



E-NEWS



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

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

Our Spiritual Leader, Revd Jack Dunion, broadcasts his own online radio show every Sunday at 9am on River Radio (formerly Leven Radio):

<https://riverradio.uk/>

The link below now gives access to all backdated Rise & Shine programs:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/>

Does the Lord Forgive?

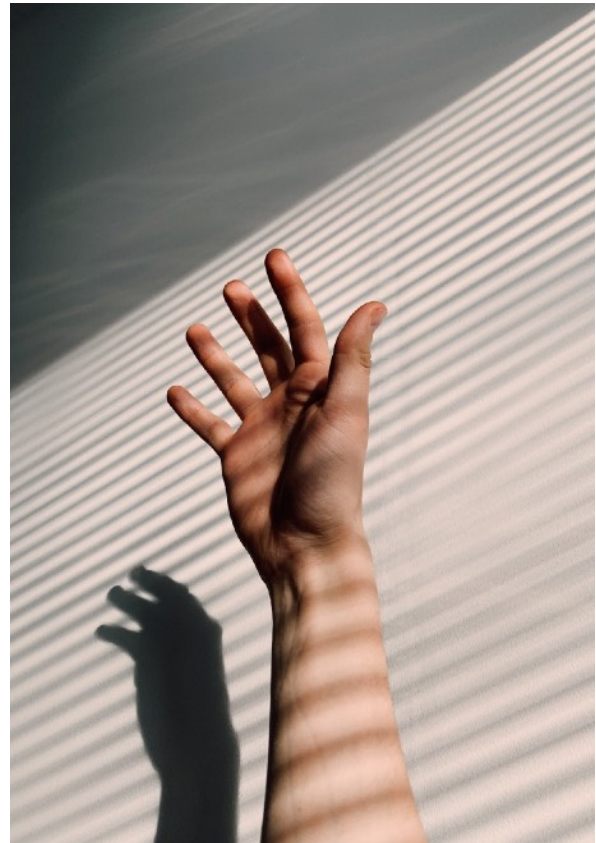
A session aimed at parents from 7-9 pm on Saturday, 28th November

Revds Christine Bank and Becky Jarratt report:

It's quite simple - the Lord's Prayer says 'forgive us... as we also forgive'. What does that really mean for us? And when someone has deliberately wronged us can we approach the situation with a true spirit of forgiveness? Should we forgive everything? Do we "turn the other cheek"?

We will discuss in which circumstances we think we will be forgiven, and think about what we ourselves can forgive. The teachings of the New Church will help to guide us through these dilemmas. We will also think about how we can talk about forgiveness to our teens and children.

After the success of the previous session, we invite you to join us for a range of whole and small-group discussion. Bring your own wine and snacks! Email Becky for the Zoom code: beckyjarratt@gcnc.org.uk



Zoom Services in 2021

Rev'd Becky Jarratt writes:

As I write this, those of us in England are back in Lockdown. Who would have thought it, when we first started Zooming in March and April last year, that we would still be here in November? However, lots of us have found this to be a new way to connect with people we don't see from year to year, and with those we haven't seen for a long time. Completely new friendships are forming too, which is wonderful. Many of us would prefer to meet in person, but Zoom helps us to be together when meeting on a regular basis is impossible, even in non-COVID-19 times.

So, we have decided to carry on with the pattern we started this autumn. We will have services at 3.30 pm on the second, third and fourth Sunday of the month. The third Sunday will be a service aimed at children and families, but all are welcome. We are planning for the first six months of 2021 and will see how it goes. It feels like so many things are up in the air at the moment, so having some certainty for the time being can only be a good thing. (There will also be additional Easter services - watch this space.)

We are looking for help! We would like as many people as would like to be involved. Please do not feel you need to be an expert in the field to offer yourself. You may think that the people leading worship look calm and relaxed. I can assure you that this is not always the case, and most people who have appeared on Zoom have felt nervous at some point. We would particularly like help in the following areas:

Technical volunteers - to run the PowerPoint, hymns and muting and unmuting of speakers. Training and ongoing support while becoming familiar with the role would be provided

Readers - either of the Word, the Writings or of prayers

Musicians - to record themselves playing or singing for an introduction, or to record hymns

Worship leaders - to write and present the introduction to worship and the talks, based on that week's Home Worship, which can be found on the Conference website <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/home-worship/>

If you would like to help in any of the ways above, or you can think of something else, please contact Becky on beckyjarratt@gcnc.org.uk

No offer of help is too small!

