



BUC NEWS

Edition #818 (1 March 2013)



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

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WHY HUDDERSFIELD? [Fartown Communications Department]



Huddersfield, a northern town halfway between Leeds and Manchester, is larger than many a small city. It embraces a vibrant and diverse multi-ethnic community, has one main Adventist church, possibly dating back to the 19th century, and a relatively new company in Fartown, both striving to reach out to those in need.

On Sabbath, 23 February, Adventist churches in Area 3 of the North England Conference joined forces in Huddersfield to attend their launch of the General Conference initiative 'Mission to the Cities'. This was supported by the local ministers and was an opportunity to promote the evangelistic commission that God has given us to reach out to those in our cities.

Area 3 is made up of the whole of Yorkshire south of Scarborough. Both Huddersfield and York have been specifically selected to receive targeted attention under this initiative, although all churches in the area will receive some support.

Using new technology and creative ways to promote the gospel were a major feature of the day. However, listening to the powerful testimonies of two young people, with the experience of witnessing in a 'big city', highlighted that even in this 'post-modern' time, older methods of 'door to door' witnessing, street witnessing and small groups still remain as effective as ever in promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was with enthusiasm and conviction that Sarah Dixon, a newly baptised member from the Fartown church, talked about her enjoyment of street witnessing and how God has helped her to overcome her fear of this through prayer and her appreciation of scripture. As a means of encouragement to others, she cited Isaiah 52:7, 'How beautiful on the



mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"



Sarah wished it to be known that she was introduced to Christ as a result of someone bringing the good news to her through door to door witnessing.

Naythan Grant, Youth Leader of the Huddersfield church, articulately shared his testimony of street witnessing in Manchester city centre. Naythan recalled how in spite of being encircled by a group of Hari Krishna's chanting around them, he and the other young people were determined to share the gospel and boldly

sing the songs of Zion. He quoted Isaiah 43:10, stressing our need to be a witness of the Lord in all situations.

Following a presentation about the growth of the Fartown Company, Edith Batten, also newly baptised, shared the benefits of being part of a small Bible study group to help lift her spirits, share experiences of the week, study God's word and enable her to make a commitment to Him.

Pastor Augustus Lawrence, minister of the Milton Keynes district of churches, used his sermon time to affirm the young people in their witnessing. He highlighted how God is interested in our attitude as this shows our appreciation for Him.

His sermon entitled, 'God Relocates in Babylon', focussed on Jeremiah 29:1-12. It challenged the congregation to be obedient to God's will and to tell people about God, even though sometimes we may find it difficult to sing the songs of the Lord in a strange land. Pastor Lawrence referred to God also positioning Daniel in a place to influence the people as He wished to save the Babylonians, in the same way He wishes to save all people.

During the afternoon service, Pastor Michael Simpson explained that the Adventist church is a growing `movement', living in very exciting times with a mission to evangelise the cities using Christ's methods of mingling with men.

The motive for the call to work earnestly for the cities of the world comes as the churches of the world realise the efficiency of working where many people live. Pastor Simpson then moved on to demonstrate that we would most effectively do this as we show an interest in people by ministering to their needs, winning their confidence and then showing people how to become Christians.

The question was asked `What has God laid upon our hearts to do? The call is out for all of us: Will we initially run like Jonah or allow God to use us in a mighty and powerful way?

LEWISHAM YOUTH AWARDED [Justin Victor]



Lewisham Adventist young people were recently given special recognition for the good work they have done for the community.

Her Majesty's Lieutenant of the City of London visited Lewisham Seventh-day Adventist church on Saturday, 23 February specifically to recognise work done by the youth.

Simon Duckworth presented certificates of recognition to those who had acted as stewards or played with the drum corps during the 2012 Olympics. He made the presentation on behalf of Steve Bullock, Mayor of Lewisham.

He not only recognised the good work the church's youth did during the 2012 Olympics but urged them to continue with work that benefits the community as part of the Pathfinder club. Mr Duckworth was at Lewisham church for the group's annual Investiture day.

During his speech he mentioned that he was happy to see whole families as well as youth in attendance at the church service and remarked that our society would be all the better if more people would follow their example.

