

Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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The church will triumph
Lessons on leadership
from the Queen
Faith and finances
Write away
Fun Zone
News, notices & baptisms

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+ Stanborough Press Open Day – 3 September

Through the fire

We have returned to the office,
but many things have changed.



Strategic Priority (8) – Head office

Aim:

- Create a supportive, dynamic, and impact-focused spiritual environment.

Objectives:

- Ensure all staff are fully supported and adequately trained to fulfil their roles.
- Develop a culture of collaborative working and co-production.
- Realign, deploy or second staff to fulfil the mission and purpose of the organisation as a church, charity, and corporation.



Through the fire

We have returned to the office, but many things have changed.

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,

President of the British Union Conference

*'Some through the water,
Some through the flood,
Some through the fire –
But all through the blood.'*

(G. A. Young, 'God Leads His Dear Children Along')

On 16 November 2008, the former British Union Conference head office went up in flames. In January 2011, staff returned to the rebuilt office, which was dedicated on 13 March 2011 by the General Conference President, Pastor Ted Wilson.

From November 2008 to January 2011, the head office of the BUC was situated in an industrial estate in Frogmore, just outside St Albans. We moved from a building with individual offices to open-plan offices. Some people disliked this new arrangement due to lack of privacy, but working in such proximity forced us to collaborate. Lunchtime walks together through the surrounding woodlands were a daily addition to our work schedule, and carpooling was introduced. For me, it was one of the best times of my working life – there was a such a great family atmosphere.

Returning to the rebuilt and

contemporary building was also a joy. But we wondered: *This is the new BUC... I wonder if things are going to change?*

And, yes, our working lives returned to a sense of normality. The carpooling was no longer needed, and the lunchtime walks ceased. We settled into revised routines that mimicked life before the fire.

Head office in 2023

How should we operate in our head office in 2023?

In March 2020, the BUC offices were closed due to COVID-19. We have since returned to the office, but many things have changed. Flexi-working is in place for most staff. The Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), located in the head office, have adopted hybrid working models in keeping with contemporary working practices.

Continuing professional development

Our head office is adapting to the changing face of employment in the UK. We have already started the process of ensuring that our staff are adequately trained and prepared for these changes, and are committed to this process. Continuing professional development (CPD) is essential for staff to keep abreast of changing legislation, emerging business trends and technology.

Collaboration & co-production

During the aftermath of the 2008 fire, there was a sense of togetherness and family. This atmosphere should be revived and embedded into our DNA. Through the grace of Almighty God, we need to exemplify empowered Christian living and represent the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its values.

In addition to this, we are seeking to be more collaborative – department with department, conferences, missions, and institutions working together and producing resources that are relevant for the twenty-first century. Silo working and territorialism are not an option.

Realign, deploy, second

To fulfil our mission as a church and to ensure that we are complying with charity law and also our corporate responsibilities, it may be necessary at times to realign our internal structures, and/or deploy and second staff. These are governance decisions that will be rolled out by the Executive Committee with detailed consultations as appropriate.

Conclusion

As I conclude this article, I find myself looking out over the rolling landscape of Stanborough Park. The rain is light but steady, enhancing the beauty of our surroundings. Through the water of the daily challenges that we face as a church, charity and corporate body; through the flood of secularism; through the literal fire we experienced in 2008 – we praise God that, through His blood, He has kept us, and that we are here in 2023, willing to be His hands and feet in this world.

Editorial

by **Dusanka Rancic**,
Editor



Dear reader,

As the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu once said, 'The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.' As I write these words, I am excited about the journey that lies ahead. *MESSENGER* is a magazine that brings us together as a British Union Conference family. It is a publication through which we can talk, share our stories, and keep the flame of hope alive.

As I look to the future, I cannot help but look back at the past, remembering myself as a 16-year-old girl who, for the first time in her life, came to know God and His Word. When studying Theology at the Theological Seminary in Belgrade and at Newbold College of Higher Education, and while working as a pastor in Serbia, I held fast to the belief that nothing could ever set me apart from serving God and from pastoral ministry. As my life took many turns, I felt that the fire for serving God was burning stronger with each passing day. For the last two years I have prayed specifically for God to open the way for me to serve Him, and the fact that I am here writing this editorial is proof that He is indeed a God who answers prayers.

This is a new chapter in my life, and it's an honour to be a part of this very special ministry. I am grateful to the BUC Executive Committee and to the Stanborough Press for putting their trust in me; and to Pastor Julian Thompson and all the previous editors who have walked this path before me. As *MESSENGER* editor I recognise that this is not my journey: it is our journey . . . and I want to thank all of you in advance for your prayers and support. Jesus is coming soon, dear reader, and my prayer above all else is for God to lead us, and for His Spirit to inspire, strengthen and encourage us in these challenging times. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and this editorial is step one.



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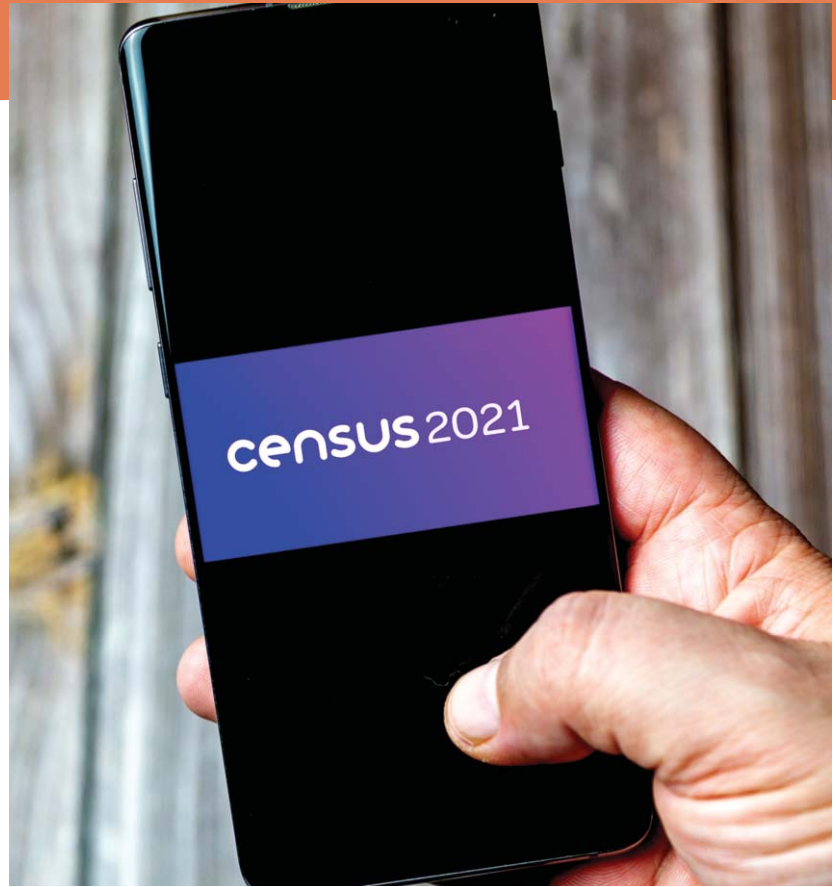
The church will triumph

by Pastor Sampson Aboagye

In the face of recent census data showing a decline in Christianity and the emergence of Christians as a minority in countries like the United Kingdom and the United States, it is important to approach the future of the church with an encouraging perspective. While reports may depict a bleak outlook, we must remember that challenges and uncertainties are not new to the church.

Throughout history, the church has faced opposition and adversity, yet it has endured and thrived. Even in the book of Revelation, the seven churches symbolise a larger body that had a significant impact on the world at that time. Despite external pressures and the absence of military or political power, the church prevailed. It overcame doubts and uncertainties much like the questions we find ourselves asking today.

