



BUC NEWS

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

Contents:

HEART CAFÉ
DIVERSITY: FRIEND OR FOE?
BANKING ON FOOD IN MIDDLESBROUGH
THE POPE – A REFLECTION
SUCCESSFUL NEWS WRITING
BE MY VALENTINE
BBC RADIO 3 'THE CHOIR'
1960'S PHOTOS BRING BACK THE MEMORIES
ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS
FEEDBACK
PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK
COMING EVENTS

HEART CAFÉ [Sandra Golding]



The Mayor of Dunstable, Councillor Pat Staples, joined in the Valentine festivities at a church run community café on Saturday evening, 9 February. She said "that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was good to see so many community members coming together to celebrate at this time of the year."

Over 50 people from the surrounding community were welcomed to the Heart Café run by Dunstable Community Church. Pastor Simon Martin, host for the evening, had the audience in laughter when they were going through the answers to a special icebreaker quiz based on love.

Paul Lee, SEC Music director, Abigail Lee, his daughter and Abigail Stephenson from Luton Central provided special musical entertainment throughout the evening. The appreciation for their musical talents was shown in the round of applause the audience gave them.

Applause also for the chef, Jacqui Crawford and her team of volunteers from Dunstable and Luton North churches. The joy of their wonderful three course meal was added to by the soft ambience of the candlelight, red hearts and softly playing gospel music.

The Heart Café is a community building outreach project. Having previously heard of it, Pastor Terry Messenger, SEC Executive Secretary and his wife Lynette, along with Pastor Aristotle Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director, came to experience the atmosphere and see for themselves the relationships being built up with a largely unchurched community.



Do you know what love is? Pastor Simon Martin leading an icebreaker quiz.



Joining them was Professor Patrick George Smith from Northern Caribbean University in Jamaica. Pastor Smith enthused, "I will take this concept back with me to Jamaica as a wonderful way of engaging with unchurched people in a friendly and welcoming way."

This is the third Heart Café run by Dunstable Community Church and it is proving a powerful tool for witnessing to people in that local community. They are now looking forward to providing a café for single mothers with crèche facilities and a separate children's café in the near future.

DIVERSITY: FRIEND OR FOE? [Helen Pearson] Also a [BUC News Video Report](#).



"We are haunted by imperfection," argues Dr Lawrence Geraty

A leading Adventist scholar, speaking at Newbold College on Tuesday evening, challenged his audience to address the paradox of/the tension between God's inclusiveness and God's church's concern for its unique identity.

In the February Diversity lecture, Dr Lawrence Geraty, teacher, writer, award-winning archaeologist, and college president, (most recently at La Sierra University) began by looking at diversity in the world and in the church. He encouraged the sixty-five members of his audience in Newbold's Smith Centre to imagine themselves in the shoes of marginal people: immigrants and members of minority ethnic groups in foreign countries, women and gay people in a straight, male-led church, questioning students in an authoritarian church. "We are haunted by imperfection," he said, "and we need to think about our attitudes to imperfect people and, as Seventh-day Adventists, people who pride themselves on being 'people of The Book' – to know what The Book says."

Dr Geraty then proceeded with a tour of scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments emphasising God's love for people of all ethnic groups, not just for Israel, His chosen. He pointed out the diversity of the disciples, the multi-ethnic leadership of the church in Antioch and the diversity of the great multitude of those in Revelation 7.



"We are afraid of diversity because people different from ourselves cause us to be intimidated", Dr Geraty said. "But since when has following Jesus been about staying in our comfort zones? What is the answer to the divisions between us? The Cross where we receive forgiveness and renewal. Our differences should not matter in the light of the Cross."

The lively Q&A session which followed the lecture focused on a variety of aspects of diversity: ministry to those with disability, attitudes to Seventh-day Adventist uniqueness, marriage between believers and unbelievers, redemptiveness versus punitiveness, how to handle diversity in worship styles and worship cultures, the nature of unity in the Church...non-violence and universalism.

"Whatever our background, God asks us to change, to 'go and sin no more'" said Dr Geraty. "God is always calling us higher."

Watch the full lecture on the [Newbold YouTube account](#). Also watch a short [BUC News interview](#) with Dr Geraty.



Helen Pearson skilfully hosts a very perceptive debate during the Q&A.

BANKING ON FOOD IN MIDDLESBROUGH [Peter Jeynes]



The economic recession is still with us creating major difficulties for many and opportunities for some. The Middlesbrough area, writes Judy Hamilton-Johansson, may well have been hit harder than most.

As a church involved with their community, and from their excellent facilities near to the heart of Middlesbrough, the church offers many services to the community. They help in providing shelter to the homeless as well as supporting the local foodbank.

