



## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

As I write it seems that Christmas lights are out. No, it's not a power cut, nor has Christmas come and gone. It's just that in some parts of the country Christmas lights are no longer acceptable. Winter lights—maybe. But Christmas lights, sorry that's just not on. Could be offensive.

Now if you stop to think of their origin, that's a pity. Of course we all know that December 25 was not the real birthday of Jesus. That is unknown. But for Christians, and for many others, the birth of the baby in Bethlehem was of such import that it is deserving of a day to remember and celebrate it. So December 25 has, for multi-millions, become that day.

Why? Well, in days when the sun god was one of the principle gods of pagan worship, the winter solstice, when daylight began to lengthen, became

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the day to worship the birth of the sun god. As Christianity began to spread and change the world a different light entered peoples lives. The darkness of superstition and hopelessness and greed was replaced. Lives were changed by the man who brought hope into their lives.

Jesus, the "Light of the World" replaced the sun god and all other pagan gods and December 25 became the day to celebrate the birth of that new light.

So the Christmas candle is not just a pretty decoration. It is a symbol of hope. The Christmas tree lights are not just to brighten up those dark winter evenings. They are a message of optimism. And those High Street lights are not just to attract more shoppers and boost the economy—although you may be forgiven for being just a little sceptical about that. No. Those lights are a message for people of all faiths and of none, that there is hope even in our troubled world, for better days to come.

And for the Christian—Jesus is the light that will reach the darkest places and brighten the gloomiest days—if we will allow.

So this Christmas you can light a candle, switch on the lights on the tree or just enjoy those symbols in the High Street with confidence and hope. Best of all, celebrate at one of the Christmas services in your local church and remember that baby in Bethlehem.

You are certainly welcome to join us at Stanborough Park Church.

## CALENDAR

**1st** 9.30m  
**3rd** 5pm

**4th** 11am  
**7th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**7th** 7.30pm

**8th** 8pm

**8th** 9.30am  
**11th** 10am  
**14th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**15th** 9.30am  
**17th** 11am  
**24th** 11am  
**24th** 7.30pm

**4th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**5th** 9.30am  
**8th** 10am  
**9th** 2-4pm  
**10th** 8pm  
**11th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**12th** 9.30am  
**18th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**19th** 9.30am  
**22nd** 12-2pm  
**23rd** 2-4pm  
**25th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**26th** 9.30am

**1st** 9.30am  
**2nd** 9.30am  
**5th** 10am  
**6th** 2-4pm  
**7th** 8pm  
**8th** 9.30am + 1pm  
**9th** 9.30am  
**19th** 10am  
**20th** 2-4pm  
**22nd** 9.30am + 1pm  
**23rd** 9.30am

### December

Mother/Toddler Club\*  
Northampton Male Voice Choir, followed by refreshments and some tabletop sales  
Book and Craft Fair  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Delicious Vegetarian Cookery with Viv. Cost: £2.50  
Mind the Gap Reunion: *Creation—Kish Poddar* (7 pm—Supper)  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Pathfinder/Adventurer Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Toy Service  
Christmas Family Service  
Carols by Candlelight

### January

Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Pathfinder/Adventurer Club  
Senior Members Group: `Healthy Heart Seminar`  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Pat's Sunday Sale  
Senior Members Group:  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club

### February

Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Pathfinder/Adventurer Club  
Senior Members Group  
Healthy Heart Seminar  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Pathfinder/Adventurer Club  
Senior Members Group:  
Mother/Toddler Club  
Mother/Toddler Club

\*Contact person for Toddler Club:  
Elaine Thompson, 01923 672204

**Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church  
and the Stanborough Centre: 609 St Albans Road,  
Garston, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JL Tel: 01923 894 664**



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## RESPONDS TO THE SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-UK) based in Watford, has been actively involved in assisting thousands of people affected by the recent earthquake in South Asia. To help alleviate the suffering caused by this mega-disaster, ADRA is providing relief supplies including blankets, jerry cans for water, and emergency medicines to inhabitants of the Bagh district of Pakistan Administered Kashmir. ADRA-UK together with partner British charity, Blythwood Care, is putting together an airlift of bulk emergency supplies including blankets, sleeping bags, winterised tents and water purification tablets. An emergency ADRA medical team has been providing basic health services to the thousands of injured people immediately following the disaster.

In Pakistan the death toll is rising daily, and there is race against winter to provide supplies for the survivors. Conrad Vine, ADRA Pakistan acting director, highlighted the

extent of the disaster in the Bagh district where there were significant casualties: "99% of government and public buildings have been destroyed, together with 75% of all private housing. Gangrene is appearing in the clinics as people are arriving after almost two weeks with open wounds and Bagh town smells of rotting bodies."

ADRA-UK is now prioritising funding for the purpose of providing emergency

shelters. We would like to thank all those who have generously supported this appeal to date and encourage those who would like to help. ADRA-UK is accepting monetary donations through its special South Asia Earthquake Appeal. Donations are being accepted via credit card on our website [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk) and cheques payable to "ADRA-UK" can be sent to ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the "South Asia Earthquake Appeal"

and where possible include a note with permission to Gift Aid your donation.

ADRA is present in 125 countries, providing community development and emergency management without regard to political or religious association, age, or ethnicity. More information can be obtained by phoning 01923-681723.

### CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL

ADRA-UK would like to thank all of those who supported our Christmas shoebox project. Time is running out, but if you would still like to get involved please contact ADRA on 01923-681723 and help us to make a child's Christmas brighter.

### HEALTHY HEART SERIES

Coronary heart disease is the biggest killer in the UK today. Despite what many people think, it is not a problem reserved for the elderly. Fortunately, it is one of the most easily preventable diseases. Nurse specialist **Kirra Moser** will discuss various ways you can protect yourself from this serious condition.

### WEEKLY SERVICES

**Family Bible Study Classes:**

Saturdays 9.45am (special classes for children of all ages). **Family**

**Worship Service:** Saturdays 11.00am; **Prayer**

**Fellowship:** Tuesdays 7.30pm;

**Youth Programme:** Fridays 7.30pm.

## BLUE

Blue is a community of people, young and old, who have joined forces to create a different worship experience. We love meeting new people and would love to see you at either of the following Blue events.

**Café Blue**

Café Blue is a gourmet experience that will tantalise your taste buds but will also give you the chance to mingle with people from all denominations, and even people who don't believe in anything. We're all about the welcome at Café Blue! As long as you like awesome food, good company, live music & entertainment and a short anecdote from a guest speaker, you're welcome to join in the with fun. Café Blue happens on every 2nd Saturday of the month. We highly recommend you book to so that you don't miss out on the Café Blue experience. If you bring a copy of the Stanborough News with you, we will give you a 25% discount. Book with Dan on [dan@be-blue.org](mailto:dan@be-blue.org) or 01923 894 664.

**Synergy**

Synergy is a contemporary worship service that Blue have evolved into something special. Synergy worship services uses many aspects of worship like Music, Drama, Video, Animation, Poetry. We aim to build services that the people want to see, feel and experience so that they can enhance their worship experience. Synergy thrives off new ideas and evolves because of it. Synergy happens every 3rd Saturday of the month at 5pm (prompt start!). All we can suggest is for you to come along and try it. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information please contact Dan on [dan@be-blue.org](mailto:dan@be-blue.org) or 01923 894 664.

**Email**

If you want to keep up to date with all that is happening with Blue, email Dan and he will put you on the distribution list. You will get a heads up on what is happening in Blue every month. [dan@be-blue.org](mailto:dan@be-blue.org)

