ST ALBANS CHILDREN'S ART GALLERY

During the last six months St Albans Seventh-day Adventist church has looked carefully at the different opportunities to reach out to the community. It has recognised that one of its strengths stems from the considerable number of families who attend. This has sparked into planning a series of projects that will form part of a family stream of evangelism. The first project, the St Albans Children's Art Gallery, started on Sabbath, 8 October 2011.

The church then took to the streets with a 'paint day', held at St Albans market on Sabbath, 26 November. The church rented a small stall that offered free painting for children. One of the keys to the success of the day was that the children were provided with good quality paints, brushes and allowed to paint on proper stretched canvasses. The stall itself was also decorated with some lovely items around the theme of Christmas. This gave the whole experience a feeling of quality and sincerity.

The aim was primarily to engage the community by letting the children have some good, free fun and raise the profile of the LIFEdevelopment Centre that is attached to St Albans church.

These paintings, including the ones the children painted at church, will be exhibited at the LIFEdevelopment Centre for two days, 19 - 20 December between 10 am - 7 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to encourage parents to come into the Centre without it being threatening. After the exhibit the paintings will be posted back to the children. With the paintings the parents will also receive some leaflets with information and invitations to the various projects that will be run by the LIFEdevelopment Centre during 2012. These will include the Quidz In programme, a Lego Market Day (for dads and their children), Couples and Marriage Enrichment Seminars, and Parenting talks.
Various members of the St Albans church assisted with the setting up and manning the stall. Pastor Jacques stated that, "The general response was sheer excitement from parents and children alike! Children responded without any hint of inhibition and aside from having fun, they created some amazing paintings!" Another volunteer, Melody, added, "I liked seeing the mixture of smiles and concentration on the kids' faces as they put their ideas onto canvas; ideas that came so spontaneously and easily to them." Nico was also enthused. "It was amazing to be part of this! Bringing some joy and fun to the children on such a cold day was brilliant."

Given the excellent response, it has been decided to do something similar again next year but widen its scope by involving the local primary and nursery schools.

ANNUAL NATIONAL DISABILITY COORDINATORS' CONFERENCE 2011 [Anita Saunders & Sophia Nicholls]

'Celebrating progress: Progressing the journey' was the theme of the fifth Annual Joint National Disability Coordinators' Conference organised jointly by the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) and the British Union Conference Health Ministries department. Meeting on Sunday, 13 November 2011 in the beautiful city of Oxford at the Oxford Four Pillars Hotel, the twenty-five delegates were blessed by the inspirational message by Pastor Terry Messenger and workshops by Nigel Nicholls, Pete Winmill and Grace Walsh. Creative worship by Marie Bensley ensured we were kept awake by her energetic and exciting flag and ribbon ministry. Anita Saunders, a local resident who runs a Christian ministry in Oxford, heard about the conference and booked to attend at the last minute. She writes, "We were warmly welcomed to our training day by Sophia Nicholls and friendly staff and volunteers."

Pastor Messenger opened our morning with a devotional talk from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, reminding us that "God's power works best in my weakness." We were reminded that each one of us has our weaknesses and God uses them for His glory to reveal Himself to us and through us. Therefore, when we see disabled folks, should we not also see the power and strength of God through their weaknesses, just as through ours?

Grace Walsh then spoke to us on ministering to people with mental health issues. She introduced a two day teaching course that she can present to our churches and groups. We were encouraged to pray about being people who are willing to minister "mental health first aid" to those needing help. Just as Christians can suffer physical illnesses, so we can also suffer mental illness.

Our keynote speaker for the day was Nigel Nicholls who spoke on The Bible and Disability. From the beginning of God's word in Genesis 1 we are told that God 'created', not merely 'made' man. He created...each one of us, thoughtfully, purposely. Not one of us is a mistake, a blip, an 'oops'. Nigel reminded us that our value is not in what we 'do' but in 'being'. We are human 'beings' not human 'doings'. And each person, created in the image of God has value and the Lord wants to have a relationship with that person, regardless of his or her disabilities.

You and I might see disabilities, but God sees them as His precious creation with purpose and value. As Christians, we have the delight of coming alongside one another and discovering God's unique gifts and abilities in one another. What a privilege it is to come alongside someone else and point them to Jesus.

