Autumn has become synonymous with the ADRA-UK Gift Box Appeal. This year the charity prepared 9,000 boxes for Togo, making this one of their busiest autumns yet!

For over seven years ADRA has sought out countries that are most in need in order to deliver these little boxes of joy to impoverished children. Togo, the destination for this year’s boxes, is a West African country where over half the population live below the poverty line, and ADRA feels deeply grateful to be a part of a project in which so many children will benefit.

However, this Gift Box Appeal was made slightly different with ADRA’s introduction of a Gift Box competition and quality control before the boxes were shipped. To enter the competition, donors were asked to send in their best Gift Box picture, illustrating what the Appeal meant to them personally, as well as a way to showcase the care and attention people lavish on their boxes.

For the quality control, it was of the highest importance that all of the little Togolese recipients receive the same quality of goods in each box. ADRA is extremely thankful for all the goods that people across the UK and the Republic of Ireland send in for the Appeal, but there was the odd box that needed an additional item or contained something that will not sustain the trip abroad. In order to guarantee their best batch of boxes yet, ADRA rented storage space from October to November and scoured the UK for volunteers to help with the quality control. And what a response the charity received!

At the start date of the quality control there were more than fifty volunteers enlisted to help, but this number grew to more than ninety by the end of the project. Volunteers travelled from Liverpool, Birmingham, Gloucester and Bracknell, to name but a few places! It was inspiring and encouraging to see the variety of volunteers ADRA welcomed during this period, from couples to seniors, parents to children and teachers to students.

A key moment during the Gift Box Appeal and quality control process was the involvement of children and youth. The youngest participants were from Kingswood Pre-School Nursery. A troop of more than forty children, aged 2-4 years old, walked all the way to the ADRA office to deliver their boxes in person. There were also more than forty teenagers from the SEC Prayer and Faith Retreat who helped sort boxes with such enthusiasm and motivation that it was a sight to behold. Lastly, a group of more than 26 Newbold Pathfinders traveled to Watford to assist ADRA, and also gain honours for their work with the charity.

This diverse group of volunteers during the quality control process enabled ADRA to pack and ship a container with thousands of boxes on Wednesday 19 November. These individually packed gifts are set to arrive in Togo at the end of December, with children receiving boxes from the beginning of 2015. There will even be a few volunteers from our churches who will be assisting with the Togo Gift Box Distribution in February!

ADRA staff feel blessed to have successfully completed another year of the Gift Box Appeal, in partnership with various churches, schools and clubs across the British Union Conference. Due to the unbelievable involvement from supporters and volunteers, ADRA would like to extend a large and heartfelt “thank you” to everyone who took the time to volunteer for the quality control. This was a project of substantial proportions and it is only through the passion and willingness of our church members and their friends that the charity can proudly send high-quality gifts to so many children living on the edge of existence. Without your support, time and sacrifice, this project would not be possible. Remember, we’ll be back to organise another Gift Box Appeal next autumn — will you be there to support us again?
Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc
Health Ministries director, BUC

Dementia Part 3

In the last issue we examined research that highlights key factors such as age, family history and heredity that increase the risk of developing Alzheimer’s, but which cannot be changed. However, there are other risk factors, such as high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes, which are lifestyle disease risk factors over which we have control.

Looking at the body of available research on dementia, there does not appear to be one single factor identified as the sole cause. Rather, research to date points to a combination of factors that affect overall risk. It is now suggested that aiming at preventive interventions in these risk areas is the best way to tackle this disease.

Prevention

Most of the research in risk reduction and dementia prevention from agencies such as Alzheimer’s Research UK highlights the following preventive action with regard to cardiovascular health, physical fitness, and diet:

- Well-controlled blood pressure
- Recommended cholesterol limit
- Blood sugar within normal range
- Maintaining physical fitness
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Not smoking
- Healthy dietary habits

Commenting on dementia prevention, Age UK suggests: “People who follow a healthy lifestyle that protects their heart and blood vessels and who enjoy active and fulfilling lives have been shown to have a lower risk of dementia.” In addition to the above, Age UK recommend regular medical check-ups as part of a prevention strategy. They have also come up with the following dietary advice:

- Eat a varied diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables.
- Eat less salty and fatty foods, particularly avoiding those high in saturated fat.
- Enjoy an active life with plenty of outside interests that exercise body and mind.
- Ask your GP to check your blood pressure and cholesterol.

