



E-NEWS



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

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gemma.mclean@gcnc.org.uk

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Welcome to the Anniversary Bumper Christmas Special Edition

Gemma McLean reports:

It's been just over a year since we launched E-News and E-Read. In that time 120 people have signed up to receive E-News and/or E-Read via email, plus many more who access it via our web site and via printouts in Churches. E-News 35 is a bumper festive issue, jam packed with lovely stories and photos, and will be the last issue of 2019. I hope everybody enjoys reading it and we look forward to lots more news and articles in 2020.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Email Issues

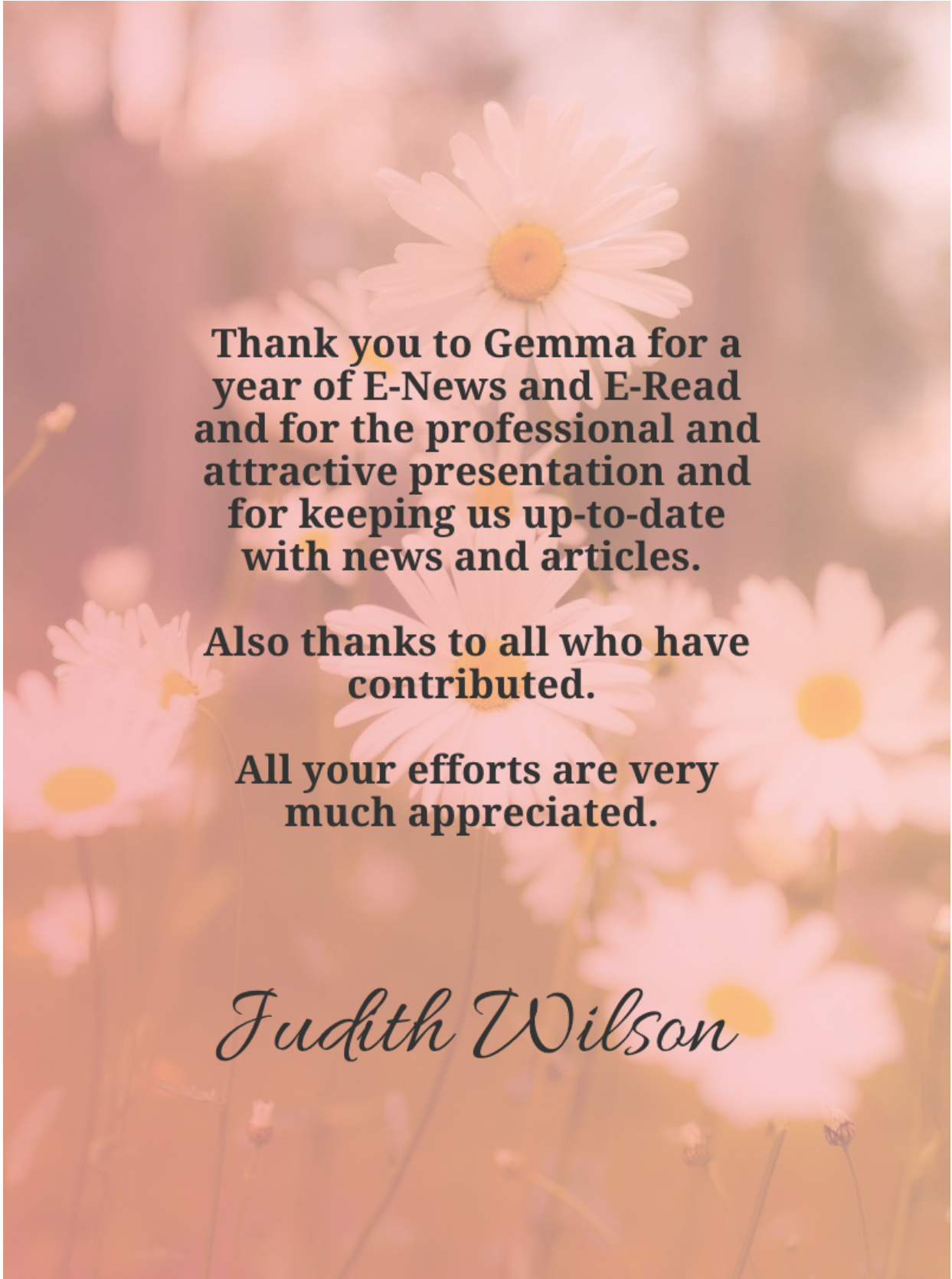
Gemma McLean reports:

Over the last few weeks we have been having some major technical problems with our General Conference email providers.

