

WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY **FAITH**

1965-2005



"SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD"
Matthew 6:33

The
first 40
years of the
Stoke Newington
Community Seventh Day Adventist Church

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to the following who have given their valuable time, memories and photographs to make it possible to produce this 40th Anniversary brochure highlighting the history of the Stoke Newington Community Seventh Day Adventist Church:-

Kathy Stewart

Clarissa Rocke-Caton

Winnie Murray-Newton

Hyacinth Douglas

Josephine Aaron

Lascelles Mackenzie

Kenneth Aaron

Thanks also to the following who have read and re-read the manuscript with enthusiasm, dedication and a critical eye:-

Wilma Williams

Donna Douglas

Basil Corea

Dr Richard de Lisser

Lascelles Mackenzie

Kenneth Aaron

Last but not least, Earl Johnson, who helped patiently with the updating of the computer to have this brochure typed. He spent many a late night on the computer to get it going.

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Preface

We have come this far by faith

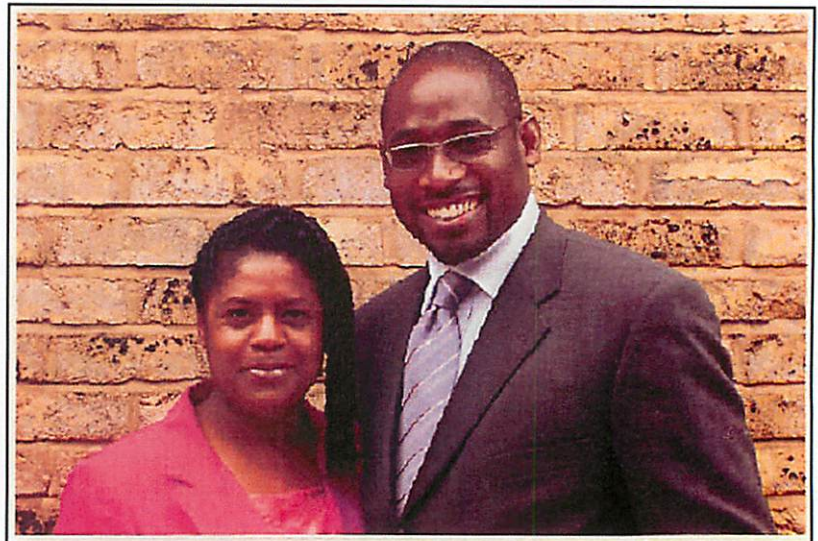
'We have come this far by faith' but the question is where do we go from here?

As we look forward to the future it may seem dark and foreboding, but we must be resolved to go on, for God is with us.

The same God who has preserved this church for the past 40 years will preserve it into the future, but we must be determined to go on. Never give up, never give in, never step out of line for Jesus is about to come.

Where do we go from here? Next stop heaven, next celebration glory. Plan to be there, for 'We have come this far by faith' and we can't turn back now. See you there!

Dr Richard de Lisser and his wife Joanne



Greetings



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

British Isles Headquarters

13 August 2005

Stoke Newington 40th Anniversary

To: Pastor and Members

Office of the President

British Union Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists
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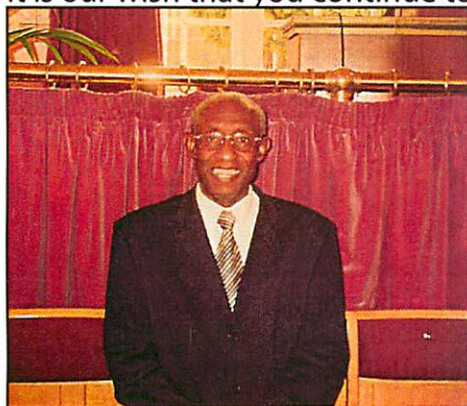
Your church today stands out as a monument in space and time pointing men and women to Christ through spiritual and social outreach.

While the roaring sixties threw off moral and social inhibitions the church in its embryonic state held up the moral standards of Christ to make a difference in the Christian's lifestyle.

On behalf of the British Union Conference let me express our sincere appreciation for the contribution The Stoke Newington Church has made to the life and nurture of God's people in the UK.

Thanks to the saints who over the years have given dedicated service to rear-up this temple to the glory of God.

It is our wish that you continue to grow numerically and spiritually unto the day when Christ returns to take His bride to the heavenly home.



From Pastor Cecil Perry,
British Union President of
Seventh Day Adventists



Greetings



DWMcF/rs

SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

South England Conference
A Registered Charity

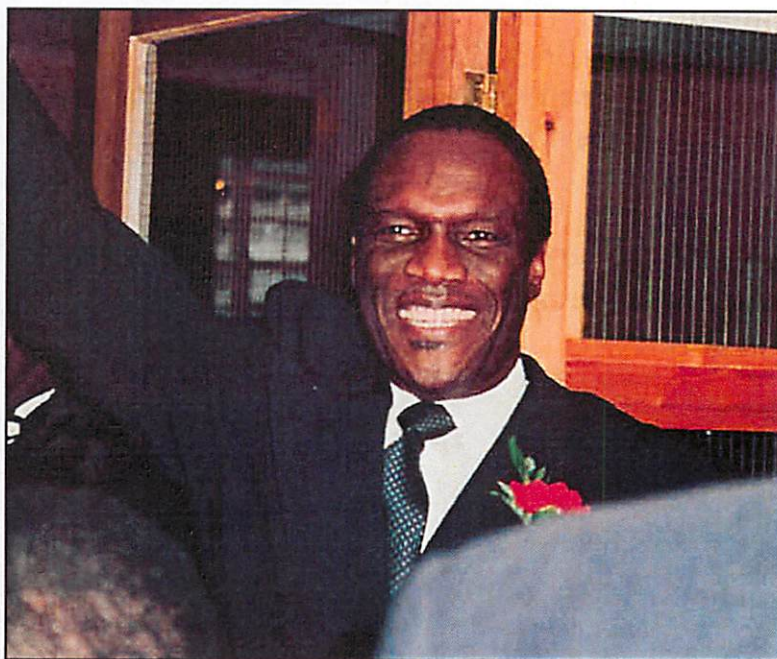
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To Pastor de Lisser and Members

Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the present location of the Stoke Newington Church.

The South England Conference shares with you the joy of this important occasion and wish for the church many years of spiritual growth to the day of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.



From Pastor Don MacFarlane, President,
South England Conference of Seventh Day Adventists

Ministers who served

Pastor Nicholson
1965-1966



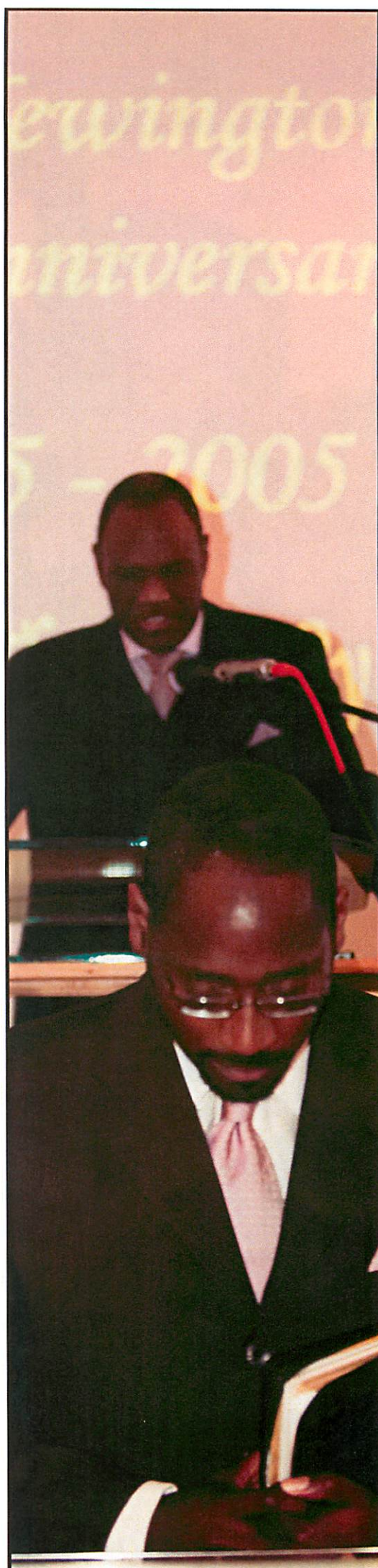
Pastor Clothier
1966-1968

"It was kind of you to think of us as you celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Stoke Newington's church. Unfortunately my wife and I will not be able to attend due to failing health. However we wish you a very happy weekend."

From Pastor Clothier and Sister Clothier.



Pastor S H Parkins
1968-1969



Ministers who served

Pastor Desmond Murtagh
1970-1972



Pastor Theodore McCleary
1973-1975



Pastor P Cieslar
1975-1980



Ministers who served

Pastor Hugo Kennedy
1981-1983

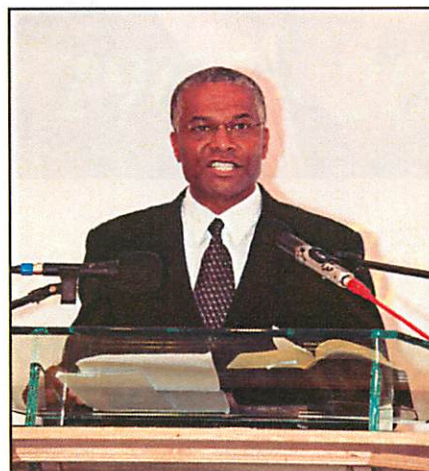
"Thank you for being mindful of me at this milestone in Stoke Newington Church.

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend. However I wish you the very best for the weekend and may the next 40 years be the best ever."

Pastor Hugo Kennedy



Pastor Hymers Wilson II
1983 - 1986

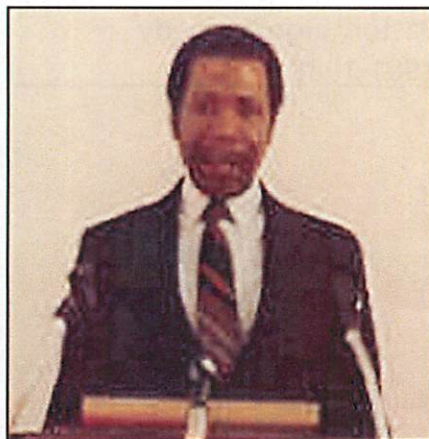


(Our Anniversary Speaker)

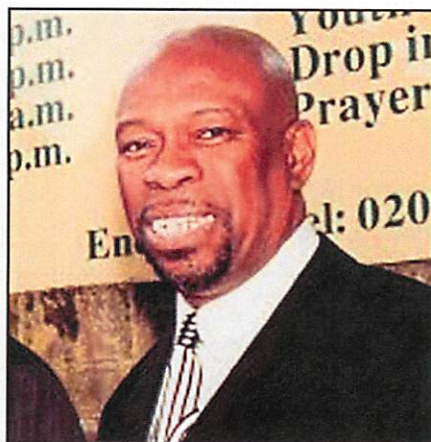


Ministers who served

Pastor Carl Thorpe
1986 -1991



Pastor Richard Holder
1991-1996



"The years of my minister at Stokey are packed with precious memories. The Holder family will always be a part of the Stokey church family.

Stokey will always be remembered with pride. May I encourage you to continue the Christian fellowship that will make the devil uncomfortable, but yet don't ever be too tightly knit together that the Lord cannot find a way into your hearts.

May God's richest blessings remain with you all."

Pastor Richard Holder

Ministers who served

"My experience with the members of Stokey has been a pleasant one. We faced difficult challenges together and showed mutual respect for each other. We strived together to do what we could for the Lord and in many instances despite attacks from the devil. God granted us wonderful victories and happy moments with Jesus. May God cause you all to grow spiritually stronger and become more like Christ in your deeds.

May God grant that your numerical territory of souls saved in Christ's kingdom be greatly enhanced and expanded to the glory of God.

Happy anniversary."

Pastor Wayne Odle



Pastor Richard de Lisser
1999 - 2005





Church History

The Early Years 1965 - 1969

The Stoke Newington Community Seventh Day Adventist Church situated at 15-17 Yoakley Road, North London celebrated its fortieth year in August 2005. Stokey (as it is affectionately called) can trace its roots from its humble beginnings in the home of former members Brother and Sister Noel Ashley at Mildenhall Road, Lower Clapton. It was there that Bible Studies and Prayer Meetings took place attended by around 12 people.

This fledgling 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 (its present site) – with a graveyard at the rear of the building. Children of those days played amongst the headstones and their friends teased them about their church having a graveyard. This hall was so small and awkwardly constructed that it posed a problem for the rostrum. It was repositioned in three different areas before suitably placed. Members can remember that it was an empty hall and chairs had to be borrowed to sit on. 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 who later died suddenly.

By the 1st January 1966 the membership grew to about 60 and The Stoke Newington group was organized into a church. The first ordained elder was Brother Noel Ashley who was assisted by Brothers Robertson and Gumms. Other pioneers of this early house group were Brothers & Sister Bishop, Brother and Sister Bruce, Brother and Sister Morrison, Brother & Sister Russell, Sister Foreman, Brother Gomez, Sister Alleyne and Sister Thompson. Membership continued to grow under the new ministries of Pastors D C Clothier (1966-1968) and S H Parkins (1968-1969) who took over from Pastor Nicholson.

There was the possibility of purchasing the building and part of the land in 1966 but as money and other factors prevented this venture, the plan was changed from purchasing to continued

Church History

tenancy. As the church became known this side of London overcrowding in the hall on Sabbath mornings was a problem. In those days worshippers made a point of duty to get to church early just to get a seat. Pastor Desmond Murtagh took over from Pastor Parkins in 1970. As the new decade stepped in many changes were considered.

1970 - Ownership

One of the main items on the agenda was expansion. Before this could take place, the building and part of the land had to be owned by the church. A renewed approach to purchasing this was made and by 1973 by God's help this was achieved.

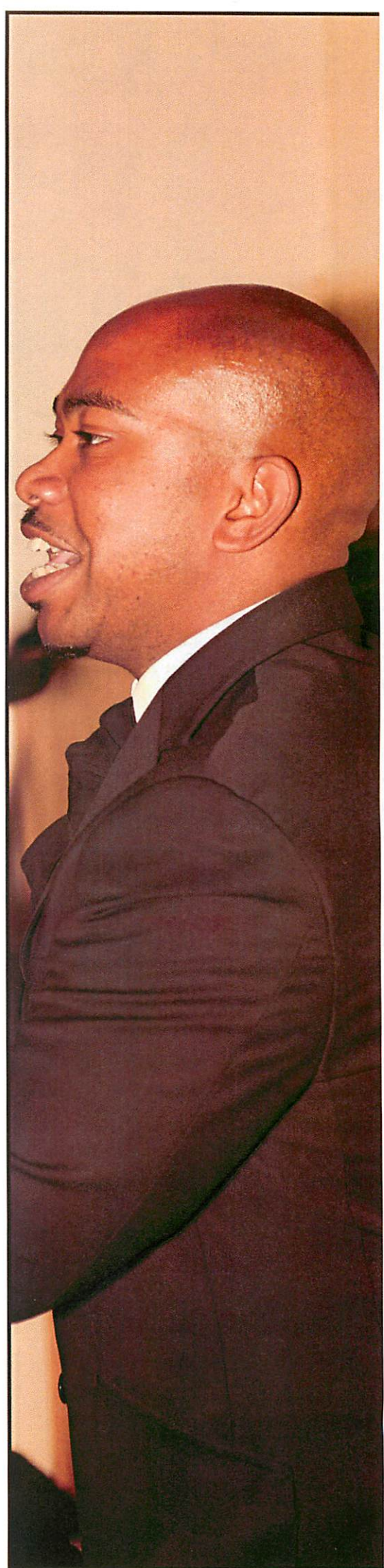
The building and land was purchased for £40,000. By then the church was in a better financial position to go through with this under the leadership of Pastor Theodore McCleary who took over the reins from Pastor Murtagh in 1973. Under Pastor McCleary's leadership the church experienced its largest growth. The Youth Hall (known as the prefab) at the rear of the church building was constructed to facilitate youth activities in the church.

Pastor McCleary's ministry continued until 1975 when he was called to serve as Personal Ministries Director at the South England Conference. Pastor Cieslar succeeded him.

As worship continued to become unbearably crowded at Sabbath morning services some members decided to branch out into new territories. In 1977 the Hackney company was formed and is now an organized church.

The new decade saw Pastor Hugo Kennedy take over the ministry from Pastor Cieslar. Pastor Kennedy did his internship under Pastor Cieslar and holds the record as the longest serving pastor so far.

During Pastor Kennedy's pastoral care, the Youth Hall was transformed into a youth church because of the number of youths around at the time. His burden for the youth was to develop their talents and train them for greater service to the church which proved a heaven sent inspiration.





Church History

Many of the young people at Stokey and surrounding churches received preaching training and practice and have developed into the leaders of today's church such as Stokey's own son, Pastor Stephen Mackenzie and others such as Pastor Gifford Rhammie, Pastor Eddie Hypolite, Pastor Colin Stewart, Pastor Sam Davies, Dr Richard de Lisser (our present pastor), Dr Fitzroye Graham, and Brother Stephen Weekes, first elder of the Leytonstone Church, to name just a few. The construction of the prefab building was not all plain sailing because there were many stops and starts at some stages because of red tape at the local council but there was a sigh of relief when it was finally completed. Many members can remember helping to dig the foundation for this hall and the unity and enthusiasm there was in doing so.

The Eighties

As evangelism has always been the major aim and thrust of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, public tent meeting evangelistic campaigns started up in London with such preachers as Dick Baron, and this resulted in new members added to the various churches in London including Stokey. These new additional members continued the problem of overcrowding and the Clapton and Leytonstone churches eventually formed out of Stokey.

Physical Structure

After the birth of these daughters a major expansion programme was considered under Pastor Kennedy's ministry to facilitate future additions of members. Plans were in hand but Pastor Kennedy's ministry came to an end in 1983 and Pastor Hymers Wilson took over. Pastor Wilson continued to work on this plan and all the necessary wheels set in motion to start this expansion, but unfortunately he too was called to serve in the South England Conference as Stewardship Director before this expansion started.

Pastor Carl Thorpe took over from Pastor Wilson in 1986 ready for the expansion to begin. Before this could start it was realized that extra land was needed, so a piece of the graveyard was

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purchased from the owners, the Quakers Society, which meant exhuming some of the bodies and removing headstones.

Application to the Home Office and the local council had to be submitted for approval to do so, and this approval took almost a year to come through. An undertaker was hired and screens were erected only around the area to keep out the prying eyes of neighbours. However, the undertaker hadn't envisaged that neighbours in high overlooking buildings could see the proceedings and of course they probably thought it was a filming of the Body Snatchers movie because the police and the local council were informed of what was going on. The exhumation completed the church expansion started.

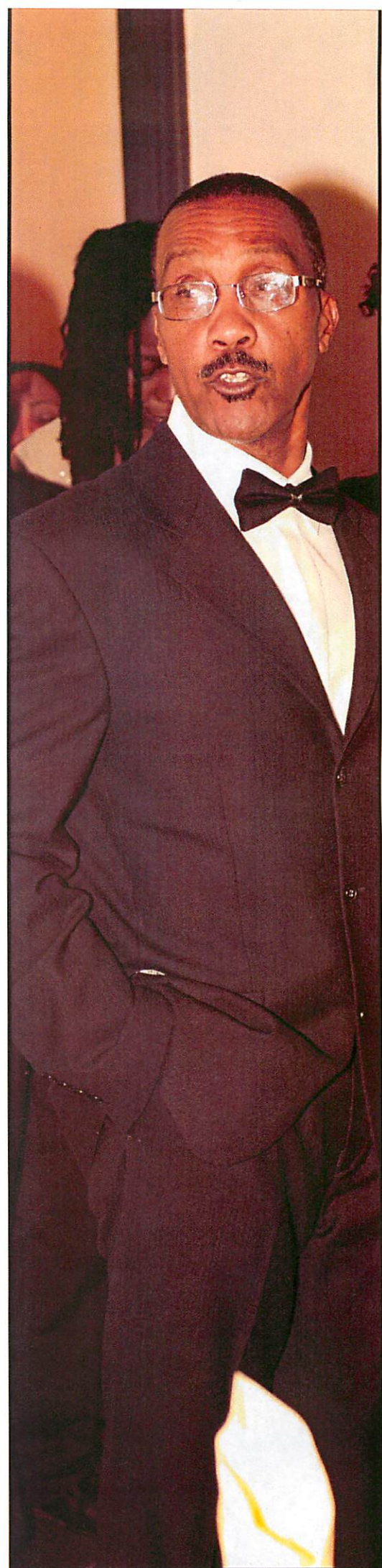
The existing hall was extended to include the lower and upper platforms; two wings were added on either side and the building of a baptismal pool. The pastor's vestry extended, a baby and mother's room added, an existing cupboard converted into a disabled toilet and a large hall at the side added. Members were encouraged to donate family chairs for the sanctuary and today many of the chairs were bought by individual families.

Members today can remember how cold it was in winter because all through the expansion, worship still took place in the hall rather than seeking alternate place to worship. At one area of the church a canvas was put up for the retaining wall. Many a paraffin heaters were the form of heating in those days. Today we have gas central heating, wall to wall carpet and a spacious building to worship in. A far cry from the old days. It is said that Stoke Newington is the only church that raised the dead.

