

Keeping in Touch K.I.T.

Our Aim: To know Christ and make him known

No 92: Winter 2017



Time to React

RECENTLY I finished reading a book entitled, *Soldier Spy*. It's an autobiographical account of a former MI5 operative. As I was nearing the last two pages I was filled with that feeling of *oh no the story is coming to an end. I wish it would continue*. And that's the feeling I experienced when I was reading the last few sentences of the book of Acts.

In the last 6 or so chapters, you can just sense how the pace of Acts picked up in intensity, speed, and drama. Luke masterfully condensed months and years of travels into a couple of tense paragraphs as we followed Paul from one trial to the next, from one judgement then vindication to the next. From Felix to Festus to Agrippa, to being shipwrecked in Malta at the end of chapter 27. And now in chapter 28 we see Paul finally arrive in Italy.

That's it. But what about Caesar? Why let us hang like that? We learn here in chapter 28 that Paul arrives in Italy. He immediately calls the Jewish leaders and explains to them that he is one of them and believes in the promise of Abraham and is not here to persuade people to turn from their Jewish roots. But much to his surprise I can imagine, the Jewish leaders didn't seem to even know who he was.

And so Paul uses the opportunity, the leaders decide to come to him on another day to hear what he has to say. it seems Paul spends all day, we can map out Paul's line for him, with Psalms and prophets and Moses and Abraham all telling the great story, all of them leading the eye up to a Messiah, who would suffer and rise from the dead. Paul ends up proclaiming to his kinsfolk that the Messiah had come.

Acts is a story of how the apostles reacted to Jesus' command to go and make disciples. It's Paul's story of how he reacted to Christ's invitation to come into an intimate relationship of trust and faith in Jesus Christ.

And it's about your reaction and my reaction to God's invitation to go and demonstrate that his Kingdom of grace and mercy is available here and now.

It's like one of the famous orchestral symphonies that doesn't end with a big bash, a big crash, a great, satisfying, crunching chord which sends the audience into rapturous applause. Instead the book of Acts ends like one of those

orchestral symphonies where the final chord lingers on the woodwind and the strings, pointing away over the horizon, asking questions as much as answering them.

In a way here at the end of the Acts as Luke's words reach into the silence of the unknown, we see that it is a silence shaped by the theme that is deeply germane to Paul's own preaching. That theme is of a judgement that is yet to come but whose verdict *of not guilty* is pronounced in advance over all those who believe. And it's because of the lingering...silent...yet powerful...and overwhelming...awareness of vindication...that the truth of the real hero of the book emerges.

Of course! It's about Jesus. It's about Jesus who was enthroned as Lord of the world at the beginning of the book and now at the end, openly and unhindered, proclaimed as the Lord Jesus Christ.

And Jesus Christ, is still reaching out into the future, so we, you and I, are called to belong to the cast of this epic story. It is about your journey and my journey with the creator of this world who infinitely loves you and wants to be with you. The story is ours to pick up and carry on. Luke's writing like Paul's journey has reached its end, but in his end is our beginning.

Come and sit at Jesus' feet today...Come and know that God loves you so much that he became one of us to be with us, and die for us, so that if you believe in him, you will not perish, but have everlasting life.

Taken from a sermon by Pastor Jacques Venter,

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Revelation 22:17

KIT FLASHBACK.

ONE of the big events at church this year was our Flower Festival - Soli Deo Gloria, To God Alone Be the Glory, which ran from July 13 to 16. It celebrated Stanborough Park Church's 90th birthday and was organised by **Audrey Balderstone**. Exhibits pictured the various departments of the church. The arrangers set themselves a target of £12000, half of which to go to the Peace Hospice and half to the church's development fund. They were delighted when their target was reached. Below are shown four of the exhibits. The first is of the communion service which is open to all Christians. The second is of the Pathfinder Club where the young people learn about God and nature, and become self-reliant and caring towards others. We have many talented musicians in our church and the lovely roses picture the organists. The last one, one of my favourites, was part of the Craft Club's exhibit. The table of eggs and cards was in tribute to **Pam Woolgar** who died last year. She was a member of Watford Floral Society.



