Edition #906 (12 December 2014) Year-End Special

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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With this being the final BUC News of 2014, the entire staff of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists wish you God's richest blessings for both Christmas and the New Year.

In a moving, seasonal video message, Communication and Media director, Victor Hulbert, looks back over some of the significant interviews he conducted this year, reflecting on God's leading and answered prayer. This includes Karin Edwards who shares her feelings following a diagnosis of terminal cancer turning to one of freedom from illness. His message concludes with a reflection on the WWI Christmas truce of 1914 and that as British and German troops sang 'Silent Night', they did well to ponder on that Babe born in Bethlehem, of God become man, so willing to give life. This is a video worth 15 minutes of your time.

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VIDEO GREETINGS FROM OUR CHURCH LEADERS

December is the time of year to think back, reflect, give thanks, and plan for the future. Adventist Church leaders across the UK and Ireland have been doing just that.

In his video message, South England Conference President, Pastor Sam Davis emphasised our hope for the future as Christians in a difficult world.

Pastor David Neal reflected on the success of Mission to the Cities in Dublin. He also noted how members right across the island of Ireland have caught a passion and vision for outreach.

In Scotland, Pastor Bernie Holford took time to reflect on mission success during the Commonwealth Games, the challenge of division during the independence referendum and the hope for real freedom he discovered in visiting a prisoner who recently chose to get baptised.

Pastor John Surridge admitted struggles in Wales with pastoral staff realignments and delays in the Swansea church building project, but is grateful for progress this year and has great hopes for 2015.

In a Messenger article to be published 2 January 2015, North England Conference President, Pastor Lorance Johnson states, "One thing rests upon my heart as I contemplate this year – we are one year closer to the promised return of Jesus Christ to this world and I, as a Seventh-day
Adventist, have been entrusted with a special and relevant message for this time." He then asked the question we all need to ask ourselves, "What am I doing with what God has given me? How am I making God known and how do I plan to make Him known?"

BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney shared his year-end message, 'A bargain worth fighting for', last week. It is linked again here for your convenience.

THANK YOU DR KAVALOH

Staff at the British Union Conference office in Watford were delighted on Monday, 15 December when Dr Brighton Kavaloh turned up for a surprise visit. A well loved and respected pastor, members across the whole of the British Isles have been praying for him since he suffered a series of strokes in April 2013. Since that time he has been in recovery mode but in September 2014 made the difficult choice to retire early on health grounds.

Dr Kavaloh was serving as BUC Ministerial Association director at the time of his illness. A very caring pastor he was well suited to the role and was appreciated by all, including the team he worked with. His secretary, Faye Weekes, stated "what a pleasant and truly wonderful surprise" it was to catch up with Dr Kavaloh. Greeting him with a warm hug and handshake she noted that "on surveying his physical form I recognise that God has brought him through a great experience of illness. Through it all, he was and still is ready to respond with an open welcome and a ready winning smile."

"It was such a therapeutic experience for me today to meet again BUC colleagues and play catch up", Dr Kavaloh stated. "I was overwhelmed and humbled by their warm reception."

While not physically recovered enough to return to ministry, his mind is still that of a pastor. His interest in each staff member and his keen sense of humour kept staff engaged with him as he shared his experiences with them. Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC President was on an external assignment on the day but has regularly visited with Dr Kavaloh during his rehabilitation. He called him "a pastor among pastors whose leadership, warmth, and friendly Christian attitude was well received among the BUC family. He is sadly missed."

Originally from Malawi, Dr Kavaloh has given over 32 years of stalwart service in the South England Conference and, more recently, in the BUC. Pastor Llew Edwards stepped in to keep the department functioning over the past year and has now agreed to serve as the Ministerial Association director until July 2016. He states, "Dr Kavaloh's example of trust in the goodness of
the Lord in spite of the trials that life brings all of us, is a wonderful testimony to the truth of the God who works all things together for the good of His beloved children."

It was surprising that a simple visit from a humble gentleman could bring so much joy to the office family in such a short space of time. While he may no longer be a paid member of the team, staff know that his gift of encouragement and spiritual discernment will continue to encourage others. As Faye reflects, "I firmly believe that God has spared his life for another purpose and I can only wish him continued recovery to the max, and every blessing for the season and the years ahead."

