Sabbath 8 September was a big day at Stanborough Park because on that day The Stanborough Centre, the church’s new extension, was officially opened. According to Denver Annable, the chairman of the church’s development committee, the need for more room was evident decades ago. Seven years ago, the South England Conference was approached and plans began to be developed. The need became more obvious in 1996, when a fire destroyed the wooden building in the church grounds which housed the welfare centre and the Pathfinder club. Children’s Sabbath school classes also met there.

Groundbreaking took place in February last year; and in May of this year the extension was named and all but completed. On 8 September, a fanfare played on the three trumpets of Phil, David and Robert Cooper welcomed the congregation to the official opening service. Present were the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Sybil Tuckwood; the Mayoress, Councillor Mrs Sheila Rosser; past senior ministers of the church, Pastors Roy Burgess and Peter Stearman; ministers of non-Adventist churches nearby; the church’s present ministers, Pastors Robert Vine and Japhet De Oliveira; the architect of the Stanborough Centre, Brother Kenneth Halls; the management consultant, Mr Martin Hill; and the owner of the building firm, Mr Fred Norman of Ekins and Company of Hertford.

Also present were members of the development committee, excluding Pastor Patrick Boyle, who was among many who sent regrets for their absence and good wishes for the future of the centre.

The sweet sounds of the flute played by Gaelyn Pilmoor introduced the sermon. The preacher was her father, BUC treasurer Victor Pilmoor who, as SEC treasurer, had helped to make the extension dream a reality. He paralleled our experience with that of the Israelis in the years after Sinai. He said, ‘People began to lose the sense of the times. They began to lose the sense of God’s purpose.’ He moved on to the sanctuary where, ‘Rituals taught the hurt of sinfulness and the magnificence of forgiveness.’ He then reminisced about growing up on Stanborough Park, and in the context of the incense rising to God, spoke of the fragrance of prayer; of discipline of working with young people and of community spirit, and added, ‘It’s time to fill our church; it’s time to fill our Stanborough Centre with the fragrance of service.’

The ribbon-cutting ceremony

Photos: Frank Blewitt

Above: The official opening, 8 September. Assisted by Pastor Robert Vine, Mrs Doris Clarke (aged 95) cuts the ribbon at the Stanborough Centre entrance.

Below: Stanborough Park church and the Stanborough Centre.

If ever there was a time to pray... Week of Prayer 3-10 November
God is listening - so pray something!

One of my workmates was the first to show me a copy, 'Let me have it back,' he said, 'I'm very interested in terrorism. We've got children!' he concluded with a grin. By Wednesday he had his copy back. Half a dozen stonewall copies had arrived by post.

K now what I'm on about? The photograph of the pillar above the Twin Towers - configured as the face of Satan. It was exactly four weeks after the event. Had it been taken some months earlier, I would have photographed it! I don't think so. It probably did take that long for the photographer to screw up the courage to submit his picture to the newspaper. It wasn't that good, really, was it?

But it did serve to illustrate how Christians always underestimate Satan's subtility. Doubtless all the Satanic hordes have been salivating since 11 September - and even more so since 20 October. Nothing turns them on more than mass slaughter. But the devil is hardly likely to manifest himself in the destruction dust of the Twin Towers. He would much prefer to distance himself from the whole thing.

Satan is, of course, far distant from the whole thing: and if the weird photo remarks of that, it has served a useful purpose. The devil is vitally interested in this conflict and its possibilities for death and destruction around the globe.

More importantly, God is vitally concerned. He feels the pain and grief of earthlings to the power of infinity. He wants to help us heal the suffering and the pain and grief of earthlings to the power of infinity. He wants to give us a heart of compassion to all that suffer. He wants to give us wisdom to lead the world in the right direction and to help us to pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways, then will He give us the desires of our hearts (Psalm 37:4).

The promises of God are sure and He will respond to our prayers if we fulfill the conditions laid down:

- To give us a heart of compassion for lost souls;
- To give us courage to reach out;
- To give us wisdom and direction to the world leaders in matters of human dignity and freedom of conscience and, lastly;
- To bring about a revival and reformation in our Church that will prepare the way for the fall of the latter rainy and the soon coming of our Saour, Jesus.

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Prisoner baptized

The prison gates were once again opened by God’s providence on 25 August, not to enable prisoners to escape, but to allow one inmate to make a public declaration of his desire to commit his life to God through baptism. Nicodemus Pela had been receiving visits and Bible studies for six months and made a public commitment to God, behind prison walls. His personal testimony reads: While at Wormwood Scrubs I met two ladies, one was a pastor and the other was a volunteer Bible teacher. They conducted Bible studies in the prison, each one on a different day every week. I never missed any of the sessions. That was the beginning of my Christian journey. The Bible became my daily newspaper. Mark 5:21-43 became my favourite text, especially verse 22. One night in my sleep, I heard these words: “Seek, seek and knock.” In the morning I looked up that verse in the Bible and found it in Matthew 7:7-8. Eventually I moved to the Verne where I grew in confidence. I experienced anew each day. To my amazement, the retired chaplain asked me to conduct the main morning service on 20 August 2000. I accepted the challenge and God led me through that service. Though it was my first time, I rose to the occasion. Some time towards the close of 2000, I was introduced to Sephyln Campbell from the Croydon Adventist church. In her second letter to me she enclosed some booklets. A mong them was The Marked Bible. I started reading it as soon as I received it and, halfway through the book that same night, my mind was made up that this was the church for me. Since then, there has been no looking back. Sister Sephyln went on to introduce me to the Bible Discov er Course. I was amazed and said, “I am about to complete a prison sentence, won’t the Adventist church help me get my life back on track, grace and mercy.”

The baptism was arranged and facilitated by the Croydon Prison Ministry Team, the resident Chaplain Mr. Tony Ball, and the Bournemouth Adventist minister Pastor Leslie Hill. Pastor Hill had conducted Bible studies in the prison over a number of months. A full chapel of up to 200 inmates witnessed the baptism. Many were touched by the special messages of hope imparted to them through song, testimonies, readings and a full-length sermon presented by Pastor E.O. Sackey, the officiating minister at the baptism, responded, “I pray that you will do as you are told.” The Lord also performed a miracle for a seven-month-old girl. Josephine North had been diagnosed with intestinal sores and for days she could not eat. The doctors knew she was going to die and started counselling her mother about death and bereavement. “It was very stressful and traumatic. They told her mother the child was going to die and that there was nothing that could be done,” Josephine’s grandmother revealed. “But when I heard about the campaign I decided to take the child for the pastors to pray for her,” she added. Before the campaign was over, the Lord healed Josephine: “I am eating now and eating properly,” she exclaimed.

The campaign was organized by the South East Adventist church, Pastor E.O. Sackey, who is the minister of the church, led a team of evangelists - G. S. Dadye, G. Kumi and A. Becai - in conducting the three-week campaign.

 Miracle baptism and miracle healing

A Muslim has been baptized with eight others during the Insight for Living campaign held from 17 August to 5 September at St Andrew’s Church. As a result a Branch Sabbath School has now begun at St James’s Church where the campaign was held.

Brother Yusuf, who attended the three-week campaign, gave his life to Christ and was baptized with five other men and three ladies at the Baham church. The first Christian from a Muslim family, Brother Yusuf requested, “Let everyone pray for me so that I can be a light in my home. I submitted myself to the Holy Spirit.”

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Baptism at Crieff

Crieff church was overflowing on Sabbath 21 April as friends and family gathered from far and wide to witness Kirsty Connaghan give her life to Jesus through baptism. Kirsty is one of Crieff church’s growing band of active young people and she has been a faithful attendee for many years. She is also an active participant in youth programmes and social events, and is a valued assistant teacher in the K-Kindergarten Sabbath school. Andrew Becai, who retired as Cryff church minister and Scottish Mission president in July, was also the last official baptismal service conducted by Pastor Bob Williams. Andrew Beca is a fellow member of Crieff church, and was joined by members of Crieff church and other friends of Kirsty to witness the ceremony. Kirsty’s baptism was a joyous occasion and everyone was delighted to see her make the commitment to follow Christ.

Newsbreak

Prayer, and designed worships that

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Area 1 Family Camp by B. Hall

Come to Chapel for good company in the wide-open atmosphere. The weekend of 3-1 September saw a group doing just that, at the annual Area 1 Family Camp. The event continues to attract those who have long since raised their families but still find pleasure in joining the younger generation. Each year brings new faces, and friends from outside the Area are always welcome.

Singing at the Chapel Portobello beach, almost everyone had arrived and settled in, and all gathered to welcome the sacred Sabbath. The strains of favourite hymns filled the air as the sun set behind the church, and Pastor Michael Walker led the ves- pers. The calm and quiet hours of prayer continued throughout the evening, with the Pointers cheering as names were announced, and friends from other Wol- kerham churches joined in. As the service ended, it was with joy we hailed the Sabbath day.

Family and friends from England, Wales and Sweden joined Robert and Myrtle Stone near Westminster to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary. Myrtle (née Maxwell) grew up as a missionary child in Nigeria and was buried at Aberdare. She was just 72 years old.

Phyllis Darby

Family and friends from England, Wales and Sweden joined Robert and Myrtle Stone near Westminster to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary. Myrtle (née Maxwell) grew up as a missionary child in Nigeria and was buried at Aberdare. She was just 72 years old.

Leeds Investiture Day
Six Displayed their potential

Dana dealt with the call of the Holy Spirit to welcome the sacred Sabbath. The weekend 7-9 June, the three made their public presentation to commend all.

We regret to announce the death on 8 August, 1992, of Norlene R. Pack, of Melton Mowbray,born in 1918, who came to live in England in 1959 to join her fiancé. After her marriage to Frank Pack, of which she was deeply appreciated the friendship and love of her family, friends, the youth and children of the church and social activities.

OBITUARIES

The congregation at Alton IT has concluded the year, with two members, Mr. and Mrs. Pack, of Melton Mowbray, born in 1918, who came to live in England in 1959 to join her fiancé. After her marriage to Frank Pack, for which she was deeply appreciated the friendship and love of her family, friends, the youth and children of the church and social activities.

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Retirement Flats for Sale on Life Tenancy

The Dell, Quilton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Ground Floor: One-bedroomed flat with lounge, kitchen-diner and bathroom. Wonderful surroundings: £37,000.

First Floor: One-bedroomed flat with lounge, kitchen-diner and bathroom. Wonderful view: £36,000.

Coniston House, Pailton, Devon.

Ground Floor: One large-bedded room, spacious lounge, kitchen and bathrooms: £28,000. With optional additional bedroom and en suite: £48,000.

First Floor: Small and cosy one-bedroomed flat with lounge, kitchen and bathroom: £28,000.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT WHEN WHERE WHO HOW

All-Armed Day of Fellowship 3 Nov. 10.30am to 11.30am, In Youth Centre and in study areas Llandudno Wells The Place, The Woodhouse, Pontiny Church David Marshall Tel: (01455) 616982 or David.Macaulay@btinternet.co.uk

Marriage Enrichment Retreat: 2 days only to begin your way to bliss 9-10 November Brocruil, near Brecon South England Conference Cost: £25 per couple with £20 discount for early booking 25 St John’s Road, Wandsworth, London, SW17 2PA Tel: (01923) 275206 or berney.holtholton@fellowshipassociation.org.uk

Palmer Sisters Concert 17 November Highbury Grove School, N5 No.7 Promotions www.palmersisters.co.uk 0800 808 8082

Bardstones Quarter Fellowship Service 17 November 10.30-11am, St George’s Centre, St Albans Breakfast Community Service (lunch provided) Pastor Alan Conroy John Kent (01727) 820082 4 Oakley Rd, St Albans, Herts AL3 5DU

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format.

MESSANGER Volume 106 Number 23 26 October 2001

EDITOR: G. N. MARSHALL

COPY DEADLINE: 25 – 5 November

SUNSET

Sundan times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

Local Card Nott Edin Belf

Oct 26 5.45 5.19 5.46 5.46 6.00

Nov 2 4.32 4.44 4.32 4.46 4.46

16 4.20 4.20 4.09 4.20 4.20

MESSANGER SUBSCRIPTIONS


you the last issue at www.fellowshipassociation.org.uk .

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Calling all Adventist Civil Servants!

If you work in the Home Office, its Agencies and Non-departmental Public Bodies and are interested in an informative networking opportunity, please contact Jennifer Japasone-Jones at RMS1, GPO at or email stref@fca.co.uk.

Request from Mrs McFarlane

Could Mavis, whose maiden name was St John and who worked in a children’s nursery in West Hampstead, London (1967), or anyone knowing of her whereabouts, kindly contact Mary McFarlane on (01526) 486282.