Edit

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

PLEASE NOTE: This e-newsletter will look and read better with pictures enabled.

Due to annual leave there will be no BUC News next week (1 May).

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POLITICS, GRACE AND SERVICE
With little more than two weeks until the UK general election many voters appear confused as to who best to vote for, or should they even vote at all. Seeking wisdom, BUC news editor, Victor Hulbert sat with Ian Sweeney, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland and asked him not just about the national elections, but also elections that will be happening this summer for both the Adventist World Church and the Church in the South of England.

"The problem sometimes with voting is that it can become very partisan," Pastor Sweeney stated near the end of the interview, and in the context of prayer, "but the reality is for the United Kingdom to work, for any country to work, it isn't simply about winners and losers, it is about cooperation. How can we make our country, our society, our community, better places to live in?"

That, Pastor Sweeney would argue, must be the challenge for every citizen, and in a church context, the purpose behind selecting the best leaders to move the mission of the Church forward. During the eight-minute interview he challenges politicians and church members to 'listen more' – and certainly not to believe that everything the opposition says is wrong and 'everything I say is right'.

Pastor Sweeney believes it is important to vote in the general election but emphasises, "don't do it out of self-interest." Too often the temptation to vote is based on 'what is best for me'. However, his reading of Scripture indicates the putting aside of self-interest and asking, "What will be best for the generations to come?" He asks the politician on his doorstep, "What is it within your policies that will make for a better society, a better community?" He insists, "I'm looking for policies that respect other people and that deal with the quality of life so that people can live in a better society."

Turning his attention to San Antonio and the World Meeting of the Adventist Church this summer, Pastor Sweeney stressed that unity is a significant element in the Christian message. Noting that there will be major issues discussed, some of them potentially divisive, he noted the words of Jesus that "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another." [John 13:35] Regardless of what the results of some key votes may be, his hope is that we can leave the meetings knowing that even with strong passions, and strong views being expressed, that "we can move forward together, unitedly."

The full interview can be viewed on the Hope TV UK website, on Roku and on YouTube. Comment is welcomed on the BUC News Facebook page.
VOTE JESUS

If you are wondering which way to vote on 7 May then a local congregation near Manchester have come up with an innovative idea, 'Vote Jesus'.

The Ringway Life congregation in Altrincham acquired the web domain, www.votejesus.co.uk and have printed 15,000 'manifesto' leaflets for distribution. This includes an invitation to a 'manifesto forum' at their building on Thursday, 30 April.

"Our main aim is to get the picture of Jesus through the door of as many people as possible", states one of the organisers, Beryl Emm. "Hopefully some will read the manifesto, some will look at the website and maybe even a few will come out to the manifesto forum evening."

This was a last-minute brainwave that went from idea to reality in just one week! While the project is local they hope the idea of vote Jesus could reach a national audience. "Just imagine if every single Adventist in the UK took 30 seconds to simply visit the website and 'vote yes' for Jesus", their pastor, Geoff Smith challenges. "What if they then invited all their friends to vote as well? Could that grow to make a statement that would be heard right across the country and beyond?" That is the Ringway Life members’ dream. Can you help them to spread the word and vote Jesus?

[Victor Hulbert]

RENEWING THE CYCLE FOR ADVENTIST CHURCH LEADER

National Church leaders are expected to pronounce on things religious – so it's not often you find their temporal interests highlighted in the UK’s premier cycling magazine. That, however, is the case for Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the Seventh-day
Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

The June 2015 edition of Cycling Active – now available – takes six pages to share the tale of his 'Damascus Road' conversion from obesity to regularly cycling the 25-mile commute from his front door to work. Journalist Simon Schofield writes, "Ian's Church, the Seventh-day Adventists, had recently done a big campaign on health and Ian found himself unable to practise what he preached – a bit tricky when you're the President of the Church in the UK."

