Edition #908 (2 January 2015)

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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THE TOP STORIES OF 2014
What were the most read news articles on the Adventist website during 2014? Here are the 15 most popular stories ranked by the number of reader views and listed in descending order, with #1 being the most popular. Click on the headline to read the full story.

1. **BABY RICKETTS CASE.** A story that reaches beyond Adventist circles into the secular media will always attract a higher hit rate on the website. It is therefore unsurprising that several articles published by the Adventist church around the tragic death of baby Ndingelo Kunene were viewed by a lot of readers, including journalists, both within and outside the church.

2. **CREATIVE ADVENTISTS USE ART TO REACH OTHERS.** A group of creative young Adventists held a public art exhibition in a shop window. This unconventional approach to evangelism stimulated many conversations about the gospel with shoppers in one of Birmingham's busiest shopping centres under the heading, 'The IQ: Innermost Questions'.

3. **HOLLOWAY PATHFINDER CLUB COACH FIRE IN USA.** Holloway Pathfinders narrowly escaped a serious coach fire while travelling in the USA.

   On Sunday, 17 August the International Pathfinder to Atlanta, Georgia when the club was travelling from the Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, suffered a blown tire. As the club fire while travelling in the

4. **'A MATTER OF CONSCIENCE' FILM RELEASED.** Following months of research, filming and editing, the documentary account of Adventist conscientious objectors during World War 1 was released in October, adding to the public debate and interest in events surrounding the First World War. Since then the film has been aired world-wide, articles have been published in both the Adventist and secular media, and the film has generated an increased interest in Adventist perspectives on issues of war and peace.

5. **CHRISTMAS: PAGAN, CHRISTIAN, OR CONVENIENT?** This was a surprisingly high entry, particularly as the article was web-based only and not published in BUC news. The thought piece was a reprint of a December 2010 article made at the request of a number of church members who clearly take a positive interest in how to best use Christmas as a means of sharing the love of God.
6. **PASTOR CECIL PERRY AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE** Pastor Cecil Roy Perry, a long serving pastor and former President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland was awarded an honorary doctorate during a ceremony at the Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica, on Sunday, 10 August 2014. The University awarded the honorary degree, 'Doctor of Religion and Theology (Honorius Causa)' in honour of the 47 years of service Dr Perry rendered to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

7. **FILIPINO INTERNATIONAL CHURCH WINS UK PATHFINDER BIBLE COMPETITION** A team from the Filipino International church won the opportunity to travel to the global finals of the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) after winning the national level of the competition at Stanborough Secondary School, on Saturday 1 March. [A follow-up article](#) shared the joy of four Pathfinder teams traveling to the USA to compete in the finals.

8. **MALAWIAN LIGHTENING VICTIM HONOURED AT WEDNESFIELD** On the afternoon of Saturday, 4 January 2014, Wednesfield Adventist church, Wolverhampton, hosted a memorial service for one of the eight victims of a lightning strike tragedy that happened in a church in Malawi, 28 December 2013. Beauty Chakanga-Phiri Ligowe was, until her tragic death, a member of the Wonderful Voices Choir, based here in the UK.

9. **ADVENTISTS AND THE EUROPEAN SUNDAY ALLIANCE** The European Sunday Alliance, active for the past two years, is lobbying the European Parliament with the aim of securing a stronger position for Sunday as a general, primary day of rest by means of European Union legislation.

10. **MINISTERS FULLY ENGAGE WITH JESUS' MOTIVE: SALT AND LIGHT** Pastors and Bible workers from across the UK and Ireland returned from three days at a very different Ministerial Council. While they were energised by two excellent overseas speakers, what really caught the imagination of the entire workforce was a series of reports from various churches and groups that find themselves to be 'salt and light' in their communities.

11. **UKRAINE-RUSSIAN UNITY IN UK RUSSIAN** Adventist Russian and made a joint clear expression involved in tensions Ukraine. According to Balan, this reflects the Ukraine. **SPEAKING CHURCHES** In March Ukrainian members in London that they do not want to get surrounding the current crisis in the Russian speaking pastor, Andrei Adventist position in Russia and the
12. **NEWBOLD COLLEGE OF HIGHER EDUCATION APPOINTS NEW PRINCIPAL** Newbold's Board of Governors appointed Dr John Baildam to the position of Principal at its Spring meeting on Sunday, 11 May 2014. Dr Baildam has served the College for over 30 years in a variety of capacities, including as Director of the School of English and Director of Admissions and Records. Since 1997 he has served as part of the College's Senior Management Team as Director of Academic Affairs and more recently as Deputy Principal.

13. **LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL IN DUBLIN** Hunched over, face haggard, he timidly slouched through the door into the exhibition area. He had no great expectations. His life had been difficult. His health was struggling. His stress levels were high. He knew he needed something. Ninety minutes later he was a different man. His head was held high and a smile on his face told a story of transformation.

