Welcome to the first of the newsletters that we will be producing occasionally to let you know about things of interest to those who have followed the fortunes of Sabine Baring-Gould.

SBGAS Dissolved
At a meeting held in Exeter on 5 March the Sabine Baring-Gould Appreciation Society was dissolved, as had been agreed by the members at the last Annual Meeting in September 2018. The process of preparing for the dissolution was carried forward by Roger Bristow, and Martin and Shan Graebe, who will continue to work to complete the actions agreed. These include:

- To pay any outstanding expenses or other debts related to SBGAS publications.
- To ensure that the SBGAS website is adapted as a resource for all to use in the medium term and that it is properly archived for the future.
- To publish a final volume of the SBGAS Transactions. The cost of doing this will be in the order of £200.
- To make a contribution to the placement of a blue plaque by the Exeter Civic Society on or near Sabine Baring-Gould’s birthplace.
- When a point has been reached at which no further expenses are envisaged, to donate any residual funds to St. Peter’s Church, Lewtrenchard.

The amount of money currently held in the SBGAS bank account is £929.77.

The Genesis of Dracula
It has been known for some time that Bram Stoker was influenced by Baring-Gould’s A Book of Werewolves, as Stoker had revealed this in an interview published in 1897.* Now Philip Spedding, the Development Director at the London Library, has discovered 26 books which contain marks and marginalia made by Bram Stoker, who was a member of the Library. The library’s copy of A Book of Werewolves contains a number of markings next to passages that relate to matters used in the plot of Dracula. Other SB-G books containing annotations, and which are mentioned in Bram Stoker’s notebooks include Curious Myths of the Middle Ages, and Germany, Past and Present. You can read about the discovery, and see a video by Philip Spedding, on the London Library Website.
Go to www.londonlibrary.co.uk/dracula.

* British Weekly, 1 July 1897, p. 185

This Newsletter
We hope that you have enjoyed reading this little newsletter. We think that the title, besides referencing Baring-Gould’s most famous hymn, marks our determination to keep the idea and values of SBGAS alive. If you don’t wish to receive it in future, then please let us know at the e-mail address below.