



BUC NEWS

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WESTON SPACE MISSION [Wayne Erasmus / SEC Communications]



Buzz Brain checks the contents of his space capsule!

A Holiday Bible Club around the theme of 'Space Academy' brought an astonishingly high response from the local community in Weston-Super-Mare – a response that grew higher on the Sabbath morning.

During the February half-term, seven church members took annual leave, or otherwise rearranged their work schedules, to join Pastor Wayne Erasmus and pastoral intern, Julian Thompson to present 'Space Academy', a Holiday Bible Club that told the story of Daniel.

Although it was the second time the church ran a Holiday Bible Club, "We had not anticipated the response from the

community" says Pastor Erasmus. "This year 34 children came to the club, just eight of them from our own congregation." The church hall was

decorated as a space station to the delight of the children as they enthusiastically explored a strange new world, just as Daniel and his three friends must have done!

The children were invited to return for Sabbath morning worship in the church. "As we were saying our goodbyes on Friday, we were wondering just how many would turn up for church the next day", reported Pastor Erasmus.

Sabbath morning, 16 February, the church could not believe their eyes as family after family arrived for the programme. Parents

and grandparents found their places in the church space and settled in to enjoy what their children had been talking about so energetically all week. With nearly every available seat taken up



Free form balancing



The drama team: 'Someone please think of something!'

by Holiday Bible Club children and their parents, regular members had had to arrive early to sit in their preferred spots!

"As a church" concludes Pastor Erasmus, "we really felt the stretch and wondered what God was telling us about His plans for our ministry in this community."

LOVE AT DIALOGUE CAFÉ [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]



Valentine's stretched out for an extra day at the Central London church. Last Friday evening it was sympathetically decorated adding a romantic feel fitting the theme of love for the monthly 'Dialogue café'.

An average of 125 people come to the café, an initiative of Pastor Geert Tap. He saw a need to create a space other than Sabbath morning for church people to bring their friends and colleagues to church.

"If we want to connect with the city we find ourselves in," explains Pastor Tap, "we need to open our doors in the evening when people stroll the streets of London in search of a great place to relax, have some good food, and meaningful conversations."

Gathering around decorated tables rather than pews, church members brought friends and colleagues to an evening of music, inspiration, and interaction – not forgetting the cupcakes and chocolate covered strawberries. With interactive puzzles to solve, each table got to know each other better both with tasks and later in the programme through dialogue.

"We have run it since October 2012, and every time we see new people, and half of the church is filled with non-members", enthuses Pastor Tap.

"I simply love it," said Amanda Van Der Schyff, "I come every time."

Tiago Torre visiting from Portugal found the evening different. "The music provided a more mixed atmosphere. Where I come from we only use a piano", he said.



Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, South England Conference Teens director, spoke about free refills, drawing from the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, to whom Jesus offered eternal water and eternal love.

"The evening was simply amazing", reflected Robert Coltheart. "I was inspired by the music and by Pastor Dejan, who really knows how to add humour, and still make a point."



HOW MUCH FOR A CUP OF SOUP? [June Coombs]

Would you pay £40 for a cup of soup? What about £1,280? Both those figures are significant for Pat Walton, the force behind a weekly soup run from Stanborough Park church into central London.

£40 is the average cost of food for the weekly run. £1,280 is how much Pat raised in her 17 February 'Sunday sale' at the Stanborough Centre – all to help support a church outreach

effort run entirely by volunteers and that is self-supporting.

The ladies of the church make the sandwiches and provide cake and fresh fruit making the phrase 'soup run' rather an understatement. "Reimbursement of the ladies' expenses is offered; some take it, some don't", Pat says. She also has to provide tea, coffee, sugar, whitener, soup, hot chocolate and some toiletries. Donations of clothes and bedding are also taken on the minibus. All that in addition to the annual insurance, road tax, fuel and running costs.

