

Messenger

News to the churches • 6 November 2015 • Volume 120 • 22



Dr Daniel Duda

Wales or Babylon?

by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission President

Dr Daniel Duda, Education Director and Field Secretary for the Trans-European Division, certainly did not intend to make any geographical or, for that matter, spiritual comparisons between the crumbling remains of Babylon in the deserts of Iraq and the beautiful green environment surrounding the spa town of Llandrindod Wells. However, when he addressed 200 or so Welsh Mission members at their Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 26 September he did want to get them thinking.

The title for Dr Duda's morning sermon was, 'Welcome to Babylon', a clear play on the Adventist fondness for the call in Revelation 18:4 to come out of Babylon! Using Jeremiah 29:11 as his theme: ('For I know the plans I have for you', NIV), which was read in both Welsh and English by local member Miriam Wood, Dr Duda spent the first half of his sermon explaining the background to the text and describing the abject bewilderment of the Jews as they found themselves in captivity in a foreign land. For some their entire focus was on returning to Jerusalem, but God's message was for them to stay in Babylon; learn to worship their God in a totally different environment; and integrate with, and make a positive contribution to, their new communities. So too with the Adventist members in Wales – and any other Christians who may be tempted to overemphasise the fact that 'this world is not our home'. Our role is to be salt and light in the communities where we happen to live. We are not to keep ourselves separate. Instead we are to integrate, mix, and be a 'whole life' witness, while at the same time maintaining our integrity as representatives of Jesus Christ.

In his afternoon presentation on 'How to Understand the Bible', Dr Duda explained that his morning sermon had been an illustration, an object lesson in how to read, understand and apply the messages that God's inspired writers have recorded over the centuries. He condemned the practice of using the Bible as a 'holy horoscope' by just picking it up and hoping that a random text will apply to our situation. Perhaps as a shock tactic he went one step further and said, 'The Bible was not written for you!' Of course what he meant was that the Bible was originally written for people of a different culture, with a different worldview, living in a completely different age. 'If we can't understand what it meant for them [the first recipients] then we won't understand what it is supposed to mean for us.'

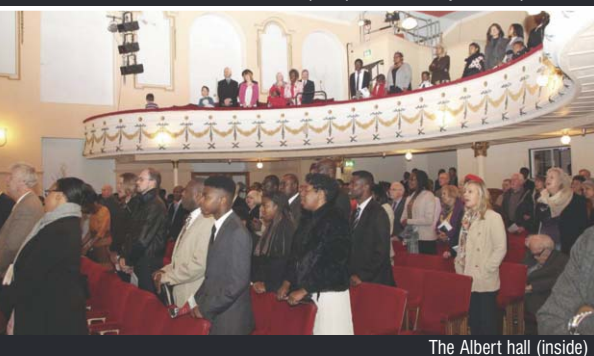
This year the Welsh Mission Day of Fellowship was held in a different venue. Sadly the Pavilion, which has been our regular venue for the last ten years or so, closed a couple of months ago, forcing us to look for an alternative. We found this in the Albert Hall, a Victorian building which has changed little over the years. Splendidly decorated though not quite up to modern standards in certain other areas, the building served us well – the warmth of fellowship helping to compensate for the initial lack of thermal warmth! The children were well cared for in the Sabbath School and afternoon programmes by Welsh Mission Children's Ministries Sponsor Pat Eastwood and her team, and all ages enjoyed Pastor Nenad Didara's children's story in the worship service.

Music was another enjoyable feature of the day, with the Newport choir standing out as increasingly accomplished and unified. The afternoon programme included a report on the youth trip to Slovenia, a presentation from Eifion Paul about his work with an Adventist academy in New Zealand, an update on the Swansea building project, and a heart-warming account of the experiences of young helpers at the Aberdaron Special Needs Camp.

We have not yet confirmed the venue for next year's Day of Fellowship, but this year proved that wherever we meet it is always worth the effort.



A superb performance by the Newport choir



The Albert hall (inside)



Children's activities in Sabbath School

Another miracle needed

Rhianna Chellew was 36 hours old when she was flown from Wales to Scotland by an RAF Hercules aircraft on a 700-mile mercy mission. She had stopped breathing, gone limp and turned blue. Rhianna was suffering from a rare condition which meant she could not get enough oxygen in her blood. They treated her at Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children in a specially equipped incubator, and three weeks later little Rhianna was well enough to go home.

Now, eight years later, after leading a relatively normal healthy life, Rhianna has been diagnosed with brain stem glioma (a brain tumour) and is soon to receive radiotherapy treatment at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff. Hopefully after this she will then take part in clinical trials for what is called convection-enhanced delivery at the North Bristol NHS Trust.

Various enterprises are being conducted to raise funds for Rhianna and her family to travel back and forth to Cardiff and Bristol from their home in Manselton, Swansea, so that she can receive this treatment.

While connecting with the community, Swansea Church visited Rhianna and her family. However, Pastor Jovan Adamovic and member Eduardo Alves de Jesus were initially received with apprehension and uneasiness. They were soon able to reassure the family

that Swansea Church was genuinely interested in supporting the family and requested their permission to pray for them.

Eduardo is originally from Brazil and lives in Swansea with his wife Nina and their daughter Thaina. He is improving his English language skills daily but still struggles at times to express himself adequately. Being deeply moved by the plight of this family, Eduardo had no intention of letting the language barrier affect his overwhelming desire to help Rhianna.

On 19 July Eduardo Alves de Jesus got on his bike and cycled from Swansea to London



and back, doing a journey of 500 miles to raise £1,050 for Rhianna and her family. The Chellew family were delighted and very grateful for the support, and have asked Swansea Church to continue to pray for them.

Eduardo and Swansea Church will continue to support them and would like to request your prayers for Rhianna and her family. Any donations will be gratefully received and should be forwarded to Pastor John Surridge, President of the Welsh Mission, who may be reached by email: jsurridge@adventist.wales; or phone: 02920844106/07976916301.

MARY LATCHMAN (ELDER, SWANSEA CHURCH)



editorial

How many of you knew that 1 October was the World Health Organisation's designated *International Day of Older Persons*? I didn't. To me it was just like any other day. Nobody I know seems to have celebrated the day, or even mentioned its significance.

I began to wonder just who these 'older persons' are? At what point does one officially become one of them? And is this 'older person' status defined by age, infirmity, retirement or something else?

According to the WHO, the United Nations 'has not adopted a standard criterion, but generally use[s] 60+ years to refer to the older population. . . .' The same source goes on to say that 'The age of 60 or 65, roughly equivalent to retirement ages in most developed countries, is said to be the beginning of old age.'¹

What to expect?

What should you expect once you obtain this 'older person' status? A farewell party from your employer; a long-service wristwatch; your pension; a bus pass; a bowel cancer screening test from the NHS? Yes, most of these things, but hopefully a lot more that will add real value to your advancing age. How about regular and frequent phone calls from your children or grandchildren? Calls that are warm and caring; calls that show concern for your health and welfare; calls that are positive and upbeat; calls that you can look forward to; calls that make you chuckle!

Elize and I are not yet deeply into this 'older person' phase of life, but we are already so grateful for a precious daughter who keeps contact with us through the type of calls mentioned above. They mean a lot to us, but I know she benefits from them too. It's like when you choose to share a good sandwich with someone – you both get to enjoy the taste!

Social media

The social media have enormous potential to enrich the 'older person's' life. Not only to keep you in contact with your children and other family members, but also to maintain and expand your network of friends.

How is your 'filial piety'?

Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Skype and email – the choice is yours.

On Friday nights we Skype our son in South Africa to catch up on what is happening in his life – and to enjoy his cheeky sense of humour! Contact like this is what makes the physical separation of the global village bearable. With all these modern technologies at our disposal there is really no excuse for us not to have meaningful contact with each other.

If you are an 'older person' you may be put off using these modern technologies because you fear their complexity. If so, get one of your grandchildren to help you become media savvy. Ten to one they'll actually enjoy doing so (so will you) and will end up proudly telling their schoolmates about their 'cool nan, who's now on Facebook'!

