BUC News Edition #856 (6 December 2013)

Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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EDITORS NOTE: Due to a technical error on our website we are currently unable to upload and process BUC News. This is also affecting Coming Events. We hope to have the problem resolved shortly but in the meantime we are sending you this edition as plain text. As service providers like to say, 'Normal service will be resumed shortly!'

AND THE WINNER IS...

It may not have the razzmatazz of Strictly Come Dancing but a similar process of combining popular vote and expert opinion has led to the winning selections for the Church Photo Competition, announced today.

Photographers were asked to submit a photo of their church that would share a positive image with the public. The photo will feature on the home page of the http://adventist.org.uk website and the winner and runners-up will also receive a small prize in recognition of their efforts. The popular vote was by clicking 'like' on your favourite church photo featured on the BUC News Facebook page before 2 December.

Experts from the BUC Communication department and the Stanborough Press then took a look at the entries giving their view, including the 'warmth' of the photo, and how it would actually look on the website. Combining the results together these are the winning entries:

First place: Dan Sabatier and Stanborough Park church.
Second place with just one point less: Miriam Wood and Ystrad Mynach church.
Two runners-up were also selected: Newbold International church with their beautiful harvest setting and Loughborough church with their rich mix of smiling children and adults.
The artistic nature of arranging what could otherwise be seen as a 'firing squad' photo attracted both the judges' and the popular vote for the winning picture. Judges were looking for creativity. The children won the hearts of the judges in a number of photos including the second place winner.

"It was good to see both large churches and small congregations feature in the winning entries", states competition organiser, Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication and Media director. While he wished there had been more submissions he is delighted that these pictures can help share the positive welcome visitors will get in an Adventist church on a Sabbath morning.

The winner will receive a £50 voucher with the runners-up receiving £20 each. A greater reward is knowing that your church photo will highlight the kind of welcome home that a visitor can find on a Sabbath morning. While there are no more prizes, more creative photos would still be welcomed to help represent the diversity of Adventist churches across the UK and Ireland.

**BIG COMMUNITY BREAKFAST RAISES £1000 FOR PHILIPPINES RELIEF**  
[Michael Hamblin / IM Communications]

The Banbridge Seventh-day Adventist church did it again! For a second consecutive year the small, Northern Irish congregation raised £1000 for charity in their Big Community Breakfast. Last year the money supported the UK charity for Congenital Heart Disease (CDH-UK). This year the £1000 will support ADRA-UK's relief efforts in the Philippines and adds to the £83,000 total donated to the ADRA-UK Haiyan appeal over the past three weeks.

"Our Community Breakfast has run for almost 18 months and it is held nearly every month. We invite anyone and everyone to enjoy our Sunday morning feasts", states Michael Hamblin, Communication leader in the Banbridge church. "December 1st was extra special because we had two distinguished guests who brought added flavour to the meal. Dr Chidi Ngwaba; SEC Men's Ministries coordinator, GP, and health adviser and his friend Ben Asami, award winning vegan chef, producer of the Vegan Healthy Menu, and owner of the 222 Veggie Restaurant in London's West End."

These two distinguished guests had a hand in the preparation of the Sunday morning meal attended by church members from across Ireland, friends from the community and also by representatives of the Filipino Seventh-day Adventist community in Ireland. When the time came to hand over donations for the fundraising effort the Filipino community spoke to the satiated breakfast attendees about the trials of their homeland.

Apart from supporting the Sunday breakfast, Dr Chidi and Ben made use of several opportunities over the weekend to provide practical health advice and tips for relieving diseases. This included a Saturday evening a vegan cooking demonstration in the church hall. At one of the presentations Dr Chidi even presented one lucky participant, David Muldrew, with a prize of Presidential M&Ms with Barack Obama's signature on it for a correct answer.

"We in the Banbridge Seventh-day Adventist church view this event as preparation for the Cities of Hope project in March 2014 when our home-grown Pastor David McKibben, who currently pastors in Sydney, Australia, will present a series of sermons in the same venue. We would like the community to see our church as a friendly place and we hope that they will join us for the presentations that will highlight our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone", says Michael Hamblin.

