

April 2026



Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
in the United Kingdom and Ireland
Established 1902



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Upside down Missional impact in the twenty- first century

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau,
BUC Stewardship Director



I love young children, especially toddlers. There is something unique and refreshing about their spontaneity, lack of fear, immense curiosity and bold determination. I recently watched a one-year-old upend her parent's house as she, with a broad smile, created a 'house' for her and her sister. By the time we had completed our visit, the house was 'upside down'.

Adults often avoid the term 'upside down' because it suggests disorder, disarray and disorganisation. It denotes a change of direction that is uncomfortable and often uncharted.

So what happened when the tidy, organised system of governance in the first-century Mediterranean world was turned on its head to make way for the Gospel?

Thessalonica

In Acts 17:1, Paul and his companions arrive in Thessalonica, where there is a Jewish synagogue. For three consecutive Sabbaths, he held a Bible study in which he proclaimed that Jesus Christ was the Messiah who had suffered and died on the cross and had risen from the dead.

Some of the Jews believed,

as well as many Greeks and several prominent women.

Fearing that the Gospel would spread in Thessalonica, some of the Jews rounded up a mob who dragged out a man called Jason, who had provided lodging and board to Paul and Silas, saying, 'These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also' (verse 6, ESV).

A subversive force

To the Roman authorities and the established Jewish religious order, the world of legalistic faith was fine as it was. But the Gospel was seen as subversive because it challenged societal hierarchy, political loyalty and cultural norms.

- **Social hierarchy** – it recommended equity. The Pauline gospel suggested that slaves and masters, Greeks and Jews were equal in the eyes of Jesus Christ.
- **Political loyalty** – it put Christ at the centre. It placed 'King Jesus' above the Emperor, Caesar, which was considered by many to be an act of treason. By looking at the prophecies in the Old Testament, handed down through the generations, Paul gave credence to Jesus as the Messiah, who came to earth as a baby, suffered and died on the cross, rose from the dead and was interceding with His Father on behalf of humanity (verse 3).
- **Cultural norms** – it demanded a spiritual heart transplant. It shifted the focus from external rules and rituals to intentional internal transformation.

The impact

The Jewish leaders became so envious against Paul and his companions that they hired a group of disreputable individuals to form an angry mob. This mob 'attacked the house of Jason, seeking to bring them out to the crowd' (verse 5, ESV), but they found out that Paul and his companions were not in the house; so the mob dragged Jason out before the rulers of the city.

Testimony

When my husband and I moved into the town where we came to live, youth antisocial behaviour was a challenge. Several of the elderly folk we met refused to go to the shops because of the young people loitering outside, who often taunted them.

Our hearts hurt for the elderly, who at this time in their lives were terrified to leave their homes, but we also understood that there were few activities for the young people in the town. So, after much prayer, we decided to start a youth club.

Praise God, we received funding from the local community foundation, but we had opposition from community leaders and our local MP; and, even though our local council had given us funds, not all council members were comfortable that we as strangers had come into their town and were positively contributing. We were subjected to much abuse, ridicule and racism.

But the feedback from the young people and the stories of lives impacted were worth the enormous challenges that we faced.

The twenty-first century

How are Adventists identified in the UK? Do the stories we tell define a faith that turns the world on its head? Can we testify that our witness has impacted the lives of those in our communities?

It takes more than simply running a set of activities or initiating a project to make a lasting impact; we need more than events or one-off programmes. Activities that really make an impact turn the world upside down for good; and, in the context of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, this means ensuring that our life and witness have a positive long-term influence on the lives of those around us.

Do you want to turn the world upside down? Start by reading Acts 17.



Making a difference

by Dusanka Rancic, *Editor*



I was young, energetic and surrounded by lots of friends all the time. My days were filled with school, neighbourhood gatherings and a busy schedule of activities – gymnastics, karate, volleyball. Life was packed and fast.

Then . . . I began reading the Bible. What started as curiosity slowly began shaping my thinking, my priorities and ultimately my life. Gradually I slowed down. Instead of moving from one party to another, I spent more time deepening my friendship with Jesus. Within a year my lifestyle had changed so dramatically that many of my friendships faded away.

I enrolled in theology, determined to know God more deeply and to share Him with others. One evening, at a birthday celebration for an old high school friend, I encountered a dear friend I had not seen for years. Watching him heavily intoxicated and boasting about things that no longer meant anything to me, I felt a deep sadness. Almost without thinking, I said, 'It makes me sad to see what you have done with your life.'

The moment passed quickly, and I hardly thought about it again.

Months later, I visited my home town and heard some surprising news: that same friend had started attending our local Seventh-day Adventist church. Astonished and confused, I asked him how it had happened. He replied, 'That sentence you said to me stayed in my mind. I couldn't stop thinking about it – about my life and where it was heading.'

A year later, my friend was baptised.

That experience reminded me of something important: we don't always know the impact our words or actions may have. A single sentence, spoken in honesty and concern, can linger in someone's heart long after the moment has passed.

Scripture is full of stories about individuals who made a difference. The story of Joseph¹ highlights how God can transform betrayal and hardship into a force for massive, positive impact. Esther's courage reminds us that one person, positioned in the right place and willing to act, can change the course of history and make a lifesaving impact.

Jesus also emphasised the influence believers are meant to have. In the Sermon on the Mount, He called His followers 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world'.² Salt preserves and flavours, while light reveals and guides. In other words, the presence of God's people should make a visible difference in the world around them.

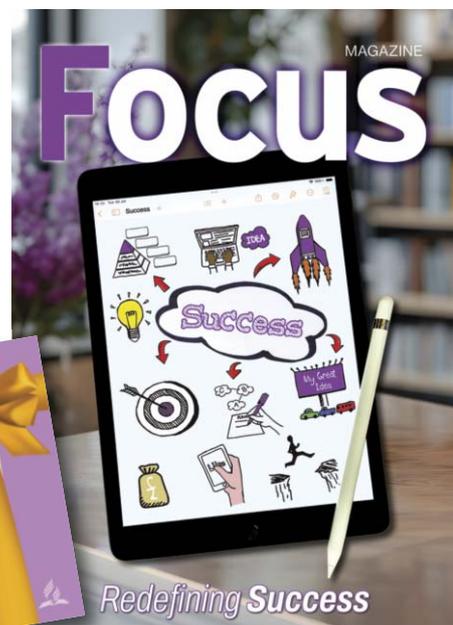
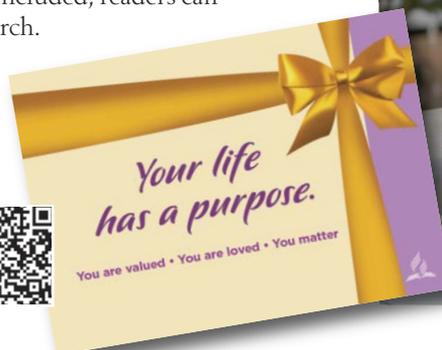
He also compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed,³ tiny and seemingly insignificant, yet capable of growing into something far greater than expected. Small acts of faith can have a far-reaching impact. And when Jesus observed the widow placing two small coins into the temple treasury,⁴ He reminded us that impact is not measured by size or visibility, but by the heart behind the action.

At some point Jesus made a difference in our lives. His grace, truth and love began transforming our hearts and redirecting our paths. The question we must ask ourselves is, 'What kind of impact are we making?' How do our words, choices and actions influence our families, communities and society?

This issue of *MESSENGER* explores that very theme. As a church family, we seek to serve and uplift our communities through many initiatives: ADRA's humanitarian work, Christian education, Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs, literature and music ministries, disciple-making, food banks, homeless ministries, street evangelism, health expos and engagement in public life. But positive impact is not limited to organised programmes. Often it begins in everyday moments – through a conversation, an act of kindness or a word spoken at the right time.

We invite you to share your stories of impact so that we can encourage one another. And, as you connect with people around you, consider using the latest issue of *FOCUS* magazine as a simple tool for making a difference. With the new personalised contact card included, readers can easily connect with you or your local church.

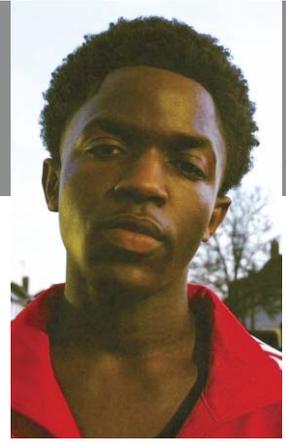
After all, we never know which small sentence or moment might become the beginning of someone's transformation, or which small acts of love will make the greatest difference.



¹Genesis 50:20
²Matthew 5:13-16
³Matthew 13:31, 32
⁴Mark 12:41-44

‘Jesus is my superhero’

– Daniel Chenjerai on faith, music and bold witness



When Daniel Chenjerai appeared on BBC television and confidently declared that Jesus is his superhero, many viewers were struck by the courage and sincerity of his words. The young Seventh-day Adventist artist is already gaining national attention, recently receiving two Music of Black Origin (MOBO) nominations for **Best Gospel Act** and **Best Newcomer**. As the son of the NEC’s Pastor Pardon Chenjerai, Daniel speaks openly about how his faith shapes both his life and his music. Despite a demanding schedule of performances, interviews and appearances, he gladly made time to speak with Dusanka Rancic, Editor-in-Chief at the Stanborough Press. In this interview, Daniel shares how his relationship with Christ inspires his journey and how he hopes to use his platform to positively impact his community and society.

