

# Messenger

News to the churches • 7 December 2012 • Volume 117 • 25/26

## Lorry loads of 'happiness'!

**B**urkina Faso – the 'land of honest men' – is the world's third-poorest country. Located in West Africa, this landlocked nation is subject to recurring drought. Which is bad news for the many Burkinabes who eke out an existence from farming cotton – a product that is hostage to fluctuating world prices.

In situations like this, children are always the losers. They live 'never-enough' lives, going short on many of the things we regard as the bare basics of childhood – toothpaste, soap, shampoo, crayons, pencils, paper and even the simplest of manufactured toys.

### Now you know

Now you know why ADRA-UK chose the children of this country to receive the 12,000 shoeboxes collected during the 2012 Appeal.

Crammed into two massive shipping containers, these precious boxes were collected from the Stanborough Park grounds on 21 November, along with our first batch of WakaWaka solar lights and 250 relief boxes from Aquabox. They are now on their way to Africa and should reach Burkina Faso by Boxing Day.

### The best Appeal yet

In their enthusiasm, many churches and individuals have exceeded last year's tally. ADRA-UK CEO, Bert Smit, put it this way: *'So many people, and especially schoolchildren, have made this happen . . . 4,000 boxes more than 2011. . . . People are so generous, even when feeling the pinch themselves!'*

Typical of this enthusiasm was the comment of a young child from Manchester: *'We saw your video and we wanted to do shoeboxes to make more little kids happy!'*

A beaming Godwin Benjamin, ADRA's Appeal co-ordinator, was there to seal those containers before they left: *'The response from our members and friends has been phenomenal . . . but I must also mention the volunteers who packed boxes at the collection points, and those who helped unload the trucks and pack these containers. All your efforts were greatly appreciated.'*

### The last word

In any report, someone always has the last word – this time we give it to 'Mac', one of the burly truckers, who uplifted the containers: *'Most days I'm loading my truck to make rich people richer. Today, I'm transporting happiness!'*

Wow, what an awesome thought!

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Melanie Scherencel Bockmann

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# Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc  
Health Ministries director, BWC

## Drink to your health

While visiting Jamaica on holiday recently, I made an interesting discovery about the reported health impact of some commonly used beverages in the West Indies. Professor Paul Gyles, PhD (an Adventist), Associate Vice-President of Academic Administration, Graduate Studies and Research at Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica, is involved in ground-breaking research on the health benefits of Jamaican sorrel: a medicinal plant,\* also called roselle, used to make a refreshing beverage. Professor Gyles presented his initial findings at the annual conference of the American Society for Cell Biology in 2009. His report highlighted the protein element found in Jamaican sorrel seeds, its antioxidant qualities and its impact as an 'anti-cancer agent'.

On 29 April 2011, an article entitled 'Sorrel research deepens' was published in the newspaper *The Gleaner*. Richard Bryan, a writer for *The Gleaner*, highlighted the collaborative research that Northern Caribbean University undertook with Loma Linda University in California on the potential benefits of Jamaican sorrel. This research reveals that Jamaican sorrel has a positive effect in treating oral and breast cancer cells.

Authenticating the research, other professors like Dr Neal Johnson, a Barbadian and assistant professor of microbiology in the Oral Diagnosis, Radiology and Pathology department at Loma Linda, stated that '*Hibiscus sabdariffa* (Jamaican sorrel) extract induces cell death in an oral squamous carcinoma cell line.'

Professor Gyles revealed that current research with Loma Linda was looking at the possibility of arriving at a pharmaceutical dosage. He adds that rather than just using the drink for seasonal celebrations like Christmas, instead: 'One or two glasses per week could be therapeutic as we believe it has a cumulative effect.'

In another study, authors T. Alleyne, S. Roache, C. Thomas and A. Shirley researched two tropical food drinks, coconut water (*Cocos nucifera*) and mauby (*Colubrina arborescens*) and the impact of their regular consumption on the control of hypertension.

The research outcome published in the *West Indian Medical Journal* 2005 Jan; 54(1):3-8 was undertaken at the Department of Preclinical Sciences, Faculty of Medical Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

Hypertensive subjects were assigned to four equal groups, and their blood pressures recorded for two weeks before the trial and for two weeks while receiving one of four interventions. The control group ingested bottled drinking water, the second group coconut water, the third mauby, and the final group a mixture of coconut water and mauby.

The largest decreases in blood pressure were discovered in the group drinking both coconut water and mauby: double the decrease seen among those who took only the single interventions.

### Good health!

\*Not to be confused with another plant called sorrel, *Rumex acetosa*



# editorial



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## A tale of two teachers

discipline us – we were too busy enjoying his discussions of Shakespeare, Keats, Conrad and company.

### Act II: scene 2

It was December 1969. A-level exams were over. I had postponed my uni studies for a year to get my compulsory military service done first.

I had my call-up papers. Within weeks I was to report for duty with an infantry regiment. Then, after six weeks' basic training I could be on active duty somewhere.

My English teacher just happened to visit our home church that month . . . and my mother just happened to invite him to lunch.

### Act II: scene 3

That afternoon, in the shade of a magnificent flamboyant tree, he asked: 'Julian, what are your plans for next year?'

'I have my call-up papers, Sir. I intend to do my military training, then come back to college.'

'What about postponing your call-up to do your theological studies first? I have heard that they could release you from military duties if there is no chaplaincy vacancy when you graduate.'

'Really, Sir, I didn't know that!'

'Yes! Give it some thought. I'd love to have you in my English literature class next year!'

### Act III: scene 1

I postponed my call-up; went back to our Adventist college instead; met my future wife; made some fantastic friends; graduated with a theology degree; and then, as if scripted by my English teacher, received DOD notification that my services were no longer required!

### Epilogue

How different could my life have been? What if my English teacher had not wanted me back? We don't know, do we?

What we do know, however, is that each of us has an influence on those around us – positive or negative, but seldom neutral.

Am I a positive influence? Are you?

There is a bit of old Quaker wisdom that encapsulates this for me: 'I expect to pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do any fellow human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I will not pass this way again.'\*

Jesus walked the stony road from cradle to cross knowing He would not pass that way again.

This gave special purpose to His contact with people. Wherever He could lift a burden; cheer a heart; share an insight; or bring peace and grace to a tortured mind, He did so.

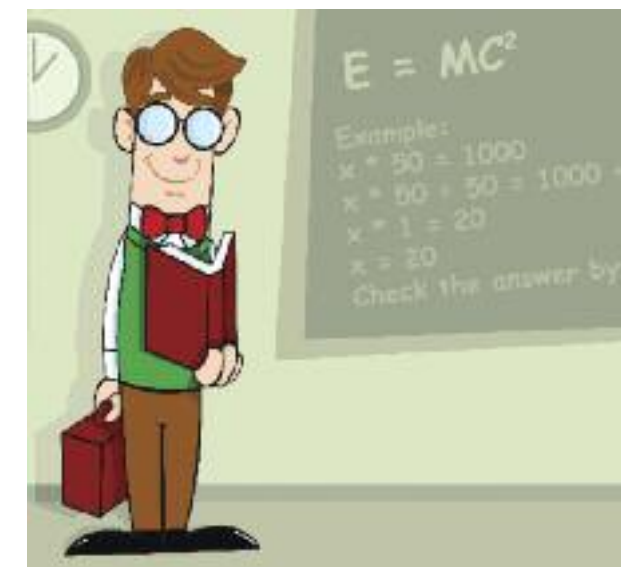
He quietly added value to the lives of blind men; wayward women; scorned Samaritans; hated tax collectors; furtive Pharisees; rough fishermen; tough soldiers; even a dying thief . . . and those little children who just wanted to hold His hand.

Have I added any real value to someone's life today?

If not, will tomorrow be any different?

\* [http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Stephen\\_Grellet](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Stephen_Grellet)

Editor's special note: Reader, please don't misunderstand. I am glad for the education I got from 'Herr Teacher'. After all, he helped us through those final exams, didn't he! But I am deeply indebted to my English teacher, who wasn't perfect – just delightfully different! I wish there were more of him around.



### Prologue

Dear Reader, just a bit of background before I 'stage' my simple play. I attended Helderberg College, South Africa, for the last two years of high school and my first degree. Some teachers taught both high school and college classes – as did my English teacher. Back then, the final years of high school were 'Standards nine and ten', and you needed to pass six A-level subjects to enter university.

### Act I: scene 1

I slid into the first empty desk, fiddled with my tie and waited for our new maths teacher to arrive. He was on time; wore a quality suit that fitted perfectly; and spoke with a German accent.

'Good morning! So . . . you are the new Standard nines. You have your textbooks, yes?'

Then 'Herr Teacher' went for the jugular. 'This class is too big! Some of you should take other subjects! If you didn't get a 60% pass last year, you won't pass A-level maths!'

Silence briefly ruled the room . . . then some rose despondently and left.

Others, like myself, pondered their options as 'Herr Teacher' droned on.

### Act I: Scene 2

I had a passion to go to university. For that I needed two languages, mathematics, and at least one science among my six subjects.

So I was there to hear his comment the next day: 'So, some of you have decided to stay, yes? Good luck!'

### Act I: Scene 3

Twenty-four long months later, almost to the day, I paused on the top step of the Administration building. I had passed in every subject – including mathematics!

It felt so good . . . but it was about to get even better. For coming up the stairs towards me was 'Herr Teacher'. As immaculate as ever, and probably on his way to scare a few fresh Standard nines out of his class!

He slowed as he reached the top step, just long enough to rumble a comment: 'So, Herr Hibbert, you passed . . .'

And hear my smiling answer: 'Yes, Herr Teacher, I did!'

### Act II: scene 1

He had wispy, white receding hair, thick black-rimmed glasses and wore suits on Sabbath, but never to class. He was unconventional, approachable and warm. He was my English teacher for those last two years of high school.

His passion for literature was contagious – so too his passion for life. He built an ocean-going yacht in his backyard; used compass, chart and sextant to illustrate his worship talks; and chugged to class and back each day on an elderly scooter.

It was seldom necessary for him to





## Two to a manger

David Marshall gives a timeless story a touching twist

A few years after his fall from power, we met Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev. He it was, you will recall, who had presided over the collapse of the Communist Empire. Mikhail Sergeyevich was in company with his wife Raisa. The fragmentation of the Soviet Empire was already in progress, but we were not in any of its several parts: nor, indeed, anywhere in the newly-formed Russian Federation. Both the Gorbachevs and ourselves were far from our home countries pursuing our common interest in ancient history.

The location of our encounter was a museum in Thessaloniki, which showcases some of the most outstanding artefacts from the age of Alexander the Great.

We had *no* opportunity to discuss with the Gorbachevs our shared enthusiasm for things from ancient Greece. Indeed, the only interesting outcome for me from the encounter was a report in the following day's papers of a press conference Gorbachev gave in the museum's conference hall.

The questions, had they been answered as the journalists hoped, could have got the Gorbachevs into a lot of hot water. But Mikhail Sergeyevich had been around long enough to know how to field them. However, he did open up on a question addressed to him on the negative consequences of seventy years of atheism.

The price would be paid by post-Communist societies in various fragments of the Russian Empire. He went so far as to suggest that the highest price would be paid in the Russian heartland itself.

Gorbachev saw that the biggest casualty of seventy years of totalitarian atheism was the family unit. The family unit, he believed, was the cellular unit of society, and, when it collapsed, social order was imperilled. The dismantling of the whole Communist apparatus had, if anything, he said, accelerated the collapse of the family unit, which had been evident to him for decades.

