

Messenger

News to the churches • 27 March 2015 • Volume 120 • 06

36,000
175,000
and 119,000



by Bert Smit,
the CEO of ADRA-UK



Dear reader, to you these might just be random numbers, but to us they are living proof of the work ADRA-UK does.

In 2014 – with your financial assistance – we helped 36,000 people escape poverty; provided disaster relief to over 175,000 people; and improved the health of over 119,000 families.

But our work never stops, because the world as we know it is progressively experiencing more and more turmoil, which includes an increase in the number of natural disasters and of people falling into poverty. We simply cannot turn away from those in need – we must help them.

ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) is an agency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the basis for its existence – its reason for being – is to follow Christ's example by living for, helping and working with those in need.

Christ showed the continued relevance of the messages in Isaiah by quoting the prophet's words in support of His special ministry: *'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'* (Luke 4:18, 19, NIV-UK.)

Christ had a particular concern for those in the most vulnerable parts of society: the very poor, the deprived, and the disabled. He wanted the believers, the Church, to help those in need. Matthew 25:31-46 outlines what Christ desires of those who follow and believe in Him: simply to feed the hungry, satisfy the thirsty, and clothe the naked. These specific activities also point to a more general, social ministry.

The Bible's view is that the love God has for humanity should be reflected by the community of believers: *'But if a man has enough to live on, and yet when he sees his brother in need shuts up his heart against him, how can it be said that the divine love dwells in him?'* (1 John 3:17, NEB.)

Today, in the British Union Conference,

ADRA-UK is known primarily for the Gift Box (shoebbox) Appeal and the Annual Appeal (or Ingathering). Most of you know that we help when emergencies strike: such as with Haiti, the Philippines and, more recently, the fight against Ebola in West Africa. But did you know that the funds collected during the Annual Appeal and throughout the year have an enormous impact on the lives of many other people? Over and above our emergency relief work we are creating lasting change for tens of thousands of people every year. That is why the numbers at the top are so important to us.

To continue to do our work we need your help again during this year's Annual Appeal. Only with your help can we help people in need. Here are two examples of what your financial support in 2015 will help us achieve:

- In Laos it will help the women in 10 villages to learn to read and write, and provide them with access to solar power.
- In Cameroon it will help control water-borne diseases in 10 high-risk communities through water and sanitation projects that will benefit over 30,000.

During 2015 we will be working in over 12 of the least developed (or lowest-income) countries around the world, directly helping people through these projects and providing relief assistance when disasters strike.

To do this, however, we need your help! Please set some time aside to collect from door to door this year, organise a

fund-raiser for us, or simply donate your own financial gift. Partner with us as we continue to impact people's lives around the world.

Thank you for being an ADRA supporter.





help us
to help

Annual Appeal 2015

28 March - 12 April
(extends to 19 April in London).
Dates may vary in Scotland.

Millions of people around the world require one thing – opportunity. They simply want better lives for themselves and their families.

This year ADRA will provide the tools for over 200,000 people around the world to escape poverty, hunger and health problems such as HIV/AIDS.

Your help is vital.
Thank you for supporting our work!



www.adra.org.uk

give with confidence

Fundraising Standards Board
REGISTERED CHARITY 1074937 (SCOTLAND SC037726 - IOM1101)



Enhancing Health

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

E-cigarettes

Continuing our series in which we question some 'healthy alternatives', we turn our attention to a habit that consumes 18.7% of over-18s in the UK¹ – smoking. Cancer Research UK reveals that tobacco smoke contains a cocktail of over 5,000 chemicals, hazardous to human health.²

The suggested 'alternative' for smokers wanting to avoid inhaling tobacco smoke is the e-cigarette.

E-cigarettes (also known as electronic cigarettes and vapouriser cigarettes) are devices that emit doses of vaporised nicotine (instead of smoke), inhaled by the user. The device has a number of components. Most have a mouthpiece, a heating element (atomiser), a battery and electronic circuits. Many have a light-emitting diode (LED), which indicates when the device is activated.

A study by researchers at University College London, published in the journal *Addiction*, carried the title: 'E-cigarettes help smokers quit'. It reports: 'Among people who are trying to quit without professional help, those who use electronic cigarettes are 60% more likely to succeed, compared with those who use willpower or nicotine replacement therapies.'³

The study authors report that use of e-cigarettes among smokers in the US has increased from 2% in 2010 to over 30% in 2012, and note similar rates in the UK.

The report concludes: 'By providing a vapour-containing nicotine without tobacco combustion, e-cigarettes appear to reduce craving and withdrawal associated with abstinence in smokers, while toxicity testing suggests that they are much safer

to the user than ordinary cigarettes.'

However, various studies have questioned the safety of e-cigarettes since their introduction. Most note the fact that they still contain nicotine, which is addictive.

Medical News Today reported on a 2012 study that found e-cigarettes were 'not entirely emission-free'.⁴ The report highlighted that although they contribute less to indoor air pollution than do traditional tobacco cigarettes, bystanders could be exposed to the released nicotine vapour. It also criticised the labelling of e-cigarettes, stating that inadequate and vague information on the content of the products made it difficult for smokers to know the potential dangers of substances e-cigarettes contained.

A BBC Health News report (5 February 2015) headline read: 'E-cigarettes may harm the lungs and immune system'.⁵ Of experiments on mice, study author Thomas Sussan states: 'E-cigarette vapour alone produced mild effects on the lungs, including inflammation and protein damage. However, when this exposure was followed by a bacterial or viral infection, the harmful effects of e-cigarette exposure became even more pronounced.'

The debate continues.

Good health!

¹<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/oct/07/smoking-falls-lowest-level-uk-recording-started-1940s> ²<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/healthy/living/smoking-and-cancer/whats-in-a-cigarette/smoking-and-cancer-whats-in-a-cigarette> ³<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/277102.php> ⁴<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/253773.php> ⁵<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-31146418>

editorial

Christ's earthly footsteps were dogged by danger, from the manger to the cross. For example, Herod's soldiers tried to kill Him in Bethlehem; Satan led Him 'to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off!"' (Luke 4:9, NLT); and a raging temple mob once 'picked up stones to throw at him' (John 8:59, NLT).

These dramatic events were not, however, the only points of conflict in His life. Sadly, the very people who should have understood His teachings best, and supported His mission with enthusiasm, were among His worst opponents. The Pharisees skirmished with Jesus daily, constantly trying to undermine His ministry.

Who were these Pharisees?

The name is derived from Hebrew and Aramaic terms meaning 'one who is separated', and it was their beliefs that eventually 'became the liturgical and ritualistic basis for Rabbinic Judaism'. They believed that, in addition to the written Torah received from God, there was also a body of 'oral laws and traditions' passed down via Moses and his successors without which the Scriptures could not be understood.¹

Unfortunately, by the time of Jesus, Pharisees were also known for something else: that their pious utterances were not always matched by their deeds and attitudes. For which reason the dictionary now uses the term *Pharisee* to describe someone who is 'hypocritically self-righteous'.²

The two worshippers

Jesus told a story to define this hypocritical attitude:

'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get."

'But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." ' (Luke 18:10-13, NIV-UK.)

The contrast is sharp – on the one hand there is an arrogant man who totally misunderstands the meaning of worship – on the other there is someone who fully grasps his dire need of grace. For the Pharisee it is all about his achievements, his righteousness. For

Just one in seven!



Julian Hibbert
Editor

the tax collector it is all about God's mercy . . . and nothing less!

Jesus then drives home the dangerous consequences of the hypocritical life:

'I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.' (Luke 18:14, NIV-UK.)

So there we have it. If ever there is something Jesus wants us to avoid, it is the 'Pharisee' label. Have you been successful?

Some interesting research

Barna Group is located in the US and 'widely considered to be a leading research organisation focused on the intersection of faith and culture'.³ During 2013 they did some research that has a direct bearing on our discussion – let me share some of it with you.⁴

The research set out to test one of the 'common critiques' levelled at present-day Christianity, namely, 'that it's a religion full of hypocritical people'. To achieve their results they formulated 20 'agree-or-disagree' statements, ten of which were designed to measure 'Christ-likeness' and ten to measure 'Pharisee-likeness'. In each category, the statements were further divided into five that would reflect the participants' actions, and five that would examine their attitudes. Participants were required to rate their agreement with the statements using a four-point scale.

What were the statements like?

Space doesn't permit us to list them all, but those selected below should give us a feel for the process. Under the 'attitudes' section of the 'Christ-likeness' statements were the following:

- I see God-given value in every person, regardless of their past or present condition.
- I believe God is for everyone.
- I see God working in people's lives, even when they are not following Him.
- It is more important to help people know God is for them than to make sure they know they are sinners.
- I feel compassion for people who are not following God and doing immoral things.

