



BUC NEWS

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

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ADVENT SHELTER – A BEACON OF REFUGE [Sandra Golding & Elsie Staple]



"We must do this again", exclaimed volunteers at the Advent Shelter. Another added, "I am happy to know that the church is offering such a service... An excellent event!" Between Christmas Eve and Monday 31 December 2012, the Advent Centre in Central London was turned into a place of safety, shelter and a haven for the rough sleepers and the homeless people of London who came as guests.

The idea for the 'Advent Shelter' originally came from a request made by James Driscoll who attended the feeding programme at the Advent Centre during the Olympic Games. Every Sunday a group of volunteers assists in a feeding programme under Waterloo Bridge but during the Olympics this was not possible. It worked in the summer and was seen as even more essential during Christmas.

The challenge was accepted by Elsie Staple, SEC Health and Community Ministries director. She worked with Malika Bediako, SEC Children's & Women's Ministries director, who oversaw the management of the week-long project in partnership with Westminster Council.

The project saw over 63 male and female users accessing the facilities and services. The Advent Shelter provided different activities and facilities for their guests during their week stay: a movie room, a games room, access to computers, a barber service and hairdressing salon provided by volunteers from area 6D. They had access to shower facilities and could have a change of clothing and shoes, alongside breakfast, lunch and dinner. There were two health checks which involved a prostate specific antigen test, blood sugar and blood lipids and one visit by a dentist. As a result Dr Nelda will be commencing a monthly drop-in centre for the guests.



Big smiles on the faces of Christmas day volunteers



On Christmas Day the users were treated to a special three course Christmas dinner. This was provided by Merrison Gittens a qualified chef, assisted by 21 volunteers from Luton, Ipswich and London, who cooked and served the guests.

One of the volunteers was the Barbados Deputy High Commissioner, Donville Johnson. The team served over 60 people. Whilst it was a blessing to the guests, the servers said that this was one of the best Christmas Days for them and were excited about doing it again next year.

SEC President, Pastor Sam Davis attended the Advent Shelter on Christmas Day and chatted to staff and users. He said, "I was very impressed to see so many young people giving up Christmas Day to help make a difference to someone else. The spirit in which they carried out the work was one of cheerfulness and love."

A special thanks goes to the following organisations whose financial and food donations helped to support the project – A & M Vehicle Rentals, C Lidgate Butchers, Fair Rent, Gerry Taylor Butchers & Grocers, LAR Traffic Services, MNJ's Catering Services, Solar Self Drive and Godwin Benjamin, the Advent Centre Manager.

Thanks also goes to Daphne Daytes Area 6A Federation President, Natalie Simon, James and Bob the two users who worked alongside the management team providing them with inside knowledge of what the needs of homeless people are.

Elsie and Malika would like to thank the security guards, the church members who gave up their places of worship to accommodate our guests, those who contributed with tangible donations and the numerous volunteers who willingly gave of their time to assist in what was a very successful project for the church.



Malika, Elsie and Merrison with an inviting place of hot food.

A joyful celebration of photos can be seen on the [BUC website](#).

QUALITY CHURCHES FOR NEC [Peter Jeynes]



Natural church development Aussie style with Justin Lawman.

Little children love to measure how much they have grown in height. Gardeners measure the size of their giant vegetables. The world seems obsessed by growth. Measuring the church seems a step too far but there are people who even do that – ministers included.

Pastors, elders and prospective trainers gathered in Staffordshire, 7 - 10 January, to learn about how to measure the quality of God's churches. Their trainers were two experts in the field. Justin Lawman, a Conference President, from Australia was accompanied by an Anglican who was described as "knowing more about Seventh-day Adventist church growth than Adventists."

As learning continued it was discovered the remark was no jest. Ian Campbell, from Natural Church Development International really does know Seventh-day Adventists.

