Ilford’s ‘do something’ church
by Serena Francis

On 22 March the Ilford Central church hosted a service to celebrate the official opening of their new church building and community facility at 14-16 Coventry Road, Ilford.

In 2013 the church purchased the former synagogue, and began to host services there in November.

According to the resident minister, Pastor Harrison Mburani: ‘The mission of the church is to meet the spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs of the people in Redbridge and foster partnerships that will enhance effective delivery of these services.’

Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference president, shared his expectations with those present in this way: ‘God expects us to be integrated into the community. This church should be a “do something” church.’

Well, it seems that they are already doing quite a few “somethings”: youth programmes, music lessons, fitness classes, children’s clubs and family life counselling. They also offer a Pastor’s Drop-in Surgery that is open to both church and community members on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 6.30pm.

The church was well-represented by Pastors Sam Davis, Paul Lockham and Terry Messenger, not to mention Earl Hammaracksingh (SEC treasurer) and Steve Okelo (BUC associate treasurer). Dignitaries from the London Borough of Redbridge included Deputy Mayor Tania Solomon, Keith Prince (leader of Redbridge Council), Mike Gapes (MP for Ilford South), local councillors, and representatives from the Redbridge Faith Forum.

Labour MP Mike Gapes even took to Twitter to share his excitement about a “really enjoyable morning and lunch” with the Ilford Central church, and the day clearly resonated with the invited guests from the wider community. Deputy Mayor Tania Solomon spoke during the service of her fond memories of the former synagogue where she got married over twenty years ago. She explained that in the Jewish tradition, women would sit upstairs during worship. Today is the first time that I have sat next to my husband in this building.” In another tribute, the leader of Redbridge Council, Keith Prince, was visibly moved when he expressed his delight that the site in Coventry Road would remain a place of worship, citing reference to the strong spiritual roots of the building in the community, comparing the ‘changeover’ from a synagogue to a Sabbath-keeping church as the Old Covenant passing on to the New Covenant.

On Sunday 23 March the church opened its doors again to the community for an open day, showcasing the various ministries and services that it has to offer the community.

Throughout the weekend the Ilford Central members were determined to show that they were “open for business” and ready to serve the community.

For more information about the church and updates on future events and services, visit them online at www.ilford.adventistchurch.org.uk.
SPM: Dr Baildam, in your current practice, what are some of the most common conditions that children present with?

Dr Baildam: The most common are arthritis-related, with symptoms such as joint pain, stiffness, early-morning stiffness, swelling or limping or reduction in the use of a joint or limb. Some types are associated with fever and rash as well. Other common conditions are chronic regional pain syndromes and biomedical problems with hypermobility. Rare inflammatory disorders such as lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, and the various forms of vasculitis can all present with symptoms and signs affecting any of the body systems.

SPM: I recognise some of those conditions from my early years of nursing. Do these conditions appear to be on the increase or are we now better at referral and dealing more promptly with them?

Dr Baildam: No, Sharon, they are not on the increase, but they are on the increase. The increase is often a delay in recognition and referral. Roughly one in 1,000 children have juvenile arthritis.

SPM: Is there any dietary advice that could assist a child’s recovery, particularly in acute situations?

Dr Baildam: Yes, and it is always a mystery to me because God has clearly given science in so many ways the ability to enhance our lives and our health. It is interesting that many people will use anything for which they know are life-saving and illness-healing, yet may refuse immunosuppressive or anti-cancer drugs as though they were somehow in a different moral camp. In essence their effects on a cellular level may be very similar and the benefits in terms of life-saving and life enhancement are just the same.

SPM: Finally, Dr Baildam, on the age of the child, how would you help children to understand their treatment compliance and future health choices?

Dr Baildam: Treat them as much like your other, healthy children as possible, with the same boundaries and attention as the others. Try to give as much attention to the ‘sick’ child as they did to their times of health as during their times of illness: for children – and adults – often find that the ‘sick role’ becomes more rewarding with more benefits and attention, and this can help probing the illness periods.