DR: Daniel, congratulations on your two MOBO nominations and your recent BBC interview. Why music? How did it begin for you, and what does music represent in your life?

DC: As I grew up in a Christian household, music was always around me in the form of a range of outstanding gospel music. Being around that a lot made me realise there is another way of expressing yourself, a way that is fun and creative. That’s how it all began – through my family introducing me to music, I gained my own taste for it and began to write my own, learning techniques from artists who had done it before me. Music represents an expression in my life: times when life isn’t going so well, and times when it is. I can always paint pictures with the inspiration from God, allowing others to relate to my experience as words from the Lord speak to many around the world.

DR: How did it feel to share openly on national television that you are a Seventh-day Adventist Christian whose superhero is Jesus?

DC: It felt very powerful. It’s not as common for His name to be proclaimed on television nowadays; so to know that God had given me that chance to do that on that evening . . . it honestly was a moment for His glory.

DR: Many young Christians feel pressured to separate their faith from their public or professional

life. How have you learnt to integrate your beliefs with your music and public platform?

DC: I think it’s not about being ashamed, but about getting to the realisation that with all I have, that is all I should be doing – using any given chance to spread the faith to those who don’t know.

DR: As someone gaining recognition in mainstream media, have you ever felt hesitant or challenged about being open regarding your Christian identity? How have you navigated those moments?

DC: In all honesty, I’ve never felt hesitant at all. God is bigger than mainstream media. And if that isn’t appreciated in certain areas of that field, I’m fine with it. All I can do is carry on sharing the message. The truth has to be stated, no matter what.

DR: In what ways do you see your success and visibility as part of God’s mission, and how do you hope your work points others towards Christ?

DC: In terms of success, Christ is allowing me to reach many people around the world for the kingdom, just from my room. God has called us to share the good news, and that is my only mission. Although it may be through a different form than the usual, He is still moving.

DR: Your story is a powerful

example of young people shaping culture and society. What role do you believe Christian youth have today in influencing conversations around faith, purpose and values?

DC: I think a main role is social media; there is a lot of reach through posting a video or whatever it may be online. It can reach more people than you would think. And most young people are online; so I’d say witnessing online, definitely.

DR: What encouragement would you give to young people who want to speak publicly about their faith but are afraid of being misunderstood, judged or sidelined?

DC: The world killed a perfect man, who was Christ – so don’t live for validation. If you’re not accepted for our beliefs, then know that Christ wasn’t either, yet He did something we now look up to; so preach with God at your side.

DR: Finally, how can the church better support and empower young people to live out evangelism authentically in their everyday lives – whether through music, media or personal relationships?

DC: I think it’s by allowing new forms of proclaiming God’s word – ways that, of course, make sense, but allowing room for change, too; giving these ideas a chance.

DR: Thank you, Daniel, for your time and your ministry.

When one book changes many lives

by Mateusz Wieczorek with the Stanborough Press Editorial team



Sometimes the impact of Christian literature is difficult to measure. A single book, passed quietly from one person to another, can begin a journey of faith that touches families and communities in ways no one could have imagined.

Mati recently shared such a story after hearing a sermon by Trevor Johnson, Stanborough Press UK and Europe Sales Manager, at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Dunfermline about the power of book distribution when the right book reaches the right hands. The testimony he shared comes from the experience of his own father, a long-time Seventh-day Adventist.

'I once worked as a shoemaker,' Mati's father recalls, 'and my employer was a Jehovah's Witness. He decided to help the son of one of his sisters in the faith – a young man who had just been released from prison – by offering him work. Their hope was that through this opportunity and influence he might change his life and perhaps even be converted.'

Working side by side each day created opportunities for conversation. 'As we worked

together, we often spoke about God and discussed the differences between the teachings of Jehovah's Witnesses and those of Seventh-day Adventists.'

Around that same time, Pastor Ernest Bruce Price was holding public lectures in the city. He was also the author of a book about Jehovah's Witnesses. The ongoing discussions about faith prompted a simple but important decision.

'As our conversations about God continued,' Mati's father explains, 'I felt impressed to give this book to the young man.'

The young man took the book home, but the reaction was not encouraging. His mother refused to even look at it. As Jehovah's Witnesses, they were not permitted to read literature from outside their organisation.

Yet the story did not end there.

'At the same time,' the testimony continues, 'a woman was studying the Bible and the Jehovah's Witnesses' teachings with the family. While visiting their home, she noticed the book and asked about it. The mother warned her, saying, "Don't read it – it's just nonsense." But the woman insisted, took the

book, and began to read it herself.'

What followed was something remarkable, something that no one could have planned.

After reading the book, the woman contacted the pastor of the local Seventh-day Adventist church. Together they began studying the Bible. Her interest quickly grew, and she invited her family to join the studies.

'Soon, not only she, but her son, her daughter-in-law and her three daughters – all with their husbands – began studying the

Bible as well. Interestingly,' he continues, 'the young man to whom I had originally given the book never became a Jehovah's Witness. And God used that single book in a powerful way to reach many others. One book accomplished a great work – because the Holy Spirit was moving hearts . . . in the end, nine people were baptised.'

What began with a single book, given during an ordinary workplace conversation, eventually led an entire extended family to discover a new understanding of Scripture.

Stories like this remind us that Christian literature has a unique power. Books can travel where sermons cannot. They can sit quietly on a shelf until the right person picks them up. And when someone opens the pages with a sincere heart, God can use those words to begin transforming lives.

For Seventh-day Adventists, sharing literature has long been part of our mission to reach communities and society with the message of hope found in Christ. This testimony is a powerful reminder that even one book, placed in the right hands, can become the beginning of a life-changing journey of faith.



Influencing and impacting in our departmental work

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



'Every person is exerting an influence upon the lives of others.'
(Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 654)

Health Ministries

Departmental objectives:

1. to encourage and train the membership on fitness for life through healthy lifestyle choices in a holistic approach to wellbeing; 2. to help members experience abundant living through the promotion of optimal health practices, enabling them to share the message of health, hope and healing; 3. to reach the whole person and meet health needs.

New initiatives and seminars have been presented externally to Westminster MPs and other politicians, NHS trusts, health professionals, social workers, mayors, teachers and pupils in their respective settings. The department head served as Vice Chair of the Cancer Action Group; gave presentations at regular Faith and Health Network board meetings; offered health advice to the One Vision charity; and presented at national and international conferences.

The department has produced a range of resources for churches and communities, including health DVDs, manuals, booklets, leaflets, cards and health series for Christian satellite TV channels and web video streams. Cross-departmental working, joint training, and twinning shared goals encouraged leaders to attend training and helped churches and communities to implement health advice. Interest in Bible studies and the Adventist faith was increased by training sessions such as the *Forgiveness Journey Experience*, *Resilience for Life*, and the BUC Bereavement Care Ministry training for communities, groups and churches to aid grief recovery.

Women's Ministries

Departmental objectives:

1. To equip and nurture women to achieve their full potential in their personal lives, families, churches and

communities; 2. to encourage women to pursue self-development, deliver nurturing outreach to support others, and engage in evangelistic initiatives using the theme 'Empowered - Reaching Women, Restoring Lives, Sharing Christ'.

The department head undertook training on the General Conference programmes, initiatives and resources; developed existing leaders; and inspired young ladies to become Women's Ministries leaders.

Initiatives on nurture, empowerment and outreach yielded many testimonies of enriched lives and increased attendance of community visitors at churches, retreats and events.

Achievements: Women of Virtue chapters were expanded nationally and internationally; the Esther Institute of Excellence programme for girls and young ladies was further developed; and the THRIVE programme for women's holistic wellbeing and development was successfully launched and progressed. We were encouraged by engagement in ministry outreach, reaffirmation of faith, and baptisms among women attending our programmes. These evangelistic milestones reflect Ellen G. White's statement: 'The refining, softening influence of Christian women is needed in the great work of preaching the truth' (*Evangelism*, p. 472).

Adventist Community Services

Departmental objectives:

1. to be part of the community, building a presence, influence and impact through outreach; 2. to foster a welcoming and sensitive environment that makes our churches relevant, inclusive and accessible to all; 3. to produce relevant resources that meet the needs of the diverse communities that we serve.

The Adventist Community Services Department fulfilled these

objectives by compassionate outreach addressing community needs; mission engagement activities; relational support & training; social justice; meeting the need for spiritual nurture; and encouraging church engagement.

The influence of the department was extended by its initiatives with Parliament, government agencies, statutory and voluntary services, schools and educational institutions.

Developments: 1. specialist training such as Suicide Prevention, Grief Recovery, the Forgiveness Journey Experience, HEAL and elements of the RESTORE programme yielded complimentary reviews and powerful testimonials from participants; 2. collaborative working with the Stanborough Press, the Adventist Discovery Centre and Advent Press provided new departmental publications; 3. the promotion of national awareness days enabled leaders and members to engage with their communities around the activities highlighted for these special focus days; 4. partnering with diverse organisations has augmented the scope and efficacy of outreach and raised the profile of our church in the media; 5. recognition of the departmental work was evident in the awards given from external agencies.

