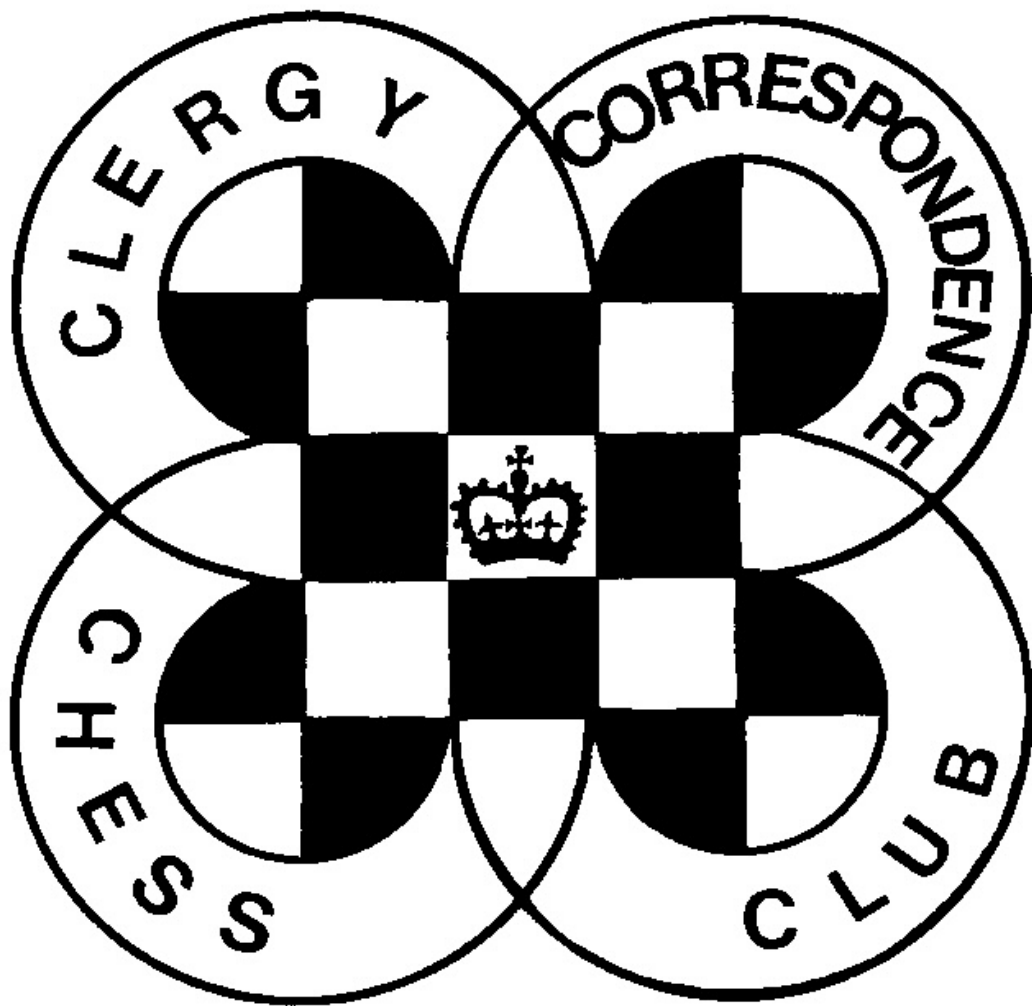
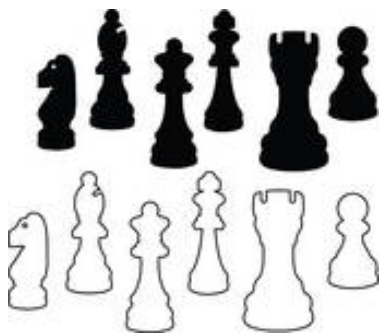


CHESS minister !

June 2026



CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB



CHESSE Minister!