But Pat and her team do it with a smile. She has been organising the Soup Run for more than a quarter of a century. She says, that "a group of approximately eight to ten people go out in the minibus on the Friday evening soup runs, comprising of church members, young people, non-members, work colleagues and even lapsed church members." In addition there are also people from the local community who are interested in helping the homeless having read about the outreach in the church's newsletter, 'Stanborough News', which is delivered quarterly to homes in Garston.



Pat's sales helped raise the funds to purchase and run this minibus – both for the soup run and for Youth/Pathfinder activities.

When the group reach London their arrival is keenly anticipated and they usually find 50-70 people waiting for their help.

In 2011 Pat managed to raise sufficient funds to buy a replacement minibus to use for the Soup Run. She is very proud of it and the fact that it is debt-free. The bus is also used for youth trips and by the Pathfinders.

Pat's fundraising sales are essential to keep this form of outreach going. Members donate items and Pat is supported by 50-60 regular helpers who set up and run stalls and help with clearing up.

Anyone requiring further information about the Soup Run can contact Pat on 01923 672500 or email: <Walton@groats.co.uk>.

MISSION TO THE CITIES – IN THE PROVINCES [Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist]



South England provincial ministers met together to explore their role in the 'Mission to the Cities' initiative. More than 30 ministers gathered at Newbold church on Wednesday, 13 February. The focus was to discuss Mission to the Cities with the Trans-European Division representative, Raafat Kamal.

"I like being challenged", stated Kamal, as pastors discussed evangelism methodology, and shared what had worked in their experience.

There was a clear consensus that evangelism today is challenging but if, as a Church, we are serious about outreach, then we must understand that in some communities it takes time to make an impact.

Mission to the Cities is geared toward London, however pastoral intern Vili Costescu, who is tasked with being the media project manager for Mission to the Cities, encouraged the provincial ministers to get involved, particularly in media projects such as the planned series of online prayer meetings.

"It was a good opportunity to dialogue about the project", said Pastor Simon Martin, incoming leader for the provincial ministers. Pastor Ian Sleeman, who chaired the meeting for the last time before retirement, responded that "this is exactly why I invited the Division to come and talk about Mission to the Cities. I felt our guys and girls needed an opportunity to discuss this evangelistic initiative."

BUC LEADERSHIP TRAINING HITS BUDGET



A new series of Leadership Training for ministers and church elders got off to a sound start on Tuesday, 19 February with a full day of practical instruction on how to budget, the reality of how to balance the books in a church with limited funding, and even how to balance the conflicting interests of various pressure groups.

With humour and good grace, British Union Conference Treasurer, Victor Pilmoor, led 15 ministers through the intricacies of how to understand a budget and, most importantly, how sound planning can positively enhance the ministry of a congregation.

Victor began with a discussion of 'foresight' as the spiritual precursor to creating a framework for church work. Building on this, pastors were encouraged to see the budget as 'the church's dream, with price tags', to see their budget not as a controlling, pacesetting power mantra, but a means of socialising ownership of the mission and activity of the church. The concluding presentation focused on the accountability covenant between the donor, God, and the budget manager.

Going by the animated conversation at the end of the day, it seems the ministers in attendance went home with plenty to think about. Pastor Wilfred Blake of North Wembley church commented, "I didn't know that handling a budget was so spiritual."



Organised as a joint enterprise between the Ministerial Association and the Personal Ministries department, the British Union Training, Resource, and Evangelism Centre (BUTREC) will host 25 events this year. These voluntary training events are designed to enhance leadership skills across a variety of areas of ministry. Future sessions will tackle the skills of public speaking, deal with conflict in the church, prayer in the life of a minister, and how to effectively teach

Adventist doctrine.

While the training is run in the BUC boardroom in Watford, the lectures are available online for all ministers and elders, making it easily accessible to those ministering in any part of the British Isles.

"Pastors who live some distance from Watford may want to get together locally and watch and discuss together", states BUC Executive Secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham. He thinks that could be an enhanced benefit, rather than an isolated pastor watching a one-off by themselves.

Church leaders should contact Faye Weekes at fweekes@adventist.org.uk for details.

Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC Evangelism director, is responsible for the BUTREC along with BUC Ministerial Association director, Dr Brighton Kavaloh. Pastor Brooks is hoping to inspire positive change. "I believe the British Union Conference is establishing a 'Centre of Influence' that will change the face of the ministry in the BUC and will benefit our frontline workers and help them to inspire our members."



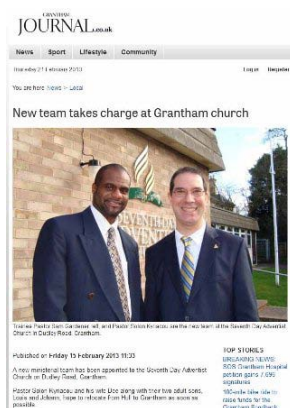
LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE

'I guess you're going to condemn us' could be a life-changing story. I suspect responses may appear in the letter column. You will find it on page six of the 22 February MESSENGER, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland.

With half-term over it is time to consider Camp Meeting – just a few months away and, if you wish, available for two weeks, back-to-back, with the North and South England Conferences in the same location. Find out full details and get a booking form.

Also, find out the background to 20 PEACE graduates, discover a forgotten king, learn to pray in tough times, and share testimonies and good news. [Read MESSENGER online](#), or pick up a copy in your local church this Sabbath.

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS



Two local churches are highlighted in their local papers this week. The [Grantham Journal](#) welcomes Pastors Solon Kyriacou and Sam Gardener as the new leadership team for the local Adventist church.

With a lovely photograph of the two, backdropped by the Adventist logo, the report notes, "Brought up as an atheist, Pastor Kyriacou became a Christian in his late twenties. In 1999, he left his job as a housing officer in Derby to take BA and MA degrees in Pastoral ministry."

Getting this kind of news into a local paper is important. Readers get a picture of the church from an unbiased source – and noting that the minister was a former atheist it may give them the seed of an idea to explore more.

[My Garston News](#), the monthly community magazine that covers the areas surrounding Stanborough Park highlights two Adventist stories. On page 18 two church musicians are highlighted in a fund-raising concert, then on page 22 the magazine notes "The children of Burkina Faso receive gifts from Watford." Both articles also include good quality photographs.

Readers of [The Scottish Sun](#) will discover, once again, that the Adventist lifestyle aids longevity. In addition to diet and exercise, the article notes that, "The Adventist culture also encourages volunteering – proven to help stave off depression."

Finally, classical music lovers will appreciate the report in [Classical Source](#) of 'The Rest is Noise' with the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the London Adventist Chorale. The concert, at the South Bank Centre, London on Wednesday 20 February featured the Chorale singing three spirituals as part of the Philharmonic's Americas season. In a very positive review, Peter Reed stated, "The easy-sounding rhythms in 'Swing Low, Sweet Chariot' are in fact terribly complex. The singers' bending of pitch was just one instance of the virtuosity of this 25-strong a cappella group."

Has your church been highlighted in the news? Why not send us a link to the story? If you want to know more about writing news and taking photos for publication the BUC Communication department has recently released two short videos on [Successful News Writing](#), and [Successful Picture Publishing](#).

PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK



Passion for Life

www.hopetv.org.uk

Hotbird 6, Downlink Frequency:
11642MHz, Polarization:
Horizontal, Symbol Rate: 27500
Msps, FEC: 3/4 11642MHz,

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 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
 Monday 25 February: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Alexander Douglas](#) – Living for his music,
 9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [Christians, business and ethics](#)
 Wednesday 27 February: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Christians and Finance](#),
 11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Marjukka Ostrovljanovic](#) – Living the double life
 Friday 1 March: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Sabbath Rest](#),
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Why is Christianity so divisive?](#),
 Midnight: The Journey: Sabbath Rest
 Sabbath 2 March: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Sabbath Rest,
 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Why is Christianity so divisive?

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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