Park Pathfinders

Words and pictures by Johnson Wong

On Sabbath 7 November a fully packed church came to witness and celebrate a special service. Over ninety Adventurers and Pathfinders, all wearing their smart uniforms, marched up and down the platform to receive their various awards and honours from our guest speaker, Pastor Nathan Stickland from the South England Conference. It was estimated that over 500 awards and honours were presented to these young people. This is surely a well-deserved icing on top of the cake, as only two weeks ago six Pathfinders were baptised in the same church.

Events of such nature do not just happen. Much credit must go, first, to the parents who send these children regularly to Sunday meetings and other additional functions, and those exceptionally devoted leaders who have made great personal sacrifices in giving their time, energy and even money to ensure we have a thriving and exciting programme for these young people. The church was very pleased and duly proud to send a team of some twenty delegates to the recent International Jubilee in Oshkosh in the United States earlier this year. Then there are the other church members who prepared and organised various fundraising activities such as Sunday morning sales, a car wash, musical concerts and others.

At a meeting this morning, just one day after the Investiture, nearly a hundred parents and children lined up to register for the programme for 2010. The church members here at Stanborough Park firmly believe that these precious young people are the potential leaders of our Church in the future years.

Photo one shows our smiling and contended Pathfinder club leader, Bernell Bussell, receiving a special personal award from Pastor Nathan Stickland.

Photo two shows the large number of those who received their awards and honours on Sabbath 7 November.

Photo three shows the six candidates who were baptised on Sabbath 17 October.
**Every picture tells a story . . .**

. . . and if it’s about a photographer who sends low-res images to *Messenger* because he or she does not take the time to handle the camera properly, the story is a sad one. High resolution pictures only for *Messenger* please.

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**Enhancing Health**

**Depression linked to fatty and processed foods**

By Sharon Pict-McDonald RGN, RM, RNU, MS;

Health Ministries director, BVC

Modern diets are often high in processed foods, which can contribute to depression. According to the World Health Organization, depression affects over 300 million people worldwide. The impact of diet on mental health is becoming increasingly recognized, and there is growing evidence to suggest that a diet rich in processed foods may increase the risk of depression.

### Edwards at the mental health charity SANE states:

*Physical and mental health are closely related, so we should not be too surprised by these results, but we hope there will be further research which may help us to understand more fully the relationship between diet and mental health.*

### Once again modern science is confirming what Adventists have known about dietary impact for over 150 years.

### In the chapter ‘Diet and Mind’ under the caption ‘Unhealthy Food Stupifies the Conscience’, EGW states: . . . *under the influence of unhealthy food . . . the mind is darkened, and its susceptibility to impression is impaired.* (Mind, Character and Personality.)

### Be vigilant!

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**Ephod, iPod or the Promises of God**

David Marshall

Ever wished you owned an ephod? I have. An ephod? What’s that? you may ask. Are they in stock at PC World, or should I try Jackson’s?*

What is an ephod? The latest in the toyota range? The fashion accessory that no one can afford to be without? An ephod is something you would frequentfly find extremely useful. You, too, I think. Should you decide to shop for one, be picky. Ephods were things worn by Israelite priests. Common or garden priests wore ephods that were no more than linen waistcoats. The only ephod worth having would be one worn by the high priest. That would be an altogether more colourful affair. The front and back components is a built-in direction finder. The whole back panel was embroidered with gold, blue, purple and scarlet. The two panels would be joined together by shoulder straps. On each would be an onyx stone and on each stone would be engraved the names of six of the tribes of Israel. Attached to the front panel would be the ‘breastplate’ bearing a further twelve precious stones. (Exodus 28:30.)

If you’re still wondering of what possible use an ephod would be to you – except to sell on eBay – it is because I have omitted one vital particular. Also on the breastplate would be the ‘Urim and Thummim’. These were the objects used by the high priest to ascertain the will of God.

