



Stanborough News

In this edition:

Special Re-opening bumper edition.

with reports on:

- Compassion Week
- Boxes to Swaziland
- And winter recipe holiday treat



Winter 2015

Pastor's Page



In September 2001 there was a major shift in the way in which we perceived the world. Last week another such shift took place. Special police units on the streets suddenly seem normal and almost expected. The conversation around refugees and immigration has shifted and we would be naive

to think that governments around the world are not considering tightening security controls across borders.

On the one hand we have come together en masse to pray for countries like France and yet on the other hand it is being suggested that religion is the cause of the mess that the world finds itself in. As a practicing Christian this thought concerns me and yet I recognise the struggle. At times in the past and even at present religious groups have emphasised their own organised group at the expense of the human needs of others. However, we are joining with Christian leaders across Watford in making a commitment to show Watford and the world that we regard each and every person, friend or enemy, as being of equal value - in finite value - in God's sight. We put our emphasis on the person who taught that we must do the same - Jesus Christ. In

all that we do here at Stanborough we try to show you the hope and security that can only be found in Christ. We encourage you to give him a try. Jesus is not the bizarre caricature presented by most of the media today. Get a clear picture of who Jesus actually was and is before you decide. As always the decision is yours.

We are planning to make good use of the new facilities in the extended and refurbished church. We hope you like it and agree that the architecture has merit and adds beauty to your local area. You are welcome to look around both outside and inside. In December we will open the doors of our new Counselling Room and we invite you to come here to find advice on relational and personal matters. We will be adding more professional services in the New Year.

The College of Music situated in the church buildings is providing a great service to our local area and is planning concerts and afternoon tea music for 2016. It can give professional training to almost any age group.

We have several Life Groups and if you are interested in getting involved in a compassion project, just call and we will find you a place just right for you. Join us for our Christmas Season programmes, or just come in and say hi! The doors are open for you.

Pastor Jacques Venter

Diamond Wedding Celebration

Primary School inseparables celebrate 60 diamond years. Congratulations to Life-long members of Stanborough Park Church, Llew and Margaret Meredith, who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary on 28th October.

As children, Watford-born they were neighbours in Sheepcot Lane, attended the same school and Stanborough Park Church. Not surprisingly they established a close friendship which turned to love and they were married in

Stanborough Park Church on 28th October, 1955.

They continued to live in the Watford area where they brought up their two daughters, Corinne and Sharon. They are now are proud (and tired) grandparents of four grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, a number that is expected to increase to twelve in early February.



Changes to the Ministerial Team



This quarter we say goodbye to our

He returned to England to become a minister of religion and later marry the girl he first met at school here. Sam came to Stanborough Church in January 2014 with his wife Amy and their two children. Over the last two years we have benefited from his preaching talents and media expertise and his upbeat Brazilian temperament.

Sam is taking up a post in the Church headquarters in America where he will develop his talents in the next generation of media. We had the pleasure of seeing the dedication of Sam and Amy's third son Miles in the refurbished church in November.

Associate Pastor, Sam Neves. Sam has had a long association with Stanborough Park first coming here from Brazil as a student at Stanborough Secondary School.



...Coming

Coming to us in January is a man of many parts Pastor Geert Tap. He is originally from the Netherlands, pursuing his

higher education in England. Recently he has been ministering at Central London Church.

Geert is passionate about God, life, music, and his wife and daughter. His spiritual calling is firmly

grounded in many physical pursuits like cycling, mime, a Jazz band, all kinds of music, The Dialogue Café, family... He likes to say "I am the husband of a Business Consultant for 3M (In other words, she's not the Pastor's wife...if you get my drift :-), and her name is Miranda. I have a daughter named Melody with a degree in Marine Vertebræ Zoology."

Geert has always been closely associated with Youth Pastoring and we are looking forward to his guidance of the very diverse group of Young People here at Stanborough Church. If you want to be in at the beginning come to a Parallel Service in January 2016.

Children Set Example in Compassion



Layken Venter, aged 10, the elder daughter of our Senior Pastor certainly has a big heart for helping those in need! Upon hearing about the recent devastation that hit the islands of Vanuatu in March, she decided that action to help the people who had lost their homes to 'Cyclone Pam'

was demanded. She approached her family and friends for donations to help Garston-based ADRA-UK's Vanuatu Appeal. Layken then, having raised £236 from her school classes which she took to the ADRA-UK in person

in April along with her sister, Jaymee (6). When asked why she did this she replied, "because we just wanted to help the children and people who didn't have any homes."

