

July 2026



Messenger

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



WALK.

LOVE.

DO.

Micah 6:8

BUC Session 2026 Reports Overview

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Welcome to the British Union Conference Session

by Pastor Eglan Brooks,
Pastor Jacques Venter and
Mr Wederly Aguiar



This past term has been a defining chapter for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. Coming out of a global pandemic, we had to adapt to a 'new normal', which was challenging, yet it provided opportunities for innovation and growth.

'Power belongs to you, God, and with you, Lord, is unfailing love' (Psalm 62:11, 12, NIV). We have seen the loving hand of the Almighty and His power working in our office, institutions, conferences, churches, members and local communities.

Our thanks to the departmental directors, institutional heads and Conference/Mission leaders who stepped up during this time of transition, bringing fresh energy, vision and deep commitment when it was most needed.

We are also deeply moved by you – our 47,000+ members across the Union. More than anything, we praise God for the 4,409 people who were baptised and gave their hearts to Jesus over these past five years. When the economy was uncertain, you gave £154.5 million, demonstrating your faith in God by your generosity and faithful stewardship, which kept our mission moving forwards.

The reports and financial summaries you will read and watch on our online platforms are a living story of God's provision and power over the past five years.

In our deliberations at this session, our prayer is that we will be guided by the Holy Spirit's call to **Walk. Love. Do.** Psalm 62 gives us the perfect foundation for this active journey:

- **Walk:** Because our souls find true rest in God, we can walk steadily and faithfully forwards, even when the path ahead seems uncertain (verse 1).
- **Love:** The psalmist beautifully reminds us that God is full of 'unfailing love' (verse 12, NIV). Because He is our safe fortress (verse 2), we can support our conferences and missions with the love of the Father in our hearts.
- **Do:** Because we know that power belongs to God (verse 11), we can roll up our sleeves and do the hard work of ministry. We are confident, knowing that the results are safe in His hands.

By the time that you read through these reports we will be on the verge of stepping into our business, making decisions, and voting in elections this July. Let's remember the invitation of Psalm 62:8 (NIV): *'Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him.'* Let's pray for a time of spiritual refreshing during the three days of the Session and trust God with our shared future.

We leave you with this heartfelt message from the pen of inspiration: 'In reviewing our past history, having travelled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what God has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history' (Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, page 196).

We pray God richly blesses our time together at the Session, and we give Him full permission to lead and guide the future of the British Union Conference over the next five years.

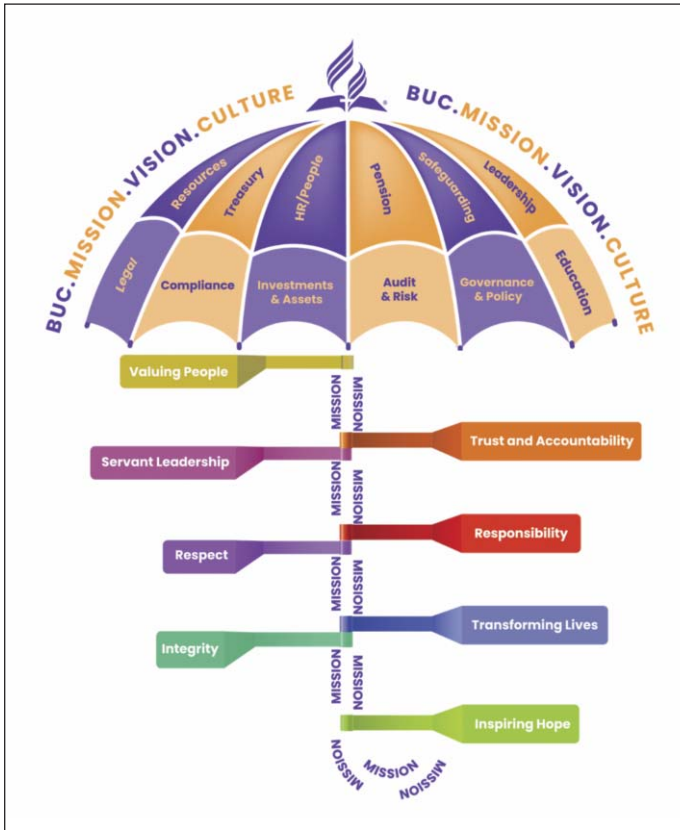
Yours in His service,

The administrative officers of the British Union Conference



Walk. Love. Do.

by Dusanka Rancic, Editor



Three simple words. Three insightful expressions of Christian discipleship.

To walk is to journey with God, day by day, following His leading with faith and humility. To love is to reflect Christ's character in our relationships, ministries and service. To do is to put that faith and love into action, sharing the Gospel, caring for others, and advancing God's mission.

This special edition of *MESSENGER* brings together the summaries of thirty-one reports from the British Union Conference (BUC) officers, departmental directors, institutional leaders, mission representatives, and members of the Executive Committee. Together, they tell the story of a church that has sought to walk with God, love people, and do His work over the past five years. These reports are more than records of activity: they are testimonies of faithfulness and reminders that the work belongs to God.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit my children's school for a career day and speak to the classes of Year 6 about the work of a Christian editor. The narrative that often circulates is that children today are not interested in reading; so I

did not expect much interest in books, particularly Christian ones. Yet, after the presentation, a majority of the pupils gathered around a selection of children's books I had brought with me, eagerly browsing through them and discussing what they found. Ten minutes after the presentation, I left the room, but they stayed, still reading the books. The Stanborough Press donated those books to the school library so that the children can continue reading them. Their enthusiasm was a reminder that people – young and old alike – are often far more open to the Gospel than we imagine. Sometimes all that is needed is a willingness to take the initiative and reflect Christ's love in a practical way: to walk, love, and do.

As we approach the BUC Session and prayerfully consider the election of leaders for the next quinquennium, we do so with gratitude for those who have served and with confidence in the One who continues to lead His church. Leaders may change, but our calling remains the same.

May these pages inspire reflection, thanksgiving and renewed commitment; and may we all be encouraged to continue walking with Christ, loving as He loved, and doing the work He has entrusted to His people until He comes.

'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth' (1 John 3:18, NIV).

Please note that these are only the summaries of the reports – to read the full reports, scan the QR code.



Stanborough Press Open Day
6 September – *SAVE THE DATE*

President's Report by Pastor Eglan Brooks



It is with deep humility and a profound sense of responsibility that I reflect on a quinquennium marked by turbulence, change and opportunity for honest reflection, learning and renewal.

We emerged from the pandemic into an environment shaped by economic pressure, social fragmentation, safeguarding sensitivity, and increasing legal and regulatory scrutiny. Through it all, the mission of the Church has remained unchanged: to proclaim the everlasting Gospel, make disciples of Jesus Christ, and support charitable work in harmony with our faith and calling.

A defining focus of this term has been to examine the Union more honestly, clarify what it is, and begin repositioning it to serve the territory with greater integrity, accountability and usefulness so that mission can be carried out more faithfully across the British Union Conference.

Evangelism remains at the heart of the Church's calling. The continued witness of members, pastors and local churches across the territory enables the Church's growth and influence. One of the clearest expressions of our evangelistic emphasis has been Reflecting Hope, which encouraged sustainable evangelism, total member involvement and disciple-making. It helped move the conversation beyond one-off campaigns towards a more intentional culture of mission.

Alongside this, the Union supported disciple-making initiatives, literature evangelism and collaboration with departments and local churches. The lesson of this quinquennium is that evangelism must remain both spiritual and practical, calling people to Christ while equipping the Church to witness with clarity, credibility and consistency in a changing society.

Early in my presidency it became clear that leadership had to begin with listening. This led to the development of the State of the Union (SOTU) process, expressed through a town hall meeting, the

presidents' council, strategic discussions and wider consultation. Several desires emerged consistently: for greater clarity about the role and value of the Union; for more consistent governance and policy application; for clearer communication and greater transparency; for partnership rather than distance; and for stronger accountability in decision-making.

The process revealed both challenges and opportunities. While concerns were raised regarding governance, communication and trust, it also became clear that the territory was ready for positive change and renewal.

The British Union Conference functions simultaneously as a church, a charity and a corporation. As a church, we exist to keep Christ, His soon return and the Gospel mission at the centre of our work. As a charity, we are accountable for our stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. As a corporation, we bear responsibility for property, employment, risk management and organisational stewardship.

Greater clarity has been achieved in understanding this identity, although its fuller and more consistent embodiment remains a task for the future.

Safeguarding became one of the most significant priorities of this term. It could no longer be viewed simply as a departmental responsibility, but as a strategic test of the Church's integrity, credibility and duty of care.

The safeguarding audit revealed serious weaknesses and highlighted the need for stronger territorial ownership, improved systems and specialist expertise. The Safeguarding Summit, the Safeguarding Charter, and the decision to commission an independent review into non-recent abuse reflected a growing commitment to accountability and transparency.

Progress has been made, but safeguarding remains ongoing work requiring vigilance, expertise and a willingness to address both

structural and cultural challenges.

The years 2021-2025 were characterised by significant leadership transition across the Union. New appointments in several departments and institutions broadened leadership contributions and strengthened the Union's capacity to serve the field. At the same time, it became increasingly clear that stronger expertise in areas such as human resources, legal matters, compliance, safeguarding and asset management would be necessary if governance were to continue maturing and the territory were to be served effectively.

