

Messenger

News to the churches • 1 September 2017 • Volume 122 • 17

Bristol supports 'Race for Life'

Ian Sabadin, Communications Officer, Bristol Central Church



On Sunday 2 July, for the second year running, the Adventist churches in Bristol were invited to support the Race for Life 5K event in aid of Cancer Research UK.

Thousands of people attended the event in brilliant sunshine on The Downs, a large public open space in Bristol.

Approximately 50 church members came out to help with the setup, preparation, support and witnessing activities.

Operating from a tent in a prime location, the health team served delicious samples of vegetarian food, bowls of fruit and bottles of water.

The food was very well received, and much appreciated by the runners after the event, with many people showing an interest in the recipes and wanting to know more about vegan and vegetarian food and healthy living.

Evan Green from the Newport church also brought his smoothie bike, which was in great demand by adults and children, keen to have a go, getting exercise as well as a healthy, fruity smoothie. One lady was so impressed, she even asked if the team could come to her own health and wellness event.

The event was organised by the Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee (BJEC), and included members from all the churches in the district.

One of the main driving forces behind the event was Mary Philip, Health and Communities Leader at Bristol Central, and a member of BJEC. By building relationships with the event organisers Mary was able to secure a prime spot in the main arena, which drew the biggest crowds. Mary explained that 'although it is good to organise our own event, it is imperative to join with other organisations when they have their events.' Linking our health message to established but compatible events means that more people can be reached, and it also shows that we support the community and other similar interests.

It also allows us to promote other BJEC-sponsored activities, such as our weekly exercise class and monthly vegetarian cookery class.

In addition to the health message, there was also an opportunity to provide a spiritual witness. Further round the course, a singing group made up of members from the various Bristol churches sang traditional songs such as 'Joyful, Joyful' and 'This Train Is Bound for Glory' as the runners ran by. One of the medics who were stationed in the same location said that he was 'truly blessed'. Rory, another volunteer, who was at the same spot, was full of praises for the singing, and added that 'the singing was an inspiration. It really enhanced what we were doing there today.'

The runners were also treated to a rousing start to the run, as the Bristol Pathfinders Drum Corps rousingly drummed them off, much to the crowd's delight.

A large number of 'goody bags' were given out. These contained copies of health magazines, *Steps to Christ*, various leaflets and a flyer for an upcoming health event with Dr Chidi Ngwaba on 29 July in Bristol.

Many people were pleased to receive this invitation, and complimented the church on its efforts to promote healthier living. A number of people also provided their contact details to receive further information.

Speaking after the event, Bristol District pastor, Royston Smith, said, 'It was total teamwork. The members banded together and placed the work of the Lord at the forefront. Evidently, our tent was the busiest and the community was extremely happy to eat, take and fellowship.'

All in all, it was an excellent example of churches working together for a common purpose: to reach out to and be relevant in the community, while forging links for further engagement.

More photos available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8d75wju1bai3zszs/AACCOriY4dmDw6bmqsCJUJYCa?dl=0>

Photos by Nelson Khonje

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Enhancing Health

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

Improving air quality

In December 2015, the Government outlined its plans to tackle air pollution in a document entitled 'Improving Air Quality in Cities',¹ a major element of which involved the development of Clean Air Zones in those areas of certain cities where the air quality problem is the most serious. These Clean Air Zones will be introduced in Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Nottingham and Southampton by 2020.

It is envisaged that the plans for these zones will reduce the pollution in city centres and encourage the replacement of old polluting vehicles with modern, cleaner vehicles.

This key government document stipulates that private car owners will not be affected by these zones. The intended targets will be those vehicles which currently emit the most pollution, like old buses, coaches and lorries. They will be discouraged from entering these zones by levying charges. It is felt that the introduction date for implementation by 2020 will give businesses time to prepare for the change and help to minimise any negative impact on their activities.

There is anticipation that the outcome of these Clean Air Zones will be positive, as similar 'Low Emission Zones' in Germany and Denmark have been shown to lead to an improvement in air quality.²

Action on air quality improvement

Over the past decade there have been significant improvements in air quality across a range of pollutants. Here are a few positive developments as recorded in the 'Improving Air Quality' document:³

- 'Between 2005 and 2013 emissions of nitrogen oxides have fallen by 38%.'
- 'Particulate matter has reduced by more than 16%.'
- 'Over the past five years the Government has committed over £2 billion to help bus operators upgrade their fleets, [and] reduce pollution from a range of vehicles such as refuse trucks and fire engines through [the use of] cutting-edge technologies.'
- There is an increased drive to 'promote the development of clean alternative fuels such as powering taxis with liquid petroleum gas in Birmingham'.

Responding to the 'Improving Air Quality in Cities' document, the London Mayor has taken steps to tackle air quality in London. He has announced a comprehensive strategy for improving air quality by 2025, including the implementation of an ultra-low-emission zone by 2020, retro-fitting of buses, and licensing of new taxis to be zero-emission capable from 2018. In a draft Environmental Strategy document⁴ Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, has shared his vision for cleaner London air. We examine this strategy in more detail in the next *Enhancing Health* column.

Good health!

¹<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/improving-air-quality-in-cities> ²<https://www.theaa.com/european-breakdown-cover/driving-in-europe/european-low-emission-zones>
³<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/improving-air-quality-in-cities> ⁴<https://www.acenet.co.uk/mayor-of-london-publishes-draft-london-environment-strategy/4235/2/1/610/3>

editorial

I am sure that you are familiar with the expression, 'shooting from the hip'. It came into popular use in mid-1900s America, where the carrying of side arms was commonplace. It was used to describe a technique in which the 'gunslinger' tried to minimise the time between drawing his revolver and firing the first shot. This was achieved by firing from as close to the hip (holster) as possible, and not raising the weapon to eye level for a more accurate sighting along its barrel. By 'shooting from the hip', the shooter ran the risk of sacrificing accuracy for speed!

Fortunately for us, most modern jurisdictions no longer permit weapons to be carried in this way, except by law enforcement officers. The expression, however, lives on as a familiar idiom, which is often used to describe those who 'react without careful consideration' of their words or actions.¹ Something that all of us have been the recipients of at some time or other.

'The Mooch'

Anthony Scaramucci, aka 'The Mooch', is a US financier, author and political figure who epitomises the dangers of shooting from the hip. After a successful career in the world of asset management Scaramucci was appointed as White House Communications Director on 21 July – less than a month ago.

Then, just days into the job, 'Scaramucci provoked controversy after an expletive-laden interview with the *The New Yorker's* Ryan Lizza, in which he made obscene and strongly derogatory statements about several members of the Trump administration.' You can imagine what happened next: 'Ten days after the announcement of his appointment, he was fired by President Donald Trump, on the recommendation of the new White House Chief of Staff, General John F. Kelly.'²

I suppose it highlights the importance of one of the first rules that apply when one enters such high office: 'Diplomacy is thinking twice before saying nothing.' – *Anonymous*.

Never mind 'The Mooch'

Now, let's forget Scaramucci for the moment, and bring things closer to home. I like the *Wiktionary* description of 'shooting from the hip': 'To react quickly based on first impressions, without carefully studying the background information, wider context, and so on.'³ Ever been guilty of that? I have!

