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◆ AV's SOUND AND VISION IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

The second phase of the church redevelopment was to improve the platform lighting and sound in the church, notably at the rear of the church where the sub gallery used to be located. This was a long-term plan when the church development work started out and was intentionally not done as part of the church refit back in 2014-5.

There have been a number of discussions and meetings along with revision of quotes since the very first meeting with the supplier back in November 2022. We have also had valuable input from SEC Media who have advised and guided us along this journey. As a result we have managed to have come in under budget, a saving of £30k.

The result has provided us with professional studio-quality lighting in the form of four Arri fresnels* deployed to a set of two

Lockdown News 40

four metre lighting bars with built-in DMX connectors on the angled ceiling space at the back of the church. Two Arri fresnels on one lighting bar behind the arch in the platform area and a further two Arri fresnels in each window space

at the back of the platform. A set of four batten lights with individually controllable LEDs will provide atmospheric lighting for the back of the platform.

Control is also equally as important; we managed to acquire a small lighting-mixing console along with the software to control all the fixtures. It also allows us to make fine adjustments to any controllable attribute a fixture has from any PC connected to the lighting network. At the same time it provides an easy form of control for people to use without needing to interact with the software by pushing faders up and down to have the platform lights come on or go off.

Sound has been improved by providing speakers on the platform which can amplify any input source for individuals on the platform. This aids singers and musicians alike and helps other participants on the platform hear what the speaker is saying. The sound in the sub gallery area has also been reinforced by two speakers one on each pillar giving vol-



ume to an area difficult to get to from the main speakers at the front of the church.

The screens have also been upgraded and increased in number and not only in size. The two 65" screens at the front have grown to 85" and the curved 32" has yet to grow to a 50". We have also added two 28" screens to the two pillars in the sub gallery area.

The majority of the work had taken two weeks to complete with the main lighting and sound being complete.

That pretty much sums up all the equipment and manpower involved in this phase of the church redevelopment **but all is not complete and there is still more to be done to complete this phase.** Work outstanding is the adding-in of the two remaining atmospheric lighting battens and the replacement of the 32" curved screen. Isolating the lighting network and programming the MagicQ lighting software for specific lighting situations is also outstanding.

We have already seen the benefits of the additional lighting on the platform. Our cameras do not need to have such a high gain setting, thus giving a clear and not so grainy picture when focusing on the platform. Also people in the congregation are able to see more clearly the speaker on the platform.

Written by Eric Wolfram

*Arri fresnels are a type of lighting! See also page 8

◆ **THE KEY: how an item of historical significance finally found its way back home**



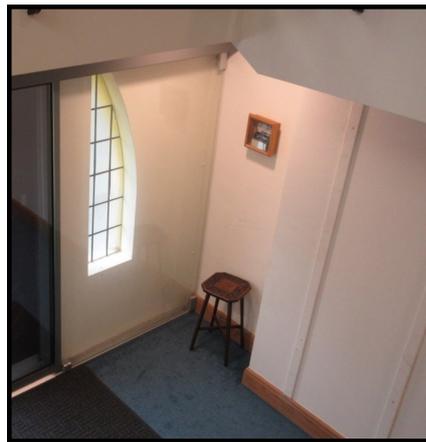
Hiding shyly in an alcove near the large wooden front doors of the old main entrance is an object that played an important part in the history of Stanborough Park Church.

Few people now use this once busy vestibule and probably even fewer have noticed the appearance of a small cabinet less than two years ago which contains an item of special significance - the very key that was used by the BUC President, Pastor Meredith (the grandfather of lifelong SPC member Llew Meredith), to formally open the church building on 22nd July, 1928.

The story behind its mysterious disappearance and emergence from near oblivion is a complex one and involved piecing together information from a variety of sources, much like a jigsaw; the final piece being provided by Dave Burgess who was on the Church Board at the time when returning the key to the church was first discussed.

When Stanborough Park was purchased at the beginning of the 20th Century the priority was to relocate the college, food factory and printing press there and provide office accommodation for BUC staff. The purchase and construction costs left the denomination with a shortfall so the planned-for head-

quarters church building was put on the back burner until funds permitted. In the meantime members worshipped initially in the hired Cop Hall in North Watford, then the college chapel once its purpose-built premises were constructed, and then the new Watford Town Church. It wasn't until 1927 that the dream began to be realised. Once a site had been chosen Dr. Ruble, the American doctor in charge of the sanitarium, organised church members in ground clearance and started the ball rolling.



Surprisingly the construction of the building took about half the time of the church's recent refurbishment **with the foundation stone being laid in November 1927 and the dedication service of the completed church being held the following July!** Even more surprising was the fact that the laying of the foundation stone was well-recorded in the Messenger, but the opening day with a whole day of services, warranted just a few sentences in the Messenger's editorial section and no photographs of the event have been located. It was subsequently mentioned that the church was used for the college's 'opening exercise' at the end of August and there is a Messenger report of the first Harvest Festival held that autumn.

So cast your mind back to 1928 when the large porch/ vestibule with its large wooden doors situated on the St. Albans Road side was the main entrance and the church stood alone with no

halls. It fell to Pastor Meredith, the BUC President, to perform the opening ceremony using a commemorative key. It appears that after the event he took personal possession of the key and when he died his son, Charles Henry, took on its curatorship and subsequently his son, Glynn. Following the latter's death his son, Jon, discovered it amongst his possessions, along with some cine film going back to the 1920's, and contacted Pastor Surridge at the BUC during the summer of 2020 with an offer to pass it on, which was gratefully accepted.

Jon Meredith says he first mentioned finding the key to Barbara Clee, who was a church elder. According to Dave Burgess she mentioned the offer of returning the key at a Church Board meeting. As Denver Annable was chair of the Church Site Management Committee (and a Board member) he was given the task of liaising over the matter. So when the items finally arrived at the BUC, Pastor Surridge promptly passed the key to Denver, as previously arranged.

According to Denver's daughter, Yvonne, he asked his friend Malcolm Carlisle (who carved the handrails for the platform) to make the display cabinet and organised a small commemorative plaque but died before it could be installed.

Not long after his death Yvonne sought out Bernell Bussue, by now CSMC chair, giving him the cabinet containing the key. Wishing to honour Denver's wishes of putting the item on public display (which echoed those expressed by Jon Meredith) Bernell chose a location as close as possible to the door that the key had opened in recognition of all the work Denver did behind the scenes to keep the church running smoothly and arranged for Larry Ivan to install it. But of those passing by not many have since noticed this historic little key hiding unobtrusively in its small wooden cabinet since its installation less than two years ago.

Back in 1928 the BUC was proud of its headquarters church but its personnel cannot have anticipated the contribution its members would make over the forthcoming years serving at home as teachers (Mrs. Lily Bevan, 2nd right in the photo on this page, was one of the first Stanborough School teachers), nurses, ministers and colporteurs and in the mission fields.



According to one member there used to be a scroll on display showing all those

former members who served abroad but it seems to have disappeared. However, current members Derald and Romy Barham served as medical missionaries in India and Colin Allen as a doctor at Kwahu Hospital in Ghana at the same time as his uncle, Edgar Warren, held the position of editor at the printing press located there. There is also a photo in an old Messenger of former SPC member Rosemarie Plimmer on the moped she used to help perform her duties as a midwife at Kwahu. Let's also not forget the Laes who were featured in the January issue.

