

# Messenger

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## Leadership on the mountaintop:

a vision  
for the  
valley

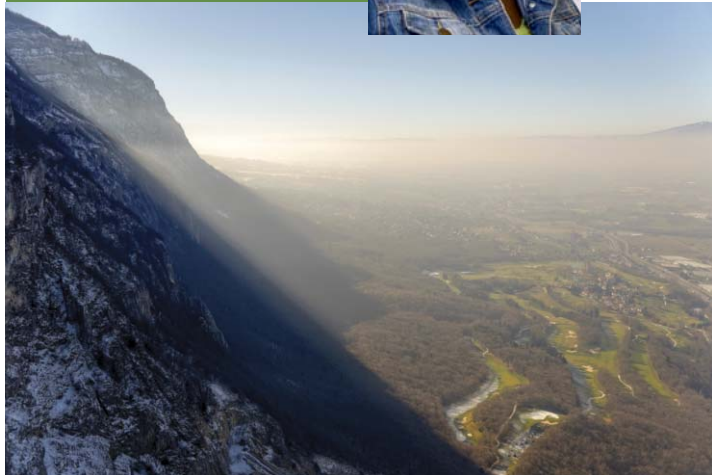


**Stanborough Secondary School:  
a legacy of faith, excellence and  
community**



## Leadership on the mountaintop: a vision for the valley

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau,  
BUC Stewardship Director



The view from Mont Salève on the Franco-Swiss border is breathtaking. Although ascending the 1,379 metres of altitude in a small minibus caused immense apprehension, arriving at the peak and walking around with my colleagues provided us with a visionary sight.

Transformative leadership starts with a profound vision, a moment when the leader sees something extraordinary and then works to bring others to that same place. As Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) says, 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.'

The Bible describes an intimate encounter experienced by the leaders of God's people in Exodus 24, where they caught a glimpse of the Divine. This single event reveals three distinct types of leaders based on their response to that singular vision. It's a powerful lesson on how proximity to the Divine shapes a leader's character and effectiveness.

### The entitled and rebellious: those who saw and still refused

- **The vision:** Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, were granted a front-row seat. They were part of the chosen group that ascended the mountain with Moses and the elders. The text

says plainly in Exodus 24:9, 10 (ESV), 'Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel.' This was a direct, life-altering vision – an experience that should have instilled a permanent sense of awe and humble service. They saw the very source of authority and holiness.

- **The response:** However, their incredible experience didn't humble them. Instead, it seemed to fuel a dangerous sense of entitlement. They believed their special access to God's presence meant they could bypass His commands. Later, in Leviticus 10:1, 2, they offered a sacrifice not as God had commanded, but with 'unauthorized fire' (ESV). Their vision of God had made them arrogant, not obedient.
- **The lesson:** This is the ultimate danger for a leader: seeing the glory and then believing it to be a reflection of your own importance. Their story is a stark reminder that a powerful vision without a humble heart leads to rebellion and ruin. The truth they saw on the mountain was quickly replaced by the arrogance they carried in their hearts.

### The distracted and drifting: those who looked away after seeing

- **The vision:** Aaron, Moses' brother, was also on that mountain. He saw the God of Israel and witnessed the sapphire pavement under God's feet, a sight so clear that it was 'like the very heaven for clearness' (Exodus 24:10, ESV). He was present at the most sacred and defining moment of his people's covenant with God. His profound experience on the mountaintop should have served as an unshakeable anchor for his leadership.
- **The response:** But his vision of God faded from his mind as he focused on the immediate demands of the people. When Moses was gone for an extended period, the people grew impatient and demanded an idol. Instead of standing firm and reminding them of the glory he had just witnessed, Aaron caved to the pressure and fashioned a golden calf. His leadership was a perfect example of drifting.
- **The lesson:** A great vision means nothing if you don't cling to it. Aaron's story shows that a leader can see the truth, yet still get distracted and drift away, prioritising the fickle desires of the people over the unwavering will of God. He looked away from the mountain and towards the chaos of the crowd.

### The faithful and focused: the one who never looked away

- **The vision:** Moses is the perfect example of a leader defined by his vision. His initial encounter with God at the burning bush had already set the stage, but the vision in Exodus 24 was a deepening of that vision. While the others faltered, Moses' gaze remained fixed. After the sacred meal, he spent forty days and forty nights in intimate fellowship with God, receiving the blueprint for the tabernacle, the laws, and the sacred order of the nation.
- **The response:** Moses' leadership wasn't just about managing a nation; it was about leading a people into the presence of the God he had seen. Because he was a leader who never looked away from what he had seen, he was able to guide an entire nation through the wilderness.
- **The lesson:** His faithfulness was a direct result of his focus on the vision God had given him. He led by following his Maker, demonstrating to the people that true direction comes from the Lord.

The story of these leaders is a powerful challenge for us all. Let us be faithful and focused as we lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

# Editorial

by Dusanka Rancic,  
Editor

Dear reader,

There's a beautiful verse in 2 Corinthians 4:6: 'For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ' (NRSV).

Think about that for a moment. The same God who spoke light into existence with a single command – the One who placed the sun in the sky to chase away darkness – is the very same God who, through Jesus Christ, shines His truth into our hearts. His light not only illuminates the world around us, but it also transforms us from within.

The sun we see outside is powerful – it warms the earth, makes life possible, and lifts our spirits when it breaks through the clouds. But the 'sun' God places in our hearts is even greater. It's a light that never fades, a glow of hope, love and joy that remains even when life feels cloudy. One nurtures our bodies; the other nurtures our hearts.



In the days leading up to our Open Day at Stanborough Press, I was praying for three specific things:

- That it wouldn't rain on Saturday evening (6 September) or on Sunday (7 September) until after 5pm.
- Not only that it would stay dry, but also that the sun would shine.
- And, most importantly, that everyone who came would experience sunshine in their hearts.

But just a few days before the big event – on Wednesday 3 September – the skies opened up, and Grantham was hit with heavy rain – so much, in fact, that our warehouse started flooding. The water spread fast; and, before long, it was seeping into the aisles where we had carefully prepared displays for Open Day.

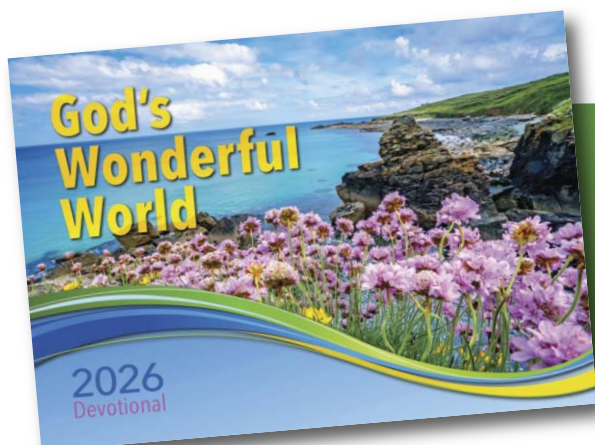
One by one, we all left our posts and offices. Armed with brooms and squeegees, we were fighting the water off and defending the precious books for two long hours – because, although all our books in the warehouse are lifted on pallets and thereby protected from the incoming water, the aisles that we had prepared for the Open Day were not.

By the end, we were drenched in sweat and completely exhausted. One colleague tried to lighten the mood and joked, 'The broom is mightier than the pen.' And, in that moment, it really was the perfect tool in my hands!

As I caught my breath, one thought kept repeating in my mind: *I prayed for Saturday evening and Sunday. I didn't pray for Wednesday. Fair enough.* It struck me as a quiet reminder – yes, the enemy loves to discourage us, but God's blessings always outshine those efforts.

So I prayed even harder: 'Lord, please give us sunshine on Saturday and Sunday.' And, sure enough, God answered. The skies cleared, and the sun shone on both Saturday evening and Sunday. But even more wonderful than the sunshine outside was the warmth and joy shining in our hearts that day. We shared conversations, lifted our voices in worship with the Milton Keynes Praise Team, and were inspired by Pastor Pavel Goia's message.

The Open Day was a blessing in every sense – and you can read more about it in the following pages.



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# Sunshine and inspiration: an open day to remember

by the Editorial Team

On Sunday 7 September 2025, the Stanborough Press Ltd. (SP) hosted one of its most memorable open days in recent years. In the beautiful green surroundings of Grantham, Lincolnshire, with the sunshine and clear sky setting the perfect backdrop, around 900 people gathered on the Press grounds to celebrate the life-changing impact of Christian literature.

From the outset, the atmosphere was filled with energy and excitement. Families, readers and friends of the Press streamed in, creating a lively buzz that continued throughout the day. The vibrant crowd reflected the growing interest in faith-based publishing and the enduring impact of the Stanborough Press in the Seventh-day Adventist church community. The excitement of the event blended seamlessly with the pleasant aroma drifting from the caterers. Long queues for food formed quickly, a clear sign that the delicious smells had captivated the gathered multitudes.

## Massive turnout

'This was the biggest British Union Conference (BUC) gathering I have seen in many years,' observed a retired church leader.

The car park and the overflow car park both filled up fast with coaches, minibuses and such a truly enormous number of cars that many needed to park on the road before disgorging their occupants, all eager to hear Pastor Goia's message, catch up with old friends, and scour the display area for bargain books, new titles, Bibles, hymnals and other resources! The sheer number of people present might have posed a challenge in another setting, yet the customers were patient, and the staff remained unflustered – some even being personally thanked by the customers for the calm and gracious spirit with which they served.

Among the many attendees were Ian Sweeney, Trans-European Division Field Secretary with responsibility for Public Affairs, Religious Liberty and Publishing; Eglan Brooks, BUC President/SP Board Chair; Pastor Samuel Ouadjo, BUC Ministerial Secretary; Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services and Women's Ministries; Catherine Anthony Boldeau, BUC Stewardship Director; Max McKenzie-Cook, BUC Associate Executive Secretary; Steven Palmer, NEC President; Michael Agyei-Asare, NEC Treasurer; Jimmy Botha, Scottish Mission President; Graham Allcock, Welsh Mission President; the Newbold and ADRA teams; many other church leaders, past and present; former SP employees; and current SP Board members.

## Programme

The SP General Manager Elisabeth Sangüesa and Pastor Brooks both welcomed people and introduced the theme of the day: 'Read. Discover. Grow.'

The Milton Keynes Praise Team led the singing with great enthusiasm, inspiring people to joyfully join their voices and give praise to God. Their leadership created an uplifting atmosphere, setting a meaningful tone for the entire programme.

Many people were encouraged by the SP Editor Dusanka Rancic's interview of two authors, Karin Edwards and Alison Awuku. They talked about their most recent projects: *Miracles Still Happen*, a remarkable testimony of healing, and *Dejected or Redirected*, a practical guide that empowers its readers not only to handle rejection, but to thrive after experiencing it.