It seems that the apostle Peter struggled with the same problem. Remember this reaction when Jesus wanted to wash his feet in the upper room?

'He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
'Jesus replied, "You do not realise now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
' "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."
'Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you

Shooting from the hip . . .

have no part with me." ' (John 13:6-8, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Peter did not ask for more information as to why Jesus wanted to wash his feet. Neither did his response to Jesus sound very polite! His 'no' was an emphatic one, which seemed to rule out any space for change. Was our beloved Peter shooting from the hip?

A very human weakness

It is not uncommon for us to act as Peter did, especially when we are under stress or direct provocation. Which makes a lot of sense when we reflect on these inspired observations made by the apostle James:

'Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. We all stumble in many ways. **Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.**' (James 3:1-2, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Well, there we have it: anyone with 'perfectionist' tendencies will see from these comments what the real test of 'sinlessness' is – *not what goes into one's mouth, but what comes out!*

'All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, **but no human being can tame the tongue.** It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.' (James 3:7-8, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Yes, James, that makes a lot of sense. Tongue-taming is, and will always be, a work of grace: a work of fundamental transformation in which the very source from which our thoughts, words and actions spring is purified. This is why he closes with these remarks:

'With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?** My brothers and sisters, can a fig-tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.' (James 3:9-12, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

It's never about the works . . .

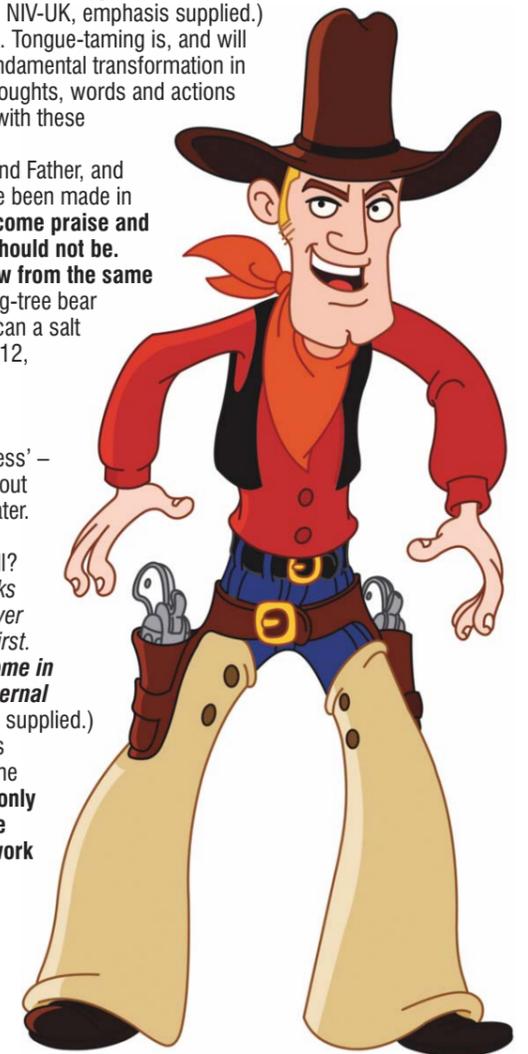
It's never about the 'works of righteousness' – it's all about the 'Water of Life'. It's all about having the salt spring producing fresh water. Isn't that what Jesus told the Samaritan woman during their discussion at the well?
'Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. **Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.**" ' (John 4:13-14, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

Seems pretty clear to me. Whether it's Anthony Scaramucci, the apostle Peter, the Samaritan woman or Julian Hibbert, **the only way to tame the tongue is to change the fountain . . . and that will always be a work of grace!**

¹https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/shoot_from_the_hip ²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthony_Scaramucci ³https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/shoot_from_the_hip



Julian Hibbert
Editor





Seventh-day Adventists and the Reformation

As presented at the Reform-a-Nation Weekend, Friday 11 August 2017

by Pastor John Surridge, BUC Executive Secretary



The entrance to Stanborough Park

I'd like to start off with the question, 'Who are Seventh-day Adventists?' Undoubtedly many of our readers are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but some are not and some may have just recently become members, so what I hope to show in this brief article is that:

- We are firmly grounded in the Protestant Christian tradition.
- We are a major worldwide denomination.
- We have a deep respect for, and good relations with, the other churches in this country.



The Sanitarium at Stanborough Park – left, above and below



So, where did we come from? Well, we owe one of our principal beliefs, our respect for the seventh-day Sabbath, to our Baptist friends. Around 400 years ago a group of Baptists, firstly under the leadership of John Trask and then of the royal physician, Dr Peter Chamberlen, started to worship on a Saturday. Their first recorded Saturday service was held in 1651 in the Mill Yard church in London, the oldest Baptist church worldwide which is still used as such.

Chamberlen was quite a man, as this epitaph on his grave in Woodham Mortimer (Essex) attests. 'The laid Peter Chamberlen took ye degree of Doctor in Physick in several Universities both at home and abroad and

lived such above three score years being Physician in Ordinary to three Kings & Queens of England: viz. King James & Queen Anne, King Charles ye first & Queen Mary; King Charles ye second & Queen Katherine & also to some foreigne Princes; having travelled most partes of Europe, & speaking most of the Languages.'

And it goes on to say, 'As for his Religion was a Christian keeping ye Commandments of God, & faith of Jesus, beng baptized about y year 1648 & keeping y 7 day for y saboth above 32 years. To tell his learning and his life

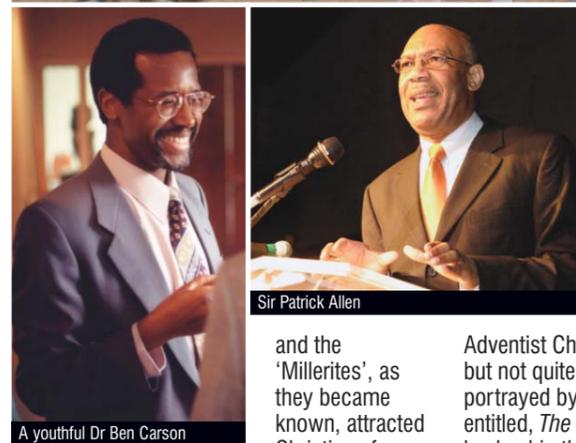
to men Enough is said by here lyes Chamberlen.'

These early Seventh-day Baptists spread across to North America and one of them, a lady by the name of Rachel Oakes Preston, started attending meetings led by a charismatic preacher called William Miller.

This was in the 1840s, a time of great religious revival and expectation in America,



ADRA projects



A youthful Dr Ben Carson

Sir Patrick Allen

Apparently there is a proven causal correlation between Adventist lifestyle and increased life expectancy, which can give you (on average) an extra ten years of life.

John Harvey Kellogg was a very high-profile figure in the early Seventh-day

Adventist Church and an astute businessman, but not quite as wacky as the character portrayed by Anthony Hopkins in the movie entitled, *The Road to Wellville*. Under his leadership the Battle Creek Sanitarium grew into one of the most famous health institutions in America, attracting celebrities from all over the world and charging exorbitant fees.