Gratitude

The department applauds God's leading, His provision, and His restoration of individuals' lives through their use of the department's resources, training and engagement. Praise God!





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The value of a first

by Abigail Wright-Stephenson,
BUC Project Manager

'Firsts' are rarely perfect.

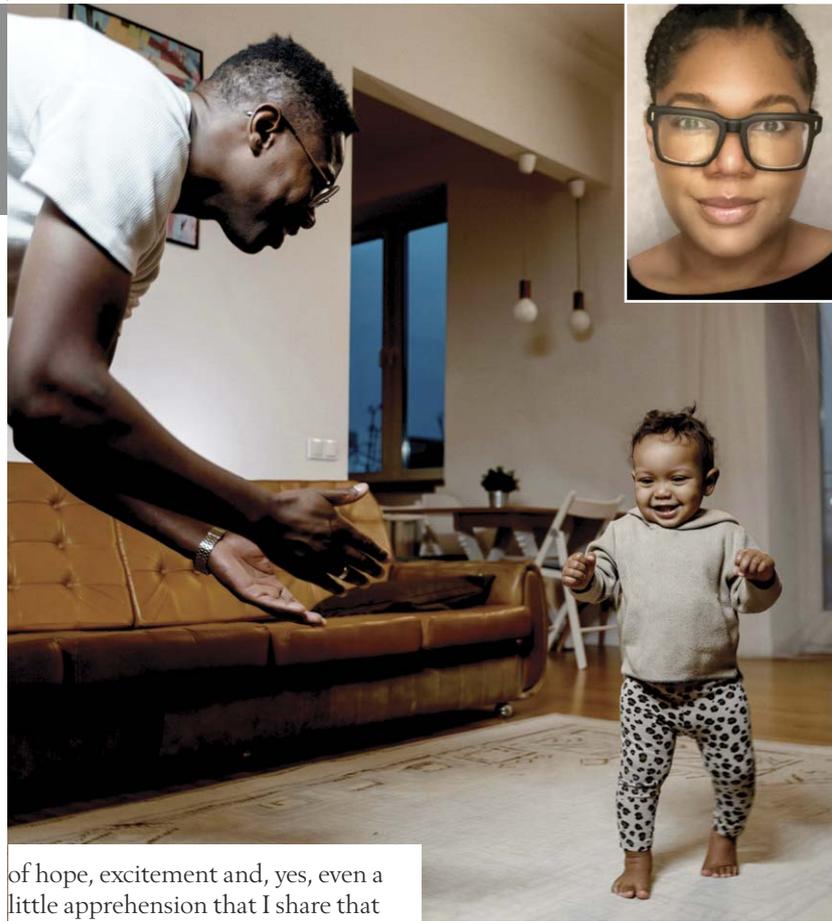
Something necessary is rooted in firsts: a baby's first steps, the first draft of an assignment, the first driving lesson, the first business idea. Aside from God, the first effort always leaves room for improvement. Yet firsts matter.

Our first attempts can reveal unmet expectations, offer a sense of hope, provide lessons that guide what comes next. Psychologists suggest that our brains give special significance to 'firsts'; they tend to be etched into our memory. We remember our first job, our first heartbreak, our first impression of a place or a person. New beginnings carry layers of emotion, such as apprehension, excitement, fear and curiosity, sometimes all at once.

History is full of firsts – whether concepts, theories or inventions. Thomas Edison, while widely recognised for developing the practical light bulb, was not the first person to attempt the creation of such a device. Many had tried before him. What distinguished his work was not simply the idea, but the determination to refine it to make something reliable, accessible and useful to others. The first attempt did not define the final outcome, but it helped illuminate the path forward.

In a similar way, the British Union Conference Executive Committee (ExCom) serving from 2021 to 2026 is not the first to think about impact. Across the decades and throughout the history of the British Union Conference, our conferences and missions, churches, directors and support staff, pastors and members have worked faithfully to advance the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

But this term the ExCom has taken a new step. For the first time in our territory, the committee has sought to begin articulating and sharing how its work has contributed to the life of the Union and the territory. It is therefore with a sense



of hope, excitement and, yes, even a little apprehension that I share that the Executive Committee will be publishing its first End-of-Term Impact Report ahead of the BUC Session 2026.

Why produce such a report? Why attempt something new? Why now?

'Why?' Because to have an impact means more than engaging in an activity: it is more than meetings held, documents produced or initiatives launched. To understand our impact, we need to ask deeper questions: what difference did this make? Whose lives were touched? How has the mission moved forwards?

The upcoming report offers a window into the journey of the past term. The report does not capture every story or every moment, but it seeks to highlight some of the key decisions, the priorities that underpinned them, and how these developments sit strategically within the mission of the BUC.

Scripture reminds us of the importance of clarity and shared vision. In Habakkuk 2:2, the prophet was invited to 'write the vision and make it plain', so that those who read it may 'run' with it (NKJV). Early in the term, in November 2022, the BUC ExCom outlined a vision for

the years ahead. The upcoming impact report revisits that vision, considering what has been pursued, what has been learnt, and where God is inviting us to grow and go.

Speaking frankly, firsts are messy. In hindsight, they help us to honestly see and assess the gap between our aspirations and our actions. They highlight both progress and possibility. But they also create something invaluable: transparency, reflection and conversation.

Perhaps this is the true value of this end-of-term impact report.

My hope is that this report invites us as a church body to pause, to reflect, and to look ahead together; to ask not only what has the BUC Executive Committee done, but what has God been doing among us?

The first steps of a baby are unsteady: babies wobble, they fall, they try again. Yet those first steps remind us that development and progress are actively underway. In many ways, this report is a first step, not the final word; the beginning of a clearer journey of reflection, accountability and transparency as we move towards the BUC Session 2026.



BIBLE

Bible Experience impacts young people across the Union

by Pastor Njabulo Ndlovu, BUC Youth Director



Three Union-level Bible Experience events held between 7 and 14 March made a strong spiritual impact on young people across the British Union Conference (BUC). Sixty-five Pathfinders gave their lives to the Lord and requested baptism during the events. Of these, twenty were from the event held at Newbold College of Higher Education, which included participants from the South England Conference, Scottish Mission and Welsh Mission; twenty were from the Irish Mission; and twenty-five were from the North England Conference event. In addition, about sixty Pathfinders requested Bible studies.

More than 100 Pathfinders also submitted prayer requests for school issues, exams and deeply personal family matters. The organising team has been praying for them since the events.

Since both the BUC Camporee and the TED Youth Congress were scheduled for this year, the Union Pathfinder advisory initially chose to hold the BUC Camporee online, but a subsequent budget review by the Youth Department and a donation from the London Area Advisory Council (LAAC) towards the Newbold event meant the physical BUC Camporee could go ahead.

Pastor Njabulo ('NJay') Ndlovu, BUC Youth Director, expressed his appreciation for the LAAC's donation and thanked the entities for collaborating with the Union to present great, prayerfully supported programmes. The events were organised with clear intentionality, aiming to motivate Pathfinders to make decisions for Jesus and to reflect on their areas of need and struggle in order to better love, plan, and support them. All objectives were met. A review of the Adventure Bible Experience (ABE), which is wholly owned by the BUC and attracting worldwide attention, is also taking place.

Pastor NJay expressed gratitude to the volunteers, the Union's Pathfinder advisory and Craige Young, Bekezela Peters and Pastors Ivana Mendez, Christian Salcianu and Jeff Melki for sharing God's word at these events.

Huge congratulations to the fifty-five ABE teams and seventy-six PBE teams that qualified from all our events. Four ABE teams and twelve PBE teams qualified through online collaboration with teams from Kenya, the USA and Uganda. TED-level testing will take place in Katowice, Poland (10-11 April) and NAD-level testing will proceed in Florida, USA (17-18 April).

Please join us in praying for truly life-changing encounters with the Bible, with God and with other young people who need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May all decisions receive local church and family support. Prayers are also requested for smooth visa applications and fundraising efforts to attend the next level.

Planning ahead for the 2026-2027 testing season, we are exploring sources of funding to reduce Bible Experience costs. For suggestions and donations, please contact Pastor NJay on nnndlovu@adventist.uk.

It's been an awesome experience indeed – a Bible Experience.

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<https://buc-youth.adventist.uk/events/2026-youth-congress>

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Being Christ's presence in your home

by Pastor Emmanuel Asamoah



Parenting with faith alongside a spouse who does not share your beliefs can feel uniquely isolating. The longing for a unified spiritual front, the quiet prayers at mealtimes you say alone, and the weight of being the sole faith influencer in your home can be overwhelming. Yet your situation is not a surprise to God, nor is it a barrier to His grace. The Bible's testimonies of faithful men and women whose households were spiritually divided reveal that your quiet, consistent faith can become the most powerful testimony of Christ's love within your own walls.

Faithfulness in a divided home

The New Testament directly addresses the very situation you are in. In 1 Corinthians 7:14, Paul offers a stunning assurance to believers with unbelieving spouses: 'For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband.'¹ This does not imply automatic salvation, but rather a special, set-apart status for the entire household because of the believer's presence.² Your faith creates a spiritual environment where God's grace is actively at work.