A delicious buffet luncheon and wonderful fellowship then led into two workshops. Pete Winmill spoke to us about Prospects Ministry, encouraging us to think outside the box in ministering to
learning disabled folks. He challenged us with questions about how we view the people that walk in our churches. Are we communicating well? Are we teaching at a level where they can understand? Pete recommended that a pastor or teacher take just a few minutes at the end of his message to summarize in just one sentence, the main point of his message. Just taking that extra minute could make a world of difference for a learning disabled person.

Marie Bensley is the Flag lady! Oh, what fun we all had! After a few minutes with many of us a bit hesitant about waving ribbons and flags, we all loosened up. With Marie's exuberant encouragement and leadership, we found ourselves all participating in beautifully choreographed worship with flags and ribbons.

Who would have thought that the song, "You Lift Me Up", could have brought tears to our eyes. However, singing that song to the Lord as we lifted our flags and arms to Him, and singing how He lifts us from despair and hopelessness, was truly a sweet time of worship.

Although my church will most likely not be using flags and ribbons, I purchased some to use with my grandchildren. For those who are more visual and tactile learners, I can see where the flags and ribbons can be used as worship aids.

It was a wonderful day, and I am so glad I invested the time to attend. I came away richer for this day. I met some wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ, gained new insights into mental health issues, learned more about ministering to learning disabled people, and had a sweet and colourful time of worship.

Next year's conference will be held in November 2012.

WATER APLENTY FOR IRISH YOUTH  [Weiers Coetser, Irish Mission Communication Sponsor/Adam Keough]

Sunday afternoon at Belfast Adventist church. A team of church members and youth department volunteers are hard at work cleaning up their newly refurbished building. Vacuum cleaners are buzzing, chairs are being pushed around on trolleys, and pots are clanging in the kitchen. But there is no sense of tiredness in the air as one would expect after a busy weekend youth retreat. The staff, who spent the weekend of 25 - 27 November looking after 52 children and youth seem energised and cheerful.

This reporter came to collect his 11-year-old daughter. He is also energised after a quiet weekend at home. He listens to Pastor Adam Keough commenting to another parent that "for many junior youth and teens in the Irish Mission these type of events are the highlights of their year" and he wants to chip in by saying "it is a highlight for the parents as well!" But he continues the search for his daughter as young people can be found in every corner of the church.

Somebody points him in the direction of the main church building, and there on the padded pews he finds several children trying to catch up on some sleep. "This is odd," he thinks to himself. The volunteers are energised and the youth are tired! But just then, Lorraine Broomfield from Larne comes in to collect her eight-year-old son. She also looks visibly relaxed. This was the first time that her son went on a youth camp on his own and the whole weekend went by without that dreaded phone call to fetch him. He is clearly excited to see her and hardly catches a breath as he tells her how they slept very little on the first night because they had so much to talk about! He had made many new friends.

Steven Hulbert
highlight for him seems to have been the Saturday night Ice Skating.

He was not alone. Steven Hulbert, guest speaker for the event, comments that he was a bit perturbed by the thought that one would seek out a surface of frozen water in such cold weather. For him it was a mission to avoid falling over. He managed to stay upright most of the evening, but once he took an unfortunate tumble. At least his ego did not suffer all that much as such tumbles were commonplace for others throughout the evening. Marc Neal, another enthusiastic 12-year-old was so impressed by the Ice Skating that he set about on a Facebook campaign to persuade the youth of his Banbridge congregation to go back to the rink for their church outing on 17 December.

This reporter eventually found his daughter. She was enthusiastically telling a friend that she would love to move to St Austell, which is apparently much closer to the Southern Hemisphere than Belfast. "According to Pastor Steven Hulbert the sea there has big waves in it. Pastor Hulbert loves waves! In fact he loves water, and he preached about the theme of water throughout the weekend. Apparently there is a lot of sunshine in the South of England...." The report just keeps bubbling out, and this reporter wonders if it would not be a good idea to have the next youth retreat at St Austell so as to dispel the idea that the Sun is merely a newspaper.