[Victor Hulbert]

**VISION AND VALUES: VITAL, VIBRANT, Viable, Verifiable and Visible**

With a £3.37 million budget to present, an evangelistic report to rejoice over, 54 years of service for which to give thanks, and Church growth to report, the 11 December British Union Conference Executive Committee was a packed day. Never too packed though, to miss out a devotional thought. BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, noted that, while first impressions count, the first impression of Jesus as a baby in a manger, might have given the wrong impression had not angels, shepherds and wise men known otherwise. For many people today their first impression of Jesus, or of Christianity, may well be distorted. "We've got work to do", Pastor Sweeney emphasised.

To do good work you need a sound budget. This can be a very boring though important part of proceedings. Not this year though! Under the theme of 'Vision and Values', BUC Treasurer, Victor Pilmoor, argued that a church budget must be mission focused "right down to the photocopier." Inviting each department to share its values with the trustees, Victor noted that mission and budget must be vital, vibrant, viable, verifiable and visible.

The interactive presentation certainly made an impression on the North England Conference President, Pastor Lorance Johnson. Looking to his own committee to come the following Sunday he stated, "This presentation of the budget is a really positive example to us." The full budget, including an explanation of the 1.5% pay award to Church employees, is 'visible' on the [Treasurer's page of the Adventist Church's website](http://www.adventistchurch.org).
The committee was pleased to note that there is improved financial stability for both Stanborough School and Newbold College, and that as of 30 September 2014, membership had topped 35,000.

Committees are also a time for reflection. This included an enthusiastic report from Irish Mission President, Pastor David Neal, who noted the 300 new contacts that Dublin members now have as a result of Mission to the Cities with Mark Finley, with an anticipated 45 baptisms by the end of the year.

Many committee members also reflected on the length and quality of service given by retiring General Manager of the Stanborough Press, Paul Hammond. Pastor Sweeney noted his great wealth of knowledge and expertise over 56 years of service. Pastor Michael Mbui particularly thanked him for the impact he had made on Africa, while Pastor Sam Davis was impressed by Paul's abundant energy and enthusiasm. As for Paul himself, he emotionally paid tribute to his wife, Maureen, to whom, he said, "I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude." After sharing several anecdotes of mission and service, he concluded, "Thank you. It has been a privilege to serve you. It has been a privilege to be part of the Lord's work."

More photos from the day can be found on the Adventist Church's picture gallery.

[Victor Hulbert]

BAPTISE ME BEFORE I GO
"Please baptise me before I go", pleaded Aly Battenburg, an American student who came to Newbold College as part of the Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) programme. She was there for just one semester. So why would someone, already a believer, make such a request at Newbold rather than back in her home church or community?

Aly responds, "I am very happy. I cannot think of a better time and place to do it. I love Newbold – both the church and the school. I always loved and believed in God and had planned to eventually get baptised, I just wanted to wait for the right time. However since I have been here, I have changed and grown a lot, and felt compelled that now was the time."

I felt compelled that now was the time

Pastor Patrick Johnson was delighted to respond to her request in an intimate, private ceremony on Monday, 8 December, just three days before she headed home. Present to witness and celebrate Aly's baptism were her close friends; Newbold's Dean of Women, Snezana Kordovan; Chaplain and Dean of Men, Alastair Agbaje; and Newbold church's associate pastor, Vili Costescu. It was Aly's wish that she be baptised in a small group of people rather than in front of an entire church.

Alastair Agbaje could not be more delighted. "I love it when I see young people decide to follow Jesus!" Pastor Johnson added, "It's the aim of the church to point and bring people to Christ, therefore it was such a great pleasure to baptise Aly."

Climaxing her short stay with a baptism is, for Aly, a clear endorsement of why the college is succeeding. If someone is considering heading for Newbold she says, "Have an open heart and take advantage of all the opportunities offered to you. For me, baptism truly seems like a good ending to the incredible spiritual, social and educational experiences I have had here at Newbold and in England as a whole. It's also a good start for the life I want to have when I go back home."

