

LOCKDOWN NEWS 17

Stanborough Park Church Newsletter:
October/November 2021



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➤ **EDITORIAL:** The July/August newsletter was not the last after all! Taking advantage of the easing of restrictions on foreign travel the editor disappeared across the English Channel for longer than originally planned - thanks to an unexpected redundancy - resulting in a delayed and **much larger than usual** newsletter!

➤ PRAYER CORNER - please pray for:

- Terry Menkens
- Diane and Dennis Johnson
- Ken Spicer
- Simeon Vontzalidis recovering from surgery
- Valentina Costinantou recovering from COVID
- Donna Wray undergoing further surgery later this month
- those members currently undergoing challenging times
- It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Wendy Nawrotski (nee Anthony), younger daughter of Pastor and Mrs Anthony. Please pray for her family and especially for her two children.
- also of Peter Hinks on 12th October – please pray for Jean and the family
- the Adeyabo family following the recent death of Gillian's mother
- the family of Dale Montague whose funeral was held in the church in mid October
- Pastor Terry
- Lola Gordon - recovering
- Yetunde Bright
- Ruth Read – forthcoming surgery
- Joan Maxwell
- Cathy Guenin - recovering

➤ NEWS IN BRIEF

- **PASTOR TERRY** is still unwell but hopes to return soon and thanks members for their prayers and cards.
- **PASTOR GEERT is on 'Sabbatical' until November.** For pastoral support contact Pastor Nathan Stickland.
- **CHURCH SERVICES:** numbers are still limited to 200 and singing – masked – is permitted.
It is no longer necessary to book, just turn up!
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPROVED comprising of the following members:**

Pastor Terry (Co-Chair)	Roland Guenin	
David Burgess (Co-Chair)	Volker Herkner	Sheena Murphy
Julio Brugos	Arto Keshishian	Vanessa Pizuto
Bernell Bussue	Nitish Khetavah	Michele Vitry
Fay Christie	Mick Lilley	Karen Vontzalidis
Richard Gayle	Annalisa Molteni	

A REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING, chaired by David Burgess, was held on **15th August**. Some members attended in person and 11 more via Zoom. Church department leaders were asked to submit an overview of outcomes and activities in 2020-2021 and a simple statement about the plan for the rest of 2021. Some reports arrived late in view of insufficient notice. In future, details of the meetings will only be sent by email with the exception of those without an email address who can receive a printed copy by request - as is the case with this newsletter. If you need a printed copy please text Alix Roberts at 07703 192823 or write to her at the church address 609, St. Albans Road, Watford WD25 9JL.

Full reports, including the Treasury, can be obtained via this link:

- <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqY8V-Yr4cbVhaJXg6XN6Cc3in0RBg?e=jcWGew>
- **See Appendix for summary of notes made at the time by the Chair.**
- **MEN'S GROUP LAUNCHED:** Health Department Leader, Massimo Molteni, has launched a men's group with a focus on brotherhood, spiritual growth, mutual support, activities and some fun. For information contact massimo.molteni@gmail.com
- **MORE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE BURGESS FAMILY:** Pastor Roy and Sheila Burgess celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on 18th August. Having both grown up in Watford they were married at Stanborough Park Church in 1952 and have been active members of the community since returning to the Park in 1983. Pastor Burgess also celebrated his 95th birthday in June.
- **UPDATE ON AUDREY'S ADRA FUNDRAISING:** ADRA ANNUAL APPEAL - going up!
We give praise and thanks to God that the funds for ADRA keep rising. Audrey is continuing to donate to ADRA on the birthdays of her family and friends throughout the year and a number of church members have joined her so that the total has just gone over £15,000.00!
If you would like to join this endeavour by acknowledging a birthday or to give thanks to God by donating to ADRA - please go to <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/Audrey-Balderstone1> Thank you
- **ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL** has started meeting in person at church with two classes currently in the Maple Room and Armstrong Hall from 10am to 11am. The lessons will also be accessible via Zoom with the links published weekly in the electronic bulletin. (Or by phone: +44 203 481 5240)
- **'ANGEL VOICES':** rehearsals for this children's choir commenced on 18th September and they sang via Zoom at the recent Harvest Festival. New members are welcome to join. Zoom rehearsals at 1.30pm on Sabbaths; e-mail childrenschoir@yahoo.com for more information, including the words of the carol being prepared for Christmas.
- **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT AFTERNOON TEA RAISED £538.** The event was held at the church on 24th September. Thanks have been expressed to the cheerful diners and helpers who supported the event.
- **THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUP** continues to be active via Zoom on Sabbath afternoons. Details are given in the electronic bulletin. It is hoped to include a report on their activities during lockdown in a future newsletter.
- **THE SOUP RUN BEGINS AGAIN FOR THE WINTER SEASON:** The minibus will leave for London every Friday evening to cater for rough sleepers. We supply many much-needed accessories such as toiletries, sleeping bags, and warm clothing, socks and underwear. If you would like to join a Soup Run team please contact Pat Walton on **07788311097**. You can also donate funds to cover additional items/purchases.
- **At the recent Business Meeting it was pointed out that this outreach, which celebrates its 36th anniversary in December, operates outside the church budget, relying entirely on donations and volunteers.**
- **CONGRATULATIONS TO CHRISTIAN AND CHARLOTTE GUENIN on the birth of their daughter Elise Charlotte in September.**
- **PATHIFINDERS LENT A HELPING HAND WITH COMMUNION PREPARATIONS:** The deaconesses expressed their thanks to the Pathfinders who, along with Sol Llagan, Nancy Khetavah, Ngozi Wosu, Uche Ademuyiva and Akin Ayo-Ipaye, helped assemble and label the individual boxes used during the Communion Service.
- **OV HELPING AFGHAN REFUGEES:** One Vision has been packing boxes to be given to refugees from Afghanistan. By the beginning of October 175 families had received aid from the charity.
- **2021 WEEK OF PRAYER:** 'I will go' is the theme for this year's Week of Prayer to be held 6th-12th November.