This quinquennium has taught us that mission must remain central; stronger governance protects mission; accountability must be demonstrated, not merely described; safeguarding requires continual attention; people systems and workforce support matter deeply; governance across associated entities must become more coherent; and spiritual conviction and professional discipline must work together.

Looking ahead, the Union must continue deepening its role as a source of guidance, advice and support while strengthening governance, improving communication, investing in people, and supporting sustainable evangelism and disciple-making. Above all, we must continue holding together spiritual conviction and professional discipline so that stronger governance is matched by a stronger witness, healthier structures and more faithful service to the mission of Christ.

I give glory to God for His sustaining grace. Through strain, change, disappointment and hope, He has remained faithful. My prayer is that as we enter the next quinquennium, we will do so with renewed humility, deeper trust and a shared commitment to serve Christ and His church more faithfully.



The Secretariat serves not only to maintain church records and statistics, but also to support operational governance, compliance, people management, risk management, IT systems and membership administration across the territory. During this quinquennium, significant progress was made in strengthening governance, improving operational systems, supporting staff development and enhancing membership management.

The quinquennium began with governance training for trustees and continued investment in trustee development through specialist conferences and training opportunities. The Executive Committee also maintained compliance by submitting annual trustees' reports to the relevant charity regulators.

The OnBoard board-management platform replaced the previous trustee portal, improving access to documents, communication and decision-making while helping to identify areas where additional expertise was needed, particularly in safeguarding, compliance, legal matters, people management and asset stewardship. The Secretariat also supported conferences and missions' constituency sessions and continued reviewing constitutions and operating policies to strengthen governance consistency.

The Secretariat continued to oversee policy development and legal compliance throughout the Union. The territory-wide General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) audit, covering conferences, missions and the Stanborough Press, provided recommendations to strengthen data-protection practices, including improvements in governance, privacy notices, training and data-processing procedures.

A structured policy-review schedule was introduced to keep policies current, compliant and effective. During the quinquennium, 45 policies were reviewed and updated, and 10 new policies were created or entered development.

People management remained a

key focus. The Secretariat continued to strengthen recruitment processes, annual appraisals, staff wellbeing and professional development. Staff training and learning opportunities expanded significantly, with learning and development becoming an expected part of annual performance goals. New wellbeing initiatives, improved absence management and regular staff-development programmes contributed to reduced sickness and unauthorised absences.

Annual Secretariat and HR advisories allowed administrative teams from across the territory to share good practice, review legislative developments, and strengthen collaboration. The Secretariat also supported the development of stronger HR frameworks and recommendations to create greater consistency and excellence in people-management practices.

Governance improvements included the establishment of an audit and risk sub-committee and the continued development of a comprehensive risk-management framework. Health and safety procedures were strengthened through regular professional audits and external specialist support.

A major milestone was reached regarding the closure of the Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan (SDARP). Originally projected to become fully funded in 2033, the scheme reached full funding in October 2024, significantly ahead of schedule. Preparations are now underway for the final buy-out process.

Under the leadership of the IT Systems Department, the Union continued a significant digital transformation programme. Achievements included:

- Migration to a fully cloud-based working environment.
- Staff training in Microsoft SharePoint, OneDrive and Teams.
- Cybersecurity certification for staff.
- Roll-out and support of the 7me platform.
- Introduction of the Adventist Web Engine (AWE) for websites.

- Development of integrated communication systems.
- Increased use of data analysis and emerging AI tools to support mission and engagement.

The BUC became the only union in the Trans-European Division to implement an integrated news system connecting local churches with the wider world church.

The most encouraging development of the quinquennium has been continued membership growth, particularly in the missions. Membership increased from 39,969 in 2021 to 47,195 in 2025, representing growth of 7,226 members (18.08%), exceeding the growth rate of the previous quinquennium. The number of churches increased from 297 to 312, while companies increased from 110 to 117.

Alongside growth, the Secretariat promoted redemptive membership reviews, encouraging churches to strengthen pastoral care, improve record accuracy and focus on member retention as well as evangelism. The Secretariat also expanded training for church clerks and supported the use of the Adventist Church Management System (ACMS) and the 7me platform.

While celebrating growth, we also remember the 1,509 members whose deaths were recorded during this quinquennium. We honour their contribution and remain committed to the Church's mission of sharing the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

The work of the Secretariat throughout this quinquennium has sought to strengthen governance, improve support systems, develop people, embrace innovation, and ensure that every statistic ultimately reflects what matters most: people whom God loves and seeks to save.



Treasurer's Report by Mr Wederly Aguiar



The period 2021-2025 has seen significant transition, careful rebuilding and intentional strengthening for the British Union Conference (BUC). Emerging from the pandemic, the Church faced uncertainty, changing patterns of engagement and increasing financial pressure. The Treasury's role has been to ensure that the resources entrusted to the Church are managed faithfully and wisely, enabling mission to advance with confidence.

Looking across the quinquennium, several key outcomes stand out.

Through disciplined management and intentional governance decisions, the Union has strengthened its financial resilience and concludes the quinquennium in a position of strength. Working capital reached 12.6 months by the end of 2025, exceeding the trustees' governance target, while liquidity improved to 4.3 months, comfortably above denominational policy requirements. This resilience provides assurance that the Church can continue its work with stability, respond effectively to future challenges, and support conferences and missions when needed.

At the heart of the Church's financial life is the faithful giving of its members. During the quinquennium, total gross tithe reached £154.5 million, representing a 34% increase compared with £115.4 million in the previous quinquennium. This growth was accompanied by steady membership growth, increasing from just under 40,000 members to more than 47,000 by the end of the period.

Average annual tithe per member also increased, rising from approximately £592 in 2016 to £739 in 2025. Although inflation has affected real-term growth, the continued increase in tithe during a challenging economic environment reflects the commitment and faithfulness of members across the British Union.

Financial stewardship is not about accumulating resources, but

enabling mission. A significant development was the establishment of the Mission Fund in 2022 to support evangelism, outreach and mission-focused initiatives, particularly at local church level. Through partnership and match-funding arrangements with conferences and missions, the fund has encouraged collaboration and shared ownership of mission. Since its creation, more than £628,000 has been distributed to support mission initiatives across the field.

One of the most significant achievements of the quinquennium has been progress on pension commitments. The Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan (SDARP) reached full funding in October 2024 – nine years earlier than originally anticipated. This milestone strengthens long-term financial security and enables a reduction in pension deficit-recovery contributions from January 2026, releasing an estimated £1.7 million annually back to conferences and missions for ministry and mission.

The three missions have continued to grow in organisational capacity, leadership and sustainability. By the end of the quinquennium, the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Missions were all contributing more to the worldwide church than they received in direct appropriations. Particularly encouraging is the progress of the Irish Mission as it moves towards Conference status.

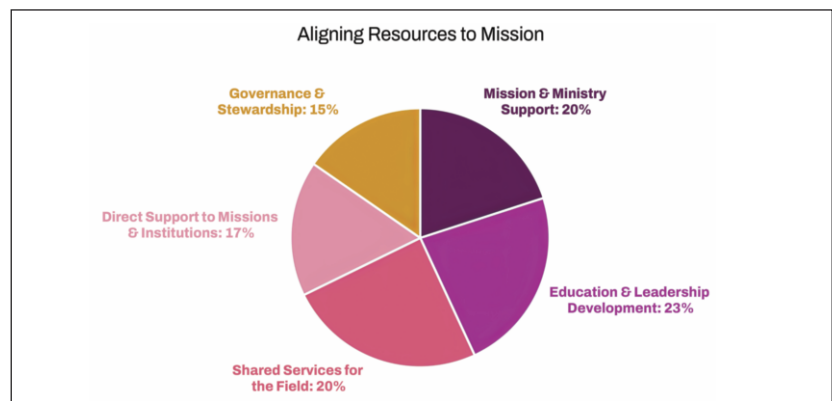
The Union has continued to invest substantially in Adventist education through its support for Stanborough Primary School, Stanborough

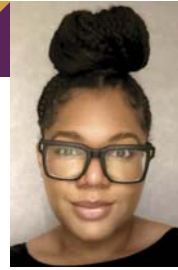
Secondary School and Newbold College of Higher Education. At the same time, significant progress has been made in digital transformation. The rollout of the Adventist Church Management System (ACMS) and the 7me app is helping create a more connected, transparent and efficient church. Around 100 congregations are now actively using ACMS, while 7me enables members to engage in giving, access information, participate in prayer communities, and manage aspects of church membership. This progress would not have been possible without the commitment of local church treasurers, clerks, volunteers and conference teams who have embraced these changes with patience and dedication.

As we enter the next quinquennium, priorities include completing the pension buy-out process, strengthening governance, enhancing stewardship of property assets, expanding ACMS and 7me adoption, developing shared services, increasing transparency, and investing in leadership development.

The vision moving forwards is that of a connected and resilient church – one in which systems enable engagement, governance strengthens trust, and resources remain aligned with mission.

I am deeply grateful to all who have contributed to the progress made during this quinquennium, and, above all, I give thanks to God for His guidance, wisdom and provision throughout these five years.





This quinquennium has seen significant reflection, learning and development for the British Union Conference (BUC). As the Church emerged from COVID-19, the Executive Committee addressed increasing organisational complexity, safeguarding responsibilities, governance reform, strategic planning and long-term sustainability. One of the clearest realisations was that many of the most important developments within the Union were not always visible beyond committee and governance settings. This report therefore seeks to explain not only what has happened, but why it matters for the future of the Church.

