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(aka Lockdown News 25)

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## **AUDREY ANDERSSON BREAKS THE STAINED GLASS CEILING - YET AGAIN!**

Audrey, the younger daughter of the late Pastor Patrick Boyle - a former SPC Senior Minister - and his wife Rosemary, has long been something of a trail-blazer. Her promotion from TED Executive Secretary to General Conference Vice President following the delayed General Conference session is not only an achievement for herself but, also, for women; yet another 'first', with Audrey breaking the stained glass ceiling once again! Not only was she the first woman to become TED Executive Secretary, she also was the first woman to hold a post at that level within the General Conference structure - the other 12 were held by men! Once again she will find herself the only woman amongst the seven General Vice Presidents.

With only minimal arm-twisting (!) S\*ParkLife has persuaded Audrey to reflect on her promotion to the General Conference staff. We shall certainly miss seeing her at church and look forward to catching up with her on her visits home (she has also promised to send readers a regular email update) and wish her well in her new post. May God bless you and support you in your new and challenging role, Audrey.

## **AUDREY'S REFLECTIONS ON HER NEW ROLE:**



Sessions at any level of the church are times for reflection, evaluation and looking forward. For those holding elected positions, a session holds three potential outcomes: you are elected to the same job for another period, you are elected to a new job, or you are not elected and return home to a period of uncertainty.

Travelling to St Louis for the delayed 2020 General Conference Session I prayed that the Lord would open or close doors according to His will. Even so, I was totally unprepared when I was invited to serve as a General Vice President. It was definitely not

on my agenda, but God is a God of surprises. Each time I have been asked to serve the Church, first as Union Secretary in Sweden, TED Executive Secretary and now as General VP, it has come unexpectedly. As on the previous two occasions, I feel inadequate, but experience tells me that the Lord will be with me, and His calling is His enabling.

General Vice Presidents work closely with specific departments. The four departments, which I have been allocated are: Education, Women's Ministry, PARL (Religious Liberty) and Adventist Possibility Ministries. It is a wide ranging and interesting portfolio. Accepting any call brings mixed feelings. There is the challenge of something new, but there is also the sadness of saying goodbyes. I will miss my family, the wonderful Secretariat Team at the TED - Dean Papaioannou and Michele Vitry, and my church family here. However, I view it as a temporary sojourn and look forward to coming "home" on a regular basis!

- GC SESSION 2022: VOTED POSITIONS have been announced. Pastor Ted Wilson has been re-elected as President but two TED pastoral staff have been promoted. Audrey Andersson has been elected as one of seven General Vice Presidents (see above) and Dr. Daniel Duda as Division President/Vice President Assigned to TED. He is well-known to SPC members as one of our regular – and popular – speakers.
- The full list can be viewed at <a href="https://www.gcsession.org/voted\_positions/">https://www.gcsession.org/voted\_positions/</a>



news@stanboroughchurch.org

**Stanborough Park Church** Newsletter: June/July, 2022



# QUEEN ELIZABETH II: A LIFE OF SERVICE: Pastor Terry's Jubilee-themed sermon

"I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, will be devoted to your service."

Queen Elizabeth II

Pastor Terry delivered a sermon with a Jubilee-related theme on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Referring to the statement the Queen made from South Africa upon hearing of her accession to the throne (left) he dealt with the issue of what was meant by a 'life of service'. In the Queen's case he said it meant 'dedication to her role in an ever-changing world' as demonstrated by her charity work, diplomacy and decorum.

Christians too, he explained, also need to live a life of service, citing as examples the role of Christ, the Messiah, bending to wash the feet of his disciples and the Salvation Army's General Booth stating that the nature of a servant was to be humble and obedient to death. A life of service requires sacrifice, he stressed and everyone has a role to play. True service is indiscriminate in its ministry – because of need - it

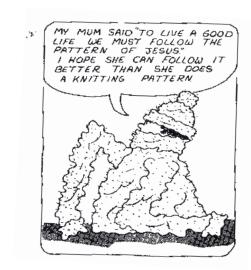
builds communities; not serving others is detrimental to our own welfare. Like batteries, which with misuse become worthless, we gain strength and power through being useful to others. However, not all service is obvious, much is done behind the scenes but, nevertheless, is essential for the smooth-running of so much that is part of everyday life.



