

# Messenger

News to the churches • 10 March 2017 • Volume 122 • 05

## The SEC's first diversity conference

by Pastor Victor Hulbert and Natasha Mirilov

The South England Conference (SEC) ran its first diversity conference at Oxford Seventh-day Adventist Church on 25-26 November last year.

Event convener, Sophia Nicholls, SEC Diversity and Disability Ministries Director, noted that a church should be a place where everyone feels a sense of purpose, belonging and ministry. This, she said, 'must include open and frank discussions around diversity'. That is exactly what happened in a series of meetings that covered the issues of diversity in biblical and Adventist history, how the church relates to equality issues in current legislation, how theological diversity works in practice, and a somewhat controversial discussion around issues of diversity, the Church and sexuality.

Even the worship periods demonstrated diversity – both in the mix of singers and in the choice of music. Diversity was further demonstrated by having the event 'signed' for the hearing impaired, a group that is often neglected in our worship activities.

Friday night focused on history as retired church administrator, Pastor Reinder Bruinsma, led his attentive audience on a rapid journey through church history from the diversity of the New Testament to that of the Protestant Reformation. He explained how this then grew into the myriad modern forms of Christianity, including the diversity – theological, social and cultural – that is currently found within the Adventist Church.

A strong emphasis of his presentation was

the way that early Adventists grew out of a variety of backgrounds into what, by 1863, became the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While there was a common emphasis on core beliefs it was 1872 before there were '25 articles' that shared the basics of the Adventist faith. In 1980 this was formulated into our 27 Fundamental Beliefs. A 28th was added in 2005, with some revisions in 2015.

'Above all,' Bruinsma argued, 'we must learn from history.' He stated that 'Diversity is not only inevitable but necessary and positive in any living organism, and, therefore, also in the body of Christ. As we learn to live together and exchange points of view, we grow in our understanding of each other.'

The theme was continued on Sabbath morning at the Oxford church, where Trans-European Division Field Secretary, Dr Daniel Duda, described diversity as part of the restoration process which God initiated after the Fall, throughout the Old Testament and through the ministry of Jesus. He then continued to describe Jesus as a Bridge Builder, clarifying that, by empowering others to reach their full potential, God's job is being completed. 'When we see the world as us versus them, in and out, we are on the side of the devil regardless of theology,' explained Duda.

In the interactive workshop on Sabbath afternoon, conducted by solicitor, Chucks Golding, and Valerie Brown, everyday diversity issues that can arise at a workplace or school were brought up. The speakers assessed how

the law influences the church and how the church acts towards the legal aspects of society.

This then led to the topic of sexuality within the church, with Bruinsma explaining the importance of thinking about the concept of homosexuality, which churches and members are struggling with. He stressed that it is crucial for us to look at this issue from a pastoral care perspective. 'We have all kinds of people who have issues and we must be understanding,' said Bruinsma. 'We must make the church a safe church.'

This then led to a panel discussion, chaired by Pastor Jacques Venter, at which attendees had the opportunity to ask questions about any issues discussed during the conference.

The diversity weekend finished on a tasteful note when Dr Leonard and Monica Bowora of the Health Ministries team in Oxford provided a short informal presentation on 'Culture and Health', followed by an opportunity for some wholesome food sampling, while learning about cultural differences and their effect on what we eat.

Tihomir and Kart Lazić, from Newbold College, then ended the event with a concert that embraced a diverse range in music styles through which many were blessed. Sophia Nicholls, in her thanks to all who helped launch the conference, reiterated the mission of this ministry when she said: 'Diversity is about enrichment, about building the body of Christ and accepting that we are all different and one in Christ, made in His image.'





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# editorial

On 16 February, the US President held a press conference in which he scolded the media for their dissemination of 'fake news', saying: 'I can handle a bad story better than anybody, as long as it's true, . . . But I'm not OK when it's fake.'<sup>1</sup> Which, I suppose, is how most of us feel when confronted with information that is blatantly false and obviously intended to embarrass us.

Whether you call it 'false' or 'fake', the manufacture of inaccurate and misleading news is a rapidly growing 'industry' through which unscrupulous people create instability, further their political objectives and make money. If you are in doubt about this read 'Fake news: an insidious trend that's fast becoming a global problem'.<sup>2</sup> (It was also covered in my editorial of 4 November, 2016.)

## April 1

There was a time when newspapers and national broadcasters appeared committed to objective and unbiased reporting. You could trust them to tell the truth – with but one exception – that special report each year on 1 April! The one that sounded just a little too good to be true; that often needed a second read before you were convinced that it was their April Fool's Day contribution. There have been some whoppers over the years and here are two classic examples.

On 1 April, 1984, the *Orlando Sentinel* reported on the Tasmanian Mock Walrus, or TMW for short. Apparently many in Florida were adopting the unusual creatures as pets. They were 'four inches long, resembled a walrus, purred like a cat, and had the temperament of a hamster'. Furthermore, what really made it 'such an ideal pet' was that it didn't need bathing, 'used a litter box, and ate cockroaches'. The report went on to claim that 'a single TMW could entirely rid a house of its cockroach problem.' The result was that dozens of readers contacted the paper to find out where they could get their own Tasmanian Mock Walrus!<sup>3</sup>

## The 'Swiss Spaghetti Harvest'

On the same date in 1957, the BBC's *Panorama* series broadcast a film clip 'purporting to show Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti, in what they called the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest'. The broadcaster was taken by complete surprise when it found itself flooded with requests to purchase spaghetti plants! It was so bad that they had to 'declare the film a hoax on the news the next day'.<sup>4</sup> Many years later CNN referred to this broadcast as 'the biggest hoax that any reputable news establishment ever pulled'.<sup>5</sup>

## Not after midday!

April Fool's Day hoaxers have through the years generally abided by one simple rule: **no hoaxing after midday!** Today, however, those behind the tsunami of fake news that swirls through our media in general, and our social media in particular, are a law unto themselves. They will spare nothing and no one, and are constantly on the offensive.

The harsh reality is that the world has drastically changed due to the internet, and will continue to do so. This, in itself, is not bad. For it allows us to tell the Gospel story to an ever-widening audience, many of whom are searching for something better. It has allowed our message to bypass the many religious and ideological 'gatekeepers' who previously hindered its circulation. This new freedom we have to tell our story is also an opportunity for others to tell theirs without interference, and as often as they choose.

On the other hand, this easy and inexpensive internet access has allowed 'pseudo-journalism' to flourish, of which the intentional generation of so-called 'fake news' is but one outcome. Fortunately, not everyone who circulates their take on what is happening around them is producing dodgy reports. Far from it, for their material could be super-accurate eyewitness reporting – the type that the networks would love to get their hands on. It does mean, however, that what they report is a **single perspective** that needs **corroboration** and **verification**, which is typically what is done by a team (of reporters, researchers and editors) in a news agency.

There is a point to be made from this situation. Gone are the days that we can risk a naïve and trusting approach to the media in all its forms, particularly what is generated on the internet. The ethos that drives many elements within the media should make us wary of their output; and our **default position** towards what we see, hear and read should be one of **healthy scepticism**.

## Validation and corroboration

We need to seek **validation** and **corroboration** before laying that scepticism aside, and should guide our members to do the same. Perhaps this lightly edited biblical story illustrates the point.

