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Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland
For additional and updated news and a full listing of coming events visit our website: www.adventist.org.uk

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SYRIA: A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE

With the humanitarian crisis growing by the day in Syria, Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles, has called on Christians to pray for the leaders currently involved in making difficult decisions in the region.
In a Hope TV video interview released on Wednesday, 4 September, he stated: "Peace is something that is best achieved in a peaceful way." He is a pacifist and represents a Church that traditionally takes a pacifist stance. "To use violence to achieve peace? I really don't think that is going to be successful."

Over two million refugees have escaped the violence into the surrounding countries of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The Christian minority in the country are finding themselves in a very difficult position caught between the government and the rebel fighters, not supporting either side. All citizens are watching closely the current high level debates on whether military action should be taken against the Assad regime in response to the chemical weapons attacks. Pastor Sweeney recognises that both as a human being and as a Church leader, that there are no easy answers.

"I'm praying for the leaders", he states. "I'm praying that they may be able to see the interests beyond self or whatever. I'm also praying that peace might also, somehow reign. And that's not only with the Assad government in Syria, but with the rebels as well."

Pastor Sweeney concludes, "The regime change that I am forever seeking is the regime change in my heart so that I bring peace: a) into my family, b) it extends into my community, and that I can extend it as far as my personal influence allows."

Watch the six minute interview on YouTube or on the Hope TV UK website.

[Victor Hulbert]

ATTENDANCE DOWN: SPIRITS UP

Attendance may have been lower than normal at the Stanborough Press Open Day, Sunday, 1 September 2013, but that did nothing to deter the spirit of church members who thronged the isles, filled the performance marquee, and chatted together in the warm summer sunshine.

That 'chatting together' is an essential element for Press Manager, Paul Hammond. At almost any moment of open day he could be found in conversation with a church member, a pastor, or members of the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir who provided a morning and a lunchtime concert.

"It's wonderful to be at occasions like this", he stated. "It is a time when members can come together to be spiritually fed and to go away with literature that is hopefully going to make a difference."
Why does he do it? "The Adventist Church is built on relationships. Friendships make all the difference. Look around and you see so many friends that you made over the years. It's good to see them on occasions like this."

Those relationships included new ones. For Dwain Esmond, Vice President for Editorial Services at the Review and Herald, it wasn't just his joy at finding that the sun can shine in England; it was sharing a deep spiritual message, and highlighting the leadership skills of Jesus and other biblical characters as outlined in the book, As I follow Christ.

Dwain Esmond signing 'As I follow Jesus'.

Jim Ayer is a more familiar friend to viewers of Hope Channel. Working for Adventist World Radio he shared tales of miracles and engagement. While on the sales floor signing his book he also listened to testimonies and experiences, sharing words of counsel and praying with those who felt the need for it.

Alternative events in other parts of the country, the lure of the outdoors in the bright summer sunshine, or the complication of disruptive roadworks in Grantham town centre may have distracted some from attending. Yet for those who were there, the smiles were evident, the car loads of books and health foods testament to a day well spent, and sales of over £18,000 – an indication that Press Open Day and Adventist literature still have a future.

Get a taste of the day by watching the BUC News video report, or enjoying a selection of photos in the Adventist Church picture gallery.

[Victor Hulbert]

**MIRACLES AT IRISH SUMMER CAMP**
You know that it is going to be a good summer camp when miracles happen before the camp has even begun! Just a week and a half before camp was due to start Pastor Adam Keough, Irish Mission Youth sponsor, received an email from camp padre, Pastor Stephen Eastwood in California, to say that his passport hadn’t been returned to him. Pastor Stephen, who was lined up to talk to the senior youth, said it was unlikely that he would be able to make it to Ireland as his passport would not be ready. Pastor Douglas McCormac, who was attending the camp as the speaker for the Juniors, sent him a message to say he believed in miracles. Messages were sent out asking for prayer over this matter, and a miracle happened. Pastor Stephen was given an emergency passport enabling him to travel to Ireland. God was preparing the way for His Word to be heard.

On Tuesday, 13 August, 85 children, young people and staff arrived at Portlick Scout Site, on the beautiful shores of Lough Rea, Athlone. This is the sixth year that the Irish Mission have used this venue but since last year the site has had a massive facelift including a brand new indoor hall, providing us with much better facilities.