We shall look forward to hearing from you.

- Becky, on behalf of the Zoom Ministry Team (Jack, Alison, Christine and Becky)

Christmas is Coming Advent Calendar and Picture Instructions

Carolyn Kennion writes:

With the wintry weather and long, dark evenings what better way to spend some time than doing a simple craft activity that will also help you to think about the true meaning of Christmas?

Issue 73 of E-News (10. 11. 2020) contained information about an interactive Advent Calendar with a link to access the calendar:

<https://generalconference.org.uk/advent/>

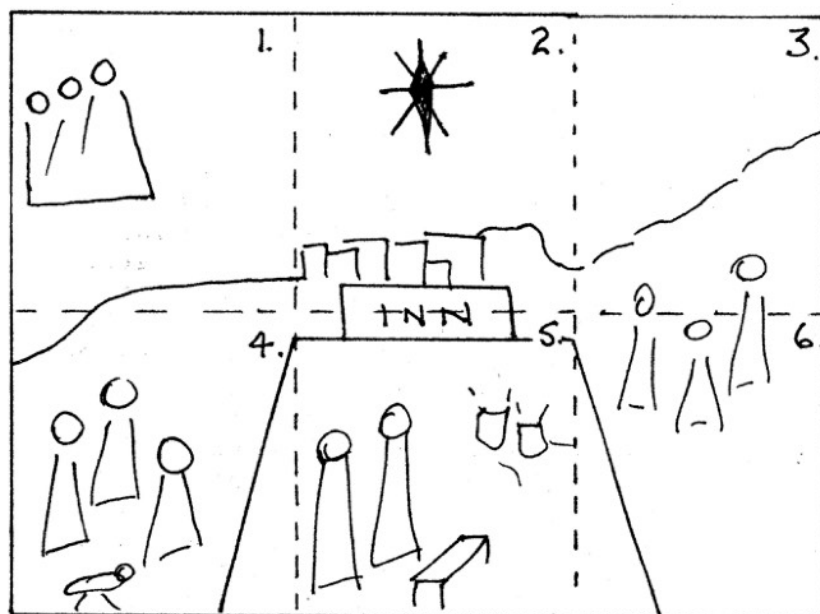
When you click on the link, the 24 calendar 'doors' will appear and, immediately above them, some blue text saying 'Click here for instructions'. Included in these are general instructions for creating a picture of the nativity scene.

How it all works

During advent, when you click on the calendar door for that date you will find the name of the theme for that day. There is a reading to look up in your Bible, a short explanation, a sentence or two from Swedenborg's Writings and a prayer - all on the same theme. There are also more detailed instructions for making the nativity picture and a sample picture with that day's item added.

Making the nativity picture

The idea is to gradually assemble a collage nativity scene by adding the character or other



item which is the theme for that day in the advent calendar. The sketched plan of the picture, which is divided into 6 numbered squares, is a guide for where to place the items. You do not draw this on your picture but just refer to it.

For example, when you click on door 1 on 1st December, you will see that the theme is 'night'. There is a Bible reading, sentence from the Writings

and prayer - all on the theme of 'night'. In the 'picture' section for that day it suggests how you might make a dark, night sky as the background for the picture in sections 1,2 and 3. Day 2's theme is 'fields' so you are told to add some green paper or other material to represent fields, mainly in section 4 of your picture, as shown on the plan and sample picture.

Getting ready

It might be helpful to gather some materials before December 1st, so here are some ideas:

- A rectangular piece of card or paper to act as the base for your picture. (I used A4 black card for the sample picture, but you may want a larger size eg cut from a large cardboard box. Any colour will do if you can paint it or stick on dark blue or black paper for the night sky.)
- Scissors, glue, felt-tip pens or crayons.
- Green, beige & brown papers or fabric eg from envelopes, wrapping paper etc.
- Variety of small pieces of coloured paper, fabric scraps, trimmings, cotton wool etc
- An easy way to make the nativity characters, animals, buildings etc is to cut or copy them from Christmas cards, catalogues or print them from the internet.

Don't worry if you don't have all of the above. There is no 'right way' to do it. See how you can improvise and adapt, using what you have; natural materials from your garden, such as dry grass, sand, twigs and bark, could be very effective.

Happy Christmas crafting! We would love to see photos of your completed pictures.