

S*ParkLife 4

(Lockdown News 21)

Stanborough Park Church Newsletter
February 2022



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- **All Change!: ministerial changes from 1st August — and other changes**
- **The Last Word** + Appendices: **ADRA APPEAL, SABBATH SCHOOL, YOUTUBE CHANNEL**

- **THE PRAYER CORNER:** - please pray for all those who need healing including those who have recently undergone surgery or are experiencing pain, those who mourn that they may be comforted, those suffering with COVID, especially Long COVID, those experiencing difficult or challenging times, as well as those with private prayer requests.

- **Specific requests for prayer include:**

Lola Gordon

Terry and Jean Menkens

Donna and Nicholas Wray

Ruth Read

Alain St. Germaine

Denver Annable

Lenny Peters

Joy Bussey

Tunde Adebayo whose father died recently

the mother of Yetunde Bright

Roy and Bronwen Atkinson

Diane and Dennis Johnson

- **The Prayer Box:** If you have private Prayer Requests, please place them in the Prayer Box or you can email Florence Allen at lizalf@hotmail.com

- **Thanks**

- Jean and Terry Menkens thank the church members for their support, prayers and flowers.

- Donna Wray thanks the church for prayers and support for her husband's sight. He can now see and his sight should continue to improve.

- **NEWS IN BRIEF:** (mostly as announced previously in the ebulletin)

- **60th TOY SERVICE FEATURED IN MESSENGER: the Toy Service last December is featured in a double-page spread across the centre pages of the February edition of the Messenger.**

- **CHURCH SERVICES:** numbers are still limited to 200; masks are still required by Church Board action.

- **Pews will no longer be roped off as the church slowly returns to normal.**

- **SOUP RUN:** this ministry goes into London every Friday evening to assist rough sleepers who are in need of **men's warm winter clothing**. If you can donate jumpers, jackets, jeans, socks, underwear, sleeping bags or toiletries contact Pat Walton on 07788311097 to arrange when to bring the items to the Welfare Centre.

- **THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT** operates every week, usually two mornings. If you wish to make donations please contact Pat on 07788311097 to arrange when to bring the donations to the Welfare Centre. **The donations MUST NOT BE LEFT ON THE CHURCH/CENTRE PREMISES. (This is a Health and Safety requirement.)**

- **PARALLEL SERVICES** have resumed. Monthly Fellowship Lunches are planned for the third Sabbath of each month. All are welcome to join them.

- **CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOLS – REMINDER** that we have 4 groups running at church: Cradle Roll (0-4) in the Williams Hall; Kindergarten/Primary (4-8) in the Armstrong Hall; Junior (9-12) in the Larch Room and Earliteen (13+) in the Beech Room. Sabbath school starts at 9:45am.

- **CALLING ALL OCTOGENARIANS (AND ABOVE!)** We would love to celebrate your birthdays with you. Please let us know when your birthday is by emailing deaconess@stanboroughpark.org or by calling **Fay on**

07973 660 769

• **ADRA ANNUAL APPEAL:** ADRA-UK has decided not to hold the annual house-to-house appeal again this year and would appreciate donations. Audrey has undertaken her own fund-raiser by donating the funds she would have spent on birthday presents to ADRA. If you would like to join this endeavour by donating to ADRA - please go to <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/Audrey-Balderstone1>

• **ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL** currently operates four classes: 1) **Maple Room** which has a mixture of members and non-SDA's run by a rota of teachers and has a hybrid approach with Zoom facility 2) small class with a 'traditional' approach run by **Volker Herkner** 3) the **Youth Class** in the Pine Room taken by Jackson and Tiwa with the opportunity for those at university to log in via Zoom 4) the **Sanctuary Class** run on Hope Channel lines with a panel of four and a facilitator. A microphone is provided for audience participation and it is broadcast online with comments from viewers read and shared with the congregation. It is also planned to set up a library of doctrinal books for sharing and providing classes dealing with the beginnings and development of the Adventist church and its doctrines.

• **Pine Room class AND Maple Class**—see electronic bulletin for details **or by phone: +44 203 481 5240.**

• **The Adult Sabbath School Status Report can be found as an appendix at the end of this newsletter.**

• **CONGRATULATIONS TO JEF NASCIMENTO** on successfully completing his Master's degree in Portugal. *He says "Thank you for the church prayers and support. I thank God for His blessings and help in accomplishing my studies."*

• **TEATIME CONCERTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED whilst** COVID is still causing uncertainty over the availability of musicians.

• **FELLOWSHIP LUNCH RESUMES ON A TRIAL BASIS**— a 'Souper Sabbath' post-services meal is being organised for the beginning of March. All are welcome to join in.

• **MUSICIANS NEEDED: Parallel** is looking for musicians to join the worship team. Drums, guitar, piano and other instruments, even voices, are welcome. Please contact Karen Vontzalidis or Dan Sabatier.

• **ARE YOU THE PARENT OF A TEENAGER? Our Sabbath evening teens meetings are back!** These take place along the themes of spiritual, service and social activities. Please message Naomi (07711 115 617) to join the WhatsApp group for more information.

