

Cheers and tears in Reading

by Paul Thompson

Christmas is often a complex time of the year. With the breakdown of the traditional family structure, many feel stressed, lonely and lost at Christmas time. This was illustrated in an article published on Christmas Eve last year, in which it was reported that the

UK's highest death rates are on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.*

So what happens at Christmas to the staggering 583,000 young adults who are residents in the UK's care homes? The facts reveal that only a very small percentage of them spend Christmas at home. For this reason, last December Reading Central Church's 20-strong Disability Ministries team decided to bring some cheer to the disabled across Berkshire by launching a community Christmas programme to introduce Christ to them, touch their hearts and make a difference in their lives. The Reading team, backed by Parkside Community and Newbold Churches, planned a community Christmas event which was widely advertised among Berkshire's special needs schools and establishments such as Men Cap. They received a few hundred enquiries via social media, with visitors attending from London, Southampton, High Wycombe and a number of local villages in the Berkshire countryside.

The Christmas message of giving and helping was skilfully presented by the ten young puppeteers from Newbold Church. A great performance by the clown had many laughing to the point of tears, and many of the disabled young adults queued patiently to take memorable pictures with him. Reading Parkside's mime group, '4 Christ', brought the Gospel message home in mime, which was also widely appreciated.

The day ended with light refreshments and mince pies and an opportunity for the team to meet many of the parents and carers who attended the event. The team's leader, June Thompson, indicated that this was just the first of many programmes they were planning for the disabled in the district.

*www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article=2528881/why-dangerous-time-year-death-rates-peak-christmas-day-boxing-day-new-year.html



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editorial

Acts 15 provides us with an interesting comparison between the ways that two sensitive issues were handled within the early Christian Church. Perhaps a closer look at each situation could teach us a valuable lesson for today.

Most of the chapter is devoted to what has become known as the Council of Jerusalem, which took place around AD 50, some two decades after the crucifixion. The council was called to address a growing and highly divisive problem being faced in Antioch, one with the potential to have negatively affected Gentile converts everywhere: **mandatory circumcision for those males wanting to convert to this new religious movement.**

Why was this an issue? Firstly, because a group of influential Pharisees who had become believers insisted that: ‘*You have to circumcise the pagan converts,*’ they said. ‘*You must make them keep the Law of Moses.*’” (Acts 15:5, The Message.) Secondly, because the Gentiles were under no obligation to keep the ceremonial laws that had already been set aside by the sacrificial death of Christ. What’s more, ‘circumcision was considered repulsive’ within the Hellenistic culture that dominated this Eastern Mediterranean area that was now opening up to the Gospel.¹

The proceedings

As you can well imagine, feelings at the council must have been running high. There was obvious polarisation between the contending parties, with strong speeches being made by those on both sides of the debate. So critical was the outcome of this council that the success of Christian mission hung in the balance, as did the continued unity of the fledgling Christian Church.

Those problems notwithstanding, as one reads Luke’s brief ‘transcript’ of the council proceedings, you can’t help but see the calming and guiding influence of the Holy Spirit at work. I like the way it’s put in The Message, a contemporary (‘idiomatic’) paraphrase of the Bible by Eugene H. Peterson (Acts 15:4-23, selected verses):

‘When they got to Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas were graciously received by the whole church, including the apostles and leaders. They reported on their recent journey and how God had used them to open things up to the outsiders. Some Pharisees stood up to say their piece. They had become

Got any ‘get-out-of-jail’ cards?



Julian Hibbert
Editor

believers, but continued to hold to the hard party line of the Pharisees. . . .

‘The apostles and leaders called a special meeting to consider the matter. The arguments went on and on, back and forth, getting more and more heated. . . .’

Despite the deep theological divide between the factions, the palpable tension and the obvious robustness of the debate, the outcome comes as a total surprise:

‘Everyone agreed: apostles, leaders, all the people.’

What an example

What a wonderful example of how the Holy Spirit can lead the Church to resolve highly divisive issues if we really want Him to. Sadly, however, this chapter ends on a somewhat depressing note; for once back in Antioch things take a shameful turn (verses 36 to 41):

‘After a few days of this, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit all our friends in each of the towns where we preached the Word of God. Let’s see how they’re doing.”

‘Barnabas wanted to take John along, the John nicknamed Mark. But Paul wouldn’t have him; he wasn’t about to take along a quitter who, as soon as the going got tough, had jumped ship on them in Pamphylia. Tempers flared, and they ended up going their separate ways: Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus; Paul chose Silas and . . . went to Syria and Cilicia. . . .’

Well, what do you make of this: **‘tempers fared, and they ended up going their separate ways’?** Had these two stalwarts of the faith learnt nothing from the miracle of negotiation and conciliation they had experienced in Jerusalem?

‘Why, Paul, why?’

I would like to understand why ‘Paul wouldn’t have him’; why ‘he wasn’t about to take along a quitter’. I find this so incongruous, so utterly out of character for someone like Paul. After all, had he forgotten the coats at his feet the day Stephen was stoned? Had he forgotten what he was on his way to Damascus for? Had it slipped his mind that Ananias had visited him at Straight Street in Damascus to ‘lay hands on him so he could see again’? Not to mention how ‘Back in Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him. They didn’t trust him one bit’ – until ‘Barnabas took him under his wing . . . introduced him to the apostles and stood up for him!’ (Acts 9:12, 26-27, The Message.)

His life to that point was a story of grace – of being accepted again despite his earlier failures.

Having said that, isn’t it strange to you that he is so unwilling to give young John Mark, the ‘quitter’, another chance? **Paul, where is the grace and forgiveness God lavished on you? Couldn’t you have spared just a little for him too?**

Stop!

Yes, I need to stop! For Paul is not the only one guilty of ungraciousness! How readily do I hand out ‘get-out-of-jail’ cards to those who disappoint, fail or offend me? Not as often as I should – especially at church!

What about you? Do you know a John Mark or two . . . in your congregation or at home . . . who could do with such a card from you?

It seems to me that God has openly confessed to having one ‘weakness’. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and **will remember their sins no more.**’ (Hebrews 8:12, NIV-UK – emphasis supplied.) I am so glad for that, and I guess we need to follow His example by cultivating that ‘weakness’ too!

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Jerusalem



Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 10b – Winter wellness – winter woes

The last issue of *Enhancing Health* highlighted some natural remedies to treat the ‘winter chills’ and ‘ills’ – without pills. This issue looks at some adverse health outcomes during the winter months and how to avoid them.

NHS Choices¹ lists the ten most common winter illnesses and maladies that are triggered or worsened by cold weather as follows: asthma; colds; cold sores; dry skin; flu; heart attacks, sore throats; norovirus; painful joints; Raynaud’s phenomenon (poor circulation to the extremities, leaving fingers and toes cold, discoloured and painful). If you are affected by any of these conditions, NHS Choices provides tips on how to combat them and protect yourself at: <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/Winterhealthrisks.aspx>.

Heart attacks – One of the more serious adverse outcomes of the colder months is the incidence of heart attacks, which is reported to be higher in winter. NHS Choices suggests that this could be due to episodes of cold weather causing an increase in blood pressure, which puts more strain on the heart. Additionally, the heart has to work harder to maintain body heat in cold weather. One of their top tips for staying warm indoors is to heat the main room one stays in to at least 18C.