The virtual disappearance of the nuclear family – Mum, Dad and 2.4 children? – had given rise to the need for institutions in the

Russian Federation in which unwanted children, battered wives and children who were victims of violence and other forms of abuse could be housed.

Never having forgotten Gorbachev's words, I have tried to follow developments in the continuing collapse of the family in post-Communist countries.

Those who led the immediately post-Communist governments felt the need to instil ethical values into the abandoned and abused children of the various institutions. In the Boris Yeltsin period, rather surprisingly, some hundreds of people were imported from the US of A and given the brief to introduce the children of the institutions to secular moral values.

A team from New England found themselves struggling to fulfil that brief in one institution. It was Christmas Eve and a primary-trained teacher in the team decided to depart from his brief. Even though Christmas was being made little of, he found himself telling a hundred 'orphans' the traditional

Christmas story. Quite suddenly he had everyone's attention. This despite the fact that he had to work through an interpreter.

'Both the children and the adults supervising them,' he said, 'were on the edge of their seats. . . .'

Because the story had gone down so well, the teacher decided to reinforce the images in the story by having the children cut out the principal players in the manger scene from the felt of some discarded dressing gowns. The manger was cut first, then the baby, then the shepherds and their lambs, the wise men and their gifts, not forgetting Mary and Joseph.

That was the plan, at all events. Most children managed to cut out a manger and a rather doll-like baby.

Misha, 6, who finished first, actually made two babies and placed them both in the manger. 'Why two?' the translator asked him.

Misha crossed his arms, looked wise and began to tell his version of the Christmas narrative. When he reached the point where Mary placed the Babe in the manger, Misha added some words of his own: 'When Mary placed Jesus in the manger, He looked up at me and said, "Have *you* anywhere to stay?" I told Him I have no mama and no papa, so I don't have anywhere to stay. Then Jesus said, "Stay with Me." But I thought I couldn't because I didn't have a gift to give Him. Then I said, "If I keep You warm, would that be a good enough gift?" Jesus said, "That would be the best gift of all." So I got into the manger with Jesus and He said, "You can stay with Me – for always."'

Misha's eyes brimmed with tears, and they splashed down his cheeks. His head dropped, and his shoulders shook with sobs. The abandoned boy had found a Friend who would never abuse him, and would stay with him – for always.

Whether under Communism or gangster capitalism, we pay a high price for abandoning the Jesus narrative. And Misha's take on it was spot on. *We* have to become part of the narrative.

Misha's eyes brimmed with tears, and they splashed down his cheeks. His head dropped, and his shoulders shook with sobs. The abandoned boy had found a Friend who would never abuse him, and would stay with him – for always.



with Andrew Puckering



## The Immanuel prophecy

At Christmas time we often hear Isaiah's beautiful prophecy, fulfilled in the fullest sense by Jesus Christ: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel' (Isaiah 7:14, NKJV). In what context was this prophecy originally given? Let's find out. . . .

King Ahaz of Judah was in deep trouble. Within the first three years of his reign – apparently while he was still co-regent with his father Jotham – Remaliah's son Pekah, the king of Israel, teamed up with Rezin the king of the Syrians, or Arameans; and they tried to take over Judah and install their own puppet king (2 Kings 15:27, 37-16:1; Isaiah 7:5, 6). The fact that former enemies were joining forces against him like this filled Ahaz with dread (2 Kings 6; 13; Isaiah 7:1, 2); and with good reason. He had been forsaking God, worshipping idols, even burning his own children to them (2 Chronicles 28:1-4). As a result, Syria and Israel took it in turns to crush his army, killing Ahaz's son, his officer, and his second-in-command (2 Chronicles 28:5-8). Ahaz even gave the temple gold to Tiglath-Pileser of the Assyrian Empire, vainly hoping that he would help him out: but his plea for assistance fell on deaf ears (2 Chronicles 28:16-21).

God was merciful to this heathen king, however, sending Isaiah to tell him not to be afraid – the plans of Israel and Syria's kings would never see fruition. In fact, within a man's lifetime, Israel wouldn't even exist anymore as a nation-state (Isaiah 7:4, 7, 8). What's more – sensing Ahaz's scepticism – the LORD offered him a wonderful chance to ask for any sign he liked (Isaiah 7:11)! Ahaz, maybe thinking of Deuteronomy 6:16, refused to put God to the test: at which point, God, exasperated with him (Isaiah 7:12, 13), chose His own sign to give: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel [God with us]' (Isaiah 7:14, NKJV).

Before this child would know right from wrong, the kings that Ahaz was so afraid of would be no more. God would bring the Assyrians down on them all, desolating the land and causing cultivated produce like wine to give way to simple peasants' food, curds and honey, which the child would eat (Isaiah 7:15-25).

In time, Isaiah produced a son with Mrs Prophet, and, taking witnesses, called him 'Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz' ('Speed the Spoil, Hasten the Booty'): saying that before the child would know how to speak, the Assyrians would take the spoils of war from the capital cities of Israel and Syria (Isaiah 8:1-4). Then they would overflow those banks like a mighty river, flooding Judah, Immanuel's land, as well (Isaiah 8:5-8).

This actually happened. The king of Assyria eventually listened to Ahaz, and captured the capital city of Syria, killing its king (2 Kings 16:9). The king of Israel, Pekah, was killed in a conspiracy led by Hoshea the son of Elah (2 Kings 15:30), who became Israel's final king. The Assyrians, suspecting shenanigans on his part, besieged his capital city, imprisoned him, and deported the Israelite population because of their sins against God (2 Kings 17:4-8). Years later, as Ahaz's son Hezekiah faced the overflowing Assyrians outside Jerusalem, God was with him (2 Chronicles 32).

We can see, then, that all of God's prophecies to Ahaz through Isaiah were fulfilled to the letter! A far greater fulfilment of the prophecy to Ahaz, though – which we remember every year about this time – came several hundred years later (Matthew 1:18-23); when a virgin conceived and bore a Son who was the true Immanuel – God with us.

- In which field did Isaiah meet Ahaz?
- Who did Ahaz's son Hezekiah see in this field? (2 Kings 18)
- Who witnessed the naming of Isaiah's son?
- What did one of these witnesses do with Ahaz? (2 Kings 16)
- What did Ahaz make, and how did God use it? (Isaiah 38)

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## False teachers unmasked — part 2

by John Surridge

**Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president, completes his two-part 'unmasking' of those 'independent ministries' that engage in activities that may be harmful to your faith – and your relationship to the Church. Part 1 appeared in the MESSENGER of 23 November this year.**

**6. Undermining the Church.** A clear indicator of whether teachers are false or not is their attitude towards the Church. They have to be very cautious here, of course, because they draw their audience from within the Church. Listen carefully though, and you will hear them subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) undermining the very organisation which they rely on for new disciples. Some of the phrases they come out with are, 'You won't hear this truth being preached in your church'; 'Why are Adventists so afraid of preaching on this text?' 'Adventists are sleepwalking into the future.'

What they're really saying is, 'Don't trust the Church; trust me instead.' You have to admit it's attractive. Which of us hasn't engaged in church-bashing at one time or another? When a new speaker comes along, who has specialised in one tiny corner of the Bible and really seems to know his stuff, it can seem quite a contrast from the pastor you have listened to for the last five years. But think about it. The pastor's job is to teach a balanced view of the Scriptures to a highly diverse audience. You're bound to hear some stuff again and again, and yes, you might get bored with some of it. New teachings *can* seem exciting – but that doesn't necessarily mean they are true.

False teachers will also be careful to undermine the educational institutions of the Church and they usually focus on what is *not* being taught. 'You won't hear this being taught at Newbold College,' is a favourite saying. The big threat to the false teachers from our educational institutions, however, is not *what*

is being taught, but the *way* that it is being taught. At our colleges and universities you are not just taught facts; you are taught how to study, how to analyse, how to practise 'rightly dividing the word of truth' (2 Timothy 2:15). A correct understanding of how to interpret the Bible is what will bring the false teachers down.

**7. Piety no indicator of accuracy.** The mathematical trick in the box below still contains an error. That error would still be there even if different symbols had been used. We could have substituted 'alpha' and 'omega' in place of 'a' and 'z'. We could have thrown in some biblical numbers – like 7 or 12 or 1,260 or 2,300 – but it would still have been wrong. Even if a long prayer had been said before the equations were presented, the result would still be wrong. Similarly with the false teachers. Many of them intersperse their presentations with biblical-sounding words or numbers. Many of them say lengthy prayers, often on their knees,

### Maths trick:

Here's a great maths trick to try out on your unsuspecting friends, or even teachers! They will need to have some knowledge of algebra – particularly the rule that whatever you do to one side of an equation you have to do to the other side as well. So, here we go:

Let	$a=z$	
Then	$a^2 = az$	(multiplying both sides by a)
Then	$a^2 + a^2 = az + a^2$	(adding $a^2$ to both sides)
Then	$2a^2 = az + a^2$	(grouping the first two terms together)
Then	$2a^2 - 2az = az + a^2 - 2az$	(subtracting $2az$ from both sides)
Then	$2a^2 - 2az = a^2 - az$	(simplifying the right-hand side)
Then	$2(a^2 - az) = 1(a^2 - az)$	(another way of writing the above step)
Then	$2=1$	(dividing both sides by $[a^2 - az]$ )

Can you spot the mistake? Send in your answers and we'll print the best answer in a future edition.

Note: All texts quoted in this article are from the New King James Version.

invoking the power of the Holy Spirit to convict the audience of the 'truth' of what they are saying. They may also claim to have family worship twice a day and practise both dress and health reform. Unfortunately, none of these qualities is a reliable indicator of the accuracy of what they are presenting. Even 'good' people can be wrong.

**8. Preference for verbal teaching.** Most false teachers (though there are a few notable exceptions) prefer to teach through the spoken word at specially convened meetings, rather than through written documents or books. The advantage (for them) of this approach is that it is very hard to check the accuracy of what is being said when a string of 'facts' is being fired at you in real time. An academic paper, on the other hand, can be carefully scrutinised, peer-reviewed by others who are experts in the field, and critiqued in other publications. Verbal teaching also allows the teacher to use techniques that just wouldn't work in print. For example, clever use of the question 'Amen?' can lead an audience to affirm something automatically, before they really know what they are affirming. To my mind this is not

teaching; it's programming!

**9. Little interest in evangelism.** You won't hear much about evangelism from the false teachers. They are much more interested in reforming or cleansing the Adventist Church (which they often refer to as Laodicea or even Babylon) than in getting new people to join it. For many of them the battle cry of the Church should be, 'When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.' (E. G. White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 69.) This is, of course, a worthy aim and was Ellen White's way of restating Galatians 5:22, 23, which is talking about the fruits of the Spirit. But surely it shouldn't negate the real driving force of the Church, 'And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.' (Matthew 24:14.)

**10. By their fruits you will know them.** One of the saddest evidences that a teacher is false is unfortunately only revealed after a long period of time, and that is the trail of confusion, disunity, and disharmony that false teachers leave in their wake. Follow the path of any particular false teaching over a number of years and you will find breakaway movements, splits in churches, and zero net growth. Yes, they will attract a following of some kind, but it is always at the expense of the Church as a whole.

### In conclusion

One thing is for sure: we will always have false teachers infiltrating the Church, parasitic on the structure, using the hard work that has been done by others for their own ends. The question is, are we going to be taken in by them or will we recognise them for who they are?



# special feature

## Educating for eternity



**To introduce our special twelve-page feature on Adventist education, our editor interviews Anne Pilmoor, BUC Education director, concerning a number of relevant and related issues. This is followed by material submitted by our various schools and Newbold College, which we trust will deepen your understanding of this vital work.**

**Editor: Anne, whenever I hear you speaking in public you seem prepared and to the point – the consummate professional. But I know that there is more to you than just this – please fill in the blanks for us.**

**Anne:** Well, I am the wife of a great 'learning partner' and a proud mother. Our daughter, Gaelyn, is a corporate lawyer in one of London's major law firms, and Graham, our son, is an actuary. I am also the daughter of a missionary – a pastor and educator – who worked in Angola and Southern Africa.

My initial studies were in Biblical Studies, English and Education. I then taught as a teacher of English at Good Hope College, an Adventist secondary school near Cape Town, in 1976. Recently, a student from that year 'googled' my name, and telephoned from the other side of the world. My enthusiasm and love of the students must have made up for my inexperience, because he wanted to tell me all about his life and successes in the intervening years. We laughed and reminisced, and laughed again. That was one of the most rewarding days of my career. Thank you, Harry Daniels!

Another rewarding experience was when I served as dean of women at Helderberg College for three years. Attending to the pastoral and spiritual needs of people in their most complex years was a great honour.

While teaching Bible at Stanborough Secondary School, my own children were still very young. Their enthusiasm for Sabbath School inspired me to develop special, themed cradle roll programmes which incorporated a range of tactile resources. Dorothy Taylor, then Education director, encouraged me to apply for a post at one of our primary schools. I protested with all the arguments I could list; however, she persisted and told me she would only accept a negative response after I had spent a trial week in the classroom. By the end of the first day I was thoroughly hooked, and the rest is history!

There is something profoundly fascinating about the way children learn. My growing

curiosity in the topic sent me scrambling for the latest research publications, courses on learning and a master's degree in it at the Institute of Education. Interestingly, much of the research, which was cutting edge at the time, is now embedded in most schools across the country. Learning never stands still!

**Editor: Thank you, Anne. We know your workload is demanding – but on those rare occasions that you get a break, what is your activity of choice?**

**Anne:** Could there be anything more satisfying than making the most of family time? I always feel most blessed when my children are home, sharing a good meal around the family table while the banter and spirited

**Simply stated, my vision is for every student to be spiritually secure, motivated to serve and a confident, successful learner.**

conversations are in full flow. I love gardening too because every plant tells its own story about the miracle of life. No wonder gardens continue to fill us with awe and wonder!

**Editor: People stream into this country to attend our excellent schools and universities. Why then do we need Adventist schools when we have so many others to choose from?**

**Anne:** That is not the first time I have been asked that question, Julian, and every time it is asked the haunting undertones imply that our schools may have lost significance for some of our members. It is true, there are more state-maintained schools that are consistently good now than there have ever been, and it is significant that many of the exceptional schools have Christian foundations.

Vision statements like 'Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's

ideal for his children'; 'The harmonious development of body, mind and spirit'; and 'The want of the world is the want of men [and women] . . . who are as true to duty as the needle to the pole' are just some among many that underpin the aims of every Adventist school right into the twenty-first century. It is our duty to inspire and apply those principles in language everyone can understand.

There is no denying that Adventist education has played a significant role in fulfilling the mission of the Church. It is miraculous when you consider how that small company of believers, our pioneers, spread the Adventist message across the globe through their publishing houses, their health institutions and their schools. Go to many of the developing countries and ask the political leaders what they know about Adventist education. Many will attribute their success to the Adventist school where they were educated. They will tell you the distinctive Adventist ethos in those schools shaped their lives forever.

Adventist education is about shaping lives for service and eternity. And we have our schools to thank for the part they played in contributing to the rapid growth in church membership worldwide.

**Editor: Anne, this is not the first time I have heard that phrase 'distinctive Adventist ethos' before. Is this just 'Advent speak', or is there something really special about our approach to education?**

**Anne:** Some Australian educators summarised our distinctiveness as, 'Bible-based, Christ-centred, service-oriented and Kingdom-directed'. Adventist education is committed to helping students develop life-skills and values with integrity. The life-skills our young people need for twenty-first-century living include critical thinking and problem-solving, adaptability, initiative and effective oral and verbal communication. Over and beyond this, our schools develop people of character through

the values we teach – values extracted from Scripture that reflect God's character. We teach values because this is also a way of learning to know God. These values are taught intentionally and incidentally in our schools.

Adventist schools purposefully challenge their students (and teachers) to become informed, responsible and compassionate citizens. It is not mere coincidence, then, that so many leaders in our church organisation and churches were shaped by these values when they were students at our schools.

**Editor: Some say harsh things about the standards in our schools – especially about our academic results. As BUC Education director, you are best placed to tell us the real facts. How do we compare to the rest?**

**Anne:** It is gratifying that the majority of our schools perform significantly above the national average, bearing in mind that we do not select on ability. Neither do we limit the



potential of our students based on where they have come from by offering excuses. Instead, we focus on who they can become as sons and daughters of God. We believe we are called to expand their potential.

My office monitors trends closely and it is encouraging to see how our collective drive to make our 'good' even better has had a positive impact in most of the schools.

**Editor: I know that some Adventist parents have chosen the home-schooling route. What is your take on this? Does it have pros and cons?**

**Anne:** There are parents with the ability and commitment to do it well, and the results are good. Sadly, for some it is a form of escapism in which the children are not well served.

**Editor: So Anne, how does your department add value to the BUC school system?**

**Anne:** In a nutshell, our key role is to support schools with the best of current thinking. We do this through ongoing training; calling schools to account at every level of operation; supporting head teachers as a school improvement partner; and regularly sounding the clarion call for a shared vision for Adventist education.

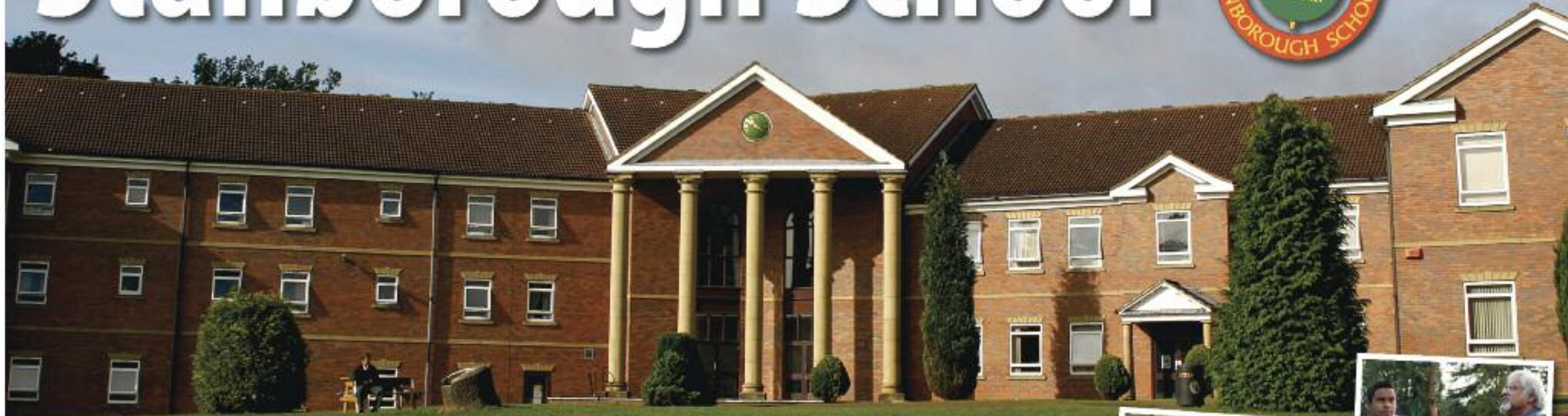
**Editor: What is your vision for Adventist education for the rest of your present term of office?**

**Anne:** Simply stated, my vision is for every student to be spiritually secure, motivated to serve and a confident, successful learner.

**Editor: Finally, Anne, what is your wish for every boy and girl in our BUC church family?**

**Anne:** You know, Julian, my mother, still young and recently widowed, sent me to an Adventist boarding school. She lived frugally on her single church worker's salary to make it possible. With Hannah-like commitment, she settled her bills ahead of time and sacrificed her holidays for nine years while I was in full-time education. At that school I learned to listen to God's voice and I committed to live and work for Him for the rest of my days. Just as Samuel learned to listen, it is my prayer that every boy and girl will learn to listen to God's voice.

# Stanborough School



At Stanborough our students not only achieve consistently good academic results, but they also leave with the character, conviction and steadfast values that prepare them for a life of service. This, we believe, is the true hallmark of Adventist education. 'True education is the preparation of the physical, mental, and moral powers for the performance of every duty; it is the training of body, mind, and soul for divine service.'<sup>1</sup>

Stanborough's focus on **teaching moral values** is evident to everyone who meets one of our students. A local journalist wrote this after visiting our school:

'The sense of calm and respect is almost tangible as you walk along the school's corridors. The respectful nature of the students is clearly shown when they rise from their seats to greet adults entering their classrooms.'<sup>2</sup>

Compassion is one of our core values. Our students are encouraged to be actively involved in both local and international charities like STOP International and ADRA. Upon returning from our annual humanitarian trip to India, a student commented:

*'Coming to Stanborough has quite possibly been the best thing to happen to me. And my visit to India has been the most inspirational time of my life.'*

Through small class sizes and

the individual attention we are able to give, we foster a **family-like atmosphere** that helps each student develop a balanced self-image and lasting friendships. Eva Papaioannou, a current Year 9 student, shared:

'Once, one of my friends in my form came to me and said, "I really want to thank you, the rest of the form, our form tutor and the rest of the school for making me feel so welcome here. I have been through nine different schools, in different countries, and in none of them have I made such lovely friends and felt so welcome. This is the first school in which I can say I feel at home.''

**Real-life experiences and a broad curriculum** are all integral

components of Adventist education. Sarah Shepley, a Year 7 student, commented:

'I think the lessons are fun. I'm learning "tone" in Art, gardening in Horticulture, touch-typing in Keyboard Skills and many other things. As well as lessons, there are so many extra clubs to choose from. I am in six of them: Tennis, Badminton, LAMDA, Mime, Maths Club and French Movie Club.'

The **inspiring stories of our past students'** professional and personal growth reveal what Stanborough School truly offers. Joshua Roberts, for instance, studied at Stanborough from 2004 to 2011. He is currently studying for a Bachelor of

Medicine and Surgery degree at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. His message to current students is clear:

'Do your best and God will take care of the rest! Everything is achievable so aim for the stars.'

Chris Longman, another former student, is currently working as a junior account executive for a leading technology firm after obtaining a Business Management degree from King's College, London. About his time at the school he shares:

'I made some great friends. I was also greatly inspired by Mr Rivers (Business Studies teacher), who encouraged me to pursue my interest in business.'

We are delighted that for the past five years our students have achieved well above the national average.<sup>3</sup> But what makes Stanborough unique is that we are preparing our students to share in God's plan by making a difference in our world. Last year, Wook Whan, Lukonde and Nimba decided to confirm their faith through baptism. Again and again, we can see how this holistic success we call Adventist education makes Stanborough

School so worthwhile.

<sup>1</sup>Christ's Object Lessons, p. 330, E. White.  
<sup>2</sup>My Local News, My Garston, March 2011, Issue 40. <sup>3</sup>From June 2007 to June 2011, 79.4% of Stanborough students achieved five or more GCSEs (or equivalent) at A\*-C level, including English and Maths, compared with a national average of 51.6%. Source: Department of Education.

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## Stanborough Primary School

Stanborough Primary School in Watford is home to 131 children aged 3 to 11 years old (the largest enrolment for the past seven years). 'The school,' says Pastor Ian Sweeney, chairman of the board of governors, 'works in partnership with parents; it strengthens and reinforces Christian values throughout the school day.'

For over 90 years, it has provided children with a high standard of education, not only to prepare them to attend some of the best secondary schools in Hertfordshire and beyond, but also to prepare them for life in the wider world and the hereafter.

As well as the obvious evidence of the school allegiance to its Christian ethos, there is a colourful anti-bullying display in its reception area prepared by Year 4 pupils, which links with a special assembly they prepared for the anti-bullying week. From the foyer, you are ushered into a large open space, with a stage that hosts visiting speakers, school concerts, choir practices and a number of extra-curricular clubs, as well as whole-school assemblies. Displays of the children's work proudly decorate the walls and speak of the broad curriculum and breadth of learning involved.

Surrounding 'the great hall' are hubs of learning for each year group. Nursery and reception classes engage in learning through independent play. Focused group activities are initiated by the class teacher to help them grasp key concepts. 'No two days are the same,' says Mrs Rees, the Reception Class teacher. 'I like the fact that, in teaching here, I can use all of my skills to significantly influence the children's learning.'

From the ages of 5 to 7, Key Stage 1 children are engaged in more formal learning. The head teacher, Kathleen Hanson, believes that a creative curriculum enhances learning, and that principles from the early years can be applied throughout the school to accelerate learning. During Key Stage 1 the children also

develop a deeper understanding of spiritual matters. Belicia, a Year 1 student, said, 'I like school assemblies because I learn more about Jesus,' while Leah, in Year 2, commented: 'I like listening to Bible stories during the day.' When children enter Key Stage 2, they develop their skills further. Preparation for secondary school picks up momentum and the 11+ club is offered and run by the school. Many pupils transition smoothly onto Stanborough Secondary, while others sit common entrance tests for other top schools.

According to Ofsted (January 2012): teaching standards in Stanborough School are 'good' with 'sometimes exceptional progress made in reading and mathematics because they are systematically taught and skills very carefully built up and checked on'. Much emphasis has also been given to raising standards in writing.

As well as formal academic subjects, clubs are held before, during and after school, and these include Thinking Skills, Football, Gymnastics, Arts and Craft, and Tennis. Some clubs, such as Cycling, are seasonal. Individual music lessons and group LAMDA training (speech and drama) are also offered. Eleven students took LAMDA exams in the summer, with five gaining merits and six earning distinctions. Their musical experiences have included participation in the Watford Festival (two distinctions), performing at the Royal Albert Hall, and participating in a piano master class and recital.

The school caters for the development of the whole child, and spiritual connections are embedded. Ofsted's rating of the provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development was 'outstanding', and the children agree.

Jazmin from Year 6 said: 'The teachers are helpful and kind and there is a strong Christian ethos' (her own words), while Kieran in Year 5 believes: 'School life helps me to problem-solve.' Hannah from Year 3 said, 'I love

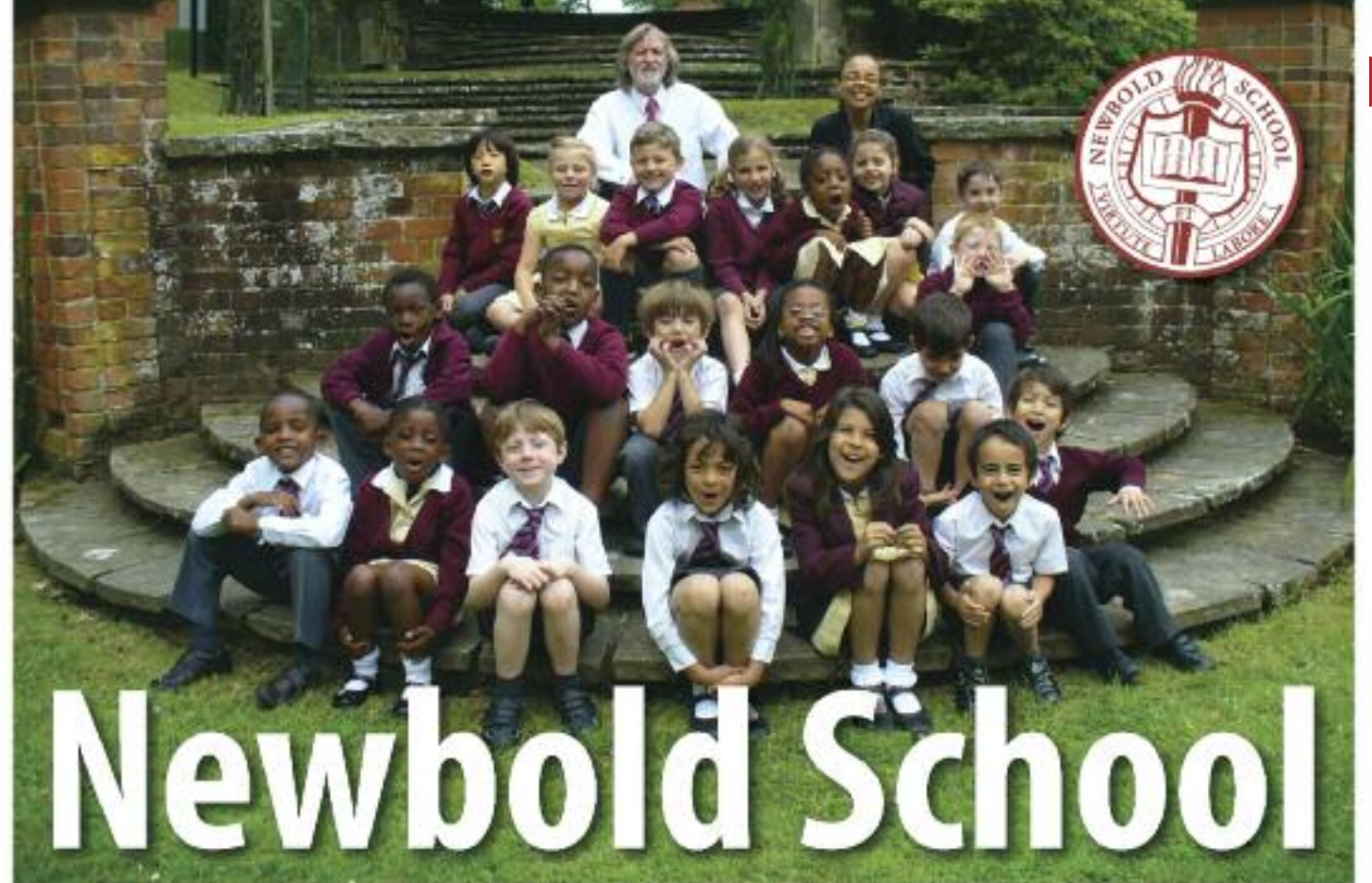
Stanborough Primary because it's a good Christian school and I learn a lot, especially mathematics and science.' This science learning was indeed evident as the children engaged in a lesson on 'teeth and hygiene', with parental input from dental nurse Estelle Elias.

Parent support is integral to the success of the school, as can be seen in the playground addition of a peace garden, conceptualised by the head teacher and designed and constructed by a parent, Pastor Nathan Stickland. Whether sharing practical skills, or serving on the HSA or school board, parents continue to play a significant role in the home-school partnership.

Year 6 teacher, Mrs Horwood, came to know and love Christ as a result of her daughter attending the school thirteen years ago. She says the school is special to her: 'Stanborough Primary School is a Christ-centred, spiritually motivating, learning environment.' According to Dr Richard de Lisser (Stewardship director and pastor): 'It is a school set in Edenic surroundings, which embraces nature in its teaching and learning in order to create well-rounded children for this world and for eternity.'

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## Newbold School

Newbold School is a happy and heterogeneous community, because many of our pupils are the children of students at Newbold College, whose cultural heritage is varied and fascinating. We have children with Serbian/Indonesian, Brazilian/Norwegian, Egyptian/Romanian, Greek/African parent combinations, to name just a few. Many of our pupils have English as an additional language and speak another language, or even two, at home. Consequently our school enjoys and celebrates diversity.

We aim to help all children to reach their academic potential and set them on the road to becoming caring and considerate citizens. For this reason, we celebrate both academic improvement and good social skills at our rewards assembly on Friday mornings. Our children receive leaves for good work and apples for good behaviour, kindness or thoughtfulness. Each leaf or apple is marked with the child's name and the reason for the award. It is then stuck on our Achievement Tree in the Hall.

Each year group is represented by a different colour, and the tree grows week by week until, by the end of the summer term, it is a mass of colour celebrating the school's achievements for the year. We have found this to be a very good tool for motivating

positive attitudes within our school.

At Newbold we welcome all children, irrespective of their backgrounds. Sometimes children come to us who have been unhappy or unsuccessful at their previous schools. They are often nervous, timid and under-achieving when they arrive. But they settle quickly and begin to make progress because our school is small, and we give them individual attention and support. One boy came to us in Year 4, halfway through the Autumn Term. His mother told us that she was finding it increasingly difficult to get him to go to school as he was really unhappy. He felt that no one liked him and that he was being picked on by other children. He was also getting into trouble with the staff.

She was also very concerned that the move would be traumatic and that he would not settle into school with us either. We suggested that he come for two 'taster' days before half-term to see if he liked the school, and she agreed. He started just after the half-term holiday, settled in immediately, and has become one of our very best success stories. He has gained in confidence, has lots of friends and has made very good academic progress. He also has a very kind and caring attitude towards other less able students.

In July his mother wrote this thank-you note

when he moved up to Year 5: 'I cannot thank you enough for what you have done for my son; he comes home so happy every night and he never has a bad word to say about anyone in the school. Thank you so much for finding the best in him.'

An added bonus for us is that his little brother started in our Reception class this September. This family are not Adventists, and the only connection they have with our Church is through their son's experience in our school. They are a lovely, caring family, who are now spreading goodwill for us in the community.

This is the spirit that makes Newbold Primary School a very special place. I asked one of my Year 6 boys what he would remember most about being at our school, and he replied, 'Just the kindness of everybody.'

Another girl who has just moved on to secondary school told me, 'I miss some of my friends, but mostly I miss the way all the teachers cared about me.'

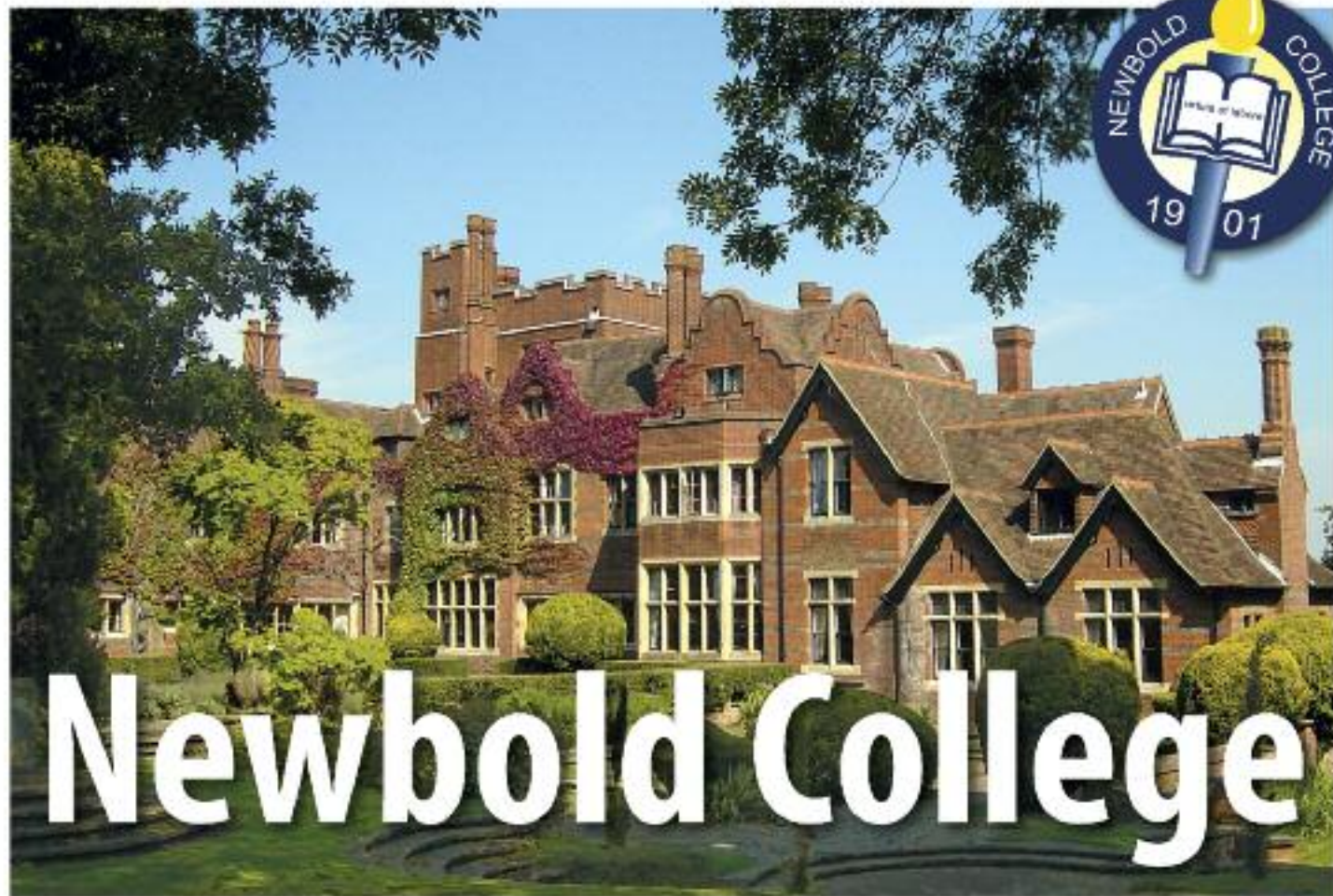
Our school motto, 'Virtute et Labore', is not very easy for the children to understand, though the sentiment, 'High standards and hard work', is praiseworthy. If we could update it for 2012 maybe we would choose, 'It is more important to be kind than to be right', as this truly represents the ethos we aim to achieve.

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**Newbold College of Higher Education offers full degrees in Theology and Business, as well as short courses such as the Gap Year and even shorter summer intensive courses. But there's much more to Newbold than just its academics, so we've asked three of our students to tell you their Newbold stories.**

**Jadanna Huie from London – Department of Theological Studies (MA)**

So how did I end up here? Youth Ministry caught me in Watford, detoured through Spain and dropped me off at Newbold's registration desk. I cried when I realised its plan and where it would take me, but I knew there was no other way. The US Adventist universities were not an option because I desired to do ministry in this country. And I knew I wanted to do ministry in the Church, so to go to a secular university seemed to defeat the purpose.

I've been challenged and stretched, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually. The lecturers are known for delivering quality par excellence, and their module content will have you reading (and crying) for days. (I jest, I jest!) Let's not forget to mention the social challenges. I like to consider myself culturally aware and able to cross such lines with ease, yet the melting pot that is Newbold College continues to astound me. The cafeteria and the Lingmoor Lounge Student Centre, home to many student activities, is where we all marinate and boil together in our little pot – Brazilians, mixed with a Latvian/Kenyan couple and the many races from Holland,



lightly seasoned with Brits (and a side order of Americans); and we haven't even been served a Newboldian starter, such is the diversity on this campus!

So here I am, with an undergraduate degree in Theology with a certificate in Youth Leadership under my belt, and I'm halfway through the first semester of my MA in Theology (yay!) and thinking, 'What have I gotten myself into now?' Two three-hour seen exams, both with three questions to be answered, and a 4,000-word assignment on Qualitative Research in Pastoral Theology all due in December? Chosen for a second semester to be a residence assistant (support to deans and students)? Sounds like I have a lot on my plate – only God knows. Forward thinking: in a year and some I'll be finished and I've got a ton of invaluable experiences, memories and good friends to remember. (Not forgetting qualifications.) There's been much growing and discovering of myself here. I wouldn't change that for anything!

**Mathias Yoseph from Tanzania – School of Business**

Newbold College is the senior higher education provider of the Trans-European Division, and, guess what, I am honoured and blessed to be part of it. My name is Mathias Yoseph, a third-year student at Newbold College, taking a bachelor's degree in Business Studies.

My experience at Newbold is one of a kind – something pretty hard to be found in public institutions around the UK because of the



uniqueness of the college. The Newbold Students Association (NSA) meets every fortnight to discuss student life around college. I find this very supportive because it gives us students an opportunity to share the challenges we face, and get to the bottom of our concerns. We even get to solve some of the problems we come across as young people. The School of Business has its representative body known as the NBA (no link with basketball, and more exciting than that) – the Newbold Business Association. The body offers business experience for students. It gives them a chance to taste real business life by making trips to top European business firms; organising dinners with top Adventist business professionals around the UK and planning other events that offer business students valuable experience. It helps us develop a mindset for business success in the future . . . and it does get better. . . .



Lectures are really special at Newbold; students always interact personally with their lecturer, and at the end of class it feels like we've just had a group discussion, which is great! Newbold is also a place where the spiritual life of students is greatly enhanced, and not just outside the classroom – even during classes I have been able to discuss and understand the importance of applying Christian morality in business. I have really enjoyed my time at Newbold, and I know it's a valuable investment for the future.

**Anni-Elina Vänskä from Finland – Gap Year**

During the last year of my high school I thought a lot about my future. I felt a bit stressed by everyone asking which university I would apply to. They also suggested different options which they thought would be smart for me. I felt confused in the middle of all that advice. I had no idea about my future. I just knew that I would like to take a year off after graduating to do something meaningful and different, such as volunteering.

I felt a need to go and help other people,



after having so much in a wealthy country. I wanted to travel and explore the world; meet new people from different cultures. I also felt that I needed time to find out what God wanted to do with my life. That was when God answered my prayers. By using a number of different events and people, He led me to Newbold's study programme, called the Gap Year. Instantly I knew that it was exactly what I was supposed to do.

Coming to Newbold was a dream come true, a gift from God. Newbold is an amazing place to be, in part because of the beautiful environment and the wonderful atmosphere. It's my first opportunity to study in a Seventh-day Adventist institution, and I appreciate it a lot. It's a great opportunity to spend more time with God and to deepen my spiritual life. It's also been a great chance to meet a lot of inspiring, wonderful people. I'm quite sure that Newbold is a place that changes the lives of many people, leaving an unforgettable memory in our hearts.

Every day with God is full of the most exciting surprises. It's amazing to see how God uses different people, and how much they can be a blessing to each other. I can't wait to see what the time at Newbold will bring – I can't wait to find out more about God's plan for my life.

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**Newbold College Summer Session Intensives**

**17 July – 26 July 2013**

This coming summer, Newbold College is offering a comprehensive session of intensive modules. The modules cover a wide range of disciplines, from the Philosophy of Adventist Education (part of the Certificate in Adventist Educational Practice) to English Literature (Shakespeare and C. S. Lewis); from Business (Accounting and Management) to Media and Theology (with two additional Theology modules in postgraduate studies). The full details of the programme will be available soon – check [www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk) for updates, or contact the programme director, Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett, at [sandrab@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:sandrab@newbold.ac.uk) to register your interest.



# Hyland House School



'What a busy year! So much has happened this year! It has been absolutely great!' was the gist of the conversation between a group of parents I overheard as they socialised after our grand graduation service.

I had to agree. It has been a fantastic year! After all:

- Ours was one of the very few schools in our borough to be registered with Olympic School Status;
- We were invited to have lunch with Her Majesty the Queen;
- We held a Diamond Jubilee street party;
- We organised an Olympic sports day event;
- The school fete, opened by the mayor, was successful;
- The glamorous Year 6 prom, which included a four-course meal, was a great success;
- The Harvest Festival brimmed with produce;
- The graduation was a grand affair.

The staff at Hyland House School strongly believe that, in order to 'educate the whole child', we need to provide more than the academic curriculum; more than maths, English and science. That is why we cater for the spiritual needs of our children and include the wonderful and memorable experiences like the ones listed above.

## Olympic School Status

### Hyland House Seventh-day Adventist Independent School welcomed to London 2012's Get Set network

Pupils and teachers at Hyland House were officially welcomed into London 2012's 'Get Set network', in recognition of their commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values, which are very similar to the school's values and ethos. Mr Tencho Zappryanov, our Years 1 and 2 teacher, registered the school for this, and we are both grateful and proud of him for taking this initiative.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

(LOCOG) awarded Hyland House School a plaque and certificate to acknowledge their involvement in the London 2012 education programme. We are now a part of an active London 2012 community of schools and colleges across the UK – the 'Get Set network' – which means we will have access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games-related opportunities over the coming years.

Hyland House has clearly demonstrated that London 2012's education programme extends far beyond PE and sport, and they will motivate other young people to join them in their journey. We have also been given permission to use the official Olympic logo.

Sebastian Coe, chairman of LOCOG, said: 'When London won the right to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we made a clear promise to use the power of the 2012 Games to inspire young people. I am proud to welcome Hyland House School in to the Get Set network for their exciting work around the Olympic values of friendship, excellence and respect, and the Paralympic values of inspiration, courage, determination and equality.'

## A bountiful harvest

Each year, we teach our children about the importance and blessings gained in 'giving and sharing', which is best demonstrated in our annual harvest programme. Our children bring in food displayed in beautifully decorated boxes, and envelopes containing cash donations.

These donations are given to the Welfare department of the Stoke Newington Seventh-day Adventist church, which feeds the homeless every Wednesday.

Last year we received an invitation from the Welfare department for some of our children to come to the church and help to prepare and cook the donated food. This gave them a first-hand experience of the importance of giving and helping others.

The children returned to school and shared their experience in assembly. 'It was brilliant, it really made me think. I'm really grateful for what I have,' was a comment made by one of them.

This year, our children gave abundantly. They brought in countless food parcels and raised £300!

## Graduation programme

So, back to the grand graduation programme where the initial conversation began.

The children graduated in grand style – each receiving a certificate of achievement: be it academic, spiritual, social or all three!

## Presidential award

The presidential award is an award given by the president of the SEC, who also is the chair of our school governing board. This year it was a state-of-the-art iPod.

The staff agreed that the award should be given to a graduating Year 6 child who has consistently demonstrated, during his or her time at Hyland House School, our Christian ethos and motto, and our school values of love, joy, kindness, perseverance and self-control.

Riaz Morgan was the worthy candidate for the award.

We have indeed had a busy year – but, with our dedicated, enthusiastic and committed staff, it has been a fun-filled, fantastic educational journey.

To God be the glory!

GINA ABBEQUAYE, HEAD TEACHER

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# Fletewood School



'Welcome home,' were the words that I remember thinking when I walked into Fletewood School for the first time thirty years ago. Ed Hollister was the headteacher at that time, and he and his wife Lynne welcomed my family with open arms. I learnt a lot about humility, patience and faith from him, and what it really means to serve in a small mission school. A more godly man and respected mentor I have never come across. Four years later I was shocked to hear that they had decided to move back to America, he to continue with further study before heading up another small school with Lynne as assistant teacher. I was even more shocked when I was asked to take over the headship of Fletewood!

Reluctantly I agreed to take over until a suitable replacement could be found – and I am still waiting twenty-six years later. I suppose that reluctance was my saving grace, as I have always considered myself as 'holding the fort' until reinforcements could be found. I saw myself as deputy with God as my headteacher. This is, and always will be, His school. This is what ultimately drives us to do our best, and is echoed in our school motto: '... dedicated to the discovery of excellence in each child'.

Fletewood School really does have a 'family feel' about it. As soon as you walk through the main doors, which display our new school plaque – 'Fletewood's Cool' – you sense the welcoming atmosphere of home. Parents and Ofsted inspectors alike, all agree that there is something tangible about the experience. Whether it has something to do with the building itself, a large Edwardian detached house, or the number of children in the school, currently sixty-five, or whether

they can feel the unseen work of countless angels encouraging, comforting and maybe even playfully amusing the children in their care, we don't know. I like to think it's the latter, which certainly makes the daily challenges easier to face.

The school shares the building with the Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist church, and both church and school have lived harmoniously together for the last eighty-three years. As I look back over the time I have worked here, the one constant has been the prayers of numerous people who have petitioned on behalf of the church and school, and the subsequent blessings we have received have been many. We have been able to develop the site in many ways, and currently the school occupies the basement area (Early Years and Key Stage One) and the first floor (Key Stage Two), with the church tucked snugly between the two, symbolically and literally at the heart of the school.

The one area of the building, however, that has evaded development for the many years that I have had my eyes on it, is the loft. Until recently, it has been the depository of countless pieces of equipment and other things that we convinced ourselves would one day prove to be useful – like the drawer we all have that is full to overflowing, in which it is impossible to find that useful thing we placed there for safe keeping.

Twice planning permission was refused for various reasons, all of which seemed insurmountable in human terms, and then – when least expected – a chance meeting, and the intervention of heavenly agencies, and now we have our new multipurpose art/craft/science/surround-sound presentation room,

complete with toilets, shower and storage areas! The impossible we seem to do on a daily basis; miracles just take a little longer!

Our new space is making a significant difference to the running of the school, and is being put to good use by pupils and teachers alike; but our latest project, the Year 5/6 enterprise initiative, promises to be most exciting. The children in those two year groups have been given the challenge of using the loft facilities to establish their own business to earn money to help fund our many charitable activities, as well as to help pay for their annual residential trip to Chapel Porth – and maybe even earn some pocket money as well. A personalised card-making group has been established, and their profits were recently added to the efforts of the rest of the school. Together they raised £833 in just over a week for our 'Send a Cow' harvest service appeal.

The purchase of eighteen new laptops has enabled us to rearrange our computers so that each child in the upper school has his or her own individual computer for daily use, while the children in the lower school are making good use of our ever-increasing number of iPads.

God has significantly blessed us over the years, and His recent blessings are overwhelming. I am humbled to be part of His plan for Fletewood, and pray that I will never have the arrogance to get in His way. Fletewood remains, to this day, really cool!

JOHN MARTIN, HEAD TEACHER

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# Dudley House School

In their last visit Ofsted inspectors recognised the outstanding care that the children at Dudley House School receive. It is interesting to note that visitors to the school comment on the warm, welcoming atmosphere, and a special 'something' that makes the school unique. We like to think that the special quality in the school is the presence of God's Holy Spirit – because as the School motto says: 'God is the Master of our school'.

The staff display a special love and care for the children, their parents and their families, as well as supporting each other. Last year a Muslim mother with two boys at school (aged 6 and 10) was diagnosed with an aggressive, life-threatening cancer. As she was about to start her radical chemotherapy treatment the head teacher told her that the staff and pupils would be praying for her recovery – along with the whole church too! She was touched by the kindness. During the dark days that followed, the two boys needed lots of reassurance. Sometimes the younger, Imam, would come and snuggle up against the teaching assistant. 'Do you need a cuddle, Imam?' she would ask. Then her lap was made available for as long as it was needed!

The concern of the other children was also a comfort to the boys. Sadly, the older 11-year-old brother, who has just moved from Dudley House School to the local grammar school, was left to face the fears of his mother's illness alone. His mother commented on this in a note to the head teacher. She went on to say, 'I truly know what it means to belong to the Dudley House School family and I can't thank you enough.'

Dudley House School is trying to show to all, pupils, parents and staff, just what it is like to belong to God's family. They have come to realise that it is a place where everybody is cared for, loved and valued.

All the local church members' children

attend the school, and are joined by children from the local community who are happy to embrace its Christian ethos. The school has a reputation for academic excellence. Children who have been failing in other schools arrive totally disengaged. Gradually, however, they respond to gentle nurture and encouragement and become excited by their ability to achieve. The majority of children make excellent progress and achieve well above the national average, while even the lower achievers reach the national average.

Although we are a small school we still take part in a variety of sporting tournaments and competitions. We are well-known as 'good sporting ambassadors'. A master from a nearby village school commented, 'It's always a pleasure to come and play against you – no bad feelings.' That says it all, for some teams have a reputation for 'winning at all costs'.

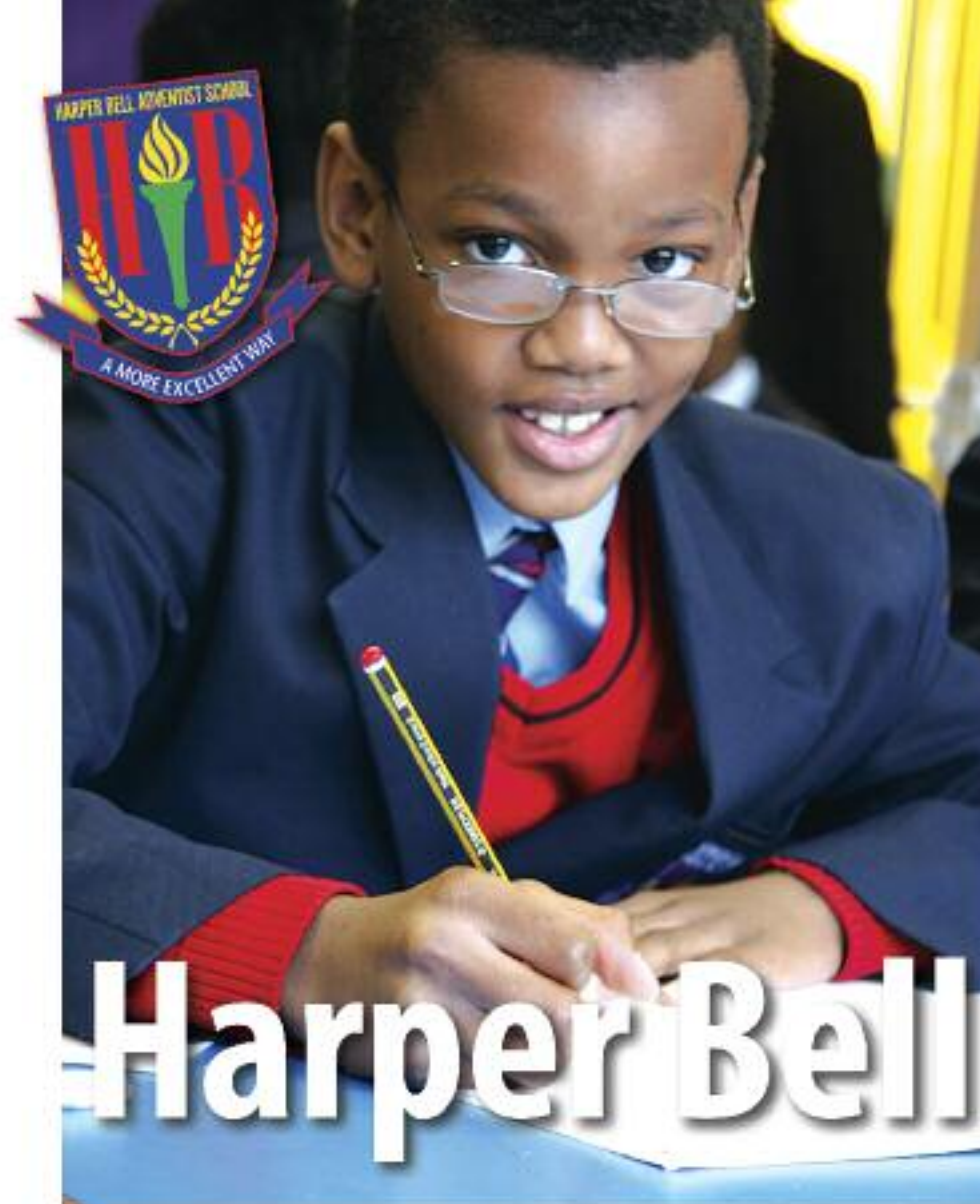
The school is actively involved in the community. The children raise funds for a variety of charities, both in the local community and overseas. They love to be involved with people, and have visited local nursing homes and the Grantham St Barnabas Hospice. The children's choir is renowned for its excellence, and its members are involved on a regular basis as guest performers at the Grantham Choral Society's Christmas Concert.

It is good to savour the successes of the school, but my heart rejoices when I hear children's unprompted responses to God's love: 'I want Jesus to live in my heart and be my Special Friend.' It's lovely to hear the children's heartfelt prayers to God, especially as He was unknown to many of them before they came to the school.

Please pray that many more children will come and enjoy belonging to the Dudley House School family, and finding Jesus, who is their Special Friend. *JENNY JOHNSON, HEAD TEACHER*



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# Harper Bell

In September 2011, Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist School (HBS) opened its doors to embrace more children from Adventist homes and the wider community. Having closed in July with approximately 117 pupils, we re-opened the new school with 220. At the time, some held the opinion that by converting to a voluntary aided school our Adventist ethos would be compromised. We have worked hard, however, to intentionally and systematically integrate faith and learning across the curriculum, inviting our pupils to consider God's Word. It has not been easy, and competing values have challenged our Harper Bell ethos; but it continues to shine through.

HBS has fully incorporated the new Adventist Encounter Bible Curriculum, which creatively helps children to know and understand the Church's fundamental beliefs through activities that challenge pupils to think purposefully about God. In Year 6 the topic of salvation, for example, is taught through the theme of an extreme makeover. The first lesson saw the teacher dressed as a builder (wearing a hard hat and with hammer and design plans in hand) and the pupils were asked to think about how they could do a makeover of their classroom. This opening activity effectively illustrated the makeover our hearts need, described in 2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a

new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.' They caught the analogy immediately, and one of the new pupils was heard to remark, 'This is a fantastic lesson; I love this school!'

New pupils, who are usually unsure about their new environment, have experienced something different at our school. They have quickly adapted to this vegetarian, praying, Bible-studying primary school and have grown to love it. For example, in September 2012, a child suffering from Thalassaemia joined the school. His refusal to eat was firmly entrenched, and dinner-times were a battleground of tears and untouched food. His father, at his wits' end, threatened to remove him from school if he continued to refuse to eat. However, as providence would have it, his favourite – fried dumplings – were on the menu the next day. The dumplings disappeared from his plate and he has eaten everything on his plate ever since.

There is now a permanent chaplain at the school, whose remit it is to teach the Bible classes, and to ensure that the Adventist ethos remains secure.

The school's spiritual focus has been an influence on adults too. A new long-term Christian supply teacher recently remarked to her father, a minister of another denomination, that this was the first time she 'has had to produce school plans with her Bible in her

hand'. She loves the school and wants to continue working with us.

Over the past four years, twenty pupils have been baptised, with many others continuing their Bible studies even after they leave. We believe the school has played its part in nurturing these tender seedlings.

Since becoming a voluntary aided school, news about us has spread throughout the wider Christian community of Birmingham. It has now become the popular choice school, with ministers from other denominations clamouring for places for their children.

The active PTA (current and past parents) continue to provide love and support. They have raised funds to ensure that all the classes have a projector and have helped to upgrade the library. The school is grateful to them and Terence Cole of ATIC, a social development group in Handsworth, who supplied the school with twenty PCs and a projector.

The future of Harper Bell School as a state-maintained school remains bright. As the school celebrates twenty-five years since first opening its doors, it acknowledges that Jesus remains the Supreme Headmaster. With Him at the helm our success is assured.

**Contact details:**

Harper Bell Seventh-day Adventist School, 29 Ravenhurst Street, Camp Hill, Birmingham, B12 0EJ, United Kingdom.  
Tel: 0121 693 7742; Fax: 0121 693 0792  
Email: [info@hbsda.bham.sch.uk](mailto:info@hbsda.bham.sch.uk)







# John Loughborough School



**Our guiding Bible principle: 'That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace' Psalm 144:12 (KJV)**

Life at John Loughborough School (JLS) is a rich and rewarding one! For us, learning is about qualifications and much more – developing each person holistically for God – striving for spiritual, academic, physical and social excellence.

Our student body is diverse – from at least forty different countries, with 51% speaking a language other than English. They come from China, the Philippines, Brazil, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Portugal and Spain, and right here in the United Kingdom. *EDWENA MCFARQUHAR, HEAD TEACHER*

#### What new students think . . .

*'JLS has a warm and welcoming environment which I did not expect a secondary school to have. I am pleased with the school and hope my feelings stay that way. I mostly enjoy Art, Science and Maths. I am also happy I chose this school because I don't think I would have settled into another school so easily.'* Aaliyah (Year 7)

*'I am from Lithuania. England is different and bigger. When I first came to this school I was afraid, but on my first day I found a friend in my class and I started to have fun. This school has more technological solutions than Lithuania.'* Aivaras (Year 9)

#### Contact details:

John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AD, United Kingdom.  
Tel: 020 8808 7837; Fax: 020 8801 6719; Email: [secretary@johnloughborough.haringey.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@johnloughborough.haringey.sch.uk)

#### Learning at JLS

The school's curriculum is broad and varied, supported by modern teaching techniques and equipment. Key Stage 3 students study fifteen different subjects, covering English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages, the Humanities (including RE), the Expressive Arts, Technology and PSHCEE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizen and Economic Education). At Key Stage 4, students study up to eleven GCSE subjects, with the top-performing students frequently from Seventh-day Adventist homes. Students with the ability and aptitude may sit their GCSE examinations one or two years earlier. This year, for example, several Year 9 and 10 students were entered for and successfully passed GCSE examinations with A\* – C grades.

#### Top ten Year 11 GCSE students 2011-12:

1: Eleven subjects (six A\*, five A). 2: Eleven subjects (five A\*, five A, one B). 3: Eleven subjects (five A, five B, one C). 4: Eleven subjects (two A\*, one A, four B and four C). 5: Ten subjects (two A\*, four A, three B, one C). 6: Nine subjects (three A, four B, two C). 7: Nine subjects (three A, two B, four C). 8: Ten subjects (one A, four B, five C). 9: Nine subjects (five B, four C). 10: Eight subjects (two A, six B).



# Eden School

The Eden School is a co-educational, warm, friendly and vibrant faith community where our students' learning and creativity is nurtured through music, art, technology and the performing arts. Along with this their life skills are cultivated and honed, and their academic excellence is facilitated and celebrated. The school educates children from the age of 3 years to 18 years.

Founded on our Seventh-day Adventist Christian ethos – our motto is 'Educating for Eternity' – we teach our students of the love of Christ through our Bible curriculum and daily collective worship. We also emphasise our Adventist health message; the value of manual labour; and appreciation of the outdoors and a green environment; as well as love and respect for others in our community. That Eden School has offered quality education for the past eighteen years is evidenced through its excellent results – academically, spiritually and socially – as seen in those who leave our school as ambassadors of Heaven.

The Eden Seventh-day Adventist School is based in the London Borough of Ealing and is in the process of applying for Free School Status for September 2014. The school will be submitting its application in January 2013 with a view to receiving Free School Status by April of that year. However, the Free School Status will begin officially in September of the following year, 2014. The school has been handpicked by the New Schools Network to be one of forty schools, out of the 400 applying to the DfE, to be given extra support from educational experts; and has received funding for marketing and branding the school through to Free School Status.

The school requests the help of all Seventh-day Adventist parents in West London and those within the Ealing area, who have children aged between 1 and 16 years, to sign our online survey. We wish to create a list of more than 1,000 signatures by December 2012 to show there is a need for this West London school. Sign our survey on our website – [www.theedenschool.com/page/survey.php](http://www.theedenschool.com/page/survey.php) – or request a hard copy via post.

The school plans to eventually offer more than 800 free school places, but will upscale slowly by beginning with places for twenty Reception children, twenty Year 7 children and ten students in Sixth Form in September 2014.

The Eden School is also negotiating the lease of new premises in Boston Manor, Ealing, which will include playing fields, a tennis court and a large one-storey building for public use.

*HEAD TEACHER*

#### Contact details:

Eden Independent School, Eastcote Lane North, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 4HW, United Kingdom.  
Tel: +44 (0) 208 423 7455  
Email: [info@theedenschool.com](mailto:info@theedenschool.com)







## 'Fare thee well, Pastor Johnson!'

September 29 was a bitter-sweet day for the Aberdeen church – the day when our shepherd, Pastor Lorange Johnson, bade farewell to the gathered congregation. As the newly elected president of the North England Conference, this was his last Sabbath with us before transferring to Nottingham and his new role. The Sabbath afternoon was devoted to a time of singing, praise and earnest prayer for Pastor Johnson, his wife Joan, and their children: Daren, Daniel and Rebecca.

Though the Aberdeen members are saddened by his departing, we understand that God is working His purpose out in the lives of those who love and trust Him. We are sincerely praying that Pastor Johnson, one of God's chosen instruments in this troubled world, will continue to hold up the banner for truth and integrity.

JANICE SAVIZON



Pastor John Ferguson and his wife Zenya.

Photo: David Bell

## Pastor Ferguson moves on

After twelve years in Grantham, Pastor John Ferguson is moving on to take up the position of Executive Secretary of the North England Conference, based in Nottingham.

Ulster-born Pastor John Ferguson and his wife Zenia, along with their sons David and Martin, attended a function in celebration of his ministry in Grantham. Also present were representatives from various churches and charities in the town, and tributes and gifts were presented.

He has been an active member of the ministers' fraternal and Churches Together, and has been a member of the Street Pastors since its inception – and, following the retirement of Reverend Tony Pick, has conducted the early morning Communion Service held on Easter Sundays.

Jenny Johnson, head teacher of Dudley House School, spoke of his close association with the school: 'Dudley House School is a family and John is very much part of that family.' The parents, the majority of whom are not Adventists, also appreciated his support in times of need. He went on school trips and supported the staff too. During his chaplaincy of the school, a number of children have been baptised, and so has a member of staff.

Pastor Doug Sinclair thanked John on behalf of the church members for his ministry.

John's response was to quote from Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* (Act III, Scene 3): 'I can no other answer make but thanks, and thanks.'

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



## Health screening in Portsmouth's high street

The Port of Hope church-plant in Portsmouth, with the help of Portsmouth Church, organised a free community health screening at Commercial Road – Portsmouth's high street – on 25 August from 10am to 2pm. A team of health professionals and other volunteers from the churches encouraged attendees to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

Community members who participated in the screening event also received health information and advice, and there was spiritual counselling for those interested. They were also offered a relaxing neck and back massage and a number of health-promoting freebies.

Several copies of the recent health edition of the *FOCUS* magazine and a variety of spiritual tracts and books were handed out. The attendees were very appreciative of the event, which they felt had increased their health awareness and motivated them to take charge of their health.

MARY JACOBSON



## Cheque to women's refuge

On 29 August, the Great Brickkiln Music department handed a cheque for £150 to the Haven Women's Refuge – a neighbourhood charity. A representative of the Haven accepted the cheque from Pastor Steve Palmer and Yvonne Holyoake. Yvonne's team raised the money through a Gospel concert.

DELVA CAMPBELL

## An active octogenarian

Sheila Allen was 80 on 31 August and spent the day with family after a night's stay at a spa hotel. The Exeter church celebrated this milestone with a fellowship lunch after the Sabbath services the next day. Sheila was presented with a beautiful floral arrangement and card from her church family.

Since joining the church in 1985, Sheila has revealed a very compassionate nature. She is always one of the chief collectors for ADRA each year, usually gathering in £700 or more. She calls the people in her area her 'mission field friends'. Each Sabbath morning, she prepares three breakfasts to hand out to the homeless, when she gets off the bus in the city.

Sheila supports a community Alzheimer's group, where she helps sufferers with singing. She also visits members who can no longer attend church and runs errands for them. Sheila is determined to stay 80 years young and keep reaching out to those in need!

STELLA JEFFERY



## Baptism at Ladywood Church

On 20 October the Ladywood church used the baptismal pool of their new church for the first time. Ten precious souls were baptised as a result of a three-week evangelistic series conducted by Pastor S. Palmer and his members. The candidates are as follows (in no particular order): Rudina Roach, Jolina Irish, Khyanna Harney, Tyriek Buck, Joel Irish, Andrew Oliver, Dylan Porter, Ryan Anderson, Munasha Chippato and Jelane Sampram.

RUTH IRISH

## Rooms to rent in Hackney, London

Adventist tenants sought to rent rooms suitable for a tidy working professional. Quality accommodation to share in the heart of Dalston, close to three stations and on a bus route. Contact Joan Russell of Hackney Church at [joanhas@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:joanhas@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.

SEC TEENS MINISTRIES PRESENTS

# Prayer and Faith CONFERENCE

18<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2013

STANBOROUGH PARK SCHOOL WATFORD WD25 9JT

£75 PER PERSON  
PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

PHONE 01923 232 728 EMAIL [dcjan@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:dcjan@secadventist.org.uk)  
WWW.SECYOUTH.CO.UK



Left to right: Andrew Chenge (elder), Madalena Bettini, Gabriela Santos, Andrea Freeman and Pastor Robin Lewis.

## Joy in Heaven, Portsmouth and Brazil!

November 3 was a big day for three Brazilian ladies who were baptised at Portsmouth.

Mother and daughter Andrea Freeman and Gabriela Santos, and Madalena Bettini, have been studying and they are eager to work for Jesus. This was also Pastor Robin Lewis's last baptism as minister of Portsmouth before he leaves for another district.

ANDREW CHENGE



Husband and wife, Paul and Dovejah McLean were baptised by Pastor Elliott A. Williams.

## 'All to Jesus I Surrender'

Sabbath 29 September marked the wonderful occasion when husband and wife, Paul and Dovejah McLean, committed their lives to God through baptism.

Pastor Elliott A. Williams took great pleasure in conducting this, the fifth baptism for Romford Community Fellowship since its beginning in 2007 with just seven souls – bringing the total membership to a blessed thirty-two!

The baptism also marked the end of an evangelistic campaign held by their mother church, Plaistow. A special hymn, 'All to Jesus I Surrender', was sung at the request of the candidates, and served as a timely reminder of how much of our lives we are to give to the Lord.

SHARON SEMPER

## 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Stanborough Press Limited

Notice is hereby given that the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Stanborough Press Limited will be held at the British Union Conference office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire on Thursday 13 December 2012, at 2pm, for the following purposes:

- To change Articles of Association;
- To appoint the Auditor.

On behalf of the Board of Directors  
Paul Hammond  
Secretary





## Don't just be a fan!

Oxford Church has held two special Teen days during 2012. The second was held on 29 September with Pastor Dejan Stojkovic as guest speaker.

His morning message encouraged the youth to be 'followers' of Christ, not just 'fans'! While in the afternoon he urged them to look for the greatest hidden treasures in the Word of God.

Young people from the church shared their talents and helped plan the day.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS



## Great Brickkiln Street hold health clinic

Great Brickkiln Street Church held its first health clinic on 8 April. This has been followed by a series of similar events run on alternating Sundays by the church's Health Ministry team.

The events are aimed at both members and the wider community, and include various types of health checks and interesting talks.

DELVA CAMPBELL



## Novel Harvest Festival

Sutton-in-Ashfield Church held a novel Harvest Festival on 29 September. International flower arranger, Audrey Balderstone, took the service, using her skills to construct flower arrangements depicting the various events in the Old and New Testaments about which she was preaching.

Also in attendance were community members from a walking group which is well supported by church members; some musicians from the Grantham church; and Councillor Ken Knighton and his wife. The councillor gave a talk on his charity, the Teenage Cancer Trust, to which the offering of £386 was donated.

The display of food and vegetables was donated to the local branch of Framework.

MORAY STEWART



Paul being congratulated by the match organiser, William Johnston

The annual Stanborough Press snooker championship was this year won by Paul Brewin. After a nail-biting final, he managed to snatch back the trophy from the 'office', thus securing a victory for the 'warehouse', and breaking the previously unbeaten record of Dave Selvaige. Mark Walmsley had the highest break of the competition, and won a chocolate bar.

DAVID BELL, SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

## The Goodloe School Birmingham

The Goodloe School will be a secondary free school based on Seventh-day Adventist principles and operating in the Birmingham area. Parents of children born between January 2003 and August 2005 (Years 4 and 5) are urged to contact us to help 'make the dream a reality'.

Application deadline is 31 December, 2012.

Tel. 07792408924 or 07886203696

Email: [info@goodloe.org.uk](mailto:info@goodloe.org.uk) or [goodloefreesch@gmail.com](mailto:goodloefreesch@gmail.com)

[www.goodloe.org.uk](http://www.goodloe.org.uk)

SDC Youth & Pathfinder Department

# YAL YOUNG ADVENTIST LEADERSHIP

Youth & Young Adults Awards Ceremony, Celebration Banquet & Concert

December 30th 2012  
Trunkwell House  
Beech Hill Road, Reading, Berks, RG7 2AT

Music by:  
Michael Aggel (Lyrical Soldier),  
LYF Praise Team, & COMMITTED (USA)

Awarding:  
Most Improved Youth Leader  
Youth Leader of the Year  
Young Adventist Leader  
AYS Department of the Year  
Extraordinary Achievement in School or College  
Pathfinder of the Year and Pathfinder Club of the Year  
Federation of the Year  
Evangelism  
Music and many more...

AWARDS INCLUDE:  
Financial Support for youthwork, Apple iPad & iPod

from £25 per head

FEATURING... Mahali Selepe, Therga Banda, Mark Bunney, and many

# obituaries

## Agnes Dorothy Poulton (1908-2012) d. 24 September.

Agnes Poulton was a remarkable woman: not because she lived to be 104 years old, but because from the age of 13, when she was baptised, her life was her faith lived out day by day.

The world and the Church into which Agnes was born have both passed away. It was not an easy matter to be a Seventh-day Adventist in a world where work was a six-day-a-week toil. It was only with grit and faith that one could be a Sabbath-keeper. Agnes qualified on both counts. She had the inspiring example of her father, Henry Poulton, a police constable at Lee Green in London. Because it was impossible to keep the Lord's Sabbath and remain in the police force, Henry and his family moved to Watford, where he obtained employment at Granose Foods. Life for the Poulton family was difficult, but their faith in Christ and the Advent message kept them faithful to the end.

Most of Agnes' life was lived



in Watford. It centred in three areas: faithful attendance at Watford Town Church, and later at Stanborough Park Church (which wasn't built until 1927); employment at Granose Foods, where she served for forty years, mostly in the despatch department (Pastor Roy Burgess remembers her in the buns department, where she served the buns and he cooked); and service in the community.

Agnes joined St John Ambulance as a volunteer nurse, helping out in Watford Hospital. The Lieutenant of the County of Hertford commended her in a personal letter for her service in St John Ambulance and the Civil Defence League during the war years.

Agnes entered The Fairway Home aged 95. She was well cared for there and celebrated her 100th birthday with the Queen's customary card. She died at the home on 14 September, having enjoyed nine happy years there.

Sharing in her service (conducted by Pastors Boyle and Clew) were her cousins Rosemary Duffus and June Coombs, and her nephew Malcolm Poulton. She now rests with her parents in

North Watford Cemetery. Agnes loved Jesus, and frequently spoke of her love for Him. She longed to go to Heaven and be with Him. The promise of His return was precious to her. Now she rests, until He calls her forth to life everlasting.

Her long life and faithfulness were an inspiration to all who knew her.

PATRICK J. BOYLE

## Cyril F. W. Futcher (1913-2012) d. 22 October.

Cyril was born in Southampton, England on 25 June, 1913 and passed away at The Elizabeth House in Hendersonville, NC on 22 October, 2012. He was the second of four children born to Alfred and Emily Futcher.

Cyril started his career in the bookkeeping office of Granose Foods, an Adventist health food company in Watford, England, where he became acquainted with Gladys Hyde, daughter of the general manager. Ten years later, after completing his undergraduate work at Newbold College in England and Emanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in the US, they married. Cyril taught at Newbold College for ten years, then at Carmel College in Western Australia for a further eight.



Cyril, Gladys and their three children then moved to Washington, DC, where he taught at Spencerville Jr Academy and Columbia Union College (now Washington Adventist University). Gladys was a secretary in the Ministerial department of the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In 1962, Cyril accepted the position of Director of Admissions and Records at Southern Adventist University (then Southern Missionary College) in Collegedale, TN, and later became Academic Dean until his retirement in 1984. Gladys also served there as a secretary.

In 1999, Cyril and Gladys moved to Fletcher Park Inn, a retirement centre in Hendersonville, NC, and worshipped at Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Cyril was pre-deceased by Gladys, his parents and his siblings.

Surviving are a daughter, Carol, of Hendersonville, NC; son, Anthony G. Futcher, of Hyattsville, MD and his wife, Mary; son, Terence J. Futcher, of Harlingen, TX and his wife, Ruth; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nephews and nieces.

The family wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the love, prayers and many kindnesses of a large group of friends.

TERENCE FUTCHER

## ChurchFest 2012

For two weeks in September our Lowestoft church joined some forty other churches in a ChurchFest which was intended to connect the church and the community.

The other denominations organised flower festivals, concerts, quiz nights, and so on, but the Adventists put on four 'soup and rolls' sessions and two vegetarian meal events. A number of non-members attended and were duly impressed with the variety of dishes.

Some expressed interest in our beliefs – including a class of children from a local Catholic school, who also took away a selection of free literature. The events also raised £100 for ADRA.

JOHN SAMPSON

## ASI-UK convention (1-3 February 2013)

I should like to personally invite you to attend our next ASI-UK convention, which will once again be held at the popular Staverton Park Conference Centre at Daventry, Northampton, a fairly central location for those from the Midlands, the north, and the south.

Those who came along to this year's convention were very impressed with excellent speakers and vibrant group discussions, and many who heard the reports from those who attended were sorry they missed the blessing.

In February we will consider some vital aspects of our faith in more detail – such as Creation and the Sabbath – and how they affect us, our young people, the Church at large and those with whom we come into contact.

Our conventions are not just about discussing important issues, but we thoroughly enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones, eating very well and having a great weekend break in very congenial surroundings. We have managed to obtain excellent rates again.

If you are interested in finding out more about ASI (Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries) with a view to attending the 2013 Convention, please contact Christine Manners-Smith at [christinemanners\\_smith@yahoo.com](mailto:christinemanners_smith@yahoo.com) soon to avoid disappointment.

JIM CUNNINGHAM, PRESIDENT

LITTLE LAMBS CLINIC  
Helping Children Have A Healthier Childhood

# Benefit Concert

Saturday  
26th January 2013

Tickets:  
Adults: £7, Children (5-15yrs): £3  
On the door:  
Adults: £8, Children (5-15yrs): £4

For tickets and enquiries:  
Call: Lovell Edmead - 0755 7375467  
Horace Radcliff - 07949 193725  
Buy Online: [www.littlelambsclinic.com/benefit-concert](http://www.littlelambsclinic.com/benefit-concert)  
Email: [info@littlelambsclinic.com](mailto:info@littlelambsclinic.com)

MC: Donald Brown  
(Renowned sculptor)

6:30pm-9:30pm  
CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE,  
Bristol Rd, Birmingham, B29 6PB

FEATURING... Mahali Selepe, Therga Banda, Mark Bunney, and many





## Bridgwater weekend

This event, which has become an annual one, was held at the Hill House Christian Centre near Bridgwater on the weekend of 19-21 October. Twenty-one members from Bristol, the south-west and Wales met for a weekend of fellowship and spiritual refreshing.

Guest speaker Pastor Alan Hodges, himself a Bristolian, was accompanied by his wife Thelma. He presented a series of stimulating devotionals during the weekend with a strong emphasis on the importance of our relationship with Jesus.

The weekend was ably organised by Tony and Christine King and Janet and John Overy. In addition to the spiritual blessings there was good food, good weather, much good conversation and laughter, and encouraging spiritual fellowship.

Sunday afternoon came around too quickly, but we left with our spirits raised, looking forward to the soon coming of Jesus.

RAY MORRIS, CHELTENHAM CHURCH

**BOOKSALES**

**December**  
 9 Southend 10am-2pm  
 9 Stanborough Press Open House 9am-5pm  
 16 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

**ABC Shops**  
**Watford, BUC**, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.  
**Birmingham, Aston-Newtown**, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Friday - 9am-1pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm.  
**Advent Centre**, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.

01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk



## 'International' wedding bells at Wimbledon

You can tell a church has a strong family atmosphere when its young people start forming new families. Pastors Sam Neves and Arthur Campbell have been kept busy lately. Further strengthening its incredible international flavour (more than fifty-five countries are represented among our members), Wimbledon has celebrated a number of 'international' weddings. In 2010 and 2011: the Ibrahims (UK/South Africa); Dunons (France/Brazil); Radowichs (Germany/Zimbabwe); Kulas (South Africa/Suriname); Flemings (both Jamaicans); Frasers (Jamaica/Mauritius); and Trampes (Germany/Mexico) – while this year we have celebrated the nuptials of (left to right above): Wlidaek and Mairo Krawiec (Poland/France); Johnny and Carmen Souh (UK/Hong Kong); and Errol and Kym Huet (Mauritius/Zimbabwe).

Wimbledon is truly a worldwide family of God in the heart of London.

ADAM IBRAHIM



## Langley shares family's joy

Aaron Michael Masih, son of Alfred and Harleen, was dedicated at the Langley church on 4 February 2012. The family, friends and members present were overjoyed at the event, none more so than Aaron's grandparents, retired Pastor Dalbir Masih and his wife Shanti. Pastor Masih delivered the sermon and took part in the dedication.

ROHET SUBRAI

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**Sunset**  
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	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Dec 7	3.52	4.04	3.49	3.40	3.59
14	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
21	3.54	4.06	3.50	3.40	4.00
28	3.59	4.11	3.55	3.45	4.05

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