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## **NEC Camp Meeting 2018**

by Pastor Richard Daly (BUC Communication Director)

he North of England experienced the highest temperatures for a long time this year, which meant that the North England Conference (NEC) camp meeting basked in beautiful sunshine at the seaside town of Southport, North West England. It was held from Monday 25 June for one week at the Pontins residential holiday park and attended by around a thousand people who made their way there from across the north of England, as well as some from the South England Conference (SEC) and the Missions.

The theme of 'Nurturing Each Other and Winning Another' in the adult meetings was reinforced each evening using the theme song, 'Each One Reach One', and the powerful and biblically crafted sermons that were delivered by Pastor Steve Riley, Communication Director of the South Caribbean Conference and senior pastor of the Mt d'Or Seventh-day Adventist church. These messages were well-received by the attendees, who enjoyed his sound expository and topical approach, dynamically expressed with a hint of natural wit and humour.

With an array of guest speakers and a variety of programmes the attendees were not without choice. For the early risers there were the morning reflections presented by NEC minister, Pastor Victor Marshall and his prayer team. Bible study followed after breakfast under the direction of Pastor Jongimpi Papu, a guest presenter who currently serves at the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division as Ministerial and Family Ministries Director. He focused his studies on spiritual commitment and personal revival.

There was plenty of time in the programme to catch up with old friends and make new ones. Attendees also had time each day to digest the spiritual feast they were exposed to through meditation and contemplation, and there was time for recreation too.

Health messages were presented by Dr Katia Reinert, a graduate from Johns Hopkins University, who has an interest in preventative medicine and mental health. She shared her experiences and gave lifechanging advice and direction to the many who attended her presentations on the topics of addictions, healthy sexuality, emotional stability and mental equilibrium.

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## Editorial



## Mental wellness - Part 1e

## Brain energy impact

Critical to preserving mental well-being is the energy that is required to

Health journalist Steve Barwick has highlighted research from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medicine, on brain function, which reveals that the human brain uses more energy than any other organ, including the heart, and points to a nutrient known as *adenosine* triphosphate (ATP) as its primary source of cellular energy.1

In the same article, Barwick quotes Dr Barry Sears' observations on this vital energy source: 'Without adequate levels of ATP, your brain has an energy drain and its function decreases... Below a critical level of ATP production, brain cells can begin to die.

Barwick's article stated that individuals with higher levels of ATP had better brain function, listing the key functions of ATP as:

- assisting in the delivery of nutrients and oxygen to the brain;
- aiding in the removal of waste products;
- the ability to self-repair any damage to brain cells and tissues;
  keeping brain tissue alive and functioning at optimal levels as we

Dr Eva Selhub, contributing editor for the Harvard Medical School's health blog, shares another perspective on how important it is to get the right 'fuel' to energise our brains. In her article 'Nutritional Psychiatry: Your brain on food' she writes:

'Like an expensive car, your brain functions best when it gets only premium fuel. Eating high-quality foods that contain lots of vitamins,

minerals, and antioxidants nourishes the brain and protects it from oxidative stress — the "waste" (free radicals) produced when the body uses oxygen, which can damage cells.'

Dr Selhub explains that because our brain is always working, even while we are asleep, it requires a constant supply of fuel, which comes from the food we eat. She states: 'What's in that fuel makes all the difference. Put simply, what you eat directly affects the structure and function of your brain and, ultimately, your mood."

She identifies 'low-premium fuel' as that coming from processed and refined foods; she highlights the dangers and their harm to the brain. Referring to refined sugars, she reports the damaging effects as:

• worsening the body's regulation of insulin;

- promoting inflammation and oxidative stress:
- impairing brain function;
- · worsening the symptoms of mood disorders such as depression.

Other studies demonstrate an association between low brain-fuel metabolism and poor cognitive function with ageing. Lower glucose metabolism was also linked with the onset of Alzheimer's.  $^{3}$ 

The next issue highlights brain-boosting tips.

## Good health!

https://www.targetednutrients.com/2016/08/11/atp-overlooked-brain-energy-nutrient-

SEC PARL DEPARTMENT

AND ADVENT RELIGIO-LEGAL PERSPECTIVES PRESENT

Gender

Self-Identification & the Law

A One Day Seminar Not to be Ignored or Missed

# **©** CONNECTIONS Do you and a group of friends fancy visiting Nepal? Get involved in a real ADRA project $2^{\text{nd}}$ Dec - $19^{\text{th}}$ Dec 2018 or 030 30 40 1017 ADRA UK

## peaker: Brighton G Kavaloh (Retired Pastor) 0AM - 4PM, 19 AUGUST 2018 Advent Centre, 37-39 Brendon Street London W1H 5JE

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of societal trends reflected

in Human Legislative endeavour and the need to prepare the Seventh-day Adventist Church Community for participation in the forthcoming Gender Identity Government Public Consultation process.

Info & Registration Contact: Brighton G. Kavaloh 0771 064 2265 | bgkavaloh@hotmail.co.uk



# The 'double thumbs-up' . . .

My first and only visit to Cape Town's stately Groote Kerk was over 45 years ago, but one memory of it has remained fresh - its rows of 'family' pews, each with its own little access door. There they were, pews bearing the names of those privileged nineteenth-century families who had both the status and the money to acquire one for their private use!1

Other than for very practical applications such as the reservation of seats for deacons or parents with little children, I have never seen the allocation of such privileged seating in any of our churches. Our places of worship should be there for rich and poor, haves and have-nots, regular members and random visitors - for everyone.

## 'Everyone' has been redefined

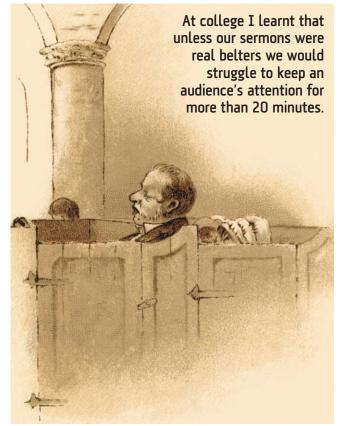
To be frank with you, though, that term 'everyone' has undergone a redefinition in recent times because of the persistent work of our disabilities ministries and organisations like ASNA. They have made us more aware of the requirements of those living with special needs and disabilities. I am glad that 'everyone' is now a more inclusive term than it ever was. But I am also thrilled that the emphasis is not just on making our facilities physically accessible to as many as possible, but also about making our message as **intelligible** to them as it can possibly be.

