

S*ParkLife 13

(Aka Lockdown News 30)

news@stanboroughchurch.org
s.parklifeneeds@gmail.com

Contact the email address right if you require a PDF version of the Sunset Calendar or Directory of Churches. Also for requests for copies of photos.

**Stanborough Park Church
Newsletter: January/February
2023**

❖ IN THIS ISSUE:

- ED HAMMOND RECEIVES SURPRISE 95TH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- CONTRACT WITH PLAYSKILL SIGNED FOR LONG-TERM USE OF LARCH ROOM, WARM SPACES, GOODBYE FLO, NEWS FROM THE YOUNG ADULTS
- THANKS FROM WTRRP, SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN IN CHURCH
- CHURCH MATTERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION
- HEALTH CORNER, PRAYER CORNER, THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR
- FROM THE ARCHIVES – THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE -- INCLUDES THE FINAL WORD (PAGE 8)



❖ EDWARD HAMMOND RECEIVES SURPRISE 95TH BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM THE MAYOR OF WATFORD

'I didn't think that 95 was all that great', says Edward (known to everyone as 'Ed') about his recent birthday surprise. Seated in his usual place near the front of Stanborough Park Church on 14th January, the day of his special birthday, he suddenly found himself the centre of attention as Senior Pastor Terry Messenger presented him with a special framed greetings 'card' from none other than the elected Mayor of Watford. This was all the more surprising as he hasn't actually lived in the town for more than half a century having moved to a neighbouring large village! However, a fellow church member decided not to let minor details stand in the way of this special occasion and, taking advantage of contacts, succeeded in organising the message for such a 'well known, well respected and well loved gentleman who has been a member here for many decades'. So on that day church members united in wishing him a very happy birthday with many more to come.



'Ed' has attended Stanborough Park Church for more than 60 years and admits to being 'a bit surprised' to receive the Mayoral greetings as 'I didn't think 95 was all that great' and speculates that the next big milestone will be 100, 'if I make it!' Having transferred his membership from Holloway Church, where he served in the Lay Activities Department, he soon found himself in demand to fill a similar role at Stanborough Park. In his time he has served the latter as elder, Lay Activities/Personal Ministries Leader (mostly), Sabbath School Superintendent (briefly), Youth Leader (briefly) and a Sabbath School teacher



He ran an office stationery business in North London until his retirement and attributes his age to a healthy lifestyle. He switched to a vegetarian diet many years ago and now has adopted a plant-based diet having given up dairy a while ago. Despite his age, fear of contracting COVID didn't stop him from attending church services once the building reopened and he has been found in his usual seat almost every week since then. In fact when he finally caught the virus he claims he only felt really unwell for two hours although tests showed that it lingered in his system for some time afterwards.

He has always been very active, running the London Marathon once, many half-marathons and 10 mile runs including the local 'Tough Ten'. He was a keen fell walker and claims to have done all the 'Wainwright Walks' at least once with many long hikes in the Lake District. He is still President of the Fell Walking Group he helped to found many decades ago although mobility issues now stop him joining in the longer and more demanding hikes finding local gentle walks around the village recreational areas close to his home more appropriate - when the weather is suitable. He still attends a gym several times a week.

A keen gardener he now has help with the more demanding jobs such as cutting hedges but still does his own planting etc and is always ready to pass on gardening advice.

❖ CONTRACT WITH PLAYSKILL SIGNED FOR LONG-TERM USE OF LARCH ROOM

PLAYSKILL is a local charity that provides expert support, training and respite for pre-school children who have physical delays or disabilities, supporting families, and children aged ten months to five years. It will be using the Larch Room for its playgroups on Mondays and Tuesdays. On the other weekdays it will be operating from a site in Hemel Hempstead.

The charity receives some of its funding from the BBC's 'Children in Need' appeal and offers help and support in a variety of ways. One such was a talk on 20th February for parents covering the stage when children have to combine beginning to spell and develop handwriting skills at the same time, demonstrating techniques to teach both skills in a structured and effective way. This talk was open to parents of children currently attending Playskill aged 3+ years and/or attending primary or secondary school who are experiencing difficulties. For details of the charity's events go to <https://www.playskill.org>

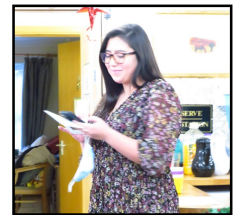


❖ **EARTHQUAKE APPEAL:** In response to the earthquake in Syria and Turkey ADRA-UK has opened an emergency appeal. They are working with local agencies to provide rapid support. ADRA Syria is sending staff to evaluate what can be done. The best response we can make is to **DONATE NOW:** either donate online at <https://adrauk.donr.com/emergencies> OR put a cheque or cash into an envelope and give to Audrey. **THIS IS URGENT, SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE.**

❖ **WARM SPACES** is a government initiative to provide a warm space and companionship for those who are experiencing financial constraints and cannot afford to heat their homes. The church will be open to the community every Tuesday. Initially, this will be from 10am - noon until the level of demand can be assessed. According to Audrey Balderstone so far there have only been a few callers as there are a large number of venues available across the town. However, those that do attend have been very appreciative.

Volunteers are needed to welcome visitors, offer them a hot drink and chat with them if necessary. Volunteers will be needed from 9.30am - 12.30pm each Tuesday. If you are willing for your name to go onto a rota please, contact Audrey Balderstone at abalderstone@btconnect.com with your availability dates.

❖ **GOODBYE FLO:** Flo, our young missionary will be sorely missed as she returns to her native Chile. She received a presentation on her last Sabbath from Pastor Terry. She plans to get married later this year.



❖ **NEWS FROM THE YOUNG ADULTS DEPARTMENT:** this recently-formed department has been making many exciting plans for the future, some of which are open to the entire church community.

'**COME AS YOU ARE**' EVENING PLANNED: 'CAYA is an evening of praise, fellowship and fun designed for the entire church community along with families and friends. Please feel free to invite others to enjoy a relaxed, cafe-style atmosphere and the many talents of our members and the wider community. Bring along those you perhaps haven't seen for a while, or others who may have never stepped foot in a church before! Everyone is welcome. There may even be a quiz or two to get everyone involved. All we ask of you is that you **Come As You Are**. Dates and times are to be confirmed.'