The mission of the Church remains unchanged: to make disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaim the everlasting Gospel in preparation for His soon return. The role of the BUC is not to replace local churches, conferences or missions, but to enable mission to flourish responsibly, sustainably and effectively. This includes providing governance support, strategic alignment, organisational accountability and territory-wide coordination.

During the quinquennium, the Executive Committee supported the Union-wide Reflecting Hope initiative, alongside the work of departments, youth ministries and local churches. Through these combined efforts and God's blessing, membership grew from 39,970 in 2021 to 47,195 by the end of 2025 – an increase of more than 18%.

A significant area of work during this term was clarifying the role of

the British Union Conference. The Union is not simply a larger version of a conference. It carries a distinct responsibility for governance, accountability, organisational oversight and strategic direction. The Union helps provide the framework, standards and support that enable ministry to flourish, while conferences and missions lead frontline ministry and operational work. This understanding led to the development of a formal value proposition and a renewed strategic plan designed to clarify responsibilities, strengthen organisational effectiveness, and support future growth.

Throughout the term, the Executive Committee increasingly recognised that healthy governance and mission are not competing priorities. Good governance strengthens trust, accountability and long-term mission effectiveness. As well as adopting a strategic plan with 12 key priorities, focusing on governance education and trustee development, introducing specialist expertise to strengthen decision-making, continually reviewing policies and accountability structures, and clarifying responsibilities across the Union and its entities, the Committee launched territory-wide listening exercises, including the State of the Union town hall meeting and a trustee survey. These highlighted a desire for greater clarity, transparency, accountability and strategic leadership. Encouragingly, participants showed strong support for positive change, with the overwhelming majority expressing openness to reform and long-term organisational development.

Safeguarding became one of the most significant priorities of the quinquennium, and the President's Report outlines key steps the Executive Committee took to improve in this area.

The quinquennium also saw investment in people, systems and structures. Progress included strengthening leadership capacity, supporting Adventist education, improving digital systems, modernising administrative processes and enhancing communication platforms. Investments in tools such as ACMS, 7me and other digital resources helped to create a more connected and effective church.

The Executive Committee also supported initiatives aimed at improving organisational understanding, data gathering and long-term planning.

One of the strongest themes to emerge from this report is that much has been started, but not all has been completed. The term established important foundations in governance, safeguarding, strategic planning and organisational clarity. However, implementation remains uneven and governance maturity continues to develop. The next executive committee will be called to build on this work by strengthening governance and organisational clarity; continuing trustee education and board development; implementing safeguarding recommendations; improving risk management and organisational resilience; and ensuring that governance continues to support mission.

This has been a defining term. While the work is not complete, the foundations are clearer than they were five years ago. The challenge now is to move from reflection to implementation, from planning to consistency, and from organisational insight to lasting change.

Above all, the purpose remains unchanged: supporting the mission of the Church and preparing for the future with faithfulness, accountability and hope.

Mission and Evangelism by Pastor Augustus Lawrence



The British Union Conference is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ and proclaim the everlasting Gospel. The Mission and Evangelism Department has worked closely with the conferences and missions to advance this mandate through collaboration, evaluation and strategic mission development.

In 2023, the Executive Committee launched the Reflecting Hope initiative, marking a shift from event-driven evangelism to sustained, discipleship-focused mission engagement. The initiative was developed in response to a rapidly changing context, where the UK and Wales Census data showed a major decline in Christian affiliation – from 71.7% in 2001 to 46.2% in 2021 – highlighting the need for renewed mission approaches.

Phase 1 (2023) began with 62 congregations focusing on training, pilot outreach and spiritual renewal. Activities included a training weekend with international

speakers, mobile evangelism training, creative resource development and evangelistic campaigns.

Phase 2 (2024) focused on leadership development, equipping pastors and local church leaders for sustainable mission. A major retreat in November 2024 brought together more than 240 leaders. The core emphasis shifted to discipleship: *the number of active disciples, not baptisms, is the true measure of growth*. Churches reported increased engagement, revitalised church life, and large-scale outreach initiatives including 50,000 copies of *The Innkeeper's Story* and more than one million outreach leaflets.

Phase 3 (2025) extended the initiative across all 309 churches under the theme *Keeping Hope Alive*, encouraging total member involvement and lifestyle-based evangelism rooted in everyday relationships.

Across the quinquennium, churches reported increased community engagement, more

baptisms and a renewed mission focus. There has been a clear shift from an institutional model of church to a more intentional, missional culture.

Key challenges remain, particularly in an increasingly secular context. The Church is called to adapt contextually relevant approaches, embrace digital evangelism, and strengthen relational, lifestyle-based witness.

Recommendations for the next quinquennium include expanding digital evangelism, strengthening community engagement, enhancing member training, developing youth-focused mission programmes, and growing home-based Bible study and small-group outreach.

The Department expresses gratitude to all the leaders, coordinators and volunteers who have supported this work, and acknowledges God's leading throughout this quinquennium.

Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) by Pastor Christian Salcianu



The Adventist Discovery Centre is a Bible school and resource hub offering free distance learning across the UK and Ireland. Building on its heritage as the former Voice of Prophecy correspondence school (founded in 1945), it provides online, printed and hybrid study pathways, supported by churches, ministries and volunteers. Its work is structured around courses, FreeBible engagement, printed/digital resources, and interactive study communities.

Between 2022 and 2025, the ADC expanded its outreach significantly. More than 1,200 students enrolled online and more than 300 graduated, alongside 1,082 offline registrations and 331 graduates. More than 10,000 lessons were completed and marked. Through the FreeBible programme, more than 2,500 Bibles were distributed. As part of the BUC Reflecting Hope initiative, around 1 million evangelistic leaflets and more than 200,000 booklets were produced and circulated. Outreach extended to more than forty countries, demonstrating growing international reach.

The ADC played a key role in supporting contextual evangelism through new and adapted courses, including Managing Stress, The Message of Truth, and youth and children's resources. The Digging Series (archaeology and prophecy) and specialised materials for different cultural

and faith contexts expanded accessibility and relevance. A key strength has been its ability to serve diverse audiences – from seekers and returning members to prisoners, students and professionals.

Challenges include secularisation, limited awareness, and learner attrition, with only around 25-30% completing courses. A further challenge is the 'last mile' gap – connecting students into local church communities. In response, the ADC has strengthened digital outreach, developed contextual resources, improved publicity, and delivered training across churches in the British Isles.

Strategic priorities for the next quinquennium include alignment with OneVoice27, development of an integrated media centre model, expansion of digital platforms alongside print, improved engagement metrics (retention and church integration), and stronger international partnerships and translations.

The ADC acknowledges the volunteers, administrators, translators, IT support and donors whose contributions sustain its mission. Above all, its impact is reflected in transformed lives and testimonies of faith, as people continue to discover hope through Scripture and encounter Christ through study.



Adventist Community Services expanded its influence across the UK and Ireland during this quinquennium, focusing on compassionate outreach, social justice, spiritual nurture and inclusive community engagement.

Key programmes included Suicide Prevention, Grief Recovery, HEAL, RESTORE, and the Forgiveness Journey Experience, all of which received positive feedback. Partnerships with the Stanborough Press, the Adventist Discovery Centre and Advent Press supported new publications and widened community reach.

The department addressed the cost-of-living crisis, post-pandemic recovery, and long COVID-19 challenges. It delivered bereavement care, prayer networks, counselling referrals and spiritual support across churches and communities. Digital ministry expanded through Zoom reflections, WhatsApp faith messages (52 annually) and online inspirational content.

Spiritual nurture initiatives included community courses, faith-based reflections and support for bereaved families. Resources such as *COMFORT*, bereavement toolkits and care boxes were widely distributed, with subsequent multiple reprints, Bible studies and deeper faith engagement.

Publications included *Sacred Hours*, *Urban Pain – Urban Promise*, refugee support materials, resilience posters and seasonal outreach titles such as *The*

Innkeeper's Story. These were widely used in churches and schools and at community events, including international Nativity performances.

People-focused ministry addressed practical needs through SHARE (food provision), LAYERS (warm clothing), refugee support models, baby supplies and homelessness outreach. Training equipped leaders in food safety, community assessment and outreach evaluation. Centres of hope, health and healing were established, alongside centres of excellence.

Education and leadership development included annual training, bereavement care facilitation, Community Connector programmes, and whole-church outreach training. Safeguarding training was delivered in partnership with Women's Ministries.

Key challenges included rising social need, increased demand for bereavement and crisis support, and the need for stronger evaluation frameworks. Responses included expanded partnerships, digital engagement and contextualised resources.

Future priorities include re-launching community needs surveys, strengthening impact-measurement systems, and securing dedicated administrative support.

The department acknowledges all whose contributions sustained its work.

Church Growth by Pastor Augustus Lawrence

Between 2019 and 2025, the BUC churches increased from 296 to 312 (+5.4%), and membership grew from 39,593 to 47,195 (+19.2%), reflecting sustained mission activity across diverse urban and rural contexts.

A key driver of mission strategy is church planting, widely recognised in missiological literature as one of the most effective forms of evangelism. New churches consistently demonstrate a greater capacity to reach unchurched individuals and engage new communities.

The BUC aligns its mission with the General Conference strategic framework, expressed through the 'I Will Go' initiative, which prioritises mission lifestyle, urban engagement and leadership development.

