

Messenger

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

Established 1902

4 July 2025 • Volume 130 • 7

The divine order



Award-winning faith: the Sabbath testimony behind an Indian restaurant in Ireland

The divine order: a masterclass in intentionality

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,
President of the
British Union Conference



The Genesis narrative begins with **light** breaking through darkness (Genesis 1:3), establishing the foundational condition for all subsequent creation. This is followed by the careful separation of waters to reveal **dry land** (Genesis 1:6-10), setting the stage for life. Only then do **plants** emerge, succeeded by the **sun, moon and stars** (Genesis 1:11-19), perfectly positioned to govern time and seasons. This sequential unfolding underscores God's deep intentionality in preparing a perfect home.

Life then teems in the **waters and air** (Genesis 1:20-23), followed by **land creatures** (Genesis 1:24, 25). The culmination is **humanity**, created 'in Our image, according to Our likeness' (Genesis 1:26, NKJV), entrusted with dominion and stewardship of the earth. Finally, after all this purposeful work, God observes a hallowed **rest on the seventh day** (Genesis 2:2, 3), establishing the sacred rhythm of the Sabbath. Every creative act is declared 'good', culminating in the powerful declaration of 'very good' (Genesis 1:31, NKJV). This divine order reveals a benevolent Creator, a prepared world, and a human race called to mirror this perfect design.

Applying God's order to the British Union Conference

This 'poignant order of creation' provides a divine 'business model' for the British Union Conference (BUC) and its mission to spread the Gospel, forming the essence of 'The Umbrella', the BUC sustainability plan.

Just as God established foundational conditions, the BUC must first cultivate its **spiritual and operational infrastructure**. This involves

fostering a strong **prayer culture** (Matthew 21:22) and developing clear **theological foundations** rooted in God's word (2 Timothy 3:16).

The BUC's foundational infrastructure also requires a robust **administrative and financial framework**. As a constituent of the General Conference, unlike its own conferences and missions, the BUC's

framework must be built for growth. The BUC head office's role is to ensure that all constituent entities are in **mission alignment**, acting as the General Conference's delegated representative in the UK and Ireland, responsible for the overall vitality and development of the conferences, missions and institutions.

This framework includes vigilant adherence to **legal frameworks and compliance**, wise stewardship of **investments and assets**, regular **audits and risk assessments**, and sound **governance and policy frameworks**.

Beyond administration, the infrastructure must cultivate its most precious resource: its **people**. This means prioritising **equipping conferences and missions**, fostering strong, Christ-centred **leadership**, and upholding **safeguarding principles**. Responsible management of **pensions** and comprehensive **HR/people strategies** ensure the care of dedicated workers and retirees. Meticulous **finances management** and efficient **resource allocation** are the practical engine of the mission. These are the BUC's initial 'days' of creation, defining core values, assembling teams, and managing resources to create a stable environment for the Gospel to flourish.

Following this solid foundation, the BUC can strategically 'populate' its mission field through a **phased approach**. This might begin with broad outreach and relationship-building, akin to the initial 'light and separation of waters'. As hearts are touched, more focused discipleship, community development or specific service initiatives can be introduced, like the flourishing of 'plants and living creatures'. This phased approach prevents overextension, ensures wise resource stewardship, and maximises sustainable impact.

Finally, reaching the 'climax' of the mission – transformed lives and communities radiating Christ's light – demands that we embrace **rest and evaluation**, just as God embraced His Sabbath. A healthy British Union Conference must regularly pause to assess its impact, celebrate victories, learn from challenges, and replenish spiritual and human capital (Mark 6:31). This cyclical pattern of purposeful action followed by intentional rest ensures long-term sustainability, maintains focus on the true mission, and allows the BUC to consistently renew its vision and passion for spreading the Gospel, mirroring the sublime order of creation.

VALUES



Editorial

by Dusanka Rancic,
Editor

EDITORIAL



Dear reader,

‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone’ (Mark 16:15, NLT).

‘Mission’ is a word that we love to use. Dictionaries define it as an important assignment given to an individual or a group. More specifically, Christian mission carries not only a sense of importance, but also a sense of urgency. It is a matter of life and death, so we should make it our priority to proclaim the risen Saviour and the significance this good news has for us.

In the *Old Testament*, prophets openly called both Israel and the surrounding nations to repent, emphasising that God’s blessings were not limited to the chosen people. They encouraged all nations to seek God, and many stories of Gentiles who learnt about and served the God of Israel support this notion.

The Israelites’ lifestyle was supposed to showcase what a nation can become when it aligns itself with God’s vision. God’s people were to reflect the beauty and truth of His character. They were to be a source of hope, drawing other nations to worship the one true God. By acting justly and showing compassion and generosity, the Israelites were to reveal God’s care for all people.

As part of this radical concept, God wished His tabernacle to be in the midst of Israel’s camp. The emphasis that the powerful God wants to dwell among His people stood in contrast to the pagans’ concept of distant and capricious deities. The same could be said about the Sabbath, when rest was equally offered to young and old, male and female, masters and servants, Israelites and foreigners, to the animals, and even to the land (in the context of the Sabbath year). Furthermore, the year of jubilee is a radical concept even today – the forgiveness of debtors emphasises the protection of vulnerable people. Simply put, the mission was not merely about sharing theological knowledge. Rather, by being faithful to God’s commandments, the Israelites were supposed to make God appealing to other nations.

In the *New Testament*, Jesus’ disciples were engaged in mission. Called by Jesus and guided by the Holy Spirit, they journeyed widely, sharing the message of salvation and establishing Christian communities across a diverse range of cultures and territories.

Echoing Jesus’ Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20), the New Testament strongly emphasises believers’ divine mandate to carry out missionary work. Christians were called to go, make disciples, and baptise people. Yet again, the missional focus was on cross-cultural outreach, and the mission emerged from God’s own saving and redemptive purposes for humankind and all of creation.

As in the Old Testament, God’s people were seen as very radical by their contemporaries. Living out God’s values, the early Christians challenged the prevailing religious system and practice. Replicating Jesus’ approach, they put people first. Contrary to the social divisions of that time, they fellowshiped and ate together; they shared their possessions with one another (Acts 2:40-47). Within this context, people were eager to learn about God.

Seventh-day Adventist pioneers were individuals who played a vital role in establishing and growing the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They came from all walks of life and actively spread the good news. Many of them were laypeople who established congregations in unentered areas and engaged in various forms of ministry, such as sharing the health message, caring for the sick, and distributing Christian literature. Their work, often done with limited resources, established thousands of Seventh-day Adventist congregations. Some of them were teenagers and young adults when they began making an impact.

Following the biblical examples, our pioneers, influenced by the Holy Spirit, challenged the world once again. They were actively involved in the abolitionist movement, advocated for women’s rights, and championed literacy. The health message, emphasising a holistic approach to health and wellbeing, was considered revolutionary at the time.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of today continues to expand, having more than 23 million members and maintaining a network of schools, hospitals and publishing houses. We continue to work in various parts of the world, establishing new congregations and serving the needs of communities. Sometimes it feels that we are doing great – but are we following in the footsteps of God’s great missionaries of the past?

Our mission has not changed. The world is hurting and needs a living Saviour. God placed us in different communities for a reason: to reveal His character, care and love to all people. The question remains – in what unique ways are we challenging the current culture, and what are we championing that makes God appealing to our society today?

Stanborough Press Open Day
7 September – SAVE THE DATE

What the Old Testament has taught me about mission

by Dragoslava Santrac, *Managing Editor of the Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*



Walter Kaiser, Jr challenges a deeply rooted assumption: that the proper missionary mandate started in the New Testament, with Jesus' Great Commission and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.¹ Many undermine the Old Testament's role in mission theology. But did global mission begin long before the church sent missionaries? Could the Old Testament, often considered tribal or exclusive, carry a vibrant mission message?

A channel of divine blessing

At its heart, the Old Testament unveils a God of mission who planned to bless all creation. God creates humanity in His image and commissions them to steward the earth, fill it with life and goodness, and live in harmony with Him and one another. This twofold mission – worship and stewardship – forms the original mandate for humanity and remains foundational to understanding God's purposes throughout the Bible.

The stories of the Flood, Babel, and the genealogies underline God's enduring commitment to all humanity. Then comes a pivotal moment. In Genesis 12:1-3, God promises to bless Abraham – and, through him, all the families of the earth. This promise – reaffirmed to Isaac, Jacob and their descendants – shows that God's redemptive plan was always global in scope.

Yet this mission is not simply about expanding influence – it's about blessing. Blessing is God's abundant giving, His provision for human flourishing, and, most importantly, His presence.² Mission, then, is not merely about proclamation or conversion, but

channelling God's life-giving and restorative blessings to all people.

God includes outsiders in His covenant community. The Mosaic law grants the foreigners living in Israel legal protections equal to those of the Israelites (Numbers 15:15, 16). They were to be welcomed and integrated. This inclusive ethic underlines God's care for the outsider, even during Israel's formative stages.

Though the mission sometimes included judgement, this was not its central thrust. God's purpose was always restoration. Stories like those of Rahab, Ruth and Naaman show that Gentiles were recipients of God's grace and often exemplars of faith. These are not exceptions to the rule – they are glimpses of God's universal intent.