However, a highlight of the event was the main speaker, Pastor Pavel Goia, whose powerful presentation captured the audience's full attention. His combination of

warmth, wit and wisdom inspired attendees, sparking conversations that continued long after the talk had concluded. The much-loved and popular speaker added an extra layer of meaning to an already special day. Excited guests spilled out of the building and even out of the overflow tent, planting extra chairs outside as close as they could to catch every word that he spoke. Giving vivid personal testimonies of the reality of the great controversy and God's miraculous power, he emphasised from Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy the imminence of Christ's return, the necessity of preparing for it, and the crucial importance of being continually in the Lord, in His word, in prayer, and in the armour of God. (See his presentation at <https://youtu.be/eIU494MO11Y>)

## The young attendees

The Stanborough Press Open Day was special not only for the adults, but for the children too. The children's area was filled with a bright and cheerful atmosphere as the children enjoyed various outdoor activities. Under the warm sun, they played games on the grass, got creative with arts and crafts, and decorated pebbles with colourful designs. A real highlight of the programme was a walk in the nearby wood, where they collected fallen branches and worked together to build their own den. The activities not only entertained them, but also encouraged their teamwork and creativity.

## Stories on display

Since the Stanborough Press started to hold an annual open day in the 1970s, the idea for the day was to welcome people and provide them with opportunities to support the publishing ministry. So, as in every previous year, people could choose books and materials from many different categories: a great variety





The book sales area, packed with eager shoppers



Pastor Pavel Goia



Crowds filled the overflow tent to listen to Pastor Goia . . .



. . . and spilled outside the tent



Pastor Pavel Goia speaking to the crowds



Queuing for food



Guest authors, Alison Awuku and Karin Edwards



of Bibles, spiritual growth and development, encouragement and hope, mission and outreach, gifts and educational Bible games, Sabbath School materials, and so on.

Stalls and book displays ensured that there was something for everyone to enjoy. There were constant and long queues for both book purchasing and book signing. Children were seen laughing and exploring, while long-time supporters of the Press had the opportunity to reconnect and reflect on the publishing house's ongoing mission. The mix of new visitors and familiar faces gave the event a unique balance of freshness and tradition.

As the sun dipped lower in the sky, the sense of togetherness and accomplishment was unmistakable. With great attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback,



Newbold was represented by Dr Dan Serb, Newbold Principal, seen here with Pastor Ian Sweeney



The Stanborough Press Management Team with Pastor Pavel Goia

the 2025 Stanborough Press Open Day will be remembered for years to come. It was more than an event – it

was a celebration of community and faith shining brightly under a perfect September sun.

## In their own words

'I had so much fun. I enjoyed playing with other children and drinking Mogu Mogu.'

*An 8-year-old attendee*

'I liked exploring the forest and building shelters and huts. I also saw a quote on the Wall of Inspiration that I found very funny. It said, "Whoever said money can't buy happiness had never been to the bookstore."' '

*A 10-year-old girl*

'After attending my first Stanborough Press open day last year, I could not miss this year's one, and again I was not disappointed. It was great to catch up with so many members I had not seen for a while. I thoroughly enjoyed the interview with two newly published authors – Alison Awuku and Karin Edwards – who shared their awesome testimonies of overcoming dejection and cancer respectively. It was a pleasure to see and hear the guest speaker, Pastor Pavel Goia, for the first time, whose great sense of humour and biblical knowledge alongside personal testimonies of how prayer has worked in his life and ministry proved to be highly inspirational and uplifting. To top it all off, we're seeing all those books aplenty on sale, as well as the latest issue of the *FOCUS* magazine, which reflected on the day's theme: 'Read. Discover. Grow' – something which I can say definitely transpired during the time I spent there. God be praised!'

*Darell J. Philip*

'There was a lot of energy there . . . a very successful Press open day.'

*Pastor Don McFarlane*

'What an amazing day! It feels surreal.'

*Karin Edwards, an author*

'What a blessing! At the Stanborough Press Open Day, we had the privilege of meeting Pastor Pavel Goia – a man whose ministry and testimony have inspired so many around the world. It was a day filled with books, fellowship and faith-filled conversations. Events like this remind us of the power of connection, encouragement and the written word to strengthen our walk with God.'

*Craige Young*

'There was an air of joy and expectancy around, especially for me as a first-time attendee. It was a wonderful, engaging, Spirit-filled, uplifting day. What a message we had from Pastor Goia, and so many people, so many greetings, so much cheer. I was thoroughly blessed from start to end, and greatly encouraged by the two authors' personal testimonies – not to mention the bookstore area! Books upon books. People upon people! The elder who organised the minibus commented with excitement and glee: "Look at all these people; there are so many. It is so much bigger than last year. Surely God is telling us something." '

*Eileen G. Philip*

'Despite the heavens opening ferociously on the Wednesday before the Stanborough Press Open Day, and a forecast that prophesied rain, God answered the staff's prayers for dry and sunny weather on Sunday. This was very welcome, as Open Day 2025 was busier than usual. Truly the Lord was present to bless staff and customers alike. What an amazing experience it was! All glory to God – this was one for the ages.'

*Andrew Puckering*

# Tamara's newfound home

by Precious Chitwa



TESTIMONY

how, as he had been walking down a street to meet up with some friends, he had seen a person handing out books. He had then felt moved to go towards the place where they were displaying the books, and he was given some books written by Ellen G. White. As he chatted with one of the men at their book stand, an invitation was extended for him to celebrate the Sabbath with them

in their church on Saturday, which he accepted, because he felt like God was calling him. What Tamara didn't know was that her brother had already been searching for his answers concerning what we are doing on this earth and what happens after death.

When they arrived, Tamara's first impression was so special and different. She felt within herself that this was really it. The people were different. The women were dressed very nicely with their long, neat skirts and dresses, and the pastor spoke about the Bible and the Sabbath, which she noticed was actually described in the Bible. She saw no tribal statues or statues of Mary or 'the holy apostles'. What also fascinated her was how they talked a lot about health, vegetarianism, and our bodies being the temples of God. Additionally, the people who received them were so warm and loving, something that was nowhere to be seen in her former church.

'I knew immediately that this was my home, and I wanted to get to know everything about this religion, especially because everything about the Bible was taken seriously,' she narrated.

Within that year, Tamara requested to be baptised. Her sister and brother also felt convicted by the Holy Spirit and decided to get baptised too. They were so excited that they shared the good news with friends and family.

'My parents did not agree in the beginning, because, as a Croatian, being Catholic was considered to be very important,' she continued. As a result, on the day of the baptism, Tamara and her siblings only had their church family and friends present to witness this wonderful event. Though this was a bittersweet experience for them, Tamara and her siblings continued to go to church.

Then, as Tamara's mother noticed Tamara's change in character and new choice of friends, coupled with what she heard from Tamara about her faith, Tamara's mother began to warm up to the idea of the new faith and attended church with Tamara sometimes.

'Today my parents are very proud and happy that we searched for the truth, because it changed our lives. The devil tried several times to separate me from God, but to this day He has been playing a major role in my life since the day I let Jesus into my life,' she said.

'There is no greater love, peace and meaning to life without God. And there is none stronger and greater than God Himself,' she added.

It's been 12 years since Tamara gave her life to Christ. And she continues to worship at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Groeningen – her home.

Tamara Ostricki was born in Croatia and raised in the Netherlands alongside her brother and sister by their father and mother, who were Catholic and Orthodox Church members respectively. Tamara had a good childhood, but, surprisingly, she felt something was missing in her life. Though she was in the Catholic Church most Sundays with her family and always knew that God existed, she had never really looked into it.

'As much as I led a worldly life, I always felt different from my friends. Certain things that they would do, I refused to partake in them because I felt it was not right,' she said.

One day, her brother asked if she would like to go to church with him, and she agreed. He asked her sister, too, who also agreed to tag along. While on their way, Tamara asked her brother how he had found the church that they were heading to. In response, Tamara's brother shared



# The Jenga church: why structure feels fragile, but is still needed

by Pastor Max McKenzie-Cook,  
BUC Associate Executive Secretary



Growing up, games were a staple in our household. We played Uno, Adventist Blackjack (IYKYK), and Guess Who. I was so good at Guess Who that I was even accused of cheating because I always found a way to guess my opponent's character. However, Jenga was a peculiar game. It consisted of a stack of blocks that was neatly built, but as each player pulled out a block, that sturdy structure became more fragile. With each block removed, you could feel the tension rise as the structure approached collapse.

I sometimes think about Jenga in relation to our governance structure. The two feel very similar. Each block represents one of the various parts of our church – unions, conferences, missions, publishing houses, educational institutions, ADRA – and at the top sits the local church. Each block is designed to support and facilitate the mission of the local church: to bring the message of hope in Jesus to the people of the UK and the Republic of Ireland. However, there seems to be a lot of frustration within our structures, which has eroded trust and led us to a position where we feel that certain blocks do not provide value and can be removed.

We have questioned the necessity

of church committees, policies and constitutions, wondering: *Why do we need all this structure? Wouldn't it be easier if we focused solely on worship, community and mission, without the burden of rules and processes?* Like Jenga, structure can often feel fragile, complicated and even frustrating.

But what if we pulled too many blocks out, without understanding how those blocks were designed to support our mission? What if we ignored the scaffolding that holds the whole body together?

Together, we have responsibilities to regulators, communities, and the God who called us. When trustees sit in Watford to talk about finance, safeguarding or governance, it can feel far away from the Sabbath service in Dundee or Dublin. But, in reality, the stability of that Sabbath worship is tied to those decisions. Without careful stewardship, the tower sways.

Of course, there are real tensions. Some feel that the structure slows us down. And there are moments when processes frustrate us. Who wants to fill out forms, approve minutes, consult committees or read policy? It is tempting to think we would be freer without them. But, as anyone who has played Jenga knows, pull away too many foundation blocks and the whole thing collapses.

At the same time, let's be clear – structure is not an idol. A tower built only for height, without thought for balance, is doomed to fall. The same is true of the church. When governance becomes more about protecting the institution rather than service; when policies grow heavier than the mission they are meant to protect – the tower is at risk. The question is not whether we should have a structure, but whether we are stewarding it well or placing the blocks where they hold together, not where they are weak.

Think of the challenges our church faces today: how to reach secular Britain with the Gospel; how to safeguard children and vulnerable adults; how to manage property and money wisely; how to honour volunteers without exhausting them . . . none of these are solved by passion alone. They need structure. They need clear lines of responsibility, accountable decisions, and trustworthy systems. Done badly, structure feels like bureaucracy. Done well, it becomes the very platform on which mission can stand tall.

And maybe this is the heart of the lesson. The Jenga tower is not just a warning of fragility. It is also an invitation to build differently. What if we saw constitutions, policies and governance not as obstacles, but as scaffolding; not as dead weight, but as a framework that lets us grow taller without toppling? The Spirit calls us to move, but it also calls us to build. Our task is not to dismantle the structure, nor to worship it, but to make it faithful, strong, and fit for mission.