Church planting in the territory is supported through the ACTS

framework (Assess, Coach, Train, Send), which equips and mentors planters through structured regional cohorts. This is complemented by the work of Global Mission Pioneers supported by the General Conference, who are actively engaged in pioneering ministries across diaspora and unreached communities in multiple UK and Ireland locations.

Despite positive indicators, challenges remain. Membership growth is significantly influenced by migration patterns, with approximately 75% of members drawn from immigrant communities. While this has strengthened numerical growth, there remains a continuing need to more effectively engage with indigenous British populations and address cultural barriers to mission.

Additional barriers to church

planting include limited member confidence, attachment to existing structures, financial concerns, and inconsistent understanding of discipleship multiplication. These factors highlight the need for stronger mobilisation, clearer vision and deeper spiritual engagement.

Strategic priorities include expanding church-planting residency programmes, increasing prayer and mobilisation initiatives, identifying and training new planters, and strengthening coaching networks. Longer-term aspirations include the establishment of a church-planting institute in partnership with Newbold College of Higher Education and the development of fifty new church plants by 2030.

Overall, church growth in the BUC reflects both progress and unrealised opportunity. Sustained expansion will depend on deeper discipleship, intentional cultural engagement, and continued commitment to multiplying churches that make disciples.

Sabbath School by Pastor Augustus Lawrence



Sabbath School in the British Union Conference continues to be known as the ‘heart of the church’. During this quinquennium, it fulfilled its mandate under Strategic Priority #1: *Reflecting Christ*, focusing on four foundational pillars: Bible study and prayer, fellowship, local mission, and global mission. These pillars have remained central to the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who live as His loving witnesses and proclaim the everlasting Gospel.

Research consistently shows that members view Sabbath School as vital for spiritual growth, fostering empathy, forgiveness, gratitude and a shift from fear-based living to love-based living. It also remains one of the most effective instruments for maintaining theological and doctrinal unity across diverse cultures and contexts.

Across the BUC, the leadership promoted several initiatives to strengthen engagement. Interactive

with effective learning methods, while the *Sabbath School Alive!* framework continued to emphasise Bible study, prayer, fellowship and mission. A renewed disciple-making focus encouraged churches to measure growth not simply by baptisms, but by the number of active disciples, with an increased emphasis on small groups and vibrant local church Sabbath schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted attendance patterns, but also accelerated digital transformation. Many churches adopted online and hybrid models, with Sabbath School, Bible study, prayer meetings and children’s programmes continuing through digital platforms. While attendance habits have changed, there is evidence of a gradual resurgence in participation and engagement.

Despite encouraging developments, Sabbath School faces ongoing challenges. Many programmes struggle to connect with younger

culture, sometimes being perceived as routine, overly academic or disconnected from everyday life. In some settings, Sabbath School has drifted from its original role as a vibrant, relational and evangelistic community-building ministry.

Nevertheless, significant opportunities remain. Research highlights the importance of in-depth Bible study, intercessory prayer, authentic relationships, small-group ministry, community service and mission engagement. These elements can transform Sabbath School into a vibrant and meaningful experience for members and guests alike.

Investment in teacher training remains critical. The development of regular training, spiritual formation and missional leadership will help restore Sabbath School as a powerful discipleship and soul-winning agency, ensuring that it continues to serve as the true heart of the church.

Stewardship by Mrs Catherine Anthony Boldeau



In June 2024, stewardship finally went from being a mere function in the Secretariat Department to personal, missional and organisational stewardship based on biblical principles with a full-time director and the British Union Conference Stewardship Working Group. Appreciation to the Trans-European Division for their investment in the department.

In 2025, through organisational stewardship, the department supported the President’s Office, instigated a rigorous and regular social media calendar to support the Communication and Media Department, and partnered with Treasury for their Mission in Motion project. The GC commissioned the department to write a time-management series, *www.redeemtime now.org*, to reach the Adventist Church audience of 22 million. The department also launched the Stewardship Snapshot, the first survey of its kind, at the end of 2025. Collection of the quantitative data was completed in March 2026, and qualitative data is being gathered throughout 2026.

The strengths of the term included team collaboration, consistent project delivery and global reach; weaknesses involved remote working and a part-time focus; there are opportunities to further expand the department’s reach, partner with the South Pacific Division, and develop more

youth resources; and the regulatory landscape, the financial climate and staffing concerns are listed among the threats.

‘Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness’ (Psalm 115:1, NLT).

If you would like to know more about the impact of the Stewardship Department over the past 18 months, please view our impact report, ‘Dormancy to Discipleship’, on our Stewardship page: buc-stewardship.adventist.uk. Please refer to the same page for the 2026-2030 strategic orientation, ‘Multiplying the Mission’.



Family Ministries by Pastor Les Ackie

During 2021-2025, the Family Ministries Department resourced church leaders; promoted family spirituality; delivered family life education and leadership training; and supported marriages, parenting, emotional wellbeing and relational health.

A major emphasis was placed on family spirituality. The department developed resources to help families experience consistent, biblically based, creative and age-appropriate family worship. Seminars across the Union provided practical guidance grounded in Scripture and the counsel of Ellen White.

Leadership training was delivered throughout the quinquennium, supported by recorded modules, online self-directed learning and funding opportunities through the Trans-European Division. Collaboration with ministerial training programmes enabled the department to address safeguarding, domestic abuse, trauma-informed ministry, emotionally intelligent leadership, burnout and support for ministry families. The department also invested in research examining historical, societal, theological and ideological trends affecting family life, helping to shape future strategy and resource development.

Christian Home and Marriage Week, Family Togetherness Week, newsletters, social media initiatives

and downloadable online resources provided practical support. The monthly *BUC Family* newsletter, devotional materials and outreach-focused leaflets helped promote healthy relationships, spiritual growth and family wellbeing.

Marriage preparation and enrichment continued through annual training in the Prepare Enrich programme, equipping ministers, counsellors and church leaders to support couples. Marriage retreats explored biblical principles of spiritual, emotional and physical intimacy, while emotional wellbeing remained a consistent focus through seminars and collaboration with counselling ministries. The department also supported Men's, Women's and Singles' Ministries, particularly in raising awareness of domestic abuse and promoting healthier relationship cultures.

Looking ahead, Family Ministries intends to move towards a more intentional, pathway-based approach that supports long-term spiritual and relational growth. Future priorities include improved impact measurement, expanded digital discipleship, greater social media engagement, trauma-informed leadership development and resources that reflect the diverse realities of contemporary families.



Possibility Ministries by Pastor Les Ackie

Possibility Ministries seeks to foster acceptance, inclusion and meaningful participation for people living with disabilities, those experiencing loss, and their caregivers. During this quinquennium, the department focused on leadership training, support for local congregations, awareness initiatives, grief ministry, neurodiversity, safeguarding, resourcing and communication.

The department has drawn churches' attention to their responsibilities under the Equality Act, highlighting the need to ensure disabled people can participate in church life on an equal basis with others. Training has been provided through BUTREC and through resources offered by the General Conference.

The annual Possibility Ministries Sabbath has continued to encourage churches to welcome, value and empower people with disabilities and their families. Support has been provided through sermons, seminars, panel discussions

and resource sharing.

Local congregations have been encouraged to appoint Possibility Ministries leaders and to create forums where those directly impacted by disability can share their experiences. These conversations have highlighted ongoing challenges, including the isolation experienced by some deaf and hard-of-hearing members. Encouragingly, there has been a significant increase in British Sign Language provision at key events.

Under the theme 'Care for the Carers', presentations have raised awareness of carers' needs and signposted available support services. Grief ministry programmes have provided both a biblical foundation for understanding suffering and practical guidance for supporting those experiencing loss.

Research indicates that many families disengage from church because the needs of neurodivergent children are not adequately supported. Seminars and workshops have encouraged

churches to become more inclusive.

The department has continued to provide resources through the BUC website, the *BUC Family* newsletter and the *MESSENGER*. Special recognition is extended to the Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) on its 25 years of dedicated service, and to the Special Needs Camp team for their ongoing ministry to families.

Looking ahead, priorities include expanding inclusion training, strengthening representation of lived experience in leadership, developing neurodiversity resources, exploring sensory-friendly worship, leveraging digital technologies, and introducing inclusion metrics to support accountability and long-term growth.

The department thanks Conference and Mission colleagues, local volunteer leaders, administrative assistants Abigail Wright-Stephenson and Kathleen Hanson, and, above all, God for the opportunity to serve families affected by disability.





Children's Ministries by Pastor Les Ackie



During 2021-2025, the Children's Ministries Department has focused on curriculum development, leadership training, children's spirituality, evangelism, mental health support, resourcing and local church engagement within the wider context of family discipleship and mission.

A significant development has been the transition from the GraceLink curriculum to Alive in Jesus, being rolled out between 2025 and 2028. While GraceLink served the church faithfully for 25 years, Alive in Jesus provides enhanced teaching and resourcing, equipping parents, caregivers, teachers and leaders to nurture children's relationships with Jesus while strengthening their own spiritual growth.

The department has actively promoted the General Conference's *Back to the Altar* initiative. In

collaboration with Family Ministries, it developed the *Family Circle* worship guides to help families experience consistent, biblically based, creative and age-appropriate worship. Seminars and workshops have reinforced the importance of family worship and spiritual formation.

Leadership development has remained a major priority. Through in-person and online training, Children's Ministries leaders have been equipped in areas such as bullying prevention, family worship, digital-age parenting, storytelling, emotional wellbeing, self-worth, suicide prevention, and nurturing Christian values in children.