Israel was always meant to be a 'kingdom of priests' (Exodus 19:6, NKJV) – a mediating nation through which God's light would shine to the world. The Psalms repeatedly call the nations to worship the Lord (96; 98; 148). Solomon anticipates that foreigners will come to worship in God's temple (1 Kings 8:41-43). Isaiah envisions a day when the nations will stream to Zion, when Egypt and Assyria – longtime enemies – will be counted among God's people (Isaiah 19:19-25).

Detours and fulfilment

But Israel often neglected this calling. The temple eventually became a symbol of inward-looking religion rather than a beacon to the nations, and it lost its outward focus. Israel's witness dimmed when its leaders apostatised. Yet, even in Israel's failure, God continued His mission – sometimes through

judgement, sometimes through exile, but always with the goal of restoration.³

The Jewish diaspora, with its synagogues scattered across the ancient world, became an unexpected platform for witness. God's people carried His name wherever they went, often unintentionally. This shows that even when God's people fail to go on mission, God remains on mission.

Ultimately, the centrifugal (outward-moving) and centripetal (inward-drawing) aspects of Israel's mission were both intended by God. Israel was to live in such a way that nations would be drawn to YHWH, but they were also called to actively proclaim His greatness. The servant girl in 2 Kings 5 and the prophet Jonah demonstrate that Israelite individuals could and did serve as missionaries.

Blessed to be a blessing

The mission of both the Old and New Testaments shares the same heartbeat: God's love for the world. Though marred by human failure, God's mission endured – and it finds its perfect fulfilment in Christ.

Reflecting on this grand narrative, we are inspired to embrace our role in God's mission. We are heirs to this ancient calling: to bless, proclaim and live so that all nations might see God's love. The biblical story of mission still invites us to participate.

¹Walter C. Kaiser, Jr, *Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000), p. 7

²Richard Bauckham, *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003), p. 34

³Cristian Dumitrescu, 'Mission Theology in the Old Testament: A New Paradigm', *Journal of Adventist Mission Studies* 4/1 (2008), pp. 59, 60

Practices or people?

by Pastor Adrian Peck



FEATURE

When Anywhere Church started, there were tough but rewarding times to begin with. The small community of ten people pulled together in the face of adversity. Astonishingly, all the members were left-handed. A quirky and amusing coincidence to begin with, they soon started to find they had a sense of togetherness and an identity because of their shared left-handedness. When they met and greeted each other, it was not with the right-handed shake of hands that a right-side-dominated society demanded of them, but with heartfelt left-handed shakes. Eventually, musicians played left-handed instruments; doors were designed with a left-handed bias; and left-handed scissors, pencil sharpeners, can openers and peelers were to be found in stationery and kitchen cupboards.

Initially, they seemed to attract only left-handed people, and the bond between them just grew stronger. From time to time, some right-handed people began to turn up. They were heartily welcomed, of course, but remained in the minority. The two hands lived happily together, the left-handedness of the majority dominating how things were done, while the right-handers who came were quite content just to fit in. As every instrument and utensil was designed for the left-handed, the right-handed were satisfied to do no more than the most menial of tasks.

One day, a group of 30 right-handers moved into the area and started to attend. At first, they seemed to take the left-hand-dominated church in their stride. However, a few months later one young lad turned up asking to help out with the music, and wouldn't you know it – he was playing a right-handed guitar. In the nicest possible way, the local left-handed elder suggested that they ought to take it to the church board before the young person played.

At the board meeting, the subject of the influx of right-handers was top of the agenda. It turned out that right-handed guitars were not the only problem disturbing the relative calm and tranquillity normally to be found in Anywhere Church. Appallingly, there was some right-handed shaking of hands going on. Some thought this irreverent. Others suggested this was an anti-left-handed conspiracy designed to split the church apart and bring in dubious right-handed theology. Consequently, the elder was tasked with going back to the young lad's parents and politely declining the offer to play. The deacons were charged with gently eradicating right-handed shakes.

Now right-handed people were tolerated rather than welcomed, and later they stopped attending at all.

The problem wasn't that people were left-handed, of course. It was that this congregation allowed one aspect of who they were to turn into a boundary that others could not breach: a barrier that was constructed slowly over time, thought by thought, act by act, until it became immovable.

Ridiculous, right? We would never do that – or, at least, not until someone tries to move or change the pulpit, disband the platform party, change the service start times, or modify the way how and when Sabbath School is done. Even if none of these are mandated by Scripture, watch the sparks fly!

This parable can help inform a way forward. Anywhere Church began by meeting the needs of the people. In other words, they started with a person-centric, albeit left-handed, approach. However, when the make-up of the congregation changed, as it inevitably does, it was not the people who were the focus, but practices. Instead of their practices serving people, people started serving the practices. Lose sight of why practices came about in the first place, and soon that phrase

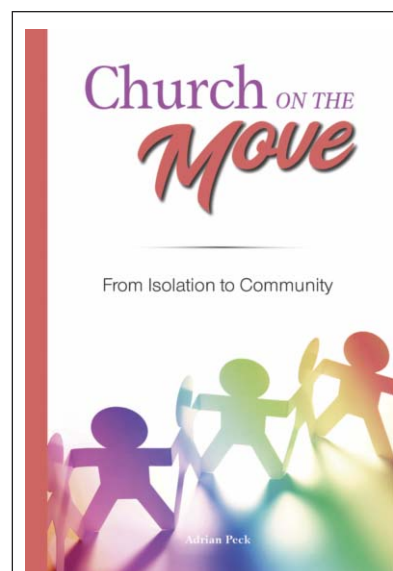
'that's not the way we do it here' can be heard.

Alternatively, why shouldn't 'the way we do it here' be to put people first, as God did (John 3:16)? This might have us asking different questions.

For example, rather than asking, 'What music is right?' we might ask: 'What music will best help those we are reaching encounter God in worship?'

In place of asking, 'What service format do we follow in this church?' how about investigating: 'What elements of worship will enable attendees to experience God's presence?'

Instead of asking, 'Shouldn't we have a platform party, because that's what makes us Adventist?' we could ask: 'How can the church community best be led in worshipping our Creator God?'



The original version of this article, which was based on an excerpt from Adrian's Stanborough Press book, Church on the Move, first appeared in tedNEWS. You may purchase your copy of Church on the Move at: lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/church-on-the-move/.

British Union Conference Stewardship Department launches 'Mission in Motion'

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau and Pastor Alex Marenic



GOD FIRST
ADVENTIST STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES



The British Union Conference (BUC) Stewardship Working Group convened its highly anticipated 'Mission in Motion: Crafting Stewardship Strategies for Mission' initiative via Zoom on Sabbath 17 May 2025. The training event brought together pastors, elders, stewardship leaders and treasurers from across the British Union to explore practical strategies to support our denomination's overarching mission. Participants found it informative, Spirit-filled and deeply motivating.

The core objective of 'Mission in Motion' was to equip leaders with the tools and insights necessary to implement biblical stewardship principles effectively in their local contexts. Stewardship acts as the backbone of church life, supporting every initiative and enabling effective, transparent and mission-driven ministry. As churches navigate increasingly complex financial and missional challenges, every leader needs both a strong theology of stewardship and practical strategies to engage members, build trust and manage resources wisely and transparently in support of the Church's mission.

A highlight of the programme was the invaluable contribution of our guest speakers. Dr Aniel Barbe, Associate Stewardship Director for the General Conference, provided a comprehensive historical overview of the Combined Offering Plan, offering crucial context for contemporary stewardship practices. The Combined Offering Plan is a

biblical approach to systematic giving that keeps mission at the heart of our generosity. By bringing certain offerings together it supports the local, regional and global work of the Church, encouraging faithfulness, unity and transparency as we serve God together.

Pastor Alex Marenic, Stewardship Director for the South England Conference, presented a practical vision for stewardship in the local church, emphasising that it is not merely about money, but about cultivating a God-first lifestyle. His message called for a Spirit-led community where stewardship shapes attitudes, actions and mission in every part of church life. Dr Steve Currow, the outgoing principal of Newbold College, offered a profound exploration of tithes and offerings across the Old and New Testaments, bringing theological and spiritual depth to the discussion. The final presentation, by Wederly Aguiar (BUC Treasurer), centred on accountability and the need for reciprocal trust and integrity at every level of church governance. All the recordings of the presentations are now available on the BUC TV YouTube Channel.

Catherine Boldeau, the BUC Stewardship Director and host of the event, ensured a vibrant and engaging platform for learning. She introduced brief reports and reflections from across the Union territory, highlighting local stewardship priorities and experiences, and emphasised the collaborative effort behind the initiative, stating, 'Mission in Motion was delivered by the BUC Stewardship Working Group, which includes the directors, sponsors and their support staff throughout the Union territory and the BUC Treasurer. The team intends to craft and implement stewardship strategies that support the Church's mission.'

Dr Ikechi Ekpandu, lead pastor of

the Sheffield Carter Knowle, Burngreave and Manor Newstart district of churches, also contributed as one of the programme's insightful storytellers, sharing real-world applications of biblical principles. Dr Ekpandu remarked, 'Mission in Motion brought together a diverse group of presenters and participants from across the BUC, creating a vibrant and engaging platform for learning, sharing and spiritual growth.'

