

Manchester North East is born

by Lungani Sibanda (NEC Communication and Media Director)



music was jubilant and reflected the vocal nuances of a contingent containing many from the southern part of the African continent. It was exhilarating and infectious.

According to Manchester North Church's historian, Leroy Taylor (elder), in 2016 it had been noticed that there were times when some members were having to stand during services due to a lack of space and chairs. Even the overflow room was filled to capacity. This lack of space caused a select few to 'hive off' and create a church plant, which Pastor Michael Simpson explained as 'a process whereby a pastor or leader within an existing church enlists a core group of people from the mother congregation and starts a new church in a nearby community'. This method of church planting apparently has one of the lowest failure rates. Pastor Simpson went on to say that he had not played a significant role in the inception of this plant, although he had supported them where he could. It seems to have been largely a labour of love by the members of the mother church, with them nursing the plant to what it has become.

After his sermon Pastor Jackson thanked the local pastor and Bible worker for the tremendous work they are doing in the area. He also commended the local congregation and the visitors for their support, and mentioned that it was in God's plan that Manchester North East emerge as a church.

Please keep this young church in your prayers so that they will reap a bountiful harvest in their efforts to extend God's Kingdom.

It is easy to surmise that the newly organised Manchester North East Church is a small congregation tucked away in some remote little corner of Manchester, as its name might suggest. Here, however, is a fun fact for you: to date, Manchester North East is actually the largest church plant to have been organised into a church in the North England Conference.

The organisation ceremony was conducted by Pastors Richard Jackson (NEC President), Alan Hush (Executive Secretary), George Kumi (Ministerial Association Director) and Michael Simpson (Church Planting Director). The host was Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, the local minister. Other departmental directors and sponsors who were there in support were Pastor Patricia Douglas, Grace Walsh, Clive Palmer, Pastor Victor Marshal and Lungani Sibanda. There were also representatives from other churches who came bearing gifts, as is the norm at such occasions. The local Pathfinders were there in full force and regalia, and they ceremoniously led the platform party to their seats. The worship



How healthy are you? Part 2g – the HEALTHY format

You

In this final instalment of the HEALTHY format, we emphasise the importance of self-care as a health priority. We highlight the 'Y' in the HEALTHY acronym, which refers to 'you'.

Recently, while visiting a family member in hospital in Jamaica, I was intrigued by the hospital billboard advert, which read: 'Your Health Is Your Responsibility.' Interesting. Were they shouting a disclaimer or simply telling people to look after themselves? Knowing the cultural tone, my siblings and I chuckled, but realised that, in fact, the question posed an opportunity for self-reflection.

So, how are you taking charge of your health? Are you balanced in the areas of spiritual, emotional, physical, relational and social well-being? This is an important question, as scientific studies demonstrate that people who take time to balance all aspects of their well-being have better health outcomes and increased longevity. One study by the Harvard Medical School emphasises this fact in their 'Tips for a Longer Life' article, giving the following ten essentials:

- Don't smoke.
- Enjoy physical and mental activities every day.
- Eat a healthy diet rich in whole grains, vegetables, and fruits, and substitute healthier monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats for unhealthy saturated fats and trans fats.
- Take a daily multivitamin, and be sure to get enough calcium and vitamin D.
- Maintain a healthy weight and body shape.
- Challenge your mind. Keep learning and trying new activities.
- Build a strong social network.

- Follow preventive care and screening guidelines.
- Floss, brush, and see a dentist regularly.
- Ask your doctor if medication can help you control the potential long-term side effects of chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, osteoporosis, or high cholesterol.

Other studies point to the impact of work-life balance and its health outcomes. Research in the area of psychology found that poor work-life balance acts as a work-related stressor. Consistent analysis from various studies demonstrates the association between work-life imbalance and stress responses, which causes problems such as raised blood pressure, increased heart rate and elevated cortisol levels.²

Exercises:

- Take a moment to assess your own lifestyle practices in terms of your work-life balance and take care in all segments of your life.
- Ask yourself, 'How health-enhancing is my spiritual life, work, rest and social interaction?'
- Note the time taken each day for spiritual nurture, work, sleep, leisure and social activities.
- Prioritise your self-care.

Good health!

¹ <https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/tips-for-a-longer-life>
² Grzywacz, J. G., Butler, A. B., and Fink, G. 'Work-family balance', *Encyclopedia of Stress*, 2007, second edition, San Diego Academic Press (pp. 868-71)



It's cash-in-transit



causes, some will be tempted. That's why our Church has financial policies, carefully crafted procedures and regular audits.

There is, believe it or not, another way in which the Church is losing money, and it has our administrators deeply worried. Let me tell you a bit about it.

Cash-in-transit heists

I don't mean your ordinary type of heist (if such things exist), but the kind that took place on 14 March last year near Heathrow. It involved two security guards who staged a fake robbery involving £7 million – 19 large bags filled with money destined for the Bank of Ireland. They stole it from their own security van! **They were entrusted with it. It was in their care, but it didn't arrive safely.**⁴

Such cash-in-transit heists are not a new problem to God's Church. Malachi knew that they were going on in Israel around 425 BC and stridently expressed God's feelings about it in Malachi 3:8 (NKJV):

'Will a man rob God?
 Yet you have robbed Me!
 But you say,
 "In what way have we robbed You?"
 In tithes and offerings.'

They were like those *Loomis* security guards mentioned above. **They were entrusted with the responsibility of faithfully taking God's wealth from His fields to His temple treasury.** Sadly, they failed. Hopefully, His tithe is in safer hands today – yours and mine.

He has obligations too

The tithe appears to be an obligation we have to God. On the other hand, Malachi is quick to show that God places Himself under obligation too (Malachi 3:10, NKJV):

'Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
 That there may be food in My house,
 And try Me now in this,"
 Says the LORD of hosts,
 "If I will not open for you the windows of
 heaven
 And pour out for you such blessing
 That there will not be room enough to receive
 it.'

When we faithfully transport God's tithe from His field to His storehouse, in a spirit of fidelity, loyalty and love, He meets His obligations. I like the way that the late Rev. Billy Graham put it: **'We have found in our own home . . . that God's blessing upon the nine-tenths, when we tithe, helps it to go further than ten-tenths without His blessing.'**

It's never too late to start!

¹ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Church_\(Melaka\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christ_Church_(Melaka))
² <https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/church-warden-sentenced-after-stealing-more-than-35-000-of-grant-money-1-8768974>
³ <https://www.premier.org.uk/News/UK/Church-warden-facing-jail-after-30k-theft>
⁴ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/fake-staged-robbery-cps-guilty-cash-van-heathrow-7m-a7984886.html>
⁵ <https://christianpf.com/tithing-in-the-new-testament/>

The Dutch conquest of Malacca City (Malaysia) from the Portuguese Empire in 1641 had immediate religious implications for the local population. Roman Catholicism had been the prevailing faith up till then, but the new colonial masters were quick to promote their Dutch Reformed faith in its place. To mark the change, the 'old St Paul's Church at the summit of St Paul Hill was renamed the *Bovenkerk* (Upper Church) and used as the main parish church of the Dutch community.¹ Then, after a century of Dutch rule, the local *burghers* (citizens) began building a new church, which was completed in 1753 and became known as Christ Church Malacca (Melaka).

Why am I telling you this?

Well, last week a good friend of mine sent me a photo of a notice, which appears to have been taken in the foyer of that very church:

'Do not leave your mobiles, purses, wallets [and] handbags unattended – others may think it is an answer to their prayers.'

My first reaction upon receiving this photo was to smile. But then I remembered something that happened to my wife during a worship service. We were living elsewhere at the time, and due to that country's rapidly devaluing currency our employer decided on one occasion to give us a double salary. This meant that we each went home that Friday afternoon with an extra-thick wad of bank notes.

Not wanting to leave such a lot of money at home, Elize stuffed that extra bundle of cash into the top of her handbag and thought nothing more of it – after all, we *were* going to church.

That Sabbath she kept her bag where she always did, next to her right foot, and there it stayed . . . until the pastoral prayer. For when she rose from her knees she knew something was wrong. Her bag had moved – been moved, backwards – and the thick wad of cash was gone!

Not wanting to believe her eyes, she quickly left the service to double-check. The cash was not there.

In a situation like that one experiences many conflicting emotions and clashing thoughts. First the voice of self-condemnation: *'Was I too trusting? Could I have stuffed the money even deeper into the bag? Perhaps I was just too naïve to think that all Sabbath-keepers keep all the commandments.'* Then the demon of suspicion and conjecture speaks: *'I know who was sitting directly behind me. That person could easily have reached into my bag. In fact, no one else could have done it without being noticed.'*

How could this have happened?

It did, and still does?

