Lowestoft’s seventy years

by Ron Ellis

On 24 December 1933 Pastor Robert Joyce and his evangelistic team began meetings in the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft. Week after week the meetings were packed. Eventually the venue moved to a salt store in Belvedere Road, a building which, by 21 October 1934, had been transformed into a church. Sixty-six people were baptised there and four additional members received by profession of faith. On 22 February 1935 the church was organised officially, thanks to a new member who paid off the debt.

It was to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the church organisation that pastors, members and friends, past and present, met at the new Lowestoft church on 19 February for a celebration. Pastor Don McFarlane, president of SEC, preached on the theme ‘The Church in the Community’, and Jean Baker and Eunice Sampson took us through the history of the church.

Freak weather conditions in January 1953 resulted in a tidal wave which caused massive devastation along the east coast: Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. The Belvedere Road church suffered badly. Hassocks, chairs and hymnbooks were ruined. For a time the members moved upstairs but, after a few months, it became evident that a new building was needed.

A property was purchased in Regent Road opposite the police station. In 1955 the new church was ready and was opened by the Mayor of Lowestoft, together with Pastor J. A. McMillan and Mr. N. H. Knight, president and treasurer respectively, of the South England Conference.

The proximity of the police station proved a problem. The new Hammond organ often relayed police messages, forcing the organist to switch it off. A loud wartime siren on top of the police station was used as a fire warning. It was so deafening that services had to be curtailed on each occasion. On one extremely hot day the local police chief asked if the windows of the church could be closed. It appeared that the hymn singing was disturbing his officers and secretaries. Another move was clearly called for.

The move was facilitated by Pastor Walter Newman, the minister at that time. The land was purchased by Tesco’s, and with the proceeds a hotel in Pakefield was purchased, demolished, and replaced by the very modern Lowestoft Adventist church. While the building was under way, Canon Caiger provided the use of an Anglican church free of charge for the Adventists to use.

At our 19 February celebration service there was a two-minute silence for those members who had gone to their rest.

Eunice Sampson and her team provided an excellent lunch, then in the afternoon we were delighted by a magnificent spiritual concert provided by the London Adventist Chorale.

Thanks to displays brought by BUC’s Pastor John Surridge, the opportunity was used to showcase the world-wide work of the Church.
For the whole month of February Dr Borje Schantz, the writer and Dr Myra DeHart conducted evangelistic meetings in North East Nigeria. There were many interesting experiences, not least a visit to Jengre Hospital which was started by the late Dr John Hyde. It was from this hospital that the work expanded and spread out in this part of Nigeria. Borje Schantz served as Mission President in this was thirty-five years ago. The membership then was less than a hun-
dred, but on the Sabbath that we met with them there was a congregation of nearly 2,000.

Three separate campaigns were held during this week. The campaigns resulted in five baptisms of over eighty people. The Bible knowledge of the people was amazing. Hundreds of questions were submitted, the majority on the state of the dead, the Sabbath, and clean and unclean food. Dress, especially the wearing of jeans by women, was an issue. The singing by women’s and youth choirs was wonderful. The natural harmony was captivating.

Section IV: Shortly before we arrived resulted in many people losing their lives. For our safety we stayed in a Nigerian army base camp. It was basic. Running water and a constant supply of electricity are not enjoyed by the majority of the population. The Conference President’s wife, who was pregnant and with a healthy baby, was one of a number who were sent to hospital.

The variety of Christian churches in this part of Nigeria is astonishing. Over twenty-five were observed with names like Christ, Truth, Church, Church of Our Victorious, The Redeemed Church of Christ, and St Louis Church of Christ. Public

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Evangelists return from North East Nigeria by Patrick deBje

Meetings were only part of the exercise, with home visitation being a more essential part. A testimonial from one of the translators was touching, heartening and encouraging. He wrote, “your simple, practical illustrations, without the use of any power points, verbal equipment or slides, made the lectures appear real, natural and easy to understand.”

We spoke to the workers, all forty of them, shared in two celebrations of the Lord’s Supper, and dedicated two babies. Nightly attendance was 3,000-

plus. One sadness was the experience of a young girl who was put out of her home for accepting the Sabbath truth.

See Section IV

BUC Executive

Back row, l to r, Dr B. Phillips (president, Welsh Mission), Dr B. Phillips (editor, BUC Executive, D. Boldeau (Youth director), I. Sweeney, I. Sleeman, Dr D. Marshall (editor). Absent members: Dr B. Phillips (president, Welsh Mission), J. Johansen, V. Pilmoor (treasurer), C. R. Perry (president, BUC), E. Windrass, Nigel Todd, Steve Rivers (Stanborough School head), G. M. Bell (GHA), A. King, O. Baxter.

Front row, l to r, Dr B. Phillips (president, Welsh Mission), I. Sweeney, E. Windrass, D. Boldeau (Youth director), I. Sweeney, I. Sleeman, Dr D. Marshall (editor).

Who those opt out of Christianity are opting for the void, and the void can be a desperately bleak, lonely and empty place to be.

Church is a substitute for everything, but nothing is a substitute for Christ. Can all be found, let’s give. Let us look at the last word. "Look for yourself and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, ruin and death. But look for Christ and you will find, and with Him everything wonderful in - . By dying He disabled death itself.”
It must be love

Valentine’s Day has traditionally become a pagan celebration over the centuries and more recently a commercial one. However, the Sabbath School department at Kings Cross church decided to have a special service to celebrate love in its entirety. With songs and poems of love it was a beautiful way to start the church day. Sabbath School superintendent Sister Farguson said, “We’re just full of love at King Cross, so why not celebrate it!”

Most members were in love red as a symbol of love and at the end of the service we made a circle and joined hands. At this point we all told the person on our right their service to the church during the past year. Their service to the church was then followed by refreshments, and surprise presentations were made by two kids to Anita and David King, Pastor Roger Neal and Sarah Smart and the writer, for their service to the church during the past year.

The Child of Hope

‘Child of Hope’ was the theme for the Swinton church family’s Christmas eve carol service. The service was organised by Ivo Kask, and for two Sabbaths prior to the service members had hand-delivered approximately 200 invitation cards to homes surrounding the church.

On the night itself, five visitors were present among the congregation. Carol, a neighbour of the Swinton’s, came in with a smile on her face and was greeted by Pastor Mick Smart (local minister).

The service included Klaus and Neila, who are the husband and brother respectively of church member Brian Hawkins. Denise, the daughter of another member, Venus, attended with her mother who had returned from Spain for Christmas, and one of our long-time Adventists, James and Muriel Logan, who came with members Jonas and Ragnhild, also from Wales. This service began with a touching rendition of ‘O Holy Night’ by Mandy Khany, Isaac Libut, a pastoral student at Newbold, welcomed everyone. Besides the usual singing of popular carols the service was interspersed with musical items from various individuals, including a piece played on a flute.

Our children also played a key part in the service, singing selected carols and collectively reading Luke 2:1-20. Narrators for the evening were Jenny Hawkins, who highlighted for the congregation a modern day story the truth and hope that we are all part of and that hope came into the world long ago through Christ’s birth. The evening ended with the congregation receiving and passing the lighted candle, thus lighting up the dark church with the light of hope.

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Children witness

Hemel Hempstead church saw their first naturally produced, which exceeded all expectations. All the children excited themselves, and had lots of fun in the process! Hand-painted backdrops were fantastic, and thanks must go to Rachell Wilson for those. Thanks also to Deidre Foun and Sheryl Abdelmassih for all their hard work in putting everything together. It will be a hard act to follow, but definitely not to be missed.

Swansea baptisms

2004 was a very fruitful for Swansea church. During the year we could see real spiritual blessings shown by God’s children dedicating and fully committing their lives to Jesus Christ and his work through baptism. Our young ministers, Ed Sammons and Jeremy Tre mere, have been working hard with everyone and with all our young people of all ages in a warm fellowship way.

Last summer, Chris Kidwell and Martin Latchman were baptised, followed by Fiona Paul and Leslie Noakes, whose baptism was held at Gower beach. Then later on, Vanessa Magasela was also baptised in church.

Recently we have a new group of Adventist members from different parts of church who have joined us in fellowship. They are very active in church activities here at Swansea.

Diamond wedding

Long time Adventists James and Muriel Logan, a couple who got married in January with a quiet family gathering. James and his four brothers, Ernest, Douglas, Herbert and James’ wedding was a beautiful way to start the church day. We all told the person on our right our service to the church during the past year.

Our regular pot luck lunches are very successful. We also had a visit from our friends at the London Filipino church who gave us a truly inspiring Sabbath day.

There were other organised activities which were participated in and enjoyed by everyone. At the International Day there was special food, and unique individual performances from people of many different nationalities. The Christian revival in Wales was another well-celebrated occasion and at church we had a special service and invited Kevin Adams, a noted historian on Welsh revival, to speak to us. Some of our members also joined the choral service at the Tabernacle church at Morningside. Part of the service was shown by BBC Songs of Praise celebrating the Welsh Christian revival. Some of the songs were recorded for the St David’s celebration broadcast on 28 February. For the first time Swansea Adventist church in St Mellty became a member of Cyfan, an association of all the Christian group meetings.

Celebrated six years of marriage by Pastor Roger Neal and Sarah Smart at Swansea. Our friends from Camarthen and Port Talbot came to witness and celebrate this big day with us. Both Jon and Efion grew up in Swansea and, together with our young people, attended our church as they partook of the love they gained their rich spiritual growth.

Another exciting event was the ADAKA sponsored walk which Jon Meredith organise annually. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and we are grateful for all who joined. This year we hope to do it again so that we can extend our support, especially to the tsunami disaster victims.

Our Christmas also focused on fund-raising for the plans to rebuild our church and we hope that it will be accomplished during this year.

Creatingion outreach for Darwin’s birthday

‘Evolution or Creation... whom can you trust?’ was the title chosen for the Creation seminar held at the Shrewsbury Art and Technical College on Tuesday 1 February as an evangelistic outreach by the Shrewsbury church members.

Shrewsbury has a most famous son, Charles Darwin, whose ‘Origins of Species’ has undermined the Christian faith worldwide since 1859. His birthday was celebrated during February, and Shrewsbury’s Darwin Festival presented events in the main street, with theatre events, too, to ensure that his studies in evolution remain at the forefront of the origins of life.

The main shopping centre in Shrewsbury is the Darwin Centre, with his life story portrayed on the walls either side of the escalator, as you travel up and down. This year the Shropshire Country Drama Group presented ‘Celebrated six years of marriage by Pastor Roger Neal and Sarah Smart at Swansea.’ Our friends from Camarthen and Port Talbot came to witness and celebrate this big day with us. Both Jon and Efion grew up in Swansea and, together with our young people, attended our church as they partook of the love they gained their rich spiritual growth.

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Harry Wilby joins ADRA-UK team in Sri Lanka

On Sunday 20 March Scottish Mission member Pat Dyckhoff and Sandra Rigby Barrett (alumni choir) went to Newbold to be with the Newbold alumni choir as they prepared for their Annual Spring Alumni Gathering. Pat and Sandra were invited to sing with the choir and to lead a special hymn. Pat and Sandra enjoyed meeting many old friends and new friends during the gathering.

New Publishing director for SEC

Pastor Curtis Murphy has been appointed as Publishing Director of the British Union Conference. Pastor Murphy will take on his new position as soon as a replacement can be found for him in Ireland.

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DON’T DELAY!

New Executive secretary for SEC

Following recent actions we can now confirm that Pastor Victor Hubert has been appointed as the new Executive Secretary of the British Union Conference. Pastor Hubert has many years of experience in pastoral ministry in Britain, in the Camp Hill and Teeside districts of the North England Conference, and in the Reading and Cornhill Churches in the South England Conference. While in Reading he was instrumental in planting the Whitley and Basingstoke churches.

Pastor Hubert also has a great deal of experience in Communication, firstly serving as manager of what was known as Advent Radio VOXs (now the BBC Media Centre) at the British Union Conference office, and then working for AdventWorld Radio as director of the Global English Language Service. As Executive secretary of the South England Conference Pastor Hubert replaces Pastor Elspeth Milnes who has moved on to serve as the director of the Adventist Discovery Centre (formerly Newbold College) in North Yorkshire.

Pastor Hubert is married to Luisa, a nurse who loves children and is currently serving as Children’s Ministers director at Woking Christian School where she has completed his sixth-form education, and Amy (15) who is studying for her GCSEs in Bracknell.

Speaking just days after accepting the appointment Pastor Hubert said that he will have a calender of Luisa and I talked and I prayed about it and felt it is important that we should accept. Although I am currently committed to be fully prepared for this kind of administrative work I hope that my experience in so many different areas will help. I am particularly grateful for the international experience I have gained by working with so many different cultures at ADRA. This should be a big help in dealing with the very cosmopolitan nature of the SEC committee.

‘Life is going to be very different for us now, Pastor Hubert continued. I believe we are really going forward to a new form of ministry. We would ask for your prayers that we can be acceptable to God and that we can face these great challenges that lie ahead.’