• **ATTENTION FRIDGE/FREEZER USERS:** would all those placing food items in the fridges and freezers in the Cedar/Sycamore Room and Williams Hall kitchens or the freezer behind the lift ensure that all items are properly labelled with name and date. Out-of-date items will be removed.

• **CHURCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REQUEST:** it would be appreciated if all using the Church/Centre ensure that all cardboard boxes are dismantled/flattened before putting them in the blue-lidded recycling bin outside the main kitchen.

• **ATTENTION KEY-HOLDERS:** Rob Page and Bernell Bussue will be contacting those currently holding keys to ascertain if they still require them so that they can be recorded as key holders willing to be called on to open up for non key holders needing access to the building when required.

• **ANNALISA BURAGLIO MOLteni** has been nominated for the **Mayor's Audentior Award**. Her citation mentions her volunteer work in the community with the Meriden Foodbank, Gokula Cafe, Stanborough School and as a translator for Albanian and Italian families. She works two days a week with the homeless as well as getting up at 5am every Friday to prepare hot meals for the Meriden community. Anna is currently Head Deaconess at Stanborough Park Church.

• **PARTIAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Worship Committee: Roger Murphy (1 year),
Roland Guenin, Audrey Balderstone, Jim Huzzey,
Daniel Guenin, Busi Moyo

Safeguarding Officer: Eileen Hussey (subject to membership transfer to SPC)

Outreach Team: Julio & Anna Brugos

First Aid Co-ordinator: Joseph Ngondo

Churches Together Reps: Pastoral Team

Additions to church board: Roland Guenin,
Karen Vontzalidis

First Aid Co-ordinator: Volker Herkner

• **PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE:**

On Sabbath afternoon 29th January, 2022, 15 Adventurer and 42 Pathfinder groups gathered all over the South England Conference for the first round of the Adventurer and Pathfinder Bible Experience 2022. Last year the quiz was a virtual one, this year the event was a hybrid with some groups gathered in their home churches in front of screens participating remotely whilst other teams grouped at a venue in their area. Our teams gathered together at Newbold College answering questions on the books of Ruth and 1 Kings. Congratulations to both the Adventurers and Pathfinders teams who took part in advancing to the next round.

The four teams returned to Newbold on Sabbath, 19th February for the South England Conference level test. Both of the Pathfinder teams and one of the Adventurer teams passed to the second round. The other Adventurer team came second and will not be going forward but as its members are very young it was an impressive effort. The next round will be held at Newbold on 12th March involving teams from across the UK and Ireland.

“Coaches Ngozi and Ophelia have been organising parents, mentors and children towards this task,” says councillor Paula Carrillo. “We are all very thankful to God for providing people to work with the children of our church.” **Full details can be found on the BUC web site.**

[https://sec.adventist.uk/news/article/go/2022-02-03/abe-and-pbe-season-is-here-again/?utm_source=BUC+NEWS&utm_campaign=582b1f1b1d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_01_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757&ct=t\(Y_COPY_04\)&goal=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757](https://sec.adventist.uk/news/article/go/2022-02-03/abe-and-pbe-season-is-here-again/?utm_source=BUC+NEWS&utm_campaign=582b1f1b1d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_01_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757&ct=t(Y_COPY_04)&goal=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757)



All photos on this page have been taken from the BUC web site.



• **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY was commemorated in the BUC Peace Garden on 7th February.**



‘One Vision’ marked this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day on Tuesday, 1 February, at the British Union Conference (BUC) Peace Garden adjacent to the church grounds. The service comprised of guests from across the Watford community.

The keynote speaker Dame Helen Hyde – a Trustee of the National Holocaust Centre and Museum. During the Second World War the Nazis exterminated over six million Jews and she began by showing a photo of her parents’ family and said that only two survived the Holocaust. She campaigns tirelessly against prejudice, racism, anti-Semitism, hatred and intolerance of minorities. She declared that unfortunately, there is still hatred and racism in our country and Europe; anti-Semitism is still strong, and hatred of all minorities is also intense. She further said that regardless of our religion and background, we must stand together to prevent all forms of prejudice, hatred, and racism.

The full story is available on the BUC web site.

[https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2022-02-04/1053/?utm_source=BUC+NEWS&utm_campaign=582b1f1b1d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_01_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757&ct=t\(Y_COPY_04\)&goal=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757](https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2022-02-04/1053/?utm_source=BUC+NEWS&utm_campaign=582b1f1b1d-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_05_01_COPY_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757&ct=t(Y_COPY_04)&goal=0_5a09e1f568-582b1f1b1d-86043757)

● **THE STANBOROUGH PARK STORY 3: THE FINAL LAND SALE/DEVELOPMENT**

During the final production stages of the previous newsletter one cutting managed to delete itself and the only option was to track down the original source in the Messenger archives. On entering in the year instead of the list of the whole year appearing just one issue appeared on its own. Curiosity won and on opening it was found to cover last sale of part of Stanborough Park. (Was this by accident or 'Divine Intervention?') At the time money was needed to finance a redevelopment of the secondary school and sale of land was the only way to acquire it. The local council opposed the plan and its loss of open space. Opinion was divided over whether the local authority's plans were to leave it as an open space or use it for council housing.

