FUTURE FOCUS ON STANBOROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL

Stanborough Secondary School has been an important part of the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles ever since its inception as a simple primary school in 1919. From that early start it developed a secondary school and boarding facility that served both the needs of the local Watford community, the wider needs of Adventist children across the British Union Conference and also provided a safe educational home-away-from-home for the children of British missionary families serving in various parts of the world.

In 1991 the old building on Stanborough Park was replaced with a modern, state of the art facility. And at the same time the demographics of the school changed with more local pupils from Watford and North London but less UK based or missionary students utilising the boarding provision. Nevertheless the school continued to provide a positive, Adventist Education. It expanded its offerings to offer an International Baccalaureate programme and also opened an international school. GCSE results have been impressive and despite the costs of private education, parents have supported the school.

Sadly, the effects of the current economic crisis have not left the school untouched. Despite efforts to market and recruit the enrolment has not increased. This has become a serious issue for both the School Board of Governors and the British Union Conference Executive Committee. At the year-end Executive Committee on Thursday, 8 December the Committee responded positively to a proposal from the Board of Governors that they undertake a total root and branch audit of the school, by 28 February 2012, to ascertain the necessary changes, if possible, to effect an overall turnaround of the school.
Anne Pilmoor, BUC Education director, states that the audit will involve professionals from both within and outside the Adventist educational and business community. They will then report to the March 2012 BUC Executive Committee with a sound and realistic business plan.

At the same meeting the Headteacher, Mr Roger Murphy, tendered his resignation effective Easter 2012. He stated that while he has worked assiduously in furthering the educational aims of the school, he was disappointed that enrolment at the school had not increased in the way he would have wished. He will continue to support the school in its mission, and to teach, but believes that the opportunity of appointing a new Headteacher may help the governors in establishing the school on a more sound footing.

GOLDEN JUBILEE FOR TOY SERVICE [June Coombs]

In times of uncertainty it is reassuring to find some long-established traditions continuing. One of these is the Annual Toy Service at Stanborough Park church held each year just before Christmas. This year, astonishingly, sees its Golden Jubilee.

Back in 1961 big-hearted church member Alf Kelly, whose tireless work for the local community was acknowledged with the award of an MBE in 1996, was concerned that local children were missing out at Christmas time because their parents were unable to afford presents for them. He set about doing something to rectify the situation.

Obtaining Church Board approval Alf persuaded the members to enter into the true spirit of Christmas and donate toys for local needy children. Year-by-year Alf would decorate the church, displaying the toys and prominently featuring a gigantic Christmas tree donated by the local timber yard covered with monetary donations. He would also organise a special service on Sabbath morning a couple of weeks before Christmas to which the Mayor of Watford was invited – and usually attended thanking the members for their generosity towards the children of the borough.

Through his charity work, Alf knew where the local hardship cases were and usually distributed the toys himself before Christmas, often dressed as Father Christmas. This was the part that he enjoyed most of all. Following Alf's death in 1996 the service has been organised by his daughter, Pat Walton, who follows the same format and presents the toys herself to the Mayor of Watford. It is the longest running Toy Service in the Adventist church and is now the only event of its kind in Watford. These days both the elected Mayor and Council Chair usually attend the event and the toys are distributed by professionals such as social workers and health visitors and also by staff at the local SureStart Children's Centre and the Watford Women's Refuge.

Vicky Attarzadeh, the Manager of the Berrygrove Children's Centre just a stone's throw from the church states: "Families who have very little are always extremely grateful for the gifts they receive to give to their children at Christmas. For some, it means the difference between the child receiving a present and having nothing. Also, some of our young parents have appreciated gifts such as pyjamas, cosmetics and food parcels. This makes a huge difference to these families, who otherwise have a very bleak time when everyone else is celebrating."
These families are very isolated and do not have the benefit of support from extended family. Receiving support from the Toy Service definitely makes a huge difference to their enjoyment of, and participation in, Christmas celebrations. All the families whose names have been put forward by the Children's Centre have been asked in advance and have been very grateful for being thought of.

Vicky adds, "We are very appreciative of this brilliant service which we are able to offer to families as we know it makes a huge difference for them. Thank you for the help and support you offer to local families."

This year the Toy Service will take place on 10 December and it is hoped that members will still be able to give generously even in these straightened times when the need is so much greater. Alf would have been pleased that this event is still continuing 50 years later although probably a little disappointed that it is still necessary.

