

Adventists participate in opening of new Co-op stores

by June Coombs



Twice in recent months members of Stanborough Park Church have been involved in the opening ceremonies of Co-op food stores in the Watford area thanks to the efforts of Enoch Kanagaraj, a company employee and member of the church's community outreach committee.

Firstly, on 26 October the church's Community Services Leader, Pat Walton, assisted by Amanda Powell, cut the ribbon in front of the brand-new store in Croxley Green. Amanda, like Enoch, is a member of the church's outreach committee as well as leading the seniors club for local senior citizens. Also participating in the ceremony were the church's senior minister, Pastor Jacques Venter, and some of the Pathfinders.

The Co-operative Group is a great supporter of the community and regularly donates some of its profits towards local good causes. On this occasion both Pat and Amanda were given cheques for £350. Amanda's cheque is intended for use by the church's Family Ministry Department run by Jean-Marc and Sunsiree Renard, while Pat's cheque was made out to 'Nine Lives', a project which renovates donated furniture for sale to needy families at low cost. It also provides work for people, such as those with disabilities, who would otherwise find it hard to obtain work. Pat is a trustee of the charity, which grew from the Emergency Furniture Unit set up decades ago by her father, Alf Kelly.

After the ceremony, Store Manager Tharshan Ratnasingam said, 'We are delighted to have undertaken such a significant investment in Croxley Green. The purpose-built store has a great look and we have received a great response. Our ambition is to ensure the store is a local hub, a real asset for the community. We also want shoppers to know that we are also giving back to the community. Our members also make a difference locally; simply by swiping their membership card when they shop with us they are raising much-needed funding for organisations in their area who contribute to improving local life.'

Adventists were once again involved on 9 November when the church's previous senior minister, Pastor Paul Clee, was involved in the opening of the newly-refurbished Co-op store in New Road, Croxley Green's main shopping street. This time it was the turn of two local school children to wield the ceremonial scissors.

Stanborough Park members have been involved in the opening of Co-op stores since July 2015 when Pastor Venter assisted Mayor Baroness Dorothy Thornhill in opening a new shop in the Abbotswood Park area of Watford. On this occasion he was joined by children from Stanborough Primary School with Florence Allen again representing the Pathfinders.

Enoch Kanagaraj also tries to find the youth of the church employment in his stores, and has recently started to provide Sunday employment for some of the students that have problems finding weekend work. He notes that since then his turnover on Sundays has increased and he gives praise and thanks to God for His blessings!

The staff of the Stanborough Press wish you
and your loved ones a hope-filled 2018.



Health journalling

We commence the new year with a focus on the benefits of recording your health journey.

There is evidence to suggest that monitoring one's health progress helps you focus more on well-being. In a report entitled 'Mobile Health Apps to Facilitate Self-care: A Qualitative Study of User Experiences',¹ the authors conclude that:

'Despite being a relatively new phenomenon, self-monitoring has experienced notable developments in its practical immersion into one's lifestyle. Health consumers are increasingly engaging with mobile health applications ("apps") for self-monitoring.'

Even if you are not using technology to monitor your health progress, there are other beneficial ways to record your health journey. Pen and paper records through journalling or diary entries of our well-being are another option.

Listing the reasons for keeping a health journal, *Wellness Mama*² provides the following:

- It will help you notice patterns.
- You can notice foods that aggravate the system.
- 'You can't change what you can't measure.'
- It keeps from falling into a rut.
- It's easier to stay on track.
- See how lifestyle factors affect food intake and vice versa.
- You can have an objective record.

Wellness Mama author, Katie Wells, reports that people usually record food intake and water and liquid intake; sleep; exercise; illness, allergies, or reactions; pain or fatigue; hormone fluctuations (monthly

cycle, stages of pregnancy, etc.); and skin changes.

These are usually recorded by date, times, goals set and achieved and future steps required.

Some individuals find a health diary useful for expressing their thoughts and feelings. Research also suggests that it can be beneficial for mental health. According to the University of Rochester Medical Centre's article, 'Journalling for Mental Health',³ journalling can help manage anxiety; reduce stress; and cope with depression.

It may help to control your symptoms and improve your mood by:

- Helping you prioritise problems, fears, and concerns
- Tracking symptoms so that you can recognise triggers and learn ways to better control them
- Providing an opportunity for positive self-talk and identifying negative thoughts and behaviours

For additional information visit: <https://psychcentral.com/lib/the-health-benefits-of-journaling/>.

Our BUC Health Ministries Department is piloting a health diary that we have created. Do get in touch with us on 01923672251 or by visiting adventist.org.uk/departments/health if you want to know more about this project.

May 2018 yield rich results for your well-being.

Good health!

¹<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4876999/> ²<https://wellnessmama.com/5398/health-journal/> ³<https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/encyclopedia/content.aspx?ContentID=4552&ContentTypeID=1>



What next?

For many of us, the birth of a new year naturally raises a series of questions to reflect on. For example: 'What is next? What surprises will this year bring? What does it hold in store for me, for you?' Who knows? To be brutally frank, none of us do.

There is not a single person on earth who has all the details of their 2018 diary already written up. Oh, yes, we may have made plans, booked and paid for travel arrangements, registered for courses, put money aside and a host of other things. We may have scripted how we wish things to play out in the minutest detail – but isn't there a four-letter word that always has the final say, **fate**?

Do you believe in fate?

Before you answer, let me share two definitions with you, both from the *Oxford Living Dictionaries*¹ (online):

1. Fate is the 'course of someone's life, or the outcome of a situation for someone or something, seen as outside their control'. This

definition recognises that life is never fully under our control, and that it may be influenced by both the actions of others and an infinite variety of unexpected circumstances.

2. Fate is the 'development of events outside a person's control, regarded as predetermined by a supernatural power'. This definition also admits that life is never fully under our control, and that it may definitely come under the influence of supernatural forces, whether good or evil.

Many Christians express this second perspective on fate by using the Latin term *Deo volente*, 'God willing', after expressing their plans, hopes and intentions: as in, 'My dear friend, let's plan to meet and discuss your project again in a month from now, God willing.'

We know that God is not the 'Architect of Evil' – someone else has earned an 'Oscar' for that role! Someone who is passionately committed to the spread of fear through violence, terror and barbarity. As a result, a growing number of us feel less safe than we've felt for decades. We are justifiably concerned about what lies ahead, especially as we remember last year's terror-fuelled carnage in Manchester and London.

Back to those questions...

We started with a set of questions, the first being: What will this year deliver? More of the same, I suspect. And if so, then we need to be as ready for it as possible. But how?

