

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

# Messenger

News to the churches • 24 January 2014 • Volume 119 • 2



## Church Photo Competition

Late last year the British Union Conference ran a competition calling for the submission of photos 'from every region and style of church across the UK and Ireland'.

According to the competition organiser, Pastor Victor Hulbert (BUC Communication director), winning entries would 'represent the Church on our website, demonstrating to the wider community that this is a place of worship that they will want to visit'. The photos were to include 'some aspect of the building' and 'must include people'.

Well, now that the competition has closed and the judging has been done, *MESSENGER* has the privilege of displaying the winning submissions on its cover. Congratulations to those churches who walked away with the top four places.

EDITOR



## Stories

Aberdaron Advent Campsite would like to hear from anyone who has a **recent or old** story, or a fond or special memory of their time spent at Aberdaron for use in the campsite's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Please send your story to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT or email it to [enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com).

## Competition

As part of the Aberdaron Advent Campsite 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we would like to start the next 50 years at Aberdaron with a new logo. We would like you all to get involved, so we have opened the design up to you.

Categories:	Under-8s	Prize: A selection of children's books from the ABC
	Ages 8-12	Prize: Week at NEC Junior Camp
	Ages 13-16	Prize: Week at NEC Teen Camp
	Ages 17-25	Prize: Week at NEC Senior Camp
	Over-25s	Prize: Week's stay in a chalet at Aberdaron – (date to be mutually agreed)



**Aberdaron Advent Campsite**  
Glan-yr-Afon, Aberdaron,  
Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT  
T: 01758 760281 • F: 01758 760557  
[www.aberdaroncamp.com](http://www.aberdaroncamp.com)  
[enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com)



The overall winner will have their logo used and will receive an extra prize of two days of outdoor activities with Aberdaron's Outdoor Activity Advisor (date to be mutually agreed).

Please send your completed entries to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT.

Closing date for entries: **30 March 2014.**

Winners will be notified by post and announced at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend (16-19 May 2014).

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary chalet prices

As part of the Aberdaron Advent Campsite 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations we have special rates for chalet bookings during 2014.

Dates	Rate per night	Rate per week	Mid-week break 4 nights (Monday-Friday)
1 March – 6 July	£50.00	£250.00	£150.00
1 Sept – 31 Dec	£45.00	£225.00	£135.00

For bookings please contact us at:

Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT • Tel: 01758 760281  
Email: [enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com)



## Enhancing Health

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

### Male brain, female brain: what's the difference?

A BBC News health report of 3 December 2013, titled 'Men and women's brains are "wired differently"', caught my attention.<sup>1</sup> It featured a study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, which revealed that men and women's brains are connected in different ways.

A research team from the University of Pennsylvania, USA scanned the brains of nearly 1,000 men, women, boys and girls and found striking differences in what they termed 'connectome maps'.

Lead researcher Dr Ragini Verma, associate professor of radiology at Perelman School of Medicine at Pennsylvania University, explains: 'These maps show us a stark difference – and complementarity – in the architecture of the human brain that helps provide a potential neural basis as to why men excel at certain tasks, and women at others.'<sup>2</sup>

The scans revealed greater neural connectivity from front to back and within each hemisphere in males (with few connections bridging the two

hemispheres). This, the researchers suggest, indicates that male brains are structured to facilitate connectivity between perception and co-ordination. Contrastingly, female brains showed the pathways criss-crossed between the left and right hemispheres, which the researchers feel enables communication between analytical function and intuition.

Analysing the study's outcomes, the research team concluded that these differences could explain why men generally tend to be better at learning and performing single tasks, such as cycling or navigating, while women are better equipped for multitasking.

The men in the study also performed better on spatial processing and sensori-motor speed, while women scored well on attention, word and face memory, and social cognition.

However, Dr Michael Bloomfield, clinical research fellow at the Medical Research Council Clinical Sciences Centre in London, issued a cautionary note that 'care must be taken in drawing conclusions from the study, as the precise relationships between how our brains are wired and our performance on particular tasks needed further investigation'.

*"Connectivity" is only one aspect of how our brains are wired.*

*"We think that there can also be differences in certain chemicals in the brain called neurotransmitters, for example, and so we need more research to fully understand how all these different aspects of brain structure and function work together to answer fundamental questions like "how do we think?"*

*"One thing that remains unknown is what is driving these differences between the sexes. An obvious possibility is that male hormones like testosterone and female hormones like oestrogen have different effects on the brain."<sup>3</sup>*

#### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25198063> <sup>2</sup>[www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201312/brain-connectivity-varies-between-men-and-women](http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/the-athletes-way/201312/brain-connectivity-varies-between-men-and-women) <sup>3</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-25198063>

# editorial

Various prominent public figures have recently expressed their concern that British Christians are being persecuted. Among them is Lord Carey, a former archbishop of Canterbury, who feels that churchgoers are becoming increasingly timid about sharing their faith in the workplace. According to him, 'Many Christians I meet say there is pressure on them to be silent about their faith.'<sup>1</sup>

#### Christians need to 'grow up'

Strangely enough, there is another retired Church of England cleric who takes a very different view of things. In August last year, former archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Williams, told an audience at the Edinburgh International Book Festival that Christians who complain about persecution in this country should 'grow up!'<sup>2</sup>

As I see it, he was not trying to be offensive. He was simply making an important point, namely this: 'When you have any contact with real persecuted minorities you learn to use the word "persecuted" very chastely. . . . Persecution is not being made to feel mildly uncomfortable.'<sup>3</sup>

How do you feel about this issue? Do you share Lord Carey's view? Or do you see merit in Lord Williams' position?

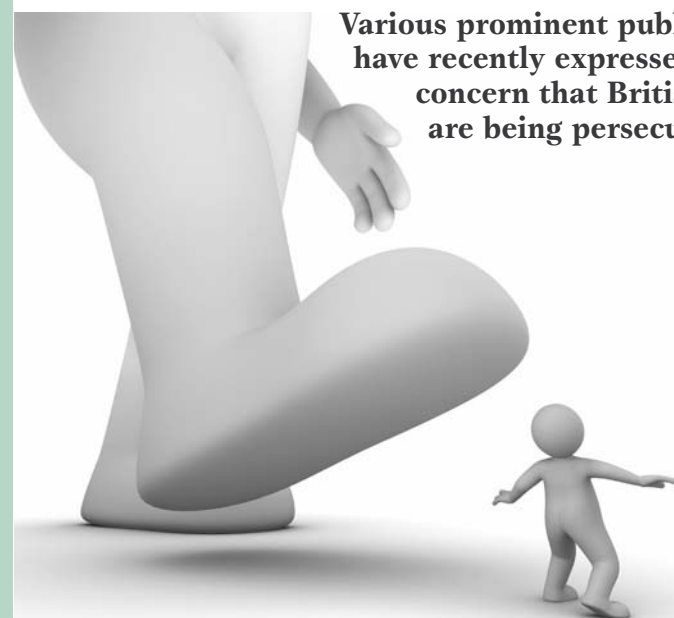
#### You can decide

I will leave you to decide whether you think we are being 'misunderstood', 'derided', 'provoked' or 'persecuted' in Britain today. But first, join me on a quick trip back into the world of Christ's day.