The proposal was to sell off some woodland, 'Holy Row', the sites occupied by the Granose and Press buildings and the land that was used as a hockey pitch by the school and church groups. (The church had a flourishing hockey team in those days.) Granose was fairly successful at the time and needed to expand and, as the local council considered a factory in a residential area undesirable, this was not possible on the current site so the only option was to relocate it. Planning permission was finally granted but the denomination was told it must cease selling land piecemeal and in future it would be all or nothing.

The plan was also controversial amongst members and there was much debate on the subject hence the final paragraph has been included requesting unity. The cutting below is from Messenger Volume 92 Number 22/23, 22 October, 1987 <https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/BAM/BAM19871023-V92-22.pdf>

STANBOROUGH PARK: GOVERNMENT DECISION

BUC president, W. J. Arthur, examines the implications of the Government's qualified acceptance of the Stanborough Park Development Plan

General proposals. For more than two years discussions have been taking place between the Church and the Watford Borough Council regarding a partial development of Stanborough Park. The plan involves the sale of approximately ten acres of the forty-six-acre estate for housing development in order to raise revenue for:

- A new school dormitory/dining complex (which will also be used for church workshops and conferences during school holidays).
- A new academic/adminis-

trative building for the secondary school.

- New staff housing to replace existing dwellings at Stanborough and Sheepcot Villas.
- An extension to the BUC office in order to consolidate the SDAA, VOP and Radio functions into the headquarters building on St. Albans Road.
- The transfer of the Granose factory and office to a new, purpose-built plant at Newport Pagnell – thirty-three miles north of the present location.

Initial negative response by local Council. Following many months of frustration, the gen-

eral plan was turned down by the Watford Council in December 1986 mainly on the grounds that open space within the borough (whether private or public) needs to be preserved. The BUC through its consultants and legal representatives lodged an appeal against the decision.

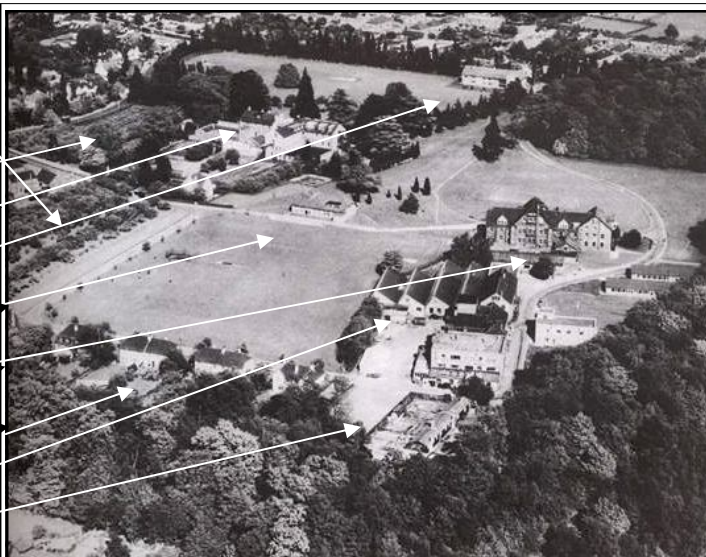
Appeal to Secretary of State for the Environment. The appeal to a government inspector representing the Secretary of State for the Environment was conducted at Watford Town Hall between 14-17 and 20, 21 July 1987. The Church and

McAlpine Homes (the developers of the proposed area for housing) were represented by Mr. Nicholas Jarman, QC. Evidence was submitted regarding the general beliefs and philosophy of the Church, together with the rationale for the proposed developments. Other professional reports depicted the poor state of the present secondary school building and the houses on the Park and the need for renewal. A highways expert, a consultant arboriculturalist, and several architects all presented

proofs of evidence which were cross-examined.

'The Park' in the 1960's (Messenger)

- apple orchards
- 'The San'
- BUC
- VOP
- School
- 'Holy Row'
- Press
- Granose



Heavenly guidance. The BUC officers and the members of the Executive Committee would like to assure all constituents that their desire is to act in the best interests of the work of God in these islands. Many different options have been explored, and there has been real dependence on the leading of the Lord. Certainly if God had not wanted us to pursue the present course, doors would have been permanently closed before now. Could we therefore appeal for a measure of unity, as we plan, work together and pray for the strengthening and upbuilding of our educational, evangelistic and health-food ministries.