All around the world – especially in certain Northern Hemisphere countries like the USA, Canada and the UK – survivalism has become very popular. This is 'a movement of individuals or groups (called survivalists or preppers) who are actively preparing for emergencies, including possible disruptions in social or political order, on scales from local to international. Survivalists often acquire emergency medical and self-defence training, stockpile food and water, prepare to become self-sufficient, and build structures that may help them survive a catastrophe.'²

Do you see yourself as a potential convert to such a worldview? Are you ready to collect all the survival kit, do the training and search for a selection of remote hideouts? Does this appeal to you? And if so, how long will you be able to keep it up? Remembering that being a prepper/survivalist is not a spectator sport – you must stay packed and ready with all your batteries charged!

Does God expect this of us? Is there scriptural support for such an approach to life?

Where does the 2018 danger really lie?

I think that the answer to this question is critical. In which case, perhaps these scriptures will help.

Firstly, there is Peter's advice, drawn from his vast experience of the unpleasant and



unexpected that life dragged across his path:

'Keep a cool head. Stay alert. The Devil is poised to pounce, and would like nothing better than to catch you napping. Keep your guard up. You're not the only ones plunged into these hard times. It's the same with Christians all over the world. So keep a firm grip on the faith. The suffering won't last forever. It won't be long before this generous God who has great plans for us in Christ – eternal and glorious plans they are! – will have you put together and on your feet for good. He gets the last word; yes, he does.' (1 Peter 5:8-11, MSG.)

Peter brings the real issue to life here. The devil 'is poised to pounce' and wants to 'catch you napping'... and he's not frightened by either pepper spray or karate! But a 'firm grip on the faith' will keep him at bay – faith in that 'generous God who has great plans for us in Christ...'

Secondly, there is the advice of Paul, who bravely survived so many of the devil's brutal attacks, but could still confidently say:

'... God is strong, and he wants you strong. So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way. This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.'

'Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an *indispensable* weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.' (Ephesians 6:10-18, MSG.)

So, I guess that the real issue is not 'what's next' or 'what's up ahead'? It's 'who's got your back'? As Paul said: 'God is strong, and he wants you strong!'

¹<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/fate>
²<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/doomsday-preparations-british-people-apocalypse-bunkers-supplies-water-a7584076.html>

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Do you suffer from ‘oddstruckness’?

Now readers, before you answer this or google ‘oddstruckness’, please read the following riddle and see if you can identify who or what Stephen Holden is writing about.

**Some may have a *headstock*
Others wear a *crown*
Many fire *cannons*
Enough to make some frown
All have strong *shoulders*
A *waist*, a *mouth*, a *lip*
Striking as a *clapper*
With a *sound bow* at the *hip*
Then let us make a *headline*
And take *Sally* by the hand
Can you hear us calling
Out across the land?**

What or who am I?

Well, here is the answer: the italicised words are the various names attributed to different parts of a church bell.

The society of ‘Change Ringers’ of St Wulfram’s dates back to 1781 and is listed as the oldest recreational group in my home town of Grantham, Lincolnshire.

The bells are rung weekly, calling worshippers to church for communion service or to announce times of daily prayer and special occasions like weddings or funerals.

My wife, Liz, and I took advantage of the annual National Heritage weekend last year to visit the bell tower, which was open to the public for a few hours on the Sabbath afternoon.

We have attended a few events in St Wulfram’s over the years, which has seating for 700 and standing room for a further 200 if the occasion demands, but we have never had the opportunity of climbing the tower.

This is accessed by a limestone spiral staircase, which rises to three floors: 76 steps to the ‘ringing chamber’, another 34 to the ‘bell platform’ or ‘belfry’, and a further 101 to the ‘parapet’ surrounding the base of the spire – a place where peregrine falcons and even ravens have nested in recent years.

The parapet is about 45 metres from ground level and is described as being ‘surrounded by a waist-high wall’ (but I can assure you it didn’t feel waist-high to me!).

Before we were met with the spectacular views to be enjoyed from the parapet, we were given a demonstration of bell ringing by the current group of ‘change ringers’ in the lower chamber – that’s the one reached after the first 76 stairs. After a short history was given, we were privileged to sit and listen to a short peal

of bells executed with impeccable timing, and then given the opportunity to try our hand and experience the action required for ourselves.

Having been assured we all had great potential, we were then taken in small groups to the belfry and shown the twelve different bells – the largest weighing in excess of one and a half tons. The most recent addition was cast during the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee year and hung in 2013. There is a thirteenth bell, the chimes of which are used to tell the time. It dates back to 1674. And yes, there are ‘bats in the belfry’.

The bell tower of St Wulfram’s dominates the Grantham skyline – it is the third-highest Anglican parish church in the UK, and its potential peal of twelve tuned bells certainly divvies out the decibels and *can be heard, as the tower can be seen, at some distance.*

A thought for today then: the significance of any bell comes not from its impressive size or its accurate form, but from the sound it emits – its ‘voice’, if you like.

The power of a voice is quite extraordinary.

John describes the power of God in terms of the ‘Word’ being made flesh, and, as the Message Bible has it, it *‘moved into the neighborhood’* (John 1:14).

A voice which brought healing and restoration, convicting listeners of the truth. A voice that ‘calmed many troubled waters’ in more ways than one.

We as His followers are to emulate Him – not to be inactive or silent, but to make our voices heard and our presence in the community felt – by striking the right note! Which brings us to the meaning of the odd word in the title of this article. No bell will sound

right if it suffers from ‘oddstruckness’.* To sort out this problem an expert needs to set the bell level on its headstock, and make sure that the clapper hangs in the middle of the bell and can swing freely.

Perhaps this is the right time of year to let God solve any ‘oddstruckness’ we may suffer from – time for an Expert setting and tuning!

As with the bells of St Wulfram’s, to some they might be perceived as a considerable nuisance – something to be suffered. To others they might signify nothing more than the time of day. *But, to some, our words may be received as a call back to worship and prayer.* Our voices, when ‘striking the right note’, can lift others up and encourage; they can be a means of healing and rebuilding troubled minds as we are directed by His Spirit to express His love.

‘Love for others’ is the ‘key note’ here. Without it all we can hope to be, as 1 Corinthians 13 tells us, is a ‘sounding brass or a clanging cymbal’ (vs. 1, NKJV), but with it we can all be powerful communicators of God’s love and have a positive influence on those we interact with.

* http://www.bristolrural.co.uk/gandb/Oddstruck_bells_Malcolm%20Taylor.pdf



St Wulfram's Church, Grantham

Photo: David Bell



this worthwhile project. But this time round our Prehen Lifestyle Centre T-shirts moved to the bottom layer of our outdoor apparel and we donned British Heart Foundation vests. David Dickie, from the Coleraine Seventh-day Adventist church, was our inspiration. He’s been doing this for years. His interest in the heart foundation developed after he

experienced a heart attack himself. Since then he has raised thousands of pounds for the organisation. We were excited that he could walk with us. **It was good to focus on somebody else’s cause for a while.**

The autumn weather was dramatic, as it often is along Northern Ireland’s Causeway Coast, as a small group of volunteers from Derry/Londonderry and Coleraine battled buffeting winds and frequent hail showers for a good cause on 11 November. The purpose of their walk to the famous Giant’s Causeway, 13km away, was to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. But, as they battled the elements, several other benefits became obvious to the writer, who went along for the adventure. Perhaps you will find his reflections helpful as you face the unknown that this new year will bring.