We see this in Abigail (1 Samuel 25), whose wisdom and faith saved her household from disaster, countering her foolish husband's actions. Similarly, your Christlike character can be a preserving and redeeming influence in your home, creating a sanctuary of peace and love that points directly to the Gospel.

Your life is your first sermon

Though your words about faith might be met with scepticism or disinterest, your Christ-reflecting actions will speak volumes. Your spouse and children are not just listening to what you say: they are watching how you live. The 'silent sermon' of your life – your patience in frustration, your joy in trial, your integrity at work and your

unconditional love for your family – is often the most compelling testimony you can offer. As Peter advised, unbelieving husbands might 'be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, when they see the purity and reverence of your lives' (1 Peter 3:1, 2).³ Your consistent character, more than any lecture, makes the Gospel believable.

Your anchor is in your identity, not your circumstances

Spiritual loneliness might tempt you to doubt your standing before God, but your identity is not primarily that of 'the struggling solo believer', but of a strategically placed beloved child of God. You are Christ's ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20) in your own home. This identity as God's representative, chosen for this specific mission field, provides an unshakeable foundation.⁴ Your worth and effectiveness are not measured by your spouse's conversion, but by your faithfulness in the role God has given you. Your primary calling is to be faithful; the results are in God's sovereign hands.

Pragmatic actions for the believing parent

1. Cultivate an authentic private faith:

Let your children see you praying and reading your Bible naturally. When they ask why, explain gently that you are talking to Jesus, who loves you and helps you. This models a personal relationship with God that is not dependent on external approval.

2. Bless; don't preach:

Look for tangible ways to serve your spouse without strings attached. Make your spouse's favourite meal, offer to take on

a chore, or simply listen – not as a strategy, but as a genuine overflow of Christ's love. This demonstrates a faith that serves, not one that demands.

3. Partner with your spouse where you can:

Find common ground on universal values you both share, such as honesty, kindness and responsibility. Affirm these values in your children, and thank your spouse for exemplifying them. This builds a bridge of unity upon which grace can travel.

A prayer for the believing parent:

Heavenly Father, You see my deep desire for my family to know You. In moments of loneliness, remind me that You are with me. Fill me with Your Spirit to radiate the love, patience and joy of Christ. Make me a peaceful presence and a blessing in my home. I trust my family to Your faithful hands, and I ask for the grace to be faithful in my calling. Amen.

¹Scripture references throughout this article have been drawn from the New International Version.

²G. D. Fee, *The First Epistle to the Corinthians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2014), commentary on 1 Corinthians 7:14 regarding the 'sanctifying' influence

³T. R. Schreiner, *1, 2 Peter, Jude*, Holman Reference series (Nashville, TN: Holman, 2003), exposition on 1 Peter 3:1, 2 and the evangelistic impact of godly conduct

⁴C. S. Keener, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* (Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), notes on 2 Corinthians 5:20 regarding the role of an ambassador in the ancient world



... the quiet prayers at mealtimes you say alone ...



Running for something greater: the impact of a life lived by faith

by Calvin Edinborough

From an early age, Joseph Caines showed exceptional sporting promise. During his final year at Lea Road Boys' School, his talent was noticed by a coach from Birchfield Harriers, the UK's premier athletics club. By 14 he was already breaking records in the 400 metres, and by 17 he had become the fastest runner in his club. He was recognised as one of the four fastest up-and-coming young athletes in the UK, and, although still a junior, was selected to represent Great Britain at senior level. Competing internationally with Birchfield Harriers, Joseph helped his relay team set a new world record. He also set the Birchfield Harriers junior men's 400-metre record, which remained unbroken for over 40 years. By the 1970s, Joseph was at the peak of his athletic career. He was selected to represent Great Britain at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and began specialised training at Lilleshall Sports Academy.

However, at this pivotal moment – through study, reflection and a growing sense of moral conviction – he became a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and started observing Saturday as the Sabbath . . . which directly conflicted with the demands of elite athletics, where training and competition were scheduled at weekends. Joseph faced a defining choice: continue his Olympic journey or remain faithful to his conscience and beliefs. To the surprise of his coach and fellow athletes, he chose to honour his faith.

Many struggled to understand how a young man with such talent and opportunity could step away from the sport at its highest level. His decision led to isolation within the athletics world, and eventually he withdrew from competitive racing. Yet the path he chose would shape the lives of many others in ways few could have imagined.

In the years that followed,

Joseph's life centred on faith, family and service. He married, became a father, and devoted himself to supporting and encouraging others through church and community involvement. His example quietly demonstrated that living by conviction can have a powerful influence on those around us.

Eventually, Joseph's son, Daniel, developed a desire to run competitively. Encouraged by his wife, Joseph agreed to coach him, though he was initially hesitant because of his earlier experiences. Father and son began working together – Joseph as coach, Daniel as athlete – pursuing excellence with discipline, patience and shared purpose.

Daniel's success was remarkable. Like his father before him, he became one of the UK's outstanding 400-metre runners. In 2001 he won gold at the World Indoor Championships with a time of 45.61 seconds, the second-fastest in the world that year. He went on to compete in two Olympic Games, win Commonwealth gold in the 400-metre relay, claim European Championship gold, and achieve many other successes.

Seeing that races were now held midweek and on Sundays, Joseph returned to competitive athletics himself. After nearly twenty years away from the sport, and approaching the age of 40, he entered the Masters Olympic Championships in Japan, bringing home gold in the 400-metre relay and 100-metre relay, silver in the 100-metre race, and bronze in the 200-metre race. Media coverage highlighted both his return to competition and his Sabbath observance.

Joseph's influence extended far beyond his own family. Declining races held on Saturdays – including his strongest event – he devoted himself to coaching others. Over the years he has trained athletes who went on to win Commonwealth and European gold medals, reach



Joseph Caines (left) with a fellow athlete at the Elderly Awards 2025, holding his award

Olympic standards, and succeed at national school championships.

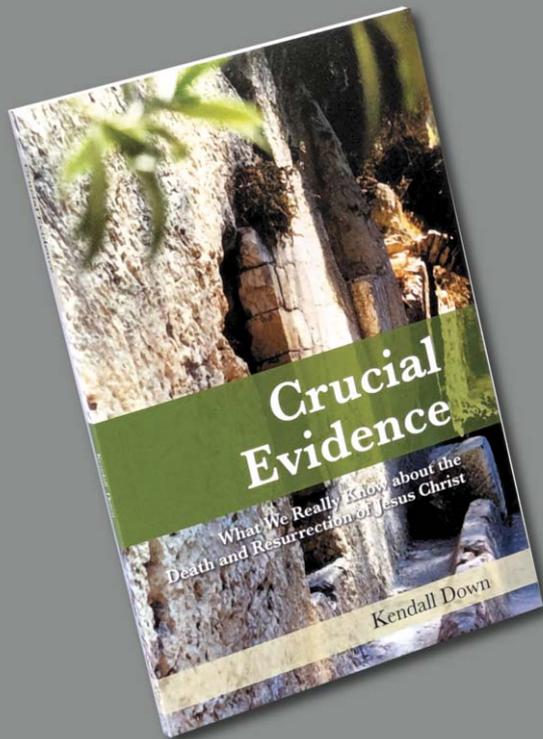
For more than forty years, Joseph has coached athletes of all ages. He has worked in schools, motivated young people, organised sporting events across the UK, and helped bring communities together through initiatives such as the Birmingham Half Marathon. His coaching focuses not only on physical performance, but also on mindset, discipline and character. Many of the athletes he has mentored speak of the life lessons they learnt from him as much as their sporting achievements.

Today, at 73, Joseph continues to coach at Royal Sutton Coldfield Wyndley Club. He is widely respected not only as a former athlete, but as a mentor who lives openly by his faith and encourages others to do the same. In November 2025 he was honoured at the Elders Gala Ball with a prestigious community award recognising his selfless service and lasting impact.

Joseph Caines' story reminds us that the influence of a faithful life can reach far beyond personal achievement. By living according to his beliefs as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, he has impacted his family, inspired generations of athletes, and strengthened his community. His legacy shows that the greatest victories are often seen in the lives we help shape.



The Book of the Month



Crucial Evidence

What We Really Know about the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

It's the foundation of our faith. It's the reason for all of our hopes and beliefs as Christians. But what do we actually know about the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour? At Easter time, perhaps more so than during any other period of the year, this question becomes increasingly pressing – both for the strengthening of our own faith and for sharing the good news of the Gospel with our family, friends and neighbours.

Prepare to have your long-held assumptions challenged and your faith affirmed and strengthened as Kendall Down uses scholarly research and archaeological investigation to shed light on the reliable eyewitness testimony of Scripture.



To order this excellent book for yourself or to give it as a gift to someone you care about, telephone 01476 591700 (8.30am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday) or visit www.lifeforcebookshop.co.uk.

Victory in our crucified Saviour

by Racquel Robinson

Can you recall a time when you felt humiliated? Do you remember when your face became scorching hot and flushed, your heart started racing, and you just wanted to disappear and blend in with the walls? You would have done anything to get out of that uncomfortable situation. What about a time when you felt deeply offended or violated? Maybe you felt defenceless, crippled by fear, or wondered if someone would come to your rescue. It certainly has happened to nearly all of us at least once in our lives; for some, it might have been recurrent.

