

# David Christie-Murray

David Christie Murray (1913-2010), was a British teacher, priest and author of books mainly on theology. In later life he pursued an interest in psychical research, in particular reincarnation.



## Life and Career

David Hugh Arthur Christie-Murray was born in London and attended school in Ramsgate, Kent. He studied journalism at University College, London, then worked as a journalist and briefly as a schoolteacher, before training for the priesthood at the Anglican Theological College at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. He was ordained in 1942 and in 1946 was appointed an assistant master and chaplain at Harrow School. He was a gifted athlete, competing at a high level in boxing and race-walking. He married in 1967, was widowed, and remarried in 1971.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Psychical Research

Christie-Murray joined the [Society for Psychical Research](#) in 1945. In retirement, having left the priesthood, he wrote and lectured on theology and psychical research. His 1978 book *Voices from the Gods* contains a survey he carried out on glossolalia, the phenomenon of 'speaking in tongues'.<sup>[2]</sup>

He chaired meetings of the SPR Council between 1979 and 1981, deputizing for its US-based presidents [JB Rhine](#) and [Louisa Rhine](#). He resigned shortly afterwards following a disagreement over the financial mismanagement of a publications project, for which he accepted responsibility. With him went the SPR's treasurer, who inaugurated the rival Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP), for which Christie-Murray acted as archives officer.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Reincarnation

Christie-Murray's main interest in the field of psychical research was in reincarnation. In his 1981 book *Reincarnation. Ancient Beliefs and Modern Evidence*, he assessed evidence and theories, considering religious views, the recollections of both adults and children, the activities of mediums in séances, déjà vu experiences, and past-life hypnotic regression.

His idea of the 'essential me' combined the ideas of Roger Woolger, a British Jungian psychoanalyst and regression therapist, with data about past life memories documented by researchers. He held that reincarnation is a matter of conviction, not of proof,<sup>[4]</sup> which he considered is 'almost always beyond the human condition'.<sup>[5]</sup>

## Selected Works

## **Books**

*Voices from the Gods. Speaking with Tongues* (1978). London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

*Reincarnation. Ancient Beliefs and Modern Evidence* (1981). Newton Abbot: David & Charles.

## **Articles**

Correspondence (1993). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 59, 315-16.

Christie-Murray replies [to M. Harris] (1994). *Psi Researcher* 13, 24-25; 14, 22.

Hypnopompic circumstances (2000). *Paranormal Review* 13, 13-15.

Open mind (2001). *Paranormal Review* 18, 7-9.

## **Book Reviews**

*Religious Movements in Contemporary America*, ed. by I.I. Zaretsky and M.P. Leone. (1975). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 106-8.

*Life After Death* contributions by A. Toynbee, A. Koestler and others (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 314-15.

*The Resurrection of Man. Christian Teachings on Life After Death* by M. Perry (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 347-49.

*The Power of the Pendulum* by T.C. Lethbridge (1976). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 48, 408-10.

*Psi and Consciousness* by S. Holroyd (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 551-53.

*From Clerk to Cleric* by F.H. Cleobury (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 556.

*Psychic Voyages* by S. Holroyd (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 620.

*Pendulum: The Psi Connection* by F. Hitching (1977). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 668-70.

*Extra-Sensory Ecology: Parapsychology and Anthropology*, ed. by J.K. Long (1978). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 887-90.

*Divining the Primary Sense* by H. Weaver (1978). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 49, 963-64.

*The Mediumship of the Tape-Recorder* by D. Ellis (1979). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 34-35.

*Nightmare* by S. Shulman (1980). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 309.

*Encounters with the Past* by P. Moss with J. Keeton (1980). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 312-14.

*Stars and Rumours of Stars* by K. & S. McClure (1980). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 412-13.

*The Gate of Remembrance* by F. Bligh Bond (1980). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 50, 414.

*Water-Witching USA* by E.Z. Vogt and R. Hyman (1981). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 51, 28-29.

*The Complete Book of Dowsing and Divining* by P. Underwood (1981). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 51, 31-32.

*Exploring Parapsychology: A New Collection from the ASPR Newsletter* compiled by M.L. Nestor and A.S.T. O'Keefe (1981). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 51, 99-101.

*Deliverance*, ed. by M. Perry (1996). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 61, 267-68.

*Mindsight* by K. Ring and S. Cooper (2000). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 64/3, 188-89.

*The Restless Spirits of Langenhoe: The Exciting True Story of a Haunted Essex Church* by J.C. Denning (2001). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 65/2, 156-57.

*Children Who Remember Previous Lives: A Question of Reincarnation* by I. Stevenson (2002). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 66/1, 57-58.

*The Cathars and Arthur Guirdham* by L. Harris (2002). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 66/4, 276.

*From Darkness to Light. Dramatic Encounters with Earthbound Spirits* by J.C. Denning (2003). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 67/3, 217-18.

*Miracles of the Bible: The Old Testament in the Light of Psychical Research and Related Studies* by M. Cassirer (2003). *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 67/3, 219-20.

Melvyn Willin

## **Literature**

Christie-Murray, D. (1970). Glossolalia and xenolalia. A proposed survey. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 45, 260.

Christie-Murray, D. (1978). *Voices from the Gods. Speaking with Tongues*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul.

Ellis, D. (ed.) (2010). Obituary: David Hugh Arthur Christie-Murray. *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research* 74/3, 202-7.

## **Endnotes**

### **Footnotes**

1. ^ Ellis (2010).
2. ^ Christie-Murray (1970), 260.
3. ^ Ellis (2010), 203.
4. ^ Crabbe (1991), 15.
5. ^ Christie-Murray (1994), 22.

© Psi Encyclopedia