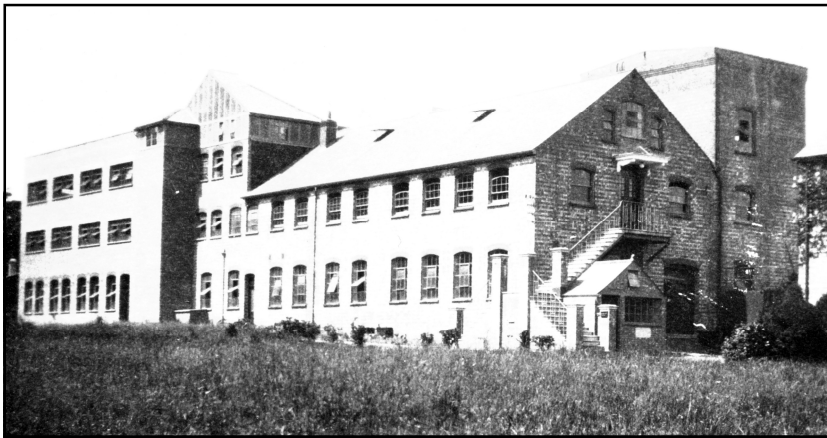
Goodbye⁵



These buildings were demolished at this time.

Left: Stanborough Secondary School. This was originally used as the missionary college and built before World War 1. It was used as a hospital until after the end of World War 2 when it became a denominational school.

Right: The Voice of Prophecy building was originally built as the British Union Conference office. When it relocated to the current building the old one was taken over by the VOP. It was briefly used by the school for additional accommodation during the construction its new home.



Left: The Granose building dated back to the time when The Park was first dedicated. At the time it was considered to be profitable and required larger premises to expand yet within a year of relocating to a purpose-built factory in Newport Pagnell it was sold to a commercial company.

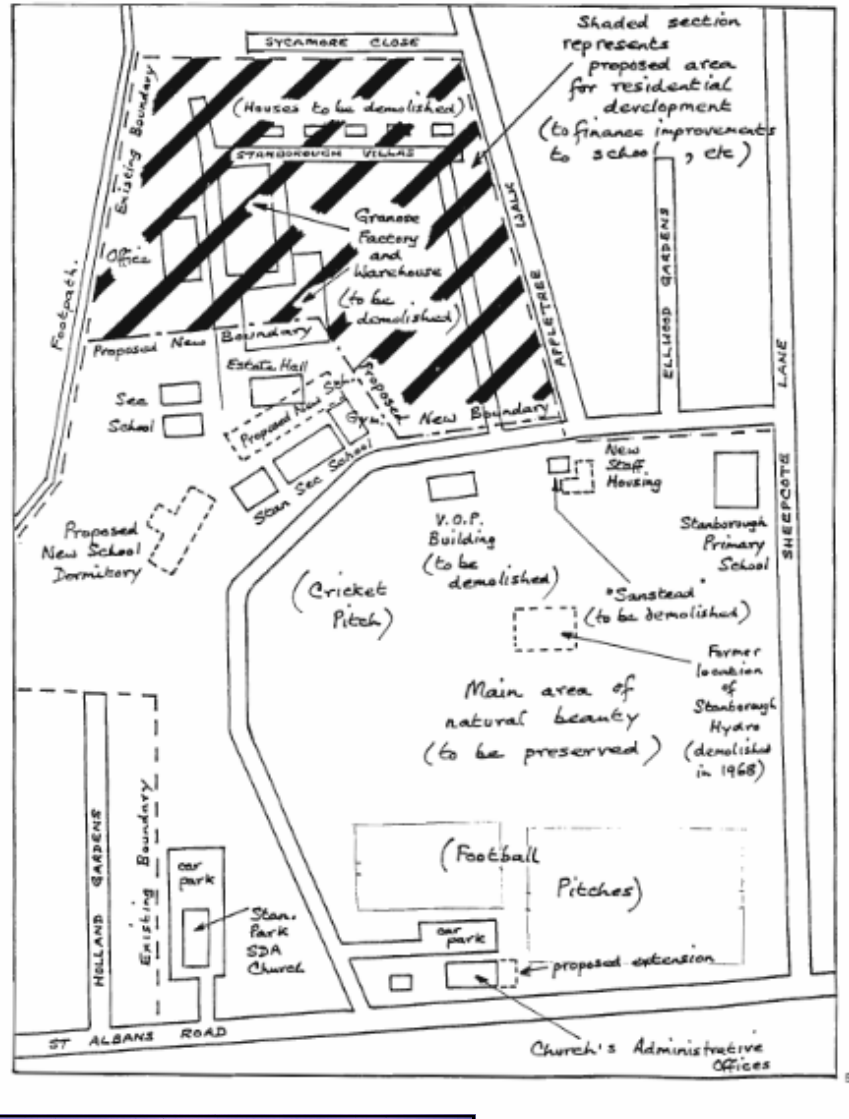
Right: Stanborough Villas backed onto woodland at the top end of The Park. They were not part of the original park and were probably built after the sale of the Woodside Farm Estate.

They were constructed to provide accommodation for ministers working at the BUC hence it was popularly referred to as 'Holy Row'.

This view was taken from the roof of the Granose factory by Agnes Poulton—as were all the black and white photos.



DIAGRAM OF PROPOSED PARTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF STANBOROUGH PARK



The plan above showing the proposed 'hockey field development' was taken from the Messenger. The photos show the site from the same point near the school building. The picture below looks towards Appletree Walk which was built on the site of a former apple orchard.



'Holy Row' is in the distance on both photos. The detached house was built to house the Union President and the others to house ministers although in later years they were home to denominational workers. The site was formerly used as a hockey pitch hence it was referred to as the 'hockey field development'.



