

# MESSENGER

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

## STANBOROUGH CENTRE

### *Official opening* by Bronwen Atkinson

Sabbath 8 September was a big day at Stanborough Park because on that day The Stanborough Centre, the church's new extension, was officially opened. According to Denver Annable, the chairman of the church's development committee, the need for more room was evident decades ago. Seven years

ago, the South England Conference was approached and plans began to be developed. The need became more obvious in 1996, when a fire destroyed the wooden building in the church grounds which housed the welfare centre and the Pathfinder club. Children's Sabbath school classes also met there.

Groundbreaking took place in February last year; and in May of this year the extension was named and all but completed. On 8 September, a fanfare played on the three trumpets of Phil, David and Robert Cooper welcomed the congregation to the official opening service. Present were the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Sybil Tuckwood; the Mayoress, Councillor Mrs Sheila Rosser; past senior ministers of the church, Pastors Roy Burgess and Peter Stearman; ministers of non-Adventist churches nearby; the church's present ministers, Pastors Robert Vine and Japhet De Oliveira; the architect of the Stanborough Centre, Brother Kenneth Halls; the management consultant, Mr Martin Hill; and the owner of the building firm, Mr Fred Norman of Ekins and Company of Hertford.

Also present were members of the development committee, excluding Pastor Patrick Boyle, who was among many who sent regrets for their absence and good

wishes for the future of the centre.

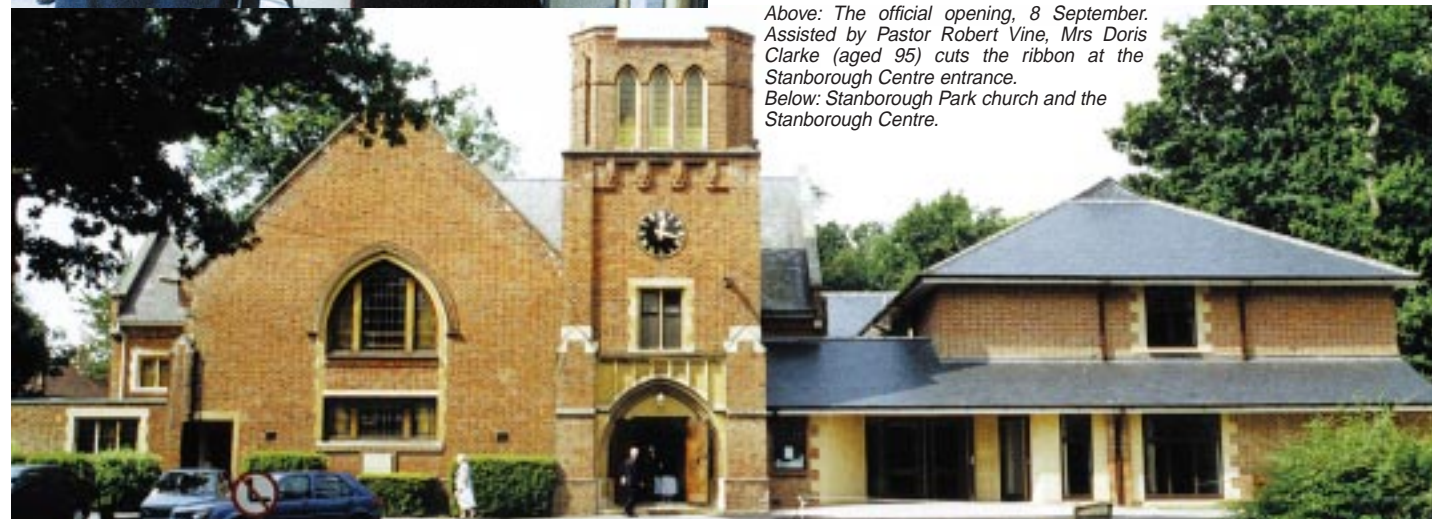
The sweet sounds of the flute played by Gaelyn Pilmoor introduced the sermon. The preacher was her father, BUC treasurer Victor Pilmoor who, as SEC treasurer, had helped to make the extension dream a reality. He paralleled our experience with that of the Israelites in the years after Sinai. He said, 'People began to lose the sense of the times. They began to lose the sense of God's purpose.' He moved on to the sanctuary where, 'Rituals taught the hurt of sinfulness and the magnificence of forgiveness.' He then reminisced about growing up on Stanborough Park, and in the context of the incense rising to God, spoke of the fragrance of prayer; of discipline; of working with young people and of community spirit, and added, 'It's time to fill our church; it's time to fill our Stanborough Centre with the fragrance of service.'

The ribbon-cutting ceremony  
*Continued on page 8*

Photos: Frank Blewitt



Above: The official opening, 8 September. Assisted by Pastor Robert Vine, Mrs Doris Clarke (aged 95) cuts the ribbon at the Stanborough Centre entrance.  
Below: Stanborough Park church and the Stanborough Centre.



*If ever there was a time to pray...  
Week of Prayer 3-10 November*



## At such a time as this

Bio-terrorism. Suicide bombers. Nuclear weapons for sale. A jittery world that needs to separate reality from rumour. The global crackdown. Living under threat.

'Surely,' writes **Pastor C. R. Perry**, 'it's time to seek the Lord.'

The times demand that we set aside this coming **Week of Prayer, 3-10 November**, as a special period of intercession and supplication for the Church, governments and world leaders.

The events of 11 September and subsequent developments in our world would suggest the need for Christians everywhere to take seriously their responsibility to present Christ as the only solution to man's uncertainty.

God appeals to His people collectively and individually to make prayer a priority at this time. He wants us to put aside our personal agendas and talk to Him in prayer.

