

Stokey Advent Times



Celebrating 2025—God has surely been good!

The last newsletter of 2024 ended with '*So, as you reflect over 2024, I pray that God will continue to lead you and guide you as you enter a new year, so that your reflections for 2025, when the time comes (God willing), will be what you truly wanted*'. I wonder how many of you got what you wanted out of 2025!

Another year is behind us (or will be in the next few weeks), and Stokey has had a memorable 2025. To name a few memorable events:

- The year started with the introduction of our new pastor, Aundries Malcolm, who currently pastors us with Stratford church.
- We had a change in some of the leadership team with Asher McKenzie being voted as the new First Elder due to the departure of Nicole Gooden taking up her new post as pastor of Walthamstow and Clapton churches.
- We have had interactive lesson studies during Sabbath School.
- We have had deep discussions and reflective Bible classes.
- We have seen members celebrating milestone birthdays and anniversaries.
- We witnessed 13 people being baptised and received into fellowship as members of Stokey—Praise God!
- We had 'The Jesus is the Way' evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Malcolm.
- We did the prayer walk with the Personal Ministries department, over a period of 6 weeks.
- We celebrated '60 years' in the community. Looking at how far God has brought us. Let our prayer be that for the years to come, that we will make a memorable mark of us as a church doing what God requires of us in the community, namely, that we will witness and win souls for Him.
- The first Education department conference was held.
- The children have been catered for with many exciting programmes put on by the Pathfinder and Children Ministries departments.
- We have had special days put on by different departments.
- There were numerous fellowship lunches for members to socialise after service.
- We were blessed to have many visiting speakers throughout the year.
- We had a revival of doing an exchange programme hosting Windsor Street South church (Birmingham) in April and Stokey going to Birmingham in October.
- We had regular visiting friends either going back to their home of origin or moving onto other places in the UK.
- We sadly also lost members through death.

As you can see, Stokey surely has been busy throughout 2025, and as we look forward to 2026, let us remember that:

*A New Year is God's gift
In the joyful moments—thank Him.
In the busy moments—bless Him.
In the trying moments—trust Him.
In the quiet moments—praise Him.*

*Donna Douglas
Comms & Media*



Inside this issue

Treasury.....	2
60th Celebrations	3
Something for All.....	4
Thank You.....	4
Personal Ministries	5
Comms & Media Farewell	5

Special points of interest

- Just a Thought!
- Dates for your diary
- Communications Online
- Did you know—Stokey Facts?
- Bible Brain Teasers
- About Us - how Stoke Newington SDA church came into existence



Treasury

Treasury Department Initiative 2025

To give £10, minimum, a month, towards the main building.

Main building total, including initiative funds, collected January—October **£6,909.00**.

Please note that this initiative will carry on into 2026, so please continue to donate or start to, if you have not given.

Treasury Facts

January—October Budget

Planned budget	£26,851.00
Budget funds collected	£24,841.00
Budget down by	£2,010.00

If you would like more budget details, please contact the Treasury Department.

To donate to the budget, use the details opposite reference 'budget' or scan the QR code opposite.



Budget offerings operate Stokey church. Tithe are conference funds.

Just a reminder that the new building project collection takes place the first Sabbath of every month, with the next collections taking place **today, 3 January 2026, 7 February and 7 March**.

New building fund balance as at October **£103,493.00**.

You can donate in the following ways:

- **In a tithe envelope** marked 'new church building or new build' as a one off
- **By monthly pledge** In an envelope marked "new building"
- **Online** with the reference 'new building'
Name: Stoke Newington Seventh day Adventist church
Sort code: 090127
Account No: 88676252
- or alternatively, scan the QR code opposite.