Treatment and support

Following a diagnosis of dementia, and depending on symptoms, specific medication may be prescribed. This may include medication that impacts on chemicals in the brain; medication that treats hallucinations or depression; or even antipsychotic drugs to treat challenging behaviour, such as aggression or agitation.

Where vitamin deficiency is evident, supplements like B vitamins, zinc and vitamin D may also be prescribed.

Various psychological interventions such as cognitive stimulation, reality orientation therapy and behaviour therapy have also been identified as effective coping strategies. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends cognitive stimulation in dementia cases, as research indicates its efficacy in improving thinking and memory skills in people with mild to moderate dementia.

For additional information visit:

www.dementiak.org
http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/
http://www.youngdementiak.org/

Good health!

www.alzheimersresearch.org

Stanborough breaks records

During last year’s Gift Box Appeal, Stanborough Secondary School students packed 95 boxes and raised £200 for shipping costs—all of which went to underprivileged children in Sierra Leone.

This year the Stanborough students once again proved their generosity by packing 102 boxes for disadvantaged children in Togo, and raised £250 towards shipping costs. They have outdone themselves and the school’s staff are exceptionally proud of their commitment to such humanitarian projects.

Year 9 packed 26 boxes among themselves, earning them the ‘Most Successful Form’ award. Another commendation went to Tabason, who single-handedly packed 15 boxes this year!

The teachers, staff and alumni also participated, managing to pack 23 boxes between them. In addition, a very generous staff member donated over £150 to buy toys and stationery for the boxes.

Special thanks to everyone who participated in this project; particularly to Ms Eileen Hussey, who co-ordinated the appeal. Every box will make a difference to a child in Togo.

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Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red...

by Julian Hibbert

M any of us have been moved by that tableau of red ceramic poppies that was recently ‘planted’ in the most of the London of volunteers. It formed a central part of the installation known as ‘Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red’ – a fitting tribute to the 888,246 Commonwealth lives lost during the Great War. Every poppy was a piece of art, ... and the symbol of someone’s tragic story.

Today we look fleetingly at four stories from that war. These stories take us beyond our own losses to serve as a reminder that blood soaks the soil on both sides of every violent conflict.

The last to die

Hostilities on the Western Front formally ceased with an armistice that took effect at eleven o’clock on the morning of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. But it came too late for these . . .

Augustin Trébuchon, a Frenchman, had been in service as a messenger since the war began. His task was an extremely dangerous one. Daily he would put himself at risk delivering messages along the front line, often having to run across open ground within easy range of the enemy trenches or during heavy shelling. He was a brave man who had survived the bloody battles at Marne, Verdun, Artois and the Somme. On 11 November 1918, he found himself in the Ardennes.

Augustin already knew that the armistice had been signed, but the French high command wanted to strengthen their position by a final toekn attack across the River Meuse – ‘as fast as possible, by whatever means and regardless of cost’. During this futile engagement France lost 81 brave men. The last to die was Augustin Trébuchon.

He fell near the railway line with his message still in his hand. It read ‘Rassemblement à 11h 30 pour le ravitaillement’ – ‘At 11.30 for food.’

Information is sketchy about Lieutenant Thomas, a junior officer, who was widely believed to be the last German casualty on the Western Front. His death actually occurred after the ceasefire had come into effect. He and his men knew that hostilities had ceased, but the American troops opposing them had not received this communication yet. Inspired, no doubt, by old-fashioned battlefield decency, Thomas left the safety of his trench and approached the American lines to tell them that ‘the war was over and that they could have the house he and his men were just vacating’. They shot him.

Why? Why have I chosen to recite these four sad stories today? Firstly, the reason I stated at the beginning: because they remind us that blood soaks the soil on both sides of every violent conflict. It matters not under whose flag a soldier falls. Each death is a sad and terrible tragedy, so as we mourn, we should mourn for all.

Secondly, because – in a sense – these four deaths were futile. They did nothing to achieve victory or secure a lasting peace. They should have happened. Could the French high command have waited instead of risking lives ‘by whatever means and regardless of cost’? Why did Henry Gunther disobey orders and recklessly charge those machine guns? Why didn’t George Price listen to the urgings of that household to stay inside? Couldn’t those trigger-happy American troops see that Lieutenant Thomas posed no threat to them?

There is one death, however, of which I am powerfully reminded. As I look at this tableau of crimson poppies. It is the one immortalised by these words:

‘There they will assemble in the sanctuary from Sabbath to Sabbath, from one new moon to another, to unite in loftiest strains of song, in praise and thanksgiving to Him who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever.’

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Old church – new hope

Dr Borge Schantz is no stranger to many members of the BUC. He is particularly known for his many years as both missionary and Adventist missiologist. Here he shares a truly touching story of a baptism that concludes mission work that began thirty-six years ago in distant Ethiopia.

As a missionary, while on a visit to Ethiopia in 1978, I met 11-year-old Hassen, whose young face bore the dreadful scars he had received from a hyena mauling but a few years earlier. He sat on the front pew while I conducted the week of prayer at the Ethiopian Adventist College, Kayera, and his disfigurement made a deep impression on me. What kind of future would this boy have? Could a skilled surgeon do anything to help him? These were some of the thoughts that troubled my mind.

A short while later, during a furlough to Denmark within the same year, I talked to journalists of the widely circulated tabloid BT, and they took the initiative, launched a campaign and collected sufficient funds for Hassen to travel to Denmark, where he underwent numerous operations at the hands of a specialist who did not charge anything for his services.

Hassen stayed in Denmark for a few years; then moved to Norway; and then back to Ethiopia, and eventually ended up in Denmark. His life with the very visible scar on his face after the operation was not an easy one.

However, in Copenhagen at the Ethiopian Club, he later met Helen and they married and had three children. Sadly, Hassen had not kept contact with the Adventist Church.

After my 1978 trip to Ethiopia I had to continue my missionary and other services abroad, and completely lost contact with Hassen.

But God was still working, this time through Hassen’s wife, Helen. Helen was a faithful Coptic Christian, and she took the family to the Adventist church, because she knew Hassen had an Adventist background. This was in the spring of 2014. Then, a few months ago, I preached in the Holbaek church – where to my joy and amazement I found Hassen and his family sitting in the pews.

It has been my privilege to spend three days cleaning the church and weeding the garden. David and Val cut down the hedge and bushes; Dawn, Frida, Chris and others scrubbed floors, cleaned everything in the kitchen, hoovered the sanctuary carpet and polished furniture.

A few weeks later, our pastor said he had a nice surprise for us. He had been given a cheque of £1,000 towards the cost of the windows by a housebound couple who live several miles away.

The immediate need was to replace the windows. One of our members, Timothy, who is in the building trade, was given the task of getting quotes. He discussed the situation with a friend who has a double-glazing business, Graham, who said he would make the very large windows at cost. More than that, he and Tim would install them in their free time without charge!

Tim took them a week to finish those on the one side of the building. When church members arrived on Sabbath morning they were surprised and delighted with our new windows on the one side. The sanctuary was so much lighter and cleaner and at last we could open the windows to let in the fresh air!

A couple of weeks later Graham and Tim installed the windows on the opposite side of the church. As they removed the windows a lot of water poured out of the walls. It was as if the water that had soaked into the wood had been released – hopefully this will have solved our damp wall problem.

It felt as if a ‘renewal’ had taken place among our members, who spent days cleaning the church and weeding the garden. David and Val cut down the hedge and bushes; Dawn, Frédia, Chris and others scrubbed floors, cleaned everything in the kitchen, hoovered the sanctuary carpet and polished furniture.

A few weeks later, our pastor said he had a nice surprise for us. He had been given a cheque of £1,000 towards the cost of the windows by a housebound couple who live several miles away.

I share our little story with you in the hope that it may inspire other congregations with similar challenges.

Pastor Chris Peake
As part of our commitment to the mandate of Jesus for global mission, we give our readers another glimpse of the work that AFM is doing in Benin, West Africa.

In the West most people try to explain supernatural events with science, but this is not so in other cultures, particularly in Africa. Beliefs that Westerners might dismiss as irrational are viewed as quite logical among African cultures, where most people will have witnessed obvious interaction between the spirit and material worlds.

People who work in allegiance with evil spirits to protect or hurt others are known as witches, wizards or sorcerers. Objects or animals can become links and mediums of contact between these evil spirits and humans (Genesis 3:1). In allegiance and often with fear, many Africans worship these spirit mediums for protection, prosperity and health.

Unfortunately, these worshippers often become victims of their own idols and suffer misfortune, disease or death if they break any rule. On the other hand, those whom the spirits favour can benefit from their evil alliances to achieve great things and hurt their adversaries or anyone else they want to afflict.

As African AFM missionaries working in Benin, the birthplace of voodoo, we encounter tangible demonic power on a regular basis. Let me tell you about three of these cases, one of which happened quite recently.

There was a man in our neighbourhood known as Mr Il fait Peur, which translates simply to Mr ‘He is Feared’. He was a notorious sorcerer, and nobody dared offend him. His victims were many and well known. He worked with some very dangerous spirits to cause misfortune, disease or death. Vendors paid him to cast spells on the jewellery and hair extensions they sold so that the women who bought them would become bewitched and buy more. He also enchanted hair clips, hair and skin creams, perfumes, pieces of clothing and many other items so that the purchasers would come under the influence of demons and be ‘spiritually tied’ to the vendors.

We were introduced to two ladies who were victims of Mr Il fait Peur’s ‘sorcery’. One lady was invited to our mid-week prayer session by a friend who had been meeting with us for a year. The other lady came to one of our afternoon prayer sessions while she was visiting a brother who worked at a nearby petrol station. Both ladies were wearing jewellery and hair extensions that were linked with evil spirits.

As we began praying for these ladies, they both manifested the same behaviour – pulling at their hair extensions, tearing off their jewellery and rolling on the floor.

Our church ladies had to jump in with scissors to help them remove the hair extensions for fear that they would pull out their real hair. It was a fear-filled spectacle.

This kind of event is frequent here in Benin in churches of all denominations. Evil forces are very active, but, as the Lord promised to those who believe in Him, any sincere and committed prayer exposes them quickly (Mark 16:17).

But the most amazing part of this story has to do with Mr Il fait Peur himself. Against all expectations, even as he worked his evil magic, his heart was being drawn to the Kingdom of God. Today, Mr Il fait Peur worships His Lord and Saviour with us, often standing side by side with Marline, a lady who lives in his compound and who used to be very afraid of him. Mr Il fait Peur asked us to come and pray in his house and cleanse it from every evil presence. During the prayer session, he gave us the two fetishes from the entrance to his house that had protected him from attack and cursed anyone who came into his house with the intention of hurting him.

Today, Mr Il fait Peur is a new person. Praise God that our earnest prayers are being answered! Souls are being saved, and the enemy is losing ground. Please continue to pray for the people of Benin, that they may experience deliverance from the clutches of Satan and find peace with God.

SIM evangelism

AFM missionaries in countries like Benin face an enormous amount of prejudice, even open hostility. So do those who show any public interest in the Gospel. By attending services and openly reading Christian literature or listening to radio broadcasts. In order to make it easier for earnest seekers to listen to the Christian message without harassment, AFM now discreetly distribute SIM cards that have been preloaded with an audio copy of the Bible, plus a selection of suitable Adventist literature, sermons, studies, etc.

Recipients of these cards put them into their mobile phones or other handheld devices so that they can listen to them using the privacy of earphones – just as though they were listening to the local radio or their favourite stored music selections.

These cards have great appeal – especially among Islamic women – and they are relatively easy to distribute. In this respect technology is proving to be a great friend of the Gospel.

If you would like to partner with AFM by sponsoring such SIM cards feel free to make your donations directly to their bank account: Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-99-21, account number 55203860. Those who are kind enough to make donations are encouraged to email John Simon jasim@afmonline.org confirming the deposit (name, date, amount and project to be benefited).

Kurdistan

by Julian Hibbert

Kurdistan is presently one of the world’s geo-cultural ‘hotspots’ and much in the news. The term is used to refer to a region where Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran meet, and where the Kurdish people form a prominent majority population, and Kurdish culture, language and national identity have historically been based.¹

There are certain Kurdish nationalistic organisations that seek to form an independent state of Kurdistan, but so far it is only Iraqi Kurdistan that has been recognised as an autonomous region within the Republic of Iraq.

Due to the bloody civil war in Syria and the recent brutal excesses of ISIL in Iraq, many in the region have become internally displaced persons (IDPs). They differ from refugees in that they still live within the country where they first came under threat. This puts them ‘among the world’s most vulnerable people’ because they ‘legally remain under the protection of their own government – even though that government might be the cause of their flight’.²

Many of these IDPs, including a significant number of Christians, have fled deep into Kurdish-held territory where, although destitute, they are at least safe from the ‘convert or die’ alternative.

A little-known fact

It is probably a little-known fact, but back in 2003 ‘just over 5%’ (about 1.5 million) Iraqis were Christians. That number had fallen dramatically to less than 500,000 in 2013, with Chaldean Catholics forming the largest group among them.³

A month ago, in the Mesopotamian 7 November, we reported on the relief efforts of Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) in that area of Kurdistan to which many of these IDPs have fled. AFM is not a registered relief agency, but within three days (and ‘fewer than ten’ personal phone calls) they had raised more than £20,000 towards a project that has provided showers and latrines for many of these displaced people.

In this issue we want to show you the conditions under which these fellow Christians (and others) live – and the difference that AFM’s donation has made. If you feel impressed to put them on your Christmas list, then kindly send your gift to AFM as outlined on the opposite page.

Thank you for thinking of them.

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan
²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kurdistan
³http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c146.html

What ‘kindness’ costs . . .

• Completed ablution block of 4 showers/4 latrines (includes gyser, drainage, water tanks, tiled floors, and so on) – £4,000
• Completed ablution block of 4 showers/4 latrines (includes geysers, water dispensers with filters – £100 each
• Arabic audio Bibles on micro SD cards – £12 each
• Adult winter coats – £15 each
• Children’s winter coats – £12 each
• Nido multi-vitamin enriched powdered milk for malnourished infants – £8 per month, per infant
Baptisms inspire Welsh youth
by John Surridge and David Ranić

On Sabbath 11 October the Newport church was packed with family members, friends and neighbours, as well as visitors from other churches in the area, who had come to support Grace Beni and Absolom Ndlovu in their decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and get baptised. Pastor John Surridge had spent the whole day in Newport encouraging the members and challenging those who still hadn’t made such a commitment to Christ to do so.

Pastor Ranić, who conducted the baptisms, expressed his joy at seeing both Grace and Absolom being baptised and asked them to share their testimonies with the congregation. In introducing Grace’s testimony, Pastor Ranić explained that the Newport church had been praying for Grace and her brother Dian even before they knew them personally. They had lived abroad, separated from their family here for several years, but when they were finally allowed to move to the UK, Grace followed her mother and younger sister by attending the Newport church.

She loved the atmosphere in the church as well as the warm welcome she received from the young people. She had been inspired to become a Christian by other members of her extended family and this decision was strengthened when she started attending the Newport church.

As Absolom shared his testimony it was clear that the congregation had taken him to their hearts. Absolom explained that he had been brought up in a Sunday-keeping church; however, when he was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church by a work colleague he realised that this was the one he was searching for. The message, especially the teaching about the Sabbath, together with his warm acceptance by the Newport members, resonated in Absolom’s heart and he decided to get baptised. This was a beautiful conclusion to a memorable year in which Absolom got married to Thelma, the work colleague who had introduced him to the church, and with whom he now has a baby daughter, Olivia.

Two weeks later, on Sabbath 25 October, the tiny Llandrindod Wells company, with just eight members on its books, celebrated two baptisms of its own. David and Samson Vaughan are young men who have grown up attending the Llandrindod Wells company with their family. They decided to be baptised in the Fforest Flades Lake – up in the hills of Wales – and more than fifty members and friends turned up from Llandrindod Wells, Newport, Ystrad Mynach, Cardiff, Port Talbot and Newport.

The Vaughan boys are well known in Builth Wells, where they live, and they were thrilled to see neighbours, work colleagues, school friends, and one school teacher in the congregation. Confidently sharing their testimony in front of this diverse group, David and Sam both spoke of their gratitude to their parents for a good Christian upbringing and to the Llandrindod Wells members for their love, acceptance and support. They tested that, with God on one’s side, there is much more to life than most people realise.

Reflecting on all four baptisms, Pastor Ranić expressed his gratitude to both churches and the Welsh Mission for their support. ‘When young people decide to get baptised,’ he said, ‘it shows that parents have given them a Christ-like example and that the local church has embraced them as their own. When adults decide to make this most important decision of their lives, it shows that they have found in the Bible what was missing in their hearts, and have found in the local congregation the friendship and sense of belonging they’ve been looking for.’

More photos can be seen on the Welsh Mission website: http://wm.ukwm.org.uk

O neproblem that is faced in many churches is the need for more young people to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. The work of the Welsh Mission with the young people of Newport and the surrounding area is seen as a place where this need is filled, as was dramatically demonstrated on Sabbath 11 October. The baptisms, conducted by Pastor Ranić, were a beautiful conclusion to a memorable year in which Absolom got married to Thelma, the work colleague who had introduced him to the church, and with whom he now has a baby daughter, Olivia.

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A garden baptism

On 30 August, 2014, Patricia Thomas was baptised into the family of Jesus Christ. The baptism took place in the beautiful garden of Keith and Lorna Nightingale, on the outskirts of Winchester.

Tricia, as she is better known, came to meet Jesus through a VOP preacher audience in a church in Cardiff in Wales. She later came to live in the UK. It was early this year that Ron walked into our Norwich church during an open coffee morning. David Dewing and his wife befriended him and David commenced weekly Bible studies with Ron. Coming from a Jewish background, Ron found several things about our beliefs that he shares, such as the Sabbath, our dietary laws and the layout and meaning of the sanctuary. His knowledge of Hebrew also helped him to appreciate the accuracy of what he was learning. After several months of Bible studies, Ron expressed his desire to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As the interim pastor, the writer visited with Ron, talked about his relationship with Christ and reviewed the doctrines of our faith. It was clear that Ron clearly understood and embraced what we believe. Seeing that Ron has steadily grown in grace and the knowledge of the truth from the time of his baptism into Christ all these years ago, we received him into our fellowship on profession of his faith.

We invite the church in the British Union to rejoice with us over the wonderful way God has led this precious soul, and for the effective lay-ministry of David, who was used by the Holy Spirit in helping Ron to a closer knowledge and understanding of Bible truth.

Pastor Michael I. Walker

A unique performance of the ‘Night of Wonder, Night of Joy’ Christmas cantata will be held at the Hijazi International Church (PIC) on 20 December from 7pm. While admission is free, this dramatic musical event is also guaranteed to be life-changing. Come with your family and friends. For further details please contact Ismael Barrag, Music Ministry leader on 07388 115416.
ASNA carers learn to ‘Let go, let God’

The Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) held its annual carers’ retreat weekend, at the stunning Hellidon Lakes Resort, Northampton, from 17 to 19 October.

Sophia Nichols, SEC Disability Ministries co-ordinator and ASNA organiser, and her helpers had focused on creating a restful getaway for those who provide support and care for those with special needs. It was an opportunity for them to relax and share their experiences with those in similar situations.

The weekend’s theme, ‘Let Go, Let God’, emphasised the need to look to the future in faith, but not to forget God’s leading in the past. Weekend speaker, Pastor Paul Liburd, Family Ministries director at the North England Conference, encouraged the audience with his exposition of the story of the widow of Zarephath who never ran out of food again because of God’s care for her.

Audrey Badderstone, a professional flower arranger, visited the group on Sabbath to demonstrate how floral arrangements can tell a story. She did this through three separate arrangements – each one with a personal story behind it. She then encouraged the attendees to arrange their own floral designs, linking them to experiences close to their hearts. The arrangements were later auctioned off to raise money in support of ASNA.

Jacqueline Bingham found the experience of using an arrangement to tell her own personal story a very powerful experience, as did many of the other attendees.

Jaclyn Bingham spoke about how she became an Adventist, and a member of ASNA, through a drop-in centre held at High Wycombe Micklefield Church. The centre enables people from the community to talk about their struggles and achievements as carers of those with special needs.

She went on to tell of how the centre is a wonderful idea and that those who run it are very understanding and truly listen, regardless of who you are. ‘I started going there and I soon found peace. I began to learn about Christ, each time I went, and about six months later I started going to church, eventually getting baptised.’ What a powerful testimony to the work of the centre.

Cambridge culture month

Cambridge Church holds an annual culture month and this year’s event was as successful as ever. During the month, different groups have the opportunity to showcase their culture through sharing traditional dishes, information about the challenges they face back home, and the way God has led in the spread of the Church in their homelands.

The event draws the members and their friends into regular fellowship during the month, and it is a great opportunity to deepen respect for each other’s culture.

The highlight of the African presentation was the revelation that a manna-like food still appears at the Namba Adventist mission in southern Angola today. The Europeans chose to celebrate British culture – that of the land in which they now reside.

One of the biggest blessings of the Cambridge culture month is the opportunity to reach out to the community by attracting visitors to the church. It is also good to see large numbers of church members and their families come out week after week to support the programme.

According to local pastor, Colin Stewart, ‘There is something special about sharing a meal and stories that brings people together. Seeing the church grow stronger as a family is a huge blessing, and a foundation on which outreach can be even more effectively done.’

Intelligent Design trumps Evolution

Oxford Church members were blessed to have two accomplished scholars for their afternoon programme on 11 October. Professor John Walton from the University of St Andrews, Scotland, and Dr Alastair Noble, from the Intelligent Design Centre, presented a fascinating and inspiring seminar reminding us of the awesomeness and power of God and the validity of Creation. The Intelligent Design theory helps young people to see that science does not contradict creation, but provides evidence for it. Young people were heard to say that it had given them a ‘better understanding of creation’. The programme was organised by the Religious Liberty department of the Oxford church, which is led by Nolan Victory.
LILLIAN BATTS

Bess or Beth, as she was known in Advent Centre, Bessie 0121 3286380

Wednesday – 11am-4pm, Thursday – 4pm-8pm, Birmingham, Aston-Newtown,

ELISABETH CARNELL

Watford, BUC,

7 Manchester South                       10am-2pm
14 Brixton                                  10am-2pm
21 Holloway                                    10am-2pm
21 Dunstable                                   10am-2pm

DR LYNDA INCE


Yvonne Leonora

Baxter (née Kirkman) (1932-2014) d. 9 September.

Yvonne was born in Dublin, spending her early childhood in Ireland and on the Isle of Man. In 1944, her family moved to London, which left her with a vivid memory of the sounds of the ocean that occurred there. Along with her parents she attended the evangelical meetings of George Vandeman at the London Coliseum in 1952. These two elements were interlinkedly inexhaustible.

Yvonne attended the education of her children, the Holloway church. Yvonne qualified as a certified physiotherapist at King’s College Hospital and later moved to Bath for work. This proved to be a very significant move, for in 1955 she met her future husband, Brian. They were married in 1956, and Yvonne became a member of the Church of England. Yvonne passed away in Grantham in 1995, and remained so for the rest of her life. She faithfully served the church in various capacities, which included Communication secretary, roles in the adult and children’s Sabbath School, and church treasurer. Both church and family equally recalled her tradition of always wearing a hat to church, and her lifelong love for rugby. In 1965, she took her nursing at the Boston Pilgrim General Hospital in the early 1970s, and then retired in 1991. She described herself as a much-loved and highly respected sister in the Church. She supported her church

High King of Heaven after victory

May I reach Heaven’s joys, O High King of Heaven after victory.

“May I reach Heaven’s joys, O High King of Heaven after victory?”

Her interests were people-oriented, especially in the roles in the Grantham church: teaching the children; singing in the choir; visiting the sick; offering hospitality; and letters-writing to the young people who were away from their family life. Yvonne had two daughters, Elizabeth (1963) and Sue (1968). Brian and Yvonne

Yvonne became living and proud grandparents to four grandchildren, Alexandra, Catherine, Sarah and Laura, who are loved by their Oma. Elizabeth recalled her mother as being both ‘ahead of her time and very traditional. This is highlighted by Yvonne proudly going to rugby matches with her father and continuing to work even when her children were small. Traditionally she was a royalist, attended the Women’s Institute and was a firm believer in chivalry.

Yvonne became a member of the Grantham church in 1958, and remained so for the rest of her life. She faithfully served the church in various capacities, which included Communication secretary, roles in the adult and children’s Sabbath School, and church treasurer. Both church and family equally recalled her tradition of always wearing a hat to church, and her lifelong love for rugby. In 1965, she took her nursing course and specialised in midwifery. She worked as an anaesthetist in Liverpool, and then a daughter, Alison, who became a dentist with her own practice near Carlisle.

Yvonne’s love for her heart of love and for the sense of fun, which brought smiles, laughter and warmth to many. This was reflected in the tributes given during the service by Sherille Hyatt on behalf of the family, Beryl Passey on behalf of the Liverpool church, and Paul Poddar, representing the Grantham church and the Stanborough Press, who followed by committal at Grantham Crematorium. Crescendos and a special service in the Stanborough Press. They then travelled back to be with his family in Africa in 2012, and visited the South of France with family in the spring of this year. He will be greatly missed by his three children – Keith, Nigel and Gillian – and his extended family, all of whom he loved and was justly proud of.

