



E-NEWS



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

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Thank You

Judith Wilson writes:

I wish to say thank you to our Ministers for the Sunday morning Service each week. Thank you for your persistence and calm through challenges and the loving care you show as you lead us in this new form of worship. Judith



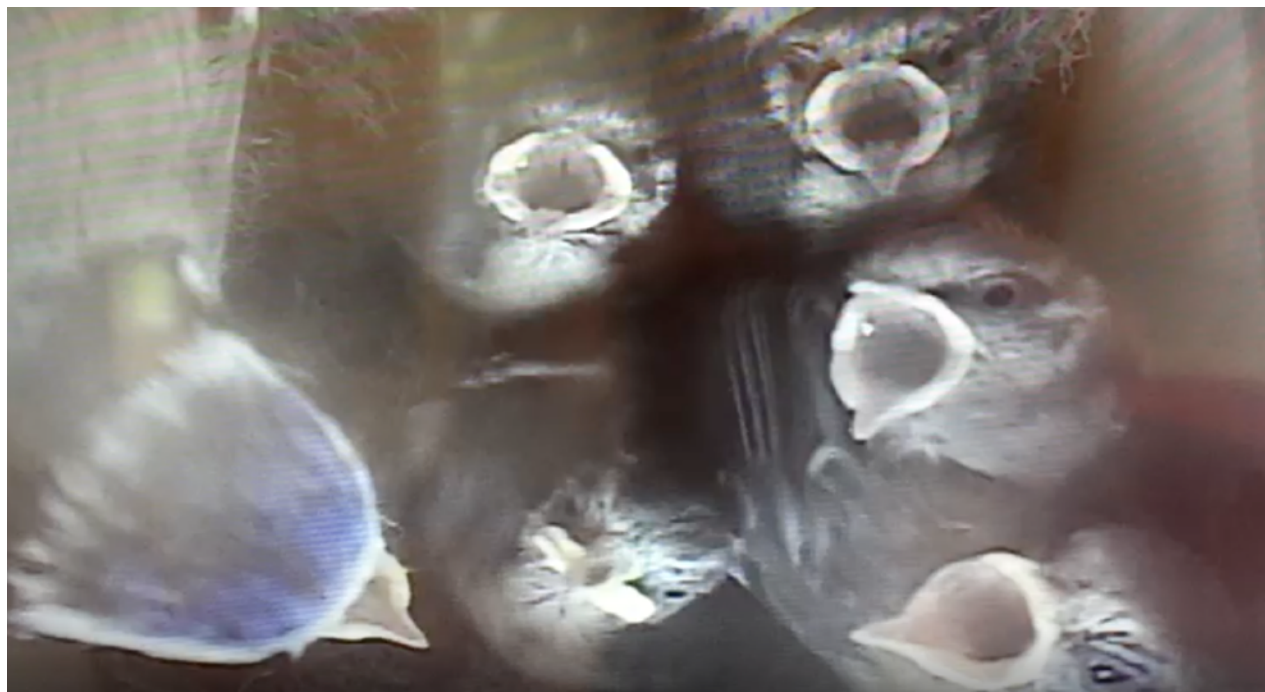
Saturday Family Services

Robert Clark writes:

A reminder that people wanting to attend our Zoom Saturday family services need to send an email saying "subscribe" to robert.clark@generalconference.org.uk to get the Zoom link on the Friday before.

The dates are all Saturdays - June 20th, July 11th, August 8th, Sept 12th @ 3.45pm for 4pm start.

Bird Box Videos Part 2



As a follow up to the piece on David Brooks' bird box in the last issue, Judith Wilson has shared two more videos to conclude the story, which can be found below the original videos at:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/bird-box-videos/>

250th Anniversary

Revd Becky Jarratt writes:

Did you read the 50th edition of E-News? If you did, you might remember that Mary Duckworth set us a puzzle. There have been a couple of responses but I thought it was time to put the rest of us out of our misery.

19th June is New Church Day. This year is the 250th anniversary of something special. Did you think it might be the date the first church built as a New Church place worship opened? A good try - but that was 19th June 1791 in Birmingham, not 1770. Apparently, the choice of date wasn't deliberate, but those involved were pleased when they later realised the coincidence.

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So, what is New Church Day then? In his book True Christian Religion, Emanuel Swedenborg revealed that on 19th June 1770, the Lord sent the twelve disciples who had followed him on earth to spread the news throughout the spiritual

world that “the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns, whose kingdom shall be for ages and ages” (see para.791). True Christian Religion was published in 1771, when this special date became known.

How are you going to celebrate New Church Day, the 250th anniversary, this year? What would you like to contribute? Government regulations mean that we can't have parties together around the country. It is looking less and less likely that we can mark it together, in person, at our Annual Meeting. How about you send photos and thoughts of what New Church Day means to you? Please send contributions to becky.jarratt@gcnc.org.uk and we can celebrate together virtually, if not in person.

News of a Recent Conference Council Meeting

Margaret Cowie reports:

Friday 22nd May 2020 was a first for Conference Council. It was our first remote meeting. Covid-19 has forced much of the population into using modern technology. Some have taken to it like a duck to water. Some are a bit more reluctant. I count myself in that category. There is one advantage though, and that is, no travelling is involved. This is perfect if, like me, you get your destinations mixed up! You may not have heard, but last time I ended up in Alfreton (near Swanwick) instead of Atherstone!

So at 10.00 on a Friday we sat in front of our computers, comfortable in our own homes, to commence the meeting.

Judith welcomed everyone, with special mention of our two new members, the Reverends Jack Dunion and Alison Southcombe. This means we now have the benefit of the wisdom and company of three ministers.

The Youth and Family Team are keeping in contact via WhatsApp, phone calls, emails, Facebook, and Zoom. They recently held their first Zoom Family Service. Isn't Zoom a real boon!

In March Lara Nicholls organised a “useful and well organised” safeguarding training event at Purley Chase and hopes to roll it out across the country. The Policy has been sent to all the Societies.

The Marketing and Resources Group have also been using Zoom for meetings. Muriel Morgan has catalogued the books in the Purley Chase library and shop. Jack Dunion is developing a YouTube channel called PAGE....Puzzled About God and Evolution. Bible related computer games to try to engage with younger people are being considered. Stephen

Russell-Lacy is working on the production of a podcast version of the “Spiritual Questions and Answers” website.

Purley Chase, like the rest of the hospitality industry, has had to close and furlough the staff. This of course means a loss of revenue which we can ill afford. The staff may be furloughed but that doesn't mean nothing is happening there. The manager, Rachel Gilsenan, has been busy with her paint brush and wallpaper scissors freshening up certain areas, in between working in the garden. So when the time is right we can look forward to spending time in the freshly decorated bar! Before the restrictions were put in place, work was continuing to ensure the building complied with all health and safety regulations and it will do so once the restrictions are removed.

It was a meeting with a difference, and perhaps a method we will have to get used to! But for all that, it was just as convivial and congenial as ever. It certainly helps to concentrate the mind.

Judith Wilson adds:

Thank you to all who communicated views about Conference 2020. The formal AGM will be held on Tuesday afternoon 28th July at Swanwick but it seems very unlikely that a ‘Social’ Conference will also take place. We await further news but, meanwhile, planning continues for a Zoom ‘Together on line’ for those who wish to join in. A choice of events will take place from Wednesday 29th July until Friday 31st July 2020 inclusive. Please watch for further information and details.