In an article entitled ‘Cold Weather and Cardiovascular Disease’, the American Heart Association² states:

‘Some people who are outdoors in cold weather should avoid

sudden exertion, like lifting a heavy shovel full of snow. Even walking through heavy, wet snow or snow drifts can strain some people’s hearts.’ According to the article, individuals with cardiovascular disease are more at risk. An additional caution states: ‘Elderly people may also have lower subcutaneous fat and a diminished ability to sense temperature so they can suffer hypothermia without knowing they’re in danger.’

The American Heart Association issues the following cautions and advice when outdoors:

- High winds, snow and rain can steal body heat. Wind is especially dangerous, because it removes the layer of heated air from around your body.
- Dampness causes the body to lose heat faster than it would at the same temperature in drier conditions.
- Wear layers of clothing to trap air between them, thereby forming additional protective insulation. Also, wear a hat or headscarf, as heat can be lost quickly from the face and scalp.
- Keep hands and feet warm, too, as they tend to lose heat rapidly.

In the next issue more winter woes will be examined.

Good health!

¹<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/Winterhealthrisks.aspx>

²http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/General/Cold-Weather-and-Cardiovascular-Disease_UCM_315615_Article.jsp#.VrigTXkrHmQ



How readily do I hand out ‘get-out-of-jail’ cards to those who disappoint, fail or offend me?



No right to be rude

by Pastor Llewellyn R. Edwards,
Ministerial, Elders and Diaconate Ministries Director (BUC)

Towards the end of last year the Trans-European Division and the British Union Conference leadership combined forces to host a meeting to affirm the female pastors employed within the BUC's territory. It was a powerful meeting, during which we were all reminded of the immense talents and deep spirituality of this group of pastors. Their commitment to service and to the proclamation of Jesus is second to none.

While there were stories of support and affirmation for our female pastors, unfortunately there were also stories of them being ignored, marginalised, disrespected and shunned by some within our church family.

Later, in a conversation, Pastor Ian Sweeney pointed out that though individuals had the right to take whatever theological position they wanted on the matter of the ordination of women, they had no right whatsoever to be rude to them.

Why is it that our theological stances are so often accompanied by the belief that with our apparent correctness comes permission to be judgemental, critical, rude, or unkind? Where in the small print of our discussions and debates – whether over drums or no drums; precise or vague opening and closing times for Sabbath; veganism or meat eating;

double tithing or not; public fasting or lengthy prayers; trousers or skirts; being gay phobic or gay compassionate; and so forth – is the wording about our right to belittle or castigate those who don't quite fit our categories of thought? Where does the assumption come from that since the other member does not fully agree with my view, he or she must be reprobate or immoral in some way?

Isn't it interesting that right doctrine and theological correctness often seems to attract to itself a 'virus' that infects certain people with the right to be rude, suspicious and even conspiratorial? I am not suggesting that everyone catches this 'virus', but it sure seems contagious.

Could it be that the problem lies not in the doctrine, but deep within us – driven by that ugly need to justify ourselves – as if the best defence is offence?

What if deep inside each of us there were a new creation? One that cherished the reborn values of grace, compassion, patience, forgiveness and a love for lost people. Christ-like characteristics passionately embedded, deeply etched, written not in stone but on our hearts. What kind of church would we be? Imagine two Adventists with opposing theological stances, united against rudeness

and those other behaviours in our fellowships that offend and ostracise the outsider.

I read of a non-Seventh-day Adventist church where most are meat-eaters and very few are teetotal, but together had united to agree that all their potlucks were to be vegan and their communion wine alcohol-free. Why would they do such a thing? I read on to discover that their compassionate ministry for recovering alcoholics made them take the alcohol out of their wine so that the alcoholic would not be tempted to slip back into his or her habit. They had made their potlucks vegan so that all diets could be accommodated. Their aim was to win others to Christ, not hinder them from accepting Him.

What might a similar attitude look like in our churches? What behaviours do you see now in your local church that might change if our core values changed to those so clearly illustrated in the character of Christ? How might the way Jesus related to people inform our relationships to others if we are driven by the core values He stood for? Notice how the corrective instruction He issues to the woman taken in adultery is first immersed in grace – with no condemnation; how openly He is prepared to receive the despised woman at the well who had five-and-a-half husbands; and how He refuses to share the spirit of the self-righteous Pharisee when a woman of dubious reputation washes His feet. Throughout it is compassion that fuels His actions, not correctness or convention.

I don't believe that changed churches with winning cultures can happen without vigorous self-reflection, continuously driven by the values upheld by the character of Christ. We would need to experience this change, firstly among our leaders, then throughout our membership. We would have to agree to make the character of the Lord Jesus our focal point and then begin asking ourselves questions like these:

- How do our practices reveal the character of Jesus?
- How well do our services, sermons and discussions lift up Christ?
- Are there people we should apologise to for misrepresenting Christ?
- What behaviour would we see if the values of Christ's character inspired all our attitudes and actions?
- How can we do better next time?

Such a process of self-reflection is a difficult, slow, prayer-saturated one, but isn't this exactly what Christ expects of us before He returns to take us home? Ever read these words before: 'Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.' (Ellen White, *Christ's Object Lessons*, page 69.)

Our greatest privilege, our highest right, is to manifest the character of Christ – not the right to be rude.

The BUC and the Centre for Christian Leadership are planning a 'Leadership Conference on Character' to be held at Newbold College on 14-15 May 2016.



Adventist Family Resources Exhibition

30 June - 3 July, 2016

at the BUC Session

The Adventist Family Resource Exhibition is an opportunity for Seventh-day Adventist businesses and ministries operating within the UK to showcase their goods and services, or to promote their message.

The exhibition will operate throughout the BUC Session (30 June - 02 July) for delegates and guests, and will be open to the wider Church community in a special day of resources and workshops, hosted by Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership on Sunday 03 July.

It is anticipated that hundreds of visitors will attend the exhibition.

Information for Exhibitors

EXHIBITION HOURS:

- Thursday 30 June: 12:00pm - 1 19:00pm
- Friday 01 July: 09:00am - 19:00pm
- Saturday 02 July: 13:00pm - 19:00pm (ministries only)
- Sunday 3 July: 9:00am - 17:00pm

EXHIBITION SPACE

Stands are available in two sizes, and include a six foot trestle table with tablecloth and two chairs:

- 3m x 2m: £150 / 3m x 4m: £200

Power is available for an additional £25 per stand, for the duration of the exhibition.

Prices are exclusive of VAT.

HOW TO BOOK

Complete the Exhibitor Booking Form (available at www.newbold.ac.uk/buc-session), ensuring that you:

1. Choose your three preferred positions on the

exhibition floor plan by indicating the relevant code/s on the booking form. Booths will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

2. Enter your email address and phone number clearly, so that we can contact you to confirm your booking once payment is received.
3. Return your completed form to bdavison@newbold.ac.uk or Attention to Brian Davison, Newbold College of Higher Education, St Marks Road, Binfield, Bracknell, RG424AN. Call 07957856715 for further information.

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Stanborough Press						E7	E8	E9	E10	E11	E12	

an open letter



From the BUC President . . .