Layken's compassion was motivated again by the devastating migrant crisis and all those seeing conflict in their home countries and with the cooperation of her school Layken and her fellow Year 6 classmates organised a cup cake sale and raised an impressive £91.05 specifically for the migrant crisis. The money has added to the £10,000 that ADRA-UK has already committed to help, along with its partners on the continent, to give these people the immediate assistance they require.

Look what actually happened at Christmas

Put the life back into Christmas by coming to see for yourself. Make this a real Christmas by visiting a Live Nativity scene on Watford High Street. A group of Watford Churches Together plan that any child coming to their stable on the 12th December from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm will be in for a real treat. Not only will they get to see the holy family, meet the shepherds and wise men, and stroke the real animals brought in for the day, but they will be able to enjoy a free donkey ride around the churchyard, recreating Mary's journey of so long ago. They will also go away



with a goody bag containing a high-quality, child-friendly version of the Christmas story to read and keep for themselves.

Operation Rudolph

Rudolph is back, organised by Christians Across Watford. Like Rudolph they deliver goodies - this year they plan to deliver 350 hampers across Watford to individuals and families facing a difficult Christmas. The great Hamper Scamper is gearing up to bring unexpected joy in the form of hampers each containing high-quality foods and Christmas treats, all delivered to recipients between 3rd-5th December. Organized from the Soul Survivor Warehouse. <http://www.christiansacrosswatford.org/OperationRudolph.html>



The Toy Service

The traditional Toy Service will take place at Stanborough Park Church on Saturday 12 December at 11am.

Needy children in our area will enjoy new toys on Christmas thanks to the special Toy Service at Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year we welcome Baroness Dorothy Thornhill the Mayor of Watford to receive the toys on behalf of the Social Services of Watford who will distribute them.

The Toy Service tradition began over 50 years ago when Father Christmas would ride a horse-drawn sleigh to deliver some of the toys to excited children (and adults)!

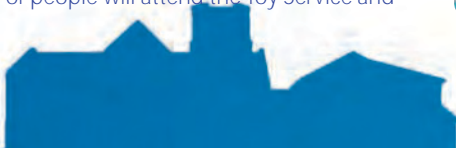
Hundreds of people will attend the Toy Service and

literally hundreds of new toys will be donated by people who come to the service. A highlight of the occasion is the procession of children bringing their gifts of toys.

You are warmly invited to come to the Toy Service.



The Toy Service in the temporary marquee last year



Christmas Dessert Recipe



Need ideas for a quick holiday snack? Here's a super easy idea for some healthy, vegetarian (vegan actually) goodies! They would make a delicious present as well as a fun activity with kids! Let's get mixing! You need:

1.5 cups shredded coconut
10 medjool dates soaked in water (but any dates would do). If smaller dates, increase the number
1/4 cup cocoa or carob powder
1 tsp vanilla extract (or any other extract)
1/2 tsp salt

Blend the coconut first until it is close to our consistency. Then add the rest of the ingredients! Blend away! Look for a mouldable texture. Add some of the juice from the soaked dates if you need more stretchiness. Get your hands dirty and start rolling the mixture into balls. Size doesn't matter! Increase and adjust the ingredients amounts as needed. Roll the freshly created balls into your choice of coating: Cocoa, crushed almonds, sesame seeds, coconut, chia seeds, sugar (for a super sweet tooth), etc. Freeze them for a few hours! Eat as a snack, wrap as a present, take to work as dessert, enjoy at a potluck, impress your healthy friends at a party! The possibilities are endless!

by Diana Sabatier

Recipe courtesy of Raw, Vegan, Not Gross

Cycling Challenge Reaps it's Reward

In June this year two of our church members John Cooper and Kish Poddar undertook two very different cycling challenges to raise money for the charity STOP International (Save The Orphans Please). John Cooper made a herculean dash of nearly 1000 miles from Lands End to John O' Groats and Kish Poddar peddled the 262 miles between London and Paris.

We are happy to report that the money raised has now reached its destination. Kish Poddar, who actually started the charity, had the joy of visiting the benefiting orphanage in India. He says, "I was delighted to present a cheque for the sum of £4,800 to the 'Way to Life' children that John and I raised. The money will pay for the education of all 51 children during the present school year.

