

## Irish Mission Camporee: Supreme Sacrifice

Erin Gordon reports on how the campers met the 'Supreme Sacrifice'.

May bank holidays often involve an exodus from cities to the countryside, but this year the Irish Mission Pathfinders engaged in an exodus with a difference. The campsite for their camporee almost resembled what the Israelite camp might have looked like after they escaped from Egypt. The camp's central attraction was a model tabernacle set up to explain the significance of the biblical sanctuary.

As 200 young children, teens, and parents gathered around the tent in Newmarket-on-Fergus, they learnt that the purpose of the sanctuary was not to show how much God loves 'blood and death', but to show us how much He loves us.

Pathfinders and Adventurers from eight

churches around the Irish Mission gathered at the church's Kilnasoolagh campsite to learn how Christ was our 'Supreme Sacrifice'. Our guest speaker, Pastor Dragos Brasoveanu from Romania, did not talk about the different articles inside the sanctuary and what they meant, but explained the sanctuary's meaning to the children in a way that was new to many.

His explanation about the blood made an impact on Adelina from Dublin, and she said, 'Jesus is love and He sacrificed Himself for us. We shouldn't think of God as a person who liked blood and liked killing animals, but as a Person who would sacrifice His only Son for us and save us.'

Pastor Dragos also helped the children understand how valuable they are. He

explained that the value of something is determined by the highest price that someone is willing to pay for it, saying: 'We were each bought with the life of God's Son. That is our value, no matter what others around us may say.'

On the last night at camp, the speaker mentioned all the special materials that were used to make the sanctuary, but then added that those materials were not what made the sanctuary special. It was what was on the inside that was most important: God's presence. The same is true for our lives, where God's presence on the inside is what counts most.

Axelle, from Newmarket-on-Fergus, was enthusiastic about the experience: 'Camporee is a special time where you get away from your busy life and take time to meet people like you who are on the same path of building a stronger relationship with Christ.' She added, 'I liked the way his message about the sanctuary had a personal touch and he made it seem as if he was speaking to each individual person, in an uncomplicated way that all ages could understand.'

From the practical knowledge of how to put up a tent or build a table out of sticks and rope, to knowing your own worth in Christ and that He wants to live inside you, Camporee was a blessing to all who attended. Axelle summed it up well when she said, 'The only time that smiles and laughter were replaced with sadness was when we had to say our goodbyes on the last day of camp. I hadn't even left the campsite and already I couldn't wait for camp next year.'





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# editorial

## Terror's toughest test



**Julian Hibbert**  
Editor

After barbaric incidents like the Manchester Arena bombing on 22 May most of us experience a surge of varying emotions, with shock, horror, sympathy and deep sadness leading the way. These initial victim-centred emotions are, however, often followed by malevolent ones, full of contempt and hostility towards the perpetrators.

Our tears are hardly dry and we find ourselves struggling with strong feelings of anger, rage, hatred and revenge. For the perpetrators we desire swift capture, firm justice and as much retribution as our legal system permits. Some may even wish a worse fate on someone who could cold-bloodedly orchestrate the deaths of at least 22 innocent people, not to mention the injuries to 59 others.

### A conundrum

But herein lies our conundrum. We want justice. We want the perpetrator, Salman Abedi, to be punished, but he is no more. There is nothing left of him to stand trial, to be found guilty and receive sentence. How will feelings of hatred, or the desire for revenge and retribution against him, help us now? Surely, they are an exercise in futility?

One would think so, but history reveals how such malevolent feelings are all-too-often dealt with. The mechanism is commonly known as 'collective punishment', which is 'a form of retaliation whereby a suspected perpetrator's family members, friends, acquaintances, sect, neighbours or entire ethnic group [are] targeted. The punished group may often have no direct association with the other individuals or groups, or direct control over their actions.'<sup>1</sup> Does that sound fair or right to you? How about a few examples to reflect on?

In China, for a period of 3,500 years, until it was abolished in 1905, the rulers periodically practised 'nine familial exterminations'. This simply meant that anyone convicted of serious crimes like treason would have their entire family executed with them. The nine specified relationship categories effectively meant that every member of the extended family would be

wiped out, whether they were sympathisers or not!<sup>2</sup>

Now, lest we think that this ancient practice has died out, let's consider what happens in North Korea today. According to the *MailOnline* of 17 February 2014: 'When Kim Young Soon was reported for "gossiping" about then North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il, three generations of her family were thrown into a brutal labour camp. Her elderly parents and four young children all died after being imprisoned with her under a system of "guilt by association".' During an interview with Amnesty International, Young Soon is quoted as saying, 'The guilt by association system applies to the family members – my mother and father, who were over 70 years old, my nine-year-old daughter and my three sons, who were seven, four and one.'<sup>3</sup>

### Fort Brown

Coincidentally, in 1906, the year after the Chinese abolished their ancient tradition of collective punishment, President Theodore Roosevelt ordered the dishonourable discharge of 197 black US soldiers 'in response to the shooting of two white citizens in the middle of the night of 13 August' that year. This happened in Brownsville, Texas, and although 'it was never discovered who the shooter(s) were . . . they were presumed to have' come from the 25th infantry regiment, stationed at nearby Fort Brown. Many of these soldiers had loyally served their country, in both the Philippines and Cuba during their country's war with Spain, but they were collectively punished for this crime and denied their army pensions.<sup>4</sup> How just is that?

### History is infested

History is infested with tragic examples of 'collective punishment', 'guilt by association' or any other terms that may be used to describe this type of gross injustice. Today, although it still happens, especially during times of war and armed conflict, collective punishment is generally regarded as a violation of international law. And, although there may be some Old Testament incidents that appear difficult to understand, God is on record as saying:

'He will not die for his father's sin; he will surely live. But his father will die for his own sin, because he practised extortion, robbed his brother and did what was wrong among his people.'

'Yet you ask, "Why does the son not share the guilt of his father?" Since the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to keep all my decrees, he will surely live. The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.' Ezekiel 18:17-20, NIV-UK.

There is no guilt, unless you or I have made ourselves guilty by our actions (or lack thereof, in certain situations). It follows, then, that we cannot call the Jews of today 'Christ-killers' because one of their ancestors once urged a Roman governor to put Jesus to death. What about all those Jews who were converted and joined His cause around the same time? What about Peter, James and John? What about Nicodemus, Saul of Tarsus and brave Stephen? Have we forgotten that they were Jews too? We cannot attribute guilt by association, race or religion!

Neither can we lay the guilt of Salman Abedi at the feet of our UK Muslim community. He is guilty of the Manchester Arena atrocity – he and anyone who may have aided and abetted his cause, both here and abroad. But God forbid that we should forget that there were numerous Muslim doctors and nurses patiently treating the wounded through the night of 22 May. There were also many Muslim taxi drivers who stayed up to make sure that hundreds of traumatised children and youth got safely home to their anxious parents . . . free of charge!

**If we fail to distinguish between Salman Abedi and our British Muslim community we will surely have failed terror's toughest test!**

<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective\\_punishment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_punishment) <sup>2</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine\\_familial\\_exterminations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_familial_exterminations) <sup>3</sup><http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2561201/North-Korea-categorically-totally-rejects-U-N-human-rights-report-details-starved-prison-camp-mothers-forced-drown-newborn-children.html#ixzz4hzTk2CMR> <sup>4</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective\\_punishment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collective_punishment)



## Enhancing Health

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

### Healthy minds – part 3

#### How mentally healthy are you?

A recent survey by the Mental Health Foundation<sup>1</sup> found the following:

- Almost two thirds of us have experienced mental ill health at some point in our lifetime.
- Only 13% of us are living with high levels of good mental health.

The Foundation's website invites visitors to undertake a survey to ascertain what they describe as 'your good mental health score'. Why not find out how you are doing compared to the national average? Just access the website, do the survey and you will find out your score. (Visit: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/your-mental-health/good-mental-health-survey>).

