



E-NEWS



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

About Us

To find out more about The General Conference of the New Church, including the locations of our Churches, visit our web site at: gcnc.org.uk

Send us your News

If you have any news that you would like to share in a future issue of E-News, please send it via email to: gemma.mclean@gcnc.org.uk

Donations

E-News and E-Read are provided completely free of charge. If you would like to make a donation to help the General Conference of the New Church maintain these services, please visit: gcnc.org.uk/donations

Share E-News

Feel free to print and share this publication.

Sign up

Sign up for E-News and E-Read email notifications at: gcnc.org.uk/signup

Local News

View local Church newsletters at: gcnc.org.uk/resources/newsletters

Purley Update

Alison Southcombe reports:



Summer fun at Purley 2019

Purley is currently closed to the public and will remain so until the end of April. This period may be extended as and when new information is received.

In line with Government recommendations restricting

social groups, all events scheduled to take place at Purley Chase Centre have been cancelled for the foreseeable future. Rachel our Purley Manager and our Accountant Sally Field have been hard at work speaking to group leaders to discuss events being re-scheduled later in the year or refunding deposits.

If this affects a group you are running or a booking you have made, please contact Sally via: sally.field@generalconference.org.uk

We can't come together but can we help?

For us all I am sure the very idea of not gathering at Purley in the Lord's name is unthinkable as we love to gather in person, but for now, we may best love the Lord by loving our neighbour and reaching out to serve and help in our local community.

As Jack has mentioned in the last E-News there are some great initiatives happening in the wider community across the country and all are designed to help neighbours of all ages. If you are able it might be worth finding out more about your local area and getting involved.

As the Lord says in the Gospel of John: "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so also you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." John 13: 34-35

Included here is a link from Viral Kindness to a print-at-home 'offer of help' leaflet in case you want to start your own small initiative:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L_8GoIzQ572fBZtElFfQZl9vNEwK7Rf/view

Let's look forward to happy times once again at Purley.

Kearsley News

Pauline Grimshaw reports:

World Day of Prayer

This took place on Friday 6th of March at St. Stephen's church. Weather-wise, it was a very pleasant afternoon and there was a good attendance. Glenys had decorated the church with two very striking flags from Zimbabwe and there was a pleasing display of African fruits, products and artefacts, including an authentic wooden xylophone and tom-toms. This year there were several men at the service including David and John from our church. There were variety of readers including Eileen and Pauline from our church. The presentation/meditation was given by Rev Kim Lafferty and aimed to make us, 'Take up our mats' and go out into the community serving others and spreading the name of Jesus.

Afterwards we enjoyed afternoon tea at the rear of the church and getting together with friends from other churches. Many thanks to St Stephen's church for their work in hosting this event.

Strictly Afternoon

This event was organised and hosted by Adele and Gary at their beautiful, spacious home to raise money for Bolton Hospice and for our church. After morning service we had a quick cuppa and get -together before twenty or so of us headed off.

After a warm welcome the event started with familiar songs from the sixties, seventies and eighties sung by Joan, accompanied by Wayne on his guitar. Win's walker proved ideal for Wayne to sit on!

Then we had the first course of our delightful lunch - homecooked shepherd's or cottage pie with vegetables and mushy pies. After followed a round of 'guess the faces photos' and a mind- blowing quiz with thirty questions! - after which we adjourned for the dessert course - a creamy sweet cheesecake and lovely sponge. Unfortunately, in view of my earlier morning sermon, I didn't even fight temptation!

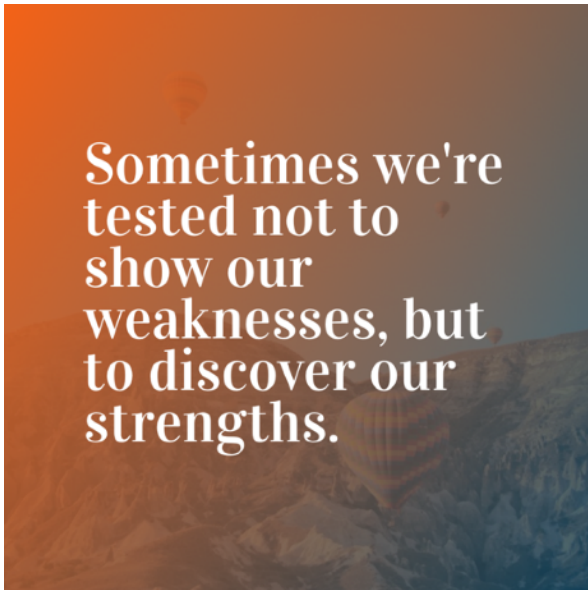
After that we had a wine quiz where we had to sample wines and match them with a description provided and then estimate the price! Finally we finished off with a raffle of lots of small prizes. Many thanks to Adele and Gary for a most enjoyable afternoon. AND £300 was raised do be divided between the Hospice and the Church.

