

# DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

*Stanborough Park Church*

June 2019

## BUSINESS MEETING

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Pastoral Team (2018)

Dear Church Family

2018 was an eventful year for Stanborough Park Church, with Pastoral team changes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the year, the team had to quickly adapt to being without a Lead Pastor. This was a less than ideal situation. However, with the support of a diligent and supportive leadership, and hardworking departments, the church continued to be a vibrant space for families and the community to worship and fellowship together.

Here below is an overview of the Pastoral highlights.

**Worship Emphasis** – Throughout 2018 the pastoral team focused their sermons on the grand story of the Bible; God's story of love and redemption from Genesis to Revelation. We felt it was important, to once again look at how the Old Testament sets the scene for the birth of Jesus Christ and how the cross frames the entire Biblical story. We pray that the congregation were blessed and inspired to find Christ's activity in their own life story.

**Evangelism** – Mark Finely was asked by the TED to collaborate with Stanborough Park Church on an Evangelistic Series in 2018. In February the pastoral team attended Pastor Finley's School of Evangelism in preparation for the series. This was an informative and useful experience in which we were able to see first-hand how Pastor Finley's team works with the local church departments.

With the industrious and unflagging support of the church we were able to have a successful public evangelism event in August 2018. Pastor Finley's talks were focussed on Paul's discoveries in the Middle East and were well attended, with an attendance of around 200 people coming over the several evenings. Due to the success of these talks the Pastoral team started a weekly Bible study group for those who registered an interest in Bible studies. This group is currently still meeting on Monday evenings with approximately 10 people attending.

Initially the church had planned to follow the summer series with an autumn month long series. However, due to loss of Pastor Venter as our Lead Pastor the plans were put on hold until a permanent Lead pastor could be found.

In May Dr Tim Jennings was invited to speak at Stanborough Park. His focus was on how our thoughts about God and His salvation affects our emotions.

During this year the Open Community Days continued under the leadership of brother Enoch Kanagaraj, and plans began to take shape to become involved with direct community projects. This resulted in creating the One Vision Project, dreaming of starting a Café for the Homeless and others in need of support, situated in the centre of Watford.

Other Outreach programmes continued during this year, run and supported by a wider team of Ministry Leaders and their groups of volunteers. Welfare, Messy Church, The Experience, Senior Club, Soup Runs, Pat Sale and the Music School.

Pastoral Team (2018)

**Youth** - The Pastoral Team recognised that Youth & Teens at Stanborough required more pastoral support. The pastors took a more hands on approach which started with a weekend away with the Youth Team at the beginning of the year. The intention behind this was to listen to the needs of the team and help build a better relationship between the pastoral team and the youth leadership team. In the spring Pastor Hypolite was invited for a weekend of workshops, which were successful in reengaging our young people. In 2018, the youth department were able to build on the great work done by previous youth leaders in past years, with more support from the pastoral team.

**Pastoral Team** – In September the Pastoral Team had to come to terms with the fact that Pastor Jacques Venter had accepted the call to join the BUC, and from October 1st the remaining pastors, Pastor Lolly and Geert, supported by the team of Elders, started to look for a replacement to fill this gap. As pastors we would like to express our thanks for the support given by the Elders and members to process this change and continue the ministry.

At the end of 2018 both Student Volunteers, Emili Maia and Stuart Joseph, decided to continue in their respective roles and support the pastoral team and congregation for one more year.

In March of 2018 the South England Conference encouraged Pastor Geert to start an intensive DMin programme, based at Newbold College. During the last few months of that year Pastor Geert had to deal with the loss of his father and travel to the Netherlands to arrange the funeral service there. He remains very grateful for the support given to him and his family during that difficult period.

For 2018, Stanborough Park Church had a team of 10 serving Elders. The team's primary role and responsibility was to work with and support the Pastors in the smooth running of the church by:

- Providing support and counsel primarily to the Pastors but also to other Church Officers and members
- Providing Spiritual leadership to Stanborough Park Church
- Fostering the work of Stanborough Park Church Departments
- Providing encouragement to the Stanborough Park membership

During the course of 2018 all the Elders were active in a number of areas. Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of much of the work of the Elders, a detailed itinerary cannot be reported. However, the activities can be summarised to include:

- Providing support and counsel to the Pastoral team on a monthly and *ad hoc* basis, especially during the final quarter when the Pastoral team was depleted and going through their own personal challenges.
- Visitation of members as per members needs and at the Pastors', Deaconess' or member's request
- Discussion on and distribution of the Good Samaritan Fund
- Discussion of individual member's needs, problems and concerns
- Matters concerning Church discipline
- Lay preaching
- Planning and implementation of Sabbath worship services
- Sabbath Services Platform duties
- Conducting Anointing services alongside the Pastors
- Conducting Communion services in homes
- Strategic planning for Stanborough Park Church particularly with respect to evangelism and outreach but also including in-reach
- Chairing the monthly Church Board when required
- Point of contact or liaison with SEC, BUC and TED
- Serving on various committees in their capacity as Elder
- Planning and contributing to Church Leadership development
- Leadership advice to department leaders on implementing GDPR legislation within their departments
- Meeting with the SEC regarding the appointment of a new Pastor

## REPORT OF THE CHURCH CLERK FOR THE YEAR 2018

In recent years Stanborough Park Church has become more focused in reaching out to the local community through a number of initiatives. The substantial number of programmes being offered has meant department leaders and their teams working tirelessly to provide activities beneficial to both the local community as well as members. The dedication and skills they bring to these activities are very much appreciated.

