

## 1st BUC Adventurer camporee

by Pastor Richard Daly, Communication Director

It was truly exciting for over 2,000 Adventurers (4-9 years old) to assemble at the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex for the first Adventurer camporee ever held in the British Union Conference (BUC). It was exciting for the 200 staff members too, who spent a year planning and preparing for such a large event. From 26 to 29 July, these young campers experienced the full blast of Britain's weather variations, essential camping skills, uniform inspections, awards and all the other packed activities planned for that extended weekend.

Registration began on Thursday morning and was well co-ordinated by Natalie Davison, BUC Youth Ministries Secretary, and her team, much to the delight of those teams that had

travelled far and for long periods to be there. All Conferences and Missions of the BUC were represented, along with two Adventurer clubs from Slovenia and Sweden who also participated in what would be a 'dress rehearsal' for next year's even larger Pathfinder camporee involving clubs from around the Trans-European Division.

On Friday clubs had an opportunity to participate in various sporting activities and games. Later, leaders started working with the children on achieving their awards. The guest speaker was Rich Aguilera from the USA, who has a passion for youth and children's ministries and features regularly on the Hope Channel and 3ABN. The theme of the camporee was about Genesis, which reflected the need to start from

the very beginning with the young campers. The evening meetings were very engaging, with Rich using his 'Indiana Jones' style hat and giving creative and informative messages that gripped the attention of the children and adults alike.

With the weather changing from the unseasonably high temperatures to thunderstorms, lightning and strong winds overnight, some campers' tents were put to the test, giving them valuable experience in dealing with the uncertainties of camping.

Sabbath morning saw the Adventurers' very first Bible Experience. The topic of study was on Genesis, in line with the camporee theme. It was good to see the enthusiasm of the children, but also the high standard that was set by the number of clubs gaining first place.

After another engaging presentation from the guest speaker, it was ADRA-UK's turn to captivate the children during the afternoon. They did this by creating a model village on the grounds of the campsite, where the Adventurers were treated to village life complete with live animals, including goats and chickens. Alongside that there was a makeshift water pump where villagers would draw water. Bert Smit, ADRA-UK CEO, explained how ADRA wanted to re-enact what it would be like living in a remote village, where people had to pump water from a well, barter to buy bread, and tend livestock to survive. This went down very well with the Adventurers, who got to experience first-hand what it is like to make a living this way.

Following the closing presentation and the flag-lowering and handover ceremonies, the Adventurers, along with their team leaders, began to dismantle their tents and equipment. It was a positive first camporee, with lots to remember and no doubt many new skills learnt by the Adventurers.

Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, BUC Youth Ministries Director, had this to say about the event: 'I'm extremely grateful for the 200-plus volunteers and staff members who have been planning months in advance for this event; it shows we can put on a major event to bring the Adventurers together across the Union. They (the Adventurers) have gone beyond all expectations and have proved themselves in the eyes of their proud parents and club leaders. This year was a rehearsal for next year, when twice the number will be here for the TED Pathfinder Camporee, but I'm happy with how things went this weekend.'







## Mental wellness – Part 2a

### Mental health decline

How do you know when mental health is deteriorating? Being alert to danger signs in yourself or others is key to getting help. Part 2 of our Mental Wellness series highlights danger signs and solutions for youth and older adults, as well as gender differences.

- This issue we commence this topic with our focus on youth. The Mental Health Foundation, in their document, 'Mental Health Statistics: Children and Young People', report that:
- 20% of adolescents may experience a mental health problem in any given year.
  - 50% of mental health problems are established by age 14 and 75% by age 24.
  - 10% of children and young people (aged 5-15 years) have a clinically diagnosable mental problem.<sup>1</sup>

The British Union Conference Health Ministries Department has produced a *Mental Wellness Handbook* for churches. The following points are drawn from the chapter, 'Mental Wellness Tips for Teens', under the segment: 'Mental Health Problems in Teenage Years: Recognising the Warning Signs'.<sup>2</sup> They require investigation and possible referral.

**Feelings:** overreacts often; is very angry most of the time; cries frequently; constantly expresses feelings of worthlessness or guilt; is preoccupied with physical appearance or problems; is anxious or worried a lot more than other young people; is extremely fearful generally; expresses grief for an extended time after a loss or death; is frightened that they are no longer in control of their mind, or that

someone else is controlling it.

**Affected by:** poor concentration; excessive fidgeting; difficulty making decisions; lack of focus; repetitive acts or compulsive behaviour like hand washing, cleaning, or performing certain routines several times a day; persistent nightmares; worry about being harmed or hurting others; thoughts that they are a bad person or prone to do 'bad things'; irrational thoughts.

**Experiences/changes:** loses interest in hobbies; avoids friends or family; experiences declining performance at school; daydreams excessively; exhibits inability to complete activities; has unexplained changes in sleeping or eating habits; isolates himself/herself, preferring to be alone most of the time; expresses inability to cope with life; hears voices that cannot be explained; talks about suicide.

**Behaviour:** erratic behaviour; alcohol consumption or other drug use; behaviour which raises suspicion of anorexia or bulimia (diets or exercises excessively to 'lose weight' although obviously thin, abuses laxatives, takes enemas when not constipated, eats large amounts of food and then induces vomiting); enjoyment in hurting others; wilful destruction of property; deliberate transgression of the law; taking of uncalculated risks; endangering of own or other's life without apparent concern.

The next issue deals with solutions.

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-children-and-young-people> <sup>2</sup> <http://adventist.org.uk/departments/health/mental-awareness-and-c.a.e>



Julian Hibbert, Editor

# A sinless friend of sinners

In 1995 Philip Yancey, an internationally respected Christian journalist, published his book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*. (If you can get hold of a copy, it is really worth reading.) Yancey closes the book with a chapter entitled 'The Difference He Makes', in which he leaves the reader with a 'series of impressions' he has formed about Jesus, foremost of which is that He was 'A Sinless Friend of Sinners'.<sup>1</sup>

### Isn't that a contradiction?

Now that 'impression' about Jesus may sound good at first glance, but doesn't it fly in the face of the common wisdom about such relationships? After all, I'm sure you can remember your parents saying: 'Beware of who you keep company with – birds of a feather flock together!' or, even more bluntly still, 'If you hang out with trash, you'll be perceived as trash!' And isn't that exactly what the religious leaders of His day said, not once but numerous times – probably basing their criticism on this ancient wisdom, 'A mirror reflects a man's face, but what he is really like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.' (Proverbs 27:19, TLB.)