Stanborough Park College of Music

New Term starts on the 11th of January 2016 .
Registration for new pupils, please, email to info@spsch.org.uk

Concerts Coming Up!

New Year's Concert 'Praise Him! Praise Him!' January 9th at 7.30pm 2016. Come and sing with our choir and orchestra in our first concert of 2016.

Evening Concert 'Love'. February 13th at 7.30pm 2016

Sunday Teatime Concerts – Light Classical Music concert followed by beautiful English Tea

Sunday January 24 3pm and Sunday February 28 3pm.









Refurbishment at Stanborough Park Church Completed

The lengthy refurbishment and extension at Stanborough Park Church has been completed after seventeen long months, just in time to avoid worshippers spending another winter meeting in the large marquee in the nearby field. An apparently small amount has been added



to the outside of the building, which has been successfully designed to harmonise beautifully with the architectural pastiche of the original building, but a large amount has been added to the inside of the building in the form of necessary major refurbishment and improvements. The worship area has been modernised and enhanced with new balconies and a larger platform area. In addition several new meeting rooms and facilities have been added. The goal has been to enhance not only the worship area but also the usefulness of the building to the local community and add to the beauty of its environment.

A weekend was set aside to mark the occasion beginning with an official opening ceremony scheduled for Friday, 6th November. With the pews arriving only days ahead of the official opening it was a close-run thing but they were fitted in time for the ribbon-cutting ceremony which was performed by Baroness Thornhill, the elected Mayor of Watford, accompanied by the President of the South England Conference of the Church.

Richard Harrington MP, and senior staff from the church's local and national organisations were also in attendance and took an active part in the service that followed.

The next day the regular Saturday morning worship service became a special Re-opening Service. This time former ministers of the church and representatives from the denomination's European office played an active part.

Despite the heavy rain the building was crammed full to capacity as members past, present and distant along with frequent visitors gathered there, all curious to see the new building and anxious to be part of a piece of history.

Numbers attending the service were "breaking every record" according to Associate Pastor Sam Neves. Independent counts he said suggested that about 600 people, including the choir and orchestra on the platform, were to be found in the worship area. At least a further 130, were to be found viewing elsewhere in the building either in the concourse or watching in the adjoining hall once the technical problems broadcasting the service there had been overcome.



This wasn't the only broken record with the Re-opening Service lasting for two and a half hours featuring a mixture of hymns, music and presentations! Despite the prospect of late lunches following the lengthy worship service most present seemed reluctant to leave at its close. The organ postlude was practically drowned out by the voices of hundreds of people engaged in conversations with friends whom they hadn't seen for months as they caught up with the latest news and shared views on the building project.

The day was concluded with a performance of Handel's Messiah produced by the Music Department under the leadership of Jieun Ahn. The splendid choir was augmented by invited choristers

and soloists, Corinne Cowling soprano and Mark Bonney tenor. A professional orchestra provided the wonderful accompanying music. The occasion was an opportunity to show off the new platform specially enlarged and designed to enhance the acoustics.

All the services were streamed live to the internet where the Sabbath morning worship service reached a record 927 viewings by mid afternoon - three records broken in a single day! A week later the number of viewings had increased to 1,417!

First reactions to the new building were mainly favourable. If you would like to see for yourself why not come along to one of the services?

Gift Boxes on their way to Swaziland



Children and adults from across the UK have been packing special 'Shoebboxes' with toys, sport shoes,

rucksacks, notebooks and stationery, in order to bring a smile to the faces of children far away. This year they will be shipped to Swaziland in Southern Africa.

They have just boxed up and loaded 4020 boxes into the container. They came from schools and churches right across the UK.

One hundred of those were led by Stanborough Park Church members.

Students from Stanborough Secondary School impressed the Local ADRA office by hand delivering their beautifully decorated gift boxes – which we know will be gratefully received by the Swazi children in February! No matter how little, each box has contributed to the improvement and

empowerment of its child recipients.

Thursday, 19 November, saw the ADRA-UK station, supported by willing volunteers, pack thousands of gift boxes into a secure and airtight sealed container which has now started its long journey to Swaziland where they should arrive in January 2016!

This year in particular saw a tremendous effort from schools and churches across the UK. We received a wonderful visit and over 40 boxes from a local nursery in Watford, as well as boxes from a Bristol hospital who were impressed when they heard of the Gift Box Appeal.

The ADRA-UK team appreciate the committed supporters of the Gift Box Appeal. They all say a big 'thank you' to everyone who has helped.

For more information on ADRA projects visit www.adra.org.uk. To get involved with any future volunteering trips please contact volunteering@adra.org.uk.



Compassion Week

A series of daily programmes consisting of music, talks and interviews affirming compassion as an essential human attitude and value was held during the week 9-13 November at Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church in Garston.

As the church's Senior Pastor, Jacques Venter observes, "It is one of our core values. However, it is only a life-affirming value if it is acted out. For us compassion isn't just sympathy for the distress of someone else: compassion without action is just that – sympathy. Rather, compassion is acting upon it – the desire to alleviate it." Associate Pastor, Sam Neves, adds how the plan was for the audience "To be inspired by an empowering talk on how compassion can change the world, starting from our small town."

Civic and religious leaders appeared nightly to be interviewed about their view of compassion and how it affects their lives. These included: the elected Mayor, Baroness Thornhill, Richard Harrington M.P, a rabbi, an imam, and



a head teacher, staff from Garston-based ADRA, an international aid and relief charity and from the Watford Workshop which provides employment for those with disabilities.

Elected Mayor, Baroness Thornhill, speaking at the Wednesday meeting

went a step further in her definition describing compassion "As what makes us human – joins us all together: to be truly compassionate there must be some discomfort, pain, to you otherwise you are just kind or generous" and explained how Watford Council is attempting to display this quality in its dealings with the less fortunate members of the local community.

Later that evening it was the turn of Richard Harrington, Watford's Member of Parliament, to define the term. Encompassing it in a nutshell he defined compassion as "Giving something of

yourself and go the extra mile. To talk about it is pity, to act is compassion."

He then proceeded to speak passionately about the work he was doing explaining how it was his job to select which Syrian refugees currently staying in camps in the Middle East should be invited to seek sanctuary in this country. It was not an easy job as personal opinion could not be allowed to override with the given set

of criteria including vulnerability which was used to select them, working in conjunction with the UNHCR.

Following his talk he left quickly to undertake a conference call with America about the refugee crisis and Associate Pastor Mary Barrett commented on his clear passion to help others in need.



Diary Dates

Dec '15	Tuesday Talks	8 December at 8pm 'The Future Christmas' presented by Pastor Jacques Venter Light supper at 7pm
	Toy Service	12 December at 11am
	Christmas Eve Service	24 December at 7pm
Jan '16	New Year's Concert	9 January 2016 at 7:30pm Praise Him! Praise Him! Come and sing with our choir and orchestra.
	Stanborough Park College of Music	11 January New term starts
	Seniors Club	11 January 2016 2pm Ann Rattue Send a Cow – update on talk of 8 years ago.
	Pat's Sunday Sale	17 January at 12noon to 2pm Refreshments and light lunches
	Sunday Teatime Concert	24 January at 3pm Light Classical Music concert followed by beautiful English Tea
Feb '16	Seniors Club	8 February To be announced
	Evening Concert	13 February 7:30pm 'Love'
	Seniors Club	22 February To be announced
	Sunday Teatime Concert	28 February at 3pm – Light Classical Music concert followed by beautiful English Tea

Creative Crafts every Wednesday 1-3 pm

Soup Run into London every Friday evening – contact Pat Walton 01923 672500

Welfare Centre open by appointment – contact Pat Walton 01923 672500

Toddler Club Wednesdays 2 December to 9 December, Thursdays 3 December to 10 December.
Reopens on Wednesday 6 January and 7 Thursday January 2016