The attitude-measuring statements used to test 'Pharisee-likeness' were these:

- I find it hard to be friends with people who seem to constantly do the wrong things.
- It's not my responsibility to help people who won't help themselves.
- I feel grateful to be a Christian when I see other people's failures and flaws.
- I believe we should stand against those who are opposed to Christian values.
- People who follow God's rules are better than those who do not.

The attitude responses were then compared to the action responses and each participant was placed into one of the following categories: a) *Christ-like in action and attitude*; b) *Christ-like in action, but not in attitude*; c) *Christ-like in attitude, but not in action*; and d) *Christ-like in neither*. Clearly then, categories b) and c) are the ones that indicate hypocrisy – but how widespread was it? Enough to support the claim that Christianity is 'a religion full of hypocritical people'?

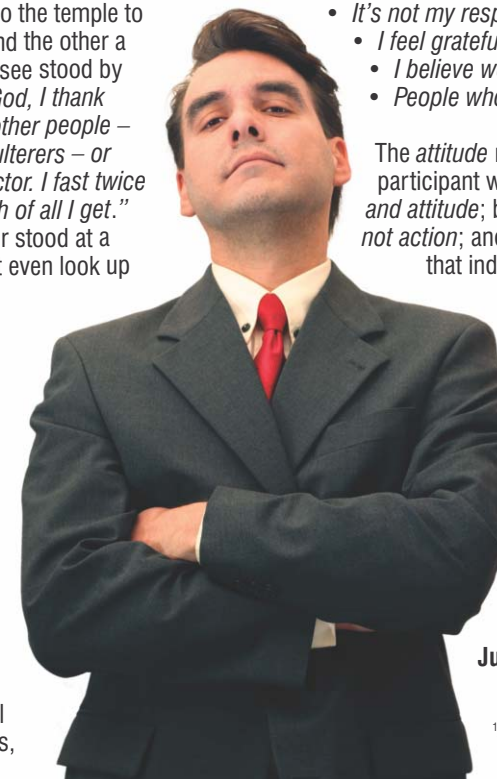
Take a deep breath . . .

The study concluded 'that most self-identified Christians in the U.S. are characterised . . . as Pharisical. Just over half of the nation's Christians – using the broadest definition of those who call themselves Christians – qualify for this category (51%). They tend to have attitudes and actions that are characterised by self-righteousness'.⁵

On the other hand only '14% of today's self-identified Christians – just one out of every seven Christians – seem to represent the actions and attitudes . . . of Jesus'.⁶

Just one in seven . . . you think we would fare better?

¹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pharisees> ²<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Pharisees> ³<https://www.barna.org/about#.VQdJMGsXew> ⁴<https://www.barna.org/barna-update/faith-spirituality/611-christians-more-like-jesus-or-pharisees#.VQc3NmSsXew>





Overcoming fear

by Karin Edwards

During my fight against cancer I claimed Psalm 118:17, which says (NLT), 'I will not die; instead, I will live to tell what the LORD has done.' God spared my life, and I'm currently in remission, so now I want to 'tell what the Lord has done' for me. Here are my reflections on how God rescued me from the paralysing grip of fear, through prayer.

After my diagnosis, and during my treatment, God dealt with the fear that so often swept over me – almost overwhelmingly. He did it by opening my eyes to what happens when we pray.

Fear stems from Satan's attempt, not only to destroy us physically, but also to extinguish our love and trust in our Heavenly Father. But God emphatically says 'perfect love casts out fear' (1 John 4:18, NKJV). How does that work? How do I let that happen in my life? The Bible says that 'God is love' (1 John 4:8, KJV), so we could paraphrase 1 John 4:18 to read, 'God casts out fear'. How exactly does He do that?

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) tells us to 'come boldly to the throne of grace' in prayer, that we might receive 'mercy' and 'grace' to help us in our 'time of need'.

As I meditated on this verse I began thinking about where I was 'going' when I prayed. The verse invites us to go to 'the throne of grace', but where is the throne of grace and how do we get there?

Revelation 4 provides us with this dramatic description: 'Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their

heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures. . . . Revelation 4:2-6, NKJV (author's emphasis).

According to Revelation 4 the throne is in heaven, and we are invited to 'come boldly to the throne of grace in prayer'. But how do we get up to 'heaven' to where the throne is? On page 93 of *Steps to Christ* Ellen White says, 'Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.' Think about it. When we pray, somehow, God transports us out of this world and up to that throne room in heaven! Wow!

As I was meditating on this I understood how prayer takes away fear. In prayer we are transported to the throne of God in heaven – and it's the only place where we can choose to go where Satan is not allowed! He is not allowed into that throne room or in the presence of God, because he was cast out of heaven! Yes, he was cast out, but the Bible invites us to go there! It's the only place where we can go to be free of Satan. So to answer the question I posed above – 'How does God remove the crippling fear that sweeps over me?' – He does it by taking me to His throne room in heaven – placing me in His presence; and therefore removing Satan (the source of fear) from me. God removes me from the cause of the problem!

So if you want to be

constantly protected from the attacks of Satan, Paul has the answer in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, where he tells us (NKJV) to 'pray without ceasing'!

One other thing to remember is that we are going to the 'throne of grace'. Not only are we removed from the source of our fears (of whatever might be stressing us), but we are also being engulfed by the grace of God. We are bathed in His peace, which is so wonderful and so different from the counterfeit peace of the world (John 14:27).

This is where we see Jesus face to face, and where our hearts are completely conquered by a depth of love we can experience nowhere else. We are helpless before that love, and totally surrendered to a will so perfect that every doubt is banished and we know we are safe for all eternity. . . .

Many others have found this place of perfect peace, and if you are still searching, I pray that you will find it too. Maybe you would be encouraged by singing the chorus, 'There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God. . . . a place where sin cannot molest. . . . a place where all is peace and rest, near to the heart of God.'

One other thing to remember is that we are going to the 'throne of grace'. Not only are we removed from the source of our fears (of whatever might be stressing us), but we are also being engulfed by the grace of God.



The authority of the General Conference in session

Dear Editor

In the debate about the ordination of women to the Gospel ministry, an important biblical principle has not received much attention. When the apostles faced the divisive issue about how to include Gentiles in the church, a meeting was held under the influence of the Holy Spirit, and a united decision was reached (Acts 15). Many who came to the meeting opposed to the Gentiles being included in the church were won over to a new position when they heard how God had blessed the Gentiles with the Holy Spirit. The decision of the council was 'the voice of the highest authority upon the earth' (Ellen White, *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 196).

In a similar way, when the General Conference meets in session every five years, Ellen White says we should submit our individual ideas to these decisions and regard them as God's voice speaking through the church (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 3, p. 492; vol. 9, p. 260).

Whatever decision is made in 2015 regarding the ordination of women, perhaps we need to have more confidence in the opinions of representatives of the world church and less in our own opinions and ideas. That way the church can remain united and in step with the Holy Spirit. There is safety in a multitude of counsellors (Proverbs 11:14); so whatever our strong opinions on the subject let us remember the counsel of Paul that, 'if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought' (1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV).

MARC RASELL

Re: 'Marriage, divorce and remarriage'

Dear Editor

My comments are in response to 'Marriage, divorce and remarriage', which appeared in the *MESSENGER* on 27 February.

I am glad to see that our church is at last acknowledging the vice of divorce and remarriage. I must say, however, that after reading the article I concluded that we will only see a rise in the incidence of divorce and remarriage outside of the reason of adultery, if this is how lightly we see this matter. We might take it as lightly as we want,

especially when we have not been affected, but God says He hates divorce (Malachi 2:16). Why would we want to be messing with what God hates?

I am not advocating that there is no forgiveness for such people, but I believe we make a light matter of repentance in the way it was presented. My understanding of repentance is a deep sorrow for sin and a turning away from it. Paul in Romans 2:4 (KJV) warns us, 'Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?' I draw your attention to the story in Ezra 10. Ezra's instructions and the people's response marked genuine repentance and a desire to do God's will.

Let us recognise that some cases are not as straightforward as we make them seem – there are some well-calculated schemes of sinning and presuming on God's mercy, which we need to firmly discourage.

The mention of David and all he suffered as a result of his adultery was a caution against adultery; however, the statement that abandoning Bathsheba and the unborn child would cause even greater misery and heartache for all involved, cannot apply to every situation. In David's case at that point Bathsheba had no husband; he was dead. If he were alive, would there be no consideration for his pain? Would you still ask the question, 'Can two wrongs ever make a right?' Let us not advocate cheap grace; it cost Jesus His life. Yet we do not want to give up anything for our relationship with Him.