Jesus was well aware of their attitude towards Him and described it like this: 'The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners."' (Matthew 11:19, NIV.) Despite this, He carried on regardless. **For by being 'a Friend of Sinners' He was carrying out the essential purpose of His visit to earth: 'I didn't come to invite good people to turn to God. I came to invite sinners.'** (Luke 5:32, CEV.)

### A special term ...

In my opinion, the type of friendship that Jesus was accused of having with the 'unsavoury' characters of His day is best described as **fraternisation**. And why do I say that? Simply because that is what it was! Take the meaning given in the *English Oxford Living Dictionaries* (my emphasis): 'Associate or form a friendship with someone, especially when one is not supposed to.'<sup>2</sup> For example, during World War II the soldiers of occupying armies were usually under strict orders not to fraternise with local civilians, for a variety of reasons, which included the risk of them leaking strategically sensitive information into the wrong hands, and developing sympathetic attitudes towards the enemy that would compromise their military commitment.

Historically fraternisation has been frowned upon because of differences in race, nationality, culture, religion, status and a host of other things. Unfortunately, nothing much has changed in that regard. In Christ's day fraternisation was taboo because of such things – plus one more – perhaps the most destructive reason of all: **in the eyes of the religious leaders these 'sinners' were lost souls, and that lostness was contagious!** A view that Jesus rejected with contempt, both in word and deed.

### Let's dig deeper ...

Having said that, bear with me as we add a deeper layer of meaning to the term *fraternisation*. It actually shares the same Latin root as the term **fraternity**. The root is *frater*, which means 'brother'. This is why *Webster's New World College Dictionary*, 4th Edition, provides the following meaning for *fraternise* (my emphasis): 'to associate **in a brotherly manner**; be on friendly terms.'<sup>3</sup> Fraternisation results in the creation of a fraternity, a brotherhood, **a close-knit and caring family**. Strip 'brotherhood' of its maleness for our purposes. It is now no longer a gender-limiting concept, **but one that speaks about the intimate quality of His relationship with us, the modern-day sinners.**

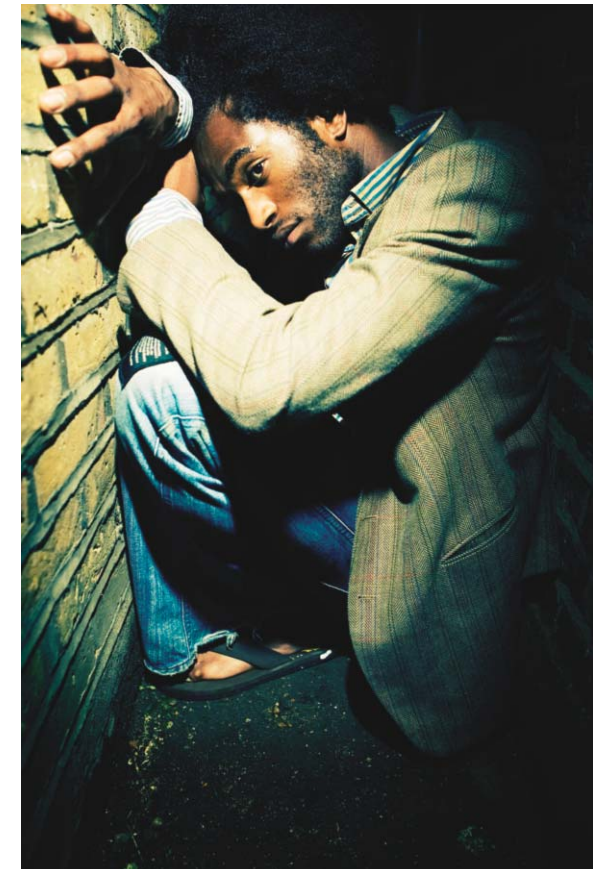
Well, there you have it: Jesus fraternised, persistently and unashamedly, with the 'unsavoury' characters of His day, male and female. But isn't this dangerous, you may validly ask?

### He set the benchmark

Yes, it can be dangerous, but that's why I think Yancey got it right when he described Jesus as 'A Sinless Friend of Sinners' (bearing in mind that while being a Friend of sinners He was also a fearless and outspoken enemy of hypocrisy).

He was a '**Sinless Friend**' because He never compromised the truth, any biblical teaching, or any ethical standard. He fearlessly withstood the relentless attacks of the devil and his demons. He deviated neither to the left nor to the right in matters of principle, no matter how much abuse and torment evil men heaped upon Him. He was incorruptible! He was a 'Sinless Friend'! As the apostle Peter so aptly put it (my emphasis): '**He never sinned. No lie or bad talk ever came from His lips!**' (1 Peter 2:22, NLV.)

Having said that, Jesus was also a '**Friend of Sinners**'. He turned none away. He never belittled or humiliated any over their weakness or failures. He spoke to them with care and compassion in



His voice; defended them when they were criticised or their actions misunderstood; fed and healed them, easing their suffering wherever He could; and forgave them, even as they bayed loudly for His blood. Then He did the unthinkable, as described by the apostle Paul (my emphasis): 'Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us!**' (Romans 5:7-9, NIV.)

### Yancey again ...

Part way through his brief section about Jesus as a **Sinless Friend of Sinners** Yancey makes this comment:

'I view with amazement Jesus' uncompromising blend of graciousness towards sinners and hostility towards sin, because in much of church history I see virtually the opposite. We give lip service to "hating the sin while loving the sinner", but how well do we practise this principle?'<sup>4</sup>

**Now, that is the important question: how well do we practise this principle?**

<sup>1</sup> *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by Philip Yancey, Harper Collins 1995, page 258 <sup>2</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/fraternize> <sup>3</sup> <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/fraternize> <sup>4</sup> Yancey, page 259

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# The sun and the Son

Sun-drenched days, blue skies, dappled shade under tall trees, iridescent dragonflies darting over shimmering, swiftly flowing water, roads lined with sunflower heads following the lazy passage of the sun across the sky – these are memories of my childhood: typical elements of those long, languid days. With the sun came warmth, sometimes fierce heat, followed by a cooling-down time, and climaxed by those moments of perfection – just-right evenings, when the little stirs of air were like caresses on the skin.

In various African countries where I spent my childhood, the sunlight and sun-warmth were taken for granted. Even the local crocodiles would creep out of the water to sun themselves – this was something we could witness from our front ‘garden’ in one of those countries, where the large mission property stretched right on down to the banks of the wide river that flowed past!

Perhaps you have felt privileged, as I have, to experience this past summer in the UK – long, long days of wall-to-wall sunshine? Perhaps it was a bit too hot for some, but I think most of us enjoyed these long sunshine hours!