[Judith Makaniankhondo]
"What you are going through, I don't know. How bad things are, I don't know. How far have you drifted from God, I don't know. But God has not given up on you!" So encouraged Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick, speaking to over 1,300 young people at the first joint South England Conference Teens and Pathfinders Day of Fellowship, on Sabbath, 13 December.

The numbers of teens that arrived shocked SEC management as only 400 had registered online in the week before the event. With the main auditorium at capacity at the Emmanuel Centre, Central London, young people from across the SEC were eager to mix, learn and be blessed.

Pastor Patrick, with his humorous vibe, preached on 'More than Conquerors'. He highlighted Psalm 138:8, where we are reminded that the Lord will fulfil His purpose with us and linked this with the story of Joseph. Despite facing extreme trials, even being sold into slavery by his brothers, God made Joseph powerful. Pastor Patrick emphasised to the teens that sometimes we need an 'injection' to make us 'immune'.

"His brothers were that injection that helped the process for Joseph", he stated. "God will allow you to go through that pain so you never make other people suffer like that, but also to make you strong and make you immune. He will then take you to places you've never imagined. You will never be able to picture what plans He has for you."

"The sermon was important to me", stated Simeon Burton. "I remember that no matter what you're going through, God has a plan for your life." He added, "Even though you may not feel that He's there with you at that time, He has a plan for you and He knows better than yourself. So put your faith in God and you'll go far in life."

"We give thanks to God for everything He has done this morning, we have over 1,300 teens with us this morning, now we're a little nervous because we need to feed them!" commented Pastor Stojkovic, SEC Teens director. "Pastor Juan preached an extremely important sermon. It really encouraged our teens that God has a purpose for them, wherever they are in their life's path." SEC Pathfinder director, Pastor Kevin Johns just thrilled in the joy of seeing "the mass of young people worshipping together."
There were special performances throughout the morning from the Filipino church's 'L.E.G.A.C.Y. Youth Choir', Newbold church's 'Simply Voices' and a humorous skit from Reading church's Pathfinders. The skit followed a young girl as she collected sins and obstacles, finally coming to the realisation that only Jesus could help her with her burdens.

Pathfinders travelled in groups from their churches, with several volunteering as ushers, collecting the offering and opening the morning programme with a march through the auditorium that ended with the presentation of flags to Pastors Johns and Stojkovic.

"I couldn't guess why everyone else came today", commented Cherish Cupid, "but for me, it's the fact that there are loads of people just like you, the same religion as you. Being able to listen to a message that's been specifically written for you, it feels like it's centred on you and really relatable, which makes a big difference in my life."

To view a selection of photos from the joint Day of Fellowship, please visit the Adventist Church's picture gallery, or the SEC Teens Ministries' Facebook page.

[Katie Allen]

YEAR-END PEACE FOR 24 GRADUATES

On Friday, 14 November, 24 courageous and committed students graduated from the North England Conference PEACE Centre of Evangelism's four-month course. Friends and family from around the country and overseas packed Manchester South Adventist church to witness the occasion. Even more joined via live-stream.

Since 14 July the 16 students from the NEC, 2 from the SEC, 2 from Germany, and one each from Scotland, France, Italy and Trinidad, formed a close bond as they studied together, shared outreach, living, fellowshiping, eating, playing and laughing together. During 320 hours of classroom education they learnt about both practical evangelism and Adventist Christian education. Classes included both personal and public evangelism, church planting, an
introduction to Christian Counselling, theology and homiletics.

Students gained a broad grasp of the pillars of the Adventist faith as well as a practical first-hand experience in various evangelistic methods. An integral part of the four months is an evangelistic campaign, which this year took place in the Manchester Central church. The course is very intense and thus when graduation comes there are mixed feelings. Joy at ending the course but sorrow at leaving so many good friends.

This fifth graduation class brings the total number of PEACE graduates to 98. Five of the 2014 graduates will staying on in Manchester as taskforce Bible workers with Mission to the Cities, others return to university or their workplaces, while several are considering studying further and taking a call to full-time pastoral ministry.