SPM: Good advice. In your treatment options for children with various conditions, are you ever challenged by parents who are unwilling to comply on the basis of religious faith or cultural practice?

Dr Baildam: Yes, I am, and it is always a mystery to me because God has clearly used calories and protein intake – therefore any very limited exclusion diets should be avoided.

SPM: How can we best support a child in our congregation who may have a chronic debilitating health condition, and also be of help to his or her family?

Dr Baildam: I think that we need to be there for families, but primarily as friends, to help with practical things like babysitting or informal help. I feel strongly that we need to discourage that the evidence against him or her? And He doesn’t need the help of a jury to be gracious and forgiving. He is that by nature!

Juries

Juries are meant to determine ‘the truth or falsity of factual allegations’ and deliver a verdict on whether a defendant is guilty or not. Juries have come under scrutiny in recent years. The concept of jury nullification – that is, a jury acquitting a defendant regardless of the weight of evidence against him or her – really came of age.

In 1670, the trial of the Quaker, William Penn, on the charge of preaching in the streets! Among the most famous of which was the 1670 trial of the Quaker, William Penn, on the charge of preaching in the streets!

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ever becoming our dearest we must venture into their ‘village’ to extend the hand of friendship. Whenever Jesus entered that Samaritan village, He was trying to make friends with people who were Israel’s sworn enemies. His was a work of reconciliation. For Jesus Christ people mattered – even Samaritans! Those who were nearest He sought to make His dearest. As a congregation we may not be able to act in the way of witness by making the kind of connections between the many peoples and races in this world, but in our family we can make a decided effort to reach out to the nearest in our own communities. Instead of generalising about people we don’t understand, and using unkind stereotypes, we can take a bold step like Jesus and enter into their ‘village’ with the offer of friendship and understanding.

Unfortunately, His offer of friendship was spurned. However, from this we learn that we must continually strive for friendship and reconciliation, irrespective of the anticipated results. We must strive for friendship and understanding against the backdrop of historical hostilities, racial, cultural and religious differences and the like. We may not be successful at the first attempt, or ever in our lifetimes, but the goal of seeing our nearest become our dearest is surely worth the effort.

The actual cause of the hostility may become vague, lost in the misty past, but inexplicably we fight on. There must come at time, however, when we put aside whatever arguments for hostility we may have in order to pursue the greater goal of peace. When you think about it, conflict can seem so irrational and nonsensical. We are often caught up in it simply through the accident of birth. A child born in one part of Belfast is as an enemy to another, conceived a few miles across the city – yet neither child chose where or to whom to be born! Like Christ we must seek to break the circle of conflict and hostility, and to establish a greater understanding of those who are our nearest. We should be like Jesus, who, unlike James and John, was more interested in saving His historical enemies than obliterating them.

Conclusion
The task of Christians today is to show, by our example, that even unless in Christ Jesus is greater than that which divides, whether it be language, geography, culture, race, ethnicity, gender, wealth, education, background or anything else.

Many years ago I read on the internet that the European Union had this as its ultimate goal: ‘an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen’. It would seem to me, being rather pessimistic, that the tide of history and experience militates against ‘an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe’. In this world it is quite possible that our hand of friendship, extended to those who are nearest to us, will be spurned. Even so, do it anyway, as this poem attributed to Teresa suggests.

Do it anyway
People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centred;
Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
Be kind anyway.
If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
Succeed anyway.
If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
Be frank and honest anyway.
You spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
Build anyway.
If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
Be happy and serene anyway.
The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
Give the world the best you’ve got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is by you and God;
It was never between you and them anyway.

Panels on Climate Change
Four major climate science panels in the 2016-17 period have confirmed the scientific consensus on climate change. The first was the IPCC’s 2014 report; the second was in 2015, the third was in 2016, and the fourth was an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report in 2017.

