

(formerly known as Lockdown News)

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➤ **MESSAGE FROM PASTOR TERRY: Seasons Greetings to you all!**

This is always a special time of year for all of us. It is a reminder of the birth of One who gave His life so that mankind would have the chance to gain everlasting life. It is a time to reflect on the year just gone and to think about the new one with the thoughts and aspirations we have for it. Matters on the world stage seem very bleak at the moment - COVID 19 is still with us, there are wars going on in Yemen, Ethiopia, Afghanistan to name a few, the migrant crisis, cost of living increase with the rise in energy and oil prices - the list can go on.

On a personal level many have lost loved ones in the past year, some have had health problems, some have lost their jobs and others are facing strain in their family lives. Please be assured that our God is aware and He cares. I want to wish you all a prosperous and blessed new year! Remember, the Scriptures tell us that a better day is coming.....even so, come Lord Jesus!

➤ **PRAYER CORNER - please pray for:**

- Lola Gordon
- Terry Menkens
- Muriel Glendinning
- Becky De Oliveira
- Arto and Miriam Keshishian
- Simeon Vontzalidis
- Donna Wray
- Ruth Read
- Richard Gayle
- the Dean family following the death of Les Dean whose funeral was held in the church on 22nd December
- David and Donna Bryan and family on their recent bereavement
- all those who need God's healing touch, those who mourn that they may be comforted and those facing challenging times
- the Poddar family now recovering thank members for their prayers
- Barbara Hankin is at home now and in good spirits. She gives thanks to God for His blessings and thanks to the church family for their prayers and good wishes.

➤ **NEWS IN BRIEF:**

- **CHURCH SERVICES:** numbers are still limited to 200; masks are now obligatory - according to government guidelines.

There is no need to book – just turn up.



- **PASTOR TERRY HAS RECOVERED HIS HEALTH** and returned to church duties, preaching his first sermon on 18th December.
- **SINCERE CONDOLENCES to the family of Mrs. Kathleen Best**, who worked in the front office at Stanborough School and passed away just before Christmas, especially to son Tony, one of the church's pianists.
- **SOUP RUN:** every Friday the soup run goes into London to assist the rough sleepers who are in need of men's winter clothes especially warm jumpers, jeans, warm jackets, socks, underwear, sleeping bags and toiletries. If you wish to donate these items please contact Pat Walton on 07788311097 to arrange when to bring them to the welfare centre.
- **THE WELFARE DEPARTMENT** operates every week, usually two mornings. If you wish to make donations please contact Pat on 07788311097 to arrange when to bring the donations to the Welfare Centre. **The donations MUST NOT BE LEFT ON THE CHURCH/CENTRE PREMISES**
- **ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL** has started meeting in person at church with two classes currently in the Maple Room and Oak Room from 10am to 11am. The lessons will also be accessible via Zoom with the following links:
- **Oak Room class:** [LINK](#) Meeting ID: 860 2807 4184 || Passcode: 6TTVfH
Maple Class: [LINK](#) Meeting ID: 757 070 1887 || Passcode: 111000 (Or phone: +44 203 481 5240)
- **MESSAGE FROM THE CHURCH SITE MANAGEMENT TEAM:** There are a few problems with our ageing heating system. The engineers have been in again to affect some repairs and we pray the heating works satisfactorily keeping us warm. Work will continue to cost and ultimately with Board approval will secure a more robust heating system for our future comfort.
 1. If any problems are noted around the church, centre or on-site, please notify the centre manager, Rob Page or in Rob's absence: bernell.bussue@gmail.com
 2. Users of rooms and the kitchens are asked to clear up after use, ideally leaving the areas as good as or better than they were on the entry.
 3. **Please do not stick tape or pin anything to any walls unless fixed to a notice board.**
- **ADRA ANNUAL APPEAL:** 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>
- **CHILDREN'S SABBATH SCHOOLS:** We have 4 groups running at church - Cradle Roll (0-4) in the William's Hall, Kindergarten / Primary (4-8) in the Armstrong Room, Junior (9-12) in the Larch room and Earlyteen (13+) in the Beech room. Sabbath school starts at 9:45am.
We have 2 groups running on zoom - Primary and Earlyteen. For more information, please email ishida.yvonne@gmail.com. The Cradle Roll video programmes are going out on YouTube and Facebook as usual.
- **PARALLEL SERVICES** resume in the Cedar/Sycamore Room on 8th January.
- **THE STANBOROUGH PARK STORY will continue in the next issue – this one is rather full!**