We have our own private hours for prayer, in keeping with the words of the apostle Paul to 'pray continually'. Nevertheless there are crisis times for the nation and for God's people when we must corporately allot a special period for supplication.

Esther and Mordecai knew what prayer meant to their people who were on the verge of annihilation. At peril to herself in entering before the king, she uttered the memorable words in her message to her Uncle Mordecai:

"Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day; I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish." (Esther 4:16, NIV.)

Daniel and his companions, when faced with the death decree from an enraged King Nebuchadnezzar, called his fellows into a prayer meeting:

'Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.' (Daniel 2:17, 18.)

We have arrived at a time when, like Israel, we must seek the Lord.

I am earnestly appealing to the members of our congregations, where possible, to come together during this **Week of Prayer** to pray and

supplicate the God of love with the following requests in mind:

- ❖ To give us a heart of compassion for lost souls;
- ❖ To forgive us wherein we have failed in our duties to God and to the Mission Jesus gave us;
- ❖ To hold back the winds of strife until His servants are sealed;
- ❖ To show us how to reach the lost;
- ❖ To help us heal the suffering and hurt around us by our words and deeds;
- ❖ To give wisdom and direction to world leaders in matters of human dignity and freedom of conscience; and, lastly,
- ❖ To bring about a revival and reformation in our Church that will prepare the way for the fall of the latter rain and the soon coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The promises of God are sure and He will respond to our prayers if we fulfil the conditions laid down:

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14, NIV.)

The theme of the **Week of Prayer** is 'United by the Word of God'. This is the uniting language of heaven which makes us one in Christ Jesus. This one voice of command in the universe, living and written, is our only hope of security, peace and life.



### Week of Sacrifice offering

As part of this Week of Prayer, may I remind you of the annual **Week of Sacrifice Offering** to be taken up on **Sabbath 10 November**. This offering will go towards evangelism and the planting of new churches. Please give generously as prompted by your faith and love.

## Healthwise

### SPADs

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

In the railway world of recent times there has been a significant increase in SPADs (Signals Passed At Danger). Not everyone uses trains, so little thought might be given to the possibility of SPADs occurring on a daily basis in other areas of our lives.

A recent health survey showed that half of all 55-74-year-olds do not have the thigh strength to get up from a chair without using their arms, and that around 80 per cent of adults believe, erroneously, that they are fit and do enough exercise.

The average adult is between 5'6" (168cm) and 6'0" (183 cm) in height and is overweight and faces a 20 per cent risk of becoming obese. Approximately 2.5 million people have late onset (type 2) diabetes, a figure expected to double by 2010. A quarter of the average population will suffer mental illness at some stage.

A third of the average people will develop cancer and a fifth of those will die

from it. The average man has a 25 per cent chance of dying from heart disease, while Ms Average will have a 20 per cent chance of dying from the same cause. Half of all people in the UK will develop high blood pressure. One third of women and 1 in 12 men will die of osteoporosis.

Clinicians seek for genes that may account for the onset of, or lack of protection against, these illnesses and conditions and may find a genetic connection in many instances. However, we would do well to heed the signals which we pass at danger. We can no longer plead ignorance. The use of the expressions 'naughty but nice' and 'go on, spoil yourself' might be signals passed at danger!

Clearly the adoption of sound health principles at an early age will help to protect us against those things which will ravage Mr or Ms Average. If there is a case and a place to be made for being above average surely this is it. Dr John

Harvey Kellogg, in a lecture to church leaders, admonished: 'If we would present ourselves to the world in the right conditions to these [health] reforms we would not be a laughing stock, I assure you. We would be rosy-cheeked, bright-eyed, and more healthy. But instead of that, we present ourselves as an army of invalids.'

You may be aware of the signals passed at danger in your life. Before any more are passed and danger strikes, these need to be attended to. Early intervention in the disease process offers the best hope of a good solution. Preventative measures thereafter will help avoid SPADs and keep you on track for good health.



# God is listening – so pray something!

One of my workmates was the first to show me a copy. 'Let me have it back,' he said. 'I'm very interested in terrorism. We've got children!' he concluded with a grin. By lunchtime he had his copy back. Half a dozen stats/copies had arrived by post.

Know what I'm on about? The photograph of the pillar of smoke above the Twin Towers – configured as the face of Satan. It was exactly four weeks after the event. Had it taken someone that long to doctor the photograph? I don't think so. It probably *did* take that long for the photographer to screw up the courage to submit his picture to the newspaper. It wasn't that good, really, was it?

But it did serve to illustrate how Christians always underestimate Satan's subtlety. Doubtless all the Satanic hordes have been salivating since 11 September – and even more so since 7 October. Nothing turns them on more than mass slaughter. But the devil is hardly likely to manifest himself in the destruction dust of the Twin Towers. He would much prefer to distance himself from the whole thing. . . .

Satan is, of course, far from distant from the whole thing: and if the weird photo reminds us of that, it has served a useful purpose. The devil is vitally interested in this conflict and its possibilities for death and destruction around the globe.

More importantly, *God* is vitally concerned. He feels the pain and grief of earthlings to the power of infinity. He wants to hear from us. He wants us to share our worries, griefs and heartaches with Him. He wants to empower a people on this planet who will work His will. A people who, while others are swatting mosquitoes, will work to remove the swamp that caused them to breed in the first place. A people who, while others are isolating people-groups and religious-groups as targets for hatred, will march behind the banner of the One who said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.'

God is listening – so pray something!