The use of British Sign Language (BSL) in a growing number of our congregations, and at large events such as camp meetings, bears testimony to our growing desire to communicate intelligibly on behalf of God to as many as possible. It helps the hearing-impaired to 'hear' us, and for us to

## The 'double thumbs-up'

I have come to realise that the use of well-prepared visual aids, especially those delivered through the video projector, can really make our sermons and talks more comprehensible to the hearingimpaired who attend our churches. I am powerfully reminded of this every time I preach one of those illustrated sermons in my home church. How? When one of our loyal deacons appears in the foyer and gives me a broad smile and the double thumbs-up after the service. Why? For this simple reason: his hearing doesn't work well at all, but his eyes do, and this joyous gesture tells me that he 'saw' the sermon and enjoyed it!

That 'double thumbs-up' gesture brings a lump to my throat every time he does it. **But it also** makes me wonder about the rest of the congregation. Have I helped make God's message accessible to them?



## This is the question ...

If we are really concerned about reaching 'everyone' in our churches we probably need to ask this question every time we speak in public: 'Is God's message getting through to as many of them as possible?'You may think that you are an effective speaker, but don't take it for granted. I was once told this home truth by an elder I still greatly respect: 'Do you know what the trouble with vou ministers is? For six days you are hard to find! And on the seventh you are hard to understand! Granted, this was before the days of widespread mobile phone use, but his point about being 'hard to understand' has stuck with me.

Are those of us who preach or teach getting through to as many as possible, or are we just 'hard to understand'? This is

the question – perhaps the most important – that we should be asking ourselves today.

## Just a few thoughts

Here are a few thoughts that might set us thinking about how we can be more effective, irrespective of the age group we minister to.

The ten-minute rule – At college I learnt that unless our sermons were real belters we would struggle to keep an audience's attention for more than 20 minutes. Nowadays the experts have halved it to ten minutes. Perhaps this is why Parliament has 'Ten Minute Rule Bills' that allow a 'backbench MP to make his or her case for a new Bill in a speech lasting up to ten minutes'.2

According to those in the know, 'audiences mentally tune out because they're not given chances to fully digest what they're learning.' To prevent this, they suggest that the audience be 're-engaged' every 10 minutes. In our context this can be achieved by using an appropriate story or anecdote, performing an experiment, doing a demonstration, screening a suitable video clip, singing a song, or simply encouraging audience participation via questions.<sup>3</sup>

**Emotional engagement** – This is another critical component of the communication process because most audiences will only follow purely logical arguments for a limited time. This means that 'you need to engage your audiences emotionally if you want them to stay focused for longer and remember what you say.' The reason is that audiences 'heed and remember things they can feel and visualise' much better than by pure fact alone.

If you want proof for this, look no further than your Bible. What part of it do you remember best? The stories, not so?

According to John Medina, author of Brain Rules, it will help to break our talks and sermons into 'a collection of discrete 10-minute segments' followed with emotional 'jump starts' that vividly emphasise what has been said, while recapturing the audience's attention for the next segment. He views appropriate stories as an excellent way to achieve this, and to avoid the alternative: that your audience 'take a mental voyage on which you, the speaker, are not

If we are passionate about reaching 'everyone' our emphasis must be on comprehension, understanding and emotional involvement. God bless you as you give it a try!

1https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groote\_Kerk,\_Cape\_Town <sup>2</sup>https://www.parliament.uk/site-information/glossary/tenminute-rule-bill/3https://www.slidegenius.com/blog/ presentation-expert-10-min-rule/4http://www.thereluctant speakersclub.com/blog/2012/07/do-you-need-emotionaljump-leads-to-keep-your-audience-engaged/

## Anita Marshall

# His signature



 ¶ hen I was a teenager, my mum and I used to go to the theatre in Hull (which **V** was a particularly good one). We saw some wonderful plays, but the bit my mum hated was when I dragged her round to the stage door afterwards for autographs. I was the most avid autograph hunter in the world! The funny thing was, hate it though she did, Mum still went with me, and her face was just as lit up as mine by the stars who appeared eventually. I tell you this so that you will understand the impact the following incident had on me.

Some years ago, I was in an Oxfam bookshop and, as they had carefully organised their books under subjects, I naturally checked out the gardening section . . .

... where my eye was immediately drawn to the name 'Titchmarsh', for some reason. When I pulled out the book it automatically opened at the first page, and there I saw *his signature!* The signature of the man himself! And they only wanted £1.29 for it! Seeing my gleeful smile, the assistant admitted that it was quite a find, and asked if I was a fan. Silly!

Anyway, it got me thinking (as these things do), and the first thought was that the man himself must have actually held that very book in order to sign it. Precious find indeed. Then I got to thinking, 'Why is it that we value something that someone famous has actually held, or signed?' Is it because, by some mysterious process, some of the 'magic' of the famous person rubs off onto the object they have touched or held?



## Big thought arising

If I value such a book more because a famous television gardener has held and signed it, how much more should I (and do I) value the earth which came from the very hand of God? Do I really give that incredible thought enough time to filter deep into my mind? Do I dwell enough on the fact that our world bears the evidence of God's sense of order, balance and detail? Not to mention His delightful sense of humour. Well, have you looked closely at a frog? Or heard it

Then I thought about the signature Christ has left upon the earth, and there my imagination really took off.

I find it utterly amazing that, from making the heavens and the earth, Jesus didn't find it 'beneath Him' to make tables and chairs, doors or yokes for oxen. But just imagine going into your local charity shop and coming across a chair actually authenticated as having been made by Jesus! His signature would be all over it because it had been shaped by His hands just as it is on everything beautiful and useful on the face of the earth. How can people look at something as lovely as a butterfly and not imagine, as I often do, the fun and love that

> Jesus put into making it so intricate and delicate?

And, I have to

ask, why make every snowflake unique? If I'd gone to that bother. I'd have made them much bigger, so that people could see how clever I was. But Jesus doesn't need to boast. It's enough for Him to know that what He made was good. Even that's an understatement I find hard to - well, to understand! He didn't actually need an audience! I suppose the poet Thomas Gray got it right when he said: 'Full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air.' And those of us who watched either of the Blue Planet series on TV must also have wondered at all those amazing creatures on the seabed that no one

Sorry, got a bit carried away there, but I always do when I think about creation.