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President

Recently, when I began my personal journey to improved health, I looked at the physiques of a number of different sportsmen and athletes so as to decide whose body shape I liked the most and would attempt to resemble. Now rugby players and cyclists may both be incredibly healthy but their body shapes are very different, and the body shape I desired would require me to focus on the habits of exercise, training, diet and health of the sportsmen I wanted to look like.

The apostle Paul in writing his second letter to the Christians of ancient Corinth spoke of the importance of spiritual focus when he wrote (2 Corinthians 3:18, NKJV): 'But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.' From this well-known passage of Scripture we have derived the saying, 'By beholding we become changed.' If we desire to resemble Jesus in His character and attitude we have to focus upon Him and imitate His habits and lifestyle, for it is by beholding Him that we become changed to resemble Him.

The practice of beholding can be both positive and negative. In the Christian experience we are urged to behold the positive and inspiring Person of Jesus. Sadly, however, there appear to be a number of Christians whose primary focus is upon evil and sin. During my days spent studying for the ministry at Newbold College, I recall one of my lecturers (the late Dr Andrew Mustard) saying, 'The more we focus upon the enemy, the more like the enemy we become.' This statement has made a lasting impression upon me because it reveals the negative impact of beholding. Our goal and focus as Christians is to be like Christ in character and conduct; however, there are those whose primary 'beholding' focus is evil and sin. The gaze of such persons is purposely placed upon the enemy and his deeds rather than upon Christ.

Social media tools such as Facebook and YouTube serve as the pulpits for a form of ministry which has a special focus upon exposing evil, whether that evil be found in the church or within society at large. Ministries that engage in exposing the mysteries of iniquity (2 Thessalonians 2:7) find many followers because evil and darkness are perversely fascinating, as we see reflected in the popularity of horror movies.

I do believe that evil and injustice should be addressed wherever it is discovered, and this was indeed the practice of the prophets. At the same time, however, we need to be careful that our focus upon evil does not become such a preoccupation that we end up demonstrating the very evil we are trying to

denounce. In addressing members in the New York State area, Ellen White shared the dangers of focusing upon the sins in other people's lives:

'There have been so many church trials among the brethren in the State of New York, that God has not had the least to do with, that the church have lost their strength, and they know not how to regain it. Love for one another has disappeared, and a faultfinding, accusing spirit has prevailed. It has been considered a virtue to hunt up everything about one another that looked wrong, and make it appear fully as bad as it really was. The bowels of compassion that yearn in love and pity toward brethren, have not existed. The religion of some has consisted in faultfinding, picking at everything bearing the appearance of wrong, until the noble feelings of the soul are withered. The mind should be elevated to dwell upon eternal scenes, heaven, its treasures, its glories, and should take sweet and holy satisfaction in the truths of the Bible. It should love to feed upon the precious promises that God's word affords, draw comfort from them, and be lifted above trifles to weighty, eternal things.

'But, oh, how differently has the mind been employed! Picking at straws! Church meetings, as they have been held, have been a living curse to many in New York. These manufactured trials have given full liberty to evil surmising. Jealousy has been fed. Hatred has existed, but they knew it not. A wrong idea has been in the minds of some, to reprove without love, hold others to their idea of what is right, and spare not, but bear down with crushing weight.'

'I saw that many in New York have had so much care for their brethren, to keep them straight, that they have neglected their own hearts. They are so fearful that their brethren will not be zealous and repent, that they forget that they have wrongs that must be righted. With

their own hearts un sanctified, they try to right their brethren. Now the only way the brethren and sisters in New York can rise is for each to attend to his own individual case, and set his own heart in order. If sin is plain in a brother, breathe it not to another, but with love for the brother's soul, with a heart full of compassion, with bowels of mercy, tell him the wrong, then leave the matter with him and the Lord. You have discharged your duty. You are not to pass sentence.' (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, pp. 164, 165.)

This is a powerful and sobering testimony.

While my list is not exhaustive, I note the following lessons from this counsel by Ellen White. It's possible to focus upon evil so much that we:

- lose the compassion and love of Christ for sinners;
- miss the glorious truths of the Bible;

'The more we focus upon the enemy, the more like the enemy we become.'



- engage in evil thinking and the practice of hatred;
- forget that evil resides in our own lives and we ourselves need to repent.

Our recognition of sin in another person's life does not relieve us of our responsibility to imitate Christ in the way He interacted with the failing and fallen of His day. 'If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over.' (Matthew 18:15, NIV 1984.)

Jesus did not say, 'If your brother sins against you, go and post it on YouTube and Facebook or have a Bible study group to discuss his sin.' I wonder how many ministries follow this counsel from Matthew 18:15 before deciding to post a sermon clip to illustrate the fallen nature of a pastor or congregation? Christ's primary interest was in the saving of the souls of people in error. He was not interested in making Himself look better or more righteous than them by broadcasting reports of their weaknesses or evil deeds. When we make Christ our primary focus for 'beholding', our approach to sin will be different. Ellen White put it this way:

'In the work of soul-winning, great tact and wisdom are needed. The Saviour never suppressed the truth, but He uttered it always in love. In His intercourse with others, He exercised the greatest tact, and He was always kind and thoughtful. He was never rude, never needlessly spoke a severe word, never gave unnecessary pain to a sensitive soul. He did not censure human weakness. He fearlessly denounced hypocrisy, unbelief, and iniquity, but tears were in His voice as He uttered His scathing rebukes. He never made truth cruel, but ever manifested a deep tenderness for humanity. Every soul was precious in His sight. He bore Himself with divine dignity; yet He bowed with the tenderest compassion and regard to every member of the family of God. He saw in all, souls whom it was His mission to save.' (*Gospel Workers*, p. 117.)

I would like to call on all Seventh-day Adventist church members in the British Union to join with me in making Christ the primary focus of our gaze and attention and to respectfully avoid those whose focus is towards evil and censure. The story of the Gospels reveals a Saviour who lovingly ministered to the poor, the oppressed, the broken-hearted and the fallen. It is this Person whom we must behold, for it is by beholding Him that we will become like Him.

Diversity seminars 2016

Spring semester

All lectures will be held in the Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College RG42 4AN

Tuesday 8 March (International Women's Day) 2016

Lecturer: Ian Ridley

Senior Director, Humanitarian External Relations and Resource Development, World Vision International

Title: 'The Impact of Disasters on Women'

Tuesday 12 April 2016

Lecturer: Andy Walton

Communications Officer at the Centre for Theology and Community

Title: 'Credit, Debt, Usury – A Christian Response'

BOOKSALES

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Centre for Christian Leadership

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Everyday Ethics: How to Make Difficult Moral Decisions (Large or Small)

Dr Michael Pearson (Professor Emeritus, Newbold College of Higher Education) – Sunday 6 March

This workshop will help you understand how we make our daily moral decisions and explore ways of improving your judgement. It is ideal for anyone who has ever struggled with knowing whether or not they are doing the right thing.

Disability Awareness: Breaking Down the Barriers

Sophia Nicholls (Disability and Diversity Director for the South England Conference) – Sunday 13 March

Research shows that people with disabilities are said to be the least evangelised and least involved group in church life. This workshop will identify the causes of this situation and help you discover ways to change it.

Stress, Brains, and Gender


Dr Arlene Taylor (leading speaker on brain function) – Monday 21 March

Most people instinctively know that male and female brains are different – and that's part of the fun as well as the challenge – but new DTI brain scanning techniques are showing just how differently they are wired. With increased knowledge you can choose to avoid frustration, as Dr Taylor will point out.