King David waits anxiously for news from the battlefield. In the distance he sees two tired runners approaching. Ahimaaz arrives first, with the Cushite hard on his heels (2 Samuel 18, NKJV, emphasis supplied).

'Is the young man Absalom safe?' calls the King.

'When Joab sent the king's servant and me your servant, I saw a great tumult, **but I did not know what it was about.**' Ahimaaz's answer is a half-truth, for he had personally witnessed Absalom's murder!

'Turn aside and stand here,' says David, as he waits for **corroboration from the Cushite.**

Moments later he is there and blurts out, 'There is good news, my lord the king! **For the Lord has avenged you this day of all those who rose against you.**' A lump is forming in David's throat, but he wants a direct answer about his son's fate.

Impatiently he asks again, 'Is the young man Absalom safe?'

'**May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise against you to do harm, be like that young man!**'

At last David has the brutal **corroborated truth**. His son is dead!



<sup>1</sup><http://money.cnn.com/2017/02/16/media/media-bashing-donald-trump-press-conference/>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/media/2016/dec/02/fake-news-facebook-us-election-around-the-world>

<sup>3</sup><http://hoaxes.org/aprilfool>

<sup>4</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April\\_Fools'\\_Day](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_Fools'_Day)

<sup>5</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spaghetti-tree\\_hoax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spaghetti-tree_hoax)



**Julian Hibbert**  
Editor

## Enhancing Health

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

### Managing your well-being – part 1

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) provides guidance and advice on improving standards for health and social care.

One of their recommendations for managing well-being is that people be encouraged to make use of NHS Health Checks. Highlighting the importance of this, they state:

'Successfully implementing NHS Health Checks may help reduce chronic illnesses and avoidable premature mortality, as well as the health and social care costs related to long-term ill health and disability.'<sup>1</sup>

- According to the latest research,
- for every 27 people who have an NHS Health Check, one is diagnosed with high blood pressure;
  - for every 110 people who have a Health Check, one is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes;
  - for every 265 people having such checks, one is diagnosed with kidney disease;
  - the above were identified almost three times more often in people who had an NHS Health Check than in those who did not.<sup>2</sup>

#### So what's involved in an NHS Health Check?<sup>3</sup>

- This assessment is a free check-up of your overall health, and takes around 20-30 minutes.
- It can tell you whether you're at higher risk of developing certain health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease.
- The health professional undertaking the assessment will ask some

simple questions about your lifestyle and family history, measure your height and weight, take your blood pressure and do a blood test.

- Based on the outcome of the assessment, you are given a risk score, which is an estimate of how likely you are to develop illnesses such as heart disease, kidney disease and diabetes, or have a stroke in the future.
- Personalised advice is given in relation to your score, which entails information on how to lower your risk with lifestyle changes. This includes advice such as dietary improvement, increasing physical activity, weight management, smoking cessation and stress management.
- If over 65, you will be informed about dementia and the signs and symptoms to look out for.
- Individuals aged 40-74 who haven't had a stroke, or do not have heart disease, diabetes or kidney disease, should have an NHS Health Check every five years.
- Any follow-up tests or appointments are also free of charge.

#### Action:

- Monitor your blood pressure, cholesterol, weight and waist measurement.
- Get a Health Check if you have not had one recently.

#### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.nice.org.uk/advice/lgb15/chapter/introduction> <sup>2</sup><http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/nhs-health-check/Pages/Pros-and-cons-of-the-NHS-Health-Check.aspx> <sup>3</sup><http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/nhs-health-check/pages/what-is-an-nhs-health-check-new.aspx>



## How is your portrait coming on?

by Stephen Holden

Set up your easel and stretch your canvas as SKYARTS cracks open a fresh tube of paint to search for the *Portrait Artist of the Year!*

Joan Bakewell and Frank Skinner have returned to our screens to host the popular TV programme where three judges – an award-winning artist, an independent curator, and an art historian – explore the strengths and weaknesses of the competing artists' work. They aim to unearth real talent and give the contestants an amazing opportunity to get their work noticed by a wider audience.

**Making a Mark**, the top art blog for artists and art lovers, tells us there are to be nine episodes in all this year – the first of which transmitted on 24 January. Fifty-four artists have been selected to take part, from the many hundreds of self-portraits submitted for entry from amateurs, professionals, and those who are referred to as 'hobbyists'.

Each entrant is hoping to move through the nine heats to become 'Portrait Artist of the Year' – and receive a sizeable cheque for art materials, along with a £10,000 commission to paint a well-known celebrity's portrait, which will be displayed in the National Gallery of Ireland.

In each heat those with talent in a variety of different styles and mediums are given four hours to capture the likeness of the sitter.



During each televised segment of the series, the various stages of the development and progress of each painting is shown, along with informed comment from the judges.

The celebrity sitters are then shown the portraits and given the choice of which one to take home with them. They don't necessarily choose the one with the best likeness, but may choose the one they feel captures their personality best.

Wikipedia reveals that a well-executed portrait is expected to show the inner essence of the sitter – from the artist's point of view – and not just a literal likeness.

Aristotle, living around 350 BC, stated that 'the aim of art is to present not the outward appearance of things alone, but their inner significance, for this, not the external manner and detail, constitutes true reality.'

Edward Burne-Jones, painting in the 1850s, stated, 'The only expression allowable in great portraiture is the expression of character or moral quality, not anything temporary, fleeting or accidental.'

There is no doubt that the human face is more than the sum of its parts. Careful observation of the faces around us soon reveals more than the immediately obvious – it reveals emotions, attitudes, intentions and understanding – or the lack of it!

In a crowd we might search anxiously for

a familiar face until we spot a loved one or friend in the distance, which is always a reassuring and a welcome sight.

Even for those without sight, a picture can be formed through touch, with a sensitivity born of necessity. For the blind, a familiar face is recognisable from its shape, contour and expression without any input other than touch.

When a new baby is born, family members search the face to determine a family resemblance to one side of the family or the other. She has her mother's eyes – or he has his father's nose!

Often there is a striking resemblance to one side of the family, but not to the other. During development, however, other characteristics and mannerisms, and, eventually, preferences, attitudes and talents, are revealed. Then there are ways of thinking and speaking that reveal other links beyond just a visible likeness. Yet, at the same time, we are all unique – however closely we resemble other family members – which is true even for identical twins!

At the outset, God created. Working together in harmony, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit gave time to a project that gave them tremendous satisfaction – perfection. It was good – very good! 'Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature!' (Genesis 1:26, MSG.)

With a blank canvas, paint and a brush it's difficult for most of us to see a potential portrait. In the artist's hands, however, with the right mix of colour, shadow and highlight, and with an eye for detail and that ability to capture the inner character as well as the outer likeness, a striking resemblance can emerge.

It seems from the outset that the artist has a plan and a distinctive style in mind. It's as though he or she can visualise the end result before even 'making a mark', then steadily work towards the intended likeness in the allotted time.

God had a plan formed even before we were created. A plan to counter the sin and sinfulness that appeared so swiftly to disfigure and destroy His image in us.

In Psalm 51:10 (ESV) David prayed, 'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.'

Here the psalmist describes a creative act of transformation from the inside out. Truly God's highest artistic achievement since creation is the act of re-creation.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV 1998) says, 'And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.'

The Holy Spirit works, during the time allotted us, to remove all these facets of character that are unChristlike and therefore unrepresentative of Him, so that slowly but surely His likeness can be reflected in us.