It's a long time since a Week of Prayer has coincided with an international crisis. Corporate prayer is important. God loves to see His peacemakers coming together, not only to talk about matters relating to church polity or even (dare I say it?) church growth, *but to seek His face*. Not to say, 'Here we are, Lord. Aren't we doing well?' Rather, 'Lord, have you got a word for us? We need to feel Your presence and experience Your power.' Not to say, 'Lord, bless this, our latest strategy for extending Your Kingdom on Earth,' but 'Lord, what would You have us to do to win souls for Your Kingdom and to hasten the day when Your will is done on Earth as it is in Heaven.' Not to say, 'Lord, bless Mr Bush and Mr Blair – and may they aim their missiles well,' but 'Lord, give wisdom to world leaders. Help them to see their smallness and their need of Your direction.'

It is time for us, as individuals as well as congregations, to

spend quality time 'in the secret place of the most High' (Psalm 91:1, KJV). Jesus said, 'But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret.' (Matthew 6:6, KJV.) In the land where Jesus lived, houses were open plan. In the daytime the door was open to all comers, men and animals. That was why it was necessary to have a closet, shut off from the rest of the house, where food could be kept in relatively hygienic surroundings. Prayer priority one, said Jesus: Go into the closet to pray, and lock the door. Make sure there are no distractions and there will be no interruptions. There, pour out your heart to My Father. There's nothing you cannot ask Him or share with Him. And you will find that your closet will become the secret place of the Most High. It is there that you will tap into the power house of the universe. And it is there that you will receive the power to withstand all situations.

Eloquence in prayer is overrated. Jesus twice associated it with Pharisees. We talk – *communicate* – with God through prayer, and He with us. We don't preach at Him as if He were a public meeting or try to impress Him with our vocabulary. Such exercises doubtless appeal to God's sense of humour; but they fall short of 'the opening of the heart to God as to a Friend'.

Priority. Find a closet, a place of shelter, where you can seek His face. It is easy to become so caught up in people's needs (which are endless and usually urgent) and to be so preoccupied with meeting those needs that we miss 'the shelter of the most High'.

In this age of lurking snares and dangers, the pressing need is to be alone – and I mean *alone* – with God. Only as you make the Most High your habitation can you walk humbly with Him, have the strength you need for these dangerous days.

Spiritual strength comes from a one-on-one relationship with God. But when there is a danger that threatens whole societies and whole nations, the Church has a stronger reason than normal to mobilize as a unit. That is not just to lay siege to the Throne of Grace, though I could quote examples of miracles God wrought through networked groups praying for the same thing. It is because, in a congregation or prayer group, the spiritually weak can learn from the spiritually stronger. It is also because the Holy Spirit can use the group dynamic as a means to empower for mission. Thus we are enabled to face the common danger with fortitude and discernment. The discernment, for example, to know what counsel and what help is appropriate for those in special need.

We face a subtle enemy who strikes when an attack is least expected. To withstand such an enemy we need as much spiritual muscle as we can build. For one day a crisis such as this will not end with a compromise and a peace treaty, but with new heavens and a new Earth.



# Chapel Porth Family Camp 2

by Heather Hanna

This year at Family Camp in Chapel Porth, Cornwall, our family took the opportunity to visit the Eden Project, where tropical and arid plants are grown in geodesic domes called biomes.

We particularly enjoyed the tropical biome, but found the path that led upwards a bit steep and crowded, and the atmosphere hot and very humid.

About halfway up, there is a room to cool off in, with air conditioning and water. We sat in it for a while, grateful for the rest and refreshment that it gave us, before resuming the trail up the top of the biome and the head of the waterfall.

That cool room is a good analogy for the way that we feel about Family Camp. It gives us time to come apart from the struggles and schedules of our ordinary lives and to refresh ourselves with the love of God.

Camp gives us space to reflect on our lives and gives us time to evaluate where we are with God. It gives our children an opportunity to run and play together in

the well-designed playground, and in the field, with a freedom that we can't allow them in their everyday lives, but here, everyone cares for and helps other people's children. If they need a drink, someone lends them a cup, and if they fall down when they play, someone helps them up. They feel loved and cared for, and my 4-year-old even talks about the pastors working on site as 'my friends'.

The worships are superb, led expertly this year by Jonathan and Mary Barrett. They encouraged us to think again about the Lord's Prayer, and designed worships that

involved all of us, from the younger children all the way up to the camp master.

Camp is not all smooth sailing, the meetings for teens and adult groups have to be held in the caravans because the hall is too small to accommodate more than one group at a time, and even those meetings tend to be a bit of a crush. You still have to take your turn washing up and cleaning your caravan. You still get tired and grubby and the children still whine when they are tired.

Camp consists of the usual 'Camp type' things: outings to local attractions, worships, eating as an extended family, a concert and themed banquet, a Sabbath walk, new songs to learn . . . but Chapel Porth is a very special place. The difference must be the leadership – all dedicated and caring men and women of God, who lift us to a higher place and show us Jesus.

Or maybe it's the campers who can't resist coming back year after year, bringing such a spirit of enthusiasm and joy with them. Or the feeling that we're part of a family that knows no barriers, prejudices, or limits, but wholeheartedly pours out the love of God into our lives. Whatever it is, we love it and we'll be back for more!

As one family said, 'We've



had holidays all over the world, but we've never had such a wonderful holiday together as a family.'

Thank you, Bernie and Karen Holford, from all the Family Campers, for co-ordinating the camps, and for leading out in such a great experience.

And many, many thanks, too, for the rest of the staff who all worked so hard.



The Croydon Prison Ministries Team. Front, left to right, Phyllis Gladstone, Karen James, Gail Clement, Maria Smith, Hazel Palmer and Sephlyn Campbell. Back, left to right, James Payne, Kenesha Grant, Julian Ifill, Oguzie Oke and Sean Campbell.