Sometimes theft in the church involves much more than a parishioner's unguarded purse or mobile phone. Take, for example, two very recent cases where local wardens have boldly helped themselves to their congregation's funds. One stole grant money he had obtained 'for the restoration of a Northumberland village church', spending it 'on private members' clubs, train tickets, petrol and supermarket bills, as well as hundreds of pounds at the local butchers.'² Yes, all £35,690 of it! The other has been 'found guilty of stealing £30,000 from church accounts' at St Thomas' in Longford, Coventry, 'to pay for a car, a cleaner for his house and football season tickets.'³

In case you mistakenly think, however, that the 'remnant' are immune to such problems, most pastors will tell you that we aren't. Wherever money is entrusted to the Church for God and His good

Extending God's Kingdom

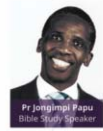
North England Conference
 Camp Meeting 2018

Nurturing Each Other
 and Winning Another

25 June - 1 July
 Pontins • Southport



Pr Steven Riley
 Main Speaker



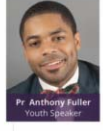
Pr Jonathan Papp
 Bible Study Speaker



Pr Shawn Beesley
 Youth Speaker



Pr Lela Moore-Johnson
 Mid-day Meeting Speaker



Pr Anthony Fuller
 Youth Speaker



Dr Katia Reinert
 Health Speaker



Mr Dean Cullinane
 Youth Speaker



Mr Claude Edwards
 Song & Praise



Ms Valerie Dufour
 Children's Speaker

To make your booking, please call Pontins on 08714 7427765 quoting NA18, or send your application form directly to Pontins. More information can be found at www.necadventist.org.uk or contact the NEC Office on 0115 960 6312.



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Reclamation
 CAMP MEETING
 SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE
 18-24 JUNE 2018
 PONTINS PRESTATYN SANDS
 Central Beach, Barkby Ave
 Prestatyn LL19 7LA.

Adult Commitment Speaker
DR. CARLTON P. BYRD
 Breath of Life Speaker/Director
 NAD Field Secretary

June Price
 Youth Speaker

Dr Alanzo & Dr June Smith
 Family Life Speakers

Dr Elliot Williams
 Bible Study Speaker

Pr Isaac Lybird
 Juniors Speaker

Pr Edsel Cadet
 Teens Speaker

EVANGELISM EVERYWHERE

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Anger and the Christian

A relationship author and counsellor/therapist provides some help with a feeling that can be hard to handle.

I had put so much effort into doing a good job, in ensuring that my performance at work left nothing to be desired. I was proud of the years of service that I had dedicated to the organisation, a good few years. I had a good reputation and had even won awards in recognition of my impeccable service. But my world was torn apart when I was overlooked and another, less experienced, colleague, who had just joined the organisation, was promoted. I was not only very disappointed but also very angry.

Anger is an emotion that many of us experience on a regular basis. It can produce some of the most challenging behaviour – behaviour that may pose some serious risks and threats to our relationships with others, with ourselves and with God. But what is it about anger that makes it such an important emotion? Is anger itself always bad?

It is natural for us to become angry. It helps us relieve the tension or stress that we are feeling, which could result from a variety of causes, such as feelings of sadness, fear, unfair treatment or frustration. These feelings pose a threat to our safety and sense of worth, and cause our bodies to produce a chemical called adrenaline. As a consequence, our natural response is either to escape (flight) or fight back as a defence mechanism, a way of coping with the situation. This may mean that we choose to walk away from the issue at hand in order to cope with our angry feelings, or that we get into an altercation and shout at others or even become physically aggressive. Both these methods of coping with anger will most likely result in negative consequences. Walking away and not addressing or attending to the feelings of anger means that negative energy and emotions are stored within us and will most likely resurface later on. This could potentially cause bigger problems, such as our becoming abusive or violent, or being short-tempered and developing various physical symptoms such as

headaches, chest pains and high blood pressure. Becoming physically aggressive is likely to result in reputational damage, possibly even getting us into trouble with the law and hurting others and ourselves, compounding the problem.

So, if anger is a natural emotion, how should we as Christians conduct ourselves when we are angry? Ephesians 4:26 says: ‘Be angry, and do not sin’: do not let the sun go down on your wrath’ (NKJV). It is easy for us to understand that, as humans, Christians may sometimes get angry, but ensuring that we do not sin in the process is more challenging. In addition to praying, the key to avoid sinning as a result of our anger is learning how to practically manage it. If we are unable to manage our anger effectively, we can very easily be caught up in a vicious cycle such as the one illustrated in Figure 1.

Breaking the cycle

Self-awareness is key to understanding where we are in this cycle when we are angry. What really is making you angry? Is it just a current incident or is it a combination of both current and past incidents? How do you feel? Does your heart beat faster? Are you sweaty? Do your hands shake? Do you find it difficult to be coherent in your speech? Before you respond, take time to identify the source of your anger and how you are feeling. Acknowledge your feelings and think of what options you have in responding to them. Then find the best time to communicate your point of view and feelings as clearly as possible, but also be prepared to listen to the other person's point of view, as outlined in Figure 2.

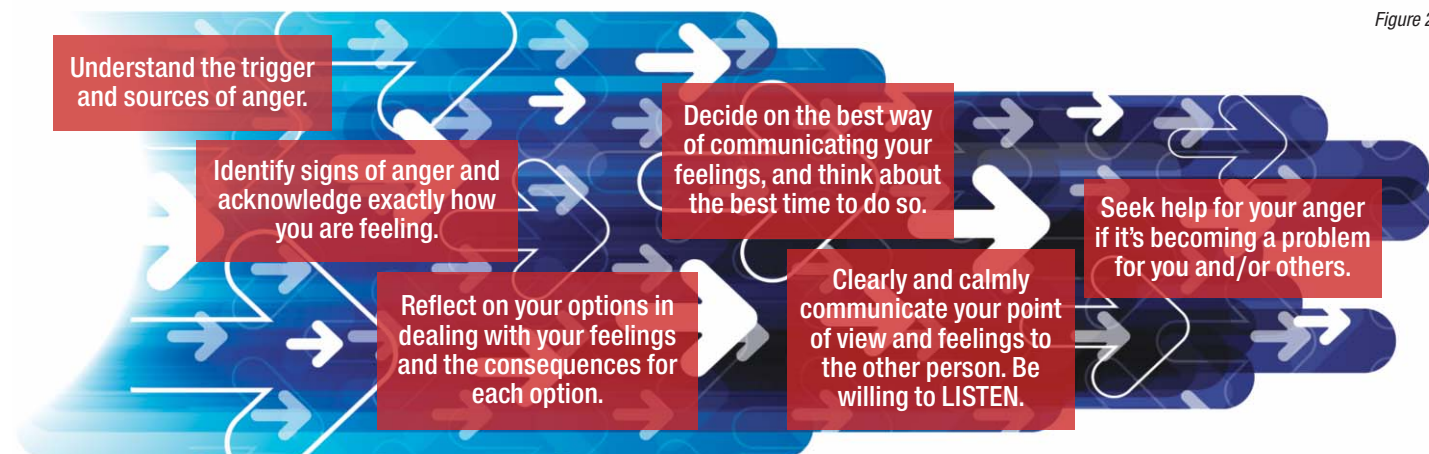
Managing anger – the way forward

Sometimes, the root causes of our anger are so deep that it is not always possible to resolve our anger problems by ourselves. We may not be aware of the reasons

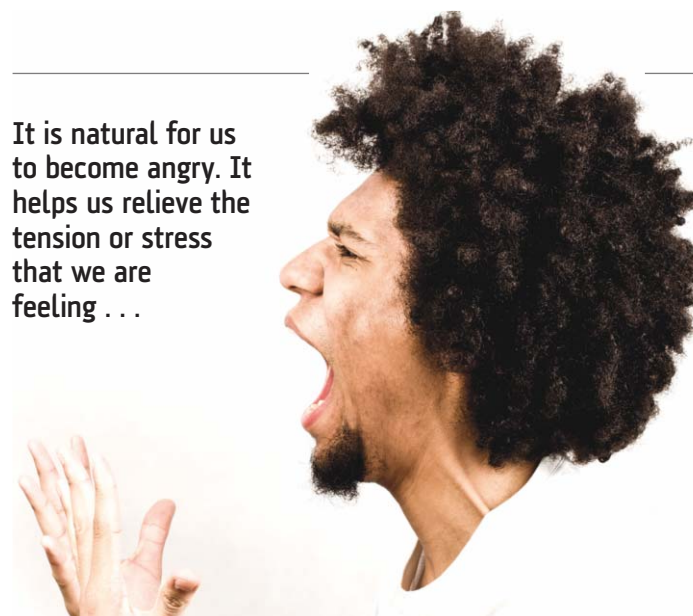
Figure 1



Figure 2



It is natural for us to become angry. It helps us relieve the tension or stress that we are feeling . . .



why we are truly angry, or our emotions may be out of our control. As Christians, we can always call upon God in prayer to help us and guide us, and He is always faithful to help us. As humans, God has designed us to live together as a community and be available to help each other. If anger becomes a problem, it can be very damaging not just to us as individuals, but also to those around us. Get professional help as a matter of urgency if your anger or the anger of a loved one is detrimental to you and those around you.

‘Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.’ (Ephesians 4:31-32, NIV.)

Job vacancy at ADRA-UK



ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Programmes Officer.

Key responsibilities include:

- Managing a project grants portfolio;
- Supporting implementing partners to deliver against objectives throughout the project cycle;
- Supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners to identify and develop high-value (£250k+) complex proposals (including M and E frameworks) and donor budgets;
- Investigating, sourcing and monitoring funds from government, public and private donors.

