



BUUC NEWS

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

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MOVING FORWARD – SLIDING BACK [Victor Hulbert]



Exeter member, Alison Heyns, discovers plenty of rain-soaked ground during a New Year hike.

The end of December seemed to confirm what everybody already suspected. 2012 would be the wettest year since records began. As I drove down to Dorset for a few quiet days of relaxation it seemed the weather was working up to an all-out assault to confirm the record.

Passing rivers with burst banks, fields sodden under the relentless downpours, and road closure signs due to flooding, we eventually arrived at our holiday cottage, and enjoyed five days of quiet tranquillity, together with close friends.

The rain did not stop us going out to enjoy 'God's creation' – though we found that 'wellies' were the only footwear that could cope with the extreme mud that constituted the local footpaths. Even they did not cope at times. (If you are brave, [watch the video](#) of one major flooded path!) The run keeper app on my phone may have told me I burnt 400 calories on a walk, but struggling uphill through the mud it felt at least twice that. One step forward, half a step slipping back!

Sometimes, that can be how life seems. Looking back over 2012 we see great steps forward. For instance, read this joyful email from Maggie Robertson in East Kilbride, Scotland:

"Like many Christians with non-believing spouses I have been praying for my husband's conversion for many years. We have known each other almost 25 years and I have been an Adventist for 12 years. At first he disagreed with any mention of Creation, and would bring in food to eat that I considered unclean.

"Then I started holidaying in Port Ban with others from the Scottish Mission, and he felt he was missing something, so he



Climbing above the mud, the day ends with blue skies and stunning views.



Father and son, Peter and Stephen, baptised on 10 November 2012.

came along. It took a while but after a class with Moyra Rodd, Stephen – our son – asked his Dad if he wanted to be one of Jesus' lambs. With a slight hesitation, Peter replied, 'I think I do'.

"Gradually, over several years, Peter stopped eating unclean foods; he agreed with me when the TV criticised Creation; and he stopped opening his shop on Sabbath.

"On Sabbath, 10 November I watched, very proudly, as my husband Peter and younger son, Stephen, were baptised by Pastor Clifford Herman."

That is just one story – repeated hundreds of times across the British Isles. Moving forward, sliding back a bit, but over the years growing into a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Maria is another case in point. A former Orthodox Christian, she found it difficult to find peace. Maria 'accidentally' came across the Adventist Church through an online search and found that the Church provided answers about God and life. This compelled her to start studying the Bible for herself which included watching and reading Adventist material online. This in turn led her to visit her local Adventist church in Glasgow. The result? She was baptised on 22 December, along with Victor Da Costa Sharpe, a young man who had recently moved to Scotland and made new friends in his local Adventist church.

I pondered about this while slogging through the muddy countryside. I walk for the beauty of nature, for the exercise, and for fellowship with friends. All the positives outweighed the negatives of the weather and the mud!

Is the same true in my spiritual journey – and in my church fellowship? I can look back at 2012 and see the upward strides – but also recognise where the slips have happened. I now look forward to 2013, have set my goals, am looking positive, but recognise the slipping and sliding along with the climbing.



Jacobus and Victor pause to admire the beauty of the Dorset countryside.

The solution? Our morning worship on New Year's Eve led us to the book of Psalms. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. [Psalm 121:1-3 KJV]

That is a promise for me in 2013. I plan. I hope. I dream – but I lift up my eyes to Jesus, my Saviour and my Lord.

CHRISTMAS WITNESS FOR TOTTENHAM GOSPEL CHOIR [Diane]



"You guys were amazing!" "Your hard work has paid off!" These were just a few of the positive comments received following the Tottenham Gospel Choir's second annual Gospel Music Concert.

The Choir, alongside supporting artists such as Testify and Janine Thorpe seized the opportunity to remind the almost 200 attendees, including non-Christians, of whom Christmas is really about. They shared messages of love

and hope which the audience appreciated.

As Christmas is traditionally a time to give, a free prize draw was held which saw a happy Nitha P win a day for 2 at a health club!

A goodwill collection was made to support the Choir's work and a portion of the proceeds were also given to ADRA.

The evening also saw a fond farewell to one of the Choir's core members and assistant leader, Karlena Bucknor, who has now left London for a job in Warsaw, Poland.

One man who was not an Adventist explained that he had only heard about the concert on that very day but was glad he came. He also expressed his desire to hear more from the Choir by attending future events.

The event was held on Saturday, 22 December at the John Loughborough School in Tottenham, London.

MEMORIAL SERVICE MINISTRY [NEC Communications/BUCnews]



On 22 December 20 of the young people from the North England Conference travelled to Nottingham to minister at a special ceremony to remember those who have lost their lives as a result of crime.