➤ **SECOND PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE 4 DECEMBER 2021**

Parallel Worship Committee Leader: Karen Vontzalidis, **Coordinators:** Tunde Adebayo, Roy Christie, Michele Vitry (1 year), Sophia Vontzalidis (1 year), Helen King-Brown

Deaconesses: Deputy Head Deaconess: Pat Walton

Church Site Management Committee: Denver Annable

Adult Sabbath School Team: John Dupuis

Seniors' Club Committee: Romy Barham, Jean Hinks, Pam Robertson, Pat Swan

Youth Leader: Tunde Adebayo **Deputy:** Student Missionaries

Team: Meghan Herman, Elizabeth Labalestra, Michael Lucking, Naomi Phillips

Adventurers Director: Megan Joseph **Deputy Leader:** Ophelia Herman **Secretary:** Kashina Smith

Helping Hands: Trond Asbjørnsen, Margrette Johns **Builders:** Kashiina Smith & Aline Dos Santos

Sunbeams: Mary Tanhamira & Megan Joseph **Busy Bees:** Benita Felaar & Sophia Charles **Early Birds:** Kimberley Christian **Little Lambs:** Wilna McComb

Parallel Worship Committee Leader: Karen Vontzalidis, **Coordinators:** Tunde Adebayo, Roy Christie, Michele Vitry (1 year), Sophia Vontzalidis (1 year), Helen King-Brown

➤ NEWS FROM THE ADVENTURERS AND PATHFINDERS

On Sunday, 21st November the Stanborough Park Church Pathfinder/Adventurer Club was visited by SEC Area 7 coordinators who assessed the work of each group in preparation for an Investiture Service in early 2022 – probably in January / February. The children and young people were rewarded after the assessment visit with a party in recognition of all the hard work they have put in during the past year and in celebration of being able to meet in person following the huge disruption to club activities caused by covid 19.



Photos from Megan Joseph and Bernell Bussue



➤ **DEATH OF PASTOR RON SURRIDGE:**

The death of Pastor Ron Surridge who was a former Senior Minister of this church back in the 1970's was announced briefly in the last newsletter. A fuller account of his life features in the new edition of the Messenger.

(Funeral: <https://livestream.com/accounts/640318/events/3160916/videos/227913341>)

The submission below was taken from the BUC web site and written by Pastor John Surridge.

<https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2021-11-23/death-of-pastor-ronald-surrIDGE/>



'Ronald Surridge was born on 29 October 1928 at the family council house in the coal mining town of Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. His mother was a Seventh-day Adventist, though his father was not. At the age of 14 Ron left home and went to work as a shoe repairer in Watford. It was here that he made church friends, was baptised, and decided to study for the ministry.

'He spent seven years at Newbold College, which is where he married Rachel Phillips, the daughter of lecturer Pastor E B Phillips. After a short time in ministry the couple left for the United States, where Ron spent five years studying at Washington Missionary College. He returned to England in 1958 with a

master's degree and a young son, Robert.

'After a year pastoring in London, during which time their second son, John, was born, the family moved to the North England Conference. Here Ron served as a pastor and the Conference Youth director. After five years of missionary service in Nigeria and Ghana, they returned to England where Ron studied for a second MA at Manchester University.

'Further positions included British Union Conference Youth and Education director, pastor of the Stanborough Park church, Irish Mission President, Northern European Division Education director, North British Conference President, and finally, Head of the Religion department at Newbold College.

'In retirement Ron enjoyed golf but remained committed to ministry, preaching in churches across the North England Conference, and playing an active role as a member of the Grantham church. He died on 15 November 2021, aged 93, after suffering from Alzheimer's for a number of years.'