## Prisoner baptized

The prison gates were once again opened by God's providence on 25 August, not to enable prisoners to escape, but to allow one inmate to make a public declaration of his desire to commit his life to God through baptism. Nicodemus Pela had been receiving visits and Bible studies for six months and made a public commitment to God, behind prison walls. His personal testimony reads: 'While at Wormwood Scrubs I met two ladies, one was a pastor and the other was a volunteer Bible teacher. They conducted Bible studies in the prison, each one on a different day every week. I never missed any of the sessions. That was the beginning of my Christian journey. The Bible became my daily newspaper. Mark 5:21-43 became my favourite text, especially verse 21. One night in my sleep, I heard these words: "Seek, seek and knock." In the morning I looked up that verse in the Bible and found it in Matthew 7:7.

'Eventually I moved to the Verne where I grew in confidence. I resurrected anew each day. To my amazement, the retired chaplain asked me to conduct the main morning service on 20 August 2000. I accepted the challenge and God led me through that service. Though it was my first time, I rose to the occasion. Some time towards the close of 2000, I was introduced to Sephlyn Campbell from the Croydon Adventist church. In her second letter to me she enclosed some booklets. Among them was *The Marked Bible*. I started reading it as soon as I received it and, halfway through the book that same night, my mind was made up that this was the church for me. Since then, there has been no looking back. Sister Sephlyn went on to introduce me to the Bible Discover Course, which I am about to complete. I praise and thank the Almighty for His mercy and grace.'

The baptism was arranged and facilitated by the Croydon Prison Ministry Team, the resident Chaplain Mr Tony Ball, and the Bournemouth Adventist minister Pastor Leslie Hill. Pastor Hill had conducted Bible studies in the prison over a number of months. A full chapel of up to 200 inmates witnessed the baptism. Many were touched by the special messages of hope imparted to them through song, testimonies, readings and a full-length sermon presented by Pastor R. Holder (minister, Croydon church) which focused on the ten leprosy sufferers who were healed, only one of whom returned to give thanks.

The message was well received by the inmates. Appeals were made and many publicly acknowledged a desire for prayer and for God's power to change their lives. The result was that Mr Pela was baptized and a deeper impression was made on the hearts and minds of those present.

Baptism is only the beginning. Just as when Paul witnessed the death of Stephen, and a seed was planted which bore fruit in abundance for God's kingdom, God has a special work for His children to help those members of society who find themselves incarcerated for whatever reason. Christ's question was not, 'Why or how did you get yourself in prison?' He said, 'I was in prison and you came to visit me.' (Matthew 25:36.) Finally, the Croydon Prison Ministry Team would like to thank God and acknowledge all those who made this day so special: the Chaplain, Pastor R. Holder, Pastor L. H. Hill, 'From the Heart', and all others who participated.

S. CAMPBELL, Prison Ministries leader



Newly-baptized members and nucleus of the Branch Sabbath School at Streatham Common. Extreme left, Pastor G. S. Dadey, Extreme right, Pastor E. O. Sackey of the SouthEast church. Back row, left to right, evangelists Andrew Beccai and George Kumi.

## Miracle baptism and miracle healing

A Muslim has been baptized with eight others during the Insight for Living campaign held from 17 August to 1 September at Streatham Common. As a result a Branch Sabbath School has now begun at St James's Church where the campaign was held.

Brother Yusuf, who attended the three-week campaign, gave his life to Christ and was baptized with five other men and three ladies at the Balham church. The first Christian from a Muslim family, Brother Yusuf requested, 'Let everyone pray for me so that I can be a light in my home.' Undoubtedly moved by the Holy Spirit, Pastor E. O. Sackey, the officiating minister at the baptism, responded, 'Yusuf, do not be afraid. You will triumph everywhere you go. Stand firm to the end. Jesus will be with you.'

Shouts of 'Amen' and 'Praise God' greeted the candidates as they emerged from the pool. But the congregation reserved their greatest joy for Jennifer Mensah whose parents had long sought the Lord to save their daughter. Her father said, 'We thank God for the great thing He has done.' Jennifer's parents prayed earnestly for her during the camp meeting

and they were so happy to see their daughter give her life to Christ.

The Lord also performed a miracle for a seven-month-old girl. Josephine North had been diagnosed with intestinal sores and for days she could not eat. The doctors knew she was going to die and started counselling her mother about death and bereavement. 'It was very stressful and traumatic. They told her mother the child was going to die and that there was nothing they could do,' Josephine's grandmother revealed. 'But when I heard about the campaign I decided to take the child for the pastors to pray for her,' she added. Before the campaign was over, the Lord healed Josephine to the amazement of her grandmother. 'Look! Look at what God has done. Josephine is all right. She is eating now and even playing,' she exclaimed.

The campaign was organized by the SouthEast Adventist church. Pastor E. O. Sackey, who is the minister of the church, led a team of evangelists – G. S. Dadey, G. Kumi and A. Beccai – in conducting the three-week campaign.

ANDREW BECCAI

## Baptism at Crieff

Crieff church was overflowing on Sabbath 21 April as friends and family gathered from far and wide to witness Kirsty Connaghan give her life to Jesus through baptism. Kirsty is one of Crieff church's growing band of active young people and she has been a faithful attendee for many years. She is also an active participant in youth

programmes and social events, and is a valued assistant teacher in the Kindergarten Sabbath school class. Extended family and friends from North Wales, Denmark and Norway joined Kirsty and her family for the occasion, and it was an especially touching moment when she was led to the baptism pool by her father, Joe. Kirsty's baptism

was also the last official baptismal service conducted by Pastor Bob Rodd, who retired as Crieff church minister and Scottish Mission president in July. The happy events of the morning were rounded off with a delicious fellowship meal provided by members and friends in the church hall.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

# Area 1 Family Camp

by B. Hall

Come to Cornwall for clean country air and sea breezes. Come to Chapel Porth for good fellowship in the relaxed atmosphere. The weekend 7-9 September saw a group doing just that at the annual Area 1 Family Camp. The event continues to attract even those who have long since raised their families but find pleasure in joining the younger generation. Each year brings new faces, and friends from outside the Area are always welcome.

