



# BUC NEWS

## Edition #813 (25 January 2013)

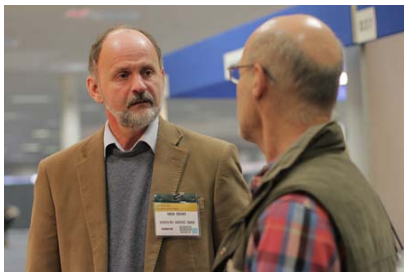
Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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### 'SOWING SEEDS' AT REGIONAL CHRISTIAN RESOURCES EXHIBITION [Katie Ramharacksingh]



*"It's been fantastic," states Pastor Mick Smart (pictured). "We've had lots of conversations with people wanting to know about the Church, what we stand for, who we are."*

"If we don't sow a seed it can't grow!" exclaimed Pastor Mick Smart. He was at the Seventh-day Adventist Church stall at the Christian Resources Exhibition West (CRE West), Bristol, on Wednesday 23 January.

Since November 2012, Albert Gardiner, Shiloh Harmitt and Grace Mason, from the Gloucester, Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare churches, planned for an Adventist stall at this two-day, Christian event that attracts around 3,500 people. With support from pastors in their area, they gathered materials and put together a display ready to interact with as many attendees as possible from 23-24 January.

"We wanted to make sure that the Seventh-day Adventist Church had a presence amongst all the other Christian leaders that would be present", explained Grace Mason. "While a Christian myself, I have only been an Adventist for the last five years. I knew about the CRE and felt we needed to be here and show people that we are indeed Christians and that our main difference is that we worship on Saturday, the Sabbath, not Sunday."



*Grace Mason: "We need to be here."*

The CRE West is a regional exhibition that brings together various denominations and Christian companies, from architecture, to media, to clothing companies. This year is the first time it has been held in Bristol and the venue, inside the University of West England, was bustling despite the heavy snow falling outside.

Supplied with materials from organisations such as the Adventist Discovery Centre, the British Union Conference, Stanborough Press and the South England Conference, the stall was stacked with



*Ministerial intern,  
Julian Thompson  
organising the free  
literature.*

literature, DVDs and other resources that were given away for free in branded, Seventh-day Adventist bags.

Halfway through the first day of the exhibition, Pastor Smart commented, "It's been fantastic so far, we've had lots of conversations with people wanting to know about the Church, what we stand for, who we are. They're all Christian folks and they're coming and meeting Adventists, finding out a bit about us, why we keep the Sabbath, why we baptise by immersion. Meeting and talking with people in this way is what we hoped would happen from the start."

The upcoming CRE International, at Sandown Park, will see around 10,000 attendees and the Adventist Discovery Centre already has a stand booked for the four-day exhibition, from 14-17 May. Adventists have had a presence at the Sandown Park event and at other regional exhibitions on numerous occasions in recent years. To sign up for and explore the CRE International

please visit <[www.creonline.co.uk](http://www.creonline.co.uk)>.

## **NEWBOLD LAUNCHES NEW NAME, LOGO, STRAPLINE AND WEBSITE [Kirsty Watkins]**



*The new strapline – Life  
Changing – Faith Affirming  
captures the essence of the  
Newbold experience  
according to principal, Dr  
Philip Brown.*

Newbold College has launched a refreshing new visual brand identity, complete with a new official name – Newbold College of Higher Education. This new name is embraced within a new logo and supported by a new strapline – Life Changing – Faith Affirming. Last week Newbold also launched a new, more flexible and future-[student oriented website](#) to complement the College's new identity.

"Our revitalised identity will be rolled out across all of our communication tools and channels over the coming weeks" Dr Philip Brown, Principal, announced while addressing new and returning students and staff on the theme Life Changing – Faith Affirming at the College's Opening Assembly this week to mark the start of the new semester.