'A memorial service was held at the church on Tuesday, 7th December. A page for donations in lieu of flowers and for tributes has been set up at <https://ronaldsurrIDGE.muchloved.com/>.'

**British Union Conference appoints
NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR**

RONALD H. SURRIDGE has been elected as Youth Director for the British Union Conference in succession to Roy E. Graham who was recently appointed as President of the South England Conference.

Pastor Surridge is in his early forties and has had a varied and successful ministry since his graduation from Newbold College in 1952. After a period of service in South England the family made their way to America. As he had worked his way through Newbold, so Ron worked his way first through Columbia Union College for his B.A., and then through Andrews University for his M.A. (A shoe repairer by trade he found specialized nursing and taxi-driving paid better in the big land!)

Returning to his home conference (North England), Ron Surridge served as pastor in Manchester and Wolverhampton before being called to Youth Leadership in that conference. Several years later the Surridges were called to the West African Union where Ron taught Bible and History and then served a term as Youth Leader for the large and colourful West African Union.

Recently Pastor Surridge has been on study leave at Manchester University where he is completing his M.A. degree in Church History. In addition to his youth responsibilities Ron Surridge will oversee the Church's departments of Education and the Sabbath school.

YOUTH welcomes Pastor Surridge as its new Editor, as from the March 1971, issue, and the young people of the Seventh-day Adventist Church greet their new leader with keen anticipation. He will take up his tasks from January 1, 1971.

Mrs. Surridge (née Phillips) is a qualified teacher, and their two sons, Robert and John, keep the family in touch with the youth scene. R.E.G.

Messenger: Volume 75/12 25 December 1970 written by Pastor Roy Graham

➤ **FUNERAL OF LES DEAN on DECEMBER 22nd**

The funeral of Les Dean, husband of Lydia and father of Nick and Rebecca was held in the church on 22nd December and can be viewed on Livestream. <https://livestream.com/accounts/640318/events/3160916/videos/228222838>

The service was full of humour, as you would expect, and being an ardent fan of Liverpool Football Club red was a dominant colour with many mourners even wearing the club's football shirts.

Son Nick gave a life sketch and many other members of the family and friends also spoke movingly of their recollections of Les. It was clear that he loved much and was much loved in return and his sense of humour was well known. It was clear from the tributes that there were 3 F's that played an important part in Les's life: family, football and fishing.

Les was born (in 1955) and raised in Watford, attending Leavesden Green and Francis Combe Schools. The friendship between the Dean and Francis families was rekindled thanks to a chance meeting between Les and Lydia in Garston resulting in their marriage in 1982. He took great delight in his family, Nick, Rebecca and her two children.

Unfortunately he experienced poor health in the last 18 months of his life starting with a heart attack, finally succumbing to secondary cancer.

Lydia bravely gave the address, constantly returning to the words of the Liverpool FC's theme tune, 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

Les also contributed to church life. He was often the Master of Ceremonies at the church's end of year celebrations.

But his biggest contribution to church life was to the Soup Run and Pat Walton gave an emotional account of his work on its behalf. He was one of the regular drivers of the Soup Run's minibus and she said he was willing to drive it in all weathers. Not only that but when they reached their two destinations of the Royal Festival Hall area and Lincoln's Inn Fields Les would go off hunting out those who were unaware of their arrival ensuring that none missed out on what was on offer.



Year end celebrations at Stanborough Centre
by the Dean family
Photos: Victor Hulbert

They could have been at Trafalgar Square or along the Thames embankment but over 100 members and friends of the Stanborough Park church chose to see in the New Year at something better: 'iExit07'.

What better way to exit the year than with an official goodbye with family and friends. The Stanborough Centre held the event hosted by the master of ceremonies, youth pastor Dejan Stojkovic. In excess of 100 people attended iExit, a thanksgiving concert with special guests. The evening kicked off with light-hearted humour from Dejan, following entertainment provided by Newbold church's Ileen FOCUS Band, The Gospel Mania Community Choir, No limits from Soweto, Stanborough youth's very own 'Matte Finish Improv. Teams' and volunteer youth worker, Uriel Heririna.

