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: 
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EVANGELISM ENTHUSIASM AT JANUARY EXPO

Adventists in the South of England are passionate about evangelism. Around 800 of them attended the South England Conference's annual Evangelism Expo at
Newbold church on Sunday, 12 January 2014.

Numerous emails are coming in to the South England Conference (SEC), expressing appreciation of the day. One member from Hanwell church wrote: "We found the entire programme was positively uplifting, particularly the messages presented by your associates at Newbold yesterday. I believe it will pay dividends winning more souls for God's kingdom."

Pastor Juan Patrick opened the day with an inspiring sermon, challenging the attendees to make sure that God is "in the house" and explaining that churches can have information without transformation. "We have to make church so good that people will not leave", he challenged. "We have to make this place so loving that people can't wait for next Sabbath to come!" To that, Pastor Sam Davis, SEC President, added, "Find the key and method that God is going to use to touch a life in 2014."

A diverse range of presentations covered aimed to equip local churches in 'sharing faith in a secular marketplace', 'time management' and 'keeping the church family safe'. SEC departmental directors were all able to share their department work and plans with attendees through the various seminars.

Jenny Gorden from Riverway enjoyed the church clerk training. "Not only did it reinforce what the job should entail," she shared, "it opened my eyes to how I can use that work for evangelism, by working with new or missing members, and touching base with missing members."

Departamental leaders from the North England Conference (NEC) were also impressed with the day. "It was tremendous, and well-organised", said Pastor Jackson, NEC Ministerial Association director. "I am leaving inspired. It would be so good if we could get this energy for training in the North." His sentiments were echoed by Pastor Michael Simpson, NEC Personal Ministries director. He stated that "the way the SEC does training of its members is definitely the way to do it." Pastor Simpson presented a seminar on Intentional Evangelism.

The Education department sponsored 'Why We Believe', a play written and produced by Mark Grey. This highlighted Adventist viewpoints and interpretation in its delivery, and the audience was engaged and at times challenged. The short performance sparked a discussion among the attendees as the play introduced some challenging questions about racism, sexism and prejudice. The discussion that followed was wrapped up by Pastor Davis, SEC President, who stressed the importance of being a church in which people love one another.
"It is definitely worth the journey", shared Jean Gittiens from Ipswich, "I enjoyed everything today." An active church member who is involved in friendship evangelism, she had brought new members along. These were people she had connected to the local church, including some from the drop-in ministry that Ipswich runs.

Pleased with the event as a whole, Pastor Davis stated that it had been "a brilliant day, as church members demonstrated their enthusiasm for evangelism efforts. Members are keen and want to be inspired and motivated – something we certainly accomplished."

Newbold College ministerial student, Thunga Banda, expressed the sentiments of many asking: "Why can't we have more of these days?"

Watch a video of Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick's sermon. Photo memories from the day are available in the Adventist Church picture gallery.

[Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]

**READY FOR THE ADRA GIFT BOXES**

There is growing excitement among a youthful team of volunteers about to head for Sierra Leone.

"A dream come true", said Marcia Lewis, ADRA local agent in Croydon. "I wanted to go out on an ADRA project for many years and now finally I can go!" She is part of the ADRA-UK team that met together on Sunday, 12 January to plan their assistance with the 2013 ADRA Gift Box distribution. Joining Marcia were Sophie Gordon, Alex Cusny, Bert Smit and Angie Shorey. They were helped in the planning of the trip by Eddie Cole, Edward Vandi and Andrew Curtis of the UK based charity, Sierra Leone Adventist Abroad (SLAA).

SLAA is assisting with the travel to the Masanga Leprosy Hospital in the country, amongst other activities. The team meeting focused on travel preparedness for the trip and scheduled activities while in Sierra Leone. The container with the gift boxes is now in Sierra Leone and will be delivered to the local ADRA office this week.

Alex, Angie and Marcia are volunteering to travel to the West African country, donating time and paying for their flights. Sophie works as ADRA-UK's new Volunteering Programmes Officer while Bert Smit is the Chief Executive Officer. During the trip the team hope to establish whether other projects can be initiated to help improve livelihoods in the country.

