Dialogue summer café
Contemporary outreach at work in the city
by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist,
South England Conference Media director

On a warm summer’s evening, Saturday 3 August, the Central London church opened its doors as a summer café, complete with tables, candles, food and drink. The Dialogue Concert night was entitled ‘Singing the Divine and Human Story: Praying Together Through Song’. World-renowned Adventist musician Pastor Nicolas Zork, from New York, was supported by singer Tanya Riches from Hillsong, Sydney. Both are recording artists and were in England to present papers at the Christian Congregational Music Conference at Ripon College, Oxford.

Owing to the summer heatwave, it was uncertain whether people would turn up, but at the 7.30pm start there was standing room only. The evening was centred on worship music and, as Pastor Zork explained, it was like one big choir rehearsal where we all just sang together. With his guitar he led the attendees in singing praises and sharing the Gospel with words, songs and prayers. ‘We are called to share the life of grace we have in Jesus,’ he stated.

‘It’s a tiny piece of Heaven,’ enthused one of the volunteers, Nerea Chafer. Catharine Namonda added, ‘The informal setting gives a good opportunity for people to mingle.’ She particularly liked the ‘open door’ policy. ‘With the front doors open, people do walk in from the street as they hear music.’

That is something that singer Tanya Riches also noted. ‘This is in the heart of London. I see people walking in from the street. I feel like it’s a symbol of Jesus on the cross, with His open arms, open for all to come.’

Music director for the South England Conference, Paul Lee, felt blessed: ‘This is a true master class in how to lead out in worship!’

There was also time to relax and chat in the venue’s cozy atmosphere, with drinks and snacks available on the tables. To promote this friendly environment, there were various small icebreakers related to the evening.

While clearing the tables at the end of the night, Central London Church pastor, Geert Tap, was smiling. ‘It is a thrill to see people from my church bringing their friends along. Tonight was an amazing worship café, and although I was concerned about the attendance, it being summer, there clearly is a need for café nights such as this.

A regular participant at the café, Paul Lee, expressed how great it is to see how the concept of Dialogue Café is working in reaching people. He concluded, ‘This is a type of evangelism that clearly works in London.’
Cancer: the facts – part 4

Signs and symptoms

Knowing your body is a key to detecting any abnormal changes and possible cancer signs. Prompt reporting to your GP can assist in early detection and treatment.

Cancer Research UK has identified the following signs of cancer for men and women:

- An unusual lump or swelling anywhere on your body:
- A sore that won’t heal after several weeks:
- Blood in your bowel motions:
- Frequent bowel motions clear up within a few days. However, persistent symptoms must be investigated to check for bowel cancer, particularly in the over-50s.
- Blood in your urine:
- Persistent difficulty swallowing or indigestion:

Problems passing urine:

- Frequency, painfulness, urgency, difficulty urinating or blood in the urine.
- Difficulty urinating or blood in the urine.

A change in size, shape or colour of a mole:

- Including crustiness, blood or oozing.

A sore that won’t heal after several weeks:

- A spot, wart or sore lasting more than three weeks:
- A mouth or tongue ulcer that lasts longer than three weeks:
- Persistent or recurrent ulcers in the mouth, nose, throat or larynx.
- Persistent or recurrent sores in the mouth, nose, throat or larynx.

Breathing:

- Feeling unusually breathless, for much of the time,
- Coughing up blood:
- Coughing up blood, regardless of amount or colour.

Other symptoms not related to surgery or injury.

- Unusual breast change:
- An unusual lump or swelling anywhere on your body:

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Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president, argues convincingly that our words can hurt or heal. The choice is ours.

there is a saying that goes, ‘Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!’ I’m sure you are familiar with the Hannah Smith (Lutterworth, Leicestershire) would not agree. Hannah was just 14 years old, yet the words that she received were very abusive. They told her to die. One message said “die, die, die, die.” Hannah (and her father) Lutterworth Observer, Tuesday 6 August 2013.) Anonymous tormentors, or ‘trolls’, targeted Hannah, the vulnerable teenager, and made very cruel comments regarding her appearance, weight, and worth – all aimed at killing her in a series of disturbing posts.* These tormentors, or ‘trolls’, as they are now often called, scour social network websites posting vulgar and harmful messages. Sometimes trolls will post abusive messages on the websites of deceased beloved ones. Their purpose is to cause emotional harm, upset and outrage, because they know that words can hurt and words are powerful.