It was John's brother, by the way, Will Keith Kellogg, who founded the breakfast cereal empire, but the financial success of the brothers eventually led to them separating from the church.

Their ideas, however, spread around the world, and wherever Seventh-day Adventists went they built sanitariums – including one on our Stanborough Park property in Watford.

The accompanying photos are of the 'San', as it was known back in about 1930, and its staff included a number of highly qualified doctors and nurses. I'm sure that some of you know the history of the San better than I do, but I know that a lot of local people from Garston and Watford were born in the San, while many others benefited from the medical services it provided. Of course, times change, and when the National Health Service began in 1948 it became increasingly difficult for private medical institutions to survive. My personal memories of the San are from about 1971 when I was walking up the path to the school – seeing the demolition equipment in action.

That was sad, of course, but the Seventh-day Adventist Church itself has progressed tremendously since then. Let me give you some facts: at the last worldwide count we had 19,126,438 members in 81,552 churches, operating in 216 of the 238 countries recognised by the United Nations.

Incidentally, there are more Seventh-day

Adventists in the world than Jews, which makes us the largest group of people who worship on a Saturday. We operate the largest Protestant school system in the world and we've continued our interest in health principles by operating 175 hospitals and 22 health food industries. Around three and a half thousand people join the church every day, and our annual income, from tithes and offerings, is around 3.5 billion dollars, not counting all of the ancillary education and health businesses.

Some of our hospitals lead the world in research and pioneering techniques. In 1984 one of our hospitals performed a highly controversial, and, sadly, unsuccessful, heart transplant from a baboon to a baby girl. Three years later the Adventist surgeon Ben Carson performed the first-ever successful separation of occipital craniopagus conjoined twins.

You'll have heard of him, of course, as he was one of the candidates in the contest for leadership of America's Republican Party. He now serves in the Trump administration as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Apart from Ben Carson there are a number of other Seventh-day Adventists who are prominent in public life, including Sir Patrick Allen, Governor-General of Jamaica; Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Sir James Carlisle, former governor of Antigua and Barbuda, but now living for much of the year in Swansea; and His Excellency George Konrote, President of Fiji.

We also operate a Development and Relief agency, ADRA, which in 2015 funded projects around the world to the tune of about \$200 million.

Now, what about our relationship with other churches? After all, most denominations in the UK today emerged from the same Reformation which we are celebrating this year. All around the world we encourage our ministers and leaders to engage as fully as possible with other churches, and with ecumenical organisations as observers or consultants.

In other words, although we don't really share the 'visible unity' dream which some denominations have, we do want to be as co-operative, interested and helpful as we possibly can in working with other churches. Good relations with other churches mean that we can help each other by sharing buildings, for example, as do a number of Adventist congregations throughout the UK.

- So, who are Seventh-day Adventists?
- We are a major, growing, worldwide Christian denomination.
 - We are firmly grounded in the Protestant tradition.
 - We value, and have good relations with, the other churches in our country, most of which also emerged from the Reformation.
 - We bring hope to people around the world through our Christian message and humanitarian work.
 - We change lives for the better by providing medical care and promoting healthy living.

Actually, that's only a very small part of the story, as anyone visiting one of our hundreds of UK and Republic of Ireland churches will soon discover.

A 'fact of life': not a 'limiting factor'!

by Debbie Sanders

Dad was born in Sheffield on 4 August 1933, after a difficult pregnancy and via a traumatic delivery which left his mother an invalid for the remaining six years of her life, and Dad with cerebral palsy. He was named Fretson in gratitude to the skills of the family's doctor who probably saved their lives. His father, Horace, was determined to give his son the best possible opportunities in life, but without any mollycoddling. Indeed, Dad's cerebral palsy has always been seen in our family as a 'fact of life', rather than a 'limiting factor'.

Fretson loved sport, and in particular cricket, and spent many Saturday afternoons with his father at Bramall Road, where I am reliably informed they also play some football.

When Fretson was 10 his adopted sister Sandra appeared on the scene, and he became a big brother – alternating between pride, worry and winding her up – and in all these things he was accomplished!

Horace later married Flossie Hawley, who helped care for the family, and who became the only mother Fretson could remember. It was she who took the children to her church, a Seventh-day Adventist church, which met at the time in an ex-parcel sorting office adjacent to both the mainline (steam) railway and the tram line. His father joined the church in 1948, and in 1952 headed the building committee which culminated in the building of the Carter Knowle church in Sheffield.

Fretson was not a scholar of note, and his school reports were unremarkable. He studied engineering at Sheffield Technical College and graduated in 1956 with a National Certificate in Engineering, then worked as a draughtsman in the drawing office of Metropolitan Vickers in Attercliffe.

It was in 1954 that Fretson made his lifetime commitment

to Christ, and was baptised by Pastor K. A. Elias. That commitment became a calling, and he left Sheffield to begin studies at Newbold College in 1958, graduating in 1962 with a BA in Theology. Anyone who knew Dad will understand the monumental nature of that decision, as stepping into the unknown was not what he was known for!

In 1961, Dorothy Hearne, a young missionary on furlough from Ethiopia, attended the college in order to improve her Amharic for her second missionary term. However, romance blossomed and the Amharic suffered! Although she did fulfil her commitment to go back to Ethiopia, the powers that were allowed her to return home after a year and they married in 1963.

Upon graduation from Newbold there were no pastoral placements for Fretson, but Victor Cooper offered him a position as Bible Instructor in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School.*

Then followed 35 years during which Keith Fretson Taylor and the VOP became synonymous in the minds of thousands of people around the country – the vast majority from outside our church. He served under Pastors Warland, A. C. Vine and Dennis Uffindell for 13 years, and then a further 22 years as Principal.

Public speaking was a physically exhausting task, but one which he felt was essential to the role of his ministry. I recall as a child visiting a different church each week, not only for the morning service, but often in the afternoon to promote the work of the VOP. Dad saw the church members around the country as part of the team as much as the staff who worked in the office.

Names of places and people didn't stick in his mind, and he was known to say from the pulpit that he was delighted to be back in . . . dramatic pause . . . until

– being automatic, so Dad could drive it; but, more importantly, ensuring that the boot was large enough to take the VOP display panels and slide projector which we took to the churches every week. Our holidays were always planned around preaching appointments, and a week in Scotland or Ireland always started and ended with VOP presentations. Long before



either Mum or a member of the congregation would enlighten him! He was also grateful for the old-fashioned convention where church members referred to each other as 'Brother' or 'Sister', which he used to hide the fact that he had no idea of their names! He was incredibly humble about the influence he had on the lives of others, but it was a rare week when someone didn't tell him that they were in the church as a result of his gentle witness through letters and answers to their questions. He researched meticulously, and each week was able to share stories of people studying the Bible in the area he was preaching in, as well as fabulous stories of encouragement and answers to prayer. The VOP card wedged in the piano for 20 years before being filled in was always my favourite. Everything in God's time!

