

E-READ

The General Conference of the New Church **Articles and Letters**

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Suggestions For The Fourth Sunday After Easter

by Revd John Elliott

Passages from the Word

Psalm 99
and/or Psalm 100

Isaiah 40:9-11

John 21:1-25

The Teachings of the New Church

As for priests, their duty is to teach people the way to heaven, and also to guide them. They must teach them in accordance with the teaching their church derives from the Word, and guide them to live in accordance with it. Priests who teach truths and by their means guide people to lead good lives, and so bring them to the Lord, are good shepherds. Those, however, who teach, but do not guide people to lead good lives, and so bring them to the Lord, are bad shepherds.

Paragraph 315 of **The New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for it**

pub 1990 tr John Chadwick

The Lord's twelve disciples represented the church as regards the whole of charity and faith taken together, in the same way as the twelve tribes of Israel did, 2129, 3354, 3488, 3858, 6397. Peter, James, and John represented faith, charity, and the good works of charity, in that order, 3750. Peter stands for faith, 4738, 6000, 6344, 10087, 10580, and John for the

good works of charity, see the prefaces
to chapters 18 and 22 of Genesis.

Some references to **Arcana Coelestia** in
The New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for it

Hymns

72 Faithful shepherd feed me *tune Pastor Pastorum* 6 5 6 5

380 The King of love my shepherd is *tune Dominus regit me or St Columba* 8 7 8 7

156 Help us to help each other, Lord, *tune Martyrdom or Metzler's Redhead* CM

Prayers

Come to us, Lord Jesus, in your understanding love
when all around us seems dark and uncertain,
when our faith is low and we cannot feel you near,
and we find it hard to pray.
Come to us then, dear Lord,
as you came to your disciples,
in the darkest hour of the night,
and let the light of your presence disperse our fears,
renew our trust, and bring peace to our hearts,
for your tender mercies' sake.

Frank Colquhoun

O Lord God of heaven and earth, who from Your infinite love
and pity did take on Yourself our fallen nature, and did come
to redeem and save: come now, we beseech You, and grant to
us the blessings of Your redeeming work that we may bear fruit
to You in works of charity and love, through Your mercy,
O Jesus Christ our Lord.

Liturgy for the Use of the General Church of the New Jerusalem 1995 edition

A Reflection

The Telephone

I have just hung up; why did he telephone?
I don't know ... Oh! I get it ...
I talked a lot and listened very little.

Forgive me, Lord, it was a monologue and not a dialogue.
I explained my idea and did not get his;

Since I didn't listen, I learned nothing,
Since I didn't listen, I didn't help,
Since I didn't listen, we didn't communicate.

Forgive me, Lord, for we were connected,
and now we are cut off.

Michel Quoist

IT Advice Segments - Part Two

by Gemma McLean

Consent and Copyright

When sharing photos and images online it is important to consider consent and copyright.

If you are sharing a photograph or image online that was taken or created by someone else, then you need their permission to use it. For example, if I wanted to include a photo that my friend took of her garden in E-News, I would need to ask her first. Verbal consent is more than adequate in these circumstances.

You also need consent of any people that are in the photo itself. So even if you took the photograph yourself, you need to check with any people in it (or their parent/guardian if under 18) that they are happy for their photo to be shared online. Again, verbal consent would be fine.

Images can be tricky too. For example, let's say I wanted a cartoon picture of a pumpkin to use in E-News for a Halloween item. If I Google search for "cartoon pumpkin" I will be presented with many choices, but I don't necessarily have permission to use these. Now in reality, unless I am using these pictures for commercial gain, the chances of any issues being raised are incredibly slim. But to be on the safe side, I always try and use royalty free images.

There are lots of web sites with royalty free images for us all to use freely. For clipart (cartoon style images), try Clcker. So with the pumpkin example:

<http://www.clker.com/search/pumpkin/1>

For royalty free photographs and videos, this web site is excellent:

<https://www.pexels.com/>

Context is important for copyright issues too. Realistically if I use a picture of a pumpkin I find on Google (that doesn't state it's royalty free) in a local newsletter...the chances of there being any comeback are virtually nil. But if I was to use it in a video game I created called "Escape from Halloween Doom" that I charged people money to download, there would likely be a "cease and desist" order headed my way from the image creator.

So try not to worry too much while at the same time being mindful of using royalty free images wherever possible, especially in online publications.

Sharing content on social networks such as Facebook is a little more relaxed. On the whole, Facebook will let you know if you are breaching any copyright laws. Things like sharing a post that someone has made using an image and quote from their favourite tv show, or sharing a YouTube clip of your favourite song are totally fine.

Common sense is mostly applied as we are now living in a world where sharing content is second nature and on the whole, encouraged.

Lockdown

by Gordon Kuphal

Lockdown - what a strange experience it is. How often have I heard that word 'strange', or something similar, used to describe the situation.

I feel fortunate to live in Brightlingsea where there is such a strong community spirit. Food shops are going out of their way to help people who cannot go out to do their shopping. So many neighbours are making sure that older people and people on their own are receiving their food and medicine and other essentials and are not lonely.

I feel fortunate too that, as a pensioner, I have not suddenly lost my income and that the routine of my life has not changed as dramatically as that of many younger people. For twenty-five years I lived on my own and for many years too I worked from home. My office was a room upstairs. So I was used to spending a lot of time in the house. Now I am often to be found reading, or sitting in front of the computer, or listening to music. We have a good-sized garden which is receiving more attention than usual. And most days, if we don't do some gardening, we go for a walk. How lucky we are that the sea-front and open countryside are near at hand.

But not only is the garden more weed-free than usual, my desk is less cluttered, although there is still a long way to go in that direction.

Some days ago I was writing a note with my biro, when it petered out. It occurred to me to wonder whether it could be justified as an essential shopping item. I admit I do have another biro to hand and probably others somewhere at the back of a drawer and I could always type on the computer. But there are things which I prefer to handwrite before typing them up, as my thoughts flow better that way.

However, I am sure each of us has different assessments of what is essential. But who is not missing face-to-face contact with friends or family and how many of us regret not meeting in familiar surroundings for worship on Sunday? It's a comfort to join the Zoom service on Sundays introduced by Rev Becky Jarratt.

On 15th April a TV documentary was broadcast entitled "The rebuilding of Notre Dame" to mark the first anniversary of the disastrous fire there. It began with shocking footage of that night in Paris. It went on to show some of the astonishing, painstaking efforts since then.

Perhaps the most vital work was to brace the flying buttresses with individually shaped wooden trusses, for otherwise there was grave danger that, if the remaining stone vaulting over the nave collapsed, the force from the buttresses would be sufficient to push over the main walls of the nave. Experts were carefully removing the deposit of lead dust on the stained glass windows before repairing heat cracks. And there was so much else.

These labours will take many years, but there is huge determination that Notre Dame will be fully restored.

Meanwhile, there is a similar level of determination to overcome the ravages of Covid-19. We all admire the devotion, and bravery, of doctors, nurses, care-workers and others. How long the strictures of the lockdown will need to last we do not know. But there are already many fine examples of the determination of the human spirit to conquer adversity. Let's keep our spirits up.