PRAYER DAY & PRAYER GREETINGS [Emmanuel Osei]



'Mission to the Cities' has already become a well-known slogan among many churches within the British Isles. On Sunday, 24 February, a day of prayer and fasting convened at the Advent Centre, London, convened to specifically pray for this major initiative.

Organised by the South England Conference Prayer Ministries Department, it was bigger than London. There were representatives from the Trans-European Division who shared their vision and expressed words of encouragement. By the use of video, the Presidents of the North England Conference, and the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Missions, sent greetings and joined in praying for the initiative. BUC President, Pastor Ian Sweeney and SEC President, Pastor Sam Davis, were present and shared words of encouragement as prayers were offered.

All recognized that prayer is essential for any effective evangelistic effort, and joined together with members to seek God's guidance and leading as we plan for a year of evangelism.

The London Area Coordinators described the evangelistic efforts that would be taking place in their districts. These plans were placed before God and time was spent praying over the various strategies. Potters Bar, to the North East of London, was presented as the place where it is hoped a new Adventist presence will be established. Also in Uxbridge, West London a new church plant is being targeted. These plans involve sending task forces into the area to ascertain the felt needs of those communities. Over a two year period, planned efforts will be made to meet those needs and befriend the community before establishing a church plant.



Prayer was offered for the evangelistic effort planned for South London. A major outreach programme is to be executed in the Brixton area. Pastor Steve Thomas, Youth Director for the SEC, informed the group about the October evangelistic programme that is to take place at the Advent Centre targeting the youth.

Members left the Advent Centre excited and fulfilled that all plans had been presented before God. They commented on their appreciation of spending the whole day focusing on evangelism and praying for each other and for the Lord to open doors so that the gospel can go forward in London during 2013.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF I'M A CHRISTIAN? [Steven Hulbert]



An Adventist volunteer in Cornwall has gone double the distance in sharing the love of God in her community. Kasyn Sell is a Canadian volunteer working with LIVE St. Austell, a Church Plant down in the south-west corner of the UK. She is now also part of a team that has won the Prime Minister's 'Big Society Award'.

Kasyn not only spends time in the religious and social outreach of LIVE St Austell, but also volunteers with STAK, the St Austell Kitchen. The charity started about 25 years ago to help to feed the homeless and disadvantaged of the town. Kasyn is involved in the food preparation and serving every Friday where she is able to pour that love God has given her into helping others.

When Kasyn joined LIVE St. Austell she very quickly got on board with the way we share Christ to those that surround us. LIVE St. Austell is not a 'one day a week for a couple of hours ministry' – it is a lifestyle with Christ at the centre and it runs 24/7. We are not ashamed of our calling and our calling demands a lot of our life. Kasyn understood that a love for people is at the core of everything we do, and it was only fitting that she found a ministry that gives to the community that surrounds us.

We are extremely proud of her as she made it into several of the [local newspapers](#) along with the other staff at STAK for winning the Prime Minister's 'Big Society Award'. David Cameron said, 'It is a vital part of the Big Society that people feel they can give, they can contribute, and they can play a part. To me that is a really important vision for the future of our country.'

Kasyn's giving does not stop there, as she is now looking into working with a charity that is dedicated to helping children and adults who have autism, providing information to families who care for them.

Kasyn is representative of all the volunteers who have supported this South England Conference initiative over the years. LIVE St Austell aims to share evangelism in the town of St. Austell in a county where our church is struggling to bring people to Christ. Initially this endeavour started off as the 'St. Austell Project' working as a church revitalization project for the local church already established in the town. A couple of years ago the 'St. Austell Project' became 'LIVE St. Austell' a church plant

based on interpersonal ministry. We now meet several times a week for worship, study, prayer, and fun in the house we live in. Once a month on the Sabbath we worship and pray together with and for our brothers and sisters in the local church on Bucklers Lane, and God has been blessing us immeasurably.

LIVE St. Austell has had volunteers over the years from Australia, California, Denmark, and from the UK itself. At the moment, volunteering with us we have Jake Jackson from Somerset, Steve Mann who recently joined us from Michigan in the US, and Kasyn Sell who joined us in September 2012 from Canada.