The Urim and Thummim were not about more as useful as the pillar of cloud and fire. Can you see that? In general I have a good sense of direction. But in large cities one wrong turn can make me feel like a blind man in Hampton Court maze. Wife + Map can be a solution but not an infallible one. On the way to a friend’s funeral – as per directions – I was navigated to the High Street, found the parish church, took the third on the right as indicated. . . . The problem was we were in Unibridge, and the funeral was in Southall. . . . That was when the company bought me an iPod. But that always makes me feel like Columbus who, you will recall, didn’t know where he was going when he left, didn’t know where he was when he got there, and didn’t know where he had been when he got back. Ever had that feeling? One of man’s most obvious missing components is a built-in direction finder.

I’m not just taking points of the compass here, I’m taking directions at the great crossroads of life. Life-directions, not just place-directions.

On the run from Saul and possessed by hunger, David found himself pleading for provisions from the priests at Nob. That David ate the consecrated bread, we remember. That the priests gave David Goliath’s sword that, since his early victory, had been stored in their sanctuary. They did not know (1 Samuel 21:9,) we might just recall. That Saul subsequently massacred eighty-five priests whose ‘sword’ plus the whole human and animal population of Nob (1 Samuel 22:6-19), we could hardly forget. That Abiathar the son of the high priest survived the massacre and joined David (verses 20-23), I vaguely recall. That he brought with him the ephod with the Urim and Thummim I had forgotten. (1 Samuel 23:6.) And that David subsequently used it to ascertain the precise will of God in certain situations. (30:7) had passed me by. Until recently.

Following Saul’s death, ‘David died of the Lord,’ ‘I shall go up one of the towns of Judah? ‘The Lord said,’ ‘Go up,’ David asked. ‘Where shall I go?’ ‘To Hebron,’ the Lord answered. (2 Samuel 21:1.)

Now, do you see why I could use an ephod? Not as an infallible, 30:7 had passed me by. Until recently.

At the stage of his life when he was accompanied by Abiathar and the ephod, David made a habit of running his options past God before he reached a decision.

Since I learned that, I’ve been wanting an ephod. I mean to say, you have an iPod, he has an iPhone, they have an iMac – so why shouldn’t I have an ephod? You, too, for that matter.

The truth is that we do, in a manner of speaking, God doesn’t change. His promises are valid. In a world in which the Pound Sterling is no longer what it was, the banks can no longer be depended on and you can no longer ‘always trust bricks and mortar’, God’s promises are still blue-chip.

Dr E. R. Storms writes, ‘The Holy Scripture contains a total of 4,687 promises, 2,487 (53%) of which are promises from God to man. God’s promises are still blue-chip.’

This is not about SatNav – though my wife tells me that God has guided us to more places than the peremptory female voice from the little box – it’s about life-directions.

You have no ephod, but you have a Bible; so read it. You have no Urim and Thummim, but you have friends who are men and women of prayer; so consult them. From the foot of the Cross, where there is penitence and pardon, the lines between Earth and Heaven are always open, so use them frequently.

Remember God’s promise in Deuteronomy 31:6 which he repeated in Hebrews 13:5-6. ‘Be strong and of good courage, do not fear; . . . for the Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.’ NKJV.

Every wished you owned an ephod? I have. An ephod? What’s that? you may ask. Are they in stock at PC World, or should I try Jackson’s?*

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**References:**

- See items Ephod and Urim and Thummim in the SDAs Bible Commentary, p. 1154.
- See also Dr. H. H. Schenke’s, The Message of Satan (NIV), page 125. 
- Matthew 26:38. 
- NIV Revised Standard Version. 
- LNT: “Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (Proverbs 3:6, NLT)

*Every picture tells a story . . .*
A decree issued by Pope Benedict in October means that every group – a congregation, a parish or even an entire diocese – could enter into communion with Rome by receiving the pope's blessing without sacrificing their Anglican liturgy and traditions.