Jesus understands exactly how you felt. He was stripped naked and beaten; His body was violated. Spat at and slapped, He was humiliated. The embarrassment He endured as He was berated, mocked and ridiculed was compounded by the challenge to His identity and mission. It was a huge weight to bear . . . yet He overcame and emerged triumphant.

Hebrews 4:15, 16 describes Jesus as Someone who has overwhelming compassion for you because He can sympathise with you. When your heart was aching, His heart ached with yours. All the times you questioned your worth and identity or felt taken advantage of, He experienced the same feelings too! He says, 'I've been through what broke your heart, so come, because I can help you; I can give you victory and healing.'

Corrie ten Boom, who was an instrumental figure in rescuing many Jewish people before being arrested and sent to a concentration camp during World War 2, shared how she was publicly humiliated regularly as she underwent medical inspections naked in front of the guards. This reminded her that Jesus experienced the same humiliation. In the end she said this: 'There is no pit so deep that God's love is not deeper still,' describing how God's deep love can reach all your hurts and wounds.

Do you see how practical the Gospel truly is? Don't you see this as good news? Whatever wounds, pain or hurt you carry, the crucifixion account reminds us that our crucified Saviour is able to relate to us when we feel rejected, let down or violated. Our risen Saviour gives us the victory and shows us that with Him we can overcome anything that was meant to cause us harm. Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty. Why not choose to partner with Him today?



... yet He overcame and emerged triumphant.



Dear Little Stars!

Easter is the time of year when we remember how and why Jesus died on the cross. The good news is that He rose from the grave and that He is alive! Because Jesus died for our sins, God has promised us new life, too. We hope you will enjoy the activities and puzzles on this page. In all your fun and 'making', remember that our happiness, hope and joy come from a loving and forgiving God.

Draw a picture sequence

Find a children's Bible or a modern paraphrase and read about the Sunday morning surprise story in Mark chapter 16:1-9. Now draw four different pictures in the spaces in sequence to retell the story. Why not read the story for your family worship tomorrow?



Just at sunrise the women carried the spice to the tomb.



When they arrived they saw that the stone was already moved away and the entrance was open!



On the right, inside the tomb sat an angel. He told the women Jesus had come back to life.



Early on Sunday morning Jesus came back to life. Mary Magdalene was the first person to see Him.

Tell the Easter story in the kitchen!

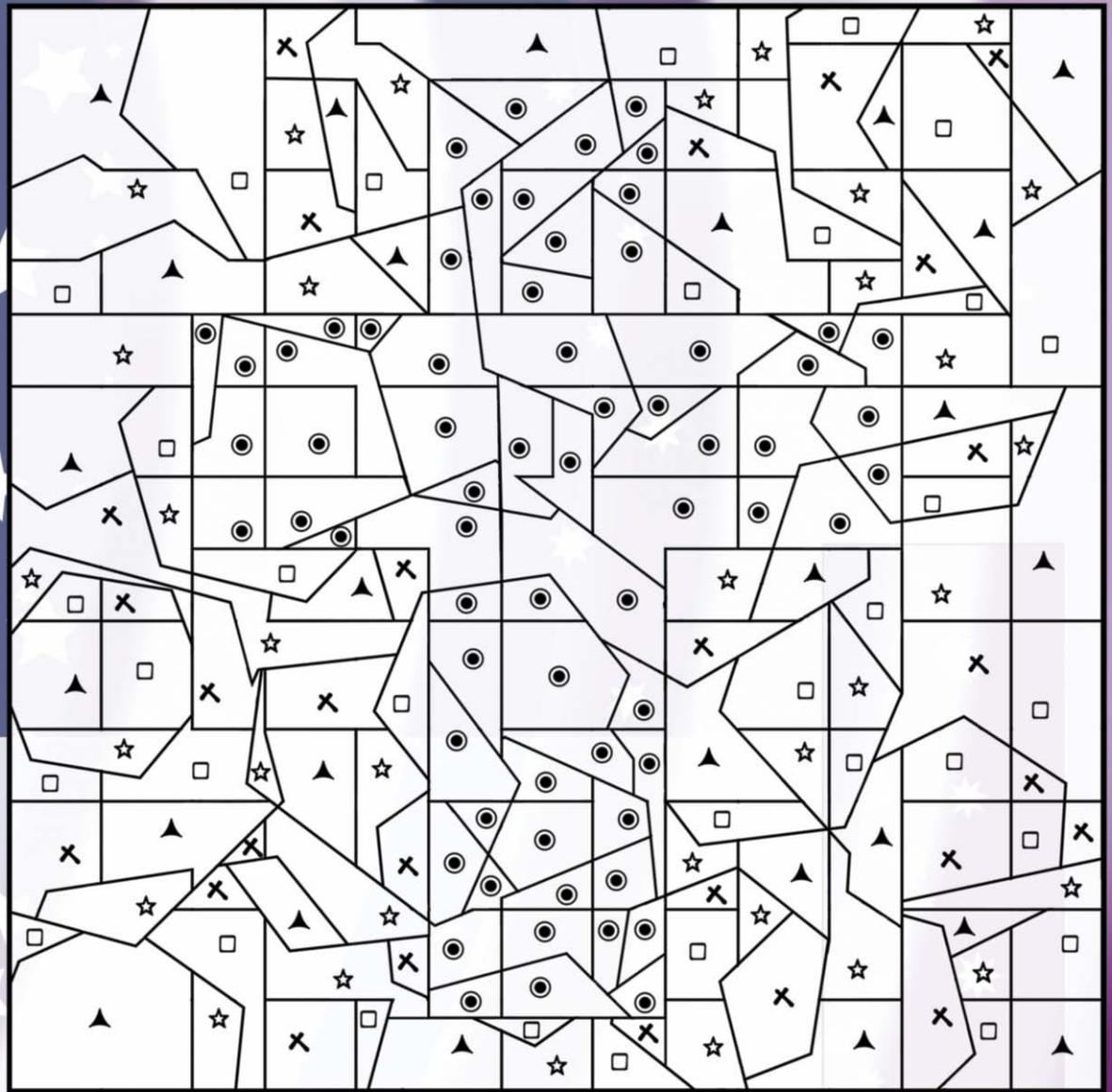
Did you know that simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered in marzipan and eaten at Easter in Great Britain and some other countries? A layer of marzipan is placed on the top of the cake, and eleven marzipan balls are placed around the edges. The eleven balls represent the true disciples of Jesus; Judas is left out because he betrayed Jesus. In some variations Jesus is represented by a ball placed in the centre. If you do not want to bake the cake, you could decorate a shop-bought one. Serve the cake at a special family meal. You could use this time to thank Jesus for promising to give you new life.

Prayer idea

Here is something you can do next time you have an apple. Guess how many seeds it may contain, cut it open and count all the seeds and see if you are right. If you planted one of these seeds in your garden would it grow an orange tree? Of course not: apple trees come from apple seeds. To test this, plant some seeds and see what happens.

At Easter when Jesus rose from the dead and left the garden tomb He created a miracle much bigger than an apple tree producing oranges. He made it possible for boys and girls, men and women to grow from being spiteful and selfish into people who are caring and generous. Becoming such a person is the Easter miracle. All you have to do is ask Jesus to create you into the new person. Today and every day you will experience Him growing good thoughts and actions in your new life.

Find the mystery picture
Use the colours to fill in the picture. What does the important Christian symbol mean to you?



B	U	Y	S
B	O	Y	S
T	O	Y	S
T	O	M	S
T	O	M	B

Finding the path to Easter

There are many words that help us remember Jesus' resurrection. In each grid you will find a set of words. The word that appears at the bottom of each grid is related to Easter. You can find the 'path' to the Easter word by changing one letter in each word, working your way to the bottom. The first one has been done for you. See above.

B	I	T	E	L	O	V	E	B	A	R	K
S	I	N	S	R	I	S	E	L	O	R	D



Jesus loves you!

The first letter of John says a lot about God's love for us through Jesus Christ. Read 1 John chapter 3 and count how many times the word 'love' is mentioned!

Discipleship training in the Welsh Mission

Pauline Allcock – Welsh Mission Office



people for the long haul. We need to be pouring our time, energy and resources into investing in others, so that they are growing in their relationship with Jesus,' said Dr Kayle. 'The goal of discipleship is maturity in Christ. Disciple-making must be in the DNA of the church. We cannot begin in the community if it does not exist in the church.'

Speaking about the principles of disciple-making, Dr Kayle went on to explain that God's word is the

'Worthwhile and motivational'; 'Good presentations. Great to have the opportunity to network with other elders and pastors'; 'Well worth it' – these were the kinds of comments being expressed by the elders and Personal Ministries leaders from sixteen churches across the Welsh Mission who came together with the pastors and officers for disciple-making training at the end of January 2026. The presentations, given by Dr Kayle De Waal from the Trans-European Division, were interactive and well received.

The official mission statement of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is: 'Make disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim to all people the everlasting

Gospel of the three angels' messages in preparation for His soon return.'