[Fabrice Baker-Livingstone]
EDINBURGH MEMBERS REMINDED THAT GOD ALSO LOVES JEWS

There may be less than 6,000 Jews living in Scotland, but Edinburgh members are now seeking ways to reach out the hand of friendship to them. This follows a visit by Richard Elofer, director of the World Jewish Adventist Friendship Centre in France.

"God keeps His promise to all people, including the Hebrew nation", he told a packed congregation on Sabbath, 28 December 2013, referring them to the specific promises of Romans 15:7-13. With conviction and love, he shared the good news that even for the sometimes thought of 'forgotten nation', God has not forgotten them. He emphasised that every effort should be made to reach out and share the gospel of Christ with our Jewish friends.

The Edinburgh Adventist church was packed for both the morning service and afternoon seminar. Members questioned how it could be that the Jewish nation didn't recognise the Messiah. Pastor Elofer responded that the Jews had many expectations about the Messiah. These expectations found their origins from the promises in the Old Testament regarding the Saviour. However, they didn't see some of these attributes in Jesus.

Another member asked about whether the laws were over emphasized by the Jews in the Old Testament, and if it is still so today. In a surprising response, Pastor Elofer noted Jesus was a Pharisee. He stated that Jesus, "treated the laws in the same way as the Pharisees."

The Jewish nation ended up having so many laws because they invented a way of safeguarding the laws of God. So, Pastor Elofer explained, if you were not allowed to do something on a Sabbath, the Pharisees would safeguard you from breaking that law by preventing you from doing a list of other things on Sabbath.

Jesus also safeguarded some laws like that. For instance, the law states that we are not to kill anybody. Jesus safeguards that law by saying, (Matthew 5:21, 22) "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment."

Pastor Elofer's passion can be explained by his background. Born into a Jewish family in Casablanca, Morocco, he was raised in the Jewish faith and was proud of his heritage. His family decided to immigrate to France when he was 8 year old. There his father contributed to establish a synagogue in Villejuif, a suburb of Paris.
After receiving a Rabbinical Bible for his bar mitzvah, aged 12, he started to read it intensively. This reading, along with some other God-led encounters, radically changed his life and at the age of nineteen he accepted Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah of Israel and his Saviour. He joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Paris.

The next year he decided to work as a pastor and went to study at the 'Adventiste Université du Salève' in France, earn his first theological degree and started to work as a pastor. After seventeen years of ministry in France he received a call to be the President of the Adventist Church in Israel, a role he successfully led until 2012.

During that time he also became part-time director of the World Jewish Adventist Friendship Centre, a Global Mission Centre dedicated to train ministers and leaders for Jewish ministry, and also to plant Jewish-Adventist congregations among Jews. Now back in France he is the full-time director of the World Jewish Adventist Friendship Centre.

Following his visit, some members are now interested in starting a friendship ministry in Scotland. With the possibility of future visits by Dr Elofer, the Edinburgh church is glad for the short visit they had. Shalom.

[Jimmy Botha]

SMART LOVE TO SWEEP ACROSS THE NEC

The North England Conference Children's Ministries department is committed to meeting the needs of children aged 0-14. At times it seems that the teens are out on a limb, but the department has chosen to zero in on their specific needs.

Puberty can be a time of great upheaval for many of our teens; not surprising when one considers the physical and psychological changes taking place within the body at this time. 'Puberty describes the time of life when the body matures sexually and the reproductive organs become functional. It is caused by the release of the sex hormones testosterone and oestradiol in the body'.

Teenagers may experience mood swings, they may become self-conscious and some begin to experiment in 'potentially risky activities', such a smoking, drinking, alcohol and sex.
It is for this reason that the NEC Children's Ministries department has chosen to promote 'Smart Love', a seminar written by Nancy Van Pelt, which enables teens and youth to openly consider courtship and all that is involved. It covers topics such as: Making friends with yourself; The Dating Game; Breaking up is hard to do; The young adult's number one dilemma – How to tell if you are really in love; and Touchy Situations.

NEC pastors have been asked to invest in their teens by taking time to present the course to those in their congregations, helping them to see that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. God created us; marriage was God's idea; relationships are God's gift to humanity.

Last year the seminar was presented in four NEC churches: Darlington and Middlesbrough by Pastor Colin Woodford; Liverpool Central by Pastor Ian Philpott and his wife Tracy, and by Pastors Carlton and Patricia Douglas at Sheffield Burngreave.