David Cameron was Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared in a joint press conference with the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster to have been ‘bounced’ (in public, at least) into accepting the Pope’s plan. Only later did he complain about the ‘preemptory’ manner of the papal decree. Michael Nazir-Ali, ex-Aishop of Rochester, went so far as to wel-come the Pope’s offer, prepared to consult his pastors when more detail had been received.

It took former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey to demand the lack of notice (two or three days) given by the Church of England as ‘inequitable’. To senior Anglican pastors of Carey’s calibre, the papal decree was a rather obvious attempt to attract the wing of the Church of England currently disaffected by issues such as female bishops.

The Church of England has rep-resented an historical compromise between Catholicism and Puritanism (eighth and seventeenth cen-turies)/Evangelicalism (nineteenth to twentieth centuries). The catch-all intent of the 1559 settlement was never remotely successful in its attempt to ‘comprehend’ all religious groups. The periods when it appeared most nearly successful were when church attendance was enforced by a system of fines and other penalties for non-attendance.

The value of the Church of England to the Protestant cause became evi-dent in the brief reign of James II (1688-85) when a majority of its senior figures, lay and clerical, opposed the move of the court to re-impose Catholicism. In doing so they implicitly accepted the demands of the non-conformists for religious toleration which, along with limits on the powers of monarchy, was one of the results of the 1688 Revolution.

What do we think about the European Union? T

he Irish Republic’s ‘yes’ vote to the Lisbon Treaty, the subsequent reluctant assent of the European Commission, and the consequent decision by Conservative leader David Cameron not to go ahead with his plans for a referendum here, has raised the question: ‘What do we think about the European Union?’

What are its achievements? A recent article in an Irish newspaper asked: ‘Who are its friends?’. The author, W.B. Yeats, concluded: ‘Our friends are the world, not any one nation, nor any one race, nor any one religion, but the whole human family. Our special friends are the men who do battle for freedom and for the rights of others. They are our friends because they are our equals. We are not afraid of the differences between us; on the contrary, we are more afraid of the similarities between us. For the similarities between us are what separate us from the rest of the world. The differences between us are what make us like the rest of the world.’

It is clear that the European Union has made many achievements. It has brought peace to a region that has been plagued by war and conflict for centuries. It has helped to promote democracy and human rights throughout Europe. It has also facilitated economic growth and prosperity through the adoption of a common currency, the euro.

In this issue we explore ways to involve children in special celebrations and be creative in your church services. We also discuss how to involve parents in the dedication of a child. This can be a special moment for the family, and it is important to involve them in the service. We encourage you to make the service meaningful and include some elements that reflect the family's lifestyle and interests.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. For an appointment, please phone the school office on: 020 8888 7857/058 and speak to Verona Hueston, PA/Office manager.

Please complete an application form available online (BUC website) and email to schooladmin@haringey.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday 9 December 2009 (noon)

Interviews: 7 January 2010

Haringey Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of chil-dren and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the CRB before they can be appointed.
I was about 17 when I first sat down and read the book of Revelation through in one go. I had already been moving into audio-visuals and the idea of recording the whole book with sound effects and appropriate music appealed to me. I did not make the recording but the hour and a half I spent reading Philip’s translation of Revelation was, well, ‘a revelation’.

As I had studied the Book of Revelation for my old Adventist fashion. I’d sat in Bible class and identified the seven churches, the seals, the trumpets, the little book and the little horn. I’d read the year-decade principle and saw how it took us up to the last days of Earth’s history. I’d pondered the millennium and the phases of judgment, and hoped I’d eventually make it through to the last two chapters to have the tears wiped from my eyes. I’d read it all in one go, chapter by chapter. What I had never done was read it as a whole. That is strange. The very purpose of a letter is generally to read it in one go. When John dispatched his mission across the sea from Patmos to the seven churches, his recipients, many of them illiterate, would have sat or stood around the walls of their house fellowships and listened carefully to this. The revelation of Jesus Christ, read out loud, in one go. And, in listening, they would have gained the big picture — exactly the same as I did reading Philip’s translation that Friday night long ago.

And what is that big picture? It is one of triumph! John is sitting in lonely exile on a remote island, but whisked off in vision to something fantastic. The Church may be persecuted, things may not seem to be going too well with mission, there may seem to be worry — but that is superficial. That is the world’s eye view. In vision John gets the ‘God’s eye view’. Things are very different from this new perspective and he realises that while he and his people may be struggling, God is in control. We can be encouraged and so stay faithful. The final showdown between God and Satan is imminent. Satan may increase his persecution, there may be perilous days at hand, but the victory is secure in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the one who counsels and guides the seven churches. Jesus is the only one who can open the seals on the scroll. Jesus is the one to be worshipped and adored by the elders, the angels, the 144,000 and the great multitude. He may have fought with the dragon. He and his Church may have had to run to the wilderness, but the promise is there, ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and glory and praise!’ (Revel. 5.12, NIV)

There is a time to study the book of Revelation in detail. There is value in checking the Greek, studying the symbolism, analysing all the references to the Old Testament (and there are more of them than you think). Studying the book in detail will certainly be a mind expanding and positive exercise. However, as we climaxed this year of ‘Follow the Bible’ and reflect on the journey we have taken from Genesis, through the histories, the wisdom literature, the prophets, the gospels and the letters, take time at the end of the year to read through Revelation with a sense of awe and wonder. Leave the commentaries and analysis to one side and simply mass in vision.

‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever’ (Revelation 11.15, NIV).

I had a revelation of this big picture while I was still young. I’ve studied the book much more since then — but I still rejoice in reading it as a piece of triumphal literature, and that I cannot help but find myself prizing in and agreeing with those closing words, ‘Yes, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus’ (Revelation 22.20, NIV).
The gift of giving
This is a time of year when many people are wondering what to give each other for Christmas. Usually they look for presents that will make the other person feel happy and loved.

What’s the best present you were ever given? Why was it so special? How did you feel when you received it? What’s the best present you ever gave to someone else? Why were you so pleased about being able to give a gift like that? How did it feel when you decided what to give, how to make or buy the present and how to wrap it up? How did you feel when you saw how happy the person was when they opened your present?

Jesus said that it’s better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). I wonder why he said that. What do you think?

3D stable scene
Collect some Christmas cards with pictures of the nativity. Choose some of your favourite ones and make a stand-up scene of the story of Jesus’ birth. Find a small box, such as a cube tissue box. Cut it in half diagonally so that you have a square base, a square back, and two half-triangle sides that rise from the front of the base to the top of the back. Paint or stick paper onto the box to give it a shiny night sky and grassy hills. Create a stable shape on the background. Draw a simple outline around each character and add some of extra space below their feet. Then cut the characters out of the cards, bend back the extra tabs at the bottom, and use a glue stick to attach them to the base of your scene.

You can use Christmas card characters to help you make scenes from other Bible stories, too.

For God loves a cheerful giver. For God loves a cheerful giver.

Presents for your family
What would you like to give the people in your family if you could give them the best gift ever? A plane ticket to a special place? A self-hydrating house? A horse? In the space below draw some pictures of the presents you would like to give your family if you could. Show them what you have drawn.

Reverse Advent calendar
If you have an Advent calendar with boxes, bags or pockets, use it to collect money to help others. Ask your parents if you can do a little job every day to earn some money to put into your calendar. See how much you can collect and then enjoy giving the money to ADRA, buying something to help a poor family in another country such as a chicken or a goat, or giving a special present to a child who doesn’t have many toys. Find out more on the ADRA website www.adra.org/kids

Giving generously
Every good and perfect gift comes from above. (James 1:17.)

Do you enjoy giving presents? Here is one you can give that will bring a smile to everyone. Today you can do this with your friends at church or at home with your family. Give everyone a sheet of paper and a pencil. Ask them to draw a picture of themselves and write their name on the top of the paper. Then everyone swaps pictures and writes at the bottom of the picture the special gifts that they think God has given that person. Some might have the gifts of being kind or helpful or being a good friend.

If you have time, pass the picture around so everyone can add to the list of gifts. Give the pictures back so you can read about the gifts that other people think God has given to you. Collect them up and pass them out again for a special prayer time. Each person thanks God for the wonderful gifts he has given the person on the picture they are holding. When the prayers are ended give everyone back their picture. People usually smile when they read about their gifts.

Star verse
The verse to learn this month is For God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7.
Learn this verse by writing it neatly at the top or bottom of several sheets of plain writing paper. Arrange your pencil crayons or felt pens in the order that colours appear in a rainbow – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple. Write each word using a different colour so that the words look like rainbows and then decorate the paper with pictures of presents. Use this paper to write thank you letters whenever someone has given you a gift.

Star spies
Explore Messenger and see if you can find any stories where someone gave something to someone else. How many did you find?
On 31 October the Russian Speaking Adventist church in London celebrated one of the events by the Russian Speaking church for the Russian-speaking community of London and the UK.

Almost nine years ago, the Gospel had been seeded into the hearts of few Russian-speaking people who came to the UK from the former USSR. The Spirit of Christ united their hearts, and they decided to get together and began to worship as a small group and give Bible studies. After a while, they invited Pastor Mikail Lutko, and together they have continued spreading the Gospel, and now that small group of Russian-speaking believers has grown into a very sized, Russian-speaking Adventist church in London. On 4 July the SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, received the Russian Speaking church as part of the church family of the South England Conference. On 11 July, in accordance with the decision of the SEC, Pastor Andrei M. Balan was invited to serve the Lord and lead his people.

During the summer period, the RSC in London distributed almost 15,000 Russian Christian newspapers and more than 8,000 fliers, leaflets and posters throughout London, inviting people to their special events. The evangelistic events took place every Sabbath in October, offering everyone who took part a free medical examination, family advice based on Christian principles, special lessons based on Bible teaching and spiritual advice, and a large variety of Adventist music and books.

Therefore, 31 October had a multiple purpose. First of all, all the Russian-speaking Adventists and their friends and visitors united in the Spirit in Thanksgiving and prayer for the future. Secondly, we thanked God for the great success of the evangelistic campaign attended by some twenty-five newcomers. Moreover, on the Harvest Day, we enjoyed the first fruits of spreading the Gospel through the internet via Facebook – as a result of which a young mum with her three children became good family friends with Pastor Balan and, by following RSC’s events on Facebook, she had decided to come and enjoy the harvest day of fellowship. Therefore, RSC is inviting everyone, young and adults, children and parents to come and worship with us. At present we are planning to begin Bible classes for everyone who desires to study the Word, to prepare for baptism and to begin a new life in Jesus Christ. We aim to find lost members of our community and, at the same time, we are encouraging everyone to be part of small group Bible studies that are established throughout London.

We extend our special invitation to everyone to come and worship with us every Sabbath from 10am at Selly Hall, 52 Pauls Church, B3 Chillerton Road, Furzedown, London SW17 9BE. As a courtesy for our visitors who do not understand the Russian language, we have our interpreters who will translate our service into English.

CHRISTOPHER BLAKE
Belfast baptism

Sabbath 26 September was a very memorable day in the Belfast church. We had a baptismal service that was well attended by friends and family and was a very moving service and a great opportunity for witnessing.

Five candidates in all were baptised. Two young people, Chlenka Mrosa and Benecz Kova, a brother and sister, entered the water of baptism together and were first to be baptised by Pastor Adam Kogich, our Belfast minister. Their baptism was one of both joy and sadness as that particular Sabbath was one of the last in Belfast as they have now gone to live in London. Our prayers go with them and the rest of their family as they continue their journey with Christ.

Next to be baptised was Phyllis Thompson. We have all enjoyed getting to know Phyllis over the last couple of years. Phyllis recently marriedTom who was already a church member in Belfast and through his witness Phyllis has come to know the Lord Jesus as her own personal Saviour and has joined with God’s remnant people.

Carra Mckee was next into the water, a young person we who are so pleased has given her life to the Lord Jesus. Carra is a fourth generation Adventist and it is great that she, too, has made her decision for Christ.

Lastly but not least, Shannon O’Brian, niece of our pastor, entered the waters of baptism. Another fourth generation young person who has been witness of her faith in Christ.

The church choir enthusiastically sang ‘There’s a new name written down in glory’, indicating the joy in the assurance of salvation for all those who came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

We wish all the newly baptised members of the Belfast church God’s richest blessings as they continue to walk the road of life with Him.

Birthday celebration with a difference

Since hosting the first Irish family camp meeting, the Newmarket church has continued to be blessed by attracting more and more visitors. Sabbath 24 September was no exception. Bradford Yebah, a native of Ghana, celebrated his 50th birthday by inviting more than thirty of his friends and relatives to the church. Some came from as far away as Amsterdam and many were visiting an Adventist church for the first time. One wanted the service to end as the singing was powerful. Sister Rhoda sang a lovely song for Bradford in their native language. We may not have been able to understand the words, but one thing for sure, the rhythm was wonderful and the song must have meant a lot to Bradford as it brought tears to his eyes. We were also blessed by a special song from one of the visitors. Pastor Tony O’Rourke gave a wonderful sermon titled ‘I once was blind but now I see’. After the divine service the large crowd retired to the new church hall to join Bradford in the cutting of the birthday cake. It was a blessed Sabbath for all, but especially for Bradford, his wife Comfort and their three lovely children. We were also blessed by the weather.

Brixton: Education weekend

Education is like the fibres of life on which we hang our knowledge and experience, and a true appreciation of what it can offer enables an individual to grow in wisdom and spiritual wealth.

On Sabbath 9 May the Education department, under the leadership of Joanne Read, asked those members who have been successful in their studies. Some of these achievements were for Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral degrees and other skills and courses. All teachers, including Sabbath School teachers, were also honoured for their contribution to the church and the community.

Dr Andreas Bochmann, an Adventist German theologian, spoke on the topic of ‘Holy Spirit and the Bride’ to them all by mentioning that teachers should be acknowledged and respected for what they do for the church and the community.

The Education department did not limit itself to the church only but sent out letters of invitation to educators who had made an impact on the lives of church members. We wanted them to spend some time in worship with us and receive a token for the way that they had allowed their gift of teaching to enhance someone else’s life.

On Sunday 5 May, the upper hall was transformed into a buzz of activity as a number of stalls were erected in readiness for the demonstration of practical skills. This array of activities included the continuation of the Education department’s weekend theme of ‘What’s in your toolkit?’. The primary focus was to showcase various professions of a practical nature where participants would be able to ‘learn by doing’.

Some of the demonstrations included Electrical Installation (Dennis Newell), Diving and Etiquette (Percy Fraser), Computer Programming (Shane Daniels), Flower Arranging (Leonora and Donna), Mechanics (Denny Campbell), Painting and Decorating (D. H. Clarke), and Farming and Gardening (Roy Moodie), to name a few. There was also a display of aloe vera health products with information about their usefulness by Leslie Peat Brown (Croydon church).

All who were present affirmed to the overwhelming wealth of experience that they had acquired and that they were now more aware of many things of which they thought they were ignorant. The session proved to be of great benefit to all who attended.

50th wedding anniversary

Brother and Sister Aaron Smith celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August at the Brixton church. They attributed their long life together to being friends to each other and servants of God. They encouraged the gathering to put God at the forefront at all the difficult periods as well as the good times.

The day was made special when they were transported to the church in a specially arranged car where they were welcomed by family and friends from around the world to the happiness of the occasion.

The service at the church was conducted in a wedding-like style by Pastor James Philp, a former pastor of the church. He reminisced on their past achievements with humour and commendation as he asked the couple to comment on some of the things that they enjoyed doing for each other.

The celebration ended with a delicious meal and speeches which conveyed thankfulness to God for his leading in their lives and for his many blessings.

Street Pastors initiative

Following a number of shootings that occurred in the Burggreave area of Sheffield over the past two years, Pastor Andrew Rusford-Hewitt and a number of church members and other non-Adventist churches got together to start work on the Sheffield Street Pastors initiative.

Following a successful march last year against crime entitled ‘The Burggreave Bouncing Back March’, which saw Pathfinder clubs and drum corps support Sheffield in marching against guns and crime, a mentoring scheme has since been set up with the input of Pastor Andrew, and now the Street Pastors scheme has been launched.

With the kind invitation of the Lord Mayor, the scheme was launched at the town hall on 28 October with the Chief Inspector of Police, a council head of youth, the Lord Mayor himself, Pastor Andrew and a rep from the Ascension Trust who run Street Pastors nationally, as well as volunteers from other churches and some from the Carterknowle church. The launch also saw £12,000 being committed to the initiative by the Police and Sheffield Council.

Claire Fox, Wilton Blake and Randolph Prime from the Burggreave church are all avid supporters of the Street Pastors programme which will train people to engage with young people on the streets to share the love of God in a listening and supportive manner.

Pastor Andrew believes that this is one of the ways Jesus would try to interact with the youth of today were he here. ‘In this way, we are bringing the church on the streets and showing the positive contribution Adventists are making in this and other cities,’ says Pastor Andrew. He goes on, ‘However, as we do so we do so must do all we can to ensure that the youth we at present in our churches are nourished biblically and socially and so don’t stray from the fold.’
**Exeter: Double celebration**

On 25 July Orshe and Graca were baptised at St Albans church after they had made the decision to follow Christ. Pastor Jonathan Barrett led the service and the theme was based around the different positions that Mary and Martha took when Jesus visited their home. He emphasised that Mary’s decision to spend as much time as she could with Jesus was an admirable quality. Her determination to be in his presence surpassed her physical needs. This was a lesson he wanted these newly baptised candidates to take away with them.

It was a year ago when Orshe made contact with the church. She says, ‘I heard God speaking to me and I wanted to practice and belong to his Church.’

Graca was 13 at the time of her baptism. She says, ‘I wanted to get closer to God, because my environment wasn’t leading me in the right direction, and I felt that it was time for a change.’

Graca was a Catholic, and had not had any previous contact with the Adventist Church. What remains fixed in her memory is the love, acceptance and sense of family of the adventists who showed her and her family the way. This is what inspired her to accept Christ as her Saviour. Graca is now a member of the church.

**All-night prayer at Leicester Central**

On 27 September 1917 in London, Pastor Vince died on 16 July 2009 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW. On 30 December 1945 he married Rosa Birgit Christina (Krey) Johnson at Waford. He was preceded by his wife in 1960. On 9 September 1989 he married Elanor (Smith) Roseland (Bower). He is survived by his wife, Irene, his daughter and son-in-law, Sally and Andrew, and his grandson, Anthony. He was a Sunday School teacher, and gave the address at the funeral of his good friend, John Parvin, in 1953. He was also a Sunday School teacher, and gave the address at the funeral of his good friend, John Parvin, in 1953.

**The passing of Pastor Delroy Foster**

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Pastor Delroy Foster, who passed to his rest at the Richmond Care Home in Crieff aged 100 years. Born in Clent in the West Midlands, Pastor Foster studied at Clent and was a member of the church from the age of 16. He was also a Sunday School teacher, and gave the address at the funeral of his good friend, John Parvin, in 1953.

**Margery Heighaart (1909-2009)**

She passed to her rest at the Kelamanda Care Home on 26th October. She was preceded by her husband in 1958. She was a Sunday School teacher, and gave the address at the funeral of her good friend, John Parvin, in 1953.

**The writer has celebrated with two nonagenarians this year as her own ‘Harvest of the world’ to reflect the cultural diversity in the church.** Members had loaned materials from their own backgrounds and brought examples of their staple foods to add to the harvest display. Several people spoke about the impact the church has had on their lives and reminded people to support the singing. The writer also favoured this with a beautiful piano piece. Stella Jeffery concluded the morning’s worship with thoughts about the true harvest of the world, the spiritual harvest, encouraging the congregation not only to be part of the final harvest but to go out into the world and encourage others to turn to the Lord’s harvest fields and help bring in the sheaves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Margery Heighaart**

Margery Heighaart (1909-2009) d. 26 October. Amanda Margery passed to her rest at the Kelamanda Care Home on 26th October. She was a Sunday School teacher, and gave the address at the funeral of her good friend, John Parvin, in 1953.
Disability Awareness Conference
Sharon Platt-McDonald and Sophia Nicholls

Under the caption ‘Enabling Change: Supporting Leaders in Special Needs Ministry’, the BUC and ASNA jointly hosted the 3rd Disability Awareness conference at the Pendeford church, Wolverhampton, a flagship church for access for the disabled in the NEC. The key objectives for this year were to facilitate the following; the sharing of good practice; the provision of new ideas; and support for the leaders in making the Gospel accessible.

Following the official welcome, Nigel Nichols, Adventist Special Needs Association chairman, gave an overview of the work of ASNA and its contribution towards raising awareness of disabilities and supporting those requiring their services.

Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director and Special Needs co-ordinator, spoke of her delight in reading the reports from the co-ordinators on the work they were doing in their local churches. The reports highlighted developments like more accessible church buildings, inclusion of people with disabilities in church services, the purchase of sensory equipment and better disability awareness among members following relevant training.

Sharon then shared the ‘Sharing good practice’ discussions. This offered the co-ordinators a chance to share good practice and ideas of how to support the ministry to disabled people in the church communities. Theresa Mitchell and Caroline Hutson, Disability co-ordinators from the Ilford church, highlighted some of the changes they had been able to implement over two years, and how their commitment, training and persistence had changed the worship and provision for disabled people in Ilford church.

An inspiring address by Pastor Jeff Nicholson, NEC Communication and Stewardship director, reaffirmed our mission to share the Gospel in an inclusive way.

Philippa Woodcroft, a 20-year-old Christian volunteer from Through the Roof*, shared a moving testimony of her life and current work with the organisation. Philippa, who was born with a condition called bilateral anophthalmia (without eyes), shared her struggles and triumphs and journey to faith. She stated, ‘Being born blind may not be the worst thing that can happen, because God in some way will use my life in a significant way to be a blessing to others.’ Using a Braille hymn sheet, she ended her testimony with the song ‘Some day the silver cord will break’.

The conference provided the ideal setting for the launch of the Disabilities Pathway within the leadership training course co-ordinated by Grace Walsh, NEC Health Ministries and Community Services director and lead for Disability Awareness.

Tim Wood, Development director of Through the Roof, and Philippa led a workshop in which delegates learnt new skills in a fun and inclusive way. They dramatised the crossing of the Red Sea using a parachute, and with accompanying sound and gestures we relived the biblical event using our senses of sight, sound, touch and movement.

Philippa provided training in supporting people with sight loss, and Grace concluded this excellent and informative annual conference with one of the Disability modules, Manual Handling, from the leadership training course. The Manual Handling workshop taught participants health and safety techniques when moving or lifting objects or people.

Attendees voiced their appreciation for another excellent event. ‘I can now go back with confidence to make some real changes in my church’, one participant said. Other comments included: ‘I was so encouraged. It has given me a boost to do something new.’

*Through the Roof is a registered Christian charity in the UK whose vision is to ‘See All Disabled People Be Free To Reach Their God-Given Potential’.

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