

(aka Lockdown News 26)

**Stanborough Park Church Newsletter:  
August/September, 2022**

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❖ **A WARM WELCOME TO THE SHEPLEY FAMILY: nice to have you back again!**

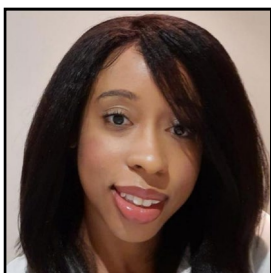
A warm welcome for Pastor James Shepley to the Pastoral Team as well as his wife, Hélia, and his three daughters, Sarah, Joanna and Naomi. We pray that his ministry will be a blessing to us. He can be contacted on 07595 288833 and [jshepley@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:jshepley@secadventist.org.uk). Pastor Shepley and his family will be remembered by many members as they worshipped with us from 2008 - 2013. Pastor James writes, 'The Shepleys moved back into their old home near the church at the beginning of August. His wife, Hélia Mateus, has returned to ADRA-UK as Chief Financial Officer since April, a role which she enjoyed for several years during the family's time at Stanborough Park Church. Sarah is now embarking on a year abroad in France as part of her degree in Languages at Cardiff University, while Joanna, who recently completed her A-levels, has just started the 'Year in Mission' programme at Newbold as part of a gap year. Naomi started in Year 10 at Stanborough School at the beginning of September.'

Greta and Richard Poulton have recalled their previous experience of the family. Greta writes, 'We got to know the Shepleys well; he used to go with us both from door to door around SPC, to introduce and invite the neighbours. He also used to advertise our schools too. Both are very committed SDA's. We believe that they had great success in Cheltenham and surrounding areas. They do know how to deal with people, not everyone's talent, for sure. ADRA must be happy for Hélia to return to them too.'

- ❖ **70th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:** Congratulations to Pastor Roy and Sheila Burgess on their 70th wedding anniversary on 18<sup>th</sup> August. What an achievement! Growing up in Watford, they both attended Stanborough Park Church and were married here in 1952. They moved away and around the British Union serving in ministry, returning to the Park in 1983 when Roy became our Senior Pastor. They continue to worship with us every week, now joining in online. Their family, friends and the wider SPC community send heartfelt congratulations and much love on this wonderful occasion. May God continue to bless them both!

❖ **BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES, AUGUST 2022:**

**Judi Ahwan:** It's been quite the journey getting to this point in my life, often challenging, discouraging and lonely, but today I have no doubt that God was with me the whole time, even during the times when I rejected Him. Showing me mercy and grace when I least deserved it. Today I give Him thanks for everything He has done and all that He continues to do. I could not have gotten this far without Him and today I dedicate the rest of my life to Him and look forward to the final part of my journey with Him leading me.



**Layla Emmons:** I would like to express how happy I am to get baptised and join Stanborough Church. There are many reasons why I would like to get baptised. My main motivation is that I see it as the beginning of a new journey with God. I grew up in the Church, but as I have become older, I can clearly see how God has impacted my life. I believe that the Bible is a guide for leading a more fulfilled and happier existence. Baptism is a way for me to re-affirm my commitment to God and the teachings set out in the Bible. I want to follow the word of God and act as a good Christian role model for my son.

## ❖ VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

An average of 36 children aged 7 – 12 years attended the Vacation Bible School held in The Stanborough Centre 8 - 12 August, led by Paula Carrillo. It was organised by the Children's Sabbath School Department, supported by Pathfinders, Toddler group, Messy church and Prayer Ministries along with many other church members. This time it was intended to cater for members' children as with the small number of volunteers the numbers were restricted to a maximum of 40. Advertising was restricted to the children's Sabbath Schools although the children were encouraged to invite a non-SDA friend to join them. Whilst some volunteers were



available for the whole week others could only give one day or a few hours. However, organiser Paula Carrillo says that if she ran a future event, which her volunteers (see photo, left) are keen to do, it would be advertised in local Children's Centres and schools.

The VBS was based in 'Jasper Canyon where every child is treasured'. 'There was a very welcoming and exciting

atmosphere every day and we all had a great time!' Paula reports, continuing, 'The children 'dug' during the week (to see) how important they are to God. Every day had a daily 'Find', which was reinforced through the different five 'stations': the Excavation Site would help them 'dig' in prayer, the Artifact Station was where they would make a creative artefact as a reminder of the finding of the day, the Bible Gem station was where they would find the story of the day, the Testing Pit was the sport station and the snack station would see them literally dig into their snacks.