Recognising that ministry to children is one of the most effective forms of evangelism, the department has sought to affirm parents as the primary disciplers and provide resources that equip children to share their faith. Holiday Bible

School resources and child-focused mission initiatives have continued to provide effective opportunities for outreach.

In response to growing concerns around children's wellbeing, training and programming have emphasised mental health awareness, emotionally safe environments and the integration of social and emotional learning within Bible-based teaching.

Looking ahead, Children's Ministries will prioritise outcome-focused ministry, affirming parents through intentional discipleship pathways, strengthening trauma-informed approaches to children's mental health, developing child-led evangelism, and expanding digital discipleship. Greater emphasis will also be placed on evaluation, communication, and sharing stories of impact.

Safeguarding by Pastor Les Ackie

Safeguarding is integral to our Christian witness. It underpins every aspect of ministry, governance and community life. Throughout this quinquennium, the department has worked to ensure that safeguarding remains robust, responsive and centred on the care and protection of children, young people, adults at risk, and, ultimately, everyone with whom we come into contact.

A key responsibility has been maintaining and updating safeguarding policies and procedures in line with government requirements. Through the BUC Safeguarding Advisory, separate policy documents have been developed for the constituent countries of the UK, reflecting their specific safeguarding frameworks. Recognising the need for a greater focus on vulnerable adults, a standalone policy and procedures document for adults at risk of harm was also produced, supported by dedicated training resources.

The department has continued to promote the BUC's domestic abuse policy under the theme 'Safe at Home', providing guidance, training and awareness resources to help churches create safe environments for all family members. Collaboration with the EndItNow initiative and Women's Ministries strengthened education and advocacy in this area.

Safeguarding training has been delivered across conferences, missions and local churches, including designated safeguarding officers, Children's Ministries

leaders and ministers, through BUTREC and induction programmes. To improve accessibility, online self-directed training modules

and awareness resources have been developed, including leaflets, posters and guidance materials.

A defining moment of this quinquennium came in October 2024 when revelations of non-recent abuse prompted significant review and reflection. In response, the Union established a crisis-management committee, a safeguarding serious incident review committee, a compliance review process and a safeguarding review panel. In February 2025, a safeguarding summit brought together leaders and members from across the territory to strengthen awareness, accountability and best practice.

Challenges remain. Misplaced trust, deference to authority, inadequate training, fear of reporting concerns, and misunderstandings regarding forgiveness and reconciliation can all undermine effective safeguarding practice.

Looking forwards, priorities include appointing a dedicated full-time national safeguarding lead, strengthening governance and accountability, expanding role-specific training, investing in digital safeguarding systems, embedding safeguarding across every ministry area, and increasing survivor engagement in shaping policy and culture.

The department expresses gratitude to safeguarding leaders, volunteers, Conference and Mission colleagues, administrative assistants Abigail Wright-Stephenson and Kathleen Hanson, and, above all, to God for His guidance in safeguarding the church and its communities.

Youth Ministries by Pastor Njabulo Ndlovu



Despite significant challenges, Youth Ministries continued to nurture spiritual growth. Young people committed their lives to Jesus Christ and influenced their families, churches and communities through authentic spirituality, inclusion, equity and service. The establishment and growth of Teens' Ministries and the continued success of Club Ministries have been significant.

The Adventurer and Pathfinder Bible Experience, camporees and calendar events contributed to more than 100 baptisms in the North England Conference in 2025 alone, with additional baptisms across the Union. The Scottish Mission hosted the Union-level Pathfinder and Adventurer Bible Experience in Aberdeen in 2024, welcoming more than 2,000 participants. The BUC Youth Day of Fellowship in Birmingham (2023) and the Regional Youth Congress in the Netherlands (2024) provided opportunities for spiritual renewal, mission engagement and decisions for Christ.

The department strengthened collaboration across conferences and missions, supported youth-led innovation through social media engagement, promoted entrepreneurship initiatives, and established a strategic partnership with JD Sports Outdoor Division to support outdoor ministries.

Operational pressures, limited resources and the absence of a permanent director impacted strategic delivery. The Youth Shop faced challenges relating to stock management, shipping delays and capacity constraints. The department also identified the need for greater inclusion, particularly regarding neurodiversity, and stronger support for youth mental health, cultural identity and intergenerational challenges.

Priorities for the next quinquennium include strengthening mental health and wellbeing support, expanding Teens' Ministries, contextualising Pathfinder resources, increasing civic partnerships, enhancing inclusivity, developing predictable activity cycles, and deepening collaboration with other departments. Through intentional discipleship, mission and partnership, Youth Ministries aims to retain, nurture and empower young people to become lifelong followers of Jesus Christ and active participants in His mission.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Pastor Kevin Johns, Renatella Iunac, advisory teams, Conference and Mission leaders, volunteers, parents, church boards and pastors. Above all, glory belongs to God for His guidance, provision and blessing.

Education by Mrs Lorraine McDonald



Following a six-month vacancy at Union level, the appointment of a Union Education director in February 2022 marked a decisive shift to fully Union-coordinated oversight. Supported by a secretary and marketing co-ordinator, the department focused on strengthening school quality, accountability, governance and the profile of Adventist education as a central mission field, resulting in all BUC schools being rated between Good and Outstanding by January 2025. Harper Bell School achieved Outstanding in its Section 48 inspection in 2022 – the first SDA school in the UK to do so; Newbold School achieved Outstanding with no areas for improvement in its 2023 inspection; nursery provision across primary schools became over-subscribed with waiting lists; and academic outcomes in most schools exceeded national expectations.

Schools continue to function as centres of influence through daily worship, weeks of spiritual emphasis, chaplaincy provision and

church-school partnerships. Schools recorded thirty-three pupil baptisms, four parent baptisms and forty-four Bible studies. The department also secured \$100,000 from the General Conference 13th Sabbath Offering and \$75,000 from the Mission Impact Fund to support the *Safe Space2Be* mental health and wellbeing initiative.

Progress has been made in raising the profile of Adventist education, strengthening governance through a comprehensive rewrite of the *Schools Handbook*, supporting home-schooling initiatives, developing the Adventist Educators' Association UK, and promoting a stronger biblical worldview across schools. A Union-wide survey confirmed strong support for Adventist education while identifying affordability, accessibility, teacher shortages and the need for additional schools as key concerns.

The greatest challenge has been financial sustainability. Government measures affecting independent schools – including VAT on fees,

removal of charitable rate relief, increased National Insurance contributions and higher wage costs – have significantly increased operating costs and contributed to the closure of Dudley House School. Key recommendations include developing an all-schools fund, incorporating Seventh-day Adventist Schools UK Ltd., exploring a faith academy trust, launching an online/hybrid school model, diversifying income streams, and continuing strong marketing initiatives.

Grateful appreciation is extended to headteachers, staff, governors, parents, volunteers, Union and Conference partners, and departmental colleagues whose dedication continues to strengthen Adventist education. Above all, we acknowledge God's leading and provision as we seek to expand and re-imagine Adventist education as one of the Church's most powerful mission tools.

Stanborough Primary School by Mrs Tiann Madden



Between 2022 and 2025, Stanborough Primary School moved from a season of challenge into one of renewal, growth and strengthened identity. Following a period of declining enrolment and post-pandemic fragility, Christ was intentionally placed at the centre of leadership, curriculum and culture. As a result, the school is growing not only in numbers and outcomes, but also in spiritual clarity and confidence. Strategic priorities focused on spiritual vitality, educational excellence, safeguarding integrity and sustainable growth.

Since 2022, enrolment has increased from 52 to 63 pupils; Early Years provision is full, supported by a waiting list; attendance remains consistently strong; four pupils have chosen baptism; and academic standards continue to exceed national expectations. In July 2024, Ofsted judged the school Good, with Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development rated

Outstanding. Inspectors recognised the positive changes made by the leaders, as well as the school's strong focus on pupil wellbeing.

Spiritual life remains intentional and visible. Weekly Bible studies, worship leadership opportunities, Faith Ambassadors, Adventurer and Pathfinder engagement, and regular partnership with Stanborough Park Church strengthen discipleship and service. The school's commitment to whole-person development has also been recognised through the achievement of the Wellbeing Quality Mark in 2024.

While growth has been steady, financial sustainability remains a strategic priority. As a small school, fluctuations in enrolment have a significant impact on long-term viability. Post-pandemic recovery also highlighted the need to strengthen writing confidence and progression. Targeted interventions and curriculum development have already produced positive results,

with further improvements planned.

The next quinquennium will focus on sustainable growth, strengthening Early Years provision, embedding curriculum developments and expanding leadership capacity. Our partnership with Stanborough Park Church will continue to be nurtured, recognising that Adventist education flourishes when school, church and home work together. Stanborough Primary School remains committed to educational excellence, spiritual growth and the harmonious development of the physical, mental and spiritual powers of every child.

We thank our staff, governors, church leaders, volunteers and families for their dedication and partnership. Above all, we thank God for His faithful leading and continued blessing as we educate for eternity.

Stanborough Secondary School by Mrs Jeanetta Liburd



Stanborough Secondary School, the UK's only Seventh-day Adventist boarding school, continues its 106-year legacy of Christ-centred, holistic education. The quinquennium has been marked by resilience, academic strengthening and a renewed mission focus under new leadership.