There is a dark side too

Sadly, there is a dark side to old age too. All you need to do is pay a quick visit to internet sites like *Action on elder abuse*² to see why. In a document entitled *The Cost of living: 'growing up is free, growing old is expensive'*, they report having received the following via their helpline during 2013:

- A total of 680 calls that collectively indicated the loss of £6,403,343 by elderly victims through theft, fraud or coercion.
- One hundred and six houses to the value of £18,363,676 that were taken away from their elderly owners by coercion, blackmail, deceit or fraud.

Then they cite this sad set of statistics to round things off – the 'majority of perpetrators (343) were sons and/or daughters or other family members (100)!' (Emphasis supplied)

Age UK, a respected champion of the rights of the elderly, states that 'Right now more than 1 million older people are left to struggle by each day without any support.'³ So much for the UK today.

China's approach: 'filial piety'

Let's look for a moment at the challenges facing China's ageing population. For centuries this great nation has endorsed and upheld 'filial piety', one of the core values of Confucianism. In its purest form filial piety requires the Chinese to show respect to their parents with 'almost superhuman levels of devotion and sacrifice'.⁴

Among the classic examples of this filial piety is the story of the two sons who pulled their aged mother in a wheelbarrow-like cart to more than 600 towns and cities across the country in order to realise her dying wish to travel – wearing out 12 pairs of shoes in the process!

But the 'chickens' of China's rapid economic growth and one-child family planning policy have now come home to roost, as hundreds of millions desert their aged parents in search of work elsewhere. Things are so bad that a law was introduced in 2012 'requiring adult children to visit their aged parents often, or risk repercussions' – which is clearly unenforceable.⁵

Will legislation solve things?

Is the neglect of older people something that more legislation will fix? Never! Why? Simply because we already have all the legislation we'll ever need:

'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.' (Exodus 20:12, NIV-UK.)

The most important Legislator of all time has told us to show respect to our parents. But, as with all His other laws, they mean nothing unless we let Him 'engrave' them on our hearts:

'Strap them to your fingers and engrave them on the tablet of your heart.' (Proverbs 7:3, ISV.)

Love is the engraving tool that brings the law to life . . . and makes us the sons and daughters we ought to be.



¹<http://www.who.int/healthinfo/survey/ageingdefolde/en/>
²<http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/Documents/Financia%20Abuse%20Report%202014.pdf> ³<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/home-and-care-in-crisis/>
⁴<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/30/filial-pursuit-china-museum-displays-family-values-campaign-0> ⁵ibid.



Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 8b – What are you drinking?

Having come under fire for their high calorie and sugar content, several beverage companies have answered the call to 'cut down' and reformulate their products, provide smaller pack sizes and make a wider range of low-calorie products available to consumers. The British Soft Drink Association (BSDA) states:

'The soft drinks industry is committed to encouraging responsible consumption of all its products.'¹ Subsequently the BSDA has reported on significant changes, such as:

- Sainsbury's reducing the sugar content of their brand of high-juice-content squashes by between 4 and 10%, saving their customers from 600 million extra calories
- Tesco reducing the calories in their soft drink brand by over 1 billion in 2012

So why the concern?

A *Telegraph* article by Health Editor, Laura Donnelly, published on 28 September 2015, carried the heading: 'One can of fizzy drink daily "can increase heart attack risk by a third"'.² Also highlighted was the associated increased chance of developing diabetes and strokes.

The study from the Harvard School of Public Health, viewed as the largest and most comprehensive review of evidence highlighting the health effects of sugary drinks to date, found the following.

Daily consumption of fizzy drinks:

- Increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes by a quarter (26 per cent)

- Raises the risk of heart attack or fatal heart disease by a third (35 per cent)
- Increases the risk of stroke by a sixth (16 per cent)

Study author, Dr Frank Hu (Harvard Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology), said: 'Regular consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages can lead to weight gain because the liquid calories are not filling, and so people don't reduce their food intake at subsequent meals.'

Commenting on their findings, Hu and his team stated: 'Although reducing the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages or added sugar alone is unlikely to solve the obesity epidemic entirely, limiting intake is one simple change that will have a measurable impact on weight control and prevention of cardio-metabolic diseases.'

The research group concluded with a recommendation: 'Our findings underscore the urgent need for public health strategies that reduce the consumption of these drinks.'

Other research findings by Medical Daily list three common ingredients in soft drinks and their potential negative health impact:³

- High-fructose corn syrup – metabolic syndrome and diabetes
- Phosphoric acid – kidney stones and osteoporosis
- Sodium benzoate – asthma and eczema

How about some water?

Good health!

¹<http://www.britishtsoftdrinks.com/Industry-Initiatives/calorie-reduction-pledge>
²<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/news/11895894/One-can-of-fizzy-drink-daily-can-increase-heart-attack-risk-by-a-third.html> ³<http://www.medicaldaily.com/pulse/soft-drink-dangers-8-ways-soda-negatively-affects-your-health-319054>

disability ministries

Disability Ministries Day in Reading Central challenges attitudes

by Paul Thompson

Back in the 1990s the Spastics Society changed its name to Scope because of the negative way it reflected on the disabled. Despite this, twenty-five years later, the disabled still face significant attitudinal barriers in Britain. A recent Scope report took a peek into the life of disabled people today. It revealed that seventy-five percent of the British public felt uncomfortable talking to

disabled people, while thirty-six percent felt disabled people are unproductive. Despite this, the public generally acknowledge that life for the disabled is very hard and that they face real issues involving prejudice.

Many disabled people report that people expected less of them because of their disability

even though Stephen Hawking, the renowned English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, author and Director of Research at the Centre for Theoretical Cosmology of Cambridge University, has proved that disabled people can make a valuable contribution, if given the opportunity.

Twenty-one percent of 18-34-year-olds avoid interacting with the disabled. Men in that age group are less likely to interact with them and deliberately avoid talking to them, leaving disabled males particularly vulnerable to isolation and loneliness.

Studies have shown that negative attitudes and discrimination are worse towards those with mental health issues. With one in four in the UK experiencing mental health problems each year, and dementia on the increase, there is an urgent need to raise awareness. The prevalence of disability in UK society is changing and the Adventist Church will change with it.

Shockingly, as a people, we are more comfortable with a family member marrying a disabled person than we are with a disabled person being an MP, a judge, our boss, or in any other position of authority. Attitudes are deeply entrenched. Forty-nine percent of disabled people said that members of the public did not believe they were disabled. Thirty-five percent indicated that they were spoken to in a patronising way. They also reported that because of their slurred speech they were often accused of being drunk, and that members of the public refused to help them cross a road. Thirty percent reported bad treatment by the public, who often parked in disabled spaces and refused to

make reasonable adjustments to allow wheelchair access.

Despite this there is hope for the future. Thirty-three percent of young people say getting to know a disabled person would help them feel confident. Although forty-three percent of young people don't personally know someone who is disabled, seventeen percent said they have disabled friends.

So what is life like for a disabled person attending a church in Britain today? Through the Roof, a Christian charity, conducted its own survey to view church life from the disabled perspective. The resulting picture was one of loneliness, isolation and frustration, with many disabled members feeling marginalised.

The parents of many disabled churchgoers report that their child gets support *in church*, but no one ever invites them home for a play date. Disabled churchgoers crave for people who are willing to develop deep and genuine relationships in the church, not just Sabbath acquaintances. Some report that their church is good at 'crisis intervention' but they want members to be there for them all the time, through thick and thin, during both their spiritual highs and lows.

Disabled churchgoers make the point that they wish churches knew that keeping contact with members should be a priority. Some claim they can miss a whole month of services and no one contacts them, except to send them a church magazine. Special-needs churchgoers have an innate desire to be accepted as people . . . and share love, friendship and companionship with others in safety, allowing them to encounter all that is

wonderful about Christ, love and church fellowship. They crave for members to see them and their personalities, not their disabilities.