As the sun set over Chapel Porth beach, almost everyone had arrived and settled in, and all gathered to welcome the sacred Sabbath hours. The strains of favourite hymns and choruses filled the hall as Pastor Michael Walker led the vespers. The calm and quiet hours of night gave way to a bright and sunny dawn. Well before Sabbath school began, members from nearby Cornish churches started to arrive and it was 'with joy we hailed the Sabbath day'.

Following lunch, the stout-hearted, undaunted by a short, sharp, shower of rain, and eager to eliminate cobwebs and calories, headed downhill towards the beach, and up the winding cliff path, arriving back at camp in time for a wash-and-brush-up before a delicious fellowship tea.

The sunset sky was a mixture of shadowy beauty, etching the shapes of the cattle on the hillside. At the close of Sabbath, Bible worker Beverly Coysten led the group in thanking God for His many blessings, and everyone read a thought from her promise box.

Then followed a time of fun, in a brilliant camp concert. We were entertained with story, joke and verse, with flute, oboe, ocarina, guitar, and piano, not forgetting something different this year – the saw! Who could imagine such delicate sounds coming from an everyday tool? But in the hands of the accomplished nothing appears impossible!

## Milton Keynes baptism

The congregation at Milton Keynes church has increased by two members. On 16 June Peter Andrews was baptized, and on 14 August Sonia Evans gave her life to God. We pray that He will keep them in His loving care.

CHURCH CLERK

## Yeovil Investiture

On 7 July the 'Radio Club Talk FM' was live on air at the Abbey Community Centre. A Pathfinder Disc Jockey opened the Investiture programme at 10.15am with parents and visitors present.

Singing their Pathfinder Adventurer songs, the uniformed club members marched to the microphone where they repeated their Law and Pledge. A prayer, 'Thanks for the Year', was offered, followed by a welcome to everyone present.

The Radio show continued with several callers asking advice from the Radio Doctor. In between, the 'Jingle girls' sang and small groups rendered different items. Dana King, their leader, gave the Highlights Report 2001 to the audience.

Alan Moore and Pam Catchpole, Master Pathfinder leaders, presented the Awards to the children as they came forward. There was a wide variety of skills awarded, including the Blue Peter Badges. Proud parents cheered as names were announced and congratulations to their leaders Dana and Leslie King. Fourteen new club members were also presented with certificates.

Pam Catchpole gave the keynote

address on Choices, and the children took part in its presentation. A prayer was offered for happy holidays, and refreshments were then served to everyone.

PHILIPPA MARSHALL

# Diamond Wedding: Robert and Myrtle Stone

Family and friends from England, Wales and Sweden joined Robert and Myrtle Stone near Wrexham to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary. Myrtle (née Maxwell) grew up as a missionary child in Africa. In her teens she came to study at Newbold, before she felt the call to become a nurse. It was during her service in a London hospital during the war that she took care of a special patient with head injuries, Robert Stone. They were married on 27 July 1941, and set up home in London. Robert, a Londoner, served in the Pioneer Corps in Italy, France, Sicily and North Africa. At the end of the war he returned to his old trade as a printer, first in London and then in Woking. Myrtle worked as a nurse for many years but concluded her working life in the Post Office. While living in London they were members of the Lewisham church. Later they served for many years as the backbone of the Guildford church, where

Robert was elder, head deacon and treasurer. Visitors and regular members of the Guildford church have pleasant memories of the loving care and hospitality of the Stone family. Myrtle and Robert have three sons: Malcolm now living near Wrexham, Andrew in Sweden, and Richard in Luton. They also have eleven grandchildren. After their retirement Myrtle and Robert moved from Guildford to Wales, where they are now enjoying retirement and reminiscing about the very full and blessed lives they have had together – for sixty years.

ELSIE STONE

Photo: S. V. Maxwell



Leeds Pathfinders and Adventurers with Mike Rossiter.



Wednesfield baptism. Left to right, Church elder R. Fisher, Anton Shakes, Carole Campbell and son, Andrew Campbell, Pamcheta Thompson, Church elder W. Harvey.

## Leeds Investiture Day

Six Pathfinders displayed their potential in answering the call in Ecclesiastes 12:1, 'Remember your Creator in the days of your youth.' Responding fully to this charge, they demonstrated in sermons that Jesus was the Master Potter, and urged members to make themselves ready as clay to be moulded into wonderful works of art by His hands.

The speakers for the day were Daniel Wray, 12, Raphael Chisholm, 13, Robyn Gilbert, 12, Sarah Morton, 12, Rachael Morris, 13, and Rochelle Brown, 13, and the Adventurers gave support with musical items and poems. Mike Rossiter was present to commend all.

SUSAN CHISHOLM & JOANNA JOHNSON

## The baptism that grew

On Sabbath 9 June, the Wednesfield church was thinking of their two candidates to be baptized the following Sabbath – Pamcheta Thompson and Alton Shakes. But by the end of the morning service the number had grown to three! Andrew Campbell revealed that he, too, wished to be baptized. So, on 16 June, the three made their public commitment to God at the Oxford Street church, along with new members from other Wolverhampton churches.

