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Atheism marched triumphantly through the last century and into this one and we now live in a mostly secular society, but are there cracks beginning to show? Challenges to society's norms, such as prayer before discussing the weighty matters of the state, are now regularly reported in the press. There is a concerted effort by the New Atheists such as Richard Dawkins and the Humanist Association to rid society of religion altogether but they are no longer guaranteed a favourable response. A secular government does not mean a godless society. The principle of separation of the church and the state, as enshrined in the American Constitution and in effect practiced here in the UK, is primarily intended to guarantee freedom of worship. Atheists rarely recognise that their beliefs and principles are not more rational, more scientific or superior to those of people who believe that the world and all the wonders it contains was the work of an intellect far greater than ours. Atheists should not expect special treatment or representation in a secular government. Government committees must not be under the control of a powerful church but they need not be godless. It is not in reality difficult to tell the difference between a religious government and a religious individual. A secular state is not a threat to freedom of worship, it guarantees it, but some pressure groups are not so benign.

"A secular government does not mean a godless society."

Pete Walton

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Dates

Seniors Club dates: Mondays 5, 11 March; 2,16,30 April; 14,21 May

Tuesday Talks: March 13th 'What Jesus said about Life After Death'

Messy Church: 17 March 21 April, 19 May

Soup Run: Every Friday 8:00pm - midnight

design by dan@sabasamedia.com

Regular Events

Pat's Sale

Don't miss the next sale on March 25th 12-2 p.m. There are many stalls to browse and a snack bar- quality clothes, linen, toys, books, china and glass, bric-a-brac and more. This is a charity sale with the profits going to ADRA-UK.

Take A Closer Look at the Bible

Life needs not be all doom and gloom. The bible has a convincing narrative of the past, the present and the world to come. If you think it's time you took a closer look at what the bible actually says we invite you to a modern, dynamic multimedia seminar that does just that. We are sure you will find good news and confidence for your future. Designed for busy people, you can just drop in as you are. The seminar will be presented on Tuesday evenings by a popular speaker Brian Davison. It starts on 10 April and continues every Tuesday for a period of 20 weeks excluding the Queens Jubilee on 5 June.

Health Talks

29th March - "Keeping your heart healthy" by Kirra Moser
Cardiac Specialist Nurse

26th April - "Health checks" by Dr Carl London PhD, PG Cert Ed

31st May - "Brain health" by Dr Christopher A Levy BSc.
MBBS MRCS

Music Concerts

Music for Strings,
10 March 2011 7:30 pm.
Classical Concert fundraising for ADRA-UK,
26 May 2012 7:30 pm

Stanborough Schools

If you feel a non-state school would be better for your child the Stanborough Schools are nearby and can provide an alternative that gives an excellent education in a caring environment.

Phone: 01923 673268 or email: info@spsch.org



Stanborough News



Spring 2012

Stanborough Park Church & The Stanborough Centre
609 St. Albans Road | Garston | Watford | WD25 9JL
www.stanboroughchurch.org



Paul R Clee

Is spring on its way? We all hope so, and my garden thinks it is already here! Spring jubilantly announces new beginnings that lifts our hearts above the mundane. Stanborough Church has its own new beginning with the arrival of a new addition to our ministerial team. We are so pleased to welcome our new pastor Karin Wiczorek. Karin began her ministry in Sweden where she was born, and continued in Australia and is now already making a difference here at Stanborough Park! Karin is married to Mariusz (from Poland) and has many talents which include two children, Sara and David. She is also an accomplished translator and speaks Swedish, Spanish, French, German and Polish, as well as flawless English (even if slightly Aussie). She is a good communicator, and loves working with young people. Look out for Karin's short sketch 'Renewal'.

You are most welcome in our church and, as a time of new beginnings, if you have not come inside before one of our Music for Strings evening concerts might be just what you need to refresh your minds! I am looking forward to welcoming you.



Spring thoughts from Karin...

Renewal

With the occasional snowfall and icy winds, I am eagerly awaiting my first English Spring in 20 years. I remember it with wonder, how all the flowers come incredibly early compared with northern Europe. When you look at the bulbs in the store, they look so unlovely, and yet, when they burst forth in spring it is a sight that delights me. Something that looks so boring and brown like a bulb, and then the delicate, sometimes fragrant flowers that come from them.

I think people can be like that if we take the time to discover what makes them bloom. Sometimes we can ourselves feel as if covered by cold, dark earth, and we just need to grow to wake up to glorious sunshine and many possibilities for growth. When it is springtime, I think about the most important people in my life, my inner development of values, and skills that bring growth to me and joy to others and try to put them into proper perspective. I hope you enjoy the spring and whatever goodness it brings you!

We Celebrate our famous Nanny

Many of you will have read about Wyn Snailham in the local papers so you will know that 'Nanny Wyn' has been a much-loved Kindergarten Sabbath School teacher at Stanborough Park Church for more than twenty three years and still has a keen interest in the children. Wyn had a special talent and delight in making small souvenirs of the children's lesson for every one of the 30 children to take home. One of her sons estimates that she made 44,000 over the years!



'Nanny Wyn' celebrated her surprise 90th birthday party in February attended by her four surviving children, and many of her 19 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren along with friends and neighbours. Sadly missing was her late daughter, Mary, who was born with spina bifida and received a donated kidney from Wyn in 1980.

Nanny Wyn radiates joy and happiness to all around her in her own quiet way and we are privileged to have her in our congregation. We give her our sincere thanks and wish her many more happy years.



Charity Appeal Time!

This time of year we have an official appeal for our sister organisation ADRA-UK which carries out humanitarian aid world-wide. So if an ADRA collector arrives at your door please give generously. The picture is of a special needs child in Mongolia. For more information see the ADRA-UK web site at:

<http://www.adrauk.org>



Love photography? Professional photographer? Amateur photographer? Just enjoy taking photos on your mobile phone? Expertise and equipment don't matter. The Stanborough Social Club are planning a photographer's walk where we can talk photography and take photos of people or nature or whatever you want. You will be able to get advice from others on the walk and share what you've learned along the way. EVERYONE is welcome. As an added bonus – the best photo from the day will be published in the Summer Edition of the Stanborough News! **Turn up at Stanborough Park Church at 14:30 on 14th April 2012.**

