

# *Winter 2014* **STANBOROUGH NEWS**



## *In this Edition*

Pastor's Comments - The Gift of Hope  
A Special Honour for the Welfare Service  
Toys for the Needy  
Creative Crafts  
Taking the Side of Science  
Winter Soup Recipe  
Important Diary Dates

# *The Gift of Hope*



Christmas is a season of joy and gladness and our consumer focussed Society won't let us forget it. And yet we are all a little tired of the commercialisation of Christmas aren't we? Advertising takes over and there is a mad rush to go out and buy whatever occupies the best advertising slots, employs the current 'celebs', produces the most desirable gadgets, pleases the kids, and basically gets you out of trouble. Who remembers the old adage 'to give is more blessed than to receive' these days?

And yet have you wondered why it is that at Christmas more than any other time of the year people feel lonely? Is it possible that when the heart of Christmas is forgotten, all you have left is commercialized fun for the well-off? The focus of Christmas today has overwhelmingly shifted away from the basic thing that people need the most – friendship. In fact the idea of giving gifts at Christmas was more about sharing each other's company than anything else. Being present matters more than bringing presents.

I suggest that one of the most important things that has somehow disappeared from the spirit of Christmas is HOPE. The central story of Christmas, announced by the angels to the shepherds, was that God the creator of this world, had become one of us, born into this world in order to bring to an end the reign of death itself.

The Christmas message brings HOPE because it announced peace on earth and goodwill from God to man. Mankind could no longer see God as a tyrant seeking revenge but in the person of Jesus Christ, see a demonstration of his love. It is a message of HOPE because it reminds us of his promise that he will come again. When Jesus first came he shared our suffering and death; the second time He will come to share with us his rejoicing and abundant life.

You may be thinking "What is wrong with Christmas as it is? We like it like that!" but even so, you may wonder if I am on to something. If you do want to look a bit deeper into why Christmas has such an enduring and universal appeal I would recommend a fascinating book called *The Desire of Ages\** by Ellen G. White. It clearly describes the life of Jesus Christ and its significance to all peoples. I'm sure it will put hope back into your Christmas.

*Pastor Jacques*

\*Enquiries to  
[pastors@stanboroughchurch.org](mailto:pastors@stanboroughchurch.org).

# *The Welfare Service*



It's very nice to see old-fashioned welfare getting a bit of recognition these days. Its history goes back to a revolution that troubled the Roman Emperor

Julian as far back as 361 BC. Julian was furious because universal Christian charity was showing paganism up. "The impious Galileans support not only their own poor, but ours as well," he complained.

We are glad to announce that our Welfare manager, Norma Lewis has been recognised for continuing that revolution and being 'impious' in the nicest possible way!

The Family Social Workers of SW Herts were so impressed with the work of our Welfare Department that they recently nominated Norma Lewis, its manager for many years, as a Local Hero in the Watford Observer Competition and they describe Norma as 'our angel'. Norma is a huge help with the very busy Welfare department and also the Soup Run at Stanborough Church and has been so for many years and we heartily congratulate her on her well-deserved nomination.

## *Toys for the Needy*

*You are invited...*

**Saturday 13 December**

NEEDY children in our area will enjoy new toys on Christmas thanks to the special Toy Service at Stanborough Park Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year we welcome Dorothy Thornhill the Mayor of Watford to receive the toys on behalf of the Social Services of Watford who will distribute them. The Toy Service is a tradition begun in 1962 by the late Alf Kelly MBE and is now run by his daughter Pat Walton and her



friends. Hundreds of people will attend the Toy Service and literally hundreds of new toys will be donated by people who come to the service. A highlight of the occasion is the procession of children bringing their gifts of toys.

You are warmly invited to come to the Toy Service on

**Saturday 13 December at 11am**

# Happy Knitting!

It's a regular day at work; busy, caring for labouring women, preparing for theatres, transferring to postnatal wards or special care baby unit, the usual running around. But there is one thing that slows everybody down... the box with knitted blankets and hats. Midwives and parents alike pause, as if mesmerised, to touch and admire the beautifully crafted gifts. And for those few moments, time stops and people find joy.

This autumn the Special Care Baby Unit at Watford General Hospital, experienced the same awe as they received 48 blankets to keep their babies warm. Ever wondered where these blankets and hats come from? I was privileged to find out these particular blankets came from loving hands just in my "backyard"! Joanne runs a crafts group on Wednesdays afternoons, 1-3pm, in the Stanborough Park Centre in Garston. Approximately 10 ladies, young at heart and passionate about crafts, gather together and work on various projects or bring their specialty along and share their knowledge with each other. They are particularly fond of charitable work and love taking such projects on board. They welcome eager volunteers, such as the Senior's club members that meet on a Monday afternoon, to give a helping hand as their projects never stop! After the baby blankets they started making hats, scarves and gloves for Ukraine! They are hoping to send as

many as they can by the end of December, in time for their Christmas celebrations! Their passion for knitting and crafts is so great that ladies in Ukraine have caught the bug and want to start their own crafts club! Joanne's friend is collecting as many supplies as she can to take over there this coming summer! What a lovely way to spread the passion around the world!

But the crafts club is not just about finding projects and delivering the results. It started as a meeting group for people with similar interests and over time turned into friendships and long lasting connections, where age, ability or disability don't matter. These friendships are especially making a difference in Stella's life, a little girl from Uganda, who is being sponsored by the group in getting an education. Together they take on charitable ideas and change people's lives one hat at a time! And what a blessing they are!

If you have a charity close to your heart you want them to get involved in, a passion for crafts, a desire to learn and make friendships, or simply want to say thank you for their amazing work, drop Joanne a line at [joanne.farren@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.farren@gmail.com).

I might even join them for some tips on how to make a quilt!

by *Diana Sabatier*

## Recipe

Tuscan bean soup - By *Kirra Moser*

Olive oil

1 onion

2-3 cloves garlic

2-4 sprigs rosemary (leaves only)

2 tins beans cannellini/aduki.

(Whatever beans you like though I tend to use one dark and one light)

1 tin chopped tomatoes or tin passata

1 tbsn mixed herbs

500ml veg stock.

Fry onions, garlic, rosemary in oil until soft. Add tomatoes, herbs, stock & 1/2 tin of each beans. Mix well and blend to smoothish. Add remaining beans, simmer 20 mins.

Serve with a spoon of pesto.

'Sorry, but it's disappointingly easy':)



# Taking the side of Science

I was born in a laboratory, almost. Our spare bedroom was like a library but instead of books its shelves were filled with chemicals in glass jars and all kinds of intriguing apparatus.



And the bathroom was equipped with retort stands and Bunsen burners for reflux experiments. Wonderful hydrogen explosions, magnesium flares, sodium metal spitting and hissing orange and purple fire in the bath; sulphuric and nitric acid dissolving minerals and metals, a bottle of 'kills in one whiff' cyanide; lovely fruity smells of bottles of reagents, amyl acetate - pears, benzyl acetate - strawberries, acetone, ether, chloroform! All arrestable offences these days maybe. These were all part of my young childhood. No wonder I loved science.

Recently the leading genetic scientist Richard Lewontin, coolly remarked in *The New York Review of Books* "We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfil many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated just-so stories". I still love science but I did not sign up to that. Richard Lewontin does because, he explains, "we cannot allow a Divine foot in the door." Awkward.

So just what are these fairytales that Richard Lewontin says you must tolerate in order to 'take the side of science'? Prehistoric archaeology always required some good imaginative stories, but now palaeontology (fossils), evolution (Darwinism) and cosmology are all indulging in phantasmagorical scenarios

that can never be tested experimentally. Are these the 'unsubstantiated just-so stories' and are they really believable?

Just one obvious example that troubled Darwin is this: if his theory of evolution were true "there would be in every species a constant and ruthless competition to survive: a competition in which only a few in each generation can be winners". But it is perfectly obvious that human life is not like that and never could have been, however it may be with other species. In fact the inconsistency between Darwin's theory and the facts is so very obvious that no Darwinian has ever been unconscious of it or in fact able to explain it. And if Darwin's theory is not true for the human species, it is not true - end of. Consequently there have been many attempts to wriggled out of Darwin's dilemma. But the inconsistency is just too simple and direct to be wriggled out of. Nevertheless the wriggling has been great and resulted in many Just So stories of what

must have happened long, long ago and far, far away, leaving no trace of evidence to be found. I will join Richard Lewontin and 'take the side of Science' but I will put the Just-So stories back on the right shelf marked Fantasy-Fiction where they can be properly enjoyed.



"Og, if we keep clubbing each other we'll never finish this cave."

By *Pete Walton*

## ***Senior Members***

**From 2-4pm in The Stanborough Centre**

January 5	National Animal Welfare Trust
January 19	Watford Operatic Society Concert Party
February 2	Andy Taylor – Waterways Chaplaincy Man
February 16	Ken and June Brazier on Mercy Ships

## ***Children's Art Comp***

The Award Ceremony for the second Children's Christmas Art Competition run by The Co-operative Group will be held in the Stanborough Centre on Monday 15th Dec. 2014 at 4pm. The Awards will be presented by The Mayor of the Watford, Dorothy Thornhill, along with Jacques Venter Senior Pastor Stanborough Park Church, Gavin Jones and representatives of the Co-operative Food Store.

## ***School Fair***

This year Stanborough Secondary school will be holding a Christmas Fair. There is going to be a range of attractions for the whole family. Attractions include: An auction, a Secret Gifts Room, Hook the Duck, Jazzy jars and many more. It will be held on Thursday the 11th of December at 4pm - 8pm. Venue: Stanborough Park, Watford WD25 9JL.

## ***Toddler Club***

Wednesday December 3rd to Wednesday December 17th

Wednesday January 7th to Wednesday February 25th no Toddler club February 18th

Thursday December 4th to Thursday December 18th

Thursday January 8th to Thursday February 26th no Toddler club February 19th

For further details contact Elaine Thompson [elainethomo@googlemail.com](mailto:elainethomo@googlemail.com) or phone 01923 894664

## ***College Of Music***

Stanborough Park Church is famous for its superb music from both professional and amateur musicians and its College of Music is open to all who wants to start or to advance their musical skills from absolute beginners up to GCSE or A-Level standard.

Tuition is available on a weekly one-to-one instrumental lesson, Musicianship and Theory classes. Also, there are various ensemble opportunities open to everyone such as Youth Orchestra, Choir, Bells and etc.

Application deadline is on the **7th of January 2015**. Some instruments tuitions are limited spaces only. To avoid disappointment contact us **NOW**.

**Music Director: Miss Ahn    Email: [spcmahn@gmail.com](mailto:spcmahn@gmail.com)    Tel. 07837 404 261**

# Diary Dates

**Regular Church Services, Saturdays Sabbath School with Bible Study 9:45pm,  
Family Worship 11pm**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
09/12/2014	7pm	Stanborough Park School Carol Concert in the Secondary School Hall
09/12/2014	8pm	Tuesday Talks Reunion
11/12/2014	4pm - 8pm	School Fair
13/12/2014	11am	Toy Service
17/12/2014	5pm - 8pm	Carol Singing in Asda
20/12/2014	11am	Christmas Worship Service with special music
20/12/2014	7:30pm	Parallel Café. Dinner with bar for non-alcoholic drinks. Book places with Antonia on Antonia.vujdeu@gmail.com £10 per person or a Table for eight £70
22/12/2014	5pm - 8pm	Carol Singing in ASDA
23/12/2014	9am - 9pm	Christmas Gift Wrapping in the Intu shopping centre
24/12/2014	7pm	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
11/01/2015	12-2pm	Sunday Sale in the Stanborough Centre
13/01/2015	8pm	Tuesday Talks
17/01/2015	4pm	An Introduction to Astronomy by Dr Elias and Manuel Gil. There will be an exhibition with a Planetarium and guidance on the use of telescopes.
31/01/2015	7:30pm	Indian Meal & Auction of promises contact Kish Poddar 01923 67 39 87
10/02/2015	8pm	Tuesday Talks
14/02/2015	7:30pm	Barn Dance in Stanborough Centre.
21/02/2015	3:45pm	Messy Church

## Church Music Dept

Angel Voices (age up to 10) – Saturday @12.30pm

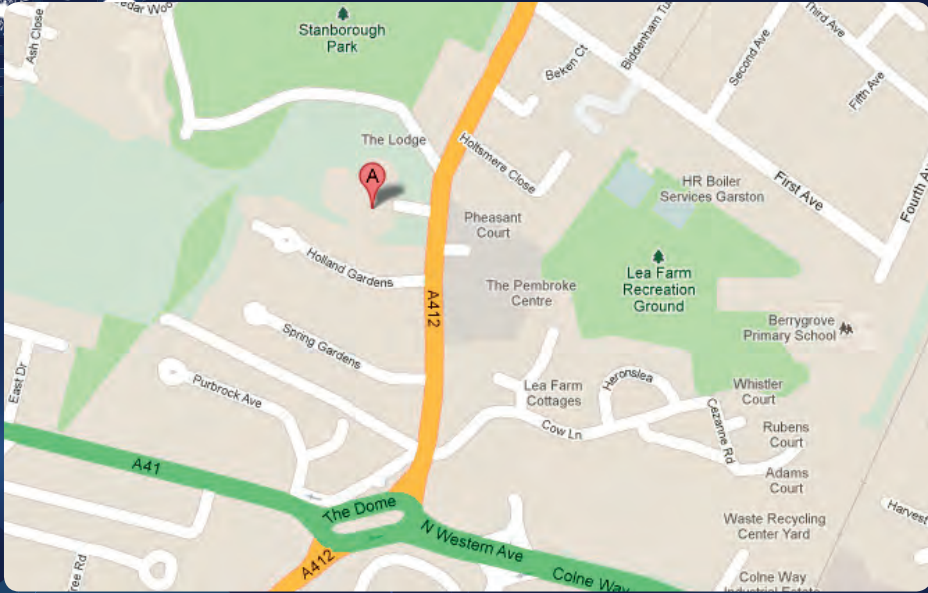
Junior Choir (age between 11-16) – Thursday @ 5.30pm

Senior Choir – Friday @ 7pm

Youth Orchestra – Tuesday @ 6pm

For Youth Choir and Senior Orchestra and for more information about our activities, please, contact the Music Director by sending an email to stanboroughmusic@gmail.com.

## *Find Us*



Stanborough Park Church & The Stanborough Centre  
609 St. Albans Road | Garston | Watford | WD25 9JL

## *Contact Us*

Pastoral Office | 01923 67 94 94

Bookings for Stanborough Centre:  
01923 894 664 | stanboroughcentre@gmail.com

Church Website: [www.stanboroughchurch.org](http://www.stanboroughchurch.org)  
Church Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/2405836644](http://www.facebook.com/groups/2405836644)  
Parallel Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/61120750538](http://www.facebook.com/groups/61120750538)

Stanborough News Editor: [editor@stanboroughnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@stanboroughnews.co.uk)

**Stanborough Park Church & The Stanborough Centre**  
**609 St. Albans Road | Garston | Watford | WD25 9JL**