Because Jesus made the heavens and earth and found them good, we can see His signature in stars, flowers and birds, and everything that is still lovely in our worn-out old world.

Because of His being born to the lowliest of earthly parents, we can see a little of Him in our own family and friends. We can see His signature on all our lives as we try to live the way He wants us to.

Because of His birth in the lowliest circumstances, we needn't be ashamed if we don't have everything we feel we sometimes need in order to keep up appearances. We can see His signature on the humble things of our lives - which are, more often than not, the best things we have.

Because He worked at a lowly – though essential - trade, we can see His signature on the jobs we have to do – some of which we might, on occasion, be tempted to think are beneath us.

But the interesting thing is, from looking at His signature on the night skies, or the face of a child, I can also see His signature on the work He helps His people to do for Him everywhere – even in the most unexpected places.

Because He walked the dusty roads of Palestine, we can see Him more easily as we tread our own dusty roads. His signature is on the waysides and the highways, in the tiredness we feel when the road seems too long, or the task too great. He knew that tiredness. He felt the stones beneath His feet. He understands.

Our God has held this world in His hands, He has placed His signature on the wonders it contains,

He has been born here, lived here, worked here, and died here. He knows what it's like here. Doesn't that make this world a very, very special place?



# Converted in a pig pen

nna Isobel Graham (née McGerrigle) was born in Donemana, a rural village about 10 miles outside the city of Derry/Londonderry. She was the seventh in a family of nine children.

Shortly after the birth of the youngest child, Ronnie, tragedy stuck. The family lost both parents in a short time. Anna was 14 when her mother died, aged 38. Two years later her father died and it became difficult for the family to stay together. Anna's sister, René, became the maternal figure in the household, but the siblings had to go out and find work.

Anna initially did housework and child minding, then worked in the Star shirt factory, and later in the Hamilton factory in Londonderry. She earned £1 per week. However, expenses for her commute into Londonderry consumed most of her earnings.

Her sister found her work as a maid near their home in Donemana. Here she worked for an American lady who treated her very well. Anna remembers that she had to show what she was capable of before the lady would employ her. Anna decided to clean her house. The lady said that she had never had such a clean house, even though she already had three maids in her employ. Anna was offered the job. She was happy now. The salary was still £1 per week, but it was all hers. She was paid every Friday. She also had her own bedroom and food for free.

In 1952 Anna met her husband John Graham at a barn dance. He was thirteen years older than her, and treated her very well. The newly-wed couple moved twice before settling in a little cottage not far from Donemana, where John established a vegetable garden. Visitors to their home often left with baskets of vegetables or a bag of potatoes.

Early in their marriage, Anna received devastating news that, medically speaking, she would not be able to have children. But God must have had other plans, for two years later Anna gave birth to Ivan, her only son. When Ivan grew up,

he married Ann, and they gave birth to a grandson, Ivan Junior, who was the apple of Anna's eye.

## Anna's faith

Anna was born into a Presbyterian family and she always had a hunger to dig deeper into Scripture. One day her brother Bertie came home with a leaflet that he had received somewhere. It advertised free Bible studies from an organisation in Watford called The Voice of Prophecy. She enrolled, and was soon busy discovering the teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While Anna was impressed and convicted by these teachings she did not know how to realign her life in harmony with them. She did not know if there were other people with similar beliefs nearby.

At this point in her life, Anna experienced a very dramatic event while in an enclosed space feeding a pig sow. Somehow, she ended up on the far end of the enclosure with the sow between her and the gate. Suddenly Anna realised that the sow was wild and extremely dangerous. All escape routes were cut off and she knew that she was in serious trouble. There and then she prayed and made the promise that, if her life was spared, she would follow the teachings that she had just learned and keep the Seventh-day Sabbath.

Anna could not remember how she escaped this precarious situation. All that remained with her for the rest of her life was the conviction that a miracle had taken place that day. She wasted no time in writing to the Voice of Prophecy Bible school to find out how she could join others who believed the teachings that she had discovered. The letter was sent on a Monday, and by the Friday there was a representative of the Church visiting her in her home. Soon after this she joined a lively Seventh-day Adventist congregation in Londonderry.

Anna was the only member of her family who joined the

Seventh-day Adventist Church. and everybody around her knew that her church was a central part of her life. She never missed a worship service by choice, so when she was absent the members knew she was sick.

It is impossible to recount all the ways that Anna was a blessing to the Adventist church in Londonderry. In a church whose membership was decimated during the Troubles, she brought stability. There were extended periods when she was the only member attending church. Sabbath after Sabbath!

But Anna was also known for her love of crocheting, and for the countless cushion covers and baby jerseys she knitted for charity. She was also a fun-loving person who played many games of



ludo and Chinese chequers with her family and enjoyed spending time with the church family. We all remember wonderful conversations with her.

Even in periods of illness, her spirit usually remained high and she made the best of matters. Sadly, she did not come to church on the Sabbath before her death. A few days later she was in hospital where a short but severe illness took her away from us.

Anna will be greatly missed. She was our pillar of faith and inspiration. We know that she rests in peace and that we will see her when Jesus comes.

## **Stanborough Press Open Day Sunday 9 September 2018**

## Speakers:

Pastor Samuel Telemague

SEC Expo Speaker 2018) Inter-American Division Director of Office of Adventist Mission (Sabbath School and Personal

Pastor Dwain Esmond

Assistant Editor at Ellen G. White Estate, USA (author)

### **Health Presenter:**

Sharon Platt-McDonald

BUC Director of Health and Women's Ministries (author)

**Scripture Says** - An a cappella group with a new 2018 album

**Trio** - Female ensemble from Handsworth Seventh-day Adventist Church

All the usual attractions of new titles, prepared food and various demonstrations. There will be lots of activities for the children too. We look forward to seeing you.

## **Coaches to Grantham for Press Open Day:**

Book now to avoid disappointment Coaches will run from Croydon, Brixton, Battersea and Fulham in the London area, and Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Handsworth, Camp Hill, Birmingham and surrounding areas in the Midlands.

To book, or for more information, phone or text Hubert Smiley on 07868288310, 07490595001, 02085959470, 07533743916, or 07926553722.