The 'Mission in Motion' launch underscored the British Union Conference's commitment to fostering a culture of responsible and purposeful stewardship, essential for the continued advancement of its mission throughout the territory. Outcomes from the launch will include the following:

- Creating a regular 'local mission' report that highlights the use of the mission funding in the BUC territory to inform and inspire Total Member Involvement in the life of the Church.
- Conducting a survey in November and December 2025 to ascertain the giving trends in the field alongside an educational programme regarding systematic giving and the Combined Offering Plan. This will be a comprehensive study that will use both quantitative and qualitative data to understand current member attitudes towards both stewardship and systematic giving, and overall awareness of the Combined Offering Plan.
- Collaborating with the Secretariat and Treasury to construct and create feedback loops and evaluation frameworks for greater accountability.

The BUC Stewardship Department looks forward to seeing how the practical implementation of these strategies will contribute to the Church's missional success.

Discover Truth in Ireland

by Miodrag Didara and Tafadzwa Mhondiwa (Discover Truth)

IRISH MISSION

One of the ways we serve people in Ireland is through the Discover Truth ministry. Each week our volunteers offer free books and leaflets on the streets of Dublin and numerous locations across Ireland. This ministry is growing year after year and is adding activities such as health retreats, expos, courses and literature distribution at St Patrick's Day parades all over Ireland. Prayer groups are active on a daily and weekly basis. We continue receiving Free Bible requests on the *discovertruth.ie* website and regularly deliver Bibles and books across Ireland, the UK and India, and we are encouraged by the numerous testimonies of our local volunteers.

Here's a testimony from one of our volunteers, named Taffy:

'Every day I praise God for blessing me with life and ask Him how I can bless my community by sharing literature. The Lord has given me the tremendous opportunity to serve Him through the Discover Truth ministry.'

'I wasn't sure how delivering literature would be at first – I was a bit afraid and didn't know how I would be received – but one day I took courage to knock on the first home, and God in His mercy made it very easy, which encouraged me to continue doing it. I could share many testimonies that would be inexplicable if the Holy Spirit were not leading the way.'

'One day when I was delivering literature I knocked on a door and no one answered me. I walked back to the pavement and started praying, telling God, "I am not going back with these books again." As soon as I said "Amen," a young man came running from the house to speak with someone in the car on the driveway. When he had finished talking, I took courage and approached him, telling him about his Discover Truth order, and he was happy to receive his Bible and a few free books.'

'Before I went to the next house, I

asked God for help. As soon as I arrived at the address, I saw a young couple walking out of the door. The gentleman coming out was the one who had ordered the books. He was very excited and looking forward to start reading the Bible. I have had many experiences like this.'

'In all these deliveries, I have realised that the people ordering these books are young people. Some of them are very troubled, but I know that reading the Bible will change their lives. I encourage those who are contemplating this ministry to join it, because God wants people to know the truth through His word.'

Jesus said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest' (Matthew 9:37, 38, KJV).

Ellen White, writing in the *Review and Herald* (10 June 1880, paragraph 10), testifies, 'Our sisters are doing comparatively nothing, when they might do very much. Christ is searching the life and character for fruit, and He finds many professed Christians, like the fruitless fig-tree, bearing nothing but leaves. The sisters can work efficiently in obtaining subscribers for our periodicals, in this way bringing the light before many minds. The distribution of tracts, and the work of Christian canvassers and colporteurs, can be done as well by our sisters as by our brethren. Satan is busy in this department of his work, scattering literature which is debasing the morals and poisoning the minds of the young. Infidel publications are scattered broadcast throughout the land. Why should not every member of the church be as deeply interested in sending forth publications that will elevate the minds of the people, and bring the



truth directly before them? These papers and tracts are for the light of the world, and have often been instrumental in converting souls. Our publications are now sowing the gospel seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation. In this work every disciple of Christ can act a part. Let the leaflets and tracts, the papers and books, go in every direction. Carry with you, wherever you go, a package of select tracts, which you can hand out as you have opportunity. Sell what you can, and lend or give them away as the case may seem to require. Important results will follow.'

Be the hands and feet of Jesus: partner with ADRA-UK

by Sandra Golding



In a world filled with need, suffering and injustice, God calls His people not just to pray, but to act. As James 1:27 (NIV) reminds us, 'Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress.' True faith is not passive: it's practical. It moves towards those in pain with compassion, kindness and hope.

As the global humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) embodies the concept of being the hands and feet of Jesus in a world filled with suffering and need. We help to bring relief and development assistance to vulnerable individuals and communities, regardless of their ethnicity, political affiliation or religious beliefs. ADRA's work is rooted in the biblical call to care for the marginalised, the oppressed, and those who cannot care for themselves.

Several biblical texts emphasise the importance of helping the vulnerable. Deuteronomy 10:18 (NIV) states that God 'defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing'. Psalm 82:3, 4 (NIV) urges us to 'defend the weak

and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.' These verses, among others, highlight a clear divine mandate to actively assist those in need, which is the driving force behind ADRA's mission and our motto of 'Justice. Compassion. Love.'

ADRA-UK offers various avenues for people to become directly involved in this work.

Individuals can become ADRA Angels, committing to regular monthly donations that provide a consistent and reliable source of funding for ADRA-UK's long-term development projects. This regular support enables ADRA-UK to plan effectively and implement sustainable programmes that address the root causes of poverty and injustice. A regular donation of £10 a month can help provide food supplies, giving nutritional support.

Another way to get involved is by becoming an ADRA Ambassador. These volunteers play a crucial role in raising awareness about ADRA-UK's work within their local churches and communities. ADRA Ambassadors share information, organise fundraising events, and inspire others to support ADRA-UK's mission. They become the voice and hands with the support of ADRA-UK, extending its reach and impact.

Transforming lives through TVET training

In Kalay Myo, Sagaing Region, Myanmar, the life of 22-year-old Man Deih Cing was transformed by ADRA's CASE2LEARN project. Living in a rural village with limited opportunities, her family faced immense hardships following her

father's passing in 2021.

Supported solely by her elder sister, who worked at a local church, the family struggled to make ends meet. Despite these challenges, she remained determined to create a better future for herself and her loved ones.

When the CASE2LEARN project came to her village and offered free training opportunities, she saw it as a beacon of hope. Selected to join a vocational training course in sewing, she embarked on a journey to develop life-changing skills. Over the course of the programme, she not only mastered tailoring, but also gained life skills and confidence to take charge of her future.

Reflecting on her experience, she shared, 'I feel like I have a guarantee for my future career through this training.' With dreams of continuing advanced sewing courses, she aspires to teach other young women in her village, empowering them to achieve economic independence.

Man Deih Cing's story underscores the importance of initiatives like CASE2LEARN, which equip vulnerable individuals with skills for sustainable livelihoods. For Man Deih Cing, the training was more than just an educational opportunity – it was a lifeline to independence, offering hope and making a lasting impact to become change-makers for a better tomorrow.

By supporting ADRA-UK, whether through regular giving or active ambassadorship, individuals can directly participate in fulfilling the biblical call to serve the vulnerable. They become the hands and feet of Jesus, bringing hope, healing and transformation to a world in need. Thank you for partnering with ADRA-UK.

Love in action is more than words – it's a commitment; a movement; a calling. Together, we are ADRA, and we can all make a difference.

Nature's pharmacy, part 5b – natural interventions for wellbeing: expanding research

by Sharon Platt-McDonald,
BUC Director for Health, Adventist Community Services & Women's Ministries



An online article in *Environment International* (volume 196, February 2025, 109217) carried the title 'Factors influencing the effectiveness of nature-based interventions (NBIs) aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing: an umbrella review'.¹ Authors Topaz Shrestha et al. state in their introduction: 'Modern science is beginning to acknowledge what ancient and indigenous cultures have always known – human and environmental health are deeply interconnected and our relationship to nature can support, enhance and restore our health and wellbeing.'

There is an expanding corpus of research concerning the impact of nature and the environment on wellbeing, as it is a current area of scientific study.

International research

One such pilot study was reported in the National Library of Medicine (National Centre for Biotechnology Information). The article about it, published on 25 January 2023, was titled 'Nature-based therapy in individuals with mental health disorders, with a focus on mental wellbeing and connectedness to nature – a pilot study'.² The abstract stated: 'In times of social and ecological crises, such as COVID-19 with lockdowns and . . . the impact of climate change, mental health degrades. Being outdoors in nature can be health-promoting; [it] can decrease depression and increase mental wellbeing.'

Explaining the scope of the study, the article continues: 'This pilot study investigated the relationships between nature-based therapy, mental health, and individuals' connectedness to nature. We hypothesise that nature-based therapy has a positive impact on individual mental health and connectedness to nature. A mixed-method approach was used to evaluate the effectiveness of nature-based therapy for young psychosomatic patients.'

Outlining the study outcomes from the evaluated data, researchers concluded: 'The results demonstrated improvements in mental wellbeing and connectedness to nature through therapy. Additionally, depression scores decreased. Patients reported the importance of the therapist setting the space, the supportive environment, the poems that fostered the nature connection, improvement at the soul level, and overall doing something meaningful. Every patient experienced nature-based therapy as effective. To conclude, the study gives a first insight into the processes of nature-based therapy in the German population at work and the effectiveness of nature-based therapy.'