Pastor Michael Simpson, who coordinates much of the outreach training and activity in the North described how he had been led to seek tools to help understand why some churches grow and why some churches seem to struggle. One Conference attendee, Ishmael, correctly noted the Biblical answer, the coldness of hearts. Others recognised that

there were wider issues that required wise churches to measure their own strengths and weaknesses and give spiritual responses to discoveries revealed by members honestly searching for answers.

Middlesbrough church member, Jill Geldart, keeping abreast of activities by phone, noted that her church had done Natural Church Development surveys in the past. Pleasure sounded in her voice as she was told that this time full support for churches would be provided to apply the information learned over a period of years.



A delegate present at the meetings, Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, now of Wellingborough and the East Northamptonshire district churches, recounted that a previous church had completed a Natural Church Development survey. The church board looked at the results for their church and recognised the situation in front of them. The results of the survey gave the church the information to honestly assess their situation and seek God's guidance on how to move forward and make necessary changes.



Ian Campbell: Natural Church Development International

Pastor Lawman, the Australian expert giving the training said of his Conference, we are "anchored in the Bible, with Revelation 14 set in the heart of defining what we do today."

Our world is in need. To illustrate the nature of our world's need Pastor Lawman showed a clip from [an inspiring video](#) that moved trainees to note, "I must show that video to my church."

With such needs we need to discover our strengths and use them and at the same time explore our weaknesses and develop them.

YOUTH ADVICE FROM THE ELDER STATESMAN OF ADVENTISM [Catherine Anthony Boldeau]



Pastor Cecil Perry may be the elder statesman of Adventism in the British Isles but he still knows how to touch the lives of youth.

Quoting a passage from 'my favourite author', Pastor Perry, keynote speaker at SEC Youth Leadership Awards Banquet, urged the young people present to be 'true to themselves, true to their faith and true to God'. Paraphrasing a quote from the book, Education, he challenged, "The greatest want of the world is the want of (young) men (and women) – (young) men (and women)

who in their inmost souls are true and honest...(young) men (and women) who will stand for the right though the heaven's fall."

The former President of the SEC and BUC, accompanied by his wife, appeared at home among the starlight canopy of Trunkwell House in Reading on the last Sunday of 2012.

The purpose of the banquet was to celebrate the achievements of the many volunteer youth leaders around the South England Conference. These were given out by Dr Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director, assisted by his wife Lurline.

AYS appreciation awards were given to each youth society with an outstanding award to the Lewisham Adventist church.



Leadership awards were given to Chisola-Latoya Chitambala, Michelle Samuels, Francesca DeSouza, Bruce Uponi, Shereis Vaval, Isha Prince, Christina Thomas, Stephanie Thomas, Kessle Boldeau, Keri Manuel, Deidre Allen and Cheryl Singo.

Youth Ministries awards were received by Julian Thompson, Sacha Gillin, Shannon Alexander, Fabrice Baker Livingstone, Catherine and Kish Palmer, June Thompson, Paul Thompson, Healy McKenzie, Ricardo Gillin, Rachel Cuffe and Jamie Gittens.

Lay Preachers plaques were awarded to Clarence Johnson, Shereen Rodney, Ben Owusu, Daniel Anti, Asher McKenzie, Christina Thomas, Warren Gillin, Jamie Gittens and Deslynne Roberts.

Outstanding Youth Projects were also recognised. These were JAM Ministries (Area 6B), Prayer and Faith Conference (Thames Valley Youth Federation), ABCDE (Homeless Project), PULSE (Thames Valley Youth Federation) and the New Life Church Youth Club.

Pastor Kevin Johns, SEC Pathfinder director, gave an award to the Hackney Pathfinder Club as the Outstanding Club of the Year and the Pathfinder of the Year award was received by Adeleen Satchwell from Luton.

Musical renditions flavoured the evening. Especially appreciated was Committed, an a cappella group of six young men, who solidified their sound while attending Oakwood University. They were, in the words of one young lady, 'awesome'.

Reflecting on the evening, Dr Thomas said, "I applaud the dedication and hard work of the volunteers who commit so much time and energy to the work of Youth Ministry in the SEC."