In 2016 the General Conference set up a new global online system for processing transfers of members between churches, reporting attendance as well as deaths and apostasies. A trial period ensued while any glitches were resolved. In 2018 the British Union completed its trial period and church clerks were invited to attend training conducted by the South England Conference. Further training periods will be conducted during 2019 also. At present our online responsibilities cover the churches within the British Union as it is not yet possible for the process to include other unions and divisions but it is hoped that in time this will also be possible.

One of the challenges a church clerk faces is persuading members to remember to advise of any changes to addresses, email and residential, and phone numbers. It should be remembered that the records held are only as good as the information provided. One of the tasks I am presently undertaking is to index all of the Board minutes which are available. None of them have an index which makes it somewhat time-consuming when researching actions.

We continue to attract a considerable number of visitors to the Parallel and traditional Family services on Sabbath. Some of these visitors return to attend regularly but regrettably their membership remains elsewhere. Average attendance for **Sabbath School** during the year was **332**, an increase of 18 over 2017 and **419** at the **Family Service (including Parallel)**, a decrease of 7 over 2017. Attendance count is undertaken on two Sabbaths in each quarter as required and reported to the General Conference.

Membership at the beginning of **2018** was **667** and closed the year at **679**. During the year there were 24 accessions comprising **6 baptisms and 18 transfers (including 6 from abroad)**. Losses were due to **7 deaths and 5 transfers elsewhere**.

It is interesting to look back over a couple of decades and note that through the years there is a pattern of small gains and losses through death and transfers with the losses occasionally offsetting some of the gains. Over the past 20 years from January 1999 to December 2018 there have been **390 accessions** comprising **142 baptisms, 241 transfers (including 91 from abroad)** and **7 additions by profession of faith**. **Losses of 296** break down into **142 by death, 12 by apostasy, and 142 transfers elsewhere** giving a net gain of 96 over the past 20 years.

The society in which we live today is very different to the one I grew up in. Technology advances at an ever more rapid pace and social media sites claim much of the world's attention. While we can use the technology to reach people, we won't reach everyone through that medium. Listening to some of the mission stories of how the Lord has led people who are searching for Him, I believe that only through the power of God and the Holy Spirit in our lives can we be led to opportunities to be a witness to the love God has for each person on this earth.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember those members who passed away during 2018:

Rosemary Spicer, Gwen Olney, Joanne Gentle, Radomir Bardel, Barbara Margerison, Reg Mayes, Margaret Kassapidou.

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
Church Clerk (2018)

Those of you who were not able to attend the Teatime Concert on the 26<sup>th</sup> May missed Juhee Yang playing the moving theme music from the film “Schindler’s List” which tells the story of Oskar Schindler who saved the lives of more than a thousand mostly Polish-Jewish refugees from the Holocaust by employing them in his factories – many of them children. In adding names to the “list” to work in his factories he was saving their lives. Whenever he reached the end of the list he would ask his Jewish accountant whether he dared try to add “just one more” to the quota – “just one more”. It reminds me of the sacrifice Jesus made for this world and even now as He intercedes on our behalf He longs to add “just one more” to the souls who will inherit the Kingdom.

May God grant each of us an opportunity to bring “just one more” to the foot of the Cross.

Patricia Swan  
Church Clerk  
May 2019

## Overview

The church site management committee (CSMC) met on a number of occasions during 2018 to identify the requirements for the upkeep and maintenance of the Stanborough Park Church (SPC) building. Our aim was to ensure that the building functioned appropriately for the many uses it has, with primary weighting given to public health and safety.

During the early months of the year the building fabric, its installations, systems and controls were assessed fully. This was a wide ranging exercise due to the varied work, services and size of the building but useful and allowed the committee to make a number of recommendations. As funds are limited the CSMC attempted to seek best value within all of the recommendations put forward to be considered by the church board.

A report primarily to identify and make specific recommendations for the church board to consider was submitted in June with full approval requested. The CSMC continued developing these proposals and commenced setting in place a number of measures and procedures which it strongly believed would result in the more economic running of the facility as well as providing a safer environment which fully met current legislation and safety standards. These items included:



- A Planned maintenance programme for the entire church site & building.
- Service agreements for services including lift, mechanical & electrical installations, fire alarm, extinguishers, emergency lighting.
- Health & safety audits, development of fully integrated H&S policy.
- Fire safety procedures & first aid procedures/training.
- Food preparation and adequate training of personnel.
- Future planning for equipment renewals of high capital value.

### Basis of recommendation:

The CSMC has from commencement set the explicit condition that public health and safety should take precedence in any recommendation to the church board. This is an extensive and wide ranging area with many legal responsibilities on the church.

SPC is used not only by its congregation but also by the general public for the hire of rooms for meetings; it forms the place of work for the pastoral team comprising three full time people plus three student missionaries and a full time employee to run the Stanborough centre. The building further incorporates an internal flat capable of providing accommodation for up to six people.

As a result of the above SPC has wide ranging legal responsibilities and requires a number of auditable items in place to comply with the Health and Safety Act 1974.