In fact you may have not received the previous two issues of E-News. If so, please find them at:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/category/news/enews/>

I am pleased to report that we have now changed providers and I'm optimistic that the email problems are behind us.



**Thank you to Gemma for a
year of E-News and E-Read
and for the professional and
attractive presentation and
for keeping us up-to-date
with news and articles.**

**Also thanks to all who have
contributed.**

**All your efforts are very
much appreciated.**

Judith Wilson

Friday 13th Engagement!

Judith Wilson writes:

Congratulations to you both Alison and Lee.



Paisley Toy Service

Margaret Cowie reports:

On Sunday 8th December the Paisley church held our annual Toy Service. Sadly we don't have any children attending our Services, but we do have very generous adults who provided the toys and gifts. We were especially delighted to welcome Lionel Friend who visited us, and must have been aware of the occasion, as he also brought a contribution towards our toy display (pictured overleaf).

The toys were subsequently taken to the Salvation Army headquarters in Paisley for distribution among children in need around the local area. Children who otherwise may have missed out in the joy and excitement of receiving Christmas gifts.



Kearsley News

Carolyn Kennion reports:

At Kearsley New Church we know that Christmas is on its way when the advent wreath appears on the font.

The children and members of the congregation light one more candle each Sunday during advent until all five are lit on Christmas day to celebrate the birth of Jesus - the Light of the World.

Kearsley Sunday School children on their Christmas treat - lunch at McDonalds followed by a visit to the theatre to see 'Treasure Island' - a good time was had by all.



Purley Carol Service

Muriel Morgan reports:

"The most wonderful time of the year!"



Friday was our yearly Christmas Carol Service at Purley Chase. Over one hundred people joined us to celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

In the beautifully decorated Purley, we had a lovely Service led by the Rev Alison Southcombe with a Nativity narration by Enid Nicholls and some traditional Carols. The staff at Purley worked tirelessly to provide us with mulled wine, enough food to feed the 5000 and a vast array of desserts. All in all, a wonderful evening, full of cheers and happiness.

Thank you to all who helped making it happen, and to all who joined us!

Merry Christmas to all!



Above: Annie the cook not pictured, but deserves much praise along with these members of Purley staff for their hard work.

Below: some photos of the exceptional sweet treats!



Gemma McLean adds:

It was my first time attending the Carol Service at Purley and what a delight it was. I brought along my Mum and we both enjoyed it immensely. We were presented with a glass of Prosecco (orange juice for me, the driver) on arrival before sitting down for the beautiful service. A special shoutout to Michael Clubb for standing in for Lee Differ on piano duties as Lee was caught in terrible traffic (2 hours to do a normally 20 minute journey). Lee arrived just in time for his reading and the last few carols (and to get engaged to Alison of course).

We then headed in to the Olive room for the raffle draw with a glass of warm mulled wine. I won a lovely 'pamper hamper' and lots of wonderful prizes were awarded. Then it was time for the buffet. I only need one word to describe this: WOW! I consider myself to be somewhat of a buffet connoisseur (I once owned a t-shirt that said "only here for the buffet" to reflect my general reasoning for attending parties) and I have to say it was the best buffet I have ever sampled. The array of food on offer was mouth watering and as you can see from the photos, the sweet treats were heavenly.

As usual my Mum and I were made to feel so welcome by everyone at Purley and I felt the atmosphere was one of peace and inclusivity. We got chatting with various locals and I sensed a feeling of pride in Purley from them. Thank you to everyone that worked so hard running the event. Roll on next year!



Christmas Tree Festival

Alison Southcombe reports:

Purley Chase Centre was asked to join in and decorate a Christmas tree at a Christmas Tree Festival at St Nicholas which is a local church. The theme was guardian angels and as angelic beings and the heavens are subjects found throughout Swedenborg's writings we were delighted to join in and gathered a small team together to make our own angels in the colours of the heavens they inhabit.



We made and decorated angels in white, blue, purple and red to represent the colours of angelic light in the heavens and included a little key to the colours for people to read including the following:



The light which proceeds from God is received variously by the angels; no two are in exactly the same quality of wisdom and, therefore, no two are in light of precisely the same degree and colour...