A thought for today, then: Is that striking family resemblance visible in us yet?

Are those Christian virtues of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control evident in our lives and living? Is our portrait 'making its mark'?



## Write for God – how to get published

Pastor Richard Daly, BUC Communication and Media Director, shares the second half of his thoughts on writing for God.

In part 1, which was published in *Messenger*, issue no. 2, we explored how great an honour it is to write on behalf of God. To be able to pen words of encouragement and guidance, or to share your story of God's goodness so that others may benefit, is a wonderful form of ministry. The spoken word is relatively easy to forget, but the written word generally has a much longer lifespan. Throughout Scripture we read of God's angels imploring His servants to write down sacred history as a 'testament', thereby allowing the Holy Spirit to inspire others with it in years to come.

The question many people ask me is, how do I get published? Having been fortunate in having twelve books published, I can see the great benefits of having your work in print and in bookshops. However, a published book may not always be the main goal. Sometimes a lot of effort is made trying to get a book published, while other means of publishing are ignored. If what is important is sharing your written work with others, then there are several other ways to do this.

One of the best ways is by simply starting up a weekly devotional email. You build up your subscribers as the contacts increase. Here you can freely share your thoughts, insights and words through prose or poetry and get yourself into the discipline of writing on a regular basis. Writing an article for a magazine, newspaper or journal is also a way forward. Writing to be published requires that you believe in your work so much, and that the message is so important, that the mere excitement of it alone propels you to explore all avenues, regardless of the obstacles and barriers that



may emerge. So, do you believe that God has inspired you to write something amazing? Is there a book, article, or letter in your head that is bursting to be born? Like Jeremiah, can you say, 'But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not' (Jeremiah 20:9, NKJV)?

Listen to the psalmist David: 'My heart overflows with a good theme; I address my verses to the king; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.' (Psalm 102:18, NASB.)

David also points out the lasting legacy of writing when he says, 'This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.' (Psalm 102:18, NHEB.) It's an amazing thought that through your written work people yet to be born will one day read your words and be led to praise God. Which is why the Lord warns Habakkuk of procrastination when He says, 'Write the vision [your story] and make it plain . . . so he may run who reads it.' (Habakkuk 2:2, ESV.)

So now, once you have written up your ideas, poems or personal

however, to edit, proofread and possibly design the book cover. You will also have to market and sell the finished product. It takes dedication and commitment to see this through, but it can be done with success. Again, it's about believing in your book.

If you find a publisher who accepts your manuscript, that will take away the editing, proofreading and design stages mentioned above. The publisher invests in your manuscript at no cost to you and will market your book widely to ensure that it gets its financial return. As the author, you will get an agreed-upon royalty and the joy of seeing your book in the local bookshop with a minimum of stress for you. The whole process from acceptance to finished product is likely to take a minimum of nine months.

As mentioned before, getting a book published is a great accomplishment, but may not always be the sole target for wanting to write for God. There are several different avenues which you can explore to share with others what God has inspired you with. The first thing to be achieved is to begin. Just write! Don't wait for a rush of inspiration to appear, for that may not happen in a way you expect. Inspiration often comes once you take the first step of writing. The thoughts open up and words begin to flow, and you begin to see a clear channel through which the creative juices wish to flow. It happens when your mind is clear and your thoughts are in tune with God. The psalmist declares, 'Be still, and know that I am God.' (Psalm 46:10, KJV.)

May you create time this week to be still in the presence of God, and let His thoughts fill your mind to overflowing, so that they become 'like a burning fire shut up in your bones', so that you cannot hold back from writing them down.

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**Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference President, spoke recently to Cathy Boldeau about his 10-day visit to the ADRA-UK projects in Nepal.**

Sandwiched between the high Himalayan mountains and the steamy Indian plains, Nepal is a land of snow peaks and sherpas, yaks and yetis, monasteries and mantras. Nepal has been further described by the Lonely Planet website\* as a 'fluttering curtain of prayer flags' with images of monks with bowed heads in their sacred robes, 'sublime, silent, serene', with 'a constant backdrop of mountains'. It is home to most of the world's highest peaks, including Mount Everest, and hosts thousands of visitors every year.

But despite its romantic depiction in travel brochures and tourist websites, it is one of the world's poorest countries and relies heavily on both humanitarian aid and tourism. With a population of 31 million, Nepal's two main religions, Buddhism and Hinduism, dominate the cultural landscape.

It was into this environment that Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President and Chair of the Board of Trustees for ADRA-UK, travelled for 10 days in January this year to visit the ELIVES Project in Bara, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Mahottan in the Central Terai district of Nepal.

**CAB:** Pastor Sweeney, what was the main reason for your visit to Nepal earlier this year?  
**IS:** Cathy, the main reason was to experience 'first-hand' the frontline work and the benefits of the projects that are funded by ADRA-UK. As chair of the board, it is one of my privileges, every few years, to actively



ADRA has helped keep families together. The husband used to travel to Qatar and work for months on end to feed his wife and family. Now, because the goats are doing so well, he can stay at home and support his family.

participate in the humanitarian process that is part of the ethos of ADRA.

**CAB:** Please tell us a little about this particular project in Nepal.

**IS:** The project began on 15 April 2015 and it will enhance the livelihoods of 30,000 poor farming households in Central Terai.

**CAB:** So, how is ADRA-UK enhancing the livelihoods of these households?

**IS:** Through agriculture, specifically by enhancing crop production and livestock management.

**CAB:** I believe that you had an interesting experience with goats while out in Nepal.

**IS:** My experience with goats was very interesting. I witnessed a goat castration. Goat castration is extremely important in Nepal. They choose the most virile and strong male goats to breed, because it means that their offspring will also be strong and healthy. The remaining males are then castrated. You know, the sound of that castration was ringing in my ears for days – the piercing screams of those goats is not something you forget



These children were excited and happy to have strangers from ADRA-UK in their village.

easily – but the farmers are at least taught to complete the process humanely.

**CAB:** As well as strengthening the Nepalese farmers' capacity for goat production and management, what other outcomes are expected from the ELIVES project?

**IS:** ADRA-UK is also helping to establish the farmers' capacity to engage in vegetable production, while also assisting them and their local farmers' groups in business management and marketing. It's quite fascinating to witness the farmers working on the land, but also attending seminar sessions that will help to grow their businesses and improve their incomes. This will definitely help with food security in that region.

**CAB:** Women are often extremely vulnerable in developing countries. How does the ELIVES Project address this challenge?

**IS:** One of the outcomes of the ELIVES Project is the empowerment of women through dedicated activities in business literacy. It is really exciting to see the way the women, as well as the men, actively engage in meaningful business transactions that will enhance their lives and the lives of their families and communities.

**CAB:** What feelings did you experience when you were in Nepal?

**IS:** We really are extremely blessed here in the UK. The people that I met in Nepal are extremely poor. They don't have the luxuries that we take for granted in a developed country. Many of them are barely surviving, but they are friendly and extremely hospitable and gave me and the team a really warm welcome. To answer your question, I had feelings of immense gratitude, but I also felt very humbled to be a guest in their community.

**CAB:** As part of your trip to Nepal, you were involved in a filming project. What was the purpose of the film and when will it be released?