Steven travelled over from his church plant project in St Austell, Cornwall, with his wife, Jena and two friends, Jake Jackson and Jason Collings. For him it was a bit of a pilgrimage to follow in the footsteps of earlier generations of his family: His great grandfather, Pastor Oscar Dorland (Irish Mission President in the 1950s), his grandfather, and his great uncle (the well-known and well-loved Hulbert brothers who pastored in Belfast, Banbridge and Larne). The Cornish youth all commented on how much fun it was to meet a great bunch of young people in Ireland. The sermons for the weekend, all around the theme of 'living water' are beginning to appear on the Belfast church website and they are well worth a listen. The adult leaders at Belfast were also impressed. Victor McCormac stated on Facebook, "We had a great weekend with Steven, God bless his ministry." Others watching the video of the Sabbath sermon, 'The Samaritan women' commented, "glad I made this sermon part of my devotion/meditation time today," and "I really enjoyed listening to Steven's message. I was challenged."

This reporter is extremely grateful for the dedicated ministry of Pastor Adam Keough and his youth team and he feels inspired by the hospitality of the Belfast church who graciously allowed every corner of their beautiful facility to be invaded by such a lively group of youngsters and teens. He cannot wait for the next youth retreat scheduled to take place in Londonderry on the weekend of 17 - 19 February 2012.

For many junior youth and teens in the Irish Mission these type of events are the highlights of their year – just getting together, chilling, renewing friendships, making new friends and seeking Jesus in a relaxed and non-threatening place. For more information on upcoming events run by the Irish Mission Youth department visit www.adventist.ie/youth.

A CHINESE VIEW OF ENGLAND [Vanessa Pizzuto]

On Thursday, 24 November, Stanborough School students saw England through Chinese eyes. The story of how this became possible started 15 days earlier, when a party of Hong Kong students arrived at our campus to take part in a cultural exchange programme. All 117 students and their teachers, the largest exchange group in the history of the school, were eager to participate in our lessons and discover culturally significant cities like London, Cambridge, Oxford and Paris.
As a part of the programme, students were asked to keep journals where they could write their impressions about the British culture. On 24 November, the students shared some of those entries in a heart-warming farewell assembly. It was fascinating to see Stanborough through Chinese spectacles. One student said; "The best thing about the school is that the meals are very healthy…. I remember the first day, there was a curried fish, but actually, it was tofu!"

Another student commented about the Park; "There is a large green area and lots of trees, I loved playing football there because we do not have so much space in Hong Kong." Even the architecture caught the student's attention; "The houses look like candy houses in the story of Hansel and Gretel. They are very attractive."

However, the most interesting part was to hear their reflections about our faith. "The school has a strong spiritual culture. They always pray before meals, assemblies or even classes. In our school there is no religious culture. I think that's why Stanborough students are calmer than us", one student shared. The same student finished his powerful testimony by saying; "After visiting Stanborough School, I think that we should learn how to treat each other better… we should also try to accept each other's differences."

PATHFINDER TAKEOVER THRILLS PARENTS AND CONGREGATION AT KCF

Pathfinder Jordan Taylor, preached the sermon and the whole congregation was blessed. His confidence and lovable personality really shone through, as he delivered the message of 'Christian love' to the church. Pathfinders are making a difference at Kennington Community Fellowship and their second investiture on Sabbath, 26 November ably demonstrated their skills and enthusiasm.

The counsellors who had worked so hard during the year at Pathfinder Club were able to finally see the fruits of their labour, and the parents freely expressed their joy of what their children were able to achieve. During the Investiture and Awards Ceremony in the afternoon Kennington saw how much work the Pathfinders had done during the year. The children had a sense of pride as they received their certificates, awards, badges and scarves and found out which classes they had advanced to.

Hyacinth, one of the founders of the Kennington Community Pathfinder Club stated, "It was indeed a blessed day. Several parents expressed how proud they were of the Pathfinders and encouraged us to 'keep up the good work'. It makes one feel a sense of pride. We give the praise to our Lord and Saviour."

Many thanks go to the special guests, the Brixton & Bethel Pathfinders and Brixton Drum Corp, to all the KCF Pathfinder Counsellors and to Pastor Paul King-Brown for all the support. For more information and pictures please see the KCF Facebook page 'Kennington Community Fellowship' or check out the Kennington Community website.