CHRISTMAS FATHER…NOT FATHER CHRISTMAS [Earl Ramharacksingh]

The rich cultural feel emanated out of the doors of Flanders Community Centre, East Ham, where the Asian Adventist Day of Fellowship was held on Sabbath, 3 December. They represented many and varied origins: Pakistan, Bangladesh, India, West Indies, Philippines, Mauritius and more. Even more exciting was that Muslim friends and members of the local community excitedly joined in.

The day included hearty singing from various groups and even a contemporary Youth drama production that looked at the distractions of the world around us and focused on the difficulties of peer pressure. There was a twist to the musical element of the day, as singers and hymns were accompanied by 'tabla', Asian drums, and 'baja', an Asian accordion. Karen Marson, from Ilford church, performed a soulful rendition of "I want Jesus to walk with me" and Marianne Bahadur, from the Asian church, gave an excellent recital on the piano of "Kiss the Rain", by Yiruma, followed by a duet with her sister Melissa. Singing "Oh Holy Night" they captivated all those who listened.

Speaker for the day was Pastor Petras Bahadur, South England Conference and General Conference's Adventist Muslim Relations director. He spoke on the Christmas theme, highlighting how the world wants us to focus on Santa and not on Jesus. Only by remembering that Christmas is not about receiving, but more about giving, will we be able to get back to what God wants for us over the festive period and focus on Him.

Linking well to the Christmas topic, there was a joyous celebration as the new pastor for the Asian church, Pastor Samuel Sultan, and his family were presented during the service. Further introductions were made to welcome the Reverend Bashir Sundhu, from the local Pentecostal church, who gave the closing prayer.

No Asian Day of Fellowship could be concluded without a customary Asian meal and the writer can testify that the feast was amazing and enjoyable!
IS CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN? [Newbold Church Communications]

Provide a controversial subject and the ratings go up! That was certainly true for the 'Moor Close Talks' debate on 'Is Christmas Christian?' Not only was there a questioning live audience in Newbold Church Centre on Friday, 2 December, but the online video stream attracted an additional 80 participants from the UK and as far afield as Texas and Australia. The Perth viewer got so engaged that he carried on the debate online even though it was 4 am local time! A church plant in Cornwall joined in the debate as part of their Friday evening small group.

While what people look for is the debate, special guest, Dr Harry Leonard, first took a historical and practical look at Christmas. He noted in particular the value and wonder of celebrating the birth of Jesus – God coming in human form to show us what God is like and what life with Him can be like. "Jesus is our window into the nature and love of God," he said, "Something to celebrate."

The presentation then went through a few of the reasons why people choose not to celebrate Christmas including that the Bible does not give us a date for the birth, that there is no evidence that the early Christians actually made a festival out of it even if they knew the date, and that the first recorded attempt to calculate the birth of Jesus seems to have been in the late 300s and that the 25 December, near the winter solstice, came to represent for Christians a symbol of the birth of Jesus coming to a world of darkness to bring the light of God's love. For some the fact that this was originally a pagan festival is a step too far.

The historical timeline also noted that the ardent Puritans, (English Protestants who wished to purify their church of what they called the 'rags of popery'), actually banned the celebration of Christmas and it remained that way until they lost power in 1660. Today that puritan argument has moved over to the militant atheists – and thus we have 'Happy Holidays' or 'Season's Greetings' rather than 'Merry Christmas'.

In the intense debate that followed it was asked whether the precise date matters. Perhaps the more important point is whether the event is worth celebrating. Pastor Patrick Johnson, also one of the presenters – and strongly defending his position to have a simple Christmas tree on the platform behind him, noted that the Jews celebrated at least two feasts, Purim and Hanukkah, that were not instituted by God but that were festivals of salvation for important events in Jewish history. "What more important event is there to celebrate than the birth of the Messiah?" he asked.

There was some strong questioning on the pagan origins, both from the online community and from those in the church centre. Jeremiah 10 was used by more than one questioner to condemn Christmas trees although Pastor Johnson pointed out that this passage referred to idol worship and not a tree, and Dr Leonard slipped in that even in the feast of Hanukkah tree branches were used to build celebratory bowers.

The debate went back and forth for a good hour and is currently available to watch online. However, a very important part of that debate was to challenge Christians into thinking about the real purpose why they celebrate Christmas. "Would you celebrate Christmas with as much gusto if it had developed as a solemn fast day rather than a feast day?" the audience were challenged. "Is it the presents and the partying that are the real attraction?" It was noted that Jesus was born in a stable to poor parents who could find no other accommodation. And certain people in the story brought him presents. Thus the conclusion was that Christmas is fine but the spirit of Christmas is even more important. Only then
will Christmas be truly Christian. And that means dedication to the baby whose birth we celebrate at this time of year.