**IS:** The recording of their projects in both photographic and video format is an essential part of the accountability of any organisation, because it allows both donors and funders alike to see how and where their money is



I was speaking with some of the ladies of a village goat club.

being spent. Footage from the frontlines of these humanitarian projects helps us when we are raising funds in the future, while also assisting us in our ongoing assessments and final evaluation. I understand from the film company that the documentary video will be released in early spring, and I'm really looking forward to seeing it.

**CAB:** The ELIVES Project in Nepal is one of those that will benefit from the funds generated by the ADRA-UK 2017 Annual Appeal. After visiting the project, is there any particular message that you would like to give to those who might want to get involved in fund-raising?

**IS:** Having visited the country and spent time with the people, I can honestly say that ADRA-UK is really making a difference in the lives of some of the world's poorest people. This year's Annual Appeal runs from 24 March. If you are able to, you can sign up to be a door-to-door fund-raiser. You will need to register with the ADRA agent in your local church. You could also get involved in the many sponsored activities – such as the yearly ADRA Fun Run organised by the South England Conference. I've heard that one church even hosts a bake off in aid of ADRA each year. And if, for some reason, you are



Having helped farmers to increase their crops, ADRA provides literacy, business and marketing classes to the ladies. Here are some of the beneficiaries from a small village in the Sarlahi district.

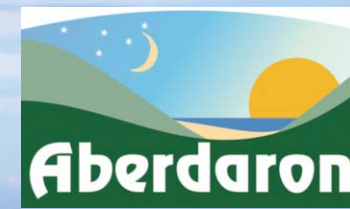
unable to participate in any of these activities, you can donate online. All you need to do is go to their website, [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk).

**CAB:** Are there any last words you have for the *MESSENGER* readers?

**IS:** This year ADRA-UK would like to raise £750,000 from all the activities associated with the Annual Appeal, including the door-to-door fund-raiser. You can help us to raise these funds by getting involved, because 'A life does not get better by chance; it gets better by change.' Help us to make that change!

\*[www.lonelyplanet.com/nepal](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/nepal)

# Aberdaron



## Only the best

Aberdaron Camp, for over 50 years the home of happy memories – of family, youth and teen camps and various reunions – has introduced seven new exciting residential retreats for 2017.

Each retreat is a blend of presentations and practical one-to-one guidance from an expert in their own area of specialisation, combined with quality food, good accommodation, relaxation/social times, and an opportunity to individually recharge in the peace and tranquillity that is found in this area of outstanding natural beauty.

For 2017, the retreats will cover craftwork, flower arranging, health improvement and a 'ladies only getaway'.

To ensure quality individual tuition time and accommodation, each retreat is limited to just 24 places, to be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

With 'blue chip' leaders in attendance, giving personal individual tuition, demand is expected to exceed availability, so do not delay in registering your interest.

Craftwork will include papercraft, stencilling, and beading with Sara Naumann and Carolyn Schulz; flower arranging with Audrey Balderstone; and health improvement and a 'ladies only' getaway led by Sharon Platt-McDonald.

All four course leaders are much in demand to share their knowledge and expertise, and we feel really privileged that they have chosen to spend time with us at Aberdaron this year.

Working on the principle of Aberdaron delivering the best possible, all four course leaders for 2017 are quite simply the best there are. Meet and learn from them in the peace and tranquillity that is found at Aberdaron.

These retreats are a unique opportunity to learn from the best, all acknowledged leaders in their area of expertise. We hope you will be able to join us.

For enquiries and bookings please contact the Aberdaron management at 01758 760281 or [enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com](mailto:enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com).



### Audrey Balderstone:

Audrey has become known in the church and beyond as 'The Flower Lady', not only for her flower displays, but also for her sermons in which she uses floral art to demonstrate powerful messages from the Bible. She loves to share her passion for flowers through flower festivals, workshops and seminars. Audrey has achieved first place in all but one of every competition she has entered, with her most prestigious award so far coming in 2015 when she and her colleague were awarded a Gold Medal at the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show at her first attempt! She has demonstrated in Australia, the USA, many parts of Europe and the UK, where her flower arrangements have graced St Albans Abbey, Canterbury Cathedral, and Westminster Abbey – to mention a few. Audrey has also been President of the Home Counties area of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies, and has been Assistant Editor of the *Flower Arranger* magazine.



### Sharon Platt McDonald\*:

Sharon is the Director for Health, Women's Ministries and Community Services for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. As a motivational speaker, mentor, editor and author of over 20 books, Sharon is enthusiastic in sharing the message of health, hope and healing, and guiding others to follow God's directive for emotional, physical, spiritual and social well-being. The General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has embraced three of Sharon's initiatives, which are being rolled out to the world church at present. She has helped produce a range of resources for churches and communities, which include health DVDs, manuals, booklets, leaflets, cards and health seminars for Christian satellite TV channels and video streaming.

\*RGN, RM, RHV, MSc, HS, Dip HS, BCS HS, CACPD



Full course details and prices, see page 10

### Carolyn Schulz:

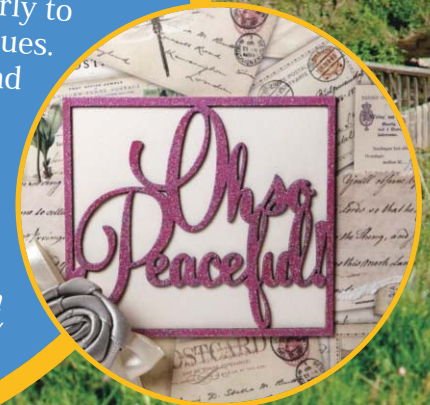
Carolyn is a freelance creative craft designer and teacher, with experience ranging from scrapbooking to jewellery and Christmas decorations. Working in both British and American markets for over 30 years, Carolyn has edited three popular craft magazines and is currently completing her eighth book. A former member of the CHA (Craft and Hobby Association) for six years, she received the President's Award for services to the industry. Her designs are widely used by magazines, retailers, manufacturers and television in the UK and the US. She launched her own range of kits in 2015 and is currently a familiar face on 'Create and Craft' TV in the UK.

Link: [www.carolyn@schulz.co.uk](http://www.carolyn@schulz.co.uk)



### Sara Naumann:

Sara's mantra is, 'Let's make it easy.' Through her books, blog, videos and TV appearances, Sara's goal is to make crafting techniques easy. She is a guest demonstrator for 'Create and Craft' TV, where she appears regularly to showcase her card-making techniques. She also contributes to British and American crafting magazines, and teaches in craft workshops internationally and online. Her media links include: [www.saranaumann.com](http://www.saranaumann.com); [www.facebook.com/saranaumannstudiosn](https://www.facebook.com/saranaumannstudiosn); and <https://twitter.com/saraCnaumann>.





# Aberdaron

## 'Ladies only' getaway

21-26 May (5 nights)

A retreat designed to pamper and recharge stressed ladies, to include body massage; 'Colour Me Beautiful'; health/diet advice; craft work; and cake decoration, plus relaxation, socialising, coastal and beach walks, peace and tranquillity. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£275 per person. Full details on application.

## Papercraft with Sara

4-9 June (5 nights)

Learn from the expert in papercraft: how to make cards, die cutting, stamping, colouring techniques, embossing, etc. Relax, socialise and enjoy the natural beauty and peace of the area. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£245 per person. Full details on application.