Twitter is a social networking site that has half a billion users and 500 million tweets each day. Each user is limited to conveying his/her message in just 140 characters. And yet in recent times, despite this limit, we have seen the power their words have to perpetrate evil. The BBC News reported on 3 August that police are investigating eight allegations of abuse, including bomb and rape threats made against women using Twitter. Two people have been arrested in relation to rape threats against Labour MP Stella Creasy and feminist campaigner Caroline Flint. The 21-year-old persontweeted that she had received the threats after a campaign to have Jane Austen on the £10 note! Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me!” Really? On the contrary, these stories are evidence that words do hurt. Words can include our words can kill. In fact, long before the advent of Twitter and the like, we can find ample evidence of the hurtful effect of words.

Some 2,500 years ago, the prophet Jeremiah received a message from God that he recounts for us in Jeremiah 11:18, 19 (GNB): ‘The Lovo informed me of the plots that my enemies were making against me. I was like a trusting lamb taken out to be killed, and I did not know that it was against me that they were planning evil things. They were saying, “Let’s chop down the tree while it is still small; let’s kill him so that no one will remember him any more.”’

These words hurt Jeremiah deeply, and he began to question God about the value of the life and ministry, which culminated in the Valuation of Users’ Privacy in the Internet Economy of Jeremiah 14:14, 15 (GNB): ‘Cry the day I was born! Forget the day my mother gave me birth! Cry the one who testified against me falsely by bringing false news, “It’s a boy!” You have a son!”

Words can destroy self-worth by diminishing the value and purpose of a person’s life. And yet, while recent news has highlighted the power of words to injure and wound, I recall the beautiful hymn that I sang as a child, whose words were penned by Franklin E. Belden, a nephew of Ellen G. White (639 in the New Advent Hymnal):

If any little word of mine May make a dark life brighter, If any little song of mine May make a sad heart lighter, God help me speak the helping word, And sweeten it with singing, And drop it in some lonely vale, To set the echoes ringing.

Belden’s hymn is so inspiring, reminding us that words can serve as a power for good by bringing light into the darkness of people’s lives – just as the Genesis account records those first words God spoke to an earth engulfed in darkness (Genesis 1:3, GNB): ‘Let there be light!’ and light appeared.

Out of the mouth of God flow words with so much power that they can change the present unpleasant realities of our lives for the better.

The Bible contains many instances in which we see the power of words as they proceed from the mouth of God. Words from the mouth of God enabled a potluck lunch to be served – one that satisfied the needs of 5,000 people – although it all began with a child’s tiny packed lunch (Matthew 14:14-21).

Words from the mouth of God drastically changed the weather (Mark 4:39), and caused thousands of demons to hastily exit from a man and take possession of a herd of near by pigs (Mark 5:1-20).

Words from the mouth of God woke a man who had been dead for four days. Those words were so powerful that they reversed the process of burial and decay and reunited him with his still-grieving friends and family (John 11:38-44).

Words from the mouth of God are so powerful that they change the reality of death for every child of God who has ever sbarred to it (“I Testimonians 4:16, KJV). ‘For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. And the dead in Christ shall rise first.’

Words that we say, tweet, email and the like are things we do that afford us to treat lightly, for we have this solemn warning from Christ, who said (Matthew 12:36, 37, GNB): ‘You can be sure that on the Judgment Day you will have to give account of every useless word you have ever spoken. Your words will be used to judge you – to declare you either innocent or guilty.

Words can and do hurt, and this is why I want to be Christ-minded in the words that I use – for I want to hear these words from Him one day: “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter into the joy of thy Lord.”

There are words that can make a dark life brighter, a sad heart lighter, and speak the helping word – but Topix forum member Powerintheblood, from Desert Hot Springs, USA, lists about 500,1 and a website devoted to the importance of keeping the Ten Commandments gives a slightly different list enumerating 543, which is said to be updated ‘on a regular basis’. One of the foremost of these groups is that of the Seventh Day Baptists, whose first church in America was ‘founded in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1671.’ This means that they have been keeping the Sabbath in America for 342 years: 192 of which transpired before the corporate body of Seventh-day Adventists was officially organized in 1863, making their denomination of Sabbath-keepers at least twice as old as ours! Even before then, Seventh Day Baptists were keeping Sabbath at The Mill Yard Church in London in 1651, as well as Pinner’s Hall and Bell Lane in London, and Colchester in Essex. They also believed in the soon return of Christ – thus illustrating that the two major principles of our faith, from which we take our name as Seventh-day Adventists, have been firmly held for a lot longer than the duration of our denomination’s existence.

