



E-NEWS



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

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NCYA Children's Day 2020

Gwendolen Rowe reports:



Children's Day for the NCYA is on Sunday 19th January 2020. We would love to hear if any of your churches are celebrating this special day when we can reflect on, and thank the Lord, for the children and young people who are a part of our church organisation. We can be thankful that they enjoy coming to events and learning about and sharing their faith in Lord. Just to remind you that, although the date of Children's Day is Sunday 19th January, you are free to use this on the best date nearest to the actual day for your Church. Also it is not only for those Churches who have children/young people. This is your opportunity to give thanks for the young people we have in our organisation.

Many thanks and I hope that, if you have a productive service using this leaflet, you will let us know how it goes.

You can view or download the leaflet from the General Conference web site:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/ncya-childrens-day-2020/>

Please also note the date for the New Church Youth Association's AGM has been set for Saturday 13th June 2020. More details will be available early next year.

Taizé-style Music Weekend

David Brooks reports:

Twenty-two of us enjoyed a very moving and enjoyable musical weekend at Purley Chase in early November.



For those who know little about Taizé, here is a brief summary:

Taizé is a monastic community located in Taizé, France, founded in the 1940s by Roger Louis Schütz-Marsauche, familiarly called Brother Roger. The “brothers” of Taizé are committed to a lifetime of simplicity, service, and community. There is an ecumenical emphasis at Taizé, as expressed in their official website, which says the community “wants its life to be a sign of

reconciliation between divided Christians and between separated peoples.” Brother Roger was especially eager to bring different Christian denominations together. A Taizé worship service involves sung and chanted prayers, meditation, a period of silence, and Bible readings. There is no preaching. The prayers consist of “short chants, with the words sung over many times.”



The theme for our Purley weekend was the seven ‘I AM’ sayings in John’s Gospel. We followed a well thought out programme that included worship, Bible study, silent reflection, group sharing on Bible passages, singing practice and dancing to Taizé music.

Live music is always appreciated on any occasion and we were fortunate to have a number of excellent musicians on hand to provide it. We enjoyed the accompaniment of tenor recorder, viola, guitar-lute and piano. As someone who cannot read music, I did wonder how I would cope with singing but our two leaders, Marion Curry and Bruce Jarvis, made singing practice a joy, so all was well. Dozens of candles, as shown in the photograph, enhanced the atmosphere in the

Beech Room where we held our services of worship. The weekend included Remembrance Sunday and you will find the details of that moving service in issue number 32 of E-News, written by Rita Russell.

Some of us had not participated in Taizé worship before but we were oh so happy to have been part of such a wonderful experience. We had Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics present as well as New Church members in our number so it was truly ecumenical in the Taizé Community tradition.

The whole weekend was worshipful, inspiring, comforting and relaxing. I will be coming again!

Advent Calendar

Gemma McLean reports:

I have created an online General Conference of the New Church advent calendar for December 2019.

I built it all from scratch and have programmed it to save your progress (only when using the same browser/device) and only let you open doors for the correct date. For example, you can't open the first door until December 1st. If you were to visit the calendar on December 5th, you'd be able to open doors 1-5 etc.

Behind each door is either a photo taken from E-News and E-Read from 2019, a Swedenborg quote or a prayer taken from Home Worship 2019. It's not a traditional Christmassy advent calendar but I hope you find it enjoyable reflecting back on 2019 by using it.

You can visit the advent calendar by going to:

generalconference.org.uk/advent

Don't forget you can't use it until December 1st! Perhaps make a bookmark to remind you?

General Conference of the New Church Advent Calendar 2019

Behind each door is either an image taken from an issue of [E-News](#) or [E-Read](#) from 2019, a Swedenborg quotation (kindly provided by Revd David Gaffney) or a prayer taken from [Home Worship](#) 2019.



Instructions for use: Click a door to open it. You can only open a door if the day is either today or has already passed! If you open the calendar again in the same browser, it will remember which doors you have already opened.