## Health improvement for all

9-14 July (5 nights)

A retreat designed to help you enjoy the benefits of improved health, with talks and advice from our Health Director, Sharon Platt McDonald, combined with relaxation, coastal/beach walks, socialising, and the chance to enjoy pure air, sparkling seas, and Aberdaron's peace and tranquillity. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£275 per person. Full details on application.

## Crafting with beads

16-21 July (5 nights)

A 'taster' week formulated to introduce you to a range of crafts, from decorative painting to bead work and lots more between. Perfect for both beginners and those more experienced. Designed to help you relax and enjoy the beauty and peace of Aberdaron's natural surroundings. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£239 per person. Full details on application.

## Flower arranging

24-29 September (5 nights)

Learn the true art of flower arranging from the simplest to the most advanced from 'The Flower Lady' – an opportunity not to be missed, set amidst the beauty of the Llyn peninsula. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£275 per person. Full details on application.

## Everything to do with beads

15-20 October (5 nights)

The next step in crafting with beads, their application in various forms, novelties, stunning jewellery and decorations. Suitable for both beginners and those with more experience. Learn, relax, and socialise in a peaceful setting. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£239 per person. Full details on application.

## Decorations for Christmas

12-17 November (5 nights)

Learn to create beautiful and unique decorations for Christmas and other special events under the guidance of Carolyn, the beading expert, in the peaceful surroundings of Aberdaron and enjoy the area during this quiet time of the year. Includes tuition, full board and accommodation.

£239 per person. Full details on application.

## Stanborough Secondary School opens its doors

on Sunday, 19 March at 11am



Everyone (pastors, elders, families and friends) is invited to experience a day at our school.

A school tour and refreshments will be provided.

Guest speaker:

**BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney**

Please register your interest. All are welcome!

Contact details: [qstewart@spsch.org](mailto:qstewart@spsch.org);

Tel: 019236673268.

Website: [www.spsch.org](http://www.spsch.org)

Address: Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JT



## WREXHAM CHURCH INVITES YOU TO...

# THE ARMOR OF GOD

Date: 11th -18th March 2017

Saturday 11th	The Spiritual Battle
Monday 13th	Belt of Truth
Tuesday 14th	Breastplate of Righteousness
Wednesday 15th	Shoes of the "gospel of peace"
Thursday 16th	Shield of Faith
Friday 17th	Helmet of Salvation
Saturday 18th	Sword of the Spirit

Speakers:

**Indra Fernando - Pastor Jeremy Johnson - Kurdah Mamvra**

**Mark Kynast - Ziva Chikaka - Mlungisi & Hlengiwe Ncube**

**Clarity Mwarara - Caroline Moyo**

Venues:

Saturday 11th & Saturday 18th March 10am - 5pm  
at Bellevue Park Community Centre  
of Bradley Road and Bellevue Road, Wrexham, LL13 7TP

Monday 13th - Friday 17th March 6pm - 7pm  
at Glyndwr University,  
Mold Road, Wrexham, LL11 2AW

Contact Details:

Pastor Jeremy Johnson Tel: 07825 135143 Email: [jjohnson@adventist.wales](mailto:jjohnson@adventist.wales)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

# news

## Lineage:

## A youth video series on church history and the Reformation

by Tamara Muroiwa

'In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.' (Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, page 196.)

The above is a much-quoted passage, inspiring us to keep remembering and gaining encouragement from what God is doing in our lives and in our movement. Yet for many Seventh-day Adventist young people, the danger is not that they might forget the Lord's leading in our past, but that they've never got to know it in the first place. For others, perhaps those better versed in Christian and Adventist heritage, the names, dates and figures may have been read, the stories may even have inspired faith and zeal upon first discovery. However, they have since become lost in a sea of facts or relegated to the list of 'things I once knew well but seem to have forgotten'.

One way of making church history real, to truly let its lessons hit home, is to visit the sites in question: for connecting with something tangible can take an account from being mere words on a page to something someone really experienced. Huss's name sticks in my mind more than those of other reformers – simply because I have visited the Bethlehem Chapel, where he preached, and the quarters where he lived in Prague. As a youth leader, I dreamed of taking a church group to the Waldensian valleys, hoping the simplicity and solitude of the surroundings would bring home to young hearts the sacrifice our predecessors made for their faith. Years later, I was inspired by reports of PEACE\* excursions to places of historical relevance here in the United Kingdom.

However, traversing countries or continents in search of these places is not necessarily a possible – or even advisable – use of every young person's means and time. That's why I was so encouraged to hear of the North England Conference (NEC) Youth Department's latest initiative: a series called *Lineage*, showcasing sites of historical relevance. Launched in 2017, the videos are aimed primarily at young

people, and take the viewer on a journey tracing our spiritual DNA across the British Isles and Europe. Each 3-to-5-minute episode highlights a key moment in Christian history, from early Celtic churches nestled in the serenity of remote Scottish islands to figures such as Wycliffe, Luther, Calvin, Knox and Wesley.

The series consists of 52 episodes, with one being released each week on the social media channels, including Facebook and YouTube. In the words of Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Executive Secretary and a former youth director: 'Youth are engaging with media like never before. Yet they desire identity and purpose in life. Lineage is an excellent production which traces our Christian heritage and Adventist history in a creative, professional and attractive format that our youth will enjoy and benefit from.'

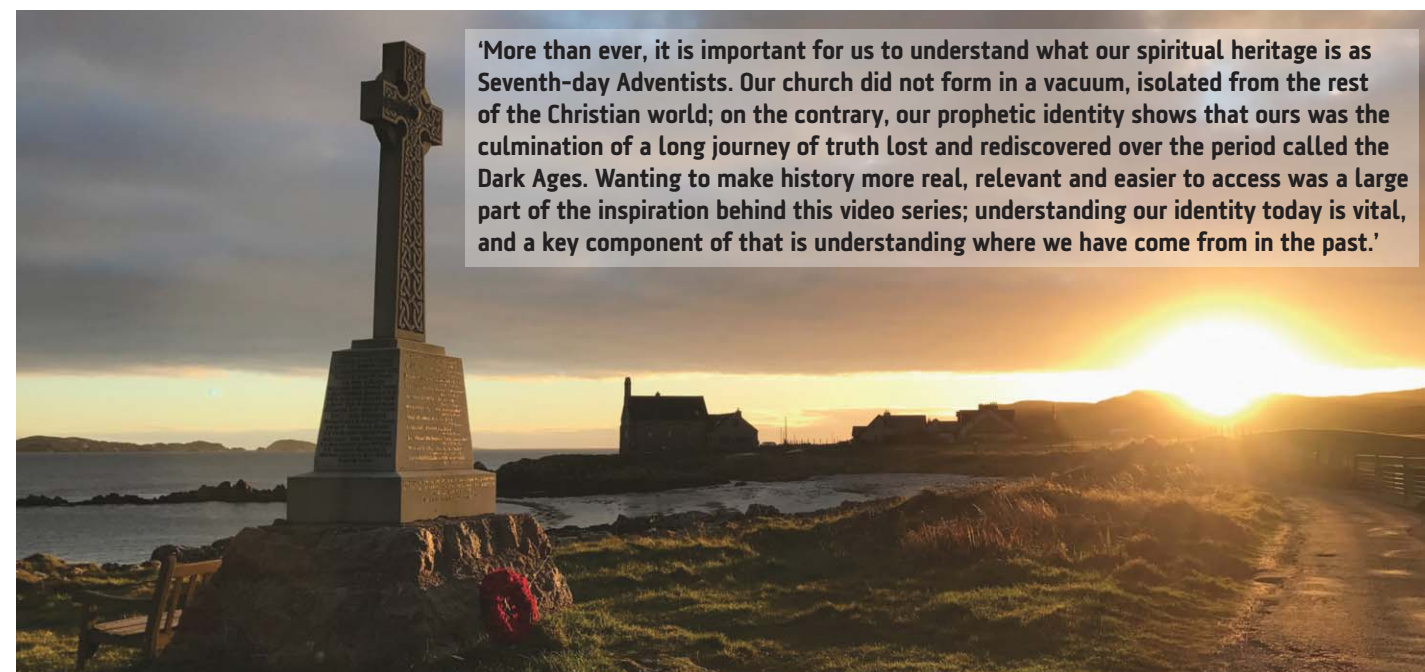
The project was conceived when freelance videographer, Clive Coutet, approached the NEC Youth Director, Pastor Adam Ramdin, with the idea of filming sites of historical relevance in his hometown of London. According to Pastor Ramdin, 'The idea was great, but it quickly grew from just London, to Oxford, Lutterworth and Edinburgh. Then we thought, why stop there – we should do some of the sites on mainland Europe as well.'

'More than ever, it is important for us to understand what our spiritual heritage is as Seventh-day Adventists. Our church did not form in a vacuum, isolated from the rest of the Christian world; on the contrary, our prophetic identity shows that ours was the culmination of a long journey of truth lost and rediscovered over the period called the Dark Ages. Wanting to make history more real, relevant and easier to access was a large part of the inspiration behind this video series; understanding our identity today is vital, and a key component of that is understanding where we have come from in the past.'

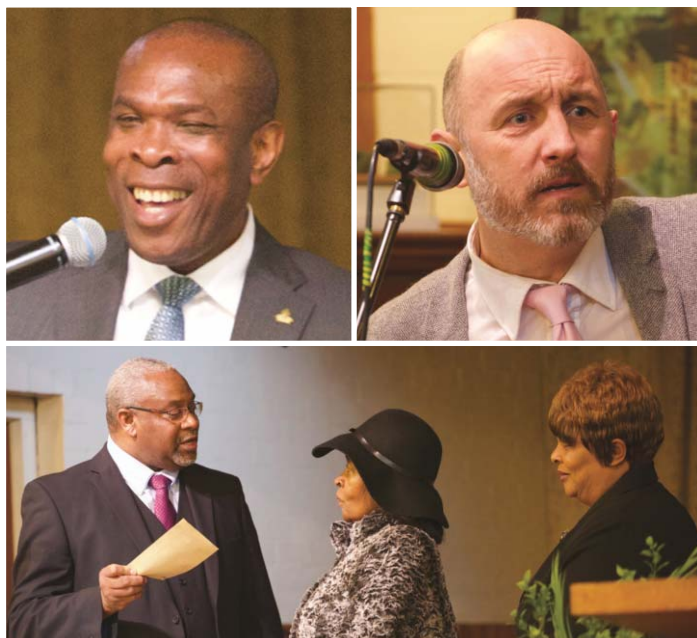
This year marks the 500th since Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the castle church at Wittenberg, an event that kick-started the Protestant Reformation and saw the landscape of Christianity change forever. At a time when many around the world are questioning the validity of that protest, and in light of the great prophetic calling which has been placed in our trust, how crucial that members young and old have a solid grasp of the beliefs, struggles and sacrifices of those who've gone before us; of experiences which form the foundations and backbone of who we are as a movement today. It is hoped that the vivid footage and solid content of Lineage will allow many viewers to finally see for themselves places we often just hear spoken of in sermons or read about in books.

*Lineage* can be accessed by visiting [www.lineagejourney.com/videos](http://www.lineagejourney.com/videos) where you can subscribe to get the updates of the weekly episodes. On Facebook it can also be accessed by visiting [www.facebook.com/lineagejourney](http://www.facebook.com/lineagejourney).

\*PEACE is a UK Centre of Evangelism sponsored by the North England Conference.



'More than ever, it is important for us to understand what our spiritual heritage is as Seventh-day Adventists. Our church did not form in a vacuum, isolated from the rest of the Christian world; on the contrary, our prophetic identity shows that ours was the culmination of a long journey of truth lost and rediscovered over the period called the Dark Ages. Wanting to make history more real, relevant and easier to access was a large part of the inspiration behind this video series; understanding our identity today is vital, and a key component of that is understanding where we have come from in the past.'



## Handsworth gets a special visit

The three North England Conference (NEC) administrators, Pastors Richard Jackson and Alan Hush, and Charles Bramble, visited Handsworth Church on Sabbath, 22 January. According to Pastor Aster Bruce, the local minister, this was the first time in his ministry that all three administrators had intentionally been present in his church at the same time, other than for his ordination. For the NEC administrators, this continues a tradition of working together and supporting each other as workers. The reason for the visit was partly to share the strategic vision of the NEC with the church and to show support for them as they embark on their church building project.

With over a century of history behind it, Handsworth Church is still on a mission. It is the root from which many of the churches in Birmingham sprouted. Those who still remember 'The Linen Tabernacle' will say the seeds planted at those early Adventist tent meetings gave birth to Handsworth Church – no wonder the building needs refurbishing after all its years of service! On any given Sabbath the church will be found bursting at the seams, and the members are moving forward with their plans to build a church which will not only be adequate for the members' needs, but also be suitable to serve their local community.

In his address, the NEC President, Pastor Jackson, said he would like to see every member in the Conference mirror the ethos of 'nurturing each other and winning another', because that will grow the membership exponentially. It will also foster a climate of support in the community, thereby making the church relevant.

To watch the sermon, visit <https://youtu.be/FB5nBsZ2XTA>.

LUNGANI SIBANDA

## Winson Green concert

Winson Green Church hosted a wonderful advent concert on 3 December last year in order to celebrate the end of their youth week of revival meetings. This church is a stone's throw from HM Birmingham Prison and very near the TV-featured 'Benefits Street'.

Congregational carolling was supported by the Midlands Seventh-day Adventist Chamber Orchestra – a group that has played at various venues around the country for at least 12 years. Dr Halliday-Bell (MD), long-term leader of the orchestra, was delighted that several non-member professional musicians from Brixton, Oakham, Manchester and Walsall had volunteered to be part of the uplifting event. They were individually introduced to the congregation, made welcome and invited to return for future events.

It was a spiritually unifying event for all who were present, and an offering to support the refurbishment of the church was taken up. It was wonderful to bring glory to God in one of the most deprived areas of Birmingham.

JAQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Photo quality as supplied

## From a dream to reality

At the end of August 2015, the founding members of Mums in Action (MIA), Andre Best and Barbara Lawrence, achieved their 12-year-old dream of opening a high-end, pre-loved, not-for-profit shop – and focus on 'making a difference in the community'.

The Hope Shop in Watford is unlike any other charity shops. Just step inside and you will immediately see why. It has a high street fashion store layout; offers good-quality clothes, accessories and designer items at affordable prices; but also provides a range of free services which include training, practical support and advice for local parents and families.