'Growing as a disciple and making disciples to prepare them for the second coming of Jesus *is not optional*; it is the essence of our last-day commission as Seventh-day Adventists. Genuine discipleship only happens as a result of the amazing grace of Jesus Christ' (*Church Manual*, 2025 edition, p. 46, italics supplied).

Throughout the weekend we were reminded to stay on fire for Jesus by going deeper into the eternal Gospel, allowing ourselves to fall more and more in love with Jesus.

'There is a great need to move away from a programmatic church to a relational church. Disciple-making is not an event; it is investment in

resource, and the framework, methodology, skill and attitude are based on Jesus. We need to grow in the word of God – not for information, but for application, which leads to transformation.

Prayer is foundational. Using the acronym FAT, we were encouraged to pray for FAT people (faithful, available and teachable). As we reflected on the growth of the early Christian church as recorded in the book of Acts, we were reminded of the crucial role of the Holy Spirit.

Time was given for the elders and Personal Ministries leaders to meet with their pastors and begin to envision what disciple-making might look like in their local context, and the weekend concluded with a disciple-makers' covenant.

Member-led community garden promotes health and reduces isolation in Paisley

by the Scottish Mission Communication Department

Responding to loneliness and limited access to green space, a volunteer-led garden is providing fresh food, skills and connection.

In the heart of Paisley, the West End Growing Grounds Association is a lifeline for local residents. With fifty-six raised beds and two polytunnels, the garden provides a space where people of diverse ages and backgrounds can grow fresh food, learn new skills, and connect with others.



At the heart of the initiative is John Wilby, former chief executive of the Scottish and London Ambulance Services (now retired), a member of Paisley Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 2009, as chair of the local community council, Wilby helped secure a grant from Keep Scotland Beautiful, responding to their appeal to enhance the local environment by encouraging communities to grow their own food. 'Their grant enabled us to establish a raised-bed allotment on leased council land,' Wilby explains. When the original site was later needed for housing, the garden moved to a new location and became a registered charity – just five minutes from the church.

Wilby was drawn to community gardening by the needs of the local population. 'The Community Council serves 10,500 people in a largely deprived area,' he says. 'Many residents live alone in tenements or flats with no garden. It was clear the garden could make a real difference – providing healthy fruit and vegetables while also reducing loneliness.'

As secretary and volunteer manager of the Sanctuary Garden, Wilby coordinates day-to-day operations and supports a diverse group of members – from adult learning programmes and ethnic community groups to college students. The garden now has a waiting list, reflecting a growing

demand for 'healthy and fruitful activity'.

Wilby's commitment to community service stretches back decades. Born in early 1939 on England's south coast, he recalls a childhood shaped by wartime hardship – and by solidarity. 'I have clear childhood memories of watching aerial dogfights outside my bedroom window, and food rationing,' he reflected in an earlier interview with Hope Channel. 'But . . . there was a community spirit in the face of adversity.'

That early experience of resilience and togetherness, combined with his upbringing in an Adventist family, shaped a lifetime of service. Wilby went on to spend thirty-two years in the ambulance service. He also chaired the European Standards Committee for Emergency Medical Services and spent five years in South Africa, helping to develop emergency medical services there.

Now in retirement, Wilby's focus is local. The garden's success, however, does not come without challenges. Funding remains an ongoing concern. While the annual bed fee has been held at £30 for eight years, capital projects depend heavily on grants and creative income sources.

Recruiting volunteers is the greatest challenge. 'Our continued

existence depends on a very few willing retired members,' Wilby says, noting that most of the garden's members are in full-time work.

Despite these challenges, the garden's impact continues to grow. Situated on Paisley's ring road, it attracts regular attention and membership enquiries. The garden has become an important space for rebuilding connections,

supporting wellbeing, and meeting individual aspirations. Members receive guidance if they are new to gardening, and many discover not only the satisfaction of growing their own produce, but also the health benefits of a plant-based diet.

For Wilby, the most rewarding part of the work is simple. 'Apart from the personal healthy physical activity, it is witnessing the gratifying process of "plot to pot" in growing and eating your own healthy food,' he says.

His motivation reflects a deeply held faith. Quoting a reflection he once encountered in *Adventist Today*, Wilby points to the second half of 1 John 4:12 as a guiding principle – that **godliness is about love lived out 'in real time and in the actual world'**. For him, community gardening is a practical expression of that shift from the vertical to the horizontal – from belief to action. 'And that is how I am choosing to expend my remaining energies,' he concludes.

Those interested in supporting the West End Growing Grounds Association can visit wegga.org.uk or email weggapaisley@gmail.com. Wilby also encourages anyone, wherever they live, to explore local allotments – a simple way to be active, grow healthy food, and connect with people of a similar mind.



Baptism at Central London Church

On the Sabbath morning of 28 February the church was buzzing in anticipation as the first baptism for the year was about to take place. When a baptism is announced in Central London Church (CLC), all programmes, topics and plans give way to a celebration of new lives being committed to Christ. It was an emotional, tear-filled but happy occasion.



The three special ladies were prepared for baptism by a mix of people, including Nara (the former head deaconess), Patricia (Pastor Colin’s wife) and the Sabbath early-morning baptismal class team.

The first person to enter the pool was Sophia, who has been attending CLC for a few years; her family and close friends were right there, witnessing her special decision. Sophia is very involved with the Pathfinder ministry and also works with the media team at CLC.

The second lady to enter the pool was Jiyoun from Korea, who is married to Lorand from Hungary. They have been attending Central London Church for about 4-6 months and both of them have been very dedicated to the baptismal class.

The last lady, Michaela, a fashion student from Jamaica, shared in the pool how at her birth she had been dedicated to the devil, but she then shared how excited she was to now be dedicated to Christ, her new best friend.

After the service, a special baptismal cake and a tasty lunch were part of the continued celebration for the three new lives now joined to Christ. What a wonderful day of rejoicing! We look forward to the next baptism.

DIRECTOR, PAT CHANNER

First baptism at Guernsey group marks milestone for Channel Islands

Situated in the English Channel are several Crown Dependencies, which include the Bailiwick of Jersey – the largest of the islands – and the Bailiwick of Guernsey, Alderney, Sark, Herm and other smaller islands. These are collectively known as the Channel Islands.

On 7 February 2026, members of the Channel Islands SDA Company – Guernsey Group gathered with family and friends to witness the baptism of two precious souls: Esther Gyamfi and Rona Mariz Gorieza. Local elders, who had been instrumental in preparing for this important event, officiated at the service and led the candidates to baptism.



The sermon, entitled ‘Look, There Is Water’ and based on Acts 8:26-40, was preached by Pastor Nathan Stickland, Executive Secretary of the South England Conference (SEC) of Seventh-day Adventists. Pastor Stickland baptised the two new members before welcoming them into church fellowship. Praizapella, a singing group from Guernsey Church, led out in praise through uplifting music, and Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt, Church Growth & Adventist Mission Director at the SEC, gave words of encouragement to the new members and to the Channel Islands Adventists on their part in God’s mission to the Channel Islands and beyond. As part of the South England Conference, the Channel Islands Company falls under Area 9.

To God be the glory. This was a long-awaited and joyful event for all members of the Channel Islands SDA community.

Elder Mandla Mlambo, leader of the Channel Islands Company, thanked the South England Conference leadership for their continuing support for the growing church, and for finding time in their busy schedules to

visit the Channel Islands for such an important event. He further thanked both pastors for bringing words of encouragement and for officiating at the first baptism in the Channel Islands. Elder Mlambo praised God and acknowledged His power in the great work He is doing for the church in the Channel Islands.

The church began humbly in 2007, when four believers arrived in Jersey. Finding no Adventist church locally, they started a house church, which has grown – now believers gather in temporary places of worship on both islands. Despite challenges, God has continued to work by His Spirit among His people. The church has continued to grow, and another baptism is anticipated at the beginning of autumn 2026 on the Isle of Jersey.

‘It is a joy to see growth through baptisms, and I can see a time coming soon when these groups on Jersey and Guernsey in the Channel Islands will become churches in their own right,’ Stickland said. ‘These two islands have a combined population of about 170,000, so there is much to do and many people to reach, with 30 miles of ocean between them.’

VICTOR MANANGAZIRA



Literature ministry in the UK revived and reinvigorated

The British Union Conference (BUC) Evangelism Department, in collaboration with the Stanborough Press, hosted a Literature Evangelist (LE) training weekend at Hay's Wood Retreat from 20 to 22 February, bringing together eighty-five delegates with the objective of revitalising literature ministry across the United Kingdom.

The event opened with a welcome from Pastor Augustus Lawrence, BUC Publishing Director, who introduced the devotional speaker, BUC President Pastor Eglan Brooks. In a devotional entitled 'Mind Transplant', Pastor Brooks emphasised the need for individuals whose minds are transformed by the Holy Spirit.

He noted that while it may be impossible to transplant a human mind into another person, literature evangelists must allow the mind of Christ to be 'transplanted' into their lives if their ministry is to be effective. He outlined four stages in this process: humble self-perception, spiritual surrender, intentional self-emptying and obedient dependence on God.

