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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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LOOKING TO THE FUTURE... LEARNING FROM THE PAST
Welcome to the very first BUC News of 2014. The past year will be remembered for many things. Looking back through the news archive I am thrilled by the many things that Seventh-day Adventist Church members have been involved with. Camps, Community service programmes, a vast array of outreach projects, and most of all, lives being touched with the love of Jesus.

Secular news also made an impact on our lives. The tragedy that is modern Syria. The sadness that is lives lost and livelihoods destroyed in the Philippines. The birth of a royal prince in England and the death of a statesman in South Africa.

It is the death of that statesman, Nelson Mandela, that caused me to ponder on how one man's vision can transform the lives of many. Post-apartheid his legacy will be remembered most in one word, 'forgiveness'. That is an important word and may be one worth thinking about more in our New Year video message, 'Looking to the future... Learning from the past'.

Ask yourself: "What caught your attention in 2013... and did it make any difference?" What hopes and plans have you got for 2104? Here is one personal perspective.

[BUC News]

JOIN US IN TEN DAYS OF PRAYER

The global Adventist Church family are planning to spend ten days, 8-18 January 2014, in a special time of prayer. It has become something of an annual tradition.

While with a global emphasis, the Church in the UK and Ireland is specifically asking you to pray about evangelism in some of our major cities. This includes Mission to the Cities in Dublin, Glasgow and Manchester.

Pastor Andrei Balan sent out a New Year message to his churches that included two important texts of hope. Why not make them the centre of focus for your prayer life:

The Lord says, "Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already—you can see it now! I will make a road through the wilderness and give you streams of water there... Do not be afraid—I am with you! I am your God—let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you. I am the Lord your God; I strengthen you and tell you, 'Do not be afraid; I will help you.'" (Isaiah 41:10, 13, 43:18, 19 GNT) ...As for us, we have this large crowd of witnesses around us. So then, let us rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way, and of the sin which holds on to us so tightly, and let us run with determination the race that lies before us. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. He did not give up because of the cross! On the contrary, because of the joy that was waiting for him, he thought
nothing of the disgrace of dying on the cross, and he is now seated at the right side of God's throne. (Hebrews 12:1, 2 GNT)

Vikki, another BUC News reader adds, "it is now time to wish you a very happy, prosperous and God centred New Year with all the blessings God has in store for you. Sometimes I panic trying to see what is beyond the closed doors but God reminds me that I should trust Him with all mine heart and lean not on mine own understanding, in all my ways acknowledge Him and He will direct my path. That is all that I can give as a New Year present – words of comfort I would have liked someone to share with me if I had asked for guidance. Since God has shared that with me I find it comforting to share with you as well."

2014 is a Year of Prayer for Unity and Spiritual Revival! Everyone is encouraged to be and become an active prayer member!

To find out more and to gain resources visit the 10 Days of Prayer website.

[BUC News]

CHRISTMAS WITNESS

Willesden and Newbold are just two of the many churches across the UK and Ireland that made specific efforts to share the love of Jesus during December.


"An absolutely delightful evening", "an excellent programme" and "splendid!" were just a few of the comments which were expressed on the evening and afternoon of Sabbath, 21 and Sunday 22 December, 2013 for the two events. The audience comprised of family, friends and members of the local community.

The 'reason for the season', which local Pastors Des Boldeau and Michael Mannix stated should always be remembered, was indeed the focus of the weekend and unfolded with a rich mix of hymns and songs, such as 'O Come All Ye Faithful', 'Silent Night', 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing', 'Mary Did You Know', 'Give Him Your Heart' and 'Follow The Star'. The children presented and completed their 'Magical Christmas Jigsaw'.

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Children were also the focus at Newbold church where during a series of Advent sermons a weekly children's story took them from the fear caused by the snake in Eden to the peace that came with the Lamb of God. A 50 member children's choir, and a smaller children's band, participated in the Community Carol Service, one couple who had recently moved into Binfield village stating how delighted they were to find a church with such a wealth of talent. It really brought the Christmas spirit home to them.