This year's Mental Health Awareness Week (8-14 May) was run under the theme, 'Surviving Or Thriving? The state of the UK's mental health'. This was preceded by a survey (March 2017) to ascertain the prevalence of self-reported mental health problems, the nation's level of positive and negative mental health and the actions people take to deal with stress in their lives. Some survey findings<sup>2</sup> from the 2,290 interviews include:

- 7 in 10 women, young adults aged 18-34 and people living alone make up the nearly two thirds of people that report having experienced a mental health problem.
- People over the age of 55 reported experiencing better mental health than average.
- People aged 55 and above are most likely to take positive steps

to help themselves deal better with daily life through activities like spending time with friends and family, walking, spending more time on enjoyable hobbies, getting enough sleep, eating healthily and learning new things.

- 85% of the unemployed have experienced a mental health problem, compared to two thirds of the employed and over half of those retired.
- More than 4 in 10 people reported that they have experienced depression.
- Over a quarter of people reported that they have experienced panic attacks.
- Nearly 3 in 4 people living in the lowest-income households reported having experienced a mental health problem, compared to 6 in 10 living in the highest-income households.

The report concluded that 'The barometer of success of any nation is the health and well-being of its people. We have a long way to go before we can say that we are a thriving nation.'

The BUC Health Ministries Department has produced a Mental Health Manual for churches. This publication includes advice on how to safeguard mental well-being and develop good mental health. If you would like to purchase this resource, please ring the BUC on 01923 672251 to speak with our department personnel.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/your-mental-health/good-mental-health-survey>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/surviving-or-thriving-state-uks-mental-health>



## What is our true value?

by Steve Holden

Some time ago my daughter, Anna, told me that the dental nurse working with her, Isobelle, collected special-issue 50p coins – some of which have a ‘market value’ way beyond their ‘face value’. This is the case, I understand, with several other denominations produced by the Royal Mint – where specific serial numbers on banknotes, certain dates or anomalies on coinage, or even condition, can render them of greater worth than their actual face value.

But 50p coins were Isobelle’s special interest, so, having familiarised myself with what to look for, I promised to start ‘checking change’ and collect any that came my way.

In April this year *The Telegraph* published an article on this and listed the relative value of specific limited-edition designs which were being exchanged on the internet for serious money.

Among the most scarce of these collectibles is a limited 2009 minting to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (featuring the pagoda encircled by vines).

This particular coin apparently has become so prized by collectors that they are being sold for in excess of 400 times their ‘face value’! Only 210,000 were minted – which sounds a lot, but is a minuscule proportion of the 50 billion 50p coins currently in circulation.

Needless to say, I have not come across one as yet – but I have found others that make it onto the leaderboard of collectables, and I’ve passed several on to Anna already.

Among those I have found are the 2014 coins featuring Beatrix Potter characters: Jemima Puddleduck and Squirrel Nutkin, which feature high on the listing. (Peter Rabbit, the main character, is, strangely, less collectable.)

Several coins from the

Olympic series are of value, along with others featuring the Suffragette movement, various battles – the Battle of Hastings and the Battle of Britain being among the rarest – and the 250th anniversary issue of Samuel Johnson’s dictionary, which is also in demand. For those interested in such things visit [www.changechecker.org](http://www.changechecker.org), which has developed a ‘scarcity index’ to keep interested parties updated.

When it comes to assessing purely material things the value is normally arrived at through negotiation between seller and buyer. The value of a house or car might be subject to market forces and have a limit above which it might be unreasonable to expect any more. An artist can set a price for his or her creativity, but the collector’s opinion will have a role in determining its actual value.

But there really is no ‘market force’ in operation when it comes to valuing the life of a person (unless in a situation of slavery). Although many are disproportionately rewarded for particular skills or abilities or the positions they hold; and family and friends are obviously highly valued simply for who they are – what is the true measure of a person’s worth?

Are we all worth more, perhaps, than we might first appear to be at ‘face value’?

Often, because of circumstances, we might feel low on self-worth – but the true value of every person in circulation can only really be found in one place – in the heart and mind of Jesus – the Creator and Redeemer of all men and women.

Jesus reveals that God cares for and values us, each one, as individuals. In Matthew 10:29-31, Clear Word, Christ says: ‘Remember that God never loses sight of you. Look at the sparrows and see how little

they’re valued, and yet not one of them dies without God noticing it. In fact, God even knows the number of hairs you have on your head. So don’t be afraid; you’re worth more than a sky full of sparrows.’

The human paradox is that compared to an infinite Creator God our ‘face value’ is as nothing – yet to God we mean everything.

Here are a few verses to endorse this thought.

Genesis 1:27, ESV: ‘So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.’

Our value *begins* with the fact that we were made by the hand of the Creator – *in His very image* – and although sin polluted this likeness ‘God demonstrates His own love toward us [Paul tells us in Romans 5:8, NKJV], in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.’

The Creator of all life valued us so highly that He surrendered His own life in our place while we were still fostering opposition to Him. Second Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) reads, ‘Therefore, if

anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.’

Justified by Jesus, we have a new life and hope in Him, and in 1 John 3:1 (NKJV) we read, ‘Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!’

For, by association with Christ, we are included in God’s family, ‘that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus’ (Ephesians 2:7, NKJV), in the restored, never-ending future He has reserved for all.

Sadly, those of us who choose to respond to God’s love and gift of salvation through Christ are in the minority – perhaps we would even make a ‘security index’ if one existed – ‘a remnant weak and small’ among the 7.5 billion currently populating this planet. But God’s valuation was made once and for all, and is both irreversible and immeasurable. Our worth is infinitely more than face value.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## Jesus – Radical, Revolutionary, Reformer – part 1

by Eglan Brooks,  
Personal Ministries Director of the British Union Conference

If you, like me, were a child of the ‘70s who grew up in a ‘Christian’ home, you might remember some of those pictures of or about Jesus that often hung on our walls in those days. Some of these pictures might still be in your parents’ home or in your loft. Can you remember the velveteen background (red, blue or green) with the words, ‘Christ is the Head of this house, the Unseen Guest at every meal, the Silent Listener to every conversation?’ Then there was the picture of Jesus praying in the garden of Gethsemane, in deepest agony with drops of blood dripping as sweat from His brow. And what about that picture of Jesus hanging on an unforgiving cross – can you remember that too?

Although these pictures do provide us with some background to particular aspects of the life of Jesus, they also tend to send a message to the world that suggests that Christianity is a placid, ‘humble pie’ kind of religion, and that all who want to walk in His steps should be like that. These pictures seem to tell stories of submission, suffering and degradation, illustrating a Jesus who is somewhat uninvolved with the woes of the world and powerless to do much about them: a Saviour who is simply ‘in the background’.

But the picture of Jesus found in John 2:13-22 is one of a Radical, a Revolutionary, a Reformer. This is the story of a God who walks into His house, realises that there’s a party going on that shouldn’t actually be happening, and is highly annoyed about it. When Jesus enters the synagogue, kicks out the tax collectors and brandishes a whip to clear the scene, we are clearly seeing a side of Him that is far from passive. We are seeing a

Jesus who is a definite Radical.

If Jesus were just a ‘good fellow’ who asked His followers to pray and forgive those who hurt them, then I am not sure if the Roman state, which prided itself on controlling the various political and cultural groups it conquered, would have subjected Him to their worst form of capital punishment. I’m not sure that they would have agreed to His crucifixion if they merely perceived Him to be a teacher with simple followers. His death was used by the Romans as an example of what happens to those who threaten Rome.

But Jesus’ true mission was to overturn the status quo. Yes, He preached the need for loving relationships and respect for authorities, but His radical challenges to the people who followed Him cannot be denied. Jesus invited fishermen to give up their livelihoods, leave their families and follow Him. He was friends with disreputable women and many of His other friends were from ‘the wrong side of town’. He took up the cause of the sick, the lonely, the orphans and widows. He fed the hungry and didn’t shun those with mental health challenges. He said, ‘Love your enemies,’ and He encouraged His followers to ‘turn the other cheek’ when hurt by others. He said that ‘with God all things are possible.’