Left and below: Demolition of the Granose building



Left: the VOP building with Sanstead (worker accommodation) behind. Both subsequently demolished. Sanstead was replaced by the Conifer Close accommodation.

Sheepcote Villa was not redeveloped for workers. Instead it was turned into a complex of retirement flats sold to members on a shared-ownership basis with the denomination.

Right: the Press building seen from across the hockey field. At this time the Press had relocated Grantham and the building was being used by Granose.



Left: The Early stages— looking across the hockey field towards the secondary school. The gymnasium, which was incorporated into the new building, with the old Edwardian building behind.

(all colour photos: J. Coombs)

ALL CHANGE!:

PASTOR GEERT MOVES ON AND LEAVES US ON 31ST JULY. He will be taking over responsibility for the Swindon and Cheltenham churches, a straight swap with Pastor James Shepley who will be taking over his role here at SPC from **1st AUGUST**. Pastor James is a familiar face having worshipped with us for five years before moving on to his current location.

NEW STUDENT MISSIONARIES ARRIVE: we welcome the two replacement student missionaries— Gabriel from Brazil and Flo from Chile — who were scheduled to arrive on 22nd February and 28th February respectively.

ADVANCE WARNING: legislation passed by the government last year made fire evacuation procedures **and practices** mandatory in churches — something that has never happened during our church's long history. Few will have even heard the fire alarm. Implementation plans have been put in to place and according to Bernell Bussue, 'The date of the fire drill will not be announced to the congregation in advance, but key people such as fire marshals, deacons and the platform party will have advance notice and it will be performed in a way that causes the least disruption to the service.' Worshippers should leave quietly by the nearest exit and assemble at the assembly points marked on trees at the front of the building. Fire marshals will be in evidence to help direct people to the correct location. Plans include sounding the alarm between services on 26th February to familiarise the congregation with its sound.



SIGNS OF SPRING: snowdrops in full flower in the church yard at Abbots Langley Parish Church.



Editorial note: please bear with the more haphazard presentation than usual. This has been an experiment with Microsoft Publisher to see if the result was better than the customary WORD XP. The jury is still out!!

THE LAST WORD:

The trouble with people forgiving and forgetting is that they keep reminding us that they're doing it.

You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you, as you are to them.— Desmond TUTU

Since producing this newsletter the situation in Ukraine has developed into a humanitarian crisis leaving Europe with a serious refugee situation. ADRA has launched an emergency appeal. To donate go to the URL at the bottom of this page or contact ADRA direct or Audrey Balderstone.



UKRAINE APPEAL - donate now to help people in crisis!

We are all horrified at the news that Russia has invaded Ukraine, our thoughts are with everyone affected by this tragedy. ADRA stands in solidarity with the citizens of Ukraine. ADRA offices around Europe are concerned by the increasing levels of displacement and the escalating humanitarian situation. As ADRA, the network is preparing to ensure humanitarian access where people need it, currently in the neighbouring countries to Ukraine who are taking in the displaced.

This is a rapidly evolving crisis, and we ask you to donate NOW to assist those affected by the war in Ukraine, helping refugees and protecting them where we can.

Your donation could help someone affected get food, medicines and basic medical supplies, shelter and water.

Your financial support will allow us to help immediately through our partner ADRA offices who are helping provide for the refugees.

Please donate here: <https://app.donorfy.com/donate/C4311R6V76/Level3Emergency> or via the banner on our website: www.adra.org.uk

As we all face an uncertain future our faith and hope rests in Him, our Lord and Father.



DAVID BALDERSTONE: TESTIMONY OF AN ADRA VOLUNTEER.

David became involved with ADRA-UK and its predecessor SAWS in 1969. He worked as a volunteer in Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Albania and the former Yugoslavia. (He also volunteered for Kish Poddar's STOP International charity.) In later years he worked as ADRA-UK's Transport Manager in a voluntary capacity, co-ordinating the loads of aid and their destinations, keeping the trucks in working order and sorting out the paperwork. He achieved a certain notoriety within the charity for the number of times his aid trucks came under enemy fire. In 1996 he told of some of his experiences in his own words for readers of ParkLink, a forerunner of Stanborough News.

I first became interested in helping people when I was a small boy going to Stanborough Park Church and listened to real-life missionaries telling real-life stories of their experiences in Africa and India. Of the wars, floods, homelessness and starvation of many people in the world.

My first chance to go abroad on a relief trip was in 1969 when I helped a team of five – two doctors and three relief workers – care for thousands of refugees in the Nigerian civil war. Within three weeks we were feeding some 20,000 people a week, got a small 30-bed hospital up and running again and had approximately 100 people working for us. I was there for three months and really enjoyed it, although a tragic time for so many who were dying around us. I went back again in 1970 for a short time.

The above were organised by SAWS the predecessor to ADRA. These trips were the first time I had ever been held at gunpoint, had to avoid mines in the road and experience bullets flying around. To see and be able to help poor, distressed and starving people made it all worthwhile.