The desired applicant will:

- Hold a Master's degree in International Development/International Relations or a related subject;
- Have experience in working with government donors on grant applications;
- Have at least two years of experience in relief and development work;
- Have in-depth understanding of current relief and development issues;
- Have strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills;
- Have a passion for serving people and communities in need;
- Be an enthusiastic motivator;
- Be committed to ADRA's principles of development and the Seventh-day Adventist Christian beliefs.

For more information download the application pack from our website: <http://adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra/>.

The deadline for applications is 14 July 2018.

South England Conference Vacancy Radio IT Technician

Reporting to the Radio Director, the Radio IT Technician will primarily cater for the technical needs of the Adventist Radio Station. Based upon the applicant's knowledge of IT, additional duties will include providing some IT office support.

The successful applicant will implement suitable quality of service protocols to ensure the radio station has constant bandwidth and a secure connection. He or she will have extensive knowledge not only of IT but also of radio and audio.

The successful applicant is required to have a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in Computer Science, Networking Infrastructure, or a similar qualification, and a prior, proven track record, as well as experience working in a professional IT capacity. It would also be highly desirable for applicants to understand audio and audio equipment infrastructure.

Radio specific:

- Maintain a separate LAN for the radio station.
- Maintain a separate Dante network for the audio devices.
- Configure radio station encoders and monitor network bandwidth to ensure uptime and that quality transmission takes place.
- Assist with audio configuration tasks for radio studio recordings.
- Maintain and troubleshoot RCS Zetta and G Selector software to ensure smooth operation of the radio station playout system.
- Other tasks as necessary related to maintaining the radio station and troubleshooting.

The successful applicant will often be required to work hours which may fall outside the normal 9-5, especially as part of the Adventist Radio London team. They will also be required to work at weekends or during the evenings as the need arises.

Applicants should have their own transport and be able to travel. A clean driving licence is necessary.

Working 37.5 hours per week, depending on the level of experience and qualification, the annual salary range will be £21,903.96 to £28,162.20, which includes the London Weighting Allowance.

Applicants must have the right to work within the UK and will be required to undergo all necessary checks.

For an Application Form, Job Description and Person Specification, please email Mrs Jacqui Crawford at jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk.

The South England Conference is an equal opportunities employer.

Closing date: 31 May 2018.

Newbold School

Newbold School vacancy: KS2 Teacher

Years 3-4 (full-time or job share considered) for September 2018. Open to both NQTs and experienced teachers.

Newbold School is a small, independent, Christian primary school with a great family atmosphere, a dynamic team and small classes. We are known for our happy, welcoming ethos and fantastic pastoral care. Our teachers are valued and appreciated and are highly supportive of each other. We are looking for someone who is organised, creative and dynamic to join us – someone who genuinely loves teaching. The ideal candidate would also have a good sense of humour and a friendly personality, and would be professional, caring and flexible.

Visit our website for more information about the school. Contact Mrs J. Crissey to arrange a visit.

Contact details: Email: headteacher@newboldschool.co.uk;
Tel: 01344 421088;
Website: www.newboldschool.co.uk

From HP to SEC . . .

by Pastor Michael I. Walker

Mark and Norma Borrett both hail from Wales, where they met in Cardiff at Rumney College of Technology, as it was then called, and used to play badminton together. Norma was an Adventist and Mark a Baptist, but they both became involved in leading the local Christian Union. Upon completing their studies, Norma attended Sheffield University, where she obtained her degree and eventually went into teaching, but they kept in contact with each other. While she was at the university, Mark went into missionary outreach in Bradford. After that experience, he worked for the Leeds Permanent Building Society and rented a room from a young Seventh-day Adventist pastor with whom he struck up a good friendship. As a result, Mark became a member of Leeds Seventh-day Adventist Church. Around the same time, Norma graduated from university and they got engaged, then married the following year. Soon after that, Mark graduated with a degree in Computer Science from Huddersfield Polytechnic in 1990. They both went to live in Bristol, where Norma taught at a grammar school and Mark was employed by Hewlett-Packard (HP). His job required him to travel around Europe, but he was eventually offered a transfer to California as an IT director, an opportunity they both felt was worth taking.

They spent just over 22 years in northern California. During that time, as members of Gracepoint Adventist Church, they both served



in various leadership roles while Mark continued working for HP. One of those roles was Evangelism and Outreach Co-ordinator. He also served as a lay-pastor. Mark had often felt drawn towards full-time ministry and eventually he studied part-time to obtain his Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry from Andrews University. Then he began to look for a full-time ministry opportunity, which came in the form of

a call to the South England Conference, where Mark is now the pastor of the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft district.

His 28 years at HP will benefit the church directly as he applies technology in his daily ministry, especially to those who are unable to get to church. He intends to use both live-streaming and podcasts of the services to take the church to them!

Messy Church missionaries?

by Pastor Patricia Douglas, North England Conference Children's Ministries Director

Cherterfield Church recently dared to believe that they could impact their community in an unconventional way. With this in mind they invested in paints and other arts and crafts materials, along with messy things like soil, seeds and plant pots. They also ensured that there was lots of yummy food to eat, then opened their doors wide once a month to the children of the community.

Little by little the children have come in ever-increasing numbers. Last month they enacted the passion of Christ. Many may consider this a little bit of fun, but this week at school the impact of 'Messy Church' was quite amazing.

This is what my youngest son had to share about a day at school: in a class of religious education, the teacher said that 'The Pharisees called Jesus to say, "Stop these people praising You," because they were getting jealous and wanted the people to praise them instead. If Jesus stopped the people there would be silence.' But she was interrupted by a little girl who said, 'Oh, you've got it all wrong Miss, because even if they were quiet the stones would cry out!' The teacher proceeded to show a picture on the screen; it was a cartoon of the last supper. At this point a little boy put up his hand, followed by yet another boy, both stating that this was not the real picture, as the real one, as painted by Leonardo Da Vinci, portrayed Jesus and His twelve disciples. The teacher was astonished.

She then picked up a Bible story book and started reading about the

crowling cock and Peter's lies, and that 'Jesus was carrying the cross and a friend came and carried it because it was heavy and then Jesus died.' Once again the children began to fill in the missing details of the story: the dark sky, the earthquake and the temple curtain being torn in two. The teacher was amazed! The children began to share that they had learnt all these things by attending Messy Church and acting in a play. The other children were so excited that they said, 'We want to attend Messy Church!' When my son told me all this, I couldn't help thinking, 'Wow, they are Messy Church missionaries.' It's amazing what God can do with the unconventional!



Pastor Andrew Willis

Spring into health with the ADC

Our homes aren't the only things that need a good spring clean! The longer days and warmer weather remind us that it is time to improve our lifestyle and health habits.

In this regard, the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) offers a range of courses to help you live the healthier life you wish for!

Our general 'Health' course is a basic introduction which covers subjects such as nutrition, exercise, coping with stress, reducing health risks, and much more.

We also have a full range of courses including 'Coping with Stress', 'Taking Charge of Your Life', and 'Your World of Good Food'. We also provide a recipe book with ideas and suggestions for tasty dishes you may wish to try out for your family and friends.

At the ADC there are health courses to suit everyone and we look forward to helping you benefit from them.

Here's your choice

Would you like the opportunity to be one of the first people in the country to try our updated version of the 'World of Good Food' course? The ADC is looking for 20 people to test our new lessons before we offer them to the public. We would like to include a wide range of people in the trial, including those who are currently struggling with their health or diet. So, if you would like to transition from a meat-based diet to a more plant-based diet, or if you would just like to know more about better eating, we would like to hear from you. Participants in the trial will be required to provide feedback on the lessons and lifestyle outcomes. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Maureen Rock at info@discoveronline.org.uk by 25 May.

Our health courses also provide a ready-made resource for you to use in your church's evangelism cycle. If you are hosting a health expo, attending a community fair, going door-to-door, or holding a cooking demonstration, you will find our lessons, cards and course summaries an essential addition to your outreach resources. We are ready to help you reach your community and start changing lives.

New-look lessons

Some of the ADC's most popular lessons have had a spring clean!

Over the winter the Stanborough Press has worked with the ADC on a new version of the popular 'Start Into Life' course. This 14-part series is an ideal introduction to the bigger questions of life and has led many people to take their first footsteps on the Christian journey. It is a firm favourite with churches running local Discover Bible Schools and its contemporary design will attract many more students to discover God and His purpose and direction for their lives. This course examines the relevance of the Bible and shows how it answers the basic questions we all have. It then introduces students to a loving God and helps them begin a life of discipleship. The revised course will be available from the ADC soon.

Many members have studied the Voice of Prophecy's 26-part 'Discover' course, which is only available in Britain through the ADC. This course, covering the fundamentals of the Adventist faith through Scripture, has also recently been revised and updated. The ADC will have the new course in stock soon and will make it available to our

YOUR WORLD OF GOOD FOOD



1 COOKING FOR TASTE AND PLEASURE

students and local Bible schools. This course is a great introduction to our faith and has been used successfully in many churches in baptismal or new members' classes. If your local church is looking for Bible study materials, why not talk to us about how we can partner with you and help with the delivery of life-changing Bible studies?

Thank you

From time to time both our students and church members generously provide financial support for the work of the ADC. With this in mind, our team would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors, especially the student who recently gifted the amount of £1,000 to our cause. This donation has been assigned to a special project within the ADC. Once more, thank you for your contributions.

If you would like to purchase health resources for your church, enrol in a course or sign up your friends or family, contact the Adventist Discovery Centre on 01923 672606 or info@discoveronline.org.uk, or visit discoveronline.org.uk.



British Pathfinder Bible Experience – an ongoing success

This valuable Bible study programme was introduced seven years ago to the Pathfinder clubs in the South England Conference (SEC) and subsequently to the clubs in the British Union Conference (BUC). This year, however, has proved to be an exceptional year in the history of the Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE), both here in the UK and in the USA. To prepare for this year's testing the Pathfinders have been studying the books of Daniel and Esther and the introductory sections to both books in the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*.

Fourteen teams from the SEC achieved first-place status at the Union level of testing, thus qualifying them to proceed to the North American Division level of testing in the USA; however, only 10 teams were able to make the trip to the USA.

Of the 193 teams that qualified to attend the North American Division level of testing, 186 teams were present, including 10 from the SEC, five from the North England Conference (NEC) and one from the Irish Mission. This was the largest gathering of Pathfinders in the history of the event, with children from all corners of the North American Division and the BUC present.

The auditorium at Camp Hawthorne (Florida, USA) was packed to capacity, so much so that there was no room for spectators and a video link had to be live-streamed to a separate building where spectators could view the proceedings.

At the end of the testing nine teams from the SEC achieved first place and one achieved second place, while from the NEC four teams achieved first place and one achieved second place. The Irish Mission team achieved a first place.

SEC President, Pastor Emmanuel Osei, who joined the trip, was overwhelmed by the total number of young people, their enthusiasm and the whole buzz of excitement that surrounds the PBE. He had this to say: 'Perhaps we have not placed the great emphasis that needs to be placed on Pathfinding. I am definitely having a change of mind as I prepare to return to the UK, [and I want us] to place greater emphasis on Pathfinding, to see our young people study God's Word and be a part of God's church family.'

SEC Pathfinder Director, Pastor Kevin Johns, in commenting on the event, expressed his desire for his Conference to continue supporting the PBE: 'Right now churches with Pathfinders who took part in the Pathfinder Bible Experience have young people who know the books of Daniel and Esther exceptionally well, and I want to encourage those churches to use those young people by getting them to lead out in church studies on those books. . .'

As the event drew to a close, and the Pathfinders made their way back home, Pastor Johns said, 'I want to express my appreciation to all club

leaders, area co-ordinators, parents and pastors who have taken this event on board and are encouraging and supporting our Pathfinders as they continue with the Pathfinder Bible Experience, which is changing the lives of our Pathfinders.'

We look forward to even greater success and participation in next year's event.

PASTOR RICHARD DALY (BUC COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR)

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CONFERENCE 2018

SIGNS OF THE TIMES AMERICA AND EUROPE IN PROPHECY

DATE: 2-4 NOVEMBER 2018

VENUE: DEVERE STAVERTON ESTATE

ACCOMMODATION: SINGLE OCCUPANCY - £130 PER PERSON

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - £95 PER PERSON

PLEASE CONTACT JACQUELYN JOHNSON 01923 672251 PRESIDENT@ADVENTIST.UK

BOOK EARLY LIMITED SPACES

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



South Shields Pathfinder induction

Alex Simon, from Sunderland, would have been so proud to see the Pathfinders, Adventurers and Little Lambs gathering for their induction ceremony at South Shields Church. Alex, the former Pathfinder leader and well-known Pathfinder trainer in the North England Conference, was at home recovering from a recent injury.

The South Shields church has recently spent time and money renovating its facilities. Along with new windows, a full repointing of the building and much roofing work, the church has also had an influx of children, which has led to the need for a full range of children's activities in the church. The 17 children who were ready for induction are clear evidence that those new activities are working.

To the children the induction ceremony had a particular significance that went beyond the drill and the attention to detail. For Nicely the induction service 'will encourage me to be Jesus' disciple', while for Hannah 'the induction will help me to be like Jesus.'

Manuel Vieira, the current Pathfinder director for the church, was once the Portuguese Union Pathfinder director. He knows his ropes, and since retiring from legal practice he now runs this excellent club with a small staff – a teacher, a doctor, a taxi driver, an IT specialist and an



Photo quality as supplied

Stoke-on-Trent's unexpected witness

It was with a sense of despondency that the Stoke-on-Trent church met to worship at the premises of the Church of God (Seventh Day) on an industrial estate in Hanley on 10 March this year. During the big freeze a week earlier, a pipe had burst in their church, causing extensive damage due to flooding.

The sense of despair quickly lifted when the visiting Nottingham Male Voices burst into harmonious song, uplifting Christ. Then, for their next song, the Church of God (Seventh Day) personnel who were in the upstairs room, giving Bible studies of their own while Stoke Church rented their sanctuary below, came down to hear the beautiful singing. This became the pattern for the morning, with each song that was sung providing a glorious opportunity for witnessing.

The preacher, Tendai Rushwaya (a member of the Nottingham Male Voices), raised the question of whether there was hope in the world. He rounded off his sermon by making a call, and, while the Nottingham Male Voices sang the song, 'Never Give Up', a number of people came to the front. What started out as a gloomy Sabbath day ended with brightness, delight and hope. The Church of God (Seventh Day) members who were present then joined Stoke Church and its visitors in a delicious vegetarian meal.

The Nottingham Male Voices specialise in four-part harmonies made popular by the King's Heralds.

COMMUNICATION TEAM



art student. These children are not just well led but enthusiastically guided.

Highlights of the ceremony included Hannah Chan playing an excellent modern version of 'Amazing Grace' on her violin. Jonathan, a young Adventurer, opened the short sermon time with his description of what an induction ceremony is for, and explained that there were even induction ceremonies in the Bible. Matthew and Eve Zhikali showed that the earliest 'Pathfinders', the disciples of Jesus, were called into action for God to provide service to men and women. Nicely Hadjo charged her fellow Pathfinders that they were to recognise their induction as a similar call to service.

Local Area Pathfinder Co-ordinator, Simon Facey, led the children through the final part of the service and encouraged both them and their leaders to grow spiritually through the year and complete their coursework.

The club will soon be saying farewell to Manuel Vieira and his wife, Rute, and their daughter Katerina, as they head north to join the Aberdeen church. South Shields' loss is most definitely Aberdeen's gain.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

NEC Coming of Age Service

Celebrating the Milestones...

The first smile, the first steps, milestones are to be celebrated.

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER, 2018
PRESENT THE COMING OF AGE SERVICE IN YOUR CHURCH

Celebrate 4/5 year olds as they start school

Celebrate 11/12 year olds and their amazing complex minds!

Order your 'Coming of Age' packs today
Price: £6.95 + postage

For more information contact the NEC Children's Ministries Secretary:
Kathleen Williams Tel. 0115 960 6312

COPYRIGHT 2014 TO PR PATRICIA DOUGLAS, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED ©
Designs by KS Enterprise ©
www.kendraneswell.com

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Twenty years of humanitarian work in India

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of Stanborough Secondary School's humanitarian trips to India. Prior to that it had conducted charity trips to Romania and Albania.

The trips to India began in 1998, with a group of 14 travelling to a small orphanage in Thally, Tamil Nadu, to build a chicken shed to help it become more self-sufficient. The second project was to paint the newly constructed boys' dormitory, sponsored by the UK-based charity STOP International, at the same orphanage.

During the following seven years, International Baccalaureate (IB) students from the school worked on painting and maintaining the living accommodation at the BESSO orphanage and completing the work on its boys' dormitory; painting the new dormitory of the Way to Life children's home; painting the guard house at the Vocational Training Centre of STOP India; digging the foundations of a new school for deaf children; starting construction work on a power house at the VTC campus; working in an 'eye camp' for the Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital in Jalandar; painting and decorating a baby orphanage in Hosur; painting and decorating a baby unit at the Thally orphanage; and teaching briefly at the BESSO primary school. Following the termination of the IB programme, trips to India for the Year 10 students continue until the present day.

After months of preparation, this February five students and three staff from Stanborough School travelled to India to start two weeks of teaching at the BESSO primary school. Despite their inexperience, the three boys and two girls prepared their lessons just as trainee teachers would, and delivered ten 40-minute lessons every day for eight days. This takes a high level of discipline and physical energy, even for a trained teacher. The preparation began in England with photocopying as well as collecting craft resource material such as paints, coloured felt tip pens, balloons, pipe cleaners and many other useful craft items.

The students stayed at the Seventh-day Adventist church headquarters in Hosur, where they were made very welcome. To make the trip more enjoyable the timetable included two days of sightseeing and one day of shopping. The team visited the Maharajah's Palace in Bangalore and the beautiful Bannerghatta Wild Life Safari Park and zoo.

These trips are designed for the physical, mental and spiritual growth

and development of the students; so I asked them what their reflections on the experience were.

Samuel said, 'I have an overall good reflection on this trip to India. I had a great time teaching and helping out at the BESSO orphanage. I taught Fifth Standard. They are a class of seventeen, eight boys and nine girls. This trip has really helped me to move out of my comfort zone. I have built strong bonds with my students and I will miss them a lot. I have learnt to appreciate what I have and to lend a helping hand to those in need.'