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## A brief story of bravery and faithfulness

**Based largely on information supplied** by Vernon Thompson\*

homas Pearson Thompson was one of those gallant men who fought for our freedom during the Great War of 1914-1918. Thomas, who had been a coal miner before the outbreak of hostilities, became a sapper, 'a private soldier in the Corps of Royal Engineers'. Sadly, he died of his wounds on 3 March 1916, just three months before the first battle of the Somme commenced, and was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM). The fact that this medal was 'regarded as second only to the Victoria Cross in prestige' was of little practical comfort to his wife, Florence, who lived in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and was left to raise their young family of three on her own.

Florence, however, was not left without hope, for she subsequently came into contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church through attending the first evangelistic series in the city. At the close of the meetings she was the first to be baptised by Pastor A. K. Armstrong and became a founder member of the Stoke church.

Thomas and Florence had a son, **Bernard**, who was born the year before his father died. As you can well imagine, the post-war years were tough times for the Thompson family and at fourteen Bernard left school and was employed at the G. T. Baggley printing works. He later left them in 1929 to work for another printer after being offered the position of works manager with Sabbaths off, However, when the management subsequently reneged on their 'Sabbaths-off' offer, Bernard had no hesitation in handing his notice in!

Now back in the ranks of the unemployed, Bernard had to walk the streets of Stoke in search of a job ... but not for long. One day a car stopped nearby and the driver beckoned him over. It was a client of the printing works where Bernard had previously worked, a Mr H. O. Bailey. Upon hearing that Bernard was unemployed, he promptly said: 'Come and work for me, and train to be my sales representative in the Potteries' Bernard gratefully accepted the offer and stayed with the company (Hopkins and Bailey) for the rest of his working

The company later moved to the Birmingham area where, once World War II broke out. Bernard's faith was under threat again owing to his position as a conscientious objector. He had to appear before the Midland Conscientious Objectors Tribunal, of which the eminent judge, Sir Donald Leslie Finnemore, was chairman. Although a committed Baptist, a teetotaller and a strong supporter of the Boys' Brigade, the judge was not one to easily hand

out exemptions from military service.2

Surprisingly, unlike so many other Christians of the day (Adventists included). Bernard did not fight his cause on the basis of non-combatancy. Instead, he sought exemption on the grounds that his conscience would not allow him to serve any organisation (in this case the military) that restricted his freedom

to worship God on the seventh-day Sabbath. Strange as it may seem, on the day of his appearance before Judge Finnemore, Bernard Thompson was the only conscientious objector to be granted exemption from military service!

During the war Bernard was required to become his company's first aid officer (as part of St John Ambulance), and as part of his responsibilities he was obliged to offer first aid classes which brought him into contact with many people. Among them was Mabel Cutler, a young lady in whom he became romantically interested.

Bernard had become a church elder at the tender age of 19 and was well equipped to share both his affection and his faith with Mabel. The result was that she was baptised on 1 May 1943 by Pastor L. Murdoch, and that they were married on 27 July 1945. Her commitment to Christ and His Sabbath resulted in her having to appear before Judge Finnemore too, fortunately with the same outcome. The commitment that they showed during those stressful war years never dimmed and they remained staunch members of the Adventist Church. While Bernard passed away in 2013, Mabel still attends services at the Shrewsbury church.

In conclusion, it must be mentioned that Bernard's work for the St John Ambulance -'the nation's leading first aid charity' continued after the war, with him becoming the organisation's area commissioner for Birmingham and Sutton Coldfield. It is probably a little-known fact that 'in many parts of Britain, St John was the first and only provider of an ambulance service up to the middle of the twentieth century.'3 During his faithful service Bernard was to receive three awards from Her Majesty the Queen, culminating in his appointment as 'a Commander of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem' in 1978.



Such stories of personal bravery, Christian faithfulness and committed service to both the church and the community are inspiring. If you have one to share about someone whose life demonstrates such qualities, please send it to the Editor at editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk - perhaps it too will make an appearance here.

\*Vernon Thompson is the son of Bernard and Mabel.

<sup>1</sup>Record details for Thomas Pearson Thompson (Royal Engineers)/Forces War Records at www.forces-warrecords.co.uk2https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Donald\_Finnemore 3 https://www.stjohninternational.org/



# Rainbow Counselling Service

by Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, district minister

he Rainbow Counselling Service started in the year 2000, based at Manchester North Church. Vinette and Leebert Hughes, who are qualified counsellors, started the service as a way of giving something back to the community, with their services being offered on a voluntary basis. People could access the service on Monday and Thursday evenings between 6pm and 8pm, via phone, face-to-face or through Skype without charge. Virey Clarke from Manchester North Church later became a valuable member of the

As the service became more established, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, who was then the Family Life director for the North England Conference, heard about it and

asked if they could offer the service to the NEC if sponsorship could be arranged. This was agreed, and the Rainbow Counselling Service team visited various churches over the years to promote the service. They began to receive calls from the Missions, the South and North England Conferences and Europe. This service offered premarital counselling, individual, family and couples counselling. It covered a range of issues, including bereavement, anxiety, depression, sexuality, anger, dysfunctional marriages, abuse in its various forms, spiritual issues and various mental health issues. For the past six years this service has also provided a counselling service during the North England Conference camp meetings. On 7 April 2018, the



Manchester North district of churches, which includes Salford, Manchester North, Manchester North East and Moss Side, had their first district day of fellowship. Pastor Richard Jackson was the quest speaker. During the day, the contribution of Rainbow Counselling Service was recognised and appreciated by the wider church, with sincere appreciation being shown to Leebert Hughes, Vinette Hughes and Virey Clarke for their valuable contribution to the North England Conference.

The counselling service needs to be developed further to meet the demands of the membership. It needs more satellite stations across the NEC and an injection of finance and support. The service is temporarily closed due to the fact that all three of its original counsellors have now retired from the counselling service. This service has tremendous relevance in our society and it would be a shame to lose it altogether. It has been a blessing to a lot of our members and to many in the community at large.

## Prison ministry at HMP Oakwood by Annette Johnson

he birth of prison ministries at our local church in Wolverhampton started at a Great Brickkiln Street Church 'members' meeting' in December 2015. One of our members, Gary Cummings, challenged the membership to put something in place to minister to prisoners.