Placing blocks with care means that the local church sitting at the top of it stands tall and strong. It rises like a lighthouse, and its light gets to be seen by everyone, drawing all to understand the love of God.



# The destructive power of emotional abuse

By Pastor Les Ackie,  
BUC Family Life and Safeguarding Director



Emotional abuse is one of the most devastating yet least recognised forms of abuse. Unlike physical violence, it inflicts no visible scars, but produces bruised and broken hearts. Its impact can be just as profound and long-lasting as physical assaults. Emotional abuse is a pattern of behaviour designed to exert power and control by undermining the victim's emotional security or psychological stability. It is often the foundation of all other forms of abuse, and is frequently the most difficult type of abuse to identify and recover from.

Most emotionally abusive relationships begin with a process known as grooming. Though we often associate grooming with child abuse, adults can be groomed too. The abuser appears charming and kind at first, creating a false sense of safety. David describes such duplicity in Psalm 55:21: 'His speech was smooth as butter, yet war was in his heart.'<sup>1</sup> Many victims of emotional abuse don't realise how unhealthy their relationships are, because the abuse has come to seem 'normal' to them. Exposure to healthy relationships is essential to help survivors recognise what they have endured.

Abuse in any form is about power and control. In contrast to this dynamic, Jesus teaches in Matthew 20:25, 26 that coercion should never define Christian relationships: 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them. . . . It shall not be

so among you.' Emotional abuse often fosters an unhealthy dependence on the perpetrator. Abusers intentionally isolate their victims to cut off sources of support. They use tactics to erode a person's self-confidence and cause them to doubt their own judgement. Over time, the victim becomes reliant on the abuser for validation and decision-making. However, true love cannot thrive without freedom and autonomy. As 2 Corinthians 3:17 counsels, 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.'

Verbal abuse is the most common form of emotional abuse, using words to belittle, control and damage the victim. Proverbs 18:21 declares, 'Death and life are in the power of the tongue.' Modern research confirms that harsh words can affect the brain and body as severely as actual physical violence. Blaming and accusing are also common. From the Garden of Eden to Revelation, the devil is portrayed as 'the accuser'. Emotional abusers rarely take responsibility for their behaviour; instead, they project blame onto their victims, reinforcing feelings of guilt and shame. Deception is a hallmark of emotional abuse. Abusers often live a double life, charming in public but oppressive in private. John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* describes the character 'Talkative' as 'a saint abroad, but a devil at home'. Gaslighting is a particularly insidious form of deception in which victims are manipulated to doubt their memory or sanity.

## What can survivors do to heal?

Firstly, they must recognise emotional abuse when it occurs and call it out if it is safe to do so. Loving someone does not necessitate tolerating mistreatment. All relationships require boundaries to

preserve emotional safety.

Recognition of abuse becomes easier when the victims develop an awareness of what constitutes a healthy relationship. Secondly, survivors must appreciate that they cannot 'fix' their abusers. Often, victims believe that with enough patience, love or submission they can change the perpetrators – but research shows that being submissive usually emboldens abusers. What perpetrators truly need is accountability. Matthew 18 outlines a redemptive process for addressing wrongdoing. When someone refuses correction, there are consequences that follow. Just as the prophet Nathan held David accountable for his sins, victims and their communities must call abusers to account. Sometimes, the most loving act is confrontation.

There are several practical steps that can be taken to heal from emotional abuse, which include seeking professional counselling, building a supportive community, practising self-care, and rediscovering personal interests.

If a relationship with the abuser must be maintained, setting and enforcing clear boundaries is essential. However, where emotional abuse carries with it the threat of physical violence, external assistance is required to create a safety plan.

Emotional abuse is real, destructive and often hidden; but healing is possible. With God's help, loving support, and practical steps, survivors can find freedom, reclaim their voice, and begin to live fully again. As Ezekiel 34:26-28 promises, God desires to 'break the bars of their yoke, and deliver them' so that they may 'dwell securely, and none shall make them afraid'.

<sup>1</sup>Scripture quotations throughout this article have been drawn from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

# Stanborough Secondary School: a legacy of faith, excellence and community

by Jeanetta Liburd,  
Headteacher at Stanborough Secondary School

Nestled in the heart of Garston, Watford, Stanborough Secondary School is one of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's most treasured institutions. Since its founding in 1919, the school has provided a faith-based education that blends academic excellence with Christian values. Originally established to support the children of missionaries, Stanborough continues to nurture students in a spiritually rich and academically rigorous environment.

**Academic excellence rooted in faith** – Stanborough consistently outperforms national standards. In 2024, while the UK's national GCSE pass rate was 67.7%, Stanborough students achieved an impressive 93%. Our Head Boy, for example, earned six Grade 9s (including Advanced Maths), five Grade 8s, and two Grade 7s. Many of our Year 11 graduates go on to top grammar schools and sixth forms. In 2022, the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) rated our students' personal development as 'exceptional', a testament to our commitment to nurturing the whole child – academically, spiritually and socially.

**A rich and diverse curriculum** – Our curriculum is broad and engaging, with a strong emphasis on music. Every Key Stage 3 student learns an instrument and participates in our choir or orchestra, which has performed across the UK and internationally. Subjects include Computer Science, French, Spanish, Religious Studies, Mathematics, Triple Science, English, Geography, History, Food Technology, PE, Business Studies, Music, Art and LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art), which offers up to 30 UCAS points. Looking ahead, we are preparing to launch an A-Level programme to expand our academic offerings and retain more students through sixth form.

**A unique educational haven** – Stanborough is a values-led school



with a current enrolment of 70 students and capacity for up to 170. Set on 40 acres of beautiful grounds, the school is part of a wider educational and spiritual community that includes Stanborough Primary School, Stanborough Park Church, and the British Union Conference (BUC) headquarters. When I became Headteacher in August 2022, I found what I can only describe as 'educational heaven'. For the first time in my thirty-year career, I could express my faith freely in a school setting. Every lesson begins with prayer, and every subject is linked to Scripture. Staff gather each morning for worship, lifting up one student and one colleague in prayer. The sound of students singing hymns in the corridors is a daily reminder of the school's spiritual heartbeat.

**A culture of leadership and faith** – Stanborough is the only secondary boarding school owned by the British Union Conference in the UK. Our students represent more than twenty nationalities, most of whom are Seventh-day Adventists, though we also welcome students from Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Jewish and non-faith backgrounds. Each term, we host Spiritual Emphasis Week, inviting guest speakers to inspire students in their faith journey. At a recent event, twenty students requested Bible studies, and five committed to baptism. One student, once a self-proclaimed sceptic, found faith at Stanborough.

**Beyond the classroom: service and global engagement** – Our commitment to service is lived out



through Community Service days, held twice a year. Students and staff support local food banks, perform at senior homes, and raise funds for charities. In 2025 we plan to join a Watford City Council conservation project. Internationally, our students have participated in innovation projects at Loma Linda University in California and performed in Austria. In 2026 we hope to send students on a mission trip to India and welcome a visit from the choir of Pine Forge Academy in the US, with a return visit planned for June 2026.

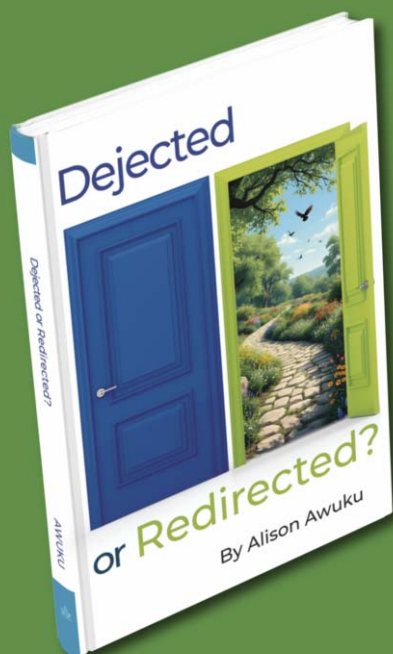
**Investing in the future: Project Grand Design** – We are preparing to reopen our boarding school in September 2026, which closed during the 2020 lockdown. Through Project Grand Design, we invite churches and individuals to sponsor room refurbishments at £2,500 per room. Donors will be honoured with a plaque bearing their name. So far, Handsworth and Ladywood Churches, along with a pastoral family, have generously contributed.

**Facing new challenges with faith** – Despite our achievements, recent government policy changes have created financial strain. The 2024 imposition of 20% VAT on school fees, the removal of business rate exemptions, and increased National Insurance contributions have made affordability a challenge for many families. While some Christian schools have closed, we remain committed to our mission and trust in God's provision.

**Join the legacy** – Stanborough Secondary School has stood as a beacon of faith, learning and service since 1919. We invite you to be part of this legacy – whether by enrolling your child, sponsoring a room, or supporting our mission through prayer and giving. To learn more, contact us at [jliburd@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk](mailto:jliburd@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk).



# The Book of the Month



## Dejected or Redirected?

We all have an inherent need for acceptance, validation and belonging. We all need to feel loved. But what happens when we face rejection – either from others or from ourselves? Do we feel *Dejected or Redirected?*

Closely examining the work of psychological researchers on this topic, along with the trustworthy counsel of Holy Scripture, the testimonies of others, and her own lived experience, Alison Awuku empowers us and equips us to handle rejection with this practical guide, which is especially useful for young people.

In the seven chapters of this book, Alison takes us through . . .

- Why people reject others
- The psychology of self-rejection
- The need for resilience
- The gift of being able to see rejection as a needed opportunity to refocus and even as a blessing

May you be significantly blessed and enriched to fulfil your purpose as you redirect your future.



To order this excellent book for yourself or to give it as a gift to someone you care about, telephone 01476 591700 (8.30am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday) or visit [www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk](http://www.lifesourcebookshop.co.uk).

## Camp: apathy or action

by Adrian Samuel



*'For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*  
(Hebrews 4:12, ESV)

The entrance of God's word into our minds provokes a reaction that reveals who we really are. A comparison is drawn with a sword as it pierces our bodies, highlighting just how unnatural and uncomfortable this experience truly is.

If we borrow the illustration, we might liken it to an invasive surgery. Doctors conduct surgery not to kill, but to heal. For the best long-term outcomes, there's an expectation that the patient will carry out all post-operative care instructions. Everybody, however, responds to these instructions differently, and we can observe that people land in either one of two general camps: apathy or action.