Following a stirring appeal from Pastor Jude Jeanville, several people decided to be baptized or re-baptized, among them Andrew's wife Carole. Seeing her husband baptized, she decided to follow his example, taking the number to four.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

## Diabetes Awareness

The Health Ministry Division at North Wembley Adventist Community church held a successful Diabetes Awareness Day on Sunday 20 May from 11-4pm. This was well supported by Diabetes UK, Parkside Health, Central Middlesex Diabetes Centre, church community, local community, health visitors, nurses and a diabetes advisor.

Included was a range of activities: blood sugar testing, blood pressure screening, healthy eating advice, keep fit demonstration and advice, and informative talks by two consultants, one on diabetes.

We now run a very active keep fit session, 7-8pm Tuesdays, to raise awareness of this disease.

LIZ REID

## Barney dies

We regret to announce the death on 10 October of Pastor Bernard Kinman (90). A full obituary will appear in a future issue. We extend our condolences to his family.

## Obituaries

**VANHORNE, Ruben Napoleon** – d. 1 April. Ruben was born in Jamaica and became a founder member of the Burngreave church, Sheffield. Even at 83 his eye was not dim – he read without glasses – nor his hair grey, and it appeared that his natural force was unabated until close to the day of his hospitalization. He walked firmly to and from church and on his sundry errands. He was a keen Bible student. Pastor Desmond Rafferty, resident minister, presided at the funeral which took place on 11 April in the Burngreave church, and at the interment which followed. We extend our condolences to all his family.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

**BELTON, Paul Raymond** – d. 14 June. With sadness we record the death of Paul, the youngest son of the late Thomas and Rose Belton. Paul was born in Nottingham after his parents returned from missionary service in Africa. Birmingham became 'home' to the Belton family, but in later years Paul moved from Handsworth to Wolverhampton. The well-known family were renowned for their love of people – and hospitality, a characteristic which Paul kept up until his death. The Holly Road home was 'open house' to Paul's church friends, the youth and children of the church, the neighbourhood, and to anyone who was in need. There people found fellowship, music, Bible study and Christian love and acceptance, whoever they were. Paul had an unusual singing voice – counter-tenor. He loved to sing for Christ in duets, quartets and choirs. Many people over the years have been uplifted in spirit, and many services have been blessed by Paul's musical knowledge and his voice raised in praise and gratitude to his Saviour. In the late 1960s Paul used his architectural skills in the Middle East, when he joined an expedition to find the ancient biblical city of Heshbon. On his return, he gave outstanding programmes in the youth services, recounting the exploits of that expedition. Paul's gentle helpfulness was unsurpassed. If he had a fault it was to neglect his own health and safety for someone or some church project or a neighbour's need. By profession he was an architect and would often work during the night hours for the church. He would drive miles out of his way to visit the needy, arriving tired but elated to be with those he loved. Unfortunately, Paul's last few years were marred by increasing ill-health. When many would have given up, he still drove his car, visited people, wrote letters and articles and worked for others. He deeply appreciated the friendship and love shown him by the ministry and members of the West Midlands, and from other churches in Britain. He passed away in Bury St Edmunds, lovingly cared for by Christian friends. The disease which had caused him so much pain and distress over the last few years, emphysema, finally caused his death. His funeral service was conducted by pastoral friends of the West Midlands at the Oxford Street church. He was laid to rest in Handsworth cemetery, Birmingham, near the resting place of his parents and brother Geoffrey. Handsworth members kindly provided refreshments at their church for visiting friends and members, who had come from all over Britain to pay their respects. Paul will be sadly missed. His greatest friend was Jesus. That Friend, Paul introduced to so many by his love of music, nature, history, architecture, archaeology and just by being a true, upright Christian gentleman. 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth. Yea, said the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them.'

OLWEN I. MCINTYRE

**PHILLIPS, Ida Mary** – d. 29 June. Mrs Ida Phillips passed to her rest at the age of 89 and was buried at Aberdare. She was just 23 years of age when she was baptized by Pastor R. T. Bolton at Connal's Quay in

1934. From there she moved to the Stoke-on-Trent area, and throughout her working life was active in the literature ministry. In 1972 Ida moved with her husband to Aberdare and there they continued their active life in the church. They continued to sell literature to support the welfare work in the Aberdare Valley, as well as in other parts of South Wales. For several years after the death of Ida's husband, the Aberdare church held services in her home. Her latter years were spent in Swansea, where she was cared for by her daughter Ellen Marshall, but towards the end full-time care was needed in a rest home. The funeral service was conducted by Dr B. P. Phillips in the Swansea church and friends from the Aberdare and Cardiff districts joined the family at the graveside. We pray for God's comfort and blessing upon her daughter Ellen, son-in-law John, and grandsons Stephen and David, all active members in the Swansea and Carmarthen areas.

DR BRIAN PHILLIPS

**OVERY, Hilda Marjorie** – d. 29 July. The Grantham and Chelmsford churches were saddened to hear of the passing of Sister Marjorie Overy (née Halpenny) who was born in Surrey in 1922. As a teenager she was introduced to the Advent message, a message to which she remained fully committed over the course of her life. In January 1943 she was married to Leonard and together they set up home in Essex and were blessed with two sons, Leonard and John. Over the years both Marjorie and Len gave much to the service of the church, always willing to do whatever was asked and more besides. In recent years a decision was made to move to Grantham to be near some of her family, but, alas, it was with failing health. The funeral service, held in the Chelmsford church on 7 August, was conducted by the writer and Pastor Malcolm Taylor, while the tribute to her life was given by her grandson, Pastor Stephen Eastwood. Hilda was then laid to rest in the Chelmsford cemetery, with her husband, both awaiting the call of the Life-giver. To her sister Joan, to Len and Pat, John and Janet, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren, we offer the love and comfort that only Jesus can give, as we all look forward to the Resurrection day.

