This is not the style of the ID community. Instead they follow strictly scientific principles, arguing strongly that the role of true scientists is ‘to follow where the evidence leads’.

A case in point is the cell. Back in Darwin’s day the cell was seen as a very simple organism – literally the building block of life. Modern science, however, has shown the cell to be immensely complex. As one scientist put it, if the cell was thought of as a ‘car’ in the 1850s, today it is seen as a ‘galaxy’. Even more remarkable is the engine which drives the cell: DNA. Here Dr Noble was not content in just describing its complexity but explained that DNA is actually a carrier of information. ‘The information contained in the human genome,’ he said, ‘is, in computer terms, more than one gigabyte. (One gigabyte is the equivalent of 1,000,000,000 bytes of digital information.) In every other walk of life, information is seen as the product of intelligence. If we follow where the evidence leads, information on such a vast scale, with such intricacy that it is able to code for the self-assembly of an entire human being, surely points towards intelligent design.

Despite this powerful evidence Dr Noble’s main concern was not that people don’t believe in ID, but that the prevailing neo-Darwinian worldview prevents it from even being considered. ‘In fact, all too often, people are hostile to ID because they believe it is a threat. It is the world-view of many people that all science must proceed from the presupposition that anything not considered to be “natural” would be excluded.

Standing up to a worldview as firmly entrenched as Darwinism is not popular. However, according to Dr Noble, many scientists today are uncomfortable about the philosophical leap that is necessary to believe in life – and the information that reproduces and sustains it – arising spontaneously from nothing. ‘Truth is truth; no matter how many people are with you,’ Dr Noble said. ‘This is an elephant in the room which will eventually have to be addressed.'
What we did
We started worship in the home of a disabled member. Within six months the word was out and we grew to six. We invited members who we felt had the gifts of trumpet, compy and perseverence and our team grew to ten.

God was at work and He even used the local authority to help. One single parent, the father of an autistic young man, was directed to us by social services, who told him of a Christian group in Reading that worship on Saturday. He found us and is today a member.

Three years later the group decided that they wanted to take the ministry out into the community and we received our local church board’s blessings and financial support from many of the parents who now attend testify to the fact that the only way they can survive daily is to put their hand in the hand of Jesus. This led to the birth of Hand in Hand, Hand in Hand, Hand in Hand.

Hand in Hand

Hand in Hand takes disability ministries out into the community every second Sabbath. The group hire a church hall and minister in a unique way to the disabled.

The group use a multi-sensory approach, applying Bible stories in a practical way. For example, Noah’s Ark is portrayed with multi-coloured umbrellas designed as jellyfish, supported by a multi-colour illumination of light (vision). Textures are used to portray the coats of animals (touch). Different scents are used to portray the flowers of the earth (smell). Food is used to illustrate what Noah may have eaten (taste). Sound effects are used to portray lightning and thunder (hearing). This multi-sensory approach is very effective.

On Sabbath 11 October 2014, we held our 1st Disability Ministries Day under the theme: together with One Heart, reminding those present that God loves the disabled.

Hand in Hand members led out in Divine Worship, but not before the Children’s Sabbath School department, from cradle to roller, juniors, tackled the theme. How can we be more inclusive? coming up with some excellent ideas. This was followed by a play written by Andrea Malcolm and entitled ‘The man who had a big heart’. Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Women’s Ministries and Health and Disability Awareness director, finished the day with a sermon on strategies, acceptance, love, grace and forgiveness, and again, ‘this time’ according to her...what is it she has shown today, and pray that God will continue to empower our work in Reading and the community.

Dementia

Part 2

In the previous issue we highlighted some general dementia facts. In this issue we will examine some of the suggested causes for dementia.

Dementia causes

Cell damage
When brain cells become damaged it interferes with the ability of the cells to communicate with each other. This negatively impacts the thoughts, feelings and behaviour.

The brain has specific regions which are responsible for different functions like memory, reasoning, speech and movement. In a particular area of the brain are damaged, that region cannot perform its functions adequately.

Particular types of brain cell damage in specific regions of the brain cause different types of dementia. For example, with Alzheimer’s disease (the most common type of dementia), clumps of protein (‘plaques’ and ‘tangles’) build up in brain cells, which makes it hard for brain cells to remain healthy and effectively communicate with each other.

The region of the brain that is the centre of learning and memory is called the hippocampus. It is the brain cells in this region that are often the first to be damaged. This is why memory loss is often one of the first symptoms by which Alzheimer’s becomes evident.

Age
The greatest risk factor for dementia is advancing age. Most individuals with dementia are over 65. After age 65 the risk of developing Alzheimer’s doubles every five years. After age 85, the risk is almost 50 percent.