An Invitation

Newbold College alumni are invited to the
Spring Alumni Gathering at Newbold
Saturday 30 April 2005
(May Day Bank Holiday Weekend)

Sabbath morning service speaker: Dr. Lawrence Turner music: alumni choir, lunch, concert.

Time to meet old friends and think new thoughts.

For more information contact Pat Dyckhoff, email: pdyckhoff@newbold.ac.uk or Sandra Rigby Barrett, email: srigby.barrett@newbold.ac.uk

www.newbold.ac.uk/alumni

Pauline Sinclair, beloved member of the British Union Conference, died at Derby University with the girls to see Thursday 10 May 2006.

She was a very special ‘Gran’ to many children and is currently serving as a church elder Robert Allen, brought a scriptures and poems, and our speaker, John Surridge spoke of qualities seen in the life of Jesus Pauline in his teens, he would not be in his hospital bed who would fulfil his death in Pauline’s place.

As a young man he travelled to many different cultures at AWR. They married in 1960, and Jacqui and Joanne still live in the British Union Conference, the Trans-European Division and the World Church travelled the countries for greater expansion. We have many, many miles to attend the funeral service at the Grantham Adventist church. Pastor Paul Turner and his wife Pauline is a member of his family and was a very special gran to many children.

Pat Dyckhoff Sandra Rigby Barrett (alumni choir)

RSVP Time to meet old friends and think new thoughts.

(May Day Bank Holiday Weekend)

Sabbath 30 April 2005
(30th April Bank Holiday Weekend)

Sabbath morning service speaker: Dr. Lawrence Turner music: alumni choir, lunch, concert.

Time to meet old friends and think new thoughts. email: pdyckhoff@newbold.ac.uk email: srigby.barrett@newbold.ac.uk

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DON’T DELAY!

Radio Kent You will be pleased to know that the religious producer for Radio Kent, Lynne Walls Eade, has confirmed that she will air a series of six 'thoughts for the Day' programmes for the BBC's Radio Kent, starting Sunday 3 April. The theme for the week will be 'The Joy of Being in the Presence of the Spirit'. My prayer is not that only will you be a blessing to the listeners at the beginning of each day, but that also you will help to raise the profile of the Adventist Church in Kent.

This opportunity came after meetings with the Radio Canterbury Wednesday Worlds (RCW) based at Derby University, where I immediately started thinking about what I could do to help. I said that I might be able to help, but I was not sure if I would be considered for an assignment in the area but I was very pleased when ADRA-UK asked me to go to Nicaragua.

From here I then went on to study theology and practical theology at South East Asia. I immediately started work, but the thought of what I could do to help, he said. I said that I might be able to help, but I was not sure if I would be considered for an assignment in the area but I was...
Leicester: A thousand young people

Leicester Central church had its biggest ‘teen’s day’ day they had in its entire history with close to a thousand young people attending an event that was organised by non-baptised churchgoing teenagers.

Chantelle Henry, 17, and Azariah Halliday, 16, and their Cornerstone classmate were challenged by their teacher, Mauritian-born Sossanna Jeannin, in the Bible class to do something for themselves. But nobody expected the teen class to mobilise support from seven churches, including dozens of young non-Christians visiting for the first time, to the themed “The Time is Now-Now or Never” all-day event on 26 February.

One teenager out of the dozen or so who has committed to God by baptism. or Never’ all-day event on 26 February.

Chantelle, who plans to be baptised after Bible study, and Chantelle agrees. The occasion was so well attended that the local congregation feared for its safety as the gallery of the ancient church building resounded to youthful voices and the stamp of feet. Extra chairs were brought in to accommodate the visitors. “It was lovely and the preacher was good. All the singing – they’re all about drums and everything – was a great way to praise,” said Stefan Squire, 13, of Nottingham Central.

A lay preacher and former boxer from Stoke Newington, London, Mark Doley brought the main message: “Which Road Will You Travel?” The father of five preached for nearly two hours on resisting the distractions of the secular world. “Better you hear something of the Word than nothing at all,” he reasoned.

Gen X, Inspira, the Milton Keynes Praise Team, the Wolverhampton Youth Choir, Spiritual Addiction and local bands all displayed their various talents.

The hospitality team, headed by Sharon Henny, later fed over 600.

The teenagers plan to hold an annual event that could make Leicester the centre of youth Adventism spiritually and musically.