With mountain roads to be negotiated and scenery to be admired, it takes twice as long to drive from North Wales to Cardiff as it does to come from London. However, distance was no deterrent to the sixty regular delegates who met at Cardiff Adventist church on Sunday 28 October to review the last three years and lay plans for the future.

It was a rainy day outside, but the animated conversation in the foyer leading up to the 9.30am start demonstrated the warmth of friendship to be found in the Welsh churches. In his morning devotional, Pastor Alex Hodges, Ministerial Association director for the BUC, challenged the delegates to be an encouraging witness. He emphasised the need to go to the cross daily, to give ourselves to Christ and let him take over. After listing a number of strategies that encourage witness, despite our fears, he noted that none of them is ideal. ‘The real basis for our witness is that our thoughts continually turn to Jesus, and that he is the one we naturally love to talk about,’ he stated. ‘If I have a meaningful relationship with Jesus I can’t keep silent.’

As the main business started, BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, reiterated the imperative for mission so clearly outlined in the devotional. Quoting Eddie Gibbs, he stated, ‘The church exists primarily for non-members.’ Such

The Welsh Mission delegation reflected the increasing diversity of the membership.
Feeling ‘old’?

‘Our times are in His hand’

David Marshall

God loves the little children. Of course he does. God loves the youth, the young parents and the middle aged. But God still has a role for us when we are over 60. The agists will find no comfort in Scripture, for God still has a use and a mission even for those among his choicest possessions. God did not let Moses lose on leadership, despite his excellent education, until he was 80! Abraham maximised his contribution when he had lived to be old and mellow. Caleb was 85 when he scored highest. Samuel was called when he was a boy, but was old when he established the “school of the prophets”, the constitution that took his influence for good down the centuries. I would argue that the apostle Paul did some of his best work from his prison cell towards the end. And John would have been an advanced old age when he wrote Revelation (and possibly, depending on which commentator you read, his gospel).

Agrarian in old age is inappropriate, as is arrogance in youth. The same is true of being threatened by change, and by gifted people whom we deem to be of the wrong age or gender. Part of the responsibility of age is to adjust and adapt to change and to make way for gifted younger people in positions of responsibility.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, when elderly, wrote: ‘Whitin, I do not find wrinkles and used heart, but unspent youth. Indeed, all this talk of age has its dangers. The idea that age is a synonym for decreased well-being is not put to me until the early, rather exclusive, days of LIFE development. When I enquired why I had not been called to attend any of the committees that oversaw the birth of that baby, a friend gleefully said, ‘Oh, I s’pose you’re too old!’ All the way to ‘too old in one jump!’

This year my wife and a number of my good friends have retired. What’s more, they’re then enjoying their new way of life. My wife even says (paraphrasing Churchill) that all of her past life has been but a preparation for the joys and challenges of retirement! A friend who has been retired for a few years said, solicitingly, ‘David, when are you going to retire from that awful job?’

That awful job? I ask you! That exciting, fulfilling, but perhaps challenging and not too easy job I knew would describe it. And, further to that, I’m not contemplating retirement – because I’m not nearly old enough. (That would be by 80.)

Nevertheless, all this talk of age has obliged me to confront the issue. The first thing I’ve discovered is that the symptoms of . . . or lack of maturity are not nearly as dire as I thought they would be when contemplated from afar. The fact that little grey cells start dying off when we’re 25 does not mean we don’t have a long way to go. Fifteen Forward schemehas outlined our job.

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**Welsh Mission Session, 28 October**

An emphasis set a positive, outward-looking mood for the day.

Mission sessions, by their very nature, tend to be less formal than their Conference counterparts. This was certainly true of the president’s report. Using PowerPoint, Pastor John Surridge painted a picture of the Welsh church and, in a very personable manner, told the story of the successes and struggles of each congregation. While giving the report, Pastor Surridge acknowledged that during most of the three-and-a-half years covered by the report, leadership had been in the hands of Pastor Brian Phillips. This resulted in a spontaneous round of applause for Pastor Phillips who is clearly seen as a father-figure by the Welsh members.