Here are a few scriptures we can use as our examples to explore this phenomenon:

- **John 14:3:** Jesus will come back to earth, taking the faithful to heaven.
  - **Apathy:** Some do not see the point in trying to make a positive change in the world because Jesus is going to come and take them (the faithful) away from it all in the end.
  - **Action:** Others know Jesus is coming, but they're moved with a compassion to bring people a taste of heaven in this world now, and to invite them to experience the eternal joy found in Jesus.
- **Matthew 26:11:** There will always be poor people.
  - **Apathy:** Some find it a shame that some people are poor; but, since they cannot help everyone, they won't attempt to help even one.
  - **Action:** Others recognise that both the church and society have failed the poor if they aren't receiving the help and support they need. They may not be able to help everybody, but they don't stop trying to help all those that they can; they are not discouraged.
- **Ecclesiastes 1:9:** History repeats itself.
  - **Apathy:** Some don't see the point in trying to change anything, because history repeats itself.
  - **Action:** Others recognise that history repeats itself only if we let it.

If you make a careful inspection, you'll find that both these types of character exist in your church; this is because both of these characteristics exist in all of our hearts.

If you identify with Camp Action, amen; however, if you don't, but instead find this narrative uncomfortable, then perhaps the word is active, alive and still willing to work within you.

# Women in mission impacting lives for Christ

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,  
BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries



'The Department of Women's Ministries exists to uphold, encourage and challenge Adventist women in their pilgrimage as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His world church.'<sup>1</sup> With this ministry focus, women across the globe have been empowered both for their personal faith enrichment and also for mission outreach. At the 62nd General Conference (GC) Session held in St Louis, Missouri, USA, 3-12 July 2025, it was exhilarating to view the GC Session Women's Ministries Division reports and hear of the tremendous work that has been undertaken in each region.<sup>2</sup>



## Trans-European Division (TED) Women's Ministries

Our TED Women's Ministries GC Session report, compiled by Karen Holford – TED Director for Women, Children and Family Ministries, and also covering for Health Ministries – was unique. Titled 'Celebrating Women in the Trans-European Division', it shared inspirational accounts of women across Europe reaching out in creative and innovative ways, positively impacting lives through timely and relevant interventions. We heard of lives transformed through practical acts of service,

meeting the physical, psychological, spiritual, social and relational needs of individuals and families in their communities.<sup>3</sup>

The inclusion of three women from our BUC territory was welcomed as a representation of the diverse demographic composition of our church in the UK and Ireland, and of the consequent giftings that are prevalent. We were thrilled to see the recognition of their impactful ministries highlighted in the report, which featured Joanna Daniel, a trauma-informed counsellor, and her global reach and resources on abuse awareness and trauma recovery. Also spotlighted were Dr Marva Williams and Andrea Malcom, in recognition of their support for women through abuse, domestic violence and the menopause. They have produced a range of wellbeing products, called 'Shhh Menopause Wellness'. Subsequent *BUC News* editions will feature interviews on the ministry impact of these three women.



## Women's Ministries impact

In 2023, the late Heather-Dawn Small, GC Women's Ministries Director, reported that 73,245 evangelistic meetings were conducted by Women's Ministries teams globally in 2022 alone.

Annually, the GC Women's Ministries Department sends out a Ministry and Activities Statistics form to be compiled by Division Women's Ministries leaders. This is then disseminated to Union Women's Ministries leaders to

compile data from their regions relating to three specific areas of ministry: nurture, empowerment and outreach. In the category of nurture, we report on retreats and congresses attended by both Adventist and non-Adventist women. Under empowerment, data is collected on training/seminars/meetings and scholarships awarded. In the category of outreach, baptisms, reclaimed members and series of evangelistic meetings are recorded. We also report on special days undertaken, including the Women's Day of Prayer (March), Women's Ministries Emphasis Day (June) and EnditNow – abuse awareness and prevention (August).

These collated reports, which provide evidence of exceptional ministry output, were shown at the recent GC Session. For example:

- The Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division (SID) report shows the reclamation of 21,414 members over the years 2022-2024, and 30,441 baptisms in the same timeframe.
- The East-Central Africa Division (ECD) Women's Ministries built a church inside a prison in Kenya, and re-opened seven closed churches across the ECD region. they also established multiple women's centres of influence.
- The West-Central Africa Division (WAD) Women's Ministries' diverse outreach interventions, small groups evangelism, public evangelistic campaigns and friendship evangelism culminated in more than 15,000 baptisms.

We praise God for the significant contribution women are making globally, positively impacting lives for God's kingdom.

<sup>1</sup>[women.adventist.org](http://women.adventist.org)

<sup>2</sup>Access the following link to view the various reports from around the world: [women.adventist.org/our-videos](http://women.adventist.org/our-videos).

<sup>3</sup>The TED report can be accessed here: [youtube.com/watch?v=LYXS26XjcPA](https://youtube.com/watch?v=LYXS26XjcPA).



# Nature's pharmacy, part 6c – Healing foods

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,  
BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries



**T**his issue examines how foods enhance wellbeing, especially highlighting how specific foods reduce inflammatory processes in the body.

## Food as medicine

Rafaela Feresin, Associate Professor of Nutrition at Georgia State University, is undertaking work to ascertain how specific foods positively impact our health and wellbeing. She is the director of the PhD programme in chemistry focusing on

nutritional sciences, where she is studying the role of polyphenol-rich foods and their impact on cardio-metabolic diseases.

An online article by Noelle Toumey Reetz, published in Georgia State University's research magazine and titled 'Food as Medicine: Going Beyond Basic Nutrition', examines Feresin's work. Speaking of her research, Feresin states: 'One of the main goals of our research is to understand the role of foods, including berries and nuts, in preventing and improving disease outcomes – particularly for conditions such as hypertension, type 2 diabetes and obesity. . . . We also want to understand how these foods work on a molecular level. What are the mechanisms underlying the health benefits we observe?'<sup>1</sup>

The article further highlights key aspects of the research with the following explanation: 'At the molecular level, Feresin says, many foods contain bioactive compounds, such as polyphenols, that offer important health benefits beyond being fuel for the body. These compounds, found in plant-based foods, have been shown to reduce oxidative stress and inflammation, both of which are behind many chronic conditions.'

## Combating inflammation with food

*Harvard Health Publishing* posted an online article by the magazine's Chief Medical Editor, Howard E. LeWine, MD, on 26 March 2024, titled 'Foods that fight inflammation'. The article reports: 'One of the most powerful tools to combat inflammation comes not from the pharmacy, but from the grocery store. "Many experimental studies have shown that components of foods or beverages may have anti-inflammatory effects," says Dr Frank Hu, Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health.'<sup>2</sup>

Highlighting the foods of choice to fight inflammation, Dr LeWine lists the following: tomatoes; olive oil; green leafy vegetables such as spinach, kale and collards; nuts such as almonds and walnuts; fatty fish such as salmon; and fruits such as strawberries, blueberries, cherries and oranges.

## Inflammatory foods

Dr LeWine also spotlights dietary choices that increase inflammation in the body, stating, 'Try to avoid or limit these foods as much as possible: refined carbohydrates, such as white bread and pastries; French fries and other fried foods; soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages; red meat (burgers, steaks) and processed meat (hot dogs, sausages); and margarine, shortening and lard.' Dr LeWine quotes Dr Frank Hu, Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology in the Department of Nutrition at the Harvard School of Public Health, as saying: 'Some of the foods that have been associated with

an increased risk for chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes and heart disease are also associated with excess inflammation. . . . It's not surprising, since inflammation is an important underlying mechanism for the development of these diseases.'

## Combining foods for optimum effect

An online article by Heidi Moawad, MD, published by Verywell Health on 28 March 2025, carried the title 'What Happens When You Take Turmeric and Ginger Together?' Explaining the impact of this practice, Dr Moawad states: 'Turmeric and ginger are spices used in seasonings, drinks and dietary supplements. They contain antioxidants that can help protect you from inflammation-related health conditions, such as arthritis and diabetes.'

Dr Moawad also highlights other benefits: combining ginger and turmeric may mediate the body's harmful immune responses; both turmeric and ginger have been found in some laboratory-based research studies to have an impact on cellular production of fat molecules – aiding weight loss; and turmeric and ginger can potentially help prevent or limit the severity of heart disease by reducing inflammation and oxidative damage and lowering unhealthy fats.

However, Dr Moawad cautions us against taking ginger and turmeric in large doses, as well as warning against their use in pregnancy and breastfeeding, and concludes with the following advice: 'Do not substitute turmeric and ginger for medical treatment for any condition. Before taking any supplement, discuss it with a healthcare provider.'

## Good health!

<sup>1</sup><https://news.gsu.edu/research-magazine/food-as-medicine> <sup>2</sup>[www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/foods-that-fight-inflammation](http://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/foods-that-fight-inflammation) <sup>3</sup>[www.verywellhealth.com/turmeric-and-ginger-11705038](http://www.verywellhealth.com/turmeric-and-ginger-11705038)



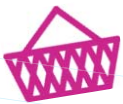
CAKES, BAKES  
& DESSERTS



# Chocolate Mousse

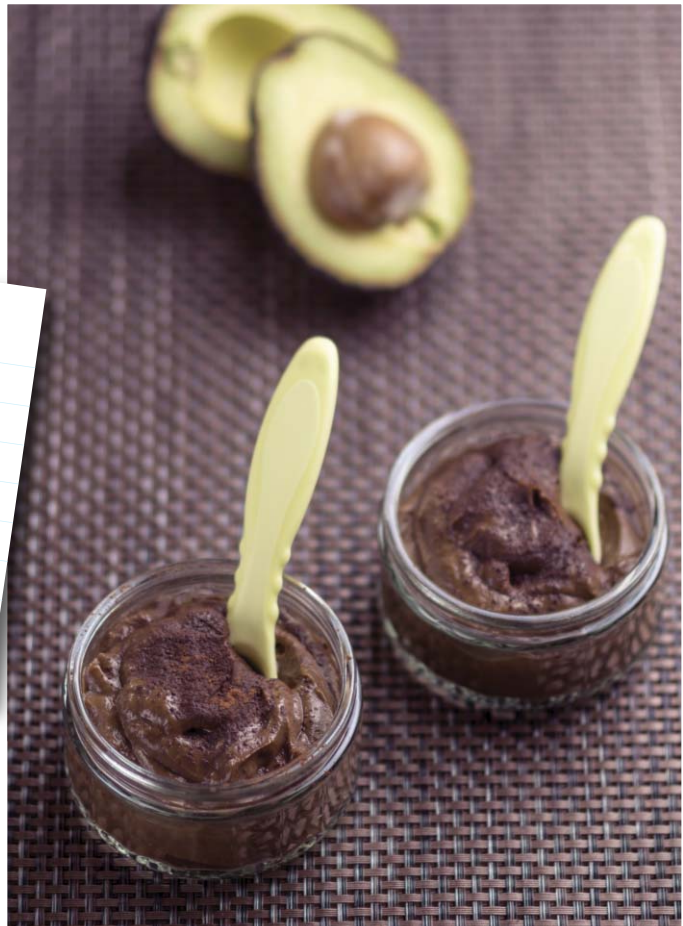
There is the misconception that when you become a vegan you miss out on great desserts. . . . Wrong. There are many lip-smacking vegan desserts that you can make. Like thousands of people across the globe, I am a lover of chocolate. Vegan chocolate mousse is such a joy to make as it has a wonderful chocolate flavour. Try serving this with fresh raspberries or strawberries or whatever fruit you have locally that goes with chocolate.

- 1 Peel and then mash the flesh of the **avocados** with a fork.
- 2 Add in **cocoa powder**, **agave nectar**, **vanilla** and **almond extract** and blend for 1 to 2 minutes, making sure every part is well blended.
- 3 Refrigerate overnight and serve.



## Shopping list

**Avocados** – 2 large, ripe  
**Cocoa powder** – ½ cup unsweetened  
**Agave nectar** or **maple syrup** – ½ cup  
**Vanilla** – 1½ tsp  
**Almond extract** or **almond milk** – 1½ tsp



Taken from *Cooking with Kids*, by Kirly-Sue.

To purchase yours, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/cooking-with-kids-paperback/>



**MATTHEW 14:14-21**

JESUS  
GREAT  
MULTITUDE  
MOVED  
COMPASSION  
HEALED  
SICK

EVENING  
DESERT  
DEPART  
FIVE LOAVES  
TWO FISHES  
BRING  
HITHER

BLESSED  
BRAKE  
DISCIPLES  
FILLED  
FRAGMENTS  
TWELVE  
FIVE THOUSAND

S I C K E M T G N I R B D E H D E V O M  
A I J E S U S F O D R H O R E I R U O C  
T W E S T E B N U I R A E P S D M V N E  
R R F N S D E L L I F R A M E N U E T V  
E V A I L S E H T I G R D S V W L D D E  
S H D O V V W E L O T G S L U O T A N N  
E E I E L E M T R R S E C H S T I H A I  
D T S I E S L W Y N L O R A F W T A S N  
H E C I F I D O R B H B J S R G U L U G  
E V I G M O V F A L U I T T R E D I O M  
N M P E O L A I D V R D M N F O E V H O  
O B L O C F W S I M E I E E N R T H T U  
I R E L U E E H E A Y S C M I A M E E D  
S A S D K W M E F D N A O G N A V R V A  
S E T A W I O S O E D M M A E D S I I N  
A O R L L I S L L E W T A R M Y G H F R  
P B A M T W E L V E W O E F R A O I H E  
M E K F I S D A W N N D E R G R E A T T  
O Y R E H T I H M E O H T N I G E T M O  
C U U E R S O F H E A L E D O S R A S S

Taken from *Hidden Words Book 1*.

To purchase yours, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/hidden-words/>

## Celebrating excellence: LAAC honours ABE and PBE Division finalists across London

In a heartwarming celebration of dedication and achievement, the London Area Advisory Council (LAAC) hosted an inspiring awards ceremony for this year's ABE and PBE Division finalists from all four London areas on Sunday 6 July. Held at Balham Seventh-day Adventist Church, the event brought together young people, their coaches and supportive families to honour their hard work and spiritual growth.

Each finalist was awarded a medal and treated to a full-course meal, creating a memorable experience that recognised their commitment to studying the word of God. The books of Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians challenged and uplifted participants, and LAAC hopes this celebration will inspire even more children to take part next year as they read the book of Isaiah.

Speaking on behalf of the LAAC Executive, Pastor Mario Phillip, LAAC Chair, congratulated the children for their outstanding efforts and recognised the efforts made by coaches and parents/guardians. He reminded those in attendance that the ABE/PBE is more than a competition: it's the sowing of God's word in the hearts of our young people so that one day it will germinate and produce fruits that can be harvested for God's kingdom. He further emphasised that this event would become a regular feature in the annual calendar of LAAC to celebrate ABE/PBE achievers.

The event was beautifully organised by the LAAC Secretariat under the creative lead of Sister Althea



Bailey-Perkins, LAAC Secretary, whose team decorated the venue to make every child feel special. Elder Enoch Frimpong, LAAC Treasurer, ensured the smooth running of the programme and secured funding to support the celebration.

The day was hosted by Pastor Jesse Samuel, who served as Master of Ceremonies, with special appearances from the SEC Pathfinder Director and some Pathfinder area coordinators, adding to the joy and significance of the occasion.

This celebration not only honoured achievement, but also reinforced the value of spiritual learning and community support. The LAAC looks forward to even greater participation in the coming year as children continue to grow in faith and fellowship.

*ELDER ENOCH FRIMPONG, REPORTING FOR THE LAAC*

## Pathfinder investiture at Newark Church

How blessed we are to have enthusiastic and progressive children attending with their parents and the other members of Newark Church, who are keen to take an active part in all the church services they are invited to contribute towards! The decision made by the church members to involve the children in every aspect of our church life and at every opportunity is blossoming significantly.

The Pathfinder club is the top of the list for engaging their enthusiasm and zeal. For this activity, some of the children in the Grantham church also participate regularly. So it was yet again time for the Divine Service to be used for an enterprising display by the children. For many months, the Pathfinders had been working on their projects within their own classes in preparation for the investiture which took place on Sabbath morning, 19 July 2025. It was willingly and confidently presented by nineteen children, from our recently baptised teenagers down to those barely out of toddlerhood.

After the ceremonial procession into church, and once each group had presented its flag, the Sunbeam class welcomed us and gave the opening prayers. They then led us in the opening hymn by demonstrating their skills in sign language. All nineteen children gave the pledge and law of the Pathfinders and Adventurers. Each one then gave their reflections on their weekly engagements, and what had been their favourite activity.

The Pathfinders Group of Newark and Grantham Churches has been organised and run by very devoted parents and other helpful adults who spend time with them each week in their Pathfinder activities. For this we thank particularly Matthew and Rebecca Sammy, Keegan and Esther Bernstein, Felicity Shaw, Kirsty Sibandze and Corina Dogaru from the Newark Church, and Linda Muganga, Bheki Masuku and Vernon and Carole Thompson from Grantham Church.

We want to particularly thank the children who achieved the highest awards through their enthusiastic and devoted participation in Pathfinders. These were Abigail, Evie, Aaleah, Milan, Jose, Mark, Timothy and Nandi. Several children, namely Malachi, Navid, Aaleah and Lydia, have upgraded from Adventurers to Pathfinders.

*VANESSA GENT*





## Adventists graduate from University of Birmingham

Every year Adventist students graduate from universities across the UK. This year it was my turn to graduate from the University of Birmingham (UoB), and Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma was on stage to support me.

Pastor Obi is the chaplain for Adventist students at the University of Birmingham, supporting them pastorally and helping with the organisation and running of the Adventist Students on Campus (ASC) student society there. This year he supported three Adventist students in their graduation, alongside a fourth friend of the ASC society whom he came to know in the run-up to the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university's founding.

I've known Pastor Obi since coming to Birmingham, and it's been wonderful to have a chaplain and a group of fellow Adventist students supporting me throughout my studies. ASC is about community building, and it forms an important support network for Adventist students at secular universities, as well as an important form of outreach to non-Adventist students, through weekly Bible studies and socials. For me, the highlight of my week was coming together on Friday evenings at the St Francis multifaith chaplaincy for a Bible study, which I enjoyed so much I decided to be on the society committee in my second year to help run things. I would encourage any young person planning on attending UoB this September to get in touch with either Pastor Obi or UoB ASC and get involved – you won't regret it!

ASC isn't just at UoB, though. Many universities throughout the NEC have experienced success with these student-led societies, creating a home away from home for our Adventist youth. If you're attending any university in the NEC, look to see if there is already an established society, and consider joining it; and if there is not, think about establishing one with your fellow students. You never know the eternal impact it could have.

ADRIAN DE LIMA



## Stop making excuses for abuse

On Saturday 9 August, Dr Janelle Victory, an author and the founder of the Women of Excellence Foundation, organised a Domestic Abuse Awareness event on the theme 'Stop making excuses for abuse' as part of Ilford Central's youth ministry. This was important, as our dignity as people is related to our intrinsic value as beings created in the image and likeness of God. Domestic abuse obscures the dignity of both the victim and the perpetrator; it dehumanises all of us.

Various aspects of domestic abuse were explored, including physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic, psychological or emotional abuse; online or digital abuse; exploitation; isolation; marginalisation; modern slavery and trafficking; inappropriate pressure; harassment; stalking; female genital mutilation; forced marriage; and 'honour-based' abuse.

Janice Weir-Germia, an author and entrepreneur, bravely shared her personal experience of domestic abuse, documented in her book, *I Decided to Live*, where she encourages survivors that they can move on from past negative experiences. Camelia Bogdan shared information on money management. Philippa Gittens, another author, spoke about personal self-development. Pastor Jude Jeanville, drawing on his book, *Justice for Women*, explored the ideologies that can lead to domestic abuse and shared steps 'to dismantle barriers and promote inclusivity'.

Leela Ramdeen, Attorney-at-Law & Consultant at the Catholic Commission for Social Justice, Trinidad and Tobago, shared useful information on the UK's Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (including the definition of domestic abuse);<sup>1</sup> UK abuse statistics; new Home Office measures to protect victims of domestic abuse, including Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders; and how to support victims of domestic abuse. She also shared information about people and organisations who are helping to combat abuse, including Dame Nicole Jacobs (Domestic Abuse Commissioner); Refuge, which operates the Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline (0808 2000 247); Women's Aid; Respect Men; Mankind; Citizens' Advice; and Karma Nirvana (dealing with forced marriage and honour-based abuse). Ms Ramdeen urged participants to join forces to break the cycle of domestic abuse.

In her closing remarks, Dr Janelle Victory expressed her hope that the information shared at the event would help to transform lives, and paid tribute to her two children, Annelise and Madiba, who support her in all her activities. For further information, contact her on 0747535711.

DR JANELLE CLARKE-PAMPHILE

<sup>1</sup>[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents)



## Repentance and unity at Hackney Prayer Day

'Repentance and Unity' was the theme of Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church's Prayer Day, which took place on Sabbath 19 July 2025. The early-morning devotion was taken by the Hackney Prayer Team Leader and Prayer Coordinator for London Area 6C, Sister Eileen Philip, with prayers of consecration offered at the end by those in attendance.

Sabbath School Superintendent and Prayer Team member, Sister Brenda Nelson, encouraged members in the reading of scriptures on repentance and unity, with prayers said after each one. After the adult Sabbath School lesson, the Junior Sabbath School blessed the congregation by singing 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace', followed by a prayer for peace by Sister Chioma, Prayer Coordinator for London Area 6C and Stratford Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Led by Dayne Mathieu, Unified Purpose from Clapton Seventh-day Adventist Church led out in a powerful praise and worship session before the guest speaker, Elder Lillian Kabambe, Prayer Coordinator for London Area 6D and a member of the Willesden SDA Prayer Team, preached on 2 Chronicles 7:14, where the Lord declares: 'If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land' (NKJV). Elder Kabambe admonished those in attendance to maintain a one-to-one relationship with God without distraction and interference, and reminded us of the importance of prayer, the word of God, and the Holy Spirit's guidance in our lives to lead us to repentance and unity with God and each other.

Members then took to the streets, distributing literature and sharing the love of Jesus with members of the public, before returning to the church, where the afternoon concluded with an interview and testimonies highlighting the importance of forgiveness, as it is that which will then lead to reconciliation and unity among God's people. Sister Anna Seepaul gave a short discourse on repentance and unity, followed by a charge by Elder Leroy Daley and Sister Eileen Philip to make prayer a priority and live the life of peacemakers, as Christ identified them as the ones who would be blessed to see God. Access to a prayer room, facilitated by prayer intercessors, was available throughout the day for anyone needing special prayer.

DARELL J. PHILIP, PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT



## Community events at Stanborough Park Church

The Stanborough Park College of Music has, for the past fifteen years, organised a children's concert, raising funds for ADRA. This year approximately sixty children took part in a concert enjoyed by community friends and church members. A retiring offering was taken on the night, but students and their teachers were encouraged to raise sponsorship and the result was an amazing £4,282.90 for the ADRA Children's Education Fund.

SPCM, as Stanborough Park College of Music is known, regularly organises musical events, which are well supported by community friends. A yearly highlight is 'My Favourite Hymn', inviting people to request their favourite hymns to be sung or performed. It featured three choirs (Junior Choir, Youth Choir and Adult Choir); a string orchestra made up of current and former SPCM pupils; and a handbell ensemble. Altogether, more than ninety people took part in singing and performing the hymns requested by worshippers from Stanborough Park Church and the local community.

The students have been practising for the Flower Festival, which is being held at the church this weekend. Since 1981, when the first flower festival was held in Stanborough Park Church, around £138,000 has been raised for various charities. This year the funds raised will go to refurbish 'The Stanborough Room', which was commissioned with funds from a flower festival in 1996.

Arrangers from Stanborough, other churches and flower clubs have been creating more than forty stunning

floral displays under the title 'Joyful Reflections'. Each display highlights, with an appropriate scripture, one aspect of the Gospel and God's graciousness towards us. There is an interactive 'Reflections' event and something for everyone to enjoy. SPCM is providing music throughout the weekend. A gala concert this Saturday evening at 7pm will once more feature around 100 musicians – an evening not to be missed. The festival will close with a 'Songs of Praise' programme on Sunday 5 October at 5pm.

If you would like to experience wonderfully uplifting music in a beautiful setting, which resounds to the glory of God, then join us at Stanborough for similar weekends when they are announced. We look forward to seeing you!

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



15<sup>th</sup> Children's Concert in aid of ADRA (Junior Choir)



## Party in the Park and Workers' Appreciation Service



On Saturday 28 June 2025, dedicated volunteers from Mansfield Woodhouse Seventh-day Adventist Church took part in the annual Mansfield Woodhouse Party in the Park, offering free health checks and advice as well as literature on nutrition, lifestyle choices, the power of hope and mental wellbeing, sparking meaningful conversations with attendees. With the warm and sunny weather, the team handed out bottled water, which was both practical and appreciated. The day provided an excellent opportunity to connect with the local community, raise awareness of the church's mission, and offer genuine care in a friendly, inclusive environment.

The church also hosted its first Workers' Appreciation and Thanksgiving Service on Saturday 5 July, dedicated to thanking God for the workers in our community and expressing heartfelt appreciation to the many volunteers, teams, groups and individuals who play a vital role in making Mansfield Woodhouse a pleasant and thriving place to live and work. The service featured music, prayers, scripture readings, appreciation (awards) and a sermonette, all woven around a theme of service, unity and gratitude.

Fourteen community members attended the service, and we offered a special prayer for them. Someone commented, 'It's been more than twenty years since I stepped into a church building.' The occasion was graced by local councillors, PCSOs from Mansfield District Police, volunteers, community champions, and members of our painting class.

Both events reflected the church's ongoing commitment to building strong community ties through acts of service, compassion and fellowship, hence lifting Christ Jesus to the community.

*COMMUNITY SERVICES & NICHOLAS OKYERE, GLOBAL MISSION PIONEER*

## No cruising – mission possible, serving like Jesus

Sabbath 12 July 2025 was an unforgettable Children's Ministries Day at Welling Church. Interspersed with joyous singing, the children reported on their activities in the community, serving others as Jesus did, inspiring us to serve with acts of kindness, a willing heart and love for all.

The afternoon programme honoured our elderly members, aged 70 years and above, with the eldest being 96. Weeks of planning had preceded the surprise event, as invitations had been sent to family members who had previously attended the Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with other Christians and Muslims. As they arrived in the afternoon, four generations of family members were represented. They were seated in an area out of the view of their families, and then the moment arrived: 'the great reveal'!

Each beloved senior member was escorted by a child from the sanctuary, passing through a guard of honour to the hall. As they approached, the melodious playing of our young saxophonist Kalechi could be heard. The hall was decorated with white linen for the tables, gold centrepieces, and table settings; blue & gold balloons; and a blue plaque on the wall with words honouring our senior members. There was surprise and delight on their faces, yet even more surprise was to come as the special guests came in after their parents, grandparents and siblings. It was a joy to behold!

We were welcomed by Abigail and Daynea, and prayer was offered by Blessing Okafor before delectable food was served throughout the afternoon with generosity. Favour and Reuben presented short biographies on our elderly members: Wilfreda Alexander, Ivy Blake, Priscilla Chambers, Gillian Harrison, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Leo and Monie Norris, Mercy Nworgu, Elizabeth Ogun, Elsie Quamina, Esmie Rennie, Patricia Samuel, Gurdel Thomas, Neville Walker and Charles and Rachel Whittle, whose stories outlined their determination to rise above the challenges of settling in the UK, having emigrated from the Caribbean islands, Ireland and Nigeria, exceeding the expectations of many and finding strength in the Lord.

Each honouree's favourite scripture and song were highlighted, and Priscilla Chambers gave encouragement to all, especially the children, with her poem 'The A-Z with God'. Our beloved elders then sang 'Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus' before Jaidenlee delivered them the charge, inspired by the words of the apostle Paul, to keep the faith, for there is a crown of righteousness awaiting each of them.

This wonderful day culminated in prayers by Elder Halicon and First Elder Jerry.

*LESLIAN ELLIS, COMMUNICATION TEAM*



Sister Rennie (4Generation)



## Baptism event in Area 1, SEC

On the Sabbath of 30 August, the members of Torquay Church celebrated the baptism of two precious young people: Julia Kasprowicz and Denesia Clark. The service was conducted by Pastor Alan Hart; the local minister, Pastor Florin Orasanu; and Pastor Ian Lorek.

We praise God for blessing our congregation with these two young people, who publicly demonstrated their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through their testimony.

The church was decorated with lovely flowers, and we want to express our appreciation to all who worked so hard to make this service such a blessing.

Many family members and friends were in attendance to support the candidates and were blessed by their witness. We also praise God that when Pastor Alan made an altar call, three young people stood up to indicate their desire to be baptised in the future.

After the service, those in attendance were invited to attend a fellowship lunch. We continue to remember them in our prayers, and we thank the congregation for their continued support.

PASTOR ALAN HART



## SEC President concludes transformative evangelistic series at London Ghana

On Saturday 28 June London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church buzzed with spiritual fervour as an evocative evangelistic campaign

spearheaded by Pastor Kirk Thomas, President of the South England Conference (SEC), drew to a triumphant close. This comprehensive series of meetings, which skilfully blended online discussions with two impactful Sabbath gatherings from 20 to 28 June, captivated a significant audience and is being hailed as a profoundly spiritual milestone for the local community.

Dr Thomas, celebrated for his compelling preaching and insightful biblical exposition, delivered a series of messages that deeply resonated with all present, culminating with the thought-provoking sermon, 'What in Hell Do You Want?' He masterfully explored the core themes of the Christian faith and the Adventist message, offering renewed hope, encouragement, and a deeper grasp of Scripture. His remarkable ability to connect with a diverse congregation was evident as people from all walks of life gathered each evening, eager to hear his presentations.

The atmosphere at London Ghana was truly vibrant and Spirit-filled. Adding to the spiritual richness, Pastor Alex Mareniuc, Director of the UK Centre for Adventist-Jewish Relations, also presented. His talk, 'Fake Deal or Real Deal', powerfully underscored the importance of living an authentic and purposeful life.



Four baptised, pictured with the SEC President at London Ghana

A standout moment of the campaign was the baptism of four individuals – a truly moving experience – set against the backdrop of 'I Will Go', the SEC's mission theme, beautifully sung by Ruth Mensah. The gatherings were further enhanced by inspiring hymns and worship songs delivered by the gifted young singing evangelist, Ewurakua Sackey.

One of the newly baptised candidates, Khosla Ahenkora Asumang, shared his personal journey, attributing his decision to a close friendship with a young Adventist lady whose lifestyle had long appealed to him. 'I love everything about the Adventist faith, and I'm so happy to have taken this decision after several months of pondering about taking this leap of faith,' he remarked.

This evangelistic outreach marks a pivotal moment for both London Ghana Church and the wider South England Conference. It powerfully reaffirms our unwavering commitment to sharing the Gospel and nurturing faith across our communities. We anticipate that the lasting fruits of this campaign will be seen as new believers are warmly welcomed into the church family and existing members grow stronger in their walk with God.

RUBINA FOSUA ARTHUR



## Exciting ministries at Central London Church

Exciting ministries have been taking place at Central London Church (CLC). The focus for the last few months has been on worship from a cultural point of view. With a beautiful mix of cultures, we started the series with a Hispanic Sabbath worship service, followed by a Filipino worship service. We love to celebrate the various gifts and talents with which God has blessed our church.

Recently we also had a British-inspired worship service, and this again was a blessing with focused prayers, music and worship. The speaker was British-born Serene, a member of CLC baptised two years ago.

What we learnt from the series of different worship services was that people love to engage in worship from other cultural groups. It keeps the church fresh and inviting. At CLC we believe in worshipping together. It's not always easy, but it is very rewarding.

At the British service, special mention was made of the groups in London and south England that we are failing to impact as a church, one being white British society. We believe more emphasis should be given to impacting these groups.

Having said this, the big highlight was the baptism of Farideh, born in Iran, a Persian lady who has been attending CLC for around seven months. Her journey to faith since leaving Iran has been an amazing one – she connected with Adventists in Armenia, Turkey and then in the UK, being led to Adventist churches. She has been guided into faith since arriving in the UK by Andrew Rock, who, among others, has been doing some work with this group – he connected her with CLC. Every Sabbath at 10 o'clock in the morning she has been attending the discipleship class at CLC, which is a class planned for non-Adventists to introduce them to faith.