Inspired by this message, participants spent the following two days attending workshops, listening to presentations and testimonies, exploring innovative approaches to literature ministry, and gaining product knowledge and practical insights.

One delegate commented, 'The training was both informational and instructional. The facility provided comfort, peace and an atmosphere conducive to learning.'

Among the presenters were Elisabeth Sangüesa, Manager of the Stanborough Press, and Trevor Johnson, Stanborough Press UK and European Sales Manager. Sangüesa reminded attendees that literature evangelists serve as ambassadors who can influence decisions for Christ, noting that many new believers have encountered Christian literature during their spiritual journey.

In a presentation titled 'How to Connect with People',

Pastor Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo, South England Conference Personal Ministries Director, reflected on his own experience as a literature evangelist. He emphasised that connection precedes conversion, and reminded participants that Christ's method of ministry remains the model for reaching hearts.

The weekend also provided opportunities for networking and sharing experiences. Participants from London, Reading, Cambridge, Ireland and Wales shared how literature ministry is impacting lives in their communities.

Retired minister and literature evangelism advocate Peter Sayers shared practical insights and best practices to strengthen the work. One literature evangelist remarked, 'This session was a catalyst and showed how others can become involved.'

Those interested in becoming registered literature evangelists are invited to contact the Stanborough Press (sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk) for an application form. Completed forms should include a passport-sized photograph and a recommendation from a local pastor. Registered literature evangelists receive ongoing training and discounts of up to 50 percent on selected Stanborough Press books.

The weekend concluded with a renewed call to participate in God's mission of sharing hope through literature ministry. A banner displayed on stage reflected the message of Matthew 9:37, 38 (ESV): 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

For many attendees, the training served as both a reminder and a call – to reconnect with God and to reach those who are waiting, sometimes unknowingly, for someone to share a message of hope.

LOIS CAMPBELL-ROSS, BUC EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT



Adventurer and Pathfinder Day

Adventurer and Pathfinder Day on Sabbath 31 January was a truly spectacular and uplifting occasion, celebrating the faith, discipline and dedication of young people at Camp Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Birmingham.

The service opened with a stirring entry from the drummers, immediately setting a tone of energy and anticipation. This was followed by a mass procession of Eager Beavers, Adventurers, Pathfinders and their leaders with the colour party. The sanctuary was filled with colour, precision and purpose as the young people marched confidently to the front. Their discipline and unity were a visible reminder of the commitment and training in our clubs throughout the year.

The theme for the day, drawn from Romans 1:16 – 'I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ' – resonated deeply throughout the service. The Adventurer and Pathfinder theme songs were sung with enthusiasm and spiritual conviction. The children's voices rang out, embodying the message that faith is something to live openly and joyfully.

A particularly meaningful moment came with the recognition of seven individuals who had been baptised during the previous year. Each received a baptismal pin, symbolising their personal commitment to Christ. This presentation underscored the spiritual heart of the Adventurer and Pathfinder ministries – nurturing young disciples who are grounded in faith and growing in their walk with God.

The visiting speaker, Pastor 'NJay' Ndlovu, Youth Director for the British Union Conference, travelled from Aberdeen to share a powerful message titled 'Throne Room: 24E'. Drawing from a real-life travel experience, he illustrated how deeply every individual matters to God. Anchored in Revelation 4:11 and Revelation 5:12, the sermon directed the congregation's attention to heaven's throne room, reminding all present that our worth comes from the Creator and from the Lamb who was slain.

For many of the young participants, the day was both exciting and personally significant. Savannah Rey reflected on her experience, saying: 'Pathfinder and Adventurer Day was an excellent day because we had lovely praise and worship, magnificent drummers and excellent marching. It was a wonderful day for us to



celebrate our hard work in our clubs and going on camps, like Pathfinder Camp. . . . We all had fun celebrating our success with our friends and family. We also had the chance to sign up to join more groups in our clubs based on our ages. But for my preference it was nerve-racking and wonderful at the same time, but we prayed together and it made me feel better and we all spread joy to each other!' Her words capture both the excitement and the spiritual growth that characterised the day.

Aset Morrison also shared her perspective: 'Pathfinder Day was amazing! We were all smartly dressed in our uniforms, looking like God's army. When the drumming began, it all came together. We marched down to the front of the church, each step with carefully thought-out precision. I was especially proud to be one of the flag bearers in the procession, carrying the emblem of the SDA Church. Throughout the service we also took part in singing the special item. Overall, it was a great Sabbath at Camp Hill.'

Adventurer and Pathfinder Day 2026 stood as a joyful reminder that when we invest in our children and youth, we are investing in God's mission today and in the strength of His church for tomorrow.

SAVANNAH REY AND ASET MORRISON



Area 1 Teens' Day of Fellowship

The Sabbath of 21 February brought together the teenagers and young people from Area 1 (Devon & Cornwall) in a Day of Fellowship event in Exeter. More than 100 teenagers and young people studied the Bible using group activities designed for their age and joined in praising God through various special items.

In the morning service, Pastor Joojo Bonnie, South England Conference Teens' Department Director, encouraged the young people through the experience of Gideon to see themselves and their potential through God's eyes, and to trust that God will be with them through the challenges of life.

After lunch, Kay Green spoke about the challenges and risks of technology, especially social media apps, and how we should use them with balance and responsibility. The day ended with a shared cake prepared by one of the teenagers.

We want to thank God for a good day for the teenagers.

PASTOR FLORIN ORASANU





Three new Adventurers and eight new Pathfinders were officially inducted as they recited their pledges and laws, took part in the candle-lighting ceremony, and received their scarves and woggles. It was a special moment shared with parents and church members, as parents also publicly pledged their support for their children's spiritual growth and commitment to the club.

Current members were recognised for their dedication throughout the year, receiving honours and certificates of participation for completing their classwork. A highlight of the programme was hearing short testimonies from existing Pathfinders,

warmly welcoming and encouraging the new inductees.

We praise God for His continued blessings upon our growing club, and pray that He will guide and strengthen our children as they grow in faith, service and leadership. May this occasion inspire our church family to continue investing time and talents in nurturing the future of our church.

PAT CHANNER, DIRECTOR

Central London Church induction ceremony

On Sabbath afternoon, 28 February, Central London Church (CLC) warmly welcomed new members into the Adventurers and Pathfinders Lighthouse CLC Club during a joyful and meaningful induction ceremony.

Grantham Church's Day of Appreciation and Pathfinder concert

There was a joyful homecoming at Grantham Seventh-day Adventist Church on the morning of Sabbath 13 December 2025 as the church celebrated its Day of Appreciation, organised by the local interest coordinator, Linda Muganga. With a beautiful backdrop of music provided by the budding violinists in Grantham's orchestra, the departments, members and visitors were all publicly recognised for their faithful service and simply for their presence with a token of appreciation from the church as a whole, and the retired (but still very active) minister Pastor Curtis Murphy gladly preached a sermonette suitable for the occasion before the church enjoyed a potluck.

But the joy didn't stop there, as the Grantham and Newark Pathfinders and Adventurers, with an extensive range of ages and talents, and joined by vocal groups from the Lincoln and Loughborough churches, endearingly, engagingly and melodiously held an afternoon concert.

This programme was in aid of ADRA, whose CEO opened with a short video, followed by a warm welcome from Mishael and Navid. The children demonstrated their numerous abilities, including singing and playing different musical instruments, providing orchestral items from both Grantham and Newark Pathfinders.

At the end of the programme, two ADRA Ambassadors gave their sincere thanks, and the closing prayer was given by Sibhekinkosi Masuku. The special collection near the end of the programme reflected the generosity of those who attended, and a fundraising sale was subsequently held in the church hall.

All the folk who attended were grateful to the Grantham and Newark Pathfinders and Adventurers for their enthusiastic participation.

VANESSA GENT AND ANDREW PUCKERING





Youth fundraising concert for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

On Saturday 21 February 2026, youth from across the UK (Plymouth to Barnsley) came together in Weston-super-Mare to put on a concert to raise money for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance service. There was a range of items, from a violin rendition of 'Be Thou My Vision' arranged by the violinist to an acapella medley of favourite gospel songs. It was a fun-filled, joyful evening of praising and worshipping God, and it really showcased the wonderful talent our young people have.



We also got to hear from a volunteer for the air ambulance, who told us about the important work they do, and how the need for the service has greatly increased in the last six years – it was a great cause to raise funds for. So far we have raised a total of £619.83, though we are waiting to hear about donations that were made online.

Thank you to all those who donated and came to support the evening – it was so lovely to hear how the audience enjoyed it, including the Air Ambulance volunteers and members of Clarence Park Baptist Church, who very kindly let us use their building.

I pray that God will bless all who were involved, and that our youth will continue to use their musical gifts to spread the word of God!

MOLLY JOHNSON



(Above) Dr Osterman with Ray Patrick (Senior) and Paul Lee of Adventist Radio London, and (left) she conducts a music workshop at Handsworth on Sabbath



'Sing When the Spirit Says Sing!' music workshops

Two Sabbath afternoon music workshops titled 'Sing When the Spirit Says Sing!' were presented by

Dr Eurydice V. Osterman from the USA on Sabbath 31 January and Sabbath 7 February 2026. The January workshop took place at the Southall Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the February workshop was at Handsworth Seventh-day Adventist Church in Birmingham. Each session explored music as a Spirit-led expression of worship, faith and community.