The decade saw the arrival of Pastor Richard Holder who had taken over from Pastor Thorpe in 1991.

The Nineties

Under Pastor Holder's ministry the finishing touches were added to the church such as wall to wall carpets with matching curtains. A door was erected to connect the Mother and Baby room to the Sanctuary. Permission was also granted by the Quakers Society to use the burial ground as a car park.



Church History

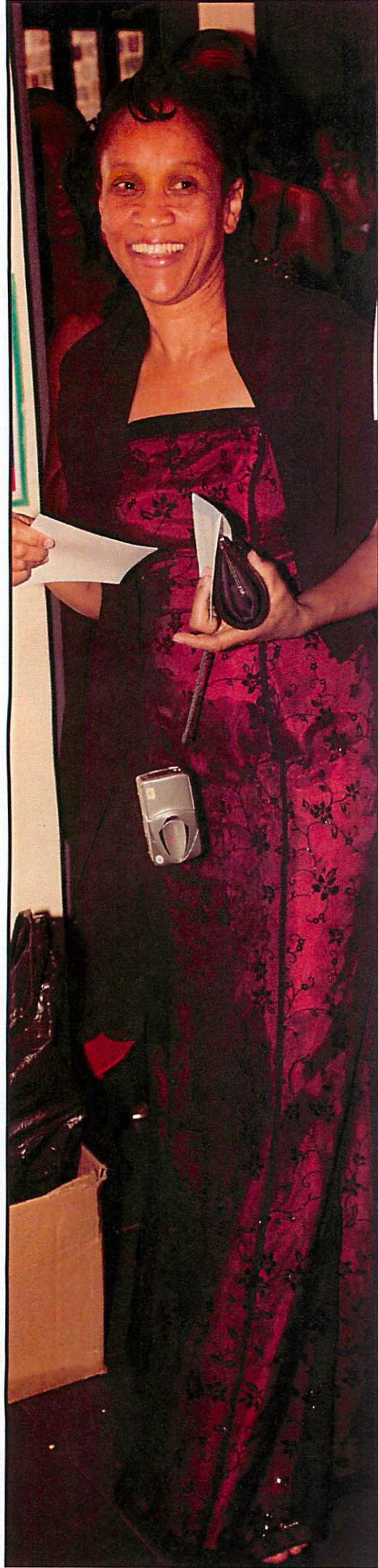
Two columns which held up the main partition wall of the entrance to the Sanctuary seemed problematic. To get into the Sanctuary one had to more or less dance around them. It was a great problem to get caskets through when there was a funeral service so Pastor Holder decided to get rid of these columns to provide easier access. A Rolls Steel Joist (RSJ) was erected along the full length of the existing beam as reinforcement. The two entrance doors to the Sanctuary at either end were removed and a double door placed in the centre, with glass panels added, we have the entrance constructed as it is today. By removing these columns they created more space in the Sanctuary.

There were also alterations to the foyer to extend it. Pastor Holder is also noted for the three angels wall to wall carpet design that are treaded on each week as well as licensing the church for wedding ceremonies.

The first wedding held was that of William and Iris Hand and it has ever since become a popular venue for weddings. Pastor Holder's ministry at Stoke Newington ended in December 1966 and Pastor Wayne Odle succeeded him in January 1997.

Pastor Odle's ministry at Stoke Newington will always be remembered for his determination to get the remaining mortgage on the church building paid off and have it dedicated.

The last mortgage repayment was made in September 1999 and dedication planned for the 1st January 2000 but unfortunately Pastor Odle's ministry came to an end in 1999 before the dedication took place when he left to pursue further studies in the United States. However he was invited back to the dedication in 2000 which he accepted and with his family they joined in the celebration. Pastor Odle's ministry also introduced us to the world of technology with the broadcasting of the Net 98 series conducted by Dwight Nelson. Nightly a sizeable crowd attended. Under his ministry the well awaited church library was opened where members could have the use of books from the well-stocked bookcase built by our elder Lascelles Mackenzie. Pastor Odle also coordinated the Area 6c Substance Abuse Rally. A march from the church to Downs Park took place under police escort, where Pastor Richard Willis, the British Union Conference Health and Temperance Director, addressed the public. Leaflets were handed out along the march route giving advice on coming



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off hard substances, which the public made full use of.

Our present minister Dr Richard de Lisser took over from Pastor Odle in 1999 and preparation took place for the dedication of the church on 1st January 2000. Prior to the dedication some internal decorations took place such as replacing worn carpets in the Mother & Baby Room, the pastor's vestry and the hall with laminated floors. Pastor Hymrs Wilson, a former member, was the main speaker for the Divine Service. One of the highlights of the dedication weekend was the baptism of three precious souls, Sharon Hewitt, Marie Justin and Carlene Riley-Cane.

Dr de Lisser's arrival also introduced a new type of evangelism. From 2001-2004 from January to March this involved the use of the Divine Service hour in presenting evangelistic orientated sermons which ended with a baptism. Since his arrival there has been a baptism every quarter. He also introduced the church to computer and internet facilities and orchestrated the inclusion of 'Community' in the name of the church to reflect the church as a community church.

Under his ministry, we saw the building of a new porch to the front of the church by our elder Lascelles Mackenzie, to commemorate the church's 40th anniversary.

Dr de Lisser's ministry also saw the opening of a weekly day centre (The Open Door Drop-in Centre), an outreach project for the homeless and vulnerable people in the borough where they can meet to socialise, given hot nourishing meals, good quality clothing, any necessary help, advice and information, to help them settle back into the community.

Social Life

While the soul winning emphasis continues, the social welfare of the church was not neglected and to keep the members active and happy over the years, there were programmes like the Best Saturday Night where people from all around the London churches attended, midnight hikes, AYS exchange programmes, outings to various parts of the country, both for the younger and older members, cookery classes, first aid classes, park visits,



A woman with short dark hair and glasses is speaking into a microphone. She is wearing a patterned top with a mix of red, black, and white. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a stage or a presentation area.

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a vibrant Pathfinder group, Master Guide classes, Vacation Bible School, banquets, summer camps and the annual family camp meeting and meeting in each others houses on Friday nights for worship. Today some of these activities are still going on.

Special wedding anniversaries have been celebrated over the years. Brother and Sister Henderson, Brother and Sister Corea, Brother and Sister Stewart silver anniversaries, Brother and Sister Ebanks, Brother and Sister Edwards and Brother and Sister Foster, ruby anniversaries and Brother and Sister Valentines celebrated both golden and diamond anniversaries.

Ingathering

In days gone by the annual ingathering programme was a competitive activity that members looked forward to and always reached their assigned goal. Everyone taking part strived to be the champion collector. Members would go out in a van to Bletchley in Berkshire for the whole day and split up in pairs and worked their territories.

Some of the residents in these areas looked forward to seeing them each year and even saved monies in tins to give to the ingathering team. Unfortunately the competitive spirit of ingathering is not so now.

Media Exposure

Our first media exposure was under the ministry of Pastor Richard Holder with the screening on national television of part of the divine service and over the years church events are published in the Jamaica Weekly Gleaner, the Voice and the Hackney Gazette. One of our young people Matthew Joseph featured in his local paper when he became the Junior Mayor of his borough, Waltham Forest.

Education

In the 1980s some of the first pupils attended the John Loughborough School came from Stokey. Another way of

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support to this school was the donation of a computer under Dr Valley's headship. Hyland House and Stanborough Park schools also had Stokey's support and at one stage nearly 12 children from Stokey attended Hyland House School under Sister Thorpe's headship.

The then Home and School Department of the church purchased a mini van and members can still remember Brother Bulgin transporting children in this van to the Hyland House and John Loughborough Schools. Today children from Stokey still attend all three church schools.

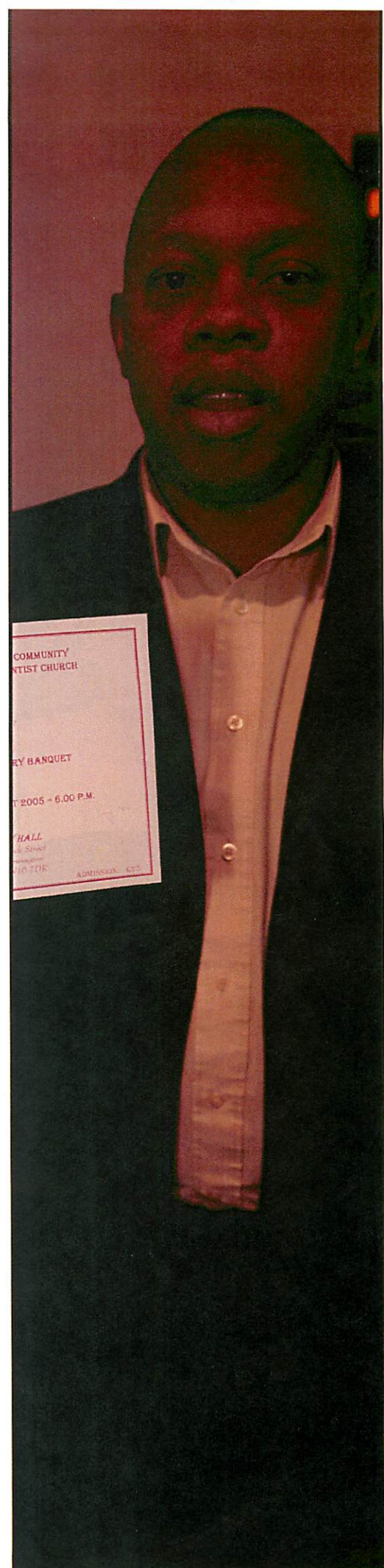
Our children of yesterday are all doing well in their respected fields of work and our present day young people and children are excelling in their studies but mention should be made of Cheryle Stewart. As an undergraduate at the time at the University of East London, she was awarded the Tallow Chandlers/Duncan Knight Scholarship for outstanding achievement in Life Science at the university. And in 2004, Leon Johnson obtained a mayoral award in his London borough for his high academic achievement in primary school.

In recent years a day nursery for children ages 1-5 was opened in the church hall by two of our members Michael and Debbie Wilson and some of our children benefited from this early education. Due to stiff competition from other nurseries in the area after a while this proved unproductive to continue operations and had to close.

In 2000 a Community School of Ministry opened in the church, offering pastoral care and counselling courses and two graduations held so far.

Sport Scene

In the 1970s and 1980s Stokey's young people enjoyed participating in the annual South England Conference Sports Day held at the Mile End Stadium. Stokey dominated this event and with the likes of Seymour Foster, Basil Corea, Winston Mackenzie, Gary Macdonald, Cathy Stewart (nee Halstead), Steve Mackenzie (now pastor), Kenneth Douglas, Janet Hudson, Sonny Alexander, Aldrin Sweeney (now doctor) and Sonia Martin to





Church History

name a few, what chance did the other churches have to take home the Shield? None. Today Stokey still participates in this annual event and while dominance is not like the 70s and 80s, youngsters still bring home cups. Sunday cricket was another event played between churches. Sadly none of this is taking place with today's generation.

Music

Music has always formed a part of worship in Stokey. Under Pastor Wilson's ministry the church choir was revived by Sister Joy Wilson and held a successful fundraising concert. Over the years many singing groups were formed and performed such as Soul Searchers and Paradise Herald. The Soul Searchers sponsored by Brother Bulgin went on to make a beautiful LP record but unfortunately none of these groups are around now. Currently we have three ladies groups, a new church choir and a male group.

Over the years Stokey members sang in the London Male Voice Choir and today we have three of our members still singing with them. Brothers Foster, Cozier and Aaron. Another one of our sons Paul Lee is now a popular songwriter and singer. As time passed we acquired a PA system, the audio and video tape recording services, drums (thanks to Patrick Bernard), the previous organ donated by Brother Bulgin (now replaced) and other equipment to enhance church activities.

Community Service

This ministry has always been an active arm of Stokey over the years. The quarterly homeless feeding programme within the churches of the 6c area continued until 2001. The late Eileen Lenton, the Community Service Leader for many years had this vision and passion to do something more for them and the idea of opening a drop in centre to invite them off the streets once a week into a place of shelter and offer them a restaurant service. Each Wednesday an average of 60 people come in for a two course hot nourishing meal prepared by a number of dedicated volunteers. Good quality clothing and practical advice are also given. This centre (The Open Door Drop-In Centre) is well

Church History

known by the homeless in Hackney and other parts of London and the users look forward to coming each week. Another activity operating at Stokey is the over 50s group (The Golden Years Group) which meets alternate Mondays 11am-2pm. This is another brainchild of the late Eileen Lenton. Here computer training skills, exercise classes, talks on keeping healthy in later years and other interesting subjects are given.

Over the years this department also organized concerts, spring and August fairs, senior citizen outings and dinners and Black History month programme.

Trial periods

It was not always happy times for Stokey, the adversary struck in the form of thieves breaking into the church and the prefab buildings over the years and stealing items.

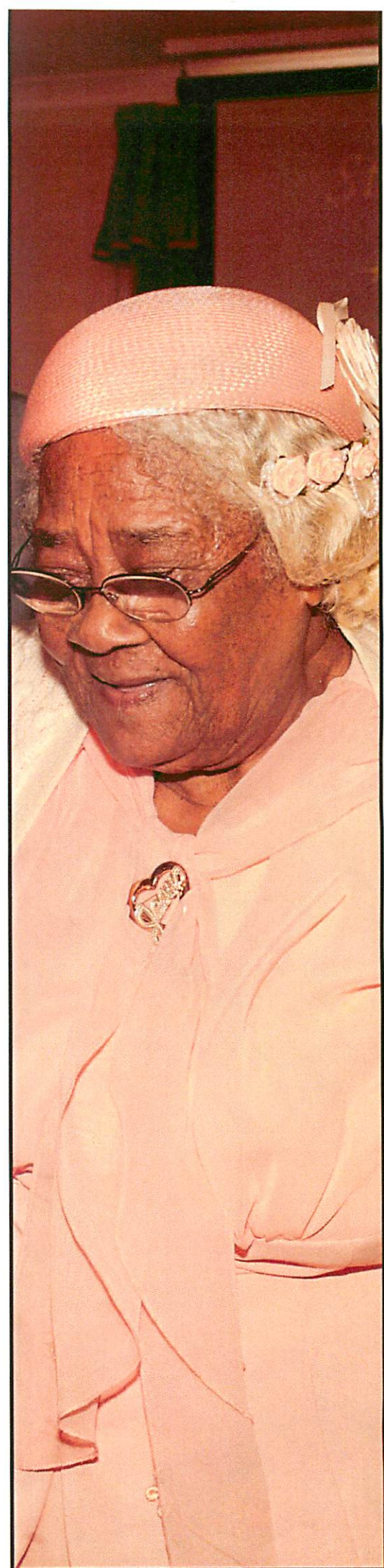
In 1997 one of the large trees at the rear of the church building was brought down by high winds and narrowly missed demolishing one of the wings of the church. A branch of the tree damaged a few tiles and cracked windows.


Gratitude & Conclusion

The first forty year's history of Stokey could not be ended without thanking a few members who have been serving the church in long serving posts over the years.

Thanks go to; Cheryle Browne, who has been the local treasurer for almost twenty years, Seymour Foster, has been the head deacon for many years, Lascelles Mackenzie has been our elder for many years and to our musicians – organist Denise Lewis and pianist Jasmine Pile, who have been playing these instruments since Junior Sabbath School days. May God continue to bless them and give them good health to continue working for Him.

We appreciate other member's service that has not gone unnoticed such as the late Brother Valentine who was first elder for many years and Sister Valentine and Sister Pile who were head deaconess for many years.





Church History

A special thank you also to our present minister Dr Richard de Lisser who has been with us over six years now, for his creative and unifying leadership to our church and to all those who have given and will give of their unselfish service for the advancement of the Stoke Newington Community Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Stokey is known to be a friendly, welcoming and family orientated church and with the mixture of so many different cultures, we pray this will continue. As we look forward to the coming of our Saviour and as our theme for the first 40 years says 'We've come this Far by Faith' we pray that God will continue to bless and guide His church as united, as we move towards the climax of earth's history and the coming Kingdom of God.

Anniversary Speaker

Profile of Hymers Wilson II



Pastor Hymers Wilson II and his wife Joy as Pastor de Lisser makes a presentation

Pastor Hymers Wilson was born in Jamaica in 1953 and brought by his parents Hymers Snr and Dahlia Wilson to the United Kingdom in 1955 where he spent his formative years as a youngster.

He attended the Holloway Seventh Day Adventist church. He received his early education at the Pakeman Primary School in Hornsey and his secondary education at the Owens Grammar School for Boys.

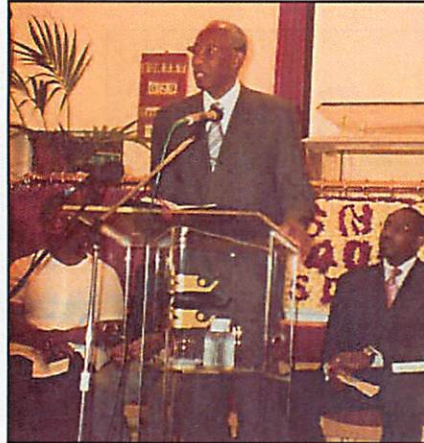
In 1991 Pastor Wilson and his family migrated to the USA. He trained as a Chaplain and while in the USA their third child Hymers III was born. The family went to live in Canada where they now settle.

He is now the pastor of Kendalwood Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Whitby, Ontario while Joy works as Manager of Nutrition Services at Lakeridge Health, Oshawa and Whitby.

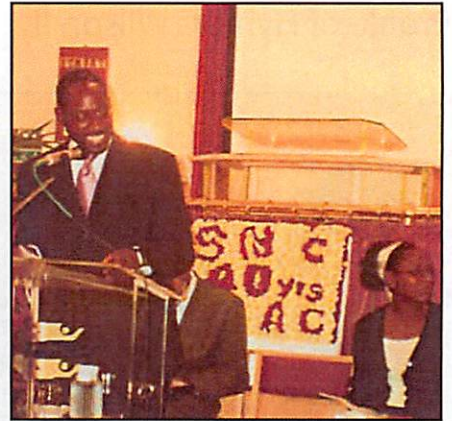


Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Friday Night



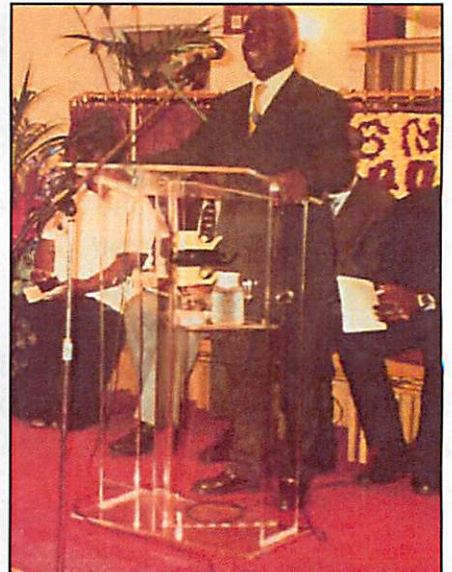
Pastor Perry delivering his
Consecration Service message



Dr Richard de Lisser



Refreshment time



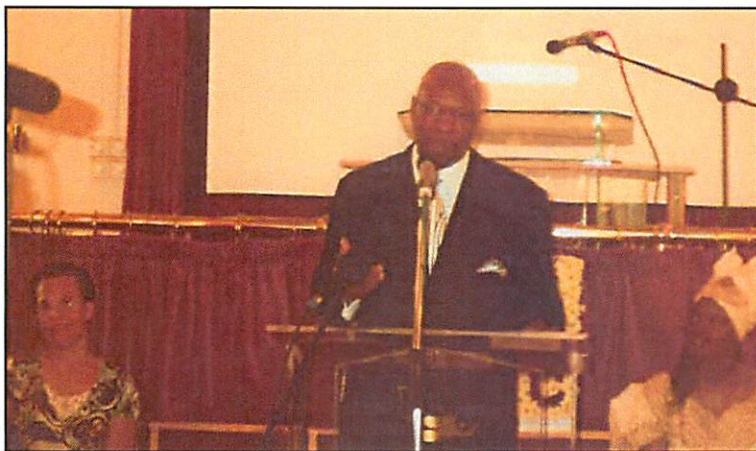
Paul Lee sings



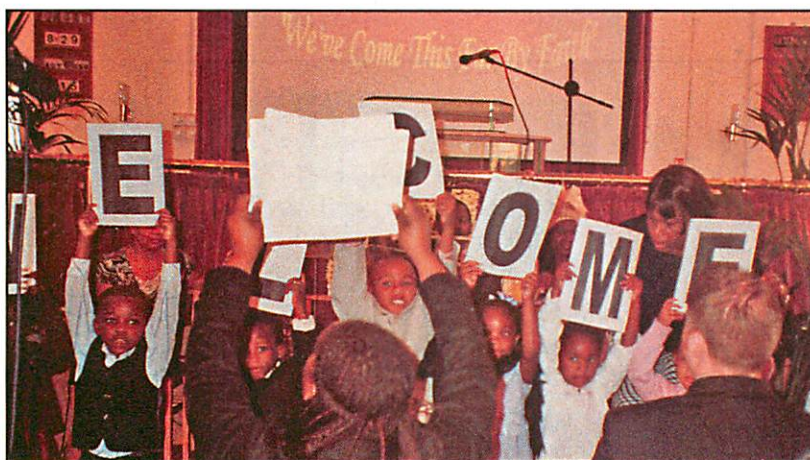
Ladies group

Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Sabbath Service



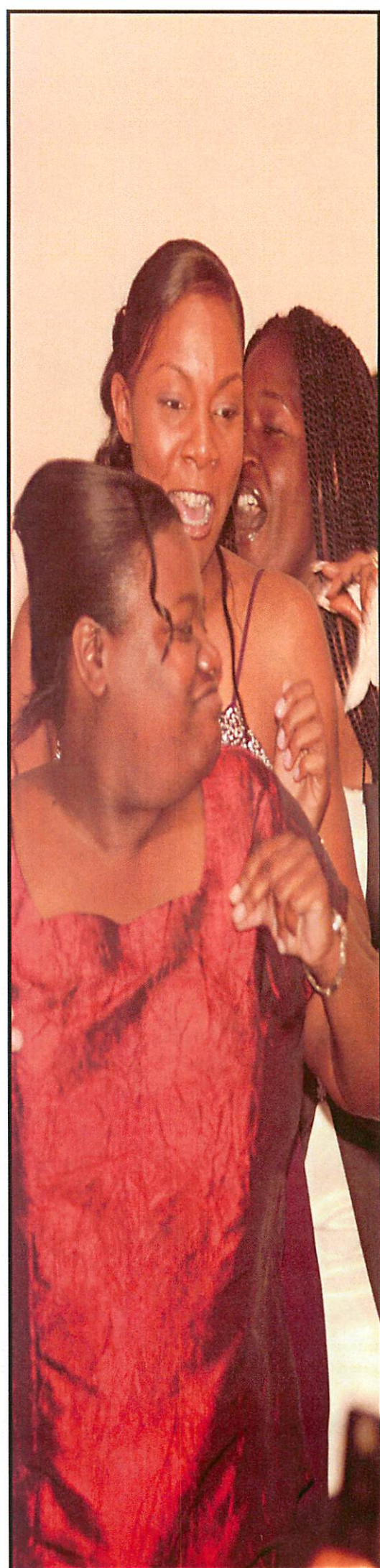
Pastor Richard Holder conducting Sabbath School



Cradle Roll's welcome

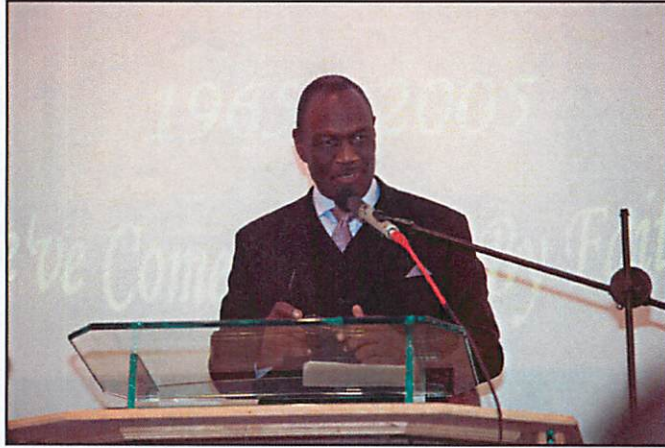


Church choir sings



Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Sabbath Service



Pastor MacFarlane dedicating new pulpit



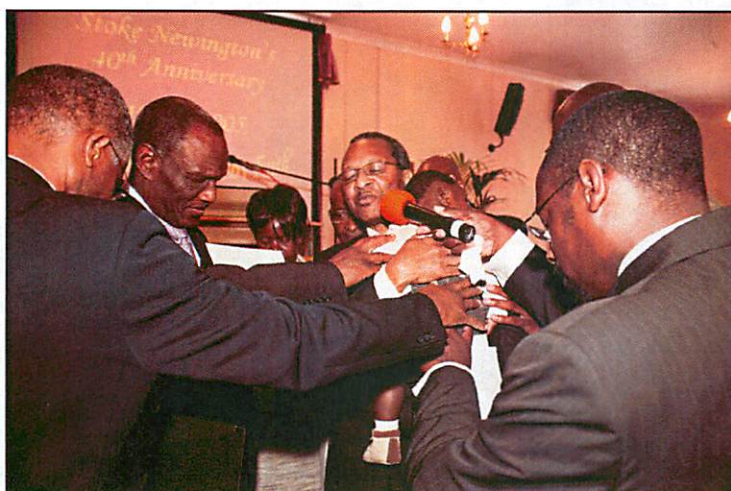
A mime group



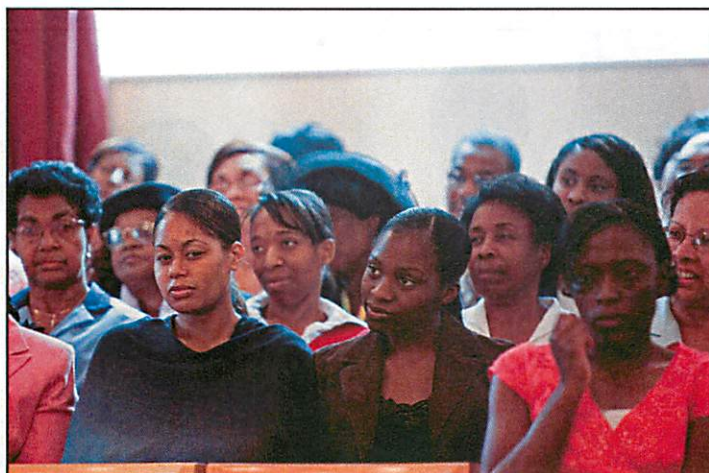
A new pulpit

Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Sabbath Service



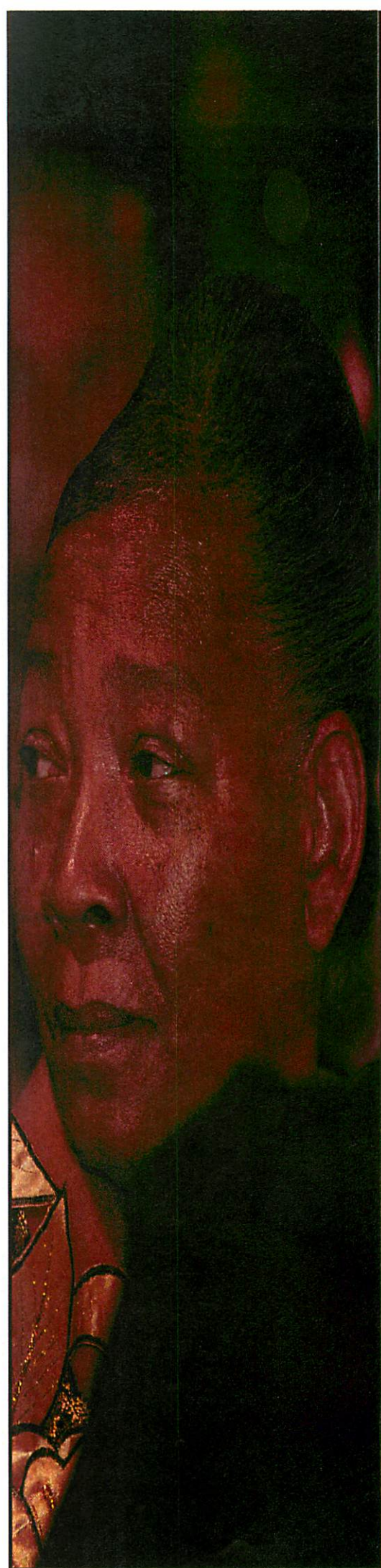
Baby dedication during the celebrations



The church listens attentively

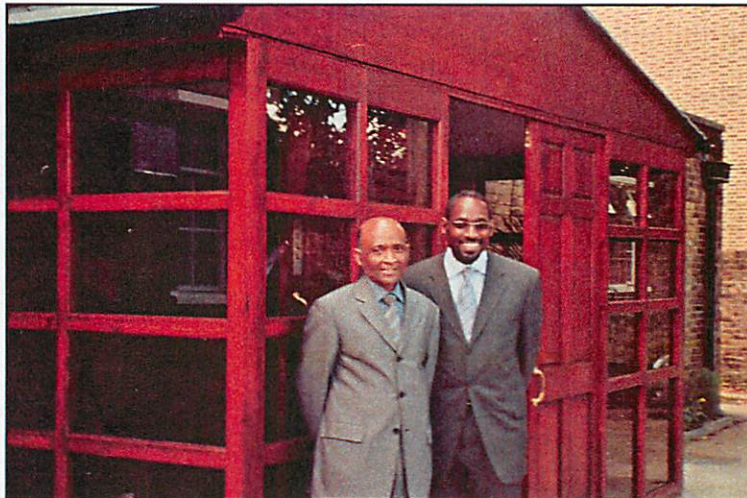


Some of Stoke's 1970's youth reunion



Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Sabbath Service



Lascelles Mackenzie (left) who built the new porch poses beside it with Dr Richard de Lisser



Our male group Infinity sings



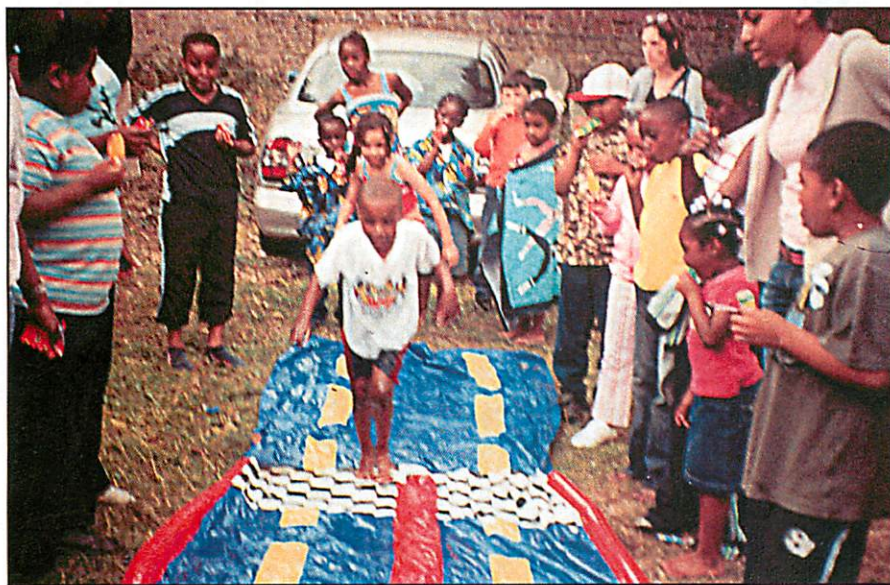
Stokey's Praise Team

Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Sunday



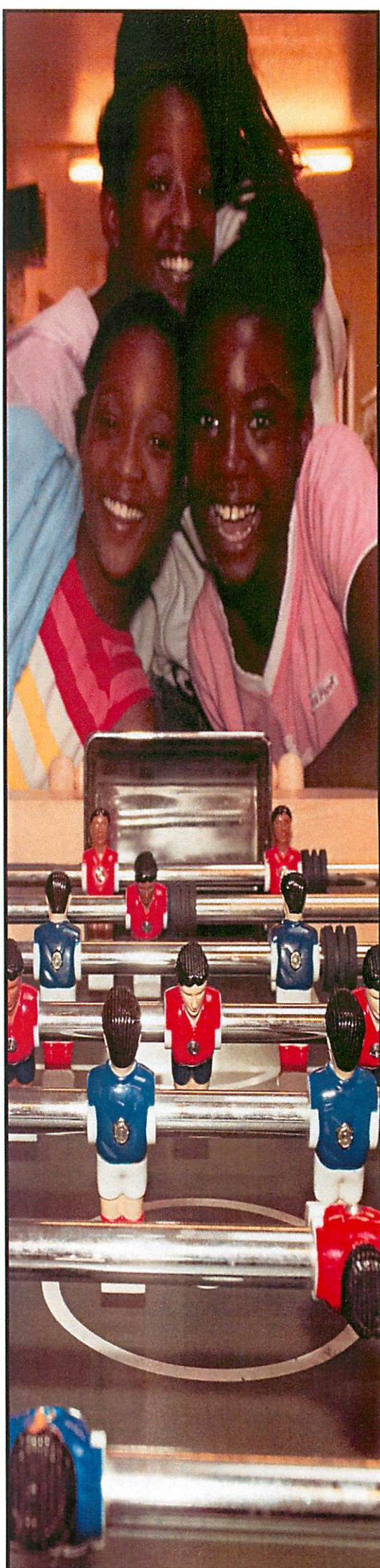
Children's fun time



Children enjoying a water slide



Inflatable bouncy castle



Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Sunday



The beautiful banquet was enjoyed by all

Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Anniversary Sabbath Service Message

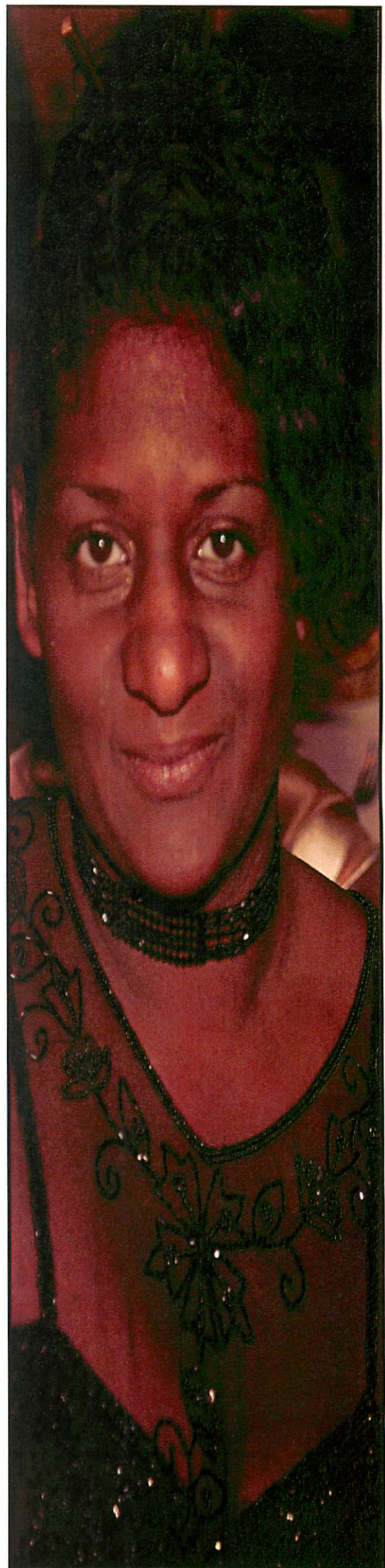
Pastor Hymers Wilson II, was the special speaker for the Sabbath Service. He served as pastor of the Stoke Newington Church from 1983-1986. Here follows an abridgement of his message based on 1 Kings 17:7-16.

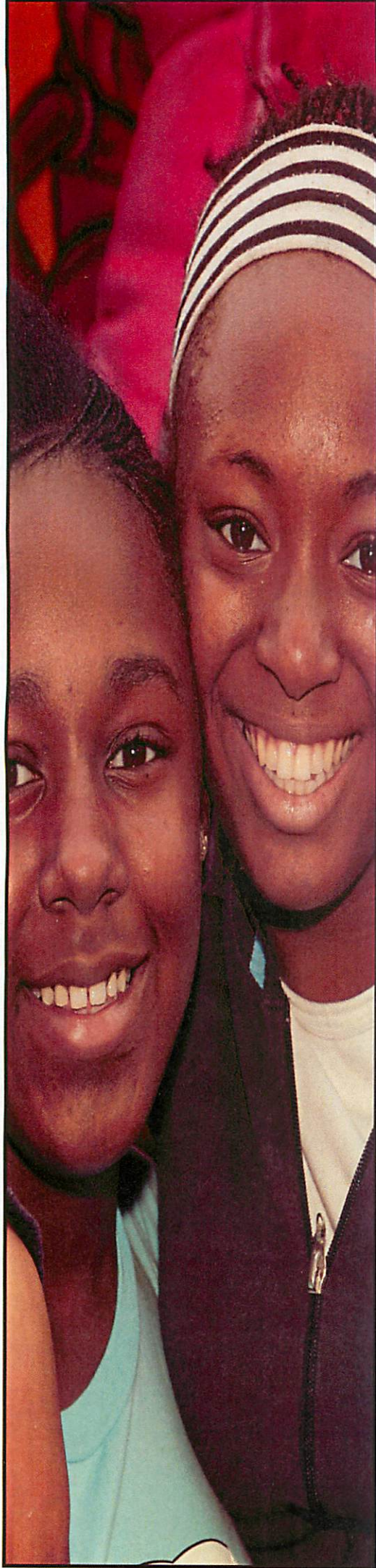
Some of us stayed, some moved on, but in a spiritual sense, discernable only by the spiritually inclined, we have all been in motion together, we who've remained in the church, as individuals have come this far – to this point – by Faith.

In a corporate sense also, this church, The Stoke Newington Church, began as an act of faith. By faith this church has presided over the spiritual birth of many hundreds of Seventh-Day Adventist Christians for the past 40 years and has come this far by faith.

Many of those who are gone to their rest, they are like sleeping passengers on the legendary trans-continental trains which push their way east and west for days and nights across the vast untamed forest and cultivated prairies of Canada, they too are on board heading for a rendezvous with Jesus Christ who Paul declares 'is able to keep that which you and I have committed unto Him against that day'. Death is not the end for the person who has faith.

I would like to illustrate this journey we're on with the story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath based on our scripture reading. Elijah the prophet – some would call him a preacher – was sent by God to announce the coming of a drought upon Israel. God who sees all and protects His own, tells Elijah to leave. A drought brings out the best but it also brings out the worst in people. And so Elijah having announced the drought, is not safe hanging around – a potential target for the rage of some hapless soul watching his crops, his livelihood shrivels up under the relentless burning rays of the sun. God tells Elijah to get out of town. It's not safe here. He takes care of Elijah with water from a brook and bread from ravens. As ravens are known to be dirty birds, Elijah could have turned up his nose at food carried by ravens but he had the faith. Eventually the brook dries up and God sent Elijah to a woman in Zarephath of Sidon. I'm now looking at the theme for the weekend – 'We've come this far by





Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

Faith’.

We: Elijah is sent to a widow for mutual encouragement. It’s true we’re saved individually – you and I made an individual decision. We live in different places, we’re seemingly travelling on different roads but we’re in this thing together. We’re a support to each other. Just like Elijah was sent to encourage that woman and the woman was chosen by God to provide sustenance for Elijah, so this church for the past 40 years and all other churches like it have encouraged and sustained our members corporately.

Have come: We’re in motion. On a journey. Elijah and the widow are on different roads but their paths converge and they’re both on the road to glory. Because we’re on a journey, we cannot be static, we cannot get stuck, nor can we be stymied or stagnant. We’re responsible for continuing Bible Study. The Bible knowledge we had 40 years ago may need revision, we’re moving to a definite destination. We’ve come together – but we can go further only if we’re willing to keep studying the Bible – the road map to our eternal future. You who’ve come this morning just out of curiosity, you may have been drawn here by the mysterious Holy Spirit. You too are on a journey. You’ve come. The question is which direction will you now take?

This Far: Elijah is on an unfamiliar place. But one thing he does know, that the same God that took him there, is still there keeping an eye on him. He’s still in safe hands. The widow is asked by God to do something out of the ordinary. She looks at her circumstances. She reasons to herself – ‘If He brought me and my one son this far, I will take on this assignment to feed this man you’re sending by faith’.

‘This far’ means we too have had to look where we’ve come from. We look back with expectation of better days yet to come – a new golden age – when God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. ‘This far’ recognizes we’re pilgrims. We’ve further to go. We’re people whose Kingdom is not of this world. We’ve not reached yet. Still need for vigilance, more faith and more courage.

By Faith: Elijah might be forgiven if he questioned the wisdom of God. He’s on the run from Ahab. He has been fed by ravens. He has nothing except the clothes on his back. Consider the

Anniversary Weekend Celebrations

irony: God sends a man with nothing to a woman with nothing to offer except a roof and a last meal. To the world they are two failures, but they have something. They have faith in God who has everything.

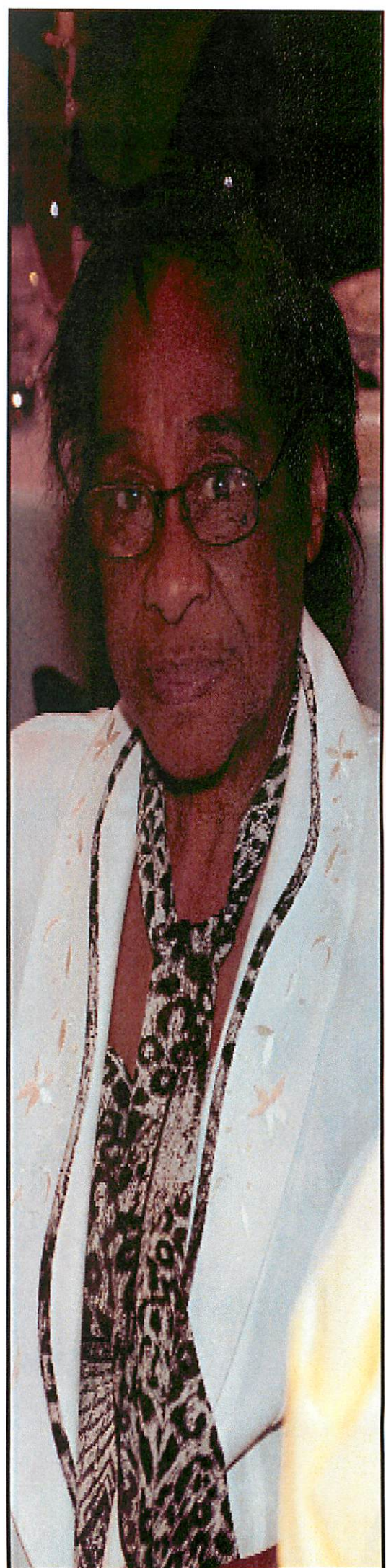
'We've come this far by faith'. Faith in our true God. This faith is understanding, saving, living, working, justifying, protecting, stable, purifying, asking, strong and triumphant.

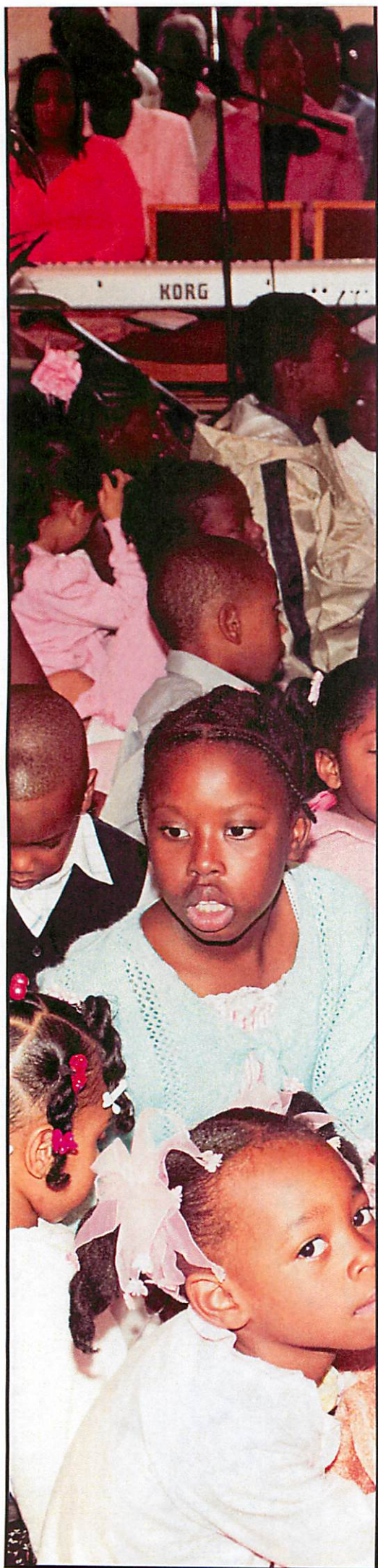
'We've come this far by Faith', we may be tempted to feel proud of ourselves, but we weren't always faithful. Notice the widow's faith began to waiver and Elijah ran for his life from Jezebel in a moment of fear and faithlessness.

Like Elijah and the widow we sometimes take our eyes off God. There may even have been times when you said 'I don't need God anymore, I can't see how he's helping me. But in those moments when we had no faith we were and are sustained by the faithfulness of God. Not that God needs to have faith. He's God. Nothing is hidden from Him. But He is faithful in the sense that He is dependable, trustworthy, loyal and devoted. In other words He is worthy of faith. He's worth putting your faith in Him. That's why your standing in God doesn't depend on your mood, or mistakes you make. His promises don't break by leaning on them. 'If we confess our sins He's faithful and just to forgive us and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

E Stanley Jones says 'Faith is not merely your holding on to God. It is God holding on to you. He will not let you go.'

'We've come this far by faith'. If it was faith that depended on us we'd been in trouble but thank God it's a faith that is rooted in a God of love who will never leave us even when we're shaky.





Profile of Membership Statistics

Table showing membership growth

YEAR	MONTH ENDING	FIGURES
2001	December	197
2002	December	202
2003	December	208
2004	December	220

In Memoriam

Beloved members who have passed to their rest

Brother C Kirlew
 Sister M Rogers
 Sister A Hare
 Sister Agada
 Sis J Prince
 Sister E Buchanan
 Sister Jenkins
 Brother Russell
 Sister Merchant
 Sister Powell
 Brother Z Samuel
 Brother Greenway
 Sister H Bagot
 Sister M Bishop
 Sister P Hamilton
 Sister S Murray
 Sister D Martin
 Sister Paterson
 Sister M Jones
 Sister R Silcott

Brother T Peynado
 Sister M Collins
 Brother G Hemingway
 Sister R Scott
 Sister J Noad
 Brother W Grant
 Brother M Richards
 Sister B Bennett
 Sister E Lewis
 Brother G Brown
 Sister A Channon
 Sister B Adelfila
 Brother Robertson
 Brother V Rocke-Caton
 Sister C Mackenzie
 Sister M Maxwell
 Brother C Edwards
 Sister E Lenton
 Brother V Valentine
 Sister S Sweeney

Pictorial Review

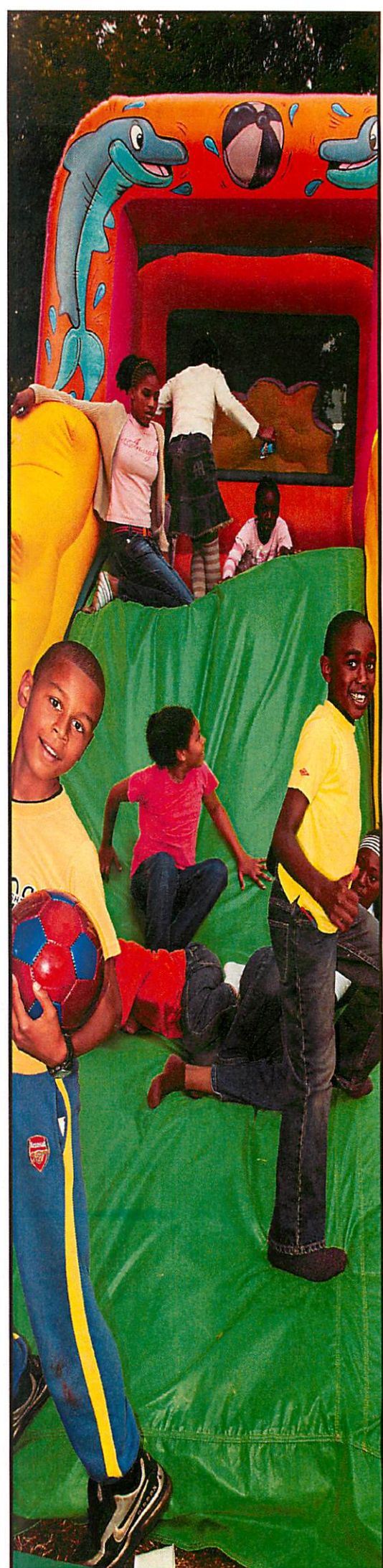
Vacation Bible School



Sensational Stokey in the 70s



Daytrip to France

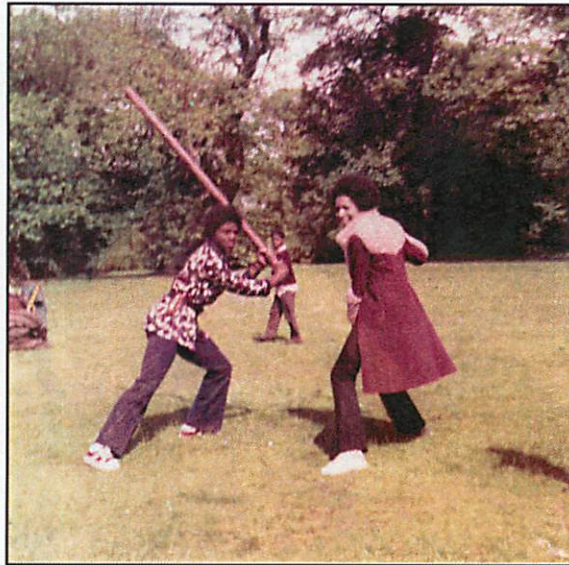


Pictorial Review

Pictures of activities old and new



Pathfinders of the 80s



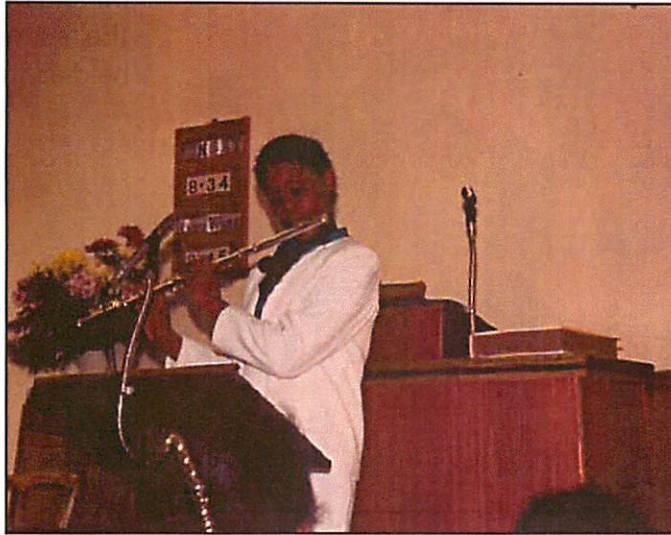
A ball game



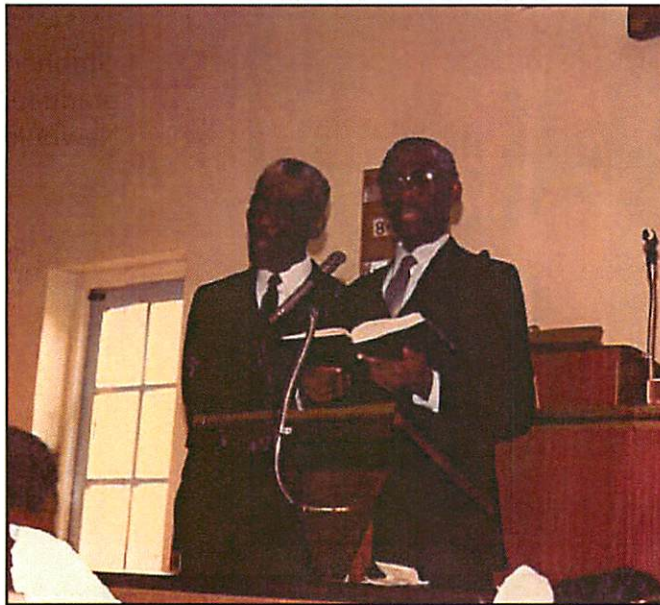
Computer gift to John Loughborough School

Pictorial Review

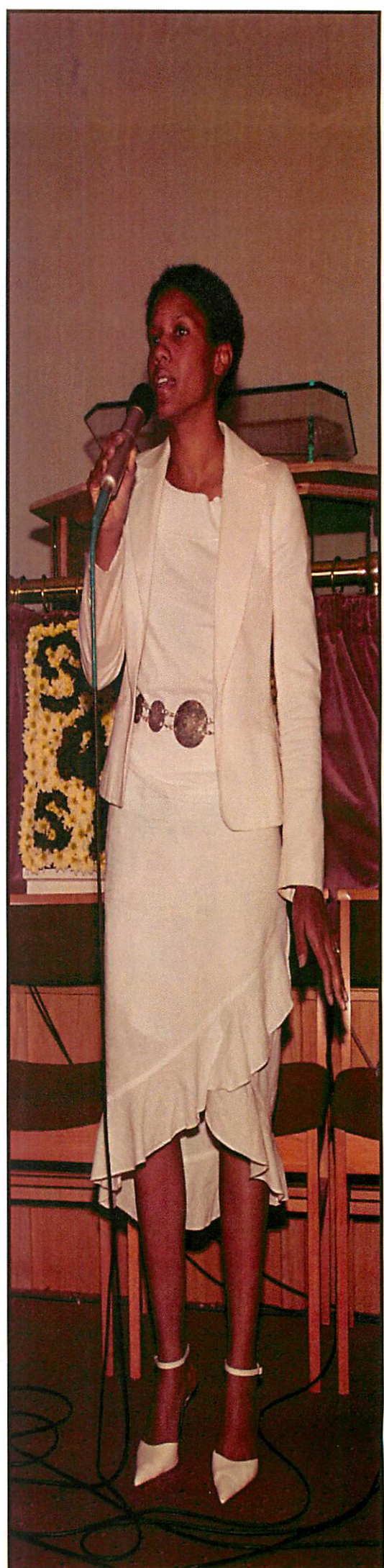
Natasha
Davidson



The Lawrence
brothers



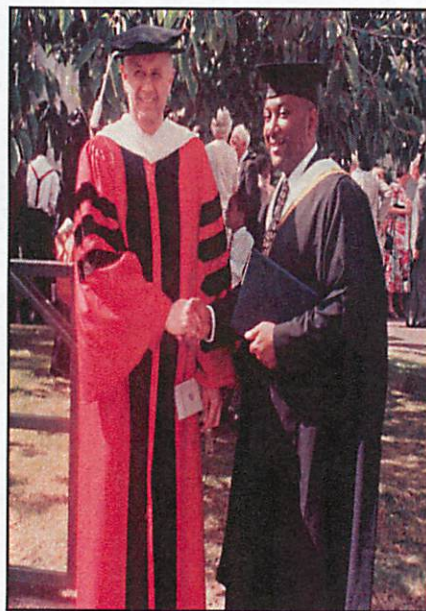
Sabbath School



Pictorial Review



Mr and Mrs Hand,
the first wedding
held at Stokey



Stephen Mackenzie's
graduation from
Newbold



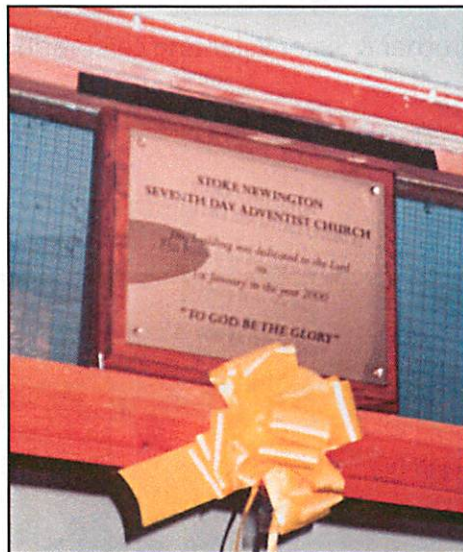
A Christmas
play

Pictorial Review

Mayoral opening of the Open Door Drop-in Centre



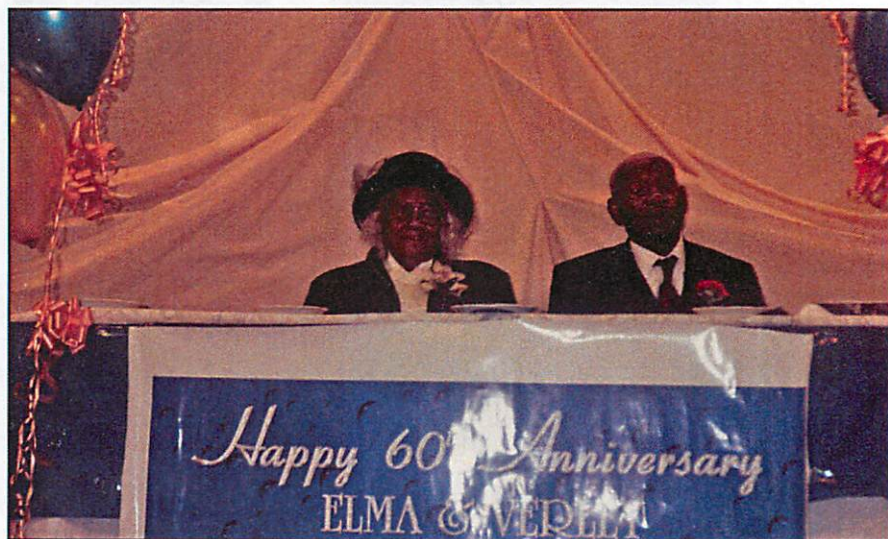
Church dedication plaque



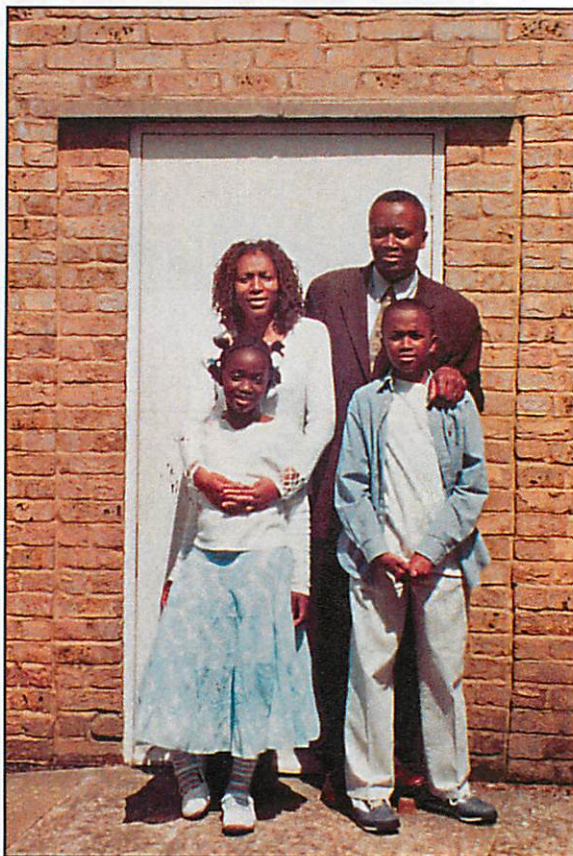
Stokey church family - The Doyleys



Pictorial Review



Brother & Sister Valentine celebrating 60 years of marriage



Stokey church family - The Bernards

Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS STOKEY ON YOUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY

From your sister churches: Leytonstone
Hackney
Clapton

AFRICAN - CARIBBEAN FUNERAL SERVICES

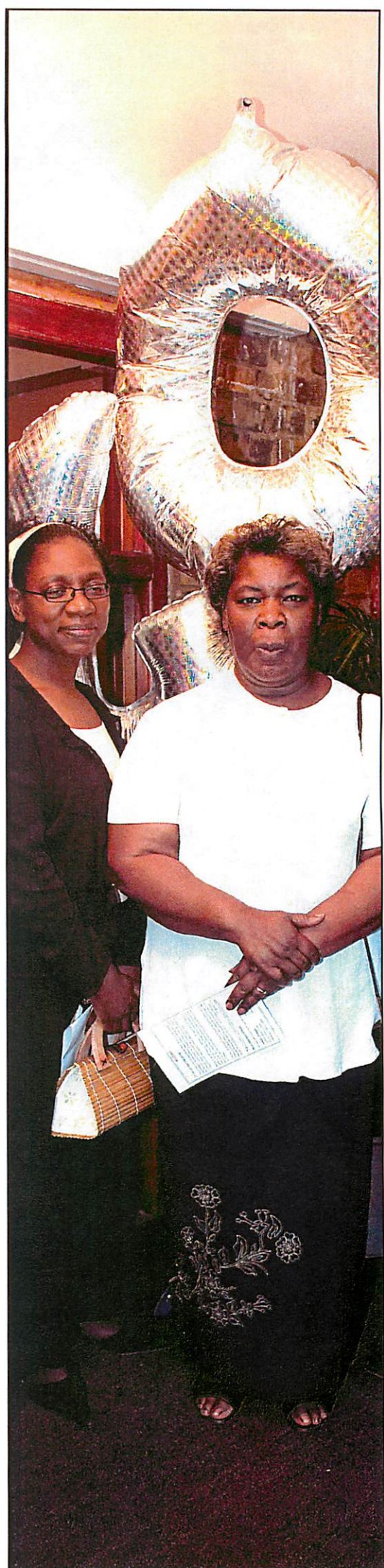
Extend our heartiest Congratulations to the
Stoke Newington Seventh Day Adventist Church
On your 40th Anniversary Celebrations

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Congratulations



DIANE ABBOTT

Member of Parliament for Hackney North and Stoke Newington
HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Dr Richard DeLisser
Yoakley Road
Stoke Newington
London
N16 0BD

1st July 2005

Dear Dr. DeLisser,

Thank you for your kind invitation to the fortieth anniversary celebration of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Unfortunately, I will be out of the country on official business during the 12th and 13th of August. I send my best regards for the event.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Abbott, MP

Stoke Newington Seventh Day
Adventists —
CONGRATULATIONS
on your 1st 40 years!
May there be many more...
In friendship,
Stoke Newington Quakers.

Our Hope, Our Goal, Our Future

It is our hope...

It is our hope that the future of the Stoke Newington Community Seventh-Day Adventist Church over the next 40 years will correspond with the experience of the early church:

"AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED

AND ALL THAT BELIEVED WERE TOGETHER, AND HAD ALL THINGS COMMON

AND THEY CONTINUED STEDFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE AND FELLOWSHIP

PRAISING GOD, AND HAVING FAVOUR WITH ALL PEOPLE"

Acts 2



The 'Then and Now' Anniversary Brochure 1965-2005

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