- **NEW CHURCH REGISTRAR APPOINTED: Alain Fidelia** was approved by show of hands on 16th October.
 - **PEDAL FOR THE PEACE:** A group of Stanborough Park Teens planned to join in the Peace Hospice initiative to raise much needed funds by cycling 'round the world' (yes - 24,901 miles!) from static bikes at the front of the Hospice. Unfortunately, the leader (Paula) had to self isolate, so the Teens have been asked to cycle remotely and donate. If you are able to sponsor them to reach their goal of £500.00 please follow this link and donate: <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/teens-department>
 - **PAT AND AUDREY PEDALLED FOR THE PEACE** on 30TH September.
 - **HEIDI TUNWELL** reports that her daughter's wedding day went well and they enjoyed good weather - unlike that experienced in the Stanborough Park area at the time! She has promised to send a photo.
- **LYNETTE ALCOCK: A LETTER FROM SOUTH KOREA:** Lynette left in August to take up a voluntary teaching post in South Korea. She has sent the following update on her experience so far to Pat Walton.



I'm doing well :) Korea indeed has mandatory isolation for incoming travellers, so I was in there for a couple of weeks, and I've been in my current location for about three weeks now. I really like it here -- it's a beautiful, green, suburban location (where I live in relation to the capital Seoul is like Watford is to London), and I live right next to the campus of the Adventist university. That means that I also have a church fellowship practically next door.

The school is nice too, and I have good colleagues. There are hard days of course -- I'm teaching 6-year-olds and they're a handful sometimes!! I have a class notorious for strong characters and some wild behaviour, and I have seen that. But apparently they love me, so thank God, and I'm sure that over time I will continue to develop my skills and stride as a kindergarten teacher!

Thank you so much for your prayers. I need them! How are you and how are things at Stanborough? I continue to pray for you all

➤ **CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY ON 17TH OCTOBER**

Bernell Bussue thanks the 21 adults and 5 children who turned up to help improve the church and its surrounds despite the poor weather. He reports that, 'There were 15 jobs out of a list of 25 completed which was a great effort. These included starting white line and arrow painting on the roads [prevented doing more by the weather which was not great], de-clutter of the sanctuary [back of all pews cleared of rubbish, damaged hymnbooks and Bibles removed]. Major clear out and tidy of Cedar/Sycamore kitchen plus the main store room, Larch Room, boiler room and outside garden tools store. A big thing was moving the photocopier from the first floor landing to the concourse office adhering to instructions from the fire safety risk assessment completed recently by fire safety inspectors. All supplemented by several runs to the tip / recycling centre.'

EVENTS ROUND-UP

1. HARVEST FESTIVAL: the annual event was held in the church on 25th September. This year the display was organised by Michele Vitry assisted by Farozia Mungal and Alison Burgess overseen by Audrey Balderstone who arranged the floral displays.