"We are created for service", he maintained. "God can use anybody if we desire to live a life of service for Him.... He will use us in a powerful way to reach many people." He stressed that He will use the weak - even flawed Biblical characters, of which there were many! "I offer you a life in service. A life of dedication, a life filled with God and His ways. That's the way to live, so that when we depart from this earth our life ... would have been a good one ... and have been a legacy to be proud of. May God help us to live a life of service."

## WHEN YOU THINK!

When you think of how Elijah felt when he asked if he could die And Job in his desolation just wanted to know why! David prayed most earnestly when God seemed so far away, Sampson asked for one last time for strength on his last day. Jacob in the desert with his head upon a stone, Joseph sold to slavery when he felt so alone. Hezekiah in the holy place showed the letter to his God, Abraham leaving home and all and to Mount Moriah trod, Adam and his wife who disobeyed and ate the fruit. God's people leaving Egypt with Egyptians in pursuit, Moses at the Red Sea and the people and their fears He led them in the wilderness rebelling forty years. Joshua then took charge and faced those city walls. God's servant Jeremiah as in the cistern's mud he falls, Noah and his family shut up inside the ark, Hagar and Ishmael when their future seemed so dark. All the minor prophets unheeded, still they tried. The three friends of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar they defied, Daniel in the lion's den when refusing not to pray And all in the New Testament who boldly followed the way! So think it not strange when trouble comes to you For Jesus was a perfect man and the Devil hurt Him too! Just remember now and always and to your heart the promise take "I will never leave you, never you forsake."



**Dennis Johnson** 

**CHURCH MATTERS: 1) NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION** 

## 1. NEWS IN BRIEF

- **Jubilee event stalls** collecting for various charities raised just over £1,450.00.
- Children's Sabbath School teachers held a meeting and potluck lunch on Sabbath, 11<sup>th</sup> June. They discussed the programmes they had been running and the challenges faced. All would appreciate parental offers of joining the teams and also helping with Safeguarding. A special Divine Service organised by the children's Sabbath Schools is planned for 26<sup>th</sup> October and a Vacation Bible School is planned for August (see next page for request for helpers).
- **The Women's Ministry** organised a special programme on Sabbath, 11<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate Women's Emphasis Day.
- **40 days of Praying and Fasting** began on 10<sup>th</sup> June. The programme will be held from 6-6:30am and will be on Zoom. Zoom ID 8316619709; Password: 777.
- The Prayer Team held a Prayer and Fasting Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> July with the theme 'Praying and the Three Angels Message'.
- A 'My Favourite Hymn' evening was held on 9<sup>th</sup> July performed by various vocal/instrumental ensembles.
- Another Fellowship Lunch was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July.
- The Children's Concert held on 18<sup>th</sup> June for the benefit of children in Ukraine raised £1,108.
- Faye Weekes, whose recent death has been reported in the May edition of the Messenger, worked at the BUC for many years. Greta Poulton attended her funeral and writes, "We got to know Faye Weekes and her husband some years ago, offering their services as Lay Preacher for our Plant (Leighton Buzzard). Faye also used to work for the BUC as Secretary for various Leaders. Most of them attended the funeral with glorious reports about her abilities, leadership and hard work and being totally reliable too. Both were very committed in serving God, reaching out and helping out wherever there is a need. She has been suffering with cancer for a long time, receiving treatments, etc. Lately she found it very difficult to walk, also was diagnosed with some growth in her neck for which she was scheduled in hospital for an operation; alas she passed away just before. Her last appointment with us she attended in a wheelchair, not wishing to let us down!! She had one son, who became a medical doctor; he and his father, were seen in deep pain due to their loss. Apparently she also started a Prayer Group in the BUC, which is still going after many years."
- The Pathfinder Voyager Class (aged 14) consisting of six 14 year-olds and four counsellors undertook a 25km hike in the Peak District during the weekend of 2-3 June. They completed the task, learning to read a map, use a compass and to support each other as well as overcoming fears in some cases and to rise to the challenge. They were blessed with great weather and superb views.





UPDATE ON ADRA RESPONSE TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Since February the ADRA network worldwide has raised 3.2 million USD for work in Ukraine. ADRA-UK has contributed over £145,000.00 to that amount. Stanborough Park Church raised £20,000 and many members are still contributing.

All of those funds are being used to give life-saving assistance to those fleeing the conflict or who are still displaced within Ukraine. Working in more than eight countries close to Ukraine, ADRA is providing food, water, sanitation, temporary shelter, medical help and counselling. The main efforts are based in Poland,

- Romania, Hungary and Slovakia. In Poland 46 churches are involved in assisting refugees, in Romania 28, in Hungary 7 and in Slovakia 5.

  2) ANNOUCEMENTS AND INFORMATION

  9 Pastor Geert is leaving the SPC after nearly 7 years of excellent service. His final Sabbath will be 30° July, if you would like to offer a monetary gift of appreciation please give through the usual channels with it clearly marked 'Pastor Geert Gift'.

  Pastor James Shepley will be joining the pastoral team as an associate minister as from 1° August. He has been pastoring in the Cheltenham/Swindon districts over the past few years. We wish him and his family every blessing as the comes to minister to us at Stanborough Park Church.

  Pastor Terry will be on annual leave from 18° July to 2° August. If there is an emergency during this time please contact Pastor Geert/Shepley or the elders.

  Parallel Services: a reminder that, weather permitting, the services will be held in the Park.

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  Wednesday Night Meetings will be held of the ages 19-30+ happening every Sabbath in the Maple room from 10am. We are also on zoom. Meeting 10: 519 525 6863 Passcode: Sabbath.

  Combined youth event in the park, 161 July, 4mm. agm. There will be a barbecue, worship, and recreational activities for the youth groups of different ages: Teens, Youth Ministry and Young Adults together with their families:

  1 The Prayer Ministry Team has started a 'WhatsApp' Group for everyone. On this forum you can make your public Prayer Recets and you will be reminded of all the Prayer Activities. If you would like your details to be added please contact Balla or Uthe.

  Nominating Committee proposable accepted:

  Partifibror Caving Group: this group meets from time to time on Sundays. Ribes start from the church and riders of all abilities are velcome to join. If you are interested in joining contact Arto Keshishian.

  We are receiving increasing numbers of Ukraina Requess attending our churche

# THE HISTORY OF STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH CONTINUED: the Middle Years and the First Church Extension

By 1956 the church's membership had grown to 540, many of whom would have been employed in the various institutions operating on the Park. At that time those institutions and the church were intertwined. It was very much like a village with only a few members not employed (past or present) by the denomination; everybody knew everybody else - there were no secrets! Each family had its denominational allegiance with sometimes more than two generations of a family working alongside each other. The Park institutions also attracted workers from elsewhere who were unable to obtain Sabbath privileges or who simply wanted to work for the denomination.

As would be expected in a closed community there was much intermarriage between families and it was always maintained that you had to be careful who you talked about as the person you were speaking to was very likely to be connected to them in some way!

Most members lived within walking distance of the church. Sheepcot Lane and Sheepcot Drive, along with Holland and Spring Gardens, all had a high percentage of Adventist residents, as did the Kingswood Estate. However, by the end of the 1950's car ownership was increasing and this meant that the church membership now included people living farther from the church, often not connected with the Park's institutions. So, the numbers attending church began to grow and the church needed to expand.

During the early1960's the church underwent many alterations. The halls at the back of the church were constructed, giving the church three halls: the Armstrong Hall, named after a much-loved former minister; the Williams Hall named after a prominent family whose patriarch, Dr. A. H. Williams (father of Stephen Williams) was the 'resident doctor' at the San, a local G.P. and the church elder whose support for the extension helped to make it possible; and the Youth Hall (now converted into student missionary accommodation). Additional outside toilet facilities were created. (Many years later they were brought indoors when a section of the Armstrong Hall was adapted to allow for this.)

The church was closed for months whilst the two side balconies were constructed and the building redecorated. During that time services were moved to the Estate Hall between the school and the Press building. This metal structure is the low building in the centre distance of the photo below, in front of the school. (Photo: Agnes Poulton) It was demolished around the same time as the school building.



A rededication service for the church was held in December 1962 (which some of the older members, including the newsletter editor, will recall attending). The occasion was reported in the Messenger (see screenshot on the next page). The author has been tracked down but, despite the best efforts of both Mike and his brother Robin, they were unable to locate the original photos. However, they discovered a mock-up produced by their father who was employed in the Press's Art Department of how the finished project would look. (Below)

Even then Sabbath School facilities for the children were still spread across the estate as the new halls did not provide sufficient accommodation for them until the construction of the Stanborough Centre nearly 40 years later.

Just weeks after the dedication service, on 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1963, a devastating fire broke out at the Press. Three years later the Press relocated to Grantham taking a significant number of members and their families north. With the San closing down soon after, the Park began a slow decline and the church became less full for a few years. This is not unlike the church becoming less full following the pandemic which occurred not long after the most recent church refurbishment and extension was completed.



# Stanborough Park Church Extension Dedicated

Reported by Michael Cowen

(Reproduced from the Messenger March, 1963, see insert)

The congregation of Stanborough Park resumed worship in familiar surroundings when on Sabbath, December 22nd, the dedication of the first stage of the church extension took place. For some years now, it has been found necessary as a result of a constantly enlarging congregation, to consider plans for enlargement, and so early last year work was begun on new halls at the rear of the-church, and two galleries, each seating about eighty persons, in the main church building. It was these that were dedicated

on this occasion. Brother A. Carey, who gave a brief history of the church, said that he remembered when the church was originally built in 1927. It then had a membership of just over 250 people.

The foundation stone was laid by the late Pastor W. H. Meredith, then president of the British Union Conference on November 14, 1927. The church began to rise in the style of a headquarters church in Washington, D. C., and in 1928 it was dedicated. The cost of the entire building at that time was approximately £7,000, actually less than the present extension scheme. At this second dedication service Pastor J. A. McMillan the Union President, delivered the dedicatory sermon, which was followed by a responsive reading of dedication by the congregation, and the resident minister, Pastor M. C. Murdoch.

Also on the platform, were several institutional leaders and ministers, among them being Pastor A. K. Armstrong, pastor of the Park Church for just over eleven years and now chaplain to 'The Stanboroughs'. Pastor J. H. Bayliss, South England Conference president, was also in attendance to present Pastor Murdoch with a much appreciated cheque for £1,500, in accordance with the pound-for-pound scheme operated by our Conferences, in connection with church building projects.

The members of the Park Church have been very busy during the past months raising funds for

this extension, and the concerts, film shows, and Christmas Market, have all helped defray the cost. In most cases the local press has published accounts of these activities.

As well as helping to provide the very necessary money to complete the work, many of the congregation have given up a few hours each Sunday morning and each evening in the week to help further reduce the labour costs. Usually the Sunday morning work has been headed by Dr. A. H. Williams, one of the driving forces behind the scheme.

The members of the church are very grateful to a certain minister, not of our denomination, who, owing to the closure of his own church, offered the pews free of charge. This offer was readily accepted, and the pews are now in place, providing further accommodation in this House of God. It is now felt that friends can be invited to the church without fear of embarrassment over seating, problems, at least for a good while.

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(The screenshot below was also extracted from a 1963 issue of the Messenger, It was written by the school's Headmaster and shows how hard people worked to get the newly refurbished building ready in time for the service. Note that the church halls were still under construction at the time.)

Shanborough School Card Service

The service of 1962, however, held on Weinberger verning, and service to be held in the newly extended and decorated Stanborough Park church be ready in time for the service to be held in the newly extended and decorated Stanborough Park church be ready in time for the service. That we were everaually able to hold a rehearal in the church on Wainberger portion of the service of 1962, however, but the church on Wainberger portion was not becomed to the service of the service of 1962, however, but the service of the service of 1962, however, but the church on Wainberger portion was not becomed to the service of the service of 1962, the service of th

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→ PRAYER CORNER - please pray for:

 Sinean Williams
 Lascelles Shields
 Terry Menkens and his family
 Individuals who are suffering from cancer, COVID and other health issues.
 Families who are suffering from cancer, COVID and other health issues.
 Families who are suffering from cancer, COVID and other health issues.
 The victims of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine as the war continues.
 All those involved in the work of ADBA.
 The requests placed in the Prayer Box
 Prayer Requests can be placed in the Prayer Box or emailed to Florence Allen at UZALF@hotmail.com

 \*\* RECENT MEMBERSHIP TEANSFERS TO STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH
 Stofan and Melania Stanciu from London Romanian Church
 Charles SDA Church
 Alia Gucilaiar from Luton North Church
 Glem Gucilatar from Luton North Church
 Glem Gucilatar from Luton North Church
 Church North Church
 This verse contains probably one of the most quoted phrases from the Bible and is read at most Adventist funerals. There are many translations of the Bible but most use the phrase "civinking of an eye."
 It is always assumed to be a literal translation from the Greek as written by Paul but it seems that the scholars working on the King James version, which was published in 1611, may have found their insgriztion for the rather poetic phrase elsewhere. The phrase is used in Williams Makespear's play. The Williams of an eye."
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