The vision given to John in Revelation was a message of hope and assurance for the future of the church. Though the church has faced heresies and apostasy, it remains in the omnipotent hands of the eternal Lord. There is a supernatural purpose that will preserve the church until its mission is fulfilled in the world. The church of God has never been defeated by wickedness or persecution. It has stood strong and pure throughout the centuries. While institutional structures, grand cathedrals and denominational establishments may crumble, the essence of the church will continue to thrive and triumph. The gates of



hell will not prevail against it. The church is a refuge and a fortress in this troubled world, held by God Himself.

God's church is not defined by magnificent buildings or denominational labels. It consists of people who love God and keep His commandments. Whenever two or three gather in His name, He is present among them. The church is not about size or numbers, but about humble individuals who choose to follow the Lord's guidance. As long as His presence dwells among His faithful followers, the church of God will endure, even in the face of scepticism.

Despite media predictions and the perception of decline, the book of Revelation assures us that the church of God will be preserved until the glorious return of Jesus Christ, when He establishes His kingdom on Earth. This is not wishful thinking, but a divine promise to all God's

people worldwide regarding the fate of His church. I'm reminded of the words of hymn 348 in the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, 'The Church Has One Foundation':

*Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious,
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.*

So let us not lose heart or be discouraged by the statistics or reports. Instead, let us hold onto the hope that the church of God will overcome and fulfil its purpose in the world. The future may be uncertain, but God's faithfulness and His divine plan for His church remain steadfast. Let us trust in His providence and continue to be a light in the world, knowing that the church of God will endure and flourish against all odds.

Embracing diversity in Adventist ministry: a pastor's journey

by Pastor Pardon Chenjerai,
Northampton District of Churches,
North England Conference



Having served as an ordained pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for nearly a decade in the North England Conference, and with 20 years of evangelism experience which started in my birth country, Zimbabwe, I have been blessed with a wealth of exposure to different Adventist backgrounds both locally and internationally. My travels have taken me across the globe and to the General Conference Session, where I had the privilege of witnessing the rich tapestry of cultures within the Adventist community.

I worshipped with Adventists from various parts of the world with their unique cultural expressions. I've seen Fijians donning sulus and ties, Indian Adventists incorporating beautiful traditional musical instruments like kanjira, kansi, chordophones, aerophones, membranophones, and idiophones, and electric guitars. I have attended churches where the emphasis is on stillness and ceremony, and others where lively choirs sway to the music.

I was deeply troubled when someone messaged me to say that if worship in heaven involved the choirs swaying from side to side, as they had witnessed while worshipping in a multicultural context, then clearly heaven is not for them! Pastors who, like myself, serve with diverse Adventist groups can face challenges arising from unfamiliar cultural practices. Some individuals may feel offended, judgemental, or even angry when confronted with such differences. Coming from Zimbabwe, southern Africa – arguably a conservative Adventist context – I myself have

experienced something of a 'culture shock' at times as I became more exposed to the diverse and multicultural nature of the United Kingdom.

A few years ago I travelled to Ghana and preached for one week at Valley View Adventist University. While I was there, I took the opportunity to study and discover more about Adventism in the Ghanaian context, and noticed many differences between the expression of Adventism in Ghana, the expressions of Adventism from my home context in Zimbabwe, and that of the UK. I had the opportunity to discuss these with one of the Ghanaian pastors I met, and what he shared with me was profound. He said; 'Judging us is unfair and unfortunate, because our background story is not the same background story as yours and it never will be. We received Adventism in a different time and context. Only God knows our story.'

As pastors, our primary duty is to shepherd individuals from various backgrounds, inspiring them to embrace the vision of the new Jerusalem. However, I believe that we must resist imposing our cultural preferences on others or insisting on practices that might offend in multicultural settings. Instead, let us focus on fundamental biblical worship principles that unite us without causing harm.

When visiting churches with different cultural backgrounds, it's essential to approach them with an open mind, aware that practices may differ. Being uncomfortable or resorting to grumbling and judgement serves no positive

purpose. As Adventists, our mission is to spread the Gospel to all nations, tribes, tongues and people. Embracing cultural diversity is inevitable; and, when done wisely, it empowers us to be effective instruments in God's hands. Scripture assures us that God will save individuals from every ethnic group, further emphasising the significance of our multicultural church as a testimony to the reach of the everlasting Gospel.

As we await the second coming of Jesus Christ, a diverse multicultural group, united in respect and validation of each other's contributions, works together to advance God's global mission. It is through this collaborative effort that we proclaim the everlasting Gospel to every corner of the world.

'Never are you to tear one another down, for you are doing Satan's work. Day by day you are to help one another to grow up to the full stature of men and women in Christ.' (Ellen White, *The Upward Look*, p. 210).

'And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people' (Revelation 14:6, KJV).

'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands' (Revelation 7:9, KJV).

Lessons on leadership from the enduring reign of a queen

by Dr Paul Thompson*



Leadership is a deeply studied subject in both management and science, with countless publications dedicated to exploring its intricacies. From biblical references to philosophical insights by great thinkers like Plato and Aristotle, the concept of leadership has been analysed and debated through the ages. Today, we strive to understand whether leaders are born with innate abilities, or if they can be developed through learning and experience.

Recent scientific studies suggest that leadership is a combination of genetic predisposition (30%) and learned skills (70%), indicating that great leaders are made rather than solely born.

The problem is that most leaders, such as football managers and, lately, politicians, are never around long

enough to support a plausible study. Leadership today can be like a revolving door: when expectations are not met and results are not imminent, the Roman Candle approach kicks in, culminating in damage to reputation and dramatic departure.

However, there is one exceptional leader who stands out for her remarkable reign as one of the longest-serving monarchs in history. Queen Elizabeth II's reign, which spanned over 70 years, provides valuable lessons on leadership that continue to resonate even after her passing. A year on from her passing, let us delve into the key leadership qualities she demonstrated throughout her extraordinary life.

Called to lead

The young princess, on a world tour

with her husband, found herself unexpectedly thrust into the role of queen when her father, King George VI, passed away in 1952. Embracing her duty with courage, she ascended to the throne at just 25 years old. Leaders are sometimes called upon to lead in the most unexpected circumstances.

Vision

A strong leader must possess a clear vision and purpose. On her 21st birthday, Queen Elizabeth II articulated her commitment to serve the nation and the Commonwealth,





ensuring that her vision was understood by all, even ordinary people.

Leading by example

Rather than giving orders from a distance, Queen Elizabeth II believed in setting an example by actively working towards improving the nation's well-being. She lifted morale and played a significant role in rebuilding the United Kingdom after World War II, earning respect and admiration.

Hard work

Queen Elizabeth II displayed a remarkable work ethic, dedicating over 40 hours a week to her duties, even in her nineties. Her dedication to excellence and attention to detail set a powerful example for younger generations.

Commitment

A leader's unwavering commitment to duty can make a profound impact. Queen Elizabeth II's sense of duty earned her a positive public image worldwide. Throughout her life, she actively supported numerous charities, service organisations, and military associations, demonstrating her commitment to serving others.

Curiosity

Queen Elizabeth II's inquisitive nature is an inspiring quality. She was unafraid to ask questions and learn from others, even engaging world

leaders with different viewpoints, being open to diverse perspectives.

Respect for others

The Queen's ability to respect others, regardless of their background or role, made her stand out as a leader. Her circumspect and subtle approach gained her immense respect, and she actively listened to others to understand their perspectives.

Embracing change

Queen Elizabeth II embraced change and modernisation, such as broadcasting her coronation on television and sending an email in 1976 when the technology was still relatively new. Her adaptability showed her commitment to staying relevant in a rapidly changing world.

A servant leader

Throughout her life, Queen Elizabeth II embodied the principles of a servant leader, leading with love, humility, and compassion. Her service to the United Kingdom and its people transcended power and authority, leaving a lasting legacy of devotion and leadership.

Faith and witness

Her deep Christian faith guided Queen Elizabeth II in her leadership journey. Her speeches at Christmas and her unwavering humility were testament to her devotion to God and her commitment to her calling as a leader.

So, how do you summarise a life of 96 years, with over 70 years on the throne?