Gideon said, 'To start with I enjoyed teaching at the orphanage. At first I found it hard as I have never taught before, but after a few days I got used to it; even though it was tiring, I still enjoyed it. In conclusion, I loved the trip overall and I would like to go back someday.'

Carl said, 'The past two weeks in India have been great and very interesting. I have enjoyed and learnt so much. . . . It was great to see the smiles on the children's faces as we taught and interacted with them. Overall I had a really great time in India and I would like to come back again and visit the children at BESSO. The only problem is that I would not really like to be a teacher again.'

Aisha said, 'Personally I enjoyed this trip to India a lot. I think that my favourite part was meeting and interacting with the children in BESSO. It was not the easiest thing I have ever done. . . . but I can happily say, it is one of the most memorable experiences of my life.'

Muskah said, 'Year after year I would sit on the same Stanborough chairs and listen to the previous Year 10 students explain how this trip changed their lives. However, I did not really believe that a trip could really be that moving. Yet I was wrong! I loved seeing the children so happy and enthusiastic with so little. I became extremely close to them, and in the end it was very hard for me to say goodbye. This experience has touched my heart, and I would surely love to come again.'

On the final day the Stanborough students supervised the annual sports day and helped distribute the prizes. The Stanborough students were also awarded prizes and certificates by the school principal for their teaching. To complete the experience the team arranged a special meal for the 70 children and 10 staff of the orphanage. The special menu was masala dosa and ladoos for dessert.

The Stanborough School experience is not only about academics, although we can boast about our excellent results. 'Character building is the most important work ever entrusted to human beings; never before was its diligent study so important as now. Never was any previous generation called to meet issues so momentous; never before were young men and young women confronted by perils so great as confront them today' (*Education*, page 225). Humanitarian projects such as these play an enormous role in building character. We believe that Stanborough School leads from the front in this area.

KISH PODDAR

Irish Mission members acquire CRM skills

On 9 and 10 March the Irish Mission hosted a Community Resiliency seminar presented by the Loma Linda University International Behavioural Health Trauma team. During these sessions we were introduced to the Community Resiliency Model (CRM), a set of skills designed to help individuals understand the biology of traumatic stress reactions and learn specific skills to return the body, mind and spirit back to balance after traumatic events. These skills can awaken the hope that has, for some, been lost after natural and human-made disasters.

Dr Beverly Buckles and her team discussed the biology of the brain and how it physically switches to survival mode when it is placed under stress or when it faces a threat. Survival mode brings with it many of the symptoms that are associated with trauma and resiliency decreases.

In one presentation Dr Buckles reflected on how learning this model changed her relationship to the Church as well: 'As an academic in the field of social work, I have often felt that my skills and chosen profession were relegated to the gritty side-lines, away from daily church life, where the main focus tends to be on spirituality and doctrine and the survival needs of the organisation. In learning this CRM programme this has changed. I believe it contains an essential set of skills that integrates beautifully into the lives of church members and general public alike, and truly has the ability to enhance well-being and life satisfaction. I feel that in teaching these skills we are really making a valuable contribution.'

The training event was attended by 35 members from across the Irish Mission, with good representation from the Cuisle Centre and Prehen Lifestyle Centre. At one point the CRM team remarked that the Irish Mission were by far the most responsive group they had encountered. There was plenty of discussion and questions.

There has been very positive feedback following these seminars, especially regarding a mobile phone app called iChill, developed by the Trauma Resource Institute. It is a useful tool, available for Android and iOS devices, which goes along with CRM and explains the model and some of the key techniques.

Simone Coetser reports, 'I'm a learning support assistant in a school in Derry/Londonderry. When I arrived at work on Monday after the training, a colleague asked what I had learned. I immediately launched the iChill app on my phone and showed her the resiliency images. I also played the audio of the 'Grounding' exercise. We've been practising similar skills with the learners that we support, but this is by far the best resource that we have found in this field. My colleague was impressed, and my supervisor arranged for a 30-minute slot for me to talk to the staff about what I had learned.'

Health Ministries Sponsor for the Irish Mission, Betty O'Rourke, made this comment: 'I thought the training was very beneficial and useful. It was a new dimension in mental health support – one I hadn't experienced before.'

Dr Petar Popivanov, from the Ranelagh church, was also enthusiastic: 'At the workshop a very simple tool to reduce stress was presented. This can be applied by anyone under any circumstances. It also reminded me of how amazing our nervous system is; how reserves and abilities to recover are deeply woven into our very nature by the Creator. Isn't this what God was trying to tell us all along? . . . It was great to see the achievements of the modern neuroscience, psychology and behavioural therapy hand-in-hand with the "old-time religion" in the powerful healing of brokenness and distress. After all, isn't that what salvation is – healing of our body, mind and spirit?'

HEATHER KEOUGH



For those interested:

A book by Elaine Miller-Karas that describes the model can be purchased on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Building-Resilience-Trauma-Community-Resiliency-ebook/dp/B00TU4FXRM/>.

 The iChill app is available for Android at: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tritcr.ichill&hl=en_GB.

 . . . and in the App Store for iOS devices at: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/ichill/id403527676?mt=8>.

For more information on the Trauma Resource Institute, visit: <https://www.traumaresourceinstitute.com/>.



THREE-MONTH PROGRAMME

Enable. Equip. Empower.
North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

10 June – 8 September 2018, * £1,650**

About the programme

PEACE offers a three-month, full-time intensive programme (with an optional fourth month) that focuses on practical evangelism and Adventist Christian education. The programme is designed for individuals of all ages who wish to develop a deeper relationship with God, and to learn how to effectively share their faith in a postmodern society.

Optional fourth month

The three-month flagship programme has an additional fourth-month option, which will further aid your development and growth. "If you were to stay on for the extra month, the finishing date would be 13 October, 2018. **This optional month costs an additional £650.

For more information and to apply, visit www.peacecentre.eu, email info@peacecentre.eu, or call Florence Manji, PEACE Assistant Administrator, on 07557 998729.



PBE Union-level testing

For the first time, Pathfinders from every unit of the British Union Conference (BUC) gathered and participated in the South England Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) at the Union-level testing held on 10 March, 2018, at Newbold College of Higher Education.

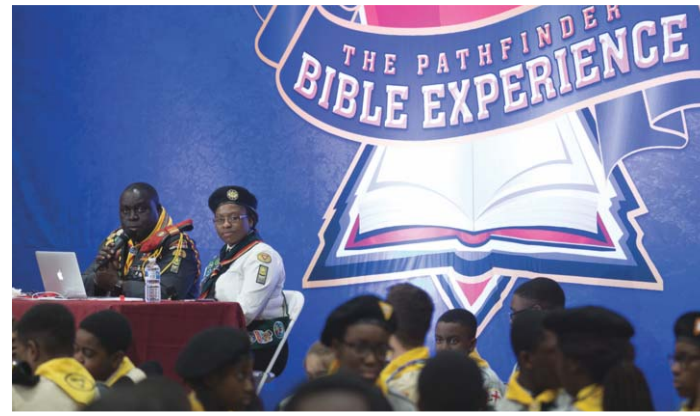
BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney, was surprised by how many people participated and was impressed by the seriousness of the programme. He said it was important that the Union do whatever they can to support this mission: 'An investment in our young people is an investment well worth making, because it secures the church in the future.'

This was the first time Pathfinders from the North England Conference (NEC) have participated. The six NEC teams that tested only studied for 16 weeks, and PBE Co-ordinator of the NEC, Levon Johns, was beaming with pride when he said: 'It's about fun; some people see it as a competition. However, it's about encouraging our Pathfinders to study their Bibles and enjoy doing it, and ultimately give their lives to Christ. It's about testing and understanding the word of God.'

Chelsea Ben, a young Pathfinder from Newport who was participating for the first time, explained that there are no age restrictions in joining the PBE; the only requirement is to be a Pathfinder. She used the words 'intense and challenging' to describe the testing process. The final testing for PBE 2018 was held in April in Florida, USA.

Pastor Johns would like to thank his colleague, Pastor Stojkovic, for the support from the BUC; the fellow Pathfinder directors and the executive officers from the BUC and SEC who served as judges; and the SEC area co-ordinators, in particular the SEC PBE Co-ordinator, Gloria Phillips, for organising the programme.

NATASHA PUJOLS



Kairos cookies

In March, the Grantham church was asked by the Kairos Mission team to bake special Kairos cookies. The cookies are a key part of this prison ministry, as the men taking part in the mission are given them as a symbol of the love and care of people 'outside'. They are then challenged to share a pack of cookies with someone in the prison they need to forgive or from whom they need to seek forgiveness.

Grantham Church provided six bakers, who baked over 200 cookies. The cookies were blessed by Pastor Solon Kyriacou before being passed on to the Kairos Mission team to add to the thousands of cookies being baked by teams of bakers from churches of all denominations across the East Midlands, the area served by HMP Stocken. All the prisoners and staff received a pack during the week of the mission.

In addition to the cookies, the congregation wrote messages of hope on prayer slips, which, when collated together from other churches, formed a prayer chain around the Prison Chapel. The Pathfinders also created colourful posters with inspirational thoughts, which were laminated to be used as table mats.