A letter from a member received by Maurice was the last he was able to read at the funeral service and serves here as a fitting conclusion to these obituaries. “I wish so much that I had known you and Nan many more years ago. I now find it an honour to have known you a little, and experienced your love and kindness. Thank you for following me and towards loving, living Lord, the memory of which will live, as your life has been lived to the glory of God. What a wonderful true servant you have been!”

Well done, Sandra!

Sandra Grice of the St Albans church completed the St Albans half-marathon on Sunday 8 June, 2014. Her aim was to raise funds on behalf of Centre 33, which is a homeless drop-in facility, sponsored by her congregation. The centre is run entirely by volunteers who provide a warm meal and a warm and welcoming atmosphere for the homeless and disadvantaged in the local community. Sandra trained eight months, and gradually increasing her physical and mental stamina for the race day.

BIRTHDAYS

Paul Bellamy

The Stanborough Centre was full on the morning of Friday 7 February as friends, including many former colleagues, joined with family members to celebrate and remember the life of Pastor Maurice Boon Musgrave. He passed over to his rest on 23 October 2014 at the age of 95 – after a fulfilling and varied life – that was ‘well lived’ in the service of his Lord.

The service, conducted by Pastor Clee, supported by Pastor Jacques Venter, focused on Pastor Musgrave as a much-loved person rather than on his years of service for the Church, while recognising that these two elements were interlinkedly inexhaustible.

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Paul Bellamy used Pastor Musgrave’s own sermon number 23rd Psalm – a psalm that Maurice considered as vital to his own life – Pastor Clee conveyed a message of encouragement, sharing that it had been a privilege and pleasure to have known Maurice as a friend.

Many have come to know Pastor Musgrave through the publication of his book, We Were Happy in Africa. He attributed its title to his beloved wife, Anne (Nan) Musgrave, who is still the home of his two sons and secretary-treasurer at Division level. Who can begin to quantify the number of lives their ministry touched? Their family grew: first another son, Nigel, and then another, Gillian. In August 1960 Maurice and Nan bud farewell to their family and friends of whom they had become very fond. Maurice worked first as treasurer at the SEC before taking up his appointment as treasurer at the BUC, where he served until his retirement in 1986. At that session he received a standing ovation in recognition of his outstanding ability, while Dr James Chadwell presented Pastor Musgrave inherited BUC finances when they were very weak each other. He placed those finances on a sound footing. On his retirement, Maurice remained involved in local church ministry and served for a number of years as secretary to the Board of BUC.

Later years was born in Birmingham on 18 January, 1922, where her father was the North England Conference secretary-treasurer. Soon after, he moved to Manchester South and Cambridge to 10am-2pm.

Elizabeth was born in Leeds and then moved to London, where he worked as a secretary-treasurer at Division level. Who can begin to quantify the number of lives their ministry touched? Their family grew: first another son, Nigel, and then another, Gillian. In August 1960 Maurice and Nan bud farewell to their family and friends of whom they had become very fond. Maurice worked first as treasurer at the SEC before taking up his appointment as treasurer at the BUC, where he served until his retirement in 1986. At that session he received a standing ovation in recognition of his outstanding ability, while Dr James Chadwell presented Pastor Musgrave inherited BUC finances when they were very weak each other. He placed those finances on a sound footing. On his retirement, Maurice remained involved in local church ministry and served for a number of years as secretary to the Board of BUC.
Fruits (and vegetables) of the Spirit

From Thursday 2 October, Ringway Life Church was open on four consecutive days for the public to view our Harvest display. The artistic, talented and hardworking among us had produced a superb display of crops and fruits, along with a 100-year-old horse-drawn plough (minus the horse) and wooden wheelbarrow that was lent to us for the occasion by a local farmer. Each of the church’s windowsills was used to depict a scene from the parable of the sower.

Fortunately, the church is located next to a very busy country pub, and barely a week goes by without someone coming into the church on Sabbath just to see what is going on. This time it was good to have it open on some weekdays as well, allowing our visitors to reflect on the goodness and generosity of our Lord.

PHILIP EMM

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Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

Lond  Card  Nott  Edin  Belf
Dec 5  3.53  4.05  3.50  3.41  4.00
12  3.52  4.04  3.48  3.38  3.58
19  3.53  4.05  3.49  3.39  3.59
26  3.57  4.09  3.53  3.43  4.03