June 2026

END OF SEASON

The current season finishes on 31st July. Please ensure that results are notified by that date. Failure to do this may result in games being scored as a loss to both players. Unfinished games can be submitted for adjudication and details of how to do this are available from the Secretary.

ENTERING FOR NEXT SEASON

If you are currently in Championship Division and have completed your games you will be entered into next season's contest unless you inform the Secretary by 31st July. If you failed to complete your games you must contact the Secretary by 31st July if you wish to be considered for continued inclusion in Championship Division. If you are in Social Division and wish to be considered for Championship Division tell the Secretary by 31st July.

RESULTS OF THIS SEASON

Results so far received are elsewhere in this magazine. Although not all results are in, sufficient are to ensure that **Andrew Yates** has retained the Trophy he won last year. Congratulations to him. Please get any remaining results to the Secretary by 31st July.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Jerry Garton has moved and lives at 6 The Close, Shoreham-by-Sea. BN43 5AH. His email is jgarton@me.com, Steve Whitmore has also moved and is at 128 Templewood, Walters Ash, High Wycombe. HP14 4UF.

Wilf Alexander died earlier this year and a brief obituary appears elsewhere. **John Druce**, who recently withdrew from CCCC due to ill-health, has also died.

Lisa Battye's daughter, Miriam, was recently named in the *Daily Telegraph* as one of Britain's six most exciting playwrights. The article is available on the newspaper's website.

Richard Cleaves has completed a (second) PhD as a retirement project. His thesis has now been published and details are elsewhere in this issue.

SECRETARY'S TROPHY

The results of the Secretary's trophy (Ratings prize) are in this month's magazine and congratulations are due to **Jon Turner** on winning this year.

GAMES FOR THE MAGAZINE

Due to the almost total lack of response to the question about games in the magazine I am left to assume that no one actually reads or plays them. Together with the lack of a volunteer to take on this role we will for the time being discontinue this section of the magazine.

SCHEMING MIND STANDARD CHESS LEAGUE

After a good start with two wins we narrowly lost our 3rd round match and are 1-5 down in Round 4 and thus look like heading for second defeat. The final round is just beginning as I write this. We are seriously struggling to field a Team in this competition and are looking into ways of strengthening our Team.

MISSING MEMBERS

Over recent years we have lost touch with a handful of members of CCCC. I used to find that I was informed by a family member if someone had died as they would get the CCCC details from a magazine, but this is not always happening with electronic communication. Earlier this year we decided to write a letter to the last known address of 7 members whom we had not heard from for some time. As a result of this we discovered 3 had died, two had moved without letting us know, and another confirmed that they were around but at present unable to commit to playing chess.

But there remains one member from whom we have heard nothing and whose address is unknown even to Crockford's Clerical Directory. So if you know of the whereabouts of **MATTHEW JOY** please let the Secretary know where we might find him, or ask him to get in touch with me.

WILF ALEXANDER

Wilf Alexander died on 2nd February 2026 at the age of 90. Wilf had trained for and begun his ministry in Ireland before moving across the water to serve in Southwark, Newcastle, Lichfield, and finally Liverpool Dioceses, where he retired some 25 years ago. Wilf had been a member of CCCC for many years and won the Championship in 2014.

JOHN DRUCE

John Druce withdrew from CCCC late last year feeling that aged over 90 he could no longer keep up with his games. What I did not know at the time was that he was also terminally ill, and he dies in march this year. John ministered in Lichfield and Rochester Dioceses before ending his ministry in St Edmundsbury and Ipswich.

RUGGLES FISHER

Ruggles Fisher died in 2022 at the venerable age of 102, but we have only now discovered his death. Ruggles served his entire ministry in the Leicester Diocese. He was a long standing member of the CCCC and won a hat trick of Championships in 1985, 86, 87, and then shared the title in 1993 & 1994 before again winning it outright in 1995 and sharing it in 1997 & 2000, making him 4th in the all-time record of CCCC titles. On something of a historical note, I recall Ruggles telling me that he had been asked to join a team from another club and ended up playing an opponent in what was then the Soviet Union. In those days this meant playing by post, and so bad was the USSR postal service that the game ended up taking more than 4 years to complete, a problem we no longer experience now that email allows us to exchange moves anywhere in the world in a matter of seconds.