The ‘cleansing of the temple’ showed the true nature of Jesus. Here was God in the form of man, attempting to restore the true nature of worship in the place where He was to be worshipped. Here was Jesus, unafraid to speak, unashamed of His actions, unmoved by the shock and horror of the Pharisees who not only placed burdens on the people, but had turned worship into a circus for their own benefit. Jesus,

the Radical, the Revolutionary, the Reformer, wanted to show them that true worship was to ‘proclaim good news to the poor . . . bind up the broken-hearted . . . proclaim freedom for the captives . . . release from darkness for the prisoners . . . bestow a crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and festive praise for despair’.

If today we say we are following Jesus, then what do we need to do to radically reform our church?

Should we sit in our congregations week after week having worship that simply ‘entertains’ our spiritual and cultural sensibilities? Or should our ‘worship’ be more intentional and target the people in our communities? Should we sit in our ‘Sabbath best’ each week congratulating ourselves that we are not like ‘those other people’? Or should we be like Jesus and mingle with the crowds?

Reflect on this until we meet again . . .

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## Let's get it right

by Richard Daly, British Union Conference Communication Director

Some of the most annoying messages I receive via WhatsApp are messages from 'well-established' members of the church circulating what I can only conclude to be fake news. I'm bewildered how news stories that have no credence or authenticity can be so naively circulated without the sender asking the question: 'Is this text I am about to send to twenty other people accurate or not?' In fact, it reflects how gullible many of our Bible-believing members can be when they avoid doing the most basic checks on the suspicious news stories they receive before sending them on to others.

It may take a mere five minutes to check whether the news is credible or not, but if it isn't, and we send it, that snowballing effect that social media excels at will have it sent swiftly out far and wide to people all around the world.

So far, within the past six months I have received texts with the following headline stories:

'Pope's brother – Seventh-day Adventist'  
'President Trump signs Sunday law bill'  
'Russia bans Seventh-day Adventist Church'

'Adventist alarmists' for some reason feel they have to promulgate fake news in order to excite attention or fear among our members and draw attention to the fact that we are living in the last days.

So how can you avoid being caught out by fake Adventist news and, more importantly, refrain from passing on inaccurate messages? Here are some steps:

### Verify the story

Before sending an item of news to your entire contacts list at the click of a button, verify the story! It makes sense. Contact your

pastor or the communication departments of the Conferences or Union, who are usually on the pulse with accurate news stories. Remember that by passing on unverified news items you are contributing towards gossip and hearsay – not to mention fake news. Don't be a naive participant. Be informed!

### Challenge the sender

Text back the sender and ask relevant questions about their source and its accuracy. I have had to do this countless times and on almost all occasions the answer back is, 'I assumed it was true.' Ask the sender to stop forwarding the message until they can verify the story.

### Check the website links

Some messages have a website linked to them. This may seem to suggest authenticity as they're on a website open for all to see. However, there are websites that thrive on propaganda stories or are especially designed to slate the Adventist Church. Check the source of the website, and look to see if it promotes links to official Adventist websites or not. You can be assured that any important news item that affects the world church will appear on the official Adventist websites hosted by the GC or local unions such as our own: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).

### Check the date/pictures

Social media often regurgitates old stories, reviving them with a slightly different angle. When Obama was President there was a picture of him supposedly about to sign the Sunday law. When Trump got into office, the same story with his picture appeared.

### Don't share!

Unless you are prepared to take the time to go through the steps and follow the advice above, then simply don't share.



In the book of Acts 17:11 (NIV) we are told that the Bereans 'were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they . . . examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true'. Fake news would not have escaped the Bereans, for they had the practice of searching the Scriptures for themselves. As Adventists we pride ourselves in being known as the 'people of the

Book' – let us do as the Bereans did and search for ourselves so that we will not be misled by any social media-spread 'wind of doctrine' or false story. You can be assured that as time passes we will receive many more suspect social media stories. Don't get caught out, and certainly don't be a participant in the sharing of fake Adventist news.

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Email: [info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk](mailto:info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk).

Closing date: Friday 23 June at 12 noon.  
Interviews: Wednesday 28 June 2017.



## Counting sheep

by Pastor John Surridge,  
British Union Conference Executive Secretary

In urban Western society, counting sheep serves one purpose: to get you to sleep. But to a first-century Galilean shepherd boy – wrapped in his cloak against the chill of the night, praying for the dawn light, panic rising within him as he anticipates a very awkward conversation with his father – counting sheep was a different matter altogether. The livelihood of the family depended on the sheep. Each one was known by name and dearly cherished. The loss of just one was a major disaster. Counting would confirm either the integrity of the flock, or the unthinkable alternative.

On Thursday 18 May the British Union Conference finally switched its ageing membership database management system to the General Conference's 'Adventist Church Management System' or ACMS. Some 30 people attended the training event, which was held in the BUC office and led by Sherri Ingram-Hudgins, director of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Office of Adventist Membership Systems.

ACMS is now being used by 60 Unions across the world, but integrating Europe into the project has presented unique challenges. Data protection laws required a new server to be located in Germany and the peculiar quirks of British syntax meant some

. . . praying for the dawn light, panic rising within him as he anticipates a very awkward conversation with his father - counting sheep was a different matter altogether.



extensive translation work by the ACMS programming team, which is located in Brazil.

Chief programmer and technical project manager Tiago Moises Silva dos Santos was also present for the training, keeping in constant touch with his colleagues in São Paulo and making real-time adjustments and corrections to the software.

Altogether the event was a joy to the fairly exclusive band of technically minded sheep-counters that we have in the British Union. Later this year many church clerks will be brought into this fold and given access to ACMS, enabling

membership data to be managed at local church level.

Local level is where it really counts. Our churches are the Galilean hills. Our church clerks are the 'shepherd boys', not just counting, but knowing each member by name, lying awake at night wondering if any have gone missing and getting up at first light to count the entire flock.

If you feel that this work is something you might be interested in, and if you're reasonably competent with computers, get in touch with the secretariat team at your local church. We may be needing you soon!

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## ELSOM is a success story!

On the evening of 18 February church and community members, along with supporting friends and parents, celebrated another success milestone in the history of the East London School of Music (ELSOM).

ELSOM was established in April 2015 as a centre of influence offering music and voice lessons to children and adults. Under the directorship of Fiona Pacquette, who also teaches piano practical and music theory, the school has rapidly developed and now has 49 students on its register. The assistant director, Chikezie Chike-Michael, an established bass-baritone singer, is the singing and voice coach at the school.

The instruments taught are the cello, flute, piano, violin, saxophone and brass.

This Area 6C-powered initiative, hosted at Clapton Church in East London, has provided a route for twelve of its students to sit the national Trinity Guildhall College Music Theory examinations, which took place on 7 November last year.

The Area 6C co-ordinator, Pastor David Burnett, Clapton's pastor and chairman of ELSOM, wholeheartedly endorses the project.



The celebratory Presentation of Certificates programme on 18 February consisted of two parts: firstly, a series of musical renditions by the renowned Hampstead Adventist Choral Society's String and Woodwind Ensemble, conducted by Fiona Pacquette. There were also instrumental solos by tutors and students, accompanied by ELSOM's vice chairman and tutor, Roger Baptiste. Secondly there was the awarding of certificates with 100% pass rate in the November 2016 Music Theory examinations.

As a centre of influence in the community, it is noted that during the Music School's first year, two of its students who are from non-Seventh-day Adventist backgrounds received Bible studies and accepted Jesus through baptism. A member of ELSOM's administrative staff has made the point that music has greatly helped the students from non-Adventist backgrounds to be more engaged with the church community and its activities. For instance, one of the violin students is now attending church each week.