## Let's briefly note some of the positive effects of sunshine

It feels good physically; pleasant and relaxing on the skin – at the right time of day, of course! It

also brightens one's *mental outlook*. When woken up by that brightening sky and you realise the sun is shining, perhaps you, like me, say to yourself: 'Yeah!!! Sunlight today!' An absence of sunlight, on the other hand, can cause SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder); and this is experienced by many of us during the long, darker, cloudy winter months; many of us can, and do, confess to 'winter blues'.

A direct physical benefit is that the sun on the skin is necessary for the *synthesis of vitamin D* – essential for bone health. A lack of vitamin D can, for example, lead to rickets in children.

Before tinned food and enhanced technology, many people made use of the dehydrating effect of sun-power to *preserve food* – as in dried peaches and apricots, figs, raisins, dates, and so on. In fact, even fish and meat could and can be dried in the sun, thereby preserving their nutritional value and creating an instantly available source of protein.

It *sterilises* as well as dries. It *fighters mould and mildew*.

It provides *energy*. In fact, scientists estimate that 'the sunlight striking the earth's surface in just one hour delivers enough energy to power the world economy for one year.'<sup>1</sup> What an amazing statement!

What a pity we couldn't – don't – make more use of it. The estimate is that this technology to harvest solar power 'produces less than one tenth of one percent of global energy demand.'<sup>2</sup>

As we know, though, there is definitely an effort to harness this energy. Witness the many solar panels found on the roofs of homes, across the length and breadth of the land. These use photovoltaic cells, which convert the light energy into *electricity*. If not used immediately, the electricity needs to be stored in batteries. In some countries, like in Turkey, it is a feature of the city landscape to see *solar water heaters* atop all apartment blocks. These harness the energy generated by the sun to heat water for domestic use.

Although the sun's energy is freely delivered, much of our use of it is dependent on very sophisticated technology; and yet there are many simple, although ingenious, practical applications too. Solar-powered *cookers* are an example of relatively uncomplicated devices which focus the sun's reflected rays on a particular area: place your pot there and you will be

able to use the energy for cooking. You can have *phones* powered by solar energy, not to mention *street lights*; and those *lamps* which provide light for rural students in less developed countries so that they can study at night! I even have a watch which is solar or light charged, so I don't need to bother with watch batteries at all.

There are many other good and practical uses – but let's get down to basics: life itself! *Without the energy from the sun there would be no life on earth*. The sun is essential for plant life: the process of photosynthesis in plants converts light energy into chemical energy, which is used to fuel an organism's activities. Without plants and the food they provide, life is not possible. The tilt of the earth during its revolution around the sun affects the seasons: so we have seasons of growth and of rest.

Yes, sunlight is fantastic! All of life on earth is dependent on it! It soothes and relaxes, lifts the spirits, enables us to see the wonders around us, grows our food, potentially supplies all our energy needs. . . .

But . . . unfortunately, there is a 'but'. It can also harm the skin (think wrinkles, think cancer), fade fabrics, scorch the earth, trigger migraines, hurt our eyes, lead to heat stroke and start fires.

There is, however, a Son, who is *all* beauty, who is active day *and* night. All life originated with Him. He created us, and He also created the sun with all its majesty. He not only created us in His image – but promises to re-create us, again in His image, when we accept Him as Lord and Creator and cherish Him in our hearts. And, again, we can look forward to being 'created' again when we are resurrected through His power when He returns to earth to put a final end to imperfection and sin, and restores all of creation to what it originally was. That adds up to three 'creations'!

When we bask in the presence of the Son, He lifts our spirits, gives us hope, helps us see reality around us more clearly and also helps us appreciate the beauty around us. He describes Himself as the 'light of the world' (John 8:12, ESV) and He enlightens us.

His effect on us is very practical; it's not just 'feel good'; we in turn are described as like a light on a hill (see Matthew 5:14-16).

Here are some of my favourite words from the Bible, and they refer to the Son: 'For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.' (John 6:40, NIV) And with that promise, I can sleep at night.

So, let's cherish the sun . . . but above all, the Son.

<sup>1</sup> Ecowatch.com, 16 June, 2015

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/solar-power/>



Sun-drenched days, blue skies, dappled shade under tall trees



# Holiday Bible Club, Dublin

The Ranelagh church in Dublin was transformed into the ancient city of Babylon in the first week of July. It was holiday Bible club week, and around seventy children aged four to twelve became members of the ancient tribes of Israel. Fifteen adult volunteers and ten teenagers led the kids in their 'tribe time', preparing them for a new discovery every day.

'Daniel was a young man taken into captivity. He liked vegetables, prayed and survived after spending a night in the company of a few hungry lions.' If that's all you teach your kids about Daniel, you might want to look at it again! The theme, 'Babylon – Daniel's courage in captivity' explored many more aspects of this spellbinding Bible story. Here in essence is what the children learnt each day:

- Day 1 – 'When things change, God is with you', as He was with Daniel when he was taken into captivity, away from his parents, friends, country and everything he was used to.
- Day 2 – 'When you need help, God is with you', as He was with Daniel when he needed wisdom to interpret the king's dream.
- Day 3 – 'When you are afraid, God is with you', just as He was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
- Day 4 – 'When you are lonely, God is with you', as Daniel discovered when he continued to pray even though it meant he might get into trouble.
- Day 5 – 'When you are thankful, God is with you', just as God was with Daniel in the lions' den.

Every day, after the opening ceremony and tribe time, we followed Daniel and the rest of the captives to Babylon. The children visited the Babylonian marketplace where they experienced for the first time (just like Daniel) the smells, sounds and sights of its ancient shops. They designed their own hanging gardens and planted seeds, decorated memory boxes,



constructed musical instruments and printed their names on a clay tablet (just like in the old times). They even tasted locusts – a very popular treat in Babylon (of course prepared with a twenty-first-century twist of chocolate and pecans).

At the palace playground the children were trained by the king's high-ranking officials and the Bible message of the day was reinforced with every game.

In the upper room, they listened to stories about Daniel, told by . . . well, Daniel himself. There was also superb drama that brought the old Bible stories to life and made the children and adults laugh, cry and shout.

Children from all Dublin's churches came to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the Babylonian exile, and they brought along their friends who wouldn't usually attend church.

Visitors from the community came to see what all the unusual noises and activities were about, and one mother immediately signed up her four-year-old daughter for the rest of the week.

The time of exile might seem distant and difficult to relate to,

but one thing is for sure – the faithless culture Daniel and his friends were taken into is much the same as the world our kids grow up in today. The kings have different names, people worship different false gods and modern

secularism has many different faces. But the God of ancient Israel, who watched over Daniel and his friends, is the same today. He is with us! Always! And the kids in Dublin now know this quite well!

