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Edition #899 (24 October 2014)

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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FOCUS ON INTELLIGENT DESIGN IN DARWIN'S HOME TOWN

"Today Darwinism is the prevailing world view, but in fact Darwin's findings were relatively modest", claimed Dr Alastair Noble in a lecture held in Darwin's home town of Shrewsbury on Sabbath, 18 October 2014. Dr Noble has a PhD in Chemistry and is a prominent speaker in the controversial though still emerging scientific field of Intelligent Design (ID). The event was planned and organised by Pastor Roger Neal, together with the members of the Shrewsbury church who have a keen interest in biblical creation and the issues that surround it.

Seventh-day Adventists are firmly anchored in the creationist tradition – believing that the world was created by God in six literal days and celebrating this in their observance of the seventh day (Saturday) as the Sabbath. However, Dr Noble's lectures did not contain any references to Adam and Eve, apples or serpents. Neither were there any cartoon images of giraffes peering over the parapet of a diminutive ark. This is not the style of the ID community. Instead they follow strictly scientific principles, arguing strongly that the role of true scientists is "to follow where the evidence leads."

A case in point is the cell. Back in Darwin's day the cell was seen as a very simple organism – literally the building block of life. Modern science however has shown the cell to be immensely complex. As one scientist put it, if the cell was thought of as a 'car' in the 1850s, today it is seen as a 'galaxy'. Even more remarkable is the engine which drives the cell: DNA. Here Dr Noble was not content in just describing its complexity but explained that DNA is actually a carrier of information.

"The information contained in the human genome", he said, "is, in computer terms, more than one gigabyte." In every other walk of life, information is seen as the product of intelligence. If we follow where the evidence leads, information on such a vast scale, with such intricacy that it is able to code for the self-assembly of an entire human being, surely points towards intelligent design.
Despite this powerful evidence Dr Noble’s main concern was not that people don't believe in ID, but that the prevailing neo-Darwinian worldview prevents it from even being considered. Quoting from the landmark 2004 "Dover Trial" in Pennsylvania, USA, Dr Noble stated that their findings, such as, "ID is not science", and, science is the "search for natural causes to explain natural phenomena", represented a departure from true science because there was a presupposition that anything not considered to be "natural" would be excluded.

Standing up to a worldview as firmly entrenched as Darwinism is not popular. However, according to Dr Noble many scientists today are uncomfortable about the philosophical leap that is necessary to believe in life – and the information that reproduces and sustains it – arising spontaneously from nothing. "Truth is truth, no matter how many people are with you", Dr Noble said. "This is an elephant in the room which will eventually have to be addressed.”

[John Surridge]

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ADRA GIFT BOXES COMING IN!

ADRA volunteers have started collecting some of the 9,000 boxes from around the country. Some are exceptional including some wonderfully decorated boxes from the South West. It was a delight to meet Nelson Khonje and Shiloh Harmitt with 447 boxes at the Bristol collection point!
With boxes arriving every day filled to the brim with goodies, the ADRA team are looking forward to sending the boxes off to Togo with the ADRA stamp of approval. If you have any boxes left, please let ADRA know. They will do their best to receive them.

And while you may have sent your boxes in, don’t forget to enter the ADRA Gift Box photo competition – the deadline is Friday 31 October. Email your best Gift Box pictures to communications@adra.org.uk to be in with a chance to win some great prizes!

[Fabrice Baker-Livingstone]

**WOMEN STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Yet another spirit filled Welsh Mission Women’s Ministries retreat took place over the weekend of 17-19 October 2014 in the beautiful county of Herefordshire. Belmont Abbey grounds were both calm and peaceful, and somehow that peace seemed to pervade and fill the lives of all those ladies present.

Some ladies travelled from as far away as Birmingham, London and Reading but it didn’t really matter where they came from, by the end of the retreat they all knew each other as true sisters in Christ. The love shared was obvious; there were lots of smiles and hugs as contact details were exchanged throughout the weekend.