A selection of pictures from the banquet can be seen on the [BUC website](#).

100 YEARS FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE



CS Lewis called the River Wye a 'taste of heaven'. Four volunteer's hope that is still true mid-winter for a high-speed kayak.

The humanitarian heart of the Adventist message is reflected in a big anniversary for 2013 – the centenary of Ingathering. A word used almost exclusively by Seventh-day Adventists, it represents that time of year when thousands of volunteers take time to go door-to-door, or use other means to raise money for those in need.

While the main celebrations (and fundraising) will take place around the Easter period, the 'launch' of the festivities, quite literally, is happening in a Welsh river at the end of January.

This 'mid-winter madness', as some would call it, involves two ministers and two church members, taking their kayaks and paddling like crazy from Ross-on-Wye down to Monmouth to paddle in one day what the guidebooks recommend covering in two.

"CS Lewis described the River Wye as 'a taste of heaven'", states Welsh Mission President, Pastor John Surridge. John has a love for the outdoors and is hoping for a bright, frosty day for the trip rather than snow scenes reminiscent of Narnia. "We have so much water in Wales, it just seemed logical to do something with water that will help people in another part of the world where water is in short supply", he enthused.

That part of the world is Bukino Faso, one of the two specific projects that ADRA-UK volunteers will be raising funds for in 2013. "In many countries of Africa, women and children spend a large portion of their day carrying out the simple task of collecting water", states Bert Smit, CEO of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in the UK. "The money raised by this kayaking adventure will go towards digging a borehole in a village. It will provide clean and safe drinking water which also means that these girls can go to school instead of walking eight miles to collect water."



Pastor Surridge is joined on the trip by Carmarthen member, Jon Meredith, and by Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication and Media director. The fourth member of the team is Victor's son, Tim, another keen outdoor person. It is Tim who initiated the idea of a sponsored kayaking trip.



Pastor Hulbert is getting excited at the idea of the project – though concerned that he has not been able to practise due to high water levels on his local river, the Thames. "I'm delighted to be part of the launch of the centennial celebrations. Even if I freeze I know that the money we raise will be making a real difference for families in Bukino Faso." He is even more delighted that generous friends are already making donations via a special website set up for this centennial launch: <www.justgiving.com/100-years>.

"This is just the start of a fantastic year of fundraising", Bert Smit stated earlier this week. "We are setting our goals high, and know that even while there are recessionary pressures in the UK, our church members and other friends of ADRA are committed to making this world a fairer and better place."

Four men kayaking down a river in mid-winter is just the start of what could be ADRA's best fundraising year. While these men freeze, it may be time for you, your church and your community to think about what you can do to make a difference in 2013. "We are doing this for fun," Pastor Hulbert says with a smile, "but we are also hoping that it stimulates others to think of innovative ways that they can raise funds."

The challenge is out there. The response is up to you!

SEC REACTS TO PROPOSED CLOSURE OF JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL



A statutory notice proposing the closure of John Loughborough School in North London was [published](#) by the Cabinet Member for Children, on 7 January 2013. The Adventist-run, Voluntary Aided Secondary School is now in a six week consultation period and representation from the public can be made to Haringey Council.

Reacting to this decision, Pastor Sam Davis, President of the South England Conference issued the following statement:

The South England Conference along with the School Board continues to explore various options for the continuation of the school. It is also important to state that Haringey continues to invite representatives to write in with their views on the proposal as no decision has yet been made on the final closure of the school.

The SEC has arranged for a meeting with its London constituency on Sunday, 10 February where deeper consideration will be given to Haringey's proposal.

Haringey has expressed concern over failure to improve despite sustained efforts by the Council and the South England Conference. They state, "While measures have continued to be put in place to improve the school the children currently on role at the John Loughborough School continue to receive a standard of education which falls below that which is expected." A full discussion of options and the future will be discussed at the constituency meeting. Churches are encouraged to arrange for appropriate delegates to attend that meeting.