The VOP was the pivot around which our family life revolved and I remember that the process of replacing one second-hand car with another involved two criteria

satnavs and Google Maps, Dad made detailed instructions for finding each and every Adventist church group in the UK, and I recall his colleagues in the BUC borrowing them. Although brilliant at drawing maps, he was far less able to follow them, and there was a story of his plan to visit a church in Kent from Watford, and anticipating using the M3 to get there! I learned to navigate/back-seat drive as self-preservation as much as anything else.

Fretson had a passion for the VOP and he recognised that the power of the VOP was to reach those who were looking for answers in their lives, but were ignorant of the Bible and how to study it. He endeavoured to make new courses available which would be relevant to the secular world. At times it was an uphill struggle to persuade people that invitations to investigate 'The God-shaped Hole' would get more attention than pictures of Jesus with children sitting on His knee.

He had endless patience for questions from the students, and dictated detailed Bible studies

for individuals which were then faithfully typed by a series of long-suffering secretaries!

The VOP never had any money: its budget at best covered staff costs; but, despite Dad's exceptional ability to see the worst-case scenario in everyday life, this never seemed to dim his energy for innovation for the VOP. There was always a new project to be achieved – replacing the

hand-me-down franking machine, finding the money to place an advert in a national publication or printing a new course and advertising cards for it.

There were not many Adventist homes around the country that did not have a VOP box to collect coppers, and I spent many hours counting and bagging the coins from them so that a receipt could be sent to each and every person who made a contribution. And not many Sabbaths went past without envelopes containing donations being slipped into his jacket pocket as he left the churches we visited.

In retrospect I can see that Victor Cooper made an inspired decision when he offered my dad that position at the VOP all those years ago. In spite of his handicap, Fretson rose bravely to the challenge of winning souls for Christ through this unique ministry.

I can imagine that when Jesus comes there will be many who will want to meet and thank him for this.

*Now the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC).

Newbold

Newbold and Washington Adventist University students benefit by new study abroad agreement by Kirsty Watkins



Representatives from Newbold College of Higher Education and Washington Adventist University (WAU) signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Newbold on Thursday, 15 June, which expands a relationship between the two institutions that spans over 60 years.

The MoU formalises the recent programme which commenced in 2016, enabling Humanities students in WAU's Honours College to take classes in History and English, firstly online with Newbold lecturers, then followed by two weeks of intensive study on the Newbold campus.

A new programme was also introduced under the agreement: one which will see Newbold assisting WAU in enhancing some of its offerings for undergraduate students by making specialised 'study abroad' opportunities available to students in their School of Arts and Social Sciences.

'It was wonderful to spend this time at Newbold with Dr Spence, and to formalise this agreement,' Baildam said. He also expressed his gratitude to colleague John Crissey and his colleagues from the School of Business/Study Abroad Programmes team, who helped create the MoU.

These initiatives have been developed with the aim of upholding the ethics of Adventist higher education, by offering WAU students the chance to enhance their studies with an international cultural experience that is both academically sound and based on Christian values. WAU students can now learn about the UK, British history, literature and culture, while their classroom learning will be enhanced through excursions to various historic sites.

According to Dr Baildam: 'By inviting WAU students onto our campus through these programmes we aim to provide them with an exciting educational experience, unrivalled within the Adventist higher education network, namely the ability to study in Europe without

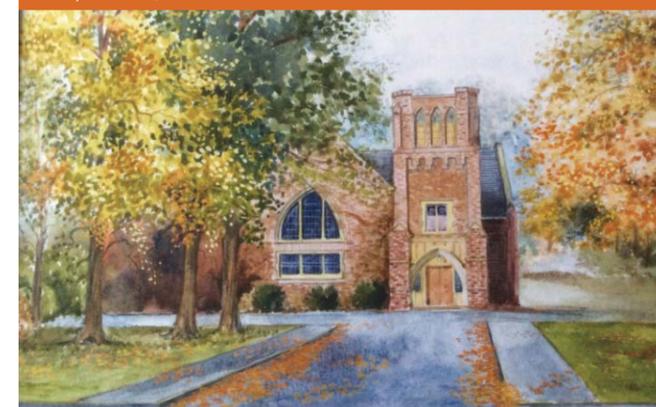


disrupting their studies and while retaining US student loans. We are also excited about the opportunity to increase the number of American students on our campus, whose presence enriches the life of the college!

This new MoU further strengthens the existing relationship between the two institutions, which began in 1956 when Newbold first began offering degrees in Theology through WAU (then Washington Missionary College and subsequently Columbia Union College). This partnership moved to Andrews University in 1983,

but returned to Columbia Union College in 1998 for a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Studies, an arrangement which will celebrate its 20th anniversary next year. Newbold also continues to enjoy a strong relationship with Andrews University, which confers degrees in Theology, Religious Studies, and Humanities as well as credits for Newbold's University Year Experience. This is in addition to the UK and European-validated qualifications offered via the University of Wales Trinity Saint David and through Theologische Hochschule Friedensau in Germany.

Corrigendum The Editor apologises for the mistake in the previous issue of *MESSENGER* (18 August) in which the Crieff Church development fund was to benefit from the sale of Tony Spearing's prints. It should have read that 'all profits go to the Stanborough Park Church development fund', as in the corrected advert below.



Special Tony Spearing prints

Do you have a fond memory of a special event that took place in Stanborough Park Church, such as a wedding or baptism? Does this place hold great significance for you or someone you know? Fifty limited-edition mounted giclée 16x12" prints of the church as it was in 1990 (in watercolour) have been produced by kind permission of the artist and illustrator, Tony Spearing. These are now for sale and all profits go to the Stanborough Park Church development fund. Please contact Caroline Swain for further information: caroline49a@gmail.com.



BUC's 500th Anniversary Reformation Celebration Weekend

by Pastor Richard Daly, BUC Communication Director



Dr Jeffrey Brown



Pastor Ron Halvorsen, Junior

The weekend of 11-13 August 2017 will be remembered for a long time because of its events and activities that celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Spearheaded by the British Union Conference (BUC) Evangelism Department under the leadership of Pastor Eglan Brooks and his able planning team, the event resulted in a co-ordinated programme involving all departments of the BUC.

The weekend proved to be highly successful, due not just to the tremendous support from church members, but because the response from the community exceeded expectations. Estimates are that over the weekend 3,000 people attended one or more of the various programmes.

Pastor Eglan Brooks, in reflecting on the weekend, said, 'It was an opportunity to celebrate our heritage as "heirs

of the Reformation" and also ensure that we engage our local community with the unique message of hope found only in Jesus Christ.'

Friday evening

The weekend's celebrations began on Friday evening with a thanksgiving service at Stanborough Park Church. It was a fitting moment to reflect on our

Adventist heritage and this was done effectively through three presentations. Retired minister, Pastor Patrick Boyle, gave an 'Historical Reflection of Adventists' and the way in which our doctrines were influenced by the Reformation. Noah Naylor's musical rendition, 'He'll do it again', was the perfect link in reminding us of God's guidance in the past and His ability to continue to guide us in the future. The second presentation was by BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor John Surridge, who gave an informative and captivating PowerPoint presentation that



Camelia Bran



succinctly explored the topic, 'Who Are Seventh-day Adventists?' (See pp. 4, 5.)

