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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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PRAYER AND PLANNING UNITES IRISH MISSION MINISTERS
A prayer and planning weekend near Dublin enlivened ministers throughout the Irish Mission as to the possibilities for Mission to the Cities 2014. While there is a primary focus on Dublin as the chosen 'BUC City of Hope', live streaming and modern technology will be used to share the programmes and resources in venues across the whole island.

From Friday, 6 December through to Sunday, 8 December, the whole pastoral team was joined by Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, Evangelism director for the Trans-European Division of the Adventist Church and Pastor Victor Hulbert, Communication and Media director for the British Union Conference, in order to help develop the programme and to set deadlines and goals for 2014 and beyond.

It is an ambitious programme including local evangelism, health expos, a great degree of personal and friendship evangelism, and a series of public programmes that will be generated in central Dublin but shared elsewhere.

Janos shared the philosophy behind 'Jesus7', a seven night programme that will run during the traditional 'Holy Week' in the lead-up to Easter. While the minds of the general population are turned towards the events surrounding Christ's betrayal and crucifixion, a changing daily exhibition using posters, 3D art and multimedia will climax in a meal and a one hour lecture each evening highlighting one of seven important actions and locations in the ministry of Jesus. The week climaxes in the resurrection and the blessed Advent hope of Christ's promised return.

The evening lectures will be live streamed to 6 other venues that will also have the full exhibition displays tailored to the individual needs of the church. Other small groups plan to host the programme in members' homes or a neutral location.

Many will see a Field School of Evangelism hosted by Mark and Ernestine Finley along with ten evenings of public meetings covering archaeology and the Bible, health, family life, and finance.
Pastor and Mrs Finley will return in September for a further three weeks of public meetings in a downtown hotel that seats 800. During the weekend of planning, Dublin pastors assured the Mission President, Pastor David Neal, that members were committed to inviting their friends and that the hall would be full. A baptism is planned for Sabbath, 4 October, but as Pastor Neal explained, "That baptism will only be the beginning. This is a long-term programme of developing relationships and building bridges with the community."

Edith Samambwa, Irish Mission Health Ministries sponsor, enthusiastically reported that this is already happening outside the Ranelagh Road Adventist church where members hand out free cups of nourishing soup each Wednesday evening. "Taxi drivers are now stopping outside the church just to talk to us, find out what is going on, and enjoy the soup", she reported. The new, largely student-led Drumcondra church plant is also regularly on the street making friends and building contacts.

There were difficult discussions during the weekend, mainly focused on needed resources, human and monetary, but also dealing with some of the concepts behind the initiatives. Most importantly, there was quality time set aside for prayer, for sharing, and for the Spirit's leading.

The final prayer session closed with thoughts based around Philippians 4:6. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." It is not just ministers, but members and well-wishers across the world that are taking this promise seriously.

Hear from the Irish Mission pastoral team in a short video message.

[Victor Hulbert]

**LIVING NATIVITY AT NEWBOLD CHURCH**

Four hundred mince pies were consumed at Newbold Adventist church, Binfield, on Sunday, 8 December – not by the pastoral team, but by more than 450 people from across the local community who experienced the Newbold Church Living Nativity.

Walking around the church grounds, visitors were taken on a guided tour through the Nativity story, first experiencing the modern Christmas and then taken back to the wise men, who sat in a space full of scrolls, carpets
and an extra 'spice' in a performance that brought a Bedouin tent to mind. A little camel boy ran around offering golden coins made of chocolate to those taking the journey.

It was a brilliant experience, from hearing Mary's song and glimpsing Joseph in his workroom to warming hands over an open fire alongside the shepherds and being surprised by angels. Graeme Johnston, one of the guides, stated that at times people were very emotional. Given the multimedia outdoor presentation, complete with live animals, it was easy to understand why. The children were especially delighted by the live animals, grasping the opportunity to get a closer look at the donkeys and sheep.

"We want to tell the real story of Christmas", explained senior pastor, Patrick Johnson. "It is also an excellent bridge-builder. It's a great opportunity to meet the community and for them to see who we are, instead of just driving by."

This is the second year Smilka Markek and a team of 150 volunteers have taken on this massive project. This year they added an exhibition of Newbold church community projects that guests could view in the church café while enjoying their mince pies and hot drinks. It provided a great opportunity for all to learn more about Newbold School, the toddler group and ADRA, as well as offering the chance to mingle with church members.

"We will be back next year" was commonly heard as people were leaving. With around 50% of the visitors hailing from the local community we look forward to welcoming them back, especially as the church is organising special programmes every weekend throughout the Advent season.