Highlights of the report included Cardiff church where Pastor Clyde Moore oversaw the largest baptism in Wales since the 1970s. Pastor Surridge noted that a number of churches have had renovation or improvement work done on them. In Carmarthen this means better disabled access, while in Newport they opened the Gallivan LIFE Development Centre. Ystrad Mynach reworked the interior replacing pews with seats to make a more inviting and multi-purpose environment. Pastor Surridge noted the huge benefits of the twice-yearly Brecon Family Camp. Situated in stunning surroundings alongside the river Usk, he emphasised, as well as a social gathering, it is a place where many people have given their lives to Jesus.

Towards the end of 2006 the Welsh Mission established its own website: www.adventistwales.org and started to distribute Messenger by post. An interruption from the floor indicated how well this is working, particularly with the personal letter the president sends with the magazine. Distribution is up from 260 magazines in the church foyer to 460 by post including members, contacts and friends of the church.

As secretary-treasurer for the Mission, Victor Pilmoor spent a busy day recording the official minutes of the session, chairing some of the proceedings and presenting the secretary-treasurer’s report. With twenty-seven baptisms over the three years, net membership has increased from 440 to 462. Weekly attendance and isolated members would indicate the figure should be higher. Mr Pilmoor also noted that over the three years there was a title increase of 22% up to £396,518. However this is still lower than the actual ministerial cost of £1,077 million. Gratitude was expressed for those who support the work of the church in the Welsh Mission.

The rest of the day was spent looking in more detail at reports from Family and Children’s Ministries (Pastor Clyde and Mrs Anette Moore), Health Ministries (Irving and Mrs Lil Saunders), Stewardship and Trust Services (Mrs Wendy Sammons), Women’s Ministries (Mrs Jane Wells) and Youth Ministries (Pastor Ed Sammons).

‘Should there be more Adventist material available in Welsh?’ This question, raised by Clifford Tomos of the Ystrad Mynach church with support from several other delegates, prompted the most discussion.

Attempts were being made to translate the Take Jesus’ Bible correspondence course into Welsh. Steps to Christ and a small booklet explaining Adventist beliefs are also available. However, Leonie Haran pointed out, ‘Welsh is on the increase. It is arrogant of us that we don’t have more material for the Welsh-speaking people, particularly as we head towards North Wales.’

Clifford pointed out that other churches are leaving us far behind in providing Welsh language resources and that, while we are reaching out to other communities, we must ensure that the Welsh are not forgotten.

Vera Macrell of Newport church enthusiastically endorsed the Children’s Ministries report. Although showing a few grey hairs, she noted that many of the children she taught years ago are now the elders of today. ‘This must continue,’ she emphasised. ‘Children are the church of today, not tomorrow. If there are no children, there is no church.’

While the Health Ministries sponsors, Irving and Lil Saunders, recognise that there is much more that could be done, Saphira Hacuma from Swansea commended them for the excellent health programmes still running in the Port Talbot church with good participation from the community.

Ed Sammons introduced the youth report by saying, ‘It is a wonderful thing that we are blessed with so many talented young people here in Wales.’ His aim has been to provide youth with initiatives that will bless them and give them a manageable programme under the motto of allowing them to ‘Meet Jesus, Know Jesus and Serve like Jesus.’ He told delegates, ‘I’ve been encouraged and would like to thank the individual churches for allowing your young people to serve and to belong.’ His strategy for the future builds on this. ‘We need to identify and equip people to undertake effective youth leadership in local churches, to provide events where youth can meet, know and serve Jesus, and to provide a range of activities for youth to network and fellowship with other youth.’

Mission Sessions do not elect the president. However, they are responsible for finding the appropriate leadership for the departments and electing an Executive Committee. By 2.40pm they were ready to report.

**Sponsors:**
- Children’s Ministries
- Annette Moore
- Communication
- Pastor John Surridge
- Family Ministries
- Pastor Clyde & Anette Moore
- Health Ministries
- Irving & Lil Saunders
- Stewardship
- Dr Brian Phillips
- Wendy Sammons
- Women’s Ministries
- Jane Wells
- Youth Ministries
- Pastor Ed Sammons

**Executive Committee (in addition to Pastor John Surridge [president] and Victor Pilmoor [secretary-treasurer]):**
- Pastor Clyde Moore
- Pastor Mike Logan
- Elga Alvarez
- Malcolm Turner
- Valerie Duck
- Dr Paul Shaw
- Davis Gachuba

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**Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission President:**

The credentials and licences committee was then ready to report, renewing credentials for five ordained ministers, two licensed ministers and twenty-nine lay preachers.

This then left an hour for discussion of plans for the coming triennium. These focused on four key areas: Evangelism, Training and Development, Church Improvements and Stewardship.

Pastor John Surridge noted the huge enthusiasm set a positive, outward-looking mood for the day.

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Chapel Porth Family Camp

by Asha Matthews-Rogers (aged 9)

We always count the days until we get to travel the long journey from Lincolnshire to Cornwall. Floods tried to stop us but we did get out in time. Nothing can stop Family Camp being great fun! After getting to know one another, most of the campers went cycling along the Camel estuary. Little children went in trailers or on tag-alongs. We cycled from Padstow to Wadebridge, some cyclists venturing as far as Bodmin, but I cycled back to Padstow. We covered a total of ten miles but there are benches along the way, so you can rest if you are tired.

One morning, the women spent time together doing crafts while the men looked after the children. Some of the time the weather was appalling but we were playing in the caravans until it brightened up—and it always did! We flew kites and played with frisbees (and watched ‘Veggie Tales’ when it was really wet). I was too young to go with the teenagers on a bimin bowing trip to Tintagel, but I am sure they had a great time with the dads. My dad won.

Our daily worship times were so special. Families sang and did creative activities together. This year’s theme was ‘Jesus is my Friend’ and we learned a special song together. Jesus is my friend, He loves me every day.

He watches and cares for me and hears me when I pray.

The banquet this year was a ‘Royal Garden Party’. We had an ‘indoor garden fête’, games and a lot of fun. After the camp concert, each child got a certificate for being special in some way. Each year we have something called ‘secret friends’, where you give and get little gifts from another family and you find out who your friends are. We have special treats for our friends at home.

Chapel Porth is such a special place with happy memories for me. I was baptised by Uncle Bernie in a rock pool at the beach last summer. It is a place where you spend time with special people and build a closer relationship with Jesus at the same time. I want to say thank you to the people who led worship. They were Irma and Leslie Acke, Helen Hollott and my Mum and Dad. We really missed Uncle Bernie this year. Beth Hollott and her friends worked so hard to keep everyone happy and well-fed with delicious food. I can’t wait for camp next year!

Chipemaa’s soup kitchen

You would think that having the high-pressure job of managing a care home, together with looking after a husband and two beautiful teenage children, would be more than enough for any woman. But, Chipemaa Chitalamba of Chelmsford church felt that God was calling her to do more. She had for a long time felt a passion to reach out to the community, but had yet to take that first step. This is Chipemaa’s story in her own words.

‘I had been praying for some time for the Lord to show me what he wanted me to do. I was looking for a way to get started and where to go for information. What was most desperately needed in Chelmsford was somewhere for the homeless to go for a hot meal and some warmth. I discovered that no organisations provided for the homeless over the weekend, so I decided that Sunday would be the best day. One night my teenage daughter Chiwita (who is equally keen on outreach) and I went to meet Denise from CHESS, the night shelter charity in Chelmsford.

‘We found about twenty men standing around smoking and waiting for the ‘Soup Run’. We had a good experience that night and found the men to be polite and grateful that we were there. When we came along to give them their help, I decided that our approach to serving them would be different—we would lay tables, etc.

‘To my surprise, CHESS were already looking for support in the Chelmsford area because of the number of homeless men and women growing. They told me that God had answered their prayers.

‘I was directed to the day centre to observe what happened there. Here was a different approach to caring for the homeless. The environment was open. The homeless were dotted around the centre playing table tennis, relaxing on a sofa or playing pool.

‘This experience taught me a lot about God and how he works to accomplish his mission. God just needs willing men and women to say, “Here I am, Lord, use me.”

‘On 18 July, with the full support of our church leaders, we launched our own “Soup Kitchen” providing a two-course hot meal each Sunday in our youth hall for the homeless men and women of Chelmsford.

‘In addition, we are building a clothing bank and a car park, and it’s nice to see them helping themselves to clothes. It’s almost like gang shopping—except it’s free. We have had up to fifty homeless people since we started, but at the overnight temperature drops, we expect the numbers to grow.

‘We now have a dedicated team of sisters who, like me, have heard God’s call, and have found joy in serving the homeless.

Newbold in Scotland

Newbold College went to Scotland during the last week in October in the shape of twelve young people from eleven different countries who presented a weekend programme of preaching, music, drama and poetry at the Adventist church in Crieff. British theology student Jonathan Cotter from Newbold College went to Scotland during the last week in October in the shape of twelve young people from eleven different countries who presented a weekend programme of preaching, music, drama and poetry at the Adventist church in Crieff.

British theology student Jonathan Holder preached on the theme of worship on Friday evening and described the many different forms of worship used by men and women in the Bible.

The speaker at the Sabbath morning worship service was Albanian theology student, Erminia Kollarja, who used a tomato and a potato to illustrate the idea that without a ‘divine heart transplant’ the human heart will be as hard as rock.

Crief church members demonstrated Scottish hospitality by providing a huge potluck lunch following the morning service—much appreciated by students with hearty appetites. In the afternoon, music from the Glasgow Adventist church group ‘Helping Hand’ led into a discussion between church members and the student team led by Danish theology student, Thomas Rasmussen.

Scottish Mission president and Crieff Adventist church pastor, Lew Edwards, said, ‘Thank you for being such a blessing to our church. We had so many conversations afterwards about how much we were blessed by the group. Of course, there were varied reactions. There were some who did not appreciate the group’s type of music and others who saw it as a refreshing taste of a vibrant expression of worship. For all it was good to see the passionate spirituality of the students and to remind ourselves of the challenge and validity of all cultures giving praise to God.’

A Saturday evening trip to Roundwood Health Spa was an opportunity for everyone to relax in the jacuzzi, sauna and steam room. A stopover in Edingburgh on the return journey allowed the students to view the castle and buy Scottish souvenirs.

Scotland trip co-ordinator Anita Kelman said, ‘We were overwhelmed by the kindness and hospitality of the church members. They made us feel very welcome.’

Newbold students are available to visit your church. They will present programmes, preach, lead discussions and music. If you would like to know more, please contact Co-ordinator of Communication, Tabitha Cummins, tcummins@newbold.ac.uk.

From Stokesley with love

The people of Madagascar will soon see a truck roll away from a port. The truck will be carrying a container full of hundreds of brown boxes sent by well-wishing British people wanting to help the community of a beautiful island in the Indian Ocean. These brown boxes themselves contain lovingly wrapped shoeboxes with all sorts of contents, ranging from toys to craft goods, perfumes to fancies, and books to pens. I’m sure that there will be kilo-collad dolls from Scotland, handsome teddy bears from England, as well as a fair number of colouring books that may have travelled initially from China. Deep in the midst of the packages will be a whole selection of that have come from Stokesley, a small country town just outside Middlesbrough in the north-east of England. A selection! Well, more of an avalanche, as many of the children and parents of that town have been encouraged by Mrs Judy Hamilton-Johnson, a member of the Adventist church, to create small parcels which will bring smiles to the faces of children. While the parcels may have been small, the quantity sent has been large—93 shoeboxes in all currently safely packed away in the hold of a ship heading out towards Madagascar.

Well done Stokesley—and well done Judy! Judy isn’t the kind of lady that you say ‘no’ to—clipboard in hand, Judy is a formidable presence who desires to help people and see justice done. A mother of two, a volunteer in the local church and her friends worked so hard to keep everyone happy and well-fed with delicious food. I can’t wait for camp next year!

One morning, the women spent time together doing crafts while the men looked after the children. Some of the time the weather was appalling but we were playing in the caravans until it brightened up—and it always did! We flew kites and played with frisbees (and watched ‘Veggie Tales’ when it was really wet). I was too young to go with the teenagers on a bimin bowing trip to Tintagel, but I am sure they had a great time with the dads. My dad won.

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In all, Judy masterminded the collection of over 500 parcels from the north-east of England churches – Darlington, Middlesbrough, South Shields and Newcastle.

ADRA, the charity who have organised the trip, assist with development and projects around the world. In Madagascar they have recently been helping local farmers increase their rice production from subsistence levels to a small, efficient industry which creates a modest profit and allows local children to have the time to go to school, and parents to breathe a small sigh of relief that their burdens have grown less.
The Irish Mission Session
4 November 2007

words and pictures by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

I am looking forward to Jesus coming again.

Pastor Neal noted that the Adventist Church in Ireland is now very diverse. ‘New Irish’ have come from around the world. finance to help with the leadership to make effective use of the new Romanian pastor and so encourage more groups that will help the church grow.

In presenting the secretary-treasurer’s report Pastor Pilmoor noted twenty-six baptisms and twenty-six professions of faith during the trimester. However, no new groups without a building. Pastor Neal stated that the mission cannot afford to have a specific pastor for each national group. Pastor Neal added, ‘Let us pray for the Lord to direct how we can all work together. We rejoice in the growth. We used to take pews out – now we are jammed in.’

At just gone two o’clock the nominating committee presented its report. Adam Keough was re-elected as Youth sponsor with the recommendation that the incoming Executive should review the balance of the pastoral load given to him and the kind of support he is given. Pastor Neal (chair) Victor Pilmoor (secretary) Kim Papaioannou – Ballinacrow Stephen Wilson – Galway Raymond Little – Belfast Frida Kvamme – Londonderry Andrei Rotaru – Dublin Romanian George Sisson – Dublin Patrick Appiah-Konadu – Longford

In a further recommendation from the nominating committee, delegates voted that the BUC’s Executive Committee give consideration to extending the size of the Mission Executive to allow it to be more representative of the ‘New Irish’. Pastor Neal focused on the empty pews where Adventist children once sat. ‘Involvement, not just attendance, is spent on pastoral care. We have increased the number of pastors,’ he said. ‘We now have a Romanian-speaking and will shortly have a Filipino-speaking pastor, but they also have to care for a broader community.’

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The second element was Nurture. Quoting Dr Jon Paulien, Pastor Neal emphasised that ‘loss of a regular prayer life is the first step to a secularism of the church member.’

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Plans Committee report:

**Nurture:**
- by April 2009 each church to identify, develop and implement a range of procedures to delegate responsibility for group nurture based on need, for example ethnic groups, youth, elderly, disconnected, absent, etc. To report to church board, elders and the Personal Ministries department.
- that the Irish Mission encourage local church leaders to work in partnership to organise local and regional events;
- that the Irish Mission train and equip local youth leaders.

**Evangelism:**
- that the Irish Mission encourage personal evangelism, develop media evangelism, including internet and other forms of media, conduct specific training seminars on evangelism and set up a committee to develop evangelism.

**Diversity:**
- that each local church, through the leadership of the pastor, set up a structure to enable conversations and discussions relating to cultural diversity and generational groups among members with the goal of raising the trust level among worshippers;
- that the Irish Mission encourage ‘New Irish’ to transfer and develop their membership into the mission in order to participate fully in the life of the church;
- that church clubs be given specific training on dealing with international transfers.

**Youth:**
- that the Irish Mission work with local church boards to involve youth in the life of the local church from an earlier age.
- that the Irish Mission encourage local church leaders to work in partnership to organise local and regional events;
- that the Irish Mission train and equip local youth leaders.

Newbold’s contribution to Black History Month was a special week of events celebrating the history of African-Caribbean influences in Britain. The event was organised by the Centre for the Study of Religious and Cultural Diversity and expressed Newbold’s commitment to diversity. The theme for the week (15-22 October) was ‘Creation, Contribution and Celebration’ and focused on the part played by people from the African diaspora in both the historical life and history.

In introducing the week to staff and students, Newbold History lecturer, Kay Traille, addressed the myths concerning the African diaspora developed by white historians and the necessity to ‘celebrate, champion, uncover and promote’ a wider reality in museums, archives, galleries and school textbooks. Guest speaker Alexander Douglas from Liverpool shared his personal journey to find acceptance as a black artist in College Forum. He is an accomplished jazz pianist, choral director, composer and arranger.

