



E-NEWS



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

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Newly Released Films for New Church Day

If you haven't already, it might be worth checking out the latest issue of E-Read, which features two special articles written for New Church Day.

The first is by Revd Bruce Jarvis and asks "what are we celebrating?".

The second is by ordinand Lee Differ who has created 3 short films for the occasion.

Links to the films:

'A Faith Lost and Found' (Part 1) - <https://youtu.be/WNUrnEeuxR8>

'A Faith Lost and Found' (Part 2) - <https://youtu.be/3AhPFJoVmTk>

'A Faith Lost and Found' (Part 3) - <https://youtu.be/PwlOVhz4MfU>

(The films are intended, in their current version, for a

New Church 'readership' by invitation via E-News and E-Read. Viewers are therefore kindly asked to refrain from any copying or wider distribution.)

You can view the full issue of E-Read here:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/eread41.pdf>

Conference 2020

Zoë Brooks, Company Secretary, reports:

As the Hayes management have no way of knowing whether they will be allowed to open they have very generously offered to let us withdraw from our booking without incurring any cancellation fees. Very few people have booked to go to Conference and most of those who should be leading sessions do not want to be there. Therefore, the Council has decided with great sadness to cancel the 2020 residential Conference.

It will be necessary to hold the legal part, the Annual General Meeting, to deal with such things as the reports of the Company Accountant and the Council but this can be dealt with in an afternoon. Further details about this will be issued later when the situation about the availability of the venue is clearer.

There will be an opportunity to share in 'Together Online' using Zoom and plans are well underway. More information will be available soon. All events will be in the last week of July.

Those who have paid to attend the residential Conference should contact Sally Field at enquiries@generalconference.org.uk giving details of the amount paid and date in order to claim a refund. It would be appreciated if at least part of what has been paid could go towards 'Together on line'. Please let Sally know your wishes.

Further News on "Together Online"

The Online Ministry Team (Jack, Christine, Becky and Alison) reports:

As you will have read in an earlier article in this edition of E-News, there is the sad but not unexpected news that our Conference at the Hayes has been cancelled. Thinking positively however, that doesn't mean we can't still get together online. We had already started on outline plans for a Zoom alternative "Together Online" but can now place more emphasis on moving this forward and sharing ideas with everyone in the days and weeks to come.

This online project will naturally involve all those who have been working on the Sunday services, as a lot of experience has been gained working with Zoom. We have already been chatting to people in wider ministry and church roles to gather ideas and support.

We warmly invite everyone church-wide to participate in “Together Online”, and in order for you to share your thoughts on what you might like to join, we have put together a simple survey which allows you to feedback on an outline programme as well as have the opportunity to make other suggestions. Click the URL link included here to be taken to the survey which only takes two minutes to complete. Your answers remain anonymous and will be automatically collated and returned to us.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/392289Z>

This survey will also be emailed to everyone on the General Conference and Zoom Sunday Service databases, but you only need to complete it once. We would ask you to complete it by Monday 22nd June as it will no longer be active after that date.

We would also like to offer the invitation for people to contribute towards “Together Online” in any way they feel able. Here are just a few suggestions of ways to become involved: becoming a reader, contributing a prayer or poem, hosting a break-out group, recording a piece of music or a film clip, gathering photos to share, or even learning the technical side of Zoom. This isn’t an exhaustive list of ideas, you may have your own, so let us know what you would like to offer by emailing: christine.bank@generalconference.org.uk . Got a great idea but not too familiar with Zoom? Don’t worry, the online ministry team are here to help and support!

Watch this space for the results of the survey and further plans for “Together Online.”

Film Club - The Boxtrolls

Jenny Jones reports:



The Youth and Family team are really excited to announce a new activity that we are running on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th June for children and young people called “Film Club”. This has been put together and organised by Shannon Fitzgerald and we thank her for all the time she has given so far to make this event happen as well as for her enthusiasm and creativity.

