

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

Messenger

Newbold church opened 14 September

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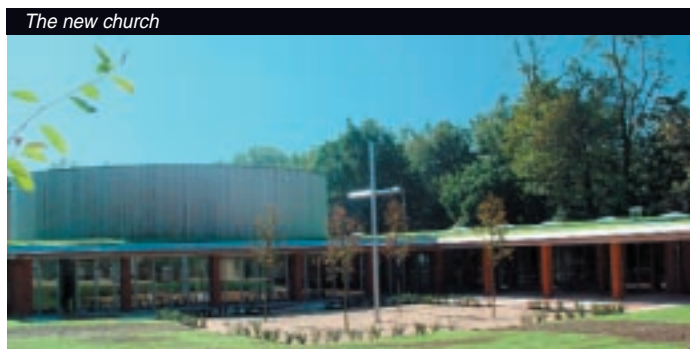
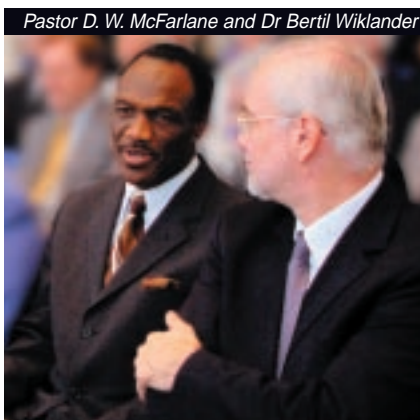
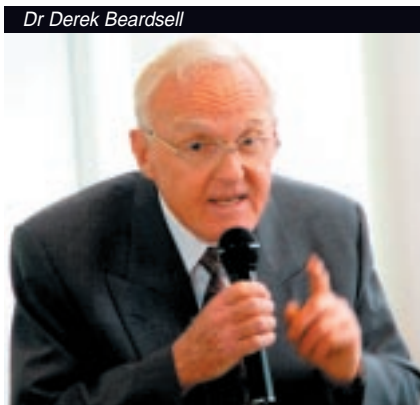
I cannot deny that I used to dream of this new church and it is as good as my dreams,' said Dr Derek Beardsell, former principal of Newbold College, and first to preach in the new church on Sabbath 14 September. 'It is the fulfilment of a vision a long time ago by successive principals and those interested in the spiritual life of the college,' said Pastor Cecil Perry, British Union Conference president, who led the opening prayers during the church opening service at 3pm.

'We rejoice today because a dream has been fulfilled,' said Dr Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division and chairman of the Newbold College Board, under whose leadership the new church has been completed. 'Combining a feeling of spaciousness with generous natural lighting, the Newbold church is an outstanding addition to the South England stock of buildings,' said Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the South England Conference, who gave the prayer of blessing for the new church.

The Newbold church and College community, together with church members from surrounding churches, Church administrators, local community representatives and alumni and friends of Newbold from different parts of the world, celebrated this very special occasion.

Administrators, church pastors, College staff, church members local and world-wide, and various individuals with a passion for the church, have contributed to keeping the flame burning over the years. More recent administrators include Dr Jan Paulsen, principal of Newbold (1976-80) and now General Conference president, Dr Bertil Wiklander, Pastor Cecil Perry, Pastor Don McFarlane, and Newbold principals Dr Steve Thompson (1984-1990), Dr Derek Beardsell (1991-1997), and Dr Andrea Luxton (1997-2001). Recent pastors, Gil Valentine, David Cox and Ian Sleeman, also played a part in keeping the dream alive and in bringing it to a successful conclusion as did Union and Conference presidents in the Trans-European Division by allowing annual offerings in their territory to be dedicated to the church.

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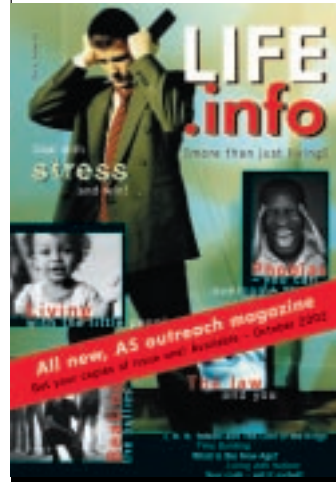


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In short, report!

by John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

We all take news for granted. These days we have news for breakfast, dinner and tea and still want more. We listen to the news as we drive, and we can watch news programmes 24 hours a day if we want to. We can buy excellent newspapers for next to nothing and, using the Internet, we can download news from anywhere about anything.

Of course it is evidence of progress in the information world, but this oversupply of information has its downsides. One of negative aspect of the 'too much news' culture is that it brainwashes us into thinking that what is reported accurately reflects what is happening in the world. After all, if so many people are reporting it, it must be important and it must be true – mustn't it?