Find out more at [www.elsomonline.org.uk](http://www.elsomonline.org.uk).

ROGER BAPTISTE (VICE CHAIRMAN) AND DOREEN I. FRAY (SECRETARY)

## From Fiji to Salisbury

The baptism of Vaciseva Bui Raloka from Fiji was a special occasion for Salisbury Church. On 4 March the church was packed with 62 people for our fourth baptism. Vaciseva knew the truth when she was at home in Fiji and came to us through Una, her daughter, who has been visiting Salisbury for a while.

Every time Una went off to work, Vaciseva checked out the present truth on YouTube. The seminars she witnessed in the Fijian language opened her eyes to the faith and great hope of Adventism. She has since studied our 28 fundamental beliefs for four months with the help of a friend, Matai Waitawa, after which she expressed the desire to be baptised.

The baptism was on the first spring-like day of sunshine this year and was attended by a full house, with family and friends who had travelled all the way from Fiji to Salisbury. The service was a success that brought glory to God through several special songs of worship, and it was rounded off with a special Fijian-influenced church lunch.

IAN MAW



## Brenda's search rewarded

Sabbath 1 April was a joyful day for Barnsley Church members and friends, because Brenda Williams was welcomed into fellowship.

Brenda became a Christian in 1983 and was baptised by immersion. Thinking Sunday was the day of worship, she joined the Church of England. On reading Revelation 11:19 – 'And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament . . .' (KJV) – Brenda started to research the theme of the heavenly sanctuary in the Bible and learnt about the Seventh-day Sabbath too.

When she eventually informed her local church of her decision to follow the word of God they were kind and understanding in their response. After listening to presentations on the internet by Doug Batchelor and Dwight Nelson, Brenda was convicted of the Advent message.

One Sabbath in the summer of 2016 Brenda walked into our new church, accompanied by her daughter, Gail. It took her a while to get accustomed to our services but she was made very welcome and has worshipped with us faithfully each Sabbath since then.

We thank God for Brenda's faith in God's word and for her cheerful and encouraging disposition.

HAZEL SCHOLES



Photo as supplied



BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE  
TRUST SERVICES

# Making a Will



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## Making a Will

By making a Will you can decide what happens to your property and possessions after your death. Although you do not have to make one by law, it is the best way to make sure your estate is passed on to family and friends exactly as you wish. If you die without a Will, your assets may be distributed according to the law rather than your wishes.

Preparing a Will is an act of good stewardship. A Will enables the individual to extend management of those God-given resources beyond his or her lifetime. In a sense, your Will is a witness. A Christian Will is an instrument of life. Psalm 24:1 (KJV) says, 'The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.' What we 'own' is a trust from God, and each Christian should exercise wise stewardship over these possessions. What you say and provide for in your Will can have eternal consequences. You can include words of personal witness; you can seek God's guidance and follow God's principles in distributing your estate and choosing those who will act in your place; and you can demonstrate your love for your family and for the Lord.

## Why it's important to make a Will

A Will sets out who is to benefit from your property and possessions (your estate) after your death. There are many good reasons to make a Will:

- You can decide how your assets are shared – if you don't have a Will, the law says who gets what.
- You can show love to your family and provide for their needs, both financially and for Christian nurture and instruction (see 1 Timothy 5:8).
- You can provide a plan and clear direction to follow up your stewardship responsibilities to your loved ones and the Lord's work beyond your lifetime here on earth (see Hebrews 11:4).
- If you're divorced, you can decide whether to leave anything to your former partner.
- You can make sure you don't pay more inheritance tax than necessary.
- You can save on tax by leaving a legacy to your church or chosen charity.

## Preparing your Will

Although it is possible to write a Will by yourself, it is advisable to use a solicitor as there are various legal formalities you need to follow to make sure the Will is valid. You may also need legal advice for more complicated matters. A solicitor can also advise you about, for example, how inheritance tax affects you.

The cost of writing a Will can vary between solicitors and will depend on how complicated your affairs may be.

The Trust Services Department offers a **free service** to Seventh-day Adventist Church members in the British Union Conference. The church will cover the cost of drafting a Will (there may be a charge for more complicated Wills). The Trust Services Department uses a well-experienced firm of solicitors (Sydney Mitchell Solicitors) who can offer professional advice to those using this free service.

## What should be included in your Will

Before you write your Will or consult the Trust Services Department, it's a good idea to think about what you want included in your Will. You should consider:

- how much money and what property and possessions you have
- who you want to benefit from your Will
- who should look after any children under 18 years of age
- who is going to sort out your estate and carry out your wishes after your death – that is, your executor

An executor is the person responsible for passing on your estate. You can appoint up to four executors by naming them in your Will. The courts can also appoint other people to be responsible for doing this job.

## Where to keep your Will safe

Once you've made your Will, it is important to keep it in a safe place and tell your executor, close friend or relative where it is. If a solicitor makes your Will, they will normally keep the original and send you a copy. If you have made your Will through the Trust Services Department, you can have your Will stored securely (you can also store other important documents such as property deeds, etc.) in the fire-proof safe at the British Union Conference Office. Trust Services will also send you a copy of your signed Will.

## Keeping your Will up to date

You should review your Will every five years and after any major change in your life – such as getting separated, married or divorced, having a child or moving house, death of a spouse or beneficiary. Any change must be by 'codicil' (an addition, amendment or supplement to a Will) or by making a new Will.

You can use Trust Services to make any necessary changes.

## Making a Will in Scotland

Scottish law on inheritance differs from English law. If you live in Scotland and want to make a Will, you can still use the Trust Services Department at the British Union Conference, who will prepare your Will according to Scottish law.

## Inheritance tax

Not everyone pays inheritance tax. It is only due if your estate – including any assets held in trust and gifts made within seven years of death – is valued over the current inheritance tax threshold (£325,000 in 2009-10). If you leave your home to your children (including adopted, foster or stepchildren) or grandchildren, your tax-free threshold will increase to £425,000, as of April 2017. (For more information go to [www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax).) The tax is payable at 40% on the amount over this threshold.

### What is inheritance tax?

Inheritance tax is usually paid on an estate when somebody dies. It's also sometimes payable on trusts or gifts made during someone's lifetime. Most estates don't have to pay inheritance tax because they are valued at less than the threshold (£325,000 in 2009-10).

### Increased threshold for married couples and civil partners

Since October 2007, married couples and registered civil partners can effectively increase the threshold on their estate when the second partner dies – to as much as £650,000 in 2009-10. If you leave your home to your children, this increases to £850,000 as of April 2017. Their executor or personal representative must transfer the first spouse or civil partner's unused inheritance tax threshold or 'nil rate band' to the second spouse or civil partner when they die.

### Who is responsible for paying inheritance tax?

Inheritance tax is payable by different people in different circumstances. Typically, the executor or personal representative pays it using funds from the deceased's estate.

The trustees are usually responsible for paying inheritance tax on assets in, or transferred into, a trust. Sometimes people who have received gifts, or who inherit from the deceased, have to pay inheritance tax – but this is not common.

### Valuing an estate to see if inheritance tax is due

To find out if inheritance tax is due on an estate, you must first value the estate. This means adding up the value of all the assets in the estate – such as a house, possessions, money and investments – and household bills and funeral expenses.

An estate also includes the deceased's share of any jointly owned assets and the value of any assets held in trust.

You should also evaluate any gifts that the deceased may have made in their lifetime to see if they are exempt, and if they aren't exempt, include them in the overall value of the estate.

### Inheritance tax exemptions and reliefs

Sometimes, even if your estate is over the threshold, you can pass on assets without having to pay inheritance tax. Examples include:

- *Spouse or civil partner exemption.* Your estate usually doesn't owe inheritance tax on anything you leave to a spouse or civil partner who has their permanent home in the UK – nor on gifts you make to them in your lifetime – even if the amount is over the threshold.
- *UK charity exemption.* All gifts made to a UK registered charity, during your lifetime or in your Will, are exempt from inheritance tax.
- *Potentially exempt transfers.* If you survive for seven years after

making a gift to someone, the gift is generally exempt from inheritance tax, no matter what the value.