Children were also heavily involved in a production of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', performed in the atmospheric rooms of Moor Close. Kelvin Watson, co-director of the play, stated that he was excited to work on it as he saw the redemptive aspects for the story. With packed audiences during the four performances on Saturday evening 21 and Sunday 22 December, even the sceptics were convinced. See a BUC News video report of the play.

Worship is important and the year climaxed at the year-end contemporary service as Pastor Patrick Johnson led a four week study on the four faces of Jesus as revealed in the four Gospels. Giving an eagle's overview of John during the 28 December Communion Service he encouraged the members to swoop in a little deeper, examine the story beneath the surface, and admire the living Christ.

[Norma Whyte / Victor Hulbert [Newbold Photos: Asun Olivan]

**HOLLOWAY COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Turkey, presents, carols and Christmas hats. Does that sound like your typical family Christmas lunch? Well, this Christmas lunch took place around a very large table and the guests were not all from the same family.

On 25 December 2013, Holloway Adventist church decided to host a lunch for the homeless and other community members in need. Throughout the early part of December church members collected donations of food items, clothes and toiletries to be gifted on the day and these were the highlight of the Christmas programme.
Our 25 special guests were greeted with a short carol service and then invited into the upper hall for a hearty three-course meal. Following the meal they returned downstairs to the foyer 'gift shop'. The generous church members’ donations brought wide smiles to the guests' faces as they were directed to help themselves and fill shopping bags with whatever they wanted.

From tinned fish to toothbrushes to jeans, the 'gift shop' was a thoughtful and practical idea that proved to be just what our guests needed. One gentleman who had just been passing by the church and invited inside by an elder remarked that he was so glad he came because his current shoes were full of holes. He left with a new pair of trainers, a coat and many food items. His excitement brought satisfaction to the members' faces; many of which were young people in the church, encouraged by the pastor and Sister Gage. They gave up their own Christmas Day to help others. However, giving it up was probably a misnomer. It wasn't a 'give up' but a blessing. We all agreed that it had been a success and we were glad we had come. It was also decided that we should hold the 'gift shop' more often.

Being able to offer those in need warmth, food and gifts reinforced our mission as Christians and although we do not know exactly what day Christ came to earth; we do know what He came to do and through our Christmas lunch, we believe we were able to help fulfil the work of Christ.

Hayley McKenzie-Sealy

ADVENTISTS PROMOTE THE REAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Excited children along with their parents and teachers attended a prize-giving event in Watford on Monday evening 16 December, each one hoping that his or her entry had been selected in The Co-operative Food Stores Christmas Theme Picture Competition for Local Schools.

Organised by The Co-operative Food and members of the Stanborough Park Adventist church, children in six local primary schools entered their designs into the
competition which was being held in the area for the first time but looks likely to become an annual event.

The criteria for the entries was that they should be a Christmas scene in any medium chosen by the children – paint/crayon/collage – and were not to include any computer work or enhancement. There were two categories: 4-7 years old and 8-11 years, each with three winners as well as a winning school.

Competition entries were displayed on the walls of the hall at Stanborough Park church in Garston where the judging took place the previous Wednesday. The five judges were looking for originality, artistic ability and the wow factor. They said that they were knocked out by the quality of the art work and would have liked to have awarded everybody who entered a prize and agreed that each judge could select their favourite to receive a 'Highly Commended by the Judges' award.

The prize-giving event was organised by a team of staff from The Co-operative Food who provided a buffet of Co-op 'goodies' for those attending. The children received their prizes from Cllr George Derbyshire, Vice Chairman of Watford Borough Council.

Church members Richard Poulton and Enoch Kanagaraj saw it as another opportunity to welcome friends from the community into their building.