Michael states, "In many ways this was a learning experience for the church. We made use of Facebook advertising, and local media resources to promote the breakfast. There was newspaper coverage, and one of our members, Patrinne Irvine promoted the event on the local radio station Shine FM. The event was also promoted on a variety of local bulletin boards."

Banbridge members went to bed on Sunday, 1 December with a real sense of accomplishment and dreamt of exciting things to come in 2014.

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CHURCH BELIEVES AND WHY?**  
[Errol Anderson]
Do you really know what your Church believes and why? If challenged to defend and explain it, would you pass the test? "Of course", I hear you say, but don't be too quick in answering because maybe you don't.

That was the essence of a play, Why We Believe, by Mary Grey performed at Balham Seventh-day Adventist church on Sunday, 24 November.

The play was commissioned by Opal Johnson-Christie, Education director for the South England Conference as part of a Mission to the Cities outreach project.

The play began with Chris giving out tracts in the street. A few people refuse to accept the tracts and she blasts them for not wanting to hear the truth about a Church that can explain prophecy. She is arrested and summoned to trial to defend her faith, but although passionate she doesn't know the basis of what she believes or why and is sent to a team of experts to learn about Adventism.

The purpose of the play was to inform Adventists of the Church history and teachings and to allow non-Adventists to know that we are a Bible based Church that has a view on today's topical issues.

It was followed by a vibrant (if lengthy) Q&A session where the audience had the chance to quiz the writer and the cast, give feedback, or query anything witnessed in the play. This was particularly positive as there were a good number of non-Adventists in attendance.

Questions included why was the play necessary as we already know what we believe. Several Adventists, including the cast, expressed that they thought they did before but were not so sure now. One question was raised by a member of the Apostolic Church who after saying she learnt something suggested since we are all one so why do we need to express our denominational labels. Others touched on some of the issues raised such as are we a sexist, racist, homophobic group? It gave us a chance to express who we are and why we believe what we believe on such matters and that even though some of our Church members may be guilty of holding wrong views, the Church at large didn't teach that. The question of homosexuality was discussed at great length.

"I really enjoyed the play. I consider myself to be an 'old' Adventist but it left me asking the question, 'What do I believe?'" stated one Balham member. Paulette Bradnock from Beckenham church said, "I think the use of a play is a very creative method for outreach and the script was very good. I would watch it again. In fact I will be trying to arrange for it to be brought to my local church."

Joy Alexander agreed. "Using drama as a medium is a good way to appeal to the general public and to break down prejudice. Even as a longstanding Adventist, there were things I learnt for the first time and it certainly makes me want to research more to have a better grasp of our history."

There was some constructive criticism on how it could be done better in the future, but Euthan Newman sums it up by calling it a 'great play'. "The tensions created by the characters contrived to promote an informative delivery while subtly revealing the multi-layered concepts and beliefs involved. This was inextricably spiced with humour which engaged the audience", he said.

The play challenged us to get to know more about what we believe not as a passport to heaven but in order to be able to give an answer for the faith we hold dear.

Balham was the first performance but there is already a booking on 21 December for Tottenham church and they are happy to perform or speak with other congregations. My advice is, ask them to come to your church. Visit: www.WhyWeBelieve.net for further information.

PRAYER AND CELEBRATION AT AREA 1 YOUTH DAY  [Lauren Heinrich]

Prayer and celebration through song was the theme for the annual SEC Area 1 Youth Day, Sabbath 30 November. Youth of all ages from across Devon and Cornwall travelled to St Andrew's church hall, Paignton, for a very different worship experience.
The morning session was dedicated to prayer and various forms of communication with the Lord. Praise songs and worship led into a time of reflection and prayer. Participants were invited to engage in prayer in different ways at prayer stations set up around the room. Some stations asked participants to express their prayers through art, while others focused on the cleansing power of prayer or prayer within the community. One station explored the concept of cleansing prayer by asking people to write their burdens on stones with chalk, and then place them in a basin of water to watch their burdens be washed away.