- *Annual exemption.* You can give up to £3,000 away each year, either as a single gift or as several gifts adding up to that amount. You can also use your unused allowance from the previous year but you must use the current year's allowance first.
- *Small gift exemption.* You can make small gifts of up to £250 to as many individuals as you like tax free.
- *Wedding and civil partnership gifts.* Gifts to someone getting married or registering a civil partnership are exempt up to a certain amount.
- *Business, woodland, Heritage and farm relief.* If the deceased owned a business, farm, woodland or National Heritage property, some relief from inheritance tax is available.

### Deadline for paying inheritance tax

In most cases, you must pay inheritance tax within six months of the end of the month in which the deceased died. After this, interest will be charged on the amount outstanding.

You can pay in annual instalments over ten years if the value of the estate is tied up in property such as a house.

The due dates are different if you're paying inheritance tax on a trust.

## Planning for children

Having a Will is especially important if you have young children, because it gives you the opportunity to designate a guardian for them in the event of your death. Without a Will the court will appoint a guardian for your children, and it may not be the person you would choose to love and educate your children.

Whether you choose a member of your family or a trusted friend, first consider these factors:

- Are they competent to take on the extra responsibility and care for my children?
- Do they have the necessary time to devote to the special needs of my children, to nurture them and provide the home atmosphere I desire for them?
- How would this affect their lifestyle and the members of their family?

Talk to the prospective guardian ahead of time about what you are asking. You should also choose a successor guardian should the guardian be unable to serve at the time of your death.

## Making charitable bequests

Many Christians give generously during their lifetime to Christian causes. They enjoy seeing the results of their gifts. There's nothing that can match the satisfaction of contributing to the work of God. You may choose to leave a gift of any size through your Will. Such bequests may reduce your tax liability.

Take time to prayerfully educate yourself concerning the ministries that are close to your heart, and then give a gift that really counts. Great satisfaction comes from aiding a cause in which you truly believe. With planning, you can maximise the benefits for all concerned.

# How to contact Trust Services

### British Union Conference

Trust Services  
Stanborough Park  
Watford  
Herts  
WD25 9JZ  
Tel: 01923 672251

### South England Conference

Trust Services  
25 St Johns Road  
Watford  
Herts  
WD17 1PZ  
Tel: 01923 232728

### North England Conference

Trust Services  
22 Zulla Road  
Mapperley Park  
Nottingham  
NG3 5BD  
Tel: 0115 9606312

### Scottish Mission

Trust Services  
'Comraich'  
Gwydyr Road  
Crieff  
Perthshire  
PH7 4BS  
Tel: 01764 653257

### Irish Mission

Trust Services  
British Union Conference  
Stanborough Park  
Watford  
Herts  
WD25 9JZ  
Tel: 01923 893212

### Welsh Mission

Trust Services  
British Union Conference  
Stanborough Park  
Watford  
Herts  
WD25 9JZ

All email enquiries to: [trustservices@adventist.uk](mailto:trustservices@adventist.uk).



## New Generation Ghanaian Church is organised

The New Generation Ghanaian church company was organised into a church in Leeds on 25 February this year, during a service at which there was much rejoicing.

African-print clothing and celestial harmonies were the order of the day. Pastor Jackson, NEC President, was the preacher, and he was accompanied by a contingent of Conference directors, sponsors and other staff.

It was indeed a joyous moment when the new church's first elder, William Ofori, gave a brief account of the congregation's journey, its challenges and achievements. He also took the time to thank their former pastor, Ikwisa Mwasumbi, for his role in helping them achieve their new status.

The new pastor, Samuel Gardner, had these words of commendation for the church: 'A young eagle has demonstrated all the qualities required for it to fly on its own.'

COSTA NQABAYEZWWE NDLOVU



## Wednesbury Church is organised

Many came to the West Hall of George Salter Academy in West Bromwich, Birmingham, on Saturday 4 March to witness and celebrate the organisation of the new Wednesbury church. It was the culmination of a nine-year God-orchestrated journey that had brought them to that very moment. In the Sabbath School Superintendent's feature of the programme Noreen Love Pagunsa and Phrechie Estoya described this nine-year journey and it can be viewed on the church's YouTube channel.

Under the leadership of Pastor Dan Simyunn Majaduon, Wednesbury Church is the place to be. The church, which has a noticeable number of Filipinos in its community,

is very vibrant and well organised in what it does. Their music is wonderful and uplifting and it seems that all can sing very well. There is also a sense of togetherness among the congregants reminiscent of the upper-room experience mentioned in the book of Acts. In fact, their whole programme seemed amazingly well co-ordinated and every member seemed to have a role of some sort in the service.

The President of the North England Conference, Pastor Richard Jackson, was the preacher and he presented a powerful message with this simple title, 'Thank You,' which may be listened to at <https://vimeo.com/207268593>. In the sermon he recounted the story of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19) and how only one came back to thank Jesus for his healing. In Pastor Jackson's words, 'The point made here is that unless gratitude is a part of our nature, we can't be whole people. The other nine were merely healed. If ingratitude is deadlier than leprosy, they were in worse shape than before. Only the one who came back was made truly whole!'

More than 100 attended the service, with representatives from other Adventist congregations bearing gifts for the newly formed church. Many stayed to enjoy a gourmet lunch, after which those who remained were treated to a musical extravaganza that can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZpFr651Our8>.

LUNGANI SIBANDA





Tervall John (10), Nathan Henry (6) and Sonia Ama.



Elder Herminia Mathieu.

## Hackney runs for the hungry

Those taking part in the 13-mile ADRA-UK Fun Run held at Crystal Palace Park on Sunday, 16 April, were raising funds for Swaziland, Somalia, Nepal, Thailand, Chad, Rwanda and several UK projects. Among the participants were members from Hackney Church, the youngest of whom was just three years old – and assisted of course!

Yushanna Kayle Okanlawon (11) completed three miles before picking up an injury. She said: 'It was fun. It helps us to keep fit, while at the same time raising money for those less fortunate than us. Hopefully more children can take part next year.'

For Dillon Lee, 13, the run proved to be a great challenge. 'At times it was tiring, but you will yourself to keep going, knowing that at the end you will have achieved something that will benefit others.'

Sochi Enwerem (9) liked that there was no added pressure to win. 'When I realised that the run did not focus on the need to win but instead on having fun, it made me enjoy it more and I clocked up 4.5 miles,' he said enthusiastically.

The group of runners had prepared for the race a month in advance

during some intense but fun training sessions at Victoria Park with Ama Enwerem and Sonia Ama – themselves experienced runners. Sonia, who is proud of the young people's efforts, said: 'It was so exciting seeing our young people run for such a worthwhile cause. Unbelievably our youngest runner was just 3 years old! It's an honour to run for God and raise money for those our Father has called us to help.'

ADRA-UK Ambassador, Michaela Mathieu-Marius, who had recently returned from a mission trip to Swaziland where there is a shortage of food and clean water as well as a stigma towards those suffering with HIV, said: 'The ADRA-UK Fun Run was a fun and fulfilling event through which selfless people were able to help ADRA make even more of a difference to vulnerable individuals and families around the globe.'

But the last word goes to 6-year-old Nathan Henry, who, after clocking an amazing 7.5 miles, had this to say: 'I was so happy to get an ice lolly from my mum after all that running!'

DARELL J. PHILIP

## Cheltenham's 2017 Teens & Tweens Day

The Teens & Tweens Day concept was tried out in Cheltenham in 2014, initially as a means of encouraging our own young people to make friendships with young people from other Adventist churches. Little did we realise at the time that this would become such a popular and much-needed event. Now the idea is catching on, and other churches are hosting similar events throughout the year.