FAMINE IN SOMALIA: ADRA CONTINUES ITS RESPONSE

Four months have passed since famine was first declared in Somalia. As the pictures coming out of the drought-stricken country show, the situation is distressing and aid remains desperately needed to
avert human catastrophe. According to the United Nations, more than four million Somalis are living in famine zones, with 750,000 at risk of starvation over the next few months. The lingering drought has been made worse by decades of war, high food prices, and local militants blocking foreign aid to those who need it most.

Before famine was declared in the country, ADRA was on the ground implementing emergency interventions in Somaliland and Puntland. Through the network-funded intervention, Puntland Emergency Drought Response Project (PUDER), ADRA is providing supplies of emergency water to an estimated eight thousand people from seven villages in the Nugal Region of Puntland.

ADRA Somalia's team recently spoke with Abdikareem Nur, the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Chairman of one of the beneficiary villages. During the interview, Nur shared how ADRA's presence has improved the living conditions within his community.

"Reebanti village seems to have borne the brunt of the harsh drought. It would have been worse had it not been for the fact that we had stored enough water in the two existing berkads (underground reservoirs) in the village, and were also lucky to be one of the recipients of the water trucking initiative by ADRA. This has greatly helped our village survive through the hardest of times and we hope and pray that the expected rains will be enough this time round."

According to Nur, not only have many livestock deaths been averted as a result of the improved water supply, but the village has taken steps to better prepare themselves for future droughts by digging two large water catchments, and are in the process of mobilizing funds to construct three additional berkads. "Thank you ADRA for coming to our village's assistance during this harsh time", Nur concluded.

Moving further east towards Mudug Region, the ADRA assessment team met with the Head of Gowlalo Village, Osman Abdi Farrah. Through two ongoing ADRA Switzerland/Swiss Solidarity funded interventions, the village, which has over 400 households, has recently benefitted from the rehabilitation of a previously non-functioning borehole. Mr Farrah explained his community has greatly benefitted from the rehabilitation, as members of his village no longer have to trek long distances in search of water. Livestock in the community continue to be in good health, which offers tremendous relief to members of the village who rely heavily on their livestock for economic security. Farrah explained that this can be attributed in part to the availability of water, which ADRA has contributed in providing. The intervention aims to strengthen community resiliency to a portion of the drought-affected population in Puntland and Galmudug Region of Central Somalia. This is being fulfilled by increasing access to safe water and improving IDP (internally displaced person) conditions through provisions of NFIs (non-food items). To date, this intervention has benefitted more than 900 households, and it is predicted that 19,000 beneficiaries will be reached by the project end.

ADRA has also carried out food distribution exercises targeting IDPs in the Galmudug Region. Through an ADRA Austria funded intervention, food rations consisting of but not limited to rice, beans, and vegetable oil have been provided to approximately 370 IDP families. Through this intervention, reprieve has been brought to women, children and the elderly who have endured the greatest burden of the famine.

Projects are also underway in Banadir, one of the most severely affected regions in Somalia, and are focusing on water trucking, food and NFI distributions, and school feeding activities.

ADRA is a global non-governmental organization providing sustainable community development and disaster relief without regard to political or religious association, age, gender, race or ethnicity.

For more information about ADRA, visit <www.adra.org.uk>.
JOHN LEWIS AND CHRISTMAS

My non-consumerist Christmas bubble has been broken. Despite having built up a great resistance to TV advertising over the years I have been taken in by this year's Christmas offering from John Lewis. A telegenic seven-year-old and an astonishing £6 million budget has brought much of middle England to tears. 'The Long Wait' aims to press home the real meaning of Christmas, that it is better to give than receive. The young lad cannot wait until Christmas morning – not to receive his own presents, but because of the special, badly wrapped present that he proudly carries in for his parents. It is a tear-jerker, but also a very effective commercial project, that if nothing else has seen the sales of boys' pyjamas from John Lewis leap by an astonishing 135%.

"We are going to get Christmas adverts regardless at this time of year. They may as well be well conceived with a thoughtful message, rather than the usual demonstrations of greed and selfishness. It won't necessarily make me shop in John Lewis but it certainly made me smile," states a reader of BBC News Magazine.