He quotes Ian, "Here I was handing out books and leaflets on healthy living and the benefits of activity and I was the size of a house." The article then explores how over a period of 18 months he managed to lose 33 kilos (5 stone) through a combination of a change of diet, fasting, self-accountability with an app on his phone, and discovering exercise that he could enjoy. Today he is both a slimmer and happier man. While the article is in a specialist cycling magazine, Ian is, in fact, practising what he preaches, not just in terms of health, but in terms of building bridges with communities, sharing his 'everyday ordinary life' as Romans 12:1-2 puts it (Message Bible).

His story is also featured in the latest specialist magazine from the Adventist Church. The newly published 'Health and well-being' issue of Focus Magazine, available for bulk purchase from Adventist Book Centres or your local church, carries his story on its centre pages. Here he testifies to the tremendous difference his lifestyle change has made. "I have a much higher energy level. I don't sweat as much – I used to sweat profusely. I get an endorphin rush with exercise, which leaves me feeling uplifted. I have fewer colds and feel healthier and fitter than I've ever been."

There is joy for his wife as well who reports that he no longer snores. Spiritual joy as well! Ian concludes, "I certainly asked God to help me in the process… I also realise that having a positive attitude to life and to weight loss is important."

His story is just one of those that can help share the holistic message that Adventists love. By sharing his story in print, his hope is that it is a message that can captivate, spread, and improve the lives of many others.

[Victor Hulbert]

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MAYOR SHARES IN MIDDLESBROUGH'S PASSION

A year of planning and preparation paid off for the Adventist congregation in Middlesbrough as they brought the story of Christ's death and resurrection to life in front of a community audience, including the mayor. It took a year to grow a seed – was it worth it?

The project started in April 2014 with plastic eggs and the hunt for a suitable Easter story for children was started. Visiting a local nursery, members were given permission to go in and read the Easter story to the children. They followed this up by giving out a plastic egg which contained a small chocolate egg, a children's version of the Easter story and an invitation to come and watch a live performance of the play in the Adventist church.

Following months of writing of the play, casting, at all hours, and much seed from last Easter grew Fourteen church members gave a very moving and The Passion of Christ. It Ray Mallon who was very our Church had started. Being a Catholic himself he wanted to know what was different about our Church compared to other denominations.

The play was watched by over 100 people and many – including men – were brought to tears. Many were not churchgoers and that was the aim – to reach at least one person who did not attend church. Seven people who come regularly to the church's coffee drop-in all stated that they were deeply moved. Another man was visibly affected after the play and when asked if he was okay his reply was "I've never experienced anything like that before, I'm feeling very emotional."

With an international cast of Filipino, African, Romanian and English people, the audience was also diverse including a Catholic, a Methodist minister, two Anglicans and an atheist. After the play she got in her research on costumes, prop making, rehearsals stress and laughter, the to maturity this Easter. dressed in full costume passionate portrayal of was attended by Mayor keen to learn about how
car, put on the radio and the words of the song were 'Jesus loves you more than you will know'. She later shared that she'd told her husband that He (God) needn't expect her to go to church every week – strange words from an atheist.

After the play everyone was invited upstairs where members continued the programme by talking through the meaning behind the Passover meal. Twelve 'disciples' each took a table that had been laid out with (non-alcoholic) wine, bread, parsley, salt water, bitter herbs, haroseth, a candle and lamb-shaped biscuits. As everyone gathered around the tables they got to eat, sample and understand the true meaning of the Passover.

The afternoon concluded with Mayor Mallon speaking about the importance of good grounding in our children. As they are our future, we need to teach them, so they in turn can teach their children.

An amateur recording of the play can be viewed on YouTube. Additional photos from The Passion play can be viewed on the Adventist Church's picture gallery.

[Judy Hamilton-Johansson]

**READING THE BIBLE FOR ALL IT'S WORTH AT NEWBOLD BIBLE CONFERENCE**

Four theologians from Newbold College of Higher Education tackled the question of 'How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth' at the College's free annual Bible Conference on Sabbath, 18 April.