Reader Contributions

I think music is important at the moment.

I recently discovered a new band called Anthem Lights that did an excellent medley of songs from The Greatest Showman. They also do some amazing versions of worship music. My favourites include the Southern Gospel Medley (youtube.com/watch?v=RPf8Jgx9NA4), Hymns Medley (youtube.com/watch?v=oUHcofV1tLo) and How Great Thou Art (youtube.com/watch?v=48i4l17I5uc).

Gemma McLean



Sometimes we're
tested not to
show our
weaknesses, but
to discover our
strengths.

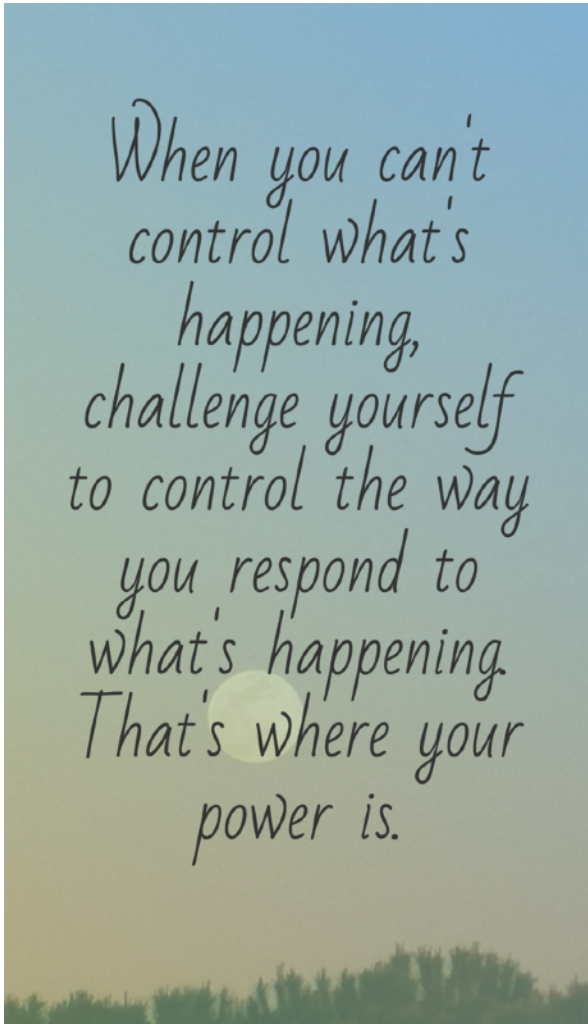
Shared by **Gemma McLean**

The Difference

I got up early one morning
and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I didn't have time to pray
Problems just tumbled about me,
and the heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty,
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak;
I wondered why God didn't show me.
He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence;
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning,
and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish
that I had to take time to pray.

Grace L. Naessens

Poem provided by **Revd Christine Bank**
(from the latest Council meeting)



When you can't
control what's
happening,
challenge yourself
to control the way
you respond to
what's happening.
That's where your
power is.

Shared by **Judith Wilson**

At the beginning of winter, a very knowledgeable friend cut all the growth from my favourite yellow rose! All that was left was the core with a few struggling and apparently lifeless branches. The rose had struggled for years as I tended it timidly and unknowingly. It had survived but looked tired.

After being so suddenly and drastically cut back it sat in the winter chill, rain and wind and looked small and a bit insular in the space.

Then spring arrived!

This is my rose now. The dead wood has gone. It is fresh and active. It looks like a different bush but at the core it remains the same beautiful plant. It appears to be a miracle and has been so easily taken for granted. Indeed, I thought it was too tired to continue much longer. I was so wrong and I shall love every small bud and flower it produces this summer - what a wonder.....and I had not anticipated it at all! I am so grateful to that friend of mine.