The mission has been a great success. Twenty-one men attended, of whom nineteen attended chapel the following Sunday and attended Bible study on Monday. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in the lives of these men that they may be 'salt' and 'light' within the prison, bringing others to know the healing love and forgiveness of God.

ELISABETH CARNELL

Concert attracts 200 to Stanborough Church

On Saturday 10 March, the eighth children's concert in aid of ADRA was held at Stanborough Park Church, with around 200 there to appreciate the performances of more than 40 children. The performers were between 5 and 19 years old and came from different backgrounds: Muslim, Hindu, Christian and non-Christian. Some of them have grown up taking part in the Children's Concert in aid of ADRA. During the event £2,136 was raised for ADRA.

The concert was organised and sponsored by Stanborough Park College of Music, and Jieun Ahn, the person in charge, was pleased with the outcome. 'All of them put in a lot of hard work to prepare for the concert,' she said. 'What impressed me the most was that normally, in such events, children tend to compete against each other. However, I didn't feel anything like that. They only encouraged and cheered each other on, whether they played well or not.'

Ana Brugos, mother of two of the children performing that night, described the benefits of music for her kids. 'They look forward to the practices and I hardly have to push them to study at home. They enjoy it and it also helps them academically. When they learn music, they are not only learning the techniques, but their teachers also put emphasis on the spiritual aspect of playing, reminding them that it is God who gives talents and that we should use them to bless others.'

ANNIE MALL

Brighton and Hove's Global Youth Day

For weeks the youth at the Brighton and Hove church had been planning for Global Youth Day, but when we checked the weather report the night before it we saw that it was scheduled to snow and feared that no one would show up. The weather, however, could not curtail the enthusiasm of our youth, and they were present on Sabbath, 17 March, prepared to go out into the community and minister to the homeless. The older church members offered to provide transport, but the youth respectfully declined and opted to walk and catch the bus, which made the moment even more meaningful.

To our surprise, as we got onto the busy streets of Brighton and Hove, we noticed homeless people wrapped in their blankets, trying everything they could to stay warm in the freezing snow. This brought sadness to many of us as we compared the comfort of our homes to the freezing conditions they were facing.

The youth divided into groups and distributed care packages to the homeless, containing water, snacks, plasters and socks. It was heart-warming to see the smiles on their faces as they received them along with our words of kindness and encouragement. Despite the cold outside, it was our mission to warm their hearts with our love and acts of kindness.

The youth were truly touched by this opportunity to give back to the community. Paul-Michael Sorhaindo had this to say: 'Taking time out to



Community Day at the Park

On Saturday 3 March, representatives from the emergency services and other community organisations visited Stanborough Park Church to share about their work in Watford and the ways to support them. The event, a first for Stanborough Park Church, was organised

by its Community Chaplaincy Service Leader, Enoch Kanagaraj.

During the day-long event Jagtar Singh, HM Prison Service Officer, described the work done to prepare prisoners for reintroduction into the community. Police officers told of their efforts to reduce crime in Watford, and the fire service taught attendees what to do in case of a fire in the home. Mencap-Watford shared how they positively impact the daily life of those with mental disabilities. Stanborough Primary and Secondary Schools also showcased their work with the community. Other community leaders present were representatives from the NHS, the justice system, and a women's centre. Information about homelessness, domestic abuse, and loneliness was also shared.

'Thank you for opening our eyes and ears to our community and reminding us of our Christian duty,' said Alison Burgess, one of the attendees. 'It was a really great day.'

provide care packages to the homeless was one of the highlights of my Global Youth Day. Seeing smiles of joy on people's faces reminded me 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]. God cares not only for our spiritual well-being, but our physical well-being also, and this has inspired me to be the sermon throughout the next year.' Gugu Sibanda said, 'I thoroughly enjoyed Global Youth Day as it allowed me to step out into the community and become the sermon. There was nothing more beautiful than myself and my fellow companions lighting up someone's day, smiling, laughing and listening to their journey!'

The fact that it snowed on Global Youth Day made the day even more powerful because we ministered to the homeless during a time when it would have been easier to have stayed indoors. This experience taught the youth to be grateful for what we have and to give without expecting anything in return. While Global Youth Day is just one day on the calendar, as a youth department we plan to reach out to the community more often as we strive to be the sermon!

YVONNE SEETAYAH

The visiting community representatives also appreciated the 'excellent event' and felt it was an incredible idea to build connections and raise awareness. Stanborough is already planning another community day for 2 June.

LYNETTE ALLCOCK

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Smart Love at Leeds Central

The first impression of an unsuspecting person who entered our hall on the evening of 11 March might have been that this was a wedding reception. The colour scheme was perfect – combinations of red, black and white. The floral arrangement, the backdrop, photo wall and decoratively framed table assignment lists as one entered the hall all showed that no expense had been spared in preparing for this grand occasion. However, this was not a wedding reception; it was a graduation banquet – the culminating event of the Smart Love seminar held at the Leeds Central church. It was sponsored by the Children's Ministry Department of the NEC, and we were privileged to have in attendance Pastors Patricia Douglas (the director) and her husband, Carlton. Patricia delivered the charge and offered a special prayer of consecration for our graduates.

This was the second of two 'graduation banquets' held in the district. The first, on 19 November last year, honoured youth from the Beeston and Leeds New Generation churches for having completed the programme.

Smart Love is a seminar geared to empower young people with information, ideas and biblical principles to make smart choices in forming wholesome, godly relationships. Youth between the ages of 14 and 18 attended the seminar, covered in six sessions and held over two weeks.

The presenters – Kevin, Joslyn, Cathy, Nossisa, Roxan and the writer – used various approaches engaging with the participants, and the assessment carried out at the end reflected a high level of satisfaction with the content and delivery of the seminar.

The evening, hosted by Abel, our MC, was filled with spectacular food by top chefs, inspirational words and uplifting music by talented individuals. To round off the night, the graduates received their certificates and gifts, the *Smart Love* book. As a church family, it is our duty to give guidance, support and nurture to our young people about their future relationships. This is just one of the many seminars we will run in the future.

PASTOR S. GARDNER

Breath of Life graduation

March 17 was a very special day for the Breath of Life church in Smethwick because they graduated ten young people who had completed the Smart Love seminar.

The Family Ministries Department (under Mrs Mloyi's guidance) arranged the seminar, which ran from 21 February for six consecutive Sundays from 3pm to 5pm. The tutors were Pastors Eric Lawrence and Obinnaya Iheoma and one of the elders, Micho Moyo. On the first Sunday there were 18 participants from the Breath of Life and Ladywood churches.

Smart Love involves frank dialogue with young adults about dating, love and sex, and it seeks to provide biblical principles and other practical information about the delicate matter of relationships and sexuality. It instils a strong foundation of values for our youth and encourages them to abstain from sex until marriage.

Throughout the course the participants use workbooks which comprehensively cover each topic, and upon graduation they are each given a copy of *Smart Love* to keep.

Pastor Eric Lawrence and Brother Moyo (an elder) officiated at the ceremony. A prayer of dedication by Pastor Lawrence was offered on behalf of the graduates, who were then given the opportunity to comment on what they had gained from the Smart Love seminar.

On Sunday, 18 March, the graduates had their celebratory meal at a local restaurant. The occasion was made extra special thanks to the exquisite decorations by David and Carlene Bance. Pastor Obinnaya Iheoma was the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, the atmosphere at the restaurant was very relaxed, and the graduates and their families tucked in to a delicious buffet together.

Breath of Life pastor, Eric Lawrence, said something worth noting: 'Some people might consider this a subject too deep for church, but at



Breath of Life we consider our young people to be precious, and as such we must deal with subjects some might want to sweep under the carpet.'

ROY LITCHFIELD (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)

ADRA auction at the Mission

With the arrival of the Beast from the East on 3 March, Leamington Spa Mission reluctantly postponed its annual ADRA Auction Appeal by one week.

The members of the Mission brought along an unbelievable number of items to sell. This was done by two seasoned auctioneers, Terry Layland and Tristan Simmons, who sold almost everything that was on display. They were ably assisted by young Toby Gilbert, who conducted himself in a truly professional way.

A total of approximately £400 was raised on the night towards the annual ADRA Appeal.

HAZEL LAYLAND



Photo quality as supplied

Northampton's World Sabbath Day

Pastor Richard Amram Elofer, an Adventist Jew located in France, works with the World Jewish Adventist Friendship Centre, under the umbrella of the General Conference. Over the weekend of 12-13 January he was the speaker at the World Sabbath Day hosted by the Harlestone Road church in the Church of England Primary School at St James, Northampton. His objective was to present the special meaning of Shabbat and provide tuition on how to befriend Jews in England.

His first task was to welcome the Shabbat at the Highlands Avenue church in Northampton, after which a light Shabbat supper of challah bread, soup and organic grape juice was enjoyed by those present.

The next day the attendance was excellent, with around 290 present for both morning and afternoon sessions.

The worship service was conducted by Pastor Elofer, who delivered a memorable sermon on the 'good news of the Sabbath'. The intercessory prayer, led by the children and youth, was in Italian, Lugandan, Japanese, Shona and Hungarian.

