



# E-NEWS



## General Conference of the New Church **News**



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### Merry Christmas from E-News

This bumper issue of E-News will be the last issue of 2018. We look forward to continuing to share news with you in 2019, and thank you all for your readership and support so far.



### Family and Youth Team Instagram

The Family and Youth team have a brand new Instagram account, where they will be sharing photos and news of upcoming events.

You can follow them by going to:

[instagram.com/generalnewchurch/](https://www.instagram.com/generalnewchurch/)

## Seaburn News

Seaburn Dene are delighted to share the news that their very own Lynne Griffiths was presented with her accredited worship leader certificate on Sunday 9th December. The Revd David Gaffney presented Lynne with her certificate and medal, pictured below, at the Seaburn Dene Sunday service.

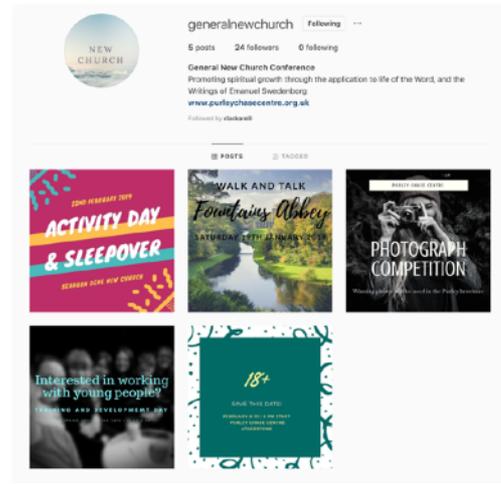


Seaburn also welcomed many people to their Carols by Candlelight service last week.

Gift of pyjamas and slippers were donated by the congregation for the local women in need service.

## Council Minutes

The minutes from the latest Council meeting (which took place in November) are available to view or download from our web site at: [gcnc.org.uk/resources/council-minutes](http://gcnc.org.uk/resources/council-minutes)



## Purley Carol Service

Revd Alison Southcombe reports: The tradition that is the Purley Carol Service and Christmas buffet continued last Friday evening 7th December. Nearly eighty people arrived in fine voice for the nine lessons and carols service where everyone joined together to sing the old classic carols by candlelight.

The service was followed by a festive buffet and the raffle was drawn which raised £350 towards refurbishing the games room at Purley (and then another £50 from our crafting Christmas fairy dust and fish in a jar).

For many people attending, this service is seen as “the start of Christmas,” which is truly great feedback to receive.



## Make a Christmas Noise for God

Revd Becky Jarratt reports: Lovely afternoon, sharing the Christmas story through music, craft and a poem. The children seemed to find the craft activities easier than the adults did... And well done to everyone that completed the treasure hunt!



## Forest Church

Participants at the recent Christmas Forest Church loved travelling through the woods, finding baby Jesus, shepherds and their sheep, and the gifts from the wise men.



## Purley Cream Teas and Parties

Did you know Purley is available for parties? Contact the Purley team for more info. An example table party setting is pictured below.



Also, Purley are offering cream teas on the following dates:

\*\*\* 14th February (Fully booked) \*\*\* 28th March \*\*\*  
 \*\*\* 16th April \*\*\* 30th May \*\*\* 27th June \*\*\*

Prices start from £8 with extras like pink Prosecco, hot punch or Pimms adding to the price, usually around £2 a glass.



## Bradford New Church Carol Service and Nativity Scene

Gwendolen Rowe reports: At our carol service in December the two children we have in Sunday School, Elliott and Johanna decorated cut out people to be the nativity characters for our nativity scene.

I created a stable which Elliott carefully drew lines and knots on to look like planks of wood and then the characters were stuck onto cardboard stands so they would stand up. This created a beautiful scene as you can see from the picture.

During the service the children brought the characters up at the appropriate point in the service and they were told a little bit about their meaning before then placing them in the stable. This worked really well and the scene was much admired by the adults in the congregation made up of members from Dalton and Bradford New Churches. We all then enjoyed a lovely lunch together afterwards.



## Jacques Danjoux - An Obituary by Revd John Elliott

Hardly any reader of E-News will have met Jacques Danjoux, who passed away on 23 November in his seventy-third year; but those attending an annual meeting of Conference may have heard his name mentioned or seen it in the Conference Year Book under Lay Preachers recognised for service in Mauritius.

Ever since the New Church was established in the mid-nineteenth century in Mauritius – an island situated in the middle of the Indian Ocean – members of the congregation have often had to rely on one or other of their own number to lead a Sunday service of worship. They have never been able to invite a minister or lay-preacher of a neighbouring congregation to come once a month, say, to officiate. During the second half of the eighteen-hundreds most, if not all, services were led by laymen, though someone would act as lay leader of the flock. At this time the services were held in a place of worship acquired in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius; but in 1907 another place was built and dedicated for worship, in Curepipe, a town in the centre of the island. So now there were two churches which Sunday by Sunday each required a worship-leader. However, it was about this time also that the congregation started to be led by a resident ordained minister. Yet

there were still times when lay folk were required to deputise for the minister. After 1960 however, when Christopher Hasler's eight-year pastorate came to an end, no minister stayed for more than three or four years, so that once again there were periods when lay people were required to preach and administer the Sacraments.

I mention all this to show that Jacques Danjoux is one of a number of faithful lay people who over the years helped to maintain the worship-life of the church they loved. Gislaine and Eliel his parents loved their church, indeed Eliel was a long-serving lay preacher. Jacques was recognised by Conference as result of its examining board's satisfaction with the three sermons – in French, the language mainly used by Mauritian Christians – which he had submitted. I never heard Jacques delivering a sermon, but to judge from those three he submitted to the examining board he always presented a clear exposition of the Word based on New-Church doctrine. He once told me that if he wasn't able to write a satisfactory sermon he would find one that had been composed by the Rev Cornelius Becherel his grandfather.

As a person Jacques was gentle and reserved. But let me quote from an email which Bruce Jarvis sent not only to myself but to others –

Dear Jacques, a quiet but such a kindly man, who loved his church dearly.  
It was always good to visit him in the dark family home.

And Ian Arnold says, in an email sent likewise to others as well –

I can but endorse Bruce's reflections about Jacques, the quiet – indeed, private almost to the point of being inscrutable – man, as I remember him.

I, too, honour him for his Churchmanship, and his loyalty to the Church throughout his life.

And Judy my wife observes that Jacques was kind to everybody, especially to elderly people. At gatherings for families and others to which we two were invited he was in the background helping out with serving food and drink. He always remembered what people liked.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Jacques was held in the Curepipe church on Sunday morning 23 November, and a cremation service took place the following day. Jacques' sister Jocelyne, and his brother affectionately known as Toto, cared for him during the final latter part of his life when he was far from being physically fit and well. Thank you both for all your love and care of him.

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.