Morning and evening worship saw all the campers joining together for some wonderful worship songs led out by the staff and youth. Following the singing the campers divided into Juniors and Seniors.

Pastor Douglas spoke to the Juniors about the book of Daniel and about God's Presence and Protection in our lives. In the morning worships he led them in a craft activity associated with the message for the day. The most enjoyable activity was that of the kids building two scarecrow statues based on King Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2, a fabulous illustration to help them understand a difficult passage. Following camp one child who does not attend our church wrote on Facebook "Wherever you are God will be with you every step of the way." It is evident the kids were encouraged by the message they received.

Pastor Stephen spoke to the Seniors on the Book of Revelation, his theme being on the Lion and the Lamb. Pastor Stephen talked about personal experiences in his life and managed to relate them to passages in Revelation, helping the teenagers understand the difficult concepts in this book.

One of the more notable experiences at camp was the creation of the Throne Room Scene in Revelation 4 and 5. A number of the young people and staff on Friday worked very hard on building the Throne Room Scene, and as Sabbath came in, and a trumpet call was heard, the whole camp joined together for a re-enactment of the 24 elders and the angels bowing before a candlelit throne. Pastor Stephen highlighted the importance of coming before God and His acceptance of us. As the worship came to a close the song 'Agnus Dei' (Alleluia) could be heard sung throughout the campsite and the presence of God was felt by many.
Activities arranged for the 8 days at camp included kayaking, tag archery, zorbing and the annual boat trip to an island out on Lough Rea for a vegetarian BBQ and a game of capture the flag. The campsite has an assault course and zip line so there was little time for sitting round and getting bored.

On Sabbath afternoon the campers and staff were taken into Athlone town centre and a local town, Balinasloe. With a handful of books each they engaged in the activity of Book Crossing. Pastor Adam provided each group with books such as Steps to Christ, God's Little Book of Grace, and God's Little Book of Promises. These had been registered with http://www.bookcrossing.com. The groups then split up across the towns and had fun deciding on random places to leave their books for people to hopefully find and take home. A total of 225 books were distributed. Instructions were stuck to the books informing people how to register the book they find on the Book Crossing website. The aim is that when they have read it they then pass it on to someone else and the books can be tracked on their journey. Since camp we have been able to see that people have found books and registered them online.

As we packed up camp and everyone said their goodbyes we knew we would have a few days of hard work ahead of us clearing all the equipment and tents away, but our hearts were buoyed up by the words that we have heard many times since then that it was 'The best camp ever'. We hope and pray that lives have been changed and that a seed has been planted in the lives of all who attended the Irish Mission Summer Camp 2013. For more information about the Irish Mission Youth department go to http://www.imyd.ie.

[Heather Keough]

"BEST FUN I'VE EVER HAD" AT 5TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CAMP

A community church plant, The Watering Hole, celebrated its fifth, annual Community Camp at Chapel Porth, Cornwall, from 11 - 18 August. Campers ranged from a 3-month-old baby, to an energetic 60-year-old!

The Watering Hole is fully immersed in its local community in Totton, Hampshire. Rosemary Lethbridge, pastor and organiser, alongside husband Gordon, is constantly finding ways to cater for those in the neighbourhood. Holding a variety of activities from programmes at Easter, to school holiday clubs and events, to the latest Community Camp, this year has been no exception.

"Why should a church run a community camp?" questions Rosemary. "If I am being honest, it is tiring, involves a lot of planning, can be expensive and if the weather turns nasty, turns into a logistical nightmare! But the comments I get from the campers is why we do it."
"This evening was the best fun I have ever had in my life", states a man in his mid-30's, after going down a 15-metre water slide built on the Chapel Porth campsite.

"No-one has ever told me I am special", responds a single mother, in her mid-50’s, after she attended the daily worship service where the theme was, 'You are unique and special to God and us'.

"You make me feel so included and I feel safe when I am here", expressed another who faces abuse on a regular basis. Many other campers said that this event is the highlight of their year.

This year, 42 people attended, only 9 of them baptised church members. Each year, the church tries to organise at least one camping trip, as they believe that going away on holiday together is a great opportunity for building strong friendships.

The leaders have found that their friends from the community are more inclined to try new experiences, such as attending worship services or power kiting, when they are away on holiday. So, throughout the week, there were lots of activities including cycling on the Camel Trail, power kiting, whizzing down the water slide and tie-dying T-shirts.