The first of our weekend's guest speakers, Dr Roy Adams, former associate editor of the *Adventist Review*, gave the third and main presentation. It was an inspiring and challenging message on the topic, 'Lest We Forget: This Is War!' during which he outlined the controversy between Christ and Satan, truth and error, which was the battleground for conflict during the Reformation and still is today.

Trans-European Division (TED) President, Pastor Raafat Kamal, speaking about the weekend celebration, said, 'Our uniqueness and identity as an advent movement should be rooted and centred around nothing and no one else but Jesus Christ – His life, His teachings, His death, His resurrection, His mediatory ministry in the heavenly sanctuary and His soon return.'

Sabbath

With all the preparations and plans for the Sabbath programme in the 1,000-seater marquee on the grounds of Stanborough Park, opposite the BUC offices, there was a degree of uncertainty as to how well the day would be supported. Just three days before, the lawns of the Park were waterlogged with torrential rain from that day. However, thankfully

prayers were answered, as by Sabbath morning the weather was clear and bright, the grass had dried, and the marquee was virtually filled to capacity.

People came from all regions, both the North England Conference (NEC) and South England Conference (SEC) and representatives from the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Missions. It was indeed a British Union-supported event.

The Sabbath programme began at 9.45am with a Bible study service: the main feature being the lesson review led by our second guest speaker, Dr Jeff Brown, a former pastor within the NEC but now the Associate Director of the Ministerial Association at our world church headquarters and Associate Editor of *Ministry* magazine. Paul Lee and Camelia Bran ably presented uplifting musical items and this section was closed with the fitting words of the well-loved hymn:

Ancient words, ever true,
Changing me, and changing you;
We have come with open hearts,
Oh let the ancient words impart.

By the start of the worship service, the large white marquee was nearly completely full.

Performing choirs were assembling, and the HACS Millennium Brass Band, positioned on the stage, to the left of the audience, began to play the processional 'Crown Imperial'.

The service brought together a wonderful blend of orchestral, choral, and vocal music that created a worshipful atmosphere, especially as the Croydon Gospel Choir led out in the introit, singing 'We Have Come to Worship'.

BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, made everyone feel welcome during his opening remarks and introductions, followed by a fitting hymn due to the size of the audience, 'O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing'.

With spirited choral renditions from the London Ghanaian Choir ('Nyame Mma'/'Children of God') and the Croydon Gospel Choir, the congregation were treated to high-quality spiritually elevating music.

An interesting feature during the service was the creation of a timeline, mainly by BUC staff who were appropriately dressed according to costumes of each era under review, depicting the

progress of the Reformation, starting with Martin Luther in the sixteenth century right up to the present. Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Director for Health, Women's Ministries and Adventist Community Services, came up with the idea for this segment of the programme, stating, 'I thought it would be great to have a visual representation of the eras following the Reformation, hence the various costumes depicting the sixteenth to the twenty-first centuries and what they stood for. However, rather than just highlighting historic information, I felt it was important to state the significant religious changes that took place within that period.'

The third guest, and speaker for the worship service, was Pastor Ron Halvorsen, Jr, currently the President of the Ohio Conference in the USA. His message was entitled, 'Adventists with Recurring Amnesia'. In his familiar 'illustrational' style of preaching, Halvorsen got to the core of what ought to be the real message of the Reformation, reflected in his choice of closing

reform-a-nation



hymn – ‘And Can It Be?’ with the refrain, ‘Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?’

With lunch provided for all attendees by BUC Treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, and his able team, and served in the canteen of Stanborough Primary School, the Park grounds provided a relaxing environment for people to walk through and take in the scenery.

The afternoon Bible conference, held in the Stanborough School Chapel, gave an opportunity to explore the deeper biblical themes that emerged from the Reformation. After the introductions from Newbold Principal Dr John Baildam, our fourth guest speaker took to the stage, Dr Ganoune Diop, the Director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL) at the General Conference.

He spoke on ‘The Sixteenth Century Reformation’s Content & Context: Highlighting the pivotal role of freedom of conscience’. Pastor David Neal, guest speaker from the TED, presented on the topic, ‘Is Salvation Really Free?’ Together with Dr Roy Adams speaking on ‘An Anchor Called

Hope’, the remaining section of the Bible conference included all the presenters in a panel discussion chaired by Dr Baildam.

The last programme for the day was a delightful evening hymn festival compèred by Tina Brooks and Cathy Boldeau. Well-known traditional hymns that had a ‘reformational imprint’ were sung either by various artistes of the day or the audience. These included ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our God’, ‘All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name’, and ‘Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah’. Adding significantly to all this were the music skills of the HACS Orchestra, the London Adventist Chorale, the Holloway Male Voice Choir, and the soloists Michaela Mathieu-Marius and Bobby Carr. This all ended with an inspiring homily by Dr Jeff Brown, a fitting way to close what had been a full and invigorating day, during which all were richly blessed and inspired, having been reminded of God’s unfailing love.

Sunday Fun Day
Sunday’s Fun Day was primarily geared towards the community. With thousands

of leaflets distributed, newspaper advertisements and a social media campaign, the hard work paid off when up to several hundred people solely from the local vicinity passed through the Park. It was pleasing to see families from the neighbourhood, including children and community groups, feel welcomed onto the BUC premises and enjoying the relaxing landscape of the 42-acre park with the numerous activities and stalls dotted around.

Organisation was key to ensuring everything went smoothly, and after some initial hitches with generators everything came together. Prayers were answered as the weather was perfect. The sun shone, it was warm, and the entire day was filled with the joyful buzz of engaging chatter, spontaneous laughter, and the yells of excitement emanating from children on the bouncy castles and the rodeo rides.

With plenty of ice cream and Slush Puppies going around, face-painting, and arts and crafts, the children were well entertained: and, of course, there was plenty of food and drinks available from numerous stalls.

Some of the BUC departments also took the opportunity to display their activities and programmes, such as the Education and ADRA departments, and the Adventist Book Centre was there as well. The Fun Day also catered for some community organisations to have a stall. One lady from the community who had a stall was thrilled at being present, and when asked if she would be willing to come back responded, ‘absolutely . . . if you will have me!’

Within the Park, activities were sectioned into various zones for easy access and identification. There was a sports zone for football and netball enthusiasts, and a kids’ zone with a bouncy castle, face-painting, arts and crafts and an area of soft play for the toddlers. For those seeking a place of solace and meditation there was a prayer tent. This proved to be a welcome area with some from the community leaving their prayer requests.

There was also an opportunity to have co-ordinated tours of the BUC offices, which were led by Pastor John Surridge. It was an opportunity for the BUC to open its doors, and for many, especially church members with



their children, this was the first time to see and receive a better understanding of how the church organisation operates.

The marquee that was filled on Sabbath was used as a hub for a co-ordinated programme involving various presentations, musical groups and artistes throughout the afternoon. SEC Health Ministries Director, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, spoke on ‘7 Things About Health’ while Dr Jeff Brown shared ‘4 Seasons of Marriage’. Edmonton Drama Group also gave an excellent portrayal of the reformers and martyrs who stood up for what they believed.