Other speakers included British playwright Mervyn Weir who talked about the experience that led to the writing of his play, Nobody Knows, and brought visually stunning displays celebrating freedom fighters, athletes and entrepreneurs who have contributed to the history of London. IT specialist, Zach Anusha, recollected the contributions of African inventors, and David McQueen shared examples of Afro-Caribbean creativity. On Sabbath, Juan Jimenez spoke about the roots of prejudice and directed his congregation’s attention to biblical approaches to overcoming destructive attitudes.

The library organised a display of books focusing on the contributions and achievements of black people in the human rights movement, in fiction and poetry, in music, art, the media and preaching.

‘Black History week stirs up something deep in people’s souls and invokes a whole set of reactions. Our goal was to encourage all of us in the community to look first at preconceptions and then to move beyond them to a more inclusive approach,’ said Tabitha Cummins, Co-ordinator of Nurture.

Nurturing, Creation, Contribution and Celebration

Newbold College Centre for the Study of Religious and Cultural Diversity, since 1997. Dr Beach and Dr Sillett had worked together in the World Council of Churches.

Dr Beach responded to the lecture with delight. Dr Sillett is not only a theoretician about peace, he has been actively involved in conflict resolution, particularly in East Timor, Guatemala and in many other projects elsewhere. He said, ‘It is a privilege for us to listen to him. I was particularly pleased to see the Newbold students present for the lecture. They are the peacemakers of the future.’

Newbold’s principal, Dr David Penner, said, ‘Newbold is proud to have hosted this event. As an international community, we want our students to learn about peace here on our campus and take its principles with them when they return home. Dr Sillett’s lecture has challenged us once more to think about how we can do this.’
Polish Day of Fellowship in Darlington

The King’s Church, Darlington, opened its doors to a Sabbath School led by Pastor Roman Chalupka, the Polish Union executive secretary. During the presentation Pastor Roman Chalupka, the Polish Union executive secretary, said: ‘Polish people here are perhaps more open to the Gospel than they were in Poland.’ Pastor Chalupka pointed out that Polish people all want good news from home and would be open to hear the Good News, the best news. It was this statement that ran through the whole programme. Polish people have a wonderful opportunity to reach their brothers and sisters in a new environment.

Polish children

Pastor Władysław Kozowski preached the sermon and, as with the rest of the day, translation was provided for the English-speaking people present. He aimed to show that we are immensely valuable to God – a value given by God and reflected in the fact that although Pastor Kozowski is past retirement age, he still serves his Union as Church Growth director.

The Sabbath afternoon programme was designed as an outreach event. Visitors included the Polish attendees at the local Adventist church’s English Language School, Polish Adventists in Darlington who attend church, and a Polish Christian group who meet at the King’s Church. The presentation, ‘How to live with an imperfect partner’, was very well received by all – humour and wisdom combined to inspire our audience to utter comments like, ‘That was both deep in its thoughts and simple enough in presentation even for me to understand.’

An evening concert followed our second Polish meal of the day – with interesting additional food from the Philippines, England and Malawi. The concert opened with ‘LifeLine’ from Newcastle singing a short but inspiring set. Then came Nono from Poland. These four ladies love singing, but even more so as they sing to share their faith. Their programme of songs outlined how God wants to be in a relationship with us.

Our Polish friends left Darlington on Sunday afternoon with the comment, ‘What an unusually warm church.’ And they weren’t talking about the central heating.

Pastor Władysław Kozowski

When Dawn Franks of York church heard about this year’s Shoebox Appeal by ADRA, she immediately thought of the children in the school where she works. Knaresmore Primary School had previously been involved in collecting and donating children’s clothing to Yugoslavia and Croatia, and the pupils had been very enthusiastic about the project, so Dawn, who has worked at the school for 23 years as a midday supervisor, thought the children would be interested in the Shoebox Appeal.

She discussed the idea with the school head, Mrs Weston, and within a week the whole school – from pupils of nursery age up to year 6 – had collected and filled 40 shoeboxes to be donated to ADRA.

The pupils also donated £27 to help with the cost of delivering the shoeboxes.

‘The children were very keen about it,’ said Dawn. ‘They would come up to me the whole school – from pupils of nursery age up to year 6 – had collected and filled 40 shoeboxes to be donated to ADRA.

Our Polish friends left Darlington on Sunday afternoon with the comment, ‘What an unusually warm church.’ And they weren’t talking about the central heating.

Great Yarmouth church celebrates 75 years

It was a glorious day at the Great Yarmouth church on 27 October when people came from across the country to share in the celebrations for the church’s 75th anniversary. It was wonderful to have some of the previous pastors and their wives involved in the service, and to share memories, Ian Lasker and his wife Romula, David Neal and his wife and family and Jim Frost and his wife Jean were there. During the afternoon service a Roll of Honour in tribute to the ministers was distributed to the congregation and a minute of silence was called for those who are no longer with us. Pastor David Neal led out at Sabbath School and remained on the fact that it had been twenty years since he had served at the church. The speaker for the day, Dr David Dutton of the Trans-European Division, gave a stirring talk entitled ‘Keep the Faith – Anyhow!’ Charles Ngandwe sang during the morning service and gave a concert in the afternoon.

The present pastor, Michael Walker, welcomed local dignitaries Councillor Brian Watts, Revd Peter Paine, Port Chaplain and Chairman for the Yarmouth Churches Together, and also one of the Police Community Support Officers for the area, Melanie and Wayne. Pastor Walker presented the gentleman with a book and the ladies received a bouquet of flowers. Senior members Frances Haylett, who is 96, and Myrtle Newman were also presented with flowers. Frances Haylett is the only remaining charter member left and was present in spite of poor health. Pastor Walker Newman, who passed away earlier in the year, was remembered for his work over the years and for acquiring the present church building.

The church clerk, Vera Cowley, who was a relative of Pastor A. H. Cowley, gave a very interesting résumé of the church’s history. She began with dramatic stories of how two young people, Bob and Frances Haylett, had met on the sea front in Yarmouth in 1911 and how their relationship grew from this first meeting to love, baptism and marriage. At that time Pastor R. J. Joyce began his first evangelistic campaign with Bible worker Miss Olive Davies, Mrs Wakeden and her son Victor. Over a period of seven years Victor had been distributing the church magazine Present Truth, it is quite likely that Bob’s mother had received copies and as a result attended one of Pastor Joyce’s meetings. Bob started attending the meetings and invited Frances to come too.

On 6 October 1932 a baptism service took place at the Norwich church in which fifty-seven people, including Bob and Frances, were baptised. A church was later organised at the Yarmouth YMCA by Pastor W. E. Read and O. M. Dorland. In 1933 the church clerk reported that Pastor Sammy Joyoys had purchased a building in King Street. It had been closed for many years and was in bad order. In the church records the clerk stated that from the onlooker’s point of view it was an impossible task ever to make a church out of such ‘debris’.

The church grew and various meetings were held, including Pastor Walker’s Sunday all-night services for the fishermen. On those nights the church was overflowing. However, in 1939 there was a big change when the war came and the membership declined. By 1940 the membership had fallen to twenty. The good work continued over the following years and Vera said that she felt that there should be special recognition for the valued work from the many lay-preachers who have served the church over the years.

It was in 1968 that Pastor Walter Newman became the new minister. He was very interested in outreach to other churches and their ministers and began working with Churches Together and creating friendships with the local clergy. It was decided to sell the building in King Street as it was in such a bad state of repair and in 1972 they rented the Unitarian Church in Yarmouth.

After a few years of hard work in fundraising and the £1 a brick scheme, they raised enough money to buy a new church. Pastor Newman spent many weeks searching for a suitable building or a plot of land to build on and suffered many disappointments. In September 1973 they moved to an upper room in the Gorleston Unitarian Church and they worshipped there until 1976, when they were able to purchase the present site in Burnt Lane, Gorleston. Work on the church building began in June 1977 and was completed on 23 October 1982. God has been with the church through all of its problems and joys and it is with thanks to him that we have this beautiful little place of worship.

The church stands on land where a monastery once stood, and today the wall forming the rear boundary of the site was the main wall of the old monastic building.

Over the years there have been many campaigns – Stress Control and Stop Smoking clinics, welfare outreach, VOP cards and the distribution of magazines, Daniel and Revelation seminars, holiday Bible schools and car boot sales. Today Pastor Walker is presenting The Amazing Discoveries in Bible Land’s seminars at the Gorleston Library, which are very well attended. He also holds seminars at the Lowestoft church and in Thetford. The church is growing slowly and there are efforts to follow in Pastor Newman’s steps in outreach to the community and the local clergy. Recently the church hosted the Borough-wide wide church service at King’s Church and some of the clergy came and shared worship, with Pastor Walker leading out. Rana Mallon, who is a panellist for BBC Norfolk, gave a presentation on Hope 08.
Adventist health guidelines reaffirmed

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director

Adventist health care is a unique ministry which provides health care services based on the core values of the Seventh-day Adventist church. The principles that guide Adventist health care are rooted in the Bible and reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles. These principles are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle and provide treatments that are holistic, non-toxic, and evidence-based.

Amidst the rapid changes in the world of medicine, Adventists have remained faithful to their principles and continue to provide care that is in line with the teachings of the Bible. The latest edition of the Adventist Health Care Guidelines reaffirms the commitment to the health principles that have guided the Adventist church for over a century.

The guidelines are based on the Adventist health message, which emphasizes the importance of a healthy lifestyle, preventive care, and natural remedies. The guidelines cover a wide range of topics, from diet and exercise to mental health and spiritual well-being.

The guidelines are updated regularly to reflect the latest scientific evidence and to ensure that Adventists can continue to provide care that is in line with the teachings of the Bible.

In conclusion, the Adventist health guidelines reaffirm the commitment to the health principles that have guided the Adventist church for over a century. These principles are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle and provide treatments that are holistic, non-toxic, and evidence-based. The guidelines are updated regularly to reflect the latest scientific evidence and to ensure that Adventists can continue to provide care that is in line with the teachings of the Bible.
Adventist Football League
Passing the faith along
by Newton Reid

Considering that we are a football league, and football being one of the most competitive sports around today, and considering further that the game requires twenty-two men to be in the same arena, all striving to win, the logical conclusion would have to be that this whole idea is most definitely not conducive to attaining and/or displaying a Christ-like character. However, we serve a God of miracles, and we can now report that, as a result of the fellowship that the league provides, three souls have been won for the Kingdom. These men have become members of the Adventist Church through baptism. Many others have recommitted their lives to God.

Results
In the beginning the league had just seven teams. In just under five years we have achieved a 100% increase to fourteen teams currently participating in the league.

In the 06/07 season, we ran two football competitions:
- The Adventist Football League Trophy, and
- The Jamaica National Cup.

The Adventist Football League Trophy
Congratulations to the winners of the 06/07 trophy – Stoke Newington SDA Football Club.

The Jamaica National Cup
Congratulations to the winners, Balham SDA Football Club, who overcame North Wembley in the finals to pocket the £1,000 prize money.

This competition is sponsored by the Jamaica National Building Society. It’s been running for the last two seasons and we have hopes that it will continue.

Expected new team
The following team has expressed an interest in joining the Adventist Football League for the 07/08 season:

- Thornton Heath Rangers – a Christian team from another denomination that seeks Christian fellowship.

The current proposal is that at the end of the season the Premier League will be increased to ten teams. This would mean that the top four teams in the First Division will be promoted to the Premier League, while the bottom two teams in the Premier League will be demoted to the First Division. Thereafter only the top and bottom two teams will be promoted and demoted.

New league season
The current season started on the Sunday 7 October 2007.

International trip
We are currently in touch with Trinidad and Tobago and, with their conference sessions completed, the new leadership is looking forward to hosting us next year. We expect the tour to be in July 2008.

League support
As we all know, nothing that is good comes easy. It is your responsibility to improve yourself, and in an effort to do so, seek the people and/or organisations that are best able to aid your growth – intellectually, morally, physically – really, in all aspects of your existence.

The Adventist Football League seeks to pursue policies, hold functions, etc., that require sacrifice on the part of its members, and, in turn, these policies and programmes will seek to help the members to ‘step up’ and conduct the character evaluation that will take us forward.

We hope that all who participate in the League will become men of courage and integrity, with the strength of character to stand up for what is good and right though the heavens fall, for this is the essence of courage.

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Newton Reid (Communications)
Luton Town 07985 404 306
Andy West (Compliance)
Holloway 07721 363 420

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