There are many mixed views of Christmas both inside and outside the Adventist Church or even the wider Christian community. What I do know, and appreciate, is that at this time of year I have an opportunity to share my faith with friends and neighbours in a way that is more difficult the other eleven months. I also have the chance to remind myself of the tremendous wonder of God become man. Last Friday evening I sat in church and listened to the story of the prophecies through the Old Testament, mixed with glorious music – all pointing forward to Messiah. The fantastic thought that the God who created humankind out of dust – but in His own image – then became that dust Himself in order to give them salvation. What a fantastic Saviour.

A young adult friend of mine recently posted a comment on her Facebook profile: "God is so good. I seldom pray and don't really read the Bible or devotionals, etc. I find Him in "real" ways (ways that work for me), mainly through relationships with others. I find older people to be such a blessing, encouragement, and example as they share their life and child-rearing experiences. Anyway, I have to say that God has blessed us way more than I ever thought to ask for or that I thought was possible."

In her life, which has not always been easy, she has discovered the God who is willing to give – and she has discovered Him through the lives of God's children who, like the seven-year-old in the John Lewis advert, have also found giving love and care to be the centre of their Christian life.

FOCUS MAGAZINE DELAY

Pastor Hibbert, FOCUS magazine editor, regrets to inform those who have placed orders for the third issue of FOCUS for this year (2011), that they will only receive it in February 2012. The theme for the third issue will be Hope. Three other issues are planned for 2012 and we expect them to be on time. The publication schedule for MESSENGER is unaffected and you will receive your final copy for the year (issue 26) within the next two weeks or so.

If you have received an invoice for the third issue of FOCUS (generated automatically by The Stanborough Press Ltd billing system), kindly ignore the payment due for this magazine until it arrives. Any other items...
on the invoice which you have received would obviously be due for settlement. We appreciate your patience with this situation and thank you for your understanding. Merry Christmas and a blessing-filled 2012!

PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

A choice of UK produced Adventist programmes are available for you to watch this coming week.

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692) watch the following two programmes:

**VIEWPOINT**, Monday 5 December, 8:30 pm. **Is Violence Ever Acceptable?** A former Ulster Defence Force volunteer, a pastor who held arms in Angola, a civil rights protestor and a historian try to answer the question as to whether there is ever a time when violence is the best solution.

'Adventists In Conversation', Thursday 8 December, 8:30 pm. Bernell Bussue's position as Regional Director of the Royal College of Nursing, London is a far cry from his humble beginnings as an immigrant child in a large family, struggling with life in the north of England. Bernell shares how the love, support and influence of his family during those early years, shaped his desire to care for others.

On Hope TV you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and website including the following episodes of 'In Conversation':

Friday 2 December: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: Is Violence Ever Acceptable? (Available online next week)
Sabbath 3 December: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: Is Violence Ever Acceptable?
Monday 5 December: 12:30 am and 9:30 pm: Mick Smart – Changing lives
Wednesday 7 December: 8:00 am: Herta von Stiegel – Sticking by God in challenging times,
8:30 pm: Miriam Wood – Reflecting God's love with challenged people, 12:00 midnight: Mick Smart
Friday 9 December: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: The Sabbath – Antidote to 21st Century Living
Sabbath 10 December: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: The Sabbath

ERRATUM

Last week's article on the Mitcham Luganda church wrongly stated that the mother church was Mitcham Maranatha. In fact the mother church is Beckton Maranatha. One of the guests mentioned in the article, Siobhain McDonagh, should have been identified as Labour MP for Mitcham and Merton.

COMING EVENTS

DAY OF FELLOWSHIP – UNITED IN CHRIST. Sabbath, 3 December. Bringing together all the churches in the Milton Keynes District – Fishermead, West Bletchley, Wolverton, MK. Guest speaker, SEC President Pastor Sam Davis. Dynamic singing and music, special children's programme, Youth presentations, sumptuous catered food. Ample parking, come and be blessed! Venue: Milton Keynes Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes, MK6 2TG. Time: 09:30 - 18:00. Contact: Pastor Augustus Lawrence <augustus.lawrence@gmail.com>. Phone: 07957 274246.