PASTOR JOHN FERGUSON

**DUBERRY, Helen** – d. 9 August. Helen Josephine was born on the island of Montserrat in 1934, and arrived in the UK in 1956 to join her fiancé. After her marriage she worked for some time in the NHS and later on in the catering field. Sister Duberry became ill in 1987 with the illness which would eventually claim her life. On 17 August the Holloway church was filled with family, friends and church members who came to hear about the life of our dear sister and to share in a unified sorrow at our great loss. Of the officiating ministers Pastor O. P. Chackothen delivered the homily and Pastor B. Kavaloh spoke of her outstanding resilience, fortitude and courage during her illness, and we were reminded of how this lovely lady, who greeted everyone with a kiss, had an immense love for books and poetry. To this end she spent large sums of money purchasing Christian literature to distribute to anyone with whom she came into contact so that they too might know about the God she loved so much. She faithfully attended the Muswell Hill church. She now rests in the City of London cemetery, from where very soon she will meet 'face to face with Christ her Saviour', and hear the words 'well done'. She leaves to mourn her passing, a daughter, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild and numerous relatives and friends.

DORIS ADAMS

**FIELDING, Ellen** – d. 26 August. Ellen was born on 17 May 1908 to Ellen and Arthur Parkington in Blackburn, Lanc-

ashire. Both parents worked in the local cotton mill and, on leaving school, Ellen also worked in the cotton mill with them, until she gave up work to nurse her seriously-ill mother. At around 14 years of age she met Tom Fielding. Tom's mother had joined the Adventist church and Ellen's parents were not happy about their developing friendship. By this time Tom had become a qualified carpenter, but through the influence of the local Adventist minister he decided to go to Newbold College on Stanborough Park. The thought of being apart from Tom decided Ellen to train as an SRN at the Bermondsey Rotherhithe Hospital in London. When both had completed their studies and were fully qualified they married in January 1934. Tom was first sent to Manchester to work with an evangelist and later became the pastor of Shrewsbury church. A call came in 1935 to go as missionaries to Kumasi in the Gold Coast (Ghana) in Africa. Before leaving, they underwent a crash course in tropical medicine and Tom did a short dentistry course. During their ten-year stay in Africa they set up clinics, churches and schools. Their first child, Raymond, died at nine months and was buried in the mission compound. They went on to have June, Brian, Alvin and Verley while serving in Africa. In 1945 they returned to Britain and were given responsibility for the Northamptonshire churches. Here their last daughter, Norlene, was born. After many successful years in Northamptonshire they moved to Leeds where they served for four years. During this time the Adventist Primary/Junior school opened in their home on Headingly Lane. Ellen's nursing experience was well used in evangelistic meetings in the Leeds Town Hall. After a brief period of service in Sheffield, the Fieldings moved to Glasgow. Ellen sold thousands of Adventist books and magazines – sometimes to put food on the table for the family and the many visitors that passed through their home. In 1961 the family moved to Bristol, leaving June and Brian behind in Glasgow. Norlene finished her schooling in Bristol and joined Verley at Newbold College, both completing secretarial courses and Verley her Bible Worker course. It was while at Newbold that Verley met Rod Nixon (roommate of Alvin) and the Australian connection began. Verley and Rod married and went off to Australia and were soon followed by Norlene, who also found an Australian husband. In 1967 Pastor and Mrs Fielding moved to work in the Southampton churches, which included Portsmouth, Winchester and the Isle of Wight. From Southampton they accepted a call in 1974 to service in Plymouth and Liskeard. In 1979 they finally retired and moved back to Bristol. In every church in which they served, Ellen's hospitality and card ministry became a legend. Very few birthdays, sicknesses, bereavements of the church members' friends and families went unmarked. Her 'thank you' notes and 'thinking of you' notes will be greatly missed. In 1992 they moved to South Wales to a bungalow in the next road to Alvin and Anthea and became members of the Ystrad Mynach church, participating in all the church and social activities. Unfortunately, Dad Fielding lived for only one year in the bungalow. Mum Fielding never got over the sad loss of her lifelong friend and husband, but she attended church regularly until just a few short months ago when it became too difficult to negotiate the church steps. Throughout her life she never had more than a cold – a testimony to her lifelong promotion of her vegetarian and healthful lifestyle. The entire congregation, family and friends formed a prayer circle around the open grave. Then they sang 'What a Friend we have in Jesus' – everyone holding hands – something Mum Fielding always did when she had people back to her home.

ALVIN FIELDING

Continued from page 1

followed, performed by senior member Sister Doris Clarke, 95. Then the Mayor unlocked the front door of The Stanborough Centre. The scissors and key were carried on a cushion by Colin Donaldson, aged 4, representing the children and youth of the church. The Mayor expressed her pleasure at being there and congratulated all involved. Mrs Clarke had the last word, 'God has been good to us.'

The Stanborough Centre consists of, on the ground floor, a large general-purpose hall with adjoining kitchen, a new welfare centre, a committee room, a small office, storage areas and toilets. On the first floor there are three meeting rooms and a hall – meant primarily for use by the Youth and the Pathfinder clubs.

The plan is to keep the centre open seven days a week with a range of activities to link the church and Watford communities.

### RETIREMENT FLATS FOR SALE ON LIFE TENANCY

The Dell, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk

**Ground Floor:** One-bedroomed flat with lounge, kitchen-diner and bathroom. Beautiful surroundings: £37,000.

**First Floor:** One-bedroomed flat with lounge, kitchen-diner and bathroom. Wonderful views: £36,000.

Coniston House, Paignton, Devon

**Ground Floor:** One large-bedroomed flat, spacious lounge, kitchen and bathroom: £38,000. With optional additional bedroom and en suite: £48,000.