"We are passionate about energising the identity of Newbold with our Church stakeholders and communities throughout Europe and beyond", Dr Brown said. "Newbold College of Higher Education is the right name for us to embrace as a private higher education provider in this country. Our new strapline articulates what our alumni and students repeatedly say for them captures the essence of their Newbold experience", Dr Brown

added.

The new name, logo and strapline were voted by Newbold's Board of Governors when it met in plenary session in November 2012. This action follows the approval of new vision, mission and values statements that were voted by the Board of Governors in May 2012.

In welcoming the identity revitalisation initiatives, Dr Bertil Wiklander, Newbold Board of Governors Chair and President, Trans-European Division of Seventh-day Adventists, said: "We continue to need young people who have had the life-changing, faith-affirming experiences that Newbold affords to help make God known throughout Europe. We need Newbold College of Higher Education to help us in achieving the strategic plans of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Europe", Dr Wiklander added.



During his Opening Assembly address, Dr Brown expressed his personal thanks to students and staff for the 10% increase in total enrolments and the 45% increase in students living on campus achieved

in 2012-13. "Our occupancy rates within the halls of residence are the highest for some years and we are excited about the renewed interest that young people across Europe and further afield have in studying at Newbold this year."

Newbold College of Higher Education is a learning community that attracts students from over 60 countries. The College is located in Binfield, Berkshire, United Kingdom. It offers programmes of study in theology, religion, media studies, English literature, business studies, history, music, psychology, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

## SNOW DISRUPTION – BUT MISSION CONTINUES



The January snow may have disrupted flights, cancelled church services and closed schools, but modern technology has helped church leaders and members to stay in touch.

Officers from the British Union Conference office in Watford were unable to make it to Scotland due to cancelled flights but nevertheless took a full part in the committee via Skype. Scottish Mission President, Bernie Holford, reported in the Scottish Mission Newsletter that "Snow in England had caused

the cancellation of three flights that were to bring the BUC Officers to Scotland this weekend; also many local members of the committee were unable to travel because of the condition of the roads, but they were able to join the committee by conference call and Skype. The work of the Church must go on!"

Ministerial moves, the voting of an annual budget, and plans for the Dunfermline church rebuild were all discussed during the 4½ hour committee.

With a number of churches closed, a timely reminder on the [BUC News Facebook page](#) allowed technologically savvy members to still join in worship from their own homes as they tuned into a choice of [live-streamed services](#) from churches across the British Isles, or watched a service from Pioneer Memorial church at Andrews University on Hope Channel. Miriam Wood could not get out the front door of her Cardiff home. She says, "I watched the morning service at Newbold which was great. Also encouraged a friend from Ystrad church to watch it too. Wonderful to see it on Livestream."



*Technology overcomes travel disruption for BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham*

Others chose to get out into nature or to battle the elements. Manchester member, Jason Chang, hales from China and is used to cold winters. He commented on Facebook, "Let's all enjoy the snow...God created snow beautifully...so many benefits of having snow....for someone like myself growing up in an area where we have -25 degree centigrade...I will never understand when people say the train will be delayed, schools will be closed!"



A good walk in the snow was an act of worship in itself, according to reports from members in Devon, Northampton, Scotland and other parts of the country. They enjoyed the beauty and wonder to be found in a snowscape. Another aspect of His creation to admire.

Finally, intrepid kayakers planning for an ADRA 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary fundraising trip down the River Wye this Sunday are not being put off by the weather. "We've put so much effort into the planning and fundraising that we really don't want to disappoint", states Welsh

Mission President, Pastor John Surridge. "We are keeping a close eye on the weather forecast and river levels – as well as [the website](http://www.justgiving.com/100-years) where people are being very generous with their donations." In his pastoral newsletter, he has also encouraged his members to ask friends and family to support the ADRA well digging project. If friends want to donate they can text WYER77 £5 to 70070 or visit [www.justgiving.com/100-years](http://www.justgiving.com/100-years).



## JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL PUBLIC MEETING



Berton Samuel, Chair of the Governors at John Loughborough Adventist School in Haringey, North London, is encouraging members of the London Adventist community to take an active part in a public meeting organised by Haringey Council.

He states, "Haringey Council have now published a statutory notice of their intention to close the John Loughborough School. This now triggers a formal 6 week consultation process which ends on 17 February 2013. This provides us with one last opportunity to challenge the intent of the local council, and once again I am enlisting your help."

Berton is concerned that whilst members have declared their interest in the school, this has not transformed itself into action. In a letter to the London Lay Advisory Council he wrote, "It appears as if the London Adventist community are ambivalent regarding the future of the John Loughborough School."

The council have called a public meeting to discuss the future of the school for Monday 28 January commencing at 7:00 pm. It will be held at Tottenham Green Leisure Centre, 1 Philip Road, London, N15 4JA.

"It is imperative that we have people present to declare their interest and support for the ongoing future continuance of education at the school," Berton states, adding, "This is a critical time for the school and your support and that of the LLAC is so important to secure the future of the school."

## WEDDING BELLS RING FOR PASTORAL HAPPINESS [Elisabeth Carnell]



Weddings are always special – but generally not reported in BUC News. However, when two much loved and respected people, both of whom have had periods of sadness in their lives, find happiness in each other, we could not resist a short report.

Pastor Douglas Sinclair, now retired but much loved by the members of every church that he pastored, and Sheila Bell, widow of the late Pastor Martin Bell, joined their lives together on Friday, 4 January 2013 at the Grantham Adventist church.

A congregation of family and friends came from across the country to share their love with the couple. Sheila wore a dress suit of ivory with bronze trimmings. She was accompanied by two young bridesmaids and a pageboy: Evie, Lucy and Callum, in complementary colours; and Kerri and Melissa Thorogood, Doug's granddaughters, in deep purple.

In his address, Pastor John Ferguson, NEC Executive Secretary, compared the 'Love is not...' and 'Love is...' statements of 1 Corinthians 13 with Shakespeare's sonnet 116, which he read in today's

language. His final charge to Doug and Sheila was that their love be unchangeable, reliable, unaffected and enduring.

After a brief honeymoon in York, the happy couple will be making their home in Crieff, Perthshire. We wish them God's blessing in their future life together.

### **WINTER CONCERT RAISES ALMOST £2,200** [June Coombs]



Two young, talented Adventist music students shared a winter concert at Stanborough Park church on the evening of Saturday, 19 January, helping to raise almost £2,200 towards the church's building fund.

Minyoung Bae and Victoria Balan are both studying for their BMus degree at the Royal College of Music in London. Victoria is in her final year, studying the violin and Minyoung is a third year student studying piano.

Both young ladies regularly play in the church's orchestra with Minyoung often playing the violin, her second instrument. On this occasion they were persuaded to perform an entire concert with Minyoung playing piano works by Mendelssohn, Chopin and Prokofiev and Victoria playing violin works by Mozart, Szymanowski and de Falla.

Appropriately entitled 'Winter Concert', the event was well-attended despite the snow and ice and a total of £1,720.00 was raised of which £1,394.51 was gift-aided. The Gift Aid, together with £126 from that sale of refreshments and cakes brought the total to £2194.63.

### **I LOVE SNOW** [Jimmy Botha]

[Editor's note: First published in the January 2013 Scottish Mission Newsletter, this timely devotional shows how much a South African can adapt to the rigours of the British climate!]



Let's talk about the weather.

There is no doubt in my mind that for most of us summer is preferred over winter. For some, summer in a different country altogether would take preference. Perhaps it is because of the wet summers and the dark winters we have here in Scotland.

It may surprise you that for me personally, the summers and winters in Scotland are simply very enjoyable. For me, the long days in summer allow me to do much more, and you get that feeling of accomplishment as the day draws to a close. In summer, as the year draws on, you begin to see the days become shorter, and the promise that winter is once again on its way. Then the calculations start, how fast will the days become shorter. And when you get to the end of October, you really start to feel it, the cold evenings and crisp mornings.