Family history
Another strong risk factor for dementia is family history. Individuals who have a parent, brother, sister or child with Alzheimer’s are more likely to develop the disease. If more than one family member already has the illness the risk increases for other family members. When diseases tend to run in families, either heredity (genetics) and/or environmental factors may play a role in the development of that condition.

Cardiovascular factors
When blood vessels narrow and become hard due to fatty deposits building up on the blood vessel walls, it restricts blood flow. This is referred to as atherosclerosis and is more common in people with high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol and those who smoke. When blood vessels are damaged anywhere in your body, the cause of that damage can also negatively affect blood vessels in the brain, thereby depriving brain cells of vital oxygen and food.

Uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol are known to cause damage to blood vessels, which can lead to vascular dementia.

In the next issue we will examine the areas of prevention, treatment and support.

Good health!

(editorial)

What will her Christmas be like?

Her stooped figure caught my eye. She sat on the bench, alone, stuffed shopping bags at her feet. Everything about her looked worn and weathered, even her face. A shawl covered most of her greying hair and a long skirt hung drably above her puffy ankles. I only had seconds to make these observations as I sped past. But fifteen minutes later I saw her again, trudging this same tired on third feet, bent low over her heavy bags. This happened a week ago, but since then she has shuffled through my thoughts again and again. Each time raising questions for which there are unlikely to be answers. Who is she? Is this how she shops each week? Does she live in a residential home, or on her own? Does she have any family to care for her...about her? What will her Christmas be like?

What will your Christmas be like?

MailOnline recently posted some projections about the way we will spend our money this Christmas. According to their sources the spend on presents will average £345.65 per consumer across the UK, with those living in Scotland being the most generous at £413.80 each. That money will be spent on gifts for an average of 12 family members and friends per household, with children generally receiving the higher-ticket items.

Regarding the rest of the anticipated 2014 Christmas spend: ‘Overall people will spend an average of £178.57 on food and drink, £29.59 on decorations and accessories and £17.02 on Christmas cards and postage.’

What would she have said?
My thoughts drifted back to that old lady, hunched dejectedly over her bags at the bus stop bench. Waiting – not to catch the bus, but to catch her breath before setting off up the hill. Has she been polled about her Christmas plans?

How much will she spend on her Christmas dinner? Is there anyone left for her to send a card to? Will she perform some little something through her letterbox? I don’t honestly know.

She represents many
But if she is in dire circumstances, she’s not alone. For the November 2014 fact sheet of AgeUK, Later Life in the United Kingdom, reports that 1.6 million pensioners, 13 percent of the total, live ‘below the poverty line’ after housing costs are deducted. Worse still, around 988,000 of them, 7 percent of all pensioners, live in ‘severe poverty’ – receiving less than 50 percent of the poverty line income!

These statistics cover 2012 – the most recently available – but it is quite conceivable that things have got a bit worse since then. At that point ‘nearly 10 percent’ of those aged 65 and above were ‘having difficulty or struggling to manage their income’, which meant that 34 percent only just afford the basics, and 42 percent had turned down the heating to reduce costs ‘even though they were not warm enough’.4

Sadly, on average, things are even worse if you are a BME pensioner, for they are ‘more likely to be in poverty than white pensioners’.5

Will she spend Christmas In bed?
I see her struggling up that hill again. Something about the way she shuffled along suggested that her feet were sore. What will they be like on Christmas day? Will she stay in bed as long as possible, just to keep them warm?

What will her Christmas be like?

Will she have company, or will her only visitors be the ones to emerge from themists of her fading memory? I could live with beans on toast, but being alone on Christmas day, that’s another story. Companionship makes most things bearable.

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The simplest form of suspension bridge was originally made from wood and rope, but by the late nineteenth century it had progressed from using iron chains to high-tensile-strength, purpose-made cables capable of supporting very heavy loads. Those used today are composed of thousands of individual steel strands bound tightly together to create cables with phenomenal strength. A single high-tensile strand only 2.5mm thick can support a load of over half a ton without breaking.

Light and strong, then, suspension bridges can span distances of nearly 4,000 metres – far longer than any other kind of bridge – but their construction comes at a relatively high cost.

With this form of construction the ‘crossing’ is suspended from huge metal cables attached from one end of the bridge to the other. They rest on high towers and have to be securely anchored into the bank at either side. The towers enable the main cables to be suspended (as it were) over very long distances. Most of the load is thereby transferred via the cables to the anchorage systems, which are embedded in either solid rock or massive concrete piers. Inside the anchorage the cables are spread out over a large area to evenly distribute the load and to prevent them breaking free.

Back in the early ‘90s I can well remember visiting my wife’s parents, who were then living in York, and routing our journey via Hull to experience the Humber Suspension Bridge – then the longest single-span suspension bridge in the world. I remember parking up and walking out onto it. No one else except North Lincolnshire with East Yorkshire with its 2,223-metre span.

We were almost ‘blown away’ (literally) by the force of the crosswinds blowing up the estuary formed by the rivers Trent and Dese, and figuratively ‘blown away’ by the sheer size and scale of this amazing feat of engineering opened by the Queen in 1981, at an all-inclusive cost of some £151,000,000. No wonder a heavy toll was levied for use of the outfall.

The Humber Bridge has been surpassed by other suspension bridges of even greater magnitude around the world since then, and has been relegated to seventh-largest of its type today.

Bridges can be ‘micro’ as well as ‘macro’. There was an early example of a bridge being built from groundbreaking raw materials with great advantage. A parapet of cables from the nose of a paralysed man were used to help reconfigure his severed spinal cord, thereby enabling him to walk and regain sensation in his lower body.

Darek Fidyka, a 38-year-old Bulgarian, had been paralysed from the chest down for the last four years as a result of his spinal cord being sliced in two during a brutal stabbing.

Following pioneering surgery, Darek has recovered feeling in his lower body, can walk with a frame and has been able to resume an independent life again – even driving a car. An experience he cherishes referred to in an interview as being ‘bom again’.

This miraculous example of bridge-building saw leading Polish surgeons taking nerve-supporting cells harvested from one location in the patient and transplanting them to another to provide a pathway along which the broken tissue was able to grow and reconnect. Although this had been shown to be possible in laboratory conditions, Darek is believed to be the first person in the world to have recovered from a complete severing of the spinal nerves – something previously thought to be impossible.

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The subject has been treated with real friendship with Jesus.

Knowing Jesus, Knowing God.

PASTOR JOHN ARTHUR (RETIRED – CRIEFF)

It is only through the merits of Jesus that this is possible – He is the ‘Way’ – the ‘only’ way to enable us to cross the chasm caused by sin and become one with the Father again.

John 3:16, 17 (KJV) drives home the same essential message: ‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whatsoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.’ (Emphasis supplied.)

As a bridge-building enthusiast, I was pleased to see this message being heralded in the world to have recovered from a complete severing of the spinal nerves – something previously thought to be impossible.

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And in his article David could only mention the vital role that bridge-building saw leading Polish surgeons taking nerve-supporting cells harvested from one location in the patient and transplanting them to another to provide a pathway along which the broken tissue was able to grow and reconnect. Although this had been shown to be possible in laboratory conditions, Darek is believed to be the first person in the world to have recovered from a complete severing of the spinal nerves – something previously thought to be impossible.

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Pope does it again . . . or does he?

Four reasons to double-check what you read about the Pope’s comments on evolution.

by Timothy Standish, researcher at the Geoscience Research Institute in Loma Linda, California

Many major news organisations ran headlines such as ‘Pope Supports Big Bang, Evolution’ (Science News) and ‘Pope Francis Declares Evolution and Big Bang Theory Are Real and God Isn’t “a Magician With a Magic Wand” ‘ (The Independent) this week. Sensational headlines like these should prompt readers to do their own research before believing what they read. In this case, the headlines do not accurately reflect Pope Francis’s address on 27 October to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences.

In his brief remarks, the Pope mentioned evolution and the Big Bang. But he insisted that even if the Big Bang had taken place and evolution occurs, these scientific explanations do not provide an ultimate cause for all things. Many reasonable people would agree. In fact, Pope Francis made repeated statements that could be taken straight from standard Creationist understandings. This hope and trust in God, the Creator of nature, and in the capacity of the human spirit, can offer the researcher a new energy and profound serenity,’ he said.

However, there are many areas in which we diverge, possibly most crucially over the authority of the Bible versus that of tradition. This leads to profound disagreement over the nature of origins, the cause of life, death, and other doctrines. The unbridled belief that God inserted an immortal soul into Adam at the same time he breathed life into him is a division of unbiased Catholic views about the creation.

In his address, the Pope spoke in carefully defined terms and avoided the unbridled ambiguites to accommodate these views. At the same time, he was very clear that he believes in divine action, both at the time of creation and, quoting Acts 17:28, in sustaining all of nature.

Extra-biblical beliefs like theistic evolution may seem papal endorsement of evolutionary views as a big step forwards for their reinvented Christian Church. Whatever the motivation, it seems some people were so eager to hear the Pope endorse their Darwinian views that they actually heard the words ‘Big Bang’ and ‘evolution’ and stopped listening.

On a more serious level there seems to be some equivocation about word meanings. For example, the Pope appears to use the word ‘evolution’ to mean ‘speech time and change over time. This is a perfect legitimate use of the word, but not one commonly used by some Postmoderns – would have trouble with, even the most ardent biblical Creationist. The discussion between theists and non-believers, and others, like atheists, involves the use of ‘evolution’ to mean materialistic Darwinism, which denies any central role in the origin of the universe and life.

Seventy-first Adventists and Roman Catholics believe only in what they are theists. We both believe Jesus Christ is the Creator God who died and was raised from the dead.

However, there are many areas in which we diverge, possibly most crucially over the authority of the Bible versus that of tradition. This leads to profound disagreement over the nature of origins, the cause of life, death, and other doctrines. The unbridled belief that God inserted an immortal soul into Adam at the same time he breathed life into him is a division of unbiased Catholic views about the creation.

As Christians, we believe that truth has an intrinsic value and, whatever we may believe about the institution of the papacy, it is still a sin to ‘bear false witness’. As long as we are distracted by untruths, we will not be engaged with what is true.

In fact, statistics also bear this out to be the case for those from the British Jewish Orthodox tradition. It is easy to understand how the ethos generated by this longstanding bond greatly surpasses that generated by any other model in terms of supporting the birth and rearing of children. Indeed, as many of you can testify, it also provides invaluable support in years of young adulthood.

It would be surprising to learn that the Pope suddenly publicly embraced materialistic Darwinian views at the expense of fundamental Catholic doctrines about God. Such a stance would put him in opposition to traditional views held by the early church fathers, not to mention those Catholics who share Adventists’ belief in the biblical creation. If Pope Francis had done this, the Catholic News Agency probably would not have chosen to report his Monday address with the headline: ‘Francis Inaugurates Bust of Benedict, Emphasises Unity of Faith, Science’. It would be unfortunate if misleading headlines confused anyone into thinking that the Pope endorses materialistic Darwinism. The Adventist Church disagrees with the Pope and has clearly stated what we believe about God and origin.

The Adventist Church can offer to the researcher a new energy and profound serenity,’ he said. In fact, the Pope himself expressed great concern for the political climate and the dialogue among secular societies.

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Youth worship revives the chapel

A

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- On average, husbands and wives are healthier, happier and enjoy longer lives than those who are not married.
- Married couples build more capital than do single or cohabiting couples.

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Health screening in Great Yarmouth

On Sunday, 7 September, the health team of the Great Yarmouth church conducted yet another successful public health screening in Market Gates Shopping Mall. Katrinka Walker of the Hemel Hempstead church, who was home visiting her parents after a year’s voluntary mission service in Cambodia, willingly offered her nursing skills to the project. The day’s statistics included 163 blood pressure checks, 148 blood sugar tests, 135 BMI checks, and putting 46 smokers through carbon monoxide testing. Out of the 100 people who sought advice, 15 were referred to their GP. A survey was also taken from the participants and once again appreciative and positive comments were received. Several items of literature were taken, including some of a spiritual nature. A number of leaflets advertising our Creation Health Seminars scheduled for October also attracted some attention. In addition 11 people asked to be put on our mailing list for the vegetarian cooking classes held bi-monthly in our local church.

Health checks in Exeter

Members of the public visiting Exeter city centre were invited to ‘know their numbers’ once again this year, when health checks were conducted at St Stephen’s Church, High Street, on 11 October. Nearly 60 people attended the event and greatly appreciated the free service. Pastor Ian Loret and the Exeter members are very grateful to members from other Seventh-day Adventist churches who came to help. Dr Dina Borges travelled from Bournemouth and along with Ruth Rose, a nurse from Plymouth, conducted the final assessments. The South England Conference Health Ministries director, Elsie Staple, and her husband journeyed from London to support the team. Dr Yaw Akukos-Frempong, an Exeter member, turned out to be quite a local celebrity, as some people exclaimed on spotting him, ‘You’re my pharmacist!’ Both he and Ruth’s son, Sam, were responsible for the cholesterol and diabetes tests.

There was a calm, friendly spirit during the day and people commented on the professional way in which the checks were conducted. Bags containing water, literature and ADC and Bible Quiz cards were given to each person who attended, as well as those passing on the street. We pray that these people will be inspired not only to improve their physical health but to grow spiritually too.

‘Health is Wealth’

On Sunday 14 September in bright sunny conditions, many people from the community and the church attended Wood Green’s well-advertised second Community Health Fair. The hall was partitioned into various sections: GP surgery; a dental surgery; a massage area; an area for juicing, smoothie and cashew-nut illustrations; one for health presentations; and another for the Boots chemist consultant. Goody bags were available at reception for all who attended.