The guest elder for the event was Dominique Joseph Clem, Leader of the Jewish Adventist Friendship Ministries, UK, who worships in Balham, London.

After the service there was a fellowship lunch consisting of delicious international dishes, during which the members were able to fellowship with those friends from the Jewish Adventist Friendship Ministries who were visiting from London and the North West.

During the afternoon programme a video message was shown from 'Advent House', Jerusalem, hosted by Paula David, the wife of Pastor Shalom David. There was also a video on the Migdalia Lifestyle Centre Sanitarium in Migdal, Northern Israel. Pastor Elofer then instructed the audience on how best to reach out to the Jewish community, and how to join the Jewish Friendship Ministry.

The event was a great success and all credit must go to those who made it possible.

ANASELIA MORRIS (COMMUNICATIONS)



Pastor Richard Amram Elofer



'Stronger together'

The youth group at Plymouth Church has been growing, and over the past few years they have organised and participated in many community projects, camps and sporting activities. With this in mind they decided to build their brand by having their own hoodies made. It didn't take them long to agree on 'Stronger Together' as the Plymouth Adventist youth motto, and they had them ready to wear for this year's Global Youth Day!

With the theme of 'Unity – We Are Stronger Together' they had no trouble filling the programme on Sabbath morning in church. With prayers, readings and musical items prepared, the service went smoothly and everyone got involved.

Meghan Herman and Daniel and Evi Costin all shared musical items, while others recited readings on unity. Jordan Ncube shared a short message on breaking labels and working towards unity; Pedro Gimenes shared thoughts on the power of words and building people up; and, finally, Kit Portunova spoke about each member of the group combining their unique talents to become 'stronger together'.

After a quick lunch the group walked into Plymouth town centre armed with baskets filled with 400 Easter gifts: chocolate eggs, each with a Bible verse and Easter message from the church. Although it was snowing there were still plenty of people in town and it took no time at all to hand out the gifts. The group also enjoyed offering free hugs to passers-by.

Kit summed up the group's feelings: 'It was nice to see the smiles on people's faces, and that we could spread a little bit of happiness even through the simplest of ways.'

Everyone had a great time and it felt good to give something to the community and promote the church at the same time.

For this year's Global Youth Day, their message was not only to 'be the sermon', but to present it, unified by their love of Christ. *We are stronger together!*

JENNIE HALL

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR

HARPER BELL SCHOOL
Love | Learning | Laughter

PLACES AVAILABLE FROM RECEPTION TO YEAR 6
OPEN DAY - FRIDAY 1ST JUNE 9.00AM - 1.00PM

29 Ravenhurst St, Camp Hill, Birmingham, B12 0EJ
www.harperbellschool.co.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Skill and innovation in Newcastle

What does a church do when the snow makes driving hazardous? It resorts to modern technology and a little improvisation. On Sabbath, 3 March, Newcastle Church members and friends from around the world gathered around their tablets, smartphones and old-fashioned TV sets to share in worship led from a makeshift but highly effective studio in the north of Newcastle. Dr Ed Chan and his team from South Shields Church provided the technical support during the service, while young Hannah and Joma teamed up to provide a special item and the scripture reading. The



Hackney Children's Day: 'Take me to the King'

Young people took centre stage during Hackney's Children's Day on Sabbath 17 February. The congregation's enthusiastic children ran the entire programme for the morning - Sabbath School, lesson study and the worship service. Zirali Lewis (8) welcomed the guests to Sabbath School, while sisters, Rachel (11) and Eliah Mathieu-Marius (6), tested the adults in a memory-verse challenge by scrambling the words before getting the congregation to unscramble and work out the verse without looking at their quarterlies! The children then gave their own rendition of the hymn 'Like the Stars of the Morning', ably assisted by Aaron Higgins (8) on the drums. Ivana Marshall (14) offered the pastoral prayer and followed that up with a special item on the keyboard. Wiljuhna confidently read the scripture reading from 1 Kings 3:9, while Anu Oni (9) got the church thinking with some poignant questions regarding what their responsibilities are when ministering to children. This



sermon from Pastor Peter Jaynes was a continuation of his series which has been exploring the early years of the Adventist Church, its teaching and 'the great controversy'. Viewers were encouraged to 'like, comment and share' as the worship continued. This was truly an act of community worship. The service is available for viewing on Facebook under the tag @newcastleSDAUK. Much was learned from the experience, not least that brothers and sisters working together can accomplish a great deal for God. PASTOR PETER JAYNES

interesting discussion was followed by a video snippet about the 'Call of the Church'. Following this, a beautiful mime was performed by Yushanna Okanlawon (12), Jannyce Marshall (13), Ivana Marshall, and Siair Mathieu-Marius to the gospel hit 'Praise Him in Advance' by Marvin Sapp. There was then some team preaching, first from Azariah Thomas (7), who spoke about the importance of getting to know Jesus, pointing out that we should confidently ask to be taken to the King! Then Teldon Hutchins (13) preached the second message, which ended with the exhortation for us to ask God for wisdom to know how to manoeuvre through life. He suggested three successful steps to gain wisdom: 1) desire it; 2) study; and 3) pray. Hackney's children are the future of the church, and year on year they continue to demonstrate their God-given abilities through days like these. AMA ENWEREM

Virtual worship on a snowy Sabbath

When adverse weather conditions dictate church closure, how do you spend your Sabbath? At West Bletchley Community Church, on 3 March, the members and friends decided that church would indeed go ahead! No, they were not flouting health and safety regulations, but they were using the technology of a conference-call facility to 'meet' together in worship. During what would have been the usual Family Worship Service, time was spent in an hour of prayer, testimony and a scriptural focus on 2 Peter 1:5-11, outlining eight steps for productive growth in the Spirit. As the conference call approached its end, we were treated to an instrumental rendition of 'Sweet Hour of Prayer'. Feeling refreshed and revived, we moved into the next phase of our Sabbath, knowing that, although unconventional, in these unique circumstances we had met with the Lord as a church family. SYLVONIE NOEL (COMMUNICATIONS)



Vernon Noel (elder) in virtual worship, sharing scriptural focus



School wins Bronze Award

This year Dudley House School in Grantham, Lincolnshire, won a Bronze Award at the World Book Day Flying High Competition. This is how the principal, Jenny Johnson, broke the news to her school community: 'We are delighted to confirm that Dudley House School have been awarded a Bronze prize for this year's World Book Day Award of £500 of Bonnier Zaffre books for our library. The judges thought our display was fantastic and could tell all the hard work that had gone into it. Over



70,000 children were involved in the competition! Congratulations to all involved! Here is what the school's display looked like: <http://www.worldbookday.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Dudley-House-School.pdf>. Well done, Dudley House! JENNY JOHNSON, HEADTEACHER



Celebrating Chinese New Year

At Fletewood School we are fortunate to have a wealth of cultures and backgrounds among our children. These include a number of Asian pupils, so every year the whole school celebrates Chinese New Year together. It is a time for all of our pupils to learn more about another culture and to feel even more like a close-knit community. We are blessed to have a number of parents who offer their time and skills to help us celebrate in style! They provide talks for the children about the customs and traditions at this time of year; they provide food for the children to sample - the whole school gets together to eat; they provide entertainment in the form of a dragon puppet dance; and one of the grandpas gives out 'red money envelopes' when the children have said 'Happy New Year' in Chinese. The whole school looks forward to this annual event and we are

grateful that we have so many parents willing and able to share their time and skills with us to make our celebrations extra special. Their kindness and support are attributes we encourage in the children we teach, and we are thankful that our children have such positive role models both at home and at school. JULIA HALL

SPONSORED BY THE SEC FAMILY & MEN MINISTRIES DEPARTMENTS

UNLOCK YOUR GREATNESS

"You are more than you currently are"

£130 SINGLE OCCUPANCY
£90 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Speaker: DR. FLOYD SPENCE

MENS RETREAT

"A Retreat with an unforgettable experience made especially for Men by Men"

14-16 SEPT 2018

De Vere Horwood Estate
Little Horwood, Milton Keynes MK17 0PH

For bookings contact Lydia Hamblin
lhamblin@secadventist.org.uk | 01923 232728

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



'When We Pray'

The women began to trickle in shortly after 9am despite treacherous road conditions and temperatures below zero. It was uncertain how many would brave the snow to attend the Area 7 and SEC Women's Day of Prayer, but by 10am on Sabbath, 3 March, the auditorium was filled when the programme opened with a drama asking the question, 'Who Am I?'

Teens, Rutendo and Lady Jo, wrestled with the demands of being transplanted from one culture to another and convincingly conveyed the distance between what their elders *say* and what they *mean*. Pastor Maslin Holness took the role of the mid-lifer. In response to her query, 'Mirror, mirror, on the wall, who's the fairest of them all?' this answer came back: 'Not you!' The SEC Women's Ministries Director went on to demonstrate the challenges of a mid-life crisis, including the many uses of a pair of tweezers in countering sprouting hair in unexpected places. Next, both compassion and humour rose to the surface as the complexities of old age, dementia and loneliness were dramatised.

