

**CENTRAL READERS' COUNCIL
CONFERENCES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2016**

18 months' work by the Conferences Committee culminated in ***Follow 2016*** on 16th July 2016 at the De Monfort Hall in Leicester. The sun shone, and around 500 visitors and participants made full use of the Hall and the outside spaces.

There was a full programme, with Paula Gooder, Mark Russell and Mark Greene the main speakers in the auditorium, interspersed by music from Pete James and Roger Jones. The Victoria Suite saw them and others 'On the Sofa', while the Garden Suite was host to a whole day of Messy Church. A magician made the rounds, there were bouncy castles for children and adults, and the Mobile Monastery and RoadHog bus were parked in the grounds.

A cast of dozens worked behind and in front of the scenes. Special thanks are due to Dr Rachel Jordan, the National Mission and Evangelism Advisor for the Church of England, and Julie Batchelor, Chair of the Conferences Committee; without them, *Follow 2016* would not have been the stimulating and inspiring event it was. Without Chloe Matthews from the UK Centre for Events Management at Leeds Beckett University, it would not have run as smoothly. Julie has now retired from her CRC role; we owe her a debt of gratitude and wish her many blessings in her life and ministry.

Gertrud Sollars