LONDON LIVE COMMUNITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE. Saturday, 3 December. Come and join us for a free event celebrating Christmas with singing and special performances from
London Live Community Choir! It will be a time to enjoy with family and friends and think about what Christmas really means. Make sure you stay for the after party! Saturday 3 December at 4:00 pm at Notting Hill Community Church, opposite 23 Kensington Park Road, W11 2ES. Contact: Paul King Brown <pkbenz@ymail.com>. Phone: 07810560495.

SPONSORED ROUGH SLEEPATHON. Saturday, 3 December. 'Sleep out of your comfort zone! Be a part of the sponsored rough Sleepathon'. Swap your comfortable bed for cardboxes, blankets or sleeping bags to take part in a sponsored sleep out. Bring your cardboard and whatever, find your place and sleep soundly! Join us as we spend a night under the stars to help families and the homeless enjoy hot meals this winter! A hot drink will be given before retiring and a free poor man's breakfast will be served. 2 locations: Edmonton Adventist church, Houndsfield Road, Edmonton, N9 & Holloway Adventist church, 381Holloway Road, N7 ORN from 8:00 pm Saturday 3 December – 7/8:00 am Sunday 4 December. Fundraising target: a minimum of £150 per person towards the purchase of a mobile unit to enable volunteers to provide hot meals to families and the homeless and to encourage healthy eating. Sponsor forms are available via your Health Ministries and Community Services leaders. Contact: Natalie Simon <nsimon@secadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 0207 723 8146.

ASI AGM. Sunday, 4 December. ASI-UK, the lay-led organisation for Adventist business people and professionals is holding its annual AGM at the BUC offices, Stanborough Park, St Albans Road, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ on Sunday, 4 December at 11:00 am. Your presence would be very welcome. Contact: Christine Manners Smith <christinemanners_smith@yahoo.com>.

WEEK OF WELLNESS – MILTON KEYNES ADVENTIST CHURCH. Sunday, 4 December to Sunday, 11 December. Nyse Collins presents a Week of Wellness looking at improvements in our physical health. How can we reverse some lifestyle diseases? How to eat healthy and maintain our 'God's Plan diet'. All are invited. Lunch provided on Sabbath. Sunday cooking session on final day to teach us how to cook healthy meals. Contact: Yvonne Williams <williamsyvonne@hotmail.com>. Phone: 01923 672500.

STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH TOY SERVICE. Sabbath, 10 December. We warmly invite you to join us on this our 50th Toy Service at Stanborough Park church. Mayor Dorothy Thornhill and Chairman Councillor Lindsey Scudder will join us and accept the toys from our service on behalf of the children in Watford. This is a delightful occasion to invite your friends to. Venue: Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JL. Contact: Pat Walton <walton@groats.co.uk>. Phone: 01923 672500.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH CONCERT 2011. Saturday, 10 December. The Hampstead Adventist Choral Society & Semi-Chorus invites you to an evening of the most awesome and wonderful oratorio ever written – George Frederick Handel's Messiah. Soloists include: Antonia Adellita Francis, Kay Smith & Chike Akwarandu. Accompanied by the Millennium Symphony Orchestra. Conducted by Edison A A Wekees. The last performance of the Messiah by the HACS was back in 2000, before that Edison conducted the same work at Porchester Hall 30 years ago in 1981. This will be his last conducting assignment for the Messiah. Entry is free and refreshments are provided after the concert. Please feel free to invite your friends, relatives, work colleagues and whoever you wish. Venue: Hampstead Adventist church, 66 Haverstock Hill, London, NW3 2BE. Time: 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Contact: Fiona D Pacquette <dwanell@googlemail.com>. Phone: 07746359839.

ANTHEMS OF PRAISE. Saturday, 10 December. Come and join us in concert at 'Anthems of Praise' – a night of Praise and Worship. All are welcome: musicians, artists, families, kids, community. Venue: Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham, B4 7SX. Tickets are on sale. November £8, until 9 December £9, on the door £10. Doors open at 5:45 pm for a 6:30 pm start. If you need to make any inquires or require any information contact Morgan: 07983044175, or Francis: 07875994456. Email: <morganandfrancis@hotmail.co.uk>.