While Queen Elizabeth II's life was one with a title and power, it was also one that was vulnerable to the media, criticism and at times controversy. The Queen was often misunderstood and judged harshly because of her wealth and privilege. She trod carefully and laboured through the challenges of a wise leader who experienced love and loss; a life of strengths, yet defined by humanity. She had a heart for her people, her family and her country.

Her leadership serves as an inspiring example of humility, service, and impact on the world. As the Queen came close to the end of her life and leadership, she spoke poignantly about her faith. 'For me, the teachings of Christ and my own personal accountability before God provide a framework in which I try to lead my life. I, like so many of you, have drawn great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example.'

There is much that we, as Adventists, can learn from her example.

*Dr Paul Thompson is an entrepreneur, an academic, and a published researcher (University of Oxford, Kellogg College). He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Credit Management and a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of British Management. He is an ordained elder in Reading Central SDA Church.



Reviewing transparency and accountability in church accounting

by Wederly Aguiar, *BUC Treasurer*

Transparency and accountability are not novel concepts; however, their importance has been on the rise globally since the Enron scandal in 2001, which shook Wall Street and had ripple effects on corporations and their accounting practices and compliance measures worldwide.

However, Scripture has always emphasised accountability, especially with finances. First Corinthians 4:2 states, 'Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful' (NIV).

Appreciating accountability enables us at the British Union Conference to provide stakeholders with the necessary information to make big decisions with clarity and ensure that our actions align with their expectations. This is the first component of accountability.

The second component is taking responsibility when we fall short and bearing the consequences.

The framework for accountability and transparency filters all the way down to the local church from the General Conference's *Accounting Manual*, which outlines best practices such as reporting procedures, adherence to accounting principles, financial audit review committees, and internal controls, with a key objective of improving 'accountability and stewardship of denominational resources'.

These policies have been conceived through years of experience and reflect accountability in every way, down to how tithe is used.

Tithe can only be used for four key purposes:

- Pastors, evangelists, Bible workers and other front-line workers
- Administrative leadership such as personnel at headquarters
- Evangelistic outreach
- Functions such as education, literature and media

Tithe doesn't fund church and school maintenance or building projects. These are funded by offerings, school fees and church subsidies.

Charities are accountable to external regulatory bodies such as The Charity Commission, which ensures, through the Statement of Recommended Practice, that funds are managed diligently, accurate financial records are kept, annual audits are in place, and governing bodies oversee financial matters, while avoiding conflicts of interest for personal benefit.

However, despite all the internal and external regulations, deceit and abuse of power by those in leadership can still occur. In light of this, the BUC takes its duty of care seriously towards members who so generously return their tithe and give free-will donations to the church, and provides training to all involved in the accounting process, such as local treasurers, to prevent fraud, theft and negligence. Training is particularly aimed at Treasury staff, to ensure the highest levels of internal controls are adhered to, and at departmental directors, who are budget holders.

Departmental directors are reminded of their duty of care over finances and the importance of accurate and timely reporting.

While treasury teams across the Union have internal controls, along with regular training, one shortfall at the BUC has been a lack of communication with members

regarding finances. The aim of this article, along with others to come, is to rectify this, leading to mutual respect, trust and communication.

In the upcoming months, communication is a huge goal for the Treasury team, with the end result being the provision of regular financial reports easily accessible to members on our website.

The BUC is always grateful for the generosity of our faithful members, which makes it possible to progress the mission of the church.

We value integrity in the way we spend money, and wish to demonstrate this. As Paul says in 2 Corinthians 8:20, 21, 'We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of man' (NIV).

While faith and prayer are important, they are no substitute for action and intention.

Members demonstrate their accountability to God by returning their money to Him. Treasurers alone are not accountable for how these donations are used; the other church officers play a role too.

It is crucial to recognise that all individuals within the church system share the same obligation – whether it is presidents in setting the tone of strategic plans, officers and administrators entrusted to direct the organisation, directors who facilitate key services for the organisation, pastors nurturing the communities around churches, or Executive Committee members who take on vital governance responsibilities – thus making the whole system accountable to their members too.

Recognising that God works through people and organisations can allow us all to evaluate our giving and spending practices so that they align with the values we represent.

Write away

by Bert Smit, ADRA-UK CEO



This 8 September is designated as **World Literacy Day**, and ADRA-UK would like you to join our team in highlighting the challenges faced by children learning in poverty throughout the world.

Facts

Seventy percent of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries¹ cannot read or comprehend a simple text. Reading and writing are intertwined; if you are unable to read, it is unlikely that you can write.

Low and non-existent literacy levels disadvantage children and erode the economic and developmental potential of societies as a whole.

One in five children worldwide are out of school. Children with disabilities, those in crisis, and, in particular, girls face hurdles to gain an education.

What are we doing?

ADRA-UK is helping to deliver the Girls Education South Sudan (GESS)² project to transform the

education offered for a generation. In Myanmar, we deliver the CASE2Learn project, which aims to improve and expand access to indigenous education services and improve school quality standards and basic education services. Together with our partner, Rural Indigenous Sustainable Education (RISE), there is engagement with education actors, along with more effective leadership and management support.

What can you do?

One of the best ways to support ADRA's work is through a **monthly direct debit**. This not only enables you to spread the cost of your giving throughout the year, but it also assists us in our planning. A monthly donation of £10 (£120 yearly) could, for example, help 12 children to get school supplies, whereas £25 monthly (£300 yearly) could, for instance, provide a set of reading

books for a school!

Thank you

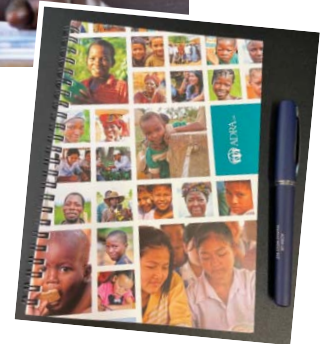
If you sign up during the month of September for a minimum monthly donation of £10, we will send you a special ADRA notebook and pen.

On behalf of ADRA-UK, thank you for completing a monthly direct debit to help some of the world's most vulnerable people to live as God intended.

To set up a direct debit with ADRA-UK, scan the QR code at the top of this page or access the following link: [cafdonate.cafonline.org/2053#/DonationDetails](https://adra.org.uk/impact/education/).

¹<https://adra.org.uk/impact/education/>

²The GESS project is delivered as part of a consortium led by Mott McDonald, with partners ADRA-UK, Leonard Cheshire, Montrose, BBC Media in Action and the Windle Trust.



Cancer and ethnicities

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,

BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries

Ethnicity has become a focal point for cancer care provision in the UK.

In an article titled 'First data in a decade highlights ethnic disparities in cancer',¹ new evidence has emerged to demonstrate cancer variance between cultural groups. The research was undertaken by Cancer Research UK and published in May 2022, revealing variations in cancer types, rates, treatments, engagement, care, patient satisfaction, prognosis and outcomes.

Research findings

Dr Katrina Brown, one of the study authors and a Cancer Research UK statistician, reflecting on the research results, states:

*'To date, this is the most reliable and highest quality study on cancer incidence by ethnicity in England, which shows us there are disparities in cancer rates across different ethnicities.'*²

The findings revealed the following:

- White people in the UK are more than twice as likely as people from black, Asian or mixed ethnic backgrounds to get the following cancers: melanoma skin cancer and oesophageal, bladder and lung cancers.
- Preventable risk factors, such as smoking and obesity, were suggested to be a possible cause of higher cancer risk in white people.
- In black people, the following cancers are significantly more common than in white people: prostate cancer, myeloma and womb cancer.
- Black people are more likely to get stomach and liver cancers than white people.
- Asian people are more likely to get liver cancers than white people.

In the same report, concern was raised in terms of projected cancer rates in specific cultural groups:

*'... experts warn that cancer rates in minority ethnic groups could increase. Given existing inequalities in patient experience, which includes people from minority ethnic groups reporting worse experiences of cancer care and lower survival for some cancer types seen, this is worrying.'*³

One suggestion for the possibility of increased cancer rates in black, Asian or mixed ethnicity groups was lifestyle change. The existing evidence suggested that smoking and obesity rates are increasing in these groups, and if it became similar to those in the white population, this trend could predispose them to cancers that are currently more prevalent in white people.

The Cancer Research UK 2022 study highlights the importance of being aware of cultural disparities in relation to service provision:

*'Knowing the differences, if any, in cancer rates in different ethnic groups is a key piece of the puzzle when it comes to reducing those differences and improving patient experience.'*⁴

Concluding the report, Cancer Research UK identifies where needs remain unmet:

*'Patient survey data has shown that when people from ethnic minority backgrounds do get cancer, they feel less satisfied with their care and have less confidence in health professionals, compared with people from the white ethnic group,' said Delon. 'They are also more likely to be diagnosed at a later stage and have lower survival for some cancer types.'*⁵

The Cancer Research UK report and analysis has provided essential and timely data that service providers can use to ensure their local services are relevant to all cultural groups.

I am currently engaged with an NHS project, as part of which I have been



asked to ascertain client experiences and suggest solutions where deficits exist in care to African Caribbean groups. During my analysis from patient interviews, the following were identified as key areas of observation, requiring action:

- More representation from hospital staff that mirrors the demographics of the local residents
- Understanding of cultural interpretations, beliefs and lived experience of cancer in diverse cultural groups
- More clinical staff from diverse community groups who are able to connect through language, socialisation and religious understanding
- A more bespoke service for diverse community groups
- More volunteers from all ethnic groups, to increase communication, engagement and time to listen to and support patients

We need cancer care provision across the UK to be reflective of the recommendations proposed in the latest research on these disparities, including awareness of differences between cultural groups.

The next issue will deal with cancer risk reduction.

Good health!

¹<https://news.cancerresearchuk.org/2022/03/02/first-data-in-a-decade-highlights-ethnic-disparities-in-cancer/>

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

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Taken from *Hidden Words: Book 1*, by Helen Johnson. To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/hidden-words/>

Coconut, Cinnamon & Raisin Spelt Bread



I made this recipe using spelt flour and hesitated at first, as I thought it would come out dry and dense, but surprisingly it came out quite light and is not dry either, with a great flavour. I don't usually use spelt flour, but I am pleased with this recipe as I became more adventurous with ingredients!

- 1 Preheat oven to 180°C (350°F; gas mark 4).
- 2 Mix together **flour**, **baking powder**, **baking soda**, **cinnamon**.
- 3 Add **agave syrup**, **coconut milk**, **banana**, **raisins**.
- 4 Stir just enough to combine ingredients.
- 5 Put mixture into a medium-sized greased loaf tin and bake for 40-45 minutes.
- 6 Test with a toothpick or cake tester: if it comes out clean the loaf is ready.
- 7 Remove from tin and cool on a wire rack.

This can be eaten on its own or spread with vegan butter.



Shopping list

- Wholewheat spelt flour – 2 cups
- Baking powder – 1 tsp
- Bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) – 1 tsp
- Cinnamon – ¼ tsp
- Agave syrup or maple syrup – ¼ cup
- Banana – 1 small, mashed
- Raisins – 1 cup
- Coconut milk – 1 cup, thick



This recipe is taken from the book, *Cooking with Kids*, by Kirly-Sue. To purchase your copy, follow this link: <https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/cooking-with-kids/>

Jubilation as London Ghana Church complete the reading of the Bible in 4 days

by Darell J. Philip, Area 6C Communications Coordinator



There were scenes of jubilation at the completion of the reading of the Bible in just 4 days at the London Ghana SDA church on Sunday 9 July 2023. Members celebrated, jumped for joy, sang and danced as their resident minister, Pastor Joojo Bonnie, reading the final chapter of Revelation, saw his church community's completion of the 4-day Bible reading venture at 11:49am – a little over 2 hours before the expected completion time of 2pm.

The venture, which began at 3pm on Wednesday 5 July 2023, was supported by many young people alongside their parents due to the closure of schools on Wednesday and Friday as a result of ongoing teacher strikes related to a pay dispute.

London Ghana's ministerial intern, Pastor Kwame Sarpong, who also took part in the Bible reading extravaganza, commented: 'As "people of the book", I

think it is imperative to understand the importance of the book, and one way to do it is by simply reading it as it is. No commentary, no opinions, no additional stuff, just the Word. It was a joy to see the enthusiasm of members from our church, other churches and the community come together to read the Word of God and celebrate – especially when we reached the goal.'

Some of the comments members made were: 'This experience has enabled me to read the Bible more.'

'I can't stop reading the Bible now.'

'I loved the fact that during this challenge we would also pray at every hour, which emphasised God being the centre of what we're doing and also gave us insight into God's character.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed this experience. When you're reading the Bible out loud it

gives you a better understanding of the Word and the context that we regularly miss out on.'

With support from members belonging to other churches within Area 6C, London Ghana completed the reading of the Bible in just 4 days, with groups of members taking turns to pray in the foyer each hour while the Bible reading continued non-stop and uninterrupted in the sanctuary.

Pastor Joojo Bonnie, who had led his previous church, Hackney SDA, in the completion of the Bible reading in 4 days last year, repeating the feat with his current church, London Ghana, commented: 'It has been a great experience, because we noticed that members of the church and community came together to read, listen and share in the experience of the Word of God. Our church has been transformed and we praise the Lord for this great spiritual experience.'

Weston-super-Mare Pathfinder investiture

Weston-super-Mare SDA Church does not have a large membership, but it has a very active youth department.

On Sabbath 10 June a service was conducted where eight Pathfinders and three Adventurers were invested. The Pathfinders had earned 12-14 honours each, and the Adventurers 15 awards each, the work completed in the year since the last investiture.

On 1 July the church hosted its biggest youth day yet, with a congregation of 120-130 people and at least eight churches being represented. Pastor Juan Patrick, the South England Conference Teens Ministries Director, gave a wonderful sermon about getting to know Jesus better and how to improve our relationship with Him. Later, during vespers, he gave tips on how to be attentive listeners and readers of the Bible. The day ended with a barbeque in the church grounds. More such gatherings are planned for 16 September and 18 November.

C. SOUTHCOTT, WSM COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Celebrating Women's Ministries emphasis days 2023

by Beulah Plunkett, *NEC Director for Women's Ministries*

The GC, TED, BUC and NEC got together on Sabbath 24 June 2023 to celebrate the blessings and success of the Women's Ministries emphasis days held worldwide annually in our local churches by the Women's Ministries Department. The hall at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, in the NEC was full to capacity as the women poured in to start the worship service for this special event.

The General Conference (GC) Women's Ministries website explains the purpose of the Women's Ministries Emphasis Day:

'It is an opportunity for women to lead out in a worship service and a [time] to educate the church regarding the purposes of Women's Ministries. It is an ideal time to introduce your leaders and committee to the church family and to invite women who have not been involved to join.'¹

The GC Women's Ministries Director, Heather-Dawn Small, adds:

'The WM Emphasis Day is a day for Seventh-day Adventist women to focus on the goals, issues and vision of the department. It is a time for us to give God thanks for all He has done and is doing for and through His daughters. It is also a time to spiritually refocus on what is truly important, and a relationship with Jesus is at the top of the list.'

The NEC Women's Ministries Director, Beulah Plunkett, hosted the day. The praise team from Manchester North was poised and ready to 'sing out a love song to Jesus'. The musicians' band rang out in harmony with them. The theme of the day was 'Love is the reason', based on the GC theme, 'A love that precedes one's choices'. We were welcomed by NEC women in different languages and led in prayer by the TED Women's Ministries Director, Karen Holford. The BUC Women's Ministries Director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, gave the Scripture reading, and our guest choir, Pearly Gates from Preston Church, sang as they made their way to the podium. It was such an amazing start to the day – all the women in one accord – and it just got better and better.

This was the realisation of the goal of the Women's Emphasis Day – a real example of women leading out in the worship service.

In Sabbath School Beulah Plunkett led an interactive lesson study on the 10 characteristics of love, and asked the women to find them in 1 Corinthians 13. There was a buzz in the room as they paired up and started searching. The women called out, 'kindness', 'patience', 'does not envy', and were asked to share the practicalities of living out these characteristics.

Karen Holford delivered a very valuable, enriching and practical seminar on kindness, and the women were invited to consciously examine how they interact with others and to commit to

increasing their kindness output. The women practised the virtues of kindness, an attribute of love, all day; you could feel it in the atmosphere.

Sharon Platt-McDonald gave a very energetic talk on a range of projects for girls and women that enthused the women into action. Keeping up with Sharon was a challenge, and a good one too, because her fervour ignited love in the women to develop their ideas and let them fly on wings of love.

For the midday service the NEC President, Pastor George Kumi, and the NEC Executive Secretary, Pastor Emanuel Bran, joined us by video to bring greetings. We presented four young women (Miranda Roberts, Zhanè Simpson, Abigail Hazel and Amber Hazel) with certificates of excellence for their work in developing and leading the Young Women's Conference for the last three years. This is a young women's conference planned by young women for young women to address their needs and support their spiritual and personal growth.

The Scripture reading was given by Faith Muimo from Leeds Central Church, one of our Women's Ministries leaders in the NEC. Pastor Patricia Douglas, the NEC Children's Ministries Director, led us in our main pastoral prayer; Sister Brenda and Sister Zena brought us to the most holy place as they sang like angels.

Heather-Dawn Small was then ready with a word from the Lord. The theme 'Love is the reason' was broken down and taught with the goal of encouraging the women to put love to the test and share a word with others in the wider community. A very generous offering and a delicious lunch with time for fellowship followed. The weather was just right, and many went for a walk to take advantage of it.

In the afternoon our president joined us live with his wife to offer a word of encouragement. 'Forward we go!' Our NEC motto is certainly underpinned by the theme 'Love is the reason'. Our president saw the zeal that the women have for the Lord awakened. The day culminated with the praise team leading the worship in song, and Pearly Gates and our soloist, Sister Akan, singing God's praise.

Our GC director prayed a prayer of consecration on the women, and Sharon Platt-McDonald blessed them with love and the courage to do God's will. A wonderful day came to a close with the women very thankful for its blessings.

¹<https://women.adventist.org/women-s-ministries-emphasis-day>





NEC Prayer Ministries team visits the Isle of Man

On Friday 7 April, 5 members of the NEC Prayer Ministries team boarded the 5:35pm flight from Manchester Airport to the Isle of Man, where they were met by the local pastor, Sasha Mugari, and Sister Florence DeBeer, one of the church's pioneers on the island.

As soon as they arrived, with the Sabbath drawing near, the team immediately prepared to lead evening vespers, which was held on Zoom. Frederica presented a short devotion on the theme, 'Knowing His Sacrifice', to emphasise how Christ bore sin's curse for us and what was accomplished on the cross on that Good Friday over two thousand years ago. Sister Eseata Steele (Prayer Coordinator for Area 6) led the prayer session, with readings from Isaiah 53 and songs to focus attention on God's love as displayed on the cross.

On Sabbath morning the team met the Isle of Man church members in a sturdy Manx-stone building in Ramsey town, formerly the United Reformed Church, which the SDA church is currently renovating as its new



home. The theme song for the weekend, 'We turn our eyes to You', pointed to the sacrifice of Christ, His crucifixion, death and resurrection, triumph and victory as Saviour and Redeemer.

Sabbath worship began with songs of praise and prayer. Sister Edith Mukada (Joint Prayer Coordinator for Area 5) led an interactive Sabbath School discussion, inviting the church to pray between discussion points on knowing the 'Calling of God'.

During the children's spot, Sister Judith Asare helped the children to pray for children living in other parts of the world to come to know Jesus. Each child was represented by a flag from around the world. This created a flurry of excitement and colour as the children scurried to choose a flag and take turns to pray.

During the sermon, Frederica challenged the church to know God personally and intimately, pointing out that this was the key to eternal life as highlighted in John 17:3. This was followed by earnest prayer responses from

the members.

After a delicious fellowship lunch Sister Hyacinth Gayle, Prayer Coordinator for Area 1, led the afternoon prayer service, inviting the church to take part in intercessory prayer for the pastor and all department leaders. The air was filled with earnest prayers and songs of hope and confidence in God.

The weekend concluded with a Sunday morning prayer session, supporting those in need of individual prayer care. The team enjoyed a special tour of the island, visiting sites of special interest, including the Great Laxey Wheel. We are grateful to God for facilitating our visit to the church family, and to Pastor Mugari and Florence for inviting us to this beautiful island.

FREDERICA REID

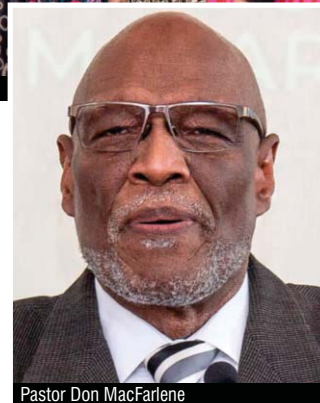
Parenting God's way

Former BUC president Don McFarlane was the guest speaker for Wolverhampton Central's Family Life Day on 29 April. This was the second part of a series of days with an emphasis on the family which was being led by Chelcie Smith and the Family Life team. The text for the morning was taken from Daniel 1, and this provided the backdrop for the sermon.

Pastor McFarlane highlighted the Hebrew names of the characters in Daniel 1 and the importance of those names and their meanings. The sermon highlighted the fact that the church is not the substitute of the role of the parent in the home, and then examined the childhood of Jesus. Pastor McFarlane showed the church that our children's names are 'child of God' and 'heir', and their purpose is to be focused on God. The church had practical parenting advice, ensuring that parents are on the same page, sharing the same beliefs and values.

The sermon gave the church guidance, humour and food for thought, and we look forward to Pastor McFarlane blessing us again.

DONNA PALMER





Is it possible? Yes, it is possible

Surpassing fifty podcasts, with guests from North America, the Caribbean, the continent of Africa and the continent of Europe, the digital arm of the Stoke Newington Possibility Ministries Department celebrated its third anniversary in May.

IIPT (It is Possible Tuesdays) began its journey on Tuesday 19 May 2020 with guest Ms Donna Douglas, the interviewer (Possibility Ministries leader) and one audience member from Canada. The start was so novel that it was not recorded, as the interviewer's device was not equipped to record. It was not until the third podcast that recording on Zoom was possible and later uploaded to the church website at least two days later. Fast-forward to 2023, where the podcast is live-streamed via Streamyard under the very capable hands of Mr P. Williams, who is based in Jamaica.

Who would have thought that the pandemic birth of an online programme to keep Possibility Ministries

visible and alive would still be up and running post-COVID and going from strength to strength? God's handiwork is evident in this ministry!

Whether it was:

- Tiaraoluwa, the 6-year-old girl from Nigeria, advocating for limb difference awareness, or
- Josan, who battled cancer more than three times but unfortunately lost her battle last year, or
- Dr Cecile Dennis, whose values see her advocating for those whose voices are not heard because of their intellectual disabilities, or
- Dr Latey Bradford, medical doctor and PhD holder, who shared the awesomeness of having her own personal relationship with God where she went boldly to God and told Him what she would do and what she wanted Him to do and have Him do it, or
- Miss MimiMugs and More, who is allowing God to build her confidence so that she is ministering through her crafts and creativity, or
- Pastor Johnson, who scrutinised the interaction between the church and those with disabilities and is helping to change the landscape for those with disabilities in church . . .

IIPT is growing, bringing glory to God and encouraging others to move out of their comfort zones and reach/go into the fields of God's children and start to do something with their gifts and talents.

Is it possible? Yes, it is possible, especially on Tuesdays.

S. A. JEFFREY



Jay, Joan and Angella

team, Angella, Jay and myself, are looking forward to the next community day.

JOAN MABB, COMMUNITY SERVICES

Raise your bat, Hyland House!

Teachers and students of Hyland House were recognised on Sabbath 27 May 2023 at the Stoke Newington church in commemoration of their 100th anniversary.

Education leader, S. Jeffrey, presented the staff with personalised cups and cards during the Divine Service. This was in appreciation of the values and skills they have been teaching the children over the years.

Students from Hyland House, most of whom attend Stoke Newington Church, were recipients of achievement certificates during the service. They received sensory gifts at the end of the church service.

Headteacher Errol Gayle reminded the congregation that Hyland House School was 'raising its bat', having been established 100 years ago, and was 'not out'. This was in reference to the fact that in 1923 Hyland House began its work as a Christian Seventh-day Adventist educational institution. Now in 2023, 100 years later (a century, also in cricketing terms) they are still influencing the minds and lives of children and the world. They are a ubiquitous presence and therefore still at the crease, batting and not out (another cricketing reference).

Stoke Newington Church is pleased to have been able to honour Hyland House School, its staff, and students on Sabbath 27 May 2023 and wish them well as they continue the celebration on 8 July 2023.

Raise your bat, Hyland House. You are 100, not out!

S. A. JEFFREY

Barnet's Community Day

Following the initiative by the SEC for all churches to go out into their community, Barnet SDA Church decided to give out free takeaway packed lunch bags on Sabbath 17 June, the Community Day. These bags were filled with a piece of fruit, patties, cake, water and literature. While church members gave out leaflets on Ballards Lane, a table was set up at the front of the church, and the packed lunch bags were ready for members of the community to collect. The bags were well received, and new doors were opened to local residents, who were happy to hear more about our church and the Gospel.

It was really good to meet those residents who were behind the curtains in the immediate and surrounding areas of our church. A total of 39 packed lunch bags were handed out. The Barnet Community Services team strongly believe in sowing those small seeds and allowing the Holy Spirit to do its work. The Community Services

Royal Cornwall Show 2023

For many years now, the churches of Cornwall and Devon have had a presence at the Royal Cornwall Show. This year was no different as we welcomed visitors to our stand and offered free health checks, blood tests and the opportunity to make their own refreshing juice drink with the smoothie bike challenge.

From the moment we opened until a few minutes before closing we had a steady stream of people taking advantage of the cholesterol and blood sugar tests offered by our volunteer nurses, while other volunteers measured BMI and blood pressure. We also offered a health age questionnaire, and after this our visitors were gifted with a pack containing a *Vibrant Life* magazine, leaflets offering emotional health support from Cornerstone, and some Christian literature.

Also very popular was the smoothie bike challenge. Our visitors (as well as the staff!) rode in pairs against each other and loved the challenge of trying to beat the top score of the day while making their own personal smoothie. The smoothie bike challenge added to our goal to promote healthy living and be a friendly and

Wolverhampton Central Religious Liberties Day

On 6 May Wolverhampton Central were blessed to have Elder Conrad Vine leading their Religious Liberties Day. Elder Vine has worked for ADRA and is now the President of Adventist Frontier Missions in Berrien Springs, Michigan, US. During Sabbath School the congregation participated in an object lesson detailing the major religions of the world, seeing how the Holy Spirit is working and noting our responsibility to share the good news with everyone. Focusing on the apostle Paul, the divine hour looked at his life before and after his conversion and the lessons that can be learnt from his life.

Elder Vine charged the church to be a light, knowing that we are going to face a time of persecution when our rights will be challenged. He also reminded them that

World Refugee Day service

What we believe to be the first World Refugee Day service to be held in Grantham was hosted by the Seventh-day Adventist church on 17 June. The service focused on the two themes of 'Compassion' and 'Hope away from home'.

The Mayor of Grantham, Councillor Mark Whittington, read a Bible reading, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Charmaine Morgan, gave a warm welcome to all those who have come to Grantham for safety, sharing a personal story and the experience of Grantham in times of war.

Pupils of Dudley House School read out some myth-busting statistics from the Refugee Council and listened to the story, 'My name is not refugee'.

Representatives from three other churches in the town spoke with passion of the work they are doing with Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

Parts of the service were translated into the Ukrainian language with the help of Sergiy Nykyforov from ADRA Ukraine. Sergiy was instrumental in encouraging the start of a specific migrant mission in Grantham to Ukrainian families by offering English lessons in the church which include Bible resources. These lessons have continued weekly, led by local church members, who have adapted the teaching materials provided by the charity 2:19, 'So to Speak' and 'So Lord Speak', a topical curriculum that has been matched to the sequence of God's 'big story'.

ELISABETH CARNELL, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

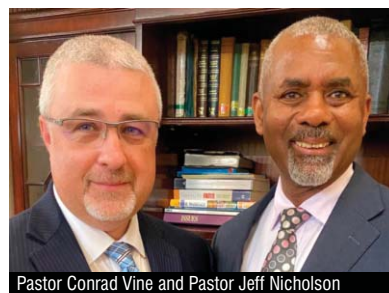


supportive presence at the show as we represented the churches of Area 1 and shared God's love in this practical and accessible way.

A big thank-you goes out to our extremely hard-working volunteers who gave their time and love to serve, and our members across the area that have supported the ministry with their prayers and financial support.

PASTOR JEREMY TREMEER

Christians are facing persecution now. Elder Vine's desire was for all of us to let God make us into a new creation and change our spiritual appetite, and that we, just



Pastor Conrad Vine and Pastor Jeff Nicholson

like Paul, would share the good news and stand up for our belief in Jesus Christ. To get ready for the final crisis, Elder Vine prayed that God would grow our knowledge, mould our attitude, and change our daily experiences.

The afternoon meeting was a lively Q & A focusing on the worldwide changes affecting Adventists and their religious liberties.

DONNA PALMER



Group of speakers with Sergiy Nykyforov, ADRA Ukraine

Baptism of 12 in Northampton

One of the joyous moments in the life of every church is when a person decides to give his or her life to Jesus through baptism. This happened to Northampton International Seventh-day Adventist Church on 1 July 2023, when 12 youthful individuals (10 females, 2 males) courageously decided to give their lives to God through baptism.

This joyous event came about after the candidates had gone through the fundamental beliefs of the church with the elders and the Northampton district pastor, Pastor Pardon Chenjerai. The baptism service saw an impressive turnout, with a diverse group of attendees, ranging from close family members to friends, church members, and spiritual mentors. It was heartening to witness such overwhelming support for the people being baptised,



Left to right: Chiara Oppong, Jemimah Aidoo, Rahel Akuamoah, Princess Opoku, Esther Addae, Selina Somailah, Samuelle Ntansah, Ama Amoakohene, Esther Fosu, Kofi Adu Amankwaah, Joshua Opoku and Godfred Darkwaah

highlighting the impact they had on those around them.

The sermonette by Pastor McKenzie admonished the candidates that they would face challenges after the baptism, but when they focus on the Lord they will not be overcome by any challenges the devil would bring on them. Please pray for these young people to grow from strength to strength in the Lord.

SECRETARY, NORTHAMPTON INTERNATIONAL SDA CHURCH



Pastor Mike Simpson and his wife, Marlene

Farewell, Pastor Mike Simpson

Pastor Simpson ministered as a taskforce worker at Windsor Street Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1985/86, and so it was fitting to have his farewell service there on the evening of Sabbath 24 June. Members and friends gathered together from Areas 5 & 6 and further afield to say goodbye to a much-respected minister who has touched the lives of countless individuals in churches and communities.

The church was filled with new and old faces, ministerial colleagues and laity: some from back in the day, and others more recently. There was an air of expectancy, and the atmosphere was filled with gratitude, echoed constantly by all who addressed Pastor Simpson, his wife Marlene, and their sons.

Pastor Paul Liburd officiated throughout the evening, and a video message from Dr Patrick Herbert (Area 5 Ministerial Field Secretary) paved the way for the many tributes that followed. The programme also included a poem from Sister Collymore (aged 93), who said she could not miss the opportunity to express her gratitude. Pastor Masih also shared fond memories of a very young Michael Simpson at Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, and of how their bond of friendship had grown into one of kinsmanship.

For the remainder of the evening, friends, members and colleagues took to the microphone to convey their respects. The common thread throughout the tributes revolved around Pastor Simpson's passion for evangelism in the community, his devotion to equipping the laity for service, and his unswerving commitment to God. The tributes highlighted the same story: from the 1970s until today, Pastor Simpson has been called by God and has served Him faithfully in numerous roles.

After graduating from Newbold College in 1996 and being ordained in 2002, Pastor Simpson served as the Personal Ministries Director, Church Growth Director, Global Mission Co-ordinator, Ministerial Association Secretary and Co-Founder of Hope FM. Pastor Simpson made a difference by encouraging collaboration and open communication, fostering an environment of trust and co-operation, thereby allowing diverse voices to be heard and valued. Pastor Obi testified to the seeds Pastor Simpson had planted in his various roles that are now bearing fruits.

During the nearly three-hour programme, recognition and applause were accorded to Pastor Simpson's wife, Marlene, who supported his ministry despite the enormous demands on herself and her family. The Ministerial Spouses Association acknowledged the work she had carried out with grace and consistency, and they added to the many cards and gifts presented to the couple.

Pastor Simpson will be missed; and, although the word 'retirement' was mentioned several times in light of him going to the USA to care for his mother, most recognise that such a word cannot define him. Indeed, long-time friend Mikey Brown stated that Pastor Simpson 'was called before he was called'. Another added that 'a man like you cannot keep yourself quiet when it comes to the service of God and His cause.'

The prayers, love and respect of many go with Pastor Simpson and Marlene as they take up their new calling overseas.

JENNIFER DISTIN

A giant of a play by Dudley House

The children of Dudley House School put on an amazing performance at 6pm on Tuesday 18 July, during the final week before summer holidays – an upbeat musical titled ‘The Giant Slayer’, recounting the story of David and Goliath. Parents and friends of the school thronged the sanctuary of Grantham Seventh-day Adventist Church to witness the children, dressed up in period-appropriate armour and other attire, singing of God’s love and power to save. Many of the children and parents are from other branches of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and non-religious backgrounds, but they all were blessed by the performance and are delighted to see their children learning stories from the Bible. The hard-working staff of Dudley House are doing a fantastic job, and we thank God for what He is accomplishing through them. While the staff take a well-earned break, the children are already looking forward to next year!

ANDREW PUCKERING

If you are interested in allowing your child to receive a Christian education at this fantastic Seventh-day Adventist school, please see the school’s website (dudleyhouseschool.co.uk/) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/dudleyhouseschool/), or call the headteacher on 07483 455997.



Family fun at Dysart Park with Dudley House School

Children and adults enjoyed a gloriously sunny Family Fun Day at Dysart Park in Grantham on Sunday 2 July, where Dudley House School, the Seventh-day Adventist school in Grantham, also had a stall. Courtesy of some hard-working parents of Dudley students, there were several fun-filled activities on offer, including a timed hoop-shooting challenge, mini golf, and an invitation to guess the number of marbles in a jar, the winners of which would receive meal vouchers for local restaurants Katana and Prezzo. Several of the participants kept coming back to the activities again and again, including a very determined young lady, Sophie, who won two of the vouchers! The headteacher, Jenny Johnson, received several expressions of interest from passing families, and it is hoped that they will result in yet more children experiencing God’s love through the caring staff of Dudley House School.

ANDREW PUCKERING



All adverts as supplied, errors and omissions excepted

Dear Editor,

As a small boy growing up in the 1950s I have fond memories of Sabbath lunch with different Caribbean visitors each month. My mum regularly invited newly arrived West Indian members of the local Adventist church home after the morning service, remaining in touch with them as their families grew, until she died.

In the mid '70s, my mum happily remarried a gentleman at the church who, like a number of those early visitors, worked on the local buses. As a church deacon he would always be found at the front door every week, welcoming everyone who came to church, regardless of colour, with a big smile and a strong handshake.

It seems a pity that articles such as the recent 'Windrush – the reason we care' in the 28 July MESSENGER rarely seem to acknowledge the welcome and friendship provided by many ordinary English church members, such as my mum, to the West Indian immigrants that began arriving in Adventist churches from the late '40s onwards.

While unacceptable discrimination clearly affected the lives of most of the early Windrush arrivals within their local communities, and sadly even within the church itself, it seems an important omission not to mention some of the positive support and friendships that existed in those early days.

It was interesting, for example, to hear recent BBC Radio 4 interviews with Windrush passengers about how they were often helped by their British employers and neighbours in combating racism, and how their motivation to come to Britain was less about helping the 'mother country' to rebuild or run its transport system than being able to find work, higher wages and better healthcare.

For the ever-decreasing numbers of older 'indigenous' church members who tried their best at the time, it would be good to see the MESSENGER narrative rebalanced in future issues.

While Bob Marley's lyrics were written later, there is no doubt that my mother's motivation back in the '50s was exactly as sung: 'One love, one heart, let's get together and feel alright.'

DAVID WRIGHT

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Stanborough Secondary School: volunteers required

Stanborough Secondary School is seeking volunteers who wish to give 12-24 months in missionary service. This is the only Seventh-day Adventist secondary school in the British Union Conference. Last year eight of our students were baptised, and we hope that you can join us on the journey of educating for eternity. Visit www.spsch.org for the job description and application form.

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- Camping *must* be booked in advance
- All under 18's must be accompanied by a responsible adult for insurance purposes
- Camping costs will be about £7.50 per person/per night

For more details, contact: 07925 858297

Sabbath presenter:
Robin Beemish

LifeSource book sales		TIME
DATE	VENUE	
3 September	Stanborough Press Open Day	8am-4pm
7-10 September	SEC Session, Colchester University	
24 September	Peckham Church	
7 October	Hanwell Church	10am-2pm
14-15 October	Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship & Open Day	After sunset

Messenger
Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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Left to right: Elder Errol Westcarr, Elder Anthony Saunders, Temani Jokim Blake, Marva Vidal Taylor, Pastor Tremon Jackson, Pastor Kirk Thomas

Gloucester baptism

After a campaign led by Pastor Kirk Thomas from the BUC that took place over three weekends, ending on Sabbath 27 May, two people gave their lives to Christ.

Marva Vidal Taylor had her baby dedicated by Pastor Jackson in the Gloucester church a few weeks earlier. In earlier years she had been a Seventh-day Adventist, but had drifted away; but, as a result of her re-introduction to the church and attending the campaign, she decided to seek baptism. The doctrines were not new to her, and her husband confirmed at her baptism that she had never lost



Baptism at Milton Keynes Central Church

March 25 was a high day at Milton Keynes Central (MKC) SDA Church when four individuals were baptised. It was the culmination of a Spirit-filled week of prayer and evangelism led by Tanzanian evangelist Pastor David Mmbaga. From 18 to 25 March, Pastor Mmbaga spoke in the evenings on the power of prayer and how it is an indispensable part of evangelistic efforts.

The baptism was a joyous ceremony with family, friends and congregants gathered to witness the four individuals – Alphenette Collins, Ariana Charlton, Ruth Dzapasi and Marko Bananga – publicly proclaim



Prophecies of hope

The Stoke Newington SDA church celebrated the culmination of its two-week Reflecting Hope campaign with a baptismal service on Sabbath 27 May. The baptism was conducted by Pastor Hina Ahmed, assisted by Elder Nicole Gooden and Pastor John Davidson. Zion Molyneaux and Rose Obenta Adebayo gave their hearts to the Lord in baptism, and Jacqueline Reid recommitted her life to Jesus through rebaptism.

The church also received Fernalla Henry and Meagan Cranfield into fellowship by transfer of membership.

The day was filled with uplifting music and blissful songs of praise and worship. Pastor John Davidson from Denver, Colorado, who led the Prophecies of Hope campaign from 13 to 27 May, delivered an inspiring sermon about God's grace. He exhorted the members to stay strong in the Lord as Jesus is returning soon. He urged the members to make wrongs right and live the life now that we expect to live in heaven.

Throughout the nightly campaign, the members sang the theme song, 'Ancient words'. Pastor Davidson loved joining in with the praise team.

The campaign was also blessed by Pastor Davidson's wife, Karen, who shared health tips on how to use God's natural plants and herbs to treat various conditions. Her presentations can be viewed on the following link: <https://stokenewington.adventistchurch.org.uk/search?search=reflecting+hope>

JOHNNET HAMILTON

her love for Jesus Christ. A short course of Bible studies confirmed that she was ready for baptism.

Temani Jokim Blake, a young man of 13 and a member of the Gloucester Pathfinders, also decided to give his life to Christ. Members of the church confirmed that he had been studying his Bible and was well aware of the commitment he was making. His father gave testimony at his baptism that he was a committed follower of Jesus Christ. A packed church on the afternoon of 27 May was delighted to support the two candidates at their baptism.

The appeals by Pastor Kirk Thomas brought forward three other members of the congregation seeking baptism. These three will receive a course of Bible studies and be baptised in October, when another 3-week campaign will take place, led by Pastor Sheon O'Connor.

The morning service was blessed by music from a quartet from Worcester SDA Church, and during the afternoon of the baptism we were blessed by music from a team from Bristol SDA, and we are all grateful for their wonderful support.

GLOUCESTER MEDIA TEAM

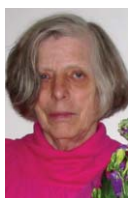
their commitment to Jesus Christ and to the SDA Church.

The baptisms were conducted with grace and reverence by Pastor Pavle Trajkovski, the local church pastor. The ceremony was a momentous occasion for the individuals and their families, as well as the church. For those baptised, this was a significant milestone in their lives, marking the beginning of their journey of faith and their commitment to a life lived by Christian values. For the church community, it was a moment of celebration, as they welcomed four new members into their fold.

After the ceremony, the church hosted a reception in honour of the newly baptised, a time for the families and friends to gather and share in the joy of the occasion.

The baptism ceremony and evangelistic campaign were beautiful and inspiring events, reminding us of the power of faith and the importance of evangelism. By God's grace, MKC Church is experiencing growth, with 8 people baptised in November 2021 and 27 people currently signed up for baptismal classes. Please continue to pray for the ministry in Milton Keynes. COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Myrtle Florence Rhodes (née Dabson) (1924-2022) d. 6 December.



Myrtle Rhodes was born in Hastings on 3 August 1924 to Adventist parents, William and Florence Dabson. In 1936, when she was 12, she was baptised with her brother David in the Hastings church by Pastor Spearing.

She followed her school education (at the Rye Grammar School) by a period at Newbold College, from which she graduated in May of 1944 at the age of 19 as a Bible worker. From there she worked as a missionary in such places as Gloucester, Cheltenham and Portsmouth until she was 21. Subsequently, she worked as Secretary to the NEC Treasurer, Mr Lethbridge, until November 1947. In the December of that same year, at the

age of 23, Myrtle married Leofric John Rhodes. The couple eventually had five children: Stephen, Chris, Nicholas, Sarah and Matthew.

She was gifted artistically and took up pottery, receiving a college certificate in vocational pottery from the Southampton College of Art in 1977 at the age of 52. She worked as a professional ceramicist during the late 1970s.

Much of her working life was spent in the employ of the church (as well as some time in industry).

From 1980 to 1983 she took up the post of Secretary to the Headmaster at Stanborough School.

In September of 1981 she received her missionary licence. The church was very important to Myrtle, and she was always fully engaged in church life, often entertaining the young people in her home.

Outside of her church work and artistic hobbies, when living in Surrey she became the president of the local Women's Institute, keeping an interest in the organisation for the rest of her life. Sociable, devout, creative, hospitable, kind and helpful, Myrtle was also a devoted mother and wife. Sadly, her beloved husband predeceased her in March 2004.

Latterly, Myrtle was a member of Norwich Church, where she was active on the church board as well as through regular attendance at prayer meetings and Sabbath services.

Myrtle passed to her rest in Jesus on the evening of 6 December 2022 at her home in Fundenhall, near Wymondham in Norfolk. She was a lovable and loving Christian who will be greatly missed.

MATTHEW RHODES



John Rich (1937-2023) d. 4 March.

John was born on 23 January 1937 in Launceston, Cornwall. He was a twin to Molly and brother to younger sister Pearl. His father was a farmer and his mother a school teacher.

Farm life was carefree but hard work. At the age of 5, John would be milking cows at 4am. He would regularly walk 5 miles to school each day. Later, John passed his eleven plus and attended Launceston Boys Grammar School. He loved music from an early age. He took piano

lessons, and with much practice became an accomplished pianist and eventually church organist. John was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plymouth, and, aged 16, attended Newbold College. His parents wanted him to become a minister, but after two years at Newbold College he realised it wasn't the right pathway for him.

After he left college he got a job at the National Heart Hospital in London and trained as a cardiology technician. This career path became his passion. During his employment, he was part of the team who performed the first UK heart transplant in 1968. While working at the National Heart Hospital, John injured his back lifting patients. This injury resulted in five slipped discs. John was often in pain with this and other ailments during his life, but he never complained.

John began attending The New Gallery Church in London, where he met his bride-to-be, Joan Dust. Love grew, and on 21 December 1959 they married at Edmonton SDA Church. John and Joan raised two daughters, Julie and Cheryl.

John transferred to North Middlesex Hospital in Edmonton, where, in 1978, he became Head of Cardiology. During the late 1970s John travelled overseas to teach doctors how to use ultrasound heart diagnostic equipment and to read and interpret results. He was one of only a few heart specialists who knew how to operate this highly technological equipment in the UK at the time. After work, John's interest was DIY. He taught himself to be a competent electrician, plumber, tiler, painter and decorator. He also learned car mechanics.

John attended Edmonton SDA Church and became church organist. He taught adult Sabbath School and was always active in church life. Later, he attended Waltham Abbey, Hemel Hempstead, and most recently Palmers Green churches. In 1992, John took early retirement. During his retirement John and Joan enjoyed time in their holiday home in Cornwall, spending time with family.

In December 2019, John and Joan celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. A good number of family and friends gathered to share a memorable and happy day. For this incredible milestone they received a commemorative card from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

After a short and sudden illness, John passed away peacefully with his daughter, Cheryl, by his side. He leaves behind his wife Joan, daughter Cheryl, son-in-law Andy, and 3 grandsons: Elliott, Curtis and Jacob. John was preceded in death by his daughter, Julie.

John was a true gentleman. He was a loving husband, father and grandad, generous, kind and considerate to all. He was a faithful Christian and upstanding church member. John will be forever in our hearts. He was greatly loved and will be deeply missed. We look forward to seeing him again on the resurrection morning.

CHERYL MOSELEY

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Beif
Aug 25	8.03	8.15	8.10	8.26	8.33
Sept 01	7.48	8.00	7.54	8.08	8.16
08	7.32	7.44	7.38	7.50	7.59
15	7.16	7.28	7.21	7.31	7.41
22	7.00	7.12	7.04	7.13	7.23

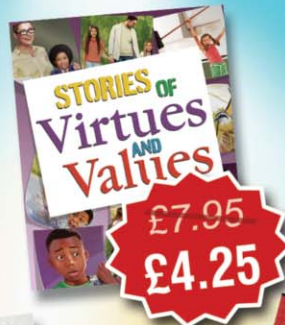
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Don't be afraid.
For I am with you.
Don't be discouraged.
For I am your God.
I will strengthen you
and help you.
I will hold you up with my
victorious right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.'

Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart.
Philippians 4:6



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