BRIAN STEVENSON

Another whose death we have only recently learned of is Brian Stevenson, who died in 2024 at the age of 90. Beginning his ministry in Southwark Diocese, he spent 7 years on the Staff of Chichester Theological College, before returning to parish ministry in Rochester. Brian won the CCCC title twice, in 1983 & 1984.

KEEP IN TOUCH PLEASE

And all this leads me to ask, would members who are not in Championship Division (who are in regular contact reporting results) please just send me an email or postcard maybe once a year, so I know you are still alive and receiving the magazine, and that should avoid us having to repeat this exercise in looking for members in future.

THE SECRETARY'S TROPHY (RATINGS PRIZE)

The Secretary's Trophy is awarded to the member whose Rating has most improved in the previous twelve months. It is open to members of CCCC registered and actively playing on Scheming Mind, as that is the only way we have a Rating. Ratings are taken at the beginning of June each year and the player with the highest percentage rise in their rating wins the prize.

Players joining during the year will have their initial Rating calculated in the 3rd month of their membership (as any earlier rating is little better than a guess) and this must have been established by January so that their change is measured over at least half a year.

Whilst I have held the Trophy over this last year I have taken the opportunity to have it re-mounted on a larger base to allow for more names to be inscribed on it.

This year the prize is won by Jon Turner, whose rating has improved by 106%. So close were the changes this year that I have had to round to one decimal place, because 3 members would have tied had I rounded to whole numbers as previously.



	June 2025	June 2026	% change
Jon Turner	1723	1831	106.2
Richard Cleaves	1340	1397	104.3
Andrew Yates	1983	2045	103.1
Lisa Battye	1531	1574	102.8
David Nye	1519	1559	102.6
Bruce Carlin	1582	1602	101.3
Michael Hall	1622	1574	97.0
Michael Thistlewood	1279	1227	95.9
David Boddy	940	780	82.9
Tim Partridge *	1475	1475	n/a
David Hulme *	2025	2025	n/a
Peter Turnbull *	1288	1288	n/a

* Inactive during the year so not eligible.

INACTIVE PLAYERS ON SCHEMING MIND

Having marked 3 of our players in the above table as inactive over the last year, it might be worth just reminding you that if you don't play on SM then after a while you become 'Inactive.' You may still be a member but it is difficult for other members to find you and set up games. If you do want to return to active play it is probably easier to email a prospective opponent and ask them to challenge you. To challenge an inactive player, search as normal on the Player Database but first check the box next to 'Show inactive players' at the bottom of the search criteria. This should then produce the player you require but when you try to challenge them you will get a message saying that the player has been inactive for some time and perhaps you would rather challenge someone else. Ignore this and go ahead with your challenge. This will then re-activate the inactive player who can then carry on as normal.

CLERGY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CLUB

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION RESULTS 2026 / 2027

	Y		H		T		N		B		C		D		Tot	%
Yates			1*	1	1*	½	1	1*	1	1*	1	1*	v	v	9½	95
Hall	0	0			0	0	0		1*	1	0		v	v	2/8	25
Turner	0	½*	1*	1					1	1*			v	v	4½/6	75
Nye	0	0	1*						0	0			v	v	1/5	20
Battye	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1*			1	1*	v	v	4	40
Cleaves	0	0	1						0	0			v	v	1/5	20
Druce	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v	v			V	

* indicates a game won or drawn with the Black pieces

With a little over a month remaining there are still a number of results outstanding. Please notify me as soon as you complete your games.

Andrew Yates has comfortably defended his title with only half a point dropped to Jon Turner..

John Druce withdrew shortly before he died.