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# Gender, power and privilege

Let's face it: he was bored! They had gone off to war without him and he was left at the palace with nothing much to do. Unfortunately, one of the very things that he was gifted at – waging war against the enemies of Israel – he was no longer allowed to do. So, what was he to keep himself busy with?

Then he saw her on the rooftop, having a bath in the light of the setting sun. Well, what would most men be tempted to do? To look, right!? David could have denied that impulse, however. He could have turned away and focused on something else, like his many and varied duties of state, for example. He could have simply refused to look! However, the thought of what he saw continued to roll around in his mind – fanning his lustful thoughts until he eventually sent for her. She, being obedient to the invitation of the king, came to the palace with her curiosity aroused, probably somewhat flattered at the thought that the great King David of Israel had called for her!

What happened next we can only guess at: flirting, wining and dining, laughter, soft music, long glances, the first touch, an embrace, the kiss – and then the attraction became fatal! Yes, fatal

indeed, for so it would prove to be for Bathsheba's faithful, honourable husband.

But all this makes us wonder whether anyone noticed what was happening right there at the palace. Didn't anyone become suspicious? Wasn't there anyone to discreetly caution the king? No one to warn him of the possible consequences?

Sadly, when certain forces converge – such as collusion, power, gender and privilege – as they did back then for David, and still do today, the outcome can be devastating. It is still largely a 'man's world' where certain privileges are assumed by men based purely on their gender, without a second thought as to whether or not that privilege is just or justly discharged. And haven't we seen ample evidence of this sad fact in the news recently, from across the world? There have been so many cases where such 'privileges' have been used in a nonchalant manner, leading to oppression, discrimination, abuse and the exhibiting of demeaning and degrading attitudes towards women. When this type of abuse occurs, it is often evidence that others as well as the perpetrators have forgotten that whatever

'privileges' men may think they have are to be used to uplift rather than to subjugate.

### The dangers of collusion

But that day, or even the following morning, after the affair had occurred, surely someone could have said something. Sadly, I believe that those who knew and could were fearful of their jobs, even their lives. Undoubtedly, they feared that if they criticised or reported the actions of the king he would exact his vengeance upon them with the loss of their position, imprisonment or execution. Furthermore, as he was the one who had absolute power over all his subjects, what on earth would their efforts achieve?

Sadly, this silence meant that some of the palace staff became complicit in the king's abuse of power and privilege, thereby creating a cloud of collusion into which Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, was quickly summoned by King David.

### When power, gender privilege and collusion go unchecked

Uriah returns from the battlefield as the king attempts to create a smokescreen to hide his abuse of power. His plan involves sending

Uriah home to his wife, but the loyal soldier refuses the opportunity for intimacy with her because of his sense of duty to the armies of Israel and his God.

When the conniving king hears of this, he then hatches a plan to wine and dine Uriah with the intent to get him so drunk that his passion will overpower his principles so that everyone will attribute Bathsheba's pregnancy to his visit. However, Uriah's commitment to duty and purpose remain unwavering and David's scheme fails.

Then, in a last desperate attempt to cover his own sin, David uses his power and privilege to plan the death of this innocent man. He gives Uriah his own death warrant, knowing that he would never think to open the king's sealed letter. David's misuse of power and privilege have now made him part of a process with ghastly repercussions. So it is that the letter is read by the king's 'hitman', Joab, who ensures that this brave and loyal soldier is treacherously killed in battle – the victim of a terrible misuse of power, privilege, collusion, lust, cowardice and selfishness. Regrettably, this woeful tale serves as a warning of what can happen when such abuse goes unchecked.

Indeed, if we closely examine this narrative, found in 2 Samuel 11 and 12, we see that the trail of abuse runs unchecked until the Spirit of God uses Nathan the prophet, at the risk of death, to courageously confront the king and rebuke him for his terrible abuse of the sacred trust invested in him as leader of God's people.

Nathan approached the king privately, even though the matter had become public knowledge, thereby giving David an opportunity to accept and confess his wrongdoing privately before the inevitable public confession that is expressed in those heartfelt words of Psalm 51.

It would be comforting to think that this story is only a biblical tale from the past, but, sadly, such things still happen today, which makes it very important that we all be mindful of those contexts of privilege and power that may exist



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even within our own church: for, if the truth be told, we are all at risk of misusing our positions as pastors, elders, deacons, husbands, fathers and uncles, and as men in general. We should therefore be careful to examine ourselves and do all in our power to avoid the creation of a male-dominated environment where abuse may flourish unchecked and unchallenged.

### Empowerment rather than the misuse of power

In the light of this I challenge my fellow male pastors and church officers with these questions: How do we use our so-called 'privileged gender' and the power associated with it? How can we use our influence in the home, the church, the office or the community to relieve oppression and to challenge injustice, improper practices and wrong cultural expectations? How can we ensure that the church remains a healthy

environment where the empowerment of others is our primary focus?

Therefore, in light of the current social discourse taking place about male power and privilege within governments, charitable organisations, the entertainment industry and other denominations, let us all – the men and women of our church – be people of valour, honesty, purity and singleness of mind. Furthermore, as men and women, we know that temptation may come our way uninvited, but let us not lay out a red carpet for it!

Finally, God forbid that He might place any of us (male or female) in a position of knowing that an abuse of power has taken place. However, if we are placed in such a position, as was Nathan, may God grant us the love, wisdom and courage to confront, rebuke, report and deal with it appropriately so that faith in God and the church can be preserved, restored and prospered.

## Scottish Mission Session 2018

Following a day of fellowship in Crieff on Sabbath 6 October, the triennial session of the Scottish Mission will take place in Crieff Church, commencing with registration at 8.30am on Sunday 7 October. Delegates will have been contacted by the Scottish Mission office with their registration information. The report booklet will be made available as an electronic booklet for the wider membership as well as delegates. The session will set the strategic goals for the Mission and elect the Mission Executive Committee and the departmental sponsors for the next three years.

Pastor Paul Lockham



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### Four baptised at Dagenham

There was rejoicing in Dagenham Church on Sabbath 30 June as the members witnessed the baptism of four precious souls. The baptism of Adeayo Emmanuel Ola, Liam Lusted, Sapphire Ragout and Melissa Ragout brought into the church young people with great potential to make significant contributions to the work of God in the future. Two of these youths were baptised because of the church's ongoing engagement with the community, and as such they have no Adventist background at all.

The baptism of the four followed several sessions of Bible studies led by the minister of Dagenham Church, Pastor Hezron Otieno Adingo.