Strategically, the school aligned with the BUC priorities of discipleship, educational excellence, safeguarding and sustainable growth. Academic targets focused on high-quality teaching and a 95% GCSE pass rate, alongside strengthened personal development and operational stability. Income diversification through international partnerships, campus rentals and immersion programmes supported financial resilience.

The school made strong progress despite external pressures affecting independent education nationally. The Independent Schools Inspectorate awarded an 'exceptional' judgement for personal development in 2022, recognising wellbeing, leadership and spiritual formation. GCSE outcomes remained strong, including a 93% pass rate in 2024 with multiple top grades.

Spiritual life remains central. Daily worship, Bible study groups and student-led initiatives have deepened discipleship, resulting in twenty-five baptisms during the term and more than thirty students engaged in regular Bible studies. Music, arts and enrichment remain key

strengths, with 100% of KS3 students learning an instrument, international music tours, and academic collaborations, including with Loma Linda University.

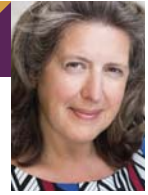
International engagement expanded significantly, hosting cohorts from Brazil, France and Hong Kong, alongside summer schools and volunteer programmes contributing approximately £300k in additional income. Community service partnerships with local organisations further strengthened civic engagement and witness.

Key challenges included rising operational costs, VAT on fees, staffing transitions, estate constraints, declining affordability for families, and wider demographic pressures. In response, the school strengthened financial controls, expanded recruitment and marketing, and advanced plans for boarding redevelopment.

Looking ahead, priorities include launching A levels, strengthening STEM and arts pathways, recruiting a chaplain, expanding digital marketing, and implementing a structured boarding relaunch project with a target of thirty-five boarders by 2029. Financial sustainability will be supported through alumni giving, scholarships and diversified income streams.

Stanborough Secondary School moves forwards committed to academic excellence, spiritual formation and mission-driven growth – preparing students to serve God and society with integrity and purpose.

The Stanborough Press Ltd. by Ms Elisabeth Sangüesa



READ. DISCOVER. GROW.

Established by the General Conference 142 years ago, The Stanborough Press Ltd. is the official publishing house of the British Union Conference. As a self-sustaining institution, it serves the Church through publishing, resource development, literature distribution and health products. Together with Autumn House Publications (Europe) Ltd. and the House of Natural Foods, our mission is service. We are distributors of hope and cheer with a view to eternity, sharing the redeeming Gospel of Jesus Christ and nurturing faith across the British Union and beyond.

Despite the challenges of the post-pandemic environment, global conflicts, economic uncertainty, changing demographics and increased competition, the Lord has continued to provide opportunities for growth and service. Careful financial management, improved stock control and the collection of historic debts have strengthened the organisation's position. Sales have become more balanced, with 60% now generated from the UK and Europe, while audits have remained consistently positive and stock management has significantly improved.

Enhanced digital marketing, website development and social media engagement have increased visibility and accessibility. Online sales continue to grow, while

physical engagement remains strong through church visits, exhibitions and events across the UK and Europe.

Partnerships with major Christian publishers, Adventist publishing houses and commercial suppliers have expanded product availability, reduced production costs and created additional income.

A renewed editorial and design team has produced a record number of new resources across all major product lines, supporting every department of the Church. The *MESSENGER* and *FOCUS* publications continue to inform, inspire and connect members across the Union.

The Press now provides resources in eleven languages, reflecting the diversity of the British Union and expanding its international reach.

Investment in warehouse systems, automation and logistics has improved order fulfilment, efficiency and customer service. The Press continues to embrace new technologies and publishing opportunities, including support for self-published authors and church entities.

We thank our staff, board members, authors, partners, volunteers and customers for their support. Above all, we thank God for His continued guidance and blessing.

Our pledge remains unchanged: to produce innovative, Bible-based, truth-filled literature that strengthens faith, shares hope, and prepares people for Christ's soon return.

ADRA-UK by Ms Sandra Golding



For more than forty years, ADRA-UK has served as the humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom, bringing practical support, restoring dignity, and creating sustainable change. As part of the global ADRA network operating in more than 120 countries, ADRA-UK responds to crises, strengthens resilience, and empowers communities through long-term development.

Between 2021 and 2025, ADRA-UK programmes reached approximately 1.2 million people, of whom an estimated 58% were children and 40% were women. Working alongside local communities, churches and partners, ADRA-UK supported development programmes across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, focusing on education, livelihoods, health and community resilience. At the same time, humanitarian responses provided life-saving

assistance to communities affected by conflict, displacement and natural disasters, including food, clean water, sanitation, shelter and protection.

ADRA-UK remains committed not only to providing an emergency response, but also to supporting long-term recovery and sustainable development.

The ADRA Appeal continues to play a vital role in supporting humanitarian work. Relaunched in 2024, it encourages churches to engage in fundraising throughout the year, supported by local ADRA Ambassadors who champion ADRA's mission within their congregations and communities.

Safeguarding remains a key priority. Staff receive regular training, while policies and procedures are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with donor and governmental requirements.

The One Year in Mission and Service programme, delivered in

partnership with the Trans-European Division and Newbold College, has introduced young adults to humanitarian service and international development, helping to inspire a new generation of mission-minded leaders.

As global humanitarian needs continue to grow, ADRA-UK will focus on strengthening church engagement, expanding the ADRA Ambassador network, growing regular giving through ADRA Angels, and relaunching community-based initiatives through the 'I Am Urban' programme in partnership with Adventist Community Services.

We thank our trustees, staff, volunteers, partners, donors and church members for their faithful support. Together, we continue to bring hope, restore dignity, and reflect God's love in practical ways to communities around the world.

Communication & Media Department by Pastor Samuel O. Davies



The Communication and Media Department has supported the mission and public presence of the British Union Conference through a rapidly changing media landscape shaped by post-pandemic digital acceleration, increased scrutiny and higher expectations of transparency. Communication has functioned as a ministry in its own right, connecting churches, institutions, leadership and the wider public with clarity and consistency. A growing focus has been placed on crisis preparedness, reputation management and coordinated messaging across the territory.

Key goals included strengthening communication, improving *BUC News* and digital platforms, delivering media training, improving storytelling, and expanding multimedia content for discipleship and engagement. The values of transparency, collaboration and mission alignment underpinned all our activities.

Most objectives were met or exceeded despite limited staffing capacity. *BUC News* grew to around

6,000 subscribers, becoming a key communication channel during periods of rapid change. Training for leaders, ministers and communication teams was delivered consistently, improving confidence in media engagement. Crisis communication readiness significantly improved, particularly through lessons learnt during national media attention relating to safeguarding. Some larger media partnership ambitions were only partially realised due to resourcing and structural constraints.

The department maintained regular news output across the territory, with selected stories shared by international Adventist media outlets and the local press. Info Adventist continued to serve as a key public enquiry channel. Major productions included more than 100 online Sabbath services during the pandemic period; a widely viewed Christmas carol series; milestone institutional videos; the State of the Union initiative; Faith Journeys testimonies; and the

Advent Film Project. Public relations work supported increased community visibility, including national media coverage of local church initiatives.

The most significant limitation was staffing, with no communication assistant throughout the term, increasing workload pressure. National-level media engagement also highlighted the need for stronger structural and financial support for large-scale initiatives. External pressures, including the pandemic and heightened scrutiny, reinforced the importance of coordinated crisis communication.

Priorities include strengthening integrated communication systems, expanding multimedia storytelling capacity, and finalising an updated crisis communication policy.

Gratitude is extended to the department team, collaborators, and regional communication partners whose dedication enabled consistent delivery despite constraints.

Ministerial Association by Pastor Samuel Ouadjo



The Ministerial Association of the British Union Conference serves conferences and missions by supporting pastors, their families and local church leadership in proclaiming the everlasting Gospel and fostering disciple-making. Its focus has remained the strengthening of pastoral ministry through training, care and coordinated development pathways.

The period began with several leadership transitions at Union and Conference levels across the BUC. Despite this, continuity of mission was maintained, with the department adapting to post-COVID-19 realities while sustaining online and in-person professional development. Core programmes included continuing BUTREC education, the annual induction for new pastors, ministerial councils, internship symposiums, chaplaincy training visits, MinTAC governance, the Preachers' Conference, and structured ministry care.

BUTREC delivered approximately 20 training days annually, with a strong uptake following the shift to online delivery. These sessions contributed to continuing education requirements (CEUs), postgraduate sponsorship support and ongoing theological and practical enrichment for pastors and lay leaders. Annual induction programmes welcomed more than fifty new pastors during the quinquennium, with up to sixteen

participants in recent cohorts. These sessions equipped ministers for culturally diverse ministry contexts across the UK and Ireland, with consistently positive feedback.

Three major ministerial councils and one European pastoral gathering provided spiritual renewal, professional development and the strengthening of relations for hundreds of pastoral families. Internship symposiums for new ministers proved highly effective, with consistently excellent evaluations and a strong emphasis on discipleship, mentoring and reflective practice. Chaplaincy visits to Florida further enhanced pastoral care skills, particularly in grief and trauma support.

MinTAC oversight supported thirty ordinations and assisted in the commissioning of five ministers, alongside working on women in ministry and expanding mentoring frameworks. The Preachers' Conference strengthened homiletical excellence, with over 80% of participants rating it as excellent. Pastoral wellbeing was supported through Ministry Care and CMCS services, reinforcing a holistic approach to ministerial health.