There had been much prayer before the event asking that God provide both good weather and visitors from the community. He answered those prayers!

The day started with a buzz and excitement as team members erected a welcome gazebo at the side of the church, with another as a nurse’s station and CPR demo area in the church yard. After prayer by the local pastor, Steve Roberts, the doctors (Roach and Welch); a physician associate (Miss Mandeya); two dentists (Walters-Payne and Kimima Chipongi); and all the other team members were ready to go. It wasn’t long before the first person from the community arrived for a Health MOT and many others followed.

The ‘MOT’ was very comprehensive and included free urine, blood sugar, blood pressure and BMI tests; a doctor’s consultation; dental advice; a massage; and advice from the Boots representative. Each area was busy, especially those with the demonstrations involving tasty smoothies.

The feedback was positive and encouraging. One visitor was so enthusiastic to get involved in all that was taking place that he almost ended up in a staff photo shoot! His comment: ‘I am happy all is well and I am glad I came.’

An Asian passer-by who was invited in promised to come back after having done her shopping. She did, and brought her son with her. She said that the church is ‘doing a really good job for the community’.

A Caucasian lady said that she always wanted to come inside our church but had never done so until the health fair, and was surprised at what we were doing for the community.

A church member commented that ‘it seems this is the way forward as the health fair attracts so many people from the community; we are sowing seeds’. Others simply said, ‘It was a wonderful day.’

The Boots representative said, ‘I saw a lot of people and was happy to be here again.’

Dr Welch, who travelled from Leeds to be part of the health fair, said that he ‘enjoyed the day’ and will be happy to assist us again next year.

The Heath co-ordinator, Ursil McFarquhar, was happy with the day’s events and observed that ‘the project was relevant to the community because people are interested in their health. They may not always come through the church doors when invited, but many came to the Heath Fair. This is one way to build relationships and to let the community know we are here to help.’

Health expo success in Sparkhill

During dry and bright weather on Sunday, 5 October, thirty volunteers including five elders and the senior pastor of Camp Hill Church, Dr Patrick Herbert, assisted at least seventy adults who attended the health expo to learn their current health status and their potential to improve their quality of life. The setting was Robert Wilkinson’s Funfair in the Sparkhill area of Birmingham. The fair provided an opportunity for expo volunteers to invite the parents who were out with their children to stop in for a check-up.

Most of the attendees were Asian adults with at least one health challenge, such as excessively long working hours; irregular sleeping habits enforced by a 10-month-old infant; and a search of a better-balanced lifestyle. Grace Walsh and Naomi Watson gave good support, as did the Wednesbury Pathfinders. The feedback was positive and encouraging. One visitor was so enthusiastic to get involved in all that was taking place that he almost ended up in a staff photo shoot! His comment: ‘I am happy all is well and I am glad I came.’

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Great excitement in NEC Area 1

The crash came about 10 minutes from the end of the worship service and several men quickly strode out ‘just to check.’ After all, it’s not every day that a 20-story-high crane collapses just outside your church! But inside the Newcastle church the 18 October Children’s Ministry programme – led by the children – flowed on with hardly a hitch.

Pastor Patricia Douglas, the Children’s Ministry director for the North England Conference, was there in support along with her husband, Pastor Carlton Douglas, and Marlene Simpson.

Sabbath School featured the Area 1 children leading out with a creation-centred theme. In the worship service that followed, the children presented impromptu prayers and mini talks. Young Alex Telpov shared the pupil with Clejid Halsago and they taught the experienced presenters a trick or two! They preached an evangelistic sermon with the title, ‘Sometimes I mess up.’ There was little time left save for a short drama and a brief sermon by Pastor Carlton Douglas. The congregation were happy and felt proud of their children.

Local pastor, Peter Jeynes, and Newcastle Children’s Ministry leader, Rowena Ramos, were both elated at the outcome of this special event and thrilled to hear their church called a flagship church for children’s ministry in the North England Conference.

The afternoon programme gave local children’s ministry teams a taste of what could be provided for the children in their charge, as reflected in the accompanying photographs.

A choice of activities followed for the children, who loved the creative drama group and the crafts. During this time Pastor Patricia Douglas encouraged the adult audience to urge that narrative sermons be preached to enable a wider selection of the church to understand and participate in sermons.

And the collapsed crane? One of the children said, ‘Well they shouldn’t have been working on the Sabbath, should they?’ You can’t really argue with the children, can you?
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Matthew 4:4 (KJV)
...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
Cambridge ‘Core of Adventist’ series

Cambridge Church is still buzzing following the BUC’s Core of Adventism series in September. Originally due in May, the speaker, Pastor Michael Pedrin, took ill suddenly, and the Core of Adventism series in Area 8 was postponed.

Pastor Pedrin recovered and was keen to complete his task of sharing our Adventist beliefs with the Cambridge church and their wider Area 8 community. Despite the delay, God’s timing was perfect, for this allowed more people to arrange to be there for the whole week. Also, the blessings of a simple Livestream app, with smartphone technology, enabled everyone and anyone to watch the series live online at no cost anywhere in the world.

On Sabbath, 6 September, the church was full with members, family, friends and visitors – even the number of children exceeded normal numbers! The first message, on ‘The European Union in Bible Prophecy’, impressed a first-time visitor to say, “The message was so interesting; I didn’t realise how much biblical history is connected to present-day politics!” She enjoyed the whole day, and even stayed on for the evening programme and second topic entitled ‘Knowing the Time’.

Other topics for the week included the ‘Mark of the Beast’, ‘The 144,000’, ‘The 6,000-Year Prophecy’ and the ‘Conquest of Tyre’ – all of which maintained the audience’s interest each evening.

By the next Sabbath, the final day, the church was full of people from near and far across the South England Conference. The morning message concluded with every person standing to accept the call for service and rededication to the important mission of sharing God’s Word in the face of Christ’s imminent return.

During the Saturday night vespers programme, members of all ages expressed their thoughts on how the series had positively impacted them. But the blessings didn’t end there! This spiritual renewal has awakened an ongoing spirit of fellowship in the church.

A big thanks must go to Pastor Eglan Brooks and his department at the BUC for making this programme possible at the second attempt.

New club at Ilford Central

The Ilford Central church’s Family Ministries department recognises there is an increasing number of senior citizens, both in the church and in the community, who have a lot to offer but lack the opportunity to meet and share these things. For this reason the department has set up a Senior Citizens’ Club where seniors can interact, express their creativity and learn new skills. Senior citizens in the church have shown a huge appetite for this and many other members have volunteered their time to see the project run regularly on the first Thursday of each month.

There were 13 senior citizens present for this first meeting, which was packed with fun, laughter and wide array of activities. Not only is the pastor, Harrison Mburu, thrilled at this new development, but Sonia Roman, the Family Ministries leader, is looking forward to the club serving the local community as well.

Sutton-in-Ashfield’s flower festival

On 20 September Sutton-in-Ashfield Church held its first combined Flower and Harvest Festival. The theme of the flower arrangements was the Creation Week and they were accomplished by the ladies of the church, with a bit of extra help from Beryl Shuttleworth and Margaret Lowe from Delby Chester Green Church. Their efforts resulted in a wonderful display of foliage, flowers and animals representing the Garden of Eden, along with a clay model of Adam.

The harvest produce was donated to Sutton Food Bank for the homeless in the area. The whole event took place over the weekend with a special service on Sabbath that included seven... friends in their neighbourhood, proving that such events can be a great success in reaching out to the local community.

Two baptised in Birmingham

Two Birmingham women now share the same birthday, 18 October 2014: the day they were baptised in the Camp Hill church by the senior pastor, Dr Patrick A. Herbert.

Anamaria Gwenneth, mother of two and granny to three, is the author of an autobiography entitled The Hidden True Love. She was baptised with Kadiyan Anderson, also a mother of two children, and a mental health student nurse.

Anamaria is also involved in setting up a Fijian restaurant in order to fund an activity centre for the victims of abuse.

Cambridge Communication Department

Clapton’s revival success

Between 6 and 20 September the Clapton Community church hosted the evangelist, Roger Duncan, a visitor from Trinidad and Tobago. There was also good support from its sister congregation, Woodford Green, and members from many other churches, all drawn by Duncan’s charismatic preaching.

As part of his ministry he challenged those attending to join him on a watermelon fast for ten days in order to sharpen their minds and open their hearts to the Holy Spirit.

The church was packed out nightly and latecomers were left with standing room only on certain evenings. His ministry was well supported by numerous local talented guest singers and one from abroad.

It seems that a number of members experienced life-changing growth under his ministry, with one member testifying to the reconciliation of a decade-long family dispute. The release from his burden and the freedom he gained were unimaginable, encouraging others to do the same.

At the close of the series three people decided to be baptised: Joseph Lloyd, Jamoy Burrel (10); and Kyron Skerritt of Holloway Church. Five others plan to follow them soon.

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Camp Hill Church rejoiced with their friends and family at this wonderful event.

ARTENIE SUTHERLAND

Bridgewater weekend

On a bright warm Sabbath afternoon, 22 June, Plumber and Wellings congregations rejoiced at the baptism of ten new members at Plumstead Church. This was the result of their involvement in the first lay evangelism series supervised by the SEC School of Evangelism director Pastor Kirk Thomas and the resident pastor, Bernard Akagoo.

The lay preachers were Judy Clement (Croydon), and Jessie Samuel and Cheva-Dean Graham (Wellings), and they spoke on the theme ‘Time Is Running Out’.

The newly baptised members were Thabisa Matu, Erick Smith, Nicola Vilakazi-Smith, Wendy Belletty, Goria Samuels, Pauline Stewart, Shenenie May, Questa Evans, Shirley JeanJacques and Saturina Evans.

CLAPTON COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT
Women strive for excellence
Yet another Spirit-filled Welsh Women’s Ministry retreat took place recently in the beautiful Bellevue Abbey grounds, Herefordshire. Some travelled from as far away as Birmingham, London and Reading, but by the end of the retreat they all knew each other well. The love they had for each other was obvious, there were lots of smiles and hugs as the impact details were exchanged throughout the weekend.

Proverbs 31:10-11 was the retreat focus and they learned that being a woman of virtue is not about being ‘perfect’. It is about a journey and reaching up to God so that their lives will be transformed. It is also about being wise, as the woman of virtue by the wisdom of God.

Pamela Corenley skilfully led out with a special ‘women of virtue’ songs and moving many to tears with her solo, and Elva Bryan played her guitar non-stop in the evening while the women sang gospel melodies and danced in praise to the King of all Kings and God of all Gods.

Attendees were reminded that although society tends to applaud physical beauty and achievements, God applauds the beauty of the heart and spiritual excellence. As they departed they were very much aware of the challenges ahead: to become the women of virtue God wants them to be.

ROY AND FRED’S JOURNEY OF FAITH

Roy and Freda Slingsby reached a milestone in August – their diamond wedding anniversary – and the Cheltenham members treated them to a celebration lunch at church.

Roy and Freda met at a dance in 1953 in her home town of Ashton-under-Lyne. Roy was doing National Service in that area.

He was soon demobbed, returned to his home in Doncaster, and rejoined the Railway Engineering Company there. The chief engineer of the British-owned Southern Railways of Peru visited Doncaster and Roy was asked to show him round and explain their five-year development plan.

Over lunch he offered Roy the position of District Engineer for the railway line from Puno to Cuzco, including responsibility for the five British-built steam ships that plied Lake Titicaca.

Roy accepted the position and sailed in November 1953 for Southern Peru. Freda went six months later. They were married on 21 August 1954 and settled in their home in Juliaca – a flat above the railway station waiting room.

As soon as they landed, they had to find a home of their own. They eventually rented a small house in Arequipa. They bought a car and spent many happy hours exploring the area.

In 1955, Freda and Roy decided to transfer to Brackley, Northamptonshire, where she worked for the same large company as her father as a purchasing clerk. Freda found a new church to attend. She particularly liked the warmth and friendliness of the members.

Freda and Roy have given their time and many and many hours of Bible studies ensued. Freda found answers to her questions about the Sabbath, what happens when you die, and whether Jesus is going to return one day. Freda was eventually baptised in Arequipa in 1957.

Freda subsequently moved to Bournemouth and she and Roy were married in Cheltenham in December 1959. They have lived in Cheltenham ever since. They have two children: Carol and John.

GARTH TILL in Burkina Faso.

Pastor Shepley presented them with a picture of the ADRA project they donated to

JILL SWAINSON

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Pamela Williams
Obituary/12/2014

Pamela Williams (nee Hogg) was born on 11 August 1963 to Mavis Mogridge and William Hogg. She was blessed with two sisters, Audrey Williams. She was later blessed to have Mr Lyn Miller as her husband and raised her as one of his own. Pamela was an able student at Brackley School in her sixth form of a social degree in work.

After graduation from Brackley in 1986 and they had a beautiful daughter, Larna, to whom she was a devoted mother and Larna holds many memories of those happy years of family life enjoying together life. She taught Larna to cook and together they travelled to various interesting places around the world. Although her life was cut short at age of 50, Pamela lived life to the full, including a year's trip to Egypt, swimming with dolphins in Mexico; climbing the scenic Dunn's River Falls in Jamaica, and catching lots of fish in Canada. She certainly enjoyed participation in the water-related activities of swimming and fishing.

Pamela used her degree in education to develop her main passion: working with children and young people. Her inspiring nature and energy created hope for young people across the West Midlands, where she served as a leader of a team appointed to motivate and inspire young people away from the dangers of bullying. She provided otherwise unavailable opportunities to develop their full potential and she made progress in this area of social work she went on to own company, C.s.De-Vision, in 2005, along with Danny Miller and Shirley Chalti

Pamela was very bright, beautiful and had many and many were naturally drawn to her joyful demeanour. She gave generously of her time and was always willing to help out a friend in a ‘tight spot’.