The children were led in groups by members of the Earliteen Sabbath School whilst the adult volunteers organised the 'stations'. 'It was evident that God brought together this team and everybody's talent was used in a timely and providential way. Others worked tirelessly a week before in the preparations like the Renard family who were in charge of the scenography,' Paula asserts.



Summing up she said, 'Every child enjoyed the week and expressed their disappointment on Friday when we had to conclude the week. A child said to her parents "I am so sad that VBS finished. I enjoyed the week and was looking forward to every day". Another child said to his mum – "I thought it would be so boring, but I actually enjoyed it. It was very good!" The children enjoyed learning more about the Bible and God in an interactive way. They all decided to invite Jesus in their lives and 26 of them would like to take

further Bible studies; the Pastoral Team is now busy planning for this.'

A video of the event can be found on the church's YouTube channel.

❖ **SEC PATHFINDER CAMPOREE 2022** was held at Phasels Wood Camp Site near Hemel Hempstead 22 - 31 July. A group of our Adventurers and Pathfinders attended. Split into two groups, the Adventurers, led by Director Megan Joseph, attended the camp during the first week, 22 - 25 July, followed the next week, 26 – 31 July, by the Pathfinders, led by Director Davide Labelestra assisted by Club Secretary, Esther Kensere. (Unfortunately, Megan was only able to attend during the daytime in view of her third pregnancy! but Deputy Ophelia Herman filled in and led the team with Kashina Smith, the Club Secretary.) This



being an SEC event the Pathfinders came from all across the south of England from Cornwall to Milton Keynes, along with a visiting group from Scotland and one from the north of England.

Paula Carrillo reports that a group of 60 Adventurers and their parents attended the Adventurer camp whilst 22 Pathfinders and eight leaders attended the Pathfinder camp.



‘Both camps had the theme ‘God’s World, Our World’ where the emphasis was to look after the environment. The week was packed with practical activities and honours about nature,’ she explained.

Paula added that ‘The SPC and Watford Town Pathfinder Clubs joined efforts to bring a Puppet Show to Hemel Hempstead on Saturday afternoon which was well attended by families who passed by. At the end of the camps the Adventurers reached a Silver Award Category and the Pathfinders achieved a Gold Club Category!’

Summing up the event she concluded, ‘This was the first in-person Camporee at SEC level after the two years of the pandemic. Consequently, both clubs were under new leadership. They all did a wonderful job, got to know each other better and enjoyed working together keeping the children working as a team.



‘The meditations were very inspirational and practical and six of our Pathfinders expressed the desire to be baptised and Bible studies will be organised for them. Many thanks to all the parents from both clubs who joined the camping and cooked for the clubs which kept them going!’