Try to imagine Jesus on a stifling summer day, taking a belated lunch break, closely surrounded by His disciples. Conversation is hushed – faces are flushed. They are unhappy men.

Peter has the floor: 'Master, with respect, we cannot teach effectively anymore. As soon as we gather a group, the priests pounce.'

### Various prominent public figures have recently expressed their concern that British Christians are being persecuted.



## What do you think?



**Julian Hibbert**  
Editor

*They ply us with questions . . . but scoff openly at our answers. The crowds are eager to listen, but not under these circumstances.'*

*'Yes, Master, we had the same problem in the market square this morning. Some of the Caiaphas's henchmen heckled John so badly that a Roman patrol disbanded the meeting. They claimed that we were being disorderly!' James is clearly upset.*

#### Christ listens quietly

Matthew leans forward: 'Jesus, I know that tax collectors deserve abuse, but the way some of the Pharisees speak to You is disgusting. Rabbis have always been respected in our culture. Even when their ideas are unpopular, people still show them respect.'

'Master' – Matthew hesitates – 'the local centurion owes me a few favours . . . you know what I mean? If you let me speak to him, perhaps he could "encourage" them to improve their manners. . . .'

Jesus raises His eyebrows. Matthew swallows hard.

Thomas can't contain himself any longer: 'Master, why don't we approach the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Let's tell him about this abuse and provocation. Let's ask him to protect our rights. Master, we must do something – before things get out of hand!'

#### They saunter by

Suddenly some junior priests saunter by, stop and glare – their smirking faces alive with contempt. One of them points in the direction of Jesus and makes a comment. It triggers a burst of derisive laughter from their group.

The jester comments again. This time the disciples clearly hear the word *mamzer*.<sup>4</sup> Outraged, John leaps to his feet, ready to defend his Master's honour at any cost. Peter is on his feet too, as are Andrew, Philip and Nathanael.

*'No! This is not the way.'*

Christ's commanding tone restrains the disciples. The priests slink quickly away. And I like to think that Matthew made a careful record of what followed that afternoon:

*'I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.'*

*'Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. . . .'*

*'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.'*

*'Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven.'*  
Matthew 10:16-22, 29-32, NIV.

Discomfort, insult, provocation, hatred, betrayal, persecution and death – somewhere among those verses I hear Jesus quietly saying, 'Toughen up!'

Come to think of it, perhaps Lord Williams has a point after all.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10535984/Christians-feel-pressure-to-keep-silent-about-their-faith-Lord-Carey-warns.html>  
<sup>2</sup><http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/religion/10244716/Persecuted-British-Christians-need-to-grow-up-says-former-Archbishop-Rowan-Williams.html>  
<sup>3</sup>ibid 'A misplaced term of derision that could have been used as an accusation against Jesus. See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamzer> and <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/2648-bastard>



## What kind of sheep are you?

by Karen Shelbourn

I want us to consider two subjects today – leaders and sheep. If you go to a university library and look for books on leadership, or books which contain sections on leadership, you'll be spoiled for choice – there are so many. If you google the term 'leadership' you'll get 134 million hits! University libraries don't contain so many books on sheep, though, and the Google hits are fewer at 43.5 million, which is still an impressive figure.

However, if you look at a Bible concordance, you will find that the words 'lead', 'leader', 'led', 'leadest' and 'leadeth' total about 150 mentions, whereas the word 'sheep' is mentioned about 500 times. An interesting reversal.

If you do any reading on the subject of leadership, it becomes obvious that authors are not in agreement as to what leadership is and is not; what type of people make the 'best' leaders; what characteristics a person needs to be a leader; or how potential

leaders can be identified and developed. There are just a couple of things which are common to all the many theories – leaders have followers, and leaders have the ability to influence others, for good or ill. If I were to ask you to name some well-known leaders, the ones generally remembered are those who have had a negative influence – such as Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot and Gaddafi. But there have been good leaders too – Ghandi, Tutu, Martin Luther King and Mandela.

If I were to ask you to name some well-known biblical leaders, you would probably mention Moses, David and Paul. They too had followers – still do, in fact – and they had the ability to influence others, mostly for good.

In our society, the term 'followers' takes on special significance. If I mention Katy Perry, Justin Bieber or Lady Gaga, some of you will immediately know that I am referring to Twitter, the social networking site. Katy Perry (singer) has recently toppled Justin Bieber (singer) as the most followed person on Twitter – when I last checked, she

had almost 48 million of them!

Now, leaving leadership for a moment, think about identifying some well-known sheep. I can think of three – 'Baa baa black sheep' (who had three full bags of wool); Dolly, the cloned sheep; and Shaun the sheep of *Wallace and Gromit*. Maybe you can think of some others.

Sheep, as a species, tend to be followers. They have an instinct to follow the sheep in front, even if it's not going in the right direction. Sheep tend not to walk in a straight line for very long, easily straying off in different directions; they are also gregarious animals, tending to flock together. They learn to recognise the face and voice of their shepherd, and will respond to him. Sheep are prone to a number of skin diseases and parasites, so they have to be dipped regularly in a chemical solution. And sheep can be stubborn. They like to do what they like. If you've ever watched *One Man And His Dog*, you'll know the frustration of moving even a small flock around a field or into a pen. Sheep that live in other countries are also easy prey for predators such as lions and wolves.

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In the Bible God uses the imagery of sheep and shepherd to illustrate how our relationship with Him should be. Take for example Psalm 100:3 (NKJV): 'Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.' Unfortunately, sheep can also be used as a fitting image for our waywardness and rebellion, as seen in Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV): 'All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way. . . .'

Sadly, then, calling someone a sheep is far from complimentary. It most likely suggests that he or she is neither a great leader nor a good follower. Are all sheep doomed to behave like this, though? Perhaps not.

Within the flocks of Iceland, there is a separate genetic line of them, called 'leader sheep'. They are believed to be descendants of sheep brought in by Vikings in the eighth century. There are only about 1,000 of them, and they are spread among the country's flocks. Leader sheep are very intelligent, and known for 'their special alertness and leadership characteristics'. As their name suggests, they are 'prominent in the flock . . . normally going first out of the sheep-house, looking around in all directions, watching to see if there are dangers in sight and then walking in front of the flock when driven to or from pasture'.\* They are taller than the normal Icelandic sheep, constantly remain on the lookout for danger and have a very good sense of direction.

Stories are told of leader sheep that would not leave their barns on mornings when they sensed that a storm was brewing, even though the skies seemed blue and clear. There are stories of leader sheep having led both the flock and the shepherd safely home during a snowstorm.