Statements like: 'They could include us, not just on church days.' 'I don't get invited to social events.' 'They tend to just write me off and say God can't use me. Not true. Be a friend.' 'Be consistent – people join a rota to do things such as take us to church, and then drop out. Be there for the long haul.' These were thematic throughout the breadth of the recent UK Church survey.

So what is the Seventh-day Adventist Church doing to change matters?

Hand in Hand Ministries, a local Seventh-day Adventist disability ministries group, held its disability ministries day in Reading on 10 October. This fifteen-strong advocacy group led by June Thompson selected this theme for the day, 'You've Got a Friend In Me', to highlight many of the challenges faced by disabled people everywhere in Britain. The Sabbath school was entitled, 'When you look at me, what do you see?' and was led by a team who discussed key issues from both the Scope and Through the Roof reports. Pivotal to this discussion was how we can reach

out to the disabled in the community, and become less exclusive and more relevant.

The congregation saw a film containing interviews with three families who had disabled members in them, hearing first-hand the challenges they faced around trying to make friends and fit in. Theology Arts major Helena Thompson produced the film. Andrea Malcolm then directed a play, 'The Big Banquet Table', based on the rich man who invited all to his table, after his friends let him down. Garfield Mackintosh's sermon, 'You've Got a Friend In Me', was preached to a church packed with over three hundred people, who were held in suspense as they listened to his journey as a top engineer who later faced the gruelling battle of the onset of a disability.

As the day came to an end, my eyes caught sight of a collage of hand paintings which stretched across the room. Each little flag had the handprint of a member who attended DM sessions during the year, the products of an art-and-craft therapy session. It occurred to me that as members we are each responsible for holding the hand of a disabled person in Britain, and leading him or her to Christ.



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

'Why do we still tithe (money) when there is no Levitical priesthood in our church? And what are our tithes used for?' Zoe Wiggins

A I understand your concern, Zoe – Numbers 18:20-32 states that a tenth of income was to be given to the Levites so that they could devote themselves exclusively to God's service in ministry to the Israelites. However, Christ's sacrifice on the cross rendered the Levitical ministrations redundant (Hebrews 9:22-26). Since we no longer have Levites to return tithe to, why do we still tithe?

Actually, however, the Levites were never crucial to tithing – Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek ('priest of God Most High'), and Jacob promised tithe to God: in both instances, centuries before the Levitical priesthood was inaugurated (Genesis 14:18-20, NKJV; Genesis 28:22). The Ministerial Association notes that this 'casual reference to tithing indicates that it was already an established custom at that early date'.¹ The absence of the priesthood today should not, therefore, deter us from tithing – especially since, 'Far from abrogating this institution, the New Testament assumes its validity. Jesus approved of tithing and condemned those who violate its spirit (Matt. 23:23). . . . As Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God, so New Testament believers give tithe to Christ, our High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:9, 10; 7:1-22).'²

So we recognise the biblical injunction to tithe, and its associated blessings – as Malachi 3:10-12 says, 'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house . . . And all nations will call you blessed' (NKJV) – but who should receive our tenth today? Well, just as the Levites were devoted full-time to God's ministry with no other means of support, so too another class fulfils those criteria today: pastors and other church workers. Paul draws this exact parallel in 1 Corinthians 9:11-14, culminating with: 'In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel' (NIV). That's why we return tithe to our local conference, which pays the pastors. It's the modern equivalent of the temple 'storehouse'.

On that very point, the General Conference lists the functions for which tithe may be used: support of evangelists, pastors and Bible instructors, along with conference officers, departmental directors, accountants, clerks and secretaries (including those in retirement); evangelism expenses, conference office operating expenses and evangelistic equipment, and camp meeting expenses; support for denominational centres of education in their pastoral work, literature evangelism, youth camp expenses and evangelistic media ministries. Tithe will *not* be used for church or school building maintenance or operating expenses, or building projects (that's what offerings are for).³ The aim of tithing, then, is to provide the means to nurture God's church and to share the gospel of Jesus Christ!

¹Ministerial Association, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .* (Review and Herald, 1988), p. 272 ²Ibid. ³General Conference, *Statements, Guidelines & Other Documents* (Communication Department, 1996), pp. 78, 79

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.

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01923 672251 / dtompkins@adventist.org.uk



ADRA-UK connects with Nepal

by Sophie Gordon

ADRA-UK is improving its profile, both here and abroad, due to its new Connections programme. ADRA Connections gives volunteers the opportunity to raise money and take part in small international projects to see *first-hand* the work ADRA-UK is accomplishing. The first trip in the Connections programme was to Nepal this September, where a group of 20 volunteers refurbished a school library in the Kathmandu area, but it was not without its problems!

The Bal Kumari Higher Secondary School was badly affected by Nepal's two devastating earthquakes. The school library was declared unsafe by the local authorities. At this point, with the commencement of the project looking very unlikely, ADRA-UK committed £4,000 of their own funds to build a new library on the school grounds. Through this generous contribution, ADRA-UK ensured that both current and future students of the Bal Kumari School will be able to study in a safe environment. The right to education, especially for young

girls who are often marginalised in the developing world, remains an important issue for ADRA-UK. By supporting education and gender equality, the charity is working in harmony with the worldwide aid sector, who are specifically focusing on this issue in support of the Sustainable Development Goals released by the United Nations last month.

With the money for the construction of the new library now available, the volunteers' funds were able to provide for the finishing touches, such as painting, decorating, furniture



and books. Each one had £999 to raise in order to attend, and with the majority of the volunteers being between the ages of 20 and 30, ADRA-UK remains proud of what these young adults of our church achieved with your support and a lot of their effort. Age was also not a limitation, as the group also included three retirees, which perfectly reflected the volunteering ethos of ADRA-UK: *no matter one's background, age or gender, we can all*



contribute to the needs of others with the gifts God has entrusted to us.

Some of the fund-raising initiatives undertaken for Nepal included mountain climbing, commissioned artwork, gardening, concerts and 10km sponsored runs. What a sense of achievement the volunteers had when, by September, over £20,000 had been raised!

When finally in Nepal, the weeks and months of hard work were instantly repaid as the volunteers received a traditional welcome from hundreds of children and their accompanying teachers upon their arrival at the school. They sang, performed traditional dances, and presented scarves and garlands to the volunteers in order to show their appreciation. Throughout the trip, the humility, kindness and hospitality of the Nepalese people shone through. Each day, as the volunteers visited the school to work, they were greeted with hugs, waving hands, smiling faces and little words such as, 'Thank you for building our library.' It was in these moments, as the true and beautiful culture of Nepal exuded from the locals, that the volunteers were given ample opportunity to question their views on the developing world.

In the Western world we are bombarded with pictures of poverty and pleas for funds on a daily basis, from which it is easy to assume that those in such circumstances live in perpetual sadness, bemoaning their lot in life. Yet, far removed from the luxuries and familiarities of their daily lives, the team of British volunteers saw how having less financially can mean having so much more in



character and virtue. The children and teachers at the Bal Kumari School were constantly smiling, always happy to help, and found no request an inconvenience. Though differing in religion, they showed the true essence of the 'golden rule', treating the team not only as their friends, but as much-loved additions to their country during the few days they spent together.

With such a support network at the school, the volunteers were able to accomplish an astounding amount of work in only a few days! They painted and decorated the library, including window frames. They hung curtains, laid carpet, implemented a library catalogue system for the books, designed and painted a full-size wall mural and taught classes full of students.

When not at the project site, the volunteers were able to enjoy some of the natural beauty and history of Nepal – including visits to temples and indigenous communities and a Sabbath mountain trek. A sure highlight was the chance to observe rhinoceroses in their jungle habitat and to visit some of the earthquake-affected areas. Among the wrecked homes and buildings, there were still people at work, children playing football – life in action. Though a difficult scene to view, this image was still a testament of the perseverance

and hope of the Nepalese.

Moreover, we know that in any situation, however devastating, God can give us the strength to endure and rebuild.

