



inside
stanborough.

spring

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An Easter Story

BY PETE WALTON

Since I was a boy Easter has been mainly a time of chocolate eggs, lots of them. Hollow chocolate, cream filled, large and small. Bunnies – no. But I have an extraordinary memory of Easter eggs that could have happened to Alice in Wonderland. It was a time when fresh, real, eggs were very scarce. It was difficult to get even one egg. So it was a rare



treat when my family got one real egg each! Mum, dad, my two older brothers and me. It was Easter morning and we were allowed to paint the shells with traditional decoration patterns. Of course being boys we didn't want to. We were much keener to eat them. But – this is where Alice in Wonderland comes in – as soon as my egg was handed to me, just like Humpty Dumpty, it had a great fall (ok I dropped it) and just like Humpty Dumpty it could not be put

together again, or eaten. And I was feeling foolish and grinning like the Cheshire Cat. Good old mum! She gave up her egg so that I could still have something good even though I did not deserve it. That's mums for you! Easter time has a chequered history since it was a pagan festival honouring the Spring goddess Estra. The eggs and

bunnies representing new life. That was then. Now it is a history lesson about an actual person who died about that time of year on a Friday and took up life again on the Sunday. A one-of event in history. Mums try so hard to get special things for their children. So if you are lucky enough to have your mum around make sure you show her you love her while you can. And this Easter remember God's great gift and be thankful to Him while you can.



News

SENIOR MEMBERS CLUB

At the beginning of the year the Seniors Club celebrated the amazing period of creative and stimulating activities under the inspiring leadership of Romy Barham. The eminence and scope of invited speakers and the fascination and fun, not to mention the educational aspects of outings and opportunities for Christian praise and fellowship, have surely enriched the lives of its members. Reluctantly Romy has yielded to the call of a more relaxed lifestyle and chosen to make way for a new leader.

The Seniors Club new leader is Amanda Powell who is looking forward to maintaining and furthering the wonderful benefits that Club is able to provide. Amanda is thankful that Romy has agreed to continue with an active role in the Club.



During the Club's first meeting in January Romy was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation for her enthusiastic and dedicated leadership over so many years. Everyone is delighted that Romy is carrying on as part of the new team. The Senior Members Club is a warm, friendly group of about seventy people who meet on alternate Mondays in the Stanborough Centre. At each meeting we have an invited guest speaker and people have time to chat while enjoying a drink and a cake. Other activities include quizzes, musical items, bring and buys and trips. They are always keen to welcome new members, so please come and join us. It costs £1.50 per meeting and there is no joining fee.

Charity

JUMP FOR ADRA!

A group of intrepid volunteers from Stanborough Park Church are planning to do a tandem parachute jump in April to raise funds for ADRA's Annual Appeal. ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) is the world-wide charity arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the British office is located on Stanborough Park.

The volunteers - some of whom are only sixteen years old - will be looking for sponsorship for their jumps with all the profits going to the charity which, as well as responding to emergency situations, aims to provide sustainable projects for disadvantaged people.

RECYCLE, RENEW, REVIVE

Another fund raising activity for the ADRA Annual Appeal will be a Fashion Show and Cream Tea on April 17th at 3pm.

New and 'Good as New' clothes will be showcased, with tips on how to accessorise existing items and how to update your wardrobe.

Enjoy a delicious Cream Tea whilst being inspired to create a new look for Spring.

Accessories - scarves, bags and shoes will be on sale as well as new and 'Good as New' clothing. Tickets are just £5.00 for an afternoon of delightful entertainment.

Availability will be limited, so book your ticket NOW - ring Audrey on 01923 260270.

DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER BY DONATING YOUR TIME?
CONTACT US AND YOU COULD HELP OUT ONE OF THESE CHARITIES

Welfare

THE WELFARE DEPARTMENTA core of four workers drawn from the church and our neighbours meet several days a week to keep the Welfare department running efficiently. Clothes and essentials for all the family mainly mothers babies and children plus a variety of small household items including toys are received as donations from the public and given to clients primarily referred by Watford Social Service. A quick estimate gave the staggering figure in excess of 5,000 items distributed to 500 visitors each year. And all from one small room at the side of the church.