The afternoon ended with The Whittlesford Community Gospel Choir, led by Tina Brooks, performing several items and the praise team leading out in several gospel favourites which were well-received by those in the audience. One member from the community, Mary Barlow, who lives just across the road from the Park, expressed her delight in the quality of singing. She was so impressed that she said, ‘I’ve never known much about the church here and what happens, but I’m so glad I came. . . . I will read up on all the material in the gift bag I received.’

The weekend was the first of its kind in many years. Several guests and members of the community asked whether the Family Fun Day would be repeated. It looks like a precedent has now been set, and let’s hope

that future Fun Days will be as effective in reaching the community as this day was. If so, they will be worth the investment!

Reflecting over the events of this weekend of celebration, BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, said, ‘It was a joy to see so many people, especially from the community, turn out to what was a wonderful, fun-filled day. This is something we will definitely consider doing again with the various departments of the British Union working together in unison. I thank the BUC Evangelism Department and the planning team for the hard work they put in behind the scenes, and ultimately we say – to God be the glory.’





Alva Gallaher with (back row, left to right): Ethan, Pearl and David; (front row, left to right): Kissiah and Tatiana

Weston's Adventurers

At Weston-super-Mare Church, Sabbath 3 June was the day the younger children had eagerly looked forward to! During the morning service they were presented with their first Pathfinder uniforms. An Adventurer club had been set up and meetings run by Master Guide, Alva Gallaher, assisted by Nushie Rusinova Golubovic.

Compared to some of our sister churches, our group is small and the children very young, but it is a start and we remember the saying, 'Mighty oaks from little acorns grow.' Even Master Guides had to begin somewhere. Here at Weston we look forward to seeing the club go from strength to strength and having an investiture in the near future as Alva and Nushie's knowledge and enthusiasm are transferred to the children. They proudly put on their scarves for the photograph: in the next one they will have on their full uniform. May these little ones grow up remembering and believing the Adventurer Pledge: 'Because Jesus loves me, I will always do my best.'

MAUREEN REES

Fartown revival series

'It's Time to Make That Change' was the theme impressed on the mind of Pastor Steve McKenzie (SEC Property Development Director) for the week-long revival series held at the Fartown church in Huddersfield. The meetings were held from 10 to 17 June and very well attended each night by both Fartown and Crosland Moor members, and by many visitors.

Pastor McKenzie captivated the congregation throughout the week with his timely sermons and their focus on the Word of God. His messages were illustrated with humorous but real-life experiences of God's intervention in his life during times of need, emphasising that when we take God at His word He hears and answers on time.

On Friday 16 June, the church was led into a special anointing service carried out by Pastor McKenzie (residing minister), Pastor Pardon Chenjerai and the elders of both Fartown and Crosland Moor Churches. Many members and visiting friends came forward individually or as families, and were prayed with as they received the anointing oil on their foreheads.

The week culminated on Sabbath 17 June, with the theme, 'It's time to praise' in the evening, which included a mini concert and the final word from Pastor McKenzie, based on Psalm 34:1-8 regarding blessing, praising and magnifying the name of the Lord.

Indeed, it was a time to praise, as during the week seven people



Guyana Day

Not only was Sabbath 1 July a Day of Fellowship but also a celebration of 130 years of Adventism within Guyana. The special day attracted over 300 people to enjoy a wonderful atmosphere of worship and praise at Adelaide Hall, at Prendergast College in south-east London. This annual event not only draws Guyanese from around the UK, but many other nationalities were in attendance in joint celebration.

The theme for the day was 'Sowing Hope, Seeing Miracles', and the guest speaker was Pastor Allan Chichester from Canada. Terrance Blackman, President of the United Kingdom Chapter of Adventist Guyanese (UCAG), officially welcomed the guests, ministers and Conference and Union representatives. Sharing the success of the initiatives of the UCAG throughout the year, Terrance thanked the members for their financial and spiritual support. Some of these projects involved providing assistance to churches and missions within Guyana.

Those Guyanese ministers who provided support on the day included Pastors Kirk Thomas, Wilfred Blake and Kwesi Moore, together with the committee members of the UCAG.

Worship through music was well featured through a vibrant praise team who featured prominently and created an uplifting atmosphere.

Fellowship lunch is also a highlight for Guyanese days and provided a perfect outlet for conversation and catch-up time.

The afternoon programme, entitled 'An Afternoon of Abundant Praise', had as its special feature a journey of celebration through the 130 years of Adventism in Guyana, involving inspirational gospel music, drama and the spoken word.

It was a joyful day of worship in celebration of Guyanese Adventism and the projects of its local members.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA DIRECTOR)



requested baptism, including children, young people, and adults. Many more wanted a deeper understanding of the Bible and/or requested prayer. We thank God for the warm and winning personality of Pastor Steve McKenzie, and for being able to use him in such a mighty way.

VERONICA WHITTLE

Stanborough Secondary School Open & Taster Day on Thursday 21 September 2017

Choosing a secondary school is one of the most crucial decisions that a parent needs to make. To assist parents in making this decision, we offer a tour of Stanborough Secondary School and a full day's experience of secondary education for Year 6.

Our school is a co-educational, independent school surrounded by 40 acres of beautiful parkland. The school fosters an atmosphere of community and family, catering for students from Year 7 to Year 11. We are a very international school, with an enrolment representing over 40 different nationalities.

We would be grateful if you could mark Thursday 21 September 2017 on your calendar. Our programme on the day will be as follows and lunch will be provided.

Taster Day (Year 6 students) 9-12am
Open Day 4-6pm

To register please email: ehussey@spsch.org.
We look forward to meeting the pupils and parents.



Pathfinders' honours presented

On 8 July, the Nottingham Central Church Pathfinders and Adventurers were presented with certificates, honours and awards by Pastor Alan Hush (NEC Executive Secretary) and the Area Co-ordinators, Sister Ruth and Brother Johns. Much effort was put in behind the scenes by parents and Master Guides, with vegetarian meals provided by Sisters Banton and Forester.

DENNIS TAYLOR



BUC IT and Web Developer vacancy

The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists seeks to employ a Web Developer and IT Person.

Job description:

- Administer and maintain the following: the webserver; the BUC network, server and email service; all back-up procedures for the server, and train staff to back up their own computers; the BUC telephone system.
- Supervise, maintain and develop the BUC websites and databases.
- Use business intelligence (BI) to appraise and improve the websites.
- Perform Windows server administration.
- Understand and apply Data Protection measures with respect to the requirements of the law, with attention to GDPR.
- Advise treasury on purchases of computer hardware and software.
- Assist staff with IT problems.
- Provide or arrange training in IT/software issues for staff as appropriate.
- Liaise with outside IT providers on contracts and provision of services.
- Advise the administration on IT issues.
- Carry out or supervise regular maintenance on office computers.
- Repair office laptops and desktops.
- Maintain a database of software licences and computer hardware.
- Be flexible and willing to learn new technologies.
- Perform other tasks as assigned by the line manager.