The conference, hosted by the College's new Centre for Christian Leadership, attracted record numbers of attendees, with almost 200 people coming from as far as Birmingham, Wales, and Greece for the event.

Dr Laurence Turner opened the conference with a session that taught attendees how to read Old Testament stories. "The Bible does more than entertain us", he said. "It explores the most significant matters of life. We need to take them seriously, but first we have to understand how they operate." Dr Turner went on to compare the characteristics of modern texts such as Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* with stories such as that of Elijah, Absalom and Jacob to
demonstrate the way that we should read the two types of narratives.

Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia spoke about reading the Bible - the book of Hebrews in particular. "The Bible is the only book in the world for which you need to read not only with your eyes but also with your ears", he explained. "Reading the text is necessary, but we need to do something else – we need to train ourselves to be ready to hear the text."

Dr Cedric Vine began his presentation on How to Read the Gospel of Matthew by reviewing some basic reading techniques. These included summarising content and identifying significant themes. He then emphasised the significance of the Gospel as a collection of Jesus' words and deeds. The implication for reading the Gospel is that we should read the discourses of Jesus (i.e. 'words') in light of miracle and conflict stories (i.e. His 'deeds') and vice versa. To read the Gospel of Matthew, the reader should identify why the evangelist has ordered the material in the manner he has – each passage should be read in the light of its context.

The day concluded with a joint session by all three speakers. It tackled The ABCs of Reading the Bible.

Dr Verrecchia began by explaining the importance of using a good translation whenever studying the Bible because, in part, many translations were completed prior to the discovery of 90% of the manuscripts upon which the Bible is based. Dr Verrecchia's advice to attendees was to use a verbal translation as a study Bible, and to choose a version that was completed after the 1950s. We don't travel with old maps but we rather update our satnav. Therefore, readers should use recent, up-to-date translations.

Dr Turner focused on the way to study, recommending to focus on a single biblical book and to study one book and one chapter at a time. He suggested starting with the first epistle of John. Dr Turner suggested that the reader should consider the shape of the book and its main themes as they attempt to get a sense of the book, for where it begins and ends. He also advised that the book then be read in another translation simply to gain a different perspective on the text.

Dr Vine closed the session by providing attendees with a selection of books and other physical and online resources to aid in Bible study.

Videos of all the talks will shortly be made available online. Also, sign up to receive news about the 2016 Bible Conference, and other workshops available through the Centre for Christian Leadership or find us on Facebook.

[Kirsty Watkins]
ABERDEEN MEMBERS IMPACT PHILIPPINES

On Wednesday, 11 February Pastor Njabulo Ndlovu, pastor of Aberdeen church, joined with Eddie Tache, Victor Igwe, Helen Fronda and Talika Sullivan, and travelled to Bansud in the Philippines to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This trip wholly funded by the Aberdeen district of churches followed from an invitation by Pastor Nepthali Manez, President of the North Philippine Union Conference from the time he spent studying at King's College, Aberdeen University.

It was a long and trying trip but from the beginning of our journey we realised quickly that we would need to rely fully upon the Master. Prayer, multiple times a day, was an essential part of our programme. Arriving in the Philippines early on Friday morning we were met by Pastor Arnel Gabin, President of the South Central Luzon Conference as the first European missionaries to come to that part of the Philippines!

Arriving in Bansud, we were greeted by a remarkable and truly humbling welcome parade put on by children from Malaya Adventist Elementary School. Soon we met committees that were working tirelessly to prepare for our harvest campaign.

Using funds that had been sent four months ahead by Aberdeen church, the Bansud district of churches had employed three laymen who worked diligently conducting Bible studies. Consequently, together with the industrious work of the local pastor, Dexter, and through other initiatives such as dental and medical mission work, the amazing groundwork had already yielded 60 souls who were awaiting baptism before we arrived. This was a great source of encouragement for the Gospel work we had come to accomplish.

Within the campaign, the crowds were blessed with: spiritually edifying yet simple Bible truths taught to children by Helen and Talika; awesome spiritual songs by Victor, our singing evangelist; relevant nightly health talks by Talika; and well balanced
doctrinal messages by Pastor Ndlovu. With Pastor Danny Fiecas interpreting into Tagalog, each sermon expounded God's love and the pending judgment in the context of the Three Angels' messages. The technical team, comprised of Eddie and local church members, ensured that all this ran smoothly.

The churches, along with several Adventist educational institutes, had their week of prayer run along with one of the campaign weeks. Our entire team was invited to lead the week of prayer meetings at the elementary schools and the academy early in the mornings. Mid-morning and early afternoons involved mainly visits to interests. A visit to Mangyan indigenous people, who remain settled in the mountains and an experience of a mass wedding hosted by the Bansud municipality as well as further dental and medical community services, kept our team very busy throughout the campaign.

The Lord blessed the united effort of our visiting team and the extraordinary efforts of the local church members. There was much rejoicing when Pastor Ndlovu joined seven other pastors in a seaside baptism of 149 precious souls.

Further funds were donated to the Bansud church building and plans for nurturing each of the newly baptized members were put in place.

"This experience of working as a short-term missionary in the Philippines was a true blessing and has confirmed to me the path the Lord has laid on my heart to take", Talika reflected – now focusing on plans for further missionary training.

While inspired by the enormous generosity of Aberdeen members in raising over £5000 for the project, the amazing hospitality of the Filipino people, and the blessing to witness the huge Adventist presence attested by various church institutes that we visited, the team recognize their work is not complete. "We want to inspire the members of the Aberdeen district of churches and
the Scottish Mission at large to each explore domestic community-based outreach initiatives and therein realize the work of the same Holy Spirit that we witnessed in Bansud", Talika added.

[Talika Sullivan]

ASNA CONNECTING PEOPLE, CHANGING LIVES

The 15th Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) Family Respite & Training weekend took place, 10-12 April at the beautiful setting of Sunningdale Park Hotel, Ascot and much like its name the weather was favourable the entire weekend. Ninety delegates enjoyed the social, spiritual and emotional support provided by the weekend. This event was developed by ASNA through its Connecting People: Changing Lives project. It was developed to provide an opportunity for families and people living with disability to come away for respite, and for disability coordinators and other volunteers to receive training.

This year's theme Trust God's Heart focused on understanding our challenging experiences as 'gifts from God' as well as opportunities for spiritual growth. The delegates were admonished and encouraged by the insightful and Bible-based seminars of Jerome Knight and Nigel Nicholls. Many found the seminars 'eye-opening' 'encouraging' and a 'great opportunity to revisit the emotions I went through when I had the first diagnosis of my daughter'.

A new family attending for the first time spoke of how they found the weekend 'refreshing, relaxing and spiritually uplifting'. For a mother whose young daughter has autism the weekend was "love, love, love [with] the hard work and dedication of the organisers and volunteers. I feel each year goes from strength to strength."

Fabrice Baker-Livingstone from ADRA-UK attended for the first time and wrote, "I was welcomed into the 'ASNA family' as soon as I arrived. The weekend was full of activities for both adults and children with special needs as well as seminars for the carers covering topics that many found useful."

Karen Weekes from Camp Hill SDA church and a trustee of ASNA is part of a programme based in Camp Hill, Birmingham, providing spiritual support for adults with disabilities. She recounted several
stories of how many adults have come to know Christ better and deeper through their interaction at the church.

Fabrice enjoyed the interactive session with adults with disabilities based on Psalm 119:11 concerning placing our hands in God's heart. "It was not only enjoyable for the adults but also for the volunteers alike."

With a refreshing walk to Virginia Waters on Sabbath afternoon and after a quick nap she was revived for the evening's programme which included a concert filled with music, comedy, skits and dance. Throughout the weekend all the children participated together in activities led out by Caroline Kamara, ASNA trustee and coordinator for children and young people's programmes. They too performed as a choir at the concert much to their parents' delight!

Sunday morning activities included a wonderful arts project depicting the love of God for the adults with special needs and outdoor activities for all the children. The weekend culminated with the 13th ASNA AGM on Sunday morning, where ASNA members and visitors were invited to feedback on the weekend and make suggestions and recommendations to the trustees regarding the work of the charity.

Following the AGM Pastor Patrick Johnson presented some of the early findings from his doctoral research. His study relates the experiences of people with physical disabilities in the Adventist Church. Many found this interesting and related that the findings resonated with some of their experiences.

Fabrice concludes, "For those of you who may have doubts, the ASNA weekend is a fun, friendly and interactive weekend away!" She then asks, "Why not volunteer, support or attend the next ASNA weekend?"
membership. This includes churches such as Newbold who raised over £900 from a church music concert. All these funds go towards ensuring people with disabilities are supported spiritually, emotionally, physically and socially.

[Fabrice Baker-Livingstone & Sophia Nicholls]

INTENSIVE PREACHING DAY STRENGTHENS PASTORS

"I was expecting to have a room full of lay preachers", said Dr Gifford Rhamie as he began his BUTREC training session at the BUC office on Tuesday 21 April. "Instead, I find myself before a group of seasoned preachers!"

Fortunately Dr Rhamie continued with his presentation as planned and at the end of the day even the oldest and most experienced preachers present had learnt a thing or two. The topic for the day was 'Narrative Preaching'. Not an entirely new concept for Adventist preachers, but perhaps one which has yet to receive the attention it deserves. In comparison to Expository Preaching, the purpose of the narrative approach is to present the truth of a particular Bible text or theme through the medium of a story.

"This generation thinks very differently from our parents' generation", said Dr Rhamie. "Postmodern thinking revolves around the question, 'What is truth?'

"Today, truth is sourced from experience. It is a lived reality. Today, people don't just look at historical facts, they want to know the story behind the history. Through narrative preaching you are inviting your audience to go on a spiritual journey with you – and you'll reach people who can't be reached by facts alone."

Backling up his message with ample illustrations and extracts from some of his own and others' sermons, Dr Rhamie challenged, entertained, informed and inspired his audience for a full four hours. As with the best of sermons the time passed rapidly but the message stuck. Over the next weeks and months some forty or fifty Adventist congregations in the territory of the BUC should be the beneficiaries of this intensive training exercise.

For event co-organiser BUC Ministerial Association Secretary,
Pastor Llew Edwards, "this was an inspiring presentation on Narrative Preaching. He renewed our appreciation of Jesus' primary method of preaching, one that grips hearts and draws minds to the challenging truths of the Kingdom of heaven." Ministers that could not make it to the seminar need not despair – the training will shortly be available online.

[John Surridge]

SPOTLIGHTING DISABILITY AWARENESS SABBATH
25 APRIL

Do you see your church as one that is inclusive, compassionate, accessible, adaptable, demonstrates understanding, values human dignity and respect for every individual? These are the core values that the BUC Disability Awareness department seeks to uphold in its mission and outreach.

Additionally, the department's mission is to enable every individual to fully participate in our churches through worship, teaching and other services in a way that is appropriate and relevant to them through an inclusive approach which enables them to grow spiritually.

The department is here to assist with resources, advice and training to facilitate the realisation of this goal.

Sabbath, 25 April 2015 has been designated as BUC Disability Awareness Day. A number of churches have planned programmes for their church and community such as the Wallington church who have posted information about the day on the Adventist Church's events page.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) highlights that an estimated 1 billion people worldwide (15% of the world population) are disabled. Of this billion people, between 110-190 million adults have significant health challenges. The Office for Disability Issues indicates that there are over 11 million people in the UK living with a limiting long-term illness, impairment or disability.

With these facts in mind our outreach and ministry needs to be reflective of individuals with a disability. Whether or not your church is running a special programme this weekend, take a look at your building, your fellow members, your worship style – and even your friends and neighbours. Then ask the question, "How can I make my church more accessible?"
For further information on resources and initiatives from the BUC Disability Awareness department please ring the BUC on 01923 672251 and watch a video explaining accessibility produced by the Adventist Media Centre UK.

[Sharon Platt-McDonald]

DEATH OF RICHARD JAMES VICTOR COOPER

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of Pastor Richard Cooper in Redlands, California on Friday 17 April 2015. Richard was born in Nottingham on 10 July 1949 to Pastor Victor and Mrs Rhona Cooper, a young brother for Helen (now Helen Pearson). Richard attended Coston Junior School in Greenford and then Stanborough Secondary School. He was baptised by his father in July 1963 and after completing his A levels he worked for short periods in mental nursing, at an aircraft factory and in landscape gardening. Like his father and grandfather before him, he went on to study Theology at Newbold College. He entered the Adventist ministry in 1972.

He commenced his work as an intern in the Scottish Mission, followed by a brief assignment in the Welsh Mission followed by service in the North England Conference / North British Conference from September 1972. He married Tabitha Abel in December that same year and served as a pastor in Preston, Newcastle, Halifax and Kettering.

Ordained at the North British Conference Session in June 1981, Richard took study leave from September 1983 to do postgraduate study at Loma Linda University. After completing his MSc and serving briefly as associate pastor of Mentone church in California, he returned in November 1987 to the Irish Mission where he served as a pastor until October 1990. The family moved back to California where Richard continued his pastoral vocation as elder and Sabbath School teacher in his local church in Mentone, California. His life was punctuated by various bouts of ill-health followed by an injury which eventually resulted in his going into residential care in 2008. He never lost his desire to serve, and was supporting the chaplaincy team by holding morning worships until he developed Parkinson's disease, and moved into the nursing home where he died last week.

Richard and Tabitha who divorced in 2002 had three children, Todd, Ross and Joelle.

There will be a memorial service in the Redlands Adventist church on Sabbath 2 May at 3:00 pm. Memorial gifts can be sent to Student Scholarship Fund, Newbold College c/o Helen
We extend our sympathy to Helen, Ross, Todd, Joelle and their families.

[Paul Lockham]

ALSO IN THE NEWS

Last Sabbath was World Health Impact Day for the Adventist Church. Basildon church took it seriously and shares a positive report. Plymouth church impacted their health by moving into outdoor mode, holding their first church camp retreat for many a year. Their report will make you want to book a church retreat at Chapel Porth.

Perhaps Adventism's strangest mention in the secular press refers to Scottish Labour campaigner, Jim Murphy, who appears to have radically swung to the Left in his politics. Reporting on Scottish TV News, Stephen Daisley writes: "Murphy's shift from the right to the left is remarkable. As conversions go, it's Damascene – if Saul of Tarsus had found Christ and immediately became a Seventh Day Adventist."

Make what you will of the statement – but would that more had a 'Damascene' experience to discover the hope, promise and joy of being a Seventh-day Adventist.

On a more serious note, Adventists have also made comment and offered condolences during the escalating human trafficking crisis in the Mediterranean.

[BUC news]
Ireland. Focusing on one example in Northern Ireland, the article shares one example of how youth across the world 'Became the sermon' on Global Youth Day.

Also in this edition: One year on Julian Hibbert reflects on the fate of the missing Nigerian schoolgirls, the devotional is a moving tale posing the question, 'How will you be remembered?', and Jim Cunningham confesses as to 'Why I am not an atheist'. Pick up a copy in your local church or read it online now.

[Julian Hibbert]

LEARN FROM 'THE JOURNEY'

A new series starts on Revelation TV this week with the return of 'The Journey'. In this new series Victor Hulbert will be drawing out spiritual lessons from a desert safari, looking over the edge of the world's tallest building, and searching for the principles of a strong marriage. This series will also include guest appearances from Pastors Ian Sweeney, John Surridge and others. They will share their unique perspectives on life in the real world and how it relates to Christian faith.

Coming to Revelation TV this week: Thursday 8:30 pm repeated Sunday at 1:00 pm

Thursday, 23 April (repeated Sunday 26 April), The Journey: John Surridge finds himself rushing down a raging torrent in a kayak and finds the value of 'Keeping to the mainstream'.
Thursday, 30 April (repeated Sunday 3 May), The Journey: in 'Looking high' Victor Hulbert travels to Canada, Dubai and Sinai visiting the world's tallest buildings and pondering on Moses' mountaintop experience.

To find out how to watch Revelation TV, click here. The new series will also shortly be released on the www.hopetv.org.uk website and on ROKU, the best IPTV platform for watching Hope Channel and other Adventist programmes.

[Victor Hulbert]

COMING EVENTS For a full listing of Coming Events please visit http://adventist.org.uk/events
Friday 24 April:
**Prayer vigil for Kenya.** In light of the recent massacre of 148 Christian students in Kenya, students at Newbold College will host a prayer vigil, supported by the local Anglican Church and friends from the local community. Time: 19:30 - 21:30. Venue: Newbold Seventh-day Adventist Church, St Marks Road, Binfield, Berks RG42 4AN.

Sabbath 25 April:
**Wallington Disability Awareness Day.** An all-day event from Sabbath School, Divine Service and AYS. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for all our visitors and friends. Venue: St Pauls Church, Mollison Drive, Roundshaw, Wallington (next to the Phoenix Recreation Centre), Surrey SM6 9HG.

**Creative Praize.** Creative Praize is an event created to encourage and allow young people to use their God-given talents to serve others around them. Check link for full details. Time: 18:00 - 20:00. Venue: Bedford Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, 73 Bromham Road, Bedford MK40 2AQ.

**Fundraising Concert – Help Florence Attend TEKOA Missionary School.** Check link for full details. Time: 19:00 - 21:00. Venue: Northampton Central Adventist Church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinny Hill, Northampton NN3 6BQ.

Sabbath 2 May:
**Inauguration of Basingstoke Adventist church.** Join Basingstoke Seventh-day Adventist company as they celebrate their history and organise as a church. Former members, friends and neighbours are all welcome to this special day. Time: 09:30 - 17:30. Venue: Old Basing Village Hall, The Street, Basingstoke RG24 7DA.

Sabbath 9 May:
**Song for Hope Concert.** Galway and Cork churches share musical inspiration in Dublin. Time: 19:30. Venue: Ranelagh Seventh-day Adventist Church, 47a Ranelagh Rd, Dublin 6.

Sunday 10 May:
**Flowers for Worship.** Newbold's Centre for Christian Leadership is offering a one-day workshop on flower arranging for ministry. Time: 09:30 - 16:00. Visit [www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership) to register, or for more information. Venue: Newbold College of Higher Education.
Symposium on Diversity and Women’s Ordination. Two of the issues of great discussion within our Church today. This is an opportunity to discuss the topic in an open all members forum.

Time: 10:00 - 16:00. Location: Advent Centre, 37 Brendon Street, London W1H 5JE.

Future events that you need to book for now:

· 17-21 May. Residential Healthy cooking course with a difference.
· 24-27 May. Book now to join a coast to coast cycle ride raising funds for ADRA.
· 6-16 September. ADRA Connections trip to Nepal. Get involved with a real ADRA project. Only a few spaces left.

SMALL ADS

MICHAELA MATHIEU-MARIUS, a Masters student from Newham, East London is planning a two-month voluntary work placement with disaffected young people in St Lucia from May 2015, with help from the Daneford Trust. She writes: "I am passionate about the development, aspirations and well-being of young people and I desire to see them make positive and informed choices which empower them to fulfil their dreams." To help raise funds she will run the Hackney Half Marathon on 10 May. Can you help her reach her £3000 target? Please visit her virgingiving page for more details.

CHALET SHARE SEC CAMP MEETING. Nicola Green-Samuel is seeking a chalet mate for SEC Camp Meeting, 15-21 June. If interested in sharing please call her on: 07577 070 840.

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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