The ministry for LIVE St. Austell is all about people: meeting people, befriending people, caring about what they care about, and helping when we can help. This kind of Christianity can be seen with the early church throughout the book of Acts, a selflessness that is very hard to find in society today.

We meet people through sports like basketball, badminton, and surfing, through our various work places, through other contacts and friends, and through voluntary endeavours such as local beach cleans, surf competitions with Christian Surfers, and STAK.



Kasyn with LIVE St Austell leaders, Steve & Jena Hulbert (right) and Daniel Lemon.

As Christians, it is vital that we are involved in sharing the love of God to the community that surrounds us. The Bible puts it plainly by saying if we don't love we don't know God (1 John 3:10).

Kasyn and the whole team rejoice to see how God continues to work in and through them. They pray and ask you to pray that "more people in this lovely town come to know Christ and to share in His wonderful love." Their witness follows the words of Jesus, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 (NIV)

NEC AREA ONE YOUTH RETREAT [JR Narciso]



Eighty young people now have a closer relationship with Jesus and plan to use their talents in sharing the good news to their friends, acquaintances, and loved ones as a result of a spiritual retreat in North East England.

"Here I am Lord, send me!" was the discipleship theme over the weekend of 22-24 February 2013. Supported by five speakers, namely: Joseph Philpott and Pastors Curtis Murphy, Colin Woodford, Noel Apugan, Roman Smejkal, and Sidney Almeida,

all participants were drawn to build a closer relationship with Jesus.

With excellent accommodation in a Youth Village in Durham, participants heard messages on topics such as: Spiritual Gifts, Witnessing, and Creation versus Evolution.

The weekend activity became more memorable to all participants because of a unique experience on Saturday night where a pre-arranged social banquet was held. Staff served our 'Special Guests' whilst carefully selected topics on building relationship were discussed and a Question and Answer session conducted.

It was also an opportunity for talents shown through music and speeches from our young people. It was followed by a social activity where bonding became more complete. To conclude the session, all the participants committed their hearts to use their time and talents to share Jesus' love with others.

The closing ceremony was followed by an individual and group photo session and indeed brought big smiles and laughter to everyone in the serene snow covered countryside. Invited friends from outside the church community were equally impressed with the retreat activities and are already enquiring for the next youth retreat.



PAUL LEE AND FRIENDS CONCERT [June Coombs]

The 'Paul Lee and Friends' concert broke all-time records for attendance at Stanborough Park church as lovers of gospel music from far and near descended on the church to be entertained by some excellent performances.

Paul Lee is Director of Music and Assistant to the President of the South England Conference. His programme featured 'some of the premier SEC Gospel artistes across a wide cross-section and sub-genres of Gospel Music' according to the programme. His solos, and the music provided by

the other performers, who all sang from the heart, more than exceeded their audience's expectations.

The other performers included soprano Ullanda Alexander, a solicitor who undertakes the music portfolio of the Southall Church, baritone Everol Dixon who is a member of the Croydon church and of the Croydon Gospel Choir, tenor Bobby Carr and also Debra-Elaine Simpson who are both soloists and sing with different ensembles and, last but not least, The Adventist Vocal Ensemble, a session ensemble who performs mostly on television but occasionally live. Ken Burton, a familiar name in Adventist music circles, provided the piano accompaniment.

The offering taken during the evening concert held on Saturday 23 February raised a total of £1500 for the church's Development Fund, a sum which was augmented to £1720 by the sale of food and refreshments afterwards.

OSCARS IN THE HEADLINES! [Victor Pilmoor]

[Editor's note: BUC treasurer, Victor Pilmoor, takes time each month to write a thought piece primarily for those on the BUC payroll. However, it has also become an increasingly [popular column](#) on the BUC website.]



Not just the awards, but the devastating episode of one celebrity shooting another, for real. One Oscar drama depicts Abraham Lincoln and his struggle to unite the people of America, even brothers, who were destructively divided over their quest to retain wealth and privilege through the exploitation of others.

Whatever the motive of Oscar the hapless 'blade-runner', the social setting is of a society where the poverty gap is so great that people live on triggers edge to protect themselves and their wealth. In both cases, the love of money remains at the root of evil. No wonder Jesus tells the rich ruler to give up his possessions in favour of the poor.

My Oscar vote goes to a lady who appeared on Breakfast TV, celebrated because she wrote to a trial judge appealing on behalf of a young man who caused the death of her husband. Her Christian faith led her to believe that healing comes through forgiveness rather than retribution.

Further to the value of healing, societal trust and forgiveness:

I read of an experiment where students were surveyed with the promise of a \$5 reward. Half of the people had their survey interrupted by an irritating personal phone call. In each case, respondents were slipped four dollars plus a \$5 bill in an envelope. Most of the control group returned the extra money, whereas those irked, did not. The experiment was repeated with the interrupted phone call followed with an apology. The rate of honest return was the same for both groups. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9.

In their recent book, Don Peppers and Martha Rogers discuss the merits of "Extreme Trust". In addition to the above experiment, they describe the merits of organisations that go beyond the requirements of mere compliance. For instance, they tell the story of an insurance company that accrued loyalty by voluntarily returning premiums to Gulf War veterans who did not use their cars while on foreign duty. By contrast they speak of Banks who cynically rig their systems to exploit customers who make simple mistakes. In short they say that trust, loyalty and success come when we conduct our affairs to favour the other, even if this reduces short term gain.

Having lost the lustre of our AAA economic Oscar, our nation must rediscover the value of giving 'good measure, pressed down and shaken together' not to speak of fairness, healing and justice.

Thank you for your committed service in helping people become a confessing and forgiving society, giving of self and worthy of the trust upon which we prosper.

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS



Adventists appear in two local newspapers this week – and both stories relate to feeding the homeless. The [Ilford recorder](#) reports that the local Adventist church will be changing the focus of its feeding programme from Central London to the local area where they recognise there is also a problem. Church members plan to open a drop in Centre.

Then in ['This is Cornwall'](#), Adventist volunteer, Kasyn Sell, is featured among the St Austell Kitchen volunteers who have just received the Prime Minister's 'Big Society Award'. Over the past 25 years the kitchen has received both food contributions and volunteer help from Adventists both in the St Austell and Bodmin area. Church members are delighted to see the project recognised for the powerful contribution it is making to

life in the St Austell area.

DEATH OF DAVID REEVES LOWE



We are saddened to announce the passing of former minister, David Reeves Lowe who died, after a short illness, on 19 February 2013.

Born in Derby on 21 May 1929, he enrolled at Newbold Missionary College in 1944. David commenced work as a pastor in the North England Conference. In 1951 he married Joy (nee Laflin) who had served for a time as a Bible Instructor before their marriage, and in 1952 their first daughter, Heather, was born. In 1955 he moved to

the Welsh Mission to serve the Newport, Monmouth and Pontypool churches where second daughter, Hazel, joined the family.

Between 1957 and 1962 District moves within the Welsh Mission included periods of service for the Aberdare and Trellaw churches and the Shrewsbury and Wrexham churches. During this period in July 1959, David was ordained as a minister in Cardiff. In 1957 Carol joined the family followed in 1960 by Malcolm. 1962 saw a move back to the North England Conference where in 1966 Jennifer was born. David's denominational employment ceased in 1975 after a busy and dedicated 25 years of service.

Our sympathy goes to his widow Joy, their children, grandchildren and wider family. The funeral takes place on Friday, 1 March, at 2 pm in All Saints Parish Church, Silkstone, Barnsley. Donations in place of flowers are welcomed for Cancer Research.

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 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?
 Monday 4 March: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Sophia Nicholls](#) – Dealing with disability.
 9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [Christians and Personal Finance](#)
 Wednesday 6 March: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Is violence ever acceptable?](#)
 11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Alexander Douglas](#) – Living for his music,
 Friday 8 March: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [What Kind of God?](#)
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Why Religion is good for Children](#),
 Midnight: The Journey: What kind of God?
 Sabbath 9 March: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: What kind of God?,
 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Why Religion is good for Children.

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

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: <http://adventist.org.uk/events>. 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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