For Juliette Douglas the graduation "was a celebration of commitment. Rather than symbolising a qualification that would allow opportunities for relevant career paths, it was the recognition of an achievement that would create further opportunities to store up treasures in heaven." She added, "even though PEACE is a four-month programme, it requires a lifelong commitment."

[Adam Ramdin]

NEWBOLD SCHOOL PUPILS FLASHMOB HAMLEYS TOY STORE

Newbold Primary School Choir recently flash mobbed Hamleys toy store before singing for Princess Alexandra in St George's Chapel, London, only a few metres further down the road. It is perfectly normal for Newbold School to be invited by Princess Alexandra to her annual New Bridge charity concert, pupils have been doing it for years, but never before have they attempted to flash mob a crowded department store.

"Traditionally, we always take the children to Hamleys in the afternoon so they can do some Christmas shopping before the concert at St George's in the evening," Headteacher, Mrs Crissey told us. "We didn't plan to sing. It was a completely impromptu as we gathered by the door to leave."
Mrs Natalie Dye, Newbold School's choir director began singing the children's favourite song, 'Sacred Night', as they waited at the group meeting point after shopping. Then more children joined in and it all ended with Hamley's Christmas elves dancing and blowing bubbles over the children's heads. "It was a truly magical moment," Mrs Dye commented, "and so informal compared to the classical concert at St George's Chapel that followed later."

Mrs Johannie Gungadoo, who conducted 'Sacred Night' at the concert on Thursday, 11 December, said she was sure Princess Alexandra "would be happy to know the children had spread a little Christmas joy to the general public in Hamley's before singing for her in the chapel.

Little did the children know, but their flash mob experience was filmed and is now attracting a lot of interest on the internet, as is their live performance at St George's Chapel. The number of views across various social media has reached well over a thousand and is growing steadily.

"Although the flash mob was a fantastic experience, singing for the princess was definitely the highlight of the evening", Mrs Crissey stated. "We consider it a great honour and privilege to be invited to the New Bridge concert, since we are the only children's choir who attend, alongside the highly accomplished adult choir, Adventist Domini. The children are always very excited, not only to sing for such a large audience in such a formal setting, but also to actually meet Princess Alexandra afterwards, who is always gracious enough to speak to each and every one of them."

It is truly heart-warming to know that such a small, happy school in rural Binfield can spread so much Christmas cheer in a big city.

The live performances, both in Hamleys and St George's Chapel, can be seen on the Newbold School website.

[Newbold School PR]
With a thick frost outside, a Christmas service in a marquee may not be the ideal option. But clad in warm coats, and with a generous spirit, it did not deter Stanborough Park church members who joined together with the Mayor of Watford to celebrate their annual toy service.

Meeting in their temporary home on Stanborough Park during a major church refurbishment project, the hardy membership turned out in force on Sabbath, 13 December. Blankets covered damp seats, noisy space heaters operating at full blast competed with the PA system, condensation gathering on the metal roof supports was wiped with a long-handled kitchen mop, and even the Mayor's reading from the New Testament was almost drowned out by the sound of a helicopter hovering overhead.

Yet for the Mayor, Dorothy Thornhill, who has attended many previous toy services, the event always marks the beginning of Christmas. "It is not a civic duty but a pleasure", she stated, pointing out that most of us are lucky having so much while "there are still those who have so little." She added that the welfare work of the church was "valued, appreciated and known about in the town."

Surveying the hundreds of toys at the front, senior minister, Pastor Jacques Venter commented that it "is a blessing to be part of a congregation willing to give." He went on to point out that being present was more important than giving presents and challenged worshippers to commit and become a real presence in children's lives.

Members of Stanborough Park church have been donating toys to needy children in the community for more than half a century. Continuing this positive tradition, the toys have now been collected by representatives from local charitable services and will be distributed to known needy cases in time for Christmas. Organiser Pat Walton commented, "It is always amazing the number of toys we receive to give away. How many – I have no idea. It is a joy to see how the toys come in and an even bigger joy to see them go out to the needy families."