A number of members took part in the service explaining why they had a particular reason to be thankful to God during the past year. Perhaps Denver Annable has the most to be thankful for in view of his miraculous cure from a particularly nasty form of cancer. *'It is only when we face a task impossible by human standards that we can stand aside and let God perform a miracle. So, rejoice in impossible problems*

because through them, you will see the hand of God. (Taken from BUC News 1st October, 2021)

- **Message from the Deaconesses:** A heartfelt THANK YOU for your generosity in support of the Harvest Service. The beautifully-displayed goods and flowers made it a very special celebration, even more so as so many are in need and appreciative of a helping hand.... We were able to distribute 40 boxes/bags with the harvest gifts you (the children) and your parents prepared. Those who received them were so happy and touched by your kindness. Thank you for making others happy and for sharing, not only food, but most of all your love and care.
- Those watching the service will have heard Audrey mention the display in the front porch by Chemi Ishida. Here she is with her arrangement for the benefit of those not able to see it first hand.



2. BAPTISMAL SERVICES:

- A baptismal service was held in the church on Sabbath afternoon, 9th October. The candidates were:
 - **Steve Simons and Doulla Christoforou** who attend 'Simple Church'.
 - Another one was held on 16th October for **Merlyn Rajasekaran** who said, *"I wish to be baptised because I want to surrender my life to God." My favourite Bible text is John 15:5 "He who abides in me and I in him bears much fruit for without Me you can do nothing."*
 - **Michael Power**, having been baptised in the Elim Pentecostal church in 2010, was voted into church fellowship at the same time. He became convinced about the Sabbath and found his way to Stanborough and had studies with Pastor Terry. Michael's favourite Psalms are 23, 67 and 91 and they have been a great comfort to him.
- ❖ Those viewing the service live on Livestream experienced problems with some loss of signal. According to Carl Swain, 'There were issues with the internet but the backup recording was uploaded later in the evening which can be viewed without any issues.'



3. NEWS FROM THE TEENS AND PATHFINDERS: reported by PAULA CARRILLO

- **WORLD PATHFINDER DAY SEES SPC PATHFINDERS WITNESSING WITH THE AID OF PUPPETS:**



Following the World Pathfinder Day rally held on Stanborough Park in August and attended by around 1400 youth, the SEC encouraged local groups to 'impact Watford' by staging a high profile witnessing event in their chosen locality on World Pathfinder Day on 18th September. For Watford Town Pathfinders it was a well-received parade in Watford High Street. Another group went to Leavesden Country Park where the main attraction was the drums and marching corps. The Mayor of Watford was present at yet another event held on Stanborough Park where a group of Pathfinders were completing the Outreach Ministry Badge which includes the requirement to interview local government leaders.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqIJYph71KM>

However, a group of 30 of our Pathfinders decided on an original and innovative way to present the Adventist health message to the people of Garston in the form of a puppet show which they wrote and produced by themselves. The event was staged in Garston Park between 2-3pm.

According to event leader Paula Carrillo the SEC organised the permits etc for the High Street and the parks. For the event in Garston Park she estimates that there were about 15 people in the park. Despite that she says, 'We distributed 100 tote bags in a park that seemed empty when we arrived. However, our Pathfinders decided to visit, enthusiastically, the houses on the side of the park and all the bags were distributed. God blessed us with a wonderful day,' adding, 'Thank you to our church Health Department leader (Annalisa) who joined us with a healthy food session for children.'



The event was recorded but is currently not available for general viewing. 'We don't have the film ready and because of sound tracks we used, we need to make sure we have copyrights to put it on the web... so we were thinking to



use it internally... so I am going to figure it out and let you know when I have something, definitely before December as in January is our investiture and we will showcase the year in the afternoon,' Paula explained. A link will be included when available. She also points out the dedication of one of the counsellors who spent much time producing two of the puppets for the show.

➤ **The following report was written by some of the Pathfinders who supported the event:**

We went to Garston Park for our outreach activity and we gave beautiful tote bags to the people in the public (sic) and also delivered them in the houses around the park. In the red and navy SEC tote bags there were: a Pathfinder information leaflet, some books on health and families, a health magazine with delicious recipes, and a trolley coin in a key ring. We also went to the skating park in there, where Joshua roller skated and talked to some of the children there.

There was also a puppet show on N.E.W S.T.A.R.T* health message. The script was written by Meghan (14) and Sara (15) (assisted by Paula Carrillo).

We thought it was very important to represent the Pathfinder Club and share the love of Jesus Christ in a way that people can relate to. For some of us it was nerve racking to stand and talk to strangers about God, but at the end of it all. We took the motto of 'I will GO' and went to preach the gospel in different ways.

*Acronym for Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in God

Written by: Thespina, Fae, Ruby, Sara, Belicia, Meghan, Daniela, Lineo, Pamela

4. PATHFINDER AND SABBATH SCHOOL ACTIVITY DAY – 14TH AUGUST 2021: by Yvonne Ishida

After a long time of not being able to meet in person and with the summer holidays approaching, Uche came up with the idea of having a fun, activity day on the park – we would be able to meet in the relative safety of being outdoors, socially distance and yet also enjoy time together in the fresh air. Activities were planned for three groups of children: 3-7, 8-12 and teens. Megan led the little ones with some action songs, a story, and a treasure hunt. Esther led the 8-12's with some songs and several Bible games, and Paula led the teens with Bible activities and charades. We were blessed with warm, dry weather and coming together to praise God after such a long time being apart was a real blessing for everyone.

- **CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOL: update from Yvonne Ishida**

By God's grace, we have some more people helping with Sabbath school and we are working hard to run two classes at church. One for the younger children (up to Primary) in the Williams Hall and one for the older children (Junior / Early Teens) in the Larch Room. Sabbath School starts at 9:45am. If anyone would like access to the login details, please contact Yvonne Ishida at ishida.yvonne@gmail.com. **If anyone else is willing to help, please let me know. The Cradle Roll videos are going out each week as usual.**

5. ONE VISION HOLDS COMMUNITY FAIR ON STANBOROUGH PARK:

The charity held a community fair on 22nd August inviting local residents and members of the wider community to attend a fun afternoon. Watford's Member of Parliament, Dean Russell, attended.

(Photos courtesy of Enoch Kanagaraj)



➤ **FORTHCOMING EVENTS:** Pat Walton has submitted the following announcements:

1. **Christmas Sale**

There will be a Christmas Mini Sale and Afternoon Tea to raise funds for the Watford Peace Hospice.

Date: Sunday 14th November, 2021

Time: 2-5p.m.

Location: The Stanborough Centre, 609, St. Albans Road WD25 9JL

2. **Donations required for the weekly Soup Run**

The Friday night Soup Run into London, which assists rough sleepers, is in need of men's winter clothes - especially warm jumpers and jackets, jeans, socks, underwear, sleeping bags and toiletries. Contact Pat on the number below if you can help.

3. **Donations for the Welfare Department**

The Welfare Department operates every week – usually on two mornings. If you wish to make donations please contact Pat on **07788311097** to arrange when to bring the items to the Welfare Centre.

4. **Annual Toy Service**

The 60th Annual Toy Service will be held at the church on 11th December at 11 a.m. and the former Mayor, Baroness (Dorothy) Thornhill, and the current Mayor of Watford, Peter Taylor, will attend.

➤ **PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHURCH SERVICES:** a statement on behalf of the church elders

The Business Meeting on **25th July, 2021** was held to discuss potential changes to SPC worship services timings in order to help meet the broader objectives of church mission. The intention was to assimilate the feedback provided during the Business Meeting with individual emails and the responses to the questionnaire sent to members earlier this year and consider how the feedback impacts the draft proposal.

A revised draft proposal was intended to be shared with you prior to having a follow-up Business Meeting on 5th September, 2021. Unfortunately, progress on this has not been as quick as originally hoped as some of the feedback rests with the pastors and is currently not accessible. With the unexpected, prolonged illness of our Senior Pastor, Terry Messenger, this re-draft has not yet been completed. **This Business Meeting will be scheduled for a later date once the draft proposal has been revised and shared.**

Ben Davison

➤ **A YOUNG PERSON'S VIEW OF THE PANDEMIC:** by Meghan, 14 yrs old

The pandemic greatly affected my church activities as a young person. It was hard being at home and not being allowed to engage in the normal activities that were happening. I missed seeing my friends in church. I missed going to Sabbath School and having that space to have discussions and talks. I missed all the activities we'd do after church.

I often felt like I wasn't learning as much any more and the spiritual element was lacking. But when youth meetings started online and Pathfinders used Zoom I got involved and that had a massive impact. Although it wasn't face-to-face and I felt like I wasn't really there, it gave me something to look forward to and I found a way for me to learn spiritually again.

Now, I'm glad we can go back to somewhat of normality. For so long, I've looked forward to hanging out with friends or going to walk in the park with people. And now we are allowed to socialise and go to church.

So from what I've learned these past years is that, you don't have to stop learning about God and the Bible and the church because you can't leave the house or you can't meet those people. It may be harder to learn and grow in your spirituality but it isn't impossible.

➤ **YOUTH ON THE MOVE:** congratulations and best wishes to our youth who are off to university.

• **These students are beginning their 2nd Year but missed out on a mention in the church bulletin last year:**

Najuah Brumant, 2nd year - Neuroscience

TJ Moyo, 2nd year - Aerospace Engineering

Fikayo Bright, 2nd year - Film Production

Andrew Calvert, 2nd year - Engineering

• **These students are about to embark on their 1st Year:**

Giovanni Chigbu, 1st year - Software Engineer

Lourien, 1st year - Genetics (Biology)

Louisa, 1st year - Medicine

Deelan Bermeo, 1st year - International Relations with Hispanic Studies

Fineas Ivan, 1st year - not disclosed

Beth Molteni, 1st year – Languages – at Oxford

Caitlyn Balderstone, 1st year at Bristol University studying Production Arts for Stage and Screen

Tonto Ntata, 1st year - Animation

- **FROM THE ARCHIVES:** This story was written by the late Pastor Jack Mahon for Stanborough News Spring 2008. The promised follow-up article was never written.

A CENTURY-OLD AROMA THAT INITIATED A BRITISH BREAKFAST REVOLUTION!

Everyone agreed that there was a smell! Borne on the morning breeze over West Herts villages - a phenomenon never before experienced. "Could it be a new brewery starting up?" some optimists (mainly male) opined. "Its more like baking-day at my old Gran's" was a view more commonly expressed.

We're talking about just over a hundred years ago when established habits of a lifetime in UK were about to experience a revolutionary change and it was all happening in a lovely rural setting just outside the town of Watford.

Under threat was the traditional 'English Breakfast' whose days, although scarcely anyone had even heard of c-h-o-l-e-s-t-e-r-o-l, were numbered! The name Kellogg has its own breakfast cereal significance but not many

KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF STANBOROUGH PARK

27th December, 1906 The Stanborough Estate consisting of 75 acres of parkland and woodland and a country house were purchased by the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

1907 Construction of health food factory and printing works; mansion used as a ministerial training college. **KINGSWOOD HOUSE**

1910 College constructed (eventually used as a school); demolished and new secondary school built 1991; mansion became a sanitarium.

1919 Kingswood Estate purchased. Kingswood House used for staff accommodation.

1929/1930 Construction of the North Orbital Road through the Kingswood Estate affected the viability of the farm and the estate was sold for housing.

1964 Fire destroyed part of the printing works which later moved to Grantham.

1967 New primary school opened.

1969 Closure and demolition of the sanitarium.

1989 Relocation of the food factory to Newport Pagnell.



people know the connection of the two brothers with Stanborough Park which is now well within the town limits.

Dr John Harvey K. was medical superintendent of a famous sanitarium whose researches had confirmed the importance of whole-grains in human nutrition. A practical man, he used his knowledge to create a range

of carefully balanced health foods which he fed to his patients with beneficial results.

His brother William Keith Kellogg was something of a "whizz-kid" in development and marketing. He cashed-in on his brother's expertise to offer to the public the new and tasty whole-grain foods. Both brothers were Seventh-day Adventists and their principles were put to practice in the institutions flourishing on Stanborough Park.

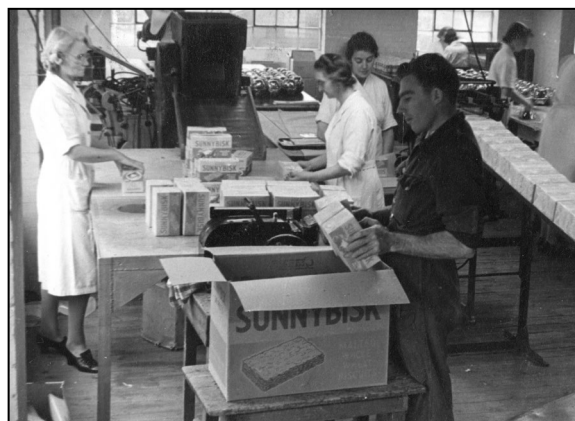
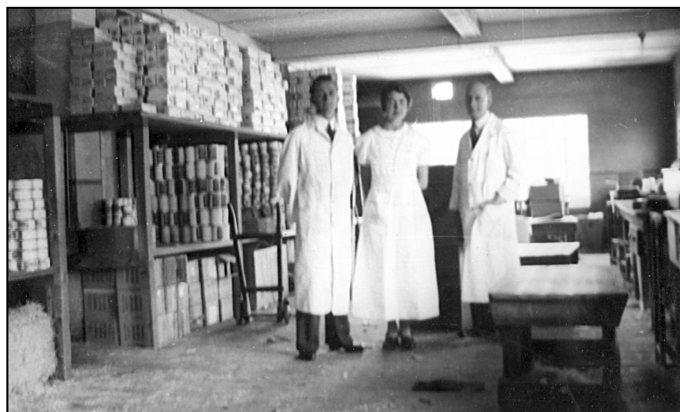
Some time later a maternity unit was established at the sanitarium, located in the park's original country house, which eventually changed its name from 'The Stanborough Hydro' to 'The Stanboroughs'. It would be interesting to compile a list of all the babies who first 'saw the light' in the Stanborough Maternity Unit which for years was favoured by the rich and famous as well as popular show business families.



The photos on the previous page show the Granose factory and workers packing Sunnybisk.

Below are photos of the sanitarium and more from Granose Foods

(Black and white photos are from the Agnes Poulton Archive, colour photo taken by June Allen not long before closure and subsequent demolition.)



Above: Agnes poses with her Despatch Department colleagues

Some more Granose photos including packing Sunnybisk and the Sunnybisk oven.



➤ **THE TOY SERVICE ARCHIVE: DON'T FORGET THIS CHRISTMAS SEES ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY**
Article below published in 'My Garston'

Church celebrates 50 years of toy donations

An annual toy collection service in Garston which provides gifts for local children celebrated its golden jubilee last month.

A celebration event took place in December at Stanborough Park Seventh Day Adventist Church in St Albans Road.

Having been established in 1961 by the late Alf Kelly MBE to provide toys at Christmas to needy local families, the service has run every year since.

Watford Mayor Dorothy Thornhill and Watford Borough Council chairman Lindsey Scudder attended the celebration last month.

A church spokeswoman said: "Any fears the current financial constraints would affect the number of donated toys proved to be unfounded.

"Perhaps an awareness of the fact that some are suffering severe hardship at the moment encouraged the members' generosity ensuring that some local children could have a better Christmas than their parents had anticipated."



Members of the community flocked to the event to celebrate the service's 50th birthday.

Mr Kelly died in 1996 shortly after his 35th toy service. The gratitude of local social and community workers for this annual resource, which is now the only one in the area, led his daughter, Garston resident Pat Walton, to continue this annual event. This year marked her 16th service.

After the event the toys were distributed to local community groups and social workers including Watford Women's Refuge and Berrygrove Children's Service.

by Jerry Lyons

➤ **ASCENSION ROCK WHERE ADVENTISTS GATHERED IN OCTOBER 1844 WAITING FOR THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**



- **Also in 1844** the Co-operative movement was founded and, according to Google, on 24th May, 1844, Samuel Morse sent Vail the historic first message: "**What hath God wrought?**"

➤ **THE LAST WORD**

'Dear Lord, we had a good time at church tonight. I wish you could have been there.' As spoken by a 4 year-old at bedtime prayers!
From Harold Calkins' 'Book of Uncommon Prayer'

'Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.' Reihold Neihbur 1892-1971 ibid

APPENDIX: NOTES FROM CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING 21ST AUGUST, 2021

- This has been summarised by the editor from notes made by the Chairman, David Burgess, during the meeting

ADRA

- Audrey Balderstone - as elder - coordinated a number of fundraising efforts to a total of £10,700

AV

- plans for upgrading equipment had to be postponed in favour of streaming both services and supporting mid-week events e.g. funerals

Adult Sabbath school

- thoughts about increasing the amount of time given to Bible study time, how to train and support the discussion leaders were put on hold with the pandemic
- discussion leaders themselves set up Zoom classes (7-8 classes)

Church Clerk

- membership was 684 at the end of 2020 (reduction by 3 members from 2019)
- 14 members passed away in 2019-2020
- members updating contact details would be appreciated: Milimo.mumbo@outlook.com

Children's Sabbath Schools

- active all the way through lockdown – Cradle Roll on YouTube, the rest on Zoom
- plans to return had not yet been made, mostly due to a lack of helpers and leaders to run the classes

Community Liaison Officer

- many interactions with local charities and faith groups during 2019-20
- many people from the community have been into the church
- there have been opportunities for the church to support the local government Covid efforts

Church site management

- no leader, so Bernell Bussue as the elder responsible is overseeing the committee
- there was a lot of work done over the 2019-20 period and also since One Vision left in June 2021 to bring the centre back into use for hiring and worship
- concerns over health and safety, site security and safeguarding matters were expressed
- currently focusing on matters of health and safety and stated that will proceed directly with addressing those

Deaconesses

- adapted the way they served the members over lockdown focussing on contacting the members regularly - with the help of some other members
- flower distribution after the services has resumed

Messy Church

- one meeting held before lockdown with 71 attending
- a rethink is in progress about how to move forward with it and focus more on outreach and discipling children whilst keeping it safe

Pathfinders

- continued throughout lockdown via Zoom, completing classes and honours in 2020
- Pathfinder Bible Experience teams placed 1st in the finals
- fundraising and street witnessing, community activities undertaken
- older Pathfinders had given Bible studies
- classes resumed on the Park when weather allowed from spring 2021

Safeguarding

- focus on training and helping the church to understand the importance of safeguarding
- training plans to be reintroduced in the autumn for departmental leaders

Seniors' Club

- last meeting held in March 2020 attended by about 80-90 people, mostly from the community
- hoping to restart from September 20th 2021
- the Chair noted that Seniors' Club is an excellent opportunity for outreach as **there are community members already attending church and support from members to befriend them is needed**

Teens

- variety of groups and programmes on different topics – both spiritual and life skills
- Friday night programmes resumed before lockdown
- many activities online over lockdown with viewings of 'The Chosen', spiritual discussions, games evenings etc
- continued to be very active in 2021 with good engagement from the youth

Worship Committee

- working closely with AV using pre-recorded hymns and segments from those participating, spliced together by the AV team
- reduction in numbers on the committee but the core team continued to organise the services and enable the return to church in a Covid-safe manner

Welfare

- **continued throughout lockdown as it was considered an essential service**
- small team of helpers distributed food, clothing and other essential items
- bought a gazebo to enable distribution from outside the welfare room
- **relies on donations of items and money to continue their work**

Parallel Worship Committee

- initially Livestreamed the services with segments pre-recorded, then moved to Zoom services
- currently worship under the oak tree on Stanborough Park at 12pm
- all the styles of service were Livestreamed and streamed live on YouTube
- numbers watching on Sabbaths were fairly low but more people watched during the week

Health

- ran quite a few seminars in early 2020, focusing mainly on mental health and wellbeing
- ran a café and chat session
- during lockdown they got involved with One Vision and supporting members
- many plans for activities for the rest of 2021, including providing health seminars on the Meriden Estate

Soup Run

- able to operate in autumn 2020 and do the Christmas run
- resumed March-July 2021 and were planning to resume September 2021 after the usual summer break

Treasury

- there has been a significant reduction in church income this year – both offerings and income
- 3 months of rental income in 2020 and nothing from March 2021; rentals resumed from June 2021 and were not yet reflected in the reports
- costs for the church also reduced during the pandemic so the income covered the costs
- concern was expressed of the need to reverse the downward turn in offerings as activities, and therefore costs, returned to normal
- at the time of the meeting the church had enough money to cover all of the church's debts but, if **offerings were to return to usual levels, the church would continue in a good financial state**
- due to clear the deficit on the Development Fund by March 2024 – 1 year earlier than originally budgeted
- tithing has actually increased over the last year with many paying via the SEC website

- **Full reports, including the Treasury, can be obtained from: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqY8V-Yr4cbVhaJXg6XN6Cc3in0RBg?e=jcWGew>**

- **In future, business meeting reports will only be printed for those without email addresses.**
- **If you need a printed copy please text Alix Roberts at 07703 192823 or write to her at the church address: 609, St. Albans Road, Watford WD25 9JL**