

Stokey Advent Times



Spreading God's Love!

Gratitude fills my heart as I reflect on the warm embrace of my church family who have welcomed me with open arms. As we journey through the year 2024, my fervent commitment lies in infusing every aspect of our ministry with the spirit of outreach and evangelism, echoing the teachings of Jesus who urged us to go forth and spread the Good News to all nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

In our pursuit of spreading God's love, we've already achieved significant milestones and are determined to sustain them throughout the year. Inspired by the example of Jesus, who went from house to house, teaching and healing (Luke 10:1-12), we've embarked on home visitations, extending the warmth of our fellowship to our neighbors. Through these visits, we not only strengthen our bonds with one another but also exemplify the love of Christ in action.

The Community Singing event, orchestrated by our dedicated Comms/Media Team and accompanied by the enthusiastic Pathfinders, echoes the spirit of unity and joy found in the Psalms, where it says, "Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day" (1 Chronicles 16:23). Such events not only uplift our spirits but also serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration to those around us.

The Super Sabbath School, meticulously organized by our Sabbath School Team, serves as a sanctuary where souls are nourished and hearts are transformed by the word of God. As it is written in Hebrews 10:24-25, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Our Sabbath School gatherings provide a space for mutual encouragement and growth in faith.

Our commitment to outreach extends beyond the walls of our church building. The ongoing efforts of our Community Kitchen initiative, seeking steady funding to provide hot meals on a weekly basis, reflect the compassionate heart of Jesus, who fed the hungry multitude with just a few loaves and fish (Matthew 14:13-21). As we strive to meet the physical needs of our community, we also aim to impart the spiritual sustenance found in Christ.

In the realm of Children's Ministries, we eagerly anticipate the forthcoming Summer Vacation Bible School and our annual Gift of Giving Project. These endeavors not only nurture the young hearts in our community but also align with the words of Jesus in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." We aim to instill in them a deep understanding of God's love and the joy of giving.

Departments such as Sabbath School, Family Life, Deaconry, Pathfinders, Comms/Media, and Interest Coordination have diligently curated events to extend our outreach into the heart of our community. As it is written in James 2:14-17, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?... Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." We strive to embody this principle through our actions, demonstrating our faith through service and love.

Looking ahead, I am filled with anticipation for the two major evangelism programs scheduled for May and September. These programs represent our unwavering commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission, as commanded by Jesus in Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." May these endeavors be a testament to our dedication to sharing the boundless love of Christ with all who seek solace and salvation.

In unity and faith, let us continue to shine the light of God's love upon our community, illuminating the path to redemption and grace. As it is written in Ephesians 4:16, "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Together, let us labor in love, for the glory of God and the edification of His kingdom.

Pastor Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo



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- About Us - how Stoke Newington SDA church came into existence



Treasury

2 Corinthians 9:6 & 7 NLT

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. ⁷You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully."

Treasury Department Initiative

To give £10, minimum, a month, towards the main building. Please note that this initiative continues in 2024, so please continue to donate or start to, if you have not given.

Just to let you know some of these funds were used to make repairs on the main church ceiling, church hall and children's room in 2024. We thank Brother Harry Creque for using his God given talents for the church.

Future projects that will need funding, include the cutting of the trees and purchase of accessible church chairs for members and visiting friends who require assistance with seating. Thank you to those who contribute funds and time to look after the Lord's house.

Treasury Update

Main Building

Collection in 2023 £5,983.63
Main church collection (Jan – Feb 2024) £1,660

New Build project

Collection in 2023 £17,872.36
New Build collection (Jan – Feb 2024) £2,121.12
New Building balance at end of Feb 24
£73,182.25

Budget

Collection in 2023 £29,990.54
Planned Annual budget 2024 - £33,738

Planned Monthly budget 2024 - £2,811.50
Budget collection (Jan – Feb 2024) £4,724.06
Jan – Feb our budget was down by £898.94

Major expenditure Jan - Feb; Heating/Lighting
£2,229.31, Hygiene contract £1,604.06

Sadly our new Gas/Electricity contract is based on the increased prices that we are all experiencing, our heating/lighting costs have increased fourfold per month since December!

The majority of the planned budget is for operational costs only, due to the increased cost-of-living, our present monthly budget offerings are not able to support our church ministry departments.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH TIP! - Be clear who you're trying to reach

First things first, to be effective in community outreach, you need to know who you're reaching out to. Take time to identify the groups or individuals you want to connect with.

Dates for your diary

- **Every 1st Sunday**, Pathfinders at 11am
- **Every 3rd Saturday**, Pathfinders at 3pm
- **Community Kitchen**, alternate Tuesdays at 12.30pm. Next on:
 - ◆ 9 & 23 April
 - ◆ 7 & 21 May
 - ◆ 4 & 18 June
- **Prayer Meeting**, Wednesdays at 7.30pm
- **20.4.24** Possibility Ministries Day
- **28.4.24** Annual spring cleaning
- **11.5.24, 2pm** Community singing outreach
- **8.6.24** Communion
- **15.6.24** Men's Day
- **22.6.24** Teen's Day
- **29.6.24, 5pm** Comms & Media AYS programme

Events... to come

For the Children!

Mary's Two Bibles

Mary was the daughter of a missionary couple in India. She was born in India and lived there until she was six years old. When it was time for her to start school, her parents sent her back to America to live with her grandmother. Mary's grandmother was very kind to her and often told her Bible stories and did many things to make her happy.

As Mary learned to read and write, she would send letters back to her parents in India. They sent many letters to her, too, which she loved to receive. At first, her grandmother would have to read them to her. But it wasn't long before she could read them herself.

One day when she was almost seven, she received a letter from her father. In it he included some money and a note which said, "You will soon be having your seventh birthday, Mary. I have enclosed some money for you to buy yourself a new Bible as your birthday present."

"That's just what I wanted!" exclaimed Mary happily.

A few days later, on her birthday, Mary and her grandmother went to a bookstore. They looked at all the different kinds of Bibles. There were big ones and little ones, some had gold edges on the pages, and some had leather covers which cost more. It

was hard to make a decision. After looking at them for almost fifteen minutes, Mary told the saleslady how much money she had and asked if it would buy two Bibles.

"Yes, it could," replied the saleslady, "but not the nice ones you're looking at."

Mary's grandmother heard this and asked, "Mary, why do you want two Bibles?"

"Because I want one for myself and one to send to a girl in India who is my age, so that she may learn about Jesus, too," answered Mary.

So Mary bought two Bibles. They didn't have gold-edged pages or soft, leather covers. But the saleslady told Mary, "The inside is just the same!"

As soon as Mary got home, she printed her name in one of them. Her grandmother helped her carefully wrap the second Bible to be sent with a letter to her parents. She thanked them for her Bible and asked them to please give the second Bible to a seven-year-old girl in India.

Mary read her Bible every day and learned more and more of the love of Jesus. Her favorite verse was, "We love Him, because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) She read in a letter from her father that the second Bible had been given to a seven-year-old girl, just as Mary had asked. Each day Mary prayed for her unknown friend in India, that she also might learn to know all

Story and Puzzle Time

about the love of Jesus and how He had died on the cross for her, too.

Many years later, after Mary finished going to school, she went back to India to be with her father and mother and to help them in their missionary work. Not long after she arrived, she met a young Indian girl and learned that she was a happy Christian.

"How did you learn about the Lord Jesus?" Mary asked her one day.

"When I was seven years old, I was given this Bible," answered the girl. "I read it and learned how the Lord Jesus loved me and died for me."

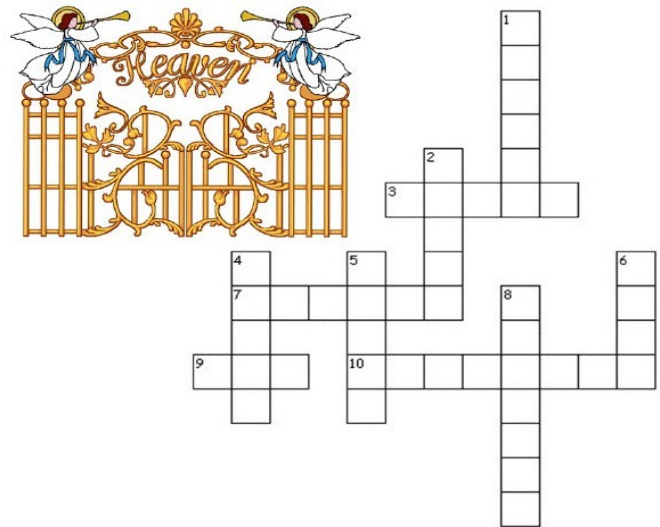
Mary had found her unknown friend! This was the seven-year-old girl who had received Mary's second Bible and for whom Mary had been praying all these years.

Do you have a Bible? If you will read it, you will learn about God's love and how He sent His only Son, the Lord Jesus, to die for your sins. If you already know Him as your Saviour, why not do what Mary did -- pass on God's Word to others, so that they can learn of God's love and be saved.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." *Matthew 24:35.*



Heaven Crossword



Across

1. No need for sleep which means only day and no more ____.
7. The only way you can go to heaven is if you believe and ____ Jesus into your life.
9. The old will be gone and everything will be made ____ again.
10. By living like Christ wants us to on earth we will be ____ in heaven.

Down

1. This building won't exist in heaven because we won't need it.
2. We won't need to turn on this because God will provide all we need to see.
4. There will be twelve of these made of huge pearls.
5. Without these we won't be able to cry because there is no crying in heaven.
6. The streets will be made of pure ____.
8. We will live ____ in heaven (a long long time).

SDA Christianity Facts Did you know?

- ◆ Seventh-day Adventists were established in 1863
- ◆ We have 28 fundamental beliefs
- ◆ There are more than 20 million members
- ◆ Saturday is our Sabbath
- ◆ Over 85,000 churches around the world
- ◆ 13 divisions worldwide:
 - * East-Central Africa (ECD)
 - * Euro-Asia (ESD)
 - * Inter-American (IAD)
 - * Inter-European (EUD)
 - * North American (NAD)
 - * Northern Asia—Pacific (NSD)
 - * South American (SAD)
 - * South Pacific (SPD)
 - * Southern Africa—Indian Ocean (SID)
 - * Southern Asia (SUD)
 - * Southern Asia-Pacific (SSD)
 - * Trans-European (TED)
 - * West-Central Africa (WAD)
- ◆ Over 8,000 schools around the world with 2 million students
- ◆ 198 hospitals around the world

For Your Info

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter or would like to see us present on something specific, please either:

- contact Donna Douglas
- Send an email to: stokeysdamedia@hotmail.com

Thank you.

'Something for All'

I have a dream that one day Stokey will be the church where all Deaf SDAs and Deaf persons seeking Christ will meet and fellowship and learn of Jesus.

18th to 24th March 2024 was commemorated as Sign Language Week in the UK.

The Stokey Possibility Ministry's department invites you to learn to communicate using British Sign Language.

Every third Monday of the month, the Possibility Ministry's department will be sharing basic information and signs from BSL via zoom for 30 minutes. This is another way we are planning for evangelism. In this way, we play our part and demonstrate evangelism, everyone, everywhere. Through this venture we will be reaching another group of marginalised persons who need to know Jesus for themselves.

How can the church be a part of this exciting venture?

First, register your interest with the department. This is for all ages. Even if you have rheumatism or arthritis in the fingers still come and join us.

Next, start learning the BSL alphabet (see below) and prepare for the Bible Finger SPELLATHON AYS in April 2024 (listen out for the announcements).

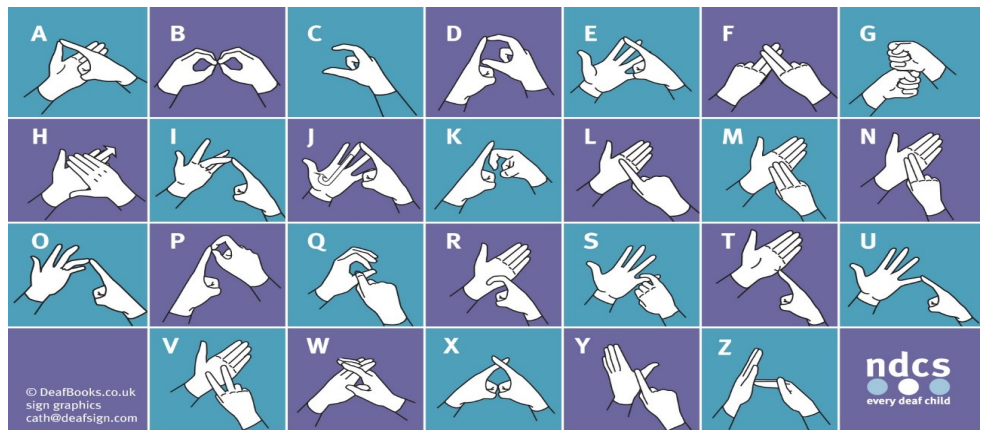
Each Sabbath, greet members of the Possibility Team using BSL signs. This will boost your confidence and improve your fluency and dexterity.

A vision of the department is that Stokey will be the home church for Deaf SDAs or Deaf persons in Hackney who are interested in learning about and knowing Jesus our Lord and Saviour for themselves.

Happy Signing!

I have a dream...

Sanjo Jeffrey
Possibility Ministries



The British fingerspelling alphabet

Get practising, get sponsored and join the NDCS Fingerspellathon at www.ndcs.org.uk/fingerspell

fingerspellathon

New Build Update



Just a reminder that the new building project collection takes place the first Sabbath of every month, with the next collections taking place on 6 April, 4 May and 1 June. Total collected in 2023 was **£17,872.36**.

New build fund total to date **£73,221.82**.

You can donate in the following ways:

- In a **tithe envelope** marked '**new church building or new project**' as a one off
- By **monthly pledge** In an envelope marked "**new building**"
- **Online** with the reference '**new building**' -
Name: Seventh day Adventist church **Sort code:** 090127
Account: 88676252
- or alternatively, scan the QR code opposite.



Spotlight on Pastor

On 13 January 2024, we were introduced to our new pastor, Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo.

What can be said about this man of God? Read the interview below to learn more.

Tell us a little about yourself, e.g. how long have you served as a pastor, family, your current role etc

My name is Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo, originally from Ghana and a born and bred Seventh-day Adventist.

I ever only attended SDA schools from my early years to two terms of university in Ghana, then I studied in Nigeria, Germany and finally at Newbold college.

I am married with three children.

I began as a pastor 1st February 2004, 30 years ago. Not only was it my passion to be a pastor, I enjoy being a pastor with a passion.

My current roles are South England Conference Sabbath School Director and pastor of Stoke Newington SDA Church

Of note, he has served as a pastor in other conferences and has served at the following churches in the SEC: Milton Keynes International, South East Community, South West London Ghana, Elephant & Castle, All Nations Camberwell, Lea Valley, North London Luganda, Downham, Kennington & Lewisham.

What factors contributed to your decision to become a pastor?

Firstly, the story of Samuel. I was born under the same circumstances. My father had two wives and while one wife was having children my mum was not. My mum prayed for a child and she said that she would dedicate her child to ministry.

Secondly, I tried law but did not like it – although my mum was praying that I would not like it!!

What is your favourite bible passage and why?

The book of Samuel as this is akin to my life.

What is your vision, as a pastor, for any church that you lead?

To keep youth in church and the spiritual growth of the church.

What talents or gifts would you say you can bring to this church?

I am a people's person and I like to mingle, I like the fellowship. Unity.

How would you describe your style of leadership?

Democratic – respecting the views of others and doing things together

What role do you think pastors play in a member's life?

To draw people closer to God

Giving support by every means possible, not only in church but also in their general needs

To do everything to the best of my ability and knowledge

What are three things, you would like to see Stoke Newington church achieve under your leadership?

Back to basics – living a full prayer life

Full attendance at church

Evangelism

Have you learned anything from past congregations that have made you a better pastor?

Yes – any minister who does not respect his elders will not go to heaven and to have peace, you need to respect your elders.

With the world ever changing, what are your views on outreach, and how should this be done?

There should be evangelism using media and communication which is abreast of the times.

This does not mean that we cannot do evangelism how we have done it in the past, but evangelism needs to be done using as many different means as possible.

Well, there you have it, a little insight into our new pastor. If you have not done so already, I would encourage you to take some time and introduce yourself, if he has not already approached you! You will find that not only is he passionate about being a pastor, evangelism and fellowship with the brethren, he also has a great sense of humour!!

What is left to say but , **'Welcome'** Pastor Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo. We look forward to your ministry at Stokey.

*Interviewed by Donna Douglas
Communications and Media*

Sabbath School Lessons

Of note, as Sabbath School Director, Pastor Kwarteng-Ampofo has a weekly Sabbath school lesson panel discussion, which can be found online on YouTube or you can get to it on the link below.

[Sabbath School Weekly Lessons](#)

Sabbath School Department

Superintendents

- Howard Kelly
- Camille Smith Moyo
- Steve Prince
- Sanjo Jeffrey

Time

9:30am - 11:00am

Initiative - Super Sabbath School

So what is this about?

It is to encourage an increase in Sabbath school attendance with the focus being on developing areas in bible study, prayer, fellowship and mission.

What will we be doing?

Relaunch of Sabbath school with focus on:

- ◇ Fellowship worship
- ◇ Prayer
- ◇ Bible study
- ◇ Re-introduction of classes
- ◇ In-house mission reporting
- ◇ Contacting previous members

Overall, as superintendents of the department, we are committed to continuing to develop and improve Sabbath school. This will be done by:

- ◇ Re-engaging members in studying the word of God
- ◇ Taking care of each other during the week with phone calls, visits and assistance
- ◇ Request that members commit to leading out in Sabbath school

Lastly, as a department we are working to rebrand what it means to be a member of the Stokey Sabbath school family.

*Howard Kelly
Sabbath School*

About Us

Our Purpose

'Stokey' as we are affectionately known, aims to be the first choice church in Stoke Newington.

To provide a practical, personal and spiritual service in Stoke Newington, enabling people to see Jesus in what we do, and helping to prepare people to meet Jesus when He comes again.

The Stoke Newington Seventh-day Adventist Church can trace its roots from its humble beginnings in 1965, in the home of former members at Mildenhall Road, Lower Clapton. It was there that Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings took place attended by around 12 people.

This group, drawn from the Holloway Church and the former New Gallery Centre, soon grew large enough to seek alternative accommodation. The group stepped out in faith to a rented building – The Friends Meeting Hall (our current site). As time went on, a request was made to the South England Conference for a pastor and this group was placed under the pastoral care of Pastor Nicholson.

By the 1st January 1966, the membership grew to about 60 and the Stoke Newington group was organized into a church.

50+ years later, we are still here - Thanking God!! Of course over the years the membership has grown and people have come and gone. Whoever has been in membership of Stoke Newington, previously, currently and to come, will continue to be a beacon of light in our community.

For more information on Stokey, visit our website '[About Us](#)' page.

Website details: <https://stokenewington.adventistchurch.org.uk>

Stoke Newington SDA Church

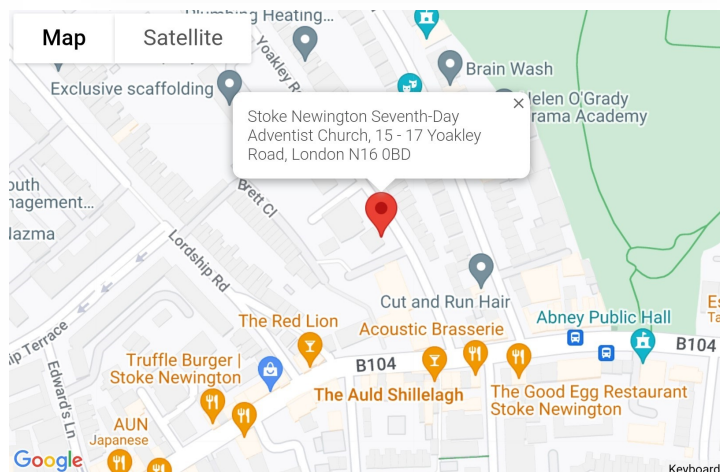
15 - 17 Yoakley Road
London
N16 0BD

Phone: 020 8800 8422
E-mail: stokeysda@hotmail.com

Parking is available on site

Wheelchair accessible

Disabled toilet facilities



Opening Times

Saturdays (Sabbath)

9:15am Morning Prayer
9:30am Sabbath School
11:15am Divine Service
(Worship)
3:00pm Pathfinders
(3rd Saturday monthly)

Sabbath Service

online via YouTube 11.15am
Search - Stoke Newington
Seventh day Adventist or click
on link
[https://www.youtube.com/
@StokeNewingtonSeventhDayA
dvent/featured](https://www.youtube.com/@StokeNewingtonSeventhDayAdvent/featured)

Tuesdays (alternate)

12:30pm Community Kitchen

Wednesdays

7:30- 8:30pm Prayer Meeting

Sunday (1st Sunday monthly)

11:00am Pathfinders

Lastly

THANK YOU, to all contributors
towards this edition of the
Stokey Advent Times

Check out the '[Read All About It!](#)' web page for previous editions of the Stokey Advent Times