14. **SCOTTISH MISSION YOUTH FIND PURPOSE FOR LIFE** Global Youth Day for Scotland meant not just the beginning of the Youth Week of Prayer but an All Scotland Day of Fellowship that then rolled out with additional meetings in Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

15. **SIR JAMES CARLISLE GIVES EASTER ADDRESS IN SWANSEA** On Sabbath, 19 April the guest speaker for the morning service in Swansea was Sir James Carlisle, former Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda. Sir James and his wife, Lady Emma Carlisle, have been attending the Swansea church for a few months while on an extended visit to Wales, and their district minister, Pastor Jovan Adamović, did not want to let such a wonderful opportunity pass.

The above is just a selection of the many hundreds of articles published this year highlighting activities, issues, and mission across the UK and Ireland. They may not even be the most important stories but they do reflect the issues that you are interested in, and that you have shared via your social media.

Thank you to the many volunteers in local churches who have taken the time to write for BUC News, Messenger and for their local newspapers. Thank you even more to our faithful, Adventist membership who continue, week-on-week, to share the love of God and the Good News of His salvation with their neighbours, friends and communities.

The aim of BUC News is to 'Inform, Engage and Inspire'. That is exactly what we plan to continue to do in 2015. Our next full edition will be published on Friday, 9 January.
The London Adventist Chorale captivated members and visitors alike with their distinctive renditions of well-known carols and Christmas songs at the Central London church's Christmas Dialogue Café, on Friday evening, 19 December.

The finale of the evening was their performance of a re-write of the famous song, 'Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas', sung by Judy Garland in the film Meet Me in St Louis. Conductor and pianist, Ken Burton, led the singers in a more reverent version of the song, titled, 'Have Yourself a Blessed Little Christmas'.

"My 'daughter', Sephina, who goes to this church, got me coming to these café nights quite recently", commented local resident, Marianne Wasser. "I've lived on the same street as this building for fifty years, I even knew it as a synagogue, and I've never stepped inside until a few months ago. I truly enjoy the music and company when I come and tonight was extra special."

Geert Tap, pastor of the Central London church, led the service and shared three short thoughts on the festive season. He spoke of celebration, salvation and reconciliation at Christmas. He emphasised the importance of enjoying time together with our loved ones, and celebrating Jesus coming to this world, but salvation and reconciliation are what our focus should be on.

"I think the most important thing for everyone, including myself, is to understand that Jesus was not just a little baby," said Pastor Tap. "He became something more, He became an adult and became our Saviour. I hope that tonight people have understood that Jesus came to this world not to only be remembered as a baby, but as our hope."

Jodienne Ball, who was visiting from the Plumstead Adventist church, expressed how she would like to see other churches holding similar events to the Dialogue Café, which is held each month.
"One of our friends invited us tonight and it was really enjoyable, it really put a smile on my face", she said. "The music, the type of relaxed programme, it was joyful! I would really like to see other churches organising programmes like this, focusing on involving their communities in every way possible."

Pastor Tap and his family opened the evening with the song, 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel', and encouraged the audience, who were sat around tables enjoying Christmas treats, to join in with further carols.

Alongside other items from the Adventist Chorale, a flautist, soloists, a mime group and a quartet performed a variety of seasonal pieces for the audience.

"We aim for these evenings to be a chance for visitors to come, or for members to bring friends, to a place where they can learn about Jesus in a relaxed environment", shared Pastor Tap. "Tonight, we've seen new faces again, people passing by have visited and even people from the community that use the church during the week have come. They have felt something special and that makes it all count. They understood what it was all about."

To view a selection of photos from the Christmas Dialogue Café, please visit the Adventist Church's picture gallery.

[Katie Allen]

**ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS**

Three Adventist related stories have been highlighted in the secular media during the Christmas period. On Boxing Day, 26 December, 'Women's Hour' on BBC Radio Four took a look at Mrs Ellen G White, a co-founder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Listen in from 27 minutes, 30 seconds on BBC iPlayer to hear the feature and debate.

In a 'Good News' feature, the Belfast Telegraph shared the story of 'Our little Christmas miracle' relating how Belfast member, Jonathan, and his wife, Aislinn, are now proud parents, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous organ donor. Grandparents, Raymond and Pat Little are leaders in the Belfast congregation and certainly know the meaning of giving thanks.
June Coombs, the most prolific Adventist contributor to local news media in the UK concluded the year with several articles in the Watford Observer including the results of a Christmas art exhibition and the generous annual donations made at the Stanborough Park church toy service.

[Victor Hulbert]

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FIRST MESSENGER OF 2015 NOW ONLINE

A Happy New Year from the editorial team of Messenger, the official Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

Our 2 January 2015 edition challenges you with a novel approach to New Year's resolutions, looks to Healthy beginnings, and, with the bills pouring in, asks 'Is it OK to live within our means?' The front page story highlights community engagement at the Horley Gatwick church, while messages from all the Conference and Mission Presidents should give you positive inspiration for the New Year! Pick up a copy in church this Sabbath or read it online now.

[Julian Hibbert]

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COMING EVENTS

Due to the holiday break Coming Events will only be listed on the website this week. The site is being regularly updated so please visit there for a full listing: http://adventist.org.uk/events

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SMALL ADS

AU PAIR AVAILABLE. Sara Baluta from Austria is looking for a family in the UK who may need some support with their children. Sara is an Adventist and a social worker with a lot of experience with children. She is looking for new challenges and experiences and would be available from the summer onwards. Please email s_baluta@ehleso.at for more details.

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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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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