In 1989 I was asked to be a Team Leader for a one month period on a development programme for ADRA in Zimbabwe; a year later in Pakistan where we were building some classrooms and a toilet block and the year after that in Nicaragua finishing off a secondary/boarding school.

My involvement in Albania and Yugoslavia began about four years ago when I saw the desperate plight of so many thousands of displaced and frightened people.

I often wonder how my family here would manage if the total destruction of our basis of life, our home, business, community, town and infrastructure came upon us suddenly and they had only minutes or hours to prepare for life on the move and with only the clothes they stood up in and what they could carry. It's this thought that motivates me to help others.

I took my LGV licence about four years ago so that I could drive the trucks on long-haul convoy work.

We take medical equipment donated by all sorts of organisations, hospitals, dentists. We take food, shoes and good second-hand clothes, blankets, kitchen equipment, garden seeds, toiletries etc. We have also taken building equipment for reconstruction work.

I make three or four trips a year. Each trip takes a minimum of one week. Sometimes more. In the early days of the conflict in the former-Yugoslavia when we had to come through the active front lines, it took sometimes nearly three weeks to get to Sarajevo and back.

I have now been to all sides of the war in Bosnia. I have delivered aid to all sides. I have seen the same suffering, heartache, bloodshed, the same destruction of entire villages, towns. I have seen people of all walks of life, from all backgrounds, reduced to distressed and bewildered refugees, not knowing what is to become of them.

Does it involve any danger? Yes! The worst time was inside Sarjevo when the shelling was on and bullets used to whine through the ruined houses and you never knew when the next one was going to come. One very bad time was when bullets hit our truck from a point some 3,000 yards away. We had to drive through this area knowing and seeing the dust spirals as they hit the concrete at the side of the road and we had to go through the crossfire.

I keep going back because people need help and often it's only outside helpers who can give that help. I count it a privilege to be able to deliver the help and to meet the people in need. Meeting and talking with people makes it all worthwhile.

I became ADRA Transport Manager about 2½ years ago. I have to co-ordinate the loads, destinations and try and sort out all the paperwork, try and keep the trucks up to scratch etc. We send out 8-12 loads a year.

I have helped with projects in Albania, the former Yugoslavia, Lithuania and Rwanda. The aid is always well-received. Our big truck is often emptied and aid distributed in a matter of hours. It's great to see the faces of people as they received often small things that make such a difference to them.

I find it difficult to spare the time from various business activities. It means I have to start my working day at 7 a.m. and often have to work until 9 p.m. at night, six days a week so that I can take time out to undertake these trips. I am fortunate that I have the back-up of business partners who are sympathetic to what I do and cover for me. I am also fortunate to have the support of my own family and friends.

I wish I could do more. I feel we must keep helping when we can. We need, especially, toiletries, food – especially dried food - seeds, cutlery, plates cups, shoes, blankets, underclothes, socks and men's clothes. Our biggest problem is finance. Each trip costs approximately £3,000 or £1 per mile. We often have a load waiting to go but not enough money to send it.

The work I see going on and on, there is so much need in so many places.

I have been blessed in life with a happy family, good friends, a business and a peaceful country. I feel I should put something back while I am able to.

(David died 16th January, 2010 aged 67 after a long battle with cancer. His funeral saw a packed church; so many wanted to attend to pay their tributes to a man who gave so much for the benefit of others.)

Posthumous award for 'humble' man from Watford devoted to charity

By Chris Hewett



A Watford man who dedicated a large part of his life to charity and the church was given a posthumous award recognising his work on Saturday.

Mayor Dorothy Thornhill visited the Stanborough Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church, in Garston, to present an Audentior award to the wife of David Balderstone.

Mr. Balderstone, 67, was born in Slough but lived and worked in and near Watford for most of his life and devoted a huge portion of his time, energy and - at times - finance to charity works. He passed away on January 16 after a long fight with cancer.

Mayor Thornhill said: "I found it quite emotional. He was a lovely, lovely man and I had a great fondness for him, he just got on with things and he was like that all the time. It was a great sadness that we could not give the award to him when he was alive."

Throughout his life Mr. Balderstone was closely associated with ADRA-UK, the Adventist Development & Relief Agency arm of his Church. Over the past four decades his involvement had taken him to various countries overseas, including Africa and Eastern Europe.

Mrs. Balderstone, 64, said: "It was very moving because it is the third award he has received for his work posthumously. He was a very humble man and would have been highly embarrassed to be given the awards. He spent his whole life working for other people."

One of David's last legacies was his personal arrangement to pack some 8,000 shoeboxes last November for the needy children overseas.

Mayor Thornhill added: "I was delighted that I could meet him in November to help him load the boxes to be posted off to Africa. Even though he was very ill at that point, he was loving it."

During her presentation, Mayor Thornhill paid tribute to Mr. Balderstone for his charity work conducted both in this country and overseas.



International Development Secretary Justine Greening with the ADRA UK members. Photo courtesy of Kofi Osei-Owusu

MP and Secretary of State visit local charity

A Garston based charity welcomed some special visitors last month when International Development Secretary, Justine Greening and Watford MP, Richard Harrington paid them a visit.

The pair toured the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-UK) offices at Stanborough Park on May 20.