Moor Close Talks has been running for the last 18 months as an outreach ministry of Newbold church, providing monthly debate on Christian issues. Organised by the pastoral team, SEC Communication director, Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist states, "We have had some excellent responses, and the majority of our online viewers are from within the UK. We aim to engage and challenge people to dialogue in matters of faith, asking questions about God and life." The next Moor Close Talks will be on Friday 6 January and will feature the London Live Community Choir.


ROUGH SLEEPATHON 2011  [Katie RamharackSingh]

Sleeping outdoors is a strictly summer activity – unless you are homeless or an Adventist volunteer at Edmonton, Holloway or Oxford churches for last weekend's Rough Sleepathon organised by the South England Conference's Community Ministries department.

Leading from the front, Community Ministries director, Elsie Staple, encouraged churches across Southern England that this experience would help us to understand and appreciate what people living on the streets in England endure, especially during the winter months where temperatures can drop below freezing. The invitation to join in went to all SEC churches following this year's continued involvement with homeless ministries.

The three churches involved in the Rough Sleepathon were willing to participate and were able to offer their bathroom facilities, something which is a luxury for the homeless. As both the London churches were on main roads, participants were able to collect money for the cause and raise publicity as onlookers questioned what was happening.

Young and old joined in, some even settling down in their blankets and boxes as early as 10:00 pm! The members sleeping rough were hoping that, as well as experiencing a taste of the plight of the homeless, they would be able to raise funds for a mobile unit – a dream of the Community Ministries department. This unit would allow the team to fulfil at least two roles – to feed the homeless and, as needed, to sell healthy foods to everyone.

The department is hoping to make use of the mobile food unit during 2012, to raise awareness of and have another visual representation of Seventh-day Adventists at work in the service of others throughout the UK. Elsie Staple's prayer is that, "as a result of the experiences of our volunteers, we will hopefully progress the work with the homeless and move forward in the communities around us."

For more information about how you and your church can get involved in Community Ministries in your area, please contact Elsie Staple at the South England Conference on 01923 232728.
ADVENTISTS COMMENDED AT HOUSE OF COMMONS EVENT [Sharon Platt-McDonald]

Adventists are being noticed – particularly in the world of health, so BUC Health Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, felt honoured to receive an invitation to attend the House of Commons and present at the All Party Parliamentary Kidney Group (APPKG) Summit. Held in the Grand Committee Room in Westminster Hall on Tuesday, 29 November the event brought together key parliamentary figures, health leaders and national religious figureheads to share learning, celebrate progress and debate future strategies. The programme focused on ‘Kidney Disease and Transplantation in Culturally Diverse Groups, including Black and Minority Ethnic Groups’.

Unable to attend the event in person due to a recent injury, Sharon's presentation was delivered by Komal Adris who has worked in partnership with the BUC Health Ministries department on National Organ Donation projects and recently featured on a Viewpoint programme on the Hope Channel. Komal stated, "The Adventist work on organ donation is a perfect example of what can be achieved through strategic partnerships between faith communities and public health institutions," adding, "Sharon Platt-McDonald has demonstrated not only great commitment but incredible passion and drive in moving the organ donation issue within the Church forward."

Addressing the challenges of the low percentage of organ donors from ethnic minority groups and recognising that organs have a better life expectancy coming from donors to recipients of the same ethnic group, the event sought to answer how can we improve partnership working between culturally diverse groups and service providers, how those service providers can improve the situation and how to improve data collection and analysis. How to take ownership of this challenge was also discussed.

Observing the work undertaken by the Adventists over the past 4 years one group leader stated: "Other groups/communities can look to Adventists for inspiration." Sharon states, "We thank God for this opportunity to partner with other organisations in seeking to enhance the well-being of others and raise awareness of the risks of kidney disease which is more prevalent in ethnic minority groups due to higher rates of hypertension and diabetes."

Perhaps the impact that our Church has made is best highlighted in comments made to Komal by another key attendee: "I actually had a faith representative from another Christian community come up to me afterwards and say that hearing about the work of Adventists has inspired them to focus on doing more in 2012!"

Amongst those leading the presentations were: Robert Buckland MP, Chairman of the APPKG; Kirit Modi, Vice-Chairman, National Kidney Federation; Charles Kernahan, Chief Executive, Kidney Research UK; Komal Adris, Associate Research Fellow, University of Bedfordshire; Bharti Tailor, General Secretary, Hindu Forum of Britain.