A selection of photos from the walk-through Nativity can be seen on the Adventist Church picture gallery.

[Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]

THERE'S SOMETHING AMAZING GOING ON AT FLETEWOOD

Plymouth, a beautiful city in the south west, a gateway to stunning Dartmoor, and home of the Devon clotted cream tea. More importantly, home to a small Adventist school which is doing something amazing for Christmas. Fletewood School, situated near the city centre, has an
attendance roll of around 70 children and carries an excellent reputation within its community.

Every year around Christmas, the children and teachers do three amazing things.

Firstly, senior members from the church and community are invited to enjoy a three course Christmas dinner hosted and prepared by the school. While the senior citizens enjoy the meal the Year 6 students wait upon them, taking their orders, bringing their food and constantly making sure they are comfortable. The community members appreciate the gesture while the children learn the value of showing respect and appreciation to the generation that has gone before.

The second event they offer is the performance of a very successful senior school Christmas Concert and junior school Nativity Play. This year, on Wednesday, 11 December, the production was entitled 'There's Something Amazing Going On'. It told the story of the first coming of Jesus within a contemporary musical context, but with the correct approach of a Saviour coming to save everyone in the world.

The success of these events is determined by the Plymouth Adventist church being packed to absolute capacity with parents, past pupils and members of the church community. These two amazing events involve every single child and are done at an impressively high standard. No wonder they are so well attended.

The third way Fletewood School involves the children and parents at Christmas is collecting money and food for a local charity, Shekinah Mission. The Devon based charity helps a wide range of adults, young offenders and ex-offenders in Plymouth, Torbay and South Devon. Shekinah tackles the complex issues of homelessness, substance misuse and social exclusion with its non-judgmental, holistic and integrated approach. They provide temporary accommodation, meals and emergency supplies to the needy that come through their doors; as well as a wealth of support through comprehensive education, training and employment programmes. Their relationship with the school highlights the positive ethos the staff endeavour to provide and instil in their school.

Being only the first year I am involved with the school, I now understand the brilliant reputation it holds in the community, the excellent record it achieves for its Ofsted inspection, and the long waiting list it has from parents who cannot wait to have their children attend the school. This school holds to every part of the holistic package the Adventist pioneers dreamed of when they envisioned Adventist education.

[Clifford Herman]
SMALL SCHOOL: BIG HEART

Children at Newbold School, Binfield really get excited about their charity sales. Every Christmas they raise funds for one of their favourites, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Every year, children in Years 5 and 6 organise the Christmas sale. They each choose, plan, advertise and man their own stall and manage to have great fun at the same time.

The many stalls included 'Gone Fishing', 'Grabber', 'Guess the name of the football team', 'Where has teddy been?' and many more.

Last year over £500 was raised and the children didn't think that could be bettered. However, with the support of children, parents and friends from the community, a staggering £862.02 is now on its way to a very worthy cause. This is a remarkable amount from a small school!

[Gill Hudson]

£75,000 HARVEST AT LONDON GHANA CHURCH

The giving spirit of members of the London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist church was again manifested at this year's annual fundraising programme on Sabbath, 7 December 2013. Over £75,000 was raised for church projects.

Over the years the members' commitment and ability to raise money for the advancement of the Lord's cause has received recognition and an award from the South England Conference. Annually, the church runs this major programme to encourage and motivate members to recount their blessings and offer consummate thanks unto the Lord for His protection, care, providence, healing, breakthroughs, forgiveness of sins and for the growth of the church.

Members are encouraged by church leadership to count their blessings over the past year and accordingly offer a 'Harvest' to the Almighty God for His protection, forgiveness of sin, and blessings. Dubbed 'The Annual Harvest', members are clad in their traditional kente and white
outfits signifying victory. They enjoy heart-warming songs from various singing groups while the first elder of the church, Collins Amofah in his sermon reiterated the ever strong commitment of members, noting that it really was this kind of commitment, together with the grace of God, that has seen the church this far.

"Members have been fantastic and inspirational in giving and that is why the Lord's blessings have been enormous in this church” he stated. He observed that members of the church have contributed financially to, among other things, acquiring their own place of worship, and supporting various evangelistic campaigns conducted by the church. He noted that the members will open a new church next year in the UK.

The 'Harvest' was preceded by a two-week revival series by Pastor George Dadey of the Reading Ghana church. A similar programme was held at the Lee Valley church where nearly £40,000 was raised. Addressing the congregation, the outgoing pastor, Fergus Owusu-Boateng, asked the members to put God first in all their dealings particularly in what God has entrusted to them.