Skills and experience:

- Strong understanding of UI, cross-browser compatibility, general web functions and standards.
- Hands-on experience with web applications and programming languages such as HTML(5), CSS, JSON, XML, JavaScript, PHP, JQuery and APIs.
- Familiarity with Squiz Matrix and TYPO3
- Understanding of UX principles
- Experience with Photoshop
- Familiarity with development and debugging tools for cross-browser issues
- Familiarity with social media and third-party APIs
- Familiarity with security regarding web servers, web applications and Windows infrastructure

Interested applicants should send their CVs to Pastor John Surrridge, Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, at jsurrridge@adventist.uk.

Closing date: 30 September 2017.



David Wells and Angela Sterling, Food Bank co-ordinators from the Harlestone Road church

Northampton's 'energised' Food Bank!

Utility companies and charity don't normally get discussed in the same breath, but when I had the opportunity, as a manager at Opus Energy Ltd, to recommend a local charity for the company to support, I was delighted to put forward our church-based Food Bank to its charity committee for consideration. When an email confirmed that we had been chosen, I could only give God praise and couldn't wait to share the news with the group leaders!

Since our Food Bank was opened in October 2015, approximately 400 members of the public have been served, having received over 1,500 bags full of groceries.

Opus Energy Ltd, through the support of employee volunteers on its Northampton site, was able to receive six full crates of donated items in just two weeks! These generous donations included food, toiletries, clothing and a financial donation of £225. A photo and thank-you letter were subsequently sent to Opus Energy Ltd and published on the company intranet.

Most people that come for help are at their lowest ebb and don't want to have to use a Food Bank. Their circumstances, however, are such that they have no other option. The Food Bank is open on Mondays and supported by members from the Harlestone Road and Northampton Central churches, and continues to make an important impact through its practical ministry that brings hope back into the lives of many people.

AUBREY DAVIS (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM)



Men's Ministry Day: Northampton Central

Not only the men of Northampton Central Church benefited from the message on Men's Ministry Day (13 May) – the filled-to-capacity congregation were all challenged by the theme of the day: 'Reflect the image of God'. The sermon, by visiting speaker Pedro Atonius, was appropriately entitled, 'My Man!' Like David, all – but especially the men – were challenged to 'man up' and take responsibility for their own actions, and to stay with God, no matter what! The Northampton Men's Choir's a capella item, 'O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing', drove the message home in a powerful way.

AUBREY DAVIS (COMMUNICATIONS TEAM)

Newbold College Diversity Lectures Autumn 2017

12 September

One for All and All for One –
Appreciating Dissidence in the Church

Lecturer: Pastor Wirm Altink, former leader of the Netherlands Union of Seventh-day Adventist churches
Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall,
Newbold College, Bracknell RG42 4AN

10 October (The 2017 Beach Lecture)

Faith and Politics – A Reformation Anniversary Review
Lecturer: Professor Alec Ryrie, Professor in the Department of Theology and Religion, University of Durham
Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Salisbury Hall, Newbold College, Bracknell RG42 4AN

7 November

A Christian Approach to Capitalism –
Why Women and Shopping Matter!

Lecturer: Dr Eve Poole, Deputy Director of the Public Leadership Centre at Ashridge Business School
<http://evepoole.com/about/>
Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall,
Newbold College, Bracknell RG42 4AN

Everyone is welcome.
Refreshments will be available!



Mr Poddar surrounded by some former students

Farewell Mr Poddar

After teaching at Stanborough School for an impressive 29 years, our beloved Mr Poddar has retired. To celebrate his outstanding contribution to our school community, we hosted a special assembly on Monday 10 July. It was an emotional occasion with many black-and-white photographs, tales of older times and tears. Several former students travelled to share in the moment, to tell all of us how Mr Poddar's teaching inspired them. Many commented how his generosity and moral values, as much as his teaching, left an indelible mark in their lives. 'Thank you' seems so inadequate to express our gratitude to you, sir, for your life-commitment to educating young people. You'll be sorely missed!

'I remember the high standards you set for your students in Biology. However, your classroom was not just about high standards; it was about the success of each student. They knew that you cared about each of them: and that you prayed for each of them.'

ANDREA LUXTON

'Thank you for making Biology a great subject!'

BECCA DEAN-ROBERTS

'Thank you for all your dedication and hard work and for being a servant of God. You truly left a long-lasting impression on me. I thank you for contributing to my love for the medical profession to which I have dedicated my life.'

REBECCA GRECO

'Thank you for your commitment to the success of your students.'

LYDIA DEAN

'I admire the amount of time he put into helping others and his charitable work; I think that this is one of the greatest testaments to his character.'

SHANE CASTAGNET

'Thank you for your inspiration and everything you did for me.'

KARLENE MYERS

'Thank you, Mr Poddar, for everything you did for me while I was a student at Stanborough. Not only were you a fantastic teacher, but you also fostered my continuing interest for badminton, gave me the opportunity to travel to India twice and supported me through my school years.'

ADAM GIBBARD

'To this day I still want to greet him as "Mr Poddar"; he will always be my Biology teacher. However, beyond teaching me Biology, in the most recent times he has taught me humility, and has become a role model of faith and love.'

NICK DEAN

'You never doubted I could make it (although at first it seemed difficult), and were always available to help me when I needed it, whether it was with my homework, improving my English or just giving me advice about life.'

SARA PASOR FERRI

VANESA PIZZUTO

BOOKSALES

September
3 Stanborough Press Open Day 8am-4pm
17 Ilford Central 10am-2pm

October
1 Newbold 10am-2pm
1 London Ghana 10am-2pm
15 Wrexham 10am-2pm
22 Plumstead Community 10am-2pm

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

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obituaries

Dorothy de Lisser (ca. 1940-2016) d. 6 December. Sister Dorothy de Lisser, affectionately known by such other names as Dorothy, Dor, Miss Charley and Sister D, passed away suddenly in the early morning of Tuesday, 6 December, 2016.



She was welcomed into the world by James and Merita Charles, the fourth of seven children born to them, and she spent her early life in the Devon Region of St Ann, Jamaica.

From an early age Dorothy was a caring person who frequently assisted her mother by taking care of her siblings and travelling to surrounding communities to sell a variety of goods, including clothes.

After completing her elementary education, Dorothy was diagnosed with a serious heart condition and told that she would not live beyond the age of 14. Her parents were, however, people of faith and they prayed about the matter. Some time later Dorothy joined members of her family in London, where she underwent corrective heart surgery.

With renewed determination and the support of two of her siblings, she successfully completed her training as a nurse, a career that she would faithfully pursue for over 30 years.

After Dorothy married Clinton de Lisser in 1964, the couple were blessed with four children, including Richard, former president of the South England Conference. While raising their family, Dorothy still found the time to be involved in community outreach. From developing a telephone ministry to her work with young people, she was passionate about working for God.

Dorothy was a straightforward woman of God, and some may wrongly have considered her to be unapproachable. She was, however, a kind-hearted, witty and hospitable woman who made friends, family and even strangers feel at home in her presence. Her generosity and thoughtfulness were palpable and she left fingerprints of love on the hearts of all she met.