You may say, Jim, are you OK? Are you sure you know what the word 'enjoy' means?

I should say that I have always liked strange weather. Since I was a boy, I liked when the weather did something out of the ordinary. I suppose if I were given the opportunity, I could be a 'storm chaser'.

But enough about how I feel about the weather. There is a reason for telling you about the current 'bad' weather we are experiencing. As you know we have had some bad very wet weather recently,

especially in the highlands. Who knows what the short future will present us. It looks like there is more snow in England just now than here in Scotland, but it is the snow that fascinates me.

As a South African, snow is still somewhat of a novelty. Snow is just beautiful, when it is white and fresh and dry. Forget for a second the slush. Forget also the traffic and flight disruptions. For the purpose of this letter, slush is not part of the equation. White flakes, dry, light and beautiful. As they collect, without producing any noise. It changes the landscape in no time.



*Winter brings out a beauty we can't help but admire.*

Many consider this to be magical, and magical it is indeed. As a pastor I can't help thinking about this within the framework of salvation. From Genesis 1 all the way through the Bible, we find the theme of light and darkness. And I immediately see the way which God also uses to talk about darkness and light, evil and good, using the imagery of weather and elements of it.



When you step outside and go for a walk, and the ground is covered with fresh snow, it just gives you that change in mood and it lifts your spirit.

Then you can admire what is happening around you, especially when you realize how much 'mud' and 'muck' your life had been filled with recently. The fact is, we all have to walk this earth, and I would like to compare this walk with our spiritual experience.

I cannot help thinking about our spiritual life like this when I read what the Bible says in 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

While winter is not the preferred season for most, it is the time when we see that which is 'ugly' transformed into beauty. In the same way God uses our lives, which may sometimes be ugly, and turns them into His beauty. God understands better than anybody, the issues you go through. God, unlike anybody else, has experienced the same and worse of muddy muck.

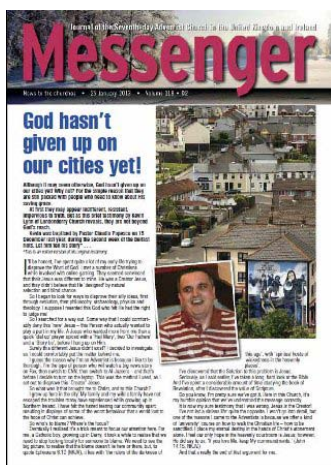
We learn about light and darkness in Genesis 1, and as the theme develops throughout the Bible, whilst darkness had a hold over the lives of those we read of in His Word, Jesus became that which we were supposed to be, that which we deserved, to die because of our muckiness.

He came to us, and took our ugliness, and in the midst of our winter, in the midst of our bad season, He changes us as if using magic, to transform us into something of beauty.



Oh how great to be a child of God, who is bigger than any sin we could ever commit, and yet small enough to see the beauty in each of us. He is near enough to see the potential in even the worst of offenders. Oh how marvellous the thought that if He could do that for the worst of them, He can change me as well.

I will continue to take my walks in the snow. I will always hope for snow, take many pictures of the changed landscape. Perhaps I will remember how He has changed me as well.



## LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

A recent communication survey indicated that MESSENGER readers love local news. So prepare to be delighted with this edition including more than two pages dedicated solely to baptisms. Reason enough for rejoicing, but there is more! 'God hasn't given up on our cities yet!' proclaims the lead article in the 25 January MESSENGER, official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland – and focuses on how God is changing lives in the difficult city of Londonderry, Northern Ireland. Julian Hibbert discovers that 'Life begins at the end of your comfort zone'; while Sarah Jarvis ponders on the Tony Benn division of people into 'Signposts or weathercocks!'. Pick up a copy in your church this Sabbath or download it from the [BUC website](http://www.buc.org.uk).

## DEATH OF PASTOR PETER HORACE STEARMAN



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Pastor Peter Horace Stearman on Friday, 18 January 2013. Pastor Stearman was born in Norwich on 11 May 1921. Growing up in a Seventh-day Adventist home, Peter accepted Jesus as his Lord at the age of 10 and was later baptised in Lowestoft by Pastor John Howard. Graduating from Newbold College in 1942 he commenced work in Birmingham in the North England Conference. In 1944 he and Vera (née Howard) were married and in 1945 were called to Ghana to work in what was then the Gold Coast Mission. In 1947 Peter was elected as Secretary Treasurer for the Mission, ordained in 1949 and from 1950 to 1953 continued in the mission as an ordained minister. During this mission period three daughters were born to the family, Kathleen, Carolyn and Jacqueline.

The family returned to the UK in 1954 where Peter was deployed to Bristol in the South England Conference. While there the family grew by two more daughters Rosalind and Anita. They served in various parts of the South England Conference prior to 1969 when Peter was elected to serve the Welsh Mission as President, which he did until 1976 when he returned to pastoring in the SEC again up to retirement in July 1985. Peter died peacefully in the presence of his beloved wife Vera and daughter Carolyn, and now is at rest until the Lord's return.

The funeral will take place at 11:00 am at the Stanborough Park church on Thursday 14 February. Our thoughts and prayers are with Vera and Carolyn here in the UK, Kathleen in Australia, Jacqueline in Thailand, Rosalind and Anita in Spain and their families at this time.

## FUNERAL DETAILS: PASTOR RON EDWARDS



Following our announcement last week of the death of Pastor Ron Edwards, details of his funeral are now confirmed: Tuesday 29 January, 10:30 am interment at Peterborough Crematorium, Mowbray Road, North Bretton, Peterborough, PE6 7JE. All welcome but be advised that seating is limited in the chapel. 12:00 noon memorial service at St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church, Church Street, Spalding, PE11 2RA. Donations in lieu of flowers are welcomed and will be shared between the Alzheimer's Society and ADRA-UK. (Cheques should be made payable to his wife, Sandy Edwards and sent c/o BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.)

## PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK



Our programme highlights for the coming week:

On [Revelation TV](#) (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): **Faith Talks** returns with discussion and debate surrounding issues central to the Christian faith. Join the debate Thursdays 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday lunchtime, 1:00 pm.

On **Hope TV** you can watch a wide variety of programmes on the satellite and [website](#). Next week's schedule includes the following UK produced programmes among its much larger international output:

Friday 25 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Why did Jesus have to die?](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is religion good for children?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?

Sabbath 26 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Why did Jesus have to die?,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is religion good for children?

Monday 28 January: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Paul Lee](#) – Singing for life,

9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [End of Life Choices](#)

Wednesday 30 January: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Sabbath Rest](#),

11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Pansi Katenga](#) – Privileged to serve

Friday 1 February: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Iona and Worship](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is God a moral monster?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: Iona and Worship

Sabbath 2 February: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Iona and Worship,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is God a moral monster?

**COMING EVENTS** For a full listing of Coming Events please visit [www.adventistevents.org.uk](http://www.adventistevents.org.uk)

BUC News is a weekly news bulletin produced by the British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and edited by the Communication Department. Victor Hulbert, director; Mary Kapon, secretary. Items for inclusion should be sent to <bucnews@adventist.org.uk and need to be received by 6.00 pm on Wednesday, preferably as simple email text. All unattributed stories written by the editorial team. Coming Events and Small Ads should be kept short and preferably be submitted via the on-line form at: <www.adventist.org.uk. The editor reserves the right to modify articles received to make them suitable for inclusion. The views expressed by individuals cited in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, though we try to ensure that they do. You are free to re-print any portion of this bulletin without the need for special permission. However, we kindly request that you identify BUC News or other sources whenever you publish these materials. Back issues and an RSS feed including photographs are available on our website at <www.adventist.org.uk.

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