Wrong. News is not what *happens*, it is what is *reported* to have happened. Important things may happen in our world but they may not get

reported. At best news agencies can only work with the information they have been given. At worst they may deliberately set out to obtain specific items of news, either because they want to portray the world in a certain way, or simply because one news story is easier to get than another.

Now what about the Church media? Well I know from experience that we always try to report events fairly (though some may not think so) and, although we have a tendency to look on the bright side, we don't have any particular political agenda in the way that we compile news. However, this doesn't mean that we cover everything. And it doesn't mean that our publications accurately portray everything that is happening in the Church.

The reason for this is simple. We can't report what we don't know about! Many major events take place throughout the British Union and they

never get reported for this very reason. As we sit in our pews, or our arm-chairs, reading about some terrible travesty, it's easy to tut tut. Logically it makes no sense for an event which may have taken hundreds of person-hours to put together, to go unreported. After all a report can be written in fifteen minutes.

But time and time again this is what happens. We work very hard to organise, promote, and execute an event, but once it's over we forget about it. This is bad practice for a number of reasons: Firstly it means that we are thinking short term. There is no better advert for an event coming up than a good report of your last event.

Secondly it means that we are not looking at the wider picture. An event which may inspire and uplift the 500 people who attend, may indirectly inspire and uplift 5,000 more who read the report and see the pictures.

Thirdly it means that we're not considering news as an evangelistic tool. We have been told to 'go into all the world and preach the gospel' – literally the 'Good News'. In the early days of the Church Christianity was spread very quickly by reporters – eye witnesses who simply passed on what they had seen and heard – and the same can happen today.

In conclusion, if we want our Church media to reflect accurately

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what is happening in the Church, we need a change of mind set. Communication needs to be included in the planning stage of all our major, and most of our not so major events. It's not just the responsibility of Communication secretaries, who already do a very good job often with little recognition. It's the responsibility of all leaders and organisers to make sure that the events in which they are involved are reported.

In short, report!

Fancy a change of character? New I.D. are currently recruiting for creative and imaginative individuals, with a dynamic flair for acting, to join a community based gospel drama group. If you are 16-24+ studying in Leicester we want to hear from you. Contact: Antoinette: 07929 875510 or Avian: 07760 256145. Closing date: 25 October.

Is it possible that the major events in the British Isles still go unreported?

Healthwise

Aching for Coffee!

Fed up with the aches and pains of rheumatoid arthritis (RA)? Want to cheer yourself up with a cup of coffee? Think again! Your coffee may be contributing to the problem since a link has been established between coffee drinking and an increase in RA symptoms.

RA is an inflammatory condition affecting and deforming the various joints in the body, causing them to become painful, stiff and swollen. Usually starting in early adulthood, RA is an autoimmune disorder (in which the body's own immune system attacks body tissue) and takes the form of recurring moderate attacks.

A study of 19,000 people with RA in Finland, at the National Public Health Institute (Helsinki) showed that the number of cups of coffee drunk each day is directly linked to an increase in rheumatoid factor positive RA (one of around 200 or so types of RA). People drinking four or more cups of coffee daily

were twice as likely to develop the symptoms of rheumatoid factor positive RA. The same study showed that diets low in the trace element *selenium* and low levels of the antioxidant *alpha-tocopherol* contributed to an increased risk of all forms of arthritis.

Studies in the USA found that drinking decaffeinated coffee also had the effect of increasing RA risk. These studies, involving 31,000 women aged 55-69 years, showed that drinking four or more cups of decaffeinated coffee a day increased the risk of developing RA 2.5 times above that of non-coffee users.

Research into controlling the symptoms of RA, at the Karolinska Institutet (Stockholm), revealed that a vegan, gluten-free diet was helpful in relieving RA discomfort but not joint deformity. Nine months after starting the vegan diet 34.3% of the people with RA were very much improved, compared with only 3.8% of the non-vegan group. It is thought that the benefits of the vegan, gluten-free diet may be

due to a reduction in the immunoreactivity to food antigens.

A Belgian study also highlights the importance of dietary factors in the management of arthritic symptoms. Tablets made from avocado and soybean oil extracts helped control osteoarthritic pain. Other studies have found that people with RA who omit foods from the nightshade family ease their symptoms. These foods include potatoes, tomatoes, aubergines, and peppers (as well as tobacco!).

While the causes of RA are not known, the knowledge of things which might affect the symptoms assume major importance. Experimentation with fairly common lifestyle factors may help the 8 million or so RA sufferers in the UK find relief, and reduce a fifth of all GP visits.

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director



What drives you?

David Jones was a Welshman. Well, with a name like that, he would be, wouldn't he?

Jones, born in 1797, might have lived an unremarkable life had he not had a remarkable teacher. His remarkable teacher, strongly influenced by the abolitionist movement associated with Thomas Clarkson and William Wilberforce, told his pupils all about the horrors of the slave trade then rampant in Africa and its islands. At the conclusion of one such tirade against that evil, the teacher asked a rhetorical question: 'Who will go to Madagascar?'

