How can flowers change a life?
Ask Audrey Balderstone, Stanborough Park church's co-designer of Changing Lives – a Festival of Floral Art and her husband, David Balderstone, who is ADRA-UK's Voluntary Transport manager. The festival, which ran from 27-29 June, was stunning. Proceeds will go to ADRA-UK to provide clean running water and sanitation facilities for the Albanian Orphanage in Korce, the 'Baby House', which needs £12,735 for this project. The Baby House is home for children under 6 years of age. Audrey heard of their plight. She has at least two talents. She can make beautiful flower arrangements that have earned her thousands of pounds for charity over the years; and she has the gift of winning friends who, like her, will work tirelessly for others.

Audrey set herself the dream target of £10,000, formed a committee, and contacted her friend Revd William McMillan, MBE, of Belfast, who taught her flower arranging many years ago. 'Rev Mac', as he is affectionately known, readily agreed to co-design the festival because he loves children and respects what ADRA-UK is doing.

After months of detailed planning, Changing Lives opened its doors on 26 June with the Preview Evening. Dr C. Sandefur, ADRA International director (from Washington), declared the festival open. The evening started with a short service followed by a delicious meal of quiches with salad, pavlova, and coffee and mints. BBC Television journalist Bill Hamilton was the after-dinner speaker. ADRA was the first charity to enter Albania in April 1991. Mr Hamilton was there at the time, reporting, and later wrote the book, Albania – Who Cares? Also present were Watford's MP Claire Ward; Watford's Mayor Dorothy Thurnhill; and Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the BUC.

On Friday morning the festival gave free entry to the public. Hundreds came, arrangements depicting ADRA's worldwide work were admired; mouth-watering meals and snacks were devoured and money poured in. At the WFS meeting that evening Dr Sandefur told us about the work ADRA is doing internationally, in 125 countries throughout the world. He also said, 'We need to act out our love,' and he encouraged us to take an active part in the work ADRA is doing. On Sabbath Dr Sandefur said, 'We are the aroma and fragrance of Jesus to the world.'

The festival culminated in a concert held on Saturday, organised by Roland Guenin, with the artists competing with the stunning floral arrangements for beauty and cadence. The concert was followed by dinner and entertainment organised by the Blue Café team. The two events reached their target of £1,000 each. Throughout the festival Audrey was sharing her talents in popular flower arranging demos and commented that the displays fell into two categories – the world of plenty and the world of want.

We think of Audrey, Revd Mac, all the flower arrangers, the guest speakers, the musicians, the caterers, the ushers, and the committee members who worked for months so everything would go like clockwork, and we may ask, 'What did it achieve?' A great deal. Audrey reached her goal of £10,000 (conservative figure reached by 13 July was £12,500!), probably thousands of people came to our church – many for the first time, and regular members were uplifted by looking at the flowers and realising the self-sacrifice needed to run the festival.

Meanwhile ADRA-UK was organising 2,000 shoeboxes with a variety of gifts for children in orphanages throughout Albania. When Harry Wilby drove the big truck from Stanborough Park on 23 July, there were at least 1,400 shoebox presents on board thanks to Chantal Alen’s Shoebox Appeal. Who met him at the other end? None other than Audrey and Chantal, there to see for themselves the relief on the faces of the staff at the great news of the £12,500, and the joy on the faces of the little ones.

MP, BBC man and Mayor at Flower Festival
by Merva Daley and Bronwen Atkinson
Better than Glastonbury: Inauguration of North Bristol church
by Shiloh Harmitt

I
did not think about the audience, just those who attended the Inauguration Service who had not been there before. There were well over 200 people who had not attended a church service of any description in their lives. Our church is a unique place, one that does not fit into any of the categories normally associated with church services. It is a place where people can come and feel comfortable, where they can be themselves, and where they can be heard. It is a place where people can find hope and meaning.

The service began with a reading from Luke 22:43-44, where Jesus tells Peter that he will deny him three times but that he will return and find him again. This is a powerful statement of God’s love and forgiveness, and it is a reminder that even when we fail, God will be there to help us.