In conclusion, the quinquennium has strengthened pastoral formation, care and continuity across the BUC, while highlighting the ongoing need to retain, support and nurture ministers for long-term mission.



Over the quinquennium, Health Ministries expanded its reach, with presentations delivered at the Palace of Westminster, NHS trusts, schools and professional forums. The department also contributed to national and international faith and health networks and supported cancer awareness, wellbeing and mental health initiatives.

The department's core aim remained the promotion of holistic health – supporting members to experience abundant living and share health, hope and healing with others. This was expressed through developing DVDs, manuals, leaflets, digital content and health courses.

Key spiritual and wellbeing initiatives included 52 weekly Sabbath reflection videos, grief-recovery resources (more than 5,000 copies of *COMFORT* distributed), forgiveness programmes, prayer support networks, and regular health articles in church publications. These initiatives increasingly contributed to evangelism, often leading to Bible studies and greater church engagement.

Resource development covered emotional resilience, refugee wellbeing, mental health and holistic care. Collaboration with the Adventist Discovery Centre strengthened publication reach and supported responses to health questions. Orientation resource packs were provided to equip Health Ministries leaders and churches.

Training and development remained central, with

seminars delivered for leaders, ministers, deaconry groups and community partners. Topics included mental health, bereavement care, addiction recovery, faith and culture, and holistic wellbeing. External partnerships with NHS professionals enhanced credibility and supported community impact.

Community engagement included school wellbeing initiatives, COVID-19 support and holistic wellbeing models spanning spiritual, physical, emotional, social, relational and environmental health. Partnerships with NHS trusts supported cancer awareness, mental health access and health equity work for marginalised communities.

Overall, health initiatives strengthened community trust and increased participation in church-based wellbeing programmes, often acting as a bridge to spiritual engagement. Financial stewardship remained sound, with careful budgeting and re-investment of resource income into programme development. Looking ahead, priorities include carers' wellbeing support, completion of end-of-life resources, improved impact measurement tools, reinstatement of 'Adventist Advantage' research, and strengthened administrative capacity.

Gratitude is extended to all partners, volunteers and staff. Above all, thanks is given to God for the positive impact achieved throughout the quinquennium.

Women's Ministries by Mrs Sharon Platt-McDonald

This quinquennium marked the global 30th anniversary of Women's Ministries, with a BUC-led event highlighting milestones in nurture, empowerment, outreach and evangelism. Leadership development was strengthened through training in General Conference initiatives, resulting in an increased engagement of younger women in ministry.

The department continued to advance its core objectives of equipping women for personal, familial, church and community effectiveness under the theme 'Empowered – Reaching Women, Restoring Lives, Sharing Christ'. Expansion was seen in the Women of Virtue network, alongside development of the Esther Institute of Excellence for girls and the THRIVE programme, which focused on holistic wellbeing.

A wide range of spiritual nurture initiatives supported women across

the territory, including devotionals, prayer networks, grief support, forgiveness training, bereavement care and emotional resilience workshops. Resources such as prayer journals, colouring books and bereavement materials were widely distributed, contributing to increased engagement, church attendance and re-engagement of former members. Several resources and programmes have also been adopted in other global divisions.

New publications included *Life Seasons*, the *SHE* bookmarks series and expanded contributions to BUC magazines. Collaboration with Stewardship through weekly podcasts further extended digital outreach.

Challenges affecting women – including health, abuse, poverty, leadership barriers and workload pressures – were addressed through training, resources, referrals to specialist agencies and advocacy

initiatives. Partnerships with external organisations supported work on domestic abuse prevention and COVID-19 recovery.

Outreach initiatives included refugee training, food hub engagement, homelessness support and cost-of-living crisis interventions. Educational development featured annual training programmes, leadership certification, emotional resilience training and global awareness campaigns such as EnditNow and the International Women's Day of Prayer. Safeguarding training and abuse awareness initiatives were strengthened through regional programmes and cross-departmental collaboration.

Overall, the quinquennium saw increased participation, expanded global influence, and measurable spiritual and community impact. The launch of the Women's Ministries Manifesto in 2025 provides a foundation for future growth, with priorities including engaging younger women and strengthening administrative support.

Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL)

by Pastor Eglan Brooks



From 2021 to 2025 the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) work of the British Union Conference focused on strengthening advocacy for freedom of conscience, supporting members facing workplace and educational challenges, and promoting constructive engagement between the Church and the wider society.

A key strategic emphasis was the integration of the work of PARL with Communications and Stewardship, enabling a more coordinated and proactive approach. This included equipping members and leaders to understand their rights, communicate their faith responsibly, and engage effectively with employers, educational institutions and public bodies.

A significant area of activity involved direct member support relating to Sabbath observance. The President's Office responded to numerous cases involving work scheduling conflicts, examinations, induction requirements and

professional obligations falling on the Sabbath. Support was provided through pastoral counsel, formal correspondence and guidance for respectful negotiation. These interventions strengthened both individual outcomes and the Church's wider witness on religious liberty, with positive resolutions reported across all cases.

A major development during the quinquennium was the PARL training weekend in May 2024, themed 'Dealing with Today's Giants'. This event focused on building capacity for faith-informed engagement in contemporary society. Key themes included moral courage, freedom of conscience, strategic church-state relations, and lessons from faith leaders past and present. Contributions from General Conference leaders enriched the programme with global and regional perspectives.

A follow-up PARL weekend in May 2025 further developed the connection between PARL,

Communications and Stewardship, reinforcing religious liberty as an integral aspect of discipleship, public witness and responsible influence in society.

The BUC also engaged in government consultations on matters affecting religious practice, ensuring that Adventist perspectives were represented in public policy discussions. In interfaith engagement, the Church maintained its distinct identity while participating selectively in collaborative initiatives where shared community and social concerns arose.

Overall, as a protective and proactive ministry, PARL supported members while advancing the Church's mission in the public sphere. The Office of the President reaffirms its commitment to freedom of conscience, respectful engagement and faithful witness in an increasingly complex environment.

Retirees' Ministry by Pastors Des Boldeau and Paul Tompkins



Based on Psalm 92:14, the Retirees' Ministry affirms that those who have served the Church continue to 'bear fruit in old age', remaining valued, active and spiritually significant.

In March 2023, the BUC Executive Committee appointed two part-time co-chaplains to serve the retired workers' community, comprising nearly 500 individuals across the UK and a small number overseas. This diverse group includes pastors, teachers, administrators, support staff and caretakers. The role builds on the work of previous chaplaincy leaders and seeks to maintain connection, care and encouragement among retirees.

A central communication tool has been the *Pilgrim* newsletter, of which more than thirty-three monthly editions have been produced. Issued in both digital and print formats, it provides updates, encouragement and information on gatherings, and has become a valued link with the retiree community.

Post-pandemic, regional 'cluster' get-togethers were re-established and expanded across seven geographical areas to improve accessibility and participation. These gatherings have strengthened fellowship, enabling retirees to reconnect with former colleagues and build new relationships. Attendance has been strengthened further through invitations to Area 7 pastoral end-of-year events, where retirees regularly participate in fellowship with

serving ministers and families.

In 2024, the BUC Executive approved a landmark retirees' survey to assess retirees' wellbeing and experiences of transitioning into retirement. Covering areas such as preparedness, finances, health, family support, church connection, lifestyle and social engagement, it was the first comprehensive study of its kind among UK Adventist retired workers. The survey was launched in 2024, analysed by Driving Impact Consultancy, and presented to the BUC Executive in December 2025. Key findings were later shared through *MESSENGER* and the *Pilgrim*.

Looking ahead, the report identifies significant challenges. The retiree population is widely dispersed, increasingly affected by health and mobility limitations, and requires more structured pastoral care than two part-time chaplains can provide alone. The findings highlight the need for additional personnel, stronger systems of support, and sustained denominational investment.

The ministry concludes with a call for continued compassion, intentional care and organisational commitment to honour those who have dedicated their lives to church service, ensuring that retirees remain valued, connected and spiritually supported members of the Adventist family.

Irish Mission by Pastor Adam Keough, *President*



Over the quinquennium, the Irish Mission has experienced significant growth in attendance, membership, congregations, tithe, staffing and missional impact, with a strategic emphasis on consolidation and sustainability as it progresses towards Conference status.

A key administrative focus has been structured growth and capacity-building. The District Realignment Plan (which began in 2022) has improved pastoral coverage and enabled the strategic placement of experienced pastors alongside Newbold interns. Staffing has expanded from nine to twelve pastors, alongside the appointment of a full-time youth sponsor and the Mission's first full-time executive secretary. The establishment of Hope Media Ireland (launched in 2025) has strengthened digital outreach, supported by a 7% tithe allocation to develop culturally accessible media.

The Connected Leadership Conference (2024) equipped elders and local leaders. Organisational structure has also been enhanced through regional office arrangements across both jurisdictions and improved governance documentation and systems.

Church-led outreach initiatives such as Reflecting Hope and family life seminars have supported

community engagement. Partnerships with the Voice of Prophecy in Belfast (2023-2025) resulted in evangelistic programmes, a local Bible school and renewed public outreach. Literature ministry through Discover Truth has distributed thousands of books, alongside hundreds of free Bibles annually and expanded health expos.

Youth engagement has grown through participation in One Year in Mission, ShareHim evangelism, and the Creative Evangelism Fund, encouraging innovation among young people. The Mission also acknowledges the contributions from the Emerald Health & Education Foundation, which concluded its support in 2024.