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The CAYA initiative needs you! We welcome anyone who would be willing to get involved. Currently, our major needs are in the following areas: (1) Music/praise team (2) Decorations and set design (3) Food (4). Performers (bring whatever talent God has blessed you with to the table: singing, musical instruments, comedy, spoken word/poetry, dance etc). **If you are interested, please speak to Gabriel, Rachel or Alexandria. WhatsApp contact: 07704211316 (Gabriel Colins)**

❖ THANKS FROM WATFORD & THREE RIVERS REFUGEE PARTNERSHIP

Dear Pat and all members of Stanborough Park Church,
Many thanks for your continuing generosity!
Please may I pass on again the thanks of the 77 families in the town and nearby area for whom Watford and Three Rivers Refugee Partnership has been able to provide Christmas hampers from the presents that you provided.

Thank you too for the chance to attend and worship in person at your Toy Service. I attach some photos of our volunteers packing hampers.

The number of people seeking help from WTRRP continues to increase despite our not being near any port or other immigration point. They are all at different

stages of applying for permission from the Government to remain in this country, invariably as a result of war or other persecution that stops them returning to their country of origin.

We remain very sad that so many in this country appear to be so very fearful of migrants, and governments have responded to this perceived issue with their own sad messaging and actions. An example of this is the process of applications to gain indefinite leave to remain in this country – which comprises 4 cycles of applications over 10 years! – requires

total fees of over £9,000, plus 4 lots of costs of solicitors.

Giving presents at this time of year remains so important – it shows some very unfortunate people that many of us do care, and are not afraid of some of our fellow human beings.

As you are aware, WTRRP helps people all the year round! We are always keen to welcome new volunteers to the Partnership to continue this work. Please do contact us by phone or at info@wtrrp.org.uk if you are interested.

Tim Whittaker Chair of Trustees

- *Here are some pictures of WTRRP volunteers packing hampers in St Mary's Church, Watford with the presents that you and other organisations and individuals kindly provided.*

❖ SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN IN CHURCH (ROGER MURPHY): WILL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FORCE US TO CLOSE OUR CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOLS?

Safeguarding and child protection guidance place a duty on churches to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm. Steps to keep them safe include:

- **Following the relevant national legislation and guidance**
- Ensuring children are properly supervised.
- Making sure that all adults understand how to share concerns about the safety or welfare of a child.
- Making the environment as safe as possible for children and young people.

Our church is reviewing its safeguarding policies and guidelines for adults and helpers. We need to ensure that we have enough adults for the number of children in each Sabbath School group, that appropriate DBS checks have been carried out, and to seek to avoid situations where an adult is left alone with a child.

It has been difficult to obtain leaders and sufficient adult supervision in some of the children's Sabbath School groups. **We are seeking adult/parental help (possibly on a rota basis)** to assist those organizing the weekly programmes in order to meet safeguarding requirements.* It would be a pity to reduce the provision for our children by either closing a Sabbath School group or merging age groups. **Are you able to help?** Contact: Roger Murphy (07759460156 or rt.murphy@hotmail.co.uk) or Eileen Hussey (eileenhussey844@hotmail.com)

* Register children when they arrive (leaders to hold parent's contact details in case of emergency) assist with supervision, check out children when they leave, and ensure that young children are collected by parents at the end of Sabbath School. (DBS registration is not always necessary for casual helpers/volunteers – only for those left alone with a child. **You don't have to be a parent either!**)



'It would be a pity to reduce the provision for our children by either closing a Sabbath School group or merging age groups.'

❖ CHURCH MATTERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INFORMATION:

- **The funeral of former member Mrs. Beryl Gammon** took place in the church on Wednesday 22nd February. It can be viewed online. <https://livestream.com/accounts/640318/events/3160916/videos/235143446>
- **A new Pastors' Baptismal Class** began on January 21st at 10am. This class is ideal for those who wish to know more about the Christian faith or are thinking about baptism. If you are interested in joining please let the Pastoral Team know.
- **'Talking Jesus'** - Want to be more confident about sharing your faith in Jesus? Come along to 'Talking Jesus' an uplifting and interactive six-part training session in the Cedar/ Sycamore Room at 7pm on alternate Tuesdays. Led by Pastor James. Alternate Tuesdays on the following dates: March 7th, 21st, April 4th - talkingjesus.org
- **Stanborough Prayer Ministry** All are welcome to join the Prayer Team to read and meditate for 40 Days from 6am to 6:30am. Zoom ID 8316619709; PW: 777
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting** is being held in the Armstrong Hall as well as on Zoom at 7pm. Meeting ID: 519 552 6863; Passcode: pray3r
- **Zoom Prayer Meeting** - The Women's Ministry Department is inviting all women to join our weekly Friday prayer meetings from 7:30pm. Join us and let us tender our supplications before God. Zoom only. Meeting ID - 83109855863 & Passcode -Fprayer
- **Mapping the Talents at Stanborough - 2023:** Let us know how you would like to help at SPC. Complete the survey, on the insert, or via the QR code below or internet link. 35 responses received so far. forms.gle/MbURFcSWSN2RtBfv8
- **Sunset calendars** should be available this year, arriving with the January Messenger. They seem to have disappeared and a search is underway.
- **We are looking for first-aiders to serve on Sabbath mornings** at the church. We are trying to set up a rota system so one person would be serving about once a month. If you are interested in helping in this way or know of anybody who could be considered please let the Pastoral Team know.
- **A Fundraising 3-course Indian meal** followed by an auction in aid of STOP International was held on Sunday, 19th February 2023 in the Cedar Sycamore Room.
- **Next Fellowship Lunch on 4th March.** Come and join us at 1.00 pm for soup, bread and desserts in the Cedar/Sycamore room. Everyone welcome. To book please email fellowshiplunch7@gmail.com by 1st March.
- **ADRA:** We need to swell our funds for ADRA so we invite everyone to collect a 'Coin Saver' card from **Audrey at the end of the service.** All you have to do is to collect 12 x £1 coins by the end of February and these funds will be used to help those in desperate need. ADRA UK - Just Giving Page Link to donate: www.justgiving.com/page/audrey-balderstone-1652806487047
- **ATTENTION all adults and people over 16 years old volunteering with children or parents wishing to attend a Camporee with their children.** If you do not have a current DBS certificate completed at Stanborough Park Church or the South England Conference please see Michele Thompson Vitry. Please note that you will need three forms of ID. For more information email Michele at michelevitry@gmail.com
- **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Join us the week of 22-29 October 2023. For full details, please check [this link here](#). Reserve your place today by contacting Pastor James Shepley.
- **Counsellors/Instructors** are needed in the Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs. Please contact Davide, Bukky, Megan or Ophelia.
- **Sabbath School Teachers** are needed for the Children's Sabbath School. Please contact Yetunde.
- **Congratulations to Jef Nascimento and Loreta Norkute** on their engagement.
- **A Young Adults Retreat** is scheduled for 31st March – 2nd April at Hay's Wood Retreat.
- **A Tea Time Concert** was held at the church on Sunday, 26th February. **Kenny Fu** returned to give a piano recital which included Liszt's Sonetto, Haydn's Sonata and Mussorgsky's 'Pictures at an Exhibition'. These Tea Time Concerts are a great opportunity to bring your family, friends and neighbours for a lovely afternoon with wonderful music followed by 'teatime'. **Entrance free with retiring offering.**
- **The Estate Hall:** Does anyone have a photo of the old Estate Hall to be used in a future newsletter? (Contact details to be found at the top of page 1.) All the usual channels have failed to locate a photo of this building which was the centre of the church's social life in the days before the construction of the Williams, Armstrong and Youth Halls. (The latter was more recently converted into accommodation for Student Missionaries etc.)
- **Jim Huzzey and Audrey Balderstone** have set the date for their wedding - 4th June this year.

❖ HEALTH CORNER: GRATITUDE

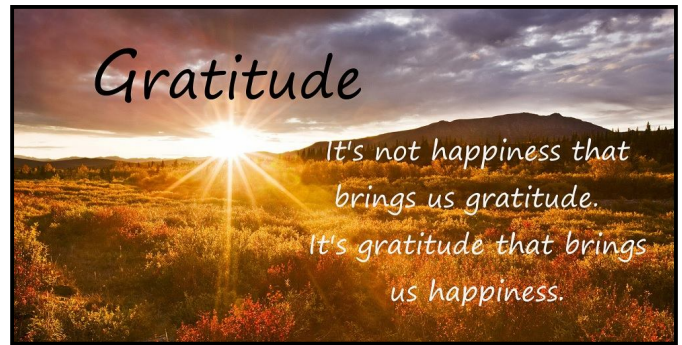
The benefits of practising gratitude have been studied. It has been said that people who regularly practice gratitude by taking time to notice and reflect upon the things they're thankful for experience more positive emotions, feel more alive, sleep better, express more compassion and kindness, and even have stronger immune systems.



Dr. Megan Rossi, a dietician and nutritionist and wellness expert, recommends keeping a Gratitude Diary.

'At the end of each day, list three things that happened for which you are grateful. As simple as it sounds, reflecting on the good things can rewire how your brain thinks over time, creating more inner peace and calm no matter your external environment.'

'If you don't learn the language of gratitude you'll never be on speaking terms with happiness.'



❖ PRAYER CORNER - PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Rosemary Boyle, Morgan Charles, the Ademuyiwa family, Roy and Bronwen Atkinson, Terry Menkens, Eileen Hussey and Jacqueline Deane.

Families who are facing challenges from cancer, severe flu, Covid, other health issues and recent bereavement.

Recovery from the tragedy in Turkey and Syria due to the recent earthquake.

A resolution to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

Annalisa Molteni and her immediate family in Italy as her mother's health deteriorates.

The requests in the Prayer Box.

Private Prayer Requests can be placed in the Prayer Box or email STANBOROUGHPRAYS@GMAIL.COM



❖ NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

(Additional) Assistant Head Deacon: Clinton Quarshie

First Aider: Angeline Pinky

❖ THOUGHTS FOR THE NEW YEAR: from Dennis Johnson

None of us can know for sure what this New Year will bring,

Of good news or of bad news it's sure to bring something!

We say goodbye at last to the year 2022.

Was it a very good year or a terrible one for you?

It must for sure have affected you in a good way or a bad,

Perhaps it might have been the best one you've ever had!

That may be quite doubtful for all are sure to see,

With Covid and the cost of living I know you agree.

Many will be so relieved that it has now passed by,

For the stress it put us through has moistened many eyes.

Of course those problems do not just go away.

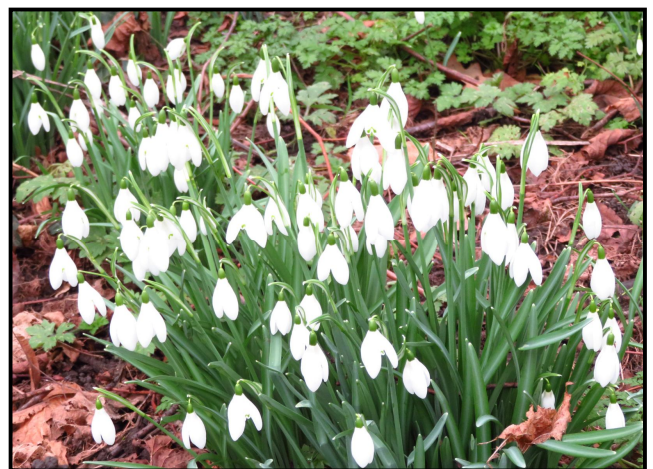
Some are long lasting and may be here to stay!

For a Christian there is help and support available to you.

Giving all your cares to God is the wisest thing to do.

Put your hand in His hand, He will guide you safely on,

Then in this New Year, whatever, a victory can be won.



MESSENGER

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

STANBOROUGH CENTRE *Official opening* by Bronwen Atkinson

Sabbath 8 September was a big day at Stanborough Park because on that day The Stanborough Centre, the church's new extension, was officially opened. According to Denver Annable, the chairman of the church's development committee, the need for more room was evident decades ago. Seven years

ago, the South England Conference was approached and plans began to be developed. The need became more obvious in 1996, when a fire destroyed the wooden building in the church grounds which housed the welfare centre and the Pathfinder club. Children's Sabbath school classes also met there.

Groundbreaking took place in February last year; and in May of this year the extension was named and all but completed. On 8 September, a fanfare played on the three trumpets of Phil, David and Robert Cooper welcomed the congregation to the official opening service. Present were the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Sybil Tuckwood; the Mayoress, Councillor Mrs Sheila Rosser; past senior ministers of the church, Pastors Roy Burgess and Peter Stearman; ministers of non-Adventist churches nearby; the church's present ministers, Pastors Robert Vine and Japhet De Oliveira; the architect of the Stanborough Centre, Brother Kenneth Halls; the management consultant, Mr Martin Hill; and the owner of the building firm, Mr Fred Norman of Ekins and Company of Hertford.

Also present were members of the development committee, excluding Pastor Patrick Boyle, who was among many who sent regrets for their absence and good

wishes for the future of the centre.

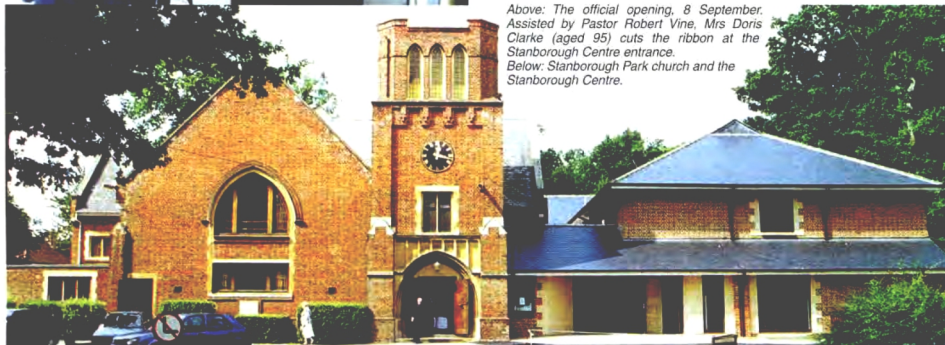
The sweet sounds of the flute played by Gaelyn Pilmoor introduced the sermon. The preacher was her father, BUC treasurer Victor Pilmoor who, as SEC treasurer, had helped to make the extension dream a reality. He paralleled our experience with that of the Israelites in the years after Sinai. He said, 'People began to lose the sense of the times. They began to lose the sense of God's purpose.' He moved on to the sanctuary where, 'Rituals taught the hurt of sinfulness and the magnificence of forgiveness.' He then reminisced about growing up on Stanborough Park, and in the context of the incense rising to God, spoke of the fragrance of prayer; of discipline; of working with young people and of community spirit, and added, 'It's time to fill our church; it's time to fill our Stanborough Centre with the fragrance of service.'

The ribbon-cutting ceremony
Continued on page 8

Photos: Frank Blewitt



Above: The official opening, 8 September. Assisted by Pastor Robert Vine, Mrs Doris Clarke (aged 95) cuts the ribbon at the Stanborough Centre entrance.
Below: Stanborough Park church and the Stanborough Centre.



If ever there was a time to pray...
Week of Prayer 3-10 November

Continued from page 1

followed, performed by senior member Sister Doris Clarke, 95. Then the Mayor unlocked the front door of The Stanborough Centre. The scissors and key were carried on a cushion by Colin Donaldson, aged 4, representing the children and youth of the church. The Mayor expressed her pleasure at being there and congratulated all involved, Mrs Clarke had the last word, 'God has been good to us.'

The Stanborough Centre consists of, on the ground floor, a large general-purpose hall with adjoining kitchen, a new welfare centre, a committee room, a small office, storage areas and toilets. On the first floor there are three meeting rooms and a hall – meant primarily for use by the Youth and the Pathfinder clubs.

The plan is to keep the centre open seven days a week with a range of activities to link the church and Watford communities.

❖ CHURCH HISTORY: FROM THE ARCHIVES – THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE STANBOROUGH CENTRE

September saw the 21st anniversary of the official opening of The Stanborough Centre.

Since featuring this event in the December newsletter the photographs taken on the day by the late Frank Blewitt have surfaced. They show that a special service preceded the ribbon cutting with ministers from local churches, including the Salvation Army citadel, in attendance.



Following a new year's resolution (actually kept!) to tackle the editor's bulging 'home office' filing cabinet full of obsolete documents (an activity delayed for many years!) copies of the plans for the construction of the building, fund-raising etc emerged from its depths. (Had it occurred sooner they would have been recycled or, if delayed for another year, would have lain there undiscovered.) As a result the topic is being revisited with additional material. Unfortunately, there are no photographs of the building during the construction period.

When the late Pastor Boyle became our Senior Minister back in 1991 the church building looked very different – there was no Stanborough Centre. For years there had been talk on the Church Board of the need for an extension. Many will recall that the Welfare Department had managed for many years in a demountable unit which was shared with the Pathfinders (subsequently burnt down by arsonists in 1996 and before then operating from the lower room in the tower), the Pathfinders and Adventurers were using the Williams Hall and the Seniors were regularly complaining about poor kitchen facilities and having to make their way up a long flight of stairs to the Williams Hall. Some of the children's Sabbath Schools were still based in rooms at the school requiring the youngsters to make the journey down to the church in all weathers between services - a practice which had continued for decades and was considered by then to be unacceptable.

An extension was considered to be essential both to meet the church's own domestic needs and enable it to extend its outreach into the local community more



effectively. Many plans had been drawn up over the years and endless discussions taken place on the Church Board. However, it was Pastor Boyle's drive, enthusiasm and vision that finally brought it about.



The foundations were laid, beginning a lengthy building process. The members chose the names of the rooms giving them all names of trees in view of the church's woodland setting. The success in actually realising the project owes much to the late Denver Annable who as Chairman of the Development Committee was responsible for overseeing it.

Finally the big day came; 8th September, 2001 witnessed the grand opening ceremony. By now Pastor Boyle had retired and Robert Vine was the Senior Minister who presided over the occasion. The Mayor, Cllr. Sybil Tuckwood (shown holding the key to the door above right), was invited and the ribbon was cut by Mrs. Doris Clarke, our oldest member (above left with Pastor Vine).



Frank's photo, left, was taken during the service. Shown left to right, front to back are: David Burgess, Pastor Peter Stearman (minister during the mid 1960's), Pastor Robert Vine (Senior Minister), Victor Pilmoor, Cllr. Sybil Tuckwood (Mayor of Watford), Mrs. Sheila Rosser (Mayoress), Charlotte Fidelia, Pastor Roy Burgess Senior Minister during the 1980's), Major Steve Slade (North Watford Salvation Army Citadel), Rev. Chris Cottee (Vicar, St. Peter's Church, North Watford), Brian Combridge (organist), Denver Annable (Chair of Development Committee), Fred Norman (Ekins Builders), Martin Hill (management consultant), Ken Halls (architect). Trumpeters: Robert, David and Philip Cooper



Left: Mrs. Clarke meets the Mayor, accompanied by Pastor Vine.

Note the discrepancies between the plans and dates and the finished building and its completion date – quite a big delay!

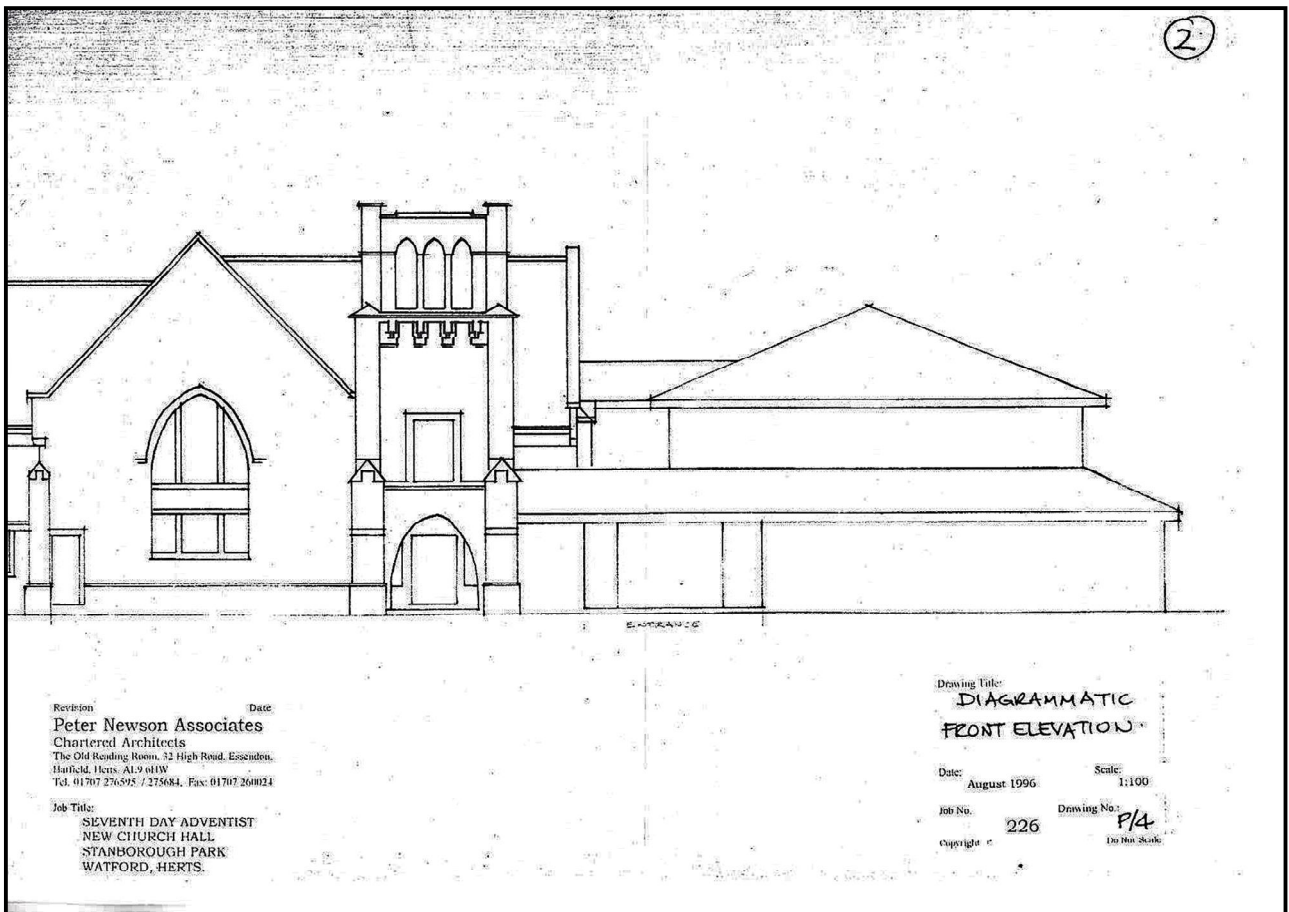
Right: Barbara Clee tells the Children's Story.



❖ **THE LAST WORD:**

- May your troubles in the coming year be as short-lived as your resolutions. (Anon)
- If you understand everything you must be misinformed. (Japanese saying)

- This final front elevation architect's drawing looks familiar but earlier ones showed a very different design.



• **THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE COPIED FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTRE.**

One document included specific strategies to respond to chronic problems which had been identified. This included 'Develop a well thought out programme of evangelism with short, mid and long term goals. It needs constant monitoring and evaluation.'

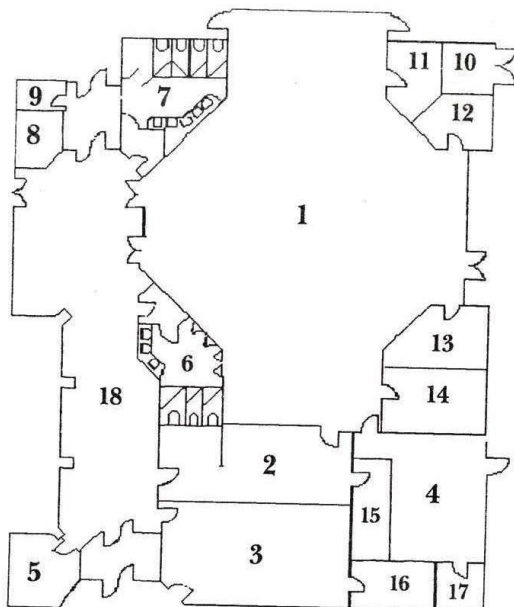
The **Development Committee** have reached the stage in their discussions with the architect where they can lay before you plans and sketches of a church extension in the area of the North Porch.

It is difficult to set out in a short compass what the proposed development is intended to achieve. It really falls into three categories.

1. Keep and win our children and youth within the church.
2. Reach out into the community and interact with them in such a way that we can witness and win them.
3. Develop the church facilities in a user friendly way in order to enhance and serve the purposes of evangelism.

• **EARLY PLANS:** ALTHOUGH THE PLAN FOR THE 1ST FLOOR IS BROADLY THE SAME AS THE FINAL LAYOUT; THAT FOR THE GROUND FLOOR WENT THROUGH MANY CHANGES SUCH AS RELOCATION OF TOILETS, STORAGE AREAS, THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL AV BASE (THIS CAME LATER AS A CONVERSION) AND SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE KITCHEN AREA. (The original was printed crooked.)

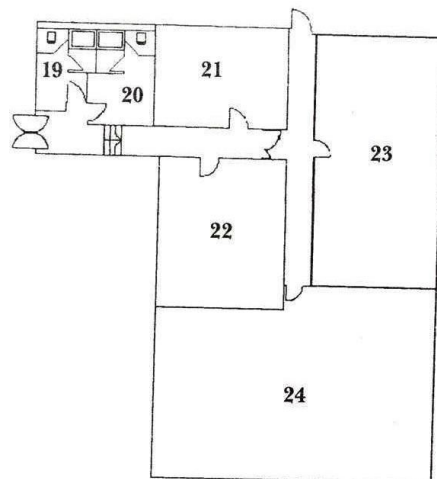
Ground Floor Plan for Extension



Key

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Main Hall with room divider | 7 Female toilets |
| 2 Kitchen and servery | 8 Disabled toilet |
| 3 Book and healthfood shop | 9 Cleaner room |
| 4 Welfare area | 10 Garden storage |
| 5 Minister's area | 11-17 Other storage areas |
| 6 Male toilets | 18 Concourse |

First Floor Plan for Extension



Key

- | |
|-------------------------------------|
| 19 Male changing room with shower |
| 20 Female changing room with shower |
| 21 Classroom Three |
| 22 Classroom Two |
| 23 Classroom One |
| 24 Pathfinder Area |

• **THIS DOCUMENT TELLS OF THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH – just 273 members when it was built!**

3. Provision of facilities such as is proposed with the church development. Included in this should be an adequate church hall, kitchen, Sabbath School rooms, modern toilets, user friendly approach and entrance.

Note It is unwise to have a building programme without a parallel church growth plan containing the elements listed above. The purpose of the building is to serve a vision of witness and growth.

Church Development at Stanborough Park

The church foundation stone was laid 14 November 1927 with the membership at 273. The original building did not have the present ministers/deaconesses vestries, balconies, the north porch, including the Armstrong and Williams Halls, toilets and personal ministries office. These were added in the early and mid 1960s and onwards, the north porch being totally revamped in 1990/91.

Various plans have been drawn up and discussed since the building was erected in 1928. A variety of architects were invited to submit plans over a period spanning about twenty five years. None of those submitted were deemed sufficiently attractive to be developed further. Costs were estimated to be between £400,000 and £1,000,000 depending upon the plan. The aims were similar to those which concern us today. Better main entrance, Sabbath School rooms, youth and social facilities. With an attending membership of around 600 these increased facilities were for meeting the needs of the membership not with outreach which is a major part of our concern.

A quotation from one of the Building Committees reports contains this interesting observation from 1961

“During the time since the report of this committee right into 1960, your Church Board have considered several plans that seemed to offer some or all of these advantages. Even architect’s plans were commissioned. But always the cost was so high that we had little hope of raising the money in a reasonable time. For this and other reasons, plan after plan, was placed on one side; finally we returned to a plan that had been considered early on, but which had not seemed attractive at the time.

The plan accepted was the one which now contains the north porch and the Williams and Armstrong halls.

The present Development Committee has had a not dissimilar experience. In 1994 contact was made with Stocks Bros of Leeds a firm which specialised in design and build schemes. They had a good record and several of their church buildings were visited by the committee. Unfortunately they went into liquidation and this scheme did not materialise.

Elsewhere comparisons were made with the previous extension to the rear of the church which was constructed in the early 1960's (covered in a previous issue of this newsletter). The Personal Ministries office referred to was in fact a partitioned area of the foyer constructed in wood and with a lift-up hatch and counter. This was removed during the Centre's construction and replaced with a seating area/open space and a reception desk in the concourse. The side balconies were constructed during the 1960's, the central balcony was part of the original building. The Armstrong Hall was named after a much-loved former minister and the Williams Hall was named after elder Dr. A. H. Williams who will be featured in a future edition as a profile of him has been found in the Messenger Archive.

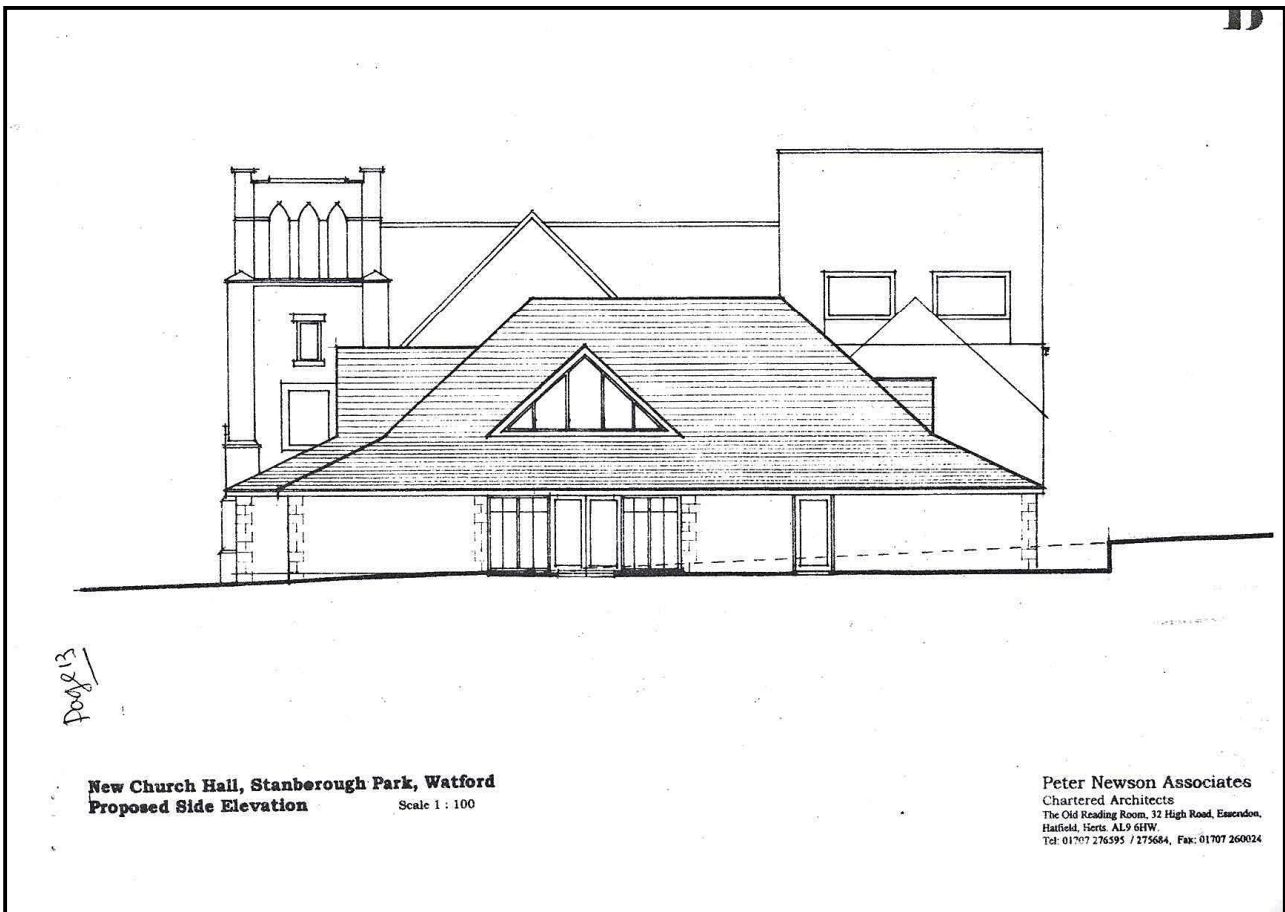
One document stated *'Reading the church records going back for over forty years one comes across the same lament: loss of youth, a poor growth rate... problems with heating, ventilation, noise in church, low standards and lack of successful evangelism ... poor pastoral care of members, backsliding and pastoral visitation.'* It also included specific strategies to respond to chronic problems which had been identified. This included *'Develop a well thought out programme of evangelism with short, mid and long term goals It needs constant monitoring and evaluation.....Provision of facilities such as it proposed with the church development. Included in this should be an adequate church hall, kitchen, Sabbath School rooms, modern toilets, user friendly approach and entrance.'* (Sounds familiar??)

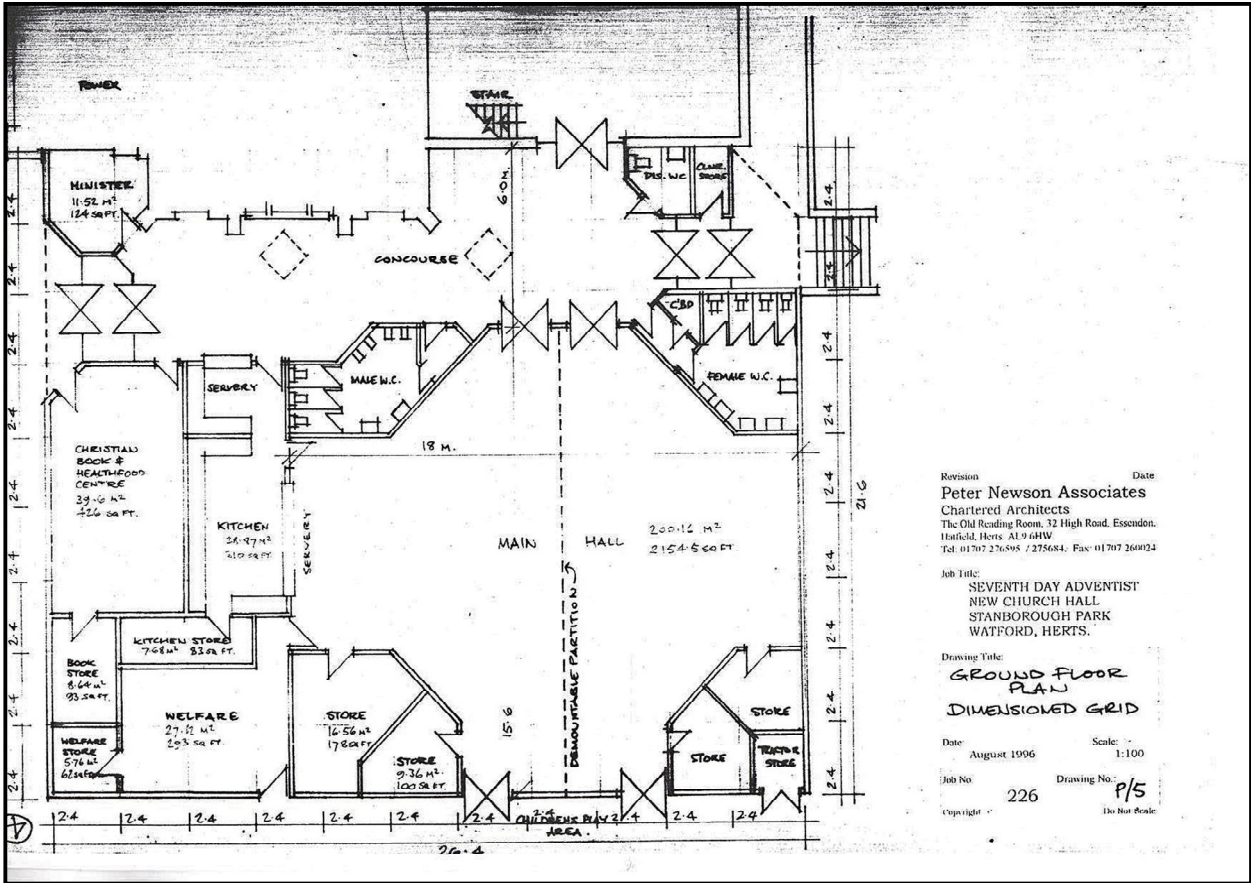
Pastor Boyle regularly stressed the link between construction of the centre and its value for evangelism. *'The chief purpose of the building is to evangelise in our area. To that end the Development Committee, the Church Board, the Pastoral Team and us the membership have to develop a structured plan for witness and outreach. We want to win and hold. To have a facility into which the community can come seven days a week. A place where men/women, boys/girls can find Jesus as Lord and Saviour and prepare for His return.'*

REAR ELEVATION

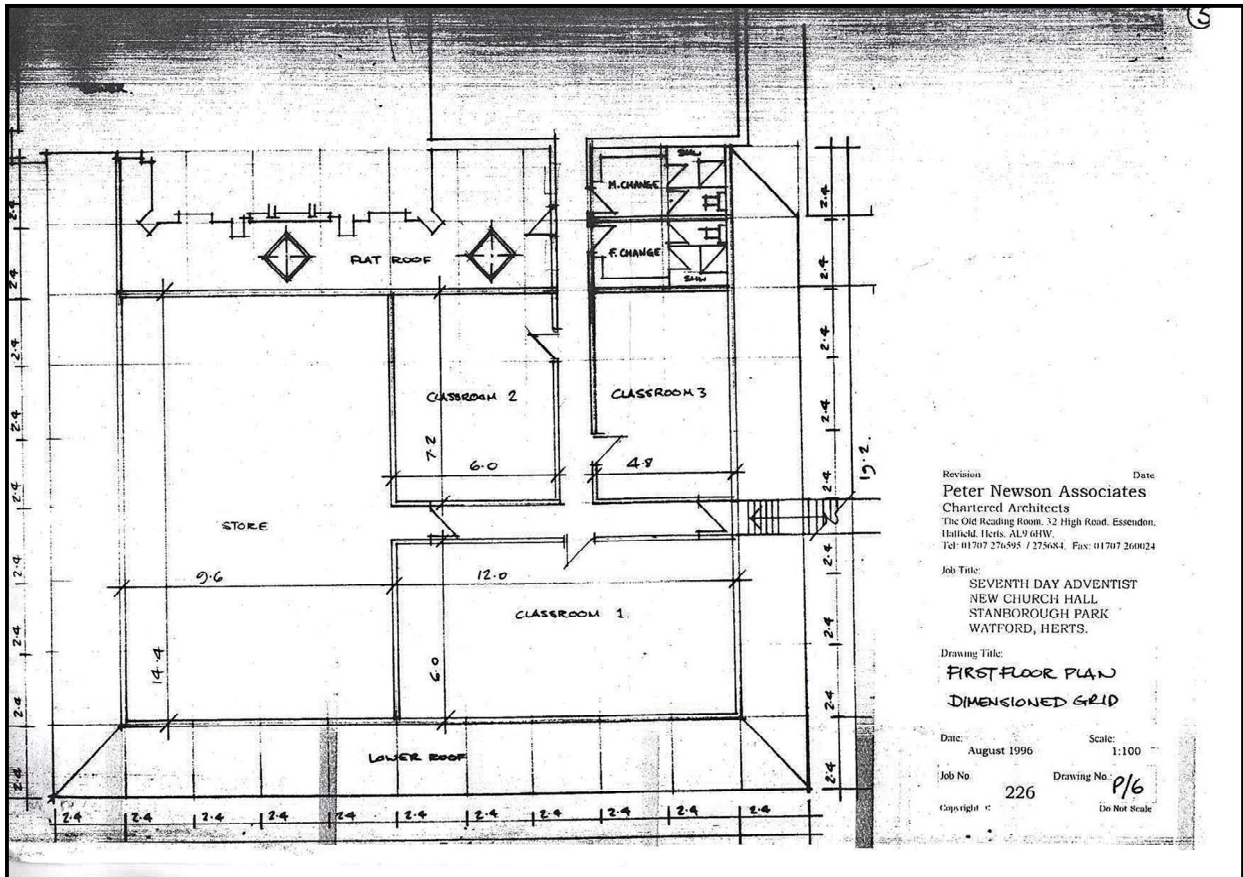


SIDE ELEVATION





GROUND FLOOR



1ST FLOOR

- **ALTERNATIVE PLANS FOR LAYOUT:** NOTE THAT ALL VERSIONS HAVE A SERVIING HATCH TO THE CONCOURSE AND PROVISION FOR A BOOKSHOP WHICH WAS NO LONGER NEEDED WHEN THE ABC OPENED IN THE BUC BUILDING.