

Your Autumn Newsletter



with TORCH TRUST

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our SLFC Newsletter. As we look ahead to a Christmas unlike any other, remember that we are here for you and those with sight loss in your congregation.

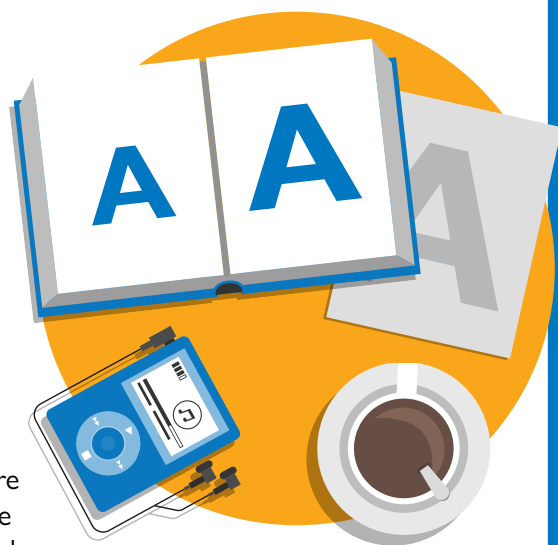
Large Print from Torch

It might seem surprising, but many people with sight loss tell us that they can't read large print!

Sometimes this is true: for some, sight loss is so severe that reading any size of print is impossible and a format such as braille or audio is more appropriate. In some very rare cases, people who have limited peripheral vision might find it easier to read small print.

For many, however, their experience of large print is limited to what they've seen from publishers. Generally, this is only fractionally larger than the standard print edition, perhaps in 14 or 16pt, and little attention has been paid to the clarity of the text.

At Torch, our large print publications start at 17pt. Other sizes are 20, 25 and 30pt.



The size guide included with this newsletter demonstrates just how large this is compared with what is available off-the-shelf! We also make sure we use a clear font, with minimal use of colour and good contrast. Our "Preparing Materials" guide available on our website sets this out in more detail.

Next time someone with sight loss tells you that they can't read large print, show them the size guide to see if resources from Torch can still help.

Meeting the Team

Chich Hewitt has been a volunteer with SLFC since its launch last year. He writes:

'I was born and grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa. After a science related career, I was ordained into the Anglican ministry in 1978. I served in parish, theological education and cathedral ministry until 2000, when my wife and I came to the Manchester Diocese, where I served in two parishes until retirement. Coincidentally with my move to my final parish in 2009, I lost most of my eyesight with a late onset of Leber's Hereditary Optic Neuropathy. I was registered blind, although possessing hazy peripheral vision, and served for the last years of ministry without eyesight.'



'I keep active in church and voluntary work including Torch Trust and Henshaws, the local blind organisation in the North West. In my last years of ministry I became increasingly aware of accessibility issues in church, and now serve on the Disability Task Group in our Diocese. The SLFC programme offers so much that is important in providing insight into sight loss issues and training for churches, and I welcome being a part of this programme.'

'I am married to Gill, and we have two adult daughters, and a young grandson.'

Autumn Top Tip

As Christmas approaches none of us knows what it may look like for carol services and nativity plays. Whether we sing carols in church or on Zoom remember that Torch produces the Bethlehem Carol Sheet in accessible formats. Order your copies in good time so that those with sight loss in your congregation can join you this Christmas.



SLFC Catch-up

Our virtual SLFC Catch-ups have been very well received and have proved to be an inspiring time. If you haven't already joined us then do give one a try. We meet once a month on Zoom to hear news and stories from the SLFC team as well as an opportunity to ask questions. Each session starts at 7pm and lasts for 30 minutes. The next dates are 27th October, 26th November, 17th December for a Christmas special and 14th January. To book onto any of these please email SLFC@torchtrust.org



Resources

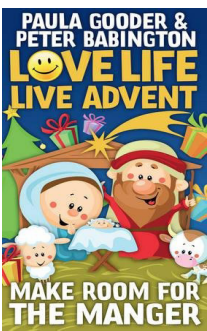
We have lots of Advent and Christmas resources available for purchase in braille, DAISY audio and large print (17, 20, 25 and 30pt). Here's a selection but do give us a call if you are looking for something else.



Unexpected Jesus (Cover to Cover)

Anna Robbins
Publisher: CWR
£6.99

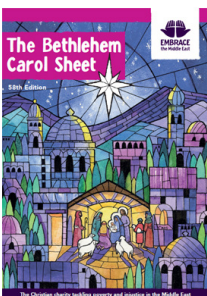
This year's Cover to Cover Advent study explores how Jesus' birth changed all expectations. You'll find a new way to understand Advent and approach Christmas.



Love Life Live Advent

Paula Gooder & Peter Babington
Publisher: Church House Publishing
£2.99

Make room for the manger this December with Love Life Live Advent, a resource to help you celebrate the run-up to Christmas. It offers a prayer activity designed to enrich your understanding of the Advent season.



The Bethlehem Carol Sheet (58th edition)

Publisher: Embrace the Middle East
£0.50

This new 58th edition (2019) contains 25 popular carols suitable for every carol-singing event – in church, in schools, etc.

Think, Ask, Act



Think: what materials do you prepare in your own church?



Ask: can everyone read them? Can anything be done to make things better for those who can't?



Act: create accessible resources so that everyone can feel included. When offering resources electronically, consider making a Word version available instead of a PDF so that people can adjust the size for themselves.

Support Us

Attached is the Torch prayer diary for October–December 2020. Please pray alongside us for the ongoing mission of Torch.

The ministry of Torch is totally dependent on donations and legacies. Please consider supporting Torch's ministry as part of your giving to mission. This could be a regular, occasional or one-off gift from your church. For example £90 is the cost for each client to have full access to our lending library of accessible Christian literature. You can make donations by visiting our SLFC website.

Dates for Your Diary

The next SLFC Virtual Training sessions take place on Wednesday 28th October, Thursday 19th November and Monday 7th December, all at 2pm. To book onto any of these please email SLFC@torchtrust.org

Contact us

This newsletter as a PDF is accessible; however, if you do need it in braille, large print or audio CD, please ask. Our friendly team are here to help you with all your queries. You can call us on **01858 438260** from Monday to Thursday inclusive, 10am until 4pm, or email info@torchtrust.org
www.sightlossfriendlychurch.org.uk