This is what some of the teens and youth had to say:

"Sex is taboo and anything that is considered taboo is not usually discussed in an open forum so great credit to Pastors Carlton and Patricia Douglas not only for noticing that there was a need for this sort of seminar but also being proactive in conducting the talks in a way that engage our young people and created an environment that allowed them to speak freely and honestly about this sort of thing." [Cedric, Sheffield Burngreave 2013 Youth leader]

"These topics presented to us… allowed us to talk openly, to ask pressing questions, to discuss emotional and physical feelings that need addressing. We were able to talk openly… and group sessions allowed us to gain insight into the thoughts and feelings of the opposite sex. The gender specific sessions allowed us to see that we are not alone in the things that we feel and go through as individuals when dating and that there are older, more mature married men and women within our homes and churches that we can turn to, that can help us understand where we are and what we are going through who can give us nurture and wise advice about the matters of the heart." [Stephanie, a youth from Sheffield Burngreave]

"I enjoyed the Smart Love seminar because it covered topics that I normally wouldn't feel comfortable talking about and the atmosphere made it easy to discuss things because we learnt to trust each other." [Rumbi (13) from Liverpool]
"It was every educational because in my family and my family's culture we wouldn't really talk much about the things we discussed in Smart Love. I would recommend this programme for other teens in different churches." [Prisca Maphosa (16) from Liverpool]

Pastor Colin Woodford stated, "this was an excellent programme and I only wished someone had shown me this when I was young."

A parent added, "Pastor, thank you so much, this is wonderful! I don't know why I did not think about speaking to my children about something so important."

Thanking the pastoral team in Liverpool, elder Romel Ricarte saw the difference. "As my daughter Kesel said, 'we learned so much, we have fun and we love it.' What they learned will serve as a guide and inspiration for them to become responsible young adults."

The seminars were concluded with graduation ceremonies and banquets celebrating our teens and youth. The BUC Children's Ministries director, Heather Haworth, was invited to present the charge to the Sheffield Burngreave graduates. Now even more pastors have enlisted to present the Smart Love seminar this year and it is hoped that every church with teens and youth will catch the vision and take time to invest, revealing to them God's love and interest in every aspect of their lives.

Enjoy a few memories from the seminars on the Adventist Church picture gallery.

[Patricia Douglas, NEC Children's Ministries Director]

**CHOICES FOR JESUS IN SOUTHPORT AND CHELMSFORD**

Loyd's life was heading for disaster. Drugs, the occult and conspiracy theories dominated his life… until he picked up a leaflet inviting him to an evangelistic series. That was in the summer. On Sabbath, 21 December he joined thousands of others from around the world that decided to make a decision for Jesus and be baptised. Read his full story on the NEC section of the Adventist Church website.

Chi-Chi was different. For years she felt a desire to be baptised but procrastinated. Chelmsford church bore witness to her final decision and Chi-Chi says, "I have decided to follow Jesus and no one will stop me." Read more on the SEC section of the Adventist Church website.

Help build the joyful memory of those who have been inspired to make a choice for Jesus by submitting your baptismal account and photo to your
NORBURY CHURCH CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Norbury members cannot believe it has been thirty years since Norbury Seventh-day Adventist church first formed in 1983. During the weekend of 20-21 December the congregation chose to celebrate with events that reflected the congregation's strength, spirit and faith.

Under the theme 'Remembering, Rejoicing and Rededicating' the anniversary committee, Adrian Hobbs, Courtney Hoilett and John Bishop, planned three services: 'looking back as we look forward' on Friday evening, the 'anniversary worship service' on Sabbath morning and a 'celebration dinner' in the evening.

The event included inviting what could be described as 'old friends' back to Norbury to help celebrate. Former ministers, Anthony Opoku-Mensah, Sinisa Horvat, Wilfred Blake and James Phillip returned for the special services. They were joined by the President of the South England Conference, Sam Davis as Sabbath morning guest speaker. Sam's message was 'Drama in Heaven' based on Revelation 5:1-10. He highlighted the fact that whatever Norbury or other Adventist churches in the South England Conference do must be for the benefit of the community and helping those that are in need within the community.

The hall was filled to capacity for the anniversary worship service with members from the past and present as well as visitors. Past member, Noah Naylor joined the women's praise team to lead and conduct a rousing song service just like the old days singing many of the traditional hymns Norbury knew and loved.

John took on the monumental task of writing and presenting a candid and illuminating history of Norbury. Some members took part in their own 'My Story' video recording sharing their testimony of Norbury church. This can be seen on the church YouTube channel.

During the service there was a special pictorial roll of honour tribute reminding the congregation of those members who have fallen asleep in Jesus.
Hosted by Courtney and Adrian, later that day everybody returned for our evening celebration dinner featuring light entertainment and where our founders were also acknowledged with a glass plaque for their hard work and financial sacrifice over the 30 years.

The committee also developed a motto for the anniversary, Let us be BETTER which seemed best to capture what Norbury church strive in their desire to be:

**Bold in our approach**
**Enthusiastic as we do God's will**
**Tried in the fire so that He can make us pure gold**
**Trusted like Abraham and be a friend of God**
**Energetic so that we can endure until the end**
**Ready, for no man knows the hour when the end shall come.**

[Adrian Hobbs]

**DYNAMIC NEW WEB SHOP LAUNCHED BY SEC PATHFINDER DEPARTMENT**

The Pathfinder Department at the South England Conference launched its dynamic, new web-shop for churches, members and clubs on Monday, 6 January.

The new website is easy to use and allows the user to navigate to the area they need in just a few clicks.

"It's like a breath of fresh air into our department," commented Pastor Kevin Johns, Pathfinder Department director. "When we have events, tickets can be available through the shop, we have even set it up so that churches can pay using their trust funds directly through the site!"
The home page clearly directs you to areas specific for Pathfinders, Adventurers, Eager Beavers and Little Lambs. These areas are then broken down into the types of items available for purchase, from books and posters, to uniform items.

Restricted areas have also been created for club leaders who have a special login, meaning that honours still have to be earned properly!

"Lyndon Sweeney pretty much put this site together," said Pastor Johns. "He has been the site administrator, taken photos of all the items you see in the shop, written all the descriptions, I am very grateful! We do understand that there can always be improvement, so we encourage everyone to send us their comments."

[Click here to visit the new Pathfinder Web-Shop.]

TWO YOUTH CAMP SITES
ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Two of the Adventist Youth Camp Sites within the British Union territory have significant anniversaries this year. Aberdaron, in Wales (NEC owned), has had some publicity and a request in the Messenger (27 September 2013), and recently in the BUC News, for pictures over the 50 years, but Chapel Porth, in Cornwall (SEC owned), also celebrates with 30 years of youth and family camps this summer.

So here is the double appeal. In the Encounter magazine, the British Union Conference Youth Ministries magazine, we would like to feature both sites in pictures and brief memories/stories. This will be a special edition later this year. Pictures will be printed and posted online, year by year, decade by decade.

Please send your pictures, preferably by email to bucyouth@adventist.org.uk. Please note that large files or collections of photos over 10mb are best zipped and sent via a programme such as MailBigFile or Dropbox.

[Nathan Stickland]
DEATH OF PASTOR WATSON SOUTHCOTT

We are saddened to report the death of Pastor Watson Southcott, on Monday, 13 January 2014, age 77.

Lord David Watson Southcott was born on 7 October 1936, and was baptised on 2 September 1950 in Redruth, Cornwall by Pastor W W Armstrong. Watson and Cynthia (née Chadderton) were married on 28 July 1957 and then became parents of Rosemary, Pauline, David, Peter and Nigel.

Following his graduation from Newbold in 1959, the young family commenced pastoral service at the New Gallery in London and then went on to serve in a number of districts until called to the North England Conference in June 1973. A school year as Stanborough Boarding School preceptor 1978/9 was followed by another pastoral assignment in the South England Conference until November 1983 when Watson was elected to serve as Irish Mission President.

In September 1988 Watson was called to serve as SEC Executive Secretary and then in September 1989 was asked to return to the NEC as President. In September 1991 the family moved south again to take up the position of BUC Vice-President / Executive Secretary. In December 1996 Watson returned to pastoral ministry in the SEC until early retirement on 31 December 1999.

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Cynthia, the children and their families at this time of loss and we look forward to the day of our Lord's return.