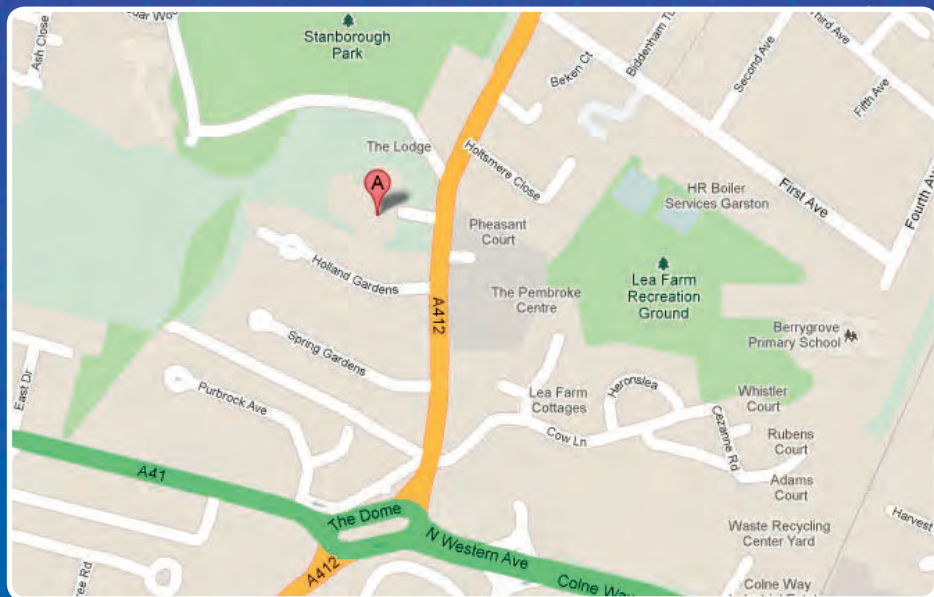
Regular Church Services - Every Saturday

9:45am Sabbath School - Bible Study Groups

11am Traditional Family Service

11am Contemporary Parallel Service

Find Us



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

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Bookings for Stanborough Centre:
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Parallel Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/groups/61120750538

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TEEN PAGE

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WINTER KIT 2015

ADVICE FROM A TREE



*Stand up tall and confident.
Sink your roots into the earth.*

*Be content with your
natural beauty.*

Go out on a limb.

Drink plenty of water.

Remember your roots.

Enjoy the view!

Ilan Shamir - arranged

THE BABY FROM THE STARS

Know you've been loved this Christmas



LOVED THIS CHRISTMAS (YOU ARE)

A vlogger Dan Rackham, a church community worker from Toxteth has released a spoof video of the famous John Lewis 'Man on the Moon' advert to show viewers what Christmas is really about. Watch it on youtube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoxTF_31yyE

Jesus' birth was announced with a message:

"Peace on Earth Goodwill to all people!"

Not a religion, but an Announcement. And it was meant for the whole world and everybody in it. So no one was to have exclusive rights to the promise of Peace and Goodwill from God. Peace on earth and Goodwill was to come by the man christened as Jesus. Jesus was the way to reconnect us with God because he was God.

THE CHRISTIAN REVOLUTION

It's hard for us to imagine just what an appalling revolution the life of Jesus caused because we cannot imagine what it was like before. It was terrifying for the Romans because it turned their whole civilization upside down.

Just imagine, one day you are living the Roman way, like school, well ordered, strict discipline, a hierarchy of authority from the Head Teacher through teaching assistant right down to you. For the Romans it was a whole list of Pagan Gods with Jupiter at top through Vesta goddess of Rome then Caesar then all the rulers down to the slaves at the bottom. No human rights - just do what you are told. It is a tough life for everyone but especially for the slaves. Lots of them.

For a Roman the whole world order depended on the hierarchy of gods to man. It was the obvious Natural Order. If the gods were not satisfied the world would end in chaos and terror.

If you were a Roman citizen you had a persona - that's where we get our word person. If you were a slave you did not have a persona - you were not a person. It was not possible for a Roman to imagine a slave being equal to a Roman citizen or having any 'rights'.

Then imagine a few years later a group of people who do not bow to Jupiter, they are actually living together while treating all people equally as well as slaves. Even wealthy Romans have sold-up and joined them.

How could it happen? It had never happened before. All civilizations were based on slavery. Without slaves nothing could be done. The world was being turned upside down. It was an unimaginable Revolution.

It all started because of a seemingly impossible and unique event: a man who had been executed like a slave was God. Impossible, but suddenly everything changed and even a slave could be equal to anyone. The idea was unique, a one-off and it never happened in non-Christian countries. Even so it was happening and that is what the story of Christmas means: God became a man and all people became of equal and infinite value to God and so to each other. Let's be honest, the idea that a people are equal could never have been dreamt up by a Roman or by the Enlightenment (European Intellectuals).

So let's give credit where it is due and thank God and praise Him for that unbelievably amazing event we call Christmas when he became the Son of God in the form of a baby born to Mary in a manger and so set us free.



LONDON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Covent Garden, Bond Street
Regent Street, South Molton Street
The Strand, Oxford Street.

Worth a visit but what's
missing...?

(Christmas actually)