At the end of the week, there was a focus on living, loving and leading like Jesus. The intention was to mentor new Christians and develop leadership potential.

Throughout the seminars and worship sessions, attendees discovered more about themselves and how they might connect to God in powerful ways. It was also an opportunity to find their strengths and weaknesses, as well as learn about what makes others tick. For some, this was a voyage of great discovery and many commented on how the worships made them feel closer to God.

Will they be holding a camp again next year? Absolutely right, they will!

[Katie Ramharacksingh with Rosemary Lethbridge]
Nobody fell asleep during Divine Service. Dwain Esmond took an obscure Old Testament passage and brought it alive as he shared the difficulties of Christians living in a waiting game.

Sabbath, 31 August was Communication Day for Wolverhampton Central church, and the members quickly warmed to Dwain Esmond, Vice President for Editorial Services at the Review and Herald, as he noted that "we are in a culture that does not wait." He stated that almost from birth onwards we seek instant gratification and always want the next thing and then calmly noted, "God is the one person you cannot speed up. His purposes know no haste and no delay."

Even with a communication emphasis there was an altar call as people made a commitment to 'surrender all their circumstances to God'.

Those circumstances were highlighted in other aspects of the day. During the Mission Spotlight, Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication and Media director, shared how tens of thousands of people have been able to gain an insight into Adventist beliefs due to a series of six TV programmes where he was challenged about the 'peculiarities' of Adventist faith. He then shared how Adventist programmes on both Hope Channel and Revelation TV are creating a positive awareness of the Church and are changing people's lives.

The theme for the day became more evident in the afternoon as Dwain shared 'My story' in an interview with Pastor Hulbert. A workshop on how to tell your story through photos will help members both with their presence on Facebook, the church website, and in Adventist and non-Adventist web and print media, including Messenger and BUC News.

The number of cameras snapping during the afternoon demonstrated that note was being taken of the lessons learnt. Jason Daley always carries his camera with him and is a good photographer but confessed to gaining some good tips during the afternoon, particularly the need for 'action shots' rather than posed groups.

The final part of the day focused on how to get your story in print. Using examples from across the media, Pastor Hulbert showed why it was important to get church stories in local news media. More importantly, he gave practical tips on how to make it happen. Foremost amongst these was the need to find the most important and exciting thing about the event and put it right at the top of
the article – and then within a couple of short paragraphs answer those journalistic questions, 'who, what, where, why, when and how'. Subsequent paragraphs can then expand the story.

Church Communication secretary, Doreen Barrett, declared the day a success stating, as she posed for a photograph, "We have to do this again next year. We have learnt so much!" Local minister, Pastor Samuel Appiah was at another appointment for most of the day but stated by email afterwards that the members had found it to be an 'excellent day'.

The proof, so to speak, is in the pudding – so local newspapers, the *Messenger* and *BUC News* can brace themselves for a stunning report from the Men's Day to be held at the church on Sabbath, 14 September.

Condensed versions of the photography and newswriting workshops are also available as videos on the Communication department page of the Adventist Church website.

[Wolverhampton Central Communication Dept.]

MORE THAN A HEALTH FAIR

What do you do after a health expo that attracted 75 people who wanted their health checked? You run a series in the local community centre helping people answer some of their health questions.

Upper Room Seventh-day Adventist church did just that in the last week of August. Having advertised the event widely and informed the public at their health expo the church opened its doors to the public for a week of evening meetings addressing key health issues for the Nottingham public.
In the first meeting Dr George Mabeza, senior elder of the church and a consultant in chest medicine, informed the attendees at the meeting about the 'Blue Zones' of the world. These are five areas where people live longer, active and happy lives. The aim in our teaching was not just to say that the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle is the best but to give reasons why our lifestyle is so attractive. Adventists living in Loma Linda, California are counted as a blue zone by various researchers. They share the benefits of a long and active life with other cultural groups by seeking active community based lifestyles and a desire to pursue a sensible wholesome diet. Adventists are unique in that they apply their findings across cultures showing that the advantage can be applied to anyone.

On the Tuesday Justina Blackwood, student nurse, biologist and civil servant addressed the issue of cancer. She outlined the major types of cancer and then took the audience beyond the cancer risk factors to some sensible suggestions aimed at reducing risk. The question time which followed the talk, elements of which can be found on the Upper Room website, revealed that cancer is indeed a continuing fear across society.