[June Coombs]

**LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE**

Southport baptism is the lead article in the first Messenger of 2014. In this edition Stephen Holden expresses his frustrations, Mission to the Cities updates and Expo highlights, a look at Adventist Frontier Missions in India, and pages of local news, baptisms and inspiration. Pick up a copy this Sabbath at your local church or read it online now.

[Julain Hibbert]

**DEATH OF VERA STEARMAN**
It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of Mrs Vera Stearman, the widow of the late Pastor Peter Horace Stearman, who died on Sunday 22 December 2013, age 93. Vera Howard was born in Norwich on 21 August 1920.

In 1944 Vera and Peter were married and in 1945 were called to Ghana to work in what was then the Gold Coast Mission. During this mission period three daughters were born to the family, Kathleen, Carolyn and Jacqueline.

In 1954 the family returned to the UK and Peter was deployed in Bristol in the South England Conference. While there a further two daughters joined the family, Rosalind and Anita. Vera was a support and homemaker wherever the family were called to serve.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn here in the UK, Kathleen in Australia, Jacqueline in France, Rosalind and Anita in Spain and their families at this time.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, 10 January 2014 at 11:30 am at Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist church, 609 St Albans Road, Garston, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JL.

[Paul Lockham]

**NEW SERIES FOR REVELATION TV**

A brand new series of 'In Conversation' airs on Revelation TV from 2 January 2014. The personable chat to be found in 'In Conversation' draws the viewer towards a life of practical Christian living. Guests over the next three months will include Richard Shaw, a Disability coordinator in Derby who, though brought up atheist, found the faith of one of his carers irresistible; Debbie Higgen, another atheist whose reading of C S Lewis's *Mere Christianity*, changed her life; Julian Hibbert, Editor of *Messenger*, who shares some of his background and motivation for ministry, and Gwenton Sloley, a London based gangster and armed robber who now points people in a new direction.

**On Revelation TV** (Sky 581, Freesat 692 and Roku): Thursday 2 January, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday 5 January at 1:00 pm: Pastor Geert Tap shares how the words of his dying grandfather changed his life. Rejoice in his unexpected journey of joy.
Next week, on Thursday 9 January, repeated Sunday 12 January, Pastor Obi Iheoma shares not only the baking of bread, but the skills of pastoral care in a multicultural community.

HOPE CHANNEL. As announced over the past several months, Hope Channel Europe ceased transmission on 31 December 2013. However, **purchase a Roku box** to gain access to a vast variety of Hope Channel and other Adventist programming. Roku transmits programming via the internet. Simply connect it to your HD ready TV and the wireless internet in your house.

[Victor Hulbert]

**COMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday 8 January - Sabbath 18 January:**

10 Days of Prayer. Join us for 10 Days of Global Prayer. Comprehensive information and resources available at [tendaysofprayer.org](http://tendaysofprayer.org). For the UK and Ireland we also ask that you especially pray for Mission to the Cities 2014 in Dublin, Manchester and Edinburgh, for outreach and nurture in all its forms at local, regional and national level, and for growing together in the love of Christ.

**Saturday 18 January:**

Youth Gospel Music Expo. Harmony in Praise presents Youth Gospel Music Expo and invites you to an evening of music flavoured with different genres from our young upcoming groups. Riverside Centre, Derby. Tickets £10 per head; £30 for a family of four. Doors open 1900, starts 1930 - 2300.

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**

ABERDARON ADVENT CAMPSITE ACTIVITY INSTRUCTORS. Aberdaron Advent Campsite, in conjunction with the NEC Youth & Pathfinder departments, is looking to develop its range of outdoor activities and require volunteers to train as activity instructors. If you have an interest in outdoor pursuits (such as kayaking, sailing, climbing, archery, and such like) with the possibility of developing these skills into a supplementary earner or full-time career please send your CV in the first instance to Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan-yr-Afon, Anelog, Aberdaron, Pwllheli, LL53 8BT or email it to: enquiries@aberdaroncamp.com.

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. Call Shaun Douglas on 07855301398 for details and viewing arrangements.


THE SMALL PRINT

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