This is not new, however. Luke records an incident that highlights this very point. ‘And [Jesus] sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, will thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men living, but to save them.’ Luke 9:52-56, KJV.

The Samaritans were a mixed people, partly of Hebrew stock, partly of foreign blood, formed after the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel at the hands of the Assyrians (c. 722 BC). They worshipped Yahweh and revered the Temple, but despised the closeness of the Israelites and Samaritans by way of heritage and religion. It is likely that those nearest were not nearest most certainly did not regard one another as their dearest. They avoided each other like the proverbial plague.

The Samaritans of this unnamed village were hostile towards Jesus because He was on His way to Jerusalem – the symbol of all that is Jewish. James and John were very happy at the treatment the Saviour was given and proposed that fire fall upon them.

Pertinent lessons
This story has a number of pertinent lessons for us today. Jesus and the disciples were travelling from Galilee to Judaea. The shortest route for such a journey would have been through the hills of Samaria. Jews, however, preferred to take the longer route through the Jordan valley to avoid contact with Samaritans. This was understandable, for it was not uncommon for them to attack Jews passing through their territory.

While our Lord had a prophetic appointment in Jerusalem, it believe that it was not just for the sake of time that He passed through Samaria. He was trying to teach us something important.

Go out of your way
The first lesson is that we must go out of our way to extend the hand of friendship to those people who are our ‘nearest’. For if the Saviour was given in our nearest and dearest, but it doesn’t always follow that our ‘nearest’ are also our ‘dearest’. I would submit that we are more likely to enter into conflict with our ‘nearest’ than with anyone else. When they up to it, two boys can fight with one another like they are the bitterest of enemies, and yet they couldn’t really be nearer could they! They have the same mum and dad, the same blood and heritage, but far from uniting them as the nearest, at times they fight like sworn enemies.

Our spouses may be the nearest, but divorce rates would indicate that they are not always our dearest. Our neighbours may be our nearest, but TV programmes such as Neighbours from Heart Clear show that they are definitely not always our dearest. In fact, not only do we enter into conflict with our nearest but it is far easier to mock and ridicule them. I mean the English have jokes focusing on stereotypes of the Welsh, Scotch, Irish, French and German... but when have you last heard the one about the Zambian who went into a pub? Zambians isn’t near enough. Having spent time in Zambia, I know that to mention to a Maidstone on what Sheffield needs is one amalgamated football club, will quickly drive home the fact that our nearest are not always our dearest.

Indeed, as far as Europe is concerned, I was taught at school that, at the outset of World War I, most of the European monarchies were linked by marriage. Yet World Wars I and II bitterly reveal that our nearest do not always find affection as our dearest.
Lift up Jesus

by David Marshall

In our secular world there are still millions who attend church. But how many of them actually know God? Church is not just for learning about God, or being indoctrinated into the distinctive of our particular Christian franchise. It’s about knowing God, making a living connection. Only as we know Him can we truly worship Him. Only as we know Him can we truly make a difference in our lives.

In Jesus God came a) to rescue us and b) to show us what He is really like. Jesus is the supreme revelation of God. All other revelations are by comparison limited and indistinct. There is nothing un-Jesus-like about God. Never has been. Never will be.

When John wrote his first letters, his subject matter had him in such a state of excitement, he letter, his subject matter had him in such a state of excitement:

John, decades after the resurrection, was still impassioned about the wonder of it all: God in human form, the Word made flesh-and-blood and right there in front of him. He was still roused and stirred when, some years later, he wrote his Gospel, adding, ‘. . . we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth’ (John 1:14, NRSV).

John’s passion was a million miles away from the institutionalised Christianity – religion that we like – that exposes just enough of a stylised, stained-glass Jesus to inoculate you against experiencing the real Person. And then directs your attention to the outer regions of the Christian revelation, rather than its heart.

Have we shrunk Jesus in too much impenetrable fog and antique language? In God there is nothing that is unlike Jesus. If we think there is, is it because we have misunderstood something? Isn’t Jesus the supreme Revelation of God?

In Istanbul is the Hagia Sophia, originally built as a Christian church on the orders of Justinian. For a thousand years it was the most important building in Christendom. For centuries after that it was used as a mosque. These days it is a most imposing museum. Survivors in it is a mosaic believed to be the oldest picture of Jesus in the world. It is not in the least surprising, but may well have influenced many subsequent paintings. Whoever created the mosaic did so some four centuries after the resurrection and had not, of course, seen Jesus.

Four pictures survive which are based on the testimonies of those who did experience Jesus first-hand. They are not in ceramica, watercolours or oils. They are in words. They carry the names of their authors: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. One picture of Jesus in Revelation (19:11, KJV) calls Him ‘Faithful and True’. It is possible that souls are won – not by stressing the distinctive of one particular franchise – but by showcasing the Saviour? ‘I, when I am lifted up . . .’ (John 12:32, NKJV).

For the thirty-two years in which I served the Adventist Church as an editor, these words were stuck to my desk by industrial-strength Sellotape. Read the full quote on page 160 of Gospel Workers. Here is a fragment of it:

‘Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people . . . Let all your powers be directed to pointing souls, confused, bewildered, lost, to “the Lamb of God” . . . Bring nothing into your preaching to supplement Christ . . .’

Over the decades many schemes have been employed to market ‘the message’. Is it time – ignoring all distractions – to lift up Jesus? Every revival and reformation in Christian history began with Christ and the Cross. Is it time to give the everlasting Gospel one final airing? Go for the core of it. Not the cladding.

Dr David Marshall’s latest book, Knowing Jesus, Knowing God, is now available from the Stanborough Press, either through phoning 01476 591700 or through your local PM secretary.
 missions

AFM uses ‘card’ evangelism

On 25 October 2013, we published the story of Abdullah, a devout Muslim, and his encounter with Jesus Christ. This follow-up interview with Pastor Conrad Vine (AFM director) takes the story a bit further.

Editor: Conrad, please update our readers on Abdullah’s story.

Pastor Vine: Julian, much has happened! Firstly, by God’s grace we have raised the funds to recruit a local lay-pastor who is now involved in active ministry among those Muslims who are secretly exploring what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Let us call him Yussuf. He has a strong missionary orientation and is already reaching out to these secret believers. Yussuf’s ministry is a dangerous one but he brings many years of fruitful experience to this new task.

Secondly, we also raised funds, and obtained permission, to print French-language editions of Patriarchs and Prophets, Ministry of Healing, Christ’s Object Lessons and the Desire of Ages in a format that looks like a holy book within the Muslim context. We have begun printing and distributing these books to Muslim contacts in countries across West Africa.

Editor: How does Yussuf share the Gospel?

Pastor Vine: A great question! You can’t hold open evangelical meetings in a Muslim context, and many of the secret believers are women, who would face terrible social consequences if their husbands knew they were going. So, seeing that it is almost impossible to bring Bibles into the country, Yussuf gives out micro-SD cards to people who are interested. These cards weigh less than half a gram and can be inserted into most mobile phones. Then, with the card inserted, nobody knows what you are listening to. Yussuf pre-loads an Arabic audio-version of the Bible onto these memory cards, together with all the available French translations from the Prophecy, including books like Steps to Christ, Desire of Ages and Patriarchs and Prophets. He then gives these micro-SD cards out to those who are interested, and people listen either to the Bible or to the Spirit of Prophecy in complete anonymity on their mobile phones, or they gather in secret and listen to the Arabic audio-Bible.

Editor: But Conrad, what about Abdullah? What has happened to him?

Pastor Vine: Yussuf recently visited Abdullah. Abdullah burst into tears as Yussuf gave him some of the printed materials and a pre-loaded micro-SD card for his mobile phone!

He also shared with Yussuf that he now worships God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. He cannot explain in words how God is three-in-one, but this is the conviction the Holy Spirit has brought upon him and his wife as they continue reading their New Testament in the early morning hours, where his life is safe. They have also begun praying together and thanked God for confirming at the start of their adventure that they were safely in His hands.

The Stanborough pupils each chose the year group they wished to teach: Nathan, Year 1; Eva, Year 2; Paul, Year 3; Christopher, Year 4; and Aswin, Year 5. They had taken resources from England, prepared in the evenings and, like seasoned teachers, delivered a whole day’s lessons to the orphans. Each day began at 8am with worship with the children; then followed nine periods of 40 minutes each with breaks for lunch and play. This went on for two weeks, with the visiting teachers becoming more innovative and creative each day. The trip has had a profound effect on the Stanborough team. Paul gained a better appreciation of basic things like clean water, food, a roof over my head’ and ‘how much God has blessed me’. Eva said, ‘This trip to the beautiful country of India has been the most life-changing experience I have ever had. I gained a pure joy which only God can give through the cheerful eyes of the young orphans.’

Christopher said, ‘I have gained an appreciation for teachers, a new viewpoint on life and some great new friends. I have gained a better appetite and I am now less picky with what I eat.’ Aswin said, ‘I have recognised how lucky I am. As friends we’ve all grown closer and learned a little more about each other. I learnt a lot about the food. I gained an appreciation for teachers.’ Nathan learned how to deal with spicy food, how to be organised and how to be a teacher. He also said he gained weight.

The team’s adults were changed too. Vanessa said, ‘I fell in love with their bright eyes and their smiles and with how open their hearts are. This trip taught me a lot. But mostly how simple the Gospel really is. How powerful love is.’ Zeny said, ‘I thank Jesus for all the blessings I have in life. I truly learned to be happy and content with what I have. I gained a lot of things but probably the most was realising how blessed I am. I am really thankful that I have Jesus in my life and this trip really opened my eyes, that if I want to be a follower of Jesus I should change some things.’

By God’s grace they all arrived safely back.

Editor: How can our readers support this mission?

Pastor Vine: In AFM we have launched a new prayer initiative called ‘Friday Prayers for Muslims’. I would like to invite all of your readers to check this out at www.afmonline.org/get-involved/Friday-prayers

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The mission has been supported by a £15 micro-SD card that would be £24. Finally, they can also make a transfer to the following Lloyds account: Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-99-21, account number 55208360. Once having made your generous donation please email John Simon (jsimon@afmonline.org) confirming the deposit (donor’s name, amount, date and project to be benefited).
Thank you for the big help!

by Heather Keough

The Belfast church recently received a creative and unexpected email from a sister congregation on the other side of the world: one that warmed the hearts of its members. It arrived on Thursday, 6 March, from the Jayobo Seventh-day Adventist church in the Philippines, in response to the actions of our congregation a few months earlier.

On Friday, 8 November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, devastated portions of Southeast Asia, particularly the Philippines. A number of members in Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church are from the Philippines and everyone knew someone who had been affected by this destructive tropical storm.

One member, Emerald, knew that the village her parents lived in had been destroyed, and for a number of days she had no contact with them. She did not know whether they had survived the cyclone or not. Prayers were said for her family and for all those affected by this devastating event.

Having made these arrangements, the Filipino members spoke with Pastor Adam Keough about the matter, and an appeal for help was made during our worship service. Belfast Church responded by sending clothes and other essential items as well as financial assistance. Family, friends, and work colleagues also generously responded to the appeal.

Three months later we received a Thank You from the Jayobo church, which came in the form of photographs of church members with posters, thanking the Belfast members for their help. This all acted as a reminder that we have a responsibility to help our brothers and sisters in need, and what may seem as a small donation can go a very long way.
Pathfinders baptised
On 23 November 2013, Bristol Central Church baptised five members of their Pathfinder club: Okay Dowe, Micah Brown, Joseph Henderson, Daina Lawrence and Jose Griffiths. These young people had made their decisions for Christ during the 2012 and 2013 Pathfinder camps and were prepared for this important step by Hugh Turner, Pastor Johns, the SEC Pathfinder director, took the opportunity to join Bristol Central for the special event.

Tamworth baptism
On Sabbath, 14 December last year, Tamworth Church witnessed the baptism of Nobsuthu Dube, better known as Sue. Her uncle, Pastor N. K. Ndlovu from Scotland, assisted the local minister, Pastor Milan, during the baptism while H. McIntyre (an elder) read Sue’s testimony to the congregation – a true story of ‘once was lost but now am found’ – including her recovery from serious illness. The beautiful event was rounded off by the cutting of a special celebration cake made for her by Jenny Brooks and inscribed with ‘Let go and let God’.

Sutton-in-Ashfield receives Mercy!
On 8 March Sutton-in-Ashfield members received Mercy Amon into their fellowship by baptism. She arrived in the UK from Zimbabwe in 2003 from a largely Dutch Reformed background – with occasional visits to an Adventist church by invitation of her neighbour.

Holloway learns BSL
Members of the Holloway church received training in BSL (British Sign Language) and general deaf awareness from Penny Beschezza from Signs of God on 8 March.
There were more than eighty members in attendance and many of them learnt to sign (say) their names in BSL, swap greetings with the deaf, ask some personal questions and ‘sing’ some songs through signing.

Aberdeen youth baptised
On 25 January the Aberdeen congregation watched as four of their youths were baptised by Pastor Victor Harrew. assisted by Pastor Nathaniel King Ndlovu and Pastor Victor Harrew. From left to right, Caterina, Thanda, Inga and Tahirah.

A trip to Tenerife
In February, eighteen of the Church’s retired employees flew to Tenerife and stayed at the beautiful four-star Hotel Guayarmina in Costa Adeje, fascinates with the food and the sun.

CCS is launched
Standborough Park members enjoyed a fund-raising evening with an Indian theme at the beginning of March, marking the launch of the Community Chaplaincy Service. It was attended by 90 odd people who enjoyed a three-course vegetarian meal, many of them in Indian costume, which added to the atmosphere. This was augmented by a performance by five traditional dancers from Southall-based Anita’s Dance Factory on.

Their Community Chaplaincy Service is a replacement for traditional door-to-door witnessing approaches. As Richard Poulton explained; ‘It is hard to get people to come to us so we need to go to them and interact with them, to find them and show them love by meeting their needs…’ the “Jesus model”, which is what Community Chaplaincy is all about….

The Community Chaplaincy Service has been trialled in the South London and Surrey areas by Dusan Uzelac, where it has proved to be very successful. It aims to provide volunteers from the church to help meet the actual needs of those living in the local community in a practical way. Soon members of Standborough Park Church will be visiting homes in Gorton armed with a questionnaire seeking out those in need of such practical help.

Currently a team of volunteers is being put in place to meet their needs once they have been identified. Help could include CV writing, gardening, ironing, shopping for the housebound, handyman tasks and adult literacy. Plans are also afoot to extend the church’s existing food bank, currently operating on a small scale through the Welfare department.

The evening was a fund-raising success and the proceeds will help provide the materials necessary to support the CCS programme.

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Eric Williams (1930-2014) d. 25 February. Eric Williams was a faithful member of the Ipswich church, the father of Cheryl and Michael, and the grandfather of Jamie, Le-Jhel and Alexander.

Uncle Eric, as he was fondly known by many members of the local church, thoroughly enjoyed Inagathering in all weather conditions. He also served as a deacon for many years. He was the sort of person who would never stop doing and just get on with it without murmuring.

According to his son, Michael, who presented the eulogy, Eric was a positive role model in the family. His calm nature influenced those around him and his love of the Lord was evident in the countless times you would find him reading his Bible. Eric had a passion for gardening and cricket. He was known for his quiet nature and his laughter.

The last eighteen months of Eric’s life were spent in a home while he battled to regain his speech, vision, and stroke, but the church family would take church to him, which was a blessing to the residents too. Besides his family, his friends and family were there regularly to encourage him.

Uncle Eric was a fighter and knew from where his strength came. He trusted in the Lord and throughout his illness he was still able to sing hymns when he was reminded how they began. He also loved to be read to, was able to pray, and would even testify as best he could to the other residents about his Jesus. His former wife, Deloreta, stood by him through his illness. They were good friends and became a witness to others about forgiveness and what can be achieved through Christ and God’s love and mercy.

Yes, Uncle Eric, or ‘E’ to his friends, will be missed, but we look forward to seeing him on that resurrection morning.

Shiloh Quartet (Zambia)

Sabbath Tickets: £15 per person (all-inclusive); Deposit: £15

Sharon Platt-McDonald’s enthusiastic and informative presentation on physical healing, entitled ‘Pain and How to Handle It’, provided attendees with a number of natural remedies for pain management, which may reduce the reliance on conventional pain medication.

Angela McFarlane, who had battled a chronic illness for years, shared how God had restored her and increased her determination and prayer to Him. There were also special quiet times for various forms of meditation. Praise and worship were led by Susan Watt and Efe Brathwaite, while Pastors Cecil Perry and Humphrey Walters led a service during which attendees could experience the pastoral services of prayer, brief counseling and anointing.
New work in Lancaster

On Sabbath, 18 January, a new mission was started in Lancaster with the commissioning of a branch Sabbath School at St Paul’s Hala Worship and Community Centre (Lancaster, LA1 4HW). This project has been undertaken with strong support from all the Adventist churches in the district under the leadership of Pastor Jeff Couzins.

He and his elders expressed their support by signing a commission pledge as part of the day’s events.

Lancaster has a population around 46,000 and is the county town of Lancashire. Together with Morecombe and Heysham it was merged into the District of Lancaster in 1974 and this single conurbation has city status in the UK (pop. 134,000). 1 This means there is much to be done and those involved in the project solicits your prayers for its success. They also invite anyone from the area who would like to join their group to meet with them on Sabbaths at the above address.

Gift Aid leaders

For the last three consecutive years (2011-2013) London Ghana members have led the British Union Conference in their Gift Aid returns. Last year they passed the £110,000 mark in their returns – the highest so far!

Commemorative 50-year Celebration

Aberdaron Advent Campsite Fundraiser Weekend, Advent Youth Camp 1964-2014

Friday 16 May 2014
8.30pm: supper and vespers with Pastor A. Hush, song service round camp fire – Pastor G. Smith.

Sabbath 17 May 2014
8.30am: breakfast; 10am: Sabbath School – mission spotlights with Mrs J. Bussey, Pastor P. Chee, Pastor J. Hussey, Pastor P. Sayers and Mr C. Bramble. 11.15am: main service – Pastor A. R. Rodd. 1pm: lunch. 2.30pm: optional walks (weather permitting) with Mr F. and Mrs B. Emm and Mr S. Bull. 6pm: Aberdaron timeline and reminiscing. 8.30pm: banquet & vespers with Mr F. Emm, camp concert. Aberdaron artefacts auction.

Sunday 18 May 2014

Free entry – no site fees for caravans and tents. For local accommodation visit www.aberdaronlink.co.uk. Meals provided – Meal Ticket required (1 per person for weekend); contact us to receive your meal tickets. Camp concert – acts required; please contact us if you have an act. Contact us: enquiries@aberdaronlink.co.uk or telephone 01758 760281.

Enjoy our new feature on Sunset Times – reproduced with permission from data supplied by the HM Nautical Almanac Office.

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The congregation received an award plaque from the South England Conference in recognition of their achievement in these very difficult financial times. Now other congregations have shown an interest in their methods too. This year the congregation has set itself the target of raising £30,000 through voluntary giving – over and beyond tithes and offerings.

NANA SIFA TWUM (ELDER)