Judith Wilson



How Will They Spend Their Time?

Carolyn Kennion writes:

Most children in this country will not be at school after Friday 20th March until an unknown date in the future, as part of the government's attempts to control the spread of the Covid 19 virus. It is going to be a challenging time for parents and children, not only in terms of providing child-care if parents are still working but also keeping children happily occupied when they are unable to play with friends or go out to such places as the cinema, swimming baths, museums etc.

One thing children could do is complete entries for the New Church Youth Association's annual exhibition!

Last month details were sent out with Home Sunday Club and to churches for this year's exhibition on the theme of 'Charity'. This seems particularly appropriate in the current situation as one suggestion is that children could do something to help someone else and submit a written account and maybe a photo. Perhaps you could help your child to think of a way to help a grandparent or elderly neighbour such as by doing some shopping or sending them a card or letter to relieve loneliness. In addition to helping someone in a practical way there are also pictures and an abstract design to colour or artwork to illustrate the parable of the Good Samaritan.

If you have not received the exhibition pack and would like one please contact Carolyn Kennion (contact details in the Conference address directory), or any member of the NCYA council. If you have the sheets at your church could you post them out to children who will not be able to attend Sunday School in the coming weeks? Remember to include the details of where to send their entries. Colouring and drawing can be therapeutic activities for all ages so adults are also welcome to join-in.

The photo shows some of the children at Kearsley Church engrossed in their colouring.



Weekly Home Worship

Thoughts from Spiritual Leader Revd Jack Dunion, supported by the Home Worship Ministry Team (*Team = Spiritual Leader - Revd Jack Dunion, supported by: Revd Christine Bank, Revd Alison Southcombe and Revd Becky Jarratt and Revd Gill Gordon.*)

Home Worship offers the opportunity for everyone to spend time with the Lord while it is not possible to gather together in church at this time.

New to Home Worship?

In the past the Home Worship scheme was designed to go out to those isolated people/group of people who were asked to subscribed to it. During these extraordinary times we thought it might be more useful to provide a direct link through E-News which will take readers to the General Conference of the New Church website where the latest Home Worship packs are available for download: <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/home-worship/>

Each pack is designed to last for a month so comprises four or five sessions. As we are approaching Easter it is worth noting that there are also short items for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday available.

You can also sign up to receive Home Worship packs directly in your inbox at: <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/hwsignup/>

Already receiving Home Worship?

If you are already signed up for Home Worship, you will no doubt know how this works - but below are a few suggestions on how the material provided can be used in Worship; or you may of course find a way of adapting it which is best suited to your current circumstances.

- For many people, the Lord's presence is felt more keenly when they join with others in worship. Traditionally, we have all Worshipped together on a Sunday morning from 11am. For this reason, you may find it useful to continue this tradition. We may not be able to be together physically but we can be spiritually. It may also help people to find ways of sharing in worship through various social media. It may also be useful for us all to share amongst ourselves what our own methods and experiences of these new forms of worship.
- On your own or in your family circle, set aside some time each week when you know you won't be disturbed. You might like to light a candle and take a few minutes in silence before you begin to read through and share what has been provided, concluding by saying the prayer out loud.
- Study the Home Worship readings and connect via online channels to share and discuss with friends.
- If you are tech savvy and you are still able to meet with church friends, you might want to take a video of one of them reading a prayer or extract from the Bible used in the Home

Worship pdf, this can then be uploaded and shared via E-News the next week. This would be a great way to see how people are engaging with the material!

- Maybe you've taken your weekly Home Worship out in the countryside to study the Lord's word in nature - feel free to share pictures.

Now it's over to you!

A Bit of Fun - Logo Quiz Answers

Here are the answers from the quiz in issue #44.

1.  Land Rover (Car Company)	2.  DELL (Computer Company)	3.  Royal Bank of Scotland
4.  Nestle Birds (Food Company)	5.  Porsche (Car Company)	6.  Pizza Hut ("Fast Food" Company)
7.  CNN (Cable News Network)	8.  Federal Express (Logistics)	9.  Coca Cola
10.  Walt Disney Pictures		