We will be collectively watching an animated film called The Boxtrolls. This film (apart from being a lot of fun) contains many interesting themes such as “Does good always triumph over evil?” and “What makes us who we truly are?” On the Saturday afternoon, we will be splitting into small age related discussion groups each

with a leader to explore the themes.

If you would like to sign up to join in, please email Robert Clark by Thursday 25th June and if you have any questions or would like more information then contact Shannon, Robert or Jenny. We will do our best to help 😊

shannon.fitzgerald@gcnc.org.uk

robert.clark@gcnc.org.uk

jenny.jones@gcnc.org.uk

Family Service Reminder

Robert Clark writes:

Family Service this Saturday June 20th

and then.....

Saturday July 11th

Saturday August 8th

Saturday Sept 12th

(All ages welcome ❤️)

3.45pm for a 4pm start.

If you haven't already please email 'subscribe to family services' to robert.clark@gcnc.org.uk and I'll add you to the list. We will send out the Zoom link on the Friday before.



Wash your Hands for 20 Seconds

What about your clothes? A tongue in cheek offering for the young and young at heart

Enid Nicholls writes:



Who does the washing in your household? And where? In the sink, the washing machine, at the launderette or, perhaps, in the river?

Close your eyes and imagine an outside line of clean clothes. Don't just see them; listen and hear them blowing in the wind.

Socks and tights strung out like crotchets on a line, white shirts trill a little - besides the trumpeting of

night-wear and undies let loose. Sheets clap, trousers flap, and towels of all sizes drip in time.

I have come to expect this ritual song and dance of fabric from my world inside.

In Psalm 51, verses 1 & 2, 6 & 7, the writer speaks about us being washed. Did he mean that when folk get to heaven the Lord puts them in a huge washing machine and - with the angels pouring in the powder and conditioner - washes all clean?

So what is meant? That we should wash our hands and bodies regularly? No, it's spiritual washing that he is speaking of. When you wash, say to yourself, "I must wash my inner spiritual being too." That way you will begin to see why, and to understand what spiritual washing means. For this spiritual washing you will need Bible Water, which is God's truth; this will wash you and make you really clean. It will remove dirty evil from your thoughts and actions. It means that each time you think of and stop doing unkind and wrong things, the Lord will see someone who loves him and follows his way and teachings.

Whilst washing your hands think about what wrong thoughts and actions you have done, and ask the Lord to help you get your spiritual self clean too. The more you do the right things, the easier and easier it gets.

A Prayer

Lord, I watch my washing going round and round and see the dirt flowing out. It gives me a good feeling! I suppose, Lord, you watch us in the same way, hoping that the dirt will come floating away from us as we live our lives here on earth.

I should like to be as clean, white and bright as my clean clothes. So, I shall be a good friend and neighbour to the person next to me, and not use foreign coins in the launderette machine, or pinch other people's hangers in communal wardrobes, or leave puddles on the floor.

I promise, with your help, Lord Jesus, to be kind and thoughtful of others, whoever and wherever they are.

"Wash me, so that I shall become whiter than snow"

Amen



Reader Contributions

Thank you for sharing these stories with the world.

The reason I say 'the world' is because I am on the other side of it, and had it not been for the Covid restrictions on physical events causing us all to find creative new ways to keep doing the things that bring us and others so much joy, then the NCYA exhibition might have only remained a local actual exhibition. But luckily for me, it has by necessity become a virtual world-wide exhibition. So, I'm glad that I - all the way in Australia - have been able to see and enjoy those wonderful creative works too.

By the way, now that the world is reading about it, you might become more mindful of the need to explain local acronyms such as NCYA, which I just discovered means New Church Youth Association (**Gemma**: "Good point Joe, will do"). Nice work. Thanks again for sharing these delightful pieces of work.

Joe Vandermeer, Director of the Swedenborg Centre in Australia



Everything has beauty, but not
everyone sees it.
Confucius

Shared by Revd Becky Jarratt