On 25 March, at St Mark's Methodist Church, over 150 people gathered from many churches, a 100% increase from our first day three years ago. They came from all over – from Worthing in the south to Barnsley in the north – not to mention many places in between. For many it was the renewal of old friendships, but for some it was their first time and the opportunity to build new ones.

The theme for the day, for all of us, was 'Being Inclusive'. During our first interactive session, all focused on how we can make our Teens & Tweens Days inclusive for everyone and how Jesus went out of His way to make not-so-popular people feel welcome.

Our worship service started with some lively singing led by a considerable band of young musicians. James Bell, from Birmingham, blessed us all with a beautiful violin solo rendition of 'As the Deer Pants for the Water'. Then our speaker for the day, Pastor Jonathan Burnett, first addressed the young children, and then the older young people, about how often food was used in the Bible to teach us important lessons about feeling included. He concluded his message with Jesus' invitation in Revelation 3:20, and how He wants to come in and eat with us.

That led nicely into the lunch break, which allowed us to continue making friends. Then it was out into the Cotswold countryside for sunshine, fresh air, exercise and more friendship building.

On our return, and after Vespers, there was a good supper to enjoy



before sending many happy families on their way home. Who knows – there could be a Teens & Tweens Day happening somewhere near you soon!

MIKE BEAMISH



## Area 3 International Women's Day of Prayer

The day was celebrated on Sabbath 4 March at Leeds Beckett University, and over 165 ladies attended the event. On arrival each lady was given a gift bag. The university chaplain, Melvyn Kelly, welcomed and prayed for the women. The theme for the week's readings was 'Passionate Prayers, Fearless Faith'.

The women who attended were arrayed in different shades of purple, which made for a colourful sight. The morning session included several inspiring prayer sessions with the themes of thanksgiving, confession, marriage and health.

Hyacinth Gayle was the morning speaker and her sermon, 'It Takes Faith', was based on the story of Hannah found in 1 Samuel 1:1-18.

Hyacinth gave a moving testimony that, no matter what our trials and challengers are, when we turn to the Lord He will not only give us the strength to go on, but He will deliver us from those situations and bless us abundantly.

The afternoon segment was a continuation of prayer for a variety of important issues. For the community engagement slot of this year we heard from Noushin Aslam of Moonlight Trust, a charity providing food, shelter, sanitation, medical supplies and basic education to the world's poorest and most deprived communities. She gave a presentation on her work with female refugees locally, at Lesbos and in Turkey. An offering of £146 was donated to the charity.

After a brief presentation was made on the Women of Virtue programme in the NEC, the day ended with more prayer.

FAITH MUIMO



## Erdington's special visitors

On Sunday 15 January, Erdington Community Pathfinder Club was visited by Cheryl Dockery and Mary Kennedy of the Pioneer Group, to discuss ways in which the Pathfinders could support the local council to make their community a better place to live and work in.

The visit was organised as part of the Explorer Unit's curriculum, but all the club members took the opportunity to find out more about what is happening in their locality. Mary Kennedy is the co-ordinator for the Stockland Green Ward Advisory Board, a group that co-ordinates the community priorities. She said the plan is updated regularly as the priorities change. Current priorities include dealing with burglaries, antisocial behaviour, fly-tipping and community beautification, which she said was an area where Pathfinders could really help to make a difference and have a visible presence. Mrs Dockery talked about some of the services her organisation provides, which Pathfinders and their families could benefit from: these included housing, education and training, apprenticeships and work placements.

The Pathfinders found the visit very informative, and some were keen to find out more about the apprenticeships and work placements. The church's incoming minister, Pastor Richard Brooks, was also on hand to find out more about his new district, and one of the Pathfinders, Sarah Dawkins, presented the visitors with a thank-you card to show the club's appreciation.

TREVOR DAVIS (CLUB DIRECTOR)



## YWOP takes bizarre turn

The week of 12-18 March proved to be a most inspiring time for Windsor Street South as Dawn Evans and her team led our youth in a dynamic Week of Prayer. The meetings were further enhanced by special guest, Clarence Jackson, a vibrant, engaging speaker who made his nightly messages clear and relevant to both young and old.

We were taken on nightly journeys through the Bible by his preaching. On Sunday we went on a prison visit to see how God delivered Paul and Silas from their dire situation. On Monday we went through the storm and walked on water with Jesus. This memorable message reminded us that we may be in some friend-SHIPS, relation-SHIPS, and partner-SHIPS that Jesus never called us into.

Towards the end of the week Clarence took us back into the storm as we studied the story of Jonah and how many of us run away from God's errands instead of on them! He showed us, however, that, as with Jonah, God can graciously give us a second chance to do His will.

And so the week went on, with one inspiring sermon after the other.

On Sabbath morning Clarence took us to a funeral, complete with the casket being carried down the aisle! His message soon became clear: that we should live positively, putting God first; not like so many who don't seem to want to live positively until they are close to death.

Clarence's ministry truly led our church into a more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ and this has positively impacted young lives in our church.

DOMINIC HERBERT

## A story of faithfulness

When Victor McCormac married Ethel on 18 March 1967 (after meeting on a blind date in 1963) they had no idea of what lay ahead. The couple began their married life in Belfast, where Victor was a bus driver with the local corporation.



Before they were married Victor had been in contact with the Adventist Church through his Aunt May, who had become an Adventist through one of Pastor Paddy Boyle's evangelistic seminars. He studied with his aunt and did the Voice of Prophecy correspondence course. He began to gradually introduce his parents and siblings to the message he was learning. Not long after returning from their honeymoon they met Pastor Bob Smart of the Belfast church. Throughout 1968 they had Bible studies with Pastor Smart and started attending church. They then attended an evangelistic outreach run by Pastor Gordon Knowles and were baptised at its conclusion in August 1970, after Victor changed his job to get Sabbaths off. At this time Victor took a 50% pay cut to work in an electrical appliance wholesalers to have Sabbaths off. He and Ethel prayed about this decision and have always felt that God supported them and never let them down over the years.

Both have spent many years serving the church: Victor as a church elder since 1984 and as the church clerk until recently. Ethel served as a deaconess for many years and has only recently retired from the role of head deaconess, but continues to support the deaconesses in any way she can.

The couple recently celebrated fifty years of happy matrimony, during which they raised two sons and three daughters, who have 14 children between them.

Today we praise the Lord that the entire family are actively involved in the Adventist Church and that their eldest son, Douglas, is the Executive Secretary of the South England Conference.

CAROLINE O'BRIEN

PS: Please pray for Victor, who is suffering from an aggressive form of bladder cancer.



## Huddersfield YWOP report

Pastor Ray Patrick was the dynamic speaker for Huddersfield's Youth Week of Prayer 2017, and its theme was 'Revolution: The reformation that changed the world'. Every night began with prayer, then commenced with an icebreaker activity to get those in attendance, both members and visitors, to feel welcomed and involved.

Each evening programme was blessed by people from churches all over the NEC who came to minister through their special music items.

Then there was the Word. The brief but powerful sermons were delivered with candour by Pastor Ray Patrick, and dealt with issues that youth both in and outside of the church are facing today.

On Sabbath, a special prayer session of consecration for the youth was held, because around 50% of those in attendance were young people. They huddled together around the front of the already filled-to-capacity sanctuary, as prayer and supplication was made on their behalf. During the final appeal on Sabbath a call was made for those who wanted to give their life to Christ to make their way to the altar. As the invitation of grace lingered, three precious young people took the brave walk to the front.



## Barnsley in the news

Elder of the Barnsley church, Michael Rossiter, was recently interviewed by a reporter from the *Barnsley Chronicle*. The newspaper was interested because of the church having converted a former working men's club into a place of worship.