The service was an opportunity for tears of joy by some of the candidates, beautiful congregational singing and the reading of poems to motivate the four in their Christian journey. It was also good to hear the positive remarks made by members who encouraged them not to let go of their love for Jesus. It was a blessing to have the parents, siblings, relatives, and friends present on this special



Left to right: Liam, Ola, Pastor Adingo, Sapphire and Melissa

occasion. May the Lord bless Ola, Liam, Sapphire, and Melissa in their Christian experience.

PASTOR HEZRON OTIENO ADINGO



### Barnsley baptism

Barnsley Church celebrated its first ever baptism in its own building on Sabbath 21 July when Denis Urloiu gave his heart to God. Denis had a lovely surprise when his fiancée, Madalina Florescu, and her friends



thank everybody for their love, support, and acceptance. I feel privileged to be part of the family of God.'

LAUREN SALISBURY

arrived to witness the event.

The service, held in the community room, included several special items. Hatina, Simbi, Olivia and Happy lifted the congregation with their song in English, Shona and Zulu, while Hazel Scholes read a moving poem. Denis, Madalina and their two friends also sang beautifully in English and Romanian before Pastor Derek Simon spoke on the joy that comes from abiding in God's love. Denis was baptised by Pastor Simon in a free-standing pool provided by Hope House Church, and was unanimously voted into membership by the Barnsley members present.

The celebration concluded with a selection of sweet treats and time to socialise and congratulate Denis. Denis said afterwards, 'I just want to

### Loughborough baptism: crossing the Commonwealth

On Sabbath 14 July two young men from opposite ends of the Commonwealth were baptised together at Loughborough Church. Skyler Hydes arrived in the UK three years ago when his mum travelled four thousand miles from the Cayman Islands to study at Loughborough University. A bright boy with an encyclopaedic knowledge of wildlife and a love of Sabbath School, he requested baptism after studying the 28 Fundamentals with Sabbath School teacher Gudrun Middleditch. Despite the age gap, Skyler has spent many happy hours playing with his friend, trumpet player, William Middleditch. William requested baptism after many discussions with Mum and Dad, former Loughborough pastor, Roman Smejkal, and Bible studies with current pastor, Jonathan Holder. Pastor Smejkal immersed William, and Pastor Holder immersed Skyler, on a warm summer Sabbath morning with even warmer water in what was Loughborough's first locally held baptism. The candidates joined family and friends for a potluck lunch before Loughborough church members wished farewell to Skyler, his mum, Tishelle, and his



Left to right: Pastor Jonathan Holder, Skyler Hydes, William Middleditch and Pastor Roman Smejkal

family, who had travelled from the Caymans for the baptism and Mum's graduation.

JOHN MIDDLEDITCH

### Baptism at Carmarthen Church

It was 7 July at Carmarthen Church. The scene was set, the story written – and, as it was retold in the form of a testimony, Carmarthen Church listened keenly to a narrative that included drama, action, suspense, mystery and tragedy – but with a happy conclusion. I'm not talking about a movie or a play, but the life story of the baptismal candidate Sharon Christabel.

As she told the story of how she came through tribulation in order to give her life to the Lord, the congregation was deeply moved. Challenges in her personal life and family, along with her desire to find the truth as she visited various churches, were all part of her journey in search of salvation in Jesus Christ. As part of the service Pastor Adriana Fodor told the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, a powerful portion of Scripture that bears many similarities to the closing stages of Sharon's own search for truth and salvation.

Members from the Carmarthenshire and Haverford West district filled the Carmarthen church to witness this joyous occasion and celebrate as another soul was added to the kingdom of God. A first for Carmarthen Church, Sharon was baptised by not one but two pastors as she surrendered her life to Christ. Pastors Jeremy Johnson and Adriana Fodor baptised Sharon together to the joyous approval of all present. The service was then concluded by singing



Left to right: Pastor Adriana Fodor, Sharon Christabel, Pastor Jeremy Johnson, Jon Meredith (elder)

Sharon's favourite song, 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine'.

Sharon has already begun her work of making disciples by telling others about what God has done for her. With that in mind, Carmarthen Church members look forward to their next baptism by God's grace.

PASTOR ADRIANA FODOR

### Baptism at Carter Knowle Church

On Sabbath 21 July, Jozsef Ferenc Albert was re-baptised by Pastor Carlton Douglas. In attendance was Pastor Mike Simpson (NEC Personal Ministries Director), who delivered an encouraging sermon before the baptism. Jozsef's mother also attended from Hungary. A special item was sung by the Sheffield Choir, and his favourite verse, John 3:16, was also read. Jozsef was welcomed very warmly into the church by members, friends and family.

ELVINA LEE (COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT)



### Corby's tenth anniversary and baptism

On Sabbath 19 May Corby Church celebrated both its tenth anniversary and the baptism of Renata Polakova during a service that overflowed with over 200 members and friends. Among the special guests were NEC President, Pastor Richard Jackson and family, and NEC Executive Secretary, Pastor Alan Hush.

The local pastor, Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, preached the sermon, in which he reminded the congregation that 'Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith', and that despite hardship we must remember our Advent message, identity and purpose. There was



also wonderful singing from the visiting groups: Amaris, Nottingham Male Voices and the Messengers.

The highlight of this wonderful fellowship and celebration was in the afternoon when Renata was baptised. Our president closed off the event with words of encouragement and the vision of the church to hasten the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THULANI MOYO

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As supplied, errors and omissions excepted



## Paisley Church's youth baptism

Paisley Church in the Scottish Mission (supported by the Irvine congregation) celebrated the baptism of five church youths on 23 June. The candidates were Kanyembo Kabaso (15), Lamal Manase (15), Samiya Tushemerirwe (14), Sakhile Dube (16) and Clancy Nabaiki (18). The service was enhanced by the contributions from the baptismal candidates' family members and the candidates themselves, along with the singing of their favourite hymn or special song.

