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EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF THE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN THE UK & IRELAND

BUCC
NEWS



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Email Newsletter of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland
For additional and updated news and a full listing of coming events visit our website:
www.adventist.org.uk

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ADRA'S MILLION POUND CHALLENGE



Whether playing the organ in his local parish church, braving a windy Weston seafront, or conscientiously knocking on doors with a smile and a collecting tin, volunteers have committed thousands of hours since 30 March to make the 2013 ADRA Appeal a success.

Roman Smejkal, pastor of the small Dalton Adventist church is quoted in the 10 April North-West Evening Mail that he "is among a group from the Adventist Development and Relief Agency going door-to-door until Sunday.

Money donated by residents will help fund the building of wells and development of agriculture in Burkina Faso in West Africa."

Further South, Leslie Wood from Ystrad Mynach Adventist church in South Wales decided to do

a sponsored organ play for ADRA on the two manual Allen organ in Radyr's parish church where he regularly practises the organ. He was delighted to raise £200 to swell the funds.

It is significant efforts like these, multiplied across the country, that mean that banked income, compared with the same period last year, is up 29 percent. Asked about reaching the £1million goal in this centenary year for collecting funds, ADRA-UK CEO, Bert Smit responded, "With the Greater London Appeal finishing this coming Sunday, 21 April, it's still very early to tell how this year's Ingathering campaign has done but I am encouraged with the positive response so far."



Volunteers in Weston-Super-Mare organised a seafront collection for ADRA on two Sundays. Dali and Nushka reported, "All went very well, we enjoyed ourselves and we had a good response from the public. Many people were encouraging us to keep up the good work and were asking more about ADRA as a charity." They added that not even the weather could discourage them from continuing with their task.

Going for the heat, the local ADRA team in Swansea organised a charity curry night on Tuesday, 26 March, raising a further £100 for ADRA's work. Newbold

church is raising thousands of pounds via charity concerts, pampering evenings, personal donations and traditional door-to-collections.

Isle of Man collectors have exceeded their goal with 16 tins still to count. They were excited to have received a single donation of £500 from a business impressed with their activities.

Smit noted that with many tins still waiting to be counted and banked and various fundraising efforts still ongoing, "we know much more money will come in for the important work of ADRA-UK." Yet it is the many, frequent, and ongoing smaller donations that can make a significant difference in helping ADRA achieve its aim of overcoming poverty. One way is through the direct debit form that was printed in the special ADRA-UK Messenger. "This would be the best way to continue to help people in poverty and distress through ADRA-UK", Smit notes. "A direct debit allows ADRA-UK to plan its work better. All direct debits will be attributed to your church's yearly report of support for ADRA-UK's work."

His final challenge: "Remember: the target for this anniversary year was to raise £1million – can we do it?"

[Bert Smit, CEO ADRA-UK / BUC News]

COUNCIL DECISION ON JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL TO BE



CHALLENGED

The Board of Governors of John Loughborough School (JLS) intend to challenge Haringey Council's 'disappointing' decision to seek the closure of the school by the end of this academic year. 1,700 people so far have signed a petition and many have written letters in support of the Tottenham secondary school which provides a safe and caring environment for students in one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in England.

At a cabinet meeting on Tuesday, 16 April 2013, a presentation by JLS Chair of Governors, Berton Samuel, pointed out flaws in a proposal for closure. However councillors voted to close the school by the end of August 2013.

School governors recognise that although exam results in some key GCSE subjects have not met government targets, in others John Loughborough students have done better than the national average. Much hard work has also been done to turn matters around, with some promising results, and further expert help already in place aimed at improving academic standards further. "If students are forced to leave and enter other schools, it will be hugely disruptive and the council agrees there is no guarantee that they will do any better elsewhere", states Berton Samuel.

Headteacher, Ms Edwena McFarquhar, argues that, "The strength of support for the school is partly because, in an often troubled area, it offers a safe space to learn and grow."

This is confirmed by Ofsted inspectors who only a few months ago reported that 'Students continue to behave very well in lessons and around the site'. They also noted that students 'are happy, feel safe and relish being a part of the school community. Attendance levels are above the national average for secondary schools and are slightly higher than at the same time last year'.

The school was set up by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which also caters for pupils of other backgrounds, and relies on ongoing financial and practical support from the Church as well as state funding. The governors believe that the council has mistakenly concluded that this means it is not financially viable. But because it is a voluntary aided school, it is expected that the foundation or trust which owns the building will help to meet costs, unlike voluntary controlled schools which depend entirely on state funding.

Pastor Sam Davis, President of the Adventist Church in the South of England says, "this is a sad day because we have fought valiantly for the continuance of the school as an academy. We will not give up our struggle to save John Loughborough."