My prayer for all who have gotten themselves into such a situation, whether by not considering the teachings of Scripture thoroughly or by presuming on God's mercy, is that God in His way and His time will reveal what He would have them do. That they will be willing to obey without hesitation for the salvation of their souls. Let God's word speak and God be the judge, lest we run the risk of bringing more hurt to the wounded or sanction to the guilty.

STEPHANIE GARRICK-HARDY

Note: The views expressed above are those of the contributors and not necessarily of the BUC or the editorial staff of *MESSENGER*.



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

Andrew Puckering

Following on from our question on democracy last issue, the question arose: What is the distinction between theocracy and democracy? This question we now seek to answer.

As the *Encyclopedia Britannica* defines the terms, democracy can be contrasted with theocracy in terms of who governs a group of people – the word 'democracy', 'literally, rule by the people . . . is derived from the Greek *dēmokratīā*, which was coined from *dēmos* ("people") and *kratos* ("rule").¹ Theocracy, by contrast, is 'government by divine guidance or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided. In many theocracies, government leaders are members of the clergy, and the state's legal system is based on religious law. Theocratic rule was typical of early civilisations.'²

These definitions, however, are of themselves rather simplistic. Over time, 'direct democracy' – that is, the people legislating for themselves, usually over a tribe or city-state – has given way to 'representative democracy', in which the people choose some representatives to legislate for them: 'a transformation so sweeping that, from the perspective of a citizen of ancient Athens, the governments of gigantic associations such as France or the United States might not have appeared democratic at all'.³ Conversely, 'a contemporary democrat could reasonably argue that Athens, because it excluded so many adults from the *dēmos*, was not really a democracy – even though the term *democracy* was invented and first applied in Athens'.⁴

So, are Seventh-day Adventists democratic? Broadly speaking, yes – our website declares, 'Leadership in each of these four levels [General Conference Division, Union, Conference or Mission, and local church congregation] is elected on a democratic basis with representation from the local church being significant at every level.'⁵ This follows the biblical model for choosing ministers of the church (Acts 6:1-5). However, Ellen White also says, 'But as for ourselves we are strictly denominational; we are sacredly denominated by God and are under His theocracy.'⁶ To the leader of an Adventist health institution she proclaimed, 'The place assigned you by the Lord was under Him in the divine theocracy. You were to learn of Jesus, the Great Teacher, planning and working in accordance with His example.'⁷

There is, then, a case for arguing that we're also theocratic. 'The government of Israel was characterised by the most thorough organisation, wonderful alike for its completeness and simplicity.' They had Moses 'as their visible leader, by God's appointment, to administer the laws in His name', and over him God as 'the centre of authority and government' – and, in like manner, we too acknowledge the Lord as our ultimate Arbiter, who guides the church's decisions even today. 'God is a God of order. . . . God requires order and system in His work now no less than in the days of Israel.'⁸ Thus, an orderly system should govern His people. And if God's people conform their will to His, then rule by God and rule by the people will be, in theory and in practice, one and the same.

¹www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/157129/democracy ²www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/590558/theocracy ³www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/157129/democracy ⁴*ibid.* ⁵www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/structure.php ⁶*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, p. 109 ⁷*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 8, pp. 180, 181 ⁸Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 374, 376

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? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.

To vote or not to vote?

by Mark Kellner, former news editor for *Adventist Review*

The election season was contentious: candidates hurled ugly charges back and forth; a relatively inexperienced member of Congress from the Midwest (USA) was challenging, among others, a veteran politician with military experience. The entire nation was divided over the choices, with heated, partisan media reports boosting one side or another.

In the midst of this, a relatively small Christian community was looking to its leaders for electoral guidance. Should they vote at all? Would so doing harm their witness? The answers were conflicted. On the one hand, an editor of *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* (now the *Adventist Review*) wrote:

'The political excitement . . . will probably run as high as it has for many years, and we would warn our brethren not to be drawn into it. We are not prepared to prove from the Bible that it would be wrong for a believer in the third [angel's] message to go in a manner becoming his profession, and cast his vote. We do not recommend this, neither do we oppose. If a brother chooses to vote, we cannot condemn him, and we want the same liberty if we do not.'¹

When, a few short years later – after it turned out that many Adventists had participated in the election that year – an early General Conference session focused its thoughts on politics with this statement:

'Resolved, That in our judgement, the act of voting when exercised on behalf of justice, humanity and right, is in itself blameless, and may be at some times highly proper; but that the casting of any vote that shall strengthen the cause of such crimes as intemperance, insurrection, and slavery, we regard as highly criminal in the sight of Heaven. But we would deprecate any participation in the spirit of party strife.'²

Almost from the start of this

movement, there have been concerns about whether or not we should vote. One early opinion was that voting signalled an unholy alignment, as one unnamed commentator wrote:

'If I enter the lists as a voter, I do in fact endorse this government as worthy of fellowship. If my name is entered upon the poll-book I then become a part of the body-politic, and must suffer with the body-politic in all its penalties.'³

But soon issues arose that commanded the attention of the early Adventist movement: a spirit of intemperance grew in the nation, while there were noises being made – and action taken – towards implementing a national 'Sunday law', mandating a day of rest. On the heels of those measures, the suggestion of a constitutional amendment declaring the US to be a 'Christian nation' was being urged by many Protestants.

The greatest of these issues, it appears, was that of temperance. The promotion and sale of alcoholic beverages was seen not only as a moral and physical danger during this period, but also as an issue of economic survival: according to historian Ronald G. Walters, 'As they [temperance advocates] saw it, prosperity, godliness, and political freedom were the fruits of sobriety. Poverty, damnation, and tyranny were the consequences of intemperance.'⁴

In 1859 Ellen White came to the conclusion that voting – and voting for or against a given candidate – was an imperative when it advanced such values as temperance: 'Men of intemperance have been in the office today in a flattering manner expressing their approbation of the course of the Sabbathkeepers not voting and expressed hopes that they will stick to their course and like the Quakers, not cast their vote. Satan and his evil angels are busy at this time, and he has workers upon the earth. May Satan be disappointed, is my prayer.'⁵

Indeed, Ellen White's plea to Adventists was to vote on issues of moral imperative beyond temperance: 'Every individual exerts an influence in society. In our favoured land, every voter has some voice in determining what laws shall control the nation. Should not that influence and that vote be cast on the side of temperance and virtue?'⁶

Even voting on the Sabbath was urged, if necessary, if matters of intemperance and virtue arose. As Land notes, the pioneers 'were very concerned with temperance'.⁷

But White's concern extended beyond temperance, argues Douglas Morgan, professor of history at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, and a frequent writer on the interface between church and society.

Why was there reluctance among some of the pioneers over any political participation? Morgan says that the earliest Adventists lived in a time when neither major party addressed slavery – a key issue of the day – in the proper manner.

'The earliest Adventists – 1850s Sabbatarian Adventists – [were] coming out of a background of radical abolitionism,' Morgan explained. He noted that the famed abolitionist 'William Lloyd Garrison took the position that we should not be voting, because neither party is for abolition. [However,] in 1864, when after the Emancipation Proclamation and the commitment of the Republican party committed to the Thirteenth Amendment, [Garrison said] a party has come around to our point of view.'

He added, 'The initial concern is not that voting is some worldly, secular thing; I think it was more a matter of if you vote, you're putting your influence on the side of evil, because neither of the parties are standing on the right side of the thing.'

According to Morgan, 'Ellen White was someone who became interested in 'issue' politics as opposed to 'party' or 'candidate



politics'. Adventists are not under the banner of any political party, but [if] in our time of mission on earth and the principles of the kingdom that we stand for there are situations where it seems the particular candidate or party . . . connect with the overriding values of our movement, it was not only appropriate but an imperative to vote.'

He added, 'She was interested in government supporting benevolent reform, benevolent endeavours, [interested in] things that are causing poverty, crime, the breakdown of the family, and so forth. I think she would be interested in whatever could be done to redress those without violating religious liberty and constitutional freedom.'

But, argues Richard Osborn, a historian and president of Pacific Union College, 'the one thing that Ellen White would discourage would be an involvement in highly partisan politics that would tend to divide members from each other. That is a potential problem. It can also disrupt relationships in private conversation.'

It would seem that Ellen White had foreseen that possibility. In a message from Australia, written in 1898, she said: 'We are not as a people to become mixed up with political questions. . . . Be ye not unequally yoked together with

unbelievers in political strife, nor bind with them in their attachments. . . . Keep your voting to yourself. Do not feel it your duty to urge everyone to do as you do.'⁸

Osborn frames the question of voting in terms of civic duty: 'I think that the principles remain the same, that we need to vote, participate in the public process, just as individuals; it's me rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's. That would apply to other countries as well.'