Each candidate also had the opportunity to talk about why they had decided to be baptised. These testimonies gave the congregation some insights into the questions and challenges that these young men and women faced – and, significantly, the answers, peace and hope they found in their relationship with their Lord and Saviour. Recounting how God had saved him as a terminally ill baby, Kanyembo said, *'It is by the grace of God that I am still alive and well today; I thoroughly believe that through God a mystery doctor . . . saved my life so that I could go on to fulfil my purpose in life, which is still unknown to me. But I feel that getting baptised today would mean I'd get one step closer to finding out.'*

Reflecting on her early walk with God, the youngest candidate, Samia, recalled how, through her attendance at Paisley Church Sabbath School and Pathfinders, she had influenced her mother to stop attending the Church of Scotland and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She concluded by saying, *'I want to give my life to Christ because He has blessed me with the gift of life and He has led me to the truth.'* After asking herself that important question, 'Who am I?' Clancy responded by saying, *'I could not tell you confidently who I am because I'm still trying to discover that myself, [but] I want to get baptised because I need to . . . because I want to be able to feel that God is working in my life.'*

According to Sakhile, baptism *'was an eye-opening and joyous experience. The entire service from start to finish was something I won't forget and it was an honour to have the pastor of my home church baptise me.'* Lamal had this to say: *'When I was baptised I thought of it as a second chance to do the right thing in every situation of my life, a chance to change my ways and get closer to God. Slowly, bit by bit, I am changing*



*my ways and changing my outlook on life, such as the way I talk, the way I interact with people and the way I think.'*

This is a great commendation to Pastor Claudiu Popescu, church pastor, who spent a lot of time with these young men and women, studying the Bible, mentoring, guiding and supporting them in their Christian growth.

At the end of the baptismal service, those who had come to support the church family expressed just how special and moving the service had been. For one visitor, this baptismal service was the first they had ever attended. Through it, the Lord spoke to them and they later met with Pastor Claudiu and expressed their desire to be baptised as well. Praise and honour be unto our Lord for the blessing of this soul!

VALENTHA MANASE

## Bristol's carnival 'health hub'

After lots of discussion the Bristol St Paul's Carnival was held on 7 July after not taking place last year. The organisers were determined to host it this year, as it was the fiftieth anniversary of the popular event and there was keen community support for it to go ahead. Around 100,000 were expected on the day, as were lots of traffic diversions.

The Bristol Central Community Ministries Department under the leadership of the writer chose to run a health hub during the event. This was to facilitate first aid treatment in anticipation of how difficult it would be for the ambulance crews to get to anyone injured; and to offer a rest point – a place for those people who just wanted to sit and rest, away from the main activity, to escape to.

There were two other good reasons, however: the opportunity to introduce healthy snacks, fruits and fruit juices, with the vegan tasters, to the passing crowds; and to hand out bottles of water to those who were not giving much thought to keeping themselves hydrated during their time in the hot sun.

But, best of all, it was an opportunity to witness by playing Christian music, as well as singing hymns and handing out Adventist literature in goodie bags, and to tell those who took time out to listen about the love of God.

Prior to the road closures, three gazebos were erected in the church car park and well staffed by our members.

The team were called upon to help treat one young lady who had sprained her ankle.

The atmosphere was one of excitement, team spirit and the feeling of members being proactive. Many people came to our hub and enjoyed the free tasters and water that were being handed out. The police and paramedics were also on the scene in full force and came to the health hub several times to interact with us. Many goody bags with Adventist literature in were also handed out. Truly it was an amazing day.

MARY PHILIP (COMMUNITY MINISTRIES LEADER)



## Bristol's real 'Race for Life'

On Sunday 1 July, the annual Race for Life event in aid of Cancer Research UK took place on Clifton Downs, a large public open space in Bristol. The event brings together thousands of women and their families from all over the area, who run, jog or walk a 5k or 10k distance around the Downs.

The Bristol Central church was asked by the organisers to come back to support the event for the third year running. This allows the members to serve the community, make friends, and promote the health and spiritual message of the church.

The weather was hot and dry, and by 7am the team from the church were out in full force to set up the 9x3m red-and-white gazebo to ensure adequate shade and space for the day's activities. In all, approximately 50 church members came out to help with food preparation, general support and witnessing activities throughout the day.

The race was a great success, despite the very hot conditions, as thousands of women and children set off, many of them running in memory of someone affected by cancer. One of the participants was an amputee in a wheelchair, who was also determined to get to the end.

This year Community Ministries Leader, Mary Philip, invited a five-member family singing group to join members of the church to cheer the participants along the route by singing songs such as 'O When the Saints Go Marching In', 'Lean on Me', and chants such as 'Keep Going, Keep Running, You Can Do It'. It was great to see what a difference it made to the runners. Some even joined in with the singing as they went by.

The Bristol Central Pathfinder Drum Corps, under the leadership of Claudette Brown, was also strategically placed along the route to encourage the participants with drumming as they went along. This was also much appreciated by the runners.

While there were many different stalls offering food items at the event, the church's stall was busy throughout the day, preparing, serving up, and giving out free vegan tasters with houmous dips and vegetables and fruit bowls, as well as freshly made juices, and smoothies produced by Evan Green from the Newport church on his smoothie bike. These items were so popular after the race that there were queues as people were keen to try the healthy food and drinks. It also gave an opportunity for witnessing, as over 70 goody bags and items of literature were given out, containing copies of *Health* magazine, *Steps to Christ*, various leaflets, Adventist Discovery Centre course sign-up cards, and recipes.

In addition, over 100 bottles of water were given out to the runners while on the route, which was much appreciated not only by the participants, but also by the organisers. This was repaid in kind, for, as the team packed up, they were offered several cases of leftover water which will be useful for other witnessing activities.

The event provided an excellent opportunity not only to witness of the church's holistic approach to health, but to demonstrate the caring side of the church and its mission to witness to and serve the community.

MARY PHILIP AND IAN SABADIN

PHOTOS BY NELSON KHONJE

## Come & Clay



The benefits of clay as a medium for modelling, building and therapy have long been known. The Lord Himself told Jeremiah to go down to the 'potter's house'. Jeremiah 18:2.

Working with clay relieves stress; lowers blood pressure; increases one's mood; promotes insightful thinking; and is fun. So *Come and Clay* and be blessed!

**Sunday 23 September**  
**Kettering Seventh-day**  
**Adventist Church**  
**Kettering, NN16 8RD**  
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**Cost: £5**

A light lunch will be served.

An opportunity for healing, restoration, recreation and inspiration.

A creative workshop for all, with Andrea Rashford-Hewitt. To book your place or for more info text 'Clay' to 07931 703629 with your name and email address.





### Bradford's second 2018 health expo

Our recent Bradford 2018 health expo was a really rich blessing to the Ravenscliffe community.

It was held on Sunday 15 July, in the local community centre where the Bradford South members meet for worship, and it is our second for this year. The theme for this expo was 'What is your real body age?' and it was organised by the Bradford Adventist churches in the area.

There were nine different health expo stations, including one that ran demonstrations on healthy cooking. This included our 'Trust In God' spiritual station, which was manned by our church pastor, George Hamilton.

Both visitors and volunteers had a wonderful experience as they went through the different body checks, including those for BMI, blood pressure and diabetes. The attendees were also able to meet different health experts face-to-face, ask questions, get advice, and find out more about the support available to them from their local church.