PASTORAL REDEPLOYMENT [BUC News with June Coombs & Trevor Harris]

If you don't recognise the face in your pulpit this Sabbath, it may be that yours is one of the many churches that has seen a pastoral change this January. Due to elections in the North, retirements and movement of pastors, this January has probably seen the largest realignment of pastoral districts in the last twenty years.

Movement is an opportunity for introductions and in at least two churches, those introductions have gone significantly far outside the walls of the church building.



Andrew Davis shares his passion for ministry.

Colchester Seventh-day Adventist church welcomed their new pastor, Andrew Davis, to their church on Sabbath, 5 January 2013. Local church communication secretary, Trevor Harris, having gone through the SEC Media Academy last year, took the opportunity to interview him, discovering that he is a pastor's son and that, "This had more of an effect on me than I realised as I have now followed in my father's footsteps."

Trevor then shared the interview with the local press, more impressive when Andrew made statements like, "I would love for the church to be a valuable asset to the community by providing services that are greatly needed in the vicinity." He also added that "I have a passion for young people also, and as we have a university here in Colchester, I will also endeavour to engage with the students."

June Coombs is never short of a word or two when getting a story into her local paper, the Watford Observer.

She writes, "The New Year saw 'Pastor Jacques' Venter arriving at Stanborough Park church as senior minister, replacing recently-retired Pastor Paul Clee at the head of an international team of five – three ministers and two Student Missionaries. This is not inappropriate in a church whose 600+ members are made up of over 30 different nationalities from all corners of the globe!"

Her article, published last week, prompted some quite lively debate on the Watford Observer website, most particularly over what it means to be a 'volunteer' – referring to the two Student Missionaries, Pavle Milanovic from Serbia and Charlotte Rashleigh from Brisbane, Australia. Pavle and Charlotte help out with church-based activities for the members as well as with those for the local community.



The international pastoral team at Stanborough comprises Ivana Mendez (Slovakia), Jacques Venter (S Africa) and Karin Wieczorek (Sweden)

While it is important for you to get to know your pastor, it is even more important for the community surrounding your church to recognise them. Pastor Jacques, as he likes to be known, states, "To be part of the vibrant life of The Stanborough Centre excites us and we also hope that God will work

through us as we minister His love and care to the citizens of Garston and the wider community of Watford."

Such stories are currently being repeated across the whole of England. Sharing your pastor with your community can be just a small part of the big project of 'Making God Known' in the British Isles.

SO WHO WAS ALAN WHITE? [Peter Jeynes / BUC News]



Pastor Peter Jeynes and wife Ludy, discover Adventist roots with William Miller and 'Alan' White.

The big news from December 2012 is that the world didn't end! The big news for Seventh-day Adventists was that we had another five minutes of fame when we were confused with our forebears, 'the Millerite Adventists'. The BBC, usually a very reliable source of good information managed to get years and months completely wrong. The result was a misinformed public and a rather upset band of Seventh-day Adventists. The latter wanted apologies.

Overnight a number of church members and Communication directors, including Pastor Victor Hulbert at the head office, communicated with the BBC and other news organisations to [correct the misinformation](#) and provide good information for the future. The BBC changed their information while other organisations moved on to other stories.

That didn't stop other people around the world taking note of the BBC's lead over the following weeks. One news agency used the story, which was taken up largely by American journals. Another British author, Kelly Rogers, took up the story and added a certain twist in her article, which was taken up by other American newspapers.

Rogers set out to promote her new book about another prophecy and linked the failed Mayan prophecy to other failed interpretations of prophecies. The bait was too tempting, an email had to be drafted in reply. I had to offer better information.

I didn't expect a reply, I just hoped for an author who would take note for the future. When a reply came the surprise was genuine. After explaining her position Kelly Rogers wrote, "I would be very interested to see what happened in 1844 so do feel free to inform me as this is a gap in my historical understanding."

The BBC has also responded to complaints about their inaccurate broadcasting with this statement: "Our aim was to highlight that they [Seventh-day Adventists] are among groups who have forecast the end of the world however, we recognise that they did not 'predict' the end of the world on that date. We wholeheartedly apologise for the error as it was not our intention to mislead our viewers."