The memorial service has become an annual event and was held at St Andrew's Church, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Organiser

Ron Lawrence MBE said, "This is the ninth year that this service of remembrance is being held and it's a tremendous honour that I am able to work closely with families and offer such support at this time of year. It can be a difficult time of year for those who have lost someone, especially knowing that they died because of the actions of someone else in violent circumstances."

The yearly service allows individuals and families the opportunity to unite together, letting each other know that they are not alone and are not forgotten.

Danielle Bull from the Grantham church has been singing at this service for the last six years and once again she was able to minister in song in a very touching and powerful way.

For the Camp Hill youth this was the first time that they were at this service. They had the opportunity to sing several songs that brought comfort to those who were there. The Camp Hill Youth Choir is led by Dionne Rey. Despite being 8½ months pregnant, she still made the journey and led the choir. She later commented that "it was a privilege to be able to sing at such a service and the enjoyment and satisfaction from bringing joy to those who had experienced such sorrow was both rewarding and uplifting."

North England Conference Youth director, Pastor Adam Ramdin states, "As Christians in this world we are called to follow Christ, and part of what Jesus came to do was to 'heal the broken-hearted' (Luke 4:18)." He adds, "Ministering in song at such a service provided these young people such an opportunity and to hear the families of the victims afterwards expressing their sincere thanks and appreciation, it was clear that people's lives had been touched."

Many of the top ranking officers from the local police force were also there and Chief Constable Chris Eyre, said: "This Remembrance Service is fundamental in supporting individuals and families, as well as our local and wider communities."

Adam concludes, "As a Church we are blessed with a lot of talent and while it is good to witness these within the confines of our local churches we are commissioned to go into the world and the dedication

and commitment from the young people [and their parents who brought them] to this community outreach was commendable."

NEW YEAR PRESENTS [Peter Jeynes]



A number of our churches are taking the time to renew their commitment to God following the '[Revival and Reformation](#)' programme suggested by the General Conference. Now an established element in the General Conference calendar many churches have experienced revival during the ten day event.

Some individuals seek a daily revival with Bible reading plans or other devotional approaches.

My personal commitment is to reading the Bible through in a year. I use a well-known plan from the Rev M'Cheyne. An easy way to access this is by following this link - [Bible reading plan](#).

Another link you might follow is to a reading plan that takes you through the 'Conflict of the Ages' series of books. I have also followed this plan and have been encouraged while reading through the efforts God has taken to care for us and guide us. If you follow this link - [Conflict of the Ages readings](#) - you will be taken to a very attractive site with the readings clearly explained to you.

Some people prefer a devotional reading plan. The devotional plan supplied by the people behind 'Revival and Reformation' is sent to you daily in an email. The readings are short and uplifting. The link to these readings is - [devotional series](#).



Please take the time to choose some form of daily reading - as well, of course, as the [Sabbath School Lesson](#).

May God bless you through the coming year. The wish is not for a Happy New Year but a Happy Whole Year.

CHRISTIANS IN BUSINESS MEAN BUSINESS WITH THE GOSPEL



Participants at the 2012 convention rapidly reserving their space for February 2013.

One of the most challenging places to witness is at work - yet as a Christian in business it is also a great opportunity. How can that witness be enhanced? Are there ways we can share ideas together and so make a more significant difference 'in the marketplace'?

That is the purpose of the ASI-UK annual convention that will be held next month, 1 - 3

February, 2013 at Staverton Park Hotel, near Daventry.

ASI is made up of either practising or ex-practising managers, business owners and professionals. They represent all strands within our diverse Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The weekend convention will aim to uplift spiritually, those who attend, stimulate them intellectually, and provide a venue to socialise, relax and share.

With BUC President Pastor Ian Sweeney sharing his vision in the morning, the afternoon will focus on issues very much in the public mind. Dr Laurence Turner will conduct a seminar on the beginning of

Genesis, and in the evening, Dr Chris Levy will introduce us to the philosophy and purpose behind AMEN, an organisation for medical practitioners, committed to spreading the compassionate gospel through medical work.

The convention is open to all, under the theme of issues affecting Adventists in the UK. For more details and cost for the weekend please contact ASI secretary, Christine Manners-Smith at <manners_smith@yahoo.com>. For more information on ASI visit [their website](#). For highlights from the 2012 programme visit the [BUC Picture Gallery](#).

ADVENTISTS IN THE NEWS



Thursday, 20 December saw the phonedlines buzzing, with email, Facebook and text messages jamming the BUC Communication department inbox as church members complained about inaccurate reports aired on BBC radio and television claiming that Seventh-day Adventists predicted that the world would end in 1874. It was part of a report on the end of the Mayan calendar and church members were rightly concerned about the sloppy journalism that led to this inaccurate report.