Proverbs 31:10-31 was the focus and the ladies learned that being a Woman of Virtue is not about being ‘perfect’. It is, however, about a journey and reaching up to God so that their lives will be transformed. It is also about being wise, but the Woman of Virtue lives by the wisdom of God.

Paulette Marceny skilfully led out with singing special Women of Virtue songs as well as moving participants to tears with her solos. In the evening, Elva Bryan played her guitar non-stop while the women sang gospel melodies and danced in praise to the King of all Kings and God of all Gods.
Our society places a lot of value on attributes that are demonstrable. We tend to applaud physical beauty and place high value on academia but we know that God applauds the beauty of the heart and spiritual excellence. As the ladies departed, leaving behind the peaceful confines of Belmont Abbey, they were very much aware of the challenges ahead but know now what they have to do to become the 'Women of Virtue' God wants us all to be.

[Jennifer Rowell]

CRASHING SUCCESS FOR NORTH-EAST CHILDREN'S DAY

The crash came about ten minutes from the end of Divine Service. Several men strode out purposefully, 'just to check'. It isn't every day that a 20 storey high crane collapses just outside your church. On most days the collapse of the crane would be the talking point for days. On Sabbath, 18 October at Newcastle Seventh-day Adventist church the talking point was something else - Children's Ministries Day being actually led by the children.

Pastor Patricia Douglas is the Children's Ministries director for the North England Conference. Her role is to direct, train and inspire Children's Ministries around the Conference. The long trip north to the Newcastle Seventh-day Adventist church with husband, Pastor Carlton Douglas, and Marlene Simpson was to encourage the churches in Area 1 of the North England Conference.

Sabbath School featured the children from Area 1 leading out in the creation centred worship. Divine Service followed with an hour's child-focussed, child created ministry. The basic plan was for the children to offer somewhat impromptu prayers and mini talks. That’s not the style in the north of England. The tiny children prayed with passion, the
Young Alex Telpov shared the pulpit with Clwyd Halasgo and taught the experienced preachers a trick or two. They didn't give a talk or a sermonette but shared an evangelistic sermon around the theme, 'Sometimes I mess up'. Little was left save for a short drama and a shorter sermon by Pastor Carlton Douglas. The congregation were happy. Children understood what the worship was all about. The adults were satisfied that they had been fed, while also feeling very proud of their children.

The delighted local pastor, Peter Jeynes, had worked with Newcastle Children's Ministries leader Rowena Ramos and Pastor Patricia to refine the programme for the day. Newcastle and Middlesbrough churches took the event very seriously. Top class worship was the eventual result. A tour of the church's Children's Ministries facilities resulted in the award of the accolade, "a flagship church for Children's Ministries in the North England Conference."

The afternoon programme gave local Children's Ministries teams a taste of what could be provided for children in their charge. This included 'The Big Read', an opportunity for adults and children to sample age-appropriate Christian books. Small mixed age groups read out loud in church for ten minutes. Fari, from Middlesbrough said that she enjoyed Big Read, "particularly because we had age-appropriate books to read." The evident concentration and interest was proof that Big Read could become a regularly included highlight in a church's afternoon programme schedule.

A choice of activities followed. Some children illustrated a Bible story. One group engaged in creative drama with Marlene Simpson. Pastor Carlton Douglas led in the craft activity while Pastor Patricia encouraged the remaining largely adult audience to urge that narrative sermons be preached to enable a wider selection of the church to understand and participate in sermons.

Come visit the North East. You will now find increasingly child-friendly worship, and a warm welcome.

[Peter Jeynes]
500 STUDENTS TAKE OVER LEICESTER CENTRAL

On Sabbath 18 October the Leicester Central church was taken over by over 500 Adventist students as part of the BUC Student Day. Utilising what has, in recent years, been the NEC Student Day, the English Conferences requested the BUC Youth Ministries department to organise a BUC Student Day, which was also supported by the Irish and Welsh Missions.