The membership also reaches out to the local community through projects such as the Clothes Bank and Acts 435 charity. It also works closely with other voluntary and statutory agencies such as social services family support teams, other churches and food banks by receiving referrals from them. Families and individuals in need are supplied with new clothes or grants for up to £120. In addition to which, Acts 435, run through the Barnsley church, also provides white goods, school shoes, debt orders, etc.

Members are hoping to begin running a parent-and-toddler group soon, as there is a growing need for one in the area.

People who would not normally engage with a church have found a warm welcome and genuine friendship through the above charities. We pray this work will bring many to a knowledge of God's love for them.

For more information, contact: [mike.alison@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mike.alison@hotmail.co.uk).

HAZEL SCHOLES



## Global Women's Day at Erdington

The women of Erdington Church celebrated Global Women's Day on 4 March, and each of them had a role to play, whether during Sabbath School or the worship service. The platform party consisted of Iris Davey, Jennifer Stoddart and Frederica Reid, who preached the sermon, entitled: 'Passionate Prayers and Fearless Faith'. The message focused on the prayer lives of Hannah and a Rwandan woman, named Aziza, whose prayers played a significant part in releasing her son from possessive demons.

The congregation was also blessed by two special items performed by all the female members of ACE (Adventist Community Choir of Erdington). To round off the day, those present enjoyed a delicious fellowship meal.

REBEKAH ECCLES

At the conclusion of the week of prayer, the Huddersfield district pastor, Pardon Chenjerai, and the NEC Personal Ministries Director, Pastor Michael Simpson, expressed their appreciation and then prayed for the preacher of the week, Pastor Ray Patrick.

The spiritual revival that took place in Huddersfield over the Youth Week of Prayer may not change the world; but it has changed and will continue to change the lives of those who attended, their homes and communities, to the glory of God.

NAYTHAN GRANT



## Equipped to reach the 'little people' . . .

On a sunny day in March Children's Ministries teams and elders from across the North England Conference converged on Pendeford Church for exposure to a collaborative approach to Children's Ministries training. The Disability Ministries, Family Ministries and Children's Ministries Departments worked together, along with other specialists, to equip and inspire teams to fulfil their commission of making disciples of the 'little people' within our congregations who are so easily overlooked.

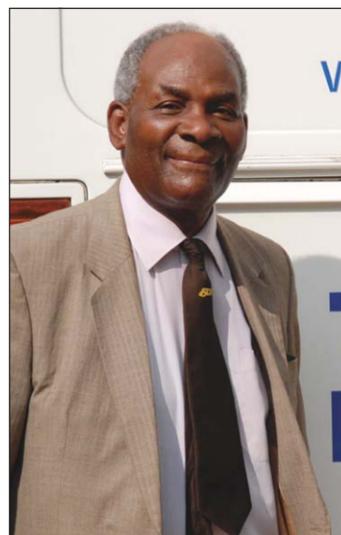
Janet Taylor and Jennifer Munroe-Dinham soon had everyone involved in a rousing praise and worship session, after which Pastor Cyril Sweeney presented a devotional message, emphasising the importance of being authentic as we introduce children to God. He stated emphatically that children aren't fooled by pretenders – a very sobering thought.

In the plenary session that followed, Disability Ministries Director, Grace Walsh, and co-presenter, Ayo-Ola McKenzie, cautioned teams not to 'run away from' (avoid or ignore) children who may have autism, attention deficit disorder or other types of disabilities, because this only serves to further isolate them and their families. They emphasised the importance of embracing and affirming all children.

After that attendees had to select workshops to attend. After attending the *God's Special Children* workshop, someone admitted that they now realised 'the importance of risk assessment' and how to 'recognise the needs of children with special needs and where to get the relevant information'.

Maureen Griffiths, a Holiday Bible School 'veteran', and her team, presented the *ABC of Running a Holiday Bible School* within the local church.

Pastor Paul Liburd (NEC Family Ministries Director) presented the



## NEC Camp Meeting transport

Coach transport will be available to take you to the NEC Camp Meeting from the Midlands, Northampton and the surrounding area.

For details, please call Brother Hubert Smiley on 07868288310 or 01384213803.

Alternatively, email [hubert.smiley18@gmail.com](mailto:hubert.smiley18@gmail.com) or call 07926553722.

*Keeping the Church Family Safe* policy, which is vital when it comes to protecting the vulnerable within our congregations.

*Smart Love* is a cutting-edge seminar that gives straight talk when it's needed most, which elicited this comment: 'It was helpful to learn about how we can teach and guide our children on how to have everlasting relationships and marriages.'

Attendees were shocked as they viewed a video on bullying and its impact on children of various ages. Social worker, Mark Palmer, who is also an elder, presented this hard-hitting reality within his workshop on *Youth and the Challenge of Peer Pressure*. He presented factual information from real-life experiences sharing how the entire family may be affected.

For the *Messy Church* workshop it was a privilege to have Heather Haworth, former BUC Children's Ministries Director, as the presenter. Her wealth of experience was greatly appreciated, together with that of Janet Taylor and Jennifer Munroe-Dinham. Someone had this to say: 'I thought Messy Church was all about children being noisy, unruly at church. Now I know that it is one of the effective ways of getting people to church.'

The *Creating a Bright Environment* workshop focused on the rooms allocated to Children's Ministries within our churches, stressing how the value that we place on the children within the church will be communicated through the environment – the rooms in which they are taught. How do yours look? The atmosphere is also of the utmost importance.

This truly amazing day culminated with the song 'Yes, Jesus Loves Me', being both sung and signed. Pastor Patricia Douglas thanks all who were involved in both planning and attending the event.

PASTOR PATRICIA DOUGLAS (NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR)

## The UK Chapter of Adventist Guyanese (UCAG) & Friends

Annual Day of Praise & Worship

Date: Sabbath 1 July 2017  
Venue: Prendergast Hilly Fields College Hall  
Hilly Fields, Adelaide Avenue, London SE4 1JL  
(5 minutes on the No. 122 bus towards Crystal Palace from Ladywell Rail Station)

9.30am: Praise and worship  
Special speaker: Pastor Allan Chichester of the Toronto Central SDA Church

1pm-3.30pm: Break for lunch

4pm: An afternoon of inspirational Gospel music featuring a number of choirs, soloists, and other guest performers (a special offering will be collected for three children's homes in Guyana)

For more information please contact: Florence Allen 01923663596/  
Terrence Blackman 0750 7643366.





## Tottenham's IDP was a success

The International Day of Prayer at Tottenham Church on 4 March was organised by the Women's Ministry Department, and the theme was 'Passionate Prayers and Fearless Faith'. Most of the women wore something purple for the event.

The day's services were enriched by the addition of periodic prayer sessions. A short film showed the various forms of abuse that are suffered by women around the world, and their suffering became the theme of some prayers.

After Sabbath School, Barbara Blake, the local councillor for Haringey, addressed the congregation.

She spoke about having to leave school without completing her education in order to get paid employment in a factory. In the 1970s the union representative announced that only the men could continue to work a five-day week while the women could only work three days. The councillor had bills to pay, so she spoke up, and this brought about a change. Having achieved that victory, she got involved with the union, which later led to a career in politics.

Councillor Blake completed her studies and confessed that she found it very hard. 'There is no boy cute enough to make you stop your education!' she advised the youth. She warned about the hardship that young women have experienced and are experiencing in Tottenham because they have not equipped themselves for the struggles of adult life. To earn your own money and have a career is so important, in order to get the best for yourself and your family.

The councillor also thanked the Pathfinder Club for coming to her rescue. She had ordered 2,500 daffodil bulbs to brighten a rather neglected part of a local park. The adverts had gone out requesting the community to help with the planting, but on the day, at the allotted time, she stood alone in the park with the 2,500 bulbs! Discouraged, she was about to leave when she saw the Pathfinders coming along with their leaders and helpers. As the group began work, others passing through the park decided to stop and give a hand until there were about 60-70 people working towards the same goal.

