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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A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Last week the ADRA-UK office welcomed 25 very special visitors from the Kingswood Preschool Nursery in Watford. Wearing their hi-visibility
jackets, these young children walked through Stanborough Park, marching two by two. Those who could not march were pulled along in sledges – none would be left behind!

The three- to five-year-old children brought their gift boxes for Togo and even helped pack them into our van! These little helpers were then asked if they knew where the gift boxes were going, and one young boy replied: "Yes, the boxes are going in the van!"

After explaining that the boxes travel to Togo across the sea, Kingwood's gift boxes were loaded onto the ADRA van and transported to the storage container. The container is also where our boxes will be checked, sorted and sealed by our team of volunteers next month.

With 9,000 boxes to send to Togo, ADRA urgently needs help with gift box quality control! If you could spare some time to give a hand it would be much appreciated! We have spaces left for anyone who would like to come down and help out on Sunday 2, 9 or 16 November.

If you'd like to help out or simply want to find out more, contact volunteering@adra.org.uk today!

[Fabrice Baker-Livingstone / Sophie Gordon]

ASNA CARERS 'LET GO, LET GOD' AT RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND

The Adventist Special Needs Association held their annual Carers' Respite Weekend at the stunning Helidon Lakes Resort, Northampton, from 17-19 October.

Sophia Nicholls, SEC Disability Ministries coordinator and ASNA organiser, focused on creating a restful getaway for those that provide support and care for young and old with special needs. Attendees were able to relax, sharing their experiences with others in similar situations.

One lady, Jacynthia Peters, spoke about how she became an Adventist, and by extension a part of ASNA, through a drop-in centre held at High Wycombe Micklefield church. The drop-in centre enabled people from the community to talk about their struggles and achievements as carers of those with special needs.
"The centre is a wonderful idea, they are very understanding and truly listen to you, regardless of who you are", enthused Jacynthia. "I started going there and I soon found peace. I began to learn about Christ each time I went, and about six months later I started going to church, eventually getting baptised."

The theme over the three days, 'Let Go, Let God', focused on looking forward to the future in faith and not looking at it through our flawed, human eyes. An important message that attendees took away, was encouragement to look back and give God the praise to remember how far He has brought you.

Audrey Balderstone, a professional flower arranger, visited the group on the Sabbath. She demonstrated how a floral arrangement can tell a story, building three, separate displays, and describing her personal stories behind them.

After linking them to her own personal, emotional and spiritual stories, she then encouraged the attendees to arrange their own floral designs. Audrey highlighted how they can draw a story from the floral arrangements, linking them to experiences close to their hearts. The arrangements were then auctioned off, raising money in support of ASNA.

"Audrey allowed us to hear and visualise her stories, allowed our imagination to really work", commented Jacqui Bingham. "It was very powerful and then we got the opportunity to tell our own stories through floral displays. It's etched indelibly on my mind. My team assembled a floral display about Jesus being the rose, loving us unconditionally, we were quite proud of ourselves and it was a very unique experience."

Speaker for the weekend was Pastor Paul Liberd, Family Ministries director at the North England Conference. He focused on the biblical story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. He described how she was on her last few drops of oil and grams of flour, yet Elijah encouraged her to trust God by providing him with a meal, and she would never run out of food again.
"Pastor Liberd paralleled it to his life story of being at his wits' end, not having many options to move forward", said attendee, Wendy Baptiste. "In the same way the widow and her son were on their last meal, he was on his last leg. He described how sometimes God allows us to experience similar trials, because we don't learn the lesson of trusting Him from previous situations."

Among the highlights of the weekend, the group also welcomed health presentations from Dr Chidi, celebrated the 50th birthday of Sophia Nicholl's husband, Nigel, and started looking forward to the 10th anniversary of the ASNA Carer's Weekend, in 2015.

"The aim of the weekend was to provide an oasis of peace and calm", shared Sophia. "When carers support carers it means that we are strengthened. We recognise there is more to life than our own challenges; we 'share and care'. It's not just about me, or one individual, it's about us all, meeting others and helping ourselves at the same time."

To view a selection of photos from the Carers' Weekend, please visit the Adventist Church's picture gallery.

[Katie Allen, Photos: Sophia Nicholls]

DIGGING DEEPER AT SCOTTISH CAMP MEETING

'Digging Deeper' may just have been a theme, but it was also a result for Scottish Mission members attending Camp Meeting, the weekend of 24-26 October, 2014.

"You stand next to the water, and you look in, you see the fish swimming there, and you realise that it is God who opened this water so that we can go through it, on dry land, in the middle of the sea." This is the kind of miracle that inspired Dr Saustin Mfune in such a profound way that he had to share it with thousands around the world. Dr Mfune, Associate Director of Children's Ministries at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, was invited to Gartmore House, in Stirlingshire, Scotland, to be the main speaker. His reputation
certainly preceded him as the audience was riveted by the storytelling and songs he presented throughout the weekend.

Sabbath morning manna and prayer session started at 7:00 am with a good number congregating in the hall. Presented by Beavon Sanderson and Pastor Llew Edwards, they continued from where Dr Mfune left off on Friday night driving the message of how good it is to know that God is always there.

It was evident the cooks of the Gartmore Centre had prepared for the weekend. The tables in the dining room rumbled as folks enjoyed their breakfast along with discussions as to which rooms the harmony of snoring emanated from the night before.

Led by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, the Sabbath School focused around a good discussion on the topic for the day - the difference between 'Being' and 'Doing'. "The traffic light doesn't make you love the road laws", Pastor Edwards contributed. "It is very possible to obey the traffic laws and still feel in your heart that you hate those laws, and in effect be a danger to other drivers."

Is it possible to do good things and not love God or other people? There has to be a change in the heart for one to change completely. To be in harmony with God and others is dependent on a change of heart. Intense, thought-provoking statements and ideas were shared during the discussion.

Camp Meeting would not be Camp Meeting without praise and worship. Under the leadership of Pastors Rory Mendez and Victor Harewood, and assisted by Eddie Mwiinga, the weekend was filled with singing, special items including instrumentals by Martina Emrich, Natasha Seo, Jasmine Poon, and singing groups such as Testify.

Dr Mfune continued during the main service exploring the theme 'Digging Deeper' by sharing stories from his own life and that of others. This was often humorous as well as inspiring, encouraging us all to dig deeper into scripture. His wife, Gertrude, accompanied him to Scotland sharing her experiences of working with many different children over the years, as well as presenting a seminar in the afternoon.

After such an inspiriting weekend, the leadership team will shortly be seated around the table to start planning Camp Meeting for Scotland in 2015. How can we make it even better? How can Camp Meeting continue to be a significant part of God's work in Scotland? We know he will provide as He has always done in the past.
More photos from the weekend can be found in the Scottish Mission picture gallery.

[Jimmy Botha]

OXFORD RESPONDS TO THE CREATION-EVOLUTION DEBATE

The issues surrounding the Creation verses Evolution debate are once again firmly in the public domain with Pope Francis stating this week that "evolution and Big Bang theory are real and God isn't a magician with a magic wand." He told an audience at the Vatican that the Big Bang theory and evolution in nature "do not contradict" the idea of Creation. Francis said the beginning of the world was not "a work of chaos" but created from a principle of love. He said sometimes competing beliefs in Creation and Evolution could coexist.

"God is not a divine being or a magician, but the Creator who brought everything to life", the Pope said. "Evolution in nature is not inconsistent with the notion of Creation, because evolution requires the creation of beings that evolve."

With that very public statement, the Religious Liberty department of the Oxford Seventh-day Adventist church was delighted to welcome two accomplished scholars to reflect on the issue. On Sabbath afternoon, 11 October, Professor John Walton from St Andrews University, Scotland and Dr Alastair Noble from the Intelligent Design Centre in Scotland presented a fascinating and inspiring seminar reminding us of the awesomeness and power of God and the validity of Creation. These well-read scholars took time to demonstrate that indeed "our God is not a magician, He is God and can do all things."

The Intelligent Design theory gives a rational, scientifically based answer demonstrating the design power of our God. It helps young people to see that science does not have to contradict Creation but can actually provide evidence for it. Young people were heard to say, "They are wonderful speakers. I now have a better understanding of Creation."

For more resources on the Creation-Evolution debate visit the Creation page of the Adventist Church website.

[Sophia Nicholls / BUC News]
THE ONE PROJECT IN UTRECHT

With four out of the ten presenters from the UK, and with thirty Newbold alumni in attendance, Tabitha Purple went to Holland to find out just what the One Project is all about:

It is a question I have been asking myself for a few years now: "What is the One Project?" I have speculated with friends on what this is about but until now I hadn't been. Well, thanks to a friend, I had the opportunity to attend the One Project in Utrecht, Holland. It was a life-affirming visit.

Simply put, the One Project is a two-day conference for anyone who wants Jesus at the centre of their lives. On the first day I met with Laurentiu Nistor from Romania who rejoiced that "The One Project is moving us towards Christ."

As the first thought-provoking speaker challenged our integrity as followers of Christ, I realised that this was a conference like none I have ever been to. Dilys Brooks from Loma Linda invited us to be credible witnesses for Jesus just like Job and David. She moved beyond simple nice stories and cut to the heart of our integrity. I knew at that moment that my heart and mind were in for a challenge. The programme of speakers did not disappoint.

From the USA to all through Europe the speakers brought life to a variety of topics all based on Jesus. One highlight for me was when Tom De Bruin, Executive Secretary of the Netherlands Union, even challenged the very concept of the One Project – is it 'Jesus All' or is it also 'God the Father all' and 'Holy Spirit all'.

It is refreshing to be in a place where theology is discussed so freely. To be in a place where it is broken down in ways that challenge the way we do church thanks to Steven Hulbert, leader of the St Austell project in Cornwall. Steven shared how church taken into the real world can make a difference. He said, "When Jesus is brought to the centre of the table there is discussion that takes place that requires more than a train of thought but a call to action."

Every speaker brought to life different aspects of being a follower of Christ, so together a great picture was drawn. Theologians shared the giddy
heights of academia freely and openly thanks to Dr Laurence Turner of Newbold College. Speaking of Jesus, Dr Turner said, "If He is the point of all scripture then He is the point of all life." Thus the One Project moves us beyond theory and practice to our very existence. This was demonstrated with a heart wrenching talk on compassion from SEC Communication and Media director, Kirsten Østergvist.

The One Project is more than your average conference where you listen to great speakers talk on subjects that inspire. The One Project is a place where you go to discuss ideas freely, without judgement, and with Jesus at the centre. Japhet De Oliveira told us this was the 15th gathering and over 4,000 people had been to these conferences. Stanborough Park pastor, Jacques Venter, was there for the first time: He said, "Christ and His supreme love for us was put firmly in the centre of the table. I was reminded in a very honest way from the presenters that if we call ourselves Christ's followers it ought to show in the way we relate and connect with people." He appreciated Sam Leonor's statement, "we should live out heaven here and now."

For Newbold's chaplain and dean of men, this is his fourth time at the event. He goes because "the quality of speakers and topics for discussions are always good and challenging." He is now looking forward to attending in San Diego next year. I take comfort from knowing that there are so many people willing to enter into an honest dialogue with Jesus at the centre.

From the facilitators at tables to the videos about one person's journey everything about the One Project is set up to generate discussion. If you went expecting all the answers -- guess what? In the words of Sam Leonor "I don't have all the answers." But does this matter? No, because we can never know everything of God. What we can do is come together and put God at the centre of it all.

The One Project was a challenging moment in my journey with Jesus. What remains for me now that it's finished? I am going to read the Book! Next time they are in a town near me I will find someone else to bless and take them to the One Project so we can move Jesus to the centre of it all.

[Tabitha Purple]
BUC News focuses, by definition, on inspiring news and events from around the UK and Ireland. However, sometimes there is news of significance from other parts of the world that is worth sharing.

One such story comes from Jamaica. Two Seventh-day Adventists on the Caribbean island were conferred and awarded with national honours during a ceremony on Jamaican National Heroes' Day, Monday, 20 October.

According to the report in Adventist News Network (ANN), Audrey Sewell, an elder at the North Street Adventist church in Kingston, was conferred the Order of Distinction for her outstanding contribution to public service in the areas of justice, education, transport, works and housing. She serves Jamaica as permanent secretary in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing. Alfonso Marshall, an elder at the Trench Town Adventist church, was awarded the Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service for his service in the field of road maintenance and construction.

The research the most occupied the Adventist blogosphere this past week was a study released indicating that vegetarian men have a lower sperm count than their meat-eating counterparts. Many Adventist vegetarians noted that they had managed to achieve substantial size families, but Andrew McChesney, News Editor for Adventist Review, not only looked behind the research, but gave some practical advice. That Adventists are generally nearer the top end of the health spectrum is recognised by the Argentinian government, who have just awarded River Plate Adventist University an official certification as the first 'healthy university' in the country.
Newbold alumnus, Pastor Tor Tjeransen, recently played a significant role as moderator for a Russian / Ukrainian dialogue between religious leaders gathered in Oslo to work towards a common communiqué regarding the situation in eastern Ukraine. Pastor Tjeransen is currently the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director at the Norwegian Union and is a former Board Chairman of the Norwegian Bible Society. Adventist leaders from both Russia and Ukraine participated alongside Orthodox, Pentecostals, Baptists, Methodists, Jews and Muslims. They all condemned "violence committed toward clergy and lay people, religious buildings and houses of prayer of any denomination."

Closer to home, visit a mountain lake in mid-Wales to find out why two young men wanted to get baptised – and how they inspired other youth.

For more church news from around the world visit the Adventist Review and ANN websites.

[Victor Hulbert]

Funeral of Pastor Musgrave

Following last week's announcement of the death of Pastor Maurice Musgrave, and the many kind tributes that have poured in, we can now inform you that his funeral service will be held on Friday, 7 November at 10:00 am at the Stanborough Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL.

The committal will be a private family affair. Finger food will be served after the service at the Stanborough Centre. No floral tributes please but monetary donations will be accepted in aid of Peace Hospice Care in Watford.

[Paul Lockham]
ANNUAL WEEK OF PRAYER READINGS ONLINE

The Annual Week of Prayer begins across the Adventist world this weekend. Churches in every country will be uniting in prayer and Bible study under this year’s theme, 'Christ's Method Alone'.

Whether or not you can make it to prayer meeting every night for the coming week, take time with your family, with friends, or in quiet meditation to think through the themes of the week including ideas on experiencing the power of faith, reaching the whole person and living a faithful life. There are separate readings available for children. Reading material is available in your local church or can be found on the Adventist Review website.

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

Continuing to 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 etc.
Friday 31 October - Sunday 2 November:
Go UK – Youth training and Evangelism Conference at Bethel Convention Centre, West Bromwich.
Sabbath 1 - Sabbath 8 November:
Annual Week of Prayer. Theme: 'Christ's Method Alone'. Visit any Adventist church across the British Isles or the world to join with fellow members in sharing this important theme and spending time in prayer. You can view the readings online here: Adventist Review.
MTTC Prayer nights, Manchester. Week of Prayer. Check link for details.
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.
Thursday 6 November:
Paternoster Book Sale. For a display and sale of excellent theology books at discounted prices (20 -70% discounts) at Newbold College Library, Binfield. Time:10:30 - 14:00. [Please note: cash and cheques only.] Venue: Newbold College, St Marks Rd, Binfield RG42 4AN.
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.
Tuesday 11 November:
A Diversity of Witnesses – Can we really know what God says? Lecturer: Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia, Principal Lecturer in New Testament, Newbold College. Time: 7:30 pm. Place: Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College RG42 4AN. Everyone is welcome!
Refreshments will be served.
Saturday 15 November:
Community Services Fundraising Concert – Greenwich. Time: 17:00. For tickets or for more information please call Elsa Conreaux on 0798 965 9838. Venue: Greenwich Seventh-day Adventist Church, Devonshire Drive, London SE10 8JZ.
Brahms German Requiem – Manchester Central. A special evening of music! Time: 18:30 - 20:30. Cost: £5.00. Venue: Manchester Central Adventist church, Cross Lane, Denbigh Place, Pendleton, Manchester M5 4AD.

**Sunday 16 November:**

**National Disability Ministry Conference.** For Disability Awareness coordinators and those interested in Disability Ministry in the BUC. Workshops include: Deaf Awareness Ministry, Supporting Carers, Mental Illness, Accessible Church, Starting your Disability Ministry. Download the **Disability Awareness Poster to advertise in your church.** Time: 09:30 - 16:30. Venue: Hilton Watford Hotel, Elton Way, Watford, WD25 8HA.

**MOHAP Day Retreat.** Join us at the Advent Centre for a day of prayer for spiritual, social, physical and emotional healing. Time: 09:30 - 17:00. Venue: The Advent Centre, 12 Crawford Place, London W1H 5HD. Find out more and book your place at [http://www.mohap.org/](http://www.mohap.org/).

**Scottish Mission Church Officers Training.** Church officers in Scotland will receive training for their various designated roles at Crieff SDA Church, Gwydyr Road, Crieff PH7 4BS. Lunch will be provided. BUC trainers Pastors Nathan Stickland and Llew Edwards will be present. Time: 10:00 - 16:00.

**Inspire Ur Biz.** It will be an inspirational day for anyone thinking of starting a business, or already in business. Time: 12:00 - 18:00. [www.InspireUrBiz.Eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.InspireUrBiz.Eventbrite.co.uk). Venue: Hope Community Hall, 56 Churchfields Road, Beckenham BR3 4QW. Check link for costs etc.

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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