During the worship service, licensed mental health counsellor, Yvonne Lopez, drew life lessons from the story of the woman with an issue of blood: firstly, that Jesus positioned Himself to give the woman access; and secondly, the risk she took in placing her 'unclean' self in that crowd. Ms Lopez drew parallels with our situations and this woman who had nothing left to lose. The Lord's Prayer in Romanian by Ligia Buzac and an intercessory prayer by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Women's Ministries Director, emphasised the power available to us through prayer.

After lunch, Ms Lopez's topic was depression. 'I planned to take my life,' one lady shared in the Q&A time. 'I'd written a note, prepared everything; I just wanted to die.' Instead she ended up in a psychiatric unit. She revealed how a church sister who visited her there asked her what she was doing in that stupid place. 'Those three weeks in that so-called "stupid place", she responded, 'saved my life. I was able to get the care and treatment I needed during a terrible time in my life.' Out of her testimony came this valuable piece of advice: when you plan to visit someone with depression or other mental health issues, think carefully about what you are going to say in advance. Further testimonies echoed the words of Kurt Carr's 'I Almost Let Go', which was sung by the praise team.

'This is what we need,' one young lady declared afterwards: 'more people being honest about the things they are dealing with.' Her words were passionate and heartfelt. 'I'm a single parent, and every time I come to church I just feel like people are judging me and waiting for me to make another mistake. I don't feel I can admit, I'm struggling. We young people need more older women like that auntie who shared her story, so we don't have to pretend that everything is fine when it is not.'

The Area 7 Women's Ministry Co-ordinator, Avery Davis, closed the

programme after acknowledging everyone who contributed to the day, and in particular those who stepped in at the eleventh hour to operate the PA and audio-visual equipment. 'This, all of this, is what happens "When We Pray".'

AVERY DAVIS



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Bristol Central opens its doors

The 'Bristol Diverse Doors Open Day' is an annual event organised by the Bristol Multi-Faith Forum and it provides the chance for various denominations and faiths to share their beliefs, their worship, and their work in the local community.

When Bristol Central Church participated in the event two years ago it was on a much smaller scale and only a handful of people attended, including the Lord Mayor. It was disheartening for the members who had put a lot of effort, time and energy into the day's event. We were later informed that we had not been on the list of participating churches. Notwithstanding the disappointment, the church agreed to participate again this year. We received confirmation that we were on the list of churches to be visited, but later realised that we may not be on the minibus 'Faith Trail'.

The trail was planned to start at 10am and end at 4pm, but there was no sign of anyone for at least one-and-a-half hours and some of the saints were getting weary. At 12 noon there was a call for the team to have a group prayer to intercede with God to make the day a success. Everyone assembled in the church hall, the exact place where most of the event would take place.

At approximately 1pm, Mary Philip phoned Lily Khandker (organiser of the event) and she confirmed that the church was not going to be on the minibus faith trail. After a brief discussion with the team, Mary decided to plate up the tasters and have them distributed to passers-by outside the church.

No sooner had the first tray left than it was hurriedly returned, to shouts of 'They are here!' Almost immediately, a group of fifty visitors converged on the church hall. The Health/Community Department was well prepared with beautiful and tasty fruit bowls made up of honeydew melon, green, red and black grapes, juicy watermelon, mango and strawberries. Then there were bowls of houmous with celery, cucumbers, carrot sticks and multigrain and wheat biscuits.

It was delightful to see how everyone in the team did their best to make the visitors welcome. 'What a beautiful welcome; thank you so very much!' one visitor remarked as he gladly received his plate with a smile.

Lily told us that the church they had visited just before us had an activity on at the time and were not prepared for them, so they had no choice but to make a detour to Bristol Central.

The Pathfinders, AV, youth, literature, health and community department leaders were all on hand with display stalls, books, magazines, literature, information,



banners and much more. The audio-visual team entertained the guests with gospel music and a visual presentation on how the Adventist Church was established, which was brilliantly explained to the visitors by one of the elders, Kwasi Dankwa.

At the close of the visit the

Pathfinder Drum Corps gave a drumming display, to loud sounds of applause, followed by Community Ministries Leader, Mary Philip, who spoke about some upcoming health and well-being events (such as Dr Chidi's Life Colours Seminar), to which she invited the attentive audience. Both Lily and Tom (Chairman of the Multi-Faith Forum) then thanked the church for the invitation and warm hospitality. Some of the visitors took several items of literature on their way out. It was a very productive day for the team, who witnessed God turn their initial disappointment into rejoicing!

MARY PHILIP
PHOTOS: LEANDRA PHILIP

Messenger

Volume 123 • 10 – 25 May 2018

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 12 – 31 May 2018

Note to potential advertisers
It is important that those who submit adverts for display in *Messenger* ensure that they have **permission** (and a **paid licence** where required) to use any downloaded photographs or artwork that they incorporate into their adverts. It is also important that credit be given to the individual, organisation or company from which these have been obtained. For example, something like the following should appear within the advert: ©Joe Bloggs/iStockPhoto.com. Please be aware that images downloaded from **Google** may also be subject to permission and licensing. The Stanborough Press Ltd takes no responsibility for any downloaded images submitted to *Messenger* by contributors and reserves the right to decline adverts about which we have copyright concerns.

Permission relating to photography
Those who submit photographs of minors (persons under the age of 18) for publication must ensure that they have permission to do so from their parents, guardians or carers. We would like these submissions to be accompanied by the following statement: 'I have the permission of the parents, guardian or carer of the minors who appear in this/these photograph/s to submit them for publication in the *Messenger*'.

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *Messenger*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577444. Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk
ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700
Mon-Thurs only, 8am - 5.30pm.
www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at:
www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 25	9.00	9.12	9.11	9.37	9.39
Jun 1	9.08	9.20	9.20	9.47	9.49
8	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.55	9.56
15	9.20	9.32	9.32	10.01	10.02

BOOKSALES

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk

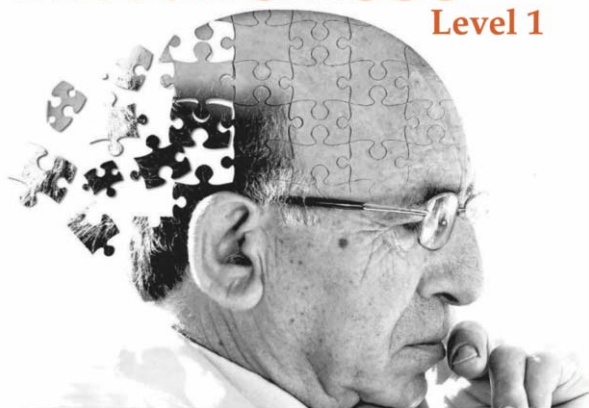
ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm. **01923 893461**
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm. **0121 3286380**
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset. **0207 7236849**

Adventist Book Center.com

North England Conference presents

Dementia Awareness

Level 1



Cost £30pp

Sunday 22nd July 2018, 9:30am – 4:30pm

Mission To The Cities & Resource Centre,
1st Floor, Lyndon House, 62 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham,
West Midlands, B16 8PF

Registration Online only: uk.bookingbug.com/home/33185

For more information contact: Grace Walsh via Email gwalsh@necadventist.org.uk or
Orlene Dunkley odunkley@necadventist.org.uk or Tel: 0115 960 6312

This is an introduction to dementia so that carers can learn more about the subject and feel more confident about caring for someone with the condition. The course covers all aspects of dementia, including the symptoms to look out for, information on how dementia is diagnosed and tips for adaptations you can make to the person's home and lifestyle in order to make everyday living easier.



As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Scottish Mission Youth
Summer Camp in

ISRAEL

01 - 10 July 2018

A six-day tour following the steps of Jesus

SPACES LIMITED! REGISTER NOW ON:
<https://form.jotformeu.com/80354306384354>

****£250 SUBSIDY** for the first 15 youth
applicants from the Scottish Mission**

For more information, see <http://adventist.scot/events>

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

SEC FAMILY MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS



IDO CONFERENCES

Are you planning to get married? Or are you dating or in courtship?
Or are you just interested in Love, Sex and Intimacy? Then register for
these very enlightening, explicit, and highly practical
One Day Conferences on premarital matters.

SUNDAY 10AM-3PM, 10 JUNE 2018

VENUE: Stanborough Park Church, 609 St Albans Rd, Watford, WD25 9JL

Presenter: Dr Denias Chihwai

Spaces are limited to 30 participants ONLY! Lunch is Provided.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



Kidz Praise Presents
FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER!

FREE
ENTRY

GosFest in the Park

Love Life · Live Well

GUESTS

Kidz Praise Mass Choir
Chris Brooks & The Company
Israel Allen (The Voice 2017)
The local elected Mayor
Quintessential Band
and much more...

WHAT ELSE TO EXPECT

Health Expo, Children's Activity
Corner, Live Music, Healthy
Eating Demonstrations (Vegan
and Vegetarian)
Smoothie Demonstrations
Inspirational Talks

Sat 7 JULY 2018 · 12pm-6pm

Stanborough Park Grounds, St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JZ

For more information contact: Barbara Lawrence on 07940 007 331

Andre Best on 07956 264980, Toyin Aworinde on 07533 793253



Bring a
PICNIC

Eventbrite

Get Your FREE Tickets through Eventbrite on:
kidzpraise-gosfest.eventbrite.co.uk

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted