



SUMMER

2015

Stanborough News

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The Pastor's Corner

This is probably not the best time to admit it, so soon after the General Election, but on the morning of the 7th of May when I stood, cramped at the voting booth, I had not decided which candidate to vote for. I was sure however, that I was not the only one! I finally put a cross in a box but I must say, without much conviction. Somehow all the promises of better things to come failed to translate into convictions of my own.

Searching for conviction reminds me of a recent film appropriately called 'Conviction'. It's about a criminal conviction for murder and a sisterly conviction of her brother's innocence. It is a true and inspirational story of a sister's unwavering belief in her brother. Betty Anne Water's older brother Kenny was convicted of a murder and sentenced to life in 1983.

Betty Anne dedicated herself to overturning Kenny's murder conviction by becoming a lawyer herself. Before she could start she had to re-educate herself right from high school through to Law School. At times it was a financial and emotional struggle to work, study and raise her two children. With the help of her best friend Abra Rice, Betty Anne pored through suspicious evidence gathered by small-town cop Nancy Taylor and obtained additional DNA

evidence. After suffering crushing setbacks and disappointments Betty Anne's conviction of Kenny's innocence was proved to be right and her quest finally succeeded after 18 long years. Her brother was exonerated, his life sentence was revoked, and he was freed from prison.

It seems out of fashion these days to strongly believe in anything but when we read of people like Betty Anne put their convictions to the test we know they are heroes. She proved that some convictions can make the difference between a life sentence and freedom.

It is my conviction that nothing is more important than for us to know of the selfless love towards us that Jesus Christ demonstrated in his unwavering quest to rescue us from our life sentence even though it cost him his own life. When we make that our strongest conviction our life sentence is revoked and we are set free, not because we are innocent but because he is.



Pastor Jacques Venter

Recent News

Pastor Encourages Community Involvement of the New Co-op Store

A new Co-operative supermarket in the Abbotswood Estate, Leavesden was opened by the Mayor Dorothy Thornhill in May. The new store has brought 25 new jobs to the area and Area co-ordinator for Co-operative Food Stores Enoch Kanagaraj wants the store to become involved in the day-to-day affairs of the community through a notice board featuring local news and events.

As a start Enoch asked the minister of his church from Stanborough Park, Pastor Jacques Venter, to say a few words to the crowd. Also children from Stanborough Primary School attended the event and accompanied the Mayor Dorothy Thornhill as she cut the ribbon with a giant pair of ceremonial scissors.



Pastor Jacques speaks to staff and onlookers

Mr Kanagaraj said: "We had a great day, never expected it to be so busy. Customers were so pleased about the local store. They liked the community-focused store. I have seen a lot of customers stopped by the community board to browse."

Recent News (cont...)

The Wind-up Penguin Theatre Group Runs Garston Workshop

The Stanborough College of Music, located in the Stanborough Centre in Garston, organised a special treat for music-loving local children in the form of an Easter Workshop run by the 'Wind-Up Penguin Theatre Company'. This group is composed of singers, instrumentalists, composers and theatre technicians, six of whom came to run the Music and Drama Workshop for more than forty children up to the age of twelve.

Organiser Jiae Ahn who runs the SPCM explains, "At the end of each term, we try to make an event for the children and this term we wanted something for those under ten years old as they don't have much musical opportunity compared to the older ones at the SPCM." Children studying with other local music teachers were also invited as were the friends of some of the students.

Whilst the younger children had an Easter story which involved singing, dancing and music, the other group consisted of children aged 8-12 years who were trying to show the meaning of the life from birth to death in four scenarios, accompanied

this with their instruments.

The theatre group performed free of charge and their expenses were met by the SPCM. Ms Ahn is hoping they will return for another session at the end of the year. "It was a good chance to have fun in music - a different sort of fun. It was not just doing hours of practice and then playing once in front of the audience. One little girl who studies the piano, came with her mother after the session and told me that she is interested in learning the flute, adding, "Music is a very special tool that when we share, we can get more pleasure!"



Youth Win Bible Knowledge Competition

Stanborough Park Adventurer/Pathfinder Club came first in a UK bible quiz that won them a trip to Texas in April to take part in the finals of an International Bible Experience competition. It was a fantastic trip; and they won another first prize. The participants and their mentors went sightseeing, shopping and visiting places of interest.

The club is also very active here in their own community where they went knocking on doors, conducting interviews, singing at Fairhaven Care Home, Watford and distributing Literature. The children (ages 5 to 15) immensely enjoy these activities. One group has even volunteered to do some gardening for an Elderly lady!



Stanborough Adventurer/Pathfinder Club in Wild West costume on their fun day off

Recent News (cont...)

DIY Approach to Growing Healthy Herbs

Regulars arriving for the monthly health talk held at a Garston church in March were greeted with an extensive array of DIY tools, flower pots, propagators and potting compost which they were soon putting to good use. They were invited to take part in an experimental and innovative approach to growing and using herbs introduced by qualified dietician Karen Hubbard who has worked extensively for the NHS in the local area.

After a brief introduction to the subject the audience was given the choice of making windowsill planters or planting seeds to plant out later. This novel approach was greeted enthusiastically by those present who soon transformed the room into a hive of activity with some sawing, drilling and assembling planters whilst others occupied themselves potting up seeds. Onlooker Emily Ricketts commented, "I think it was amazing, strangers of all ages, races and



Community members getting their hands dirty learning new ways of building planters

abilities getting stuck in, asking questions, learning and mainly having fun doing something productive." Participants were able to take home the fruits of their labours.

Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal

One of Stanborough Park Church's flower arrangers Audrey Balderstone, along with her friend and colleague Geoff Fox, was awarded a Gold Medal at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show for their floral arrangement on behalf of the Watford Floral Society. Audrey is President of Watford Floral Society and her success was a result of a joint effort with Geoff Fox who is the Chairman of the society.

While admitting to being "Still in shock but so thrilled!" soon after the event Audrey is no stranger to flower arrangement at the highest level having competed, exhibited, and given talks and demonstrations around the country over a period on many years and organised several Flower Festivals at Stanborough Park Church raising funds for good causes. Her most recent one in 2013 raised over £11,000 which was shared between the Church Development Fund and a local children's hospice.



Audrey & Geoff proudly standing by their gold medal winning flower arrangement

Local Champion Remembered

Many Watford people will remember the late Alf Kelly who worked tirelessly for the good of local people and was awarded an MBE from the Queen in 1996. A plaque commemorating his efforts in establishing the Watford Council for Voluntary Service and his voluntary work for the people of the town was presented to his daughter Pat Walton last week.

The CVS has now been renamed and moved into new premises in the Holywell Community Centre and with the lack of a suitable wall to display

the plaque, Bob Jones, its Chief Executive Officer wrote to Alf's daughter Pat Walton with an offer she couldn't refuse.

He wrote: "As I am sure you know, among your father's great work in the local community, he made a big contribution to establishing the CVS.

"When the CVS relocated from The Parade, I discovered a small plaque acknowledging his contribution with a small photo. Of course, we are ever mindful of the great footsteps we follow, but we have no appropriate place to display the plaque and photo.

"It naturally occurs to me that you might like them as a small and pleasant reminder of your father's great work? If so, please let me know and I will be very happy to pass them to you as part of your inheritance from a great man."

Pat collected the plaque last week and, summing up the occasion, she said: "I was surprised and delighted when I heard from Bob Jones that he had a plaque and a photograph of my father honouring him for his work with CVS.

I enjoyed talking about some of my father's achievements so many years ago and reviving many pleasant memories of old friends." Pat has followed in her father's footsteps and her own work for the local



Pat Walton receives the plaque from Bob Jones of the Watford and Three Rivers Trust

community has resulted in her receiving the Mayor's own Audentior Award.

Alf's concern for the local community started when he joined the St John Ambulance as a young man in the 1930's. After the war he became involved with Stanborough Park Church's hospital visiting group which led to him being asked to join a newly-formed group looking after the needs of the physically disabled in Watford.

He established the annual Toy Service at his Garston church in the early 1960's to provide toys for needy local children.. He knew of local hardship cases himself and got tremendous joy from dressing as Father Christmas to deliver the toys himself, sometimes in a horse-drawn sleigh.

He set up the Emergency Furniture Unit in 1971 eventually helping to set up the Watford Council for Voluntary Services and serving as its vice president until 1984.