JUST A THOUGHT! - *"As the year comes to an end, don't look back on yesterday's disappointments. Look ahead to God's promises yet to unfold."*

Dates for your diary

- **Every 1st Sunday**, Pathfinders at 11am
- **Every 3rd Saturday**, Pathfinders at 3pm
- **Every Saturday except the 3rd in the month** Bible class at 2:30pm
- **Community Kitchen**, alternate Tuesdays at 12:30pm. Next on:
 - ◆ 9 December
 - ◆ 23 December
- **Prayer Session & Prayer Meeting**, Wednesdays at 6:30pm & 7:30pm, respectively
- **21.12.25** The Gift of Giving project
- **27.12.25** Homecoming Day & Baptism
- **31.12.25** End of year Service

Communications Online Reminder

Stokey Website

To view a host of information (6 years worth), which you may have forgotten or just to reminisce, ranging from:

- Information about Stokey
- Photo gallery of special events
- Worship podcasts
- Departmental information

and so much more

Scan the QR Code or click the link:
[Stokey SDA Church Website](http://StokeySDAChurchWebsite)



Stokey YouTube

Here you will find live services from February 2024 and sermons, as well as special events and community outreach, and more.

Scan the QR Code or click the link:
[Stokey SDA Church YouTube](http://StokeySDAChurchYouTube)



So, if you think you may have missed an event over the last 6 years, fret not, as it will have been captured via the Website or YouTube!!

Bible Brain Teasers!!

I carried a prophet along the road, but words not mine from my mouth flowed. Though just a beast, I spoke that day, and taught my master the wiser way. What am I?

I stood tall and mighty, a city's great pride, but round me they marched, with trumpets they cried. At the sound of a shout, I crumbled away—no hand, no hammer, brought my decay. What am I?

I am armor with no weight to bear, a belt, a shield, a sword of prayer. No iron or steel, yet strong indeed, for faith and truth are what you need. What am I?

60th Anniversary Celebrations!



Did you know—Stokey Facts?

Stoke Newington SDA church has been in service for 60 years and below is just a bit of trivia regarding Stokey through the 60 years.

- 21 Pastors to date
- Treasury, Deaconry and Church Clerk departments have had the longest serving heads of departments
- 70's & 80's Stokey dominated London wide sports day
- Soul Searchers group recorded an album in the 70's
- Winifred Murray ordained as first female elder
- Blue & Yellow are Stokey's colours
- The first fundraising play 'Samson & Delilah' was held at the then John Loughborough School
- The Valentines first couple to celebrate 60 years of marriage
- Building extension completed in the early 90's
- Bill & Iris Hand, the first wedding held at Stokey
- Dedication of church in 2000 (debt free)
- Eileen Lenton opened Open-door Drop in Centre, feeding the homeless in 2001
- Held local street party for Queen Jubilees
- Stokey website started in 2013
- First church to have an American deaf pastor preach with wife interpreting for the BSL interpreters to sign for the British deaf congregation
- Nicole Gooden first female first elder
- Livestreaming of services began in 2021 on Zoom, then 2024 on YouTube
- Held 40th, 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations
- Many, many, many church outings and social activities which have included 'Banquets, Best Saturday Night, Big Red Bus Outing, Women's Tea Party and Family Fun days', to name a few

'Something for All'

POSSIBILITY AND EDUCATION

Dear Church

Once again, we pause to say a huge thank you for your support to the Education and Possibility Departments for the year 2025.

This year we experienced two very important pioneering events:

- 'The 'You Belong' Disability Awareness Workshop during Divine Service
- The StoKEY Education Conference in the Summer

With God's help and church support we will be continuing these events in 2026 with greater regularity.

POSSIBILITY DEPARTMENT

Last year this time, we told you about the seven (7) arms of Possibility Ministry and notified you that we were stepping up our game to do more. As we close the year, we are focusing on one of those areas. The focus is on those who have experienced spousal bereavement. One by one we will focus on all the arms until the Possibility Ministry Department is as effective as it can be in meeting the needs of the seven arms in the church.

In addition, the Possibility Ministry Department of the Stoke Newington SDA Church has shared the 'You Belong' Disability Awareness Workshop with other churches throughout the year and intend to continue with this throughout 2026.

Once again, I invite you to continue to support us. Give us your ideas and your presence. Also help to keep us accountable. Together we can make it.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Education Department continues to contribute to the development of the members of the church through its programs and hopes to have greater impact in the new year with the new vibrant members who have been added to the team for 2026.

Thank You!

With 2025 almost over, I just want to say 'Thank You'.

It can be lot, and sometimes it takes a lot to do things, every little and big thing for Stokey church.

Many may not know how much goes on behind the scenes in order to get the end result, from something simple as ordering paper to planning an evangelistic campaign. So this is a thank you to, for want of a better word, our 'unsung heroes' who consistently give of their time and effort, not forgetting their commitment, for

Thanks to the current team members. Your support has been greatly appreciated.

A special shoutout to Aunty Gem whose sterling administrative and organizational skills as well as expertise served us well in putting on an awesome Educational Conference in August. We will be back next year – bigger and better.

Huge thanks to the participants of the conference. Because of you the programme impacted persons from other churches and the community.

The department has also been able to support other churches through workshops and, recently presented one such workshop at the Burnt Oak SDA Church.

We are still seeking mentors for the young people. Although we are in the last lap of 2025 but we still have time to do something before 2025 ends. So, if the Lord has placed a burden on your heart for the children and young people, please inform us that you would like to mentor a young person in your professional area or in the church department.

Also please remember that Sis Sanjo Jeffrey is a Special Educational Needs Coordinator and assessor who can assess your child's

- Reading age
- Math age
- Spelling age
- Speed of Processing
- Cognitive processing
- Memory
- Handwriting Speed
- and a range of other assessments including eligibility for exam access arrangement to support your child in their exams.

You can speak with her about your needs or the needs of someone you know.

*Sanjo Jeffrey
Education and Possibility Ministries*

Stoke Newington church to run smoothly. That being said, I just want to make mention of one person especially, Denise Lewis, who behind the scenes, runs the treasury department with the ever increasing changes (which is a lot) and challenges that it brings, keeping Stokey in a financially good place!

Lastly, thanks to the pastoral team, department heads and assistants and of course you, are members and visiting friends who make Stokey what it is as we continue to fellowship together recognising God as our Saviour, as we all prepare for a life everlasting with Him.

Reaching Out to Our Community: A Vision for Stoke Newington SDA Church

Understanding and Engaging Our Community

As we think about our shared mission here in Stoke Newington, it's wonderful to recognise the vibrant spirit and diversity that make our neighbourhood so special. With around 13,500 people calling this place home, we're surrounded by a rich tapestry of cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs. Our neighbours are curious, caring, and socially active—many are involved in causes that truly matter to them. This lively environment brings both exciting chances and unique challenges as we look for new ways to connect and grow together.

Demographics and Realities

Our community embraces people of all ages—from energetic young adults and playful children, to wise older residents. Education is highly valued here, with many locals working in creative fields, healthcare, and teaching. Among us are those searching for meaning, whether through spirituality or established faith traditions. Christians, Muslims, Jews, and people who describe themselves as spiritual but not religious all contribute to our neighbourhood's colourful mosaic.

Our church family numbers around 150 active members—just a small part of our neighbourhood, but a group with enormous heart. We know that juggling work, family, and sometimes mobility challenges can make it harder to reach out, but together, we share a deep desire to make a positive difference.

A Renewed Call to Action

In these challenging times, we're inspired by SEC president Pastor Kirk Thomas to live out Christ's love in every corner of our district. This encouragement shines through four simple yet powerful principles:

- Let's Go... Beyond the Walls: We're invited to carry Christ's kindness from our church into the streets, meeting our neighbours wherever they are and letting friendship be our guide.
- Let's Go... Into a New Era: Our world is always evolving, and so are we. By listening and adapting, we can offer hope and connection in ways that feel fresh and meaningful.
- Let's Go... Together: Our journey is best travelled side by side. By working as a team—leaders, members, and ministries—we can achieve so much more than we ever could alone.
- Let's Go... With Christ at the Centre: Our greatest strength is found in Christ's

love—within our hearts, homes, churches, and out on the streets where life happens.

Practical Steps for Effective Outreach

Let's turn this vision into everyday reality. Here's how we can start making a difference together:

1. Prayer as Our Foundation: Everything begins with prayer. Coming together to seek God's guidance helps us feel united, encouraged, and ready to serve with open hearts.
2. Strategic Planning: Let's set clear goals for reaching out. By understanding who our neighbours are and what matters to them, we can find the best ways to build genuine relationships.
3. Community Kitchen and Vacation Bible School (VBS): Our touchpoints of sharing meals and family-friendly events give us wonderful opportunities to listen, learn, and connect with folk.
4. Research and Engagement: By walking through our community and talking with residents, we'll discover what's truly important to them and tailor our outreach to meet real needs.
5. Collaboration with Local Initiatives: Working alongside other organisations and local causes helps us build lasting friendships and support good work already happening in our neighbourhood.
6. Youth and Family Focus: Let's create spaces where young people and families feel seen, supported, and encouraged—through mentorship, fun gatherings, and networks that offer help when it's needed most.

Moving Forward Together

By embracing these steps, we can ensure Stoke Newington SDA Church remains a caring presence and a bright light in our bustling city. Let's commit to walking this path together, nurturing friendships that reflect Christ's love and helping transform lives in our community—one warm connection at a time.

Remember Matthew 28:19 - 20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Steve Prince
Personal Ministries



Thank You and Farewell!!

Comms & Media Department 2020 - 2025

Team Members over the Years

- Donna Douglas
- Winston Whitehead
- Johnnet Hamilton
- Steve Prince
- Denise Lewis
- Raymond Wedderburn
- Jackie Paton
- Matthew Moyo-Smith
- Jasmine Hancock (née Pile)
- Uzoma Clarke

Members pre-Covid: Jonel Riley, Natasha Davidson, Daniel Ellis, Sis Flo and Andre Deen-Swaray.

All good things come to an end!

For six years it has been our pleasure to serve departments, and individuals, with their media or communication needs and also to bring you, our church family members and friends, communications of Stokey happenings, Conference articles and other useful and relevant information, by sharing via the different platforms that have been implemented e.g. Stokey website, WhatsApp broadcast, newsletters and YouTube. We give thanks for being able to collaborate with other departments to do community outreach, and AYS programmes as different formats of communication, and not just sitting behind the PA desk!!

Whilst it has been both eventful, and challenging at times, we have served in the department focussing on our team vision of making our communications relevant and current by using different platforms, and upgrading equipment where necessary, to enable us to do this. As a department we thank God for giving us the tools, knowledge, skills, expertise and also for the help of others over the years, to achieve this.

As the majority of the current team prepare to leave, we want to thank everyone who has supported us over the last six years, with words of appreciation, your time and patience, donations/gifts or just simply saying “Thanks”. This has meant a lot to us as we worked in his Master's service in this department. I personally want to thank everyone who has been a team member over the years, including our unofficial team members, you know who you are. 😊

Donna Douglas

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.

60 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

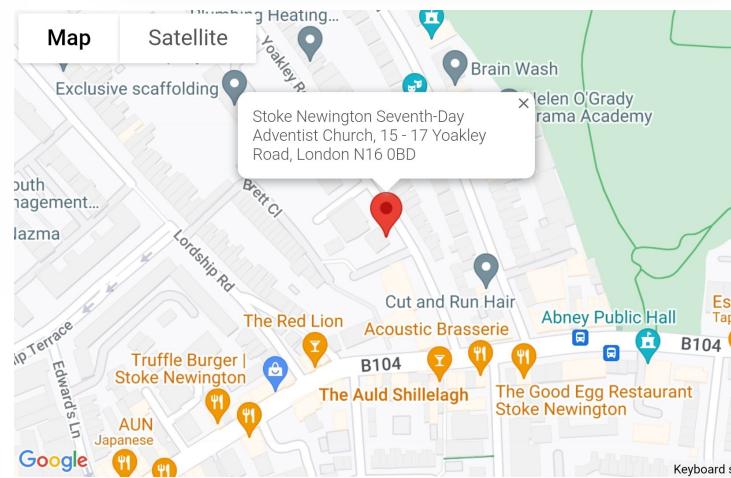
15 - 17 Yoakley Road
London
N16 0BD

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
9:45am	Sabbath School
11:15am	Divine Service (Worship)
2:30pm	Bible Class
3:00pm	Pathfinders (3 rd Saturday monthly)

Sabbath Service

online via YouTube 11.15am
Search - Stoke Newington Seventh day Adventist or click on link below
<https://www.youtube.com/@StokeNewingtonSeventhdayAdvent>

Tuesdays (alternate)

12:30pm Community Kitchen

Wednesdays

6:30 - 7:20pm Prayer Session
7:30 - 8:30pm Prayer Meeting

Sundays (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