### Keeping the community spirit alive

Barbara and Andre have been supporting the community since 2003 when Mums in Action was set up to provide opportunities to change the lives of parents and families in their area. Mums in Action has been there to give young people a better start in life and support disadvantaged families and single parents. These women are determined to create a better community, and for over a decade they've been doing just that. This has involved working with local charities, hospices and public services, and organising and hosting various fund-raising events such as family fun days, summer schools and concerts. They have also played a leading role in the development of the Messy Morals Kidz Klub.

Andre, who manages the retail side of Hope, says, 'I want Hope to become a hub within the community where mums are not only able to purchase good-quality clothing, but can also pop in for a chat over tea or coffee and make new friends.' Barbara, who is responsible for the community projects, is excited about how the training area of the shop premises will be utilised. 'We plan to offer formal and informal training courses in such areas as parenting, healthy eating on a small income, family budgeting, CV writing and employability skills.'

For more information on how you can support Hope or learn more about its forthcoming training courses, please contact Andre and Barbara at [info@hopecharity.org.uk](mailto:info@hopecharity.org.uk); or visit the Hope Shop at 146 St Albans Road, Watford, Herts, WD24 4FS; or online at [www.hopecharity.org.uk](http://www.hopecharity.org.uk).

BARBARA LAWRENCE



## Mark Finley visits Stanborough Park

Stanborough Park Church played host to General Conference evangelist, Pastor Mark Finley, during the weekend of 6 and 7 January, giving members the opportunity to hear him preach two sermons. While the Friday evening meeting was not recorded, the Sabbath morning sermon entitled 'Prayer Makes a Difference' is available for viewing via the church's website.\*

The church was packed to capacity on Sabbath morning, with many more watching via CCTV in the church hall. Those present were not disappointed with Pastor Finley's inspiring sermon, which was part of the preparations for church evangelism planned later in the year.

Following his re-election in 2015, General Conference President, Pastor Ted Wilson, identified 'the involvement of every church member in evangelism and witness' as one of his three goals for the Adventist Church during his next period of office. Expanding on this, newly-elected vice president, Thomas Lemon, said that he 'would like to see the Adventist Church get to the place where its members are so connected in their local communities that a community would feel a huge loss if the church went away'.\*\*

With this in mind, the pastoral team at Stanborough Park Church has been involved in talks with the elected Mayor of Watford, Baroness Thornhill, to identify the outstanding needs in the Borough of Watford and how the church can play its part in meeting them. This will also be linked with planned future evangelism.

In his sermon Pastor Finley reminded his listeners of the power of prayer and its role in evangelism, and especially in the expansion of the early Christian church as recorded in the book of Acts.

He compared modern Europe – and Britain, in particular – to the Roman Empire just after Christ's resurrection; and pointed out that Rome's materialistic, godless, secular society did not hinder the spread of Christianity. He emphasised the role that prayer by the early Christians played in this, as recorded in Acts, echoing the sentiment expressed in Lord Tennyson's 'Mort d'Arthur' that 'More is accomplished through prayer than we can ever recognise.' He stressed that the Spirit of God is working behind the scenes, linking those seeking God with those able to help fulfil that need, quoting for support the stories of Peter and Cornelius and Philip and the eunuch.

\*[stanboroughpark.adventistchurch.org.uk](http://stanboroughpark.adventistchurch.org.uk) (Worship services/Traditional Service Live)

\*\*Adventist World, September 2015, page 23

JUNE COOMBS



## Diversity Centre lectures, spring 2017

### Spring semester

**Tuesday 4 April** Dr Jenny Taylor, Director, Lapido Media, Centre for Religious Literacy in Journalism, *Fear and Loathing in the Newsroom: How journalists understand religion*

All lectures will be held at 7.30pm in the Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, RG42 4AN. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome.

### Date for your diary . . .

**Tuesday 10 October – 2017 Beach Lecture** Professor Alec Ryrie – Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, *Faith and Politics: A Reformation anniversary view*

Here is your link to the February Diversity lecture: [https://youtu.be/aYTNj\\_qJbug](https://youtu.be/aYTNj_qJbug).

Contact Helen Pearson on 07775 612610



## Manchester Southern Asia news

### 1. Adventist Premier League volleyball tournament

On 27 November last year the Adventist Premier League volleyball tournament was hosted at Stoke-on-Trent by Redhill Church – the idea being to bring Adventist believers together to fellowship and to build camaraderie with fellow believers on a social level. Six teams from different Adventist churches participated in this event, which was being held for the first time, and the Manchester Southern Asia team won the trophy. This has greatly inspired the members to take more interest in looking after their health and to be more physically active.



### 2. Annual singing outreach in Manchester City Centre

On a chilly, wet and windy Saturday night (10 December last year) the Manchester Southern Asia members held their annual singing outreach in Manchester City Centre. While this was happening some members were distributing tracts, books, leaflets and DVDs on health and the Gospel message. A large number of these resources were distributed because it was a very busy shopping night.

The PowerPoint children's class donated gifts (warm clothes and bedding) to the homeless people on the streets of Manchester on the same day, so that they could also experience the joy of giving to the poor and needy.



### 3. C.R.E.W. investiture service

The church also celebrated their Adventurer and Pathfinder Club investiture service on 6 November. Fifty-one children were invested by the NEC Pathfinder Director (Pastor Ikwise Mwasumbi) and NEC Secretary (Pastor Alan Hush), assisted by the area co-ordinators. The C.R.E.W. (Christian Ready Equipped and Willing) club owes huge gratitude to Mgcini Mkwanzani, our area co-ordinator, who went the extra mile to counsel and motivate children during the year to complete their requirements.

DIAMOND SATHE

# obituary



**John 'Jack' Middleton Lindsay (1929-2016) d. 29 August 2016.** Jack was born on 12 January 1929 at Dalkeith, a small town near Edinburgh. His infancy was tougher than that of most people. It featured an absent father, six siblings, and the long-term hospitalisation of his mother. While Jack was to get to know her during her old age, in his childhood and young life he had to be raised in a children's home at Bridge of Weir in Renfrewshire. Jack's working life began in the shipyards of Aberdeen and involved a period in the Royal Air Force. Subsequently, he worked on the railways, where he trained as a fitter.

Jack became a Seventh-day Adventist through his friendship with Arthur Glenny, and was baptised in the Aberdeen church by Pastor Edgar Hulbert. By then Jack had married, and the couple had a daughter, Margaret, and three sons: Robert, John and Alexander (Sandy). Further crises happened in Jack's life when his wife left him and all four children, and then he was obliged to leave his job with the railways in order to keep the Sabbath. In that period Pastor Ronald V. Edwards put a card through Jack's door, containing the words of Romans 8:28 (KJV): 'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.' Those words became the bedrock of Jack's strong faith. After a period as a literature evangelist, Jack chose to relocate to Watford to enable the children to have a Christian education at Stanborough Park School. He secured work at The Stanborough Press, with Pastor and Mrs S. H. Parkin assisting with his care of the children. When the Press moved to Grantham, the Lindsays moved too. In 1967 Jack married fellow Scot and Press worker Vera. Their daughter April was born in 1970. This began a truly happy, settled life for the

three sons: Robert, John and Alexander (Sandy). Further crises happened in Jack's life when his wife left him and all four children, and then he was obliged to leave his job with the railways in order to keep the Sabbath. In that period Pastor Ronald V. Edwards put a card through Jack's door, containing the words of Romans 8:28 (KJV): 'And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.' Those words became the bedrock of Jack's strong faith. After a period as a literature evangelist, Jack chose to relocate to Watford to enable the children to have a Christian education at Stanborough Park School. He secured work at The Stanborough Press, with Pastor and Mrs S. H. Parkin assisting with his care of the children. When the Press moved to Grantham, the Lindsays moved too. In 1967 Jack married fellow Scot and Press worker Vera. Their daughter April was born in 1970. This began a truly happy, settled life for the

Lindsays, and made possible the outgoing, cheerful Jack we got to know and love. In Grantham Jack served as a Sabbath School teacher and, from time to time, as a lay preacher at Newark. April and her husband Paul Brewin, and their two children, brought great joy to Jack and Vera.

