

INSIDE
STANBOROUGH

WINTER
EDITION



STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH
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PASTOR'S CORNER

PASTOR LOLLY FONTAINE

It's been three months since I logged off my work computer, deleted my forever changing password and handed in my security pass to reception. I still find it hard to believe that I've accepted the call to full time ministry at Stanborough Park Church and I'm no longer a 9-5er. Up until 2013 I had been a full time producer in a London based advertising agency, I thought that I would be a rat in the race for life, I guess God had a different idea. In 2013 God put the desire in my heart to give my talents to full time ministry, so I went back to school to do an MA in Theology. This spring I completed my degree, but it had not crossed my mind that I would be called to church ministry come the autumn. Being so convinced of this fact I went back to the rat race, but I guess God was having none of it, and before I knew it I received the call to Pastoral ministry at Stanborough. So "Hello" readers, I guess I'm the newest of three Pastors at Stanborough, pleased to meet you.

Who can believe that we are less than one month away from Christmas!? Where did the year go? It feels like only yesterday I put the Christmas tree back in the box and now I have to retrieve it from the shed again (and who knows where the decorations are!) December 25th creeps up on us like a thief in the night, waiting in a dark alley, ready to pounce and bleed our bank accounts dry, I just wish it would also leave us a few pounds lighter.

As you can probably tell I have a love/hate relationship with Christmas. I love Christmas because it's that time of year where the office would be closed for a week, which would allow me to catch up with friends, family and Netflix. I could indulge in calorific food eating, without that guilty feeling and catch up on sleep. However, Christmas also reminds me that I

have parents that live in different parts of the world, and so each Christmas there's one parent that I miss at the table. Christmas sometimes reminds me that I don't have my own nuclear family and I fall into the trap of comparison. Christmas reminds me that there are loved ones that are no longer here. Christmas has the potential to be a very difficult period for many people and far from picture perfect.

As a Christian I believe that there are universal values of our faith that can help us deal with the many anxieties that come with the Christmas season.

1. Community – We all belong to a community, whether it is a church, work or a social club. Find a way of connecting with your community this season. And if you recognise that there are members in your community who will find this season difficult and lonely, ensure you find ways of showing that they are a valuable part of your family too.
2. Charity – A practical way to deal with loneliness is to get involved in charity over the festive season. There are many homeless shelters and food banks that need volunteers. Create a new tradition and give your time to those in need.
3. Contentment – Christmas can be a time of year when we fall into the trap of comparison. Practicing contentment and gratitude is a great way to recognise the blessings despite the difficulties.

As the year draws to an end and Christmas is around the corner, this is the perfect season to reflect on Christ's first coming to our reality. Christ brought healing and hope to those who needed it and his healing presences is still available today.

REPORT: PEACE HOSPICE RECEIVES DONATION

Watford's Peace Hospice was the grateful recipient of a cheque for £6,200 during the main church service on Sabbath 4 November - the proceeds was from a Flower Festival held last July at Stanborough Park. The church already sponsors 'The Stanborough Room' at the hospice through the fundraising activities of the festival's organiser, Audrey Balderstone, so it was no surprise that it should be the recipient of her latest effort.

In accepting the cheque from Audrey Balderstone,



Gemma Shortman, the Hospice's Community Fundraiser, remarked how "everyone was astounded by how much had been raised...it was a lot of money and was really going to help." She calculated that the amount would fund an in-patient bed for eleven days. To keep these services running it needs to find £4 million a year and as there is a lot of competition with other charities for available cash "we couldn't do what we do without people like you in the community", Gemma remarked.

CHRISTMAS AT STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH

As with every year, Christmas is probably the most busiest time in any person's calendar. And at Stanborough Park Church it is no exception. We have a plethora of events and concerts for you to choose which to attend, if not attend them all (You'd be very welcome!)

On 16th December at 11am - Our annual Toy Service will take place. We have Baroness Dorothy Thornhill will be in attendance to accept the toys that are donated from our congregation to the children and families of Watford.



On the same day but at 4pm - a contemporary Carol Concert will take place in the Church which will be our first concert of the season. It will feature many favourite carols played in a contemporary style with a mix of drama, readings and videos.

Christmas Eve at 7pm will be our traditional Christmas Eve Carol Service. Come along and get your Christmas celebrations started right and leave with the warmth of having shared in a special time at a special place..

STANBOROUGH PARK COMMUNITY CHOIR

It's been a couple of months since the community choir has started. We are now getting ready to perform for the first time and we would love for you to attend the concert on the afternoon of 16th December at Stanborough Park Church. We are however, constantly looking for new members to join. So if you have a passion to sing but never thought about doing it in public, or if you want to join a warm social environment and get a few more friends, why don't you come and join us. We really want you to join us. We sing all kinds of music from Classical to Gospel, to modern A Capella music. If you want to join us then please email: spcccomchoir@gmail.com.

STANBOROUGH PARK SENIOR MEMBERS

The Senior Members Club is a friendly group of people from the community who meet alternate Mondays 2-4pm in the Stanborough Centre. Each week there is a visiting speaker and during the interval drinks and home made cakes are served. There is no extra charge for joining the Club but each meeting you attend costs £1.50 which includes refreshments. So why not brighten up the cold winter days by coming and joining us, you can be sure of a warm welcome, a friendly atmosphere and laughter!

DIARY DATES

December

- 12th - Senior Member's Christmas Party (Members only)
- 12th - Experience - 7pm
- 16th - Toy Service - 11am
- 16th - Contemporary Carol Concert - 4pm
- 24th - Christmas Eve Service - 7pm

January

- 13th - Annual New Year's Concert - 7:30pm
- 15th - Senior Members Club - The History of Alms House in Watford - Janet Golding
- 28th - Teatime Concert - 3pm Followed by tea and cakes
- 29th - Senior Members Club - Poets Burns and Wordsworth - Paul Heslop

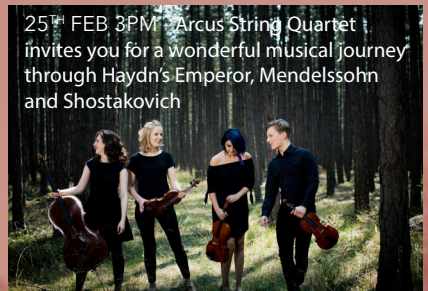
February

- 12th - Senior Members Club - Bees - David Miveld
- 13th - Experience - 7pm
- 25th - Teatime Concert - 3pm Followed by tea and cakes
- 26th - Senior Members Club - Scarf tying - Wendy Warren

MUSIC @ SPC



A brilliant young French violinist, Charlotte Saluste-Bridoux, gives recital of beautiful violin music to include Beethoven, Grieg and Ravel



REGULAR EVENTS

- Soup Run** – Friday evenings
- Toddler Club** – Wednesdays morning and afternoon and Thursday mornings
- Welfare** – by appointment
- The Experience** – once a month on 2nd Tuesday
- Messy Church** – third Saturday in the month
- Creative Crafts** – every Wednesday 1-3 pm
- Health Club** – every Monday in October
- Allotments** run by Karen Hubbard

EVERY SATURDAY

- 9:45am Sabbath School - Bible Study
- 11am Traditional Family Service
- 11am Contemporary Parallel Service

Get the inside information from the eBulletin, emailed every Friday morning with news and events for the coming week, plus videos and a devotional - looks great on your smart phone. Send request to jef@stanboroughpark.org

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