The CSMC set as its second priority the investment in its mechanical and electrical systems as these are primary in creating suitable surroundings for the day to day operations within the building. These include the obvious heating, lighting and cooling of the building but also the technical controls which in turn influence strongly the running costs of the building. It was noted that a distinct lack of investment over years had resulted in inefficient, high running cost systems and in some areas of the building a breach of the fire regulations. The CSMC recommendations sought to address these issues with the objective of also reducing running costs at the same time.

Finally, the CSMC suggested recommendations for aesthetic improvement within the constraint of the funds available, whilst fully aware that the church building required to have a sense of suitable maintenance.

#### Funding:

Funds available to the CSMC were approximately £37,000.00

From this amount the CSMC recommended approximately £30,000.00 was invested before the end of the calendar year.

Recommendations put to the church were fully costed and where appropriate competitive market rates and prices were sought.

#### Approval granted:

It is a credit to the church board that the recommendations made by the CSMC received a strong affirmative and the following items were able to come to fruition in 2018.

#### Minor works undertaken and completed.

- Main kitchen water softener pump installed. Required to stop softener spilling/flooding onto floor.
- Main kitchen – waste disposal unit installed. Existing not working.
- New sump pump installed to boiler room condensate sump. Existing broken.
- 3No. Sunday morning (clean up) periods completed to keep drains, gillies, gutters etc free of leaves debris etc. Attendance generally poor, church members assistance would be appreciated.
- General maintenance, plumbing, carpentry, electrical items. Doors particularly heavy usage.
- Repair of clock to the tower.

**Recommendations – approved by Church Board and completed.**

**Please note all sums include VAT**

**Health & Safety items – Total approximately £10,000.00**

- Update and upgrade fire alarm system throughout, specifically for church flat completed.
- Emergency lighting repairs throughout building where either not operational or not meeting fire regulation requirements were carried out to make the entire building fully compliant with current legislation.
- Alterations to the floor of the sanctuary platform to reduce the height of the first step, which is higher and causing a safety issue for some has been investigated. Under building regulations all risers should be equal. Possible handrail to be incorporated, currently undergoing design.
- Installation of a one hour fire rated roller shutter screen to the Williams Hall kitchen, electrically operated and connected to fire alarm has been completed. Fire integrity of kitchen improved and increased safety provision for church flat usage.

**Mechanical Items – Total approximately £15,000.00**

- Renewal/updating of manifold units serving the heating on the ground floor, so as to provide improved control for the heating with a view to reduction of heating costs completed.
- Linking of the two newly installed boilers (December 2017) with the boiler installed for the church sanctuary completed, allowing both heating systems to serve the church sanctuary and acting as a back up to each other.
- Replacement of one set of pumps (which were approximately 18 years old) on the system that serves the Stanborough Centre.
- Survey and repair, including full service of Stanborough Centre radiators and controls completed.
- Service agreements for regular service and maintenance dates set up.

**Electrical Items – Total approximately £4,000.00**

- Upgraded Lux levels to Williams Hall lighting and kitchen lighting with use of new LED fittings.
- Provision of switch spur for new Fire roller shutter.
- Replacement light switches with PIRs to ground and first floor w.c areas and 1<sup>st</sup> floor hallway (outside Oak & Beech rooms) completed.
- Replacement of broken/faulty light fittings to Larch room

Other items – Total approximately £1,000.00

- New window blinds to Williams Hall installation completed.

Conclusion

The CSMC are thankful to the church board and membership for the support it has received and the resources that have been made available to it. It is a privilege for the church site management team to be involved with the stewardship and upkeep of such a beautiful site, which we trust will continue to be a great witness for the Seventh Day Adventist organisation.

2019 has many challenges for the church site management team and we would ask that the church as a whole pray that the team(s) involved will be guided by the Lord to make wise decisions on their behalf.

In January 2018, the original Worship Committee, as nominated and approved by the Church, started out with 6 members: Anna Papaioannou, Misha Jordan, Brian Davison, Medwin Calvert, Charlotte Fidelia and Billie Jordan. Unfortunately, over the past year and a half, some members had to drop out. As a result, the committee now consists of 2.5 members as the Church has not been able to find replacements.

Looking back over the past year, it has not been without its struggles and challenges, but despite this, we wish to thank God for his faithfulness and provision.

At the outset, the Worship Committee agreed that when God's people worship with pure hearts and in authentic community, effective evangelism is a natural result, so, with the blessing of the pastoral team, it set several priorities for the 24-month term:

1. **God focussed, sacred, yet joyful, worship services.** Our response to what God has done for us through Christ, is to pour out ourselves in a response of love, thanksgiving and adoration to the God who makes, redeems and sanctifies us.
2. **Meaningful, relevant and varied worship services for the entire congregation,** both young and old, worshipping God in love, joyfulness, and in spirit and truth.
3. **Enhancing Children's time, with song and introduction of children's tithing.**
4. **Be as inclusive as possible** and involve as many of our young members with different talents and gifts. We would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who willingly contributed and worked together - we thank them for their support. The complexities of our Church and demands of ministry in our 'post-Christian' culture can become overwhelming at times, so we continue to give thanks for and value the variety of contributions that different folk make to our worship and witness.
5. **Encouragement of prayer and meditation.** Whatever else we do, prayer and worship must undergird our life as a church.

2018 was an active year for the Worship Committee, organising the church's family worship services as well as a number of special programs:

- Mark Finley Weekend Seminar
- Special Easter Service
- Tim Jennings Weekend Seminar
- Newbold Choir guests
- Harvest Festival
- Toy Service
- Special Christmas and Christmas Eve Service
- Baptism of 5 candidates

Despite the many challenges we have been faced with, God has brought people our way with various talents. It has been a privilege to serve and we ourselves have been blessed through the preparation of each service. We continue to prayerfully seek God for guidance in setting our priorities in line with His will, always remembering that He can do more than we can ask or imagine. May He continue to clarify the direction in which He wants us to travel and enable us to walk that road in a way that honours and glorifies Him always!

## Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report Communications Team (2018)

In 2018 the Communication team started with 19 people, who helped in the following areas:  
Editorial, Photography, Web, Social Media, Video, Internal, Design.

Our goals were as follows:

- Build a vibrant team that worked well together
- Improve our online and digital presences, in order to connect further afield and also reduce paper waste
- New church website
- Updated layout for Stanborough News
- New Welcome Cards
- Update communication policies

We achieved some of the goals above and have continued with the progress we have built on social media and other platforms.

### Highlights

- The editorial team continued the great work of producing articles for the church website, The Messenger and local newspaper. We thank June Coombs for her contribution as well.
- The Photography team covered concerts, baptisms, most of the regular services and special programmes. This has provided a visual history timeline for the church and a library for use across church communication.
- The design team produced various department/ministry posters, leaflets and banners. We also started to integrate the GC creation grid branding where possible.
- The eBulletin continued to reach over almost 400 people.
- We created a successful integrated campaign for Mark Finley's evangelistic meetings.
- A number of the team members went to a communication training day in London, this improved team dynamics. In addition, we left the event more informed about communication tools available.

### Engagement Stats

Facebook: 747 fans and 775 followers for the main page. We created and promoted events and the special series. For some of them we used Facebook advertising to reach more people.

YouTube: We have posted all sermon since 2016. From 2017 we have posted special items, testimonies, children stories. We have a total of **71,891** views and **490** people subscribed.

In 2018 we had: **397,234** minutes of content viewed, **778** shared videos and **245** new subscribers.

Instagram: **532** followers. Twitter: **244** followers.

The main challenge was to keep the team motivated, but unfortunately, we lost about 50 percent of the team over the course of the year. A special thanks to the remaining team and for the work they have done; Lynette, Dan Sabatier, Joshua, Melody, Costa, Sharon, Pete Walton, Carol Zagara, Neilson, Lydia. Also, to Pastor Lolly and Dave for their support.

ADRA Team (2018)

At the beginning of 2018 there were seven in the ADRA team. Unfortunately, by January 2019 the team was down to three - Eric and Audrey Wolfram who served as the Local Agents, and myself. I should like, right at the beginning, to thank Eric and Audrey for the sterling work they have done over the past two years. They have been extremely helpful and efficient and deserve our gratitude.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to motivate church members to collect door to door and therefore it is necessary to hold fund raising events to generate funds for the Annual Appeal. In January I wrote to all the departments in the church asking if they would either donate to, or raise funds for, the Annual Appeal. This was followed up by another letter in March.

The response was as follows:

the Connect Team ran a successful Barn Dance,  
the Youth team energetically washed cars and sold cakes and crochet-ed goods.  
Pat had another successful sale  
the members of Joy's choir raised sponsorship  
the College of Music concert again raised the largest amount in offering and sponsorship  
Messy Church gave out 'Coin Cards'.  
I organised - flower classes  
                  'Lilies for Easter'  
                  Mother's Day lunch

We were very grateful to some deacons and others who sponsored tables at the Mother's Day lunch. It was a very happy occasion - as were each of the fund raising events. One benefit of the fund raising events is the way in which they bring church members together socially. It was disappointing that other departments did not respond to the challenge to raise some funds but perhaps they have their own needs.

You will see from the list that the rest of the final total was made up of Donations, Door to Door collecting, Home Cans and donations in Memorial. Sincere thanks to all who contributed.

We give thanks to God that we managed to raise £10,157.52 for the Annual Appeal this year. However, we are disappointed that the total is down on the £13,660.09 raised in 2018. The needs are very great and if this downward trend continues then ADRA will be hampered in their efforts to make a difference in our world.

ADRA UK are willing to return 10% of a church's total for community projects. Last year the Soup Run and Messy Church applied and were successful in receiving funds.

I would suggest that the Nominating Committee give serious thought to selecting a young and dynamic team led by a sponsor who will bring fresh vision to the task of fund raising for the ADRA Annual Appeal.

Audrey Balderstone  
Sponsor 2018-2019

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report

ADRA Team (2018)

<b>Income Type</b>	<b>£</b>
Coin Card	72
Donation	3662.70
Door 2 Door	132.52
Events	4969.42
Home Can	785.88
Memorial	535
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10157.52</b>

<b>Event Activity</b>	<b>£</b>
Flower Classes	300
Barn Dance	156.49
Car Wash/Cake/Crochet	300
Childrens Concert	1953.73
Joy's Choir	38.20
Lillies for Easter	405
Mother's Day Lunch	705
Pat's Sale	1111

### **What we do?**

Toddler Group is a self-funded, twice a week (Wednesday and Thursday mornings) meetup for local parents, carers and their little ones (0 – 4 years old) that runs term-time, charging £2 a session per family. It is a semi-structured morning, with memory box worthy crafts, gross/fine motor skill development activities and targeted sensory mornings.

An average morning consists of 9:30am start time, free play, 10:00am craft, 10:30am healthy snacks – we provide fruit (where most toddler groups do not), tea and biscuits for adults, followed by a clear up and music/singing time, close at 11:30am.

We are a good insight into a child's next step in life, such as nursery or pre-school by encouraging concentration and dexterity with a wide use of equipment to let children explore new tools and inspire imagination. We make use of sit down snacks, crafts, independent activities and the place to explore social skills such as taking turns and sharing. This all helps pave the way for children to learn the skills needed for school life.

Currently, we average around 43 children on a Wednesday and 47 children on a Thursday about 95% of attendees are community parents. Most weeks we have a new parent arrive either by a recommendation from a relative, friend or because they have found us via our Facebook page and social media adverts.

### **Highlights**

It was a very important feature for me to have a welcoming, almost family like feel to Toddler Group. It is encouraged that staff learn the adults' names as well as their children to assist this feeling. I make it an important factor to the strategy to be a friend first. I am proud to say that every attendee of toddler group also feels this pride, if a new comer arrives parents are friendly and welcoming, are keen to chat and include them in the activities of toddler group.

We have many parents, grandparents and child minders that attend weekly and even some twice a week. We advertise many church related activities such as Sabbath School, Pat's Sale and Messy Church. We have had many families attend Messy Church, Cradle Roll Sabbath School and even Parallel Service.

As we progress we aim to updating our current toys, carrying on with targeted activities and educational themes. Improving our sensory equipment and providing a friendly service to our community.

It is with special thanks to Pauline Okelo, Melody Tap, Stuart Joseph, Yvonne Bauwens, Emili Bombonatti Maia and Pam Robertson. These past and present volunteers have been an integral part of providing the best service for Toddler Group, I am thankful for their ability to provide a brilliant hardworking attitude and deliver wonderful service every week.

Their service has been undoubtedly important and I am very thankful for their commitment and willingness.

### **Challenges**

We are in need for front of house helpers, people who can sit and do crafts with the children, talking with parents and sometimes singing some nursery rhymes with the children. If you can help please let us know. You can always have a look on our Facebook page to see what we do @SPCToddlerGroup – any help is very appreciated.

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
Connect Team (2018)

*Goals*

The goals of the Connect Team centre on forming and strengthening links between church members to connect newer or unconnected members with ministries of the church, and create bonds that strengthen existing groups to enhance the progression of discipleship within those groups.

We focus on 2 main areas:

1. Welcome Team
2. Social Events

*Welcome Team*

Pat Walton coordinates a team of volunteers who work in pairs each Sabbath morning to greet people in the foyer and provide information and help where required as a supplement to the work of the deacons and deaconesses. They stay on duty for the whole morning and have flexibility to show people to the rooms they're looking for and locate resources as needed. The welcome team also made up a good proportion of the volunteers for the Mark Finley meetings in August.

This has been working very well with, on the whole, great reliability from volunteers and a good response from those welcomed to church, particularly visitors. More team members are needed.

Pat also coordinates a rota of volunteers to sort out the quiet bags (bags of age-specific toys and books to help parents who forgot to bring Sabbath bags for their kids) on a weekly basis. This is extremely time-consuming and extra volunteers are needed (one sort-out per quarter) to reduce the load on those on the rota more frequently, and allow more in-depth sorting and restocking to occur periodically.

Attempts to encourage families (especially regular church attenders) to tidy up and return the bags after the service have only had a slight impact. However, those families using the quiet bags find them very helpful in enabling them to stay in church for the duration of the service.

*Social Events*

2018 started well with two very well-attended events – the Barn Dance and the amazing International Night.

We held a number of picnics, with varying attendance (mostly weather-dependant). The Beach Trip was held at Camber Sands.

Later in the year, successful events included the Quiz Night for adults, and Pancake and Games night for children and families. A planned Pool Party was cancelled as the pool was undergoing refurbishment.

A Light Party (non-Halloween party) was held at the Primary School after the Mark Finley autumn meetings were cancelled. This was very well-attended despite the last-minute planning and advertising, with approximately 8 community families attending. GDPR and no WiFi proved to be hurdles to overcome for this year's party which will be back at church, in order to allow us to stay in touch with those families who attend.

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
Connect Team (2018)

Unfortunately, the Zumba Exercise night had to be postponed early in 2019, and the Barn Dance, though greatly enjoyed, was not as well attended despite good advertising. 2 picnics have now also been cancelled due to bad weather. Further events for this year include more picnics (weather allowing), and a repeat of last year's autumn activities.

*High Points*

It was great to have a variety of people attend the events, including new faces who haven't previously been to church socials, and a wonderful representation of so many nations at the International Night.

The children's events remain very popular and a great way for our kids to invite friends from school etc into church.

It has been special to see the Welcome Team pray with those who open up to them on a Sabbath morning.

*Challenges*

Manpower. It is getting increasingly difficult to find volunteers to help run events and participate in rotas. Without people to help the activities cannot continue.

It is also getting harder to reach people with advertising (bulletin, posters, Facebook) of events and many people still say they don't hear about them until after they've happened.

It would be good to link in with other teams and try to get a more cohesive approach to the church's goals, hear about what they are doing and support each other's events.

### Goals

The Ministry’s main focus is to help women to know that they have a significant role in spreading the Gospel while simultaneously, endeavouring to meet their needs as a church. As the Women’s Leader there are areas of needs, some very sensitive, which have been discussed with the Pastoral Team or other Departments.

The first Women’s Ministry Meeting in 2018 was on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and was held on the second of every month thereafter. At that meeting the role of Women’s Ministry was discussed and plans for the year were unfolded and included events from the Women’s Ministry Department of the South England Conference

### Highlights

Two workshops were featured, “Improving Your Self-esteem” facilitated by Florence Allen and “Personal Development” facilitated by Eileen Hussey. Both workshops were Bible focused, well attended, and attendees asked for more workshops. The Women’s Ministry also supports ‘Women in Prayer’ which is led by Bella.

Including these events coordinated by the church, we also had six ladies attend the local Conference retreat, held from the 14-16 September.

### SCHEDULE FOR 2019

At our last meeting in December 2018 we made the following plans for 2019, some of which are subject to change:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
12 January	Presentation/Prayer for our families	Bella
9 February	Presentation/Dealing with Stress	Carol Scarlett/Ana
9 March	One Vision Project/Prayer for Women	Enoch/Bianna
13 April	Presentation/prayer for Men	Bella/ Esther
11 May	Dealing with Stress Part 2	Carol Scarlett
8 June	Women and The Laws of Health	Richelle Anim
13 July	Presentation - Parenting	Florence Allen
10 August	Girls For Christ	ClairSanches-Schutte
14 September	The Role of Women in the Church	
12 October	Diversity Issues	Pastor Khavolah
9 November	Dealing with Stress	Adewale Ademuyiwa
14 December	Projections for 2020 /Prayer Session	

**Retreat**            30 May – 1 June 2019            New date to be announced

The Mediterranean Cuisine Evening is still in the pipeline and the women would like to have a Reading Club.

Florence Allen

Women’s Ministries Leader

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
 Youth Ministries Team (2018)

The 2018 Youth Committee was led and chaired by Charlotte and Matthew Marshall. The assigned Pastor for the first half of the year was Pst Geert and the second half was Pst Lolly. Our Elder was Dr Steven Moser. Charlotte and Matthew shared a seat on the church board throughout the year depending on who could make it.

The team comprised of a mix of adults and youth representatives for some/all of the year:

- Adults: Charlotte & Matthew Marshall, Naomi Burgess, Michele Vitry, Jacques Vitry, Yvonne Bauwens (1st half of year as Student Missionary), Stuart Joseph (1<sup>st</sup> half of year as Student Missionary), Emili Bonbanatti (Student Missionary), Pst Geert, Pst Lolly, Steven Moser.
- Youth Representatives: Estee Vitry, Semira Fletcher Bryan, Alarna Foster, Andreas Papaioannou, Anjali Moser.

**Goals set in 2018**

Provide for our teens social and spiritual needs under the following headings:

<u>Social Needs</u>	<u>Spiritual Needs</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe spaces for teens in church</li> <li>• FUN!</li> <li>• Navigate culture/counter culture and cater for emotional needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to have a relationship with Christ</li> <li>• Sense of Mission</li> <li>• Create safe space for questions</li> </ul>

**Activities and Events to meet goals**

<u>Social Needs</u>	<u>Spiritual Needs</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowling Socials</li> <li>• PGL Trip</li> <li>• Movie and game nights</li> <li>• Church picnics and games</li> <li>• Watching sporting events together</li> <li>• Fireworks social</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday night events – at SPC and people’s homes</li> <li>• Running the teen sabbath school</li> <li>• Assisting with soup run sandwiches once a month for first half of year</li> <li>• SPC Youth Day &amp; Service in Parallel</li> <li>• Global Youth Day</li> <li>• Visiting Soul Survivor evening program</li> <li>• Toy service boxes</li> <li>• Send off for university leavers</li> </ul>

**Goals Achieved**

We believe the team met the goals set above, throughout the year the committee ran numerous programmes on both Friday and Saturday nights. These programmes were put on with a very small core team of volunteers who worked hard and had a genuine passion for youth work. We tried to be as accessible as possible for our teens to feel they could always come to us and ask any questions they may have about social and spiritual situations.

### Highlights

- PGL Trip – Weekend residential trip at activity centre was a fun way to get to know our teens better and for them to know each other.
- Team training – The team received some training early on from the Pastoral team which was appreciated.
- Youth Day – A massive amount of effort put in by Pst Lolly, the Youth Committee and the youth. Seeing our youth lead out in church is always an inspirational sight.
- Global Youth Day – To be involved in an event along with youth from all over the world is a great feeling.

### Challenges

- Team size – A constant problem was lack of helpers, this meant the same people doing jobs each time with little time for rest which inevitably lead to some demoralisation.
- Attendance – The team often had to cancel events due to lack of numbers which was often a psychological blow for people helping out.
- Stress – Related to team size – Running of a busy programme with a small team with the majority of the team running the events having full time professional jobs.
- Long commutes – Several members of the team had lengthy commutes (1hr+) each way to get to SPC.

### Summing up

The team thoroughly enjoyed our amazing year working with our teens. From seeing some conquer their fear of heights before going down a zipline to having in-depth theological discussions on a Friday night, there was rarely a dull moment.

## Highlights

2017 closed with the baptism of 10 pathfinders. Therefore, the Adventurer and Pathfinder club (A&P Club) looked with excitement and anticipation for mentoring moments in 2018 with the Theme “Caring for one another” based on John 15:16-17.

The A&P Club aims to show the love, compassion and generosity to its members and then project these values to the community where they live. These values are woven in the Pledge and Law of the Adventurers and Pathfinders.

### *To know God and make Him Known*

**March-** the club’s Bible Experience teams qualified to go to the finals in USA after a period of 8 months of studying the books of Daniel and Esther. Our teams did not score the highest score and hence had no financial funding from the SEC. Two teams of 7 children and 4 adults looked for financial support. Letters were sent to contacts, business and relatives. Children and adults prayed as the letters travelled around the globe. In the meantime, the rest of the club prepared to welcome new members and start planning for their classes.

**April -** Two weeks before payments were due for the PBE trip to USA, the club received a letter, via one of the counsellors, from a Nigerian donor. Almost £10,000 was donated to the club for the PBE trip. Just when we thought that we had to abandon the plans to travel, God saw it fit to answer our prayers.

We travelled to Florida and visited Kulaqua Adventist campsite and Holy Land attraction. The children lived the story of Lazarus in Holy Land, learned about the Sanctuary and enjoyed an inspiring theatre performance about Jesus’ life and the impact in His Disciples - who gave their lives at one point or another for the gospel.

The children always travelled wearing their scarves, these called the attention of many from the airport to restaurants and in any place where we stopped. An English man who flew from London to Florida commented on the great faith the group had and wished many young people could be nurtured in Faith to God and service to others. In a restaurant, an elderly couple shared how they had been working in the scouts and therefore seeing us touched their hearts, we shared the sentiment that God cares for us and therefore it is important to give our young people the experience of pathfinding and getting to know Him. There are many little stories we could tell you of how the club witnessed to others in this trip.

The Adventurers and Pathfinders have memory Gems and Books of the Bible they must read and get familiar with as part of their class curriculum. The Pathfinder Bible Experience is an additional activity, where only those who wish to go the extra mile, join.

### *Love*

All the activities we do must have Love to our children at their core. To serve our kids with Love and show them the beautiful world around them, from their home, family, church and extended community. Working with young people can be exhausting and challenging, but the more the adults spent time with God, the more we can recharge all the energy needed for this ministry. Team work, kindness and love to one another despite the difference is highly emphasised. We all want to be in a group where we feel safe and loved. Camping really makes you rub shoulders with one another and get closer as a group.

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
Adventurers and Pathfinders (2018)

**May** – started with a camp in Phasels wood scout campsite and ended with a curriculum camp for area 7 and 6 in Gilwell Park Scout Campsite. These 2 camps gave the pathfinders the start up for their camping skills 1, 2, 3 and 4 for the respective classes.

**June** – The Adventurers visited the Aldenham Farm and completed the awards Friend of Animals, Habitat, Friend of Nature. A fantastic day out with the families as well.

**July** – The Pathfinders went canoeing in Bedford. They even jumped into the freezing waters to close their session. Thrilling experience! The month ended with the BUC Adventurer camp, fantastic experience where the children learnt about Genesis, Creation and Dinosaurs with Richie Aguilera.

August – Break

*Compassion*

**Sept** – Hikes, care home visits from now to November to give companionship to the elderly and study the book of Luke on Saturdays. We also had the Voyage Concert organised by young counsellor Fikayo Bright. We took compassion of our environment and joined the initiative of Keep Britain Tidy. This time we only collected rubbish in Stanborough Park grounds. 8 bags of rubbish were collected. We plan to go to another park in 2019.

**Oct**- Complete all outstanding spiritual requirements for each class. Most of these sections show how compassionate Christ was when dealing with others. There was also a visit to Tring Natural History Museum.

**Nov** – Celebrated the baptism of one Pathfinder. We also had the visit of Area 7 Coordinators to inspect work done by the Adventurers and Pathfinders, checked the evidence on their workbooks and assessed their knowledge in camping skills, Bible, Christian Citizenship. We also had a sleep over where the topic of Relationships was explored in separate groups, we had a man counsellor leading the discussion with boys. A female counsellor led the discussion in the girls' group. The book Message to Young People was given as a gift.

**Dec** – Completed any outstanding requirement, visit care home, celebrate the end of year with social gathering. PBE team had their Gala Lunch where we were reminded that one day we will sit at the welcome table with our Saviour Jesus.

*Generosity*

Visiting the elderly, caring for one another and the environment, serving our church and participating in church programmes generously are signs of generosity with our time. Strong emphasis is given to the fact that all we do is an act of Worship to our Living God. He is generous with us and we need to keep passing on the blessings. The money donated that remained from the PBE travel was returned to the church towards the ADRA ingathering. Let's change one life at the time!

God is working in our young people as He is also working in you as adults, sometimes you might not see the fruit of the Spirit in the Adventurers and Pathfinders, please remember that they are in a journey and your support, words and looks as a church will impact greatly their journey.

Invested Pathfinders – 27. Invested Adventurers- 46. Total of 73 children of which 13 children were from the community, 2 from other church (Bulgarian and BUC ), the rest from SP Church families. 11 baptisms.

The Community Chaplaincy Service took on a new initiative in outreach to work further with the community, therefore introducing the One Vision Project. Our aim was to bring the Church as a centre of leading Small Charities and small groups in Watford.

### **One Vision Project, Vision and Purpose:**

1. The Project's vision is of a community where people come together to support the vulnerable, promote equality and address injustice.
2. In pursuit of this vision, the One Vision Project has the following purposes:
  - a) to provide a network for Watford-based voluntary organisations to exchange information, discuss priorities and co-ordinate activities;
  - b) make sure that those attending can access a supportive network (with helpful contacts, useful events and opportunities for development);
  - c) encourage open and healthy relationships between different groups and sectors within Watford.

### **Highlights**

During 2018, the One Vision Project (OVP) carried out and led three Community days, where we invited different charities and small groups to network with the church family to identify where needs can be met to make a better Watford.

Watford Inter Primary school 6th Annual Christmas Art Competition where 7 schools participated and nearly 180 pupils were in the competition, the winning prize giving ceremony took place at SPC.

One Vision offered 5 different certificate training courses to the community leaders and to volunteers from the charities. One Vision Project also led and supported various events, like International Women's Day, Father's Day and Hertfordshire Fire service OPALS to create awareness of the project.

OVP created a brand and consists of 48 Members in the group with monthly meetings in the aim of working together to make a difference.

In 2018 One Vision Project received the Watford Borough Council Chairman's Award.

One Vision is leading on inclusion and diversity and is a member of Watford Football Club's Inclusion and Diversity Advisory Group. One Vision is also a member of Herts Fire Service 'Side by Side' Committee where the aim is to support a safer neighbourhood.

OVP is highly regarded in Watford, particularly with the heads of Watford Borough Council and the Elected Mayor of Watford. One Vision also works with the BUC, Community and Health Dept, ADRA and Urban ministries and Stanborough School.

OVP works along with the Coop community projects, Foodshare, providing employment and supporting local causes. On Fridays, Annalisa's Kitchen provides vegan food for people in need.

We are looking for church members and other depts to get involved in this project, by networking with those from other faith groups and those with different religious views to make Him known.

Enoch Kanagaraj

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
Deaconess Team (2018)

2018 was a huge learning curve and I would like to thank Paulina Dyason and her team for all the help and support as the new team took place.

### Highlights

We celebrated with 35 senior members who received their birthday card. Writing a birthday wish or simply your name on their cards shows that we care, and it is much appreciated.

Halfway throughout the year we were finally able to reassign the visiting list. This has had a slow start, but we kept encouraging the visiting, specially to the housebound members.

At the Harvest festival the deaconesses prepared 4 very large boxes to give to Pat's welfare distribution, and to other three different charities. We say a big thank you to all those who donated their gifts.

Each quarter, at Communion service, we prepared the rooms for foot washing with the deacons' help. The gluten free bread was prepared by Annalisa Molteni under the kind help and supervision of Joan Maxwell. The number of those taking part were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: 274
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: 286
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: 273
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: 265

We also assisted with baptisms and funerals.

Special mention to the flower arrangers! Part of the year there were only 3 of them providing amazing flower arrangements to our delight and to the glory of God. Many thanks to these talented ladies!

Flowers were donated for 18 special occasions. Many thanks to all those who donated in 2018. Should you wish to donate, please talk to Sandra Aguiar or anyone of the deaconess team.

My deepest gratitude towards God for the opportunity to serve, to each deaconess for the commitment and hard work, to all church members and friends for the patience and support.

Sandra Aguiar  
Head Deaconess

Business Meeting 2019 – Departmental Report  
Health Ministries Team (2018)

The Health department held a series of meetings/workshops over of the course of 2018. The aim was to bring awareness to a variety of health and wellness topics, which would serve the local church and the local community in Watford.

**Highlights**

- March 8: Womens' mental health: The panel discussion was recorded for Adventist London Radio, followed by a live interview.
  
- April 9: Addictions
  
- April 23: Basic Life Support
  
- May 7: Healthy hearts
  
- July 3, 12 & 16: The Bucket list – end of life
  
- October 11: Could it be sepsis?
  - Moira was interviewed by Adventist London Radio following the feedback from one of the participants who was able to apply the information and save a family member.

We have tried, wherever possible, to find the most cost-effective way to run our meetings. In 2019, we decided to try taking our meetings out in the community. We chose ASDA for its prime location, however, it did not provide the outcome we were hoping for. Attendance was fluctuating depending on the topics. June 6<sup>th</sup> will be our last meeting for the year.

Report on Churches Together 2018 (North Watford & Garston)

Christian Across Watford (CAW) is an organisation that serves across the borough to express and encourage Christian unity. The aim is to promote Christian togetherness through prayer, praise, partnership and the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- We were able to attend three of the four committee / prayer meetings held during the year. These were held in the Garston Community Church and Pastor Roy Young was our Moderator. (I have known and respected Roy for over forty six years)
- Six open meetings were held during the year in different churches this included one of our musical programmes and a presentation by the Riding Light Theatre Company.
- At the AGM in November Irene Wilson was elected as our Moderator for this year (I have known and respected Irene for over a decade)
- In December we supported the annual Carol Service in ASDA.

We have enjoyed worshiping with other Christians in other churches in the area and would be happy to talk to any members who would be interested in further information.

Blessings to all

Denver and Lorna Annable