Photo quality as supplied

### Colchester International Day

Colchester Church held its annual International Day celebration on 14 July, and quite a number of nationalities were represented. The writer decided to become an 'honorary' member of one of North America's First Nation people – just for the event!

KEN JONES



RUDO CHENGETA (HEALTH MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT)

Our health ministries director, Dr Tsitsi Chituku, provided some additional free health counselling sessions, and the neck massages were also appreciated.

Entry to the health expo event was free, and healthy snacks, a healthy lunch and other refreshments were also served free of charge to our visitors and volunteers.

Our next health expo will be held at the Bradford City Park in September 2018; we pray that God

continues to provide us with ways and means of helping this Ravenscliffe community and other communities. Indeed, helping others is such a rich blessing to all.

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*As supplied, errors and omissions excepted*

### CBMC winners

Stoke-on-Trent Church is blessed with two talented young sisters, Rebecca and Faith Muregerera, who have developed the talent of memorising Bible verses under the supervision of their grandmother, Regina Dzoro, and Lizzie Muregerera (their mother). Faith and Rebecca participated in the finals of the Children's Bible Memorisation Challenge, held at Windsor Street Church in the West Midlands on 14 April. Out of over 50 children who enrolled, five PowerPoints and five Primary children endured to the end of nine months of intense study of up to two books of the Bible. Along with the Bible study, children were required to recite from memory up to 65 scriptures; some were whole chapters.

Faith (8) and Rebecca (7) achieved first and second place in the Primary age group. Emmanuel Babafemi (12) from Perry Beeches Church and Sherelle Annakie (13) from Windsor St Church attained first and second place respectively in the PowerPoints group. Like the faithful servants in Matthew 25, all children who reached the finals were rewarded for their faithfulness with the pure joy of doing a job well and monetary prizes. We would like to thank Lucille and Arthur Fifield for the leadership and sponsoring of CBMC, and Herline Simons and Windsor St Church for hosting the event. We are looking forward to next year's CBMC!

HASTINGS KANDAYA (CHURCH ELDER)



### Samuel turns 100

On 2 August Samuel Allcock celebrated his hundredth birthday, surrounded by family, friends and several members from the Sutton-in-Ashfield church.

Samuel was born in Kirkby-in-Ashfield and had a twin brother, George, along with an older brother and sister. He was raised in a Methodist home, regularly going to Sunday School and church. He served as a signalman in the army during the Second World War, seeing active duty in India and Egypt.

After the war he met a young lady named Audrey Sly at his workplace, and, as their friendship deepened, he began Bible studies with her father. Convinced of the Sabbath truth and other Adventist beliefs, he was baptised on 5 April 1952 and became a member of the Sutton-in-Ashfield church. He went on to marry Audrey two months later and they shared 58 happy years together before her death in 2010. They were blessed with two children, Margaret and Graham, and four grandchildren.

Sam is very artistic and spent many years of his life as a poster writer. This skill was put to good use for the benefit of the church as he made signs for the outside notice board, as well as painting the words 'Reverence My Sanctuary' above the platform. He held many positions in the church, following in his father's footsteps to become an organist, as well as a deacon and local and Conference treasurer. He loved his Bible and regularly visited people in their homes to give Bible studies.

Sam never learned to drive but could be seen cycling all round Mansfield, where he lived after his marriage. Gardening also kept him fit, as he grew produce on two allotments situated behind his home. Children and grandchildren loved the experience of picking fresh produce. Eating peas raw from the pod was a great treat!

One of Sam's interests was to play chess. He and his twin brother, George, now deceased, used to play chess for the Notts County Chess Club. Both became Nottinghamshire chess champions. In fact, they used to alternate: one year it would be Sam as champion; the next it would be George. Cricket was another shared love.

Two years ago, following several falls and the onset of dementia, Sam went to live in Berry Hill Care Home. The family thank God for Sam's life and influence over the past 100 years and are grateful for the opportunity to celebrate this milestone in his life.

PAULINE ALLCOCK

PHOTO BY DAVINA SLY



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 North England Conference Education, 0115 960 6312

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Please let us know if any of your members turns 100



## Concert at Ringway Life

On Thursday 21 June, while many were watching World Cup football, a select group gathered at Ringway Life Building in Manchester to listen to a world-class performance by Hymnos, a jazz band led by our Alex Douglas on clarinet; and three of his friends on drums, guitar and double bass.

The skill level was sublime, totally admirable, and immensely enjoyable.

If you want a treat, keep an eye out on our church website for further concerts this year: [www.ringwayadventists.org.uk](http://www.ringwayadventists.org.uk).

PHILIP EMM



## A Creation day at Newcastle

'Sorry! You actually believe in that Creationism stuff?' That is not a comment any pastor wants to hear in a public meeting. You may have had similar experiences. There were several reasons why the Newcastle church decided to address the Creation vs Evolution issue during a Sabbath mini-seminar, so they invited Anthony Banton, an elder from Wolverhampton Central Church, to travel north with a computer packed with slides and a desire to make a stand for the God of true science.

The youth had charge of the day's programme, as they often face



## Summer revival in Huddersfield

Huddersfield's seven-day summer revival was not to be missed. The nightly meetings – which were organised and run by the youth – started with prayer, after which there was a sermon by one of the church elders. Despite being a World Cup semi-final evening, Wednesday's meeting saw the week's highest number of attendees after Huddersfield's Pastor Chenjerai passionately urged the members to be there. Guest speaker Clive Palmer's Sabbath sermon ended with a stirring appeal. For Sabbath afternoon's concert the music team skilfully arranged cheerful messages in music from various singers and the a cappella quartet 'Scripture says'. Many invited visitors attended the concert, choosing to be in the courts of the Lord rather than the town's annual carnival, and left revived by the word and presence of God!

NAYTHAN GRANT

challenges to their thinking and beliefs in the classroom. The sermon was devoted to the big issue of whether this world was designed by a Creator God in a short period of time, or whether, over unimaginable ages, life evolved from one form into another.

While not an easy listen for many, some of the younger members of the church were fully engaged. During the afternoon's slightly easier workshop, we discussed the probability of multiple changes taking place to allow different forms to evolve. Anthony used a variety of methods to demonstrate the idea that there simply wasn't enough time in this earth's supposed great age to accommodate the changes being taught as fact.

An eloquent picture of the relevance of the discussion and of the potential of the young people in the church emerged when the congregation were subjected to a quiz using an app called Kahoot. While they were more familiar with the device than most, the fact that five of the younger people obtained higher scores than a doctor and the pastor revealed that they had benefited from the airing of issues they are facing at school.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

## Growing through Grief

Sunday October 14th

Kettering SDA Church,

Northants NN16 8RD. 10am - 3pm.