Glory be to God for the great things He has done!

CLC COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



### First baptism in Bournemouth's new church

This photograph shows Beth Kamai in the baptistry of Bournemouth Church with Pastor Steven Hulbert at her baptism on 7 June 2025 – see *MESSENGER* no. 7, 4 July 2025, p. 19.

## 'Every Word' good-news series

The 'Every Word' good-news evangelistic series ran from 14 June to 28 June, hosted by Wood Green Community Seventh-day-Adventist Church. A seasoned international guest speaker, Dr Jerome Crichton from California, nightly presented the word of God with a unique style and on-point topics.

The programme started with a bang, enhanced with songs from singing evangelist Stacy Campbell Marshall from the sunny Bahamas and other special guest artists on Sabbath morning 14 June. The afternoon session was just as impressive, with incredible performances from Stacy Marshall, the Romanian Church Choir and other special guests.

Dr Crichton's sermons were provocative and spiritually emotive. Using twenty-first-century events, Dr Crichton showed that Scripture is relevant in any century. The theme song, 'Revive Us Again', was very pertinent to established members who needed to rekindle their love for God. New believers were given good news about God that they may not have heard before. Dr Crichton sowed the good seed, and his hearers were able to contemplate the good news from a dynamic preacher.

The second week of the campaign saw its first baptism. Young Manuel Gonzalez answered the call to give his life to the Lord and stepped into the baptismal pool, publicly declaring his love for Jesus Christ his Saviour. The final Sabbath culminated with the baptism of two candidates, Lorna Rodney and Camille Tyser-Anderson. Camille, Dr Crichton commented, had attended the campaign every night; and, having heard the good news about Jesus, she made up her mind to follow Him and was baptised. Heaven rejoiced for these three new souls who joined the church of God.



Wood Green acknowledged and honoured Dr Crichton for bringing the 'Every Word' good-news series to London in 2025. With all the bad news and strife going on around the world, we needed some good news, and 'Every Word' was good for the soul.

I also want to acknowledge Pastor Vaughn Thorpe for inviting Dr Crichton and all the special guests, who participated so well throughout the series. All glory to God.

BARBARA SOMMERS

## Aylesbury Church's 'True North' VBS inspires more than fifty-five children to trust in Jesus



From 27 to 30 August, Aylesbury Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted its annual vacation Bible school (VBS) under the theme 'True North – Trusting Jesus', drawing more than fifty-five children from the church and surrounding community for four days of faith-filled fun, learning and spiritual growth.

The programme was led by the passionate VBS Director Trisha Yearwood, supported by a vibrant team of teen and youth volunteers. Not only did these young leaders help facilitate activities, but they also developed their own leadership skills through the experience. The

event became a truly intergenerational effort, with Pastor Trevor Thomas, church elders, members and UCY Director Uncle Craig offering guidance and support throughout.

The highlight came during the graduation service, when Uncle Craig delivered a powerful message using engaging object lessons and practical demonstrations to help children and parents understand what it truly means to trust in Jesus.

The church was filled with joy and gratitude as parents expressed the lasting impact the programme had on their families. With the success of this year's VBS, the team are already

preparing for next year's adventure: 'Rainforest Fall – Exploring the Nature of God'. This nature-themed programme promises another exciting opportunity for children to grow in faith through Bible stories, interactive activities and Christ-centred friendships.

The Aylesbury church extends heartfelt thanks to all who contributed to the success of 'True North' – especially the volunteers, families, and Uncle Craig. It was a truly blessed experience that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

TRISHA YEARWOOD

## Croydon comes home – Croydon Church's homecoming and Youth Choir reunion

On the first Sabbath of September, a time of new beginnings for many children and students, Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomed home members, friends and family past and present. Many of the pastoral alumni shared their tributes on this special day – Pastor



Richard Daly, Pastor Samuel Ouadjo, Pastor Alex Mareniuc, Pastor Jesse Samuel, Pastor Pavle Trajkovski, Pastor Royston Smith and Pastor Errol Lawrence. The pastors recognised and shared fond memories about Croydon's vibrant cultures, its reputation for world-class music, its community orientation, its desire for excellence, its history as Ingathering champion from 1980 to 2010, its mission as a broadcasting church initiated during COVID-19, and its commitment to teaching the value of relationships, teamwork and patience.

Pastors who paid their tributes in person included Pastor Brighton Kavaloh and Pastor Lincoln Haynes, who was celebrating his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday that day with the Croydon Church family. Both pastors recognised Croydon's long history. Pastor Kavaloh talked about the importance of continuous recommitment to God's mission and called for a minute's silence to remember those whom Croydon had laid to rest.

The guest speaker for the day was Pastor Keith Burton, a son of Croydon who had returned to share a message entitled 'Questions'. Reading from Matthew 16:13-18, he reminded the church of the privilege of knowing Jesus Christ and developing our faith and trust in Him.

The evening was celebrated with worship led by the reunion of Croydon SDA's Youth Choir. Members of the Youth Choir, past and present, treated the audience to renditions of 'Faithful Is Our God', 'Siyahamba', and 'Hallelujah – Salvation and Glory'. The church was reminded of one of the Youth Choir's special moments of being recognised as one of the best youth choirs on Blue Peter, a children's programme, in the nineties.

The evening ended with the song 'Total Praise', a fitting end to a day of praise and worship to God for all that Croydon Church is doing and will continue to do to reach, reclaim, retain and serve others.

AKOSUA KUDOM, COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA TEAM



## Refugees remembered at Grantham

On the afternoon of Sabbath 21 June, Grantham Seventh-day Adventist Church held a special service in honour of the refugees in our midst. Organised by Elisabeth Carnell, the church's Personal Ministries Director, who has been running Friday evening English language classes at the church for some refugees from Ukraine, the service emphasised our Christian duty to provide shelter, friendship and love to those fleeing war and other forms of violence, recognising that Jesus, among other biblical characters, was also a refugee.

Two Ukrainians from the English language class read out a beautiful poem as part of the service, and Grantham's deputy ambassador, Councillor Wayne Hasnip, showed solidarity with the refugees, explaining that his own family were refugees from Holland. The service was also supported by Grantham's resident minister, Pastor David Rancic, and associate pastor, Steven George. Sadly, ongoing violence is still forcing people to become refugees today, as the presence at the service of a newly arrived refugee family from eastern Ukraine showed. Please pray for all those affected by violence, and may we all show the compassion of Jesus in welcoming them into our communities.

ANDREW PUCKERING



Marilyn Mansfield-Clark received her award from HRH Princess Anne



Marilyn attends a garden party at Buckingham Palace

## From Zimbabwe to the MBE award in the UK

Mrs Marilyn Mansfield-Clark, MBE DL, is an inspiring member of Gatwick Seventh-day Adventist Church, leading our Adventist Community Ministries.

I joined Gatwick Adventist Church in 2020, just as the COVID-19 pandemic was beginning. During that time, I worked alongside our head elder, Mr Wilbur Mutambara, and Sister Marilyn Mansfield-Clark, organising our food pantry, packing at car parks, delivering food to homes, praying, and actively listening to members of the public. It was an uplifting experience of faith and resilience. We even delivered food on Christmas Day.

As our paths diverged somewhat, Sister Marilyn was called to serve as Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex. Additionally, she was recognised for her ongoing and heartfelt service to both the Adventist and local communities in the Crawley area. We believe that God 'removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding' (Daniel 2:21, NKJV). Marilyn represents the Crown at public events on behalf of King Charles III, embodying service and upholding Adventist values.

Here is what she says about her story: 'My inspiration to serve the community came from the Seventh-day Adventist Dorcas ladies in Zimbabwe. By the age of 11, I had joined the British Red Cross Society and begun my community work. When I moved to Crawley, UK in

1990, I became involved with various community organisations such as the Crawley Interfaith Network, the Crawley International Mela Association, the Gatwick Detention Welfare Group, Refugees Welcome, and many others.

'I also co-founded the Crawley Black History Foundation in 2000 and DIVERSECrawley in 2017. I have served as a trustee for Longley Trust, Crawley Community Action, Crawley Museum, and Ensemble Reza, as well as leading the Community Services Department at Gatwick Seventh-day Adventist Church. We have supported numerous charitable causes, particularly Crawley Open House for the Homeless.

'During the COVID-19 pandemic, by God's grace we began distributing weekly food hampers to Crawley community members from July 2020 to July 2022.

'In 2023, I was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of West Sussex, where I lead citizenship ceremonies and present awards to deserving community members.

In January 2025, I was honoured by His Majesty, King Charles III, with an MBE for community services to Crawley, and the memorable investiture took place on 22 July 2025 at Windsor Castle, conducted by HRH Princess Anne.

'I thank God and everyone who supported me during this incredible journey.'

WILSON LAGOS, SEC AREA 4 COORDINATOR

## Pounding praise: how authentic fufu built fellowship in East London

The London Ghana Social Department hosted a truly unique community event over the bank holiday weekend of 24 August, collaborating with the church's Personal Ministries, Health, Teens and Youth Departments to bring something new and exciting to the church's history: a traditional fufu pounding and barbecue.

The day began at Beckton Park with a health expo, where community members received health checks from a team of NHS and other healthcare professionals. The event's backdrop of active football and athletic competitions added to the vibrant atmosphere. Following the expo, attendees were invited to a celebratory feast. In addition to the usual grilled assortment of clean meats and vegetarian options, the menu featured an authentic and exotic delicacy: fufu, traditionally pounded with a pestle and mortar.

Mrs Esther Benefo Boateng, one of the key organisers, was thrilled with its positive impact. 'We wanted to showcase this aspect of Ghanaian culture, which is often seen as impossible to recreate in Europe,' she explained. 'All the ingredients – cassava, cocoyam and green



plantain – were purchased right here in London. We wanted our young people to see and taste how fufu is traditionally prepared.'

For Francis, a recently baptised member of the church, the event was a powerful reminder of home: 'I've had some wonderful experiences as a new member, but this made me feel truly included. It served as a home away from home.'

This blend of health, heritage and fellowship created a truly memorable experience for everyone involved, celebrating both spiritual and cultural identity within the East London community.

RUBINA FOSUA ARTHUR

## Oreliares sing for care home residents in Northumberland

On Sunday 27 July, The Oreliares, a youth male singing group from South Shields Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tyne and Wear, travelled to Choppington in Northumberland to share a programme of uplifting songs with the residents of Wansbeck Care Home.

The Oreliares, based in South Tyneside, have recently extended their ministry into neighbouring Northumberland, a county with no established Seventh-day Adventist presence. Earlier in the year, on 27 April, three Samwinga brothers (members of the Oreliares group) visited Blue Bell Manor in Morpeth, bringing encouragement and hope through music. Relatives of the residents were also present and warmly received the music, some singing along to songs familiar to them. One family member even invited the Samwinga brothers to sing at a future musical event.