On the instant, David Jones leapt to his feet and yelled, 'I will!'

Those two words directed the rest of his life which was to be dedicated to the Malagasy people.

Grown to manhood, David Jones made no secret of his belief that in Christ there is neither black nor white, bond nor free. Those beliefs were revolutionary and represented a major threat to the fatcats running the slave trade on Madagascar. Missionaries were not wanted, the authorities told Jones. And that applied to him, his colleague, their wives and their newborn babies. Jones accepted that and they contrived to enter Madagascar as visitors. . . .

They stepped ashore in August 1818. A school was commenced. Malaria, caused by the mosquito, was endemic in Madagascar. Soon the whole party was down with it, but the abdominal convulsions were so violent that poisoning was suspected. When traces of a Malagasy poison were found, Jones knew that there had been foul play. By the end of 1818 both his wife and baby daughter had died horrible deaths. In the early weeks of 1819 Jones's colleague, his wife, and their baby, had died in exactly the same way. Jones was alone. Time to give up and go home, right? Wrong! Day by day Jones watched hopeless lines of Malagasy people being led chained to the slave ships. Though weakened, he resolved to continue the struggle.

Jones was faced by the mile-high barriers erected by hostile officialdom, threats to his life, disease, avarice and ignorance. But something made him climb up and over those barriers. Impossibilities were rendered possible, accomplished, on a daily basis.

Education and the Gospel were the only sources of hope for the people, Jones decided. Hour by hour he sought to be a means to both.

By 1826 Jones could preach and write in the Hova language. Soon afterwards, he provided the Malagasy people with parts of the Bible in that language.

At every turn Jones was opposed by local chiefs and British officials. At last the slaves were freed and the light of the Gospel illuminated the island. Weakened by repeated bouts of malaria, David Jones died of it in 1841, aged 43, his work uncompleted.

So what do you think? If your concept of discipleship is like that of many postmodern Christians then a life like that of David Jones is unlikely to have made an awful lot of sense to you. But it would have made sense to Paul and to the front-runners of Christianity. It would also have made sense to the

pioneers and missionaries of the early Advent movement.

What drove men like Jones and John Loughborough? Paul put his finger on it: '*Christ's love compels us.*' (2 Corinthians 5:14.)

What's that about?

Does it mean that Jones, Loughborough and Paul worked up such a lot of love for Christ – like a great head of steam – that it drove them on through every barrier?

No, it doesn't.

The love, notice, is Christ's love.

Paul and the rest were driven – *compelled* – by Christ's love.

Love is an action noun!

Yes, there was love in the heart of Paul – and Jones and the rest – and that love urged him on (and, also in the sense of the word translated *compelled*, embraced, circled, confined and secured him!). But that love was there because of what Christ had done. After writing 'Christ's love compels us,' Paul continues, 'because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.' (2 Corinthians 5:14.)

Paul was explaining what drove him on through life-threatening and mind-blowing opposition and difficulties. (2 Corinthians 4:8, et seq.)

Paul's love – and Jones's and Loughborough's – was as a result of Christ's loving action, and because Christ's loving action had made him a new person. What about you?

The love of Christ compelled Christianity's front runners. And to do what? To surmount impossible difficulties to introduce the liberating good news about Jesus to those in chains. And in what way did it compel? The word *compels* is in the present tense; Christ's love for Paul compelled him *all the time*. And why? Because Christ died 'for [instead of] Paul'. 'It is the exceptional character of Christ's love, understood as that which moved him to die in our place, which alone accounts satisfactorily for its great motivational power in Paul's life,' says the very latest commentary on 2 Corinthians.¹

The compelling force of Christ's love is because of this: His hands were pierced for the wrong things our hands have done. His feet were spiked for the wandering paths our feet have trodden. His brow was thorn-crushed for the wrong thoughts our minds have harboured. His heart was broken for the wrong things our hearts have loved.

The love of Christ compelled David Jones to spend his life bringing freedom to the captives of Madagascar. It compelled Paul to withstand the hardest brickbats in order to turn the world upside down with the good news about Jesus. It compelled John Loughborough to bring the Advent truth to the British Isles.

What has it compelled you to do just lately?

Reference

¹ Colin Kruse, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: 2 Corinthians* (IVP), page 123.

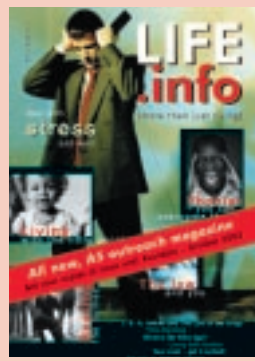
All Bible quotes are taken from the New International Version.

In one year, a million!

LIFE.info magazine

Co-authors:

A. Hodges – BUC Ministerial Association director
D. Elias – BUC LIFEdevelopment Promotion director



Today is the pre-launch of *LIFE.info* magazine. Be sure to collect your two FREE copies, which have arrived with *MESSENGER*.

Don't just think magazine! Dream the dream of connecting with more than one million people for Christ. It is not just a magazine but an exciting faith adventure. More than one million people in a year! It is a dream. *LIFE.info* magazine empowers the dream.

The dream is achievable. If every two months four thousand Adventists across Britain and Ireland each distributed fifty *LIFE.info* magazines, in one year well over one million people would be reached.

Two simple commitments make the dream possible: ● to invest half an hour of our time every two months in the big adventure; ● to invest £5 monthly in *LIFE.info* magazine by standing order. Each investor would receive 50 magazines to give away creatively. Four thousand investors, every two months, would then have the potential to reach 200,000 people. In one year the church could make contact with 1,200,000. All this for half an hour's work bi-monthly, and just £5 monthly!

What kind of magazine is *LIFE.info*? It is a magazine specifically designed for postmodern people. The articles are meant to deal with issues that are of interest to people who are unchurched and who have little or no knowledge of the Bible.

As a church we have a responsibility of reaching every section of society. Today only 27% of the population in Britain (84% in Ireland) attends church once a week. We need to reach the unchurched in our community. *LIFE.info* is a tool that can be used, as we 'connect' or make friends with men and women in our district. It is the first step in the process of leading people to Jesus Christ.

Although there is a price on the magazine it is recommended that we give it away. With creative thinking there are many exciting ways of distributing the magazine. For example consider the following:

- Door to door in your community
- Doctors' surgeries
- Stands placed in shopping malls, bus and rail stations
- Libraries
- Former Adventists
- Contacts, friends, relatives
- By post to leaders in our communities – government, business people and others
- Handed out on the streets

In addition to the above, if you decide to sell the magazine we recommend that you sell it for a charitable cause such as ADRA-UK or ADRA-Ireland. You will be able to expand on these suggestions and use this tool in other ways. Our young people can be very creative!

Open air service

The last two Sabbaths in July were special for the Long Eaton church. July 20 was an open day, and invitations were given out to families and friends to join us for fellowship.

Numerous visitors attended, and an ever-growing circle expanded for Sabbath school. Pastor P. Herbert led us through an interesting divine service, and afterwards our visitors shared a fellowship lunch with us.

On 27 July we planned an open air service in the market place, and shared a happy lunch with Pastor S. Kiriaceous and his family who have just moved into the district to join the ministerial team. We were joined by Nottingham Central members for a song service and accompanied music for this event of praise and witness.

G. J. SPEAK

Splash Radio launch: 'The Good News comes first'

WORDS: Doreen I. Fray, Secretary, Splash Radio

PICTURES: John Surridge



Friday 6 September was a major milestone in the history of Adventist Radio-North London (ARNL).

Splash Radio 87.7FM: 'Radio for Everyone: Where The Good News Comes First', our station ID, was officially recognised. This recognition was given, not only by the Church at both the SEC and BUC levels of administration but, equally important to us, by the local statutory and voluntary bodies in our Islington community. The remit given to us by the Radio Authority was to focus our broadcast output on youth culture with its drug usage, crime and violence. This remit allowed the Radio ministry to incorporate and involve the local community in our plans, directives and approach to the ills of modern society in the twenty-first century.

Kirlew Consultancy and Kirlew Creations were appointed by Area 6A to prepare and execute the promotional publicity drive at an exclusive VIP reception, as well as the Launch Church ceremony on the Friday evening and the Sabbath Open Church

service in the local shopping mall.

The VIP guest list and attendees from the Church's organisation were ably represented by Pastor J. Surridge, BUC Communication director, and Pastor D. Boldeau, BUC Youth Ministries director. Also present were Pastor A. Vontzalidis, SEC PM director, and pastors from Area 6A. The Deputy Lady Mayor, Doreen Scott, and her entourage were in attendance. The local voluntary body, New Roots, dealing with the problems of drug usage and addiction, were also represented.

The keynote speaker for the launch ceremony was Pastor Ian Sweeney of 'Preacher of the Year' fame. He challenged the youth to make the right decisions when they were placed between the 'Rock and a Hard Place'. Pastor Sweeney reinforced that God is the Rock and we all should live under the principle of the Rock, Christ Jesus. He concluded that society will always attempt to mould us into its image but, like Daniel, the youth were to stand firm by knowing whom they represented.

The launch ceremony was broad-

cast live on air and added a new dimension to Splash Radio professionalism.

Church in the Mall

Sabbath morning Open Church service in the local shopping mall was a great success. The aims and objectives were realised, inasmuch as only a selected group, in casual dress, attended from the area's Adventist community. As an outreach programme and to advertise Splash Radio, the Open Church service was to be informal, relaxed and friendly. The figures show that 500 balloons, 1,000 pens, and 1,000 pocket calendars, all bearing the Splash Radio logo, were handed out. In fact, we could have handed out many more, had supplies not run out. In addition, the Pathfinders gave out tracts and magazines.