[June Coombs]
BLACK LIGHT PERFORMANCE TELLS REAL STORY OF CHRISTMAS

Juggling black light 'toobies', live 'snow', puppets and precise gymnastic routines, Calmore community presented an astonishingly different take on the typical Christmas concert as they told the story of Jesus' birth, from the animals' perspectives!

Over 150 locals gathered at the Calmore Community Centre, in Totton, Southampton, on Saturday evening, 13 December, to watch the seasonal performance put on by children from the community and from the Watering Hole Adventist church plant. Organised by Pastor Rosemary Lethbridge, who had even roped her husband Gordon into costume making, the evening went smoothly with even the artificial snow falling perfectly.

The evening was made up of a variety of acts on stage, on the gymnastic mats and in the puppet theatres. The story began with 'Bumblebee sheep', singing camels and acrobatic cows setting the scene for Jesus' birth. The artistic displays were interspersed with narration from Pastor Lethbridge, who focused on the biblical story.

"My son is in the puppet team, my wife is one of the hospitality people and my two daughters, they also go along to the youth meetings. They thoroughly enjoy them and they've had a great time", said Alther Jonas. "It's really good to see everybody come in, there are a lot of contacts that the Watering Hole has and so quite a lot of those people actually come to services like this."

The black light acts were among the best performances, with very few of the audience having seen anything like them before. The hall would be plunged into darkness as the fluorescent figures, named toobies, told their story through song. Linda Rose Michel, a student volunteer from Andrews University, an Adventist institution in Michigan, works with the Watering Hole and performed as one of the toobies on the night.

"It was a lot of fun but a lot of work", she said. "We had a million practices, a million hours just trying to figure out choreography, we did a lot of dance moves. It was really good, I'm really happy I did it, I would love to do it again next year."

A few of the acts had changed the lyrics of well-known pop songs to fit the story. In the finale, the toobies performed, 'I Need A
Saviour', sung to the music of 'I Need A Hero', by singer Bonnie Tyler.

The unforgettable evening involved groups from across the community. They were excited to perform to such a large group. Calmore Junior School involved their after-school gym club. The nearby preschool included their little Bumblebees and older children performed from the Calmore Acro Zone.

"Tonight was a community carols event", stated Pastor Lethbridge. "A lot of people just aren't into religion and church, so we want to put on a community event each Christmas that gives people the opportunity to come to something they're more comfortable with. Of course, it's also a great night for the whole community to get involved with. At the same time, they learn about Jesus in a way that isn't full on, which we've found makes them more receptive to hearing more."

To view a selection of photos of the toobies, puppets and gymnasts, please visit the [Adventist Church's picture gallery](#).

[Katie Allen, Photos: Darren & Katie Allen]

**HAPPINESS FOR OTHERS: THE ADRA PLEDGE**

As the year draws to a close, and we look forward to the festive season, for many people it's a time of happiness, gathering with family and great feasting.

However, for many of our project beneficiaries, they are faced with a very different reality. I'd like you to help give another family an opportunity this Christmas, an opportunity to protect their livelihoods and to break the cycle of poverty.

This year ADRA-UK would like to encourage you, your family, or your church to consider making a donation online to support our work. ADRA does not stop fighting Ebola, providing relief or changing people's lives!

For a more tangible way to support us, why not visit our eShop, where we have a variety of items for sale, with over 93% of the funds from each item sold going straight back to our project work. Whether you purchase a gift for yourself or for a loved one, every gift has the power to change a life, and you get to be a part of this change!

Have a look at some of our gifts today at: [http://adra.org.uk/get-involved/shop/](http://adra.org.uk/get-involved/shop/).
Pathfinder leadership is in growing demand within the North England Conference, according to an online report published by Amanda Gardiner. Prospective candidates for the Level II training need to apply early!

Youth in Newcastle have taken to the streets following BBC training on how to make a vox pop interview. In addition to admiring their creativity, why not share their video, or even use it as a discussion starter for your church's health spot, AYS programme or small group meeting? Watch the video here.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Janet Churchard, was among St Albans residents who took advantage of 'open church' on Sabbath, 22 November. Instead of the normal worship service, St Albans members opened their doors to the community offering health checks and advice, and building up their network of friends.

