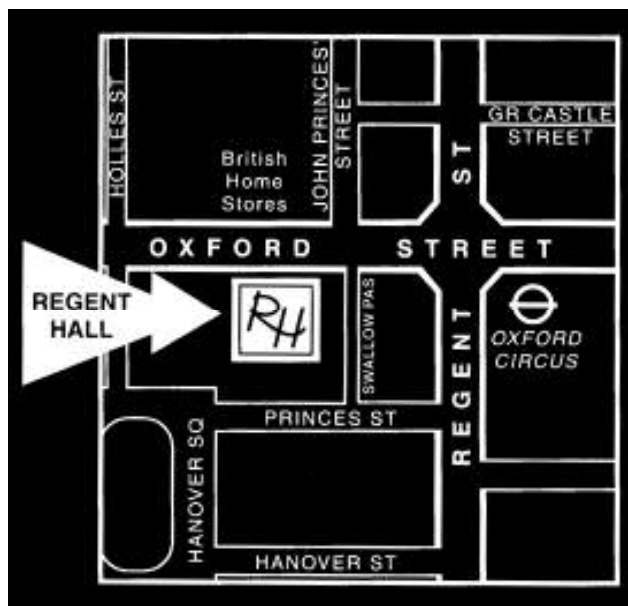
Regent Hall

How to find it? See map.

Nearest Underground Station is Oxford Circus – Bakerloo, Central and Victoria lines.

Tips:

1. Use Oxford Street West exit which is very close to Regent Hall.
2. Check on www.tfl.gov.uk/tube before you leave home for delays and station closures.



From the Chairman

It's All Exciting Stuff!

Well, you asked - nay, pleaded! - for it! From a quick glimpse across the returned judges' assessment forms, I can assure members who entered their magazines for the ACE Awards contest, the majority will get the feedback they perhaps lacked after the two previous competitions. With very few exceptions, the judges have offered helpful observations and advice, plus, some straight-from-the-shoulder criticisms.

As we said at the outset, our Awards project is not so much a competition, but a recognition of achievement. It is also very much a personal exercise to find out how our proteges are shaping up and, importantly, how we can improve our individual publications.

As the majority of us are, in truth, amateurs in a hard communications world, we are all on a learning curve. The more advice we can share and absorb with others, the better and easier our lot.

Continuing with our quest to encourage you all to swop and share experiences and ideas, your board of management has taken a very bold step by taking a stand at the Midlands Christian Resources Exhibition next February.

I visualize the purpose of our participation will not only be to bring ACE to the notice of more churches, but to provide a sort of consultancy spot where we can meet, talk and discuss publication production matters.

To this end, the exhibition organisers have agreed to allocate ACE a spot in their programme of supporting seminars. Ours will be headed, "Local Outreach - How to Make Your Magazine an Essential Part of Your Community".

Whether you are 'in' for a Diploma or Award or not, do make every effort to be at our ACE Awards ceremony - and the CRE in February.



Sydney Bryson
Chairman

Stephen Bates

The principal guest at the ACE Awards Ceremony will be Stephen Bates, Religious Affairs Correspondent to *The Guardian*. He will present the Awards and Diplomas.

Stephen was named Religious Writer of the Year in the Churches' Media Council last June of this year and is author of "A Church at War: Anglicans and Homosexuality", published by Hodder.

He has worked for local and regional newspapers in the South of England, BBC Television and Radio, The Daily Telegraph and the Daily Mail. Joining *The Guardian* fifteen years ago, he was successively Education Editor, Political Correspondent and European Affairs Editor based in Brussels, before taking over religious and royal affairs coverage six years ago. A Roman Catholic, he is married to a Charismatic Evangelical so has experience of a wide range of Christian worship.



Diary Dates

29 November - Awards Presentation and SGM - Regent Hall, London

14 January (Provisional) - Board Meeting

8 - 10 February - Christian Resources Exhibition, Stoneleigh Park

January - Gloucester Local Group

9 February - Cheltenham Local Group

ACE Awards Presentation Ceremony

This event is open to all members and visitors alike. The ceremony will be held at the Salvation Army's Regent Hall, in Oxford Street. It is a two or three minutes walk from Oxford Circus Underground station - see map on front page.

A buffet lunch will be provided at a cost of £10 per person so please book your place in advance through the Association's Secretary, Lesley Barrett - for her address see the back page.

The provisional timetable is as follows:

10.30 am - Reception; tea and coffee will be available.

11.00 am - Special General Meeting for ACE Members only to approve a revised Constitution which has been prepared to accompany an application to the Charity Commission for registration as a charity.

12.00 - Buffet lunch and an opportunity to see displays presented by our sponsors and a display of church magazines - please bring some copies of your own magazine for inclusion in this.

1.30 pm - Presentations of Diplomas and Awards. Power-point presentation by John Lloyd, Diocesan Communications Officer, Bristol.

2.30 pm - "Religion in the Media"; talk by Stephen Bates.

3.00 pm - Tea and departure.

We hope you can come to the whole event. If you have a long journey and a late morning arrival in London, please feel free to join us at lunch time - the Awards Presentation Ceremony is the most important event of the day!

Rewards for Achievement

Nearly £1000 in prizes is being offered by the four sponsors supporting the ambitious ACE Church Magazine Awards project.

The main sponsor, Sunrise Software, the Carlisle subsidiary of Wesley Owen and the largest Christian retailer in the UK, is kindly donating £100 in vouchers to the churches behind the winning individual Award winners. One winner in each of the Diploma categories will each receive a £25 voucher.

Three £100 prizes will be presented by the Churches & Charities Division of Reprotec Office Solutions Ltd, Nottingham, to the three publications which show signs of initiative and flair in content and quality in print.

Christian Herald, the country's only interdenominational weekly paper, is sponsoring a special prize for the most thoughtful article on faith. Their £25 prize will also include a year's subscription to their paper.

By no means least, Senik Print, the Coventry printer of church magazines, is rewarding the best two cover designs with £50 each.

We thank all our sponsors for their generous and active support.

Computer Usage for Us Old 'Uns'!



I guess like most local public libraries, ours has a range of handbooks and guides offering background information and advice regarding the operational complexities of using computers.

The majority seem to be years old, poorly printed and not generally easy to follow. But a new approach, published this very year, has arrived on the shelves, written by Jackie Sherman.

Everyday Computer Activities is billed as "a step by step guide for older home users". Naturally, it is published by Age Concern!

Each page is easy to read and follow with type and clear visuals set with plenty of white space. Not at all cluttered and overcrowded.

The nineteen chapters, each with projects and explaining specific operations, cover all modern uses of computers and related equipment.

The subjects are wide ranging: from basic word processing, digital cameras, scanning, radio on-line to customising your desktop and much more, including of course, e-mails, attachments and general communication.

I am very much an amateur IT person with still much to learn and I find the new book very helpful indeed.

Everyday Computer Activities is published by Age Concern England, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER and is priced at £7.99.

"Cursor"

And What Next?

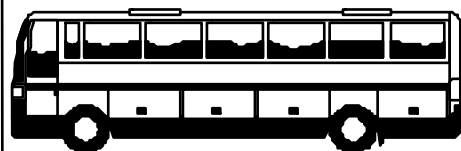
For the very first time, ACE will be among the many national exhibitors at the Midlands Christian Resource Exhibition which is to be held at Stoneleigh Park, near Coventry, the home of the Royal Show. This popular exhibition will be held from 8 to 10 February 2006. This is a must for your diary!

We look forward to seeing you there along with any friends you can encourage to come to the ACE stand and hopefully join the Association on the spot.

ACE SGM & Awards Presentation: travel news and ideas

We know it is a long way to London town but there may well be a way to make travel cheaper when you come and join us!

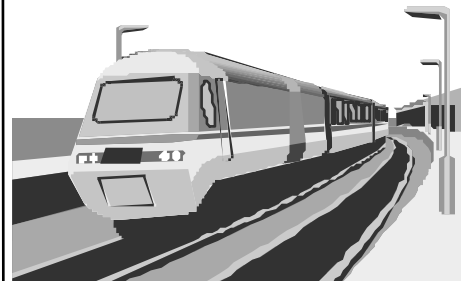
Don't forget there are buses and coaches from many towns and



cities across the UK - Megabus and National Express. Their websites are www.megabus.com and www.nationalexpress.com.

Tourist Information Offices usually carry quite a lot of information on travel and can be contacted by phone or on the Internet, or just call in.

Trains - does everyone know about the Advance SuperSaver and other promotional fares that may be advertised



in your local paper or on television. The earlier you book the better bargains you can find. If you can travel outside peak hours you may find substantial reductions. Also tickets over the Internet are cheaper. Try the website for your local train operator or have a look at www.theetrainline.com.

Accommodation overnight in London? How about £30 pppn at St Matthews, Westminster? They have a very swish website at www.stmw.org. Go to the hospitality page.

Do try and join us. We have planned a packed few hours and we would love to meet you.

Lesley Barrett (Secretary)

News from Local Groups

Self help was really the name of the game!

Two Gloucester Group members talked with passion about two very diverse subjects. Chris Smith, who is part of the Cathedral! News team, together with his wife Maureen, who is one of the editors and DTP operatives, talked about digital cameras and what one *can* do with the pictures. Chris showed how subjects could be cropped and backgrounds altered to enhance the image. Technicalities were swapped by digi-users and some of the uninitiated tried to comprehend the megapixels. The direct result of the session was one of our ACE members going home via a camera shop and taking home a digi!



"Readability and Beyond" was beautifully presented by Juliet Reeve and was an account of her work with St John's Guild for the Blind where she edits a quarterly Magazine which is presented in Braille and on tape. Following the Disability Discrimination Act we must as editors, be even more aware of the needs of the partially sighted and Juliet reminded us that 12 pt is the recommended font size and white, cream and pale yellow the recommended colours of paper.

Hopefully the next meeting in February will include a tour of the local radio station with the Faith Producer. It will be followed by lunch at Lesley's.

*Next meeting: Date and venue to be advised
Lesley B Barrett tel:01452 521062, e-mail: lesleybbarrett@tesco.net*

Humour at Cheltenham

The Cheltenham Group met on 20th October. As usual there was a useful exchange of news and views between the members present but the main item on the agenda was a talk given by John Lovell, a sub-editor with "The Citizen", Gloucester's evening newspaper. Spiced with humour, perhaps the most important aspect of the talk was John's '10 Basic Golden Rules when writing either a Press Release or an item for the Parish Magazine'. A list of these was circulated and will be sent to members unable to be present.

The next meeting of the Group will be at Beechcroft, Kenelm Drive, Cheltenham on Thursday 9 February 2006. New members will be welcome.

Bernard Stradling, tel: 01242 516167, e-mail: b.stradling@ac-editors.co.uk

Hints for Starting New Groups

On the ACE website you will find some useful hints for starting new Local Groups. We would like to see Local Groups established right across the UK. So why not have a go! We'll do our best to help. You can start by asking our Membership Secretary for details of other members living near you. Then go ahead and arrange a meeting, perhaps in someone's home or a church hall and ask a local speaker to come and talk about church communications.

The views of any contributors to this newsletter may not necessarily be those of the Association for Church Editors nor can the Association accept any responsibilities in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned.

Copy date for the next issue will be 1 December 2005



The Association for Church Editors

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