Save the date

Save the date, or register now on our website, for the following workshops:


- Introduction to Dispute Resolution (Sunday 10 April)
- FREE Annual Bible Conference: The Church of Our Dreams (Saturday 16 April)
- Teaching the Adult and Youth Sabbath School (Sunday 1 May)
- Adventist Family Resources Exhibition (Sunday 3 July)



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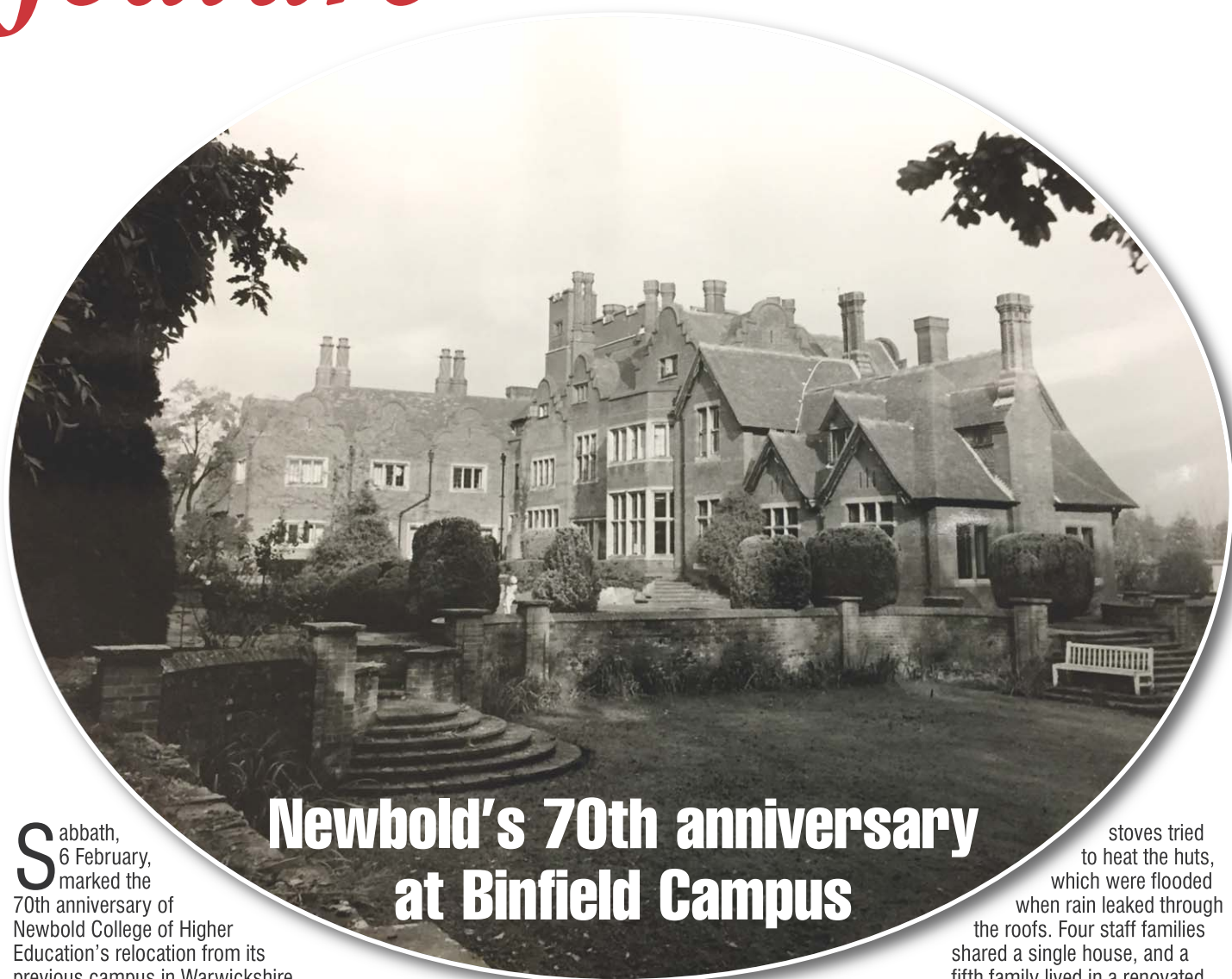
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Newbold's 70th anniversary at Binfield Campus

Sabbath, 6 February, marked the 70th anniversary of Newbold College of Higher Education's relocation from its previous campus in Warwickshire to its current home in Binfield, Berkshire.

Established in 1901 as what Pastor N. H. Knight of the British Union described as a 'Training School for Gospel Workers',¹ Newbold first opened its doors as Duncombe Hall College, in Holloway, North London, on 6 January 1902. In 1907 it relocated to Stanborough Park, north of Watford, Hertfordshire, where it was known as Stanborough Park Missionary College and later Stanborough Missionary College (1921), and Stanborough College (1923).

In 1931, Principal William 'Billy' Murdoch moved the college to Newbold Revel, northwest of Rugby, Warwickshire, and the college adopted the name of its new grounds, becoming Newbold College. Future iterations of the name would include Newbold Missionary College (1946), a reversion to Newbold College (1961), and Newbold College of Higher Education (2003).

In 1941 the Newbold Revel

campus was commandeered by the Royal Air Force. The college found temporary quarters at Packwood Haugh, south of Birmingham, to which students and staff relocated in what Pastor Knight described as a 'hurried exodus . . . through a foot of snow'.²

Pastor Leonard Lane was a member of the advance party who went ahead to Packwood

Haugh to get things ready. 'The main task was to erect three huts as boys' dormitories,' he recalls, in *One Hundred Years of Newbold College*,³ the book produced in 2001 to commemorate Newbold's 100-year anniversary. These inadequate buildings provided primitive accommodation and no sanitation for the men housed in them. Coke-burning

stoves tried to heat the huts, which were flooded when rain leaked through the roofs. Four staff families shared a single house, and a fifth family lived in a renovated outbuilding.⁴

Pastor Jack Mahon, who studied at Newbold from 1940 to 1942, and from 1946 to 1949, described the years at Packwood Haugh as 'a time of hard work and physical deprivation, with little time for recreation'.⁵ In 1945, following the vacation of the Royal Air Force from the Newbold Revel campus, Church leaders decided that the college needed a more modern campus. The buildings at Newbold Revel were old and expensive to maintain. Facing pressure to vacate its temporary premises, a property in Binfield, a village outside of the (then) small market town of Bracknell, Berkshire, was identified and purchased with what Pastor Knight described as a 'sigh of relief and gratitude to God'.⁶

In December 1945 the Government threatened to occupy Newbold's new (and as yet empty) buildings in Binfield with war refugees, and so Principal Murdoch delayed the start of the

January term by six weeks, during which time teams of students and staff stripped the college's belongings from Packwood Haugh and sent three vans per day down to Binfield.