## ❖ CHURCH MATTERS 1: NEWS IN BRIEF

- **The funeral of the late Ron Hansen-Luke**, who died after a long illness, took place on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> August in Melchbourne, Beds. Our condolences to wife Sunny.
- **The funeral of Ron Grant** was held at Ruislip Crematorium on 24<sup>th</sup> August. Ron's last attendance at church was the July Communion Service. Our condolences to Ron's children Jeremy and Katie, who wrote and read the eulogy (see page 6).
- **'The Bussue family** convey our thanks to all who visited, called, sent cards and messages of condolence following the death of our father Neville Thomas Bussue on 6.8.22. Dad spent 98 fulfilled years on this earth and now waits along with mum for the resurrection'. Originally from the Caribbean, Bernell adds, the Bussue family settled in Sheffield where he grew up. His parents moved to live with him in Bricket Wood almost four years ago. Bernell adds that his father died exactly one year and one week after his wife and his funeral was held in Sheffield on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.
- **Dr. Harry Leonard** died on 9th August after a short illness. He was a teacher at Stanborough School for about a decade after his arrival in the mid 1950's and he and his family were members of this church. He went on to lecture in History at Newbold College becoming Chair of the Humanities Department and also an author. Past student, Brian Davison recalls, "I always remember being in a lecture given by Harry Leonard when at Newbold. *He defined a committee as 'a group of individuals who alone had no power to do anything but collectively decide that nothing can be done at all!!!'*" His funeral took place at the Newbold Church on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife Christine, daughters Stephanie and Julia, and son Peter.
- We are sad to announce that former SPC member **Muriel Glendenning died 13<sup>th</sup> September** and also that **Basil Powell died peacefully on 12<sup>th</sup> September**. Basil and wife, Gerda, were regular worshippers until deteriorating health prevented attendance in person. Prior to his retirement Basil worked in the BUC Treasury Department. Our condolences to wife Gerda, son Colin and granddaughter Katie.
- **Car broken into in church car park during August:** The Church Site Management Team reports that during one Sabbath in August a car left in the church car park was broken into. Items were stolen including credit cards which were then used to make purchases locally before the card was blocked. The incident has been reported to the police. Members are reminded that all vehicles are parked entirely at the owner's risk. Stanborough Park Church and The Stanborough Centre cannot accept liability for damage, theft or other untoward events happening on the premises. The Committee also reports some criminal damage which occurred a few weeks ago when a window was broken in the Oak Room after a missile was thrown at it from outside of the building and adds, 'We ask that everyone using the church and centre facilities respect the sanctity of the place. To report an incident happening on site, please inform Rob Page, Centre Manager on: 07908 362431 or Bernell Bussue, CSMC Chairman on: 0797 970 8086.'
- **SPCM reports:** 'We are happy to share the news that all the external music exams (ABRSM, Trinity & Guildhall: Grade 1-Diploma Levels, Music GCSE) went very well. We had another year with 100% pass rate and 88% passed with Merit and Distinction. SPCM provides music lessons for all levels and ages, including preparing auditions for schools, GCSE and A-level Music etc. Contact Jiae Ahn (info@spcm.org.uk)
- **The ADRA Bikeathon** took place on 11<sup>th</sup> September. This is an ADRA fundraising initiative, so was either a sponsored event or charged a £10 entry fee. The ride was approximately 11.37km long, starting at Stanborough Park. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Sara-Renard>
- **Walk for ADRA** – was an alternative to the Bikeathon and took place on 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- **The Young Adults** held a gospel concert on 17<sup>th</sup> September to raise funds for the Young Adult Department and the Herts Young Homeless.
- **The Church Health Department** has produced a video which gives some great tips to help you co-operate with God to increase your willpower and improve your life. 'The secret of the mind is not in its strength, but in its stability. Willpower is a form of energy that allows us to achieve goals. It's the ability to control your thoughts and emotions. Willpower is the fuel that powers you through tough times and tough decisions. Without willpower, you'll find it hard to achieve things that matter to you. To view click [www.shorturl.at/ant57](http://www.shorturl.at/ant57)

- **Youth Congress:** the 2022 TED/EUC Youth Congress was held 2 - 6 August in Lahti, Finland. It was attended by SPC 'Missionaries' Flo and Gabriel who chaperoned nine young people. The services can be viewed separately on YouTube. For the official video click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3RT3vTlmfks>



- **SEC Pathfinder World Day** was held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September in the BUC grounds. Our Pathfinder club joined clubs across the South England Conference in worship, celebrating the Pathfinder Ministry Worldwide. The day ended with a 'Teens Summer Concert'.

- **Macmillan Afternoon Tea** was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September along with a table-top and clothes rack sale.

- **Dennis Johnson's poem featured in the Messenger.** The poem describing his struggles with his wife Diane's dementia was written following a suggestion from the editor to feature in a future newsletter. Written with such emotion it was felt that it might deserve a wider audience and was sent to the Messenger to see if it was the type of thing they would publish. Clearly the editor agreed that it was a topic for readers to ponder as it was allocated a whole page in the journal! For those who never knew Diane here is a photo of happier days as part of a church working party. Diane and Dennis are next to Bernell Bussue who is on the extreme left of the photo.



- **Congratulations to Naomi Phillips (nee Burgess)** who graduated from the SEC Senior Youth Leader Training Course in August, coming top of her class! The course is quite a demanding one, divided into six sections with lots of practical assignments. Naomi summed up the course in the following words, 'It's a year-long programme involving workshops, a spiritual gifts assessment, required readings, session planning and delivery, collaboration with other leaders, group discussions, etc - culminating in a 20,000 word portfolio and having to defend this to a panel of SEC ministers/staff.'

According to the manual, 'The purpose of this programme is to equip our Youth and Youth Leaders and to prepare them for effective service here within the United Kingdom. We are cognisant of the fact that it cannot be business as usual with Youth Ministries. Leaders must be trained intentionally to grapple with the changing paradigms of Youth Ministries in this mind-boggling technological and computerized age. It demands that if we must lead effectively, we must be on the cutting edge of information.'

- **Congratulations to Uzo Wosu** who is about to complete his Master Guide training. His SEC investiture ceremony is due in January 2023. Pathfinder Leader, Davide Labelestra writes, 'He has been a blessing to the club co-ordinating and teaching a class for two years in the Pathfinder ministry, attending the 25km expedition in the Peak District and I am sure he will continue to be a blessing to the church.'
- **Audrey Balderstone had a narrow escape** in July when the field behind her Bedmond home caught fire. 'When I first saw the plume of dense smoke it seemed far away from my property. However, the fire raced very quickly and within minutes reached the end of my paddocks with huge flames dancing along behind the fence. The flames raced on to my next door neighbour's property. I did not suffer any damage, but my neighbour lost their fence and there was damage to their trailer. It brought home to me how quickly a fire can get out of control. Thankfully the farmer had dug a trench just beyond my neighbour's property and that stopped the fire spreading any further. Thankfully no-one was hurt. It brought home to me how quickly a fire can get out of control. To view drone pictures of the extent of the fire: <https://www.watfordobserver.co.uk/news/20294260.drone-video-shows-scorched-aftermath-bedmond-field-fire/>
- **Goodbye and 'God Be With You' to Pastor Geert** who rather reluctantly left us at the end of July. David Burgess presented him with a gift indulging his love of 'Lego' - a kit to make a model Lamborghini! – thanking him for his leadership which has sometimes 'challenged our thinking' and sometimes 'made us think outside the box.' After much prayer and soul searching Pastor Geert has decided upon a change of direction and at the middle of September commenced a part-time job as Chaplain at the Watford YMCA. He has promised to return to worship with us on Sabbath mornings when the opportunity arises.

## ❖ A DAUGHTER'S EULOGY FOR RON GRANT (abridged)

Ron's daughter, Katy, wrote and read the eulogy at his funeral sharing her fond memories of the man she knew and loved. This is an abridged version.

*Not how did he die, but how did he live?  
Not what did he gain, but what did he give?  
These are the units to measure the worth  
Of a man as a man, regardless of birth.  
Not, what was his church, nor what was his creed?  
But had he befriended those really in need?  
Was he ever ready, with word of good cheer,  
To bring back a smile, to banish a tear?  
Not what did the sketch in the newspaper say,  
But how many were sorry when he passed away.*

Ron Grant died unexpectedly not long after attending the July Communion Service. His funeral took place at Ruislip Crematorium on 24th August and was conducted by Pastor Terry.

Although he was not a 'high profile' member he had many friends in the church who attended his funeral. He also had two children and three grandchildren: Jeremy, the father of Aidan and Callen, and Katie, the mother of Tristan, the youngest aged three.

Katie began the eulogy with the above poem by Merritt Malloy which has become a very popular item at funerals and based her words very much on the sentiment it expresses, giving us a picture of the man he was to his friends and family.

She gave very little information about how and where he spent his life other than he regarded himself as 'Anglo-Indian' with a mother from Goa and a blond Scotsman for a father; also that he was a successful salesman. Ron's wife died many years ago.

Having shared those words with the assembled audience she continued, 'On first read, I instantly found this poem well suited to my father. It reflects the many heartfelt messages and condolences I've received expressing sorrow and recounting in great detail my dad's endearing qualities, along with many fond memories of him and my mother together. From his always hospitable nature and true passion for the classical guitar, to his personable manner, his wit and his silliness - the messages revealed precisely how my dad would be missed.

'And so to the poem's opening line of "what did he give?" As explained, my dad was different things to a range of different people. However, there were common reasons why. My father was generous with his time, his attention and focus on others. He recognised and responded to those in need with friendship, guidance, and support.

He was engaging and able to connect with all different types. Indeed, he was genuinely interested in people's lives, their personalities, their successes, their potential. As (was) once said to me, "Ronald has a knack for making you believe in yourself!" He was, after all, a successful salesman and, if needs be, he could sell you... to you! And, with his grandchildren, he was beyond entertaining as well as sacrificing and quite selfless - and they adored him for it.

'The poem also mentions befriending those in need. Now, my dad's curious nature, sincere interest in others and his personal enjoyment of hosting meant he befriended many new people over the years. Started by my mother decades back, when it was not unusual to have someone we'd never met sit down to lunch with us at Christmas, Easter or, for that matter, any weekend day. Often an elderly or simply lonely new church member - although I do distinctly remember the time my dad brought home for dinner a hitchhiking student couple from France whom my mum duly insisted should stay with us for the week to facilitate their sightseeing in London!

'My dad continued the hospitality theme throughout his life, frequently inviting many new faces from his church as well as old friends to his home.'

Summing up she concluded, 'My dad was one of a kind, and although he will be terribly missed, there is comfort in knowing that he lived life to the fullest, and had such a positive impact on those he knew and loved.'



❖ **COMBINED YOUTH EVENT IN THE PARK: text and photos submitted by Tunde Adebayo**



On a sunny Saturday afternoon on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, Stanborough Park Church held a Combined Youth Event in the Park. The objective of the event was to have a day where all the Youth at Stanborough Church fellowshiped together before the start of the summer holiday when most people will be away.

We had an afternoon of fellowship attended by all the youth in the church from babies to the young adults and pathfinders. Gabriel our resident missionary gave the sermon supported by Flo (also a missionary) who led praise worship. After the service we had a meal, drinks and played games. We thoroughly enjoyed each other's company.



It was a truly memorable event as we all got to hang out and got to know each other. There were approximately about 100 people in the park that Sabbath afternoon. We'll continue to have combined events to celebrate the Youth at Stanborough and to bring them to Christ through fellowship, food and games.



**Watch out for the next one!**

## ❖ CHURCH MATTERS 2: ANNOUCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

- **In preparation for our pending Fire Drill** please listen to a short clip of our Emergency Evacuation Procedure: [Click Here](#) Details can also be found on the church web site, Facebook page and YouTube channel.
- **Parallel has a website** which you can use to find the latest updates e.g. if the service has moved indoors due to weather conditions etc; a reminder that, weather permitting, the services will be held in the Park. [parallelservice.co.uk](http://parallelservice.co.uk).
- **Wednesday Night Meetings** will be held in the Armstrong Hall and also on Zoom at 7pm. Meeting ID: 519 552 6863; Passcode: pray3r.
- **There is a Young Adult Sabbath school** for ages 19 - 30+ happening every Sabbath in the Maple Room from 10am. We are also on [zoom](#). Meeting ID: 519 552 6863 Passcode: Sabbath.
- **Pastoral Team Baptism Class** runs during Sabbath School time. If you or your child (13+) would be interested in joining this class please let a member of the Pastoral Team know.
- **In order to facilitate the engagement of our children** in our worship services when either Pastor Terry or Pastor James preaches, the children will be given questionnaires based on the sermon. There will be a prize for the child who has answered the best at the end of the quarter. Only children attending the service will be able to participate. This will begin in October.
- **The Prayer Ministry** is inviting everyone to 'Morning Manna', 6 - 6:30am each morning, Zoom ID : 8316619709 Passcode 777. Presentations are from the book, "Steps to Personal Revival" [link](#). Any queries please contact Bella Rajasekaran on 07988045461.
- **The Prayer Ministry Team** has started a 'WhatsApp' Group for everyone. On this forum you can make your public Prayer Request and you will be reminded of all the Prayer Activities. If you would like your details to be added please contact [Bella](#). Uche has asked to step down from her leadership role.
- **The Harvest Service** takes place on 1<sup>st</sup> October and will be a joint collaboration planned by members of the Family and Parallel Worship Committees. As well as garden produce, fruit and vegetables we would appreciate non-perishable goods such as rice, pasta, soups, tinned fruit and tinned vegetables. Household and personal hygiene products are also needed.
- **Message from the Health Team**, Adewale Ademuyiwa & Caroline Perry, who recently **sent out this** quote, "*Happiness is "NOT" a choice... But you can learn to make it a habit.*" For clarification of this statement visit the Stanborough Park Church Facebook page.
- **Adventurer and Pathfinder Counsellors/Instructors:** If you enjoy the outdoors, music, crafts, playing, mentoring, narrating stories to children and love God, join us in this wonderful ministry. Training is provided. We meet every other Sunday and you need to commit to 4 - 6 hours a month only! If you are happy to share your skills with young people and be part of the instructors, please also let us know, we are always looking for people with practical skills like using axe & knife safely, hiking instructors, conservation environmental, sanctuary service, sports, crafts to mention some. Contact Davide, Bukky, Megan, Ophelia.
- **The Third European Creation Conference** took place on 23rd and 24th September featuring leading speakers on creation such as Professor Stuart Burgess, Professor Andy McIntosh and Philip Bell. Further details: <https://creation.com/london2022>
- **Forthcoming 'Teens' events:** Registration to all events at <http://www.secteens.org>  
**SEC 'Teens Prayer and Faith Conference':** 24 - 28 October - £80 per person @ Stanborough Secondary School - limited places **AND SEC 'Teens Day of Fellowship':** Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Children's Sabbath School Teachers:** We are calling everyone from 16 - 100 years old to join us in this rewarding ministry to help telling the story of the week or lead the craft. All parents are warmly invited to join a rota to help as safeguarding persons to ensure the classes always have three adults available. Contact the children's Sabbath School leaders: [Paula Carrillo yunix78@yahoo.com](mailto:Paula.Carrillo@yahoo.com) or [Yetunde Bright <yetunde\\_bright@yahoo.com>](mailto:Yetunde.Bright@yahoo.com)



- **The Men's Cycling Group** meets from time to time on Sundays. Rides start from the church and riders of all abilities are welcome to join. If you are interested in joining contact Arto Keshishian.
- **ADRA UK:** Audrey has launched a new 'Just Giving' page for 2022 and invites you to join her by donating to ADRA in recognition of birthdays, anniversaries, and special occasions or to give thanks to God for His blessings. Please go to 'AUDREY'S FUNDRAISER FOR ADRA' to donate. Alternatively, you can place a donation in the special 'DO GOOD' envelopes. If you donate directly to ADRA please let us know so that your donation can be added to the Stanborough total. The total in 2021-2 was just over £21,000.00. The funds collected this year will go to assist projects in Myanmar, Ghana, South Sudan, Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- **Attention all carers:** the Possibilities Ministries Team is aware that there are several people who are supporting others who need help because of illness, disability, or increasing age. It might be possible that we can provide support and information, so please feel free to contact us: Michael on 07551 326919, [michaelpower208@gmail.com](mailto:michaelpower208@gmail.com), or Joy 01923 461044, [js.bussey@ntlworld.com](mailto:js.bussey@ntlworld.com)
- **The Leadership** of Stanborough (Secondary) School changed from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2022 to an interim Headship. Please pray for the Strategic Operations of the School.
- **Gluten flour and SOSMIX** are available to purchase from Pat Walton. Proceeds to STOP! (Save the Orphans Please). Contact Pat on 07788311097
- **Pat's Sale** will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- **The next Fellowship Lunch** will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- **The next Members/Business Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.

• **Nominating Committee Appointments:**

**Deacons**

Joseph Cudjoe  
Dane Cummings  
Rugame Francesco  
Busani Lusinga

Olufikayo Bright

**Joint Prayer Co-ordinator**

Marlene Levy

Christian Constantinou

Sylvia Elmadjian

Micah Bean

Elizabeth Carrillo

Dahlila Ortega

Joycelyn Rajeskar

Aira Gucilatar

Glenn Gucilatar

Andrew Popa

Briana Berneo-Espinal

**Deaconesses**

Beth Molteni  
Monica Ciocarlan  
Bukola Ayo-Ipaye,  
Aarinola Ayo-Ipaye

**Audio Visual Team Assistants**

Dane Cummings  
Rugame Francesco  
Gavin Gengan  
Reevka Gengan  
Chieme Ishida

❖ **NOTES FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:**

- The Treasurer reports that the HSBC loan has been retired with only the SEC loan outstanding. It is anticipated paying back the loans in 2024.
- Replacing the fire alarm panel and repairs to the flat roof have received approval.
- Evangelistic Training: The last meeting was held in August; the participants were then moving out to practice what they've learned on interested people. If insufficient interest, volunteers from church will be sought for them to practice on!
- The Worship Committee has requested that a sub-committee be set up to discuss ways to improve lighting and sound to the main church platform. It was voted to set up a committee composed of Roger Murphy, Louis Guenin, Bernell Bussue and Erik Wolfram.
- The Board is considering reorganising the deaconate and amalgamating the deacons and deaconesses into one body with roles adjusted accordingly - some involving ordination as at present. This would be in line with the current recommendations of the Church Manual. **Much detail is still to be discussed** and should anyone wish to express any views on the topic please contact a member of the Pastoral Team.

## ❖ THE HISTORY OF STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH CONTINUED: the BBC broadcast

'History was made on 26 January. The announcement said, "9:30 Morning Service from the Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church, Watford." It continued with details of the hymns to be sung and



concluded, "Preacher Pastor Roy Burgess." So began an article written by the Stanborough Park Communications Team (probably Frank Blewitt and Bronwen Atkinson) appearing in the Messenger dated 28th February, 1986.

It continued, 'The broadcast that Sunday morning on Radio 4 was the first ever of an Adventist Sabbath morning service on national radio.'

Obviously it wasn't a live broadcast; it had been recorded on Sabbath morning, 18<sup>th</sup> January, when

the technical and production people from BBC Radio 4 parked their outside broadcast truck in the car park. Under instructions from the Rev. Stephen Oliver, who was responsible for Religious Broadcasting, the team of sound engineers and a secretary set about organising the church with microphones being distributed at various significant locations around the sanctuary.

The editor recalls the church being quite full that day and instructions were given to the congregation as to how to behave during a radio recording! Thankfully the service was able to proceed with few interruptions. After the benediction the congregation, holding its collective breath, hovered above the pews reluctant to sit down and create undue noise so were relieved to see the Reverend Oliver appearing on the platform inviting everyone to be seated. Checking the tape followed and it was only the last section that needed to be re-recorded and was duly done. There is no record of the programme but Pastor Burgess preached on the topic of 'Your King is coming' whilst the editor recalls 'Crown Him With Many Crowns' being one of the hymns and Paul Bellamy recalls 'Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending' as another.

So how did this come about? It was thanks to Michael and Vivienne Harrison who were recent converts to the church. Michael worked for the BBC whilst Vivienne worked for many years at Stanborough Secondary School. Michael's close contacts with the broadcaster enabled him to get the BBC end set up with Pastor John Arthur, then the BUC Communications Leader, acting as liaison between the denomination and the BBC. Sadly Michael left the church not many years later but his time as a member clearly had a Divine purpose!

Although it occurred many years ago there are still members of the present congregation who were present but, strangely, for many of them the occasion has been lost in the mists of time! The photos were taken by Geoff Coombs who can't recall it either! The editor remembers the event clearly as does Dave Burgess who was able to locate a letter from the BBC to his father arranging a preliminary visit. Another person who remembers it well is Paul Bellamy who took part in the service as the elder on duty. Sadly, the senior elder involved, Dr. Terry Gallivan, passed away many years ago. However, Paul has kindly written an account of the day. Another person who remembers the occasion is Audrey Balderstone who correctly recalled that the children's story teller was a young Audrey Boyle Andersson - and she is fairly sure that the story was about a donkey!



On the next page can be found the Messenger entry of the event. Many thanks to David Bell at the Press for locating this and producing the copy - as you can see it was spread across two pages. Also many thanks to Paul Bellamy who kindly - and promptly - recorded his memories of the event for S\*Park News.

• **Paul Bellamy remembers:**

A normal Sabbath morning, a regular Divine Service, not quite. Additional microphones were in evidence and a box with a red light on it was visible on the pulpit, not to mention the additional sound recordists.

The platform party had been briefed well before hand: Pastor Roy Burgess, Doctor Terry Gallivan (Senior Elder) and Paul Bellamy (Elder). 'As soon as the red light illuminates recording is in progress. If you make a mistake or stumble over a word go back and repeat it, the mistake will simply be edited out. Speak clearly into the microphone and just continue as normal, as if the BBC personnel and all their paraphernalia, just simply isn't there!'

The service that followed ran in accordance with the Church's usual order of service and while all the hymns chosen cannot be recalled all carried the theme of the second advent including 'Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending'; of the others one thing is certain, Pastor Burgess chose rousing favourites to rally the voices of the congregation in praise.

The Scripture reading was read by Paul Bellamy and Doctor Terry Gallivan lead the Church in prayer.

When Pastor Burgess stood up to preach, recognising that the service would be broadcast early on a Sunday morning, he began by referencing that many listening would no doubt be eating their breakfast cereal, probably manufactured by Kellogg's. Thus making a connection to the early history of the SDA church in the USA. He went on to describe certain fundamentals of our faith most particularly the second coming of Jesus.

The red light extinguished the service ended, history had been made. The first ever broadcast on mainstream national radio of an SDA morning service.



Pastor Roy Burgess with Michael Harrison, Rev Stephen Oliver and four members of the BBC team.

## PARK CHURCH ON BEE

History was made on 26 January. The announcement said: '9.30 Morning Service from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Stanborough Park, Watford.' It continued with details of the hymns to be sung, and concluded 'Preacher Pastor Roy Burgess'.

The broadcast that Sunday morning on Radio 4 was the first ever of an Adventist Sabbath morning service on British national radio. Alerted by MESSENGER, no doubt you listened to it. Of course it was not live. It was recorded a few days earlier on Sabbath 18 January.

That morning there were a few new faces at the Park. They were Revd Stephen Oliver, BBC producer for religious broadcasting, and his team of secretary and sound engineers. Mr. Oliver told the congregation that they were there for an act of worship to be shared with countless others; not only with those in hospital and the housebound, but also those getting up, having breakfast or perhaps washing the car.

Pastor Burgess preached on the subject 'Your King is Coming'. He was assisted by church elders Dr. Terence Gallivan and Paul Bellamy, and by Audrey Boyle who told the

children's story. Three ladies, Irene Golding, Pauline Potter and Raelene Stanley-Ware sang together beautifully. Others who contributed to the music were Brian and Romola Cambridge and Peggy Mason.

Church member Michael Harrison who works for the BBC helped with the programme preparation. Pastor John Arthur, in his role of BUC Communication director, arranged for the broadcast to be made.

There has been much favourable reaction. Pastor Burgess has received dozens of letters, many of them asking for more information about our Church. He is sending them copies of *Focus on the Adventist Way*.

### COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

**Editor.** The 'Sunday Half Hour' from our Brixton church and the Stanborough Park's 'Morning Service' have created a tremendous volume of positive reaction with regard to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. People who had never heard of us before are asking questions. Four thousand copies of the bang-up-to-date Communication FOCUS - FOCUS ON THE ADVENTIST WAY - are available at the Press in case any Personal Ministries leader wishes to 'strike while the iron is hot' through a campaign of mass distribution. However, 4,000 is not many. If quantities are required they should be ordered without delay.

❖ **PRAYER CORNER - please pray for:**

- Sabina Samu            Leopold Johnson            Lascelles Shields            Terry and Jean Menkens  
Micah Bean            Dennis Johnson            those suffering from cancer, COVID and other health issues
- families who are experiencing recent bereavement or struggling due to recent economic crises.
- the victims of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and a resolution to the war as it continues.
- the Royal Family as they cope with big changes in their lives
- the requests placed in the Prayer Box

Prayer Requests can be placed in the Prayer Box or emailed to Florence Allen at [LIZALLF@hotmail.com](mailto:LIZALLF@hotmail.com)

❖ **THE END OF AN ERA:**

The hoarding for Ovest France’s leading story said it all, summing it up succinctly in a language not known for its brevity; translated it read, ‘Queen Elizabeth II: the death of an icon.’

Very few members will remember any other monarch. For 70 years she dedicated herself to a ‘life of service’ to her country and what is now the Commonwealth. She kept true to her faith and saw us through many challenging times.

**“I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, will be devoted to your service.”**

Pastor Terry delivered a sermon with a Jubilee-related theme on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Referring to the statement the Queen made from South Africa upon hearing of her accession to the throne (left) he dealt with the issue of what was meant by a ‘life of service’. In the Queen’s case he said it meant ‘dedication to her role in an ever-

changing world’ as demonstrated by her charity work, diplomacy and decorum.

Christians too, he explained, also need to live a life of service. True service is indiscriminate in its ministry – because of need - it builds communities; not serving others is detrimental to our own welfare. Like batteries, which with misuse become worthless, we gain strength and power through being useful to others. However, not all service is obvious, much is done behind the scenes but, nevertheless, is essential for the smooth-running of so much that is part of everyday life.

“We are created for service”, he maintained. “God can use anybody if we desire to live a life of service for Him.... He will use us in a powerful way to reach many people.” He stressed that He will use the weak - even flawed Biblical characters, of which there were many!



“I offer you a life in service. A life of dedication, a life filled with God and His ways. That’s the way to live, so that when we depart from this earth our life ... would have been a good one ... and have been a legacy to be proud of. May God help us to live a life of service.”

❖ **ONE VISION HOLDS A REMEMBRANCE SERVICE FOR THE QUEEN:**

One Vision held a Remembrance Service for HM Queen Elizabeth II in the Peace Garden on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Speakers included Akhar Zamam, Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Dame Helen Hyde, the former Head of Watford Grammar School for Girls and an OV Trustee, Col. Harry Lomas, Pr. Terry, Dean Russell MP, Harjit Singh, Chair of Watford Interfaith Association, Cllr Amanda Grimston Chairman of Watford Borough Council with Alain Fidelia, another OV Trustee, giving the closing prayer.



❖ **THE LAST WORD:**

September is a start of new beginnings for many:

*‘In his heart a man plans his course; but the Lord determines his steps.’* Proverbs 16:9

*‘What ye will that other men should not do to you, that do ye not to other men.’* King Alfred the Great’s Book of Laws, or ‘Dooms’

- ❖ **Editor’s Note:** following a complaint that there was a gap of one month between the last newsletter arriving and Audrey Balderstone’s covering letter, it should be noted that those who received the PDF version by email received it almost immediately. As the pages in the paper version are limited for production reasons to multiples of 4 the PDF sometimes includes additional articles. If you would like to receive the PDF version but not record your email address on the church’s list you can ask to be included on the independent /private ex-pat list emailed directly by the editor: [junepc94@gmail.com](mailto:junepc94@gmail.com)