For the second year running, the Stanborough Centre in Watford hosted the Co-operative Food Stores Annual Christmas Picture Art Competition for local primary schools. Click here for a full report and pictures of the winning entries. TED Youth director, Pastor Paul Tompkins, also finds himself highlighted on page 38 of Garston News. A good PR team at the church means that the news editors now come looking for Adventist input each month.

The longevity of Adventist residents in Loma Linda has again come under the spotlight in a BBC programme. Under the title, 'Living Longer in Lovely Hill', Peter Bowes explores the Adventist secret for a long and healthy life. He notes that, "the Adventist's way of life involves a mostly plant-based diet, regular exercise and a commitment to celebrate the Sabbath as the day of rest." Reviewing the long-term study of Adventists which started in 1976, he also noted the "striking" protective effects of a vegetarian diet.
Finally, 'Beyond the Trenches', a blog site run by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, features a significant contribution regarding Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objectors during WWI. The well respected site is an online resource reflecting a variety of viewpoints during the centennial commemoration.

**DEATH OF MRS AUDREY POWELL**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mrs Audrey Powell on Sunday, 14 December. Born in Bovingdon on 11 February 1926, Audrey Mildred Simmonds met John Edward Powell from Hastings and they married on the last day of 1948. Audrey's family had moved to Garston in her teen years and she attended grammar school where she flourished athletically and academically. Opportunity did not allow her to continue at school as she needed to work. Taught shorthand and typing by her mother, Audrey became a secretary and when her boss decided to relocate his business to Switzerland she could have gone too. Instead because she had already met John, she stayed in England.

John joined the Granose work force in May 1958, starting in the bakery and nut roast area, he then became one of the Granose representatives and completed his time as a despatch foreman for the company until retirement at the end of 1988. Audrey had a varied employment career with the institutions on Stanborough Park including the Press, Granose, in the boarding school, the school kitchen, the accounts office and the general office. Many past pupils of the school from the 1960s through to the 1980s will remember her with great affection.

Audrey's sense of fun and adventure and her love for God moulded her life and even in her last few months she was regularly to be found in church and Sabbath School. Our thoughts and prayers are with Amanda, who has been such a faithful daughter and carer in recent years, as well as to Audrey's wider church family and friends.

Her funeral will be conducted at the West Herts Crematorium, Watford on Tuesday, 6 January at 12:40 pm. Donations in place of flowers can be made to Victoria House Day Centre, Greenbank Road, Watford, WD17 4JR.

[Paul Lockham]
SEASONAL OFFERINGS ON ADVENTIST TV THIS WEEK

There are a special range of seasonal programmes available for you to enjoy right across the Hope Channel network this Christmas. Enjoy these special selections now on Revelation TV and Hope Channel:

Thursday 18 December, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 21 December, 1:00 pm). Joel Duntin has worked in mental health services but is now a pastor. His is not just a theoretical ministry. Together with his wife, Sallee, they run Templeway church, a contemporary outreach seeking to touch lives outside of the normal church walls. Revelation TV (Sky 581, Freesat 692, internet and Roku).

Thursday 25 December, 8:30 pm – Revelation TV (repeated Sunday 28 December, 1:00 pm). A Christmas Day special featuring The London Adventist Chorale. Covering two weeks, this festive two-part recording at Newbold church will share with you the message and meaning of the first Advent. Part 2 on New Year's Day (repeated on Sunday, 4 January). For on-demand viewing visit the Hope TV UK website or check out the FaithTalks folder on ROKU.

GET HOPE TV ON ROKU FOR CHRISTMAS. From just £49.99 you can stream all your favourite Hope Channel programmes plus an immediate selection of UK based 'on-demand' programmes straight to your TV. There is now an even greater selection of on-demand programmes available for you on Roku. This will also be the best platform for you to view GC Session highlights and news updates next summer. A schedule, and a selection of ways to watch Hope Channel is available by visiting www.hopetv.org.uk. You can also watch all programmes direct from the Hope TV website.