Plans were put in place for about 300 students, but as the online bookings came in adjustments had to be made for catering. About 465 people had booked before the day, with online applications coming in overnight and even after the programme had started. While some did not turn up, others came not having booked, but the church was large enough, with some local members visiting other local churches that day giving extra capacity. The programme was organised by the NEC Student Team, which included showcasing some of the few on campus societies we have in the BUC.

After students enjoyed messages from Pastor Angelo Grasso, a Florida Conference campus chaplain, fellowshipped and networked together, the belief is that this will be the start of a growing ministry for Adventist students. To help with that the BUC wants to build a directory of contacts linking campus to church. Please help by clicking the student tab at www.adventistyouth.org.uk.

There will be further Student Ministries content at the 2015 BUC Youth Congress, so visit the website for more information.

[Nathan Stickland]
BRINGING JOY AT SPEAKERS' CORNER

The most famous corner in London, Speakers’ Corner in Hyde Park, is where people come on Sundays to speak freely about any subject under the sun.

They normally bring a stall and start speaking as loudly as possible in order to catch the attention of both regular visitors and tourists engaging them in discussion. The most popular issues discussed are politics and religion, often with arguments arising, especially between Christians and non-Christians.

However, on Sunday, 5 October, a group of teenagers attracted the attention of many visitors to Hyde Park Corner without any need for shouting or argument.

The group, from the Central London Portuguese speaking church, set up a stand a little way away from the crowd and with a smile on their faces offered Christian books and magazines in several languages including Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and English.

With the multilingual slogan 'Free Books', people were attracted to the stand and many were fascinated to find some literature in their own language. Some even asked if they could take more than one book or magazine.

Health magazines and children's books were the most popular but even Bibles were distributed. Over 400 books and magazines were given out.

The teens realise they may not see the result of their work, at least not in this earth, but they left the park joyful and with a great sense of achievement for doing God’s work.

[Emerson Ferraz]
OLD CHURCH: NEW HOPE

2014 not only started with rain and winds, it carried on raining with floods and storms for weeks and weeks. It was the wettest winter on record. That had its effect on the UK’s most westerly Adventist church, in Ilogan, Redruth in Cornwall.

The Redruth church was built as a Sunday School in Victorian times but now age is taking its toll. Adventists bought the property in the 1970s and did extensive work on it. The building was tall so we were able to put a floor through to make two floors; the sanctuary upstairs and the hall and kitchen facilities downstairs. A lot of love has gone into caring for the church over the years, keeping it in good order.

However, there comes a time when we have to face facts. We worried about the roof blowing off or being damaged in the storms. The wooden window frames were rotten and past repairing anymore. The damp was permeating the walls and throwing off the plastering in places. We were afraid the wind would blow the windows in upon us. What should we do? The membership is very small. Perhaps it would be better to sell the church and rent somewhere smaller. The necessary work on the building would cost thousands. After many prayers and suggestions, the final decision was to ‘step out in faith’ and carry out the immediate repairs and continue worship.

After an inspection of the whole building, we were pleased to find the roof was undamaged. Not even a slate had been lost! The immediate need was to replace the windows. Timothy Clemow, who is in the building trade, was given the task of getting quotes. Tim was discussing the situation with a friend who has a double glazing business. They came to church to measure up and see what was needed and to get scaffolding quotes as the windows are very tall, stretching through two floors. Graham, Tim’s friend, said he would make the windows at cost price, an amazing offer! Not only that, he and Tim would install them in their free time without charge! That equalled two weeks of hard work in the hot summer sun.

Members are now delighted with their new windows. The sanctuary is so much lighter and cleaner and at last they can open the windows to let in the fresh air! Tim mentioned that when they removed
some of the windows a lot of water poured out from the gaps. Members are hoping this will help resolve the problem of the damp walls.

After a spring clean and a few weeks later, our pastor, Chris Peake, said he had a nice surprise for us. He had been given a £1,000 cheque towards the cost of the windows from a housebound couple who live several miles away but are interested in the work of the church. They are Adventists but not able to get to church. Nevertheless they are always interested in what is happening in the local churches. We could hardly believe it. What a wonderful gesture!

