**Librarian’s report for 2016–2017**

The **Meyricke Library** currently holds 33,243 [last year: 33,806] books. During this academic year, 1,417 [1,197] books were added, including 117 [126] gifts. The average number of readers present was 41 [40].

The **Celtic Library** holds 8,743 [8,671] books and journal volumes. There are 45 [46] registered readers. This year, 82 [45] books were added to the collection.

5,891 [6,764] loans were made from the Meyricke and Celtic Libraries, of which 8% [9%] were to postgraduates. Of 565 [570] students, 376 [400] (that is, 66% [70%]) borrowed from the Libraries at least once.

**Gifts** included a large collection of maths books from Helen Williams, widow of D.E. Williams (1945); a complete run of the *Journal of the British Institute of Organ Studies* from its publisher, John Brennan of Positif Press; and issues of the College poetry magazine *Gloucester Green*, presented by Emeritus Fellow Nicolas Jacobs, and now in the Archives.

Gordon Jones (1970) made a substantial donation to the Meyricke Library for the purchase of history books. Library and archives staff also developed and presented a training session for undergraduate historians preparing to write a thesis.

There were 12 [13] visits to the **Fellows’ Library** by researchers from outside College, with 17 [15] enquiries answered by email. Library staff gave tours to groups including Designer Bookbinders, Oxford Decorative & Fine Arts Society, and the Oxford University Society of Bibliophiles; with the reinstatement of termly open days, there were 456 [152] names listed in the visitors’ book. Philip White (1958) and Jonathan Musgrave (1959) presented seven books dating from 1632 to 1841.

Ten [9] authors were permitted to reproduce images from our **manuscripts**. MS 52, a manuscript of Bede written in Cirencester, was lent to the Corinium Museum for the 900th anniversary of Cirencester Abbey.

The **Oxford Conservation Consortium** repaired one of our two copies of the 1620 Welsh Bible to make it fit for display, as well as handling the loan of T.E. Lawrence’s bust and brass rubbing to the *Shifting Sands* exhibition at the National Civil War Centre.

The College commissioned two facsimiles of Lawrence’s undergraduate thesis in order to minimise damage from handling the original. The facsimiles were completed in July and have already been used by a researcher.

Harry Wright was this year’s **graduate trainee**. Harry handled inductions for freshers while the Librarian took paternity leave in October 2016. For his trainee project, he expanded and relaunched the Welfare Library as the Student Support collection.

Owen McKnight
Librarian