The October 13 1978 issue of the Messenger which featured a front page article commemorating the 50th anniversary of Stanborough Park Church's opening ceremony has been located. It includes a photo of a small group of founder members who were still attending SPC church – two of them the afore-mentioned Edgar and Lily Warren – although Wilf and Daisy Proudly, who were the first couple married in the church, are missing - and probably a few others who had managed to avoid the photo call as well!

That little key certainly had its moment and what a story it could tell if it was able to and how fitting

that it has been returned to its rightful home in good time for the church's centenary.

So thanks to Dave Burgess, Pastor John Surrige, Jon Meredith, Yvonne Ishida and Bernell Bussue for their willingness to add information leading to solving the mystery surrounding its return home.

The Missionary Worker, Vol 32, no. 24: Dec. 2nd, 1927 Editorial (abr)

the stone on behalf of the British Union Conference of Seventh Day Adventists. Afterwards all who wish to do so, (and pay 1/-) will be privileged to lay a brick in the new building.

Editorial, The Missionary Worker, Vol 32, no. 15: July 27th, 1928

Last Sunday evening, July 22nd (1928), the beautiful new church building on Stanborough Park was opened. Thus yet another of the

GOLDEN JUBILEE

AT STANBOROUGH PARK

Report by Mrs. Irene Way, Stanborough Park Public Relations Secretary

IT is hard to believe that this young-looking group of Stanborough Park members represents over 870 years in the Adventist faith, but they have seen members since the church was opened on 22 July, 1928, and dedicated by Pastor W. H. Meredith.

A year earlier the site had been marked out into plots, and members and their families living near Stanborough Park volunteered to clear the prevailing undergrowth and thriving blackberry bushes, and generally make the site ready for the foundations to be laid. Mrs. Lily Bevan was one of those who paid a shilling for a foundation brick with her name on it.

The first baptism was held at Stanborough Park on 17 October, 1928 and Brother Herbert Barham was baptized on that occasion.

Miss Pearl Nickels was one of the early graduating nurses who served at the Stanborough Sanitarium, which, together with the theological college (Stanborough College) and The Stanborough Press Ltd. were then on the Park.

Brother Stanley Bevan came to Watford in 1918 to work at The Stanborough Press, and his wife was one of the first teachers at Stanborough School sixty years ago.

Mrs. Irene Coombs, who has been an Adventist all her life, recalled that her mother had been brought into the Adventist faith by Ellen G. White herself. Most of these founder members have devoted their lives to the service of the Church, in the ministry, as teachers, nurses, colporteurs, and in the mission field.

Clive Blackburn clearly remembers his father, who helped to lay the wood-block flooring in the church, remarking – "This church is not going to be large enough" – and he was right, for ten years ago two side galleries, two assembly halls and other rooms were added to cope with the growing congregation.

Today the church is facing the same problem, but in this, Stanborough Park's Golden Jubilee Year, plans are in hand to improve the facilities at the church so that it may be an even greater influence in the local community.

"Fifty golden years have passed,
What does the future hold?
Will we see our Lord at last,
And walk streets paved with gold?"

"We only know the time draws near,
And we must labour on, [near,
Till the Word of God spreads far and
And His work on earth is done.

"So Stanborough Park steps out in faith,
To work towards that day,
When in the clouds our Lord will come
To take His own away."

FOUNDER MEMBERS at Stanborough Park. From left: Clive Blackburn (literature evangelist), Edgar A. Warren (retired minister and missionary), Mrs. Lily Bevan, Henry Coombs (church elder and celebrated physiotherapist), Mrs. Irene Coombs, Miss Beatrice Terry (retired teacher), Mrs. Helen Cook (widow of a coal miner), BUC Publishing director Pastor A. W. Cook, Miss Hilda Wyle (retired grammar worker), Miss Gwen Clark (retired missionary), Miss Janet Wyle (retired secretary and Stanborough College teacher), Mrs. Pearl Nickels, Stanley Bevan (retired Press worker), Mrs. Lily Bevan (retired teacher), Herbert Barham (first to fall harness in Granite Falls sales department).
Photo: Frank Stewart

By far the most interesting sight on Stanborough Park at the present time is the deep hole in the woods where the foundations of the new church tower are being laid. To anyone who remembers the vicissitudes through which the Park church building scheme had passed during the past fifteen or twenty years, the mere excavations bring a thrill of thanksgiving and hope.

Monday, November 14th will be a red letter day on the Park. A half holiday has been declared for all workers and students, to enable them to attend the stone-laying ceremony. Pastor W. H. Meredith will lay

great ideas of God's people in this field has been realised. Through many disappointments some have hoped on for over twenty years, and now their brightest dreams have been more than realised.

Built of multi-coloured bricks and white Bath stone, the building presents a delightful appearance amid its surroundings of green trees. Its official opening was conducted in the afternoon by Pastor W. H. Meredith, while Pastor E. E. Andross, one-time President of the British Union conference, gave the address at the evening service.

◆ GOLDEN JUBILEE AT STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH

Report by Mrs. Irene Way, Stanborough Park Public Relations Secretary MESSENGER VOL 83, NO 21 OCTOBER 13, 1978



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ventist all her life, recalled that her mother had been brought into the Adventist faith by Ellen G. White herself. Most of these founder members have devoted their lives to the service of the Church, in the ministry, as teachers, nurses, colporteurs, and in the mission field.

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● FOUNDER MEMBERS at STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH (Photo: Frank Blewitt) From left: Clive

Blackburn (literature-evangelist), Edgar A. Warren (retired minister and missionary), Mrs. Lily Warren, Henry Coombs (church elder and celebrated physiotherapist), Mrs. Irene Coombs, Miss Beatrice Terry (retired teacher), Mrs. Helen Cook (widow of BUC Publishing director Pastor A. W. Cook), Miss Hilda Hyde (retired Granose worker), Miss Gwen Clarke (retired missionary), Miss Janet Hyde (retired secretary and Newbold College teacher), Miss Pearl Nickels (retired nurse), Stanley Bevan (retired Press worker), Mrs. Lily Bevan (retired teacher), Herbert Barham (still in full harness in Granose Foods Sales Dept).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Pastor Andross, who spoke at the evening service, was the BUC President at the time Stanborough Park was purchased. Pearl Nickels and Irene Coombs in the photo were sisters. Irene's husband, Henry was the subject of an article in an earlier edition of the Messenger which is reproduced below.

VOLUME 82 NUMBER 18 SEPTEMBER 16, 1977

- **WIMBLEDON CHAMPION:** In the centenary year of Wimbledon, a member of Stanborough Park Church, Watford, is celebrating thirty years' association with the famous home of lawn tennis. His service is not the 100 miles per hour service of the tennis aces but rather that of the back-room boys, which many players regard as the best service at Wimbledon.



Brother Henry Coombs as he is known to all on the Park, is pictured here at work. He shared part of his war-time RAF service with Mr. Dan Maskell by whom he was asked to look after the treatment rooms after the war. The work has grown until now he is head physiotherapist in charge of a team of seven who look after the players.

Brother Coombs starts work at one o'clock each day, and continues until after the last match. He watches games on a backstage colour television set, and occasionally gets out to watch them on court. This year he was presented with a writing set suitably inscribed as a souvenir of Wimbledon Centenary Year.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE LAST MAN TO LEAVE DUNKIRK

MESSENGER: VOLUME 95 NUMBER 10/11, 25 MAY 1990

With forthcoming events planned in Normandy to commemorate the D-day Landings it seemed an appropriate time to publish this item from the Messenger archive written by Brian Pilmoor.

It was 4 June 1940, fifty years ago this year (1990), when the last man of the 336,000 soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force climbed into a small boat from the sand-duned beaches of Dunkirk and escaped back to English soil.

One day, as a student selling books from door to door to earn my tuition fees for Newbold Missionary College, I met this man's wife. The book I was selling was entitled, *These Days of Destiny*. The kindly lady invited me into her home and, after the exchange of a few pleasantries, we talked about these days of destiny. She was happy to purchase a copy of the book.

Then, before I left her home, I suggested that I should offer a brief word of prayer that God would bless her home and her family. 'Oh, yes,' she said, 'I do believe in prayer.' Then came her unusual testimony. 'At the outbreak of World War II my husband and his friend next door were immediately called up. Having been in the Territorials they were drafted into the regular army.'

I listened carefully. 'One day', she continued, 'I said to my neighbour, "Well, I'm going to pray that God will bring my husband safely back home again." 'Oh, don't talk like that', her neighbour replied with a frown. 'I don't believe in God.' And here our conversation ended abruptly ... 'added Mrs. Jewel. I nodded with understanding. 'Then came the defeat of the Allied Forces in Europe. It was a dark day.' Her face brightened up as she declared, 'I believe God answered my prayer because my husband returned safely home.'

Finally she added her husband's testimony. 'He

told me, "The Germans were bombarding the beaches. Shells seemed to be bursting everywhere. Machine-guns continued to pepper the ranks of the soldiers in long lines waiting their turn to reach the many small boats that would carry them out to the warships anchored out in deeper waters ...'

"Darling," he said to me, "you wouldn't believe it, but, as far as I know, I was the last man to leave the beaches alive! On either side of me machine-gun bullets mowed down my friends, and eventually I was the only man left standing to escape to the last boat to leave Dunkirk!" ' 'And your neighbour's husband?' I interjected, looking into her face as I was waiting to pray. 'Oh,' she sighed, 'he never returned! ... and worst still, every time I pass her in the street she crosses over to the other side of the road to avoid me, ... and if she sees me coming in town she will turn her back on me and gaze into some shop window ...'

We prayed together and I left her home, leaving her with the message for these days of destiny. I journeyed on, pondering the answered prayer of this Christian lady. Mrs. Jewel was indeed one of God's gems.

I still think of her whenever I read: *'Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.'* Malachi 3:16, 17, KJV.

The days of destiny are still with us. Our daily decisions determine our direction in life, and our direction determines our destiny. What could be your destiny? Are you praying that God will bring you safely to our Father's heavenly home? I am.

Brian Pilmoor

◆ BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES

A warm welcome to church fellowship is extended to the following young people who were baptised on Sabbath, 23rd March.

Andrew Popa - Christ has been the most important figure in my lifetime, and I would love to start an eternal relationship with Him beginning today. For me, this baptism is a personal proclamation of giving my life to God, to guide and protect me forevermore.

Christopher Popa - This day is special for me because I accepted the Lord as my Redeemer and Saviour. I love God, He has always been with me, even when I was lonely. If I get things wrong and I am sorry, He graciously forgives me. Over the past few years, my connection with Jesus grew significantly. My understanding and my discernment of good and evil has gradually developed, although, I am aware, I have a life of learning in front of me. I want to give my life to Him and to have an eternal relationship with Him starting today.

Matthew Stanciu - Growing up in the church, God was always there for me, but it took some time for me to realise what it meant to accept Him. Once I was older, He sat with me and revealed to me the beauty of His grace and His perfect plan. I tried to challenge scripture, but now I see just how beautiful and coherent it is and I cannot deny it. I want to be baptised so I can be a part of God's wondrous plan, I cannot hide the extensive love that Jesus offers. I need to tell the world.

Chika Wosu - I want to be baptised because I want to have a closer relationship with God. It is an honour to be baptised because it makes me feel like I am about to accomplish something special. The Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) has really made an impact on my decision to get baptised. It has helped me learn more about how loving our God is.

Ore Adebayo - I've been exploring my faith and building a relationship with God. Being baptised is my way of publicly committing to follow Jesus and live by His teachings. It's a fresh start, symbolising my old self being washed away. I want to show gratitude for God's love, share the joy and hope I've found, and obey His command. I'm excited to take this step and grow in my faith.

Attila Lewis - I wasn't raised in a practicing Christian family so the whole concept of having a relationship with God was new for me. When I moved to England

I met my wife and her family and they introduced me to really knowing God. When I started my Bible studies, I then started to understand what it meant to have a relationship with God and I wanted to get baptised and accept Jesus in my heart.

◆ HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S MAY PROGRAMME FOCUSES ON SUNLIGHT

Of all the health benefits of sunlight, initiating the process of vitamin D production in the body may be the best known. Unlike other essential vitamins, which must be obtained from food, Vitamin D can also be generated in the skin through a photosynthetic reaction triggered by exposure to UVB radiation. Vitamin D helps to regulate the absorption of calcium and phosphorus for maintenance of healthy teeth and bones. Exposure to sunlight is also thought to increase the brain's release of a hormone called serotonin. Serotonin is associated with boosting mood and helping a person feel calm and focused. Other health benefits include, production of natural opiates called endorphins, which strengthens an individual's immunity and modulation of melatonin production, an essential sleep-promoting hormone.

In the UK from late March/early April to the end of September, most of us, should be able to make all the vitamin D we need from sunlight. Experts recommend 10 to 15 minutes of daily sun exposure for people who have lighter skin and 25 to 40 minutes for those with darker skin. **Remember** - 'And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good.' Genesis 1:3-4.

To learn more and read this message in full [click here](#). Or contact caz@mendel-it.co.uk.

◆ PRAYER CORNER

PRAYER REQUESTS: *place private Prayer Requests in the Prayer Box or email STANBOROUGHPRAYS@GMAIL.COM*

A number of deaths have occurred recently:

- Michael Power whose funeral took place at the church on 22nd April and was laid to rest in North Watford Cemetery.
- Maizie Fletcher, a former long-time SPC member whose funeral service was held at the church on Wednesday 1st May, was also laid to rest in North Watford Cemetery.
- Anita Creasey who worked at the TED.
- Yetunde Bright's husband, Fela, whose funeral took place on 16th April in Nigeria.
- Please remember these families in prayer and also Judy Plaatjes and her family as they mourn the death of Judy's Aunt, Mavis Connell, who passed on Friday 5th April following a short illness.

◆ **SPC Pathfinder and Adventurer Teams Achieve First Place in TED Adventurer and Pathfinder Bible Experience Finals**

Congratulations to our Adventurers and Pathfinders who recently competed in the TED finals of the Pathfinder Bible Experience in a gymnasium in Schiedam, near Rotterdam, Netherlands on 12th April as part of an international group of 925 Pathfinders and 850 Adventurers from many European nations. Both of the Adventurers and Pathfinder teams who competed achieved first place – the range being 90-100% although the Filipino team just beat them with 100% score!

Below is an abridged account of the event from TED News, written by Pastor David Neal.

Pathfinder and Adventurer club teams are composed of six to a team, led by the captain and a scribe. In addition, each team is given an independent and impartial runner to take the answer across the gym to give to the judges. The teaching principle at work is teamwork – sat in a huddle, working together to recall the answer, check it's correct – and double check it's correct – and all discussed in hushed tones to ensure that the neighbouring team doesn't hear the answer!

(They are) tested on how much they know about the first six chapters of Joshua, and the first five chapters of Judges. Adventurers in the morning session will answer 44 questions on a more focused area of the two books, and Pathfinders in the afternoon session will answer 90 questions. Having successfully completed their national heats, they now have the privilege and excitement of travelling to the Netherlands for the Trans-European Division (TED) Bible Experience Finals. With them are mums and dads, guardians, club leaders, coaches, area coordinators, conference and union directors, and support staff dedicated to making this event uplift the Bible in an age-relevant way.

The testing time is a complex process for an international event. With 64 Pathfinder and 47 Adventurer teams, rows of judges sit behind computers, and monitors display questions which require language translation for each national non-English speaking group (Hungarian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Polish, Croatian, Belgian, and Dutch). A few national groups unable to travel to the Netherlands participate online.

As is tradition for the Bible Experience, the key value rises high above the competitive spirit, but understandably for children and teens, competition is

a motivator. It is to be enjoyed in the spirit of fun and friendship. Every team is awarded 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place.

Directing the events of the day on behalf of the TED, Kevin Johns was thrilled about what had taken place. "It was wonderful to see so many children participating in the ABE and PBE. These are the highest numbers taking part at TED level since the TED became involved and this is a testament to the impact this programme is having on Adventurers and Pathfinders. This is not a competition, and it is more than just a test, because it is fortifying the minds of our children with God's word. But the most rewarding element of the programme for me is seeing the 18 Pathfinders respond to the appeal by Gabriel Kwaye (NUChC Youth director) for baptism, joining a further 73 Pathfinders who responded to the appeal at Union level testing. It is now the work of the local club leaders to work with those Pathfinders and lead them to a relationship with Jesus. This is the whole purpose of the Pathfinder Bible Experience."



•**Summing up the event** Paula Carrillo reports, "Mentors, parents and children are so grateful with their results. It has also been a lovely reward to visit the Netherlands, see the Zaanse Schans windmills, marvel at the Keukenhof Gardens, and Rotterdam." Adding, "It is always a blessing to increase Bible knowledge, but also to travel and to make a team spirit among the children."



◆ EASTER MESSIAH CONCERT PROVES TO BE A TRIUMPH



WATCH: <https://livestream.com/accounts/640318/events/316091>

(not edited: 564 views as of 08/05/24)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKU5fnj5JTY>
(853 views as of 08/05/24)

The Music Department's Easter production of Handel's Messiah proved to be very popular. The church car park soon filled as did the sanctuary and, with the BUC car park not available, cars lined the St. Albans Road affecting the livestream signal and the ground floor church halls soon filled too with the overflow, first the Armstrong Hall, then the North Porch

started to fill and finally the Cedar/Sycamore Room was opened. Add to this 564 views on the church website and 853 views on the church's YouTube channel since the broadcast and the standing ovation which recognised the outstanding efforts of singers and musicians (and the conductor) it can be said that the event was something special and an outstanding success and will be spoken of for some time to come. Well done to all concerned and we look forward to the next concert.



◆ UPGRADING THE CHURCH'S AV/SOUND/LIGHTING FACILITIES

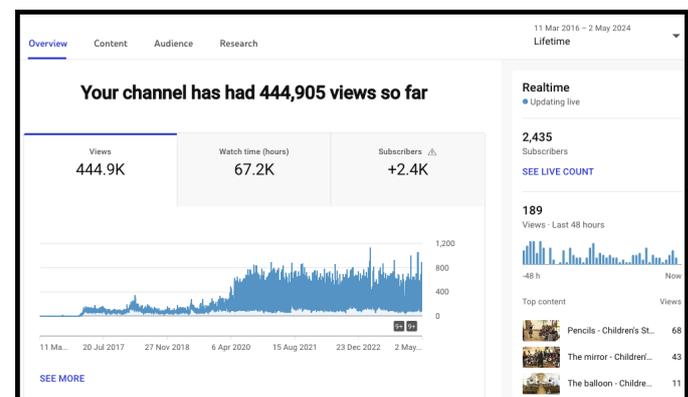
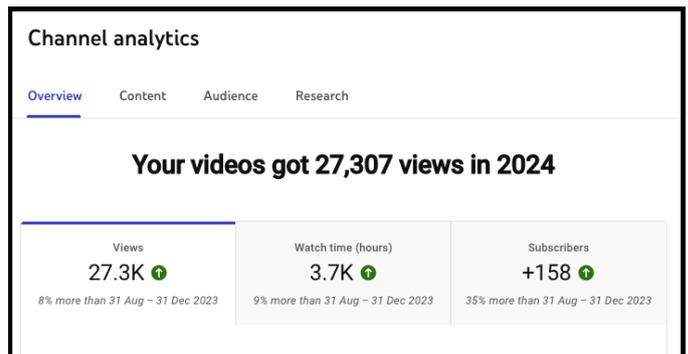
Money was a big issue with the church redevelopment in 2014/5 and with a large loan to pay off it was decided to leave some improvements, such as improving sound and lighting to the platform area to a future date when the funds became available. (See October 2022 issue.) The improvements to the sound and lighting for the platform area was approved by the Church Board last summer but when it was discovered that the money wasn't available after all donations were sought. The new sound desk was already sponsored and is yet to be installed.

Church elder, Louis Guenin, who was the chair of the board responsible for managing the development, is also the elder with the AV portfolio. He has been very actively involved in this project and raising funds. He comments:

- The quality of lighting and sound is at a superior level for services and programmes online.
- The visuals, lighting and sound quality in church are vastly improved.
- The funding of the project is from individual donors and not church funds; **it has not been completed and is still a work in progress.**
- People watching online have commented how professional our church services are now.
- Already the number of people watching online has increased by 17%. (See analytics right.)

● **Jef Nascimento** who manages the church's YouTube channel from his home in Portugal has provided some screenshots, dated 3rd May, showing some interesting analytics from our YouTube channel which appears to go from strength to strength and attracts an international audience.

◆ **GOODBYE:** at the beginning of April we said goodbye to Angelina Pinkney who had finally obtained a visa to join her husband in the U.S.A.. She was presented with a gift by Pastor Terry to thank her for her contribution to the church during her time at SPC.



◆ **FROM THE ARCHIVES: The Man Behind the College Relocations**

Many thanks to Roy Newman for providing these photos of the college's time at Newbold Revel. Below is an account of the part in the college relocations played by its principal Pastor William G. C. Murdoch (1902-1983) taken from his obituary written by Edward E. White. (*Messenger*, April 20, 1984.)

In 1930 he returned to England to take up an appointment as principal of Stanborough College, and soon found additional duties as he joined other college board members in their search for a new site for the college.

The school year 1930-1 was the last one for the ministerial training institution to be housed on Stanborough Park, for a new site was ultimately found at Newbold Revel, five miles from Rugby, in Warwickshire.

This move meant a considerable change of staff too, and the wise guiding hand of Billy in administration was shown by his welding of a group of new, impatient young teachers into a team with other staff who were older than the principal, all working harmoniously together.

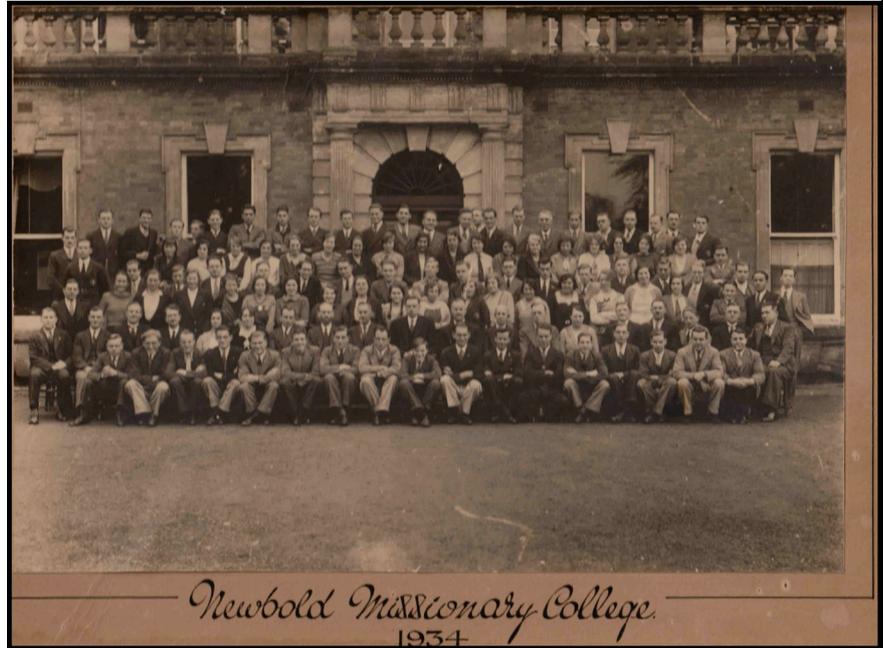
His leadership constantly emphasized the value of Christian education, and there are many former students, who while they did not complete a ministerial course — for that was all that was offered in those days — nevertheless gained an insight into the Lord's call for all Adventists to do some part in forwarding God's work whatever their station in life.

During World War II, Newbold College, because of its strategic position in the centre of England, was commandeered by the War Office as a site for the then newly-developed radar installation. This necessitated a difficult search for temporary quarters where the college could still operate, and at Packwood Haugh in rather less than

ideal conditions, Dr. Murdoch's determination and conviction ensured the continuity of the ministerial training programme. At the close of hostilities it was necessary once again to seek a permanent home for the college, and Dr. Murdoch played a leading part in its establishment as Newbold College in Binfield, Berkshire, its present location.

Throughout these arduous years with all the extra burdens imposed by circumstances, Billy's example and precept fostered the cause of Christian Education so dear to his heart. With peace in 1945 and the lifting

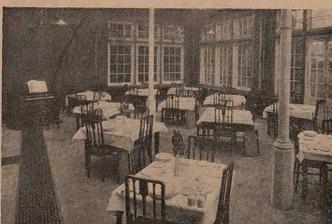
of travel restrictions, exchanges of workers were made between English-speaking countries, and Billy received a call to Australia to become principal of the Australasian Missionary College, better known as Avondale.



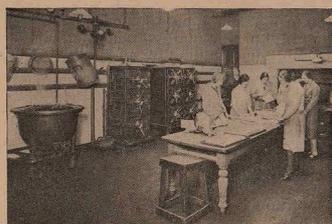
The Chapel



A Corner of the Library



One of the Dining Rooms



The Kitchen

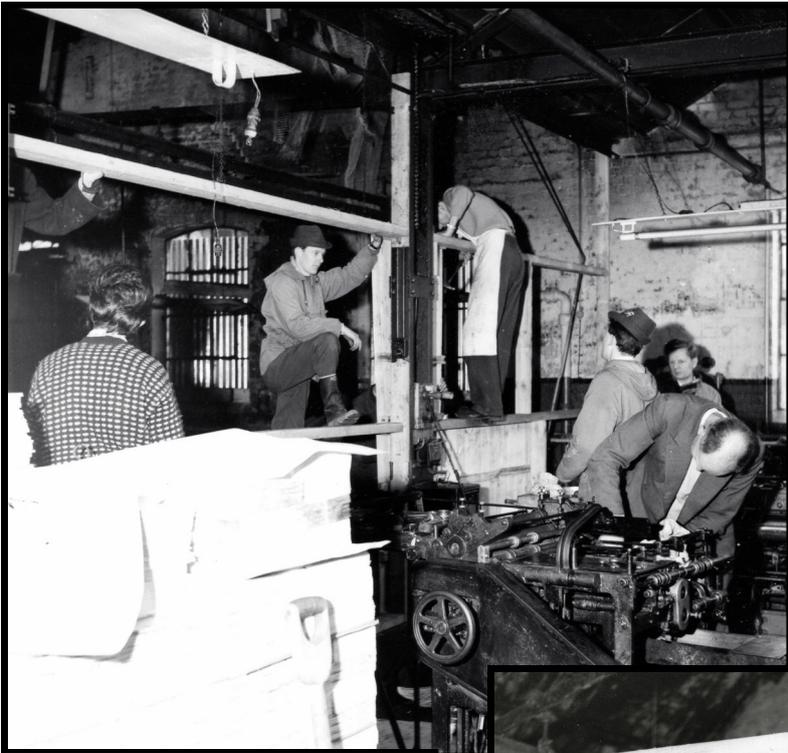
◆ **FROM THE ARCHIVES: FIRE AT THE STANBOROUGH PRESS CONTINUED**



THE STANBOROUGH PRESS, ABOVE IN 1928 BEFORE THE EXTENSION TO THE RIGHT OF THE BUILDING WAS BUILT, AND BELOW, AFTER THE FIRE.

Many thanks to David Bell, the graphic designer at the Press, for kindly providing the photo below and those on the following pages . Many were taken by his father, Barry, who worked there and relocated with the Press to Grantham when the time came.





After the fire the staff were involved in the clear-up operations.

In the photo below Don Lale can be seen on the right..

(Photos provided by David Bell)

BRITISH ADVENT
MESSENGER
 VOLUME 69 - NUMBER 2 JANUARY 17, 1944

FIRE and FAITH
 AT THE STANBOROUGH PRESS
 By Pastor J. A. McMillan
 President, British Union Conference

ON Friday morning, January 1st, fire was discovered in the farm area of The Stanborough Press. Brother James Willis, of the book-binding department, had gone into the building at 6.30 a.m. and shortly after starting work, he noticed smoke and found a fire raging in the back room. The fire brigade was soon on the job, but the flames quickly spread throughout the editorial, accounting, dispatch and stock rooms, and the entire front of the building was destroyed.

Our hearts were grieved as we stood helplessly by and watched the flames spreading from room to room, and as parts of the roof fell in and sparks flew upward; our prayers ascended to God for the vital work which our publishing house has done and must continue to do.

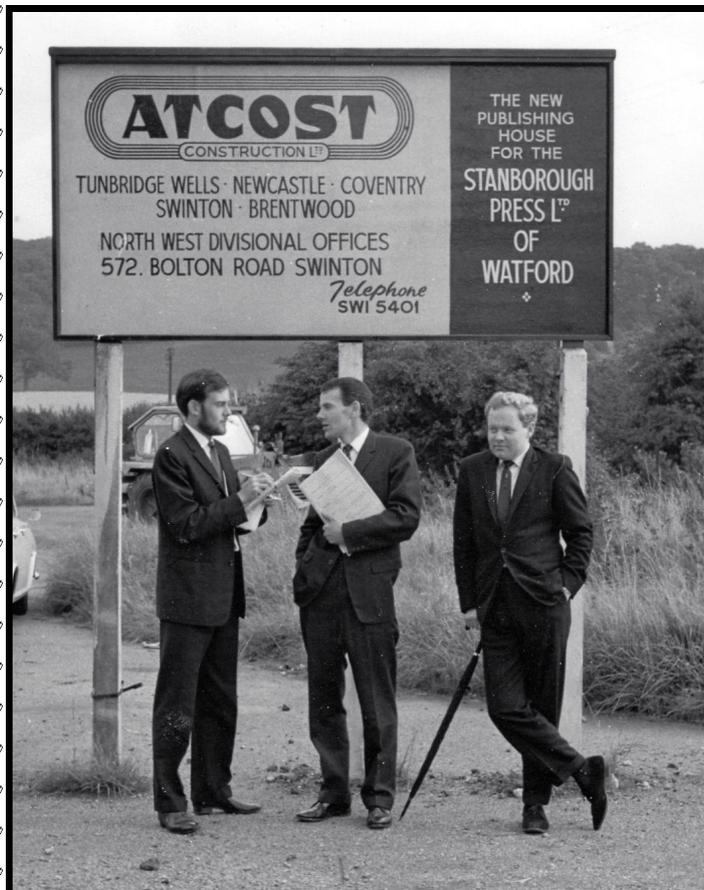
It is yet too soon to assess the total damage that has been done, but our courage is strong. Brother Claven tells me that all the vital records are intact. The fire was stayed as it reached the workshop and

The Reconstructed front of the British Publishing House.



Michael Cowen, who took the photos of the flames leaping from the burning building, is on the far left of the adjacent photo.

THE MOVE TO GRANTHAM



Martin Bell, Barry Bell and Peter Howard at the ground breaking ceremony. (D. Bell)

Shortly after the fire Pastor Walter Newman was relocated from his role at the BUC to become Manager of the Press. Once the decision was made to relocate it away from Stanborough Park it fell to him to find a new site, according to his son, Roy, who provided the photos above and below.

Why Grantham? Roy recalls, 'One story I remember from my Dad while he was looking for a new site for the Stanborough Press was that when he asked the Grantham Councillors how many council houses they could provide, their answer was "How many do you want?". All the other towns they had visited gave a small number of council houses that weren't enough.

'When the Staff found out the prices of houses in Grantham a lot were excited as they could afford to buy their own house – something not possible in Watford with high prices.'



Above: one of the ceremonial spade used at the ground breaking ceremony held on 26th July, 1965. (R. Newman)

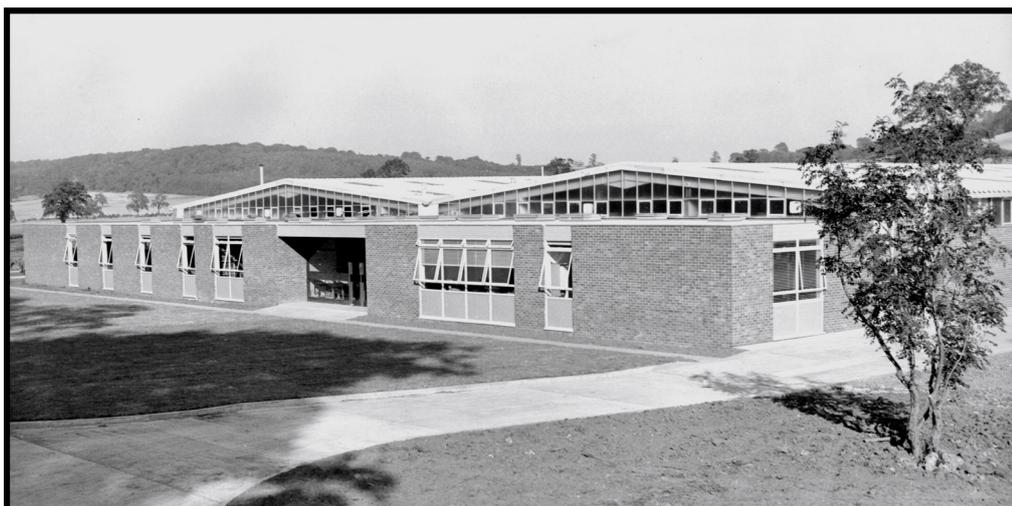
The inscription reads: *This spade was used by E L Torrey Esquire at the earth breaking ceremony on the 26th July 1965 on the site of the new publishing house for The Stanborough Press of Watford at Alma Park Grantham and presented to him by the contractors at Atcost Construction Ltd*

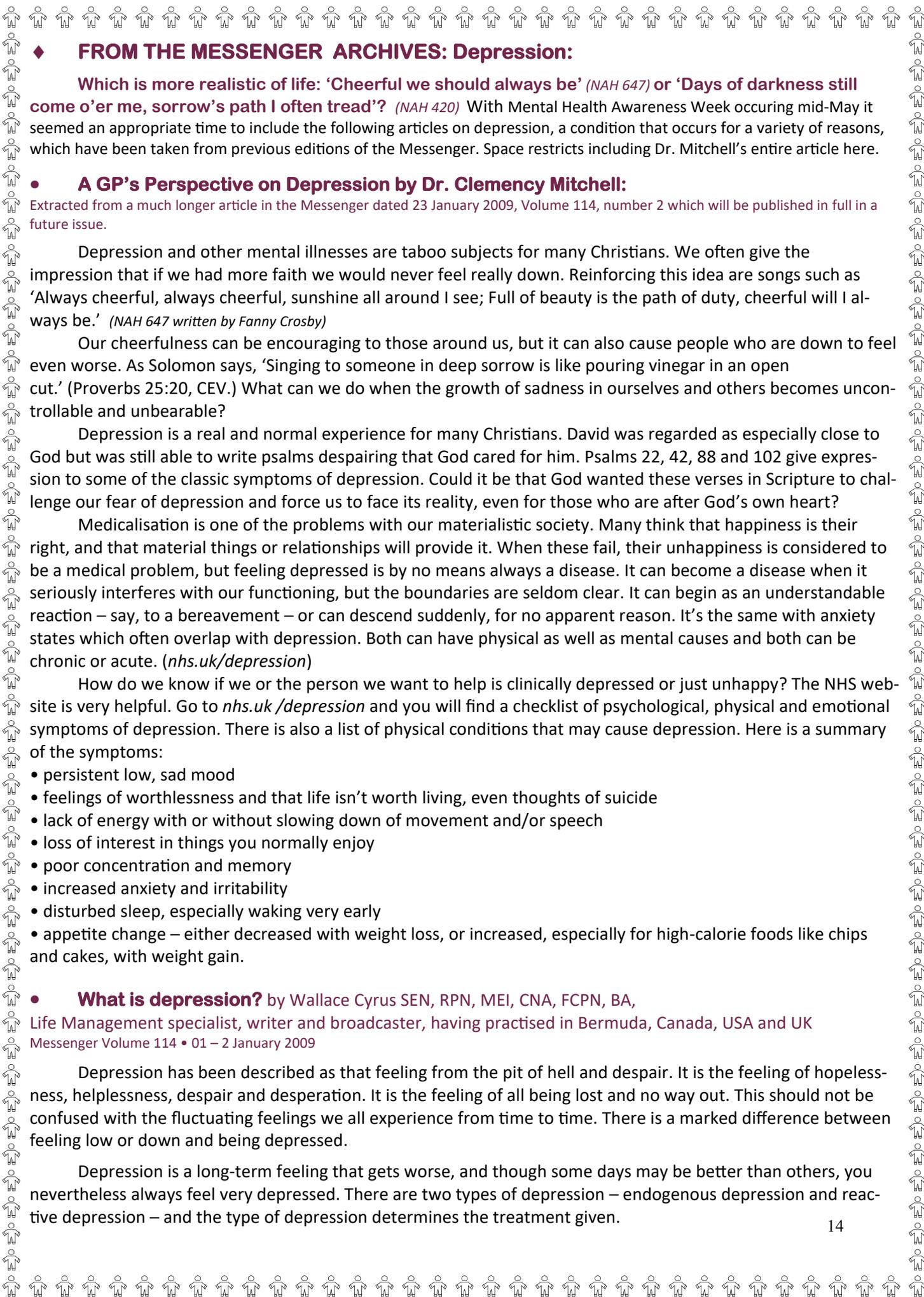


The photos above of the opening day in September 1966 were supplied by Roy Newman.

The photos left and below of the Press building in Grantham and John Sutton on the linotype machine were supplied by David Bell.

Many thanks to both for sharing them with us.





◆ FROM THE MESSENGER ARCHIVES: Depression:

Which is more realistic of life: ‘Cheerful we should always be’ (NAH 647) or ‘Days of darkness still come o’er me, sorrow’s path I often tread’? (NAH 420) With Mental Health Awareness Week occurring mid-May it seemed an appropriate time to include the following articles on depression, a condition that occurs for a variety of reasons, which have been taken from previous editions of the Messenger. Space restricts including Dr. Mitchell’s entire article here.

● A GP’s Perspective on Depression by Dr. Clemency Mitchell:

Extracted from a much longer article in the Messenger dated 23 January 2009, Volume 114, number 2 which will be published in full in a future issue.

Depression and other mental illnesses are taboo subjects for many Christians. We often give the impression that if we had more faith we would never feel really down. Reinforcing this idea are songs such as ‘Always cheerful, always cheerful, sunshine all around I see; Full of beauty is the path of duty, cheerful will I always be.’ (NAH 647 written by Fanny Crosby)

Our cheerfulness can be encouraging to those around us, but it can also cause people who are down to feel even worse. As Solomon says, ‘Singing to someone in deep sorrow is like pouring vinegar in an open cut.’ (Proverbs 25:20, CEV.) What can we do when the growth of sadness in ourselves and others becomes uncontrollable and unbearable?

Depression is a real and normal experience for many Christians. David was regarded as especially close to God but was still able to write psalms despairing that God cared for him. Psalms 22, 42, 88 and 102 give expression to some of the classic symptoms of depression. Could it be that God wanted these verses in Scripture to challenge our fear of depression and force us to face its reality, even for those who are after God’s own heart?

Medicalisation is one of the problems with our materialistic society. Many think that happiness is their right, and that material things or relationships will provide it. When these fail, their unhappiness is considered to be a medical problem, but feeling depressed is by no means always a disease. It can become a disease when it seriously interferes with our functioning, but the boundaries are seldom clear. It can begin as an understandable reaction – say, to a bereavement – or can descend suddenly, for no apparent reason. It’s the same with anxiety states which often overlap with depression. Both can have physical as well as mental causes and both can be chronic or acute. ([nhs.uk/depression](https://www.nhs.uk/depression))

How do we know if we or the person we want to help is clinically depressed or just unhappy? The NHS website is very helpful. Go to [nhs.uk/depression](https://www.nhs.uk/depression) and you will find a checklist of psychological, physical and emotional symptoms of depression. There is also a list of physical conditions that may cause depression. Here is a summary of the symptoms:

- persistent low, sad mood
- feelings of worthlessness and that life isn’t worth living, even thoughts of suicide
- lack of energy with or without slowing down of movement and/or speech
- loss of interest in things you normally enjoy
- poor concentration and memory
- increased anxiety and irritability
- disturbed sleep, especially waking very early
- appetite change – either decreased with weight loss, or increased, especially for high-calorie foods like chips and cakes, with weight gain.

● What is depression? by Wallace Cyrus SEN, RPN, MEI, CNA, FCPN, BA,

Life Management specialist, writer and broadcaster, having practised in Bermuda, Canada, USA and UK
Messenger Volume 114 • 01 – 2 January 2009

Depression has been described as that feeling from the pit of hell and despair. It is the feeling of hopelessness, helplessness, despair and desperation. It is the feeling of all being lost and no way out. This should not be confused with the fluctuating feelings we all experience from time to time. There is a marked difference between feeling low or down and being depressed.

Depression is a long-term feeling that gets worse, and though some days may be better than others, you nevertheless always feel very depressed. There are two types of depression – endogenous depression and reactive depression – and the type of depression determines the treatment given.

● **Endogenous depression is the more serious of the two depressive illnesses.**

What is it? Our bodies consist of many different types of cells which make up different systems. To keep these systems alive and healthy, they need nutrition and ongoing maintenance. This requires various substances called chemicals. An imbalance in these chemicals can cause various changes in the body, especially in the brain. The brain communicates with itself through the use of special chemicals called neurotransmitters such as serotonin and norepinephrine. It is the imbalance in these substances that can lead to endogenous depression. It usually has a very gradual onset – you have these strange feelings that get progressively worse and you cannot get a handle on what is going on. Your sleep patterns may be interrupted. You may lose your appetite and weight. You may become constipated and, as it progresses and worsens, you may get feelings of not wanting to live any more, as life is no longer worth it and there is nothing for which to live.

Treatment. Because this condition is the result of physiological changes, we need to correct it, so we employ drugs or chemotherapy to help us solve the problem. We also use psychotherapy and, in some instances, we also use ECT – electro-convulsive therapy. Chemo - or drug therapy involves the use of drugs from a group of drugs we call antidepressants, which is subdivided into the tricyclics, MAOIs and SSRIs.

The tricyclic class of drugs is effective in treating depression, but is associated with the following side effects – drowsiness, dry mouth and constipation. They are also associated with weight gain and sleepiness. They are also dangerous when taken in an overdose. For this reason, doctors usually prescribe the smallest number of pills possible, as they do not want a patient to commit suicide by taking an overdose. Amitriptyline and Nortriptyline are among the most commonly used in this group.

MAOIs (monoamine oxidase inhibitors) are very effective but have potentially life-threatening drug interactions and food interactions. If you are taking an MAOI drug, it is important that you follow your doctor's instructions very closely about which foods to avoid and the mixing of medicines. Drugs in this group are not as widely used as the other groups. Nardil and Parnate are the best known.

SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) increase the brain's level of serotonin, and are associated with an improvement in mood. Citalopram, Paroxetine, Fluoxetine and Sertraline are the most commonly used in this group.

● **Reactive depression can be the less serious of the two conditions.**

What is it? Things happen to all of us from time to time. When these things occur, we react to them – negatively or positively. Depression can be a response to one or more of life's events, hence the term reactive depression.

Treatment. As this condition is a reaction to external factors, drug therapy (antidepressant drugs) is used very selectively. Psychotherapy is our primary treatment of choice. Though this form of depression is seen as being less serious, it is not to be laughed at or taken lightly. It can be very difficult to treat and suicide is not uncommon.

As in all forms of health – physical or mental – the following tips will help us avoid or cope with depression and have a better, more productive and meaningful life.

1. Develop a meaningful and personal relationship with God.
2. Develop a positive self- image/self-concept.
3. Develop a healthy lifestyle – proper exercise, diet, rest and personal hygiene.
4. Develop proper stress management techniques and coping skills.
5. Develop a great sense of humour – please do not take yourself too seriously.
6. Learn to laugh, long and loud, daily – especially at yourself.

In closing, while all the above will help us to have a better and more fulfilled life, things happen and we do not always get what we want. Take depression very seriously and seek early professional help. Your GP or family doctor should be your first port of call. Family, friends, colleagues and employers, please be very supportive of those going through depression – they need empathy and understanding. There is nothing like knowing that there is someone there for us, one on whom we can call at any time – day or darkest night. Remember: No one cares how much we know, until he/she knows how much we care. And I care.

**From 'The Rainy Day'
by H.W. Longfellow**

My life is cold, and dark, and dreary;
It rains, and the wind is never weary;
My thoughts still cling to the
mouldering Past,
But the hopes of youth fall thick in
the blast,
And the days are dark and dreary.

Be still, sad heart! and cease
repining;
Behind the clouds is the sun still
shining;
Thy fate is the common fate of all,
**Into each life some rain must fall,
Some days must be dark and dreary**

◆ CHURCH MATTERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Teatime Concert** held on 28th April was performed by young musicians from our own Stanborough Park College of Music (SPCM) .
- **Parallel Potluck Lunch** was held on Sabbath 20th April followed by an informal time of praise and testimonies and **the regular Fellowship Lunch** was held on 4th May, funded by donations on the day to help cover the cost of the food.
- **ADRA** - Thank you for your support for the ADRA Annual Appeal 'A Call to Compassion'. Loose change can be put into the collection boxes and donations made in the envelopes. Alternatively, you can donate through Audrey's JustGiving Page ([Click here](#)) or set up a standing order using the code for Stanborough Park Church - TAY4RSX. Any queries see Audrey Huzzey or Hélia Shepley.
- **Greek Night** Due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to postpone the event. We plan to organise the Greek night event this coming winter, God willing. Meanwhile, if you feel inspired to sponsor a child or give a donation, contact Sophia, Margarita or Anna.
- **The Young Adults** held a retreat 19th - 21st April at Wokefield Park Estate, Reading.
- **Volunteers needed at Stanborough Primary School** to be lunchtime supervisors, reading buddies, gardeners and building helpers. If you can help, please call the school on 01923 673291, email info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk or pop in and have a chat.
- **Children's Concert** in support of ADRA-UK's Education Project was held on Saturday, 11th May and performed by over 40 talented children raising £1033.00 for the charity (including some of the money in their individual collecting boxes. The amount will rise when all of their money is collected in).
- **Naomi Phillips** (nee Burgess) will be swimming, cycling and running her first ever triathlon in memory of her beloved Papa, Roy Burgess. If you wish to sponsor her, please visit her Just Giving page at: justgiving.com/page/naomitriesforpapa
- **Abigail Davison and Eleanor Elias** have been working with ADRA in Nepal since mid-May, learning about its work there, and would like to say a heartfelt thank you to those who contributed towards their trip.
- **Proposed Table Tennis Club:** if you are interested in playing table tennis on **Thursdays @ 7pm**. See Eustace Cornwall or email: eustace.cornwall@gmail.com.
- **Happy 90th birthday to Las Shields.**

◆ REGULAR EVENTS

- **Discipleship/Nurturing classes** are being held every Friday 7:30pm via Zoom. Intended for those who have been baptised over the past three years these sessions will seek to build up and solidify faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are interested please speak to one of the pastoral team.
- **Let's talk about Jesus** meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Bring a friend, your Bible, your favourite text, favourite hymn or story so we can share and talk about our friend Jesus. Everyone is welcome.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting** is held in the Sanctuary with available Zoom facility Meeting ID: 721 857 1482; Passcode: pray3r or [click here](#). If anyone wants to pray for their children contact the SPC prayer leaders on 07988045461
- **Women in Prayer/Prayer Ministry:**
- every 2nd Sabbath of the month 3.00-5.00pm.
- every morning 6am-6:30am Zoom ID 8316619709 passcode 777.
- weekly on Zoom - Fridays 6pm Zoom ID: 831 0985 5836 Passcode: Fprayer
- **Men's Ministry Prayer Meeting** held every Tuesday 9pm on Zoom ID: 519 552 6863 & Passcode: Pray3r
- **Prayer for the Children** of our church on the first Sabbath of each month. If you would like to add you and your children to the prayer list contact the prayer ministry leaders Marlene and Bella, contact number: 07988045461
- **Women Ministry Outreach:** staff at Auburn Mere Residential Home have extended an invitation to Stanborough Park Church to visit with the residents every Sabbath for an hour between 14.00 and 16.00. Contact Milimo or Esther if you would like to take part.
- **Badminton Club:** Come and join our friendly badminton club on Mondays at the Stanborough Secondary School gym. Programme starts at 5:30pm, finishing around 7:30pm. All abilities welcome. Any questions contact Arto Keshishian.

◆ **THE LAST WORD:** from David Marshall's 'God's Little Book of Encouragement' (2000): *'The majority of the world's troubles are caused by people wanting to be more important.'* **AND** *'Christ is the root of our salvation. Good works are the fruit of our salvation.'*