Redruth is a small church with a big heart. Visitors are always welcome.

[Valerie Rowe]

DEATH OF PASTOR MAURICE MUSGRAVE

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Pastor Maurice Boon Musgrave in the early morning of Thursday, 23 October, aged 95. We remember with gratitude Pastor Musgrave's more than 44 years of continuous service to and lifelong witness of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles and Africa as a Minister, Department director and Treasurer.

Pastor Musgrave began work with the North England Conference as a Minister in August 1942 where he served for nearly seven years. During that time, in July 1945 he married Annie (Nan), his late wife. They responded to a call to the Trans Africa Division (TAD) in April 1949 and for over 31 years served in various roles and places in Africa. These included Mission director; Conference, Union and Division Treasurer; and Division Auditor prior to their return to Britain in August 1980. On return Pastor Musgrave worked in the SEC for nearly a year and was then called to the BUC as Union Treasurer in 1981 where he continued until his retirement in December 1986. Even after retirement he remained actively involved in local church ministry and for a period served on the BUC Pension Trustee Body.

We express condolences and prayers of comfort to his sons
Keith and Nigel; and daughter Gillian and their respective families. Pastor Musgrave shared his engaging life story in an 'In Conversation' interview with Pastor John Surridge almost a decade ago. Watch it here.

Details of funeral arrangements will follow later.

[Paul Lockham]

24 OCTOBER MESSENGER ONLINE

Christian parenting is a top theme for the 24 October edition of Messenger, the official newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. Julian Hibbert focuses in on 'Rights and respect', while Pastor Patrick Boyle challenges us 'mere mortals' with 'The divine obsession'.

How do we live in a world at war? Two pages look at the issue. BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, also takes a concrete look at Freedom in the context of the Sabbath. Pick up a copy in your local church or read it online.

[Julian Hibbert]
If you want a powerful story of prayer and increasing faith, enjoy the testimony of Alysha and Alex that they shared last Sabbath during a Harvest Festival at the Ystrad Mynach church in South Wales. In London, the Clapton community church has been fundraising while making friends with a Community Fair, while in Birmingham, members of Camp Hill church had rejoiced in welcoming two exceptional ladies into fellowship.

Several people wrote in appreciation of the Annual Council update last week. Ron Emmerson wrote, "I enjoyed this week's BUC News, and especially your account of the decisions at the Annual Council. They have at last got it right – I applaud their decision the put the ordination of women to a vote in 2015, using the suggested well worded question." FairOne P added, "I concur with Pastor Richard Daly's conclusion. I was very proud of my Church and happy to see and experience the cordial, Christian spirit amongst attendees."

In continuing coverage of our WWI Adventist young men, the 23 October Adventist Review adds to the story already told in BUC News. Read their account here. Barry writes, "I enjoyed your documentary on 'Conchies', as I was one, but alas not in the First World War. It was a scary experience before a judge and a panel of theologians. It was 1958 and conscription finished in 1960. Adventists had a good name by the time I arrived. I worked as an auxiliary nurse in A&E at Charing Cross for two-and-a-half years. It was a great experience, opened my eyes, gave me a different view of the world. I’m so grateful for it." Barry is one of many commenting on the experience of these WWI Adventists and the influence it has had on their own lives.

[Victor Hulbert]

FINDING JOY IN NUMBERS: ADVENTIST TV THIS WEEK
Enjoy these special selections on Revelation TV and Hope Channel:

**Thursday 23 October, 8:30 pm** – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 26 October, 1:00 pm). **Dr Isabel Moraes.** Feeding your epilepsy medicine to the dog is not particularly good for dog or child, but this early experiment (or rebellion) eventually led to a career in science as Dr Moraes searches for a cure for Alzheimer's disease while also developing a passion for God and His creation. Watch on Revelation TV (Sky 581, Freesat 692, internet and Roku).

**Thursday 30 October, 8:30 pm** – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 2 November, 1:00 pm). **Deborah Harris,** entrepreneur and money expert draws together the principles that have formed her life. Where does she find the joy in numbers and advice giving, and what influences determined her will to succeed?

**Thursday 6 November, 8:30 pm** – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 9 November, 1:00 pm). TV premier of 'A Matter of Conscience'. Encourage your friends and family to tune in and watch this significant programme about Adventist young men in WWI.

**HOPE CHANNEL.** Get all your favourite programmes on Roku, or online, including all your international favourites plus an immediate selection of UK based 'on demand' programming. A schedule, and a selection of ways to watch Hope Channel is available by visiting www.hopetv.org.uk.

[BUC news]

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

**Continuing to Sabbath 25 October:**

**Willesden's Evangelistic Campaign** – 'This World... Then What?' and will be taken by Pastor Dewaine Frazer. Sundays to Wednesday & Fridays, from 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm, and then on Sabbaths at 11:00 am & 6:00 pm. Come and join us!

**Friday 24 - Sunday 26 October:**

**Scottish Mission Camp Meeting** and Youth Retreat. Special speakers Dr Saustin K Mfune from the General Conference and Pastor Gifford Rhamie, Newbold College.
Sabbath 25 - Sunday 26 October:
The One Project. Worship and make 'Jesus All' together with European Adventists in Utrecht, Netherlands.

Sabbath 25 October:
UKZAF Big Sabbath. The United Kingdom Zambians Adventist Fellowship (UKZAF) is pleased to invite you to the South England Region Big Sabbath. Time: 09:00 - 17:45. Venue: St Marks Community Centre, 218 Tollgate Road, Beckton, London E6 5YA.


An Evening of Instrumental Praise. HACS Millennium Symphony Orchestra will be performing LIVE at Clapton Adventist church. FREE ENTRY! Doors open @ 5:30 pm. Venue: Chelmer Road, Hackney, London E9 6AY.

Wednesday 29 October - Sunday 2 November:
Music, Worship and Theology Seminar. Join us at Manchester Central church and Manchester Academy for an exciting weekend of discovery. Check link for full details.

Friday 31 October - Sunday 2 November:
Go UK – Youth training and Evangelism Conference at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich.

Sabbath 1 November:
Gathered Together – Mothers Prayer Conference. Hallelujah Kidz Praise Team is proud to bring to you this wonderful day of Prayer, Praise and Testimony. Start 9:45 am prompt! Check link for further details.


Sabbath 1 November - Sabbath 8 November:
MTTC Prayer nights, Manchester. Week of Prayer. Check link for details.

Sabbath 8 November:
NEC Day of Prayer. United in the Spirit of His Presence. Preacher: Former BUC President (now retired) and honorary doctorate, Pastor Cecil Perry. Hot soup and bread provided but please bring your own lunch. Time: 10:00 - 18:00. Venue: Chelmsley Wood Adventist church, Pike Drive, Birmingham B37 7US. For more details visit the NEC website: www.necadventist.org.uk.

Vision Investment. The East & Central African Fellowship Community invite you to a special day focusing on faith, music, investment, and food from the region. Time: 10:00 - 18:00. Venue: Beckton Maranatha Adventist church, St Mark’s Church & Community Centre, Tollgate Rd, Beckton, London E6 5YA.

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.
KICK-START A BIBLE GAME. A team of young Adventists in Spain have been working for several years with young people and teenagers using the new technologies. They are currently working on a Bible Game ‘A Journey Towards Jesus’ and are building up kick-start funding to be able to launch the game. Take a look at the Kickstarter campaign and consider pledging some funds to help this innovative witness. [Editor’s note: This is an independent project but has received positive endorsement from the Spanish Union Communication director.]

JOB VACANCY: Key Stage 1 teacher, Fletewood School, Plymouth. Closing date 27 October 2014. Full-time Administrative Assistant, ADRA-UK, application deadline, 1 December. More details and jobs on the BUC Job vacancies page.

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the Communication Department of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Items for inclusion should be sent to bucnews@adventist.org.uk and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday. Coming Events should 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 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..

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