UK evidence
Research undertaken



in the British population is yielding equally positive results for incorporating nature-based interventions in the therapeutic interventions for patients' mental and psychological wellbeing.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists, in a March 2024 online article by Rosa Roberts and Tom Fisher titled 'Nature matters in mental health', explains this type of intervention: 'Nature-based practice is an umbrella term that can include making small adjustments to bring nature into existing practice, as well as structured nature-based interventions such as allotment groups, mindful walking or other therapeutic activities within a natural setting (sometimes offered through "Green Social Prescribing"). There is a growing body of evidence relating to the mental health benefits of connectedness to the natural world.'

Roberts and Fisher describe the results: 'A 2023 systematic review of 92 randomised controlled trials⁴ found significant reductions in depression and anxiety scores with nature-based interventions, as well as improvements in physical health measures such as lowered blood pressure.'

Reporting on the broader aspects of psychological wellbeing, Roberts and Fisher state: 'Nature-based interventions have also been shown⁵ to positively affect some of the more profound aspects of the human experience, such as meaning, purpose, belonging, self-acceptance and sense of autonomy.'

To summarise: incorporate more outdoor activities for improved holistic wellbeing.

Good health!

¹www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412024008043

²<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9914984/>

³www.rcpsych.ac.uk/news-and-features/blogs/detail/sustainability-blog/2024/03/06/nature-matters-in-mental-health

⁴Phi-Yen Nguyen, Thomas Astell-Burt, Hania Rahimi-Ardabili and Xiaoqi Feng (2023), 'Effect of nature prescriptions on cardiometabolic and mental health, and physical activity: a systematic review', *Lancet Planetary Health*, vol. 7, iss. 4, e313-e328

⁵Alison Pritchard, Miles Richardson, David Sheffield and Kirsten McEwan (2019), 'The relationship between nature and eudaimonic well-being: a meta-analysis', *Journal of Happiness Studies*, vol. 21, iss. 1, pp. 1145-1167; John Michael Zelenski and Elizabeth Nisbet (2012), 'Happiness and feeling connected: the distinct role of nature relatedness', *Environment and Behaviour*, vol. 14, iss. 1, pp. 3-23

Award-winning faith: the Sabbath testimony behind an Indian restaurant in Ireland

by Deborah Lessa, Irish Mission Communication Sponsor



Katherina and Naresh Gandrala in front of Andhra Spice

In the bustling city of Waterford, an Indian restaurant is not only serving up delicious Indian cuisine, but also offering a powerful testimony of faith. Andhra Spice, owned and operated by Seventh-day Adventist couple Katherina and Naresh Gandrala, has recently been honoured with an Award of Excellence, which they received in their first year of operation.

While awards and five-star reviews are impressive in any context, what makes this recognition especially remarkable is the couple's steadfast decision to keep the restaurant closed every Saturday in observance of the biblical Sabbath. In an industry where weekends are typically the most profitable days, their choice stands as an act of faith and trust in God.

'We really praise God for this,' Katherina shared. 'It was only 10 months (since opening) when we received this award. All glory and honour to God that we, as Adventists, got an award among all the other restaurants. All our Google reviews are five stars!'

The award is based entirely on customer ratings and reviews, with no external judges involved. That makes the recognition even more meaningful to the couple. Their

restaurant, they explain, is more than just a business – it is a ministry.

A leap of faith

Before opening Andhra Spice, Naresh had never worked professionally as a chef. In fact, he says his family back in India would be surprised to see him now. 'Back in India, I never cooked. I was the only son after three daughters, and I never really had the opportunity,' he said. 'But I learned how to cook from my mother, and I love it. I love feeding people. When they eat and say the food is good, that makes a big impact on us. It encourages us to keep going.'

The couple opened the restaurant in March 2024 with two purposes in mind: to bring authentic Indian flavours to Waterford, and to use food for ministry. They made a firm commitment to stay closed over the Sabbath, no matter the financial implications. 'There are many customers who have asked why we are closed on Saturdays. That gives us an opportunity to share our faith, to testify. We felt this is a kind of ministry we are doing through our food,' said Katherina.

Customer reactions

The restaurant's quality and values

have not gone unnoticed. Customers not only return for the food, but often comment on the warmth and integrity behind the service. 'I absolutely love any food with flavour,' said Raj Cheln, one enthusiastic client. 'Once I found this place, I made it a point to come over when they are open. The food is absolutely delicious.' As a regular customer, he knows about the opening times of the restaurant. 'To be closed on Saturdays, that's their choice. As a business, they can decide when to open and close. But they're open other days and available in the evenings, which makes it perfect for people coming from work,' he adds.

Praveen Vasimalla, who is also an Adventist and a friend of the couple, was also present at Andhra Spice's one-year anniversary. 'I can really see God's blessings in their journey. God has a purpose for them here – to minister through the food they are cooking. Their decision to close on Saturdays is a testimony in itself,' he commented.

A testimony that nourishes

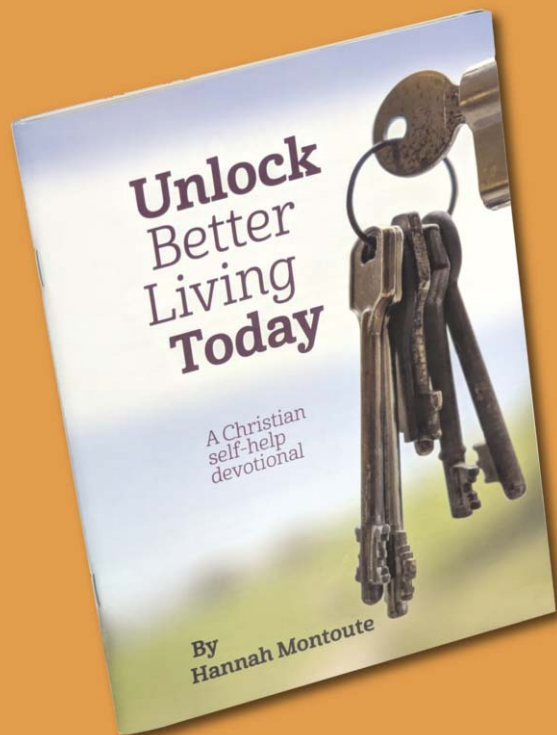
For Katherina and Naresh, the journey has not always been easy. The restaurant industry is demanding, and starting a new business in a competitive market with the added challenge of being closed on Saturdays could have spelt difficulty. But instead their business has flourished, and their faith has grown stronger.

'Taste and see that the Lord is good. We have kept the Sabbath. We have tasted the Lord – and He is good,' said Katherina. 'This award, these blessings, they come from Him.'

Having celebrated their first anniversary in March 2025, Katherina and Naresh now look forward to many more years of serving the community – not only through food, but through love, faith and quiet witness.

Their story is a powerful reminder that obedience to God is never in vain. In a world driven by profit and pressure, their decision to put faith first stands as an inspiration to fellow believers and business owners alike. As their ministry continues, so does their testimony – one plate at a time.

The Book of the Month



Unlock Better Living Today

Educate yourself, be empowered, and reflect on powerful spiritual insights in debut author Hannah Montoute's Christian self-help devotional, *Unlock Better Living Today*. This is a book that will help you tap into your full potential and allow you to lead a satisfying life. From embracing your greatest ally to realising that you can be a blessing, and taking in appreciation, patience and the beauty of change along the way, may these ten keys richly bless you, both for now and for eternity.

To order this excellent book for yourself or to help fulfil the Great Commission by using it to introduce someone you know to Christ, call 01476 591700 (8.30am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday) or visit: www.lifeforcebookshop.co.uk.



Where's Wally?

by Adrian Samuel



Before the seductive rise of social media, on-demand television and immersive gaming, I grew up solving puzzles found in books such as *Where's Wally?*

On the surface, the rules were simple: find the location of the distinctively dressed character, 'Wally', on the page, and you'll win!

It often only takes a few minutes for first-timers to admit how surprisingly difficult this is. The scene is swarmed by colourfully dressed people and buildings hosting numberless attractions – a marvel of visual temptation for the mind – mirroring today's church.

Reflecting on this game has led me to better understand how challenging it is to be my 'brother's keeper'. If we're being honest, sometimes we don't even know when somebody has left the faith. What a surprise we have when we find that some have left who have even been leading from the front!

As of 30 June 2024, the SEC reported a total membership of 28,090 across 162

churches, representing an average of 173 members per church. That's a lot of people!

Ask yourself, do you stay in regular contact with 172 people? Suppose one of them were to find themselves lost in life's alluring maze: would you really notice? How in tune are you with their heart and spirituality? 'Jesus Himself drew near' (Luke 24:15, NKJV). Do you?

As the church continues to invest, focus, and develop strategies for outreach, what are we doing to care for and build the members we already have while also searching for those who have lost their way among us?

A scripture that explores the call to accountability can be found in Genesis 4:9, where God asks Cain, 'Where is Abel your brother?' (Genesis 4:9, NKJV.)

Initially this question seems strange, as 'nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight' (Hebrews 4:13, NIV). So we are forced to ask: why would God, who can see everything, ask a human, who cannot, to locate someone? The answer is: God knew of the murder, but asked probing questions to uncover the state of Cain's heart.

If God were to visit you today and ask you questions about members in your circle of influence, what might you say? Would you have an answer that would make Him smile?

For too long, we, the church, have been focused on harvesting the vast field of opportunities but forgetting that even harvested plants in the barn need preservation.



Where's Wally? fancy dress



Peanut Butter & Banana Flapjacks

I created this recipe because I love flapjacks. However, when you try to buy them in the UK the majority are not vegan-friendly, so I decided to make my own. The topping was a suggestion from my cousin Sherna, who was at my house one day when I was making them and suggested that I give them a topping. I liked her suggestion and changed my recipe to include it, so I now always make it with a topping.

- 1 Preheat oven to 160°C (140°C with fan; gas mark 3).
- 2 Grease and line a 20cm square tin with baking parchment.
- 3 Heat the **butter**, **peanut butter** and **maple syrup** in a small pan until melted.
- 4 Add the mashed **banana**, **apple** and 100ml hot water, and mix to combine.
- 5 Tip the **oats**, the **raisins** and the **seeds** into a large bowl.
- 6 Pour in the combined banana and apple and stir until everything is coated by the wet mixture.



Shopping list

Vegan butter – 50g, plus a little extra for greasing
Peanut butter – 2 tbsp, smooth
Maple syrup or **agave syrup** – 3 tbsp
Bananas – 2, ripe, mashed
Apple – 1, peeled and grated
Rolled oats – 250g
Raisins – 100g
Seeds – 85g, mixed (pumpkin and sunflower)

Topping

Almonds – 50g
Brown sugar – 50g
Cinnamon – ¼ tsp

- 7 Tip into the cake tin and level the surface.
- 8 Combine **topping ingredients** together in a blender and sprinkle evenly on top.
- 9 Bake for 55 mins until golden.
- 10 Leave to cool in the tin.
- 11 Cut into 12 pieces to serve (or store in an airtight container in the fridge).

Quick, easy and delicious

Taken from *Cooking with Kids*, by Kirly-Sue. To purchase yours, follow this link:
<https://lifesourcebookshop.co.uk/product/cooking-with-kids-paperback/>

ACTS 18

PAUL
CORINTH
AQUILA
ROME
CRAFT
ABODE
TENTMAKERS
REASONED

GREEKS
TESTIFIED
JESUS
GENTILES
CERTAIN
JUSTUS
BELIEVED
LORD

AFRAID
PEACE
TARRIED
EPHESUS
ANTIOCH
APOLLOS
EXPOUNDED
SCRIPTURES

E X P O U N D E D S S C E R T A I N F A
A E A P O L L O S O E R E A T R E C G F
C P M T E N T M A L I A G R E E G R K E
E O J E S U S G L L L F O O T A E O R C
P S U S R C R E O P T T U S J E P M E A
C U S T A E R N R O N G E E K C A E E E
R S T I F R A T D T S S L S A D N U O P
A E O F T I R S M O U T D E I F T S E T
S H M I R N E M O E S E L I T N E G P S
R P E E E T S E T N E A L I U Q H M O E
E E A D E V E I L E B O D E A C R A U R
K D S E W R O U F C E A S K O I F F N U
A B O D E H G D A E L E J I A R L O D T
M S U N A C E I R R I W T S A R E E P P
T O R A N N T S E T E N N I B A C A X I
N P E M O N A U W A A I D S A M A K E R
E P J S T N C T E L N O W H T N I R O C
T O A A I R Y S L U N T O S C T U R E S
F E R V E N T U L A Q U I L A R R I E D
R J U S T S U J T P R C S D E I R R A T

Rediscovering Seventh-day Adventism: NEC Camp Meeting 2025

by Charlene Martin

The North England Conference (NEC) Camp Meeting 2025 was truly a place to leave rejoicing. This year's theme, 'Rediscovering Seventh-day Adventism', reminded us of the importance of remembering why we exist: 'Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he' (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). As the theme suggested, we were invited to rediscover who we are, why we are here, and what our purpose is as a people of God. And happy we will continue to be if we are rooted in service, as Jesus was.

The Yarnfield Conference Centre in Stoke-on-Trent welcomed many from Wednesday 28 May through to Sunday 1 June 2025 for a time of spiritual reflection and fellowship. The programme began on Wednesday evening with the opening ceremony, where adults, youth, teens and children came together to worship.

The main adult speaker, Pastor Steven Conway (from Troy Seventh-day Adventist Church in Michigan and Co-Director of STAMENA4LIFE) centred his presentations on restoration: God's character being restored in us so that we can take that message of restoration to the world. Pastor Conway's presentations gave attendees the opportunity to reflect on the restorative effects of the Word of God in our lives, which would become a recurring theme throughout the week.

The time at Camp Meeting unfolded into a rich and meaningful experience. Attendees had the opportunity to take part in early morning prayer, which continued throughout the day in the prayer room. The Prayer Ministries team, led by Sister Faith Muimo, shared how they had seen answered prayers within the first couple of days of Camp Meeting.

The Bible study hour, led by Pastor Stephen Bohr (President of Secrets Unsealed), covered various subjects such as Bible prophecy and jewellery. In one study he focused on Daniel 7, 8 and 11 and Revelation 10, teaching that they include a description of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Bible studies offered a valuable perspective on what has happened, what is happening, and what is yet to come. Attendees also gained a deeper understanding of the Spirit of Prophecy, which Pastor Bohr described as 'the eyes of the church'.

Following the Bible study was 'Midday Manna' with



Dr Steve Palmer, NEC President



Pastor Steven Conway



Lo-Ammi Richardson

Pastor Sikhumbuzo Dube, a healthcare chaplain and church administrator. He is also the founder of Shunem Care, a ministry that supports individuals facing involuntary childlessness. Pastor Dube focused on the determination of God, how He desires to be with us, and how He is presently reaching out to us. He asked the thought-provoking question, 'Are you determined to be with Him?'

The health presentations, led by Jacqueline Brown (co-founder of the Medical Missionary Group), emphasised the power of our health message. Jacqueline stated, 'God has given us a message, the Ten Commandments and the laws of health, and He wants us to live it so that we may be a marvel and share it with the world.' Each afternoon, the health presentations were followed by Pastor Victor Marshall (Family Ministries and Men's Ministries



Pastor Obi Iheoma



Pastor Emanuel Bran, NEC Executive Secretary



Pastor Stephen Bohr



One of the children's presentations



Director for the East Caribbean Conference), who spoke about family relationships and how they influence our behaviour. His emphasis on restoration and healing from past experiences aligned with Pastor Conway's theme of restoration.

Pastor Derek Simon (NEC Youth Director) and Elder Horace Radcliff (NEC Teens Director) worked tirelessly to ensure that the youth and teens received spiritual nourishment throughout the event. The youth programme featured the international speaker, author and life coach Lo-Ammi Richardson, along with the author and educator Jemaule Gardner. Lo-Ammi summarised his message to the youth in one word: 'practical'. He explained that he wanted young people to understand what God's love has done for us and how to demonstrate that to others in need. Raeanne Lowe, speaking about the teens' services, said, 'The presentations by Jemaule were intentional in highlighting the true issue – the need for love.'

The children also enjoyed a full programme of activities and presentations, led by Sister Bekezela Peters (NEC Children's Ministries Director) and her dedicated team.

One message that stood out across all presentations was the encouragement not to remain in the past, but to keep learning and moving forwards in our relationships with God and with one another. Fellowship and connection were clearly seen during breakfast, lunch and dinner as friends and family members spent time together.

The NEC Camp Meeting 2025 concluded with a vote of thanks from Pastor Palmer, who expressed appreciation to all those involved in the planning and preparation of the event. Reflecting on the chosen theme, he shared his



Communion

hope that everyone would 'get back to understanding who we are, why we exist, and how we are going to display this to the world. We have a mission to share.'



Pastor Julian Kastrati being interviewed

Statement on mission in secular, post-Christian societies across the TED: Leaders make renewed commitment to mission

During the Trans-European Division (TED) Mission 150 Conference, held at Newbold College of Higher Education from 24 to 27 April 2025, more than 160 administrators, pastors, scholars and dedicated laypeople gathered to help shape the Statement on Mission. It aims to encourage local churches, conferences and unions to place greater emphasis on mission among secular and post-Christian communities.

'Mission is God's movement towards the restoration of a broken world; He invites us into whole-life participation in His compassionate mission. . . . The intentional move away from the Christian story in contemporary European societies compels us to reaffirm and honour our eschatological identity by contextualising the distinctive Adventist message of wholeness, hope and justice within local communities. . . . We do this to connect with others in a God-honouring community as the antidote to today's secular consumer culture. We confidently look to God to author missional breakthroughs in twenty-first-century Europe.

'We boldly and prayerfully step forward, believing that the greatest days in God's redemptive story in Europe are yet to come. . . . Embracing different modes of service and other generations, ministering in tandem with pastors, we engage all members and develop new leaders. We engage in Spirit-led, holistic, community-based outreach with the method of Jesus, planting a movement of multiplying churches, utilising church properties for missional effectiveness, and aligning human and financial resources for maximum missional impact. . . .'
Please read the full statement on tedNEWS.



General Conference Spring Meetings: new guidelines voted on digital ministry and home churches

Digital ministries guidelines

The General Conference Executive Committee has approved new guidelines for expanding digital ministry in Seventh-day Adventist churches globally, prompted by increased online activity since the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines outline a three-phase strategy: developing digital platforms, streaming services, and offering online spiritual care.

While encouraging digital growth, the guidelines stress that in-person gatherings remain essential for church identity and practices like baptism and communion. Churches can accept remote members, who are encouraged to participate in ministry and start local groups.

The goal is to reach the 70% of the global population active online while preserving the church's biblical values and structure.

House group guidelines

On the second day of the 2025 GC Spring Meetings, the Executive Committee approved new guidelines for house groups. This follows discussions that began at the 2024 Annual Council, which referred the topic to the Church Manual Committee for development.

Gerson Santos, Associate Secretary of the GC, introduced the new *Church Manual* guidelines, clarifying that while both 'house groups' and 'house churches' will appear in the manual, 'house groups' is the preferred term. The purpose of these guidelines is to support the global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, especially in areas where traditional public worship may be restricted.

Santos highlighted the biblical precedent for home-based gatherings, referencing the New Testament, and emphasised the effectiveness of relational worship models in sensitive regions.

During the discussion, delegates clarified the difference between house groups and small groups. Small groups typically meet during the week and attend a local church on Sabbath, while house groups conduct full worship services in homes or agreed-upon locations. *Please check tedNEWS for a brief summary of key highlights from the 2025 General Conference Spring Meetings, held on 8-9 April, as well as to read the new guidelines. (Editor's note: For both the guidelines on digital ministries and house churches, the leadership repeatedly noted that these voted actions at this point are 'guidelines' in contrast to voted statements for inclusion in the Church Manual, which can only take place when the General Conference is in session.)*



Dr Dan Serb appointed as Newbold Principal

With a vision to grow faithful pastors and open new ministry paths, Dr Dan Serb has been appointed Principal of Newbold College of Higher Education (NCHE) following a vote at the College Board meeting on 18 May. He succeeds Dr Stephen Currow, who is returning to Australia after a four-year secondment from Avondale University. Dr Serb has served as Vice Principal at Newbold for nearly a year. His appointment was confirmed by the Trans-European Division Executive Committee at its Spring Meeting on 19 May.

Reflecting on his appointment, Dr Serb said he was honoured to continue serving at Newbold in the role of Principal. 'It is a great privilege,' he noted, 'and I am humbled by the trust placed in me by the College Board and the Trans-European Division leadership.'

Please read the full article on tedNEWS.





Inspired for mission

On the afternoon of 31 May 2025, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chelmsford conducted the first of four planned evangelistic literature distribution days in the city of Chelmsford. It was an uplifting

experience for the church – even the

weather was on our side, and the young people were involved and passionate in their efforts. Nearly 250 homes were approached and literature was dropped through their doors.

We praise God for His presence and protection and for the opportunity to be a witness for Him. The church looks forward with committed zeal and dedication to accomplishing much here in Chelmsford in the mission of expanding God's kingdom.

We praise God for the leadership of Pastor Robin Lewis and the support of every member of our church. Please continue your prayers and support!

DINESH PHASGE, PM DEPARTMENT

Reaching out through the universal language of music

'Hallelujah, sing a song' was the opening message with which Glasgow Adventist Gospel Choir (GAGC) started their afternoon concert on the Day of Fellowship between Glasgow and Dundee

Churches on Sabbath 12 April. The GAGC outreach project for 2025 is to use music to reach people in local care homes, in Beatson Hospital, and in other denominations. The choir also supports Beatson Cancer Charity through fundraising initiatives. Local community members were invited to the April concert, and some came, engaging with the uplifting music and establishing contact with the Dundee Church members.

Songs such as 'Kumbaya', 'Siyahamba' and 'Lord, I want to be a Christian' inspired those who were present and ministered to their souls. Every piece took the listeners through a spiritual journey aimed at deepening their connection with God.

The Glasgow Adventist Melodies Choir is a project for children and teens aged 10 to 17, initiated by Pastor Allan Zukowsky, who served in the Scottish Mission as a volunteer missionary for one year until the end of April 2025. Commenting on the choir, Pastor Zukowsky said: 'The choir has been a great initiative to help the children and teens learn a variety of skills through rehearsals and performances. One important thing we learn as choir members is how to face stage fright and become comfortable in front of people. Experiences like these help children overcome their fears and become more confident to face life's challenges. This concert was extra special – we had the opportunity to sing together with the adult choir. We could see a bigger purpose for our group, especially when Maestro Samuel encouraged the teens by saying that they are the next adult choir for Glasgow Church.'



Maestro Samuel, the choir's director, said, 'If there are moments in life that remain etched in our memory forever, I hope that the Saturday we shared in Dundee when we felt the power of God through music and prayer will be one of those essential memories to keep for life. I want to highlight all the commitment and dedication of the GAGC singers in this mission, adding additional effort to their lives to become contributors to the propagation of the Gospel. I cannot fail to express my gratitude for the friendship and vision of my friend Pastor Claudiu, who, through his passion for music and trust in God, believes in the extraordinary power of music in the church and has supported me unconditionally in this mission.'

In turn, Pastor Claudiu Popescu stated, 'Music has enormous power to engage the emotions, and the Bible resounds with praise and thanks to God through music. In the Old Testament, music played a significant role in assisting in the memorisation of God's truth and in reminding God's people of their fallenness but also of their salvation. In the New Testament, God's people gathered to praise Him and to build one another up in the faith. I believe the community concert in Dundee incorporated all those elements and witnessed to the many visitors present of the goodness of God. I'm very grateful to my friend Pastor Njay and Dundee Church for their invitation, support and faith in this project, and I'm confident that many lives have been touched by the message of the Gospel presented through testimonies, praises and songs.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Ealing Community Engagement Manager and Dr Sorin Petrof visit Hanwell Church

Evelyn Glyn, the Ealing Community Engagement Manager, celebrated an early Mother's Day with Hanwell Church on 12 April 2025, highlighting some of Ealing Council's initiatives to improve safety, citizen engagement and community cohesion. She elaborated on how members of communities could come together to use their skills to do more.

Dr Sorin Petrof, the South England Conference Communication Director, was preaching that day. He commended Evelyn's work and reiterated the importance

of taking safety seriously.

Since that Sabbath was the day before Mother's Day, Community Ministry leaders Dennilyn, Carol and Marva decided to do something special for the mothers in their community. Evelyn and other community mothers were invited to an enjoyable free three-course meal.

Evelyn was impressed with the sermon and the entire service. She commended Hanwell Church for doing something good for mothers, writing: 'Thank you for such a lovely welcome to the service and the Mother's Day lunch; you made me feel I

was among friends.' She conveyed her thanks to Hanwell's pastor, Dr Michael Mbui, who was away, and to Senior Elder Dukal and Hanwell Community Ministries leaders Dennilyn, Carol and Marva for inviting her to be part of such a well-organised Mother's Day. She also thanked the church's IT team, as they made a video in which Evelyn shared more information for community-led projects, which will be shared more widely in Ealing.

Evelyn and Hanwell Church have a shared vision for a thriving, inclusive and vibrant town, and they are excited to work together to help create change through more connected communities.

SARAH LUBANGA (PRESIDENT OF THE AREA 6D COMMUNITY MINISTRY FEDERATION)

London Ghana Church makes a mighty mark in East London

In a powerful display of community engagement, London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church engaged in outreach on an unprecedented scale across the streets of Newham, East London, on Saturday 26 April 2025. In this historic initiative, nearly 400 members from 10 to 94 years old connected with their local community. While London Ghana has a strong history of eighteen years of outreach, this event stood out for its sheer scale and enthusiastic participation.

Leading the way were the Pathfinders displaying the church banner, and also the drum corps, their youthful energy setting the tone. The joyful bells of the Women's Ministries team filled the air, announcing the presence and love of Jesus Christ to the neighbourhood.

Residents came from their homes, eager to discover the source of the joyful commotion. Beryl, a local mother, shared, 'My children were so excited by the music! My twelve-year-old has always been interested in learning an instrument, so hearing that the church's youth group offers music lessons is fantastic. We'll definitely be visiting soon.' Richard, a man in his forties, was particularly interested in the church's food bank, run in partnership with The Trussell Trust. He confessed, 'I've always wanted to attend church, but the fear of judgement has held me back.' Outreach participants warmly reassured him that support was offered without judgement and encouraged him to take the first step in visiting. Church members clarified that while adult services incorporate the Ghanaian language Twi alongside English, all children's and youth programmes are conducted solely in English.

The sight of the large group, with pastoral team members and departmental leaders in fluorescent vests guiding the way along the 3.5-mile route, was described by onlookers as a 'mini exodus'. The hour-and-a-half walk provided ample opportunity for members to distribute literature. Upon the outreach's completion, participants shared inspiring testimonies of their encounters.

Having sown a significant number of seeds, London Ghana eagerly anticipates the long-term impact of this large-scale outreach, believing that with divine support their efforts will yield a bountiful harvest.

RUBINA FOSUA ARTHUR





First baptism in Bournemouth's new church

On Pentecost Sabbath, 7 June 2025, Bournemouth members met for their first baptism since moving into their new church on Cardigan Road. The lady being baptised was Beth Kamai, who had been born in Nyeri, Kenya.

Beth's father was a church elder in Kenya, and in 2004 she came to England, where she studied Occupational Therapy and now works for the Dorset Wheelchair Service. She loves visiting elderly folk with her daughter, Brooke, and they enjoy walking, cycling and camping.

