On the last Sabbath of 2005 I was browsing through Romans 12 in The Message. Verse 7 is paraphrased like this: 'If you help, just help, don't take over.' This verse was very meaningful for me as I was just about to start working for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in the United Kingdom.

After working as a pastor in the Netherlands, my responsibilities for Adventist World Radio had taken me to live and work in the Middle East and then England. Now I join ADRA's team to help make a difference in the lives of people in need.

ADRA has a vision, based on Scripture, of a better world now, while we are waiting for the Kingdom to be. We are working towards a world where the rights and dignity of each person are respected. Our vision is of a world where the voice of the poor is heard and all people can have access to food, shelter and clean water, to a livelihood, health and education. What a challenge we still face today!

As I have looked at all the projects that ADRA has been involved with and is still working on, it is very clear that we apply the principle of Romans 12:7: We help, we just help, but don't take over. ADRA believes strongly in training and empowering local people to do what needs to be done so that when the time comes for ADRA to leave, the work can continue. We strongly believe in building local capacity to tackle the problems. Sustainability and long-term efficiency of our projects are very important.

The projects for the 2006 Annual Appeal have these characteristics, too, from helping to provide clean water to former nomadic communities in Northern Namibia, to a project to help reduce the number of working children through intervention and promotion in Peru. Some of our projects this year will provide medical and educational care while others will deal with fighting poverty and focus on children. In addition, we continuously prepare for emergencies and disasters so that we can be ready to act quickly when the need arises.

ADRA cannot do this alone. It is through YOUR help that we can bring these changes to the lives of people. This year we ask you to help again - be it working door-to-door fund-raising, running the London ADRA half-marathon on 19 March; organising mini-projects or simply donating your own money. Without your support we cannot do the work you have asked us to do.

With your help, ADRA will be able to reflect God's character through all our humanitarian and developmental activities.

During my last travels for AWR in November 2005 I visited three large cities within one week and in each I looked into the eyes of a child begging on the street. In Kiev it was a little boy selling his toys to get some money; in Geneva it was a little boy pretending to play a keyboard for a few pence; in Sarajevo it was a little girl who sat in the cold on the street and simply stretched out her hand. It was in their eyes that I could see the reflection of the yearning for hope in their lives. This is the hope that we are sharing as we give and as we work to change the world, one life at a time. Thank you for your support.
Behind the Da Vinci Code
David Marshall

Fifty million copies of Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code have been sold in book form. In some countries it has already been released – and in others it is about to be released – as a Hollywood blockbuster movie.

Even those who have never read the book or seen the movie are vaguely aware that it is ‘anti-Christian’ or ‘anti-Catholic’, or both.

There is substance behind that vague awareness. But that should not cause us to react in panic either for or against the book.

For its first half, the book is a page-turner. Mind you, it did not get as enthralling as I had expected, I’d read it all before. Dan Brown leans heavily on a book published twenty-five years ago by John Bainton, which gets his opinions to stand as fact. That is where the influence of the author of the book published twenty-five years ago becomes painfully obvious.

One of the narrative devices of the book is the two different stories told in parallel, which are the story of Ray and the story of that of Mary Magdalene.

That was Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, that they had a daughter, that descendants of the daughter are still around and that documents are extant that ‘prove’ this.

In the second half of the book, the narrative of the search for the daughter is un-neater and that documents are extant that ‘prove’ this.

The novel embroils in two different stories told in parallel, which are the story of Ray and the story of that of Mary Magdalene.

It is important to Brown to state that Christ’s divinity was a dogma that did not arise until the reign of Constantine in the fourth century. Unfortunately for Brown there are copies of the Gospel of Luke and John dating from between 175 and 225 (that is, a century before Constantine).

His novel begins with the fact that for a moment the central figure of Daniel Brown expresses his main characters. Any danger in the Da Vinci Code is from the fact that the author weaves fact and fiction together without making a distinction between the two. And because his taste is for conspiracy theory rather than history, Dan Brown is often guilty of factual errors.

Brown says something about the notion of Opus Dei. Central to his plot is a murderous monk called Silas. Fact: there are no monks in Opus Dei. Indeed the book is such a gross caricature of Opus Dei that it is currently being used by them for recruitment purposes!

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If it doesn’t here’s another clue (page 357): ‘The Da Vinci Code has recently passed, and it has ended the two-thousand-year-long histori­cal Age of Pisces – the fish, which is also the sign of Jesus. . . . Now, however, we are entering the Age of Aquarius.’

So there we have it. The New Age was never going to be based on things like ‘evidence’ and ‘rational argument’ either. Mere? Here’s my credo: ‘In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, our hands, our spirits, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The Word of Life. Now there’s a solid foundation.

Down the line interviews
Key Communicators attend media training day
John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

On Thursday 15 December five people identified as key Church communicators attended a professional media training programme at the Latimer Conference Centre near Amersham. The principle lecturer for the course was David Addis, who works as a radio broadcaster, tutor, and media consultant, and who has worked with the Adventist Church for many years. He was assisted by journalist Sue Wool, who conducted the ‘down the line’ interviews. The training was organised by Chris Doggett of the Media Suite, who, together with BUC Media Centre manager Wes Kapon, set up the television and radio studio simulations.

Taking part in the training were: June Alves, head of John Laughbrough school; Cheryl Blake, Associate BUC Education director; Michelle Lewis, ADRA Programmes officer; Victor Hulbert, SEC Executive secretary; and Denis Bidoule, BUC Youth director. This media training day was part of a wider strategy of communication training throughout the BUC and was jointly funded by the BUC and SEC.

Heathwise

In experiments that give a whole new meaning to the term ‘rat race’ scientists at the university of Florida have taught brain cells to fly a simulated F-22 jet.

Twenty-five thousand neural cells from a single rat embryo were kept alive in a Petri dish in the laboratory. The cells were suspended in a special nutrient fluid and placed on a grid of 60 electrodes. By manipulation of the electrodes, the brain cells were taught to ‘fly’ the fighter plane.

Apparently, the cells went up and down the line to a pitch and trajectory, even in simulations of real flight. The cells went through a simulated F-22 jet flight and were able to make sharp human reasoning.

It is also hoped that new ways of making good the loss are near- or long-term future. That was the main focus of the research.

For me there was a particular point in The Da Vinci Code when it ceased to work as a simple work of fiction. And it was in almost the halfway through. The first half was good reading. The second half was ho-hum special pleading.

The point at which the book stopped working for me was the centre section in which the author puts his core beliefs into the mouths of his two central characters. The author has cropped up in two earlier movies. Dan Brown expresses through his main characters.

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The central peace of ‘evidence’ produced by Brown’s characters in favour of the belief that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were ‘married’ is Leonardo da Vinci’s painting The Last Supper. The figure to the left of Jesus, although a youthful, is, he argues, the ‘sacred feminine’ is superior to Christianity (and more likely to be both ‘true’ and valuable).

Why does that sound familiar?

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

1. Cheryl Blake, a retired television lecturer.
2. David Addis plays model journalismaseline for training purposes only.
3. Michelle Lewis follows her character on the TV monitor.
4. Denis Bidoule takes the other side of a radio microphone.
5. John Laughbrough headteacher June Alves remains unfazed by awkward questions.

3
Harvest London '87 was one very successful initiative that was run under Pastor Perry’s presidency. Members were encouraged to participate in prayer bands and six major venues were organised for evangelistic endeavours from which well over 100 members were baptised. In 1991 Pastor Perry was elected BUC president at the Harrogate Session. Dr David Marshall, writing in Messenger in 1993, stated that Pastor Perry had tears in his eyes following his election. He had come to the Session a free man, not anticipating higher office, but, since it had been thrust upon him, he would endeavour to be ‘a man for all the people’. Pastor Perry has been as good as his word. Since his election to the presidency of the Union, he has kept in regular communication with the membership – not only face to face, but through regular articles in Messenger and other publications, and through presentations. He is particularly vocal in the run-up to ingathering each year. As Chief Promoter he faithfully rallies ‘the troops’ every Spring to pick up their tins and help ease the suffering of millions around the world.

Never a man to avoid challenges, Pastor Perry has encouraged the take-up of a contemporary form of evangelism – the Life Development Initiative. A few weeks ago he attended a Union-organised youth programme and seemed comfortable in a seminar about sexual health, HIV and young people. While Pastor Perry is a Church leader, and one who takes his work very seriously, he is also a husband and a father. Sitting at his side on Sunday was his wife, Alma, the lady he calls a ‘Rois Royce’. Also present was his eldest son Paul with his wife Caroline, and his daughter Sheyl. Sheyl gave a humorous and enlightening picture of a father who, although busy, always had time for them as children, and even as young adults. She told of a man who was kind, generous and understanding and said that the fact that she and her two brothers were members of the Adventist church was a direct result of the influence and example of her father.

Other tributes were given by those who worked with Pastor Perry. Pastor Humphrey Walters, president of the South England Conference, spoke of the days that he ministered as an intern under Pastor Perry and the lessons he learned while sitting at his feet: ‘These lessons’, he continued, ‘will be with me forever. Thank you for your care and concern to me.’

Pastor Orwell Wibford and Dr Keith Davidson spoke of the joy that they had sitting on committees with Pastor Perry and the wisdom that he offered, often in the form of parables. Martin Luther Rodney, a long standing member of the Lay Advisory, offered his appreciation for the work that Pastor Perry had done in the Union. The banquet closed with Dr Richard delisser, outgoing chair of the London Lay Advisory and organiser of the event, presenting Pastor Ceci Perry with the Silburn Reid Award for Outstanding Leadership. Immediately after this, Pastor Perry presented the C. R. Perry Award for Outstanding Service to Elvin Prince for his years of service as treasurer of the Lay Advisory.

Pastor Perry expressed deep appreciation for the honour bestowed on him. It was his wish that the award he received would be symbolic of the prize of the high calling in Christ. He admonished all those present to enter into a relationship of goodwill and always adopt an attitude of forgiveness.
Newbold evacualises in Africa

Newbold's mark on the world was pronounced when in June and July 2005, three hundred people came to know Jesus in Kenya through the efforts of former and present Newbold students - Pastors Mahende and Fenades and a team of fifteen speakers. Africa was on the heart of the seventeen-strong group who conducted the evangelistic meetings. Six of the team members were from the UK and they paid for their own tickets to travel to Africa for the event.

This commitment was equalled by that of the local people, who were willing to walk more than ten miles every day to attend the meetings, which were held outdoors. In spite of heavy rains, the people sat patiently and listened attentively to God's messages. Three hundred other individuals experienced the life-changing, life-transforming power of Jesus Christ's love and forgiveness.

The committed team of seventeen pastors and volunteers also succeeded in building a new church from scratch during their time there.

All the finances were contributed by UK Adventists who have a special burden for ministry in Africa (the UKAM). They also put in place a practical way of following up the many newly-baptised members. This was through setting up a Sabbath school in a widowed church mem- ber's house who was willing to con- tribute a piece of land where the and eighty Bibles are being called for, so that the new members can read the life-giving truths for them- selves and continue to grow into mature Christians who can some day hold evangelistic meetings of their own. For information on where to send your surplus Bibles, contact fenades@yahoo.com.

Newbold staff in Far East

Dr John Baldwin (director of Academic Affairs) and Mrs Erica Hele (director of the School of English) recently returned from a visit to South Korea and Japan. While in the Korean capital, Seoul, they finalised an academic language agreement between Newbold College and Sahmyook University, the largest Adventist institution of higher education in the world with some 6,000 students. They also spent full days in several of the thirty-six Adventist language schools in Korea, speaking with 2,000 students and recruiting for the Newbold College School of English for which the College enjoys British Council accreditation.

In addition, visits were made to administrators at the offices of the North Asia-Pacific Division, the Korean Union Conference, and the Nursing and Health College. Of particular interest was the fact that the language school system in South Korea results in over 1,200 baptisms each year. With its annual intake of eighteen full-time pastoral staff, the University, too, enjoys an impressive eighty baptisms annually.

Despite breaking his leg in a fall while on his way to preach at Sahmyook University, John, with Erica, flew to Japan, where they spoke with administrators and students at Hiroshima Academy, and then at Saniku Gakuin College near Tokyo.

Erica and John pray that a number of new students will enrol at Newbold College as a result of their endeavours.

Many readers protested when popular evolutionists Richard Dawkins and Jerry Coyne made a ferocious attack on Intelligent Design in The Guardian. They dismissed ID as a 'dishonourable euphemism' which was, in their view, 'simply creationism camouflaged with a new name'.

Adventist scientist DR JOHN WALTON, Professor of Reactive Chemistry at St Andrews University, sent an article to The Guardian providing a reasoned response to Dawkins and Coyne. Thus far Professor Walton's article has neither been acknowledged nor published. Accordingly we are publishing it here.

DURING the last decade a fresh, enlightening breeze has been blowing into every corner of the house that Darwin built. The enterprise promoting this sea change, known as Intelligent Design (ID), started to cohere in the mid-1990s, when University biochemist Michael Behe published his book Darwin’s Black Box in which he convincingly showed that many biological structures are irreducibly complex. Structures like vision cascades, cellular chia, bacterial flagella and other ‘molecular machines’ require many complex and co-ordinated molecular working parts. Behe contended the literature in search of evolutionary scenarios involving many small steps, to account for the origin of such structures, but found them few and far between and totally inadequate. For biological machines to work, all (or most) of the molecular parts are needed at once, i.e. the complexity cannot be reduced to some much simpler state. Individual component proteins, or small selections of them, do not function at all and hence the Darwinian mechanism cannot build the observed complexity by gradual selection of increasingly-efficient precursors. Irreducibly complex mechanical and electronic machines offer a pertinent analogy and are known to be the products of intelli- gent minds taking advantage of natural laws. Consequently, Behe argued that biological machines are powerful evidence of intelligent design in biology.

But how is it possible to decide if something has been designed or if the design is only apparent? An important step was taken by mathematician and philosopher William Dembski who established criteria for detecting design. Dembski drew attention to the fact that detecting design is already a well-established scientific activity in fields such as...
Methods employed with obvious success in these areas to distinguish criminal from accidental activity, to differentiate artefacts from natural causes, to oppose ID with every means at their disposal, and to demonstrate that systems exhibiting high complexity combined with ‘specification’ are always produced by intelligent agents. To be ‘specified’ an object or event must correspond to an independent pattern or dynamic sequence. An example of specification would be a dartboard with a bullseye in the centre. The bullseye is the specified target. Randomly throwing darts is unlikely to result in hitting a bullseye. There is something special about hitting a bullseye in a board on a wall that is very different from throwing darts then drawing a bullseye around them wherever they hit. The difference is that the bullseye is specified. It turns out that nature, and particularly biology, is equivalent to a long series of bullseyes that have all been hit by darts. When something has the property of specified complexity it is logical and rational to conclude it was designed.

Dembski, Stephen Meyer and others have applied the specified complexity criterion to biological phenomena and find good agreement with Behe’s conclusion that their origin implies intelligent design. It is especially significant that the ID criterion enables data from across a spectrum of scientific areas to be rationalised. Physicists have discovered that the existence of life in the universe depends on a highly improbable balance of fundamental factors, often referred to as the ‘fine tuning of the universe’ or as ‘anthropic coincidences’. Application of the specified design criterion to this cosmic enigma also signals intelligent design as the most likely cause.

Lack of time to evaluate the evidence. The majority of professional biologists work in institutions dedicated to evolution and its sister disciplines. Many institutes are specifically named ‘Evolutionary Biology’ or some variant of this. The research, funding, the livelihoods, the careers, the professional reputations of all these scientists depend on adherence to evolutionary orthodoxy. Objectivity on foundational questions of origins is not an option for them in these circumstances. The majority scientific opinion cannot be taken as a trustworthy yardstick for gauging the validity of ID. In any case, Dawkins and Coyne, after making their misleading point admit that it is nonsense: ‘[b]ut of course science does not proceed by majority vote among scientists.’

It is totally unsurprising that ID research is not reported in mainstream science journals. Contrary to Dawkins and Coyne’s assertion, editors routinely refuse to publish. When Dr Richard Sternberg, editor of the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, published a single paper by Cambridge-educated Stephen Meyer making the case for ID, he immediately became the subject of a closet campaign of ridicule and intimidation. ‘They were saying I accepted money under the table, that I was a crypto-priest, that I was a sleeper cell operative for the creationists,’ said Sternberg. He was advised not to attend a biological society meeting because feelings were running so high that order could not be guaranteed. An independent agency, the US Office of Special Counsel, examined email traffic emanating from the Smithsonian Institution, where Sternberg held a fellowship, and noted that reticulation came in many forms. ‘Misinformation was disseminated through the Smithsonian and to outside sources. The allegations against you were later determined to be false’ (see: http://www.nwtermberg.net/for Sternberg’s own restrained account of the affair). Editors are well aware of the intimidation and harassment they will face if they are small wander that they shy away from publishing articles favourable to ID. It is ironic for Dawkins of all people to denigrate ID because, ‘its advocates bypass normal scientific due process by appealing directly to the non-scientific public and – with great shrewdness – to the government officials they elect,’ when these are exactly the methods he adopts himself! His main contribution to science is the series of popular books expounding his brand of evolution to the general public. In fact Dawkins is following a long line of evolutionists including Charles Darwin, Thomas Huxley and Stephen Gould, all of whom have appealed directly to the non-scientific public in books and popular articles. Dawkins and Coyne’s belief that it is fine for evolutionists to appeal directly to the public, but wrong for those who disagree with them, is deeply revealing of their ultra-partisan approach.
According to Dawkins and Coyne, ID scientists make unreasonable demands for evidence: ‘One side (Evolution) is required to produce evidence, every step of the way. The other side is never required to produce one iota of evidence, but is allowed to claim whatever the first side encounters a difficulty – the sort of difficulty that all sciences encounter every day and go to work to clarify. Even if evolution were a 21st century evolutionary scientists have been promising that laboratory science will someday discover a quantifiable mechanism for evolution.

Scientifically rigorous explanations have also been promised for: how life originated; how the genetic code and new genetic information could arise; how complex biological organs like eyes, cilia, etc. originated; how new biological species developed from ancestral forms and why the fossil record gives discordant results. Samples for radioactive dating may contain contamination from younger material or from older source rock. which are transferred to the mainstream secondary school. The Inspectors found the greatest assets of the International School were the

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Holy Spirit takes over ‘haunted’ hotel
by C. Peake

The Thedford project is an experimental campaign in which we are presenting a series (or cluster) of four or five meetings separated by rest periods of a few weeks. Each cluster will be fully advertised, and we are hoping that with the repeated advertising and word of mouth from the participants, attendance will build up from month to month, drawing in ever larger numbers of interested people. So far, the response has been wonderfully positive, with most of the people helping to publicise for the next day’s meetings.

Members of Grantham church donated toys and food to Christmas charity service
by C. Peake

Sabbath 8 October marked the fortieth anniversary of the dedication of the Adventist church in Bradford. Although we had expected people to come from all over England to share this special day with the current membership.

During the day, we were blessed by a recorthing of the history of the Bradford church. It turns out that forty years later the theme song for the day was ‘To God Be the Glory’, as the attendance built to a smoothly professional start.

Around seven thousand handbills were distributed. Volunteers from the Church Community Group spent about £200 on the children’s ward at Grantham Hospital, and donated food to be distributed to needy or vulnerable people in the town by the charity for the homeless. ‘The Grantham Passage’, and mental health support group Grantham MIND.

Trays of food were also prepared for people who would normally receive meals on wheel. Group members Delia Astforsio said: ‘We do this every year – it’s a busy time for us.’

Judy Glossop, of Marie Curie Cancer Care, was also there to receive £375 raised at a concert in October. Pictured at the service are, from left, Lian Cook of the church for many years, first as a literature-evangelist, then as Sargeant Cancer Fund for Children. Icilda, now retired, worked in the church for many years, second as a literature-evangelist, then as a Sunday school teacher, and as a member of the church. She was always a strong supporter of the church and its work, and was a key figure in many of the church’s activities. She is now retired, and works part-time at the church.

The congregation shared a message entitled ‘Roots’ was led by Brother Vatsha, and Sister Nono Nogogo, and encouraged lively congregational singing and Sunday school presentations.

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by Heather Haworth, BUC Family Ministries co-ordinator

Christian Home and Marriage Week. What thought comes to your mind as you think about this? Is it likely to be about reading about your Christian love and happiness or a marriage in which no arguments happen? Perhaps the title leaves you feeling intimidated. A writer of marriage or life does not rise up to the lofty ideas outlined in the books Adventist Home and Child Guidance by E. G. White. Please do not be disheartened. What Ellen White wrote on those themes over seven decades is available for us to read about.

White wrote on those themes over seven decades and with all thy mind. Luke 10:27.

This they learnt to put into practice. This they learnt to put into practice. This they learnt to put into practice. This they learnt to put into practice. This they learnt to put into practice. This they learnt to put into practice. This they learnt to put into practice.

It was with very great regret and profound shock that I heard early this morning that Judge Dr Peter Jackson had passed away in the night. announced Judge Rivlin at Southwark Crown Court on the morning of Monday 14 November 2005. Judge Jackson was one of the best-loved judges on this Circuit. Throughout his 32 years on the Circuit, he was a judge of intense integrity and fierce independence who would never shrink from doing what he thought was right. Those who knew Peter in the setting of his family or his church, or saw him at work as a barrister or Circuit Judge, would realise that Judge Rivlin was describing the person he had known and loved.

Peter Jackson was called to the Bar in Middle Temple in 1968, and became a noted and distinguished advocate. On more than one occasion he represented the German Government. "Many Germans were unaware that a New Gallery member intro-

He was always warm and interested in others. There was a twinkle in his eye. He was funny without any touch of malice. Those were the aspects of the character of Peter Jackson with which Adventist leaders, past and present, were most able to identify. In his final year Peter made it a priority to work with children and young people. Peter Jackson was living proof that Christian work that changed lives. His death taught us all that death, Peter’s deteriorating health obliged him to decline an application for a judicial appointment.

Peter Jackson was a gracious judge and a gracious man. That view was held throughout his professional career. Peter Jackson, the second Adventist pastor of the Body of Christ. He leaves behind his family, his own family, a wonderful family, father and brother. He had already attended both the Westminster Summit and Philip White’s wedding, and had left his rest before the ceremony took place. We thank you for your kind words. Philip White’s church, Philip’s brother Stephen, and Peter’s sister Diane we convey our heartfelt condolences to Philip White’s family. Our hope, is the Blessed Hope. We believe that Peter’s life has deepened our faith, and given us new insight into the with us all the time. Peter’s life has deepened our faith, and given us new insight into the with us all the time. Peter’s life has deepened our faith, and given us new insight into the with us all the time.

 does the Christian Home and Marriage Week make you feel guilty? by Heather Haworth, BUC Family Ministries co-ordinator

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Peter Jackson was called to the Bar in Middle Temple in 1968, and became a noted and distinguished advocate. On more than one occasion he represented the German Government. "Many Egyptians were unaware that a New Gallery member intro-

He was always warm and interested in others. There was a twinkle in his eye. He was funny without any touch of malice. Those were the aspects of the character of Peter Jackson with which Adventist leaders, past and present, were most able to identify. In his final year Peter made it a priority to work with children and young people. Peter Jackson was living proof that Christian work that changed lives. His death taught us all that death, Peter’s deteriorating health obliged him to decline an application for a judicial appointment.

Peter Jackson was a gracious judge and a gracious man. That view was held throughout his professional career. Peter Jackson, the second Adventist pastor of the Body of Christ. He leaves behind his family, his own family, a wonderful family, father and brother. He had already attended both the Westminster Summit and Philip White’s wedding, and had left his rest before the ceremony took place. We thank you for your kind words. Philip White’s church, Philip’s brother Stephen, and Peter’s sister Diane we convey our heartfelt condolences to Philip White’s family. Our hope, is the Blessed Hope. We believe that Peter’s life has deepened our faith, and given us new insight into the with us all the time. Peter’s life has deepened our faith, and given us new insight into the with us all the time. Peter’s life has deepened our faith, and given us new insight into the with us all the time.
Toy Service tradition

The Stanborough Park church held its annual Toy Service on 17 December. The toy service tradition, which started in 1903, has at least two virtues. It teaches the church’s children self-sacrifice, and it brings joy to dozens of children who would otherwise have little to celebrate.

2005’s service, organised by Pat Walton, had the usual ingredients: a great deal of youth involvement; visitors from Watford Council and the Social Services; the platform decorated with donated toys, and church children queuing up to give even more and putting them in huge sacks.

What made this service unique was a trumpet duet from David and Robert Cooper, a solo from Sylvia Elmadjian and dedication of two babies. The first of these was Eleanor Victoria Grace Elias, the daughter of Dr Grant and Estelle Elías and baby sister of Benjamin. Eleanor was dedicated by her delighted granddad Pastor Dalbert Elías. The second baby was Sophia Bone, the first child of Andrew and Audrey Bone. Sophia was dedicated by Pastor Ashwin Somasundaram.

Our guest of honour, the Chairman of Watford Borough Council, Councillor Tim Williams, was a very pleasant surprise. He came with his wife Ludmilla. After the toys had been collected, Pat Walton presented them to the Councillor. He was given a personal gift of books by Adam Poole, aged 6, Councillor. He was given a bouquet of flowers by the Social Services; the platform was decorated with donated toys, and church children self-sacrifice, and it brings joy to dozens of children who would otherwise have little to celebrate.

The guest speaker was Anne-Mary Kollan, TED Women’s and Children’s Ministries director.

The deadline for receipt of applications is February 28, 2006.

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