Dorothy loved her community and Brixton Church, where it was hard not to see this elegant and determined figure of a woman

hard at work. Even in what might be considered her retirement years she accepted the role of Stewardship Leader, inspiring many people to sign up for the Gift Aid programme, which increased the church's income by thousands of pounds and for which she received the SEC Stewardship Leader of the Year award for 2014. She also served at Conference level as a trustee.

On 28 December 2016 the Brixton church was full to capacity as family and friends from all over the UK and beyond met to celebrate the life of Dorothy de Lisser, while a further 650 people watched the service online.

The service was a jubilant and comforting reflection on the life of a dear wife, mother, sister, grandmother and friend.

Officiating at the service were Pastors Keith Boldeau and Cecil Perry, a former SEC president and past minister of Brixton Church.

All but one of Dorothy's siblings made the journey to bid farewell and to share fond memories of their beloved sister.

Many tributes were received from abroad, including a heartfelt one from another former Brixton pastor, Hamilton Williams.

During the service a collection of £2,500 was taken up for the Dorothy de Lisser Education Fund which is being established.

Her passing leaves a void that no one can fill. She was a true Designer's original.

While the de Lisser family respect the wisdom and expertise of the medical profession, they are glad that God had the last word – that the 14 years of life that had been predicted by the doctors were in fact a gift of 76 years, lived with purpose, integrity and a love for God and her fellow man.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 53 years, Clinton de Lisser; children and spouses, Richard and Joan, Paulette and Thierry, Auline and Andrew, and Mark and Tracey; grandchildren, Akala, Isabella, Isaac, Elias and Joel; siblings, Parnel, Kip, Hughlet, Lorna, Judith and Wentworth; and a host of other family and friends.

As we await the day when our Heavenly Father makes all things new, we can take comfort in the knowledge that our dear sister sleeps awaiting the day when God 'will wipe every tear from [our] eyes, and there will be no

more death or sorrow or crying or pain'. Rev. 21:4, NLT.

ANGELA HANNANT

Virly Lucretia Parris (1928-2017) d. 9 April.

Virly's funeral was held on 18 May 2017 at Lewisham Church by Pastors Ebenezer Jones-Lartey and Bernard Akakpo.



Virly was born on 31 March 1928 in Georgetown, Guyana, South America. Her family live in Mahaicony, and it was there that she met and married Arnim Rodwell Parris in 1954.

Virly came to England in 1962 and settled in Birmingham, where she lived for 10 years before moving to London. She studied nursing and specialised in midwifery. One of her greatest joys was delivering healthy babies.

Virly had a strong link with her family in Guyana and she assisted one of her great-nieces, Paulette, to join her in London to study nursing.

An opportune meeting with Augustus Dantzie led to her having Bible studies, and she was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1980. Virly attended the Kidbrook branch Sabbath school, which later moved to Lionel Road Community Centre in 1984. In 1986 the group gained church status as the Eltham Green congregation, with Virly being one of the original members.

Her greatest desire was to see her family accept the Seventh-day Adventist message, and she witnessed to them continually, with some success.

Virly embraced the health message wholeheartedly and she became a vegetarian. She was a great cook, and on Sabbaths we looked forward to her roti and vegetarian curry, lasagne or metagee (a Guyanese dish). She had a great sense of humour and her dress style was classic – matching dress, shoes and handbag. On her birthdays she would always sing a solo during Sabbath School or the worship service.

Virly served in the Sabbath School, Health and Community Service Departments, and served as a deaconess. For many years she was the star collector for ADRA and no one in Eltham Green Church surpassed her record of £500 for door-to-door collection.

In 2006 Eltham Green and Mottingham churches merged and, following the purchase of a

church building, became Welling Church, where Virly remained a member until her death.

During her later years she moved into Charlton Park Care Home due to ill health. On 19 November 2016 Virly attended a day of appreciation for the elderly, which was to be her last day in church.

She is missed by her family, church family and friends.

We look forward to the return of Jesus to take His loved ones home.

BETHENE WITTER WHITE



Vegetarian week at Carter Knowle

As part of the national vegetarian week (15-21 May), the Carter Knowle Health Ministries team, led by Racquel Murray, presented cooking demonstrations, sharing recipes with both members and non-members – including a delicious vegan cheese, which, according to one presenter, had taken seven years to perfect! Some comments were: 'The food was lovely'; 'Everything is so tasty'; 'The food was beautiful and delicious.' Truly, a fun, educational and inspirational afternoon.

CK COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sep 1	7.47	7.59	7.53	8.07	8.15
8	7.31	7.43	7.37	7.49	7.58
15	7.15	7.27	7.20	7.30	7.40
22	6.59	7.11	7.03	7.12	7.22

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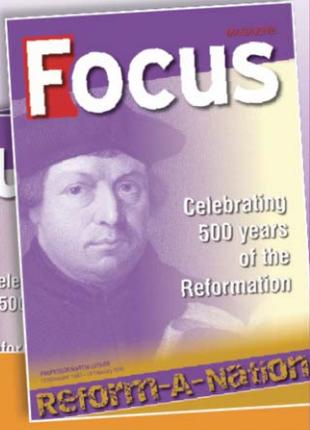
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volunteering@adra.org.uk
or 030 30 40 1017
for pricing and more details

Limited spaces!
First come, first to Cambodia!

ADRA UK
adra.org.uk www.facebook.com/ADRAUK [youtube.com/adrauk](https://www.youtube.com/adrauk)
Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 - IOM1101)

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

BUC CHURCH PLANTERS CONFERENCE
De Vere Beaumont Estate, Burfield Road, Old Windsor, SL4 2JJ



Ignite & Excite

29 SEPT - 1 OCT 2017

SPEAKERS



Dr. Roger HERNANDEZ
Ministerial & Evangelism Director, Southern Union Conference, USA



Dr. Kirk THOMAS
Evangelism Director, British Union Conference



Dr. Bjorn OTTERSEN
Head of Theological Studies, Newbold College



Pr. Simon MARTIN
Church Plant Director, South England Conference

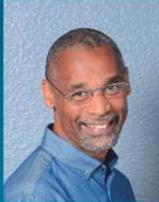
COST: £90 TWO SHARING / £110 SINGLE OCCUPANCY. BOOK BY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2017

Contact Kerrine or Cathy on 01923 672 251
KerrineGuthrie@adventist.uk, Evangelism@adventist.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ADVENTIST PARENTS

MAIN SPEAKER



Pastor Les Ackie
BUC Family Ministries Director

CO-ORDINATORS



Mike & Vicky Beamish

RESIDENTIAL FAMILY WEEKEND
3 - 5 NOVEMBER 2017

VENUE: HILL HOUSE CHRISTIAN RETREAT CENTRE, OTTERHAMPTON, NR BRIDGWATER, TA5 2PT

Short presentations on topics relevant to Christian family life
Group discussion time
Family worship and activity time
Relaxing rural surroundings
3 Main meals provided. Self catering Friday evening and all breakfasts.

COSTS (subsidised)
Adults and children age 12+ - £30 each
Children age 6-11 - £25 each
Children age 4-5 - £20 each
Children age 0-3 - FREE

**"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ."
(Galatians 6 vs 2)**

E-mail: snap.sda@tesco.net or Tel 01242 821105 for booking details

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted