

E-READ

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

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

Contributions

If you would like to contribute a letter or article to future issues of e-Read, please send it via email to : gemma.mclean@gcnc.org.uk

Please note that publication is at the discretion of our Spiritual Leadership.

Share E-Read

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

Home Worship

To download the latest Home Worship material please visit: gcnc.org.uk/resources/home-worship

To subscribe via email, please sign up at: gcnc.org.uk/hwsignup

Sunshine Over The Slag Heaps

by Enid Nicholls

During these difficult times, and some say at war with the Coronavirus, I am of an age to remember, WWII when large numbers of young men were conscripted; some were sent to work in the mines instead of to the armed services as they had hoped; they became known as the Bevin Boys. Years later one of these Bevin Boys was persuaded to talk about his time in a coal mine. He said, "It was hard work, but there was a great spirit amongst the miners that carried you along - well most of the time."

One day, before dawn, he was walking to the pit and feeling depressed, he wished he was somewhere else, doing something different. Life seemed pretty dull - "not much to write home about". Then he said, "The sun rose over the slag heaps, and there was more beauty in that moment than I could hold". (a lovely phrase that - Sunshine over the Slag heaps) There's hope in that sight, a promise of better things. The light and warmth of the sun keeps us alive, and the beauty it creates keeps us feeling positive.

Sometimes, we seem to be walking through slag heaps, seeing the dark side of life, the suffering, the waste. I confess I have a continuing problem with the evil of so many varieties in the world today. To be honest at those times, in face of all the rotten things happening to people where ever they live, believing in a God of Love isn't easy.

Many years ago BBC Television put on a series of

brief comments by its 'War Correspondents', most of them said the same things in different ways, 'War is ugly' said one, 'Terrible' said another, 'Dirty' and so on and so on. Then Kate Adie spoke and she was different. (If you remember, Kate always appeared on the news from the very worst of situations and you knew then that things were bad). She said, "I am continually amazed at the amount of good human nature you find in the worst of circumstances", and that is something I can hang on to in the present epidemic. Ultimately, it's not the nastiness that really registers but the fact that amidst it all, goodness keeps popping up in the most unexpected places - random acts of kindness they're calling it, but come to think of it, I'm not so sure these acts of kindness and goodness are as random as they seem. There's something, someone, behind them.

To come back to the miner, when seeing the dark side of life he reminds us that the sun rises, even on rainy days and offers us the possibility of beauty and goodness. Among the graffiti found on the wall of a concentration camp hut at the end of WWII was one that read:-

I believe in the sun even when it doesn't shine and
I believe in God even when I cannot see him.

So, keep your eyes, ears and minds open every day. Beauty and kindness may appear when you least expect it like sunrise over the slag heaps. Perhaps it is a whisper from God, just for you.

Suggestions For Ascension Sunday

by Revd John Elliott

Attached with this edition of E-Read is a selection of worship suggestions for Ascension Sunday by the Revd John Elliott.

IT Advice Segments - Part Four

by Gemma McLean

Backups

If your computer completely stopped working tomorrow, would you have a safe backup of your personal files? Everyone with any content on their computers that they would not be happy to lose should have a backup in place. Most of us have years of photos and documents on our computers that we would be very sad to lose if an unlikely hardware failure occurred.

There are many different ways to backup your files:

1. To the cloud using something like Dropbox
2. Manually by taking a copy of important files to an external drive or DVD every so often

3. Using Windows File History
4. Using the Windows Backup and Restore feature
5. Time Machine on Apple Macs
6. Using the free EaseUS ToDo Backup software

You can also use some of these methods (items 4,5 and 6 in the above list) to perform a complete system backup, which as well as backing up your files, backs up all your programs and settings.

Once your backup is in place, it is important to check from time to time that it is still working and running at regular intervals.