Indicators of organisational health include stronger governance, system maturity, increasing baptisms from majority-background communities, and improved administrative efficiency. Challenges include the need for intentional church planting, particularly in underserved regions, and delays in international pastoral recruitment due to immigration processes.

Overall, the Mission is transitioning to structured sustainability with strengthened leadership, expanding digital mission and a clearer strategic direction.

Irish Mission by Pastor Ben Pontanar, *Executive Secretary*



The Irish Mission Secretariat has undergone significant structural transition to strengthen governance, administrative capacity and mission. Secretariat responsibilities progressed from being shared across the BUC structure to dedicated leadership in October 2022 with a half-time Executive Secretary appointment. By October 2023, the role became full-time, enabling focused oversight of HR, compliance, governance and statutory obligations. Following further leadership transition in September 2024, continuity has been maintained through strengthened executive alignment.

Membership increased by 44% (1,083 to 1,560), while congregations rose by 42% (24 to 34). To support this expansion, additional pastoral appointments were made, alongside strengthened onboarding processes for staff integration and alignment with Mission values and BUC strategic priorities. By the end of 2025, the Mission comprised sixteen employees, including administrative staff, Hope Media Ireland

leadership, youth sponsorship and eleven pastors in the field.

Administrative systems and data integrity have been a priority. Church clerks have been supported and trained on ACMS to ensure accurate, GDPR-compliant membership records and timely pastoral engagement. This has strengthened operational consistency and improved member care.

Professional development and wellbeing have also been enhanced. Pastors are actively supported in continuing education through BUTREC, structured courses and postgraduate study, including doctoral-level research in theology, leadership and church growth. Employee wellbeing has been prioritised through improved encouragement to take annual leave and rest, resulting in a healthier work-life balance.

A significant strategic responsibility has been supporting the Mission's transition towards Conference status. The Secretariat has coordinated the implementation of TED Working Policy B 75 10,

including preparation of self-evaluation documentation and engagement with survey processes, ensuring compliance with denominational expectations.

Governance and compliance frameworks have been strengthened through improved use of the OnBoard system, updated policy development, risk registers, and enhanced audit and safeguarding structures. The Risk Leadership Summit in 2025 further reinforced a culture of accountability and organisational learning.

Looking ahead, priorities include a comprehensive policy review, formal registration processes in Northern Ireland, improved membership categorisation systems, and the development of a volunteer handbook to support local church governance and safeguarding. The Secretariat expresses gratitude to all staff, clerks and committees supporting this work, recognising their essential contribution to the Mission's stability, growth and integrity.

Associate Executive Secretary by Pastor Max McKenzie-Cook



This term, as Associate Executive Secretary, I have focused on carrying out Executive Secretary responsibilities for Scotland and Wales, turning policy, legislation and guidance into practical governance across the BUC and the missions. A key issue that has consistently emerged is that we often lack a clear formal voted agreement on who can make decisions, who can sign documents, and when matters should be escalated. In practice, we do not always have a clear path from questions to decisions. This creates governance risk, particularly when urgent decisions are required. I therefore believe we need to define what sufficiently clear decision-making authority should look like across the Union, so that leaders can act with confidence, keep proper records, and remain compliant across England, Wales and Scotland. Membership data shows growth

in Wales from 692 (2022) to 894 (2025), but 60.8% of this growth came through transfers, with baptisms at 27.8% and professions of faith at 11.4%. This raises important questions about how we define 'growth'. In addition, incomplete demographic data (with 270 members in Wales and 179 in Scotland without birth dates) limits planning for retention, discipleship and leadership succession.

Much of this term has therefore focused on strengthening governance, record-keeping, and understanding the relationship between the missions and the BUC. A key lesson is the importance of formal delegated authority: clear rules about who can make decisions are not just administrative, but essential for managing risk. Leadership transitions, particularly in Wales, have reinforced the need for written limits and proper

sign-off processes.

Several challenges remain: unclear Mission-Union boundaries, inconsistent translation of policy into practice, and reliance on informal judgement rather than structured governance tools. This creates risks of non-compliance, role confusion and reputational damage.

To address this, I recommend the development of a clear scheme of delegation supported by a Delegation of Authority matrix. This would define who can decide, approve and sign at each level, particularly in high-risk areas such as property, contracts, safeguarding and finance. The aim is not centralisation, but clarity, accountability and better protection for trustees, officers and local leaders.

I am grateful to all colleagues, officers, clerks and my family for their support throughout this term.

Welsh Mission

by Pastor Max McKenzie-Cook

The 2021-2025 quinquennium in the Welsh Mission has been a season of stability, continuity and gradual renewal following leadership transition and the disruption of the pandemic period. Throughout the interim leadership arrangements, the Mission has remained active in pastoral care, worship, outreach and service, with a strong emphasis on maintaining stability while preparing for future development.

Across Wales and the border counties, ministry continued steadily through preaching, visitation, discipleship and community engagement. Pastoral activity remained significant during the transition period, with hundreds of meetings and visits recorded, reflecting sustained pastoral commitment despite limited resources and organisational change. Wider ministry activity included counselling, prayer, study and informal care.

Membership has shown gradual growth, rising from approximately 809 at the end of 2024 to more than 915 in early 2026. Each number represents lives impacted through baptism, return or transfer into fellowship. However, limited and inconsistent attendance data has highlighted a need for stronger reporting systems to better understand engagement, support local churches, and evaluate mission effectiveness.

Church life has remained active and outward-facing. Congregations have supported their communities through food provision, warm hubs, youth programmes,

holiday Bible schools, care home visits, health events and local outreach initiatives. Improvements to church buildings have also contributed to more welcoming spaces for worship, fellowship and service.

The quinquennium has also revealed structural strengths and areas requiring development. The Mission has benefited from faithful members, committed pastors and financial stability. However, challenges remain in governance clarity, documentation, safeguarding systems, delegated authority and institutional memory. In particular, clearer processes are needed to define decision-making responsibilities between local churches, Mission leadership and BUC structures, alongside improved policy alignment and record-keeping.

Interim measures have focused on stabilisation and preparation for future leadership, including strengthened administrative support, development of governance tools and engagement with legal and structural advice. A key principle has been avoiding irreversible decisions without proper authorisation.

Looking ahead, priorities include clearer delegated authority, improved documentation practices, strengthened safeguarding systems, policy review, and more structured relationships with supporting bodies. These steps are essential to ensure clarity, accountability and sustainable mission health.

The Welsh Mission expresses gratitude for the dedication of pastors, members, volunteers and partners. Above all, it acknowledges God's continued faithfulness in sustaining the Mission through transition and preparing it for renewed clarity, stability and service in the years ahead.



baptisms and membership growth to more than 900 members. Churches demonstrated strengthened outward-facing mission through community initiatives across Scotland. Examples include Paisley's Ukrainian outreach hub, Crieff's council-recognised toddler group, Glasgow's partnership with the Beatson Cancer Charity and collaboration with the Church of Scotland's prison ministry, Irvine's community wellbeing group, and Dunfermline's 'Take Time Tuesday' arts initiative. The Reflecting Hope Scotland project in Shetland further

1,000 members through strengthened immigrant family ministry, visible community partnerships and adaptive discipleship pathways.

The Scottish Mission expresses gratitude to its pastors, volunteers, sponsors, administrators and wider church family. Above all, it acknowledges God's continued generosity, which has sustained and guided the Mission throughout this quinquennium.

The 2021-2025 quinquennium in the Scottish Mission has been marked by reconnection, recalibration and renewed theological clarity following the pandemic period. Operating under the guiding theme 'Gratefully Received, Abundantly Shared', the Mission has sought to embed a theology of generosity across leadership, stewardship, pastoral care and mission. This has shaped both culture and practice, fostering a renewed identity, collaboration and relational strength across Scotland's diverse congregations.

Strategic targets and KPIs were aligned with BUC priorities, focusing on discipleship, stewardship, leadership development and governance strength. Emphasis was placed on cultivating generosity in freely giving of our time, talents and resources, strengthening multi-church district support, expanding lay leadership capacity, and improving communication and storytelling. Governance, safeguarding and HR alignment were also key indicators of organisational health, alongside relational measures of engagement and collaboration.

Progress has been evident in increased congregational engagement, stabilised attendance,

illustrated creative mission through literature distribution, cycling outreach and island-wide engagement.

Stewardship teaching and communication improvements strengthened financial stability and reinforced a shared culture of generosity. Governance and HR systems were enhanced, improving trust, clarity and accountability across the Mission.

Challenges included workforce limitations, ageing infrastructure, financial pressures and post-pandemic recovery across smaller congregations. Cultural diversity and uneven capacity required tailored relational responses rather than uniform approaches. The Mission's response prioritised trust-building, transparent communication, pastoral care and strengthened local leadership support.

Looking ahead, priorities include continued investment in leadership development, structured mentoring, stewardship education and sustainable pastoral workforce models. Greater partnership with the BUC and TED will be essential, alongside innovation in discipleship, community engagement and ministry suited to Scotland's geography and cultural context. Growth potential exists beyond

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
July 3	9.20	9.32	9.33	10.00	10.02
10	9.16	9.28	2.28	9.55	9.56
17	9.09	9.22	9.21	9.46	9.49
24	9.01	9.13	9.11	9.35	9.38
31	8.50	9.03	9.00	9.22	9.26



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