The music covered varied genres from the traditional 'Silent Night', through the beautiful harmonies of 'No Limits' to the more progressive sounds of the FOCUS band. However, while the styles might have been different, the message was the same, calling people to commitment and service of The Most High.

Following the concert it was time for laughter and cheer all round as people of many nationalities socialised and shared experiences from 2007. Light refreshments with a classier front were provided alongside 'The Green Bar'. With party-poppers, and a countdown to midnight, hugs, promises, fun and fellowship, iExit07 was a highly memorable social occasion. The countdown is on for iExit08! This is likely to become an established annual event. A selection of photos and sounds from the event is available from the BUC picture gallery, www.adventistpictures.org.uk.

out at Christmas, encouraged church members to donate new toys for them. When questioned about the missing teddy, All's daughter Pat Walton, who took over organising the annual event after her father's death in 1996, explained that the previous year she had taken up the offer of a living home for the bear as the time

➤ **ANNUAL TOY SERVICE CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE**

THE 60th ANNUAL TOY SERVICE WAS HELD ON SABBATH, 11th DECEMBER.

For the 60th year in succession hundreds of new toys adorned the already decorated platform to set the scene for the special service. Carols, hand bells and choirs enhanced the wonderful spirit of Christmas. Pastor Wayne Erasmus gave a different aspect to the Christmas story in his sermon.



As usual representatives from Watford Borough Council, social services and charities attended the service. The current Elected Mayor Peter Taylor and Baroness Thornhill, an enthusiastic supporter of the Toy Service, took part. The memory of the founder of the Toy Service, Alf Kelly, was honoured and his daughter Pat



Walton, who has carried on the tradition for the past 25 years, was presented with an award by the Mayor for her service to the community.

The large display of presents on the platform was added to as children streamed to the front of the church (whilst following Government guidelines) to add their toys to red 'Santa sacks'. The remarkable generosity of the congregation in the giving of the toys is truly heart-warming and will bring joy to hundreds of Children.



Members and their friends, as usual, rose to the occasion leading Pat and Audrey to conclude that as Toy Services go 'it was the best ever'.



See BUC NEWS: https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2021-12-22/1038/?utm_source=BUC+NEWS&utm_campaign=ff350cd9e7-

➤ WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THE TOY SERVICE COME FROM?

One interesting question is where did the idea of the Toy Service originate? Alf Kelly established the long-running tradition at Stanborough Park Church, a legacy which has been continued by his daughter Pat Walton. So much so that many no longer are aware of the event's origins although Pat always makes sure that she makes the congregation aware of her father's contribution to the event, always finding it a very emotional experience.

Pat first heard of the idea from Mr. Davison (Brian's father), her boss at the Adventist travel agency in London. He was an elder at the Ealing church and told Pat about the event he was organising there, collecting new toys donated by church members to give to local needy families at Christmas. These families were unable to afford to buy toys for their children and give them the kind of Christmas they would wish to give them, just like their peers at school. Pat immediately knew that her father would want to know about this - and she was right.

However, recent research has revealed that Ealing didn't initiate the concept of the Toy Service. That honour must go to the Wood Green SDA Church in North London. Elders often met up and exchanged ideas and Mr. Davison must have heard of the idea and decided to set up his own event at Ealing.

Wood Green Church held its first Toy Service at Christmas 1956 – which was recorded in the 'Messenger'. The previous year one of its members had given some toys to a social worker she knew who worked for Hertfordshire County Council's Social Services Department - so we can say that the children of Hertfordshire were the first recipients of a Toy Service!

The following year the Wood Green church decided to hold a service of its own with toys donated by members to be given to needy children in their area and invited their local mayor who gratefully accepted the donations on their behalf. According to the 'Messenger' this tradition continued for at least nine years but eventually fell by the wayside.

Much the same situation happened at the Ealing Church. The annual event started by Mr. Davison continued for some years until styles of worship changed.

In the early 1960's the idea of the Toy Service was very popular. Not only Wood Green Ealing and Stanborough Park hosted them but Watford Town held one event, donating the toys to the NSPCC, and Oxford also hosted a regular one for a while.

When Alf heard of the idea from Pat it wasn't surprising that he seized it enthusiastically as his work within the locality made him only too aware of the need for this. He set about organising the event at Stanborough Park Church and persuading its members to donate new toys and cash for him to buy them if they were unable to do so themselves. The money was pinned to the large Christmas tree which was donated annually by Garston Supply Yard opposite Stanborough Park on the St. Albans Road. He used to distribute the toys himself as he knew where the hardship cases were, sometimes dressed as Father Christmas.

Although the Toy Service began in 1961 it wasn't until 1965 that it first achieved a mention in the 'Messenger'. It isn't possible to trawl back that far into the archives of the local paper online and it requires much strength dealing with the heavy, bound volumes in the Watford Reference Library – which are impossible to photocopy. However, one photo of an early event has been obtained from the Watford Observer's photo library – the newspaper used to send a photographer to each event in the early days.

Current child protection laws mean that Pat must hand the toys over to local social workers and charities such as the local branch of the Refugees' Association. Their representatives often attend the service in person and can be seen afterwards selecting toys for their clients from the display which is usually arranged under the supervision of Audrey Balderstone - well-known for her artistic talents.

Unfortunately, all the early Toy Services bar Stanborough Park's have fallen by the wayside with the exception of the Grantham Church whose members took the idea with them when the Stanborough Press relocated there from Watford in 1966 following the fire which ripped through its editorial block some years previously. Pat is determined to continue the tradition here for as long as there is a need in Watford for this charitable act at Christmastime.

➤ **FROM THE ARCHIVES 1: THIS IS YOUR LIFE, ALF KELLY***

This was an afternoon programme at Stanborough Park Church, 13th April, 1996

***As reported in 'The Messenger'**



They came out in large numbers to express their appreciation of a man who had spent most of his life helping others. For most who sat through the 'This is Your Life, Alf Kelly' programme in Stanborough Park Church that Sabbath afternoon (13th

April) was to be the last time they would see Alf alive. As his elder daughter, Margaret, observed privately at the time, it was as though this programme was to be the final chapter in the book of his life. Alf died on 24th April.

The idea was originally conceived several months earlier by Audrey Balderstone, who acted as presenter, to celebrate Alf's 80th birthday. However, with the award of Alf's MBE earlier in the year the whole programme began to take on epic proportions.

Looking frail and in a wheelchair Alf was released 'on parole' from the local hospital supposedly to attend an ADRA meeting. He was overwhelmed when he found out the real reason for the meeting and met up again with so many familiar faces – some of which he had not seen for a long time.

Those giving a testimonial to Alf's work over the years included the current and former Mayors of Watford, the current and former General Secretaries of the Watford Council for Voluntary Services and its Vice President and representatives from the Hertfordshire Association for the Disabled and local social services. Many, who were unable to attend in person sent letters, videos or taped messages which were featured in the programme – including the Australian branch of the Kelly family.

The various aspects of Alf's life unfolded: Sabbath School teacher, lay-preacher, Personal Ministries Leader, Youth Leader, organiser of evangelistic campaigns and services in old people's homes, nurses' homes and hospital

wards, champion of nurse's Sabbath privileges, veteran Ingathering promoter, unofficial church caretaker and tireless supporter of good causes.

How had one man managed to fit so much into one life?

Church elder, Ed Hammond caused much amusement when referring to Alf's encyclopaedic knowledge of all the streets and public houses in Stanborough Park's extensive Ingathering territory suggesting that he should write a book in his retirement entitled 'The Ingatherer's Guide to Specialised Collecting in the Home Counties' - a kind of Adventist pub crawl!

Representatives of local organisations spoke of Alf's impressive catalogue of achievements over the years. Probably the most lasting ones will be in the form of the Watford 'Good Neighbours' scheme, the hostels for the homeless and permanent funding for the Watford Council for Voluntary Services.

The then current General Secretary of the Watford Council for Voluntary Services, Mrs. Mary Hamilton, confessed to being the person who nominated Alf for his MBE and described him as '*a man of many talents doing many things*'. Speaking in similar vein her predecessor referred to him as '*an enabler .. an inspiration to volunteers. He set up schemes.*' The Mayor of Watford declared that Alf was 'a shining light to others'.

By the end of the programme it was clear that had it not been for Alf's efforts over the years Watford would have been a poorer place. As the Editor of the Watford Observer wrote in his editorial column after Alf's death had been reported on the front page,

Watford should be proud that a man with such a big heart and dedication should have lived in this town.

Peter Wilson-Leary, Editor, Watford Observer, 26.04.1966

OF COURSE WE MUST NOT FORGET TO MENTION HIS ROLE IN ESTABLISHING THE TRADITION OF THE ANNUAL TOY SERVICE AT STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH.

➤ **DO WE NEED A DEDICATED PLATFORM FOR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS?**

At the August Business Meeting the Chairman commented that there were members who were unaware that 'live' Sabbath School classes had resumed, despite being advertised for weeks in the e-bulletin. Whilst there will always be some who don't read information perhaps there is a better way of getting messages across? We could use the 'Announcements' section on the Home Page on the church web site and/or create a dedicated one-stop information site on social media and if so, what/where?

Suggestions to : news@stanboroughchurch.org

- Seasonal drawings by Colin Raymond, husband of Noëlle who recently moved to Bournemouth. They originally appeared in a Christmas issue of 'ParkLink', the church's newsletter for the local community.

➤ **THIRD PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Deputy Head Deacons:

Mick Lilley, Richard Gayle, Simon Wragg, Filipe Fuste, Julio Brugos

Deacons:

Trond Asbjørnson, Thomas Akindele, Denver Annable, Eustace Anthony, Gavin Gengan, Sang-Bin Jung, William Nalli, Dean Papaioannou, Clinton Quarshie, Colin Robertson, Lascelles Shields, Wally Solomon, Simeon Vontzalides

Ushers: Christian Constantinou, Dane Cummings, June Cummings, Belicia Miteva, Gaia Miteva

Adult Sabbath School Team: Erna Herteliu



➤ **RECOGNITION OF PAT WALTON'S WORK FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

During the Toy Service Pat was surprised to be presented with an award by Peter Taylor the Elected Mayor of Watford. It was a Certificate of Appreciation for all the work that she has done on behalf of the residents of Watford.

This is the result of the 'Unsung Heroes of Watford' scheme whereby those who quietly get on with helping others behind the scenes are nominated for the award by members of the public.

In presenting the award the Mayor said that he could think of nobody more deserving of it.

Pat runs the church's Welfare Department which is much appreciated by local social workers, the Annual Toy Service, the Soup Run as well as a fund-raiser for so many good causes.

Audrey Balderstone also presented Pat with a token of appreciation from the church in view of all the work she so tirelessly does on its behalf. Congratulations Pat on this well-deserved recognition.



➤ **FROM THE ARCHIVES 2: PASTOR JOHN ARTHUR RECEIVES HIS OBE FROM THE QUEEN 2006** (source: The Messenger)



John and Her Majesty

Pictures have reached me of Pastor John Arthur's encounter with Her Majesty the Queen on 23 November. Study the facial expressions on the bottom right picture and you will conclude that it was a joyful meeting. Pastor Arthur received his OBE for his services in Albania, Kosovo and Sarajevo on behalf of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).



➤ **GOODBYE TO PASTOR JOHN ARTHUR OBE:**

Recently the current ADRA UK chief executive Bert Smit announced, "ADRA's Godfather passed away on November 14. Under his leadership, ADRA, in the UK, started shipping aid to war-torn countries thus laying the foundation for the agency to develop into a fully-fledged aid agency John was an inspiration for all of us that have carried the ADRA banner after him. His energy and ability to push forward was unrelenting, even well into his retirement."

John Arthur was awarded an OBE by the Queen in 2006 as a result of his work for the UK arm of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency and especially for his work dealing with Albania which at the time was attempting to shed its Communist past and emerge into the modern era.

Much aid was sent to the country and warehouses to distribute it were constructed. He also teamed up with BBC correspondent Bill Hamilton who was broadcasting from the country at the time drawing attention to the plight of its inhabitants. The two of them travelled across the UK visiting schools etc in a bid to raise funds for the cause. For his work in Albania he was

presented with the 'Order of Mother Teresa' by its government in 1994 for his humanitarian work which was Albania's highest civilian award.

Not many people have the privilege of having a school named after them but that happened to him in 2015 following his efforts to refurbish the building in a rural part of Albania. Even after his retirement he continued to raise funds for the country and on seeing the run-down school in Vrap was determined to do something about it raising funds, despite his poor health, to transform it into the modern building it is today. The finance for this came from a book he had written, 'Man on a Mission'.

By the time the school was opened on 20th August, 2015 his health had deteriorated and he visited the school in a wheelchair.

According to his wife Ruth, "John had been suffering from poor health for eleven years and was wheelchair bound due to developing septicaemia which led to double pneumonia following a visit to Albania and subsequently a stroke."

John and Ruth were Stanborough Park members for 40 years. During that time Ruth worked for 25 years as a primary school teacher in Abbots Langley and John held a number of senior leadership positions within the denomination. He was BUC Publishing director, Communications & Religious Liberty director, Executive Secretary, Vice President and

His ordination as a minister has been retrieved from the Messenger archives; Messenger Volume 72 /08/09, 1967

Note at least one other familiar face in the photo!

President, in addition to time as Chief Executive Officer for ADRA-UK and ADRA-Trans European Division. He also acted as Communications Leader at Stanborough Park Church after his retirement.

He will be sorely missed by wife Ruth, son Andrew and daughter Christine and their families. Ruth says, "Although I did not want John to endure any more ill health issues, I am extremely sad that we will no longer be able to chat together. I am thankful that his mind was clear right to his end and his last words to us as a family gathered round his bed were "Wonderful life - thank you!" We knew he was thanking God as well as his close family whom he cherished. He repeated this statement over and over again."

His funeral, an uplifting service with much humour, was recorded (sound not too good!) and is available to view on the Adventist Media Scotland YouTube site at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cvxfCcjaveY>

**BRITISH UNION
CONFERENCE SESSION**
DE MONTFORT HALL · LEICESTER
MARCH 23-28, 1967



➤ **THE SOUP RUN CELEBRATED ITS 38th ANNIVERSARY IN DECEMBER.**

The Soup Run was set up by Youth Pastor Jonathan Barratt and Youth Leader Pat Walton following a request from the Youth for something that would display practical Christianity. Pat has kept it going ever since as it means ‘a lot’ to her.

At the Business Meeting in the summer Chairman Dave Burgess noted that it is run entirely by volunteers and donations and receives no financial aid from the church budget.



➤ **LINKS:**

- Click here to view the video of past Toy Services shown during this year’s service whilst the children were bringing their gifts to the front of the church.

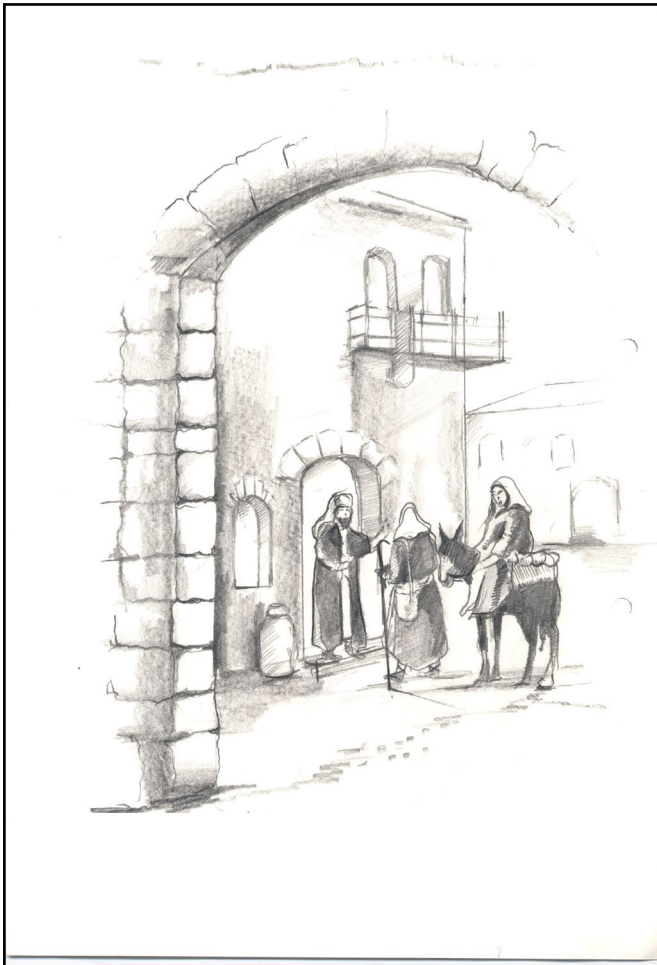
https://1drv.ms/v/s!AjdZ45E9XzcphVkJNJT3PvL6fia_b

- Click here to view “Should we celebrate Christmas?” by Pastor Peter Jaynes on the BUC web site.

https://adventist.uk/news/article/go/2021-12-22/1036/?utm_source=BUC+NEWS&utm_campaign=ff350cd9e7-

- The editor apologises for the late arrival of this newsletter which had been scheduled to arrive before Christmas. An unfortunate skirmish with a car on a zebra crossing in Abbots Langley meant limiting time spent on the PC! Thanks to a guardian angel the outcome was not as serious as it could have been.

Drawing by Colin Raymond



➤ **THE LAST WORD - from various sources:**

- The Christmas season is only as meaningful as we make it.
- Christmas carollers sing of peace on earth but don’t tell us where.
- Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered.
- Christmas shopping should include buying toys for the children that their father would enjoy playing with.
- May your troubles in the coming new year be as short-lived as your resolutions.
- **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Christmas and Winter Holiday Vocabulary

Break the code using the information below. Find each coded letter on the top row, and read down to break the code.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
B	N	T	L	W	E	P	Y	H	X	M	Z	D	S	A	U	Q	O	V	I	J	R	G	K	C	F

TCN YIVTNCKON FSF, NIF NOTM NRZCDH.

T ETNI HRP O KVVH YIVTNCKON.

CIF IOGGH YIVTNCKON CTKF TN ODKRNC IFVFI

RB YIVTNCKON FSF, EF NTC TB ZVRBC RZ CIF ZTVF OBM COXF CPVBN VFOMTBW YIVTNCKON NCRVTFN.

KVVH YIVTNCKON OBM IOGGH BFE HFOVI



Christmas and Winter Holiday Vocabulary

G	V	B	P	W	D	W	P	D	S	P	T	T	A	P
E	I	K	F	V	A	W	S	E	J	O	B	O	N	I
P	J	F	Y	D	T	Z	C	C	U	X	H	Y	E	U
Y	S	O	T	J	T	Q	B	E	M	U	S	S	W	B
E	C	U	Q	S	W	M	C	M	C	L	T	E	Y	C
A	O	T	C	A	N	D	Y	B	B	A	J	Z	Y	O
R	L	Q	X	C	C	Z	Y	E	E	N	X	G	U	D
A	D	A	L	Z	M	R	W	R	L	G	I	K	L	K
T	R	E	E	L	H	C	F	F	L	E	B	G	B	H
S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	S	L	A	F	K	W
D	E	C	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	S	T	A	R	T
C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	C	A	R	D	S	F
C	A	N	D	L	E	S	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y	F
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	H	W	I	N	T	E	R	V
P	L	A	K	T	E	F	Z	T	Q	U	J	P	A	F

bells
Christmas
candles
Winter
star
candy
toys

snowflakes
angels
gifts
cold
New
decorations
holiday

chimney
Year
December
tree
cards