ADRA-UK is a humanitarian agency operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the purpose of providing individual and community development and disaster relief.

The Secretary of State's visit focused on ADRA-UK's work in Myanmar (Burma) where the charity is implementing a project with funding from the Department for International Development that creates jobs and promotes income generation along

with raising awareness of gender, HIV/Aids, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection activities.

Ms Greening praised the efforts of ADRA and the work they are doing at a grass roots level.

She said: "It was really, really helpful because the global poverty action fund is all about going beyond working with the biggest NGOs in Britain. We are working with medium-sized NGOs such as ADRA and much smaller ones."

It was a first visit to the ADRA office for Mr Harrington who expressed delight in having such a positive charity in his constituency.

He said: "It's very different from the old type of up-down aid where wealthy countries gave money to small countries and hoped that enough filtered through. This is actually funding a project at grass roots and it's helping people to set up their own business, survive themselves and build an infrastructure."

Helia Mateus, ADRA-UK's chief financial officer said: "It's very encouraging everything the secretary of state said particularly highlighting that we work at grass roots. We work with the most vulnerable in the communities and she particularly appreciated what we do.

"We provide them with skills so they can generate some income to support their families, especially the young people who would otherwise have to leave the villages and head to the urban centres, possibly to work in factories in the Thai border and sometimes never to be heard of again."

ADRA-UK was established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a charity in 1999.

The link to the Seventh-day Adventist Church is important because not only does it give ADRA-UK the ethos for its work but also gives church members an opportunity to be involved in the wider scheme of social responsibility and humanitarian work.

by Bert Smit

"Good service is a right, not a privilege!"

"Let's move!"

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28 | June 2013 | www.mynewsmag.co.uk

Local charity's CEO speaks out about high earners in the sector

Recent reports highlighting high CEO salaries in the charity sector sparked a flurry of debate in the media.

It was noted that over thirty executive managers of some international development and relief agencies in the UK were paid more than £100,000 annually.

However, analysis by Celina Ribeiro of Civil Society notes that religious charities pay their senior staff less.

As part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ADRA-UK (the Adventist Development and Relief Agency), which has its headquarters in Garston, follows the salary structure of the organisation.

Although ADRA-UK has its own accounts department, the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (located in the same Garston office building), which is funded entirely by donations and bequests from church members, maintains the payroll for the charity.

Bert Smit, Chief Executive for ADRA-UK, said: "All of us work for ADRA because we have a commitment



The church in Garston is part of ADRA UK who have a strict salary structure which means as a charity more money is spent on work

to helping people living in poverty or distress.

"We will never compete with salaries paid in the sector but working for the church or for ADRA has a deeper meaning than just earning a living."

Helia Mateus, ADRA-UK Chief Finance Officer emphasised the cost benefit of a medium sized, religious based charity, commenting: "As our overheads are lower than many other comparable organisations more money is actually spent on our work. Our board expects us to be frugal with the funds entrusted to us and make it work to the greater good."

During a recent visit to the ADRA-UK office, International Development Secretary, Justine Greening, particularly praised the work ADRA is doing at a grass roots level.

For an overview of current ADRA-UK projects visit www.adra.org.uk

by June Coombs

CHIROPODIST / PODIATRIST

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- Corrected Heels
- Callus
- Corns
- Nail Care/Infection
- Ingrown Nails
- Thickened Nails
- Fungal Infections
- Athlete's Foot
- Warts
- Diabetic Footcare

Since last August/September 2021 Adult Sabbath School has been resumed at church and it's currently running the following classes:

Maple room: run by Eustace Cornwall with a rota of teachers it's based on the hybrid approach allowing people to meet in person but also to connect via Zoom.

The room is set up with a laptop computer and a Jabra speaker/microphone in order to provide the facility. The Zoom session is hosted by Eustace Cornwall. Details are available on the ebulletin.

This class has "historically" a mixed attendance of non-members and therefore it's characterised by open discussions but still using the weekly lesson as a guideline.

Volker's class in Pst Terry's office: run by Volker Herkner only, with a study group of 4-5 people. Zoom facility is provided there too and details are published on the ebulletin.

This class has a traditional approach to Bible study and focused on personal interaction in a small group where people may feel more confident in sharing their view rather than in a bigger group.

Young Adults class: currently run by Jackson Bright and Tiwa Adebayo in the Oak Room it is directed to adults aged 18-30ish. This class is growing in number hence they moved from the originally allocated Pine room (too small, around 12 m²) to a bigger one like the Oak.

It offers Zoom facility in order to allow especially students at Uni to connect. A laptop has been donated by a software company to Sabbath School to run this class and we also provide another Jabra speaker/microphone.