Karen Ham-Ying stated on the [BUC News Facebook](#) page that "Our Church actually stresses that we do not know the day or the hour of our Lord's return as outlined in scripture. We have never said publically that the world would end on any given date." She joined the BUC Communication team and a number of other Adventists in submitting complaints to the BBC.

The BUC also placed a well-received [public statement](#) on their website. It clearly outlined the Adventist hope in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ but corrected the inaccuracies of the BBC report. Currently the BUC is still waiting for a formal response from the BBC.

Many other newspapers and journals also mentioned the Adventist Church in connection with the Mayan story. Most of those reports were better researched and balanced. In responding to church members, BUC Communication director, Victor Hulbert, wrote, "While this is distressing for us as Adventists to see ourselves misrepresented this way, it is probably just a flash in the pan for the general public. Our name will inevitably get associated with failed prophecy like this as we cannot deny our Millerite roots. However, most of the reporting I have seen (including on the BBC), has been much more balanced and accurate." He also notes that "It does also give us, as Adventist Christians, a talking point to share with our work colleagues and friends."



"It does also give us, as Adventist Christians, a talking point to share with our work colleagues and friends." [Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication & Media Director]

Adventists were also mentioned in other news stories. The letters page of the [Grantham Journal](#) thanked the Adventist ladies for their support of 'Grantham Good Companions'.

[The Voice](#) continued reports on the future of John Loughborough School, noting Haringey Council's plan to close the school while at the same time the school is seeking alternative options. South England Conference President, Pastor Sam Davis comments that "they have tried to be fair in their reporting" although he might have stated some things differently.

Finally, the [Watford Observer](#) welcomed a new minister to Stanborough Park church and introduced the complete pastoral team.

CREATION RESOURCES FOR 2013



The Sabbath School Lesson [this quarter](#) takes a concrete look at 'origins'. This is a subject close to the heart of Adventist faith and doctrine. It is also a discussion in the wider world where those who hold to God as Creator often come under scathing attack.

How do you respond? In addition to what you will gain through a study of the Sabbath School Lesson, the BUC website as a rich page of Creation Resources, including online videos and audio material that can help you understand some of the issues of 'origins' in a Christian, scientific world. To find out more simply visit <<http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/creation/index.php>>.

MAKE THE STRANGERS WELCOME



"Can you imagine a visiting angel returning home – to Heaven – with this message: 'Jesus, they're very close-knit and loving down there – to each other, that is! – like one big, exclusive family!'" That is the challenge from the BUC President in his lead story in the 4 January MESSENGER, the official journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. Enjoy the article – then take a look in the mirror – if you dare!

Also in this edition: Julian Hibbert declares that 'I love it when a plan comes together!', Pastor Ian Sweeney later asks, 'Who really has the problem?', and Steve Okelo explains what stops your church from being padlocked and bolted on a Sabbath morning. Pick up a copy in your local church or [read it now online](#).

DEATH OF MRS GACIENNE KIDD



It is with sadness in this first BUC News of 2013 to have to notify you of the death of Mrs Gacienne Kidd who passed away on Monday, 31 December 2012. Gacienne was the widow of Allan Kidd, and both had worked for the Stanborough Press from the mid 1950s. Born on 8 February 1924 in Mauritius, Gacienne was baptised in August 1942 and had studied for a time at Collonges before coming to England to work at the Press in 1958. She and Allan were married in 1959 at the Stanborough Park church and were later blessed with a son John. The family relocated to Grantham along with the Stanborough Press.

Gacienne's health had been deteriorating in the last few months of her life, though she had been living in a nursing home for many years because of her state of health. She is survived only by their son, who in recent years has returned to church in Grantham. Funeral details will be announced in due course.

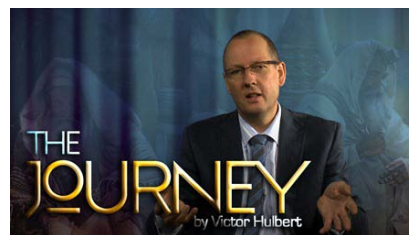
PROGRAMMES TO WATCH THIS WEEK

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 4 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [The Tunnel](#),
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Does God exist?](#)
 Midnight: The Tunnel
 Sabbath 5 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Tunnel,
 7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Does God exist?
 Monday 7 January: 12:30 pm: [Elsie Staple](#) – One passionate Christian,
 9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [Organ Donation](#)
 Wednesday 9 January: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [The King James Bible](#),
 11:00 pm: [Robin Anthony](#) – Struggles of a missionary childhood
 Friday 11 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [Sabbath Rest](#),
 8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Faith and Disability](#),
 Midnight: The Journey: Sabbath Rest
 Sabbath 12 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: Sabbath Rest,
 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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