Two weeks earlier, the Head Teacher of the Eden Independent Adventist School, Mrs Laura Osei emphasised the urgent need for Adventists to educate their children in Adventist settings. She said there are spiritual and other benefits in Adventist education which are not found within other systems of education.

In addressing this year's Education Day at the London Ghana church she observed that wisdom acquired with the knowledge of God guides the recipient through a better and fulfilling life. She said that genuine education as provided in Adventist institutions does not only impart wisdom from above but also provides all the powers for a successful life while preparing the individual for the life to come. "Adventist education seeks to provide holistic education which provides the platform for positive results in the future as against other educational structures which rather seek to impart only knowledge" she stated.

Twenty-two members of the church were honoured for their various achievements on the education ladder. Twelve of them gaining admission to universities, ten obtaining master's degrees in various fields, with one starting a PhD degree programme. A number also received awards for pursuing various causes in healthcare, teaching, and craftsmanship.

Richard Antwi is responsible for Education programmes at the church. He instituted the achiever's award primarily to encourage members to aim high and achieve enviable laurels in education. He announced that the church was starting a supplementary school to help members and people within the area with their education.

[Nana Sifa Twum]

INVESTITURE A FIRST FOR GREAT YARMOUTH
From a church that just a few years ago had no children in the congregation, Great Yarmouth now has a vibrant group of children. During the course of this last year, our minister, Rio Espulgar, has organized their first Pathfinder Club. It has got off to a good start.

During the summer they held their first Pathfinder Camp in Thetford Forest. The youngsters enjoyed this introduction to outdoor life in readiness for joining with other Pathfinder Clubs next year. They also invited some of their friends to join them. They enjoyed it so much that they are now becoming more involved with the group.

On Sabbath, 30 November, they had their first investiture. The Area 8 Pathfinder sponsor, Waldron Tyrone, along with the pastor, conducted the investiture service in the afternoon. We felt so proud of our young people as they marched into the sanctuary wearing their smart uniforms. They are a good group of youngsters and we really appreciate the contribution they make to our church.

There were six Pathfinders invested: Avonda Gasela and Johnalen Wilkinson from the Friend class and four from the Explorer class: Joel Gaspar, who is being baptized this coming Sabbath, and Rebecca Mbakire, Nandi Gasela and Leo Lukas.

Leo came from the community and next year his twin brothers, aged 12, will be joining the Pathfinder group. It is our intention to reach out to the community and Pathfinders offers such a wonderful opportunity.

[Michael Walker]

DEATH OF MYRNA ESTHER DORLAND
We regret to announce the death of Miss Myrna Dorland on Tuesday, 10 December 2013, aged 82. Born in London, to Pastor and Mrs O M Dorland, Myrna, the fourth of five children, developed the same passion for her Church and God as her parents. She completed studies at Nottingham University (BA, history), Andrews University (MA history) and Birmingham University (MA ESOL) in a career that spanned 43 years in Adventist Education at Stanborough School (1953/54), Nigerian Training College (1960-66), The Adventist Seminary of West Africa – now Babcock University (1968-75), and Newbold College (1954-60 & 75-96), where she taught History and then English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) until her retirement in 1996.

Myrna was more than a teacher, her caring nature helping many students in quiet ways. Post retirement she volunteered with Bracknell Victim Support and continued to mentor a number of students.

She will be remembered by her surviving brother, John, in Washington State, USA, and by a myriad of nieces and nephews across England, Denmark, Greenland and the USA. Most importantly, her legacy lives on worldwide with the many students whose lives she touched.

The funeral will be held at Newbold church, St Mark's Road, Binfield, RG42 4AN on Friday, 27 December at 10:45 am followed by a committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, South Road, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 3DW at 12:00 noon. Light refreshments will be served in the church café following the committal.

Donations in lieu of flowers are welcomed in support of Newbold Primary School, a cause close to her heart. Donate online here marking your donation as 'Newbold School-M Dorland'. A specific significant project will be identified shortly.

[Victor Hulbert]

DEATH OF PATRICIA ALLEN
We are saddened to report the death of Mrs Patricia Allen, aged 91, who passed away peacefully in the early hours of Sunday morning, 8 December at her Watford care home where she had spent the last four and a half years following a stroke.

Born into a Catholic family in Lewisham on 24 February, 1922 she moved to Watford at the age of 5 as she liked the country setting of her aunt's home. At age 14 she then joined her uncle and cousin working at the Adventist owned, Granose health food factory on Stanborough Park. It was there that she met her husband, Albert (Bert) Allen and married in 1947. Most of Pat's working life was spent there apart from a spell looking after her two young daughters, June and Rosemary, and a few years as a carer at a local old people's home.