Sanctuary class: since last September we have started a new format in the Sanctuary which is based on a panel of 4 members and a facilitator to moderate/lead the study. The objective of running this format is :

- Use a format similar to Hope Channel which has been broadcasted for more than a year and the congregation got used to.
- Scripture based quality Bible study. Sessions run on Sabbath are the result of group study and preparation throughout the week. The panellists engage on the topics on a dedicated WhatsApp group in order to provide an uplifting discussion/study on Sabbath.
- Engage with the congregation: a microphone is available for the congregation to interact during the lesson.
- The lesson is broadcasted on the church Livestream from 9:45am. The programme includes the mission spotlight and the lesson starts at 10:00am until 10:45.
- A member of the team (typically myself or Davide Labalestra) is checking for comments from the audience online and are read and shared with the congregation

We have had 17 different people joining the panel/leading so far and I keep constantly "recruiting" new people on a weekly basis.

The audience has increased in number and we currently have around 70 people attending (30 in person and 40 online).

Next steps and projects

Library: we will set up a bookcase in the foyer which will provide free books for consultation to the members. It will contain selected religious books either donated or shared. It will be in fact possible for people to keep ownership of the book but leave for consultation to others. Books will be labelled accordingly.

Adventist Heritage: we are planning to set up classes during the week/Sabbath afternoon about the study of Adventism, from the rise of the movement in the 19th century, covering the major representatives and the doctrines.

We are looking into possible solutions to allow other small classes to meet in church in addition to the existing classes.

Produced by: Massimo Molteni: Adult Sabbath School Superintendent

• HAVE YOU DISCOVERED THE STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH YOUTUBE CHANNEL?

Whilst it is possible to view whole services through Livestream on the church website you need to scroll through on a hit and miss basis if you wish to find a particular bit. The beauty of the YouTube channel is that these bits are separated out so you can choose music, sermons, children's stories, Cradle Roll videos etc and find what you want very easily. It is also possible to save items. The channel is like keeping all your papers in a ring binder.

It is easier to access it by setting up a Google Account but you are given the option not to do so by the company. Currently we have at least 979 people who subscribe to the channel with 100 joining since July 2020.

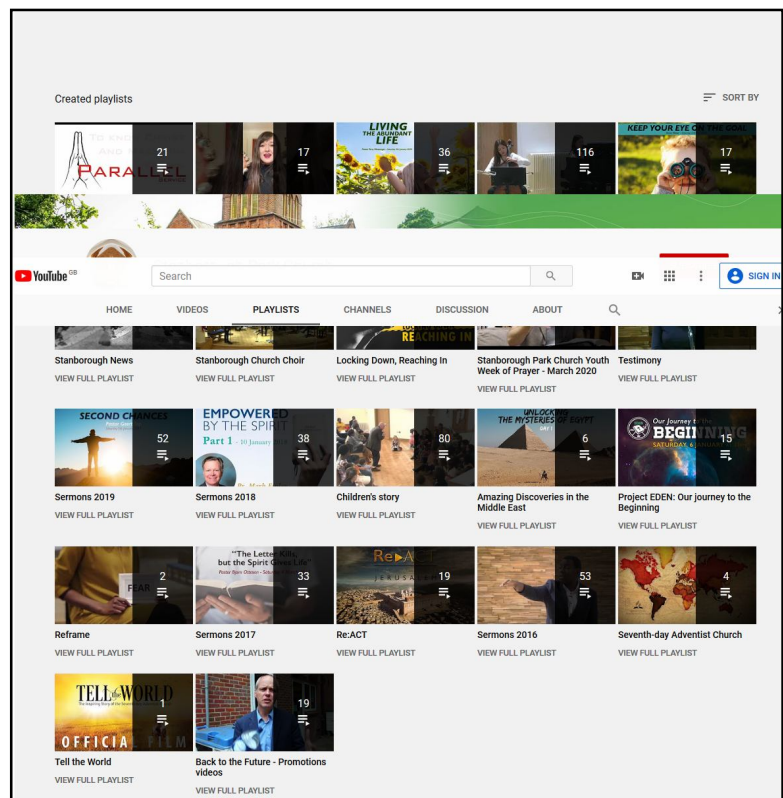
According to Jef Nascimento, who established the channel in 2016, there are 22 play lists which help people find more easily what they are looking for e.g. SPC Choir videos, Cradle Roll, Youth week of Prayer, Amazing Discoveries in the Middle East, Worship in Music, Children's Story, Re:ACT series, Back to the Future series and all sermons from 2016 onwards.

https://www.youtube.com/view_all_playlists?nv=1

[https://www.noxinfluencer.com/youtube/channel/UC6FBsXmulm-For concerts etc](https://www.noxinfluencer.com/youtube/channel/UC6FBsXmulm-For%20concerts%20etc)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4IitsaIxbKI0cqYOG8AxA Church channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4IitsaIxbKI0cqYOG8AxA Church%20channel)

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N.B. This article first appeared in Lockdown News 5, September 2020.

UPDATE FROM JEF NASCIMENTO - "There are now 1570 people subscribed to our channel. The screenshot shows our top 6 most watched videos. 3. is with Pastor Mark Finley, 2. Children's Story and 1. Special Item. 16 Cradle Roll videos have a lot of views as well. Some with over 3k views.

"For the last 12 months we had over 81.9k views and since we started the channel, 262,844 views. It's very clear the spike after March 2020. Now, even though church is open again, we continue to stream on our website and Youtube, both services, and many continue to connect with us from all over the world."