September 1, we welcomed a new addition to the Ministerial Team. **Pastor Lorraine Fontaine** is fresh from Newbold and known affectionately as Pastor Lolly. Her photo is on the left below. The second photo is of Audrey's granddaughter **Caitlyn Balderstone**. She needed money to go to India to help the charity S.T.O.P. So she did something rather clever. She decided to donate her lovely long hair to The Little Princess Trust a charity which supplies wigs to children with cancer, and get sponsors in the process, thus supporting two charities in one operation. She raised over £1200, half of which went to a third charity, Children with Cancer, and the other half will help her get to India next year.



REACTION TIME - Richard J B Willis MA MSc FRSPH

HOW did we do today? Just fill in our quick survey and you may win a prize, Statements like these are appearing in a variety of settings, not least in GP surgeries. These forays into our reactions to different client service situations are intended to make the customer/patient feel at ease. Currently clinical medicine is taking patient reaction to a different level. Already, and for some time, people of all ages use various gadgetry to monitor their individual reaction to a wide range of activities. By and large that information remains personal and private and is based on one-size-fits-all programmes and health targets. However, newer research shows the added benefit of collaborative efforts with health levels tailored to the individual need.

Studies have shown that the perfect must not become the enemy of the good. Pursuing specified blood sugar and cholesterol levels, for example, may mean vulnerable people giving up on a demanding regime because they feel they can't meet all the requirements. Discussion with those individuals may map a more attainable course which if not ideal will nevertheless lead to the health benefit without the patient becoming discouraged by seeming lack of progress and dropping out altogether. Former *Scientific American Mind* editor Claudia Wallis says, *personalized goals and shared decision making put a greater burden on all of us to be informed*. The apps alluded to above help us to gather that information which we can share in our discussion and reaction time with our medical practitioner. So, surely, reaction is a time whose moment has come!

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS!

SADLY we have lost someone who will be missed by the whole church. Unexpectedly Brother **Brian Combridge** died on November 12. For very many years his music enhanced our worship services. We send our deepest sympathy to **Romola, Melinda and Nicholas** and the wider family. We shall all miss Brian.

Congratulations to **Aarinola, Fikayo and Ngozi** for achieving their Master Guide award and to **Bukky and Yetunde** for achieving the Pathfinder Leadership Award.

Special congratulations too to **Linden Dyason** and the former **Paulina Rinta-Aho** who married on November 19 at the average age of 80, showing life does not end at 40. Paulina and her late husband, **Usko**, met Lin and his late wife, **Mary**, when they arrived from Australia in 1972. Members of both families were present to wish the couple a happy future. The Registrar was Paulina's elder daughter - **Maija Stoltz** - who is a Registrar in Nottingham. Adding to the special family atmosphere the bride was *given away* by Paulina's nephew - **Pastor Paul Lockham**. What do they have in common? The church, a love of travel, music and pathfinders. Pictured below are Paulina and Lin on their happy day.



Possibly of interest.

IF YOU'D LIKE to receive the church bulletin by email, contact Jef- jef@stanboroughpark.org, or via church website - www.stanboroughchurch.org.

The Welfare department is in need of non-perishable food such as packets, tins and jars.

Contact **Dan Sabatier** on spcccomchoir@gmail.com if you would like to join our new community choir, as a singer or in some other way.

Newbold College would like to invite you to join Newbold Connect, their new networking with opportunities to connect with alumni, staff and students from around the world

Octet Cantabile have released three cds, two of songs of praise, and one of Christmas carols. Contact Jieun Ahn at music@stanboroughpark.org.

***We wish you all a very happy Christmas,
and that God may be close to all of you
throughout 2018.***

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Website: www.stanboroughchurch.org

Web TV: www.livestream.com/stanboroughparkchurch

Hope Channel: www.hopetv.org.uk

KIT: kit@stanboroughchurch.org

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