The funeral will be held at Weston-super-Mare Seventh-day Adventist church, 500 Locking Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset, BS22 8QT at 12:30 pm on Thursday, 30 January 2014.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers are welcomed in favour of ADRA-UK.

[BUC News]

NARROWING THE GAP
Pastor Sinisa Horvat grew up in an atheist home within a communist society. Nevertheless, he found God via a friendship he developed at school. Today he is a pastor but his passion is to narrow the gap between the secular world and what the Church has to offer. Find out in 'Adventists In Conversation', Revelation TV (Sky 581, Freesat 692 and Roku): Thursday 16 January, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday 19 January at 1:00 pm.

Programmes to come:

Thursday 23 January, repeated Sunday 26 January: Amy & John Ainsworth share the secrets and challenges of living with epilepsy. How difficult is it living with a physical illness that people cannot see?

Sabbath 25 January, 8:30 pm. Animal Encounters. A new series on Hope Channel that gives you the best nature without the evolutionary dialogue. Animal Encounters is a new, exciting nature documentary hosted by three women: Gabi from Germany, Kezia from Kenya and Cassila from Brazil. In each episode they share their personal experiences as they encounter God's creation. They meet other people who have found a closeness with their Creator as they help preserve, rescue and nurture animals that have been orphaned through hunting, injured in the wild or abandoned as pets, or threatened due to environmental deterioration.

Join these three adventurous girls as they learn in the school of the outdoors, ride on elephants; touch cheetahs, play with monkeys, feed birds, get to know eels and learn to trust wolves. Feel their excitement as they dive with great white sharks, swim with turtles and spend time observing wild meerkats in their natural environment. Watch the trailer here.

HOPE CHANNEL Europe may have ceased satellite transmission but there are several positive ways to watch your favourite programmes:

1. 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.

2. Watch on your smartphone or tablet. Get a free app from the iTunes store or the Android Play Store.

3. Enjoy a range of programmes on the www.hopetv.org.uk website. Watch the live stream and a range of on-demand programmes. Find links to other international channels.

[BUC News]

COMING EVENTS
Continuing to Sabbath 18 January:

10 Days of Prayer. Join us for 10 Days of Global Prayer. Comprehensive information and resources available at 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.

Monday 20 January:

Stanborough School Scholarships and Bursaries. Registration deadline to apply for a scholarship or bursary to help your child with a positive, Adventist education.

Friday 24 - Sunday 26 January:

NEC Mission to the Cities Training. To book online go to: https://uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185-North-England-Conference and look for the event under the Personal Ministries Department.

Sabbath 25 January:

Irish Mission Personal Ministries – Witness Training 1. Pastor Eglan Brooks and Pastor Kirk Thomas will be presenting a day seminar in a Dublin Hotel on witnessing in an urban context. Would you like to attend? Please contact Marci Neal.

Sunday 26 January:

MOHAP Day Retreat, at the Advent Centre, London, from 9:30 am - 5:00 pm. Book online at mohap6.eventbrite.co.uk. For more information see mohap.org. For queries email info@mohap.org or phone 07407 692 256.

Friday 31 January - Sunday 2 February:

ASI-UK Spring Weekend, with guest speaker Dr Daniel Duda, also Pastor Gifford Rhamie and after dinner speaker Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma. Venue: Staverton Park, Daventry Road, Staverton, NN11 6JT. For more details or to book: email Christine Manners Smith or phone 07790 452920. Booking form also available here.

For a full listing of Coming Events please visit 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 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

AU PAIR NEEDED. An Adventist family, members of Redditch church, are seeking the services of an Adventist lady to assist their family as an au pair. They have two boys aged 5 and 7. To find out more contact Samuel Mukelabai on 07778538481, 07929594456 or email mukesam@yahoo.com.

NEED AN AU PAIR? Annika Grumpelt, an 18 year old German Adventist is seeking a position
as an au pair with an Adventist family from August 2014. She seeks to improve her English so the ability to take some English classes as a nearby college would be an advantage. For more information please contact Pastor Burkhard Mayer: burkhardmayer@aol.com.

JOB VACANCY: Part-time Receptionist, South England Conference; Temporary Secretary, South England Conference. For full details of all available opportunities visit our job vacancies page.

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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