It was a new and unusual experience for many, including Aneta Bulwan; "Both me and my hubby loved the worship time. We could feel that the Holy Spirit was with us that morning. Seeing young people dedicated to God is such an uplifting picture for others. The morning service was unusual and we really enjoyed that. We had more time than usual to spend with God and we had some time for new friendships as well. And like one of the songs said: 'It's all about you', I felt that everything prepared for that day was all about our God!"

That first morning session was followed by a more customary divine service. This included more praise music, a short performance from spoken word artist, Peter Nevland, and a moving message presented by Uriel Herinirina. "Both Uriel and Peter were inspirational and the song service was soul stirring. I'll definitely be going again", Gemma Hall from Plymouth reflected. The message took a look into how music connects us with God, as well as how many times songs can fill a void in our hearts that mere words never could.

The afternoon focused on creativity. Peter shared some tips and tricks he has learned over the years to improve general writing skills. The mood was kept light and fun as he put those participating through various exercises and shared some of his own work.

Peter, on tour from America, enjoyed the day. "I love that in a youth day, Steven Hulbert and the leaders of the church not only provided a place to gather, sing and celebrate God, they also provided practical training that would benefit the youth and their families in the community. Can't wait for more churches to join what they're doing!"

In a day filled with music, worship, community, and learning, many attended, all were blessed.

'LOLLIPOP LADY' A RUNNER-UP IN MY LOCAL HERO AWARDS  [June Coombs]

Stanborough Park church member, Barbara Hankin, found herself runner-up in the 'Above and Beyond' category at last Friday's 'My Local Hero Awards' ceremony, 29 November 2013. The ceremony, which is run by a local news magazine, was previously held every four years. It is now to become an annual event, recognising the achievements of local people within the Watford community.

Her nomination for the award came as a result of an invitation from one of the magazine's reporters who had handled the story sent to her by the local church's Communications department earlier in the year. It told how Barbara was still helping children cross the road in safety five days a week, regardless of the weather, despite her age. A job she has faithfully performed for the past 9 years.

Barbara, who at 80 is probably Watford's oldest school crossing patrol warden, lost out to a worthy Hemel Hempstead-based charity. Set up following the death of a teenager from a knife crime, it works with local youth groups and schools to raise awareness of the dangers of knives.

Head teacher, Mrs Anne Cook, explained just how far she went beyond her role in the nine years she has been their 'lollipop lady' was very much part of the school. "Barbara is doing it because she wants to and she is that kind of person," she said, adding, "I still think she is a winner!"

As a demonstration of how much the school loves her, Barbara's special birthday saw balloons festooning the crossing railings and a gift and card from the children and her photo with the children she helps across the road appearing in the local newspaper.
In addition to her crossing work Barbara also finds the energy to be part of a prison visiting team at 'The Mount' in Bovingdon and a singing group which visits local care homes on a weekly basis. In addition she visits sick and housebound church members.

The extra effort Barbara puts into her work both voluntary and paid is not surprising; she is motivated by her Christian beliefs to help others. She explains that she does it all 'for the love of the Lord'.

COMMUNICATIONS DAY AT MANCHESTER SOUTH [Sara Francis]

On Sabbath, 23 November 2013 Manchester South focused on how good communication can awaken the church, enforce a sense of continued revival and reformation, and alert members to how we can evangelise and spread the gospel. It was a day of celebration of the gift of the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 and how we can utilise this gift at this moment of prophetic history.

It also served as an opportunity to show awareness of the Communications department, and how we as a team can support other departments in church.

Raj Satyavadi, a humble member of the church presented a haunting message on how to communicate with God. After he had preached, the church was in silence, and many felt moved and realised a change has to be made in the ways we communicate with each other.

Vegan lunch was provided to promote the health message. The various vegan dishes gave new inspiration to ways of eating and changing to an Edenic diet. This promoted the aim of CHIP, the Coronary Health Improvement Programme.

In the afternoon Andrew Modelly asked, 'What's in your bag?' This was a successful seminar on how we can use technology and advertisements in the simplest of ways to promote the three angels' messages. The programme also focussed on developing relationships through communication, followed by testimonies.

It was an interactive seminar, and the congregation had the chance to ring up someone on a loudspeaker and tell them that they love them – this was a hard challenge but for the ones who took part, it took them on an emotional journey, resulting in bonds in nearly broken relationships with family/friends.