Today's Seventh-day Adventist has a rich history from which to view the question of voting, and a wide range of choices. Morgan and Osborn, in separate interviews, agreed with Adventist scholar Roger Coon's assertion, made in 2003 at a North American religious liberty forum, that

there's nothing in the Bible or Ellen White's writings that compels believers to vote for one party or another, or to hold conservative or liberal political views.

'Partisanship is one of the key elements here,' Osborn explained. 'The need [is] to avoid partisanship. Study the issues, vote for the person and not the party. Study each issue for yourself.'

Morgan also cautions against dogmatic partisan alignment: 'To reduce our perspective to those terms . . . takes us off course,' he said.

How involved should Adventists be in politics? That may depend on their representation in a society, says Andrews University's Gary Land, professor of history:

'If you contrast Adventists in the United States with those in a number of other countries – the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and Africa – Adventists are more active in other places than in the United States, holding high positions of various kinds,' Land noted. 'In the US, Adventists are such a small minority that we're reluctant to participate in the larger societal activities. [But] if you're 20 or 30 percent of the population, you almost by necessity have to be involved.'

His advice: 'I would encourage people to be involved in various ways, even to the extent of being a candidate, because I believe that as citizens they have a responsibility for helping society. I think our moral values affect social positions; ideas such as justice are fundamentally grounded in moral values formed by a Christian outlook. I certainly would encourage people to vote and be more active if they feel a need to. One's principles should guide the way that one campaigns, or works for a candidate.'

Indeed, Ellen White's counsel anticipated Land's position. In *Education*, she wrote: 'Many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of Kings.'⁹

Speaking to faculty and students of Battle Creek College in 1883, she said: 'Are you ambitious for education that you may have a name and position in the world? Have you thoughts that you dare not express, that you may one day . . . sit in deliberative and legislative councils, and help to enact laws for the nation? There is nothing wrong in these aspirations.'¹⁰

From Ellen White's words, as well as the counsel of other Adventist pioneers and many of today's thought leaders, the message seems clear: Seventh-day Adventists have the ability to help shape society through their votes and political participation. It's up to each of us to follow our consciences – and to pray for more than human wisdom in making our electoral choices.

¹James White, circa 1860, as quoted in Paul A. Gordon, 'The right to vote – shall I exercise it?' *Adventist Review*, 18 and 25 Sept., 1980, available online at www.whiteestate.org/issues/Voting.html; accessed 15 August, 2008 ²General Conference report in *The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, 23 May, 1865, as quoted in Gordon ³Quoted in Gordon ⁴Ronald G. Walters, *American Reformers, 1815-1860* (Hill and Wang, 1997), p. 131, as quoted in Douglas Morgan, 'Disappointing Satan', Peace Messenger Blog, <http://tinyurl.com/5cm96x>; accessed online 15 August, 2008 ⁵Ellen G. White, *Temperance*, p. 256 ⁶White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 387 ⁷Interview with Land. The 'voting on Sabbath' comment is related in Herbert E. Douglass, *Messenger of the Lord*, chapter 13; www.whiteestate.org/books/mol/Chapt13.html; accessed 25 August, 2008 ⁸White, *Selected Messages*, book 2, pp. 336, 337 ⁹White, *Education*, p. 262 ¹⁰White, *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 82

This is an edited version of Mark Kellner's article that appeared in *Adventist Review* of 11 September, 2008, under the title: 'How would Ellen White vote?' Used with permission.



COMING OF AGE SERVICE

Order Your "Coming of Age" Pack Today.

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2015
For Your Local Church

FOR 12 YEAR OLDS

Among the Jews the twelfth year was the dividing line between childhood and youth. On completing this year a Hebrew boy was called a son of the law, and also a son of God. He was given special opportunities for religious instruction, and was expected to participate in the sacred feasts and observances. It was in accordance with this custom that Jesus in His boyhood made the Passover visit to Jerusalem. Like all devout Israelites, Joseph and Mary went up every year to attend the Passover; and when Jesus had reached the required age, they took Him with them. *Desire of Ages* p.75

This service is not a bar mitzvah (for boys) or a bat mitzvah (for girls), but it is a time to recognise an important milestone. Taking the time to pray, share, instruct and affirm. It is a time to praise and consecrate their lives to God.

Contact the NEC Children's Ministries Department on 0115 960 6312 or visit www.necadventist.org.uk for more information and to order your pack.

Regional GAIN conference



A mix of inspirational seminars and equipping workshops transformed the lives and thinking of both the media professionals and the interested lay members who joined them at GAIN, a South England Conference Communication and Internet event held at Newbold College, 26 February – 1 March 2015. The Global Adventist Internet Network, originally developed by our world Church, has now spread to regional and local levels. The emphasis of this second local GAIN conference, organised by SEC Communication and Media director, Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, was run on the theme of 'Stories', and was cutting-edge from the start. The keynote address, given by Netherlands Union Youth director, Tom de Bruin, focused on 'Storytelling for the contemporary world'. 'Stories create meaning without forcing meaning on people,' de Bruin claimed, making them suitable vehicles to convey meaning to the post-Christian society in which we live.

'It is hard to draw the balance between expert lectures, workshops and the difference between theory and presenting ideas that make a practical difference in the life of a local church. GAIN succeeded in that,' commented Victor Hulbert, British Union Conference Communication and Media director. These thoughts were echoed by John Beckett, Global Software and Internet director at the General Conference. He added, 'It was a very well-organised conference and the presentations were excellent. I really enjoyed meeting with the people who came.'

Celeste Ryan Blyden, Strategic Communications and Public Relations vice president for the Columbia Union Conference, USA, left an impression on many attendees by addressing important topics such as 'branding' and 'how to deal with crisis communication'. Her gracious interest, mixed with passion, experience and professionalism, left attendees with much to think about, and with an added skill set.

This is important within the church but especially when Adventists unexpectedly find themselves in the news and having to relate to the media.

Lectures, workshops, interaction and lively fellowship flowed throughout the weekend until the final presentation by North American Division Communication director, Dan Weber. He closed by sharing how short, well-produced, carefully scripted and filmed video snippets can open up transformational discussions, even in some of the difficult areas of faith and church life.

'GAIN has been delivered at such an exceptional high standard throughout,' shared Christopher Levy. 'This was the high standard of



professionalism I expect to get when I go to a professional conference.'

Local talent was also in evidence. Newbold member and AWR engineer, Daryl Gungadoo, presented

workshops on photography and PA use in local churches; Mervyn Weir riveted his audience as he focused on the importance and practical intricacies of design; while another Newbold member, Eileen Becejac, shared how to market our church events. She highlighted the success story of the sisterhood of Newbold Church, showing how they use a variety of PR methods. However, she said, 'the most important aspect of their ministry is that all endeavours are bathed in prayer.'

Victor Hulbert demonstrated from his vast experience of talking in context how the Adventist story can be told to a wider audience by utilising current or historical events that are in the public eye. He then brought the national story to a local level, showing how even a simple YouTube video put together by a 17-year-old can be an attractive and powerful witness.

On Sabbath morning Kirsten tag-teamed, first with Tom de Bruin and then with Victor Hulbert, in sharing ideas and interviews of 'God's story through us'. It was an eye-opener to see how simply telling a story, sharing an experience, or recounting an answer to prayer could actually be a more powerful act of worship than preaching a well-constructed sermon. Karin Wiczorek was one of many who reflected how impressive it was 'to listen to the many stories of encounters with God that we have as Christians, which we can share simply with other people, both digitally and face to face'. Tweets and comments from Newbold youth and others multiplied the impact the stories were having.

While GAIN was an SEC event, professionals and participants came from many different countries and disciplines. This added to the richness of such a conference. Stan Jensen, who cares for Adventist communication in Canada, stated that this was 'one of those gatherings where I took in every meeting possible, yet one of the most beneficial things that happens is who you network with around the supper table. That alone made the trip worthwhile.' He returns to Canada knowing that he now has additional people resources 'to enhance how we do ministry in Canada'.

'The themes of the conference were crucial for the progression of the Church, in all departments, at all levels,' expressed Colin Gordon, from SOS Community Church in Southend. 'Attending the GAIN conference made me proud to be an Adventist, to belong to the same church family as so many skilled people who work so hard to bring Jesus to the lives of many,' expressed Wiczorek. 'This certainly showed that we as Adventists are blessed with consummate professionals, and still have the drive to share the good news in the most cutting-edge ways.'