The service continued with a reading from John 15:5-7, where Jesus says that he is the vine and we are the branches. This is a powerful statement of our connection with God, and it is a reminder that we are not alone in our faith.

The service ended with a hymn of thanks and praise for those who have been a part of the church’s history. This is a powerful statement of gratitude, and it is a reminder that we are only as strong as those who have come before us.

I
would like to thank everyone who was a part of the service, both those who were in person and those who were not. I would also like to thank everyone who has been a part of the church’s history, both those who are still with us and those who have gone before us.

I
would like to invite everyone to come and join us as we continue to grow and serve the community. This is a special place, and I would love to see everyone here again soon.

The service ended with a benediction from 1 Corinthians 16:14, where Paul says that the churches are the body of Christ. This is a powerful statement of our connection with God and with each other, and it is a reminder that we are all part of the church.

I
would like to thank everyone for coming and for making the service a success.

I
would like to invite everyone to come and see for themselves how special this place is.

I
would like to invite everyone to come and see for themselves how special this place is.

I
would like to invite everyone to come and see for themselves how special this place is.

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would like to invite everyone to come and see for themselves how special this place is.
Dublin pastor ordained

Serving one of the largest congregations in the Irish Mission, Pastor Douglas McCormac realised he might have a bit of a problem when he started to organise his ordination service. Bearing in mind that the small Dublin church building has been bursting at the seams with regular attendances of 150-180, how would the church cope with additional visitors, family members, and friends on this special day?

The answer was relatively simple. Find a larger venue. The minister at the Dundrum Methodist Church kindly agreed to let us use his church for the day, and this was the setting for a fantastic day of fellowship and ordination on 7 June. Douglas’s family and friends came from all over the island, from as nearby as Ballinacrow and Wexford to as far away as Belfast, Galway and Cork.

The day was a tremendous success. The morning session started with Niall Sisson (Dublin) showing us the many resources available to revive Sabbath school programmes. BIC president Pastor Cecil Perry challenged us in his sermon to prepare for the second coming.

The afternoon session was very touching, with many pastors from the Irish Mission involved. Pastor Phil Rhodes (Galway), Pastor Mart de Groot (Belfast), Pastor Adam Keough (Belfast), Pastor Curtis G. Murphy (Mission president), Pastor Michael Logan (Cork). Special visitors Pastor Perry and Pastor David Cox flew in from England especially to take part in the ordination service.

The service was tinged with a little sadness as the Irish Mission bade farewell to and thanked Pastor Phil and Thelma Rhodes. They are returning to Australia later in the year. Pastor Cox spoke with a personal message and Pastor Perry delivered the Charge to the Ordinand. During the service, Douglas surprised us all with his musical talent by singing Be Thou my Vision.

As the ordination service was held for the first time ever in Ashford. Although the Ashford church plant group is very small compared with many other churches, the members invited their friends to the special opening service and a total of 57 people attended.

From the start of the Ashford church plant project, the group, together with their pastor, Fernand Lombart, have shared the same vision: they would like to see an Adventist church centre being open seven days a week, meeting the needs of the community. In order to achieve this target, the Ashford church needs to be one that will appeal to secular-minded people as well as serving the needs of existing Adventists. These principles have led to a sense of ‘change’ in the church service which was described by one visitor as having a “relaxed atmosphere”.

This change of service resulted in the Sabbath school and divine service being smoothly blended into one which, in turn, was divided into four sections. Although considered radical by some, it proved to be effective and a sea of happy faces on Sabbath morning showed that the congregation enjoyed the new way of worship.

Praise, testimony and prayer were included in the service, and these present listened to musical items from singers Chris and Cindy Dube, Sam Mahlanga, and visitor Roberto Di Carli.

These living in the Ashford area who would like to attend the new church should contact Pastor Fernand Lombart’s phone: 01227 713378; fernand@lombart7255.fsnet.co.uk.

JAMES LOMBART

Dublin ‘membership explosion’

Over the last few years membership has exploded in the Dublin church. Many people have travelled to Ireland to make new lives for themselves, but on Sabbath 31 May the Dublin church celebrated a new life that seven young people had not expected when they first arrived on Ireland’s green shores. On what turned out to be one of the sunniest and warmest days of the year so far six young people from Moldova and one from Brazil were baptised in a special afternoon service.

Angela, Victor, Uri and Svetlana, Vitalie and Tatiana, all came from Moldova and had been invited to come to Dublin church by Moldovan members. For some time the Dublin church has had Moldovan Sabbath school and prayer meetings.

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Ashford church plant services begin

For many months Adventists living in Ashford, Kent, have been meeting every Wednesday night for Bible study and to plan for the opening of their own church. For years they have been attending the Canterbury and Folkstone churches, but their dream has been for a church in Ashford.

On Sabbath 17 May that dream became a reality when an Adventist church service was held for the first time ever in Ashford. Although the Ashford church plant group is very small compared with many other churches, the members invited their friends to the special opening service and a total of 57 people attended.

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JAMES LOMBART

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10.45am

London Adventist Chorale

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The London Adventist Chorale

On the Winning Team with Your Children
Understanding Sexuality
We Are What We Eat
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Reducing Cancer Risk
God Cares - even on sports day!
by Russell McKie (r.mckie@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk)

Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 May saw Stanborough School’s annual two-day sports events burst into full swing. As lunchtime approached for the participants on day 1, the field events looked under threat of heavy rain. Mr McKie was ever positive that the rain clouds would pass and it would be fine for sports day, but even he started to doubt his own optimism.

The show must go on and as we stepped out in faith, the rain ceased and the games would begin, set for how long? Since the school’s foundation in 1940 records have been kept of sporting greatness and act as a motivator for our students to achieve excellence. In the junior discus event this year, two of our school records were broken, by Samuel Ugah (28.03m) and Lindsey James (17.36m), with Jennifer Stowser breaking her already existing senior girls’ shot record which now stands at 18.69m.

Day 2 and the threat of more rain – even heavier this time, but our PE teacher remained even more positive. God had seen off the rain on day 1, he would not leave us for our track events finale. Woodside Stadium, Waltham, has seen many a sporting spectacle in its existence with accomplished athletes going head to head. The previous weekend had seen the county championships take place and our very own Michael Weekes (Year 8) became the 400m county champion and runner-up in the 200m to the AAA English champion at under 15.

The blustery conditions may not have been perfect for the runners, or the poor teachers who braved the weather to officiate at the events. Notwithstanding, a further three records were broken, one of which had stood since 1975. Michael Weekes now holds two of those records in the junior 100m (20,060) and his 200m (24.52) and the senior 100m (10.89 secs), with Christopher Faillon, a Junior AA English champion at under 15.

The rest of the day was set aside for tests and travel to the county championships. The previous evening was set apart for prayers of healing, salvation and transformation from sin and disease in the lives of those who came to the meetings.

Twenty-three baptised in Reading

On Sabbath 31 May a two-week revival and reclamation campaign held at the Reading Whitley church concluded with a baptism. In all, twenty-three people, with ages ranging from 15 to 55, were baptised in response to the campaign, which had as its theme, ‘Being Faithful to God’. Average attendance was around 200, but on the final Sabbath the numbers rose to over 1,000.

There were two guest speakers for the campaign. Pastor Haran Royce, an elder of Whitley church, and Dr Henry Mhando, an international evangelist from Tanzania, who has also been involved in a campaign in Holloway. For the baptism, the speaker was Pastor Aaron Tokyo, another elder of the Whitley church, and he, together with Reading district pastor Everett Picart, baptised the candidates.

‘Think Big’ was an often-repeated phrase from Dr Mhando. ‘Members should be encouraged to think big for the glory of the Lord,’ he said, making reference to biblical characters like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Job, and Elisha. Each evening after the altar call there were special prayers for healing and deliverance. ‘Expect miracles,’ Dr Mhando said. Although a number of candidates were already prepared for baptism before the campaign began, the majority of those baptised came from the altar calls each day. Six more candidates are expected to be baptised within the next four weeks.

The Whitley campaign was planned by Pastor Picart, and managed by the church board. The South England Conference’s emphasis on reclamation for 2003 formed the purpose of the campaign, he said. ‘We had to marshal our membership to “reach-in” and “move-out” to claim our young people and retain lapsed members.’

The evangelistic meetings were held in the school hall used for regular Sabbath worship in the Whitley church. There is an urgent need for a new building and during the campaign members and visitors gave over £45,000 in cash and pledges towards this project.

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**Youth weekend**

At the Area 1 Youth weekend on 2-5 May, we were joined by a young adult group from the Adventist Centre led by Emma Pearson and David Riley for a weekend of spiritual talks and the great song worships were led by South Midlands and Northampton area at the Northampton church. Youth weekend from the Advent Centre led by Emma Pearson and David Riley for a weekend of spiritual talks and the great song worships were led by South Midlands and Northampton area at the Northampton church.

**Obituaries**

HUGH-CROCKER. Merle kneads – 5 October 2011. Her eldest daughter Charlotte with husband Charles and daughter Amanda. Her father had two younger siblings – Jess and Miley. The family house had been at Grangewood, Prior joined the Stanborough Press at the age of 17. She was employed as a typist and later as an office worker. She then worked at the Stanborough Press and the Bicester Times. She was married to Mr John Hiley. They had two children, Peter and Jane Hiley. They were married in 1972, and later moved to Lincoln in 1982, where they were employed as medical staff at the Grantham Hospital. She was an assistant at the Grantham Hospital. She died known her for many years, gave a full account of her life's work. Frances and Bob were married on 11 September 1932. In 1939, Bob and his mother and Frances, with their daughter, Ellen, attended the Elmh Church with their parents. She had never forgotten some of the songs that they sang together. The songs were sung with great happiness. The last time that she talked to her family about them was back some good memories for her. The residents joined us and we really felt that the Holy Spirit was melting the hearts of everyone there who had friends before being turned into a loving way in one another's lives, to hold others' burdens before the Father in Heaven who understands and makes allowances for our weaknesses and in the reunion when Jesus comes. We will hold our annual meeting in the church's main hall, and the church's main hall.
Newbold brings India to Binfield School
by Melody Tan

Staff members of Newbold College did a short presentation of India to the Year 2 classes of Binfield Primary School on Wednesday 2 July. The presentation was done in conjunction with the primary school’s first ever International Week.

We have always felt that the children need to experience other cultures,” said Di Gan, head teacher of Binfield Primary. And we knew that Newbold would help us to enrich the children’s lives.

Kay Choudary, Marketing manager of Newbold College, told the group of 60 children about her wedding in India almost 20 years ago. She was not only dressed in the car she wore on her wedding day, but she had extra clothes for the teachers and a handful of the female students as well. The children were also given an opportunity to taste some authentic Indian sweets and have traditional Indian designs painted on their faces.

‘This is the best ever (presentation)’ enthused an excited Joseph Price, one of the Year 2 students.

It was absolutely lovely. Kay involved the children with dressing up, sweets and face paints. She made it more hands-on,’ said Jill Hanson, teacher of one of the Year 2 classes.

The International Week was organized to help the children realize that differences can be celebrated. Even if it was only a little snippet of India, I’m sure the children appreciated the experience.’

The principal of the Advent Discovery Centre acknowledged with sincere thanks anonymous donations of £300 received in June and £20 in July.

Several local adults gave up their time to help with the presentation, Pasheen and her husband Kay, Kay’s sister-in-law Carol, Kay’s nephew Joseph, and her mother Mrs. Choudary.

The presentation was done in conjunction with the Year 2 classes of Binfield Primary School on Wednesday 2 July.

Newbold brings India to Binfield School

Kay Choudary (back row, extreme right) and Pat Ockenden (front row, extreme left) with the teachers and students from the Year 2 classes of Binfield Primary School, dressed up in traditional Indian clothes.

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