Dr Osterman has served as chair of the music departments at Oakwood University and Northern Caribbean University, and has composed works for the American Guild of Organists. She has conducted music seminars across the United States, Europe, the Caribbean

and Africa, and holds membership in several professional organisations.

The Southall workshop was organised by Ulanda Alexander, Music and Evangelism Coordinator for London Area 6D, in partnership with Lillian Kabambe, Prayer Ministries Coordinator. The programme reflected on Acts 16:25, highlighting the role of prayer and song as expressions of faith and witness, even in challenging circumstances.

The Handsworth workshop was organised collaboratively by Paul Liburd and the church's head elder, Derrick Thorpe, working with Ms Alexander. Philippians 4:8 guided the focus on music that is spiritually uplifting and reflective of Christian values.

In addition to the in-person workshops, Dr Osterman led a virtual prayer meeting hosted by Manchester North Seventh-day Adventist Church and moderated by Elder Lesmond Taylor on Wednesday 4 February, based on 1 Peter 4:10, which encouraged participants to use their God-given abilities in service and ministry.

On Thursday 5 February Dr Osterman was interviewed on Adventist Radio London (ARL) by the ARL Director, Paul Lee, and ARL Manager, Ray Patrick (Senior), where she shared insights on music, ministry and the faithful use of spiritual gifts.

Across all sessions, Dr Osterman explored how musical choices can spiritually affect the mind, emotions and worship experience. Practical instruction was given on vocal technique, congregational singing and the role of music in worship leadership.

Musical contributions were provided by visiting soloist Zena Taylor of Manchester North Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Handsworth praise team, led by Debra Mardner. Each workshop concluded with shared singing, prayer and a sending song, reinforcing music as a vital component of worship and ministry.

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ULANDA ALEXANDER, EVANGELISM AND MUSIC COORDINATOR, LONDON AREA 6D



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2026 BUC Session Notification

Notice is hereby given that the tenth quinquennial session of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will take place at the Atrium Hotel London Heathrow, Great South-West Road, Feltham TW14 0AW, from Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 July 2026. Notice is also given that proposals to modify the constitution of the British Union in harmony with the General Conference model constitution will also be presented. Delegates will receive documentation in advance of the session.

Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Established 1902



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Music, mission and movement: ASNA's anniversary concert celebrates twenty-five years

Earlier this year, on 25 January, Salisbury Hall at Newbold College of Higher Education was filled to capacity for 'Beginnings II', the annual fundraising gospel concert hosted by the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA), which provides training, awareness and support for families affected by disabilities. The event was a vibrant celebration of music and mission, bringing the community together to support a vital cause.

A 'degustation menu' of talent

The evening's host, Nigel Nicholls, set a creative and welcoming tone by framing the programme as a 'degustation menu in a nice restaurant'. He invited the audience to sample a diverse array of musical 'dishes', ranging from soul and negro spirituals to classical piano and powerful choral anthems.

The 'Gospel Train': radical inclusion

The concert was more than just a performance: it was an experience of radical inclusion. The true showstopper was the atmosphere, particularly during the 'Gospel Train' moment. The entire congregation – including those with special needs – was invited to sing, clap and dance along with the band. The evening culminated in a powerful finale of 'Total Praise', featuring the ASNA Concert Choir and all the night's artists in a unified voice of worship.

Attendee Bobby Car described the evening as 'inspirational, a consistently high level of musical excellence, with some particularly moving moments when the Spirit of God felt very near! It was also very inclusive, since those the organisation aims to serve were free to express themselves as part of the audience.'

Elton Watson echoed this sentiment, noting that 'the band, the MC, the artistes (soloists, duets, trios, choirs, instrumentalists), the ASNA presentation and, most importantly, the audience' all contributed to an event where 'the energy was positively brilliant'.

Funding the future: Challenge25

While the concert celebrated ASNA's twenty-five-year legacy, it focused on the goal of raising £2,500 for the night to support the ASNA Music and Art Academy. This effort is part of the larger Challenge25 campaign, which aims to raise £100,000 by 1 December 2027. Attendees were encouraged to take up one of three specific fundraising challenges:

- 'Move 25': Designed for all abilities, including those in wheelchairs or with restricted movement, participants complete twenty-five movements a day for twenty-five days, donating £1 per day to raise £25. With 100 people involved, this simple challenge could raise £2,500.
- '25 in 25': A call for supporters to walk 25 miles over twenty-five days, contributing £1 for each



mile completed – raising £25 per person for ASNA.

- 'Keep ASNA on the ROAD': A 25-mile cycle challenge for cyclists aimed at raising £5,000 to help ASNA continue Resourcing, Opening doors, raising Awareness, and Delivering services for people living with disabilities.

A prayer for the community

The evening was bookended by spiritual leadership. In the closing prayer, a beautiful dedication by Pastor Rory Mendez was offered to all who need care – and, crucially, to those who 'care for the carers'. It was a poignant reminder that no one in the church should have to walk their journey alone.

How you can help

You can still support the Challenge25 goal or learn more about the Music and Art Academy by visiting: www.asna.info and www.asna.info/donate-1.

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Les Ackie
BUC Possibility Min. Dir.

Closing date
12th April 2026



‘Jesus in My Church Family’ – Hackney’s family life series

February 2026 was Family Life Month at Hackney Seventh-day Adventist Church, with a few guest speakers invited to the family life series, which ran each Sabbath from 7 to 28 February. The BUC Family Ministries Director, Dr Leslie Ackie, emphasised the importance of identifying and positively reacting to negative emotions such as anger, which, if not controlled in a healthy way, can lead to dire consequences. Dr Ackie encourages us to ‘identify the emotion you are experiencing; surrender the emotion to God; identify what you need to change; then prayerfully, and, if necessary, with professional help, make that change’.

Dr Ackie’s afternoon presentation, ‘Breaking the Cycle of Destructive Patterns’, examined the impact of untreated trauma, highlighting the importance of trauma-informed pastoral care and counselling.

Elder Trisan Hyatt encouraged families to ‘love God’s way’, noting Jesus’ sacrificial love demonstrated for all humanity. ‘A people united by Christ and His love are a dangerous weapon to the kingdom of darkness,’ said Elder Hyatt, who added that God’s love ‘brings wholeness and does not demand perfection. It corrects without humiliation, and it restores instead of destroys.’

Elder Edith Samambwa, SEC Health Ministries Director, recounted her childhood in Zimbabwe, where she witnessed both alcoholism and domestic violence. Elder Samambwa detailed the trauma’s lasting effects and spoke about how prayer and community helped redirect her life, enabling her to serve others and continue her personal Christian growth. She described her uncle as her only father figure during childhood, but explained that she recognised Jesus as the ultimate loving father figure upon embracing Adventism. The day also included a celebration of longstanding member Sister Amos, who marked her 91st birthday that week.

The series ended with Elder Neil Nunes, who spoke about ‘The Father’s Heart’ towards the prodigal son and how far-reaching the love of God is to all

Joy and thanksgiving in Gloucester

Sabbath 28 February was a joyous day at Gloucester Seventh-day Adventist Church as one elder and five deacons were ordained to their respective ministries by Pastor Wayne Smikle during the worship service.

Each was presented to the congregation with an explanation of what had brought them to serve the Lord, each one having a story to tell of God’s guidance.

During the service, the ordinands were reminded of their duties as set out in the *Church Manual*. The pastoral charge was made, together with the vows and the laying on of hands, before the certificates and pins were presented to each individual, after which the ordinands were presented to the congregation, who welcomed them into office.

In his address, ‘Chosen to Serve, Accountable to God’, Pastor Smikle reminded everyone that office demands humility, not self-seeking aggrandisement. Real leadership demands that an example be set, and Jesus was our greatest example of this.

GLOUCESTER MEDIA DEPARTMENT



Left to right: First Elder Johnny Ogunji, Alton Studdart (deacon), Stephen Taylor (deacon), Michael Myers (elder), Lucky Okoko (deacon), Frank Rabusic (deacon), Melvern Blake (deacon), Pastor Wayne Smikle

His wayward children. Elder Nunes concluded the series with an interactive afternoon session which looked at ‘Biblical Conflict Resolution’ in the context of real scenarios, with the aim of providing practical solutions to conflicts that arise within the church family to bring about healing and restoration. ‘God is far more loving to those we view as unworthy. He often celebrates those we would be quick to reprimand, and grace fits best on those who know they have no right to wear it; therefore, we are to let God do the judging while we do the loving,’ encouraged Elder Nunes.

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Messenger

Volume 131 • 4 – April 2026

Editor: **Dusanka Rancic**
 Design: **David Bell**
 Proof reading: **Andrew Puckering**
 Production and distribution: **Peter Oppong-Mensah**

COPY FOR No. 6 – 7 May 2026

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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

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Apr 3	7.37	7.49	7.43	7.55	8.04
10	7.49	8.01	7.55	8.09	8.17
17	8.01	8.13	8.08	8.24	8.31
24	8.12	8.25	8.20	8.38	8.44
May 1	8.24	8.36	8.33	8.52	8.57

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