**First Floor:** Small and cosy one-bedroomed flat with lounge, kitchen and bathroom: £28,000.

**Ground Floor Cottage Flat:** Two bedrooms, lounge, kitchen-diner and bathroom: £31,000.

For full details contact Pastor Martin Bell, Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited, Drummond Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4AN. Tel: (01764) 653806.

### Calling all Adventist Civil Servants!

If you work in the Home Office, its Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies and are interested in an information networking opportunity, please contact Jewell Jackman-Jones at Rm 1371, QAG or email her on the gsi.

### Request from Mrs McFarlane

Could Melvita, whose maiden name was St John and who worked in a children's nursery in West Hampstead, London (1957), or anyone knowing of her whereabouts, kindly contact Mary McFarlane on (01582) 482295.

# CHURCH PLANTING BUZZ IN THE SEC CONTINUED

(From 12 October issue, pages 6, 7)

## The Bulgarian Group in London

by Michael Garkov

Bulgaria was part of the Communist block until the collapse of Communism in 1989, and the Adventists living there were shut off from the rest of the world Church. After the collapse of Communism, some young Adventists made their way to Newbold College and, later, to other colleges in London. Currently, there are about twenty-five Bulgarian Adventists living in the London area.

Initially, we gathered as a small group in private homes, to conduct worship in the Bulgarian language and have

fellowship with one another. The group has tripled during the last few years, and recently we were offered the chance of a move to an Adventist church building in North London. We are thankful for the support we have received from the South England Conference, and particularly for the encouragement and help of Pastor D. W. McFarlane.

Another reason for the formation of the Bulgarian group in London is to reach the thousands of Bulgarian people living there. We feel it is our mission and calling from God. Just like Esther, who emigrated to a

foreign land, we believe that we have been placed in a foreign land for a purpose: to be a light that reaches out to Bulgarian people living in London.

We are currently looking for a building to rent, so we can meet at an established location, and then we can have promotional materials printed and distributed. (The SEC will pay the rent for the first year.) We are currently meeting once a month, but when we get ourselves established, we will meet more often.

The last few meetings were conducted in an office building in Kensington. We had non-Adventists in attendance, one of whom now attends regularly. We worship, we socialize, we have fun! The aim of our group is to be a spiritual oasis for people who are lonely and searching for more fulfilling lives.

In August we had the President and the Secretary of the Bulgarian Union of Churches visit our group at one of our regular Sabbath meetings. We were encouraged by them, and they offered their support.

## HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH Ruislip-Northolt church plant update

by Aris Vontzalidis

Church planting has never been easy, but it is always challenging and fulfilling as one sees God's hand working against the odds and obstacles, accomplishing His purposes despite our feeble and frail humanity.

God is blessing the KidsZone ministry that we started at the end of last year under His direction. We invited mothers in the community to bring their children every other Saturday morning to the local Community centre, and leave them with us for two hours. They knew who we were and that we would be teaching them biblical principles through songs, mime, drama, puppets, and crafts. We started with four children and

now have an average of twenty 4-10-year-olds. As this is an outreach programme, all the children come from non-Adventist families and most of them from non-churched backgrounds. It is a great joy to see the children absorbing the eternal truths of God's Word and falling in love with Jesus, Whom eight of them accepted last Easter as their best Friend! Our purpose under God is to make these children fully devoted disciples of Jesus so that God can use them to reach their parents and other relatives and friends. A lot of hard work has gone, and is going, into this ministry and I am thankful to God for the committed and dedicated team who run the programme. Already the work is proving too much for the team,

especially as we expect the number to at least double by next summer. If you happen to live in the area, if you have a passion for Jesus and His little ones, and would like more information in case you want to be involved, please get in touch with me through the SEC. Tel: (01923) 232728.

The two cell groups are also doing well. Recently one of our groups had the joy of seeing two individuals with non-churched backgrounds accept Jesus through the Alpha course and continue to grow through Bible studies and fellowship. The cell groups meet fortnightly for Sabbath worship and weekly for their group meetings.

All the personal and collective outreach activities are bathed in prayer as we depend totally on Him to convict the hearts of those He brings us in contact with. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Harrow church for their staunch support.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
All-Wales Day of Fellowship	3 Nov. 10.15am (+ Youth meetings and a book sale)	Llandrindod Wells The Pavilion, nr Holy Trinity Church	David Marshall Daniel Duda David Cox	Tel. (01443) 814582 or BPPH.D@sdanw.fsnet.co.uk
Marriage Enrichment Retreat – build skills to strengthen your whole family.	9-11 November	Broomhill, near Exeter	South England Conference. Cost: £120 per couple with £20 discount for early booking	25 St Johns Road, Watford, WD17 1PZ, Tel: (01923) 232728 or berniehalford@cs.com
Palmer Sisters Concert	17 November	Highbury Grove School, N5	No. 7 Promotions	(01908) 692391 www.palmersisters.co.uk
Scarborough Quarterly Fellowship Service	17 November 10.30am/2.30pm	Crossgates Community Centre, Scarborough	Pastor Alan Conroy (Lunch provided)	John Kent (01723) 826882 Roger Neal (01904) 47121

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format.

## MESSENGER

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### SUNSET

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 26	5.45	5.57	5.45	5.46	6.00
Nov 2	4.32	4.44	4.32	4.30	4.46
9	4.20	4.32	4.19	4.16	4.32
16	4.10	4.22	4.08	4.03	4.20

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