The latest issue of the Middlesbrough Foodbank News includes the following information: "We have started the year very busy. The total fed has now risen to 628. That equates to 222 children and 406 adults. By the end of March we forecast that over a thousand people will have received the

gift of food. ...We can however, help when crisis hits. For Jane, who is a single mum just buying a pair of shoes can destroy her already low budget. A visit to Foodbank enabled Jane to buy the shoes knowing that she would be able to have enough food. She would normally turn to a money lender."

The newsletter then devotes an insert into their paper to the activities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Not only are the Adventists involved, they are recognised and are now providing a centre to provide training for volunteers. The Seventh-day Adventist Church isn't the place where 'those strange people' worship. In Middlesbrough, Seventh-day Adventists are the people to turn to.

THE POPE – A REFLECTION [Peter Jeynes]



*Pope Benedict XVI
[Courtesy Wikipedia]*

Jack in Paris, France, emailed the BBC News page in the hour that the Pope resigned, "Being a Middle Eastern Christian I still remember the day of His Holiness' lecture at Regensburg, on Faith and Reason. It caused a storm in the Muslim world but at the same time was a brave step to 'face the realities' of a world at which religion is a major topic of conflict."

The current Pope, Benedict XVI, has announced his decision to retire with the expected view that there will be a new pope in office by Easter. He celebrated his last public mass this week.

Various media reports in the immediate aftermath of the story breaking noted that, "He tried to reverse the tide of secularity that is sweeping the world." "He followed a pope who made a monumental contribution to the world scene across political and religious boundaries." "He left tasks undone." "In Great Britain he was a pastor who created unity for many in the Roman Catholic Church." "He is a courageous man to resign when he is no longer capable of doing his work."

No doubt there will be many who will think less of the leadership he provided and the role model we would ourselves wish to follow and will instead discuss the rather more negative side of the future papal contribution to this world's history.

A false claim appeared on some Seventh-day Adventist websites and was passed around the world by email. "The Catholic Church is taking SDA General Conference to court over the worldwide circulation of the book 'Great Controversy'."

It never happened... but it does fit in with the in-built fear of Catholicism in general and the Pope in particular that many of us have.

We are currently studying God's role in the creation of this world and are reminded that in some areas our understanding is limited. There are scientific questions we cannot answer, there are prophetic questions we would love a more complete answer to.

Unfortunately we don't have all the answers and we ought not to speculate where we don't have all the knowledge.

One comment has already surfaced, this next pope will be the last pope. Let's not speculate. Let us wait for the future and see what happens and not aim to triumphantly say, "I told you so." As Pastor Adam Ramdin puts it on his [Facebook page](#), "Just remember that God is not waiting on the Catholic Church to come back. He is waiting for His Church to be ready."

Let's instead draw close to our Roman Catholic friends, many of whom will be discomfited at the resignation of a pope who gave them good pastoral leadership. Being friends with them we can perhaps draw them instead to a life-changing and fulfilling relationship with Jesus.

SUCCESSFUL NEWS WRITING



How do you ensure that your article makes it into BUC News, MESSENGER or your local newspaper?

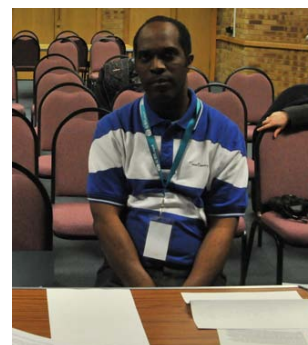
"Writing news is very different to writing an essay", states BUC Communication director Victor Hulbert. He has been involved with news across a variety of media for the past 34 years and knows how to spot a good story.

"I want something that grabs my attention straight away. That first sentence needs to catch my eye and make me want to read what comes next." In a newly released Communication department [training video](#) he concisely explains what news is, how to grab the reader's attention, and then how to keep their attention as you expand the story.

His workshops and training events around the country have helped many church members and communication secretaries improve their news writing skills. However, recognising that not everyone can get to a workshop, the [Communication department](#) is currently in the process of producing a short series of mini workshops that will help you get your story told.

Sylvester Davis is a case in point. He attended the 3 February SEC Media Academy in Watford. The news writing workshop made him think of events in his church in a different way. The result? An article immediately published in the 8 February edition of BUC News.

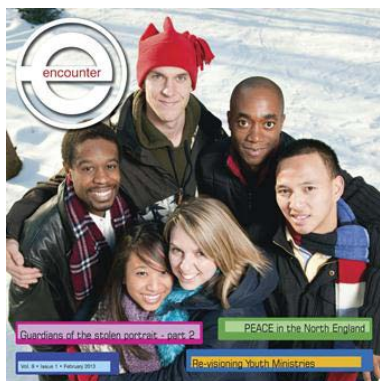
Walthamstow member, Ria Cadette, told BUC News: "We are extremely proud of our service mentioned and are still reeling from the blessings gained."



Sylvester caught the vision for a good story during the SEC Media Academy – but a condensed version of the workshop is now available for all.

[Successful News Writing](#) follows the launch of the first video – on [Successful Picture Publishing](#). Next month NEC Communication director, Peter Jaynes, will share how to take your article and photos and get them published in your local paper.

BE MY VALENTINE [Audrey Mutongi]



Will you be my Valentine? Find out the answer in the February 2013 edition of Encounter magazine as we talk about Love, Sex and Rock – of all ages, what's God got to do with it?

The purpose of Encounter magazine is to develop youth and youth leadership, motivationally and spiritually, in faith and in service. As BUC Youth director, Nathan Stickland puts it, "To develop habits of service."

Other articles in this youthful magazine include 'Re-visioning Youth Ministries', 'PEACE in North England', 'Climate Week Challenge for Adventurers and Pathfinders', and, importantly, details on this summer's Pan-European Youth Congress and over Youth events for the summer.

Youth and young adults are free to pick up a copy in their local church, but even if you are only young at heart you are very welcome to read or download the [magazine online](#).

To stay up-to-date on the latest in Encounter magazine and all BUC Youth events, please [like our BUC Youth Facebook page](#) and receive regular BUC Youth updates.

BBC RADIO 3 'THE CHOIR'



Renowned Adventist choral conductor and composer Ken Burton is guest presenter of 'The Choir' this Sunday, 17 February at 5 pm, on BBC Radio 3. The programme (not to be confused with the BBC 2 television programme of the same name) is regularly presented by Aled Jones.

The BBC has invited six guests to present special programmes in a series labelled 'Choral Figures'. Ken has been asked to present a programme on the theme of Spirituals and Gospel. Rather than just playing a selection of music from those genres, Ken wants to bring a totally different angle and enable listeners to understand the breadth of approaches of writing and performing the music.

One of his two interviewees is Brixton member, Mark Delisser. Mark directs the Academy Of Contemporary Music (ACM) Gospel Choir. He will share how he works with the students who comprise the choir, many of whom do not profess a faith or belief, but are yet touched by the music and in turn touch the hearts of audiences.

A number of pieces in the programme will come from both the Adventist Vocal Ensemble, regular performers on BBC Songs Of Praise; and the London Adventist Chorale who collaborated with the Choir Of St John's College Cambridge on a piece which brings both their singing traditions together in juxtaposition. The programme will conclude with a piece written by an English Classical composer, the late Sir Michael Tippett, whose oratorio, A Child of Our Time, was inspired by events taking place during World War 2. It ends with a Spiritual, 'Deep River'.

In a separate invitation, The London Adventist Chorale has been invited by the London Philharmonic Orchestra to perform a programme of three a cappella spirituals in a concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Wednesday, 20 February. It is part of the orchestra's 'America' series.

The theme of the spirituals is 'home', and will speak of the heavenly home, the central pillar of the Adventist faith. The third spiritual is an arrangement of a piece called 'Going Home' which is based on the melody of the second movement of Czech composer Dvorak's Symphony No.9, otherwise known

as the 'New World Symphony' - probably even better known as the former 'tune from the Hovis advert'. Dvorak was inspired by Spirituals, and wrote his famous melody based on the genre.

1960'S PHOTOS BRING BACK THE MEMORIES [Newbold Inside/BUC News]



Photographs of Newbold staff, students and the College grounds have surfaced during preparations for the upcoming reunion of the classes of the 1960s. These images, which include the choir, graduations, all-student portraits outside Salisbury Hall, the old reception counter, and the opening of Keough House featuring George Keough himself, will be part of the display of memorabilia at the reunion.

The reunion, which is to be held at Newbold College of Higher Education, the weekend of 16-18 August 2013, will also feature guest speakers from the era as well as a concert by the Wedgwood Trio who will celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2014.

As with past reunions, attendees will have the opportunity to reconnect with old classmates, former staff of the College, and to attend a series of events reminiscent of student activities from the era, including a picnic trip to Virginia Water and an old-fashioned lunch in the cafeteria.

To find out more visit the Newbold Reunion webpage: www.newbold.ac.uk/reunion.



The most recent reunion, a massive [1970-85 event](#) in August 2012, renewed many friendships and stirred memories – many of which are still being relived among the 276 members of the [70-75 Facebook group](#). The event, which included a Saturday night live-stream and Skype calls for those who could not attend in person, clearly demonstrated the positive affect of those College years on a whole generation of young people – even those who find themselves somewhat distanced from the church of their youth.

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS



Susanne Kirlaw has been showing readers of ['The Voice'](#) (described as Britain's best black newspaper) that vegetarian and vegan cooking can be fun and tasty. She is hoping to change cooking and eating habits with her new cookbook. With the current horsemeat scandal she can perhaps expect even greater interest in her health initiative.

On the Isle of Man, an innovative way of doing church has engaged the attention of ['Isle of Man Today'](#) as they show how a Saturday morning café run by the Seventh-day Adventist group there is drawing the community together.

And one of Adventism's most prolific contributors to local news points out she has an article about the Stanborough Park Annual Toy Service on page 8 of ['My Garston'](#). June Coombs also mentions that she has two articles in the February edition (not yet online).

While BUC News focuses primarily on covering Adventists in the local news, one international story has caught the public eye pushing Adventist physician Ben Carson to the forefront. ['The Christian Post'](#) comments on his 'politically incorrect speech' at a USA National Prayer Breakfast where he challenged US President Obama on certain areas of his policies.

"I'm very, very compassionate and I am not ever out to offend anyone but pc (political correctness) is dangerous", Carson is quoted as saying in the article. "Because you see this country [USA], one of the founding principles was freedom of thought and freedom of expression and it muffles people. It puts a muzzle on them and at the same time, keeps people from discussing important issues while the fabric of this society is being changed", he went on to say.

This seems to be a passion for Dr Carson at the moment as he made a similar plea at ['the Celebration of Creation'](#) at Seventh-day Adventist Church World Headquarters in December 2012.

And finally, ['Science Today'](#) reports that Sabbatarian Christians (particularly Seventh-day Adventists), may be having a positive effect on ecology in the Amazon rain forest as a side effect of converting local tribes to Christianity. The article states, "This change came because Sabbatarian missionaries introduced new taboos concerning pigs and their relatives. Based on the traditions of the Hebrew Bible, the people consider tapirs, along with some other native animals, such as peccaries, to fall under classes of animals prohibited for consumption."

FEEDBACK



Among the feedback this week comes an email from Alysse, a Canadian reader now living in Dorset. Reflecting on Pastor Jimmy Botha's article 'I Love Snow' ([25 January 2013](#)) she writes, "How much I appreciated his thoughts on snow and also how much he likes the snow. As a Canadian this is rarely come across and I feel it is rather warming to receive positive upbeat encouragement rather than so much of the negative!"

Following the recent Commons vote on same-sex marriage, and Heather Haworth's response in the [8 February edition of BUC News](#), (Focusing on the 'no' vote), Christine is one of many to comment on the issue: "Many Christians are speaking out against various digressions from the Bible in mainstream churches and I would like us to be among these faithful people." BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney states, "The BUC have let the Government know our stance and views of marriage and have encouraged members to sign up to the Coalition for Marriage if they are impressed to do so. In meetings that I have participated in with other national Church leaders, we were counselled to encourage our members to make their voice heard by the Government as it is more likely to listen to and respond to public pressure."

On the [BUC News Facebook page](#), Miriam commends the fundraising kayakers stating, "Wonderful! It looks easy to do, when sitting at home and looking at the pictures! BUT..."; Sandy and Jason Edwards thank everyone for their support following the death of Pastor Ron Edwards; and, with a number of likes and shares of our link to Adventist doctor, Ben Carson's speech in front of President Obama at the US National Prayer Breakfast, Jason from Manchester notes, "Our Church has many professionals we can be proud of". Fiona notes that there are calls for Carson to run for president, while David from California adds, "He is speaking truth to fact and the Bible has the answers to many of life's problems! He would make a good medical advisor to the White House if only our elected government would at least take his expert knowledge seriously!"



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 15 February: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Seeking the lost](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Why can't I believe anything I want?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: Seeking the lost

Sabbath 16 February: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Seeking the lost,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Why can't I believe anything I want?

Monday 18 February: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Marjukka Ostrovljanovic](#) – Living the double life,

9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [God in a cruel world](#)

Wednesday 20 February: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Christians, business and ethics](#),

11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Pat Eastwood](#) – Homesickness or adventure?

Friday 22 February: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [The Tunnel](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Faith & Disability](#),

Midnight: The Journey: The Tunnel

Sabbath 23 February: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: The Tunnel,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Faith and Disability

COMING EVENTS For a full listing of Coming Events please visit 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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