How does this impact us locally?

Enter Upper Room Seventh-day Adventist church in Nottingham and Pastor Peter Jeynes' first day at his new church. The afternoon programme focused on, 'What happened in 1844?' The aim was to provide Kelly Rogers with information about 1844. The members were to create the reply to the author.

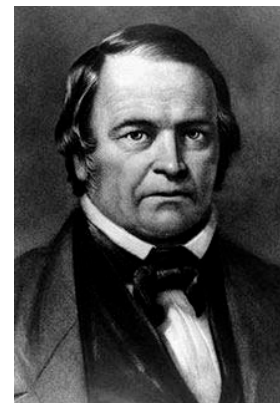
The church sang Millerite hymns, read historical texts about the events and performed sketches outlining that year's events. Melody and Nichelle created a letter in reply.

It was at this point that the learning started. Upper Room is a new and growing church. There are gaps in understanding. "Who was William Miller?" Explanations were given and enlightenment dawned.

There are a number of lessons to be gained from the media coverage in December.

One lesson is that our communicators can't foresee what journalists will write. If they provide false information don't blame the communicators at the Union or in the Conferences.

A second lesson is that if there is a failure of information reaching the journalists, we ought to remember that if we haven't met our journalist friends in the street and spoken to them about who we are and helped them make the distinction between the Millerites, who misinterpreted prophecy and the Seventh-day Adventists who have learned great and good lessons – then journalists will still keep making mistakes.



"Who was William Miller?"

The third lesson is that so few reporters took up the Adventist story. Many looked at the Mayan prophecy with a degree of scorn, most made fun of the event. Even if the BBC made mistakes at least they saw the spiritual angle. The lesson is that the media can't be guaranteed to take a spiritual story.

If we are to inform the people of the world and present a spiritual world view that helps people make sense of the world – we have to use subtle methods and suitable stories to attract people's attention.

The fourth lesson centres on a question that I was asked some years ago. "Who is Alan White?" A young person, Josh, who had been attending church for some time kept hearing the name, 'Alan White'. My young friend was a little puzzled as I explained that Alan White was in reality Ellen White.

The lesson is that as long as we don't have the information we need then we will be unable to pass correct information to others.

DEATH OF MRS JEAN WEST



It is with sadness that we report the death of Mrs Jean West on Sabbath, 29 December 2012. Jean was the widow of the late Pastor Horace West who died in September 1989 having served in church districts in both Conferences. At retirement the couple settled in the Cheltenham area and Jean has been a quiet and faithful stalwart of the Cheltenham church. Jean suffered a stroke on Sabbath 22 December and peacefully passed to rest a week later.

She is survived by two daughters Heather and Linda to whom our sympathy is expressed. The funeral will take place on Monday, 21 January at 2:30 pm at the Cheltenham Cemetery and Crematorium, Bouncers Lane, Cheltenham, GL52 5JT. Donations to the Stroke Association would be welcomed via the Funeral Directors, Mason and Stokes, Tudor Lodge, 54 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 6AH.



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 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

Monday 14 January: 12:30 pm: In Conversation: [Reinder Bruinsma](#) – From a windmill to a leader and thinker,

9:30 pm: Viewpoint: [The King James Bible](#)

Wednesday 16 January: 8:00 am: Viewpoint: [Why should Christians care for the environment?](#),

11:00 pm: In Conversation: [Elsie Staple](#) – The meaning of 'Community'

Friday 18 January: 8:00 pm: The Journey: [What kind of God?](#),

8:30 pm: FaithTalks: [Why is Christianity so divisive?](#),

Midnight: The Journey: What kind of God?

Sabbath 19 January: 9:00 am & 7:00 pm: The Journey: What kind of God?,

7:30 pm: FaithTalks: Why is Christianity so divisive?

COMING EVENTS For a full listing of Coming Events please visit www.adventistevents.org.uk

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