Post-retirement she and Bert spent many years as the cleaners at Stanborough Park church, where Pat's chatty personality made her many friends. She also nursed Bert through motor neurone disease until his death in 2000.

She will be missed by her daughters, June and Rosemary, and their families.

The funeral service will be held at Stanborough Park church on Friday, 20 December at 11 am.

[BUC News]

TV HIGHLIGHTS ON HOPE & REVELATION

Programme highlights for the coming week include:

On Revelation TV (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): In FaithTalks, Thursday 12 December, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday 15 December at 1:00 pm: Is religion good for children? Next week, on Thursday 19 December, repeated Sunday 22 December: The London Adventist Chorale Christmas programme pt 1.

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 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 – Farming and faith, 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Doubt and Faith,
8:00 pm: The Journey: Empty Camera
Monday 16 December: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: Nicolae Butoiu – Sharing faith in prison or in freedom,
9:30 pm: The Journey: Masada,
10:00 pm: FaithTalks: Marriage & Divorce,
10:30 pm: London Adventist Chorale at Christmas pt 1
Wednesday 18 December: 8:00 am: The Journey: Empty Camera,
11:00 pm: In Conversation: Michael Omolewa – Former President of UNESCO,
11:30 pm: FaithTalks: Marriage and Divorce
Friday 20 December: 8:00 pm: In Conversation: Richard Poulton – Legalism moves to grace,
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith on the waves,
11:00 pm: London Adventist Chorale at Christmas pt 1,
Midnight: The Journey: The angels' song
Sabbath 21 December: 9:00 am: In Conversation: Robert Hinds – Farming and faith,
11:00 am: London Adventist Chorale at Christmas pt 1,
7:00 pm: In Conversation: Richard Poulton – Legalism moves to grace,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith on the waves,
8:00 pm: The Journey: Masada,
10:00 pm. London Adventist Chorale at Christmas pt 2

[BUC News]

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 14 December:
Celebrating the birth of Jesus. You are invited to an evening of music and readings celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Venue: Wimbledon International Seventh-day Adventist church. Starts: 7:00 pm.

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.
Why We Believe – a play by Mark Grey at Tottenham (Holcombe Rd), 5:00 pm.
www.WhyWeBelieve.net
Hounslow Cornerstone Winter Fundraising Concert, @ 7:00 pm. Free entry.

Tuesday 24 December - Wednesday 1 January:
Advent Shelter 2013. For more information, please contact Elsie Staple: estaple@secadventist.org.uk; 01923 232 728 or Natalie Bryan: nsimon@secadventist.org.uk; 020 7723 8146. Advent Shelter Volunteer Application Form.
Wednesday 25 December:  
**Christmas Lunch at Holloway Church.** If you have made no other plans for Christmas Day, why not join Holloway Seventh-day Adventist church for a traditional Christmas lunch, 12 - 4 pm.

Sabbath 28 December:  
**Lewisham Homecoming Day.** We are inviting all friends, both local and from further afield to come to join us. There will be soul-searching preaching during the 11:00 am worship service and a special time of musical praise and worship during the evening's service, starting at 5:15pm.

Saturday 28 December:  
**Tottenham Gospel Choir and Friends in Concert.** Book your tickets now! See poster for details. A portion of the proceeds will be given to support the Philippines typhoon appeal. Start time: 7:00 pm.

**A Taste of The Divine** – will be an evening of praise, thanksgiving and fine dining set amidst beautiful surroundings. Location: The Hilton London Paddington, W2 1EE. Dress Code: Tuxedos and Gowns. Time: 7:00 pm. For tickets call: 07985 262 378 / email: hanwellsocials@gmail.com.

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

For more details and a larger selection of events both this weekend and in the future please visit the [Coming Events website](http://adventist.org.uk/events) 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**

**STANBOROUGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSURY.** Stanborough Secondary School has a number of scholarships and bursaries available for the 2014/15 academic year. Full details and application deadlines on our website.  

**STUDENT HOME, NOTTINGHAM FOR 2014/15.** Looking for a special home to study within walking distance of the Nottingham Trent University 2014/15 – also commutable distance to the University of Nottingham? I have just the place for you, with 5 spacious bedrooms, 1 full bathroom with w/c, a separate w/c, fully equipped kitchen, comfortable living room, rear yard, basement for storage, CCTV/burglary/fire protection and an all-inclusive rental cost of £69.00 per week.[MK1] . Call Shaun Douglas on 07855301398 for details and viewing arrangements.

**JOB VACANCIES:**  
**Male and female Volunteer Assistant Deans,** Stanborough School. Closing date, 10 January 2014. For full details visit our job vacancies page.

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**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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