

WILLESDEN

Community Newsletter

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October

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Pastor's Message

Dear reader,

Welcome to another edition of our community ministries newsletter.

The Willesden Seventh-day Adventist Church is proud of its partnership with our local community.

This year is particularly special for us because it marks seven years since our Centre of Help and Hope has been launched. Over these years,

thousands of lives have been impacted through our weekly food bank, clothes bank, Steps-up empowerment program, our Golden Age Club, the daily Community Kitchen, our Winter Night Shelter, and our United Drop-in centre. The miracles have happened, most of them are etched on the pages of heavenly record.

In most churches, when church service is over church ends, but at Willesden the opposite happens, when church is over service begins, yes, our service to the community and humanity never ceases.

In an age where individuals are turning away from religion and even questioning its relevance for society, there are faith communities that are demonstrating that religion can be of practical value to society and be an agent of social transformation.

Finally, this year is particularly special for us as a church. We have celebrated significant milestones reached by two of our members. Sister Illoida Studdart celebrated her 100th birthday, and brother Uriah Esson his 98th birthday. We thank God for this modern-day living matriarch and patriarch. Together these two possess so much wisdom and experience that can only help us to be better people. As a church we thank God for granting them longevity and wish them his continued mercies.

Let us hold fast to the hope we share of Jesus' soon return.

Maranatha!

Dr Mario Phillip | Senior Minister and Community Advocate

INTERNATIONAL FAMILY CELEBRATION DAY

Willesden Seventh Day Adventist hosted its International Family Day celebration on July 22nd. The event, organised by the Family ministry Department, was open to church members and the local community.

The church was decked out in the colours of the national flags of the Caribbean islands, Africa, Europe and Asia members and friends proudly displayed national dress, fully embracing their cultural backgrounds. The Praise team to be outdone.



Church

while their different was not

The moment came for Pastor Mario Phillip, himself wearing a shirt that reminded of his Grenadian roots, to address the diverse congregation who had heard different foreign languages before his turn. He conveyed the message of that makes all one cultural love and togetherness in Christ family and warned against bad behaviour that runs to God's demands for character transformation.



Lunch provided the opportunity to sample the many dishes kindly supplied by church members, followed by an afternoon of entertainment

during which participants were treated with dynamic and vibrant presenters introducing their countries, from small islands in the Caribbean Sea to bigger lands of Africa and flying to South America. Only one thing was missing to this good-natured atmosphere: good Christian cultural musics.

As the high day came to an end and rounding up, Sister Cheryl Allen from Education Ministry, said that we are truly one in Christ. Although we come from different islands, countries and continent we are able to worship, fellowship and celebrate the diversity of the Willesden Seventh-Day Adventist Church members, here in North West London.



Emblematic
bird of the
Philippines

Sister Florence Kabambe, Head of Family Ministry and the event main organiser with her team, acknowledged the success of the day, stressing her satisfaction with the turnout, especially that of the many non-church members of the community who attended the event. She also commended those from the Caribbean, the continent of Africa, South America and the Philippines for their efforts in preparing the wide variety of dishes that made up the day’s menu.

The Willesden Seventh-day Adventist Church continues to play a leading role in the community, bringing people together through the many community activities it organises.

Interested? LOCAL COMMUNITY UPDATE



Jason Roberts Foundation, walking and jogging keeping fit and in good health every Tuesday , 6pm to 7PM @ Bridgestone Arena, NW10 8LW for more info call 07568185039.

Brent Council ‘*Love where you live*’ Grant. Applications are open to applicants, on the 1st of every month and will close on the last day of every month. Love where you live provides funding for projects that aim to foster a sense of belonging amongst all communities, where diversity is celebrated and valued, and opportunities are available for all. It is about building upon the skills, of local people and empowering residents to come together to respond to Local concerns and develop stronger communities.

Community Ministries

... on the Move

Following the temporary closure of the Community Kitchen and the United Drop-in centre of our church, both activities will resume in October. The Community Kitchen will continue to provide hot meals to the community every day, while the United Drop-in centre will be open every second Sunday of the month providing meals, health checks, showers and a place to relax and chat.

Working with other local community groups, the Centre of Help and Hope (CHH) will continue to deliver health checks and other services to its users and the wider community from October. The church Community Services department is looking to expand its Steps Up education programme, striving to offer skills-based training to members of the community.

Discussions are underway regarding the Winter Nights Shelter project which aims to provide a warm space, showers, fellowship, meals and a place to sleep in partnership with the local council for sleeping rough.

The number of people signing up to the CHH food bank continues to rise at a time when other food banks in the area have closed their doors to the public. Open two days a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, the CHH food bank currently feeds an average of more than 625 individuals a month with registration of more than 550 people continuing to rise each month, excluding the many other people to whom supplies are delivered because they are unable to leave the house.

As a consequence, CHH is seeking to secure more suppliers as well as financial donations, wherever possible. Financial contributions should be sent to Bank Account: The Centre of Help and Hope Sort Code: 40 46 09 Account number: 32025701 Bank: HSBC.

The Golden Age Club, which caters for senior individuals in the church and local community offering holistic wellbeing, has reopened every Thursday afternoon. The club had been temporarily closed earlier this year following the untimely death of the late sister Penelope Thompson, the initiator of the club, who forty years ago saw the need for older members to meet in a safe place for social activities, knowing how much the church owed to those dedicated members who in their younger days contributed selflessly to the betterment of the church, she felt that the church should return the favour.

Tributes

To Two of Our Most Senior Church Members

Willesden Seventh-Day Adventist church paid tribute to Mrs Centurion Elloida Studdart who reached 100 years old on August 3rd. 2023. She had indeed a long and fruitful life, being a wife, raising her 5 girls and dedicating her life to doing God's work that took many forms: serving as a deaconess for many years whilst holding other offices in the church. Ida, her diminutive, became equally actively involved in the Community Services Department as well as starting and running the Church Tuesday morning prayer service.

Besides all the above, Ida's love of service drove her to use her cooking skills for the annual SDA charity event, Harvest and Ingathering still, you could equally see her leading out in Bible studies or steadfastly spread the love of God to every one she met distributing booklets, leaflets and other Christian literature wherever her steps would take her across London. In steps with Jesus-Christ's instructions, she made it her principle to visit the sick in hospital, spending quality time with patients on the wards, who were alone without visitors. After many long years, for her

services to God and the church, Ida was made an Honorary Elder in January 2015.



Receiving her letter from King Charles III in celebration of her 100 years, Ida could well reflect on her good works over the years, which included the adaption of many daughters, sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Now, she looks forward to celebrating the years ahead contented that the Lord has been good to her, granting her

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long life and many reasons to be grateful, for truly the Lord is good.

Uriah Matthias Esson was born on 27th May 1925, in the small district of Big Bridge near Savanna-La-Mar in the parish of Westmoreland, Jamaica. He is the 3rd of six siblings who are all deceased. He has six children (5 girls and 1 boy), seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Brother Esson was baptized in 1951 at the Savanna-La-Mar Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Jamaica. He was engaged in Lay activities, with Sister Perry (now deceased), mother of Pastor Cecil Perry, passed Conference and British Union Conference president in the UK. This involved visiting the Savanna-La-Mar hospital and infirmary, preaching and giving Bible studies to the patients and residents respectively on sabbath afternoons.

He migrated to the United Kingdom in 1962. He worshipped firstly at the New Gallery, then at Chiswick, followed by West Kilburn (now Emmanuel), Hampstead and Stone Bridge SDA churches. He is currently a member at the Willesden SDA church for a number of years.

He loves sharing the gospel with others. As a result, he is known as “Preacher” outside of the church community. He spent much time

visiting sick members in hospitals, and in their homes, singing and praying with them. He also preached in churches around London occasionally.

Brother Esson is now 98 years old. He is affectionately referred to as “patriarch” by some of the members of his church. He knows his Bible and is known for challenging interpretations he thinks are unbiblical. He is an ardent supporter of the prayer line. He contributes by giving the devotional talks, singing and praying. The members of the church love him. If they do not hear him on the prayer line on a given morning, they become concerned.



Brother Esson loves the Lord and his desire is to be saved when He comes.

By his daughter Audrey Esson

BHM: Inspiring Journeys

around Black Local Businesses and Distinguished Achievers

Sunday, 22nd October 2023 was the culmination of our Black History Celebration Weekend ‘Let’s Celebrate Us – “Past, Present, Future”’ at the Willesden Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

Michael Roberts owner of Michael Styles Hair Salon on the Willesden High Street, takes an artistic approach to hair. He also mentors and encourages young people in the local community to reach their full potential.

Myrle Roach, who arrived from Montserrat in 2002, wrote her first book of poems because of her love of poetry from an early age. Her book “Tamarind Seeds” was published in 2018 after a long journey. She encouraged us to write if it is our heart’s desire.

Stacy A Kelly, author and primary school teacher whose book “My Endometriosis Journey – from Hell to Healing”, represents women and issues they face on a daily basis. It offers solutions for all women, and young women.



Nyarah-Diaz
Stephens (left)
and Jocelyn
Fisher

Audrey Brotherson, author and Job/CV Coach, encouraged us to “unleash the power within us and turn failures into stepping stones to an extraordinary life with her book “Failures! The Diamonds of Success”.



Marlene Simpson-Thomas, shared her journey and passion to owning her business which is locally based. Fully qualified in Counselling Therapy, she works with individuals, in schools, churches and businesses not only in Brent but wherever the need arises.



Marlene
Simpson-
Thomas

Each person’s journey started such a long way from where they are now and they will continue to celebrate their milestones, thanking God as they all have today.

Our children, Jerusha Powell delighted us with a poem entitled “I am a Black Child” and Nyarah-Diaz Stephens with the song “Autumn”.



Audrey
Brotherson

By Cheryl Allen | Education Director