The Open Church service was well received and appreciated as an oasis of hope and cheer to the Saturday mid-morning shoppers.

In conclusion, Adventist Radio-North London is a vital and progres-

sive element in our ministry to the local community and its environs. By giving and sharing of the best, each participant on the team is being blessed and empowered to do more and more for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Top left: Pastor Emmanuel Osei, pastor of Holloway church, with Pastor Ian Sweeney, guest speaker for the launch

Top middle: Pastor Richard DeLisser, Area co-ordinator for London, with one of the PR packs presented to special guests

Top right: Stefan Burton-Schnull during a live broadcast from the studio

Bottom left: Deputy Lady Mayor for the Borough of Islington, Councillor Doreen Scott, (front) personal assistant, Consort, Stefan Burton-Schnull, driver and Emmanuel Osei

Bottom middle: Devon Boyd leading a spirited song service

Bottom right: Susanne Kirlew, Adventist PR consultant who organised the launch



Northern Highlights

Sixty-two baptised. We had the West Midlands tent campaign for three weeks in July, when the speaker was Dr Phillip Willis. We baptised fifty-eight people and later another four, making sixty-two. Another sixty people are receiving Bible studies, with the hope of further baptisms.

Randy Stafford campaign. Randy Stafford conducted a two-week campaign at the Handsworth church and they baptised thirty converts.

Church-based programmes. Pastor Ian Sweeney, the Conference evangelist, has run a number of church-based programmes and has baptised twenty-six so far. There are others receiving studies, to be baptised when they are considered ready.

Aberdaron programme. There is a three-phase development programme going on at Aberdaron at present. We are now in the second phase. The first phase was to employ a Project Development manager to get the project in place and on course. The second phase is to build a number of chalets on the site and restructure the camping programmes. So far we have built four two-bedroomed, self-contained chalets. A fifth will be built in the next few weeks. Each chalet will have a veranda built on to it. The communal hall has been fully decorated and recarpeted. All the old furniture has been thrown out and has been replaced with new items. The complete electrical system has been renewed; a great deal more has been done. Malcolm Hayles, the Project Development manager, is doing an excellent work.

PASTOR E. R. FRANCIS, NEC president

London Teens' Day

At a successful Teens' Day in early September at the Emmanuel Centre in London, attendance was close to a thousand, with young people coming from London, St Albans, Luton, Bristol and Wolverhampton, and other places. The day was organised by Pastor Eglan Brooks and the Teens department of the South England Conference. This was the second time such an event had taken place at the Emmanuel Centre.

Its church with a difference, in that there is no break and most of the congregation stays put for over three hours of singing (very lively), drama, musical items (including rap), mime, dance, and the spoken word. The Teens department had invited Dr Emil Peeler from California, USA, who delivered a challenging message in a way that was relevant for the audience. The final altar call saw over two hundred come forward, crowding the stage and aisles, with more than seventy leaving contact details.

STEFAN BURTON-SCHNULL

designed in an attractive and colourful way, giving details of Gloucester's own personal website and a contact number where interested people could phone in and receive a free FOCUS magazine (the issue dealing with 11 September) and a free video from the Kenneth Cox series.

Since the inception of this Gloucester outreach project, we have been inundated with responses, the majority of whom keenly request the free video and FOCUS magazine. Pastor Richard Daly, the church minister, said, 'It's good to know that the lay members can take this initiative and undertake scores of follow-up visits and be willing to give Bible studies.' Peter Fanstone, the Personal Ministries leader who initiated the project, is quoted as saying, 'I just knew this would take off in a big way because the enemy has tried so hard to prevent it from getting off the ground.' Indeed, the faithful members who have gone out have also been blessed in a big way.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Massive response to 9/11 outreach

It seemed like an audacious idea, but it caught on with the Gloucester congregation. The idea was to blitz the city of Gloucester, some 50,000 households, with a challenging leaflet entitled, *Were was God?*, using the 11 September tragedy to stimulate thought and provide an opportunity to address the many spiritual questions people are asking. The leaflet was

Orthodontist needed for established Adventist mission clinic in Zimbabwe. This fully computerised, recently remodelled, and beautifully landscaped clinic is busy and has an excellent reputation. The profits have provided help to many mission projects throughout this division. An ideal climate, beautiful home, and the splendours of Africa are all a bonus for those called to service in this country. For more information contact Quinton Nicola at qnicola@sd.llu.edu.



Participants of 'Slim, Gym and Swim' weight loss programme with Dale Brooks and Sonia Grant (seated), Roundelwood fitness instructors, Barbara Mallinson, hair stylist, and Sharon Brown, nutritionist (standing).

Slim, Gym and Swim

Roundelwood Health Spa's regime of exercise and diet is being passed on to local GPs as a suggested alternative to medication for high blood pressure or weight problems.

As evidence, more than a dozen 'volunteers' can attest to their twelve-week course and its benefits.

Roundelwood Health Spa launched a pilot programme called 'Slim, Gym and Swim', and twelve weeks later the trialists were celebrating first-class success rates.

One of the organisers said, 'The programme is designed to help people of any age or ability to lose weight, get fit and gain confidence for ever – not just temporarily.'

'There is nothing new in what we do, but we offer people a tailor-made eating plan with a fully qualified dietician, and an exercise programme from their own personal trainer – and the combination of the two seems to work very well.'

'Many of the results have been stunning, and not only have the people lost weight as predicted, they are also feeling so much better. And, just as importantly, folk who have been suffering from high blood pressure have seen it come down.' Sharon Brown, dietician, said, 'The programme demonstrates that dieting alone is not as affective as the combination of sensible eating and regular, challenging exercise.'

Sonia Grant, the gym manager, added, 'We are taking this scheme to our local GPs, hoping that they might refer their patients, rather than resorting initially to providing medication. It would be great to be part of an overall emphasis on prevention rather than cure.'

DALE BROOKS, gym instructor

Achievement Awards

The children from the Holcombe Road Junior Sabbath school were pleasantly surprised during their 13th Sabbath presentation to the adult class. After demonstrating how talented they are by presenting their items – songs, recitals and sketches – a number of children were presented with certificates and, in one case, a shield for outstanding achievement.

Over the previous thirteen weeks the children had been graded on attendance, participation in class and environmental awareness, among other categories. They had no idea that an engraved shield was to be presented to the child with the most points, and certificates to the two runners-up.

The aim of the initiative devised by the Junior Sabbath school team is to cultivate interest not only in participation in the lesson studies but an interest in the Holcombe Road church as a whole. After the presentations



Jeffrey Boateng, recipient of the outstanding achievement award for the second quarter

were made a number of children were heard to say that they would be aiming to arrive on time for Sabbath school the following week.

Stanborough Park baptism

On 31 August Aleta King and Samuel Tulett were baptised at Stanborough Park church. Present among many friends and well-wishers were Sam's parents and sister Claire, and Aleta's parents who had come from Australia.

Pastors Japhet De Oliveira and David Neal conducted the service. Japhet had studied with both candidates and baptised Sam. David baptised Aleta. Aleta's mother, Barbara, sang during the service. Others who sang were four members of the London Adventist Chorale: Trevor and Joan Johnson, and Alaffia and Pamela Maxwell. They were accompanied by Neilson Roberts on the piano, and Sam's cousin, Daniel Thompson, on the bass guitar.

Fifteen-year-old Sam said, 'I have realised that Jesus Christ is the only one who can really help me in my life.'

Aleta said, 'I have been amazed at how God has always been there for me in the past, even when I was not aware of it at the time.'

Japhet challenged us to get connected 'with an Infinite Being and to stay connected'.

Sam says, 'Jesus can really change your life in a better way. He will guide you through all the bad times, and when you need someone to talk to and there is no one around, he is always there.'

BROWNIE ATKINSON

Photo: Stanley Maxwell



Gloucester: Four men baptised

On 31 August Gloucester church experienced a colourful and emotional day as four men were baptised. It was colourful because three of the candidates were from the beautiful island of Fiji and they certainly brought with them their vibrant smiles and wore their dazzlingly beautiful national costumes. The Fijian candidates, Benjamin, Zacchaeus and Osiah, are in England to join the British Army. During their wait for selection and training they stayed with another of Gloucester's Fijian members, Brother Uriah, who embraced them as his own

and began to give them Bible studies. Coming from various religious backgrounds they were convicted of the truth and made their determined pledge to join God in the Lord's Army.

Errol Westcarr was our fourth candidate; a tremendous example of how God can change a man 'inside to out'. Those who know him will realise the great sacrifice that was made giving up his 'locks' that had been groomed for the last twelve years. 'Only God could have made me cut my hair,' he said. Words of encouragement were given by Pastor Ron Edwards and the candidates were baptised by resident minister Pastor Richard Daly.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

SEC introduces new lay preachers' course

by Catherine Boldeau

The Ministerial department of the South England Conference launched its Lay Preachers' Certificate course in the early autumn. The first course started on 22 September and will run until 1 December every other Sunday at Stoke Newington church.

As the venue for the course is situated in North London, it is anticipated that members from these churches, and those from the East London area, will be able to attend. However, this does not exclude members attending from other parts of London.

In order that the entire Conference receives the benefit, courses will be held throughout 2003 in various areas. The proposed schedule is as follows – Areas 1 & 2: Cornwall & Devon, February 2003; Areas 3 & 4: Hants, Dorset, Kent & Sussex, April 2003; Areas 6B & 6D: South & West London, May 2003; Area 8: Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk, July 2003; Areas 5 & 7:

Bucks, Beds & Herts, October 2003.

The course, 'Heralds of God's Word', was written by Pastor Mike Stickland while he was the minister of the Nottingham Bulwell church and the North England Conference Ministerial Association secretary. The General Conference Ministerial department, after reading the manuscript, chose to publish it as one of their resources in the training of lay preachers. The main contents of the course will be taken from this manual. However, an additional lecture has been added and one of the tutorials customised for our Conference.

There are twelve separate tutorials, two to be given at each session. The lecturers chosen to deliver these subjects are experts in their area and have many years of denominational experience and service behind them. The syllabus and respective tutors are as follows: 22/09/2002: 'Every Believer

a Preacher', D. McFarlane; 'It's Like Growing a Garden', M. Stickland; 6/10/2002: 'Deciding What to Preach', C. Perry; 'Persuasive Preaching', S. McKenzie; 20/10/2002: 'Variety – The Spice of Sermons', G. Rhamie; 'Sermon Structure', L. Turner; 3/11/2002: 'The Tools of the Preachers' Trade', P. Boyle; 'Principles of Pulpit Decorum', R. De Lisser; 17/11/2002: 'Principles of Christian Communication', Catherine Boldeau; 'The Need, Nature & Practice of Worship', Mary Barrett; 1/12/2002: 'Model Sermon Preacher', D. Elias; 'Change – "Preach the Word"', B. Kavaloh.

The cost of the course is £14, which includes materials that will be supplied. Mrs Vivienne Evers, secretary to Pastor Kavaloh, Ministerial secretary at the SEC office (phone 01923 232728), will provide application forms and any other information that you may need regarding the course. At the end of each session there will be a graduation ceremony for those who have successfully completed their assignments and have attended sufficient lectures.

the sea lion demonstrations. One ASNA member blind from birth was given special attention from the elephant carers and allowed an extra special opportunity to touch and smell the elephants! Lions, bears and giraffes greeted the excited members driving through the safari park.

We had a wonderful day where members were able to enjoy each other's company and God's wonderful creation.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS

ASNA Family Fun Day at Woburn

On Sunday 18 August, ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association) members and friends had their first family fun day at Woburn Safari Park. We were blessed with perfect weather. All twenty-five members and friends who attended

expressed how much they enjoyed the day. Carers of the disabled members were able to take respite as the volunteer carers looked after the ASNA members with disabilities.

The children were able to touch the elephants, go on boat rides and view

Members and friends share in the excitement of meeting an elephant face to face



BLACKWOOD, Iris Agatha – d. 25 July. Iris was born in Crooked River, Jamaica. She migrated to London in 1953, where she and her husband George raised and cared for their family. One of her greatest joys was taking care of children, hers and others. Throughout her life, Sister Blackwood displayed a pleasant and caring nature towards everyone she met. She was an ardent member of Brixton church, serving as a deaconess, and was involved in community services. These responsibilities were carried out cheerfully and capably. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor James Phillip, assisted by Pastors Cecil Perry and Steve Roberts. Thanksgiving for her life of faithfulness and devotion were given by Pastor Perry her grandchildren and members of the church family Hyacinth Knight and Auline De Lisser gave musical tributes. Sister Blackwood is survived by her children, Joyce, Clement, Allen, Faith, Patrick, Peggy, Juliette, Clifford, Dawn, Margaret, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other relatives. May the promises of what the future holds for God's people be a comfort to us as they were for Sister Blackwood. JOAN REID

BRIZAN, Rose – d. July Monday 22 July saw Chatham church filled almost to capacity with church members. They came from other churches in area 4 and from further afield. Sister Rose Brizan had touched all of their lives and they came to pay their last respects. Three pastors conducted the funeral service led by Pastor David Sparing. The service took on the quality of a celebration as the congregation was reminded of the way 'Sister Rose' had followed her Lord, the different roles she had taken in the church, including head deaconess, church clerk and project leader for the Holiday Bible Club. Rose, affectionately known as 'Auntie Rose', was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1926. On leaving school she trained as a nurse and, after the death of her mother, came to England. She was never to leave. On moving to Gillingham, in the Medway Towns, she attended the Chatham church and remained a key figure in the life of the church until just a few weeks before her death. Sister Rose will long be remembered for her indomitable spirit, for her sticking to principle whatever the cost, and for her sense of humour. Only a matter of months before she died the writer gave her a lift home from prayer meeting in a thirty-year-old VW Beetle car. On arriving home she said she would never ride in it again, and sadly she never did. At the committal, Pastors David Sparing and Michael Toy, together with our current pastor and Alan Hart, were joined by Pastor Fernand Lombart. Together these brethren carried out the final act of laying our sister to rest to await the call of the Life-giver. Our sympathy and prayers go to Constance Brizan, Sister Rose's only child. MICHAEL J. CUNNINGHAM