THE SOUP RUNThe Soup Run continues to operate every Friday evening in the year except July and August. It is run entirely from voluntary

donations and proceeds from fund raising. It is supported by several teams which have a driver, sandwich makers and team leaders. Our Soup Run is distinguished by handing out clothes (that's what the plus sign is for), quality sandwiches, fresh fruit and hot and cold drinks. Service on the Soup Run is popular with our friends and neighbours who are not otherwise attached to the church. You are welcome to enquire as to how you could get involved.

SALES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Look out for all these events in 2016: Sunday Sales (Pat's Sales), Macmillan Nurses afternoon tea events, Christmas Book and Craft Fair etc. Last year The funds raised about £6,000 in support of local charities and causes.

Announcements

Stanborough Secondary School Arts Festival

Please come join us for a magical night of Dance, Art Vernissage, Drama, Songs, Poetry & Instrumental Items. When: Thursday March 24 2016 @ 7:00PM. Where: Margerison Hall Stanborough School, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JT

Pat's Sale Sunday 20 March 2016 12pm - 2pm

Activities

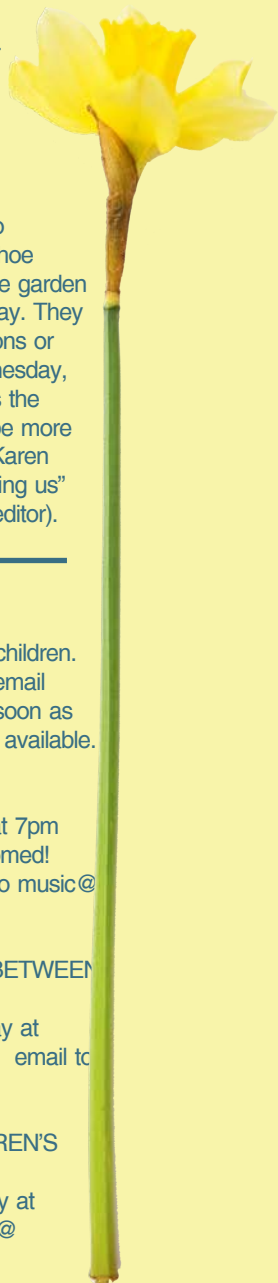
BOOTS AND ROOTS ALLOTMENT CLUB



Growing your own food for health on two allotments. A ground-breaking idea has been started by Karen Hubbard 'on the allotment'. And haven't we all wanted to spend some time on an allotment? The idea will introduce people to the possibility of growing some of their own food while at the same time giving them a taste of some really therapeutic exercise in the open air. As the plants grow they

will have the immense satisfaction of eating their own healthy food or in the case of flowers finding the right person to give them to.

At present Karen has two allotments one in Horseshoe Lane and the other on the garden allotments of Leggatts Way. They meet on Sunday afternoons or in the mornings on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. As the Spring arrives there will be more opportunities for you so Karen asks "Please think of joining us" (first contact through the editor).



Musical Activities

CONCERT BY YOUNG MUSICIAN FUNDRAISING FOR ADRA

A concert was performed on Sunday 12 March by the Young Musicians of the Music Academy, in aid of the ADRA charity. The audience was captivated by both the skill and charm of the musicians who were aged between 5 and 18 years.

DIARY CONCERTS

April 9th at 7.30pm 5th Children's Concert in aid of ADRA
April 24th at 3pm Sunday Afternoon Tea Time Concert followed by Tea and Cakes
May 22nd at 3pm Sunday Afternoon Tea Time Concert followed by Tea and Cakes

STANBOROUGH PARK COLLEGE OF MUSIC

Summer Term starts on April 25th
To register or for any enquiries email to info@spcm.org.uk

MUSIC ACTIVITIES

The Wind-Up Penguin Theatre Team - All about Music full of fun for your children.
20th March at 3pm Music Workshop for Children aged 6 - 11

Free enrolment for local children.
To book your free entry email to info@spcm.org.uk as soon as possible, limited space is available.