The college reopened in its new home in Binfield on Wednesday 6 February, 1946. Pastor Paul Cumings, the pastor in charge of the Reading district at the time, attended the opening service at the Binfield campus. He described the outfitting of the new campus as modern, declaring that 'no better accommodation could have been planned even if it had been laid brick by brick to our own requirements!'⁷

When it opened, the college's Binfield facilities included just Moor Close and Binfield Hall (now demolished). An addition to Moor Close, Bartlett Hall, was quickly added to form the dining room. Facilities were so cramped in these early days that visitors to the college often asked where the classrooms were. 'There were two small rooms in the kitchen area and sliding doors were put up in the lounges to make three rooms there. These were moved back after the morning classes and the tables hurriedly laid for lunch,' recalled Roy Scarr, who

was the Head of Music at the college for many years.

Pastor Ken Clothier was among the students who joined Newbold in the college's first year of operation in Binfield, where he studied until 1952. 'Newbold was a great place to be,' he recalls. 'The spirituality of Newbold Missionary College gave us the courage and strength to overcome the obstacles. . . . How can a man forget his alma mater? It seemed to produce the right basic training for my 46 years of service.'⁸

The college marked the occasion with a special assembly for staff and students on 2 February, at which Newbold's current principal, Dr John Baidam, spoke about the history of the college. Colleagues from the Roy Graham Library provided a selection of images depicting the grounds in 1946, and staff and students shared a celebration cake.

KIRSTY WATKINS
(PUBLICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR)

¹British Advent Messenger, 22 February 1946

²Ibid. ³Newbold College, 2001: *One Hundred Years of Newbold College: 1901-2001*, p. 55

⁴Idem, p. 43 ⁵Idem, p. 57

⁶British Advent Messenger, 1946 ⁷Ibid.

⁸Newbold College, 2001: *One Hundred Years of Newbold College: 1901-2001*, p. 48

Circa 1946



Sabbath worship transport

Regular coach transport is now available for Sabbath services across two parts of the country. For the Birmingham and Wolverhampton area, call 07926553722. For the London area, call 02085959470 or 07533743916. For either of these areas, call 07868288310, 07576036574 or 01384213803, or email: hubert.smiley18@gmail.com.



Christmas at Ringway

This past Christmas three kings in full Eastern regalia, a camel and two shepherds, with their sheep, arrived to camp around the stable with Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus, outside the Ringway Life Building church.

Soon some people were stopping to take photos of the nativity scene. Some even came into the church to ask where we had bought the camel. Alas, we couldn't give them directions, as we had made it ourselves. In fact, the figures were all moulded and dressed by our multi-talented and dedicated helpers. One of them, a non-member, brought his wife to see the scene, about which she said, 'Now I know why you have spent so much of your time on this project!'

The nativity scene has been a wonderful evangelistic tool, having created an awareness of the story behind Christmas, both for the public at large and the church's friends.

1 Corinthians 15:58 says that nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted – so why not make it fun and enjoyable too – even if you have to start production in June!

This was followed up with a candlelit carol concert on Friday evening, 18 December, which attracted our members and their families as well as some passers-by.

The next day, Sabbath, we held our family Christmas programme, during which all our children received the gift of a Christian book. There was much carol singing and the opportunity for the fifty people present to hang little offering bags on the Christmas tree in aid of ADRA, thereby raising more than £700 for this good cause.

Ringway does Christmas very well, and, while enjoying the many facets of the festive framework, never loses sight of what we are really celebrating. All the while, outside, in front of our nativity scene, we displayed the words of John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son . . . (NIV)'. And just to show the true multinational nature of our church, those present were invited to recite this text in their own language. We managed more than 13 different languages, which included German, Spanish, Catalan, Portuguese, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Latvian, Russian, and Jamaican Patois.

Yes, Ringway does Christmas very well . . . and the community is beginning to enjoy it with us!

PHILIP EMM



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This winter, ADRA is working on the ground in Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Lebanon.

We need YOUR help to keep refugees warm over the coming winter months.

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"On Sunday morning, I wait for the time of your voice, telling us that Jesus is standing and knocking at our doors."
- Stephan, Listener in Ukraine

The Adventist World Radio annual offering is just over the horizon: on 12 March, most world divisions will take up an offering to benefit AWR's worldwide ministry. We thank you in advance for your partnership.

All AWR promotional resources are available at: <http://awr.org/offering>. Please download these in order to make your church members aware of AWR's frontline outreach.

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO ANNUAL OFFERING MARCH 12, 2016

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

BUUC Pathfinder Camporee

DATE: 31 JULY - 7 AUGUST 2016
VENUE: PEMBREY COUNTRY PARK, WALES
THEME: ANCHORED

Guest speakers:
PASTOR RICHARD REID, WAHROONGA, NSW, AUSTRALIA
PASTOR JONATHAN BURNETT, SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE, UK

FINAL TICKET PURCHASES: 31 MAY 2016

WWW.ADVENTISTYOUTH.ORG.UK

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Fiftieth anniversary of Shrewsbury Church

Members and friends of the Shrewsbury church gathered together on Sabbath, 19 December, to celebrate fifty years of Christian witness in the town of Charles Darwin's birth. A morning carol service was followed by an afternoon programme focusing on the history and future of the church, over which long-time head elder, Peter Bayliss, presided. Eight pastors were present: the current pastoral team (Nenad Didara, Jeremy Johnson and Adriana Fodor); three former ministers (Len Lane, Richard Vine and Roger Neal); and Welsh Mission President, John Surrudge, who was pleased to be present to give encouragement to those who have worked so hard to keep a presence in Shrewsbury over the years. Pastor Kendall Down played the trumpet as part of a musical group during the event.

Peter Bayliss gave a fascinating account of the history of the church, from its humble origins above a chip shop to the acquisition of the present site and the construction of a building that maximised the use of the space available. Located in a flood plain, the church was carefully designed to resist the ingress of water. Peter recounted one occasion when, following heavy rains, the water reached right up to the bottom of the front door but did not enter. More important than the building, though, are the many people who have been part of the Shrewsbury church family over the years, and Peter went on to list many who have gone on to be powerful witnesses in different parts of the world.



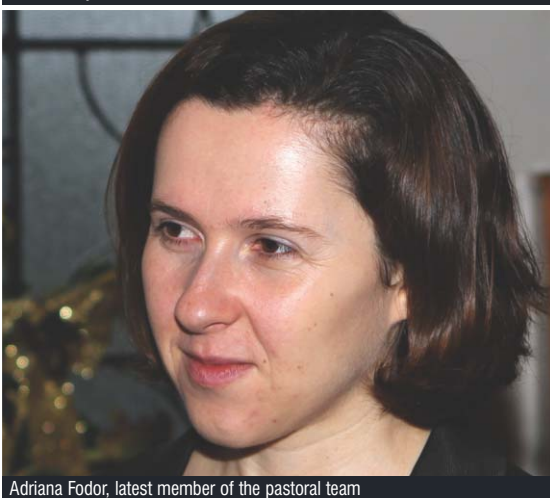
Shrewsbury members and friends



Peter Bayliss, elder of the Shrewsbury church



Local member, Veronica Hill



Adriana Fodor, latest member of the pastoral team

Duncan Bayliss, Peter's son, presented some thoughtful ideas on the future of the church. After analysing the nature of Shrewsbury itself – the quiet and stable county town of Shropshire – Duncan posed some challenging questions regarding the nature and mission of the Adventist church in such a setting. He concluded with a statement that is applicable to all our churches: 'We are here to speak the truth and to stand up to opposing views, such as evolution and consumerism. We can do this by demonstrating a holistic approach to Christianity, including Sabbath rest, a healthy lifestyle, and our belief in a kingdom of God which will never end.'

The beautiful flowers, candles, and decorations provided and arranged by local member, Veronica Hill, and an excellent buffet lunch prepared by the ladies of the church all added to the success of the event.

VERONICA DOWN (CHURCH CLERK)



Leeds Central Community Services

Last year was a productive one for the Community Services department of Leeds Central Church. Among the many activities conducted for both church members and the local community were visits to nursing/residential homes, where worship services for residents and staff were appreciated. They were supported in these visits by the Adventurer club.

The department has also been the church's social hub by organising the annual cultural evening/fund-raising event, showcasing the cuisine and talents of the many nationalities who attend the church.

It also hosted the senior citizens' Christmas meal, where church members and people from the community enjoyed a meal, singing and fellowship together.

V. MAYNARD

Still a witness at 94!

Américo Matute Quindés was born on 22 October, 1922 in Chiclayo, Peru.

An accountant by profession, Américo and his wife Lydia have been blessed with three daughters. In 1998 he joined the Adventist church in Miraflore, Lima, and has been a faithful member ever since. He is now attending Woodford Green Church in London, where he enthusiastically sings in Spanish whenever he recognises a tune! Although at 94 he is the oldest member at Woodford Green, Américo is active in a new venture for Christ – the Spanish mission group in Buckhurst Hill.



KHAMA MENYERE



Camp Hill sees in the New Year

On the last day of 2015 members, old and young, gathered at Camp Hill Church for a service and all-night social event. Songs were sung and testimonies shared of how God had blessed throughout the year. The children demonstrated their Bible knowledge as the quizmaster, Pastor Herbert, tested them and handed out prizes.

Pastor Herbert's message, based on Psalm 124, was followed by Camp Hill's 'all-nighter' – an opportunity for all age groups to see in the New Year in keeping with our Christian ethos. At least a hundred people will remember this social occasion for a long time to come because of the games, the fireworks, the fun and the laughter.

The fellowship set the tone for Camp Hill and its plans for 2016. The very next day the members began 31 days of prayer and fasting, full of confidence in the Lord and what He will do during 2016.

NATAILE SUTHERLAND



significant contribution the 'golden agers' continue to make to the church. The event was made even more special when guest speaker, Pastor Patrick Boyle, was reunited with Croydon's members after more than 20 years since he last pastored there.

It was a joy for the young as well as the 'golden agers' to show appreciation for the twin gifts of longevity and faithfulness to God.

LEE WHITE



Croydon's 'Golden Age Day'

On 17 October 2015 Croydon Church hosted its tenth annual 'Golden Age Day' to mark the



Hackney's Christmas cheer

The year 2015 ended in the same way as it had begun, with members of the Hackney church's Personal Ministries department witnessing to the local community. On various Sabbaths throughout the year, members of the team had visited residents of the local Mary Seacole Nursing Home. * During the visit the Hackney Personal Ministries director, Cheryl Daley, presented the nursing team with gifts for the residents, given with the 'Christmas spirit in mind', and with the hope that they would be 'a blessing to all who receive them'.

The members then ended their visit by spreading some Christmas cheer throughout the nursing home, singing carols to the residents and offering prayers for those who requested them.

DARELL PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

*Mary Seacole (1805-1881) was a nurse from Jamaica who offered assistance to sick and wounded British soldiers during the Crimean War (1854-1856), often at risk to her own life.



From left to right: Valerie Murray, Cheryl Daley (Hackney SDA PM Director), Lois Sackey (Rehab Assistant at Mary Seacole Nursing Home), Mary Seacole resident (in wheelchair) and two Mary Seacole nursing team staff

Go-Kart Sunday results

Go-Kart Sunday was the last youth event of 2015 for the NEC. Youth came from near and far for what would prove to be a fun-filled and enjoyable event. There were the Leicester Central Underdogs, The Bulls + 1, Squires Cool Runnings 2, Bradford Bulls, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Burnsville F1 Team, Carterknowle, Team 1 and the TYPE R Boyz – all vying to be the top go-karting team on the day. The race format was a 60-minute race with two to three drivers per team. Each team had to do a minimum of two stops and the team with the most laps at the end of 60 minutes would be the winner.

At the pre-race briefing we were told what all the different coloured flags mean and the penalties that we would incur for failing to obey them. We then headed to the track for the warm-up session and then the race. It was a grid start and then away we went – ten go-karts, a winding track and lots of ego in the air. The driving skills on display would have made Lewis Hamilton quake in his shoes as the go-karts raced around at full speed. There were spinouts for those more eager to press the accelerator than the brake around the corners. The 60 minutes flew by and before long we were watching the last few laps in



a two-horse race between The Bulls + 1 (Michael Bull, Danielle Bull and Lyndon Sweeney) and the TYPE R Boyz (Aaron Stewart, Graham Harvey and Jason Edwards) that came right down to the last few laps. Despite some confusion about the seemingly random sin-binning of teams at the very end of the race, the TYPE R Boyz finished as the race winners with The Bulls +1 coming in a close second. Leicester Central Underdogs took third place on the podium.

All in all it was a great day, full of good fun, fellowship, banter and good memories, and we look forward to the next go-kart day.

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN (NEC YOUTH LEADER)



Pastor Jacques Venter with Amy Cornwall, Luke Stickland and Ben Elias



Deelan Espinal



Purity Gekara



Manchester Southern Asia dedications

On 2 January, the first Sabbath of the year, the following members of the Manchester Southern Asia church were ordained to serve the Lord by Pastor Fred Mapp: Sanjay Sathe (elder), Sweetie Kanddina (deaconess) and Anthony Bazroy (deacon).

DIAMOND SATHE (COMMUNICATION)

Baptisms at Stanborough Park

There were very few baptisms at Stanborough Park Church during 2015, as the development presented a large number of problems in organising such events. After returning to the main building with its new facilities we did not have to wait long – only a month – before the new baptismal font saw its first use on 5 December.

The first candidate was Amy Cornwall, the daughter of one of the church elders, who is planning to study dentistry. She was followed by Luke Stickland and Ben Elias (the grandsons of Brian and Cecelia Davison), who were both baptised by Luke's father, Pastor Nathan Stickland. Both boys have grandfathers who were associated with the Adventist Discovery Centre and they currently help out in the Audiovisual Department of the Stanborough church.

Just over a month later the pool was used again as two further candidates were baptised by senior pastor, Jacques Venter: Mrs Purity Gekara and Deelan Espinal. Purity has been studying with Pastor Mary Barrett and the Scripture lesson before her immersion was read by her two young children, while Deelan's mother read his favourite passage to the congregation.

The pool will be earning its keep as more baptisms will soon follow.

JUNE COOMBS

IMPACT Barnsley

'I remember you,' the young man said. 'We talked the last time you were here.' Having commuted into Barnsley for a night shift, he was browsing the market while waiting for the first train home. He wasn't the only one to recognise us; we'd only been at the market four times before, but already we were becoming familiar with members of the community.

This is all part of the IMPACT Barnsley outreach, an Area 3 Youth initiative of the NEC Youth Department. A year before, young people in the area (Huddersfield, Scarborough, Doncaster and Chesterfield) had agreed to focus their evangelistic effort on Barnsley, with the local congregation's support.