By the end of the trip, despite its ups and downs, there was a feeling of satisfaction among the ADRA-UK volunteers. What may have started as an opportunity to 'give back' and see the work of ADRA-UK first-hand had become a learning and life-changing experience. The people of Nepal would not easily be removed from their hearts; nor will their unpretentious way of life be easily forgotten. Also, the memories and bonds formed with what had initially been a group of strangers were now firmly set, and would live long past those ten days in Nepal.

ADRA-UK sincerely thanks each of the volunteers who journeyed to Nepal, as well as their supporters and sponsors who helped make this dream happen for the children at the Bal Kumari Higher Secondary School.

While the Nepal experience cannot be duplicated, the ADRA Connections trips can! ADRA-UK will be hosting other overseas trips in 2016 and 2017, with Peru, Rwanda and Jamaica already in the line-up! If you would like to take part, email volunteering@adra.org.uk for your chance to see ADRA-UK at work!

Journey to Swaziland!

GIFT BOX APPEAL

We have a chance for TEN volunteers to accompany us to Swaziland and distribute the gift boxes & help renovate a school classroom!

Sat 13th February - Wed 24th February

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As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Centre for Christian Leadership

Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership aims to provide an opportunity for church members and those in leadership positions to gain or enhance their skills and knowledge in spiritual, educational and social ministry through the practical and theoretical short and intensive courses it offers. Register for workshops and find out more at: www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership.

This is the remaining workshop for 2015:

Flowers for Worship

Sunday 6 December – from £31

Due to popular demand, the Centre for Christian Leadership will be hosting a second offering of this workshop with Chelsea Flower Show gold medal winner Audrey Balderstone. This half-day workshop is designed to help flower arrangers make the most of their limited budgets while producing arrangements which are powerful witnesses to the beauty of creation. Participants will take home a pleasing arrangement suitable for a church setting.

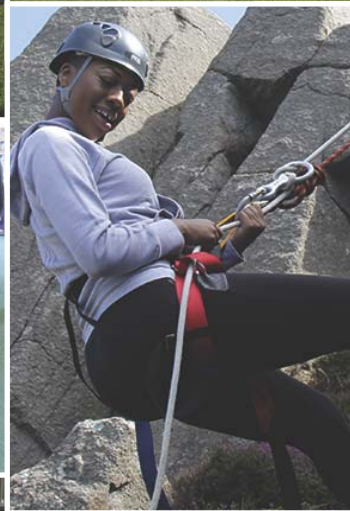
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| 22 Dunstable | 10am-2pm |
| 29 Sheffield Burngreave | 10am-2pm |

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compete in various challenges around the campsite, which taught biblical principles. Throughout the week Pastor Sam Gardner's thought-

provoking worships challenged the campers to be 'Divergent', to be willing to go against the tide.

Earliten Camp followed seven hours later, with one coach leaving and the next one arriving with 51 campers aged between 13 and 16, led this year by Pastor Derek Simon and Michael Likupe. The theme of 'Divergent' continued and the campers were challenged by Pastor Jonathan Burnett, who used various Bible stories to illustrate characters who had been 'Divergent'. Later in the week the campers were challenged and inspired as Pastor Burnett shared practical instructions on how to study the Bible and do one's devotions. Appeals for baptism were made and 17 young teens made the decision to be baptised during the week. Activities ranged from the now-legendary 'campball' to rock climbing, archery, knitting, sewing, canoeing and the playing of 'Daniel's escape' and other night-time games. The entertaining 'Royal Variety Show' at the Thursday evening banquet was a great success, with a panel of three judges awarding the top boy and girl acts of the evening.

Youth Camp has changed in recent years and is now for those from the age of 17 and upwards, and numbers have grown. Youth Camp provides a time for fellowship with other young Christians, more extreme activities and a chance to relax in the camp's beautiful surroundings. We continued to be favoured with good weather as our 27 campers enjoyed team-building games, rock climbing, canoeing and a day trip to the local go-karting track. Daily worships were provided by the highly energetic Pastor Isaac Liburd in keeping with the 'Divergent' theme. Pastor Emanuel Bran served as Camp Master and we were blessed on the Sabbath with an item from the Youth Camp choir. The first 'Great Aberdaron Bake-off' saw six contestants put their baking skills to the test, with Leah Chitiyo as the winner.

All camps were superbly catered for by lead cook Cheryl Banton from Nottingham Central Church, who provided food that was tasty, plentiful and healthy. Each camp is made possible by the many volunteers who attend – without them Aberdaron's camps would not be possible. We are already planning for the NEC summer youth camps of 2016 – are you planning to join us?

Pictures of the camps can be found online at: www.facebook.com/necyouth.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN (NEC YOUTH DEPARTMENT)

Aberdaron Youth Camp report: 2015

For over five decades Aberdaron summer camps have been ministering to the young people in the North England Conference (NEC) and beyond. During the Middle Ages, Aberdaron was the last rest stop for pilgrims heading to Bardsey Island, the legendary island of 20,000 saints. Three trips to Bardsey were regarded as the equivalent of one pilgrimage to Rome. Those days are long gone and Aberdaron is now a popular holiday village. Just outside the village is Aberdaron Advent Campsite and each summer it provides a haven in the peaceful countryside for children, teens and youth.

Summer camps are important to youth ministry in the Adventist Church worldwide and Aberdaron Advent Camp is owned and run by the NEC. The Youth Department runs three camps, with the first being Junior Camp (8 to 12), which was blessed with 52 campers and a great team of staff this year, led superbly by Melissa Nicholson, who served as Camp Master. Each morning, tent inspection was held by the house parents, Paul and Ruth South, with points awarded for the cleanest tent. Campers and staff alike participated in a range of activities: competitive sports; 'beach safaris' to learn about sea life and explore the rock pools; a hike up Anelog, which included rock scrambling and climbing; a day trip to Haven; and various art and craft activities on site. Every camp has a banquet and this year the theme was 'Royalty', so each tent had an opportunity to put forward a candidate to be the King or Queen of Aberdaron, and Keerun Blenman and Rosie-Marie Welsh were voted to that high office! On the Sabbath the weather was glorious and the campers engaged in 'Tribulation', an activity put together by Ken and Christine Burt that had each tent

Sign language success

A number of Peckham church members have completed the congregation's first ever British Sign Language (BSL) Level One course. They were enrolled with members from Croydon and Welling churches, who were also successful. This certificated course was established with the support of SIGN Ministries and set up so that our members in the Adventist Church can achieve a recognised qualification; have the opportunity to address the communication barriers that our deaf members often experience at church; and facilitate a witness to deaf people in the community. The course recommenced on 6 October at Peckham Church for members in our churches and the community as part of an outreach programme. Places are still available. Contact Pauline Mitchell on 07539 383817 for more details.

AMARAH MITCHELL



Ramona Hoyte (Peckham Church member) proudly holding her British Sign Language Level One certificate.



Anne-Marie Gerreyn (newly appointed Deaf Ministry Co-ordinator for Welling Church) receiving her British Sign Language Level One certificate from Cliff Blake (elder)



Baptism of Emma at Leamington

On 5 September a packed Leamington Church celebrated the baptism of Emma Fuller, aged 11, the youngest person to have requested baptism after being taught in their baptismal class.

The congregation sang seven out of her ten favourite songs during the service. These were interspersed between a Scripture reading, special prayers by her aunt and uncle, and a special item of music by her cousins Reece, Georgia and Ethan (pianist).

Pastor Milan Gugleta then preached a short sermon, after which Emma told the congregation that her decision for Christ was rooted in an experience she had at the age of seven when she was praying and felt the presence of God enter the room.

After this, according to the tradition at Leamington, her peer group were called to sit near the edge of the baptistry to watch as she entered the water with the elder who had taught her, and the minister. There was a great round of applause as she rose from her 'watery grave' – a fine example of Christ's grace at work in a young life.

JOHN ROSIER

'Diamonds' on the Isle of Wight

This year Cyril and Monica Vesey celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary and the small Isle of Wight company put on a special lunch in their honour. A card from the Queen is something those celebrating their diamond anniversaries cherish, but the most precious present for Cyril and Monica was the



family who came together from all corners of the world to mark the event with their love and appreciation.

Cyril is a third-generation Adventist and Monica is the daughter of Dr and Mrs Leonard Edmonds, who were missionaries to Nigeria during the 1930s. Their relationship developed back during their days at the Holloway church, and they were married there in 1955 by Pastor Jack Howard.

TIHOMIR ZESTIC

Baptism at Plumstead

Two young people gave their lives to Jesus on the evening of 19 September at the Plumstead church. Rachel Akindele is from a Christian home, but through the witnessing of a friend she began to attend Plumstead Church. She attended weekly Bible studies, diligently studying the word of God and growing in her love for Him. Rachel is planning to go to university and wanted to give her life to the Lord before embarking on a new chapter in her life.

Young Andre Mothersill is still at secondary school but avidly studied the Bible in readiness for his baptism. He knew the time was right to give his life to the Lord because he has become all too aware that the world has nothing to offer him as a young person. His Christian walk has been further nurtured by the Pathfinder club, of which he has been a member for several years.

We continue to pray for our youth that they will remember our Lord in the midst of the temptations that the world throws at them, and that they are covered by the blood of the Lamb. Please continue to pray for Rachel and Andre, along with all the rest of our church's precious youth.

COMMUNICATIONS, PLUMSTEAD CHURCH

Editor's Note: Sadly, the photos submitted for this baptism were too poor to print.

Dedicated Poppy

On Sunday 20 September, members of the York church were joined by friends and family of Claire and Adam Hall in a special service to dedicate their two-month-old daughter, Poppy Mae Rose Hall, to God. York's new pastor, John Francis, was joined by a former York minister, Pastor Solon Kyriacou, in the dedication service, in which Claire and Adam's university friend Louise and local member Michael Likupe also participated. Many of the friends and family who are not Adventists said they appreciated how friendly and welcoming the church was and how much they enjoyed the service, and we pray that they will be impressed to come again.

ANDREW PUCKERING (BROTHER OF THE MOTHER)

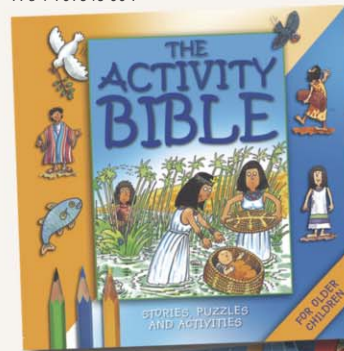




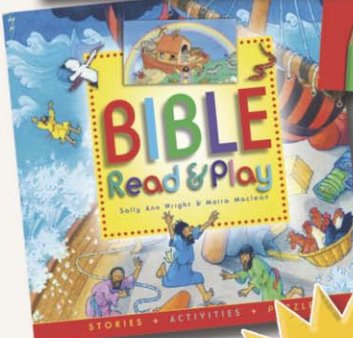
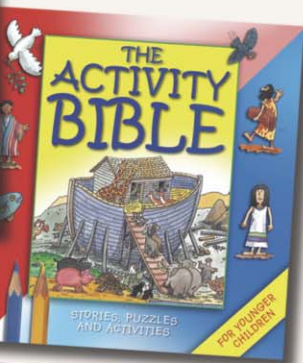
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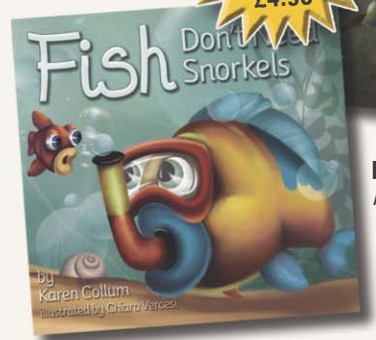


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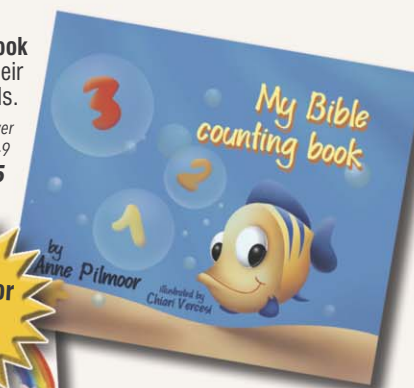


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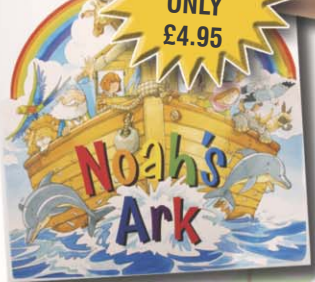
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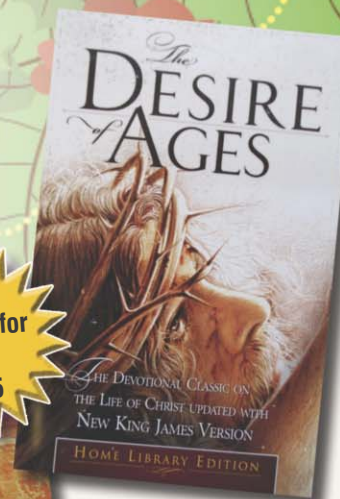
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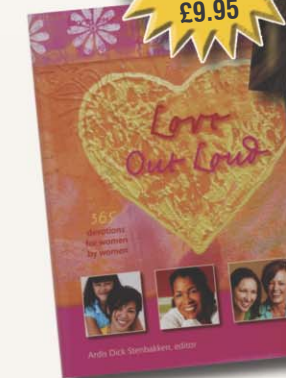
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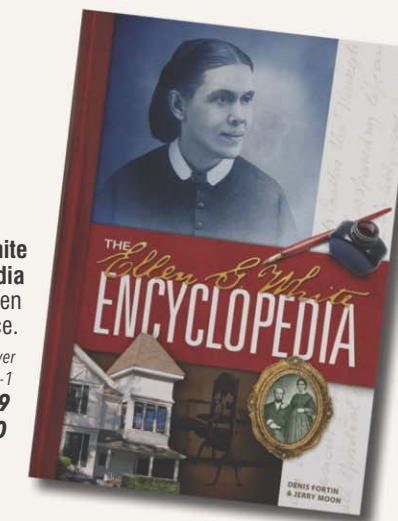


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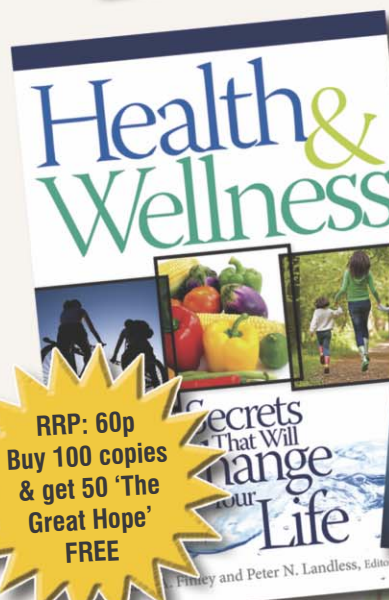


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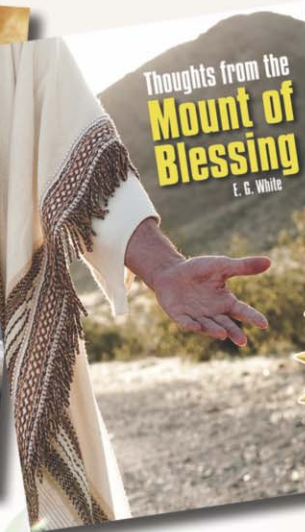
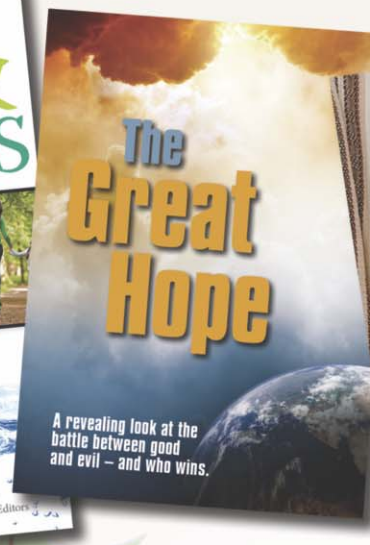


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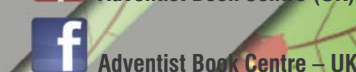
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Ringway Life celebrates

The Ringway Life church recently celebrated 500 years of Christian presence on their historic church site. They cleverly chose to open their magnificent old church building to the public on National Heritage Day, Sunday, 13 September. The present building dates back to 1895, but earlier churches were constructed there around 1721 and 1515. The earliest one was built as a Roman Catholic place of worship during the reign of Henry VIII. When, around 20 years on, Henry broke with Rome, the church became a Church of England property. By the time of the Civil War (1642-1646), however, it was firmly in the hands of Presbyterian sympathisers (non-conformists or dissenters).

By 1662 it was back in Church of England control, but only until 1672, when the same vicar applied for a licence to be a Presbyterian minister!

Within a decade (1681) it was back under the authority of the national church and the dissenters were turfed out – but not for long. In 1688 it was back in their hands!

Six baptised at Chelmsford and Basildon

On 4 July Chelmsford and Basildon churches baptised six precious souls during a combined service.

The Basildon congregation rejoiced over the three young men they brought for baptism. The three from Chelmsford also brought joy to their members' hearts. There were Sizo and Mqondisi Ntaka, sons of Rachel Ntaka. They were accompanied by Brother Ayo, who has attended at Chelmsford for a few years. His family were especially glad for his decision.

JOYCE SWAMY (CHELMSFORD COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)



The saga of Ringway was by no means over at this point, for when John Crewe of Crewe Hall inherited his mother's land (1711), including Ringway, he vowed to return the property to the Church of England. Nothing happened for a decade until one Sunday when one of Crewe's 'henchmen' disturbed the service, took the preacher by the throat and bundled both him and the congregation into the street. Believe it or not – the next Sunday they were back, at least for several weeks, until they left and built their own church.

Ringway Church flourished and was eventually rebuilt in 1895 to meet the congregation's growing needs. Once the new Ringway airport expansion took place the congregation dwindled and the building changed hands until it was bought by our Ringway Life church, and turned back into a place of worship. I suppose it could be said that it is now safely in the hands of nonconformists and dissenters again!

On the Sabbath of National Heritage Weekend the church hosted a music recital for its members and 50-odd visitors. The next day they had well over 100 visitors to the church. They were treated to members in Tudor costume serving genuine Tudor food as refreshments and providing a wealth of interesting information about the church and the area. There were also costumes on display from the periods in which the church underwent construction.

The children enjoyed discovery trails and calligraphy lessons with quilled pens they made themselves, and there was much reminiscing by those who had worshipped there in earlier days – or been christened there.

Many of the visitors wanted to know who Adventists were; whether they would be welcome to attend our services; and, most unexpectedly of all, 'Is that what you normally wear to church?'

PHILIP AND BERYL EMM



The Go! School of Evangelism, Mission and Leadership

For three years the Go! School of Evangelism, Mission and Leadership (SoEML) has been an oasis of development for church members in the South England Conference. The completion of the academic year 2014-2015 was marked on 20 June with a graduation held at the SEC's annual Camp Meeting. This autumn the school will be expanding the range of courses on offer in order to meet the diverse approaches required for ministry today.

Founded in September 2012 by Pastor Kirk Thomas, SEC Personal Ministries Director, its vision is to equip and inspire our members to share the news of Jesus' imminent Second Coming. Since then, the school has already graduated hundreds of students from around the UK.

The school is led by a team of pastors and lay members and has so far offered an assortment of courses: Advanced Lay Preacher, Community Evangelism, Discipleship and Church Growth, Entrepreneurial Evangelism, Fitness Evangelism, Forgive to Live, Lay Bible Worker/Instructor, Lay Preacher, Literature Evangelism, Woman-to-Woman Evangelism and Missional Leadership. This year's graduates feel well equipped and ready to go! For example, Beverly Daley (Hackney), who graduated from the Lay Bible Worker Course, felt that 'your conscience bothers you on this course and wrestles with you. You have to clean up your house doing this course. You have to be real.'

Cheryl Daley, also of Hackney, benefited so much that she plans to return for the upcoming school year because 'there is so much food here'.

Joseph Waker (Holloway) found his time in the Lay Preaching Course a great benefit too. He is now planning an evangelistic series for 2016 which he hopes will be run in some local churches.

Sharon Davis-Small of Hanworth Community Church, a graduate of the Entrepreneurs and Professional Evangelism Course, has already applied what she learnt in her role as a church planter. She found the entire experience 'empowering'. Joan Russell (Hackney) did the same course and described it as a 'platform to move forwards with like-minded people with God at the centre' and a 'growing experience'.

On the last day of the school, the Literature Evangelism cohort were so inspired that they immediately took their ministry to the street!



One of them was Simon Lee (Edmonton), who suffers from MS, a serious disability, and has been deserted by both friends and close family. He said: 'I have been taught how to help people by coming here. Now I have got a new life . . . God showed me a better way.'

During his graduation speech Pastor Kirk Thomas expressed his pride at the students' achievements and they reciprocated by presenting him with a large cake, decorated with his picture, as a token of appreciation.

In addition to previous courses, three new ones will be offered from this September: Creative Writing for Evangelism, Men's Evangelism, and Stress Therapy and Community Leadership & Evangelism.

For further information on SoEML, please contact Personal Ministries Secretary, Mavis Bramble, at the South England Conference.

DIVINIA REYNOLDS (PHOTOS: KATIE ALLEN)



Wednesfield Music Day

'Praise Him in the good times and the bad' was the theme of Wednesfield Church's Music Day, which took place on Sabbath 12 September. The entire day focused on our need to praise God in all of life's situations, whether positive or negative. Sabbath School consisted of a series of presentations about why to praise God and how to overcome obstacles to such praise.

In his sermon Mike Baker of Aston-Newtown Church and Harper-Bell School used Psalm 137 to contrast those who are 'singing' – that is, living a victorious Christian life and looking forward to living in their heavenly home – with those who, like the exiled Israelites in Babylon, have hung up their 'harps' in despair and doubt and have grown comfortable in this sinful world.

Commencing with a lively praise and worship period led by the praise team from St Matthews Community Fellowship Church in

Leicester, a very 'hands-on' afternoon programme allowed everyone to choose from a range of practical workshops about how we can use and develop our musical talents – such as the use of percussion instruments, guitar playing, song writing and group singing. These workshops culminated in a joint performance by all the groups.

Throughout the day the presentations and activities were interspersed with wonderful musical items provided by visiting friends and local members.

Wednesfield's annual Music Day, arranged and co-ordinated by Music Leader, Sonia Williams, has become a regular event over the past few years, enjoyed by local members and visiting friends alike. In addition, it has become an important feature of the church's outreach activities, drawing a significant number of friends and relatives, plus members of the local community.

ANDREW SUDWORTH





Councillor Donatus Anyanwu with winners of the cake-baking competition, Joyce (left) and Donna (right)

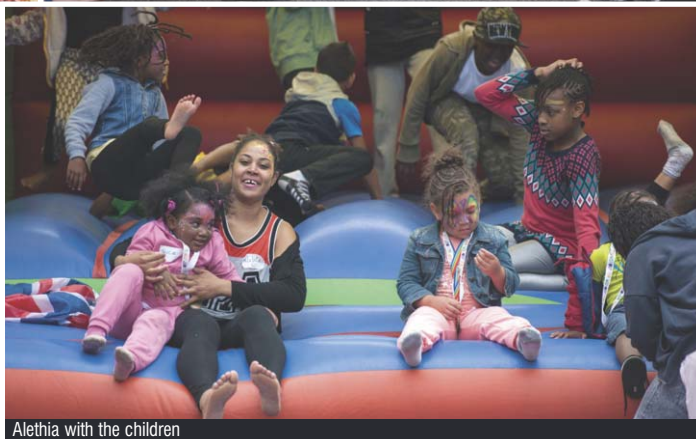
Brixton Community Street Party

Brixton Church's annual Community Street Party was held recently and ended up a great success despite grey and rainy weather.

Up went the tents to house the various health stations, such as blood pressure, BMI calculations and the general health check. There was also a tent for healthy eating where visitors and members alike were able to enjoy healthy juicing and sample some delicious healthy food.

On Santley Street they erected the bounce-about for the young and the young at heart, the face painting tent for the children, the music tent (there can't be a party without music) and the registration booth. A name tag was given to each attendee to help everyone interact on a more personal level. In the youth hall things were buzzing with a domino tournament, 'sumo wrestling' and a cake-baking contest.

The Mayor of Lambeth, Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, and representatives of the Metropolitan and Community Police were present. The mayor was the guest judge for the cake-baking contest and he was thrilled by the level of expertise on display.



Alethia with the children

The hall was hushed during the mayor's speech. He was very pleased that the church saw fit to integrate with the community. He thanked the church for trying to bring the community together and challenged the members to bring out the best in it.

The Brixton Drumliners were also in attendance to demonstrate their skills to the community. Now the church is already looking forward to next year's street party!

TANYA ROACH (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)

MTTC Sheffield

As part of their preparations for the Mission to the Cities (MTTC) in Sheffield, the local members had a sponsored 6km run/walk on 2 August at Concord Park to raise funds.

On 9 August they followed this with a Fun Day at the same venue, again organised by the district. Members from all over Sheffield came and worked together, making the day a success. The youth hosted a friendly five-a-side tournament and demonstrated fine Christian behaviour throughout. Besides this they also filled the park with the wonderful sound of gospel music. A health expo was also held that day with over 35 individuals attending. Members of the community thought the health expo was a good idea to help people get into shape.

One of the women who attended did so after hearing the gospel music. She came to find out what was going on and testified that the low mood with which she had arrived was thoroughly lifted by the event!

The district's Community Services were present with clothes, books and dry and tinned foods to give away – all of which were gladly received. These ladies also provided food and cakes, which sold very quickly.

Many came to the park via word of mouth, some through the flyers and others from being in the park and seeing what was going on. The children loved the helium-filled 'Smile, Jesus loves you' balloons, which, unfortunately, ran out. The bouncy castle went down a treat too.

Stanborough Press attended the event to sell their books, etc, in a marquee purchased especially for such activities.

God blessed both these events, which allowed the members to interact with the community in doing fun things. This will be followed up with a variety of programmes culminating in a full MTTC evangelistic series in August 2016. We solicit your prayers for this series too.

SHEFFIELD MTTC COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

'Reaching Out Beyond Our Walls'

Each year the Central Philippine Adventist College (CPAC) alumni engage in some worthwhile event. This year they joined forces with the Lowestoft church under the theme of 'Reaching Out Beyond Our Walls' with a message of hope.

The community events were kick-started by a Pathfinder/Adventurer parade along Lowestoft High Street with a drum corps from Southend Pathfinder Club leading the way. This attracted many people from the community to a free health-screening event where nurses from the CPAC alumni group offered body mass index, blood pressure and blood sugar tests, and medical advice, among other services. The local councillor, Sonia Barker, was present and commended the group. 'I want to thank the Seventh-day Adventist Church for bringing this wonderful resource to our community,' she said when talking to a local member. The event sought to re-introduce Lowestoft residents to the local Adventist presence. Hundreds of copies of the *The Great Hope* and *Steps to Christ* were also handed out.

The day culminated in a gospel concert at Lowestoft Church presented by CPAC alumni and local members, especially children and youth. The evening event was a success and well attended by the community. A love offering collected a significant amount for East Anglia Air Ambulance.

The fund-raising culminated on Sunday with a 5-kilometre sponsored walk by Lowestoft and alumni members, joined by the local councillor. The community were impressed and they too donated generously to the cause of East Anglia Air Ambulance. ASDA supermarket sponsored the bottled water.

The East Anglia Air Ambulance gladly accepted the amount collected, but not without questions about who Adventists are and why they were doing it. CPAC alumni and Lowestoft Church certainly reached 'out beyond' their walls this time!

COMMUNICATION TEAM



Area 1 (NEC) youth event

The turnout at the NEC's Area 1 youth retreat at the Scouts 'Moorhouse Adventure Centre' in County Durham was good. Organised by J. R. Narciso from Newcastle and his team, the event attracted attendees from North Manchester, Sheffield, Middlesbrough, Durham and Sunderland.

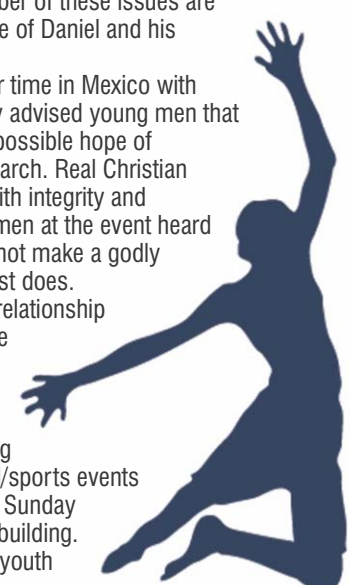
Guest speakers for the event were Pastor Adam Ramdin (Conference Youth Director) and Pastor Justin Kim (Communications Director of the Michigan Conference, USA).

The key theme was 'Choices', and it was loosely taken from the book, *Mind the Gap*, which encourages Adventist youth to be aware of the differences between themselves and their friends at home, school and work. A number of these issues are also to be seen in the experience of Daniel and his contemporaries.

Purity Ncube, fresh from her time in Mexico with the Share Him team, confidently advised young men that their search for muscles in the possible hope of attracting a mate was a false search. Real Christian women were looking for men with integrity and substance. Christian young women at the event heard that clothes and adornment do not make a godly woman, but a new heart in Christ does. Her advice was to seek a deep relationship with God rather than 'microwave Christianity'.

The food was good, some of it vegan, a direct result of the recent Health Missionary training course at Newcastle. The social/sports events on the Sabbath evening and the Sunday morning concentrated on team building. In the light of all this the Area 1 youth team want to run another youth event before Christmas.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES



REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.SECTEENS.ORG
 SEC TEENS DAY OF FELLOWSHIP
 GUEST SPEAKER: GC YOUTH DIRECTOR
DECEMBER 12 2015
 FROM 10:00AM, EVENING CONCERT & PRAISE GALA
 @ THE EMMANUEL CENTRE
 MARSHAM ST. WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 3DW
 (NEAREST UNDERGROUND STATION: WESTMINSTER)
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 SEC TEENS DEPARTMENT ON 01923232728

ministry
 with a teen perspective

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Haverhill plant is growing

Haverhill Fellowship in Suffolk resulted from a plant by Cambridge Church. This new fellowship have since held their own evangelistic outreach in the week of 7-13 June, with Newbold College graduate Sebastian Matula, a Swedish national, as the evangelist.

The week's theme was 'Hope for Tomorrow – Reasons to Believe', and the average daily attendance was at least fifty. Each night before the evangelist spoke, insightful health messages were presented by the 'WELLNESS' team.

In the months leading to these meetings various activities were run in order to prepare the community for the big event. A healthy cooking school was run for three out of four Tuesday evenings over a nine-month period. This culminated with a lunch on 16 May to thank both those who ran the cookery classes and those from the community for attending. On the menu were mouth-watering vegetarian dishes that had been prepared with the health message in mind.

Haverhill also held its fourth community health expo on Sunday 29 May at the Samuel Ward Academy. Linda from Birmingham gave the event much impetus with her natural foods display and tasty sampling opportunity. The health expo has always been well received by the community and this year was no different.

The members also gave out lots of literature; held 'meet-and-greets' on the street; and conducted various door-to-door know-your-community events. A religious needs survey of the community highlighted that there is a strong interest in health-related events.

Sebastian Matula's meetings drew non-members and visitors alike, culminating in six precious souls making their commitment for baptism. This evangelistic series has left the members revived and willing to take the message to new frontiers in Suffolk.

The week-long series of meetings took on an international flavour when Donna Els, visiting her family all the way from Trinidad and Tobago, became one of the six who gave themselves to Christ, and the first one to be baptised on 11 July by Pastor Colin Stewart at Cambridge Church.

At the beginning of that evangelistic series there was only one Adventist in the Els family – a month later there were three more:



Donna, one of her daughters and her fiancé (both in Trinidad). Donna has since returned to Trinidad, but what began as a routine holiday in England ended in the pool of baptism, and for that we can only thank God and give Him honour and praise.

Haverhill Fellowship would like to thank Cambridge Church, Area 8 Lay Advisory and the South England Conference for their financial and other support.

THABANI BAFANAH (PLANT LEADER)



Coast-to-coast for ADRA-UK

On Sunday 24 May Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt's dream of a coast-to-coast cycle ride to raise funds for ADRA-UK's Nepal appeal became a reality as nine riders and two support team members set off from Southport to Skegness.

Support and sponsorship came from the churches of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough and The Stanborough Press.

The riders came from various parts of the BUC, including Swansea, Sheffield, Birmingham, London and Northamptonshire.

They had overnight stops with church members of the Manchester South, Sheffield and Carterknowle churches and were very well looked after.

The route was a combination of some hard riding and some beautiful scenery. The third day involved a scenic ride via Sherwood Forest to Lincoln, during which friendships continued to form among the cyclists. On day four the group stopped off at Lincoln Cathedral for a few photos, before receiving a police escort for a quarter of a mile just to make sure they were going in the right direction. From there they followed

Lincolnshire's winding country lanes on towards Skegness.

Upon arrival at Skegness they had completed their journey across the country from the Irish Sea to the North Sea under the protection of God.

It was indeed a challenge, but they made it. Eashay, aged 10, covered 75% of the route, but Akeal, aged 12, did it all. As did Kelly-Ann Clarke, George Hamilton, Carlson Lewis, Eduardo Jesus, Pastor Geert Tap, Chadwick Musevengana and Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt. However, none of this would have been possible without the support of Andrea Rashford-Hewitt (providing lunch and vital massages for tired bodies) and Tony Welch (support vehicle driver).

At the time of going to press the event had raised a total of £5,772 with some money still coming in! This was the first one organised by www.RiseUpandRide.com and has proved to be a great success with all the praise to God and Him alone. So, if you would like to take part in such a ride next year, drop Pastor Rashford-Hewitt an email – he will be most happy to hear from you: A.r-h@hotmail.co.uk.

PASTOR ANDREW RASHFORD-HEWITT



A 300-mile fund-raiser!

To what lengths would you go to fund-raise for your local church's building project? Would you cycle 100 miles? What about 200 miles? Well, three amateur cyclists recently cycled 300 miles between three cities in three different countries to raise funds for Clapton Community Church and Woodford Green Church.

Pastor David Burnett, his wife Angela and Geoff Clarke (Clapton Church) took on this challenge in order to achieve just that.

They started at Tower Bridge on a Thursday morning and headed east via Chelmsford and Colchester on their way to Harwich to board the overnight ferry to Hook of Holland.

After a good night's rest, they followed the fabulous cycle paths of Holland along the coastline, west of Leiden, on towards Amsterdam Centraal at the end of day two – 150 miles done, 150 to go.

Thankfully the next day was Sabbath – a rest for two of them – but not for Pastor Burnett, who ended up preaching at Amsterdam Zuidoost (South-east) Church.

On Sunday they cycled via Utrecht to the Belgian city of Turnhout. Finally, on the last day, they arrived at their destination: the Atomium in Brussels.

Angela Burnett is glad she could take part in this ride and she challenges the BUC members to support Clapton and Woodford Green's important project.

For more information on how you can help please visit: <http://www.gofundme.com/y2c9k4>.

BASED ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ANGELA BURNETT



Shaved beard boosts building fund!

Wayne Grant, an Erdington elder, shaved off his beard for the first time since 1992 in a bid to raise funds for his church's proposed extension (foyer, kitchen and hall). After his wife, Mary, had shaved him clean on 23 August Wayne was able to joyously put £550 into the building fund!

MOSES JAMANDA, COMMUNICATIONS, PICTURES TAKEN BY MOSES JAMANDA

TOTTENHAM SDA CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT
presents
ACKNOWLEDGING CHRISTIAN TALENT
December 8th from 8:00pm—7:30pm (doors open at 4pm prompt)
Featuring aspiring Christian talent from across the South England Conference!
With special guest; singing evangelist - Lois Moodie!

Tickets: Entry is free but you must have a ticket
Tickets are available online at Eventbrite.co.uk
You can find them by searching the site's listings, by typing ijth.qr.ai into your browser or by using the QR code to the right

Venue: The Rock Tower, 49 Tufnell Park Rd, London, N7 0PS

Acknowledging Christian Talent

For more information email audreysoyam@icloud.com OR valeriemoodie5@aol.com

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A worship experience with:

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- Testimonies
- Special music

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Stantonbury
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FREE ENTRY

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For further information call:
07757 816316

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NEC Youth Department Presents

Go Kart Sunday

November 29th

Times Either 10am or 11.30am
Cost £75 per team of 3
The race format will be 60 minutes with 10 teams of 3 drivers each. The team with the most laps wins!
Come and test your driving skills against the best drivers across the NEC!
Register at www.necyouth.org.uk

Location:
Fastlane Karting
151 King Street
Stoke On Trent
Staffordshire

NECYOUTH

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted.

Leamington have been packing again

On Sabbath afternoon, 26 September, Leamington Spa Mission Church was once again in action packing ADRA-UK gift boxes – this time for distant Swaziland.

For many years their enthusiastic group of members and regular visitors have bought and made items for the gift boxes.

This year was no exception and the items included a number of beautifully hand-knitted dolls. Once again the church's children did a fantastic job of sorting, packing and putting stickers and messages on the boxes. With the help of a little homemade cake and fruit juice the group had prepared at least 47 boxes. Some had also given generous donations to help cover the transportation costs of the boxes to the children in Swaziland.

NIGEL CLARK



Pathfinders pack for Swaziland

The Wednesday ADRA team have mobilised their church's children and youth in order to pack and sort their ADRA gift boxes

this year. At the time of writing 46 boxes were ready and more were anticipated. The project has helped the church children and youth feel that the ones who will receive the gift boxes are part of their own family.

JO FISHER MITCHELL (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)

Music strains from Oxford City

You are invited to a Mission to the Cities programme, 'Musical Strains from Oxford City', to be held at the Oxford Sheldonian Theatre (OX1 3AZ) on 7 November at 7pm.

This charitable concert is being hosted by the Oxford church and takes the form of a spiritual journey with music and narration based on John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress* and the *Oxford Martyrs*. Tickets range between £10 and £12.50 with concessions for students, the unemployed, the disabled and pensioners and may be purchased from the Oxford Playhouse prior to the event or on the day (www.oxfordplayhouse.com/ticketsoxford).

The programme seeks to reach the people of Oxford City with the Gospel and Advent message through music.

Performers include Vox Steady, Vanessa and Mike Woodward and other Oxford and Adventist musicians.

For further information, please contact Dr JoyAnn Andrews on 07546691851 or email: cam210@hotmail.co.uk.

Messenger

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Sunset

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|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Nov 6 | 4.26 | 4.38 | 4.25 | 4.23 | 4.39 |
| 13 | 4.15 | 4.27 | 4.13 | 4.09 | 4.26 |
| 20 | 4.05 | 4.18 | 4.03 | 3.58 | 4.15 |
| 27 | 3.58 | 4.11 | 3.56 | 3.49 | 4.07 |

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