The main speaker for the day was Catherine Boldeau, 'SEC freelance writer, lecturer and author'. She touched on the hurt that women experience because of their circumstances in life, and yet they manage to keep going. The sermon was based on Hannah, the prophet Samuel's mother, but the story was told from a modern perspective.

### Community prayer walk

Before reassembling for the afternoon session of the International Day of Prayer, the men, women and children went out for a community prayer walk. The day had been dry and bright until we decided to go out into the community to meet the neighbours, but despite the rain we continued.

As each door was opened we introduced ourselves and offered the gift of a potted flower. We were received warmly, and on returning to church, as experiences were shared, all felt that the effort had been a positive one which benefited the community and the congregation. One of our neighbours had responded to the gift by saying, 'You have made my day'; another asked a church sister, 'Have you come to propose?'

One church brother, who will remain nameless, had not foreseen the consequences of walking into a local barbershop with a potted flower. When he realised that all the men waiting for their haircut had their



cameras focused on him, it dawned on him that he was about to become famous for all the wrong reasons. He then pleaded that they not take his picture, saying, 'The flower is for my barber's wife!' The men laughed and the cameras were lowered. It was agreed that we should visit our neighbours again, very soon.

TOTTENHAM COMMUNICATION TEAM

# Extending God's Kingdom

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**PS JASON SLIGER**  
YOUTH SPEAKER

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Guest Speakers

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BIBLE STUDY SPEAKER

**PS KEITH MORRIS**  
POWER HOUR SPEAKER

**DR MACNA PARKS-PORTFIELD**  
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**PS SAM GUNGALDO**  
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YOUTH SPEAKER

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# obituaries



## Mary Evangelin King McKoy (1927-2016)

d. 30 November. On 16 December 2016, a day before what would have been

her 89th birthday, the funeral service for Mary Evangelin King McKoy was held at Burngreave Church in Sheffield.

Sister King, as she was known to her church family, attended Carterknowle Road Church, but, due to the great number of people who wanted to attend, it was necessary to hold her service at Burngreave Church.

Mary grew up in the small village of Glamorgan, on the island of Tobago, the second of three children born to loving parents. As a child she was recognised as having a 'rousing, independent and joyful spirit'.

After leaving school she worked mainly in the hospitality industry, where she developed a passion for creative baking and cooking – as her family and friends readily attest to.

While living in Tobago, Mary was blessed with two daughters – Bernadette and Carol – whom she loved dearly.

In 1957, at the age of 30, she emigrated to England with the sole intention of making a better life for herself, her daughters and her extended family, leaving her girls in the care of her mother and family in Tobago.

Before leaving Tobago she devised a plan with her brother Albert, to whom she was very close, to work together to provide financial support for her children and extended family back 'home'.

She initially settled on the Isle of Man, where she worked as a nanny; however, her love of cooking and baking soon resulted in her taking on the role of Chief Cook for the household.

Mary later worked in Harrogate as a housekeeper, before finally settling in Sheffield, where she met and fell in love with Berry Lindsey McKoy, who had a son called Clinton.

Mary and Berry married in

1961, and to ensure that her daughters and family in Tobago were involved she sent them all new items of clothing to wear on her wedding day. As her daughters stated: 'Although we were thousands of miles apart . . . she made sure we were a part of her life in so many different ways.'

Mary and Berry had three more children – Dawn, Lorraine and Delmorine – who, along with their brother and sisters, blessed them with a total of eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren – who all survive to mourn her loss.

Once she had settled into married life, Mary became a Nursing Auxiliary at Nether Edge Hospital in Sheffield, where she continued working until her retirement in 1988.

Mary was known for her kindness, her generosity and her unchanging love for her family and friends in Tobago, whom she visited on many occasions – each time taking with her food, clothes, gifts and all manner of items to give to everyone at home.

Her last visit home was in 1993, to visit her ailing mother, who survived for a couple of days after her arrival, before passing away in her arms.

After a number of visits to Carterknowle Road Church over the years, she was baptised during a Manchester evangelistic outreach more than 25 years ago by Pastor Anselm Springer. After her baptism she continued Bible studies with the Conference Bible worker – Sister Blackburn.

After her baptism, Mary quickly got involved in church activities and worked tirelessly in the area of Community Services, again demonstrating her kind and generous nature. In addition, she developed a telephone ministry and would spend hours on the phone helping and encouraging friends and family and church members.

She was faithful to God in every area of her life and always gave generously to church causes.

Following a stroke, Mary still attended church faithfully for a number of years and continued

to do what she could to support its programmes.

As her health deteriorated she was eventually unable to attend church, but loved having members visit her.

Mary's motto was: 'Never give up, keep going, love God, live right and everything will be fine.'

We look forward to the day when we will see her again!

CK COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

## Vera Howard (1927-2017) d. 5 April.

Born in Shirehampton, Bristol, the fourth of seven children, as a child Vera suffered ill health and, perhaps for her to receive more attention, spent many of her early years living with an aunt and uncle, along with her paternal grandmother.

During World War II, because of the bombing in Bristol, Vera's family moved to rural Somerset, first to Compton Bishop and then on to Clewer, near Wedmore. It was too isolated there for Vera's liking, so she moved back to live with her aunt and uncle who, by then, were living in Cheddar. It was there that Vera met her future husband. Ray

was in the RAF, and when he was posted away from the area they kept up their friendship by letter. They married in 1949 and their daughter, Sarah, was born in 1960.

For the first two years of their marriage they lived with Vera's aunt and uncle, and it was during that time that the family came into contact with Seventh-day Adventists, at meetings held by Pastor Bainbridge in Weston-super-Mare. Initially Vera wasn't keen, but would sit on the stairs and listen in when the pastor gave the others Bible studies. The four were baptised by Pastor F. Stokes in the first baptism to take place at Bristol Lodge Causeway Church.

It was Vera who saw an advert for the sale of a large plot of land with a bungalow and thought it might be a suitable plot on which to build a church. She told Ray (who at that time was church elder) and the land was subsequently purchased. This was the site on which the present church at Weston-super-Mare was built.

A quiet, unassuming but friendly lady, Vera was missed when, after Ray's passing in

2009, her own ill health prevented her from attending church. Unable to live alone, Vera moved from Cheddar to live with Sarah in Bristol, but, due to a decline in her mobility, moved to Axbridge Court Nursing Home in Axbridge. A later move was to Hartcliffe Nursing Home in Bristol, and, as it was not far from Sarah's home, she was very often able to visit her mum. Vera peacefully passed away on 5 April this year with Sarah by her side.

Her funeral service, held at Weston-super-Mare Church, was conducted by Pastor Islwyn Rees, assisted by long-time family friend and Weston Church elder, Leonard Sitton. The service was followed by cremation at Weston Crematorium.

The Scriptures, chosen by Sarah for the occasion, represented Christian confidence and hope in the Lord Jesus as expressed in Psalm 23 and John 14:13, complemented by the much-loved hymns, 'Be Still, My Soul' and 'How Great Thou Art'.

Our love and sympathy are extended to Vera's daughter, Sarah, and the wider family.

COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY  
(WESTON-SUPER-MARE)

## Messenger

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## Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Jun 9	9.16	9.28	9.28	9.56	9.57
16	9.20	9.32	9.33	10.01	10.02
23	9.22	9.34	9.35	10.03	10.04
30	9.21	9.33	9.34	10.02	10.03

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Come and register your interest. Find out what the group has to offer you and your family.

The first group meeting commences Sunday June 25th, 2-4pm and thereafter, fortnightly, (term-time only). All are welcome.

Visit our information stand. Meet others with shared feelings and challenges, listen to health talks and participate in activities and local charity events.

Refreshments available.

Where: North Wembley Community SDA Church,  
217 East Lane, Wembley, HAO 3NG  
Email: [health@nwcsda.church](mailto:health@nwcsda.church)  
Tel: 020 8904 2143



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