God's timing is perfect. It cannot be coincidence that the date set for the initial outreach was the day Barnsley members had their annual market stall to raise funds for ADRA. They invited the youth to share the stand, and use it as a base for their community questionnaires. This offered them a real opportunity to interact with the community.

Over the next few months we held several events at the market stall: free vegetarian food sampling as part of National Veggie Week, along with invitations to attend a follow-up taster event at the local church; giving away free bottles of water to passers-by, along with health tracts and Adventist Discovery Centre course brochures.

The evangelistic outreach took place at a newly-built secondary school, and lasted three weeks with six youth as presenters. Other youth helped as greeters, leading out with ice-breakers, or manning the registration desk. Visitor numbers were low, but there were one or two familiar faces from our market outreach, and the local members supported enthusiastically. The presentations were thought-provoking and a warm, lively atmosphere filled the venue.

We saw God move in unexpected ways throughout the outreach. Those leading the project learned valuable lessons, and the young people were overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and support of local church members. From coming out to help run market stalls to housing the volunteers, their burden for the local community and friendly encouragement made all the difference. The commitment of the young people was also inspiring; more than 40 of them came from at least seven different churches over the course of the project.

But perhaps the greatest lesson was how easy it can be to make connections for God. Though the campaign turnout was lower than we'd hoped, many contacts were made with whom the church has plans to keep in touch.

TAMARA MUROIWA



Great Yarmouth makes an impact

For several years now, the Great Yarmouth church has held a special candlelight Christmas service to which members of the local community have been invited, along with other friends we have made. At first, there was really no response from the immediate community, but now we have them turning up for this annual service.

It was after we staged a Queen's Jubilee street party in 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee that we launched two ongoing projects. The first was a monthly newsletter called 'The Link', which we circulate in the surrounding neighbourhood. Through this medium we have been able to showcase the Adventist Church through various articles about both our local and worldwide activity. It is also used to advertise events in our local church, to which the public are invited. The second project has been a series of bi-monthly vegetarian cooking classes and other health-related seminars. These have proved popular and the result is that during last year's Christmas candlelight service we counted 19 non-members in attendance.

The carol service was a wonderful blend of rousing carols, various items of beautifully rendered sacred music and a Christ-centred sermonette, during which the audience were invited to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. A special collection raised £125.87 towards building a local hospice. After the service, everyone was invited upstairs to socialise and enjoy mulled Norfolk punch (non-alcoholic) and homemade mince pies.

Another event to which we invited several more-established friends, mainly from our health programmes, was our annual evening meal at a local restaurant. We have been doing this as well for a number of years.

Interestingly, we also had quite a number of people from our community attend our New Year's social evening in January. Despite the inclement weather and a number of our members being unable to attend due to a rather bad virus doing the rounds, it turned out to be a very enjoyable evening of fun and laughter. In fact, there were more non-members present than members that evening!

Thank God that a few of these friends now attend our church: some occasionally on Sabbath, while two others regularly come to our weekly prayer meeting.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Rededication at the Upper Room

On 19 December last year Pastor Paul Haworth conducted a special marriage rededication service at the Upper Room church in Nottingham. Ten couples were involved in this beautiful and touching service – including one couple who had been married for more than 40 years.

NELSON LONGWE



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NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
Parenting Weekend AREA 7

'The ABC of Parenting' with Pastor Keith Boldeau

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and with all your soul and with all your strength [your entire being]. These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be [written] on your heart and mind. You shall teach them diligently to your children, [impressing God's precepts on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths] and shall speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up. Deut. 6:5-7 (AMP)

FRI. 21st Oct. 7pm - 9pm; Leicester Central SDA Church, London Road (Corner of University Road). LE2 3EF	SAT. 22nd Oct. 9:30am - 6:30pm; Leicester West SDA Church (Robert Hall Baptist Church) 147 Narborough Rd. LE3 0PD	SUN. 23rd Oct. 10am - 4pm; Leicester Central SDA Church, London Road (Corner of University Road). LE2 3EF
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Please bring your packed lunch. Contact 0115 9606 312 or visit www.necadventist.org.uk

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NEC
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRAINING

SUN, 20th March, 10am - 5pm
Pendeford SDA Church
Rye-field, Pendeford, Wolverhampton WV9 1UD

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For Pastors, Bible Workers, Elders, and the entire Local Children's Ministries Team. Please notify the NEC CM Department of the number that will attend from your church. Lunch will be provided.

Contact NEC Children's Ministries on 0115 9606 312
www.necadventist.org.uk

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Women of Virtue
ONE is a WHOLE NUMBER
Completeness in Christ - Celebrating the Journey

DATE: Sunday, 24 April 2016
VENUE: Stratford Manor, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 0PY
COST: £30
REGISTRATION: 9.15am
PROGRAMME: 10.00am - 5.00pm

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Unlock Your Potential

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Sponsored by: Luton Central Women's Ministries
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SCAN FOR BOOKINGS

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[Desire of Ages p.75]

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ORDER YOUR 'COMING OF AGE' PACK TODAY
The Coming of Age Service is copyrighted by Pastor Patricia Douglas © 2015

Contact NEC Children's Ministries or Pathfinders on 0115 9606 312

Saturday 4th June 2016 (at your local church)
www.necadventist.org.uk

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Alumnus joins Newbold's team

Newbold recently welcomed alumnus Pastor Jude Jeanville to its recruitment, marketing and sales team. Pastor Jeanville graduated from Newbold in 1991, and has 15 years' experience in ministerial and leadership positions in the North England Conference (NEC), in addition to eight years spent as an associate pastor and Director for Admissions and Recruitment Management at the University of the Southern Caribbean in Trinidad.

Pastor Jeanville, a great supporter of Adventist education, completed a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry at Newbold, and will defend his Doctor of Ministry thesis in preaching at North Park University (Chicago, USA) in March this year.

Pastor Jeanville said that his theological training and passion for ministry are not incompatible with promoting Adventist education. Quoting Ellen G. White, he said, 'The work of Christian education and redemption are one.' He believes that Christian universities are particularly important because they provide a safe, supportive environment for our youth in search of higher education.

Pastor Jeanville considers his new assignment a joyous challenge. 'It is my wish that Newbold be desired, owned, cherished, and above all be relevant to the members of the Church for whom it was intended,' he said. 'My vision is that in three years' time, 50 of the 260 churches in the BUC alone will be sponsoring at least one student for a degree at Newbold. We must be intentional about saving our families, our communities and our institutions.'

Newbold College of Higher Education is the senior higher education institution in the Trans-European Division and it offers undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in Theology, undergraduate degrees in Business Studies and Liberal Arts, and a strong programme in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Visit the website at www.newbold.ac.uk for more information.

KIRSTY WATKINS



Pathfinder Day at Luton Central

We heard the Pathfinders before we saw them, as the drum corps from Luton Central got them marching into church – Eager Beavers, Adventurers and Pathfinders – in time with the beating of their drums.

The young people looked smart in their uniforms as they presented their colours to the Pathfinder leaders: Cynthia Goodman (Watford Town Church), Cassandra Burton (Area 6D co-ordinator) and Mr Douglas (Pathfinder leader, Luton Central).

The Adventurers and Pathfinders then repeated their pledges and laws and each group sang their theme song.

