On 26 October, in competition with other excellent schools, Stanborough won the top award from the Watford Times – and occupied the whole of the front page of this Midlands-based tabloid. ‘Stanborough School provides a varied and well balanced curriculum and challenges pupils to reach their maximum potential,’ enthused the newspaper’s leader writer. ‘The atmosphere in the school is friendly and provides the opportunity for boys and girls to gain social confidence. . . . Forty different nationalities are represented in the school; its catchment area covers the globe from Canada to Argentina, France to Hong Kong. . . . All tutors speak at least two languages, which helps foster mutual understanding. . . .’ This is the first time an Adventist school has been given the Continuity in Education Award. It arrived just a week too late to be highlighted at the annual Speech Night.

Speech Night

by Judy Fox

October 18 marked the fifty-second Stanborough Secondary School Speech Night. Principal Mr S. Rivers gave his welcome to a packed auditorium. He began by reprising the Inspector’s Report which, following the full inspection last summer by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), praised Stanborough for its capable teaching and for the positive attitudes of its pupils. The school was commended for producing standards of achievement above those that might be expected in relation to pupils’ ages and abilities, and for consistently good performance in public exams. This year GCSE A to C results were as follows: 63% Chemistry, 66% Maths, 67% Physical Education, 75% English, 77% Office Applications, almost 90% for Business Studies, Biology and Religious Studies, nearly 100% for French and English Literature, and 100% for Physics. Of the Y10 students taking Maths GCSE a year early all achieved B or above. A-level students did well with one, Joanna Poddar, gaining entry to Homerton College, Cambridge. The inspection also acknowledged the school’s ‘provision of a firm spiritual, moral, social and cultural foundation for its pupils’. The Boarding School leadership was praised as an asset to the School.

The guest speaker was old Stanboroughian Peter Baderstone, who now lectures at Newbold College. His theme was heroes and their qualities of involvement, intensity and integrity. From Mr Baderstone’s personal heroes – his father and England’s sporting hero David Beckham – he suggested a hero for the world: the Master of our School, the Lord Jesus. Special awards this year went to PTA member Mrs Casal for her involvement in and contribution to fundraising, and to Mrs Chiverton-Hunt for her hard work in the library. Daniel Cowley, who spent seven years at Stanborough in both the Primary and Secondary Schools, was awarded the Fletcher Cup for past pupils who have achieved excellence in spite of difficulties. Despite suffering from meningitis as a baby, which left him with lifelong kidney and dermatological complications, Daniel studied at the University of West England, gaining a degree as a Registered General Nurse and is now working at the Bristol Infirmary.
On Thursday 1 November two directors of the Adventist Media Centre in California visited the BUC office in order to discuss plans for a major new satellite series which will be broadcast from Britain in August 2003. Warren Judd, Chief Executive Officer of Adventist Media Productions, and Stew Harty, CEO of ‘Faith for Today’, joined pastors and administrators from the British Union Conference and the Trans-European Division for preliminary discussions intended to lay the foundations for the satellite series. Pastor Dalbert Elias, who was heavily involved in the NET ‘98 series, said, ‘I’m really excited at the prospect of delivering another set of programmes, especially one being broadcast from here, and one which is going to be targeted at secular people. But we need to make sure that we are prepared for the event. Over the next year or so we need to be making friends and contacts with the secular, post-modern people around us – our neighbours or our work colleagues perhaps – so that we have a pool of contacts to invite.’ Dr Richard De Lisser spoke of the excellent community work already being done by members of the Stoke Newington church and commented, ‘Any resources or programmes which will help my church meet the needs of the community around it and help to bring the message of salvation to those people, will be greatly appreciated. The Life Development concept seems to have a lot to offer and I am looking forward to hearing more about how it can serve the Church.’

‘The Life Development concept is a name we have chosen to cover all the preparations and follow-up work which will be built around the satellite programmes,’ said Pastor Alan Hodges, Ministerial Director for the BUC. ‘We need to get across the idea that any truly effective form of evangelism involves people’s whole lives. You can’t just run a quick campaign and expect cold contacts to get baptised.’

Pastor Milanov Pujic, Communication director of TED and one of the originators of the Life Development concept said, ‘It’s early days yet. We need to do a lot of consultation with ministers and lay leaders in the Church. We want to work with these people because they are the ones who have the local expertise – they know what their secular friends and neighbours are really like.’

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Cannabis has not been used to the same extent as tobacco or alcohol so there is insufficient evidence to show that it is less harmful. What evidence there is about cannabis so that doctors will not be breaking the law by researching the effects of the various cannabinoids.

Unfortunately, many people have seen the BMA’s advocation of a move towards the legalisation of cannabis. The media have deliberately confused the concepts of decriminalisation and legalisation and have pushed, in particular, for the latter. The Home Secretary, David Blunkett, says, ‘I think it is very important that people don’t misunderstand. There is no intention by me, or by any other ministers or the Prime Minister, that we legislate or decriminalise. Sadly though, some wrong conclusions are being drawn, the wrong signals are being sent. The idea that police have “more important” things to do suggests that cannabis is not a problem. If there are no or few restrictions on cannabis use, we will be able to judge the judgment of our train drivers, pilots, judges or doctors, etc., to the same degree as before. Rather than mass, or cue it to the invisible. We need to be left the line in the face of these changes. Choose to be and remain drug free.

Warren Judd and Stew Harty with the BUC’s Ministerial Association director Pastor Alan Hodges (centre).
New Beginnings at The Stanborough Press

As a recent meeting of The Stanborough Press Executive it was voted to accept the need for a rationalisation programme in order for the Press to move forward in its Mission – that of proclaiming the Message of a soon-coming Saviour. For well over a hundred years the Press has operated successfully in a full-blown publishing and printing facility.

However, recent technological enhancements, together with current economic world conditions, have meant that if we are to remain competitive in today’s market we will find other avenues to ensure that our operation remains viable, while at the same time meeting the needs of the Church in the proclaimation of the Gospel. To this end, therefore, as management, we are committed to a programme of change which will include a significantly greater degree of public awareness among the membership by, for example, making available additional ABC outlets in areas of greatest Adventist population density, publishing a wider variety of books at a low cost as possible, and by increasing our market share in the wider Adventist world community. All of which can only be achieved by the increased and thanksgiving was held at the Handsworth church in Birmingham, to mark the centenary of Christianity in the West Midlands. A short history of the church was given by Pastor Jeff Nicholos, and various former ministers gave reminiscences of their memories and experience. Pastor Bob Robb told of the conversion of his father in 1898 and his later entry into Stanborough College and subsequently full-time ministry. He also spoke of his own ministry in Handsworth, its growth and relocation to Hutton Road in 1967. Other speakers included Pastors Alan Conroy, Don McFarlane and Egerton Francis.

The weekend celebrations ended with a gospel concert featuring all the gospel groups and choirs which have come out of Handsworth over the last thirty years. The service ended with a prayer breakfast in the church hall on Sunday morning at which Pastor Stafford gave his final address.

Pathfinders Petition No. 10

A forty-seven blazed-eyed Pathfinders pet 10 at 7.30am at Birmingham’s New Street Station. They were off to London to present a petition to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. The Pathfinders wanted the Government to know that Christian principles must be maintained and that homosexuality must not be promoted or taught in schools. The petition was handed over at the door of No. 10 Downing Street at 2.30pm. There was a buzz of excitement as we walked up Downing Street, having submitted the usual security checks.

For some time we at Camp Hill have been collecting signatures for the retention of Clause 28. West Bromwich Pathfinders accompanied Camp Hill Pathfinders on their historic visit.

Outreach to the homeless
Stoke Newington church continued her outreach programme by opening a drop-in centre in her church hall to feed those who sleep rough in the area.

The Open Door Drop-In Centre, as it is aptly called, was launched by the Mayor of Hackney, Councillor Selim Saidali. Among the attendees were our minister Dr Richard De Lisser, Pastor Sam Dais, director of Community Services, and Sister Clara Rickett-Caton, Area 6c director of Community Services. This project will be run by the Community Services department of our church and will be open every Wednesday. This was the brainchild of our Community Services Director, Selim Saidali. Prior to its opening, extensive research and contacts were undertaken by her, as well as liaising with other organisations which offer similar services. The aim of the project is not to only feed the homeless, but to provide a recreational environment and to offer advice in many areas. Since its opening, an average of twenty people attend each Wednesday.

The Unlikely Hero

The nativity scene backdrop for Barclays’ Christmas outreach programme was made and quilted by Marion Rooster. It took her over one hundred hours and replaced the original backdrop designed by Jane Lawford and painted by Pathfinders fifteen years earlier.

100-hour labour of love

The writer conducted the service, preaching a sermon which reinforced the importance of baptism in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

Australia, Singapore, Kiev, Dublin

It came at the end of what had been a particularly busy week. Ashley had an opportunity to go to Kiev and visit Natasha’s home church, and over the next few months Natasha shared her faith with Ashley. They had an excellent time together. Natasha was teaching in schools.

The Pathfinders wanted the Lord Mayor at Handsworth Centenary

by John Summidge

On Friday 26 October a service of praise and thanksgiving was held at the Handsworth church in Birmingham, to mark the centenary of Christianity in the West Midlands. A short history of the church was given by Pastor Jeff Nicholos, and various former ministers gave reminiscences of their memories and experience. Pastor Bob Robb told of the conversion of his father in 1898 and his later entry into Stanborough College and subsequently full-time ministry. He also spoke of his own ministry in Handsworth, its growth and relocation to Hutton Road in 1967. Other speakers included Pastors Alan Conroy, Don McFarlane and Egerton Francis.

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Paul Haworth. Over the weekend David and Paul presented training sessions, but also demonstrated training sessions, but also demonstrated small group leadership training. They were very interesting and went down well. They helped people to understand the value of small groups and how to lead them effectively. They gave examples of small group leadership training and helped people to understand the importance of small groups in the church.

John Wesley founded the Sabbath School system in 1779 and it is still very much in use today. The idea of small worship/study groups developed by the Adventist church in the early 1900s. The Methodist small worship/study groups developed by the Adventist church are very similar in structure and purpose to the Sabbath School system. The Adventist church has been using small groups for over 100 years, and they have been very successful in helping people to grow in their faith and connect with others.

The meeting in small groups is not new – it has been used by the Adventist church. So the idea of small groups is not new. The idea of small groups has been developed by the Adventist church. So the idea of small groups is not new.

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David and Paul also brought worship and prayer to a very personal level for all those present at the weekend. The vision of the union they brought for God’s work, plus the worship they led, was a great success. The meeting was well attended and many people were touched by the spiritual depth of the worship and prayer time.

There are many people, including myself, who would pay special tribute to Sylvia and Fred. Their friendship, loyalty, and support for others have been greatly appreciated.

BROOKES, Lilian Maud – d. 17 August. Many friends and family stand in the sun taking photographs of a truly lovely Christian lady. To her family, many friends and former colleagues. To all of you, you knew a kind and gentle woman with a true spirit of charity. A much loved and respected member of our community. She will be missed by all who knew her.

BROOKS, Richard and Barbara – d. 17 August. Richard and Barbara were married in 1969 and had been together for over 50 years. They were both passionate about their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Ripley and Catherine – d. 17 August. Ripley and Catherine were married in 1978 and had been together for over 40 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Robert and Jennifer – d. 17 August. Robert and Jennifer were married in 1988 and had been together for over 30 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Sarah and Mark – d. 17 August. Sarah and Mark were married in 1998 and had been together for over 20 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Timothy and Elizabeth – d. 17 August. Timothy and Elizabeth were married in 2008 and had been together for over 10 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, William and Margaret – d. 17 August. William and Margaret were married in 1960 and had been together for over 50 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, John and Mary – d. 17 August. John and Mary were married in 1970 and had been together for over 40 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, John and Jane – d. 17 August. John and Jane were married in 1980 and had been together for over 30 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, James and Mary – d. 17 August. James and Mary were married in 1950 and had been together for over 60 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Mark and Jane – d. 17 August. Mark and Jane were married in 1990 and had been together for over 20 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, John and Linda – d. 17 August. John and Linda were married in 1975 and had been together for over 40 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, David and Susan – d. 17 August. David and Susan were married in 1985 and had been together for over 30 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Robert and Elizabeth – d. 17 August. Robert and Elizabeth were married in 1970 and had been together for over 40 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.

BROOKS, Michael and Linda – d. 17 August. Michael and Linda were married in 1980 and had been together for over 30 years. They were both deeply committed to their faith and served in many church roles, including the Redefine Church. They were very involved in the community and were known for their hospitality and kindness. They were beloved by many and will be greatly missed.
**Stanborough School’s Best Resource Centre**

On Wednesday 7 November a brand new learning facility was opened at Stanborough Secondary School. The 'Best Learning Resource Centre' was named after Mrs Kay Best, who has served as accountant and receptionist at the school for more than twenty-five years. Following a programme of music, tributes and presentations in the school’s assembly hall, Mrs Best officially opened the new Resource Centre at 10.45 am by cutting a red ribbon.

In the various speeches and comments which were made, both to the student body and to the smaller group which was taken into the Resource Centre itself, few could resist the obvious play on words contained in the name of the new facility. The Best Learning Resource Centre certainly is very good and will no doubt be of great benefit to students and staff alike, but the adjective ‘best’ really only applies properly to Mrs Kay Best, or ‘Sister Best’ as she is affectionately known. Over the years hundreds, if not thousands of students have been touched by Sister Best’s love and concern. She has become a highly valued member of staff at Stanborough School and as a parent she provides a role model for all to follow. Mrs Best’s husband, together with their three children, their spouses, and a number of grandchildren, were present for the opening ceremony.

One of Mrs Best’s qualities, which was emphasised in a number of speeches, was her discipline. In an age when child, but good and fair discipline is sometimes hard to come by Mrs Best stands out as an example of good practice. Many of the students who spoke of her had obviously overstepped the mark with Mrs Best at some point in their past education, yet all were able to speak of her with affection and genuine love. Perhaps the naming of a component part of Stanborough School after her is symbolic of the way that the school embodies the values which Mrs Best stands for.

BCU representatives present for the opening ceremony included Pastor Cecil Perry (president), Mr Keith Davidson (Education director), Pastor Les Bulley (Youth director), Pastor John Surridge (Communication director), and Mrs Jacqueline Johnson (former Education secretary). Also in attendance were members of the Hertfordshire Schools Library Service as well as the now retired Mrs Audrey Powell, another well-loved receptionist and former figure at Stanborough School.

It was a cold, crisp and clear winter’s night last December when, for the second year running, a choir of Edmonton members (kindergarten to seniors) gathered excitedly under the giant Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square to sing carols and witness for the Lord. We believe there is no better time to witness for Jesus than a time of year when people are more receptive to listening to the Gospel. So we grasped the challenge!

Under the leadership of one of our exuberant singers, David McQueen, we raised our voices in praise to God as we sang carols and choruses. As the crowd grew, so did the singing as they sang with us. ‘Who are you?’ they enquired. ‘You sound so beautiful’, ‘We are Seventh-day Adventists’, we replied, ‘and we want you to know that Jesus is the only reason for the season.’ And with this in our hearts, we sang and worshipped even better. It was cold, but we were warmed by the joy of witnesses, the love of God in our hearts, and the smiles on the faces of the surging crowds.

Some of our non-singing members mingled with those crowds, distributing festively-wrapped gifts – books like Project Sunlight and My Little J journey by June Strong. Each book contained the tract, Your friends the Adventists, so we knew that each recipient would learn something about our faith. There were not enough for everyone, and some went away with empty hands but hearts full of praise.

Two hours passed so quickly. We ended with It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and, person to person, we lit candles that had been passed out to the crowd, until we had a sea of twinkling stars! And from the smiles on everyone’s faces, the interaction between strangers, and the warmth in our hearts, we knew we had proclaimed Jesus Christ – the spark had been lit. So we made our way home, dreaming about next year – this year, and how we could make our witnessing better.

And we can! Why don’t you join us under the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square on Wednesday, 19 December at 7.30pm?

**Funds from members build nine schools for Khadir Island**

By Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director

As a result of the massive earthquake that hit India on 26 January 2001, ADRA-UK received a tremendous response to the appeal launched for the victims of Khadir Island.

Your generosity and kindness enabled us to carry out the following:

- construction of nine prefabricated schools that are earthquake resistant, meeting the needs of 1,200 students
- provision of furniture and school desks
- provision of school kits for all 1,200 students

The nine schools were completed by the end of June 2001, built in time for the new academic year. Khadir Island was an area completely devastated by the earthquake and no schools were left standing. However, the sum total of £49,115 from our church members in the UK, as well as a contribution of £10,000 from the TED, has meant that the children of Khadir Island are now able to continue receiving the important gift of education. We in ADRA-UK consider this project complete. Thank you.