

## Stanborough Park Church News Digest 2022

Covid restrictions influenced the early part of the year so there was very little happening at church.

**FEBRUARY:** Flo and Gabriel, our new young missionaries, arrived.

**MARCH: Global Youth Day** was celebrated with a number of community-based outdoor activities.

**A Youth Concert** raised funds for ADRA.

**Souper Sabbath** started the monthly fellowship meals and **Pat's Sales** resumed.

**The Easter service** featured lilies which were donated by members to be given to their chosen recipients.



**A surprise presentation for Britta Dunton:** Mrs. Dunton is one of our oldest members and did not let Covid prevent her from attending church during the pandemic restrictions. Attending church as usual on Sabbath, 26<sup>th</sup> March she was surprised to find herself presented with a large bouquet of flowers by SEC Family Ministries Director Pastor Augustus Lawrence in appreciation of the help she gave him as a penniless Liberian student who was unable to pay his fees when he arrived at Newbold College to begin his ministerial studies.

Recognising his situation she directed him to the cafeteria manager who provided employment for the full duration of his studies so that he was able to graduate debt-free! Now SEC Family Ministries Director he has certainly shown her that her actions brought forth good fruit - along with a bouquet!

**MAY: World Adventurer Day:** Our Adventurers attended a day event at Newbold College.

**JUNE:** Once the restraints of Covid were lifted and church life could start to return to normal activities Stanborough Park Church wasted no time in taking advantage of the situation with a number of spiritual, social and fund-raising events the first of which was the Jubilee Celebration in the Park commemorating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Little did we realise that just 3 months later One Vision would be holding a Remembrance Service for her in the Peace Garden.



**The Platinum Jubilee Celebration** held at the beginning of June was very successful with many members picnicking in the grounds and socialising. Races for the children were organised by the Pathfinders and refreshments and other goods were on sale - including ice cream from an old horse box!



**Young Musicians Concert:** Soon afterwards the children performed a concert raising funds for children in Ukraine.

**The Pathfinder Adventurers** undertook a 25 km hike in the Peak District



**JULY:** Following the successful Jubilee celebration in the Park the **Youth Department hosted a fellowship event** in the same location on Sabbath 16<sup>th</sup> July which was attended by approximately 100 people ranging from babies,



Pathfinders to the Young Adults. Youth Leader Tunde Adebayo writes, 'After the service we had a meal, drinks and played games. We thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. It was a truly memorable event as we all got to hang out and got to know each other. We'll continue to have combined events to celebrate the youth at Stanborough and to bring them to Christ through fellowship, food and games.'

**JULY/AUGUST:** In July/August 60 Adventurers and their parents and 22 Pathfinders and their counsellors had a great time at the **SEC Camporee**.

Our Pathfinders also took part in the **Pathfinder Bible Experience** getting as far as attending the Division level in the USA.

**AUGUST:** August saw a **Vacation Bible School** organised by the Children's Sabbath School Department which was held at the church with an average of 35 children aged 7 – 12 years attending the week-long event. This time the event was intended for children of church families and their friends. The numbers were restricted by the number of volunteers available to meet Child Safeguarding regulations.



**Ministerial Changes:** It was time to say goodbye to Pastor Geert who was moving to pastures new and hello to Pastor James Shepley and his family making a welcome return to Stanborough Park Church.

**SEPTEMBER:** Having started a Sabbath School class (also available on Zoom) our **Young Adults (18-30+) organised a Summer Concert** which raised £662 divided between Herts Young Homeless and the Young Adults Ministry. Two potluck lunches were held, one to welcome a new member and the other to give the young women a chance to get to know each other.

One of our young women, **Naomi Phillips**, the granddaughter of Pastor and Mrs. Burgess, is very actively involved in youth leadership and during the summer **completed the year-long Youth Leadership Training Course**, a demanding one-year course, coming top of her class! It was a busy year for Naomi who has since become the mother of a baby boy born during the Christmas season.

**SEPTEMBER: Fund-raising events** included has another 'Bikeathon' for ADRA' organised by Sara Renard one of our Pathfinders as part of her course requirements. The church's Soup Run and the local hospice have benefited from 'Pat's Sales' and the MacMillan Afternoon Tea raised £455 for the charity.



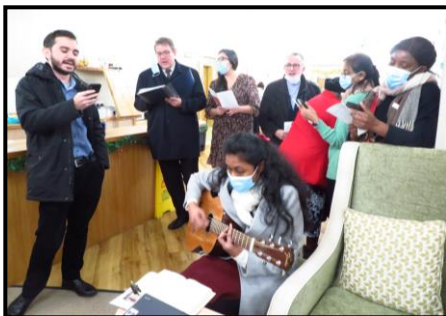
**OCTOBER:** In October the Children's Sabbath School took part in the General Conference's '**Creation Sabbath**'. Each department took an aspect of Creation and turned it into an art work. Cradle Roll made flowers and butterflies with finger prints, Kindergarten made decorations of fish, Primary made birds whilst the Juniors made planets. The children took part in the Family Service with Earliteens leading the hymns and children of all ages combined to form an orchestra which performed during the service.



**The Stanborough College of Music, an outreach activity, celebrated its 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October with a concert featuring its teachers and pupils.** A collection was taken up during the evening to provide scholarships for locals keen to learn to play an instrument but unable to afford the fees.

**The Peace Garden** saw the additional of a new tree replacing the unused fountain donated by One Vision which received it as part of the **Queen's Green Canopy of Trees**. It was originally sited as part of the green sculpture outside Buckingham Palace during the Jubilee Celebrations. One Vision also held a Service of Remembrance for the late Queen during September in the Peace Garden.

**DECEMBER: The Annual Toy Service** returned for its 61<sup>st</sup> year on 10<sup>th</sup> December attended by the Mayor of Watford. The donations are much appreciated by the local charities responsible for distributing them and who have come to rely on this annual event. Audrey Balderstone, who organised the display, maintained that toy donations were the most ever this year which means that more families will benefit even more thanks to the generosity of church members and their friends and families.



That afternoon the **Singing Group** led by church elder Florence Allen visited the Tremona Care Home in Watford and provided a Christmas service for the residents which was much appreciated.

**A Christmas Eve service** at the church consisting of carols and readings was well attended including by many members of the local community and their families - many of whom had connections with the Seniors Group and the Soup Run. The service included a rendition of 'We Three Kings of Orient Are' performed by Pastor James, Gabriel our young missionary and elder

Roger Murphy clad in appropriate garments!

#### **OTHER EVENTS:**

**A number of baptisms** were held during the year which included Mrs. Janet Melbourne, Micah Bean, Karen Guanzon, Lucy Davis, Judy Ahwan and Layla Emmons and Dorothee Swikidisa was offered the right hand of fellowship.

**During the year** the Prayer Ministries Team having started a 'What's App' group and in the autumn invited everyone to Morning Manna 6am - 6:30am each morning with its presentations from the books, 'Steps to Personal Revival' and the '40 days of Prayer and Devotion Book 2'.

**Pat has also held various sales** for good causes during the year, beginning in March.

**Platinum wedding anniversary:** One event which must not be neglected was the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of the church's former Senior Minister, Pastor Roy Burgess, and his wife Sheila. Both were raised in Watford and married at Stanborough Park Church. Our congratulations and good wishes were extended to them on this great achievement. Having ministered in various districts around the country their final mission was Watford where they settled in the area continuing to worship at Stanborough Park Church until the pandemic. Now that their health renders them too frail to attend in person – or only occasionally - they continue to join in worship with us through the Livestream broadcasts.