One of the youngest Adventurers, Yaneil Williams, prayed the opening prayer, followed by the Pathfinders who led out in praise and worship.

Both Pathfinders and Adventurers had an activity-packed year and we were shown pictures of these during the annual review of 2015.

The Pathfinders and Adventurers then conducted the worship service, reciting the scriptures they had learnt during the year, and delivering monologues on various Bible characters: Joseph and his enslavement in Egypt; the prophet Nathan on the complexity and wonder of David's character; Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus; and the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, the Hebrew men 'forged through fire'. The Pathfinders then followed that up with the Pathfinder camporee theme song, 'Forged Through Fire'.

The investiture service is always the culmination of the work and activities undertaken during the year, and numerous Adventurers and Pathfinders were invested that day, watched admiringly by Pathfinders from Luton Central, Luton North and Stevenage. The service concluded with fellowship lunch in the Charlotte Evett hall.

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obituaries

Ralph Walter Simms (1930-2015) d. 19 October. Ralph was born in Watford to Kate and Walter Simms. They, along with his sister Sylvia, lived in the house his father built in Sheepcote Lane, Garston, Watford.

After attending Garston Primary School, Ralph moved to Stanborough Park Secondary School. His working life began at the Granose Foods factory, where he met his future wife, Ethel Coates (later known as Mary). With the help of both their fathers, Walter Simms and Bill Coates, the couple built their own bungalow in Bricket Wood, and were married on 29 July, 1954, at the Stanborough Park church. They were later blessed with two children, Sylvia and John.

Ralph had a full and varied working career, which eventually took the family to live in East Sussex. It was here that Ralph became manager of a company producing tar linings for oil pipelines across the North Sea and in the deserts of the Far East.

Ralph retired at sixty, allowing them a long and happy retirement together and the chance to enjoy special times with family – especially their grandchildren David, Claire, Emma and Tom, and, more recently, great-granddaughter, Faith.

In retirement Mary and Ralph attended the Eastbourne church in Polegate, where he played an active part in church life.

A few years ago he fell, breaking his hip. This was followed by two strokes and the diagnosis of Parkinson's disease. This brought challenging times for them both. However, with Mary's love and care and their faith in God, life was still precious.

In late September 2015, they decided to take some respite care together in nearby Burrwood House Nursing Home. While there, just a few weeks later, Ralph passed away peacefully.

The funeral service and committal at the Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Tunbridge Wells, was attended by family and close friends. The service was conducted by Pastor Leslie Hill. In his address, Pastor Hill reminded us of the encouraging words of Romans 8, underscoring the fact that even death cannot separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We eagerly await the blessed hope – the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The family would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to Pastor Leslie Hill and to all who attended the service, and for the many kind words and expressions of sympathy received following their sad loss.

JENNIE GALLAHER



Joseph Evans Fenton (1921-2015) d. 16 November. Joseph Evans Fenton (affectionately known as Dandan to his grandchildren) was born on 10 March 1921 in Salem, West

Montserrat, to Aaron and Mabel Fenton, who were both Seventh-day-Adventists. He was the fourth of nine children: seven boys and two girls.

Growing up in Montserrat was hard, but he had a happy childhood. From an early age he would help his father grow vegetables, faithfully returning the tithe on any he was able to sell.

As a young man he travelled to and worked in many West Indian countries, sometimes as a musician, playing the saxophone in a band that played to soldiers and famous dignitaries. Joseph never forgot his family and would regularly send money home for his mother and any family members who were in need.

On one of his many journeys he co-founded the first Seventh-day Adventist church in Blizard, east of St Johns in Antigua.

In March 1955 he came to England to join his younger brother, Samuel, and it was on that ship that he met Jane Ann Blake, who would later become his wife. They were married in the spring of 1958 and they soon had a son, Vernon, and a daughter, called Serener. Unfortunately, Jane fell ill, and when there were no signs that she would regain her strength she returned to Montserrat, where she was looked after by her loving family. Joe remained in England to raise his two young children as a single parent and relied heavily on the church community and close friends and family to help him through those difficult times. He never for one moment,

however, forgot Jane.

He held a number of jobs, but found his true calling when he became a literature evangelist, selling Christian books for the British Union between 1972 and 1985. He always spoke fondly about his colporteur experience. He was even offered the position of Publishing Director, which he had to decline because of his parental responsibilities.

He was a proud member of the Brixton Seventh-day Adventist church for 60 years, from its humble beginnings at the town hall, until its current location at Santley Street. In that time he held a number of senior positions, from the head of Personal Ministries to head elder. As a talented singer he regularly performed in the church choir and with other musical groups.

Although small in stature, his charisma made him larger than life. He loved social gatherings and always made people feel welcome, going out of his way to listen and offer guidance to those that needed it most. He was the master of ceremonies at many weddings, had the pleasure of giving away many brides and encouraged many into the ministry. He also had his own impeccable style which included his trademark signature bow ties, which he would wear every Sabbath.

He lived to more than fourscore and ten years as a result of his healthy lifestyle.

He leaves behind six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, many nieces and nephews and a huge family in Christ.

LIONEL FENTON

Jean Baker (1944-2016) d. 1 January. In 1963, Jean and her fiancé, Philip Baker, responded to a leaflet advertising a series of Bible studies at Bilston Town Hall in the West Midlands, conducted by Pastor Bryan Ball. A year later they were baptised and received into fellowship at Oxford Street Church, Wolverhampton, and in 1966 they were married by Pastor Ball.

They both served in various offices: Philip as elder and Sabbath School teacher, and Jean as church treasurer. She also served the church faithfully as a cleaner for several years. Later they transferred to Cannock Church, where they were blessed by the ministries of Pastor Pat Douglas and Elder John Rosier.

Following the death of their newborn baby daughter in 1970 they fostered several children, including baby Tracy in 1975, whom they adopted in 1989. Life

was not easy, with Phil being made redundant twice – the second time after working for Granose Foods for eight years. Sadly, he died of cancer in 2001 at the age of 59.

Jean also suffered in her health, from type 1 diabetes, but in 2004 was miraculously healed after two brain haemorrhages. Her story appeared in the *MESSENGER* at the time. Ill health and reduced mobility, due to arthritis, prevented her attendance at church in recent years, but she kept in touch with several members of both her former churches and was blessed by their friendship and support.

She recently moved to be nearer to her daughter Tracy, son-in-law Dan, and two lovely grandchildren, Anya and Frazer, who were a great help to her. They will miss her greatly, as will her sister and brother-in-law, Pam and Neville Greaves, and their family, as well as the many friends who will remember her kindness and cheerfulness – even through the difficult times when her faith in God sustained her.

We look forward to a reunion with Jean, Phil and baby Karen one day.

TRACY LOWE

Corrigendum: *MESSENGER* 12 February contained an article (p. 10) that should have welcomed Pastor Andrew Willis into his new role as *BUC News* Editor. We apologise for any confusion.

Messenger

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	London	Cardiff	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
Feb 26	5.35	5.47	5.36	5.39	5.53
Mar 4	5.47	5.59	5.49	5.54	6.07
11	5.59	6.11	6.02	6.09	6.21
18	6.11	6.23	6.15	6.23	6.34

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AND THERE WAS WAR

Written & Directed by Jermaine Wong

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