If you would like more information about forthcoming events and national projects on organ donation, blood and bone marrow donations please contact the Health Ministries department of the BUC on 01923 672251.
Seventy-five committed church members gained Lay Preacher or Stewardship course certificates on Sunday, 4 December in a Graduation Service at the Advent Centre in London. Pastor Kirk Thomas, the South England Conference's Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, opened the ceremony with thanks to the Church’s leadership and a regard to the hard work of the graduates over 2011. As SEC Stewardship director, Dr Richard de Lisser spoke to the graduates, encouraging them, "wherever we are, wherever we are going, I pray that you will enable us to seek the lost."

His message was doubly emphasised by Louanne Sampson who, using her musical talents charged the graduates to 'Reach One':

But each one can reach one,  
As we follow after Christ we all can lead one,  
We can lead one to the Saviour,  
And together we can tell the world that Jesus is the way,  
If we each one reach one.

The lyrics held a distinct message, reminding everyone that leading people to God is our ultimate goal and that He has entrusted us with "that which is around us" to manage for Him. SEC Executive Secretary, Pastor Terry Messenger concluded his inspiring address with a succinct message for the graduates to hold with them, "Preach the word, teach the word, speak the word."

Following the presentation of five certificates for completion of the Stewardship course and seventy for the Lay Preacher course, husband and wife graduates, Antonio and Xoli Belgrave, gave the class response and spoke of how their own lives had changed course. "At the beginning of the year, studying to be a lay preacher wasn't even a dot on my radar," explained Antonio, "and I am now trusting God that He will provide us all with what we need to continue His work."

LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

A meditation on 'Silent night!' is the lead story for the 9 December MESSENGER – the last edition for 2011. After reading Julian Hibbert's editorial you may also want to check out whether his office is decorated with boughs of holly – or with cobwebs. Rejoice with two pages of baptism photos, learn more about 'The PEACE initiative', be challenged by Elliot Williams' analysis of 'Europe's Christian exodus and Adventism', and 'Beat the winter blues' in a special health feature with Angelette Muller. Pick up a copy in a church near you or read it online.

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 12 December, 8:30 pm. **What Is Truth?** Pastors Simon Martin and Petras Bahadur join with social anthropologist Petula Peters to try and answer a simple – yet surprisingly difficult question. And how do they respond to a Professor of Divinity who left the Adventist Church because he 'needed more ambiguity'? [Last week's programme, Is Violence Ever Acceptable? is now available to watch or download online.]

'Adventists In Conversation', Thursday 15 December, 8:30 pm. **James Shepley**: How does a man born and raised in the idyllic surroundings of the Derbyshire Peak District find himself fighting poverty in Burkina Faso, working in the bureaucracy of the European Union, or writing programme proposals to the UK government to assist in Development Relief? How did his struggle with bullying as a young boarding student – or his time at Oxford University, help prepare him to work for the charity, ADRA-UK?

**On Hope TV** you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and website including, during the next two weeks, a special festive flavour pointing people towards the wonder of 'God become man' in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. Enjoy the following UK produced programmes:

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  
Wednesday 14 December: 8:00 am: Joan Saddler - OBE – Community is her life,  
12:00 midnight: Patrick Johnson – Faith out of sadness  
Friday 16 December: 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: God in a Cruel World  
Sabbath 17 December: 12:30 am, 9:00 am & 8:00 pm: Viewpoint: God in a Cruel World

**COMING EVENTS**

WEEK OF WELLNESS – MILTON KEYNES ADVENTIST CHURCH. Continuing to Sunday, 11 December. Nyse Collins presents a Week of Wellness looking at improvements in our physical health. How we can 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: 07863353753.

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 Weekes. 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 inquiries 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 ellenwhitetheevidence.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.

BIG 6 CHRISTMAS SPECIAL! Sunday, 11 December. Greetings from myself Daniel Doyley, Sports Chair for the LYF team. Now I know a lot of you have been waiting for a football tournament this year so here it is! As a department we hope that you will work with us in putting on a great event. Date: 11/12/11. Venue: Norwegian Playing Fields, Jenkins Lane, Newham, London, IG11 0AD. Competition will start @ 11:00 am sharp and conclude by 3:00 pm. Teams participating will need to be there by 10:30 am at the latest! Cost: £60 per team (no more than 8 people per team). Prizes to be won for supporters too! Normal 5-a-side rules apply. Contact: Daniel Doyley <daniel_doyley@hotmail.co.uk>. Phone: 079088075125.

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 <andrewmtsangana@hotmail.com>. Phone: 07737611479.

CHILDREN IN PRAISE. Sabbath, 17 December. Croydon Adventist Children's Church presents Children in Praise on Sabbath, 17 December. Come and see our children lift up Jesus through songs, testimony and reading of the Word of God. Address: 95 Selhurst Road, South Norwood, London, SE25 6LH. Phone: 020 8771 3147. Contact: Andrew Newby <childrenschurch@croydonadventist.org>. Phone: 07949220307.
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.

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING EVENING. Saturday, 17 December at Birmingham Fellowship church starting from 6:30 pm. Come and sing-a-long with the saints in this programme that will feature some of the greatest hymns and songs played live as the audience joins in the singing. If you have reason to thank God for seeing you thru 2011, you have every reason to come and share and give thanks to the Holy One! The programme will take place at Elmwood Reformed Church, Hamstead Hill, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20 1BU. Further details please contact Bro Tom, the music coordinator on 07737862384 or email dombokat@yahoo.com.

‘MOTHERLAND’ EDEN – THE STORY OF THE SLAVE TRADE. Saturday, 17 December. Come and see an epic performance of Motherland, The story of the slave trade – music, singing, drama and mime. Presented and seen through the eyes of the students from the Eden Independent Seventh-day Adventist school. When: 17 December 2011 at 7:00 pm. Askew Road Methodist Church, Askew Road, Shepherds Bush, W12 9RN. Tel: 0208 423 74 55 / 0776 075 15 84 / 0773 486 79 02. Email: info@theedenschool.com. Tickets: Adult £12; Child/Concessions £7. Contact: Laura Osei <info@theedenschool.com>. Phone: 02084237455.

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 <dianeapeakhubi@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.

CLASSICAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT. Sunday, 18 December. Gloucester Adventist church will be hosting a Classical Christmas Concert in aid of REACH UK on the evening of 18 December, starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are £6.00; children £3.00(4-15yrs), and includes light refreshments. The concert will be given by two sisters from Latvia, Ulanta Gaille (violinist) and Elina Gaille (piano), and the programme will include classical and seasonal music and singing. All are welcome. Tickets can be purchased on the door or in advance from Robert Hinds (01594 516 320) or Elvira Pearson (01454260198). For more details please contact Robert or Elvira. Email <robert.hinds40@btinternet.com>.

PRAYER RETREAT. Friday, 23 December to Tuesday, 27 December. This event has the backing of the North England Conference and the British Union Conference. Venue: Quinta Christian Centre, Quinta Hall, Weston Rhyn, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7LR. Dates: Check in – 3:00 pm Friday 23 December. Check out – 3:00 pm Tuesday 27 December. Theme: 'Revival and Reformation Today'. Guest Speakers: Pastor Felix and Mrs Dambudzo Njini and others. Programme: Sacred Music, Fellowship, Sanctuary and Prophecy Lessons, Prayer Sessions. RSVP and Registration: Mr Noel Chitate 07970181973 or 01212417846. Contact: Noel <nchitate@yahoo.co.uk>.

GREENWICH PATHFINDER CLUB FUNDRAISING CONCERT. Saturday, 24 December. Pathfinder Club Fundraising Concert at Greenwich Adventist Church, Devonshire Drive, London, SE10 8JZ on Sabbath, 24 December, 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Come and see Greenwich Pathfinders, Adventurers and friends in action. Food and drinks on sale. A special offering will be collected. Contact: Dorothy Blenman <greenwichchurchclerk@yahoo.com>. Phone: 07572679388.
CHILDREN'S BANQUET. Monday, 26 December. Croydon Adventist Church Children's Ministries presents a Banquet entitled "Disney in Wonderland". Come and enjoy good food, entertainment and laughter all done by our children. Cost: £5 per child. Discounts for parents with more than 3 children. Please contact Bro Augustus 07588272967. Contact: Andrew Newby <childrenschurch@croydonadventist.org>. Phone: 07949220307.

SMALL ADS

LOOKING FOR AN AU-PAIR IN SWITZERLAND for our 8-month-old daughter starting in April 2012 or July at the latest. For more information please contact annett.christ@gmx.de.

BOOK NEEDED. I'd like to borrow or buy 'Radical disciples for revolutionary churches' by Russell Burrill. Can anyone help please? Thanks! Please contact Mike Lewis at mike@scotmagic.co.uk.


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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