At that time the author was not only the local Personal Ministries leader but also taught in a local prison. The author wasted no time in approaching two local prisons but was not able to secure any services. The only prison left to approach was where the author

Dialogue commenced between the author and the head chaplain, who was guite positive about the prospect of our local Seventh-day Adventist church coming in to hold services. Letters were exchanged, checks were made, and by 20 March 2016 the author was able to take in a small group of volunteers to hold our

The team worked closely with the Free Churches chaplain, and after the initial March service was allocated every third Sunday of the month to conduct a service for the inmates. This prison is a local category C male

It has now been running for over two years and the men look forward to our ministry. Last December it was

possible to take in 100 *Happiness Digest* booklets (Steps to Christ) for the end-of-year service. These were readily received. The men are appreciative of the team's ministry, which involves several church members from the West Midlands vicinity. The impact the team is making can be summed up in the following response from one of the inmates who was being released earlier this year:

'Dear Annette, I want you to know how much I appreciate all that you have done for me and others here at Oakwood. You lead an amazing group of people, gifted in their abilities to share God's Word. Adrian preaches with such conviction, but I have missed him in recent months.

'Michael feels like a little brother to me and is an inspirational preacher. Nichole has opened her heart to us during her testimonies. I also have appreciated Anthony's heartfelt

'You have filled our chapel with musicians



and singers who have given me moments that are unlikely to be surpassed; I only wish I could capture those sublime performances for me to re-live in the future.

'You are a wonderful worship leader whose compassion has touched many hearts, not just mine. Thank you for all that you do for us, and I personally want to thank you for your prayers on my behalf. God has blessed you abundantly, and, by sharing your services, He has blessed me too. I will remember you and your team with great fondness in my prayers.

'God bless all of you – Jonathan.

By offering this service to the inmates, the Prison Ministries team is fulfilling one of the iniunctions of Jesus our Saviour as outlined in Matthew 25:36, 40 (NKJV): '... I was in prison and you came to Me.... Assuredly, I say to you, "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Please pray for the continued success of this ministry, to God's glory.

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NEC Camp Meeting NEC Camp Meeting Continued from p. 1







Behind the scenes at Camp Meeting there are many peripheral services and ministries taking place. Hope Radio provided live coverage of some of these events while using Pontins as a temporary station from which to broadcast both locally and nationally, and internationally via the internet. Pastor Michael Simpson and his team shared various emails and responses that they had received from people around the world, expressing their appreciation for the live coverage and inspiring music.

## Teens and vouth

Teen services were held in a marquee near the main auditorium and provided activities and programmes led by NEC Teens Ministries Director, Pastor Isaac Liburd, and his team. Similarly, meetings for the young adults were provided through guest speaker Dean Cullinane, a Theology student at Weimar

College. SEC Youth Director, Pastor Anthony Fuller, also presented powerful messages at the youth services.

## Midday Power Hour

Pastor Lola Moore-Johnson, guest speaker from the Woodbridge Seventh-day Adventist church in northern Virginia where she serves as senior pastor, was the Midday Power Hour speaker. In addition to this, she also shared messages in word and song during various other programmes that formed part of the youth and adult services.

## A singing evangelist

Claude Edwards, a chaplain with the Orange County Corrections Department, was the main adult singing evangelist, whose song choice each evening was appreciated by all. Claude also spoke at the teens' meetings, where he gained instant rapport with his open and honest messages, interspersed with examples drawn from his own experiences.

## The weekend attendance

On Friday evening at Camp Meeting the audience usually swells as the crowds of weekend campers arrive, and this year it was no different. An extra 500 people attended for the weekend, which began with communion and a sermon from the NEC President. Pastor Richard Jackson.

The weather had provided beautiful sunshine all week, and Sabbath morning was no exception. Its clear blue skies set the tone for a day of warm fellowship and a spiritual feast of various programmes. Prior to the main service a baptism was held in the campus swimming pool for one candidate, which was videorelayed to the main auditorium. Along with presentations which included up-to-date reports from ADRA-UK and the British Union Conference (BUC) Communications Department, there was also an awards ceremony conducted by the BUC Health Ministries Department.

Pastor Riley spoke during the main service on the intriguing

topic, 'When bad becomes good'. Using the story of Jonah, he highlighted how God can turn around the bad situations in our lives for the good, resulting in spiritual well-being for ourselves and others.

## Our youth were an example

Both the teens and vouth programmes were filled with large crowds of young people who were a credit to their parents by displaying good decorum and a positive attitude in their spiritual approach – something that was actually evident throughout the week.

The Sabbath ended with musical concerts in each of the venues, providing an opportunity for a fine display of instrumental. choral and individual talent.

The entire week proved to be a festival of worship and inspiration. According to NEC President. Pastor Richard Jackson, 'Camp Meeting is about empowering our members and inspiring them, so that when they leave here (Camp Meeting) they will want to do more in their communities, and spend more time together in fellowship with families, friends and fellow believers.









## Something different for the youth

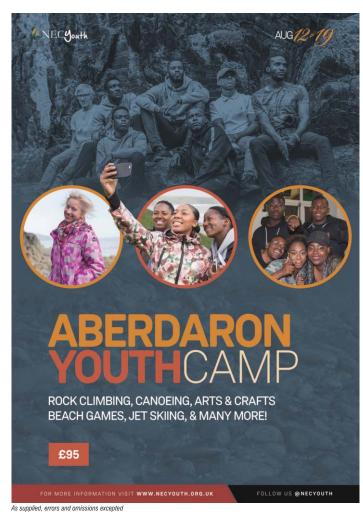
One of the innovations at this year's NEC camp meeting was the holding of a 'careers fayre', entitled '#YOUTHGOALS', on the Wednesday morning. Instead of two plenary-style workshops there was a short 15-minute talk at the start and then the room split into 15 different sections, with the youth able to wander around and speak to the different representatives from various professions and trades. There were people representing the NHS, youth work, accountancy and media, to name just a few. It provided an excellent opportunity for them to speak with people in the various professions, ask questions and broaden their horizons.

On Friday there was a session that focused on 'life skills', entitled '#YOUTHLIFE'. This session started with a 15-minute talk on soft skills, such as how to dress and how to conduct oneself throughout the interview procedure, and then the room split into 10 different workshops. Each one of these lasted 25 minutes and then the youth would switch to another one. The workshops covered subjects such as how to graduate debt-free, how to manage your finances, how to relate to non-Adventist parents, how to conduct yourself in a relationship, how to project manage and how to be a youth mentor. A variety of such presentations enabled our youth to choose from a broad range of life skills they might be interested in.

