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

BUCC  
NEWS



**Edition #826 (26 April 2013)**

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

£100 PER MILE CHALLENGE FOR 3-YEAR-OLD  
COMMUNITY CHEER FOR PORTSMOUTH  
YOUNG EARTH THEORIES REVISITED  
'ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN' VARIED COMMUNITY OUTREACH TOUCHING LIVES  
PASTOR MBUI: PASSIONATE ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP  
AM I GOING DEAF?  
LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE  
TV SELECTIONS FOR THE WEEK  
COMING EVENTS



## **£100 PER MILE CHALLENGE FOR 3-YEAR-OLD**

With spring in the air, bikers across Britain took to the roads and cycleways to climax fundraising for the 2013 ADRA Annual Appeal.

A group of Cambridge church members undertook what they called a 'fun challenge' to cycle 2013 miles for charity, noting that the Adventist Development and Relief Agency is celebrating 100 years of humanitarian collections this year. "We had guided group bike rides on the three Sundays and contributed our individual miles during the week on an honour basis", states local Adventist pastor, Colin Stewart. He adds, "Our highlight was cycling from Cambridge to St Ives, a 37.5 mile round trip."

While Cambridge beat their goal with 2,405.7 miles they also hope to exceed their fundraising target of £2,013.00. Surprisingly, that mile-per-pound total is likely to be beaten by a three-year-old from Leamington Spa Mission.



Toby, who suffers from medical issues that seriously sap his energy levels, nevertheless joined with nine other children from the Mission to cycle around Draycote Water Reservoir, near Rugby. The three-year-old was determined to complete his two miles on a bike ride that gained ADRA [£111.00 per mile](#) (at date of publication).

It is Toby's first sponsored bike ride, and he was joined on this occasion by eight other children below the age of eleven. Two of them, Stephanie (age nine) and Martin (age seven), did double the distance round the lake, totalling ten miles each. They were joined by Damien, Faith, Michael, Jenna, Nastasija and Luca who between them have raised well over £600.



"This is fantastic", states Bert Smit, CEO of ADRA-UK. "Congratulations to all nine children, and to the Cambridge cyclists, who enjoyed sunshine, fresh air, and making a real difference for other children around the world who can now have safe drinking water and a chance for education due to their efforts."

The team at ADRA head office are also keenly watching the bank balance as collection money pours into the accounts. The current highlight of their [Facebook page](#) is the 38 volunteers on the Isle of Man who between them spent 48 hours collecting £8,948.13. Got a story of your own to tell? Why not [share it with ADRA](#).

[Bert Smit, CEO ADRA-UK]



## COMMUNITY CHEER FOR PORTSMOUTH

An invitation from a local community awareness officer led to Portsmouth Seventh-day Adventist church spending a Sabbath at a local shopping centre. The Health and Personal Ministries departments joined forces to share God's love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing at the Fratton Bridge shopping centre on

Saturday, 20 April 2013.

The officer, Marcello, saw the Health Ministries department in action at a May Fayre last year. She was impressed with the Health Expo.

Adventists are part of a community charity organisation in the Fratton community that provides a variety of services to local people. The Adventist stand was mainly health screening with blood pressure checks, age analysis, blood sugar tests, body mass index, and spiritual well-being on offer.

Sixty-five people were screened between 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Many shoppers also picked up literature that was on offer.

During the day, the team was greeted by the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Frank Jonas who took some time to visit the stand and chat with the team.



[Mphathisi Ncube]



## YOUNG EARTH THEORIES REVISITED

It's not cool to be biologically old! As health and beauty fade, our evolution-conditioned society shunts such "unfit" individuals to the periphery ready for natural "de-selection". It's quite the reverse in geology!

The older a rock or fossil is, the cooler and more interesting it appears. The supposed huge antiquities of dinosaur deposits, of Triassic reptiles, of Cambrian fish and of Pre-Cambrian bacteria are highly celebrated props of consensus evolution. Individuals with the temerity to gainsay the immensity of geological time immediately attract the AYSOS label (Are You Stupid Or Something!). Indeed a chorus of contempt is regularly directed at them with all the barbershop enthusiasm of the new atheist quartet (Dawkins, Dennett, Harris, Hitchens) and the jingoistic naivety of the naturalist bloggers. The recent BBC3 'Creation Conspiracy Road Trip' broadcast the same wearisome drone.

However, an off-key note is beginning to spoil these serenades of sarcasm as evidences of geological catastrophes and rapid rock deposition erode the uniformitarian picture. Actually, radiometric dating is usually seen as the clinching support for vast geological ages. It has always been tough to oppose the seeming rigor of the radiometric methods, despite the many anomalies they throw up. Now a jarring note is coming from the respected sibling technique of radiocarbon dating.

The half-life of radioactive carbon (carbon-14) is comparatively short, so it should all have decayed away and be undetectable in any deposit older than about 100,000 years. In fact, however, radiocarbon measurements have found that samples from virtually every level in the



geological column contain easily detectable amounts of carbon-14. For years geologists explained this away as due to contamination by modern carbon-14. As techniques for removing and excluding contamination have improved, the presence of inherent carbon-14, in rocks supposedly millions to hundreds of millions of years old, has become certain. Furthermore, the carbon-14 content doesn't change with depth within a rock specimen, or with sample size, thereby confirming it isn't due to modern contamination. Predictably, uniformitarian geologists continue to call this unexpected carbon-14 "contamination"; although they are unable to account for it.

The amounts of carbon-14 found in ancient fossilised materials (with uniformitarian ages up to 500 million years before the present), correspond to ages in the range 44,000 to 57,000 years.

The straightforward conclusion would be that all these fossilised organisms were buried, practically together, in a global catastrophe only a few thousand years ago. These carbon-14 dates are based on the normal assumption that the level of carbon-14 in the atmosphere in the remote past was the same as it is today. Because of the huge amounts of coal, oil, shale and carbonates buried in such a catastrophe, the carbon-14 level must actually have been much lower in the pre-catastrophe atmosphere.

Estimates of the true level of carbon-14 in the ancient pre-catastrophe atmosphere are obviously uncertain, but an amount about an order of magnitude lower than at present seems reasonable. Inputting this assumption reduces the date of the catastrophe down to round about 5,000 years before the present.



This date matches remarkably well with long-standing accounts of a worldwide flood, found in the Bible, as well as in many other ancient documents, that destroyed most of the life on planet earth five or so millennia ago.

These discoveries of carbon-14 in supposedly geologically old fossils and sediments from all around the world have been published in peer-reviewed journals. The universality of carbon-14 in sediments is like a diagnostic signature, written in rocks all over the world, authenticating the global flood event, and contradicting the uniformitarian long ages.

Young earth creationists are not so AYSOS after all.

[This article was first published in the April edition of the Scottish Mission Newsletter. Reprinted by kind permission. Professor John Walton is a member of Dundee church and gives frequent lectures on issues related to creation and evolution.]

[John Walton]

## 'ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN' VARIED COMMUNITY OUTREACH TOUCHING LIVES



Different styles of outreach are touching lives in Watford, Cambridge, Coleraine and Llandrindod Wells.

Veteran TV presenter and celebrity cook Zena Skinner entertained the Seniors' Club at Stanborough Park church, Watford, on Monday, 22 April with a lively talk on her life in the Wrens during World War II and her subsequent career which led to her becoming a national celebrity and treasure!

A household name in the 1960s, 70s and early 80s, Zena produced numerous cookery books based on her TV shows. Today, she spends her time giving talks on her life to groups and raising funds for medical charities.

She is just one of the many guest speakers at the Seniors' Club, a community outreach activity that attracts a large number of pensioners from the local area, two thirds of whom have become 'friends of the church' as a result of the regular programme.

Meanwhile Cambridge Adventists are aiming their outreach at the other end of the generational spectrum. In a city buzzing with students, they believe that outreach and evangelism must include going to the heart of the city.



On Friday, 19 April the young adults met for their fifth monthly session themed 'Back to the Heart of Worship'. Meeting above a pub in the High Street the three hour session included food, fellowship and worship. Most impressively, is that since the first session just before Christmas, over half the young adults in attendance are not from the church – and most don't regularly attend church at all.

"There is a different crowd every time, because many students pass through as they study", states district pastor, Colin Stewart. "It seems they have been spreading the word before they leave!" he adds. "Friends have been invited and continue to share the invitation, finding the young adult service a church they feel comfortable attending, and can just enjoy listening to gospel singing, hearing about Jesus, and asking questions."



In Llandrindod Wells, a small spa town in mid-Wales, the community are still attracted by a professional lecture covering [archaeology and the Bible](#). On Tuesday, 16 April, some thirty people responded to public advertising and came to hear archaeologist and

public speaker Kendall Down give a fascinating illustrated lecture about the boy king Tutankhamun. And when Kendall concluded by comparing Tutankhamun, who had great wealth and riches in life but is now a shrivelled mummy in a museum, with his contemporary, Moses, who now lives in heaven, there were murmurs of approval from around the room.

Finally, [science is the focus](#) in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, where local Adventist pastor, Mart de Groot, has worked together with the Coleraine Borough Churches Forum to raise issues of faith and science. Dr de Groot states that "it has also become clear that among the public there is a hunger for knowing more about God's role in the origin and destination of our lives. This programme indicated an alternative approach to evangelism among thinking people."

These are just four of the many and varied programmes happening across the British Isles. Following the principle of evangelist Mark Finley, they know that the best form of evangelism is 'doing evangelism'.

[Victor Hulbert]



## **PASTOR MBUI: PASSIONATE ABOUT DISCIPLESHIP**

Pastor Michael Mbui, the much loved pastor of Chiswick and Acton churches in London, recently found himself in his childhood home of Kenya to film a series of programmes on Discipleship.

Aimed at the Hope Channel International audience, the programmes lead the viewer through simple steps, from sharing the case for becoming disciples, what steps need to be taken, and the reality of what it means. The filming proved to be so engaging that, while in the country, he was also asked to film a series on relationships, 'Marriage Makers'.

Now back in Britain and working hard as part of the Mission to the Cities programme, Pastor Mbui believes these programmes can be a real asset to viewers in the UK. Hope Channel International is not available on satellite in Europe, but the programmes can be [watched online](#) at the following times:

Making Disciples: Sunday, 7:00 pm repeated Wednesday, 5:30 pm.

Marriage Makers: Sunday, 7:30 pm repeated Monday, 5:30 pm.

[Victor Hulbert]

## AM I GOING DEAF



I've recently noticed that I can't hear very well in my left ear. It is not a serious hearing problem that requires a hearing aid, but it is a recurrence of an old condition that will hopefully be resolved by a visit to my GP practice nurse.

My hearing loss could have been prevented. Last time I visited the nurse she told me to put a few drops of vegetable oil in my ear once a week. After obeying her a few times, the rush of life took over, and now I need a simple procedure to clear the blockage that has developed.

In my devotional times, it seems that God has been guiding me to reflect on my condition. I'm half deaf because I have been ignoring medical advice!

A long time ago, Elijah had a hearing problem. He couldn't hear what God wanted to say to him. 1 Kings 19:11,12 tells us how he listened for God in the wind, rain, earthquake and fire. Finally God spoke in a still, small voice and started a conversation by asking a question, 'Why are you here?' [vs 13.]

God wants to have a conversation with us too. Unfortunately, many of us neglect to keep our hearing channels open by regularly reading His Word and responding to the questions He asks us. Our spiritual hearing channels get blocked up and it's very difficult to clear them.

A friend of mine who works abroad has a similar problem, so he asked me to send him some 'Earex' – a special oil that helps clear the blocked hearing passages. We also need special treatment to clear our spiritual deafness. We need outside help from the Spirit of God to heal our hearing, and help us discern His voice in our lives. Through my deafness, God has been talking with me and asking me questions. I felt led to continue these conversations with a friend who has helped me grow through the questions I've been asked. It's not easy, but it's rewarding!

I'm looking forward to going to the practice nurse tomorrow to get my hearing back. Even more importantly, I'm praying that God will open our ears to the questions He wants to ask us, so that we can engage in one-to-one conversations with Him.

[Bernie Holford. Scottish Mission President]



## LATEST MESSENGER ONLINE



Pick up the 26 April Messenger, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, and you will find yourself challenged by the thought, "What if you were illiterate...or couldn't count?" You can also ponder on queue jumping, discover the origins of Adventism in Britain, react to a reader and her views on marrying outside the Church, learn how prayer can overturn a worship ban, and catch up on news from around the UK and Ireland. Available from your local church or [read it online](#).

[Julian Hibbert]

## TV SELECTIONS FOR THE WEEK



Programme highlights for the coming week include:

On [Revelation TV](#) (Sky 581 or Freesat 692): **The Journey**, Thursday, 25 April, 8:30 pm, repeated Sunday lunchtime, 28 April at 1:00 pm. **'Masada'**, discover tales of courage and faithfulness in a journey to the Dead Sea, Masada and Qumran. Next week, on Thursday 2 May,

repeated Sunday 5, Victor Hulbert visits Portugal and discovers the foolishness of an empty camera, and that photography gives him lessons for life.

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

Monday 29 April: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Kish Poddar](#) – Passionate for Indian orphanages,

9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [Christians and Politics](#)

Wednesday 1 May: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [End of life choices](#),



11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Garry Gordon](#) – Why tragedies happen  
Friday 3 May: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Masada](#),  
8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Is science anti-Christian?](#),  
Midnight: The Journey: Masada  
Sabbath 4 May: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Masada,  
7:30 pm: FaithTalks: [The problem of evil](#),  
8:00 pm: Viewpoint: [Christians and finance](#)

[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.

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## SMALL ADS

2 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, Stanborough Park church, Watford, starting 1 June 2013. Working with youth & teens and supporting the running of the Stanborough Centre. For more information visit the [Job Vacancies page](#) on the Adventist Church website.

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](mailto:uche_nwosu@stresstherapist.net). For helpful resources visit: [www.stresstherapist.net](http://www.stresstherapist.net).

## THE SMALL PRINT

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