ELLEN G WHITE – AUTHOR OR PROPHETESS? THE EVIDENCE. Saturday, 10 December. Some facts are beyond debate; Ellen White was born as Ellen Harmon on November 26, 1827 in Gorham Maine. She grew up to become a prolific author and an American Christian pioneer. She
firmly believed in the seventh-day Sabbath, and with fellow believers formed what is now known as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Most Seventh-day Adventists believe Ellen White was a prophetess but she had many detractors and was surrounded by sceptics. Some believe she was nothing more than a storyteller or claim much of her work was plagiarised. So, what is the truth about Ellen G White? Carmel Greystone has undertaken deep research into one of the pillars of the Adventist Church. Agape Theatre Company will present the findings. Logan Hall, 20 Bedford Way, WC1 0AL, London starting 7:30 pm. Tickets and details at ellenwhiteethevidence.eventbrite.com. Contact: Agape Christian Theatre <mark@carmel-greystone.com>. Phone: 0800 112 3152.

JULIA'S WISH – FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 10 December. A night of music on behalf of Julia's Wish – the charity started by the late Julia Smith. Your hosts for this fundraising concert will be the Chiswick Gospel Choir plus: By Faith Singers, A New Beginning, Chiswick Junior Gospel Choir, Leon Barclay, Paulette Prendergast and The Boldeau Brothers Steel Band. Venue: St Michael and All Angels Church, Bath Road, Chiswick, W4 1TT (just down the road from Chiswick church). Tickets: Adults £10, Concessions and Children 5-15yrs £7, Family tickets (2 adults & 2 children) £25. For details on the charity, please go to http://juliaswish.org. Contact: Jose Morgan <choir@chiswicksda.org.uk>. Phone: 07432 655969.

BECKENHAM HOPE COMMUNITY ANNUAL BANQUET. Saturday, 10 December. Our annual fun filled event will be held at Kingswood House, Seeley Drive, Kingswood Estate, West Dulwich, SE21 8QR. The cost will be £25 per adult and £18 per child which will include a 3 course meal and drinks. More details will be announced soon. Contact: Rachel Gray <rachelgray78@mail.com>. Phone: 07957916662.

STANBOROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE. Thursday, 15 December. Stanborough Secondary School Christmas Carol Service, 7:00 pm at Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JL. The service is led by students with musical items, readings and a play. All welcome. Contact: Ji-Eun Ahn <violinahn@hotmail.com>. Phone: 01923 673268.

ZIMBABWE DAY OF FELLOWSHIP. Sabbath, 17 December. ZUSDAF brings you Zimbabwe Day of Fellowship in Derby. Dynamic preaching from Pastor Felix Njini, music from various artists, Youth and Children's programmes. Address: The Riverside Centre, Riverside Court, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HY. http://www.theriversidecentre.co.uk/contact Contact: Andrew Sibanda <andrewmtshangana@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07737611479.

SONGS FOR CHRISTMAS. Saturday, 17 December. A King is Born! Join us at West Bromwich Town Hall, (B70 8DT) for this grand Christmas Concert. A free will offering will be collected to cover expenses, so plan to come and bring friends. Doors open at 6:15 pm. Contact: Wilfred Masih <drsinclair@necadventist.org.uk>. Phone: 07985390007.

GOSPEL MUSIC CONCERT. Saturday, 17 December. You are cordially invited to come and enjoy this evening of inspirational and soulful music. Featuring Tottenham Gospel Choir and special guests Testify, Jordan Taylor and Justified. This is a free event although a goodwill offering will be made. Get free tickets at: http://tottenhamgospelmusicconcert.eventbright.co.uk. Contact: Diane Apeah-Kubi <dianeapeahkubi@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07939 626 735.

CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING SERVICE. Sunday, 18 December, 2 - 6 pm. Bring your Christmas gifts to be attractively wrapped for you in the Cedar/Sycamore Rooms at Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Rd, Watford WD25 9JL. Charitable donations will be expected. Light refreshments will be on sale and a warm welcome awaits you whilst you have your gifts wrapped. Contact: Pat Walton <walton@groats.co.uk>. Phone: 01923 672500.

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**SMALL ADS**

**PROFESSIONAL VIDEO CAMERA (SONY Z5) FOR SALE:** Sony Z5 camera (just over a year old) and professional kit for sale. It's in great condition and still under warranty! Kit includes tripod, camera bag, 4 batteries, HDV tapes and wireless microphone. £2,500. Contact details: 07779255842.

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