Icelandic leader sheep are a unique breed, found only on that island. And in a sense, they have 'redefined the brand', clearly showing that not all sheep conform to the stereotype . . . being stupid, defenceless, wayward, difficult to manage and prone to get lost.

If we are going to be 'His people, and the sheep of His pasture', perhaps we could choose to be 'leader' sheep in 2014. I am sure it will please the Good Shepherd.

\*Wikipedia.org/wiki/Icelandic\_sheep



### Can you help?

If you can provide any details relating to W. A. Girling and Son and the role they played in providing work for our members in the post-war (WWII) period, please contact the editor.

BOOKSALES

**February**  
 01 Fijian group - Stanborough Press  
 02 John Loughborough  
 09 Greenwich

After Sunset  
 10am-2pm  
 10am-2pm

**Adventist Book Center.com**

**ABC Shops**  
**Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.**  
**01923 893461**

**Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Friday - 9am-1pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm.**  
**0121 3286380**

**Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.**  
**0207 7236849**

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**01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk**



### Aberdaron Advent Campsite activity instructors

Aberdaron Advent Campsite, in conjunction with the NEC Youth & Pathfinder departments, is looking to develop its range of outdoor activities and requires volunteers to train as activity instructors. If you have an interest in outdoor pursuits (such as

kayaking, sailing, climbing and archery), with the possibility of developing these skills into a supplementary earner or full-time career, please send your CV to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT.

#### Aberdaron Advent Campsite 2014 summer staff

These volunteers are required: one head chef; two sous chefs and five kitchen staff for three weeks; four maintenance staff for ten weeks. Food and board are provided, along with a monetary allowance. Please send your CV to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 8BT.  
**Closing date: 7 February 2014.**

### Stanborough Secondary School vacancies

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and family atmosphere, is looking to employ the following volunteer staff:



#### Volunteer Assistant Dean Boarding School (Female), from 1 August 2014 (for one year)

**Responsibilities:** Caring for all sick boarders and coping with any emergencies or accidents in the boarding house. The routine organisation of all aspects of the physical care of boarders, and sharing with the other housemaster/matron the duties of the boarding house. Assisting the housemaster/matron and resident staff to plan and carry out a varied programme of activities for boarders after school and on weekends. In an emergency, caring for day pupils is required. Strongly supporting the housemaster/matron in maintaining a safe, pleasant environment for boarding pupils. Maintaining a warm, friendly atmosphere in the boarding school so that parents, governors and school visitors feel welcome.  
 The post comes with a monthly stipend of £175.00 and includes all meals.  
**Closing date: 31 January 2014.**

#### Volunteer Marketing/PR Assistant, from March 2014

**Responsibilities:** 1. Handle all marketing-related enquiries addressed to the school. 2. Liaise with local businesses and newspapers regarding advertising and PR-related activities. 3. Work closely with the head teacher to ensure that all marketing activities are in the interest of the school. 4. Ensure that the webpage is updated. 5. Initiate and manage the development of brochures, prospectuses and other such promotional packages (posters, flyers, leaflets) to be used during visits to local as well as international schools. 6. Develop close relationships with the parents and heads of potential feeder schools. 7. Organise all public relations-related events and activities such as Speech Night, College Days and Days of Fellowship. 8. Publish the school's newsletter.  
 Applicants should hold relevant qualifications and have appropriate experience.  
**Closing date: 21 February 2014.**

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment, and any appointment will be subject to the required DBS clearance.

Applications should be sent to:

Deborah Williams, PA to Head Teacher, Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford WD25 9JT or [dwilliams@spsch.org](mailto:dwilliams@spsch.org) no later than the dates specified above.



**Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? Every issue I'll be hosting Q&A in an effort to answer them.**

Andrew Puckering

**'With reference to Isaiah 45:7, why did God find it necessary to create "evil"? Free will won't work as an explanation here.'**  
 Dezreen Goldsmith

**A** I can see your point! In the King James Version of Isaiah 45:7, we read: 'I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and

create evil: I the LORD do all these things.' We would be very surprised, to say the least, if God meant to describe Himself as creating 'evil', in the normal sense of the word: 'the force of things that are morally bad' (Merriam-Webster).<sup>1</sup> After all, God is love (1 John 4:8). 'He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.' (Deuteronomy 32:4, NKJV). 'Is there unrighteousness with God?' asks Paul, rhetorically: 'Certainly not!' (Romans 9:14, NKJV.)

Merriam-Webster lists another definition for 'evil', however: 'something that brings sorrow, distress or calamity'.<sup>2</sup> Here's where other Bible translations can come in handy. The New King James Version renders this passage: 'I make peace and create calamity'. The New American Standard Bible also uses the word 'calamity', as does the English Standard Version. The New International Version and Good News Bible use 'disaster', whereas the New Century Version has 'troubles'. There's an important difference between these and 'things that are morally bad', and it means that God isn't the source of moral evil, even if He might be of some 'disasters'.

This alternative meaning for 'evil' is also present in the Hebrew word for it, *ra'*: it 'may mean either moral evil that springs from within or trouble that comes upon one from without. Here it is used in the latter sense (see Isaiah 47:11; Amos 3:6).'<sup>3</sup> In both of these Bible texts it's clear that the 'evil' is actually a calamitous or distressing event that occurs after God's people make bad decisions – the opposite of 'peace' in Isaiah 45:7, just as 'light' is contrasted with 'darkness'.

Is disaster something God actively causes? The *Bible Commentary* states that He 'permits "evil", whether moral or material, that men and angels may witness the result of a departure from the eternal principles of right (see on Daniel 4:17). In Scripture God is often represented as causing that which He does not prevent.'<sup>4</sup> Another example can be found in the book of Job, where God allows the devil temporarily to have power over His servant. Nevertheless, God's purpose in Isaiah 45 is clearly to demonstrate His active, deliberate participation in specific world events, such as the fall of Babylon (Isaiah 45:1-6): in stark contrast with the idols of the surrounding nations, which were powerless to do anything (Isaiah 44).

Why does God allow disasters? It's natural for us to be perplexed about them, even angry. Maybe we would have as much success interrogating our Maker about His creation as a potsherd would its potter (Isaiah 45:9-12)! On the other hand, He does invite us to reason with Him (Isaiah 1:18). Let's take a closer look at why God allows catastrophes to happen in the next issue.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/evil> <sup>2</sup>ibid <sup>3</sup>Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 4, p. 267 <sup>4</sup>ibid

**Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: [editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk)? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.**

# Christmas witness



## The 'reason for the season'

On 21 and 22 December last year, Willesden Church produced two outstanding programmes to bring honour to the Lord Jesus.

Firstly, there was 'A Christmas Cantata: From Son to Saviour', produced by Music director, Tina Brooks. Then there was the children's production, 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw', directed by Sabbath School superintendent, Cheryl Allen. Both performances, one on the Sabbath and the other on the Sunday, drew an appreciative audience of church members, family, friends and visitors from the local community.

## 'Messy' Christmas

I am sure that my church was not alone in hoping to use the Christmas season as an evangelistic opportunity.

Here in The Watering Hole church plant we have used various approaches over the last few weeks so that 'by any means possible we may win some'. These ranged from carolling in a local bar to leafleting 500 homes around the community centre where we meet, and holding coffee and chat sessions in three local homes, where people were invited to explore the nativity story in new and interesting ways. Yesterday one person said, 'I never thought about it much before. I just got on with getting ready for Christmas. Now I know that God used people to help Him do what He wanted to do. Christmas will mean something more to me now.'

One problem we experience is that people often won't come to a

church service, so we decided to follow Jesus' 'Go' command and take church to them instead.

So Messy Church went into a school on four Friday evenings during this past November/December. The



Through these works, the story surrounding what many have described as being 'the most wonderful time of the year' unfolded amid hymns and songs, such as 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Silent Night', 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'Mary Did You Know', 'Give Him Your Heart' and 'Follow the Star'.

Truly, both events beautifully expressed the 'reason for the season', something that local pastors Des Boldeau and Michael Mannix stated should always be remembered.

NORMA WHYTE

school kindly advertised the event for us in their weekly newsletter and in this way we picked up some extra families.

What is Messy Christmas? Well, for us, each week starts with a communal meal followed by themed crafts that families do together. The evening finishes with a Bible presentation and carols. A highlight of each week has been that each family has been working on creating their own gingerbread nativity house. As they have crafted together there has been opportunity to talk about the meaning of Christmas and the life lessons learned from each character's involvement. On the last Friday of our Messy Christmas series the families proudly took home their completed nativity sets, a reminder right throughout the Christmas season that God is with us and wants to be with us eternally – some day very soon!

PASTOR ROSEMARY LETHBRIDGE



## Annual Toy Service

The December Toy Service has been an annual event at Stanborough Park for more than half a century since it was instigated by the late Alf Kelly, who received an MBE for his community service work. Present at this year's service on 10 December was Marjorie Davison, who had been involved in the same event at the Ealing church. Alf's daughter, Pat, worked with her late husband, Lionel, at the ESDA office in London and told Alf about it. The rest is history!

As Christmas approaches members of Stanborough Park Church dig deep into their pockets to purchase and donate new toys for needy children in the Watford area: so on that Sabbath morning worshippers were greeted once again by the sight of hundreds of toys festooning the platform.

The event is now organised by Pat Walton, who keeps to the same format established by her father. The toys are collected and distributed to needy families by social workers who know where

the toys will find good homes.

According to Pat, 'The social workers from various institutions who are working in the children's sector are delighted with the toys that they take away from Stanborough



Park Church to give to the families they are working with.' For many of the recipients there would be no Christmas were it not for the Annual Toy Service.

Each year, the Mayor of Watford attends the service. Receiving the toys on behalf of



the children, the mayor, Dorothy Thornhill, thanked the congregation for their generosity and reminded

those present that although the economic situation was improving there were still many needy families in the area who would benefit from these toys. She said that she always enjoyed visiting the church – for her it was a 'quality' church where every aspect of it from the lawns at the

front demonstrated that attribute. Summing up the event, organiser Pat Walton commented, 'The Toy Service always gives me a thrill, especially when I see the children coming down the aisle onto the platform to put their toys in the sacks. Some of the children do struggle to put their toy, which they do not want to part with, into the sack.'

'It is also very rewarding to receive the toys ahead of Saturday morning from older folk in the church, who seem so delighted to be giving a toy to a child at Christmas.'

JUNE COOMBS

## Newbold School breaks own record

Every year, children in Years 5 and 6 at Newbold School organise a Christmas sale in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital. They each choose, plan, advertise and man their own stall and have great fun. In 2012 over £500 was raised and they didn't think that could be bettered; but, with the support of children, parents and friends from the community, a staggering £862.02 was raised last year! This is a remarkable amount from a small school!

GILL HUDSON (YEAR 5/6 TEACHER)



## ADRA gets Stanborough support

Stanborough School did their part in the annual ADRA Gift Box appeal last year. Here we have photos of their most successful form, Y8, and of Y10, along with the school's appeal co-ordinators, Ms Pizzuto and Mrs Hussey.



**Aylesbury**

The Aylesbury church attended a memorable event on Sabbath 12 October 2013 – the baptism of Mihai-Fedor (Misha) Parascineti at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital's Aquatic Physiotherapy Rehabilitation (Hydrotherapy) pool by Pastor Ron Clemow, assisted by the hospital's physiotherapist. Nothing like this has ever happened at the hospital before. We praise God for this opportunity.

Misha, who was born in Romania, is of Ukrainian descent. He gained his qualifications at the Pedagogic College, University of Letter (literature and grammar), as a teacher and translator, specialising in Slavic and Romanian languages. After working in Romania for some years he arrived in England in 2007 and worked in the construction trade. In 2008 he was married, but in 2010, while on holiday in Romania, he was involved in a car accident that left him a paraplegic.

In July 2013, he had a short stay at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Coming from a strong Seventh-day Adventist Christian family background and trying to cope with his medical and other personal problems, he spent his time reading through the entire Bible. Says Misha: 'The Holy Spirit opened my eyes to a new understanding of the Bible as I read through the New Testament. There was a burden in my heart that something must happen, so I decided to make a decision in August to take up the cross and follow Jesus' example through baptism.'

Misha made enquiries about the church and was given directions by a Seventh-day Adventist nurse at the hospital. He has attended church faithfully since then.

Misha's testimony can be found on the Aylesbury church website: [www.aylesburyadchurch.co.uk/the-baptism-of-misha](http://www.aylesburyadchurch.co.uk/the-baptism-of-misha). His wish is that his church family pray that God will daily empower him to be a true witness to others in his walk with God.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

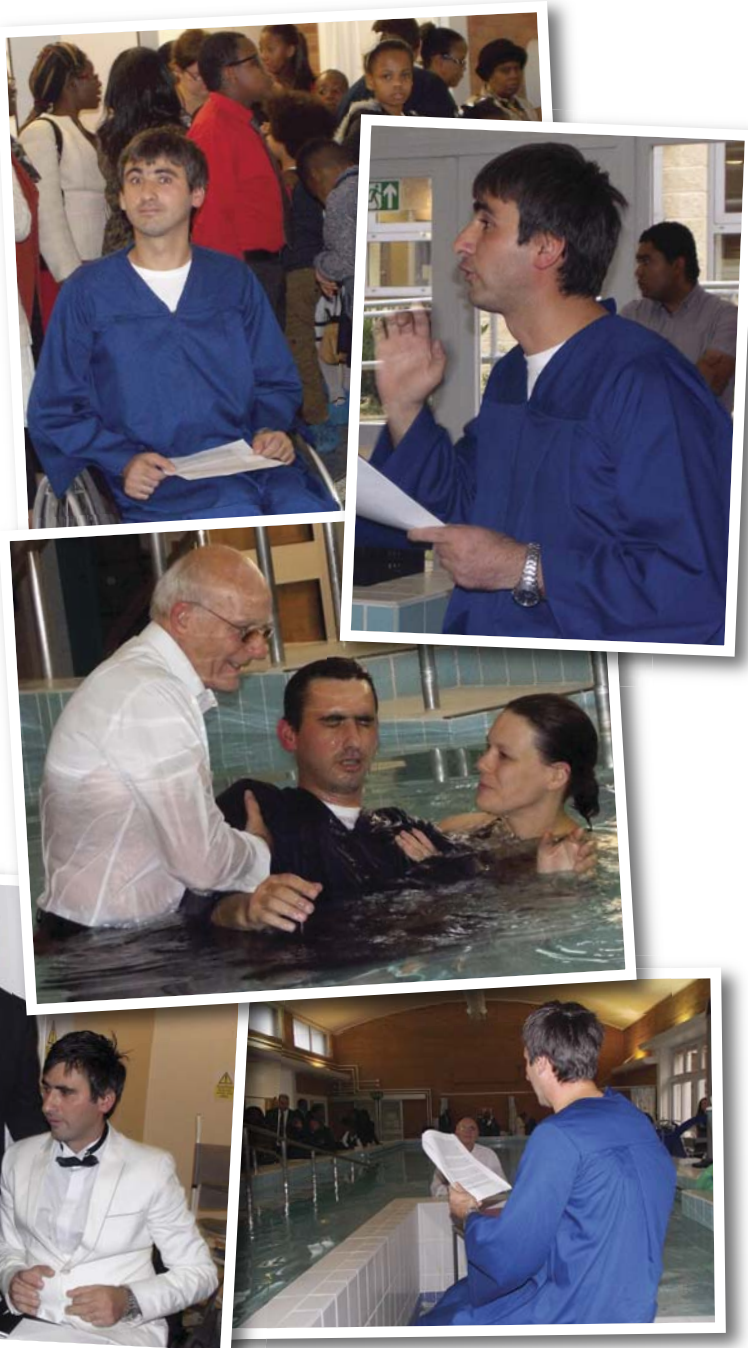
**Great Yarmouth**

A few years ago, a family came to live in Great Yarmouth from Portugal. Amelia Gasper was already a committed Adventist and so she attended our church in Great Yarmouth along with Joel, her youngest son. Some time later her eldest son, Ruben, started attending church as well and was eventually baptised in 2012. He is now training for the ministry at Newbold College.

On Sabbath 14 December the whole Gasper family were together in church again, this time for the dedication of Leonardo, the child of Amelia's daughter and husband, Marisa and Tiago. But there was even more to come – the baptism of Amelia's youngest son, Joel, by Pastor Rio Espulgar. Joel told the congregation that the reason why he had chosen to be baptised was because he accepted Jesus as his Saviour.

Reflecting back we can see how the Holy Spirit has prepared Joel for this experience. Ever since his first attendance with his mum, Joel has shown a definite interest in the church activities. Even when Amelia was away in Portugal for a few months, Joel faithfully attended church. We thank the Lord for what He has done in Joel's life and for the example he is to our other young people.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER,  
COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



**Holcombe Road**

Friends, family and church members gathered joyously at Holcombe Road Church on Sabbath, 30 November, to witness the baptism of Roque Puranda and Janice McGlashan. Before entering the pool Roque asked for the hymn 'I will early seek the Saviour' to be sung, expressing his desire to know more about Jesus. Janice used her spiritual gift of singing to express her feelings: 'I've traded my shackles for a glorious song – praise the Lord I am free at last.'

It was a wonderful experience, hopefully to be repeated when those who responded to the appeal are baptised this year.

CAROL YOUNG



**Leamington Mission**

Recently Leamington Mission gained two new members, each with a different story to tell.

Rachel Thomas attended an Adventist church in Jamaica as a young girl, but this had stopped by the time she was a teenager. She subsequently moved to England, but never forgot her early church experience. Sensing that the Holy Spirit was drawing her back to God, she started going to services at an Evangelical church in Leamington. Then, earlier this year, she walked past Leamington Mission one day. She immediately started attending each Sabbath and knew that she had, at last, 'come home'. She has since had Bible studies with Arunus Taskunus (an elder), to 'refresh her memory'. Being a bit frail in health, Rachel elected to be accepted into fellowship rather than try to negotiate the baptistry steps! The congregation were thoroughly blessed as she spontaneously began singing, 'I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!'

Mathilda Kjolner has been attending Leamington Mission for just over a year with her husband Christopher and two young sons. They moved to Leamington from London following Christopher's job relocation. When Mathilda met Christopher she wasn't an Adventist. However, they have since married and Mathilda's faith has slowly developed over the years she has known Christopher. She requested baptism and has since had Bible studies with Rob Pierce, also an elder at Leamington, and was baptised on 12 October last year. Unfortunately for Leamington, Christopher and Mathilda plan to move back to Norway, their home country, soon, to be closer to family. We wish them all the best in their new life.

LORRAINE GLINTON

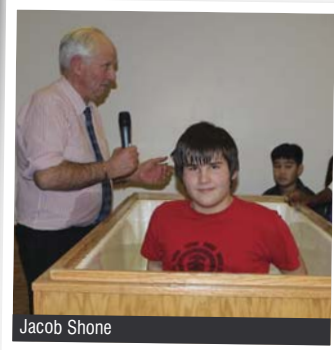


**Milton Keynes**

To say that Sabbath, 7 December, was a big day for the Milton Keynes Central and West Bletchley congregations puts it mildly. The morning and most of the afternoon saw a Pathfinder investiture. This was followed by a baptismal service. Those baptised were Linah Murage and Raquel Flecknell of Milton Keynes Central, and Vimbai Muradzi of the West Bletchley congregation.

BARRY GOWLAND

**Lakenheath**



Jacob Shone

On 14 December 2013 at the RAF Lakenheath Chapel our members were blessed with a baby dedication and a baptism. What a great way to close our first year of regular weekly services in this venue.

Pastor Colin Stewart first dedicated Elyse, child of Lorraine and Adrian Lemard, who live on



Charles Tarte

the airbase. Their family was also there to help mark this special occasion.

Then followed three unique baptisms, where the candidates could be fully immersed while the pastor stayed bone dry, much to his delight! Andrew (20) and Jacob Shone (14) were baptised by Pastor



Andrew Shone

Colin Stewart with the help of their father, Richard Shone, who is the church's head elder. Charles Tarte from Fiji was also baptised with his family in attendance.

It was a wonderful and blessed day, and a time of great celebration enjoyed by the many who came.

BONNIE STEINBRUNNER (LAKENHEATH LEADER) AND COLIN STEWART

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### Opening night at Balham 'theatre'

As part of the Mission to the Cities project, Opal Johnson-Christie, head of the South England Conference Education department, commissioned the play, 'Why We Believe'. Written by Mary Grey, it was presented at the Balham church on 24 November last year.

The play is designed to inform our members of their history and teachings and is followed by a productive question-and-answer session.

It is suitable to invite your non-member friends to attend and uses appropriate humour to get its message across.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, eliciting comments like: 'I think it is a very creative method of outreach and the script was very good. . . I will be trying for it to be brought to my local church.' Paulette Bradnock.

'Using drama as a medium is a good way to appeal to the general public and break down prejudice.' Joy Alexander.

For more information about the play and how to get it to your church, contact the SEC Education department.

BASED ON A REPORT BY ERROL ANDERSON



### GBK Communication Day

The Great Brickkiln Street church in Wolverhampton celebrated their Communication Day last 12 October, with Pastor Julian Hibbert, *MESSENGER* editor, as their guest speaker. He spoke on the chosen theme, 'Keep Alive the Message of Hope', showing that the best way to achieve this is through vibrant, Jesus-loving, ordinary church members!

The church's children put on an interesting play about Moses keeping alive the message of hope for God's people in Egypt.

After an excellent lunch Pastor Hibbert led the congregation through an interactive seminar on the preparation of material for publication in the *MESSENGER*.

D. M. CAMPBELL



### Community Services at Leeds Central

The Community Services department at Leeds Central is an active one, and is at work providing its services to both the members and the wider community.

Leeds Central is a diverse church with members and regular visitors from Africa, the Pacific, the Caribbean and Europe. The department also holds an annual cultural evening in November, during which members and visitors can display their national costumes and prepare their national dishes for everyone to try.

The department collects tinned food items for the homeless and works closely with a special unit that supports women who have suffered domestic violence. They also visit residential homes and hospital wards, often with the support of the Adventurer club members.

Their work for the senior citizens includes a weekly Monday club, and an annual Christmas meal where members of the community and the church are able to mingle.

VANESSA MAYNARD

### Church raises £75,000!

The generosity of the London Ghana church was again evident at last year's annual fundraising event, during which more than £75,000 was raised. Annually, the members are encouraged to count their blessings during the past year and then give the Lord a 'harvest' for His protection, forgiveness and blessings.

Dubbed 'The Annual Harvest', this is an opportunity for the members to dress in their traditional kente and white outfits, which signify victory. They also enjoy heart-warming songs from the various singing groups amid praises and dancing.

According to the first elder, Collins Amofah, 'Members have been fantastic and inspirational in giving and that is why the Lord's blessings have been enormous in this church.'

These funds have gone towards acquiring their own place of worship and the support of various evangelistic meetings in the United Kingdom.

The 'Harvest' was preceded by a two-week revival series by Pastor George Dadey of the Reading church. A similar programme was held at the Lee Valley church, where nearly £40,000 was raised.

NANA SIFA TWUM



### Langley's double celebration

On 7 December last year, Pastor S. M. Gill dedicated Akaash (1) and Aashish (3), children of Roheet and Anju Subrai, at the Langley church. The service was followed by a special birthday celebration for the two boys.

ROHEET SUBRAI



Left to right: Wayne Grant (elder), Dr Patick Lowe, and John Osei-Bempong (elder)

### Erdington Mens's Health Day

Dr Patrick Lowe is a public health consultant in the West Midlands and well-known to both the general public and our church. On 9 November 2013 he was the guest speaker for the Erdington Men's Health Day. During the worship service he explained how the moral, ceremonial, civil, sanitary and dietary laws of the Old Testament can positively influence our health and general well-being (Exodus 15:26). He showed as well how important the Adventist health message was back in 1863, when viewed against the low life expectancy in the nineteenth century in both Europe and the United States.

In the afternoon session Dr Lowe identified three areas in the world where people live longer than the normal global average of 67.88 (65.71 for men; 70.14 for women): Okinawa (Japan), Ovodda (Sardinia, Italy) and Loma Linda (California, USA). Studies done in these areas identified dietary habits as the main causation of longevity, but in Loma Linda the vegetarian diet, exercise, abstinence from harmful products and the Adventists' community cohesion and spiritual relationships featured significantly as the main elements that explain the marked longevity.

Dr Lowe went on further to talk about the causes of snoring, diabetes and impotence, and the prevention of prostate cancer among men. He identified lycopene, a powerful antioxidant found in tomatoes, as beneficial in the prevention of prostate cancer and reducing tumour growth in men with prostate cancer. Studies have shown that raw tomato and cooked or puréed tomato products, such as tomato paste, spaghetti sauce, sun-dried tomato, tomato juice and ketchup, are all good for fighting prostate cancer.

According to him, broccoli and cauliflower are also useful in preventing prostate cancer. Soybeans and legumes, such as beans, peanuts and lentils, also may contain cancer-fighting properties. Figs



### Leamington honours its seniors

On 30 November Leamington Mission Church honoured twenty-one of its senior members and their friends. They were treated to an 'all trimmings' four-course meal prepared and served by the members, including a number of youth. Light entertainment was provided for the evening by Rob Pearce and Dan Vine, and the programme was organised by Nigel and Diana Clark.

NIGEL AND DIANA CLARK

and fruits such as guavas, pawpaws, strawberries, watermelons, pomegranate juice and mangoes also have been associated with the prevention of prostate cancer among men.

A lot was covered within a short time by Dr Lowe, and his presentations highlighted the need to embrace a healthy lifestyle, with good food, good air, responsible exercise and sunlight all being necessary for good health.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

PHOTO: MOSES JAMANDA



### Communications Day

On 23 November 2013, Manchester South held a novel Communications Day, the first in over a decade. It was meant to awaken the church and encourage a sense of continued revival and reformation, and to show members how to evangelise and spread the three angels' messages. It also served to make members aware of the Communications department and how it can support the other departments of the church.

Raj Satyavadi was the preacher and his moving message made the members realise that change has to be made in the way we communicate with each other.

After a good vegan lunch that promoted the aim of the CHIP programme, Andrew Modelly presented a seminar on how to use technology and advertisements in the simplest of ways to promote the three angels' messages and develop relationships.

The seminar was interactive, and the members had the chance to ring up someone on loudspeaker and tell them that they love them. This was a hard challenge but it turned out to be a blessing for those who took part.

SARA FRANCIS



### Yardley welcomes Adam and Aiko

On Sabbath 30 November last year, Yardley Church hosted a special welcoming service for Adam Ramdin (who previously pastored at this Birmingham-based church) and his wife Aiko. Adam and Aiko, who had tied the knot on 27 October, were invited to be blessed by Pastor Alan Hush. The couple enjoyed renditions by Ashley Alan, Jeharna South and the newly formed Yardley Youth Choir and Guitar Group. They also received heartfelt tributes by Craig Gooden, Adam's former students from the PEACE academy, the NEC president Pastor Lorraine Johnson, and many others.

FELICIA JOHN



### Great Brickkiln Street investiture

Sabbath, 7 December, was Investiture Day at Great Brickkiln Church, Wolverhampton.

It all started with the sound of drums as the various age groups were called to attention. Then, as the ceremony progressed, a packed congregation witnessed three new Master Guides being invested and welcomed to the Pathfinder team. Five club members were awarded the Advanced Pathfinder Leaders honour, and it was pleasing to see happy young Eager Beavers receiving their certificates too. Those who achieved excellence in their Pathfinder activities had their names inscribed on a gold trophy. The morning was rounded off by a brief but inspiring sermon by Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Pathfinder director.

DELVA CAMPBELL



### Children's Day at Fartown

On 5 October, the Fartown Seventh-day Adventist church held a Children's Day programme entitled, 'Instruments of Praise'.

Children are like jewels in the hand of God. They are susceptible to the Gospel and will, if taught efficiently, love Jesus and not be ashamed to tell others about Him. This was evident during the worship service as they gave their testimonies and told how they witness to their friends through song. They also led out in singing, played musical instruments, took part in Bible reading, and dramatised the story of King Saul and the positive effect David's harp music had on him. The depressive gloom that had settled on Saul was lifted, and comfort and peace filled his soul.

There were two sermons, delivered by two of the children, who preached with enthusiasm and conviction. At the end of the day we all felt refreshed and truly blessed to be a part of the event.

FARTOWN COMMUNICATIONS



### First Pathfinder investiture

Although the Great Yarmouth Pathfinder club was only started last year, its children have worked so hard that they were able to hold their first investiture on Sabbath 30 November. The Area 8 Pathfinder sponsor, Waldron Tyrone, along with Rio Espulgar, our pastor, conducted the investiture service that afternoon. We felt so proud of our young people as they marched into the sanctuary wearing their smart uniforms.

Six Pathfinders were invested on this occasion: two from the Friend class and four from the Explorer class. In the Friend class Avonda Gasela and Johnnalen Wilkinson were invested with honours; and those who received honours in the Explorer class were Joel Gaspar and Rebecca Mbakire, Nandi Gasela and Leo Lukas. The honours were varied but included the study of seeds, dogs, cats, candle making, baking, cake decorating and knot tying. During the service, each one was given the opportunity to demonstrate something of what they had learnt.

Leo Lukas came from the community, and next year his twin brothers, aged 12, will be joining the Pathfinder group too. It is our intention to reach out to the community, and Pathfinders offers a wonderful opportunity of reaching its young people.

PASTOR MICHAEL WALKER



### Crieff awards

It was a very exciting day on Sabbath 23 November for eight children at Crieff Church – Finlay, Gabriela, James, Kamila, Konrad, Nathan, Zofia and Zuzia. In recognition of their hard work in the Adventurer club, their leader, Shirley Froude, organised a special award ceremony performed by Pastor Bob Rodd.

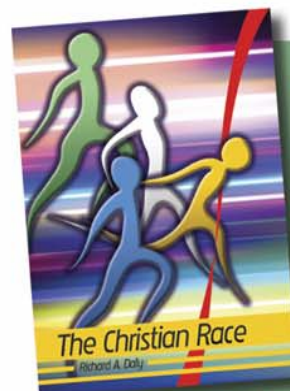
Wearing their Scottish scarves and woggles, the children marched up the aisle singing their theme song. After reciting the pledge and law, the Adventurers were each awarded a certificate and special medal.

CHRISTINE BAUWENS, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY



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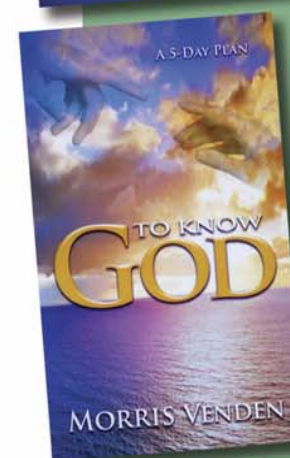


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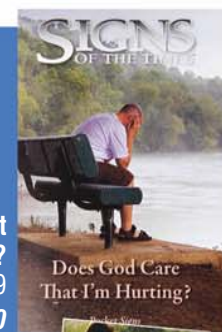
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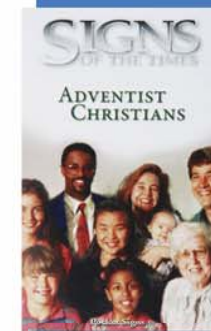
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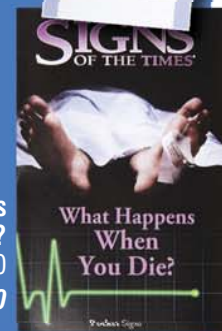
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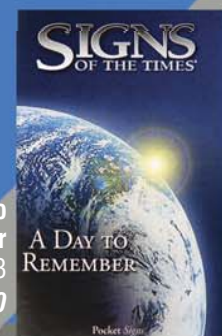
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### Oxford: City of Dreams

Oxford: City of Dreams, a programme of gospel music and storytelling, was held at Oxford Town Hall on Sunday 17 November at 6pm. The event, an original production that was written and directed by the acclaimed playwright/director Mervyn Weir, was specially commissioned under 'Mission to the Cities' as an outreach to the people of Oxford and co-ordinated by the Oxford church's Sabbath School department.

Participants included the Oxford Gospel Events Choir and the Oxford Philomusica. Special guests included the High Sheriff of Oxford, Councillor Mohammed Abassi, and representatives for Sobell House Oxford (cancer research) and ADRA UK. Approximately 300 people attended, and many enjoyed the deeply spiritual, and sometimes poignant, programme. One person said, 'Thank you for the invite to Oxford: City of Dreams. It was a brilliant evening! I so much enjoyed the music and the drama. . . . I felt proud and happy.'

All proceeds from the event will go to the charities Sobell House and ADRA UK. Donations for the Philippines were also collected on the evening. Feedback received from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. God has used this form of outreach to impact the hearts of the people of Oxford.

DR JOY ANNE ANDREWS; PHOTOS: MERVYN WEIR



### Bristol health service

On Sunday 8 September last year there was a buzz in the Bristol Central car park in St Paul's. The Bristol Central church's various ministries teamed up to host a health service for the surrounding community.

The services included information and advice on women's health, free health screening, BMI measurements, vegan cooking demonstrations and the opportunity to taste various freshly extracted vegetable juices. At the same time the visitors were able to listen to live gospel music and browse through a selection of health and spiritual literature on sale by literature evangelists.

The day ended with a video presentation on glyconutrients from Roy and Cynthia Litchfield, from the Breath of Life church in Birmingham.

The event was well supported by church members. MARY PHILIP



Amanda and Monique



Tracey and Robin

### Dinner is served

Gloucester Church member, Hella Emraz, a regular volunteer at the church-operated community soup kitchen, wanted to do something different for the local community. With help from Selina Duhaney, Albert Gardiner, Jared Johnson, Tracey Johnson, Neville Kelly, Miriam Morgan and Monique Smith, Hella organised a harvest supper, which was attended by forty-three community guests.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Robin, aged 26, said: 'We are very grateful for what the church does for the homeless and vulnerable people. They don't have to do it, but they do.' Mandy, 43, mother of seven, echoed this, adding: 'It was a wonderful gesture, by a wonderful group of people.' Michelle, 37, said she 'felt so blessed by the whole experience. I'm so grateful for those who regularly give up their time to help us; they have taught me so much.'

A helper, Tracey Johnson, who really enjoyed the experience, said: 'There was a great atmosphere.' Monique, another helper, added: 'My work commitment limits when I can help out, so when I was approached by Hella, I couldn't really say no. I jumped at the opportunity to get involved.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

### Erdington member honoured

Erdington is an active church where the members are committed to community service of various kinds. There is one member, however, who has received special recognition for his role. On 13 November, Don Parker, a volunteer driver for the Beeline Community Transport in Warwickshire, received a long service award from Mr Timothy Cox, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the County of Warwickshire, for his services to the community. For thirteen years, Don has transported patients from their homes to hospitals, clinics and GP surgeries throughout the county. He enjoys this unique service because it gives him the chance to minister to the terminally ill and the elderly about the love of God.

According to Don, no matter where you live and no matter where you worship, you can still put your God-given talents into action. This is truly the spirit of community service.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG  
PHOTO: MOSES JAMANDA



**UK Zambian Adventist Fellowship**  
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# obituary

**Iwan (John) Kowarin (1924-2013) d. 20 September.**

Iwan (John) Kowarin was born on 20 May 1924 in Kyz'kino, Russia to Greek Orthodox parents, Dimitri and Fedosov. He had two younger brothers: Michael and Alex. John was just 9 years old when his father died in prison. His crime: refusing to surrender the family farm to the State.

John and his mother managed their farm. There was no time for school, but his mother taught him to read between working the farm and odd jobs for cash. John recalled that their meals were simple, but not all was gloom; the boys had many happy hours playing in the river, where they learnt to swim.

The Second World War added more pressure to life, and the authorities began arresting people in the neighbourhood – they were never seen again. At 18 John knew he could be next. On 1 January 1943 he escaped Russia with a few friends on a wagon train carrying horses. He travelled extensively on foot throughout Europe, trying to evade capture. The Germans raided a farm one night, in search of refugees, while he was hiding in the barn – he narrowly escaped their prodding pitchforks.

Eventually he and his friends crossed into Austria, and gave themselves up at an American airbase, where they were given the choice: 'Home (Russia), America or England?'

While in Austria a Mr Heidik influenced John to accept Jesus as his Saviour, and he was baptised in Villach in a water-filled bomb crater. John arrived in Oswestry, Wales, where he lived in a refugee camp before moving to Stoke-on-Trent, finding lodgings with Miss Barrett, an Adventist, and work in the coal mines. He visited the Stoke Seventh-day Adventist church, where the young people accepted him warmly, and he became good friends with Harold Mason – a friendship that lasted for life.

In 1951, 18-year-old Eileen was invited to a Sabbath afternoon meeting in the Stoke church. She kept attending and was baptised in 1952. She and John were married on 14 March 1953 (they received the Queen's



congratulatory letter on their 60th wedding anniversary).

It was not until 1955 that John was able to contact his mother with the message, 'I'm alive.' The response: 'Enjoy your new family and freedom. Don't come back.'

In 1959 Terry, their son, was added to the family. In time Terry married Annette and they had Natasha, Victoria and Ashley. This made John a proud grandfather, and he loved to see the joy on their faces as they opened their Christmas presents.

John had two great passions, gardening and personal Bible study, but he also knew a thing or two about car repairs and home DIY. His fuchsias, geraniums and chrysanthemums were among the best, and were often used in church. He specialised in the apostle Paul's letters, which informed his sermons, but his children's stories were always of personal Russian experiences. A quiet, principled man, he carried the highest office in the local church (elder) with distinction. As head deacon he kept the church in good order and there was always a team ready to work with him.

After working in the coal mines, where he was also a first-aider, John worked for Hamilton Reid, a heating and ventilating firm, for eighteen years up to his retirement. Sadly, sixteen years ago he had a massive stroke, from which he was not expected to recover. But he was determined to walk again, and, with the care of a devoted wife, who attended to his every need for ten years at home, he did. When home care became overly demanding, Eileen maintained her devotion and care, often reading some of his favourite Bible passages to him in the Bingley Court nursing home.

In life John shared the biblical basis of his faith wherever he was, and could often be heard singing his favourite hymn: 'How Great Thou Art'. On 20 September, in the presence of his wife and son, John calmly passed away. On Thursday, 3 October, the Stoke church was packed with those who came to pay their last respects to a Christian gentleman. The service was conducted by Pastor Jeff Smith, assisted by the local pastor, Orlando Holder.

John's body rests in the Newcastle-under-Lyme cemetery, awaiting the call of his Master.

DR ALBERT A. C. WAITE

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# back page

## New beginnings

The New Addington church has forty members and is located in Area 6B of the South England Conference. For twenty-six years the congregation has had no home of its own. After much prayer, fasting and faith in God, New Addington finally has a place in the old council office at 90 Central Parade, New Addington, CRO OJB. Now its members can plan programmes without fear of looking at the clock and waiting on various watchmen to announce that time has expired for the day.

The Holy Spirit influenced one

of its members, Denise Mafolo, to approach the local councillor, Mr George Ayres, and tell him about the church's difficulty in finding a place to worship: the rest is history.

Godwin Benjamin, a long-standing member of the South England Conference, volunteered to represent New Addington in their negotiations with the local council. On 28 July, 2013, the members appointed him as the project manager and the completion date for

the renovations was met. Thanks be to God, the doors of the New Addington sanctuary flew open on Sabbath, 14 September.

The official thanksgiving service took place on Sabbath, 7 December, 2013, with Pastor and Mrs Sam Davis, president of the South England Conference, in

attendance, along with Councillor George Ayres, Zoltan Marjanovics (builder), Nerine Barrett (our local pastor), and other interested parties. The congregation is particularly grateful to Godwin Benjamin for his special role in making our dream come true.

EDWY CHANDLER



Zoltan Marjanovics and his wife



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### Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jan 24	4.36	4.48	4.34	4.29	4.46
31	4.48	5.00	4.47	4.44	5.00
Feb 7	5.01	5.13	5.01	4.59	5.15
14	5.14	5.26	5.14	5.14	5.29

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