Schools adjudicators (who are independent but appointed by the Secretary of State for Education) could still overturn the council's decision. The Board of Governors are looking at options for challenging the decision to enable the school to continue to improve its performance and offer an education that addresses young people's academic, emotional and spiritual needs.

[Berton Samuel]

KEEPING FAMILY AND FAITH TOGETHER AT WILLESDEN

An understandable air of excitement hovered over Willesden church on Sabbath, 13 April as nine young people decided to publically display their commitment to God by getting baptised.

It was a peculiarly intimate day as family members were baptised together, and Pastors Des Boldeau and Eglan Brooks emotionally baptised their own children. "What a day! Seeing Des baptize Arianne was fascinating. I was told that mothers get tearful on such occasions", Catherine Boldeau (Arianne's mum) shot out on her BlackBerry. "Her faith journey starts today and I wish her well."



Many friends, family and church members witnessed Jordan Samuel, Kelly-Mae Samuel, Kenan Shepherd, Monique Carridice, Melody Brooks, Kyle Brooks, Parbattee Chawira and Arianne Boldeau enter the pool.

Jordan said: "I was well excited throughout the whole day. Getting baptised with my sister made my day extra special, because it's quite rare to get baptised with a sibling, plus cousins, so I was well chuffed."

It was definitely a joyous occasion, especially since most of the candidates had been born into the Church and people celebrated the fact that they had decided for themselves to dedicate their lives to God.

Commenting on the fact that a number of young people got baptised together, Jordan said: "I found it was a great privilege to get baptised with other young people – it was quite reassuring. The fact that people made a decision to get baptised is good, but to get baptised with fellow youths was a blessing."

Songs of praise were sung, thought-provoking poems recited, and there was even laughter as Pastor Boldeau chuckled suspiciously at Arianne, which then prompted several nervous glances from his daughter just before he baptized her.

It was a deeply moving service, and God's presence was felt. People responded to the pastor's call to give their lives to God, but it was also a time of reflection and recommitment for those who have already been baptised.

[Monique Simpson]

PRESTON WITNESS TOUCHES HONG KONG



Talented members from Preston Seventh-day Adventist church have made an impact halfway around the world through their support of the ex-Chinese Veterans Association.

Church members wrote the lyrics, scored the music, and sang a song in support of the Association, entitled: 'Forgotten heroes... listen to our voice'. This song has since been played on Hong Kong radio and local British radio stations.

As a result of some members pooling their talents in Preston Seventh-day Adventist church, a plaque of appreciation was presented to Pastor Jeff Couzins by Russ Banks on Sabbath, 13 April 2013. Russ, a member of the ex-Chinese Veterans Association himself and husband to Preston member, Chrystal Banks, has been working hard to help the 1,700 abandoned British-Chinese soldiers and naval personnel left behind when the UK left the territory in 1997. The local military servicemen had provided much needed support to the British military contingent in Hong Kong. This support had been ongoing for 140 years whilst Hong Kong was in British hands.



Members of the ex-Chinese Veterans Association in Hong Kong are so grateful for the help provided by Preston Seventh-day Adventist church that they are linking up with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hong Kong. Many of the Chinese veterans are Christian and the connection may go further than just formal relations.

The Preston group will now be singing in front of government and royalty. The ex-Chinese Veterans Association has reached out to HRH Prince William and Lord Chris Patten of Barnes CH - the last UK Governor of Hong Kong. They have been invited to a fundraising event in London at the Ming-Ai Institute where their song will be one of the highlights of this event.

The song '[Forgotten heroes... listen to our voice](#)' was played during Sabbath afternoon to a full and appreciative congregation. The talents of Preston members have been used to support a good cause, and it seems to have had a much greater impact than originally intended.

[Jeff Couzins]

Laughter and Fun at Irish Mission Family

Ministries Weekend



Pastor Ben Pontanar had a mischievous glint in his eye as he stood in front of those gathered for the Sunday morning session of the Irish Mission Family Ministries weekend. He declared that he had discovered the secret to presenting a 90 minute presentation on Family Systems with almost no stress: "I have decided to let my wife do all the talking - as she is apparently hard wired to do - while I just stand around looking intelligent."

At this point, amidst some laughter and hilarity, his wife came up, and together they led a content rich, and stimulating discussion on how broader family dynamics can impact on relationships in a core family.



Laughter and banter amongst participants was a defining feature of the Family Ministries training weekend organised by the Irish Mission in Dublin's Airport View Hotel on 12-14 April. As participants explored some common dynamics that take place within families, partners and friends found themselves sharing knowing glances at each other, nudging each other, or sometimes bursting out in spontaneous laughter. It would seem as though family relationships are universally challenging, and sometimes

painful. Humour is often an apt way to deal with sensitive topics. But as the presenters pointed out in a variety of sessions, these complicated relationships are often primary tools that God uses to help us to grow as a person and to gain deep satisfaction and fulfilment in life.

"Families become successful when committed family members invest time and effort into the family," said Weiers and Simone Coetser in their presentation . "One of these investments is to equip oneself with knowledge and skills that have been proven to enhance the quality of family life." This weekend was designed to expand knowledge and skills on topics ranging from managing conflict, spiritual parenting, understanding how children and adults grow and develop, improving sexual dynamics in relationships and others.

Pastor Bernie Holford, President of the Scottish Mission, and his wife Karen travelled to Dublin to share some of these skills. Joining them were pastoral couples Steven and Lindita Wilson, Weiers and Simone Coetser, as well as Ben and Joy Pontanar.



Pastor Bernie states that it was quite unusual for him to attend a Family Ministries weekend with so many presenters. What stood out for him was the level of personal vulnerability and experience that the presenters were able to integrate in the seminar materials. He says that presenters often feel that they need to be experts at what they present and that they are therefore hesitant to admit their own struggles and failures. "Life is not like that however, we all learn through our experiences, and when we share those experiences with others, we have a very positive impact on their ability to establish quality relationships."

This weekend's family life seminar was the first of two seminars planned for the Irish Mission. The driving force behind the events is Heather Haworth, Family Ministries director of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Though she could not attend the event due to personal health reasons, she had devoted many hours over the last year to initiate this programme, provide materials, and offer support.

The second Family Ministries weekend is scheduled for the weekend of 4 - 6 October. "We follow a rolling curriculum" says Karen Holford, "so new couples will be able to join without the requirement of having completed the first week-end."



"I would certainly recommend this week-end to any family in our church," says Joan Muldrew. "We enjoyed the comfortable accommodation of the Airport View Hotel and the friendly atmosphere between the participants."

Patrinne Irvine from the Belfast church has also become a proponent for the next event. "In the seminar material we have a goldmine of resources that can be used to enhance our ministry and our outreach as a church. The more we

immerse ourselves in these topics, the more effective our ministry to the local community would be."

[View the photo gallery of the event here.](#)

[Weiers Coetser]



CARIBBEAN VS NIGERIAN COOK OFF

Caribbean or Nigerian cookery: which is the best? Two opposing countries battled it out in a friendly 'Come dine with me' special organised by Adventist students attending Manchester South Adventist

church.

The plan, originating from the Seventh-day Adventist Student Society at Manchester University, was to find a positive way of uniting the culturally divided students. They came up with the idea of having a cook off so both countries could show off their culinary skills, and mix and fellowship together.

The cook off, on Sunday, 17 March, was held at a student house and attracted both Adventist students and their friends to test the best from the Caribbean and Nigeria. Catering for all palates the Caribbean menu highlighted their traditions of curry goat, fried chicken, rice and peas, plantain and dumpling, along with mock duck, and a vegan stew special. The

Nigerian's countered with jollof rice, chicken, puff puff, pounded yam, egusi soup and moi moi.



There was a lot of country banter and debates on culture. The food variety was ample and after the food was eaten, everyone seemed to have bonded together. The final vote tipped Nigeria into winning position by just one vote. However, that was of little importance as, most importantly, food and friendship had drawn divided communities together.

[Sara Francis]

SOMEONE'S PRAYING FOR YOU



If you feel the need of early morning prayer a new initiative by Blessed Hope Adventist church in London may answer your need. They have opened a new prayer line, 'Dial-A-Prayer', available from 6:00 am to 6:15 am daily. To participate all you

need to do is dial in on 08444 73 73 73 and then add the PIN number 435901. (Calls are charged at 4.3p per minute from UK landline and may vary for mobile and other networks.)

Lay pastor, Ayodeji Adesina says, "Share your prayer requests with our prayer team and see what God can do." The church also accepts prayer requests via [its website](#) or mobile app.

On a national level staff worship at the Seventh-day Adventist Church head office in Watford is also a place of prayer. The [Adventist Church website](#) offers a prayer focus with the option to submit prayer requests and thanks to God for answered prayer. Collated by the Adventist Discovery Centre, these requests are then shared and prayed for in morning worship and at a midday prayer time.

[Ayodeji Adesina / BUC News]

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that every human being is valuable in the sight of God, and we seek to minister to all men and women in the spirit of Jesus. While Adventists strongly believe from their understanding of the Bible, that sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman, they do not accept that this gives anyone the right to use language which is derogatory, or to hold people in less esteem who hold views to the contrary.

"The Church voted a position statement on Homosexuality which can be found at: <http://www.adventist.org/beliefs/statements/main-stat46.html>.

"The Church would also distance itself from statements quoted by the press as saying that, 'anyone who worships on Sunday is basically worshipping the devil'. Seventh-day Adventists value the joy that is to be found in worshipping on the Saturday Sabbath as outlined in the Bible. Adventists find this to be a positive day of rest from the pressures of the week, a time for celebration, worship and family.

"While Adventists believe the biblical Sabbath to be Saturday, they do recognise that very many sincere Christians worship on Sunday, the first day of the week. While there is no mandate in the Bible for such a change in the day of worship, there is no doubt that such Christians are sincere and make a significant and positive contribution to the world around them.

"Seventh-day Adventists hold to the Bible as the source of their faith and belief. More information on what Adventists believe can be found at <http://adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/what-we-believe>."

[Victor Hulbert]

DEATH OF IRIS M SMITH



It is with sadness that we report the death of Mrs Iris Smith and offer our sympathy

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and support to her family and friends.

Iris Smith, widow of Aaron F Smith, was born on 24 June 1928 and died on 3 April 2013. Her funeral service was held at the Willesden church on Wednesday, 17 April.

Iris was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother – one of those ladies who loved her family and church. She had been a support to her husband Aaron when he worked for the South England Conference as a Literature Evangelist from 1981 to 1988 and then as Publishing director until his retirement in December 1996.

The Smiths returned to Jamaica in 1999, but after Aaron's death in 2011, Iris returned to the UK to be closer to her family here.

[Paul Lockham]

TIMELY PROGRAMME CHOICE REFLECTIVE OF WHEN DISASTER STRIKES



It broke many a heart to listen to the news and see the pictures of the Boston Marathon on Monday, 15 April. A day that started so full of hope for so many people ended in tragedy. Another example of man's inhumanity to man.

As we pause to pray for those affected – and yes – to pray even for those who carried out such an atrocity we may also ask, 'How could God allow such a thing to happen? Where is He when disaster strikes?'



Not knowing that disaster was about to hit Boston, Victor Hulbert released a TV programme last week, '[When disaster strikes](#)', based on a sermon he first prepared immediately after the Asian Tsunami back in 2005. That message was very relevant and helpful then, and has equally been well received today. Already aired on Revelation TV, it will air on Hope Channel this weekend and is available immediately for download or broadcast on demand.

Monday night will also air another programme where [Pastor Garry Gordon](#) shares his personal tragedy of losing his brother in a shooting – and how that affected his own life.

Programme highlights for the coming week include:



On [Revelation TV](#) (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): **The Journey**, Thursday, 18 April, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday lunchtime, 21 April at 1:00 pm. **'The Sanctuary'**, a New Year hunt in Dorset sets Victor Hulbert's mind working on how two people can have very different reactions to the same event. Next week, on Thursday 25 April, repeated Sunday 28, discover tales of courage and faithfulness in a journey to the Dead Sea, Masada

and Qumran.

For internet radio listeners: Fridays at 8:00 pm, 'My Song' with Mike Johnson, online at www.lightfm.net. Two hours of your favourite songs from across the decades. Send your requests/dedications to radio@lightfm.net.

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 19 April: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [When disaster strikes](#),
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is religion good for children?](#),
Midnight: The Journey: When disaster strikes
Sabbath 20 April: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: When disaster strikes,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Is religion good for children?
Monday 22 April: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Garry Gordon](#) – Why tragedies happen,
9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [Christians and Politics](#)
Wednesday 24 April: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: Christians and Politics,
11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Petula Peters](#) – Social Anthropologist
Friday 26 April: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Sanctuary](#),
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [The Problem of Evil](#),
Midnight: The Journey: Sanctuary
Sabbath 27 April: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Sanctuary,
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: The problem of evil,
8:00 pm: Viewpoint: Christians, [Business & Ethics](#)

[Victor Hulbert]

COMING EVENTS

For a full listing of Coming Events please visit <http://adventist.org.uk/events>

With the ability to display posters, and the increase in the number of Coming Events, this section of the newsletter is now fully updated online and is the best source of events either in your own area or in another part of the country. Select your region for events nearest to you. You can also share events important to you on your Facebook or social media profile.

SMALL ADS

ROOMS FOR RENT in a completely renovated and refurbished house with other Adventists, near Seven Sisters tube station (Victoria line), London. If interested contact Gabriel on 077 2708 2361.

COUNSELLING SERVICE. Individual confidential sessions/therapies to help you cope better with personal, marital, work related issues. Also aimed at helping you break free from anxiety, depression, and anger difficulties. The sessions are pre-booked in advance. Venue & time are agreed/confirmed at booking. Sessions are offered at discounted price of £26 per session for Seventh-day Adventist church members (usually cost £49 per session). To make bookings contact Uche Nwosu-Ademuyiwa on 07828438849 / uche_nwosu@stresstherapist.net. For helpful resources visit: www.stresstherapist.net.

THE SMALL PRINT

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