

illuminate trust

Supporters' Newsletter, Summer 2016

18 Wyle Cop, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY1 1XB, 01743 233657

Email: admin@illuminatebooks.org.uk

Keeping the light shining...



If you have ever picked up one of the free tourist maps of Shrewsbury you will see Illuminate advertised there. As a result, we get a steady flow of visitors through our doors at this time of year. They are thrilled to see a vibrant, well-stocked Christian bookshop on the local high street. Many sadly tell us that the bookshops in their towns and cities have now closed.

We are so grateful to God and to you, our customers, that so far we have been able to continue to serve the people and churches of Shropshire. We sell books, gifts, CDs and church consumables but, as a 'light on the High Street' we are about so much more and you will see elsewhere in this newsletter stories of the impact that our work also continues to have on the lives of individuals.

However, we are not immune to the pressures and competition that have forced so many other bookshops to close. Sales are not as strong as they have been and, unless this turns around, we will be faced with some difficult decisions looking forward.

We remain convinced that Illuminate has a vital role to play in our town and amongst our churches but, to continue to do so, we need you! Can we encourage you and your churches, to make Illuminate your first port of call for Christian books, supplies etc., helping us to ensure a long-term future for a Christian bookshop in the centre of our wonderful town and county?

Please use us!

Check out our [website](#) for details of our latest offers

Bibles for Young People



At this time of year a number of Church primary schools give Bibles to their leavers, many of which we are delighted to supply at a special rate. If you could use these please [get in touch](#) as soon as possible. Youth Bibles (normally priced at £12.99) and the Good News Bible (normally priced at £16.99) are on offer at £9.99 each.

Hurry while stocks last, and do please pray that the Bibles that are given out will be treasured and read.

A Date for your Diary

Illuminate AGM will be on Thursday October 6th at 7.30pm at Shrewsbury Baptist Church, Crowmere Road, Shrewsbury

Guest Speaker – Rev David O'Brien, Vicar of Oxon, and author of *Northern Soul – Football, Punk, Jesus* (available for sale in the shop)

A New Page Unfolds...

Clare Mowbray explains her role at *Illuminate*.



When John and I moved from Peterborough 5½ years ago, I left my job and moved here wondering what new page was about to unfold. My past employment was working with my parents and alongside my sister in the Christian bookshop in Peterborough, an independent shop set up some 40 years ago and serving a wide variety of denominations. Our move coincided with an unsettled time in the Christian book trade. As the general economy slumped, Amazon bit, and e-books became more available, things were getting hard. Christian bookshops across the country were making the tough decision either to close or make changes to move along with the market.

I was delighted to discover that even through these tough times Shrewsbury still maintained its Bookshop. I hesitantly walked in and offered my services as a volunteer. When I moved to Shrewsbury I didn't see the big picture God had for me. But it speaks volumes to me that we moved to a town that had a bookshop where I could continue to serve in God's work. I have been at *Illuminate* for five years now and it has been a brilliant way to meet the varied Christians of Shrewsbury. I help out on Mondays and Tuesdays and the list of jobs is endless, from being on the front line serving customers, to displaying new books and checking in and arranging stock, right through to making the tea.

I love selling books and Bibles, engaging with the customers, and helping people to be inspired by a book or gift to help them on their own walk of faith. I really enjoy working with the friendly team, and most of all helping to be part of and creating that real book shop experience. I still believe in the need for real bookshops and real book

experience and the knowledge insight and personal service that is freely available in such places. We all need to be reading, exploring, learning and growing as we journey in faith.

More than just a Bookshop

By **Christine Coleman and Andrew Pattison**

Illuminate is so much more than just a retail outlet. The following stories from just the past fortnight give a flavour of what we are about (names have been changed to preserve anonymity).

- Two ladies who went to theological college together now live in different Midlands' towns, but like to meet in Shrewsbury from time to time. They always come to *Illuminate*, and the last time they came Christine felt God had a word of encouragement for one of them, which she shared rather hesitantly. It turned out that the two friends had been discussing exactly this the day before!
- John is a new Christian who had very little money. Recently we were able to give him some free books, including a simple guide to the Bible, from the second hand stock.
- David is a regular second hand book buyer. He is so grateful for this facility, calling the second hand section "such a wonderful resource".
- Pauline has many family problems which have made her very low. She has very little money and doesn't read too well, but loves Christian music. We were able to explain the good news to her and give her a couple of demo CDs and a prayer card for her to use whenever she is anxious.

Please pray for these people and many others that God brings across our path.