Communication bridges have been built. Church members will now be walking across them!

LIVE ST AUSTELL PRESENTS PETER NEVLAND: 'SPOKEN INTO LIFE' [Jake Jackson]

On the damp and chilly evening of Friday, 29 November the St Austell Seventh-day Adventist church hall became a warm, glowing and intimate setting for the attendees of a concert by spoken word artist Peter Nevland.

Upon expressing his gratitude for being invited back to Cornwall, the Texan launched into his performance, 'Spoken into Life', with words of excitement and humour, but he also captivated the small audience with poignant thoughts and pieces from his new project, Tree of Psalms.

Peter began to delve into ancient Hebrew culture and literature about 3.5 years ago, and has gradually been discovering some of what was originally encapsulated by the writers in the book of Psalms.

Using his uniquely poetic and artistic approach, Peter captivated the audience with a fusion of thoughts from scripture, igniting the imagery from individual psalms throughout his performance.

One attendee; Zac Rose commented "I enjoyed the way Peter is able to interact with the audience. He has a niche poetic skill."

His performance was interactive on many levels; from directly conversing with audience members from both the church and the community, to the raw emotion that confronts you in many of his pieces. Psalm 88 in particular, setting a dark atmosphere, but providing a pinching realisation and familiarity with the struggles of our own lives.
Captivated by every word, the audience delighted in the spiritual depth of the evening wanting to hear much more. Summing up the concert, local pastor, Chris Peake commented; "Peter Nevland is always thought-provoking and yet entertaining. This time was a smaller, more intimate gathering and for me it really hit home, when after he thought he'd finished, he just drifted into an impromptu story about the day he proposed to his wife. So real."

Fittingly Peter performed his piece 'Love Complete' as an encore after his impromptu proposal story – he usually performs the piece accompanied by his wife Victoria.

God gives many talents. Combining a deep understanding of scripture together with an ability to make it real in 21st century poetic language is challenging audiences around the world.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR SENIOR CITIZENS  [Nigel Clark]

On Saturday evening, 30 November Leamington Mission Adventist church hosted its annual Christmas meal for the senior members and friends. The 21 participants were treated to a four course meal including 'all the trimmings'.

Organised by Nigel and Diana Clark, they were supported by a team of enthusiastic and hardworking volunteers including a number of the youth. They all pulled together to do an excellent job from making personalised invitation cards right through to decorating the main hall and producing the meal.

We also had some light entertainment led by our 'younger members', Rob Pearce, and Dan Vine who played the piano throughout the evening. We honour our senior members throughout the year but this was a welcome opportunity to do something special.

READERS' RESPONSES

There are some articles that as editors we really enjoy. Celebrating with 93-year-old Vi Buchan in Aberdeen was one of them. Vi wrote us a very humble letter following her special day and shared more of her life and skills. It included a moving history of various counselling work and voluntary support functions she has given over the years. She writes, "I would like to say thank you again for giving me a birthday to remember and to all those who have sent cards with special messages and kind words and special moments and memories. I in no way would put myself anywhere near being on a par with the great people who have gone before us especially since I have been too much of a Martha and too little of a Mary I'm afraid. However I do believe that the sacrifice made by Jesus is all powerful and gives God the right to be just, and to forgive at the same time, all of us mortals, since we all fall short."

There has also been quite some response to the announcement of the closing of Hope Channel Europe on satellite and the improved service to be offered via IPTV on Roku.

One minister wrote; "I was horrified to read about Hope Channel ceasing on Hotbird. The majority of our members are of the older generation… I have a terrible premonition that most people in the UK will not rush out and buy a Roku box, nor watch on the internet."

He pleaded that we maintain, and if possible, increase our presence on Sky at least for the next five years until the lag in adopting new technology catches up within our congregations. Nevertheless, he has gone out and bought himself the new technology! Perhaps when he sees how good it is he will be encouraging his members to invest.

Another Roku box purchaser shared how delighted they also are to get the Loma Linda University church channel: RE:live. "Great and inspiring viewing", he said, indicating that he had bought a box for himself and for his mother.

Within the next couple of weeks, Hope Channel will be improving its Roku platform giving UK and Ireland viewers even better services and value. For more on the changes to Hope Channel provision in the UK and Ireland read, 'All I want for Christmas...'.
NEW SEASONAL TV PROGRAMMES

A special edition of 'The Journey' and two seasonal programmes featuring the London Adventist Chorale are part of the programme line up on Hope and Revelation TV. A seasonal 'Advent Calendar' of video messages is also being released by Pastor Ted Wilson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist World Church.

In 'The Journey', special guest John Surridge, relives a challenging kayaking trip down the River Wye and learns some practical lessons on sticking together and keeping to the main stream. The programme is based on a fundraising expedition for ADRA in January of this year.

The London Adventist Chorale will feature on Revelation TV in a two-part programme, 19 and 26 December (repeated 22 and 29 December) and will also air on Hope Channel. The programmes, produced by SECmedia, include music and personal testimony from members of the chorale.

The '25-Hope filled Messages' from Pastor Wilson are being released daily on the Adventist Review website. So far the messages have focused on Family: A Gift from God; Freedom of Choice: A Gift from God; Sabbath: A Gift from God; and Creation: A Gift from God. A new message is released each day.

TV HIGHLIGHTS ON HOPE & REVELATION

Programme highlights for the coming week include:

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): In FaithTalks, Thursday 5 December, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday 8 December at 1:00 pm: Why is Christianity so divisive? Next week, on Thursday 12 December, repeated Sunday 15 December: Is religion good for children?

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 December: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Suicide to salvation,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith in an urban community,
Midnight: The Journey: Iona and worship
Sabbath 7 December: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Elvira Pearson – What makes a missionary?
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Suicide to salvation,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith in an urban community,
8:00 pm: The Journey: Hiroshima
Monday 9 December: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: Ashwin Somasundram – Mars bar to minister,
9:30 pm: The Journey: Empty Camera,
10:00 pm. FaithTalks: The complexity of prayer
Wednesday 11 December: 8:00 am: The Journey: Empty Camera,
11:00 pm: In Conversation: Colleen Lewis – Christ in the market-place,
Friday 13 December: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hinds – Farming and faith,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Doubt and Faith,
Midnight: The Journey: Iona and worship,
Sabbath 14 December: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Lutz Rental – Suicide to salvation,
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Robert Hinds,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Doubt and Faith,
8:00 pm: The Journey: Empty Camera

COMING EVENTS  For a full listing of Coming Events please visit http://adventist.org.uk/events

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 December:
Irish Mission Jesus 7 – Training Weekend, for pastors and church leaders at the Airport View Hotel. For more information, please contact Marci Neal at the Irish Mission office.
Saturday 7 December:
Greenwich Pathfinders Fundraising Concert at 6:30 pm.
Marriage Enrichment Dinner at the Marriot Hotel, Middlesex. Time: 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm.

Sunday 8 December:
ABC Book & Food Sale, 10:00 am at Holloway Adventist church.
Seasonal Banquet for the D/deaf community and their hearing friends. Start time 3:00 pm at Lewisham Adventist church. Tickets are £15.00 and are available by emailing Michele Gordon at deafministries@lewishamadventist.org.uk.

Sunday 15 December:
ABC Book & Food Sale, 10:00 am at the John Loughborough School.
The Loop Christmas Bake Sale, 12 - 3 pm at New Life Adventist church.

Thursday 18 December:
Tap Water Foundation Christmas Concert at the Advent Centre, commencing at 7:00 pm. Ticket price: £10.00.

Saturday 21 December:
Night of Worship and Praise – Community of Hope, at the Bishop Latimer Church. Doors open 5:00 pm. Concert starts at 6:00 pm. Tickets: Adults £5.00; Children under 11, £1.00. Refreshments on sale.
Christmas Concert in aid of the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre. Venue: Simon Langton School for Boys, Canterbury, Kent CT4 7AS. Start time: 17:00.

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

A MAGAZINE FOR NEWBOLD ALUMNI. Newbold alumni regularly get a copy of The Newboldian magazine. That magazine is also online. Read it here.


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. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: http://adventist.org.uk/events. 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 and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk.

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