RESULTS FROM SOCIAL DIVISION

Carlin 1 - 0 Thistlewood
Thistlewood 0 - 1 Carlin
Boddy 0 - 1 Cleaves
Cleaves 1 - 0 Boddy

Imagining Luke-Acts in Roman Britain

Richard Cleaves

Richard Cleaves has completed his PhD thesis, which is about to be published. An advert with full information is included in this magazine and here is some further information.

The discovery of handwritten documents from the ancient world, dating to New Testament times, is a rare event. Three such exciting discoveries have recently been made in Britain.

Telling the story of the discovery of those tablets, *Imagining Luke-Acts in Roman Britain* introduces us to the kind of people who appear in Luke-Acts and who were its first readers. We are invited to imagine how people such as these might have understood Luke-Acts had they become followers of the Way of Jesus. Serving as a guide to the world of the New Testament in Roman Britain, it brings Luke-Acts to life in unexpected ways and throws new light on the way the first followers of Jesus negotiated the Empire.

Imagining Luke-Acts in Roman Britain will be published on 1 July by Cascade Books in their Matrix series: the Bible in Mediterranean Context. It can be ordered from your local bookshop, or ordered online via the accompanying website before 31st July 2026 with a **40% discount**, using the coupon **LUKEACTS40** before proceeding to the checkout.

See www.lukeactsinromanbritain.co.uk

Commendations

“This book offers a stimulating and original way to explore the Roman world of Luke-Acts by way of recent archaeological finds in Roman Britain. Here the military community of Vindolanda, the traders and financiers of Roman London, and the rural community which produced the curse tablets of Uley provide windows into the lives and loves of Luke’s characters and original readers.”

LOVEDAY ALEXANDER, Emeritus Professor of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield

“In this remarkable book, Richard Cleaves shows—more clearly than anyone has before—the broad interconnections and parallels between the literacies of Roman Britain and those of the contemporaneous eastern Mediterranean. More than this, he maps the shared concerns, interests, anxieties, and habits that allow us to imagine the common ground across which religious communication and mutual understanding must have taken place in the first centuries AD.”

GREG WOOLF, Leon Levy Director of the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, New York University

“Cleaves brings realism to an understanding of Luke-Acts by presenting first-hand, near-contemporary evidence of types of people, practices, and ideas seen in the biblical texts. The astonishingly preserved real people of Roman Britain bring new and illuminating depth to a reading of Luke-Acts.”

—PETER OAKES, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis, University of Manchester

“It only rarely happens that an interpreter conceives of a totally new and highly significant approach to a biblical text. Yet this is what Richard Cleaves has done with *Imagining Luke-Acts in Roman Britain*. In an academic setting where research into the beginnings of Christianity in the first century CE has been focused solely on the Mediterranean world, Cleaves has had the daring insight to ask, and to go a long way towards answering, how Britain might have featured in the process. . . . The result is not just a scholarly triumph, but a major contribution to bringing the British people into startling and unexpected conjunction with the dawn of Christianity.”

—PHILIP F. ESLER, Portland Chair in New Testament Studies, The University of Gloucestershire