[BUC news]

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COMING EVENTS For a full and continuously updated listing of Coming Events please visit http://adventist.org.uk/events
**Friday 19 December:**
The Dialogue Christmas Café. Friday evening the doors of Central London church are open once again to celebrate Christ's birth. A true celebration of Immanuel, God with us! Doors open from 7 pm. The evening starts at 7:30 pm and its free entry. Venue: The Advent Centre, 12 Crawford Place, London W1H 5HD.

**Sabbath 20 December:**

**Happy Healthy Holiday.** Northolt Seventh-day Adventist community church will be hosting a Carol Service from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The concert will help to raise funds for the Ealing branch of Centrepoint for the homeless. For more information call 07572 322 442. Venue: Northolt Village Community Centre, The Manor House, Ealing Road, Northolt UB5 6AD.

**Saturday 20 December:**

**Night of Wonder, Night of Joy.** A unique performance of this Christmas cantata will be held at the Filipino International Church (FIC) from 4:00 pm. Venue: Filipino International Church, The Church Hall, Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford, London NW10 7ED.

**Battersea Christmas Concert.** A Special Christmas Cantata. Time: 4:30 pm. Featuring the very best of Battersea church and friends. Venue: Battersea Seventh-day Adventist Church, Priory Hall, Prince of Wales Drive, Battersea, London SW8 4B.

**Behind Closed Doors.** Bring your family, friends and neighbours along to watch an excellent and inspiring play about life and what goes on behind closed doors. The play will be followed by a Q&A session. Time: 5:15pm. Venue: Lewisham Seventh-day Adventist Church, 434 Lewisham High Street, Lewisham, London SE13 6LJ.

**Wimbledon Church's Christmas Concert.** You are invited to an evening of music and readings celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Time: 18:00 - 19:30. All proceeds will go to Ebenezer Community Centre, a Zimbabwean charity seeking to help communities move from dependency to self-reliance. Contact Tammy Griffith: 07906 573 670. Venue: 11 Stanley Road, Wimbledon SW19 8RE.

'Welcome in His Presence' Christmas Concert. An evening of song, praise, testimony and prayer for the gift of Christ Jesus. Come along! Bring your friends and family for what promises to be a joyous evening! Time: 6 pm sharp! Venue: 381 Holloway Road, Holloway, London N7 0RN.

**Tottenham Gospel Choir and guests.** This event was a great success last year with almost 200 people attending, so act quickly to buy your tickets at the early bird rate of just £3. Website: [http://tgchoir.eventbrite.co.uk](http://tgchoir.eventbrite.co.uk), Time: 19:00 - 21:30. Venue: John Loughborough School Hall, Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD.

**Sunday 21 December:**

**Hope Community SDA Church Banquet.** A winter wonderland banquet and fundraising auction, featuring a live band, game show entertainment and prizes, family quiz and children's competition, starlight photo booth and much more. Time: 17:00 - 22:00. A £10 deposit secures your ticket. Contact Michelle Richards on 07967 483 691. Venue: Club Langley, 2 Hawksbrook Lane, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BE.

**Sabbath 3 January:**

**Malawi Adventist Youth in UK Day of Fellowship.** The Malawi Adventist Youth invite every young person to join the experience. The main speaker is Pastor Ray Patrick. For more details contact Hope Kumpalume on 07472 342 766. Time: 09:30 - 16:30. Venue: St Anne's Parish Centre, 45 Alcester Street, Birmingham B12 0YP.

**Sunday 4 January:**

**Napturally Happy Hair & Health Experience.** Napturally Happy Hair is designed to deliver hair related programmes which will enable women of colour to learn about how to style and maintain healthy natural hair. Check link for ticket prices and further details. Time: 12:30 - 16:00. Venue: IET Birmingham, 80 Cambridge St, West Midlands, Birmingham B1 2NP.
SMALL ADS

JOB VACANCIES: Local Church Trainer & Auditor – based in SEC office, Watford. Closing date 27 February 2015. Finance Assistant (Pt) ADRA-UK. Closing date, 15 January 2015. Class 3/4 Teacher, Dudley House School, Grantham for immediate start. For these and other job opportunities with the Church visit the job vacancies page on the Adventist Church website.

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