Growing through grief is a one day seminar designed to enable men and women who are going through grief to come to terms with their journey and find strength as they to grow through the process of loss.

The seminar will be facilitated by pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt a trained counsellor and systemic family life practitioner. To register text Growing Through Grief to 07931 732490. Cost £3. A light lunch will be provided. This seminar is brought to you by the Kettering SDA Family life team.

Limited spaces available. Text now to reserve your place. Sunday October 14th.

As supplied, errors and omissions excepted

## Desmond Philip Nolan (1926-2018) d. 8 April.

On a beautiful spring day family, friends, neighbours, and church members gathered for the funeral of Philip Nolan at Parc Gwyn Crematorium, South Wales. The service was taken by his friends, Dr Brian Phillips, former president of the Welsh Mission, and Rev. Carys Ann, minister of the local village chapel. Later his ashes were interred beside those of his late wife, Audrey, in the graveyard near their beloved cottage in the village of Glynarthen, where they had retired thirty years before and were much appreciated for their warmth and friendship. They worshipped at the Carmarthen church, where Philip led out as an elder, Audrey taught a good Sabbath School lesson and they both provided practical and caring support.

Philip, his preferred name, was born at The Lodge at the entrance to Stanborough Park, Watford, where his father, a chiropodist, and mother, a physiotherapist, worked at the Hydro. Philip and his pals made the most of Stanborough's parkland and woods, and grew up in the Stanborough Park Church community.

Philip trained as a chiropodist, but during World War II he served as an ambulance driver in the Cheltenham area. On his return to Watford he met his 'life partner and one true love', Audrey Elias, a gifted teacher at Stanborough Park School. They were happily wed for 69 years.

In January 1951 Philip and Audrey took advantage of £10 one-way tickets to sail to Australia, where Philip was to enrol in a course at Avondale College. He was very disappointed, however, to find that the course had been cancelled, and they returned to England, where Philip had a chiropody job lined up in Derbyshire and Audrey promptly found a teaching post.

Three years later Philip was ready for a change and trained as a teacher, a career he thrived in. In his second teaching post, at Grindleford Village School, near Sheffield, he became the youngest ever headmaster in Derbyshire. The school grew in popularity and size under his headship, and the pupils received a sound education, enriched with music, art, crafts, and nature study. Philip introduced a



week-long school trip to the Lake District each summer, which the children loved. He planned it in fine detail, involved some staff and parents, and made a photographic record of each trip. They were so successful that other headmasters followed his lead.

Philip and Audrey certainly chose the right profession: long summer school holidays allowed them to caravan and walk in the wilds of Scotland and Wales, meeting family or friends with a passion for exploring God's amazing creation – and photography! Philip specialised in natural history, winning prizes and medals. Local photographic groups around the UK, and also in the USA, welcomed him as an expert judge. He also pioneered a way of combining photographic slide-shows using two projectors, with recorded words and music on different themes, which always highlighted the wonders of God's creation, and shared them with various audiences.

As Audrey declined in health Philip struggled to care for her, necessitating her move to Glyn Nest Care Home some miles away. Philip visited her daily until she died in 2016. His devotion and Christian faith deeply impressed the residents and care staff, and he often told them he was ready to 'fall asleep' until the resurrection morning, and, together with Audrey in full health, to meet our loving Saviour in the air.

This side of the Atlantic, Philip is the last of his generation. In America he leaves behind his late sister Kitty's husband, Dr Cyril Hardy, a retired psychiatrist; they spoke together weekly. Philip's only cousin, Michael Thompson, and many nieces and nephews in the USA, Germany, and the UK salute him. How we miss his keen and lively mind, his love of conversation, his passionate interest in life's best things, the joys and solaces of classical music, nature, and photography – and his faith, deep and hopeful. We are all the richer for knowing him. Until the day dawns...

DR CYNTHIA BENZ, A NIECE

Colin Gwyn Taylor (1944-2018) d. 22 July. Colin was the younger son of Ken and Eunice Taylor, and as a child attended



the Croscombe church in Somerset with his brother Michael and his mother. He was baptised as a teenager and remained a lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Having completed an apprenticeship at Bristol Siddeley/Rolls Royce he eventually became a freelance design draughtsman.

He was one of the founder members of the Maidenhead church. While there, he married Ruth Clee and together assisted in developing the Maidenhead church over a period of 10 years. Later they moved on to Newbold Church. Their marriage was one of great happiness, and their mutual love for each other lasted until Ruth's untimely death in 2008.

Colin was a lover of history and gained an honours degree from Reading University, and was engaged in further research until ME and Parkinson's disease forced him to terminate his studies.

Friends from Watford and the Newbold area were an enormous help after his wife's death, but eventually he decided to move to a care facility in Sandford, Somerset. There he would be near Michael and his wife Joan. Paul and Barbara Clee spent much time and effort to ensure that this move went smoothly.

After living there for some years Colin finally succumbed peacefully to his illness on Sunday evening, 22 July.

Family and friends attended the committal service at the Stubbs Hill Cemetery where Colin was laid to rest with Ruth. The service was conducted by Pastors Wayne Erasmus and Douglas McCormac. Later we were welcomed back to Newbold Church by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda for a service of thanksgiving for the life of Colin. Pastor Paul Clee gave some fascinating insights into Colin's life – augmented by further reminiscences by Will Sharpe, a fellow founder of the Maidenhead church – and finally a reminder of Colin's keen sense of humour was presented by the writer. Pastor Rio Espulgar – Colin and Michael's pastor – offered the prayer.

Various people stepped in to help with the arrangements – Erica and Colin Hole, Sandra Rigby-Barrett for the music, Heather for the flowers – it seemed as though everyone wanted to help make this a memorable and special occasion.

And they succeeded. The writer in particular is deeply grateful to all those who were so helpful.

Last but not least were the refreshments so carefully prepared by Davina and the college kitchen team and enjoyed by those who were present.

Many friends of Colin, Joan and Michael sent cards or messages of sympathy and encouragement – please accept this acknowledgement of our appreciation. Donations were given to the Alzheimer's Society in lieu of flowers. A cheque for £262.50 has been sent to that society.

Colin is now at rest – awaiting the call of the Lifegiver – the One he loved to worship.

MICHAEL K. TAYLOR

## Messenger

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	London	Card	Notth	Edin	Belf
Sep 14	7.18	7.30	7.23	7.33	7.43
21	7.02	7.14	7.06	7.15	7.25
28	6.45	6.58	6.49	6.56	7.08
Oct 5	6.30	6.42	6.32	6.38	6.50



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