Even a non-techie could benefit from the weekend, as Anna Radosh, a church planter and leader of the Polish ministry in the SEC, concluded. 'It was great to see my husband connecting with other techies in the Church, and as a non-techie I learnt so much more than expected about communication that I can use in my ministry.'

A selection of photos from the weekend can be found on the Adventist Church's picture gallery: <http://adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-sec/sec-gain-2015>. Many of the presentations are now available for viewing via the SEC Communication department: <http://sec.adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/departments/communication>.

KARIN WICZOREK/SEC COMMUNICATION

Supported by
Sign Ministries



Signature
Language



New British Sign
Language
Level 1 Course
2015

Come and learn a
new skill?

Apply now
Places are
Limited!

WHERE? PECKHAM SDA CHURCH CENTRE
149 -159, IVYDALE ROAD, LONDON, SE15 3DX
WEB: WWW.PECKHAMSDACHURCH.ORG

TIME: 7 - 9 PM (TUESDAYS)
WHEN: OCTOBER 2015 - JULY 2016
HOW MUCH? £370 PER PERSON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
STEPHANIE MILLER
EMAIL: CHURCHCLERK@PECKHAMSDACHURCH.ORG

PAULINE MITCHELL
TEL: 07539383817
EMAIL: SIGNMINISTRIES@GMAIL.COM



Errors and omissions excepted



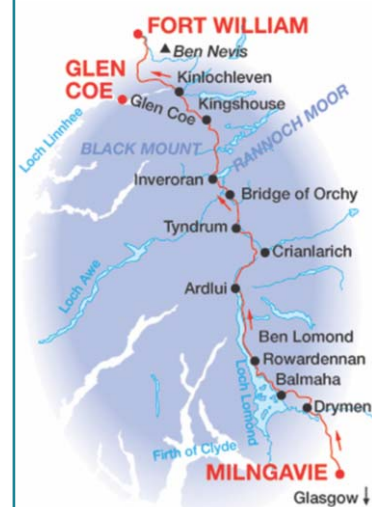
76-year-old takes on 95-mile 5-day charity challenge

In May this year Scotland's seventy-six-year-old ADRA sponsor John Wilby, and his daughter Vivien, will be taking on the West Highland Way.

Extending from Milngavie, north of Glasgow, to Fort



William, they plan to complete the challenging 95-mile walk – in just five days. To sponsor them for ADRA go to: <http://www.justgiving.com/john-wilby2>



Men's Ministry report

On 7 March the Middlesbrough Men's Ministry department held their second meeting of 2015 with a film and food evening. The programme involved the men watching the film *Fireproof*, and afterwards enjoying a plate of vegetarian curry and rice. The film portrayed a couple who were on the verge of getting a divorce and it seemed to touch most of the men who attended. After the film there was an opportunity to order a PDF version of the '40 Love Dares' guide, which was a major feature in the film. Two of those attending also expressed a wish to order the DVD as they have friends and relatives who are at a crossroads in their marriages right now. They feel this film could make a difference in their lives.

COLIN WOODFORD

Since 1966

Hubert Smiley, one of ADRA's faithful supporters, has been collecting since 1966. He struggles to get around these days but his heart is still in the right place, and he encourages those who can to go out and collect for this worthy cause. These are a few of his memory gems:

One day a lady answered the door and told him she had no money to give. Quick as a flash her little daughter chipped in with, 'But Mummy, don't you remember that your purse upstairs has a lot of money in it!' The embarrassed woman then fetched the purse and gave a good donation.

On another occasion, a man told him he had nothing to give. Then, as he emptied his pockets to prove the point, 'a big money drop out . . . and it went in the tin!'

Hubert has done his bit for ADRA – now he wants the rest of us to do ours.

EDITOR



Hastings youth achieve

A fierce battle involving Bible knowledge was fought among the young people of Hastings Church on Sabbath afternoon, 21 February. The competition was very intense with questions from the first six chapters in the book of Daniel. The Junior Bible Champion 2014 gold cup was awarded to young Bible scholar, Psalmody Mudonhi (13), after beating off all the competition, with Rumbidzai Mapanzure, a very close first runner-up, receiving the Junior Bible Champion silver cup. Other highly deserving runners-up were: Thetiwe Daka, Tracy Daka, Jermaine Moyo and Tyreke Williams. All contestants were awarded certificates of achievement by a congregation who are proud of their achievements.

BEVERLEY KOONJUL

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Knowing GOD'S HEART

SEC CAMP MEETING

15 - 21 JUNE 2015

PONTINS CAMBER SANDS HOLIDAY PARK
NEW LYDD RD, CAMBER SANDS, SUSSEX TN31 7RL



SCOTT RITSEMA
SPEAKER
MEDIA ON THE BRAIN



PR ROYSTON PHILBERT
COMMITMENT SPEAKER



DR JAMES HORSLEY
UCHEE PINES MEDICAL DIRECTOR



PR JUVENAL BALISASA
PRAYER & PRAISE SPEAKER



PR MICHAEL KELLY
YOUTH SPEAKER



DR LEHEL SOMOGYI
NATURAL REMEDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY



DR CHIDI NGWABA
LIFESTYLE MEDICINE SPEAKER



DR MAGDOLINA SOMOGYI
NATURAL REMEDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

www.cristyleproductions.com



Daily Commitment Messages, Health and Lifestyle Plenary Sessions, Power Hour and Fitness Sessions
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 01923 232 728 OR EMAIL CAMPMEETING@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK
BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE AT SEC.ADVENTIST.ORG.UK/EVENTS



2015 SEC BOOKING FORM

Please complete this Booking Form and send it directly to:
Pontin's Ainsdale House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Southport. PR8 2PZ
TEL: 08714 742765

Accommodation:														
Booking ref _____	Holiday location CAMBER SANDS				Number of apartments									
Arrival date <u>15 June 2015</u>	Departure date <u>21 June 2015</u>				Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>									
No. of nights <input type="checkbox"/>	Total persons <input type="checkbox"/>		Total no. apartments/rooms <input type="checkbox"/>		(C) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm									
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)					Self Catering:									
Total	60+	45-59	26-44	18-25	12-17	8-11	5-7	2-4	Under 2	Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
										(K) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm				
										Popular: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
										(P) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm				
										X				
										Beds: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
										Single Double Twin				

Prices	C1 Club	C2 Club	K1 Classic	K2 Classic	B1 Popular	B2 Popular
	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)
Discount to 28/2/15	£525.00	£665.00	£435.00	£560.00	£335.00	£435.00
From 1/3/15	£550.00	£700.00	£455.00	£590.00	£350.00	£455.00

Party Details:									
Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*	Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*

* Please note – first named person must be over age 18. Special requests not guaranteed. Maximum persons in 2 bedr'm Apartment is 6.

Address of First-Named on Booking Form:	
Name:	Home Tel:
Street:	Business Tel:
Town:	Email Address:
County:	Post Code:

Special Needs/Requirements Section:

Wheelchair Accessible apartment

Ground Floor apartment

Please note all requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

** OFFER CODE: **SDA15** **

Nb. 1½% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

Declaration:
I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontins' conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 58 days before the holiday date. By entering into a contract with you I understand that the details I provide will be used in booking and providing my chosen holiday. **(PLEASE sign here)**

Local Minister's Signature: _____

Print Ministers Name: _____

Church Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Guest Speakers

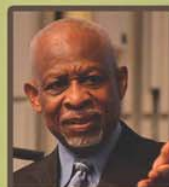
Strong Families
NEC 2015
Strong Churches



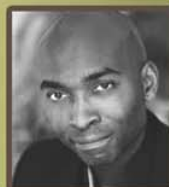
DWAYNE LEMON
MAIN SPEAKER



SEBASTIAN BRAXTON
MIDDAY MANNA



DR ROBERT KENNEDY
BIBLE STUDY



DR CHIDI NGWABA
HEALTH SPEAKER



MICHAEL CARDUCCI
YOUTH SPEAKER



DR ERIC WALSH
YOUTH SPEAKER



Music by Harmonic Voices



SCAN ME

CAMP MEETING
8 - 14 JUNE 2015
BUTLINS
HOLIDAY PARK
SKEGNESS

TO MAKE YOUR BOOKING OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK
BUTLINS SKEGNESS RESORT, INGOLDMELLS, SKEGNESS, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE25 1NJ
REBUILDING THE WALLS - REBUILDING PEOPLE | REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS | INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

ADRA CONNECTIONS UK

LET'S GO TO NEPAL!



Do you and a group of friends fancy visiting ADRA Nepal?

Get involved in a real ADRA project.
6th Sept – 16th Sept 2015

Deadline to register June 30th

volunteering@adra.org.uk

for prices and more details.

Limited spaces available!
First come, first to Nepal!



adra.org.uk

www.facebook.com/ADRAUK

[teamadra](https://www.instagram.com/teamadra)

[youtube.com/adrauk](https://www.youtube.com/adrauk)

Registered charity 1074937 (SCO37726 - IOM1101)



40-year anniversary for Loughborough Church

'We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.'

Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, p. 196.

January 31 was a day of celebration and reflection for the members of Loughborough Church, marking 40 years since the church's official opening.

We were delighted to receive many messages and photos from former members and pastors. These were read out on the day and then collected together into a book.

Loughborough Church started as a company, before becoming a church in December 1974. Memories and photographs were shared of those early years, when the church experienced steady growth through the efforts of its pastors, Bible workers and members.

Over time, however, the membership dwindled to five, sometimes with only one or two in attendance on a Sabbath morning. Closure was discussed on a number of occasions, but the faithful few clung to the promise given in Matthew 18:20 (NIV): 'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.' They fervently prayed that God would send more people, particularly some children.

And He certainly has! Loughborough Church is now a busy place, with 40-50 people of all ages and backgrounds attending each week. We have a music group and choir; enjoy regular afternoon walks and a camping weekend each year; and hold a New Year party and a Holiday Bible Club. Non-Adventist friends very often join in with our church activities and all of them come back again! On the second Sabbath of each month we hold Messy Church, which is thoroughly enjoyed by up to 60 people from the local indigenous community, many of whom have no previous experience of church.

Loughborough Church has always met in rented premises and has

had to 'move house' a number of times over the years. Our dream is to have a building of our own one day so that our outreach to the community can be even more effective. We are very busy fund-raising through donations, car boot sales, sponsored events, and so on, but have also found that we can raise funds by recycling. The scheme works by posting items such as biscuit wrappers, baby food pouches and caps/trigger heads for cleaning products to a recycling company which credits us by weight and makes the waste into items such as park benches, watering cans, and so on. We also recycle mobile phones and laser toner/inkjet cartridges. We are able to send Freepost labels to anywhere in the country, so if your church would be willing to help us realise our dream of a church building by collecting for us, please get in touch: loughboroughsdachurch@gmail.com.

A highlight of the morning was the dedication of Baby Christian. We are fortunate to have a large group of children who are very involved in church life, and they were able to share their vision for the future of the church with us.

What did we learn from the day? It was wonderful to reflect on the miraculous way in which God has blessed and preserved our small – but growing – church. Recognising how God has led us in the past has given us assurance that He is with us now, and that He will lead us into the future. We were reminded of the words: 'And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (Matthew 28:20, NIV.) We don't know exactly what the future holds in store for our church, but we do know that God holds the future in His hands, and what better place could it be in than that?

VIVIENNE BARRATT-PEACOCK



ADRA Gift Boxes in Togo

The closing work of ADRA-UK's annual Gift Box Appeal took place in February as thousands of Togolese children received their little presents. ADRA-UK were unable to attend the distribution this year, but this did not affect the work at all!

ADRA Togo took the helm in the distribution, visiting a variety of impoverished schools across the country in order to share the lovingly packed gifts from our church members throughout the UK. ADRA Togo hoped these gifts would also make a lasting impact by encouraging and emphasising the continuing need for education programmes across the country.

Not only were the gift boxes shared with Togo, but the day-to-day humanitarian work of ADRA was also highlighted, as a variety of newspapers and television networks attended the opening ceremony for the distribution. At the opening ceremony were parents, government officials, the Togo Mission president, community chiefs – and, of

course, hundreds of grateful and expectant children. Pastor Komlavi Semenu Amegan, Togo Mission president, remarked on the variety of goods that were in each box, and how children's physical, social and educational needs were met by each present.

The distribution of the gift boxes is just another way in which ADRA-UK's supporters are making lifelong changes around the world. The distribution is the official end of the Togo Gift Box Appeal, and the staff at ADRA never cease to be amazed by the tireless effort, dedication and sacrifice made by those who fill boxes each year – not only with necessities, but also with those gifts that will really make children smile.

So, with another year's distribution done and dusted, we say a big thank-you to everyone who packed, paid for and checked a box! ADRA-UK again look forward to this year's Gift Box Appeal, when, by working with the local churches once again, we will be able to benefit thousands of children living on the edge of existence.

SOPHIE GORDON (VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMMES OFFICER, ADRA-UK)

Vacancy:

Teacher for years 5 and 6

The Fletewood School seeks to appoint a full-time KS2 Teacher. The successful candidate will be required to commence in September 2015.

If you would like to join a committed, professional team; are familiar with the National Curriculum; are keen to keep abreast with current educational practices; and enjoy being part of a learning and faith community – we would like to hear from you.

The successful applicant will be expected to show commitment to the vision of the governors for the school, and to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos of this faith school and the inclusion of its learners. The successful applicant will also need to be an exceptional practitioner, be an educational visionary, and be dedicated to discovering excellence in each child.

It is required that applicants be fully trained, experienced and qualified teachers. Depending on the level of experience, annual salary will range between £23,220.29 and £29,174.21.

A visit to the school will be warmly welcomed. To arrange this please contact Mr John Martin at Fletewood School on tel: 01752 663782.

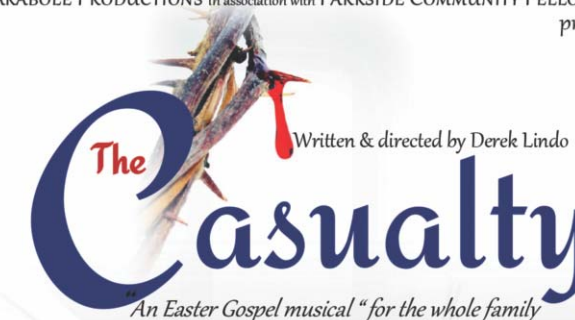
The Fletewood School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be required to undertake an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check before being appointed. Applicants are also required to have the right to work in the UK and must complete an application form.

For a job application form, person specification and job description, please email Mrs Jacqui Crawford on: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk.

Previous applicants need not apply and the closing date for applications will be **5 April 2015**.



PARABOLÉ PRODUCTIONS in association with PARKSIDE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP present...



THE HEXAGON
Queen's Walk, Reading RG1 7UA
Saturday 19th April 2014
7.30pm (Doors open 7.00pm)

TICKET BOOKINGS

Reading Box Office: 0189606060 / www.readingarts.com

For direct ticket booking and info

please contact: Lydia on: 07941540047

£10 Full price ticket/£8.50 Concessions & Groups of 10+



Errors and omissions excepted



Lewisham mayor visits for investiture service

This year, Lewisham Adventist Church's annual investiture day was even more special due to the presence of Sir Steve Bullock, the local mayor. He joined the congregation on 28 February to celebrate some of the good works the Pathfinders have done and award them with certificates and prizes.

To the sound of the drum corps the Pathfinders marched in with their usual impeccable form, led by Dante Grant, cradling the Bible, with his sister Aria at his side. The church pastor, James Phillip, followed them with the mayor at his side, after which it was the turn of the Pathfinder leader, Jennifer Anti, and the rest of the club. At the command of drum corps leader Marcus Anti, the flag bearers entered, proudly bearing the Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Union flags. As the flags were posted, the club proceeded to recite their aim, motto and pledge and sing their song. The pride of the parents and the entire church was apparent as the majority of the youth stood, smartly clad in their uniforms. It was clear that the theme for the day was that of excellence and exceptional achievement among our youth, with the Pathfinders' discipline and thorough leadership being demonstrated throughout the service.

In the director's report, it was clear why leader Anti delights in working with the young people and promoting their achievements. The Pathfinder club is 150 members strong and is part of a global organisation that numbers more than two million, and counting. She



Far left: Toby Mocc receives his award for 'Adventurer of the Year' from the mayor. Left: Mayor Bullock addresses the Pathfinders. Below: Michael Agyei presents his sermon.



outlined the club's many achievements during 2014, including their visits to the elderly; their attendance at Tooting Ghanaian Church's first Pathfinder day; helping to open Downham Church's first Pathfinder club; learning skills during curriculum weekend and at the regular club sessions; witnessing; attending Oshkosh and other camporees; community car washes; and the tradition of taking part in Lewisham Borough's annual Remembrance Day parade. One of the club's greatest achievements, however, is that five of its Pathfinders were baptised last year, followed by another five already this year.

During his address to the church, Sir Steve Bullock thanked the Pathfinders for their presence at the Remembrance Day ceremony, and remarked on their uniforms, the disciplined way in which they entered the church, and their commitment to their work. He went on to say that the Pathfinders are not only a credit to their proud families, but also to the Borough of Lewisham, and went on to thank them for their contribution. He also discussed the dangers of society, especially for high-risk youth, and stressed the importance of groups such as the Pathfinders in this regard.

After a short sermon by Michael Agyei, the investiture ceremony took place, and each beaming face in the club was presented with a certificate and received a handshake from the mayor. There were also special awards given for 'Most Improved Pathfinder' (Kayann Barnes), as well as Adventurer, Pathfinder and Junior Councillor of the year, which were awarded to Toby Mocc, Kayla Guthrie and Kyle Terrade respectively. Gifts of thanks were presented to Sir Steve Bullock for his presence and to director Anti for her hard work with the club over the years.

NIQUELLA SIMPSON-WEST

Fijian farewell at Belfast

The Belfast church recently bade a fond farewell to Oripa and Asaeli Tams, whose exuberant, warm personalities and beautiful singing have blessed the congregation for the past three years.

But what caused this couple to move from their island home of Fiji to the other side of the world – to live in Belfast? Like many other Fijians, Asaeli (known as Tams for short) has faithfully served in the British army – in his case, as a mechanic, maintaining and repairing a variety of vehicles, from motor-bikes to tanks. His tours of duty have included visits to the Falkland Islands, Cyprus, Canada, Malaysia, Germany, Bosnia, Afghanistan – and finally, Belfast!

How they met in 2006 is quite a story. Tams was on leave in Fiji when he attended an Adventist youth camp where Oripa's father, a pastor, was leading out. By her own admission Oripa had become a 'backslider', and regularly sang in nightclubs to supplement

her college fees – including the Friday night before she met Tams. He gave a talk during the Sabbath service, and made an immediate impression on her. She made a point of meeting him after the service, and by the end of the camp they were firm friends – but they agreed to 'wait and see' whether God would bring them together again.

Some time later, Tams' family invited an aunt to spend Christmas with them. She was from the same town as Oripa, knew her well, and invited her along too. In this way Oripa and Tams were reunited, according to God's will. Oripa became an army wife in 2007, although she was unable to join her husband overseas for another two years!

They recently felt that God was calling them back to Fiji, to follow a more traditional way of life – fishing and farming. They will also be fishers of men and plan to sow

the seeds for a branch Sabbath School and eventually a new church.

During their last Sabbath service in Belfast, Oripa sang, 'We will meet on that beautiful shore'. It is unlikely to be the shores of Belfast Lough or a Fijian beach, but we know that God will bless and use this dedicated couple for His heavenly purpose.

CAROLINE SWAIN, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



PHOTO: NEIL MCKEE



Great Yarmouth Church hosts special singles' evening

The evening of Sunday, 8 February, was an extra-special event for extra-special people. No, the Great Yarmouth church has not opened a dating agency! The thought behind staging an extra-special evening for the singles in our church was to say, 'We love you! God loves you! You are very special!'

There is great joy and satisfaction in doing something very special for others, as we experienced in undertaking something special for the single, mature adult members and friends of our church. Some have lost loved ones; some are single because they have never married; while others are single for other reasons. They join in the church activities and events, but, unlike those with spouses, they come solo. While they know they have friends at church and feel part of the 'family', it's not quite the same, especially when they return home to be alone.

It was with this in mind that we wanted to do something to help them feel extra special – for that is what they are! Then we considered how we could include this event in our mission outreach. We have a growing number of people with whom the church has made friends over the last few years, and several of them are single. We felt it would be a wonderful witness to invite them to the singles' evening, too.

Personal invitation cards were sent out, informing of an à la carte meal and a feature film: but there was to be a special surprise! When they arrived, they found everything very upmarket – cosy, and with soft classical background music, dim lighting and candles, with tables stylish and delightfully decorated. A charming Indian hostess in a colourful sari was there to receive them and offer a 'welcome' drink, and there was time to mingle and chat.

Our special guests were handed a menu offering various choices, incorporating starter, main course, and then dessert. The two pastors, specially dressed with cummerbunds and bow ties, waited upon them! When the meal was served there were 'Ooh aah's of delight and surprise! It wasn't long before compliments were being conveyed to the chefs! There was only one complaint: they'd been given too much to eat!

After the meal they were able to relax over a hot drink and a box of After Eight mints, while being entertained by Lewis Gilbert's British comedy classic, *The Admirable Crichton*, featuring Kenneth More.

At each place on the table was a small memento card that reminded them of how special they are to God, who says: 'I will always love you; that's why I've been so patient and kind. You are precious to me...' (Jeremiah 31:3, 4, *Contemporary English Version*.) A few words were appropriately spoken by both pastors with reference to these words of our Saviour, after which a special prayer was offered. Finally, each of the 16 guests received a small, beautifully wrapped special gift. From all the appreciative comments, both written and vocal, we felt truly gratified that the evening's ministry had been a tremendous success.

Special thanks should go to all those whose hard work and sacrifice made this evening so special, especially the hostess, decor managers, chefs, and waiters, among others.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)

ALL TEENS WELCOME
YOUTH FEDERATIONS & SEC TEENS MINISTRIES PRESENTS

Prayer and Faith CONFERENCE

★★★★
95% of teens said P&F conference enhanced their spiritual life and performance in life.

1ST-5TH APRIL 2015

NEWBOLD COLLEGE, ST MARKS RD, BINFIELD, RG42 4AN

£75 PER PERSON

PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENTS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT WWW.SECTEENS.ORG

Contact: Pr. Dejan Stojkovic

Phone: 01923 232728

Email: dejan@secadventist.org.uk

Follow SEC Teens Ministry



Hyland House School
est. 1923

CELEBRATING OVER
90 YEARS
OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

REJOICING about the past
CELEBRATING the present
SECURING the future...

Homecoming Day!

18 JUL 2015 10.30am - 8pm
WALTHAMSTOW TOWN HALL
Forest Road, London E17 6HE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT RUTH STEWART ON
01923232728 OR EMAIL: HHH@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK

Valentine's Day special

February 14 is Valentine's Day – when we focus on romance! Several young people in our Great Yarmouth church are nearing the age when young people usually become attracted to one another. Each month we have a young adults meeting on Sabbath afternoon that is specially geared for their benefit. As Valentine's Day coincided with the Sabbath this year, Pastor Rio Espulgar orientated the programme to the subject of 'falling in love'!

During the presentation there were opportunities for group discussions, which focused on such questions as: 'How do you define the difference between infatuation and love?' 'How do you know when you are truly in love?' 'How do we guard against someone taking sexual advantage of us?' 'What Christian values do we need to apply with regard to sex?' These were good questions and the groups came up with some quality answers.

Our young people were able to benefit from the exercise and the counsel they received. We trust that this will help prepare them for the future. Love is a wonderful and beautiful thing and God specifically designed certain expressions of it for our marital happiness, but that happiness can be so easily ruined when those expressions of love are taken out of context.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER
(COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)

Corrigendum: In *MESSENGER* (13 March 2015) it was erroneously stated that Pastor Lorraine Johnson and his son Daniel had already been invested as Master Guides. In fact, they have completed the Master Guide course, but were still to be invested at the time of writing.



hallelujah
Kidz Praise
DAY OF FELLOWSHIP
SAT 23 MAY 2015
WATFORD COLOSSEUM
Rickmansworth Road
Watford WD17 3JN
Starts 10am (doors open 9.30am)
Bring packed lunch!
Afternoon concert starts at 3pm! Be there to be blessed!
Call Watford Colosseum Box Office on 0845 075 3993 for your FREE tickets!
WWW.KIDZPRAISE.CO.UK



The challenge of poverty


On Sabbath, 7 March, some interesting facts on the challenges of poverty in the world were shared with the Greenwich church by Godwin Benjamin. The Oxfam research that he quoted shows that, by 2016, half of the world's wealth will be owned by just one percent of its population.

Godwin is currently the manager of the Advent Centre in London as well as

the co-ordinator for the ADRA Annual Appeal in the UK and Ireland. He challenged church members to support ADRA, and to see the Annual Appeal as an opportunity to do something about the position of those less fortunate than ourselves.

He was ably assisted by two of the local church's youngsters, David and Romia, who confidently read the Scripture readings for him during the worship service.

PASTOR S. MATTHIAS ESSON (GREENWICH CHURCH)




BOOKSALES

March 29 Manchester South 29 York	10am-2pm 2pm-5pm
April 12 Hanwell 12 Newcastle 19 Tottenham 19 Huddersfield	10am-2pm 10am-2pm 10am-2pm 10am-2pm

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.
01923 893461
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm,
Sunday - 11am-3pm.
0121 3286380
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm,
Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.
0207 7236849

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk



NEWBOLD COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Newbold College
DIVERSITY LECTURES 2015

Tuesday 14 April –
God, Language, Mind and Men
Lecturer: Ms Mervi Kalmus
Mervi Kalmus is an intern pastor in Tallinn, in the Estonian Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Lecturer in Homiletics at the Tartu Theological Seminary of the Estonian Baptist Church.

Tuesday 8 or 15 September –
A Diverse Future for a Diverse Church
Lecturer: Pastor Raafat Kamal
Raafat Kamal is the president of the Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

Tuesday 13 October –
Title to be confirmed
The 2015 Beach Lecturer: Revd Dr Sam Wells
Sam Wells is the vicar of St Martin in the Fields, London and Visiting Professor in the Department of Theology & Religious Studies at King's College, London.

Tuesday 10 November –
Counter Terrorism and Cross-Cultural Bridgebuilding
Lecturer: Ms Holly Hughson
Holly Hughson is a humanitarian aid worker who works as an adviser and trainer to the US military. She has an extensive background in the management and monitoring of operations in complex humanitarian emergencies and post-conflict settings, including Kosovo, Sudan, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

When and where?
7.30pm, Salisbury Hall (Smith Centre)

Contact: Helen Pearson, email: hpearson@newbold.ac.uk,
Tel: 07775612610

obituaries

John Robert James Drew (1930-2014) d. 24 October. John Drew was better known to the Plymouth church as 'Tom', and following his National Service in post-war Germany he became a staunch and loyal supporter of the church's activities in that city. Following his marriage and the birth of twin sons, Otto and Edgar, Tom enlisted in the RAF. He was posted to London while the family stayed settled in Plymouth. He was himself a local lad and the surviving member of a set of non-identical twins. He also had two brothers and a sister.

Upon his return to civilian life Tom worked first as a printer; then for Remington Rand; and finally, following a recessionary period, he acquired a position in the Mental Health Department of the NHS, where he continued until his retirement.

Tom was remarried in 1983 to Mavis Webster, who was also from a Plymouth church family. Sadly, Mavis is now in a nursing home due to her progressive Alzheimer's, where Tom was a frequent and caring visitor. Sadly,

this came to an end when he fell at home and a subsequent infection led to his death in Derriford Hospital after a brief sickbed.

A subsequent cremation service was held at Weston Mill Crematorium by the writer and Pastor Clifford Herman. Tom is survived by a sister and brother as well as by Mavis, Otto and Edgar. The church members in Plymouth unite with the family as we await the advent of The Blessed Hope, and His making of all things new.

PASTOR R. J. B. WILLIS

Don Sindall (1932-2015) d. 30 January. Don was born to Reg and Ivy Sindall in Ely, Cambridgeshire, where, as often



recounted, he spent a mischievous childhood growing up in the Fens. Don met Beryl Graham in 1953 and they subsequently married at Norwich in 1955. Sadly, he just missed out on his 60th wedding anniversary.

A service of thanksgiving for Don's life was held at the High

Street Methodist church in Stevenage, attended by a packed congregation of family, friends, church members and former work colleagues, who listened intently to a memorable collection of hymns, poems, readings, singing and life pictures set to music. Pastor David Neal led out with assistance from Pastor Jonathan Barrett. There was also a poignant tribute from his eldest daughter, Bev. The committal service followed at Harwood Park Crematorium in Stevenage.

Although originally trained in carpentry, following his National Service in the Army Medical Corps, Don began his career in Norfolk caring for adults and young people with learning disabilities. He opened a training centre in Norwich for Mencap in 1955, another in Lakenham in 1958 and a third in King's Lynn in 1965, eventually moving to Stevenage with his family to manage a new training centre at Leyden House, where he worked for 27 years until his retirement in 1994.

Don loved gardening and was also a keen birdwatcher and sports enthusiast. He loved travelling and regarded his trip in the footsteps of Paul with friend

Pastor David Currie as a personal highlight. He served the church faithfully after his baptism by Pastor George Roper at Norwich in 1953, holding positions of youth leader, deacon and elder during his attendance at the Stanborough Park, Hemel Hempstead and St Albans churches – later becoming a founding member at Welwyn Garden City.

As Don's health deteriorated he needed constant care and moved into Pine Lodge Care Home in 2012. Here he was often visited by family and church members, all the while being faithfully cared for by his dear wife, Beryl.

Don will be lovingly remembered by his three children – Bev, Julie and Carrie – and sadly missed by his seven grandchildren – Justin, Divina, Jamie, Benjamin, Jason, Natasha and Gabby – and two great-grandchildren, Libby and Annabelle.

Beryl and the family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, prayers, support, cards and flowers, together with all those who donated in Don's memory to ADRA-UK and Garden House Hospice.

GARY WYNNE (CHURCH ELDER AND SON-IN-LAW)



In collaboration with General Conference and North England Conference: Health Ministries, Family, Youth, Children and Education

MAIN PRESENTER
DR KATHLEEN KUNTARAF
Associate Director GC Health Ministries & Youth Alive

£65.00PP
(INCLUSIVE OF ACCOMMODATION, MEALS AND MATERIALS)

YOUTH ALIVE!

DATE: 8-12TH APRIL 2015
VENUE: WHITMOOR LAKES, BARLEY GREEN LANE, LICHFIELD, STAFFORDSHIRE, WS13 8QT
TO BOOK FOR THIS PROGRAMME: UK.BOOKINGBUG.COM/HOME/33185
REGISTRATION TIME: 9AM
EVENT IS FOR AGES 14-30 YRS

BOOK TODAY

(PRACTICAL AND THEORETICAL TRAINING CONFERENCE) This Health Programme is designed to equip youth with the necessary tools to prevent at risk behaviours and how to overcome and come alive through the power of Christ.



Asna Family Respite & Training Weekend
Supporting People Living With Disabilities and Special Needs

10-12th April 2015
Sunningdale Park Hotel
Sunningdale Park, Larch Avenue
Ascot, West Berkshire SL5 0QE

CONNECTING PEOPLE: CHANGING LIVES

£40 Children 5-15 years
£95 Double Occupancy Rooms (£90 ASNA Members)
£100 Single Occupancy Rooms (£95.00 ASNA Members)

Contact Helen Batten on 07768 298 297 / info@asna.info or www.asna.info

All children under 5 and all disabled children under 18 go free. This has been heavily subsidised by ASNA and includes all meals and accommodation for 2 nights. Workshops and children's activities are also included. ASNA Reg. Charity Number 1100447

 **BUC ADVENTIST YOUTH CONGRESS**

reborn 16+

2-6 April 2015


Venue:
Newland Park, Gorelands Lane,
Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, HP8 4AD

Cost:
£90 per person
Includes congress fee, accommodation and meals.

For more information and to book tickets:
www.adventistyouth.org.uk 


RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND

Knowing *the* **TIME**



SPEAKERS
Pr Ian Sweeney, BUC President Pr Brighton Kavaloh
Pr Sam Davis, SEC President Pr Steve McKenzie
Pr Cecil Perry Ms Sonia Munroe

For Info & Registration Contact **01923 232728** / secreligiousliberty@gmail.com

 **WOKEFIELD PARK**
GOODBOYS LANE, MORTIMER
READING, WEST BERKSHIRE
RG7 3AH

£140 PER PERSON

29-31 MAY 2015

© icandworld info@icandworld.com 0799 051 0069 / 0800 880 3082

Total Praise UK PRESENTS

ISRAEL J ALLEN | SOUL 11 SOUL SINGER MELISSA BELL | DANIEL COSTIN | READING COMMUNITY CHOIR | TOTTENHAM GOSPEL CHOIR



Also Featuring:
LIVE band, re:Fined, Coventry University Gospel Rhythms, Pauline Oxley & Samuel, Sophie Jackson Hale
Refreshments Available On Sale

REACHING THE UNREACHED
27.06.2015
Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ADVENTIST FRONTIER MISSIONS

£10 Tickets Can Be Purchased From:
www.eventjoy.com
and the Alban Arena website and box office

Venue: Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3LD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH:
   

Messenger
Volume 119 • 06 – 27 March 2015

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 08 – 2 April 2015

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *Messenger*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk
ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700 Mon-Thurs only, 8am–5.30pm.
www.stanboroughpress.com

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset
Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Mar 27	6.25	6.37	6.30	6.40	6.50
Apr 3	7.37	7.49	7.42	7.54	8.03
10	7.48	8.01	7.55	8.09	8.17
17	8.00	8.12	8.07	8.23	8.30

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*
*Postage will only be charged for single copy subscriptions and overseas airmail.