She was an active member of the Breath of Life church in Birmingham and engaged in many of its youth-centred activities. Pamela was a kind, friendly, and associates continue to miss them but they treasure the memories of her in their hearts.

Enid Mary Todd was born (1919- 2014) d. 19 February 2014. Enid was known for with sadness that we report the passing of Sister Enid Tolman, a longtime member of the Chisholm church, who passed to her rest on 19 August at the age of 94. Enid was born in Matlock, Derbyshire, in December 1919. Her family moved to Birmingham when she was 12, and she undertook her secondary education at Yeadley Grammar School.

The outbreak of war forced her family to transfer to Blackburn, Northamptonshire, where she worked for the same large company as her father as a receptionist. It was here that she met her future husband, Bill, in December 1942. After the close of the war, they were married August 1944 and moved to Bill’s family home in Bedford. They both worked, where they would spend the rest of their lives together.

In April 1951, Enid and Bill were baptised together after attending a series of evangelistic services in the Chiswick Empire Theatre conducted by a Presbyterian evangelist pastor, Tom Bradley. They became active and enthusiastic members of the church, and it became a focal point for fellowship, not only for the church in London, but for the church of God in the whole area.

Their daughter Carol joined the family in 1954, followed by her son John the following year.

Bill was appointed as Chisholm elder in the 1950s and served in that capacity for a couple of decades, while Enid herself held a wide variety of positions in the church, excelled as church PR secretary, and brought the church colonial coverage in the local press through her writing skills. Her catering abilities also proved an asset in both South and North Conference youth camps, and she was actively involved in mid-week women's meetings in her community. In their home Enid and Bill hosted some four thousand visitors from over 55 different nationalities during a 35-year period.

Sadly in October of 1994, Enid found satisfaction in fellowshipping at the All Souls Church Southwark, in London, she did not return to Chisholm church, but in 1997 she returned to Chisholm Church. Sadly her husband Bill suffered a severe stroke in May 1996, and for the next six years she ensured that he received the loving care that he needed.

Enid was a regular participant in the local fellowship meetings, and served for a lengthy period as treasurer for the group. Her last visit was in July 2014.

But she has been mourned by many, including her daughter Carol and the family of her son John, who do not wish her story to be lost.

Kathleen Mary Toby was born 4 September 1918 and died 3 October 2014, d. 3 October 2014.

Kathleen was born in Luton, Bedfordshire on 4 September 1918 and died 3 October 2014, d. 3 October 2014.

Kath had spent all her life in Derby, where Kath worked as a staff-midwife in the Derby Hospital. Kath moved to Wakefield, where she spent four years, after which she worked as a staff-midwife in the local hospital. This was followed by a move to Hemel Hempstead, where one of her children worked as a staff-midwife, staying there until they both retired. Then in 1996 they moved up to Cheltenham, where Kath was all located in the area.

Sadly, Kath passed away on 8 October, 2014, leaving a grieving husband, three daughters (Rosemary, Valmae and Caryn) and a son (Duane), five grandchildren (Diane, Michael, Rainne, Catherine and Sarah), and her sister, Esmie. They join her in the presence of the Lord, the members of the Grantham church, and community members and friends from far and wide, who will be looking forward to the day when Jesus will wake her to life eternal.

Pastor Hush preached on the topic, ‘The Lion and the Bear’, showing what David was able to save his sheep from wild animals with God’s help – which is still available today. Therefore with God’s help we should not let anything stand in our way.

ADRA-UK is now recruiting!

ADRA-UK, an independent charity working to make a difference in the lives of people across the world, is looking for a full-time Administrative Assistant to support our staff and key partners.

The role is a pro-active person with previous administration experience, excellent time management and a commitment to the values of ADRA-UK.

Visit our website at www.adra.org.uk/contact/takeitfindout more information.

The deadline for all submissions is midnight on 1 December 2014.

Applicants must have the right to work in the UK prior to the submission of their applications.
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Area 4 Day of Fellowship
Many of the North England Conference’s Area 4 members recently held a day of fellowship at the Derby Chester Green church and the local Rivershine Christian Fellowship Centre. This all took place between 29 August and 1 September with close to 350 in attendance. These members came from churches across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire and they were treated to a stimulating programme of sermons, studies and quizzes. The main speaker was Pastor Mike Hamilton of the Trans-European Division.

Richard Shaw (Communication Department, Derby Chester Green)