Northumberland is the least densely populated county in England. The county's history has long been shaped by its position as a borderland between England and Scotland. It has deep Christian roots, with Lindisfarne (Holy Island) playing a pivotal role in the spread of Celtic Christianity.

**Today the county is celebrated for its natural beauty. With no Adventist congregations currently established there, Northumberland represents a mission frontier. Its scattered rural communities, historic towns and modest population density require an approach that is flexible, relational and sustainable.**

One promising method is marketplace evangelism, a model that brings the church into the heart of everyday community life through practical service, professional engagement and personal witness. Rather than waiting for people to come into church buildings, believers can bring the Gospel into spaces where people naturally gather, such as markets, fairs, high streets and festivals.

The steps to accomplish this are as follows: 1) conduct informal surveys to identify pressing needs, prioritising key towns; 2) set up mobile stalls offering free health checks, lifestyle advice and uplifting literature, possibly incorporating live music; 3) establish Adventist-run cafés, bookshops or community hubs to host Bible discussions, children's storytelling sessions, music evenings and practical workshops; 4) encourage Adventist professionals such as teachers, nurses, tradespeople, IT technicians and others to build genuine friendships and open natural doors for deeper spiritual conversations; 5) sell healthy food, Christian literature, and crafts with uplifting messages at Christmas markets, harvest fairs and summer festivals, donating proceeds to local charities to build goodwill and trust; and 6) collect contact details from those expressing interest and invite them to small-group Bible studies in homes or community centres. Over time, these groups could become the foundation for the first Adventist congregation in Northumberland, potentially within three to five years.

Marketplace evangelism is not a one-off initiative, but a long-term, relationship-centred mission strategy. By meeting people in their daily environments, Adventists can offer practical help, build trust, and share the hope of the Gospel in ways that are both authentic and relevant to the people of Northumberland.

LYNNE SESINYE-SAMWINGA





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## Healing beyond the diagnosis: church becomes catalyst for change in cancer care

Sbba Siddique's testimony of surviving cancer opened the Faith, Cancer & Hope Conference at Stanborough Park Church on 24 June. Organised by the One Vision charity, Adventist Community Services, Macmillan Cancer Support, NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB, West Herts Teaching Hospitals, and Hertfordshire Care Partnership, the event brought together more than 130 attendees to address shortfalls in cancer care, especially among those from marginalised or culturally diverse communities.

Opening the event, Sharon Platt-McDonald, Health Director at the British Union Conference and a trustee of One Vision, reminded attendees: 'We are called not only to care for the soul, but for the whole person. . . . Health ministry is not an option for the church. It is part of the Gospel commission.' The many presenters delivered a consistent message: we must treat the patient, not just the illness; and faith must be part of the solution.

Professor Gurch Randhawa DL challenged attendees: 'We cannot have equitable healthcare until it truly reflects the people it serves. Faith leaders, community champions, survivors . . . are central to the future of cancer care.'

Kevin Hallahan, Health Inequalities Lead at NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex ICB, reinforced that message, saying: 'If we listen, build trust, and enable capacity for education, learning and personalised care, the gap between healthcare systems and communities will only close and neighbourhood health will improve.'

Councillor Catherine McAreevey, Mayor of Dacorum, added: 'When faith, community and health professionals walk together, . . . we create safety, confidence and dignity.'

Toby Hyde, Chief Strategy and Collaboration Officer at West Herts Teaching Hospitals, echoed that point, saying: 'Our hospitals cannot do this alone. We need each other. Faith communities, charities, local leaders – the strength is in collaboration.'

The event concluded with a stunning solo by Alexandra Bell-Cobbold, whose voice echoed with courage, unity and hope. Reflecting on the day, Enoch Kanagaraj, BEM, founder and CEO of One Vision, shared: 'We are not here to run events. We are here to change lives. . . . We are here to bring healing to body, mind, and soul.'

The day was a living fulfilment of faith through action. As John writes in 3 John 2 (KJV), 'Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.'

As Ellen G. White reminds us in *The Ministry of Healing* (p. 143), 'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me." ' That is what happened at Stanborough Park Church. And it is only the beginning, as One Vision's Faith and Health Network Board continues its mission. When faith meets health, hope becomes healing and healing becomes a witness.

ENOCH KANAGARAJ, BEM



Toby Hyde, Chief Strategy and Collaboration Officer at West Herts Teaching Hospitals



## Southeast London Community Church dedication and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

On 21 June 2025 the Southeast London Community Seventh-day Adventist church family gathered gratefully and reverently to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church, marked by the dedication of our church building to the glory of

God. Reflecting on 1 Samuel 7:12 (NKJV) – 'Ebenezer . . . "thus far the Lord has helped us"' – we paused to reflect on God's unfailing love, mercy and steadfast faithfulness throughout our journey. From our earliest days until now, we have witnessed His hand guiding, sustaining and blessing us beyond measure.

The week-long celebration was crowned on the Sabbath with a day rich with Spirit-filled worship, uplifting testimonies, and deep reflections on the goodness of God. As we recounted our story from humble beginnings to a thriving, vibrant congregation, it became clear that God's grace and providence had ordered every step.

Dr Kirk Thomas, President of the South England Conference, reminded us that the same God who has brought us thus far will surely lead us forward. His words rekindled hope, strengthened our mission focus, and encouraged unity as we press onwards in faith.

The celebration featured a sacred service of dedication, where conference and local church leaders committed the building and our church family to God's purposes; joyful musical tributes led by various groups, including our youth and children, lifting high the name of Jesus through song; a moving historical reflection recounting the miracles and milestones that have shaped our twenty-five-year journey; and a fellowship lunch where members, guests and friends shared warm fellowship, joyful memories and heartfelt testimonies of God's goodness.

We look ahead with humble confidence in the faithful God who has never failed us. We stand on the promises of the One who has brought us this far, declaring together: 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.' To all who prayed, served, gave and rejoiced with us – thank you. May we, by God's grace, continue to shine His light, proclaiming His glory and faithfulness.

PHYLLIS ARHIN



# Rosemary Elizabeth Anne Boyle (1935-2025) d. 18 April.

Rosemary Boyle was born and raised in Dublin, Ireland. At the age of 15 she met Patrick, who enthusiastically pursued her. At 18 they married and began their adventure together. When they became Adventists in 1957, the trajectory of their lives was set, and so began a lifelong equal partnership devoted to service.

While their roots began in Ireland, they didn't stay there. In 1960 they left Dublin with their two young daughters for Newbold. From there they went on to Belfast, Hull, Leeds, Canada, South London, Bromley, Croydon and finally to Stanborough Park.

Despite living in no fewer than 21 homes, wherever Rosemary was, she created a place of warmth, welcome and stability. She was the sturdy foundation that kept Patrick, who was both noisy and opinionated, firmly grounded. He would have been lost without her – in his own words – at the bottom of the sea with a concrete waistcoat! They were a true partnership, often strategising about who they would look out for in church that week, typing up sermons, and always having an open home.

While Patrick studied at Newbold, Rosemary helped finance his studies by working in the library and typing for Dr John Woodfield, a skill that was further reflected in her working life. With each move, she adapted and used her excellent



secretarial and management skills to find work, while also supporting Patrick's evangelistic campaigns and all the church activities. She loved church, and in each congregation she got to know everyone by name, always engaging them in conversation.

Rosemary was a loving, supportive wife and mother, mother-in-law and granny. She enjoyed a long and happy retirement with Patrick until his death in 2020.

Her heart was for her family, God and her faith, and she had a deep and uncomplicated joy in both. She is deeply missed by her surviving family, but we miss her in the knowledge that she lived long, well and with hope. Her love and her legacy outlast her.

ALEX BROWNE, AMY BROWNE AND AUDREY ANDERSSON

# Lisa Sabadin (1974-2025) d. 8 July.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Lisa Marie Sabadin. Lisa was the much-loved wife of Ian Sabadin and loved daughter of Yvonne Hill. Having overcome breast cancer and been given the all-clear, after two years she became ill and was diagnosed with secondary cancer in her liver. There was nothing the doctors could do, as the tumours were too large, and sadly she passed away within a few days. The family are still very shocked and numb, especially as she was only 51 years old.

Lisa was a member of the Weston-super-Mare church. She loved the church



and her brothers and sisters there. She used her skills to manage the treasury, and even during her last hours she was thinking about the books.

Lisa was very conscientious and caring, but her greatest joy was being part of the music band at church, as she loved to play the piano. Lisa will be remembered by many people for her smiles and giggles. The sum of £1,362.25 was collected for the Breast Cancer Now research and support charity.

Lisa's faith was strong to the end, even writing letters to family and friends encouraging them to look forward to when we will be reunited at Christ's coming. She will greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

YVONNE HILL

# Messenger

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# Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 3	6.33	6.46	6.36	6.42	6.54
10	6.18	6.30	6.20	6.24	6.37
17	6.03	6.15	6.04	6.07	6.20
24	5.48	6.01	5.49	5.50	6.04
31	4.35	4.47	4.35	4.34	4.49

# Area 1 Day of Fellowship

The churches from Area 1 (Devon and Cornwall) came together on the Sabbath of 6 September for a day of fellowship at Rattery Village Hall. Around 150 people attended the event, organised under the theme 'Greater Works

They Will Do' and having as a guest speaker Pastor Jerry Smith, SEC Provincial Pastors Coordinator.

Focusing on the coming final events of history, Pastor Smith's sermon emphasised God's faithfulness in guiding and using His faithful people at the end to do greater works, and focused on the importance of our personal choice to be a part of God's plans. The afternoon presentation, entitled 'Our Future with God', explored what the Bible says about our roles in the new earth and heaven as representatives of God's character to those who will never experience sin.

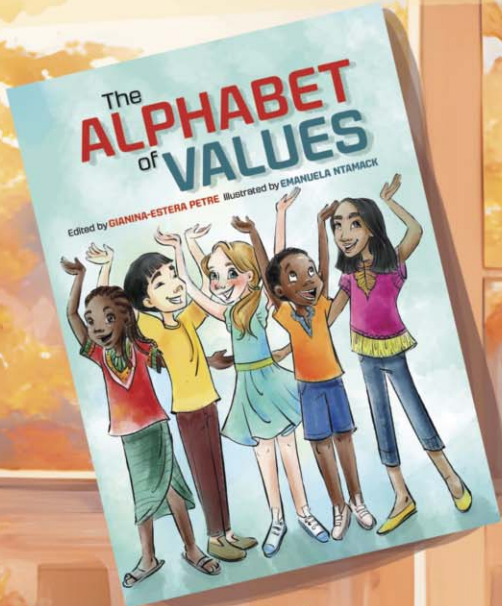
Praise be to God for a beautiful Sabbath day filled with messages of hope and courage for our journey through this world.

PASTOR FLORIN ORASANU





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