It is true what they say about stepping outside our comfort zones. As we sat in our cosy cars we wondered who in their right mind would want to step into a blast of cold air with a wind-chill factor close to freezing and frequent rain showers. But when we did it – wearing three or four layers of clothes – we discovered how energising it really was. It was as though the wind blew away all our daily troubles. The mood in the group was buoyant. We imagined all the negative, energising ions swirling around us. Our spirits lifted, and we felt really alive! We also discovered that there were people ‘madder’ than us! About 30 people had gathered to go for a swim in the freezing waters of the sea at Portrush! They did not stay in long! **Step out of your comfort**

Four lessons from a fund-raising walk

by Pastor Weiers Coetser

zone. It is good for your health and good for your spirit!

Tough conditions often offer opportunities to experience exquisite beauty. The sun sits very low on the horizon in the north of Ireland at this time of the year. The result is that everything is displayed in softer hues and beautiful contrasts. Of course the exquisite coastline and unique sea cliffs contributed greatly to the beauty. Have you experienced a waterfall where the water is blown upwards by the wind? Or bubbles of white sea foam wafting through the air after being blown up through a chimney hole in the rocks with the sea pounding far below?

It’s good to shift the focus away from ourselves. In recent months in Derry we’ve been working hard to raise awareness of the fitness and lifestyle programme that we run on the ground floor of our church building. There has been no shortage of promotions and special events to attract the community to join

It does not take much to get onto the map.

We completed the 13km walk in just over three hours. We did it in quite rough weather conditions, but it was a good family outing that 11-year-olds and 65-year-olds with different fitness levels could all comfortably participate in. As we were walking we dreamt about doing the full 65km coastal route, but at the end of the day we had done quite a bit, and it felt like it was just enough! **And the just-enough also put us on the map. It gave us a story to tell.** People took note and they gave their support. Many donations are still coming in, almost a week after the event. A little bit of effort can go a long way.

Much more can be said for engaging in small adventures like this. It brought together members of two churches and strengthened the team spirit. As we came back home and shared our story, we realised how many others are longing to be part of a group and enjoy such adventures. If we were to embark on the same adventure again, we would be bolder in inviting others to join us.

The staff of the Stanborough Press wish you and your loved ones a hope-filled 2018.



Caught up in the debt trap?

At the beginning of this year, which by all accounts will be a financially challenging one, we are pleased to provide this helpful debt-relief strategy by Paul Thompson.*

As Britain grapples with the challenges associated with Brexit and the uncertainty posed by the global economic landscape, there is one fact that we cannot escape. The UK faces huge debt problems and the situation seems to be getting worse. There appears to be no real solution on the horizon. According to a leading debt charity, at the end of July 2017 people in the UK owed £1.557 trillion in debt.¹ This equates to a staggering £57,490 per average household. According to the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), a Government body which has been producing regular medium-term forecasts and long-term projections for the UK public finances since 2010, household debt in Britain is predicted to reach £2.322 trillion in the period January to March 2022. Assuming the number of households remains the same, average household debt is extrapolated to be £86,001, and there is no end in sight.

The pain of debt is likely to get worse as and when interest rates rise again. During the last 12 months, people in the UK paid nearly £50 billion in interest payments at an average of £137 million per day. The question before us is a simple one: how are UK Seventh-day Adventists coping within the current level of debt? Are our members caught up in the debt trap too?

The answer is that we do not know. There is something, however, that we do know, based on what the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists calls a Global Tithe Index (GTI).² This is an instrument that provides an objective means of comparing the level of tithe giving in one country with that of another, by factoring in the respective levels of economic activity and prosperity of each country. GTI, as it is called, is not meant to be used to motivate church members to tithe more faithfully, but as a management tool to help instruct policy and make decisions on the proper deployment of stewardship education resources at Union and Division level. Taking into account 2012 figures, global tithing should have been \$14 billion. In that period the church realised just \$2 billion in tithe. The question begs to be asked: Where has the \$12 billion gone? Five years later, no answer has emerged.

In all honesty, it is inevitable that some Adventists must be caught up in the debt trap. Some may be comfortable with it, and are

content with the risk that high debt levels bring. Others struggle with it and may be earnestly seeking a way out of the pressure and stress it brings. The Bible teaches that God is the Source of the power to earn wealth (Deut. 8:18, KJV): 'But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.' God wants us to be strong leaders in our communities and our places of work, and to be good role models and influencers – but not at any cost!

The Bible divides debt into two categories: borrowing and lending. In addition to these two broad headings the Bible uses the following terms in association with debt: usury, trust, vows, striking hands, co-signing. These terms relate to debt, in one form or another, something Christians are cautioned to avoid.

The psychological impact of debt is real, often leading to marital issues, fear of being found out, and some members avoiding church office due to non-tithing. Many caught up in the debt spiral report feeling trapped and isolated, with no one to turn to for advice.

So how can debt problems be avoided? Money problems usually occur when:

- Expenditure exceeds income
- There is unemployment or insufficient income
- There is inefficient spending or impulse buying
- Priorities are not set
- When set, priorities are disregarded
- Significant life-changing events occur, such as ill health, divorce or bereavement
- We lose focus on God's plan for our lives.

Essentially, there are seven key steps to get out of debt if you are serious about doing so.

- 1. Prepare spiritually and phone a friend** – Confide in a good friend and ask for daily prayers. Use daily devotionals that promote good stewardship to help you reinforce good habits.
- 2. Contact all creditors** – Be brave, contact all your creditors and explain your position, then ask for more time to spread your

payments. Put God to the test; go in faith.

3. Decide on priorities – The debts which are more serious, such as mortgage arrears, should be given priority. Seek advice from the local Citizen's Advice Bureau or a debt charity. They have the powers to stop harassment and undue pressure from creditors. The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) or the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) are ready to deal with any complaints relating to unfair treatment or strong-arm tactics by creditors. Make use of them.

4. Prepare a financial statement – Prepare a true list of your income and expenditure. Be honest, even though it may surprise you, for this is an essential part of the process of recovery.

5. Maximise income – Look at other ways of increasing income: rent out a room, take a part-time job, sell at car boot sales or on eBay.

6. Review expenditure aggressively – Decide seriously what you are prepared to give up. It could be a holiday, a car, or chocolates. Make up your mind to sacrifice.

7. Negotiate – Spend time in communication with your creditors. Many are willing to work with you if you show commitment. In some cases, you may be able to get significant debt mark-down. There have been instances where a £10,000 debt has been settled for as little as £1,000.