Wedding

DYSON-DUGAN. The wedding of Neil Dyson and Rebecca Dugan took place before a large congregation in the historic Wren's Chapel on the Wroxhall Abbey Estate near Warwick on Sunday 14 June. The bride, the daughter of Mrs Clarice and the late Noel Dugan of Solihul, was given away by her uncle Mr Malcolm Ferguson, well known in Trust Services at the BUC. The groom, the son of Mr and Mrs Stan Dyson of Exmouth, Devon, was accompanied by his brother Ian acting as best man. The groom's niece Amy was flower girl and Adam, her younger brother, was page boy. The wedding reception took place in The Mansion House on the Wroxhall Abbey Estate with relatives and close friends. In his address the writer, who officiated and who is a long-standing family friend, spoke of the need in a marriage to keep confidences and to make major decisions together, never allowing a third party to be privy to private affairs. 'By looking to Christ,' he said, 'you will gain strength and wisdom which will give you the impetus to look ahead.' We wish Rebecca and Neil God's eternal blessings and guidance in their new life together. PASTOR DENIS BAILDAM

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Newbold church opened 14 September

Continued from page 1

Speaking at the meeting of alumni and friends of Newbold that was held after the service, the writer highlighted the significant contribution made by alumni and friends who had helped to bring the project to a successful conclusion; 'When I started working on the project nine years ago when I first came to Newbold, it was the gifts made by individuals, some of whom are present here today, that gave us hope and courage and the determination to continue with the project. This support and passion for the church from many different parts of the world helped to regenerate the vision for the church.' The writer went on to explain how early donations from Audrey and Jud Wilcox, who had come from the USA especially for the event, had provided 'concrete evidence' on which to base hopes that the dream might indeed become a reality. A donation from McKee Foods, USA, also provided a similar secure foundation. 'Then donations started coming in from all over the world.'

Reflecting on the opening service, Dr John Baildam, Newbold director of Academic Affairs, said, 'What I think was exciting was the different mix of people who were there, from the college community, from the wider church community, from the borough community, from all walks of life, reflecting the 65 different nationalities we have at the College.' Pastor Perry summed up the feelings of many when he said, 'The service of blessing and praise spoke of a joy of accomplishment that comes after years of yearning to have a house built unto our God. The occasion was uplifting and will be long remembered by those who participated in the service. It is my desire that all those who worship in the building indeed experience the presence of God.'

The new church is a contemporary building that engages and integrates with the landscape to promote a feeling of openness and transparency. To ensure that the view of Moor Close, the original manor house located on the property, remains unrestricted, the church has been built into the contours of the gently sloping land, with the largest elements towards the boundaries of the site. One of the building's most innovative features is the green turf-covered flat roof over single-storey spaces. The circular drum enclosing the main area of the church is clad in natural cedar blending into the trees in the background.

Commenting on the building, Stian Keyn, president, Newbold Student Association, said, 'It's a great relief to have something so modern in a traditional Adventist setting. I like the grass on the roof – very Norwegian style.' Betty de Souza, a Newbold student, said, 'I am looking forward to seeing the café area operating. It will be a great place for the community, church and college to meet.'



Principals past and present, Dr D. Penner, Dr Andrea Luxton, Dr Derek Beardsell and Dr E. E. White



The Cooper brothers with the choir



The Key Girl stands with members of the congregation



Mayor, Councillor Mrs Dorothy Hayes, with two members of Newbold Church

The final comments on the new church lie with Pastor McFarlane. 'This new church is built with both the church members and the community in mind. The design in many ways sets

the standard for church buildings that are intended for worship and service. With my Conference administrator's hat on, I am delighted that the whole project has kept to budget. At the out-

set there were some who were of the view that the budget was too conservative and would certainly fall short of what it would take to complete the building. Well, they have been proved wrong. Careful examination of the Conference's records might show that this is one of the few building projects of this proportion to have kept to budget. On behalf of the Conference I wish to thank all those who have contributed in one way or another to the construction of this beautiful facility.'

UPCOMING EVENTS	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Focus on the Family seminar	12-26 October	Wolverhampton, Oxford Street	Paul Philip, Trinidad & Tobago	jude_jeanville@hotmail.com 01922-614504 or 07932662714
Teaching English as a Foreign Language Taster Day	Sunday 13 October 10am-3pm	Newbold College Bracknell	£25 including lunch	Booking essential: Erica Hole 01344-407450 or Meggan James 01344-407454
Artistic Ministries concert	26 October 7.30pm	The Ladywood Centre, St Vincent Street West, Birmingham	Gospel artists	General ticket info: 0790 9884773, 0770 3255199 Adults £3, children £1

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.

Messenger

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Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

		Lon	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct	11	6.17	6.29	6.19	6.23	6.36
	18	6.02	6.14	6.03	6.05	6.19
	25	5.47	5.59	5.48	5.49	6.03
Nov	1	4.34	4.46	4.34	4.33	4.48

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