On Wednesday afternoon the youth went into town to do some outreach, both from door to door and through street witnessing. The week culminated with a lovely Sabbath day where attendance swelled to over 400. On Sabbath they were treated to something new - the NEC Youth Orchestra. Launched this year, the 25-member orchestra plans to become a permanent feature in future youth events. The youth service culminated with a concert entitled 'Adventist Originals', in which the songs sung were written by those who sung them, demonstrating the incredible musical talent in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

SUBMITTED BY LUNGANI SIBANDA (NEC COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR)/

PASTOR ADAM RAMDIN (NEC YOUTH DIRECTOR)





## Irish Mission day of fellowship

The Irish Mission held an all-Ireland day of fellowship on Sabbath 2 June in Dublin, attracting church members from across Ireland and Northern Ireland. The day, featuring guest speaker Alan Parker, along with special music and presentations from local churches, the Adventist Discovery Centre, and the Communication Department of the British Union, was hailed as a great success.

Alan Parker, a pastor who previously served as head of the Amazing Facts School of Evangelism and currently lectures at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, preached an inspiring and practical sermon about how our faith helps us to be tough in challenging and changing situations. His sermon recalled several episodes during the time when Zerubbabel – whose name means 'Seed of Babylon' – led a first wave of Jews to rebuild the Jerusalem temple after a long exile. Pastor Parker spoke about the need for the tough to get going, for them not to compromise, and for them to stand up when they fall. There are, however, times when the tough are also broken, but fortunately that is not the end of the story. Pastor Alan used inspiring illustrations to show that our Saviour carries us, supports us, and even continues to work through us in our brokenness.

The day was filled with activities for all. Three children and youth Sabbath schools catered for more than 100 young people who came to the event. Pastor Andrew Willis of the Adventist Discovery Centre reported that Irish Mission church members had delivered more than 100 free Bibles to people across the island who had completed quizzes on the www.freebible.ie website. There were also reports of exciting community-based outreach at the Cuisle Centre in Dublin Ranelagh and the Prehen Lifestyle Centre in Derry/Londonderry.

Pastors Dan Serb and Richard Daly reflected on the integrated, multicultural nature of the event, and of the Irish Mission membership in general. 'I think this is an organic thing that is happening. People are just gravitating to the church and coming for the church community,' said Pastor Serb. 'We don't put too much emphasis on where people come from, just where people go to, and where we are going to as a church, and this keeps us together.'

The theme of diversity was the focus of Pastor Alan's lively afternoon presentation as well, in which he warned that churches sometimes exhibit some cultural blindness when they are offered an opportunity to assess themselves. Many churches describe themselves as 'the friendliest church in town', but when people who are not part of the congregation are asked how they perceive the church, the picture might be completely different. Churches should not assume that their worship services are as 'heavenly' as they think they are, or that they are good at doing





evangelism. Sometimes 'evangelism' can just be a matter of affirming one's own beliefs, but it completely fails to reach out to people and connect with them in a way that they feel attracted to the church. Churches often declare that they 'don't have a problem with racism'. Almost all places struggle with racism, and it is better to be open to this possibility because this allows churches to identify issues and deal with them more constructively.

These sober observations led to a challenge for church members and pastors to become much more aware of how culture affects our daily life in the different communities in which we work. A great

deal of culture is hidden underneath the surface, and it takes time and focused effort to develop a cultural awareness. As this awareness develops, the challenge is to interact with the culture in such a way that a person accepts differences and diversity, while also contributing and becoming an agent of change. The goal is therefore not uniformity, but unity in diversity.

The day featured choirs and music groups from Belfast, Cork, Dublin Ranelagh, Kilkenny, Dublin Romanian and Longford. Some of the littlest ones were also roped in to sing their songs of praise. 'You can't beat the music on a day like this,' said a pastor who serves some of the smallest churches in the Irish Mission. 'There is so much talent together.'

Pastor Salcianu was also impressed with the talent on offer: 'Next time we should add even more music, and try to add even more plays or special projects!'

Pastor Richard Daly, Communication Director for the BUC, spoke to the audience in the afternoon about how to improve our communication in a world where everybody is a publisher on social media. One issue on which he focused was the issue of 'fake Adventist news'. We should not repost stories, especially sensational ones, without checking the facts first. He referred to stories that still do the rounds about the Pope's brother being an Adventist, or that Russia has prohibited Sabbath keeping. These stories are not true. He also suggested that even if some stories are true, one should think twice about sharing them.

It had been a while since an Irish Mission day of fellowship had taken place. The reason is that it has become increasingly difficult to find an affordable venue big enough to host the growing membership of the Irish Mission. The Betania Romanian church in Blanchardstown has recently, however, agreed to host this event. On Sabbath the members of the Mission came close to filling the venue, but there was still room for more.

Several church members remarked how wonderful it would be if the Irish Mission could develop a church facility similar to the one that was rented for the day! This is a vision that is currently animating Irish Mission pastors and the Mission's trustees.

Days of fellowship serve an important function in the life of the Church. They offer a sense of connection in a world where believers often feel isolated. They provide opportunities to network and learn from each other. The beautiful music and top-notch preaching touch one's soul in deep and powerful ways. They allow the Church to showcase the best that it can be and to dream big dreams for the future. This is worth getting up a bit earlier for and driving a bit further to attend. The 2018 day of fellowship has achieved these goals and will go down as one of the highlights on the Irish Mission calendar.

# God and your brain

Can your perception of God literally shape your brain? Dr Timothy R. Jennings believes so. Dr Jennings is a psychiatrist, master psychopharmacologist, lecturer, and author of multiple books including *The God-Shaped* Brain. Over the weekend of 25-26 May he shared his insight into God and the brain with the Stanborough Park church. This was his first time lecturing in the UK, and he attracted visitors from other churches in the area, including some from other denominations.

Basing his series of four lectures on content from his books, Dr Jennings began the weekend on Friday by explaining God's original design for humanity. He explained how the human mind was designed to operate and what happens to cause pain, suffering, and illness through believing lies about God.

His second lecture, on Sabbath morning, delved into how changing our view of God transforms our lives, examining the connection between belief and physical and mental health. He explained how our beliefs genuinely shape our brain wiring, our physical health, and even which genes are turned on or off. Thus, he challenged the congregation to re-examine their view of who God really is.

In the third session Dr Jennings presented a fix for failing families. He discussed four factors for promoting family wellness: 1) we must really know God; 2) healthy relationships require healthy people, and healthy people have governance of themselves; 3) people need a godly vision for themselves and their families; and 4) we need to create an umbrella of love in our families, where everything is covered in love and seen through eyes of love.

On Sabbath afternoon Dr Jennings presented the final session, covering what happens to the brain as we age. He identified risk factors that accelerate the ageing process and shared practical advice from evidence-based lifestyle factors and non-drug interventions to help slow down the ageing process and prevent dementia.

At the end of each session he included a time to answer questions from the audience.

One of the attendees was a sports coach and personal trainer, Jason, who said, 'It was refreshing to hear the health message delivered with biblical reasoning and scientific research to back it up. I also liked that he was very realistic in the question-and-answer sessions. For example, he was asked if chocolate was healthy. He answered, "Yes," but immediately qualified that it was only true of the kind of chocolate most people don't want to eat – i.e. without sugar or milk!"

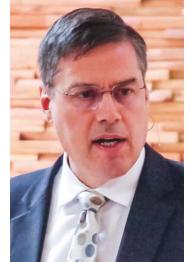
Afterwards, in an interview with Vanesa Pizzuto for Adventist Radio London, Dr Jennings explained what had motivated him to write *The God-Shaped Brain*.

'Over the course of years, as a clinical psychiatrist, I discovered that many of my patients had views of God that incite fear, anxiety, and worry,' Dr Jennings explained. 'With advances in neuroscience, we've been able to research the effects different God-concepts can have on the brain. I wanted to understand the principles involved that can help my patients, so I researched and wrote the book so that people can understand the view of God that is healing and the ones that are hurtful.'

Dr Jenning's presentations from the weekend can be found on the Stanborough Park church website and YouTube channel.

His interview with Adventist Radio London will be available on their website: *adventistradio.london*.

Dr Jenning's lectures and written material are also accessible on his website: www.comeandreason.com.





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News News





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improvement. For instance, during her sermon, Audrey Andersson shared a sad moment in her life when she found out that her husband had passed away suddenly. June said she realised that there is a large group of widows in the church, yet widowhood was a subject that was never openly spoken about.

'Audrey had touched on an area that we hadn't even thought about,' she said. I think this is how the Spirit moves, and we do actually need to

'It's Your Journey' left attendees inspired to go back to their local churches and communities and see what they can do for God and help magnify the SEC's EEE goal. We want them to think not just about themselves, but also about outreach.

## Area 5 Women's Emphasis Day

With bright colours of purple and orange, and the theme, 'It's Your Journey, Step Sisters', the Area 5 Women's Emphasis Day highlighted that every woman's journey matters, whether young or old.

The event attracted over 400 women to Leighton Park School on Sabbath 9 June, and for the first time attendees joined from almost all Area 5 churches. Audrey Andersson, main speaker of the day and Trans-European Division (TED) Executive Secretary, encouraged women to rely on God as they are 'safe' when they walk with Him. Other speakers and workshop leaders of the day included Lorraine Anderson, Tabitha Cendenio, Laura Osei and many other leading women.

Event organisers said that they aimed to rid the Women's Ministries (WM) Department of the stigma of being outdated and targeted towards a mature audience. For instance, the traditional purple theme colour was combined with orange and other brighter colours. The workshop named 'Online Presence', with Shannon Alexander, highlighted the pros and cons of media presence and how young adults can implement evangelism in the media.

Tylel is a young adult who attended the event with a group of women from her local church. Reading Central, She said that she was looking forward to the next WM event, as she would like to encourage her friends to come, and she would like to learn how to become a leader.

'You need to have the vounger women come to the Women's Ministries events, because they need to learn how to lead in the future, said Tylel.

The Women's Ministries Department recently relaunched in the Area with the help of Maslin Holness, South England Conference (SEC) Women's Ministries Director. During the relaunch programme last year. WM leaders gathered information on what women needed in order to bring them together and make them feel included.

From this data a strategy was developed combining this year's SEC motto, Evangelism Everyone Everywhere (EEE) – reclamation and retention, into the philosophy of the day. June Thompson, Area 5 WM Co-ordinator, explained that her vision for the department was to make sure that women, whether they may be at the top of their career or fighting for their job, whether struggling in their marriage or enjoying the birth of a new relationship, would come together and support each other.

However, June admits that there is much space for innovation and

### Editor's oversight

The Editor apologises for wrongly reporting that Audrey Balderstone and Yolanda Campbell received a silver medal at this year's Chelsea Flower Show when, in fact, their award was in the silver gilt category. Once again, well done ladies; your skills are appreciated by all.

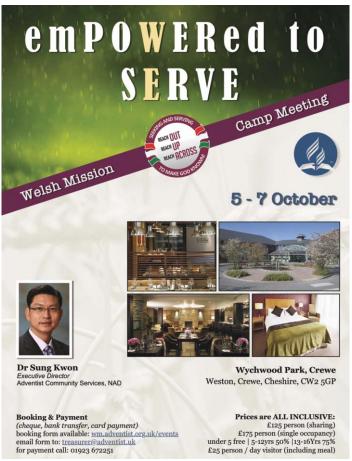




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## St Albans bi-annual health check

On Saturday, 9 June. St Albans Church held their bi-annual free health check for the St Albans community. The event encouraged over 50 new faces to re-evaluate their health that day. The volunteers, mostly church members, ran 11 stations including Body Mass Index (BMI), peak flow, glucose testing, age analysis and nutrition, to name a few. The health check committee also included a new station focusing on emotional well-being, which is a very current topic in today's society. At the end of the circuit GPs were present to analyse the results and give the visitors



Hackney experiences a revival series

'You all need to be growing up in the Lord,' said Pastor Noah L. Washington during a two-week revival that took place at the Hackney church from 9 to 19 May. During this series Pastor Washington, who is the lead pastor of the Ephesus church in Columbus, Ohio, USA, shared with Hackney members and visitors some tips on how to spiritually grow up in the Lord.

In his first message, regarding spiritual dreams and visions, he said that it is important to wait on the Lord so that He can fulfil His true purpose in us. 'While you wait, be careful what you stare at. While you wait, you must learn to cultivate the fruit of patience. Hold on to the vision because God will make it happen, encouraged Pastor Washington.

Pastor Washington made it clear that God really does want the Holy Spirit poured out on His followers, but that in order for that to happen we must change our focus and make room for Him in our lives. 'God is a Promise Keeper; His word is sure. There is more He wants you to have, and He desires us to partner with Him,' said Pastor Washington.

One of the messages which went down a storm (excuse the pun) was 'Walking on Water', where Pastor Washington painted a vivid picture of Jesus literally calling us, as He did Peter, to step out of the boat and walk on water. He said: 'God always gives us opportunities to exercise our faith. Jesus' prayer for the disciples is that when they see Him, they may walk on water too. Jesus isn't in the boat: He's on the water – so where are we?'

In his final message, 'What Do You Do When the Manna Stops Falling?' Pastor Washington said this in conclusion: 'When you rise up early in the morning, get your own food from your God. Don't wait till Sabbath. You should never come into the sanctuary empty.'

Hackney's pastor, Joojo Bonnie, along with the elders of the church, thanked Pastor Washington for his exuberance and powerful messages,



some healthy advice. One of the new visitors said, 'This is such a wonderful event: well needed in every town.

This was their ninth health check since the church agreed to have this event as their biggest outreach programme each year. It has allowed them to connect with their community by reaching over 400 people since 2013. The health check will be back on Saturday 29 September this year.

which inspired both young and old, before forming a circle around him as they prayed for the Spirit to continue to empower his ministry.

To know more about Pastor Washington's ministry or to order his latest 40-day devotional - Encouragement for Today - please visit:

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)





## Disability Awareness Day

On 21 April, the New Life church celebrated its second Disability Awareness day with specific emphasis on renal failure and autism. The event was once again held in conjunction with ASNA (the Adventist Special Needs Association). The day's theme was: 'Is Your Inability to See My Ability Your Disability?'

Following a powerful lesson review by Gabby and Leah Guy, Sonia Armstrading, a member of the Empowering SEN team at New Life, shared the experience of her journey following a stroke two years ago. This was followed by another moving testimony by Kathleen Springer, a mother whose son has autism. The Sabbath school was closed with a special item by Jefferson Samuel, a young man whose brother is on the autistic spectrum.

The children's story, told by Kate Holgate-Lee, was about her young daughter, 6-year-old Kaitlyn Davis, who has overcome a rare form of cancer.

This was followed by a mother's testimony by Audrey Soyam, who spoke of her challenges and joys in having a child with Down's syndrome, after which Anita Samuel gave an emotional testimony of how her experience of having a son with autism has inspired her to minister to

The sermon was presented by Stephen James, who explained the challenges of living with renal failure and dialysis. His topic, 'Are you blind too?' challenged us to be less judgemental and blinded by religion in dealing with those like himself who have unseen disabilities. The morning service concluded with a special piece on the piano by Josiah George, a boy with autism-related challenges, followed by a duet with his sister Abigail George.

British Sign Language (BSL) was signed throughout by Ingrid and Sanja from Stoke Newington Church.

The afternoon programme started with praise and worship and then a special song by Elle May Anderson, a young lady with autism, who reminded us that it is no secret what God can do.



Norma Julius, a member of the New Life SEN team, provided further insight in her presentation, 'What Is Autism?' She shared various resources that are often used in school and the home to help promote communication among children with autism. There was also a period of interactive group activities where participants discussed different scenarios related to how we as a church can meet the needs of children and young people with autism. This was followed by a moving story by Patrick Samuel, an artist with Asperger's syndrome, who shared his artwork and spoke of how art has helped him manage his disability.

Then followed another powerful testimony by Ethney Anderson, a mother's story of raising a child with autism and supporting her through adulthood.

Louanne Sampson, an SEN team member, provided the closing remarks, and Nigel Nicholls concluded an afternoon well spent with

Thanks to all those who planned, participated and supported to make the day a success.



As supplied, errors and omissions excepte



## Community Day in Garston

To improve the connection of the church community with its local one, Stanborough Park Church is currently increasing its involvement in its local community by holding a series of community days, in which local officials and charity organisations are invited to promote their work in the local community and seek to attract volunteers to help them in their tasks.

These events are the brainchild of church member Enoch Kanagaraj, an employee of The Co-op Food Retail in Watford, who operates its policy of becoming involved with the local community in a positive way, and raising cash for local causes in the process.

Feeling that the church members would similarly benefit from becoming more involved in the local community, he set up the 'Community Chaplaincy Service' two years ago. His aim was to build a connection between the church and the local community. showing what help was available and how the church members could help them.

Using his existing professional contacts, Enoch has been inviting community groups to visit the church during the morning and afternoon and explain how they help the community and how the church community can help them. The second of three community days took place on Sabbath 9 June.

Members of the local police force presented crime prevention advice and asked local people to contact them with any concerns, and also appealed for volunteers. One church member has been doing this already for almost 12 years. Sgt Matt Langley also

explained about police initiatives that were being trialled locally. especially with youth.

Also present were representatives from organisations such as Watford Women's Centre, which, as Smita Gohill explained, no longer deals exclusively with women. It provides courses for men as well, and has begun helping newcomers with poor English skills to integrate with the local community and culture. Another speaker spoke of the need for stability in the lives of 'looked-after children' and appealed for people to consider becoming foster carers.

Mencap presented the types of help now available to families with children who have learning disabilities. Sian Henry explained her 'Red Box Project' to help disadvantaged girls and women have access to sanitary products.

Sarah Flynn, the Women's Officer with the local Labour Party, gave a lively and inspirational talk about promoting kindness and ways to help offset loneliness within the community, giving lots of practical examples of how we can

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do little things for others that may

By far the greatest amount of

time was given to Stephen Phoenix

Russell, who founded 'Homeless

Warriors' to help those sleeping

He explained his work at length

and how he needed donations of

snacks, water, clothing and so on

with Stanborough Secondary

in its most recent Community

Enoch has also worked closely

School, becoming heavily involved

Services day when students took

the opportunity to serve in their

local community, painting fences,

packing bags at the local branch

of ASDA, writing 5,000 cards to

elderly people, visiting Watford

General Hospital and collecting

money for Mencap outside the

Leavesden Co-op store where

Enoch works. Their aim was to

10am-2pm

8am-4nm

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