Finally, when you get out of debt (*and you will by following these steps*) make sure you budget to commit to your favourite ministry in church. Nothing brings greater relief than when you become engrossed in God's work. Going forward, invest your money in the right way. 'There are only two places in the world where we can deposit our treasures – in God's storehouse or in Satan's, and all that is not devoted to Christ's service is counted on Satan's side and goes to strengthen his cause.' E. G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 448.

¹ <http://themoneycharity.org.uk/money-statistics/>

² <https://news.adventist.org/en/all-news/news/go/2012-04-02/is-the-adventist-church-not-realizing-12-billion/>

*Paul Thompson is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management. He is a master presenter for the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants in England and Wales. He provides free debt counselling as a ministry and attends Reading Central Church.



Biker enthusiasm

by Cor Sanders

As some may know, I have been a biker since childhood. Some even say that I was removed from my mother by my beard and was put straight on a Harley-Davidson! But the truth is that I bought it from my brother when I was 18. It was a 1948 WL 45, and I rode it around Europe proud as a peacock.

After a few years I sold it to a long-standing friend, who promised me first refusal. I then bought the bike back 15 years later to restore it to its former glory as a police bike. But then Cupid struck and all the bits and bobs were put into boxes, not to be looked at again for 28 years. Only last year, with retirement around the corner, have I had time to overhaul the engine, and spray-paint all those bits and bobs that needed it. Slowly but surely it started to look like the police bike it was, in Oxford blue with white crash bars.

I never had any hurry to register the bike in the UK before, until spring 2017, when I started filling out various DVLA forms for a UK registration number. But what seemed at first like a straightforward job became very complicated. The bike had to be scrutinised for road safety, and the DVLA demanded I produce a 'dating letter' from the manufacturer stating the bike was an authentic 1948 model. Then

there was also a formal check with HMRC to check for any outstanding VAT. These questions did not come in one go; no, they were ordered one by one. And the hot British summer was going by, wasted, while the bike stood ready in the garage but was only allowed to have little 'runs' up and down the drive.

For six months I have been sitting waiting for their phone call or the postman's visit, checking my inbox faithfully every hour for an email to arrive, all to hear about the progress of my requests and perhaps a V55 form. My normal life became distorted because all that I could think of was: 'When can I ride my bike? When can I go to Harley meetings again, see the old friends and make new ones?'

As my thoughts went on like this I soon started wondering, am I just as eager to see Jesus return and be with Him and all my Christian friends, as I am to ride my bike and be with my biker friends, new and old? Am I as

busy in 'God's garage' working on His projects and as eager to see them come to a speedy completion? Am I checking my emails, the postman, my Bible, or whatever may need checking to ensure that I will be ready when He comes? Am I just as concerned about the many others who should hear the Good News too? I know that waiting to get my bike on the road is not a life-or-death issue; maybe it's more like waiting for your 21st birthday, your first date or your first pay cheque. But surely, if we can be enthusiastic about such things, then God and His unfinished work deserve a whole lot more!



What do visitors think?

Have you ever wondered what visitors think after visiting your church? Well, here are two examples that reached our Editor's desk.

Because my son lives just south of Weston-super-Mare, I often visit the local church for Sabbath worship.

What a delight it was to visit on 7 October. It was their annual thanksgiving service for the bountiful harvest God had provided. Their wonderful display of fruit, vegetables and various dry goods and tins was going to the local food bank, and one of the organisers, Donna, had come along to give everyone an insight into their work. It was so uplifting to hear her tell of a Christian organisation that was doing such valuable work in the community.

It was also very special because when the worship service began the church was packed to capacity. At least 12 visitors from the local community were there, regular attendees of the very successful craft club and vegetarian cookery class the church is running!

To add to the joy of worship the young people, of all ages and abilities, sang and played two beautiful songs.

It was a great day for all the members of the church because it was the first Sabbath for most of them to meet their new pastor, Rio Espulgar. They had been without a pastor for some time and retired pastor, Islwyn Rees, had stepped into the breach.

After the service of thanksgiving Pastor Espulgar sang, accompanied by his very talented young daughter.

The potluck lunch was enjoyed by all, and I thank you all at Weston for a wonderful, uplifting Sabbath.

SANDY EDWARDS, PETERBOROUGH CENTRAL CHURCH

Pastor Roman Smejkal recently found an encouraging letter of appreciation on his South Cumbria Church noticeboard. Here we print part of it as another example of how visitors respond to our hospitality.

7 September 2017

Dear South Cumbria Church Members

It was a real blessing to be able to worship with you on the 26th of August. Thank you so much for your warm hospitality. What a great thing it is when a church has more visitors than members, and how amazing that those members can still provide a three-course meal for everyone. Praise God for such a special church. It's hard to imagine what we would do at our small church in Japan if we suddenly had that many visitors. . . .

Your church has members who have been faithful for many years in spite of the fact that there are not many other Adventists around. Praise God for faithful members who constantly have contact with those who do not believe and yet have not lost their own faith. May God bless you with good health and strength as you continue to shine your light for Him in a dark world. We do not always know how our words and actions influence others, but I believe that when we trust God He moves in marvellous ways through our thoughts, words and actions. . . .

YVONNE/SHIELA



Each one winning one

In the last half of 2017 the Lewisham pastoral team took a decision to stop expecting others to do what we should have been doing all along.

The work of reaching souls is not just the job of our pastors, elders and Bible workers; it is also the responsibility of each church member. Likewise, the job of holding onto the new converts is also everyone's responsibility. To this end the Lewisham church has taken its first tentative steps towards getting each member of the church involved in actively working for a soul.



'Each one win one' means every available member using their gifts and talents, while seeking to lead at least one soul to the Lord. With this in mind, and planning in faith, we scheduled a baptism for every month during the last six months of 2017.

To date we have had a baptism every other month since June and we expect another baptism imminently, so we haven't done too badly. This is encouraging to the whole church family. We have also placed greater focus on baptismal aftercare and have put plans and strategies in place to hold the gains. Please pray for us as we continue to forge a way forward. We are excited at what God can do through our total member involvement.

Above are precious souls baptised in the last two baptisms. Each one is special in the sight of God and to us.

COLIN STEWART (SENIOR PASTOR)



Erdington's ADRA ambassador

On 7 June last year Don Parker was honoured for his dedication to the service of ADRA. Pastor Brooks and Stan Farell (elders) awarded Don with a plaque that read, 'In recognition and appreciation to Brother Don Parker for his devotion and dedication to the work of ADRA-UK'.

Don joined the Adventist Church in 1981, and when he heard about the work of ADRA he felt an overwhelming desire to help those in need. Don gladly went door-to-door in his community, encouraging people to support this worthy cause.

Not only has Don Parker raised a large amount of money each year since 1981, but he has also established long-lasting friendships within the Erdington

community and inspired some of these friends to consider Jesus as their Friend and Saviour.

This year has been a sad one for Don because of the loss of his son, David, who would also donate to ADRA each year, even sacrificing his holiday money for that purpose. Surely, both of them have set an example for others to emulate.

REBEKAH ECCLES



Romania Gift Box Appeal 2017

Worthing Church recently took part in the above charity event, which was organised by their Community Services Department. The response was very good, with 25 boxes being collected for families and the elderly in fulfilment of what Jesus said: 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me' (Matthew 25:40, KJV).

ELLIE ADAMS (COMMUNITY SERVICES)



WOV launched in Bradford

Bradford Central Church Women's Ministries Department launched its Women of Virtue (WOV) programme on 4 November last year under the writer's guidance. Present at the launch were Hyacinth Gayle and Faith Muimo, while our guest preacher was Sophia Munangati, who based her sermon on the Samaritan woman at the well and the day's theme, 'With Jesus we can, I can'. Her powerful message was well-received and definitely met the needs of the women present – not to mention the rest of the church. At the end of the service our pastor, George Hamilton, prayed for God to bless and help the whole church.

In the afternoon Hyacinth Gayle and Faith Muimo led a panel of church members in an enthralling 'questions and answers' session. Besides their contribution a number of our other church women and men also presented inspiring messages, songs, testimonies and prayers.

As part of the WOV launch, some women distributed literature to neighbouring houses and to people in the streets. Other women volunteered to serve a hot meal to the homeless at the Discovery House in Bradford. We really thank God that WOV is on the go in our church.

RUDO CHENGETA (WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADER)



This culminated in a seaside coach trip, fully funded by the church, which offered an opportunity to old and new community contacts to have a much-needed break with their children.

The return of autumn and the new school term ushered in a community harvest programme, as well as Parentalk, a programme the church is offering to the community for the first time, which allows parents a safe place to share and discuss parenting challenges, needs and strategies.

As the year draws to a close, plans are underway for a Christmas party for all the old and new contacts made before and during this year through our activities, to maintain contact before the new year's projects start.

Some of the activities that were not delivered due to several challenges are cooking classes, visiting older people and providing speakers at a community group that already meets regularly.

Having no church building has not stopped the church from ministering to the community. Though challenges in finding accommodation at regular and convenient times are inevitable, WBCC has managed to work around this, while raising funds and looking to God to provide a church building where these ministries can grow and diversify. Prayer has been the cornerstone of all the activities at WBCC and we solicit yours for the year ahead.

PILIRA ZAPITA

WBCC implements SEC vision

The South England Conference's 2017 Evangelism Expo was attended by almost every member of the West Bletchley Community Church (WBCC) board, plus a number of interested church members, regardless of whether they held a church portfolio or not. Not surprisingly, then, the church positively embraced the SEC's vision of 'Evangelism, Everyone, Everywhere' and its strategic quarterly plan. By February, WBCC had had conversations with the local council, deciphered community needs, offered community programmes and started planning their implementation, one at a time.

The food bank, a regular ministry over the past few years, was expanded from running quarterly to monthly. In June, the church became part of West Bletchley Carnival, where part of the SEC Pathfinder Drum Corps and the WBCC Pathfinders and Adventurers marched as second in line, arousing interest in the club from spectators. Additionally, at the church's carnival stand, members engaged with the community by inviting them to a challenge to drink more water and note the improvements in their health, and letting them sample tasty, freshly made vegetable and fruit juices, which proved very popular.

July saw the Mayor of Milton Keynes and his wife opening the church's health expo, where Dr Chidi Ngwaba was the keynote speaker; Millie Williams and her team carried out checks; Dr Gloria Mosha talked about mental health; and a volunteer from Bowel Cancer UK gave a presentation too. At the end of July a two-hour, week-long summer play scheme was 'resurrected', offering community children and their parents an alternative place to spend their summer days, engaging in a variety of activities: painting, ball games, crafts, and story time, to name but a few.

Could you help?

Claudia Tonetto is looking to buy a used set of *The Bible Story* by Arthur S. Maxwell.

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Hospice benefits from flower festival

Watford's Peace Hospice was the grateful recipient of a cheque for £6,200 during the main church service at Stanborough Park Church on 4 November last year – half of the proceeds of a flower festival held there last July. At the same time a cheque for that amount was also presented to senior minister, Pastor Jacques Venter, for the Church Development Fund.

Audrey has been organising flower festivals at the church since 1981 and chose the words 'Soli Deo Gloria' – to God alone be the glory – as the theme for this year's festival, which was held to commemorate the laying of the church's foundation stone in 1927. A total of 36 floral arrangements, most of them sponsored by church members, were on display, each depicting an aspect of the church's life, including its various departments.

As in past years the flower arrangers of the church were joined by arrangers from other churches and from the NAFAS (The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies), including Geoff Fox and Yolanda Campbell, both of whom are Chelsea gold medallists.



Left and centre: Audrey Balderstone and Gemma Shortman

'everyone was astounded by how much had been raised ... it was a lot of money ... and was really going to help.' She calculated that the amount would fund an in-patient bed for eleven days.

To keep its services running it needs to find £4 million a year in addition to the grant it receives from the NHS, and, as there is a lot of competition with other charities for available cash, 'we couldn't do what we do without people like you in the community,' said Ms Shortman.

Also accepting a cheque for £6,200 was the senior pastor, Jacques Venter, who thanked the members of the congregation for their generosity in supporting the event. He also expressed his thanks to Audrey and her committee of five for the hard work they had put in to make the event a success. In closing he reminded his listeners of the reason behind holding the event – the church's ninetieth anniversary – and that the cheque would go towards paying off the debt incurred as a result of its recent extension and refurbishment.

JUNE COOMBS



Daniel Keshishyan tests for blood sugar

Health screening in Great Yarmouth

Our church in Great Yarmouth held another successful health screening session for the public on Sunday 8 October last year, something we have done at least twice each year over several years. The management of Market Gates Shopping Mall in the town centre have kindly given us the free use of space in their mall during all those years, for which we are

very grateful. As a result, a good relationship has been established between them and our church.

During the session 126 blood pressure measurements were taken, 124 blood sugar tests were administered, 90 people had their body mass index calculated, and 30 smokers were tested for their carbon monoxide levels. Out of eleven persons who sought medical advice, seven were referred to their GP.

Each time we hold these events we stock a large table full of literature, mainly on health and diet, but we include an assortment of spiritual booklets and magazines as well. Quite a number of people were seen browsing through these materials, and, while the health side drew most attention, several religious items were also taken, particularly the little book *Steps to Christ*.

Appreciation was expressed by many of the visitors who benefited from our services and the literature.

Our team looked very smart in their new white sweatshirts featuring the church's name and logo on the front, and 'Health Screening' on the back, so everyone could see that we are Seventh-day Adventists. While these sessions help to place the Seventh-day Adventist Church on the map, it is our prayer that they will also prove to be an avenue in directing individuals to Christ.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY)



Accepting the cheque from Audrey Balderstone, Gemma Shortman, the Peace Hospice's Community Fund-raiser, remarked how



A church with 'green fingers'

Sunday 15 October last year was a busy day for Plymouth Church. We gathered at our local Age UK Day Care and Dementia Centre at 10am, tasked with renovating the garden and making it more accessible for its elderly visitors.

Age UK (or Age Concern) is a registered charity which provides services, activities and events for the elderly and was established in Plymouth in 1942. Elspeth Sitters had the vision and drive to help alleviate the distress brought about by loneliness and deprivation experienced by older people in war-torn Plymouth and her legacy is still evident today.

Planning of the project started in spring (2017) and there were a few challenges along the way. The biggest obstacle was finding a sponsor to donate the wood needed to construct several raised flowerbeds allowing for easier maintenance and accessibility for those in wheelchairs. Unfortunately the sponsor dropped out at the last minute, but with a lot of prayer and organisation the project was still able to go ahead.

The project was organised by Pastor Clifford Herman with the expertise of Ray Hall and the writer, both of Ray Hall Landscape and Ground Maintenance Ltd. Before the work could begin wood was delivered to site, along with topsoil, compost and plants. The volunteers were very enthusiastic and made light work of clearing the garden of the old, worn-out plants and shrubs. Then building and planting began. Some worked for a few hours while others stayed until the end (6pm).

The following Sunday Pastor Herman, Matthew and the writer returned to the garden for a few finishing touches, which included pressure-washing the paved pathways. This made a big difference and the Age UK staff were thrilled with the end result.



This year the Plymouth church has put special emphasis on community support and development projects such as cooking for the homeless, visiting care homes, running health expos and our messy church programme. The biggest highlight for the youth was our recent mission trip to Moldova (Project Moldova) in support of our global community.

It is hoped that the new garden will be used and maintained by the elderly visitors to the centre, as many people, both young and old, enjoy the therapeutic benefits of gardening. Everyone left the site exhausted but happy in the knowledge that the garden will bring joy to those that enter it.

JENNIE HALL

Hackney's Gift Box Appeal

Members of the Hackney church did their bit for the ADRA Gift Box Appeal last year. While younger members spent time creatively decorating the gift boxes, the senior members carefully packed the boxes with donated items which will make a real difference in the lives of those who receive them.

For Petra Prince, the whole process was a humbling experience. 'Throughout the year it is so easy to become so focused on our own families and issues that we forget that there are others around the world who are suffering, often through no fault of their own. It's occasions like these which remind us of how truly blessed we are to make a difference in the lives of others.'

Volunteering her time alongside the young people was Ann Williams, who thought of how delighted the children would be at receiving them. 'It was a pleasure to pack the boxes and be working alongside the young people,' said the 87-year-old. 'The thought of knowing how much joy these gift boxes bring to the children who receive them is priceless and brings great warmth to my heart.'

DARELL J. PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)



Audrey Balderstone visits Newbold

A unique golden-orange and russet autumn flower arrangement created by Audrey Balderstone during her sermon at Newbold Church on 28 October last year. She took the opportunity to remind the congregation, as Jesus did, to consider the flowers (Matthew 6:28).

PHOTO: BRIAN PILMOOR





Birmingham graduation

On Sunday 22 October last year the Birmingham 'Reversing and Preventing Type 2 Diabetes' programme held its graduation, the culmination of an eight-week series which began on 3 September. It was



West Bromwich Thanksgiving Day

On Sabbath 22 July last year a special thanksgiving service planned by the Asare family was held at West Bromwich Town Hall. This was to celebrate God's miraculous delivery of Judith after a near-fatal road accident on 19 July 1992, twenty-five years earlier.

As so eloquently put by Pastor Perry, 'That day the doctors gave Judith a 20% chance of survival, but God gave her 100%!' She has taken advantage of her miraculous survival to bless others, both in the church and in the community.

The day was well attended, with church members coming from as far afield as Bristol, Watford, London and Manchester, as well as several people from the local community. The Deputy Mayor was in attendance in the morning and she spoke of her appreciation for the community work done by Judith over the years.

Pastor Burnett presented his sermon on the importance of gratitude, drawing lessons from the story of the cleansing of the ten lepers in Luke 17.

The afternoon programme was given over to testimony and praise with something for everyone, young and old. Even the children were quite engaged and held spellbound by the testimonies – stories of God's intervention in the lives of ordinary people. God is still in the business of performing miracles today, and this was a wonderful occasion to share some of these stories to inspire and encourage one another.

Musical performances showed the profusion of talent, from the children who sang and played instruments to the adult artistes and choirs whose voices must have blended with angel choirs.

The proceeds from the day (£300) were sent to the Mont Rose Seventh-day Adventist school in Grenada – Judith's alma mater – to help purchase books and equipment.

A CASTELLINO

run from the prestigious John Lewis Community Hub at Grand Central Station in Birmingham and attended by more than 30 people weekly. The North England Conference (NEC) sponsored the training under the leadership of Grace Walsh, NEC Health Director, and it was co-ordinated by Jacquie Halliday-Bell, Health Leader of the Mission to the Cities (MTTC) Birmingham. These timely presentations were delivered by Pastor Paul Haworth, former Area 4 co-ordinator, now retired; Grace Walsh; Jennifer Distin; and Colleen Dixon. The participants' glucose and cholesterol levels were monitored every week by Frederica Reid and her team.

The Reversing Diabetes programme encourages a healthy lifestyle through the NEWSTART methodology, which is an acronym for Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, Trust in divine power. Participants were cautioned not to try any of the things suggested in the programme

without first checking with their doctor, and the information was distributed with the understanding that it was not meant to replace the advice of any medical professional presently caring for them.

There were many encouraging testimonies at the graduation. Many of the participants mentioned how beneficial and life-changing the information had been and even commended the presenters for their professionalism and knowledge. One attendee from a Pentecostal Sunday-keeping church said that she would be taking the programme to her local church. Kathleen, an elderly lady who had been struggling to walk, could now do so unaided. She was also juicing and following a plant-based diet. Not all who attended the course were diabetic; some came on behalf of their family members. A lady from the local community said she came on behalf of her daughter who has diabetes, and that she passes the information to her.

The feeling was that the programme far exceeded expectations and that it had been well executed. Lasting friendships and good contacts were established during the course, and we pray that this community-focused work will reap a harvest in the city of Birmingham.

LUNGANI SIBANDA



Stanborough supports ADRA Gift Box Appeal

This year the Stanborough Secondary School once again supported the ADRA Gift Box Appeal by packing 106 boxes which will bring joy to children at the Ksizbia Refugee Camp in Rwanda.

During the last half-term break we loaded the school minivan with all the boxes, then strapped the seat belts over them to make sure they made it to ADRA's storage facility in pristine condition! From there, after quality control, they will start their long journey to Rwanda.

Our non-uniform day in aid of ADRA raised £205.55 for shipping costs, while our staff donated an additional £619.76 to top up all the boxes, making sure they were packed to the brim with toys and school supplies. A big 'thank you' to all for your generosity and commitment! Special thanks to Ms Sinclair, our Art teacher, who did a great job co-ordinating the decoration of the boxes. They all looked super attractive.

VANESA PIZZUTO

Three Missions pastoral retreat

If you've kept your finger on the pulse of global Adventism in recent months, you'll know that *unity* has become somewhat of a buzzword for the Adventist Church. But what does unity look and feel like in the context of ministry in the remote missions of the British Union Conference? At the recent Three Missions pastoral retreat (30 October to 2 November last year) in Corrymeela, near Ballycastle in Northern Ireland, it began with pastors standing in a circle, looking each other in the eye, and saying each other's names.

It's easy to say the names of the people you work with every day, but when there are two dozen or more colleagues in the room who you do not often connect with, because they live and work across the Irish Sea, or in a church district that is as remote as yours, this becomes a bit more of a challenge. But taking time to learn each other's names and say them correctly suddenly makes the meeting more intimate and personal. And so we said 'hello' to each other over and over again, until we knew all the names of everyone in the circle.

Circles featured prominently in other parts of the programme as well, ranging from the small circles of ministerial colleagues in deep discussion with each other, to the guest speaker's use of concentric circles to explain the structure of Adventist belief.

The three Missions have an ongoing tradition of meeting like this every second year, each taking turns to host the event.

The purpose of these pastors' retreats is a mixture of professional development, reflection on ministry and spiritual life, networking and relaxation. Mornings were filled with worship and training while the afternoons were devoted to exploring some of the beautiful features of the Northern Irish landscape. In the evenings we gathered again for some business, worship, and social interaction.

Dr Reinder Bruinsma, a veteran pastor, church administrator, historian and author from the Netherlands, provided the training component. Addressing the issue of unity and diversity from a scriptural perspective, Reinder illustrated how the Bible often emphasises unity and diversity at the very same time. The Israelite creed – that there is one God – stands side by side with the fact that there is a 'three-ness' about God that cannot be separated from His oneness. Human beings demonstrate this same mixture of unity – human beings are holistic creatures – and diversity – we're created male and female, we are different from each other. This diversity creates the conditions for families to exist, communities to take shape and meaningful relationships to develop.

In another lecture Reinder drew a distinction between the experience of faith, and doctrine. If *faith* is built upon assurance and conviction (Hebrews 11:1), *doctrine* is the grammar, or the underlying structure, of the language that we use to give expression to our faith. Doctrine is often developed in the context of a disagreement about matters of faith or a need to give a better explanation for what one believes. In Adventism, there has always been resistance to viewing doctrine as a creed. Dr Bruinsma gave a helpful description of how doctrine functioned in the life of the Adventist Church, both historically and in the present day. These presentations were received as refreshing and educational. At the end of the presentations the pastors each received a copy of his latest book, *Facing Doubt: A Book for Adventist Believers 'On the Margins'*.

'I was able to reconnect with colleagues and it was good to catch up and encourage one another. I also enjoyed listening to a very balanced and optimistic set of presentations by Dr Bruinsma and feel very encouraged about the future,' said Marcel Ghioalda, pastor in



Dundee, Scotland, reflecting on the week.

Various members of the British Union leadership team attended the meeting. The Treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, was accompanied by Pastors Eglan Brooks (Ministerial Secretary), Paul Lockham (Associate Secretary) and Ian Sweeney (President). They conducted the worship during the retreat.

The venue for this retreat was The Corrymeela Community: Northern Ireland's oldest peace and reconciliation organisation. They began before 'The Troubles' and continue their work in Northern Ireland's changing post-conflict society. The organisation numbers almost 40 full-time staff and dozens of volunteers who work alongside the eleven thousand people who spend time in their residential centre every year. The Corrymeela Community have a daily worship practice of gathering in a circle, in a beautiful chapel, *The Croi* (Irish for heart) for a period of silent reflection and prayer, followed by the saying of a communal 'Prayer of Courage'. Despite a busy programme, several pastors from the three Missions were able to join this circle of devotion each morning.

Other activities included excursions around the picturesque County Antrim coast. One afternoon the group chose to visit the Giant's Causeway. On the second afternoon they made a quick boat trip to Rathlin Island, a remote, sparsely populated island off the north coast of Northern Ireland.

The end of the retreat came all too soon with a worship by Earl Ramharacksingh. 'Imagine a circle, and inside this circle are you, your family, your home and your belongings,' he said. 'It is a place of safety and security, a bed to sleep on, and food in the fridge. What might happen outside of that circle? Perhaps there are areas of the unknown, threats and even events or places that do not resonate with peace and security. But there is also opportunity, the ability to reach out and find others who, in their own way, have circles, and are also just looking to embrace security and peace. Perhaps it is a place of taking risk, in order to find them, but then also a place of growth and prosperity.'

After this last talk, the pastors reluctantly packed their suitcases and made their way back to their home districts and ministries. But they did so with the conviction that they are part of a strong, united team with a unified vision of reaching the world with a message of true love and peace.

The Welsh Mission will host the next Three Missions retreat in 2019.

PASTOR WIERS COETSER

ASNA launches book of poetry

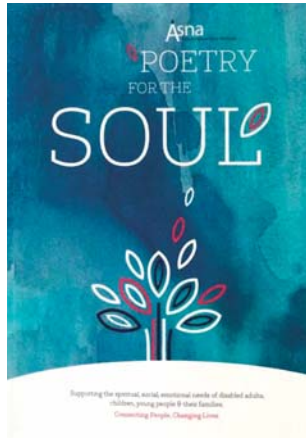
ASNA launched its first book of poetry, *Poetry for the Soul*, at the celebration banquet of the annual carers' respite retreat on 30 September last year. The retreat took place at the Jury's Inn, Oxford (29 September – 1 October) and it provided an oasis of calm and rest for the unpaid carers who attended. There are an estimated 6.5 million carers in the UK, many of whom experience health and emotional challenges as a result of their caring responsibilities. This retreat provided peer, emotional, physical, mental and spiritual support for them, enabling them to 'recharge their batteries'.

The book *Poetry for the Soul* is the first of the new intergenerational projects ASNA is working on. This edition has been written by two carers – a young carer, Rebekah Eccles, who has a sibling with autism, and an older carer, Jay Kay Harris, who has a grandson with severe learning disabilities. The book presents the authors' reflections on their experiences as carers and the impact of their faith using the medium of poetry. They hope it will inspire many.

Dr Paulette Ogun, ASNA volunteer and educational psychologist, says, 'I found a couple of excellent poems that speak to me; I think that the authors have put their heart and soul into it. It's well worth having; it's very encouraging.'

SOPHIA NICHOLLS (ASNA DIRECTOR)

Poetry for the Soul can be ordered through: infoatasna@gmail.com or Lbuzac@secadventist.org.uk.