Edgar Wallace, from Nottingham Central spoke about nutrition on the Wednesday, including in his answers to questions some guidance on how to make vegetarian and vegan food not just low fat but also tasty.

On the Thursday Grace Walsh, North England Conference Health Ministries director gave sensible guidance on mental health making sure that she gave good scientific support for all of the evidence that was provided.

The final event of the Megalungs health week found church pastor, Peter Jeynes, demonstrating why trusting God is beneficial in a lifestyle, and why healthy living is closely related to trusting God.

The whole week closed with a Personal Ministries Sabbath that highlighted prayer and praise in the morning and concluded with an afternoon of questions on health being answered. The main question that opened the meeting came from a visitor from the local community. "How can I lower the salt intake in my father's diet? He is suffering from prostate cancer." Pictures from the event, taken by various church young people, can be found on the church website's gallery.

[Norbury Bible School Kids Aid Mali Children]
A holiday Bible club can be much more than just entertaining children for a couple of weeks. For 58 children in Norbury, most of them non-Adventist, it was a time of laughter, energy and excitement, but also mission.

It was the 12th year of VBS (Vacation Bible School) for Norbury Adventist church. From Monday 29 July to Friday 9 August, 9:30 - 15:30 each day was a great two weeks of pure joy. 'Sky VBS' as it was themed, shared thundering songs with soaring actions to experiential Bible stories, parachute games, science experiments and lessons on life in Mali. There were also skits from Skyrunner – Sky VBS's very own pilot in training. Each piece of Sky VBS was intentionally created to help kids experience the gospel story and God's love for them in a new and exciting way. Each time the daily point was mentioned, the kids would finish it by yelling out, "Trust God!" Their excitement was contagious.

Our mission project this year was to save the kids in the West African nation of Mali. Malaria is the leading cause of death in children under five. The children learnt about what malaria was but also learnt that they can help. And they sure did. They told their parents about the project and the next day they came with an offering. There was great joy in watching the kids get excited about bringing their money up front. They gave enough to buy three specially treated life-saving mosquito nets to keep deadly insects out protecting the kids of Mali whilst they sleep.

This year 85% of the 58 children aged 3-11 years registered were from the community around our church whilst the other 15% were children of our Sabbath School.

We ended our time together on Sabbath, 10 August with a closing production and ice cream party where parents, relatives and the church at large came together for a special finale. The children were excited to show exactly what they got up to during the two weeks. Who knows what lessons and memories they will carry into the new school year and how many young lives may have been changed.

Follow-up programmes will continue to reach out to both children and parents.

[Adrian Hobbs]

NEW CHURCH, NEW ADDINGTON
Church growth is a strong motto in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and this Sabbath sees a new building opening for the members in New Addington. They now meet at the former New Addington District Housing Office, 90 Central Parade, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey CR0 0JB.

This is one of several churches that have changed home over the past six weeks. As such, it is always best to check the Adventist Church Finder before heading to visit a new congregation. In addition, the church finder can give you directions right to the door of the church and, if you are using a smartphone, will even navigate the route for you. Individual churches are also encouraged to check their church via the website and ensure that their service times, contact details, and location on the map are all accurate. Any corrections should be notified by email to buc@adventist.org.uk.

[BUC News / Godwin Benjamin]

**HOPE & REVELATION TV SELECTIONS THIS WEEK**

Programme highlights for the coming week include:

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): In FaithTalks, Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist looks at 'Church without walls' with Gifford Rhamie and Sam Neves: Thursday 5 September, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday 8 September at 1:00 pm. Next week, on Thursday 12 September, repeated Sunday 15 September: Depression and faith.

On Hope TV you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and website. Next week's schedule includes the following UK produced programmes among its much larger international output:

Friday 6 September: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Walking into faith,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Church without walls,
Midnight: The Journey: Iona and Worship
Sabbath 7 September: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Elvira Pearson – A missionary heart,
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Walking into faith,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Church

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Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote
without walls,

8:00 pm: The Journey: Hiroshima – Learning forgiveness
Monday 9 September: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: John Baildam – Loving life,
9:30 pm: The Journey: Empty Camera
Wednesday 11 September: 8:00 am: The Journey: Empty Camera,
11:00 pm: In Conversation: Colleen Lewis – God in the marketplace
Friday 13 September: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hines – A farmer's life,
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Depression and faith,
  Midnight: The Journey: Seeking the lost
Sabbath 14 September: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Walking into faith,
  7:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hines – a farmer in God's creation,
  7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Depression and faith,
  8:00 pm: The Journey: Seeking the lost

For internet radio listeners: Fridays at 8:00 pm, 'My Song' with Mike Johnson, online at www.lightfm.net. Two hours of your favourite songs from across the decades. Send your requests/dedications to radio@lightfm.net.

[Victor Hulbert]

**COMING EVENTS**

For a full listing of Coming Events please visit [http://adventist.org.uk/events](http://adventist.org.uk/events)

**Friday 6 September:**
*Café 7 – 'Dare to!' at Milton Keynes church.*

**Friday 6 - Sunday 8 September:**
*Autumn Family Camp at Brecon* with guest speaker, Victor Pilmoor.  
*Intentional* – a weekend retreat for single adults.

**Sabbath 7 September:**
*North England Conference Day of Fellowship* with Pastor Israel Leito – Sheffield. Entry by ticket only.  
*I used to love him* – Chiswick Youth Campaign (also 14 September)  
*JAM (Jesus and Me)* special 5th year anniversary celebration; Regents Hall, Oxford Street.

**Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 September:**
*Da mans Dem* – play at Millfield Theatre, Edmonton.

**Saturday 7 - 21 September:**
*The Art of Living*, learn how to move on in life. Battersea church campaign.

**Sunday 8 September:**
*Working Relationships*, Dr Israel Leito shares skills in working together for Christ,  
Wolverhampton Central. Booking essential.

**Tuesday 10 September:**
Diversity Lecture, Newbold College. *The current debate on ordination* with Dr Bertil Wiklander.

**Friday 13 - Sunday 15 September:**
*Zimbabwe Day of Fellowship.*

**Friday 13 - 28 September:**
*Hope for today* – Holloway campaign.
Saturday 14 September:
Love without end: Croydon Gospel Choir at Guildhall Arts Centre, Gloucester.
Da mans Dem – Gospel comedy play at Oxford.

Sunday 15 September:
Community Health Fair, Wood Green.

Wednesday 18 September:
Stanborough Secondary School Open Day for Year 5 & 6 pupils.

Friday 20 - 22 September:
The theology of health and well-being – a weekend mini-seminar for doctors, dentists and medical/dental students, Ringway Life Building, Cheshire.

Saturday 21 September:
ASNA 'In His Presence' music concert at Newbold church.
Devon and Cornwall Day of Fellowship at Rattery Village Hall.

Sunday 22 September:
ABC book and food sale at Peckham and Reading West Adventist churches.

For more details and a larger selection of events both this weekend and in the future please visit the Coming Events website where events are continuously updated online. Select your region for events nearest to you. You can also share events important to you on your Facebook or social media profile. You can also submit your event at the same location.

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SMALL ADS

CHURCH PHOTO COMPETITION. The UK Adventist Church website is looking for creative photos of the outside of your church but that include people – showing that your church is a place where visitors are welcomed. Visit the website for more details.

STUDENT HOUSE SHARE: NOTTINGHAM. 27 Forest Road East, Nottingham NG1 4HT is a six bed property 10 minutes easy walk from Nottingham Trent University and Nottingham City Centre.

6 generous sized and furnished rooms recently re-carpeted; 2 full bathrooms, kitchen with utility area, 2 tall fridges, cellar for storage, recently carpeted large living room, wi-fi available, off-road parking for 2/3 cars, fire alarm system, burglary alarm system, emergency lighting. 10-15 minute walk to Nottingham Central Adventist church. Same to offices of the North England Conference. Adventist owners would prefer to rent to Adventist students from Sept 2013 - July 2014. £75.00pppw exclusive; £85.00pppw inclusive (capped). Contact Shaun Douglas: Shaundouglas@btinternet.com or 07855301398.

JOB VACANCIES. PA to the Treasury department, Trans-European Division office, St Albans. KS2 teacher at Newbold Primary School, Binfield. Two volunteer positions (with stipend), the St Austell Project, Cornwall. For these and all our job vacancies visit the Jobs page of the Adventist Church website.

THE SMALL PRINT
BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to bucnews@adventist.org.uk and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text or submitted online. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: http://adventist.org.uk/events. Small ads should be sent by email. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues are available on our archive website at http://www.adventistnews.org.uk.

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