SPC CHOIR

Rehearsal every Friday at 7pm
New members are welcomed!
For any enquiries email to music@stanboroughpark.org

JUNIOR CHOIR AGE BETWEEN 10 16

Rehearsal every Thursday at 5.30pm during term time, email to info@spcm.org.uk

ANGEL VOICE CHILDREN'S CHOIR AGE UPTO 10

Rehearsal every Saturday at 12.30pm, email to music@stanboroughpark.org

CHILDREN'S ORCHESTRA

Rehearsal every Tuesday at 6pm during term time, email to info@spcm.org.uk

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SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS

Recently, I read about a young man who had joined an online dating site. He was a Christian believer yet he described himself as "Spiritual but not religious." I hear this phrase a lot these days. It's not surprising really, considering the revelations of church leader's wrong doing.

A new generation wants to distance itself from the hypocrisy often associated with religious people. The poet Jefferson Bethke even put his poem "Why I Hate Religion, But Love Jesus" onto Youtube (<https://youtu.be/1IAhDGYlpqY/>) and it has now had over 30 Million hits. I get the point.

Anyway, who wants to be told what to do at all? Individual freedom to choose anything I want, even in destructive lifestyles like debt, drugs, alcohol and yes, even death, is provided by the state. This is a very Modern idea. In practice this total freedom turns out to be hollow, little more than freedom to shop or die alone!



That is the down side to this new idea of freedom - loneliness. Inevitably we become just a collection of disconnected individuals - the opposite of community. In Sweden it is reported that people increasingly live alone, have children alone and die alone, a country in which help is supplied solely through official channels. You don't cry on a friend's

shoulder, you fill out a form.

In the UK, almost one person in three reported feeling lonely, not just the old and housebound but young and old alike. Perhaps like me you are thinking of your own family and wondering if any of them are lonely right now.

Surely the flight from the community of the church has contributed to the loss of community? We are now turning to the Government to make us good but they cannot make us friends. The Christian admonition 'Love your neighbour as yourself' has become a TV Joke. New laws based on mistrust and coercing free speech are dividing people rather than creating the social bonds that we all need. We need to 'love one another' to foster that human necessity of community. That was the beautiful thing about Christianity, it gave us the reason to love the lonely and the unlovely by setting the example.

Let's not confuse 'Religion' with 'church' - your local church for example. Simply a collection of like-minded - not perfect - people that has the uniquely liberating message that nothing can separate you from the love of God. Jesus did not say 'teach my religion to good people' but 'follow my example and teach the Good News to ALL people'. I think we can see that happening in modern community churches in our locality. Of course it does create a bond

between people - that's church! If you come to your local church here at Stanborough Park you will usually find a bustle of busy and accepting people with smiling faces. We hope to see you here soon and get to know you.

Diary Dates

20 March	12 - 2pm	Pat's Spring Sale
21 March	2pm	Senior Members Club
4 April	2pm	Senior Members Club My Tie Collection - Sally Best
12 April	7pm	The Experience Light Supper 7:00 p.m.
18 April	2pm	Senior Members Club
9 May	2pm	Senior Members Club
10 May	7pm	The Experience Light Supper 7:00 p.m.
23 May	2pm	Senior Members Club Bring and Buy
6 June	2pm	Senior Members Club
20 June	2pm	Senior Members Club Spoons - Mark Davis

Creative Crafts every Wednesday 1-3 p.m.

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 and Thursdays - contact editor for details.

Worship

EVERY SATURDAY

9:45AM SABBATH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

11AM TRADITIONAL FAMILY SERVICE

11AM CONTEMPORARY PARALLEL SERVICE



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