Hospital ward helps ADRA

The Rosa Burden Neuropsychiatric Ward at Southmead Hospital in Bristol has again been involved in the ADRA Gift Box Appeal for the third year running. The staff, which range from doctors and mental health nurses to registered adult nurses and secretaries, were once again delighted to be a part of the project by filling 25 gift boxes. The manager, Penny Crawley, has been particularly supportive and encouraged the idea to embrace community services for the ward at large. Mary Philip (Health, Community and Disability Ministries Leader for Bristol Central Church) is also a registered nurse who has worked on the ward since 2011. Mary is well known on the ward and has a great rapport with all the staff. It was during one of her shifts that she was introduced to Penny Crawley, a mental health student nurse at the time. Penny and Mary maintained a connection not just as colleagues, but as friends, and Penny was always willing to support initiatives that were brought to her attention. Mary remembered the time when her grandson lost his home and possessions through a tragic fire and the entire ward came together to support him financially. Sadly, one of the secretaries who also strongly supported these initiatives has passed away and will be truly missed.

Pastor Smith, who came to collect the boxes on 19 October with Mary, has been very encouraging and commended her hard work and dedication to the church's and ADRA's projects.

Special thanks to the Rosa Burden Centre for all their commitment and support during times of need.

MARY PHILIP



Ninette Finck turns 100!

The oldest member of Wimbledon Church celebrated her hundredth birthday on 5 November 2017, and on 11 November the church served a lavish celebration lunch for her. Ninette, originally from Mauritius, was a primary school headmistress before relocating to London with her family almost 60 years ago. She comes from a family of Adventists and was actively involved in the church.

After relocating to London, Ninette attended Finchley Church, then Wimbledon Church, where her brother, Dr Karl Noel, was an elder. She has attended Wimbledon Church for about 40 years, serving the Lord faithfully in various ministries, as well as helping others whenever she saw a need, well past her ninetieth birthday. Ninette enjoys good health and still walks unaided. The church celebration was attended by almost 100 people, including one of her sons and two of her neighbours. They were impressed by the generosity, kindness and friendliness of members of the church.

Pastor Arthur Campbell gave a speech and thanked the Lord for Ninette's milestone birthday. She was presented with a bag full of gifts from Wimbledon Church, and birthday cards and best wishes also came from Kingston, Wallington and Hackbridge Churches. The women's and hospitality ministries did a wonderful job in providing a sumptuous lunch and a beautiful cake. May the Lord continue to bless Ninette with good health and wisdom for many more years to come.

INA CHAPMAN



Children helping children

For the third year in a row, Glenfrome Primary School in Bristol has taken part in the ADRA Gift Box Appeal. Billy Odumzor (Chairman of the Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee), Nelson Khonje, Monica Grizzle and Anessa Black took the school assembly on 12 September, and reminded the children about the challenges that some children face in order to gain an education. They also discussed the contents of the boxes and the timeframe by which they were to be collected. The children were excited to take the empty boxes home and managed to fill up 25 boxes by the deadline.

The School Head, Mrs Inger O'Callaghan, has welcomed and encouraged many of the church's activities such as regular cooking and exercise classes, and most recently the Area 2 School of Evangelism and Mission Leadership. The school has become a base for these community activities since 2014 when the writer approached the head to discuss working in partnership with them on some of their projects.

MARY PHILIP

Hurricane relief concert

On 11 November Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, Birmingham hosted an outstanding concert to raise funds for the hurricane-ravaged communities of the Caribbean, where millions are still struggling to rebuild their lives.

ADRA is doing stalwart relief work in the following locations: Saint Martin/Sint Maarten; British-dependent territories of Anguilla and Tortola; Puerto Rico and Barbuda; The Turks and Caicos Islands; the Dominican Republic; and Haiti.

One of the concert's musicians, Kamau, from the British Virgin Islands, spoke of his personal experience of hurricanes in the Caribbean. Now living in Kent, he had travelled to deliver two wonderfully uplifting saxophone items and described his family's flight from their home. His suffering relatives remain on the island, in need of support. His testimony decided the destiny of the concert's funds.

The evening's programme included





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Sunset
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	Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Jan 12	4.16	4.29	4.14	4.06	4.24
19	4.27	4.40	4.25	4.19	4.37
26	4.39	4.52	4.38	4.33	4.50
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inspiring instrumentals and a wide variety of vocal items which showcased the region's wealth of talent.

During the offering, video footage outlining the extent of the effects of the hurricanes in the Caribbean was shown. The desolation and devastation some families experienced was evident. The audience gave generously and further contributions were also made from the sale of aloe vera products, books and refreshments. A generous sum of £1,000 was raised. All in all this event enabled a wide range of churches across the West Midlands to participate in fund-raising for a cause that many of us could identify with.

This sum of money will go some way to address situations that many friends and family of West Midlands members are enduring.

JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL

FIRST BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE

ADVENTURER CAMPOREE

26-29 July 2018

Guest Speaker
Richard Aguilera

Genesis

BUC Office: 01923 672251 Pr Dejan: 07919 172176

bucyouth@adventist.org.uk adventistyouth.org.uk

South of England Showground, Ardingly
West Sussex RH17 6TL

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Dominican Republic

REPAIR PROJECT

BUC YOUTH MINISTRIES MISSION PROJECT

SPACE IS LIMITED

25th FEB - 4th MAR 2018

£ 220
for food & accommodation,
plus cost of flights to Las
Américas International
Airport (SDQ).

TO REGISTER:
PASTOR DEJAN STOJKOVIĆ
EMAIL: bucouth@adventist.org.uk
MOBILE: 07919 172176
WEB: adventistyouth.org.uk

QUESTIONS:
PASTOR CARLOS PATRICK
EMAIL: jpatrick@secadventist.org.uk
MOBILE: 0785 33 222 42

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITES YOU TO

Project Ghana 2018

MARCH 30th - 11th APRIL 2018

Projects:

1. Renovating Community Library at Big Ada
2. Renovating Kwadasao SDA Hospital Children's/Maternity Ward
3. Evangelistic Campaign

Costs: £1,000 per person
all inclusive

"Join this life changing mission today"

If you're interested, meet us on Sunday Feb 4th 2018 at 11am
at the SEC Offices, 25 St Johns Rd, Watford WD17 1PZ

LIKE US Project Ghana 2018
EMAIL 2018projectghana@gmail.com
PHONE 01923 232 728

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Mission 2 Zimbabwe 2018

Zimbabwe needs you!

Come with us to

Mission 2 Zimbabwe
July 1 – 28, 2018
(Travel Time: optional)

Zimbabwe

Needs:

- Volunteers
- Nurses, Builders, Diabetes & HIV/AIDS Specialists
- Intercessors, Evangelists, Bible Workers
- Food, Clothing, Medical Supplies

Cost of Mission Trip: £1400
Please register your interest with a non-refundable
deposit of £150 due by Friday January 12, 2018.
Final payment to be made April 20, 2018

For more information please contact:
Otilia: 07852497246
Elsie: 07923679962

Email: mission2zimbabwe@hotmail.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted