

## Words and The Word Series



**Newbold lecturers in Literature and Theology together with Newbold pastor, Patrick Johnson contributed to 'The Words and The Word' - a four-week series at Newbold Church finishing on 14 February. The series focused on the Bible, the manuscripts, the nature of inspiration and, appropriately for a series that finished on Valentine's Day, how to read it and relate to the God found in the Bible. In the final week, two sermons and a discussion focused on the 'how to' of Bible reading. *These sermons can be listened to or downloaded on the media section of the [Follow the Bible Website](#).***

In the Contemporary Service, Manuela Casti, Lecturer in Pastoral Studies chose as her title: 'Eat the Book'. She focused on the warning to the apostle John in the Book of Revelation that eating the book would be sour to his stomach but be sweet as honey in his mouth. 'We don't read the Bible, it reads us,' she said. She warned her listeners that, Bible reading 'challenges, stimulates and questions your fantasies about yourself.' In the Family Service, Jean Claude Verrecchia, Principal Lecturer in New Testament, assisted by Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett on the piano, drew out the comparisons to be made between reading the Bible and reading music – understanding pace and context, relating to the author and the people for whom the music text was written. In the afternoon about 80 church members and visitors including teenagers and pensioners from a variety of different nationalities returned for a question and answer session on the four-week theme. Participants were interested in the reliability of manuscripts, the value of different translations and books to read to help with the study of the Bible. Theology lecturers Daniel Duda and Jean-Claude Verrecchia, who dealt with the questions, both testified about the power of Bible reading at different times in their own lives.



The series concluded with an appeal by Jan Barna, Assistant Lecturer in Systematic Theology and Leader of the Sabbath School team at Newbold Church to participate – and encourage friends to participate – in the weekly Bible study groups – that Seventh-day Adventists call Sabbath School.

Click to see [list of books to help non-specialist Bible students](#). For those who want to be specialist Bible students and to learn how to teach others how to study the Bible Newbold offers a range of degrees and professional

development opportunities for both pastors and lay people. For more information about how to study the Bible at Newbold go to [www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk). (Helen Pearson)

*To discuss your options for studying the Bible at Newbold,  
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