As we do, Seventh-day Baptists quote Genesis 2:1-3 in support of the divine origin of the Sabbath and its universal applicability, and they also acknowledge, as we do, that Jesus and the early disciples practiced Sabbath-keeping; and that true Sabbath-keeping, far from being a burden, but rather a joy, a blessing.

Maybe sometime we can feel as Elijah felt at Horeb: that we alone remained faithful to God, and will bear the Sabbath seal alone in the last days! But there are many more than 7,000 ‘knees who have ever subscribed to it (I Thessalonians 4:16, KJV).’ The short answer is: No! There are a great many Seventh-day Adventists and other denominations who would not agree. Hannah was just 14 years of age when, on Friday 2 August 2013, her lifeless body was found at The Mill Yard Church in London in 1651, as well as Pinner’s Hall and Bell Lane in London, and Colchester in Essex. They also believed in the soon return of Christ – thus illustrating that the two major principles of our faith, from which we take our name as Seventh-day Adventists, have been firmly held for a lot longer than the duration of our denomination’s existence.

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Editor: Horace, in your PCSO uniform you look a lot like a police officer, but I believe that your functions are different. Please sketch the difference for our readers.

Horace: Yes, Julian, you are correct. A police community support officer is not a police man. Although we are employed by the local county police force in a support capacity, our powers are more restricted than those of a regular police officer.

Editor: What powers do you have then?

Horace: Well, maybe I should tell you a little about my general responsibilities first. Our routine duties usually include high-visibility patrolling, dealing with the fear of crime, nuisance and anti-social behaviour, and minor offences. We also gather criminal intelligence and issue fixed-penalty notices for offences like cycling on the footpath, littering, and dog control orders.

Editor: What surprises me while we walk around the estate is the effort you make to greet and be friendly with everyone you meet. You also seemed to know them all by name. In fact, I would go so far as to say they actually like you – or was I just imagining things?

Horace: That type of action takes a cool head – especially when one considers that you are ‘armed’ only with a radio and a mobile phone.

Editor: Horace, that type of action takes a cool head – especially when one considers that you are ‘armed’ only with a radio and a mobile phone.

Horace: Yes, Julian, it does. But always try to remember that I’m not alone out there while walking the streets. God is always before, beside, behind and above me. In all honesty, if it were not for my faith in God, I would not even have thought about this job.

Horace, my number of youth are very aggressive, and there seems to be no parental guidance or control. But I personally have to give thanks to God for His protecting care over me. I can say that He has shielded me under His wings. You mentioned the measure equipment we carry with us, mainly our radio. But would you believe me if I told you that having CS gas, a baton or handcuffs still won’t equip you to do an effective job?

Horace: Firstly, I have the power to confiscate alcohol and to demand the name and address of any of them who were acting in an antisocial manner. Secondly, if it is more than a matter of more serious, I could use my radio to summon police backup. It is important to know that when persons are drunk they become very unpredictable, so one has to be very cautious in one’s approach to them.

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Editor: Horace, have you ever been in real danger as a PCSO?

Horace: Well, that’s not me. It is God working through me to reach others. I live by several simple mottoes: firstly, ‘There but for the grace of God go I’. I am a sinner too, just as much in need of grace as anyone else. Secondly, I believe that every person is a candidate for Heaven. And finally, the only God some people will see is the One we portray.

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Editor: Horace, we salute you for your bravery – not just for the rescue of this man under dangerous circumstances – but also for the way in which you try to give the people on your beat a daily glimpse of Jesus.

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Editor: Horace, have you ever been in real danger as a PCSO?

Horace: Yes, Julian, a number of times, but most recently right here in Lincoln on 3 June this year. I was patrolling my local area when I saw thick black smoke billowing from a second-floor flat where a man was trapped. After calling for the emergency services I rushed up to the flat. Thick black smoke billowed from its door and I called to the man to get out, but he shouted for me to come! By then the black smoke within the flat was approximately 12 inches above the floor. I crouched down at the entrance of the flat to look inside and saw the man’s foot way over in the corner of one room. He was sitting on the floor near a raging fire.

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Jesus – The Clever Lad!
This month all the activities are based on the story of Jesus going to the temple when He was 12 years old. You can read the story in Luke 2:39-52.

Bible Detective
When Jesus was a young boy His parents taught Him all about God. They used the Old Testament books to teach Jesus because the New Testament books were written after He went back to Heaven. Did you know there are lots of clues about Jesus in the Old Testament? Draw a line from the verse to what it tells you about Jesus.

Micah 5:2
Jesus will be born in Bethlehem Matthew 2:1
Zechariah 11:13
Jesus’ hands and feet will be pierced John 20:24-27
Psalm 22:18
Jesus will be buried in rich man’s tomb Matthew 27:57-60
John 19:31-36
Jesus will heal broken hearts Luke 4
Psalm 34:20
People will cast lots for His clothes John 19:23, 24
Isaiah 50:6
People will spit on Jesus Matthew 26:67
Zechariah 9:9

Oh no! I'm lost!
Have you ever been lost, even for a few minutes? What did you feel like when you knew you were lost? What did you do? How were you found again? How did that feel?
• It’s so good to know we can pray to Jesus when we’re lost. He always knows right where we are, and exactly how to help people find us again.
• Whenever you’re lost it’s a good idea to go back to where you last remember seeing your friends or family.
• Find a mother with children, a policeperson, or someone who works where you are lost, and ask them to help you.

Draw a cartoon of your own ‘lost and found’ story in the squares below. Write what’s happening at the bottom of each picture.

Together again!
Whenever we feel a long way from Jesus, we feel sad. But Jesus is always close to us. We can pray and ask God to help us find Jesus again.

Lost and found!
Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple with the priests. He had been lost for three days! Search the grid below to find the name of JESUS in the shape of a cross. A horizontal name of Jesus and a vertical name will share the same middle 'S'. How many TEMPLE and PRIEST words can you find in the grid? Circle the words when you find them. The words can be found backwards and forwards, and up and down the grid.

REM P L E I  P L U M P S P

L I P T S S E L P S E L T L

E P L M E T S E L T M E J E

S M E E P J T P R E I S T T

T E L P S E L P S E L T M

M E L P M U L S S L T E M P

P M P R I E S T E M P L E

RELIEVED angry amazed sad
calm confused embarrassed
delighted afraid disappointed

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome.
The address is children@adventist.org.uk. Karen Hollard
Barnsley celebrates by Hazel Scholes

Sabbath 15 June was a special day in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. They were celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the church’s worship in its present building.

There has been an Adventist presence in the town since the 1920s, but in 1943 a large house with a sizeable annex on Sackville Street was to be sold at auction. The treasurer, Sister Cluett, decided that she could do with a change of address, and it was agreed to offer her £300 (with help from the British Union) for the annex, if she were able to purchase the house.

This is how the British Advent Messenger of 5 May, 1944, recorded the impressions of D. J. Handsydes concerning the auction:

‘I do not think that there was ever an auction-room so filled with Adventist devotees so earnestly praying – and their prayers were answered. That annex was ours.’

It wasn’t just the auction that impressed Handsydes. He was obviously moved by the dedication and enthusiasm of the members, and what they were able to achieve during a time of severe national austerity:

‘Barnsley members have a just cause for much pleasure and pride, for in one year (1943) they have secured a fine church building, decorated it for service, and have presented it to God free of all debt.’

The recent anniversary celebrations were a joyous occasion for both local members and visitors, many having travelled far for the event.

Hounslow ‘resurrects’ Pathfindering

On 8 June this year Hounslow Cornerstone Church held a very special investiture – their first in nine years! This involved nine Adventurers and ten Pathfinders, who provided the church with much cause for joyous praise. During the morning service Kennedy Kundan, Area 6 Pathfinder co-ordinator, and Srabina Ramburack, Area 8 Pathfinder co-ordinator, put them through their paces so all could see what they had learnt. In the afternoon there was further excitement when four more Pathfinders and three more Adventurers joined the club.

The club had been restarted in April 2012, passed by Kevin Johns, SEC Pathfinder director, reminded of some of their achievements and encouraged for the future. The programme for the day was inspiring. Firstly, there were the testimonies of Tim, Lauren and Matthew, younger members who spoke of their overseas missionary work. Then Pastor Carlton Douglass, the present minister, taught the lesson, followed by Pastor Robert Vine’s sermon on the meaning of discipleship, commitment, faithfulness and loyalty, which was entitled, ‘Seventy is a great age’.

The afternoon programme was filled with nostalgia as the past was relived through anecdotes and photographs (on the screen). The day was a celebration of the congregation’s past, but also a time of inspiration and encouragement for the future, until the Lord returns. It was also a time to be reminded that the Barnsley congregation will need to move to a more purpose-built building in the not-too-distant future.

Among them were Pastors Brian Pilmoor, Robert Vine, Paul Haworth and Ron Edwards, together with Dorothy, Vivien and Heather. Garth Til (a past elder) and his wife Kath were also among the honoured guests.
Later that evening the results of the family gave up their vacation time to join church members in inviting local people to attend. A number of people also attended because of an advertisement placed in the local Catholic church newsletter.

A visiting American Adventist church member joined ‘teams’ in a united effort to hold a ‘Celebrate Health’ day in the picturesque Clare town of Newmarket-on-Fergus. But would people attend on a day so exciting for the local Gaelic sport supporters?

To mark the occasion representatives of the Islington Veterans’ Association, fully dressed in their uniform, performed a procession march into the church prior to the official handing over of a handmade Union Jack. The flag was presented by Islington Labour councillor Gary Poole.

The Club members were delighted that the councillor, as well as some Association members, stayed for the worship hour and the fellowship lunch.

Erdington Community Services Sabbath

In times of austerity, churches, communities and voluntary organisations often unite to develop strategies to help the poor, sick and vulnerable of society.

On 6 April, the Erdington Community Services leader, Trevor Davis, invited Pastor Michael Simpson, NEC Personal Ministries director, to share his work and experiences as a minister at the conference. Among the invited dignitaries were Councillor Penny Holbrook, Stockland Green Ward councillor; Ann Danks, Regional Development officer at The Trussell Trust; Grace Walsh, the NEC Community Services director; and Dr Patrick Lowe, company director and Public Health consultant.

In his message Pastor Simpson emphasised the need to provide practical help for the community before preaching the Gospel to it. His theme was based on the positive relationship between faith and work, and he encouraged the church to take this fundamental Christian principle as the cornerstone of its ministry as it engages with national and local agencies, like the Foodbank, in the fight against poverty.

The afternoon session was packed with talks and presentations. Ann Danks of The Trussell Trust talked about her work and that of the Trust. She also emphasised that the Trust was in business to empower local communities to combat poverty through the distribution networks of foodbanks throughout the UK. She encouraged churches and communities to link with The Trussell Trust to open foodbanks across the UK. Foodbanks have proved their worth in the UK and Adventists can give them wholehearted support.

Councillor Holbrook spelled out Birmingham City Council’s strategy of tackling alcoholism, crime, violence and drug abuse in society, and extended an invitation to the church to help solve these problems in that city.

Dr Lowe also talked about the council’s plans for public health in Birmingham, and emphasised the need for excellence in community leadership during times of austerity.

The Community Services day was positively received by all, including the visiting dignitaries.

Holloway Pathfinders honoured

It was a great honour for the Holloway Pathfinders Club, on Sabbath 2 July, to accept the gift of a Union Jack from the Islington Veterans’ Association. Chairman of the Association, Ron Ranger, accompanied by his wife Josie and Islington’s Pageant Master, Peter McCufferty, attended the Pathfinder investiture service earlier this year and observed that the Union Jack that the club used in their procession needed replacing, and that they would like to present a new one to the club in recognition of their community work.

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In Sir Edmund’s footsteps

Sir Edmund Hillary chose Snowdonia as a training venue in preparation for his successful first ascent of Everest. Following this example, sixty Pathfinders and staff rose to the challenge as they recently ventured out on a sponsored ascent of Mount Snowdon. Spirits and temperatures were high as they started off on a seven-hour expedition.

Some chose to walk the more challenging Pyg Track and others the Miners’ Track, with both groups to rendezvous higher up for the final push to the summit.

A sense of the excitement, adventure, and achievement was captured when one Pathfinder was heard to say, ‘This is the best thing I have ever done.’ At the top the panorama was magnificent: the clear blue skies, the mighty caratacs, and the vistas of Snowdonia took one’s breath away. It reminded us of the mighty and awesome God we love and serve as we looked down upon the world around us.

Pastor Alan Hush said, ‘This was a sponsored walk in order to raise funds for local clubs. Collectively the monies pledged reached well into four figures, which will greatly benefit those clubs represented, and I am relieved to report that everyone made it down safely.’

Well done everybody and a big thank-you to the staff.

PASTOR ALAN HUSH

Pathfinders earn ‘sea legs’

The Plumstead Pathfinders thought that sailing would be easy when they visited the Erith Yacht Club. After the introductions and instructions, their first test was to launch the boat. Then they discovered that it was not as easy as they had thought. They had to learn to balance the boat or fear capsizing. The experience was challenging and fearul, but rewarding in the end. They all managed to obtain a sailing honour and an experience they will not forget. After their sailing exercise, some of the regular Yacht Club members asked us about our club, which gave us an opportunity to witness.

VALDA E. TAYLOR, PLUMSTEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Cheltenham children conduct worship

Cheltenham’s youth and children enjoy the challenge of leading and organising an occasional service. In fact, on 13 July they took charge of everything from the announcements to the closing prayer! They chose the theme of ‘Being Thankful for Life’, and illustrated it with their drawings and posters on the church walls.

They acted out the main Bible reading about the raising of Lazarus from the dead, which included his enthusiastically being wrapped up in toilet roll before being placed in a makeshift grave. The mourners played their parts very realistically prior to Jesus calling Lazarus from the grave with a loud command.

The participants, some as young as 6, wrote and read their own prayers and poems, while two of the boys told the stories of Joni Eareckson-Tada and Ellie Simmonds, people who made the most of their lives despite severe physical disabilities.

The service was enjoyed by young and old alike. In fact, the oldest attendee, in her eighties, said she thought that the acting of the Bible story had been very good.

We are very grateful for our younger members and look forward to their next programme.

MIKE AND VICKY BEAMISH, CHELTENHAM

The country comes to town

On 27 July, sunshine greeted thousands of visitors to the annual Cleveland Show held in the historic Stewart Park on the outskirts of Middlesbrough. But it was not only farm livestock, at manner of pets, trade and charity stalls and the various displays that they came to enjoy. There was a steady stream of them at the Middlesbrough church’s stand, where more than 250 pieces of literature were given away.

A lot of children were attracted to the church’s badge-making table, where members helped them make badges with Christian and family themes like ‘Best Man’ or ‘Best Dad’. This provided an opportunity for our members to talk to the parents who accompanied their children. Conversations were steered towards spiritual things whenever possible during the making of those 200-odd badges!

What a splendid way to mix and witness.

JILL GELDART, SENIOR ELDER

GBK involved in outreach

Wolverhampton Central Church, assisted by four other local congregations, ran a Family Life outreach series entitled ‘The Eye of the Storm’ between 6 and 13 July.

The series, presented by Pastor John Nixon, was well received by the packed audiences, including quite a number of non-members from the local community.

Great Brickkiln Street Church were heavily involved in the provision of gospel music during the series, especially on the first Sunday evening.

PASTOR ALAN HUSK

60 for 2013: to help pack the container ADEA has produced a new standard box to pack! This box is painted with the ADEA logo and packing details etc. Please do not pack your own box! Only official boxes will be shipped to Sierra Leone. Boxes can be purchased from your local church gift box coordinator for £2.00 each towards shipping.

NEW FOR 2013...
London Ghana baptism...

On Saturday 22 June, London Ghana Church welcomed four new members – four young people who have dedicated their lives to God. The baptismal candidates were Cassius Adoma, Patience Cargill, Juliet Appiah and Estherlove Prempeh. They had received extensive doctrinal and spiritual preparation for the important event. Their family and friends were very happy to welcome these new members to the church.

... & youth outreach

Just weeks later, on 15 July, London Ghana Church ran a week-long youth outreach entitled, ‘Who is Jesus?’ The speakers were Pastor J. Burnett and Costa Vaggas, and the event climaxed in a youth-focused Sabbath during which Costa Vaggas explained the meaning of the cross; the youth put on a play about the life of Jesus, excellently written and directed by Vanessa Boachie; and Pastor J. Burnett spoke on ‘Lot and His struggles’.

GRACE OWUSU