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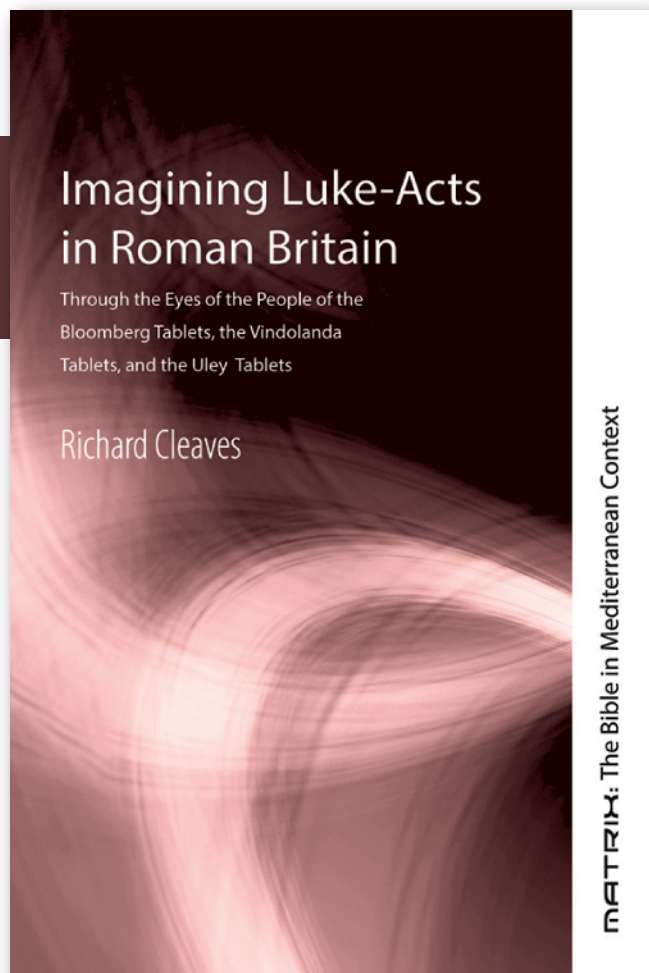
Imagining Luke-Acts in Roman Britain

Through the Eyes of the People of the Bloomberg Tablets, the Vindolanda Tablets, and the Uley Tablets

Richard Cleaves

The discovery of handwritten documents dating to New Testament times is a rare event. Three such exciting discoveries have recently been made in Britain. In the Bloomberg tablets (2016) we meet some of the Apostle Paul's contemporaries as they arranged loans and drew up contracts. In the professional and personal correspondence of the Vindolanda tablets (1983–2019) we get to know the women and men of a frontier fort. In the prayer requests of the Uley tablets (2024) we meet people from a rural community who turned to their local temple in times of trouble. Telling the story of the discovery of those three sets of tablets, this book introduces us to the kind of people who appear in Luke-Acts and who were its first readers. We are invited to imagine how people such as these—merchants and traders; centurions and women of standing; ordinary farmers—might have understood Luke-Acts had they become followers of the Way of Jesus. Serving as a guide to the world of the New Testament in Roman Britain, this book brings Luke-Acts to life in unexpected ways and throws new light on the way the first followers of Jesus negotiated the Empire.

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RICHARD CLEAVES, a Minister of Congregational Federation churches latterly in Cheltenham, taught New Testament in the Congregational Institute for Practical Theology. Since Gloucester's 1997 celebration of its foundation as a *colonia* he has researched the world of the New Testament in Roman Britain and caught the imagination of adults and children in his preaching and teaching. He hopes this book will inspire others to read the New Testament in the context of early Roman Britain. Discover more at www.lukeactsinromanbritain.co.uk

Media, Examination, and Review Copies:

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President : The Revd. Canon Tim Partridge, 
St Crispin Retirement Village,
NORTHAMPTON. NN5 4RA Email: esther.partridge@tiscali.co.uk

Treasurer : The Revd. Charles Mason,  07745 973450
57 Cranbrook Drive
MAIDENHEAD. SL6 6SA Email: revdcom@btinternet.com

Secretary: The Revd. Bruce Carlin  01924 511066
44 Frank Lane,
DEWSBURY. WF12 0JJ. Email: bc7275@icloud.com

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Life membership £ 80.00
Annual membership £ 6.50

Our current Membership Year is from October 2025 to September 2026

Payments can be made to CCCC by BACS Account Name: Clergy Correspondence Chess Club
Bank: Virgin Money (Clydesdale Bank) Sort Code: 82-12-08 Account No: 60234571

If you make payments by this method, please use your name as a reference so that our Treasurer can identify the payment, and email him to let him know it's coming and what it's for (eg subs, Scheming Mind, book purchase, etc). Alternatively you could include the purpose of the payment in the reference.

The Secretary holds members' name, address, phone number, and email addresses where provided, their CCCC division, and membership of any team, and the Treasurer holds members' subscription records.