Jack's work at The Stanborough Press involved his visiting my office daily and we always had a chat. Both of us were receiving (free of charge) cassette study tapes from the Graham Maxwell organisation in which Dr Maxwell shared his take on the current Sabbath School lessons. Jack found the gracious picture of God shared by Maxwell as a new and liberating experience.

Jack had a good sense of humour and a strong spiritual experience. This survived the tragic death of his grandson, Christopher, Margaret's son. When we were both retired, our daily 'constitutionals' often took in Grantham High Street, where we frequently met up. Once, in passing, Jack asked me to 'say a few words' at his funeral. Smiling, he said, 'You can say what you like, of course, as long as you finish with that poem.' Hence you can take these words

of Alfred, Lord Tennyson, as coming from Jack himself:

'Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning  
Of the bar  
When I put out to sea.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness  
Of farewell,  
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne  
Of time and place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.'

The funeral took place at Grantham Church on 7 September last year, and was shared by Pastors R. V. Edwards and Solon Kyriacou, assisted by Esme Sutton. There were tributes from son Robert and daughter April. Vera and April share Jack's faith in the Blessed Hope. Our deepest condolences go to all those who feel the loss of this cheerful, positive husband, father and grandfather.

DR DAVID MARSHALL

Keep Doncaster Church in your prayers as they continue in the movement.

LUNGANI SIBANDA

\*Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, page 127.

## Messenger

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## Sunset

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

	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Mar 10	5.57	6.09	6.00	6.06	6.18
17	6.09	6.21	6.13	6.21	6.32
24	6.21	6.33	6.25	6.35	6.45
31	7.32	7.45	7.38	7.49	7.59

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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## Church expresses gratitude

On 24 December last year the Emmanuel Church members celebrated the substantial contribution that one of their senior members had made to the church's building fund. As an expression of gratitude, they presented Mary Wilson with a specially engraved glass plaque in recognition of her generosity.

ANGELA GREEN (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)



## Sabbath School emphasis day

In the Adventist Church, Sabbath School provides a great opportunity for Bible study. This was re-emphasised on 28 January during the Sabbath School emphasis day at Doncaster Church in an effort to meet this challenge of Ellen White: 'The Sabbath School work is important, and all who are interested in the truth should endeavour to make it prosperous.'\*

The lesson study was taken from the desk by the NEC Director of Sabbath School and Women's Ministries, Beulah Plunkett. The way she conducted the lesson was a practical example of the principles she promotes during her various seminars. During a subsequent conversation with her over a cup of soup she shared these 'seven steps' to effective teaching with me:

- Find the key words in the title, because by discussing and defining them you naturally get the congregation to talk to each other.
- Paraphrase the memory text as this involves the members in a simple exegesis of the text.
- Divide the members into groups and assign a day to

- each. After the study a member or two of the group then provides feedback.
- The teacher then summarises all the responses to reinforce the understanding of the lessons and bring to the forefront what has been discussed.
- Then there is the 'application'

aspect, which makes the lesson 'tangible'. Each member must be encouraged to own the summation.

Sabbath School is the heart of a healthy, vibrant church, and we want to keep it that way! By making Sabbath School intentional, it ensures the holistic health and growth of the Adventist church, both locally and globally.

## Children delight care home residents

Around 30 kind-hearted children from the Newcastle church turned out to sing delightful carols for the residents of East Riding Care Home in Morpeth on Saturday, 24 December last year.

Prior to visiting the care home, the children took part in a concert at their own church, which was broadcast live on Facebook. With nearly half a million people spending Christmas in care homes in the UK, the visit to the Morpeth care home was a chance to do something special for such people. Many of them are too ill to get around or be with their friends or family and would have felt really sad or lonely during the holiday season.

You could tell the majority of the 22 care home residents in the audience enjoyed it so much, as they were singing along with some of the songs, clapping,



watched the children perform, said she thought the programme was 'very good'.

This was not surprising, because the children had prepared by practising for one to two hours every Sabbath for ten weeks. The Children's Ministry leader, Rowena Ramos, who organised the event, said her team was 'committed to training the children in discipleship by developing and utilising their talents in

watched the children perform, said she thought the programme was 'very good'.

servicing God through witnessing'. The children were happy to entertain the residents, and just as happy to receive some drinks and biscuits after the programme. Angela De'Travernent, Denis's wife, gave each of the children a special treat – a small gift of chocolates – and wondered if the children could visit the care home more often. The church pastor, Peter Jeynes, said they would see if this was possible.

LISELI SAMWINGA (12)

waving and moving to the music. One resident, Denis De'Travernent, said he had been looking forward to the yearly event. He has been in the home for over seven years. Denis is a Seventh-day Adventist, but is unable to get to church due to disability. Chloe Rourke, one of the five members of staff who

## Hackney's children excel!

On Sabbath, 24 December last year, the Hackney Church children took charge of the morning's activities, including the worship service.

Among the highlights were some 'exquisite mime performances' directed by a teenager, Shae-Ann Williams, and the two-part sermon by Dylan Arnold (11) and Azariah Thomas (6).

At the conclusion of the service the elders anointed and prayed for the children, and Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, said: 'Among these are doctors, nurses, teachers, judges and pastors. Thank God we have a generation who are holding on to the faith of their fathers!'

DARELL J. PHILIP



## Vacancy: Part-time ICT Teacher

Stanborough School, an independent Seventh-day Adventist Christian co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition and a family atmosphere, seeks to employ a part-time ICT teacher to commence 1 April 2017 at a salary of £16,426.

### General responsibilities

1. Teach Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 ICT.
2. Provide learning support to all learners.
3. Undertake Form Tutor responsibilities.
4. Will have staff duties at break and lunch times.
5. Participate in all school activities.
6. Undertake additional duties as required by the Faculty Leader and Head Teacher.

### Qualifications:

Applicants should have:

1. An ICT degree
2. A teaching qualification
3. Relevant experience, and
4. Authorisation to work in the UK

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

Interested applicants: please contact the PA to the Head Teacher for the application package at email: [mmumbo@spsch.org](mailto:mmumbo@spsch.org); tel: 01923 673268.

The offer of employment in respect of this post will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (formerly known as the CRB).

The advert will run until the position is filled.





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\*Deposits MUST be paid by 28th February 2017.  
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\*Full payments MUST be made by 31st March 2016.  
\*Registration form and deposit are required to secure your place.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
Linda Mukwada 0792 085 0311, Nozi Connor 0795 636 5534 or Nana Bonnie 0749 696 6035

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# GLOBAL YOUTH DAY

March 18th, 2017

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