For seven years she has helped in children's Sabbath School, the Adventurers Club and the Pathfinder Bible Experience. She is respected and loved by the Bournemouth Church members.

Pastor Steven Hulbert explained the meaning of baptism based on Ephesians 4:4-6, referring to Jesus' baptism, baptism in the early church, and our baptism today. Seven ladies testified to the way Beth and Brooke have enriched the church. Musical items included Brooke's moving song, 'When I am in the wasteland'.

After making her vows, Beth was baptised by Pastor Steven, voted into membership, and welcomed into fellowship by the pastor; church elders Emmanuel Freeman, Judith Cassidy and Douglas Vine; and retired pastors Richard and Robert Vine. The service closed with the Hymn 'I surrender all'. A potluck meal followed the service in the youth hall. We thank all who contributed to this memorable day, and we pray that Beth and Brooke will long enjoy their walk with Jesus their Saviour.

RICHARD L. VINE

A new life in Christ

On Sabbath 26 April 2025 Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church witnessed a moving baptismal service as Pastor Aster Bruce led Paulette Mullins into the waters of baptism. Though Paulette was the sole candidate that day, her commitment was firm. She had prayerfully prepared for this spiritual milestone through weeks of Bible study and faithful attendance at Camp Hill. Many of her family members travelled from across the country to witness her baptism, and their joyful reunion was further enriched by supportive members of the church.

Pastor Bruce's sermon, 'The Secret of a New Life', highlighted that true transformation comes through accepting the gift of repentance and spiritual renewal through Jesus Christ. Following the reading of the baptismal vows and the unanimous vote by the congregation to accept her into fellowship, heartfelt applause filled the sanctuary. In a special moment, Paulette's granddaughter, young Mia, confidently read her grandmother's favourite passage – Psalm 100 – testifying to the family's shared faith and love for Jesus. Paulette beamed with joy as she emerged from the water and was presented with baptismal certificates and spiritual books to encourage her journey of faith.

We celebrate Paulette's new beginning and pray for continued blessings as she walks with Christ.

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Two lives transformed at Lincoln Church

On Saturday 31 May 2025, joyful celebration filled Lincoln Seventh-day Adventist Church as Phil Reeder and Rochelle Hirst were baptised in a heartfelt service that marked a long-awaited moment for the local congregation. This was the first baptism at Lincoln Church since 2018, making the event especially meaningful for members and guests alike.

Rochelle's baptism was a moving return to her spiritual roots. Having grown up in the Adventist faith, she had drifted away over time but recently felt called to rekindle her relationship

with God. 'Being part of the Lincoln church family felt like coming home,' she shared with the congregation.

Phil's journey was quite different. Until recently, he had never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But when a new friend introduced him to the concept of the seventh-day Sabbath, it struck a chord. 'It just made sense,' Phil said. 'That one truth opened the door for me to seek out everything else. I knew I had to change my life.'

Both Rochelle and Phil were prepared for this significant step by Elder Horace Squire and his wife Carol, along with Pastors Steven George and David Rancic. Their guidance and encouragement were instrumental in helping the candidates understand and embrace their faith. Using this opportunity, Pastor George reminded everyone of the story of Martha and Mary in Luke 10, emphasising that choosing Christ is the most important thing. Similarly, making an appeal from the pool, Pastor Rancic invited people not to wait with their decisions to become Christians. 'If witnessing Phil's and Rochelle's baptism stirred up your thoughts and hearts, don't wait, but reach out to God today!'

It was a Sabbath to remember – one of hope, celebration, gratitude, transformation and new beginnings at Lincoln Seventh-day Adventist Church.

LINCOLN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

If Jesus came in modern times . . .

On Sabbath 19 March (Easter weekend), the Barnet Church Children and Youth Department presented 'If Jesus Came in Modern

Times', written by Sister L. Imbrah, a play about the life of Christ and salvation in a modern context.

The surrounding community, friends, relatives and members from other churches gathered to see the shepherds and wise men interviewed by local reporters from the Bethlehem Broadcasting Corporation; Jesus giving His Sermon on the Mount in an auditorium; and His arrest by armed police. The congregation were asked to interact with the performance and celebrate with the redeemed as they marched down the aisle, all interspersed with a supporting soundtrack and songs.

It wasn't without its challenges, but the Easter message was preached via drama in a manner far more exciting than bunny rabbits and chocolate eggs! JOAN MABB



Nebuchadnezzar's statue at Grantham College

On 20 May, at the annual Grantham College 'Culture in the Community' fair, students were confronted by something they had never seen before – a 7ft 2inch composite metallic statue. Would that stop you in your tracks?

Adventists sometimes forget that the Nebuchadnezzar dream recorded in Daniel 2 is a powerful evangelism tool that amazes and enthralls. Many of us who were brought to Christ through Daniel 2 are sometimes tempted to view the chapter as 'old hat'. However, it is still as exciting to non-Christians as it ever was.

The Grantham Church Personal Ministries team discovered this when they exhibited the Daniel 2 statue, built by Grantham member Austin James, at the community fair. It was the central attraction! Students came to our stand asking, 'What is this all about?' and listened to a full explanation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, including the second coming of Jesus. They then lined up to pose with the statue and were told they could take part in a quiz and win a prize. This made the students stay even longer. For getting 5 out of the 10 questions right, the students received goody bags containing leaflets on Daniel 2, books, courses, tracts and cards. They enthusiastically accepted all of these, together with an



Grantham PM team, left to right: Pastor Steven George, Joanne Cameron, Elisabeth Carnell and Pastor David Rancic

extra prize of their choosing from the stand.

The popularity of the Adventist stand confirms that the 'old' messages of the Bible, when presented with a modern twist, can be just as appealing as they ever were.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

'From insight to impact' – a challenge to serve with purpose

Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church received a timely message from Pastor Dan Majaducon on Personal Ministries Day – he had been invited by Head Elder Rwigamba and used the story of the Good Samaritan to speak

passionately about Total Member Involvement.

Following Elva Bryan's beautiful meditational, Pastor Majaducon called members to examine their role in God's mission, especially within their local community. His pictorial slides made the message visually accessible and impactful.

Sharing examples from his churches in Newcastle, Sunderland and South Shields, he highlighted outreach projects including food banks, youth groups and a community badminton club. One creative initiative involved clearing local waterways with council permission – dressed in bright PPE, the team drew attention and opened doors to community engagement.

He reminded the congregation that frontline evangelism, often through Health Ministries and Community Services, remains God's mission for every member. Through support from the TED and BUC Creative Innovation Outreach Fund, local churches are encouraged to create nurturing and discipling CARE Groups (Christ's Attitude Reflected in Everyone), with small group leadership fostering spiritual growth.

Pastor Majaducon emphasised non-negotiables – Bible study, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer – which deepen weekly connections and help people journey towards Christ. He also introduced 'Sidewalk Evangelism' as another tool for engaging Bible students and highlighted the importance of retention and disciple-making. The *Discipleship Handbook* was recommended as a resource for developing future leaders.

During the afternoon AY programme, Pastor Majaducon presented practical strategies for effective outreach and engaged with Camp Hill members in a reflective Q&A session. At the end of the day, Camp Hill's Pastor Aster Bruce prayed for God's guidance in the furtherance of this work. The day closed with a renewed commitment to transform insight into impact and to actively share the love of Jesus with neighbours near and far.

DR JACQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



KEEPING HOPE ALIVE!
2025

07 NOV
FRIDAY
TO
09 NOV
SUNDAY

REFLECTING
hope
Conference

BUC training weekend to equip your church for sustainable Evangelism

Scan Here TO REGISTER & PAY

LEONARDO HOTEL
HINCKLEY ISLAND
WATLING ST.
BURBAGE, HINCKLEY,
LE10 3JA

CLOSING DATE: SEPTEMBER 30TH 2025
DUE TO HOTEL POLICY WE ARE UNABLE TO OFFER A REFUND

BUC EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT
EMAIL: LCAMPBELLROSS@ADVENTISTUK

SINGLE: £215
DOUBLE: £180pp
Children's rate:
3-5 yrs £40
5-7 yrs £58

WWW.REFLECTINGHOPE.ORG/TRAINING



2025 Welsh Mission Session Notification

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will take place at the:

Holiday Inn, The Coldra, Newport, NP18 2YG on Sunday 28 September 2025.

Delegates will receive documentation in advance of the session.

PASTOR MAX MCKENZIE-COOK (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, WELSH MISSION)

SEC CAMP MEETING 2025




SCAN QR CODE FOR DETAILS & BOOKING

23-26 JULY 2025
NEWBOLD COLLEGE
St Mark's Rd, Bracknell RG42 4AN

PROCLAIM!

www.campmeeting.org.uk

Pretha Garnett
Dr James Yansen
Dr Laszlo Gallusz
Dr Aaron Chancy
Dr Samuel Telemaque

BUC VACANCY *Accounts Clerk*

The British Union Conference is looking for an entry-level Accounts Clerk to support our busy Treasury Team in Watford by assisting with accounting tasks, maintaining accurate financial records and ensuring compliance with the organisation's financial policies. The ideal candidate will be detail-oriented, reliable and eager to learn.

- Key responsibilities:
- Arranging payments
 - Accurately entering financial data
 - Maintaining and updating financial records

For full role details and how to apply, please visit:
<https://buc.adventist.uk/jobs>.

Deadline for applications:
Friday 18 July 2025.

LifeSource book sales

DATE	VENUE	TIME
July 23-26 27	SEC Camp Meeting at Newbold College Manchester South	10am-2pm

Messenger

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

To receive the *MESSENGER*, delivered free to your home along with *Focus* magazine and *Adventist World* magazine, scan the QR code or email:
msubs@stanboroughpress.org.uk



All adverts as supplied, errors and omissions excepted



A day of purpose, unity and action

Basildon Church's Women's Ministries Department in Essex held a heartfelt and impactful afternoon tea with the women from Grays and Southend Churches on Sunday 27 April to raise funds for one of the six critical issues identified at this year's women's conference. Women of all ages came together in fellowship, faith and service,

full of love, laughter, support and delicious treats. The men and the Pathfinders also got involved, a perfect example of how everyone can contribute – regardless of gender or age – when working together for a common cause.

We were also blessed to welcome guests from other denominations, which highlighted the unity we share in Christ, and it was a wonderful opportunity to build bridges and strengthen relationships beyond our own congregation.

Thanks to everyone's generous donations, we raised funds that will directly support ADRA's vital work. Your contributions will help continue their efforts to provide relief and support to those in need, both locally and globally.

At this gathering we also highlighted the work our women are doing outside the church; serious health topics affecting women today, such as menopause, mental health issues and access to healthcare; and practical money-saving ideas to empower and uplift our families.

It is important to emphasise that this event was not just about fundraising – it was a call to action. We are part of something bigger than ourselves, and we must take the directives from the Conference to heart. Together, as women of faith, we must continue to work with the Lord to address critical issues and bring about meaningful change, following His guidance to address the challenges facing women and families in our communities.

I want to thank each and every one of you who participated in this event – your support, your generosity and your willingness to come together in this way have made a lasting impact. This is a collective effort; and, while we traditionally thank a few individuals, it is vital to recognise the entire congregation for their dedication and participation. From the countless cakes donated to the time and energy spent by the volunteers, each contribution has been invaluable.

PAMELA HELM, BASILDON WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM

Spreading the Gospel in Beulah Vista Care Home

On Sabbath 19 April, members of Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Church visited Beulah Vista Care Home to bring joy to the residents through a short afternoon service.

Following a prayer by Elder Johnny Saul, many of the residents joined in with the hymns, including 'All creatures of our God and King', 'How great Thou art', 'Amazing grace' and 'To God be the glory', before the Pathfinders put on a performance of Esther, bringing to life the story of the young Jewish woman who became the Queen of Persia and saved her people.

Elder Pete Pryce then shared a word of encouragement about the importance of our families and making our choice for Christ. Each resident received the message that God gives us the opportunity to be fully restored one day if we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. We reflected on a future of spending eternity in heaven with God.

AKOSUA KUDOM, COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA TEAM



Monica Vesey (née Edmonds) (1932-2025) d. 3 May.

Monica Edmonds was born on 16 June 1932 in Ryde, Isle of Wight, the firstborn child of Leonard and Mabel Edmonds, who were missionaries on temporary leave from serving in Aba, Nigeria. Shortly after her birth, Monica went to live with her aunt and grandmother in Streatham while her parents returned to their mission work. In 1936, Monica joined them in Nigeria, an experience that left her with a lifelong love and admiration for the people there. She returned to England in 1938 to begin her schooling and lived with her grandparents, the Newmans, who ran a guesthouse on the Isle of Wight.

During the Second World War, Monica spent time at Stanborough Park in Watford, staying with Joseph and Mrs Harker. She fondly remembered Mr Harker, a well-known hymn writer, and his piano playing. Her time



there was brief, and she soon returned to Streatham to live with her grandmother. Together they worshipped at the Wimbledon church.

In 1942 her parents and younger sister Joan returned from Nigeria, and in 1944 the family settled in Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. Monica attended school in Ryde and from an early age demonstrated a deep passion for teaching. After completing her schooling, she pursued teacher training at Trent Park Teachers' Training College.

While studying in London, Monica worshipped at the Holloway church, where she met her future husband, Cyril Vesey. The two were married in 1955. Both became educators at Stanborough School – Monica taught in the primary section and Cyril in the secondary school. They were blessed with three children: John, David and Sarah. During this time Monica also ran a nursery school in Chipperfield.

In 1973, the family moved to Wallingford

and became active members of the Reading church, where Monica contributed greatly to the children's Sabbath School and Holiday Bible School. In 1981 the Veseys moved to Binfield and joined Newbold Church. There Monica continued her work with children, helping with Sabbath School and holiday programmes, and running early childhood groups in her home. A trained specialist in dyslexia, she also dedicated time to tutoring children with learning differences.

In 2012 Monica, Cyril and Sarah returned to the Isle of Wight, where Cyril sadly passed away in 2021.

Monica will be remembered for her unwavering kindness, her deep faith, and her boundless love for others. Her warm and caring spirit made her not just a friend, but a mother figure to many.

She peacefully went to rest on Sabbath 3 May 2025, surrounded by her beloved family.

BOZIDAR PRGONJIC

Elvin Prince's retirement celebration

On 5 April 2025 the spotlight fell on Elder Elvin Prince, one of the longest-serving treasurers in the SEC, who finally passed the baton on to a younger generation.

Elder Prince has had a varied past, in and out of church. Professionally, he worked as an accountant for more than fifty years, including auditing accounts for big charities. As part of his work, he travelled extensively to various countries as far afield as Hong Kong and New Zealand. He qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Administrative Accountants and a Fellow of the Institute of Commercial Management, and applied the same rigid control that was expected in his professional life in church budgets.

In his church life, Elvin became an elder at the New Gallery Centre on Regent Street, the Advent Centre church near Marble Arch. In addition, he held many other offices – junior Sabbath School superintendent, adult Sabbath School superintendent, Personal Ministries leader and choir leader at Holloway Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was also the secretary to the Board of Governors at John Loughborough School and an LAAC treasurer, besides being a great preacher of the Word.

After many years of dedicated service, Elvin Prince retired from his dual role as elder and treasurer in the Wood Green church. His family – Odele, Ian (watching online from California), Kenny, Maya, Nyla and Rhkeem – watched as he was honoured with an award presented by SEC President Dr Kirk Thomas for his years of dedicated service in the SEC. Also paying tribute were all the elders in the congregation and former teachers and headteachers from John Loughborough School.

Pastor Vaughn Thorpe, our local minister, had arranged a video presentation by Pastor Don McFarlane. He highlighted the tremendous contribution made by Elder Prince to the treasury departments of various organisations within the Conference, expressing his sincere thanks and appreciation to Elder Prince for his sterling work.

Nana Bonnie, Assistant Treasurer from the SEC, also expressed his appreciation for Elder Prince's commitment and professionalism in carrying out his various assignments.

Elder Tristan Cuniah went on to say, 'Patriarch, preacher, pilgrim, Prince – the congregation and those watching online in the UK and across the pond join me in wishing you good health and contentment as you lay down your tools and journey on to your heavenly home. You've left a great legacy to the church.' Dr Thomas then offered a special prayer of thanksgiving.

BARBARA SOMMERS, WOOD GREEN COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Messenger

Volume 130 • 7 – 4 July 2025

Editor: **Dusanka Rancic**

Design: **David Bell**

Proof reading: **Andrew Puckering**

Production and distribution: **Peter Oppong-Mensah**

COPY FOR No. 9 – 31 July 2025

Note to potential advertisers

It is important that those who submit adverts for display in **MESSAGE** ensure that they have **permission** (and a **paid licence** where required) to use any downloaded photographs or artwork that they incorporate into their adverts. It is also important that credit be given to the individual, organisation or company from which these have been obtained. For example, something like the following should appear within the advert: **@Joe Bloggs/StockPhoto.com**. Please be aware that images downloaded from **Google** may also be subject to permission and licensing. The Stanborough Press Ltd takes no responsibility for any downloaded images submitted to **MESSAGE** by contributors and reserves the right to decline adverts about which we have copyright concerns.

Permission relating to photography

Those who submit photographs of minors (persons under the age of 18) for publication must ensure that they have permission to do so from their parents, guardians or carers. We would like these submissions to be accompanied by the following statement: 'I have the permission of the parents, guardian or carer of the minors who appear in this/these photograph/s to submit them for publication in the **MESSAGE**.'

Copy should be sent to the Editor, **MESSAGE**, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.
Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.org.uk

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to her if she thinks it necessary.

Published monthly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at:

www.adventist.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

		Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
July	4	9.20	9.32	9.32	10.00	10.01
	11	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.53	9.55
	18	9.08	9.20	9.19	9.44	9.47
	25	8.59	9.11	9.10	9.33	9.36
Aug	1	8.48	9.01	8.58	9.20	9.24



STANBOROUGH PRESS OPEN DAY 2025!

7 SEPTEMBER

9am start

with speaker Pavel Goia

Pastor and writer – now serving as Associate Ministerial Director for the General Conference Ministerial Association as well as the Editor for *Ministry* magazine.



Huge range of BRAND-NEW titles!



Plus special features, children's entertainment and lots of special offers!

VENUE:
GRANTHAM
NG31 9SL