During his time on the committee he started a "good neighbours" scheme which grew into the CARE scheme and helped establish the first GROW hostel for the homeless in Rickmansworth Road.

Alf sadly died just weeks after receiving his MBE from the Queen after a very full life service to church and community.

Forthcoming Events

Stanborough School Midsummer Classical Concert & Garden Party

Sunday 28th June 3:00pm

The school is putting on another Garden Party event following the huge success of the previous one held three years ago. It will be used to raise funds for Stanborough School's scholarship and bursaries scheme.

It will be opened by a Classical Music Concert featuring accomplished professional musicians at 3pm followed by Afternoon Tea at 4.15pm served in the school's gymnasium.

If the weather is fair it will be a golden opportunity to enjoy the parkland atmosphere surrounding the school.

Tickets are £9.50 for adults and £5 for children (concessions are available). The price includes a delicious cream tea.

Ticket in advance from the School Reception on 01923 673 268 and jdavis@spsch.org or Pat Walton on 01923 672500).



ADRA Aid Agency Collection Results

Did you spot us collecting at the door in your area in April? Our intrepid volunteers collected £2,776.25 plus £5,146.66 from fundraising totalling £7,922.91. Last year the audited total for the UK was £531,388.50. ADRA is currently responding to the earthquake in Nepal donate online at <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/donatesteps.aspx?beneficiarycampaignid=2153>.



Our Welfare Service

In the year 362 CE Roman Emperor Julian famously said "These impious (unrighteous) Galileans not only feed their own poor, but ours also; welcoming them into their agapae (love), they attract them, as children are attracted, with cakes." I am happy to say that we 'Galileans' are still open to all who need practical help. We have a very busy Welfare Department that works with local authorities to

Holiday Music Fun

We are pleased to announce for the fourth year running Holiday Music Fun which will run from 27 July to 31 July. For more details contact 07837404261 or email spcmahn@gmail.com Limited spaces available. To avoid disappointment book a slot as soon as possible.

Holiday Music Fun is for children and young musicians aged 6 to 18. It offers both fun and educational activities and builds confidence in playing and performing. Our staff are enthusiastic and highly talented musicians and are looking forward to welcoming this year's intake. The closing date for applications is 30 June 2014.

Do not miss the fun; come and share a musical week with us!

provide some basics for living such as clothing and bed linen and some non-perishable food and sometimes even cake.

We also invite you to become involved in our other charitable activities such as the Soup Run, and fundraising events for local and international charities. Primary contact Pat 01923672500

Diary Dates

Regular Weekly Services

Bible Study (Sabbath School) every Saturday morning at 9:45am in the marquee

Family Service Saturdays and 11am (Temporary marquee)

Parallel Service Saturdays except first of the month (Cedar-Sycamore room) at 11am

Diary Dates

Tuesday 9 June 8pm **Tuesday Talks** 7pm Light supper

Sunday 14 June 12-2pm **Pat's Sunday Sale**

Saturday 20 June 4pm **Messy Church** 3:45pm registration

Thursday 25 June 8pm **Health Lecture** Heart Health by Kirra Moser - Soup and Rolls at 7pm

Tuesday 14 July 8pm **Tuesday Talks** 7pm Light Supper

Thursday 30 July 8pm **Health lecture** Stroke Prevention & Recovery from a dietary perspective
by Karen Hubbard – 7pm soup and rolls

Seniors Club (2-4pm)

Monday 1 June **10 Downing Street and it's famous inhabitants.** Colin Oakes London tour guide

Monday 15 June **Secrets of a store detective.** Josie Jeffrey.

Monday 29 June **Paul and Carolyn Bellamy on their trip to Australia.**

Monday 13 July **Outing to the seaside** (destination to be arranged)

Toddler Club

Wednesday and Thursday mornings 9:30-11:30

Wednesday afternoons 1-3pm

Except school holidays Contact Elaine on 01923 672204

Soup Run

Goes into London every Friday evening at 8:30pm to serve the homeless. Contact Pat Walton
01923 672500

Creative Crafts

Every Wednesday 1-3pm

Music College

Holiday Music Fun runs from 27 July to 31 July . For more details contact 07837404261 or email
spcmahn@gmail.com. Limited spaces available. To avoid disappointment book a slot as soon as possible.

FIND US



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