



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/>

Divine Focus - Session One - Hope

Carolyn Kennion reports:

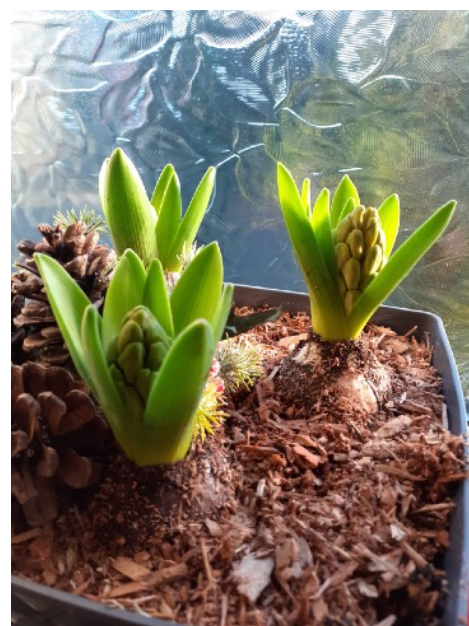
A few weeks ago Revd Becky Jarratt advertised a pilot session for a new type of group on the theme of 'Hope'. Anyone interested in taking part was asked to email to Becky six of their own photographs showing some aspects of 'Hope', which would be shared with the group. Before deciding whether or not to join the pilot session, I started to think about what I might photograph. This proved to be a positive experience in itself as I looked around for things which give me



hope. Dodging the rain and snow showers, I soon found plenty to photograph and was already feeling much more hopeful!

During the morning of Thursday 14th January a group of five of us met with Becky via Zoom. After an opening prayer we introduced ourselves and Becky explained how the session would run. I was relieved to hear that the quality of the photography was not important! While each person's photos were displayed on-screen they explained why they associated them with hope and then read a short Biblical

quote (supplied by Becky). The photos were of a wide variety of subject matter including new life in people and plants, natural rhythms and seasons, light, the sea, achievements against the odds and precious times spent with friends and loved ones which we hope to experience again. We were invited to comment on what we saw and heard and I felt privileged to listen to others as they shared what gives them hope. Becky drew the session to a close with prayer.



I am very glad that I joined this pilot session. The subject of 'Hope' was so relevant at this dark, cold time of year, especially with the current pandemic. I found both the process of looking for things that give me hope and the sharing in the group, uplifting and enjoyable. Comments from the other participants confirmed that they also found it a positive and helpful experience and we hope that there will be similar sessions in the future. Thank you Becky.

A Poem

Gemma McLean writes:

Bruce Jarvis has shared a poem written by Lynne Griffiths, written for the Seaburn Dene New Church Christmas Eve Meditation on Zoom (with her permission of course), as he felt E-News readers would enjoy it:



A POEM FOR CHRISTMAS EVE - MARY AND JOSEPH

On the night before THAT day did you both know
that from a tiny baby love would grow and grow?
On the night before THAT day did you both know
that in such a time of darkness a light would now show?

On the night before THAT day did you both feel
that this tiny little babe would cause great kings to kneel?
On the night before THAT day did you both feel
that this infant as he grew would forgive, teach and heal?

On the night before THAT day were you both aware
that this baby born to you would be compassion and care?
On the night before THAT day were you both aware
that this child would have such impact that crowds would stop and stare?

On the night before THAT day could you both tell
that this baby once born would challenge both man and hell?
On the night before THAT day could you both tell
that the purpose of this child was to make all things well?

On the night before THAT day could you both see
that the world was about to change and a new world would be?
On the night before THAT day could you both see
that a connection was about to be made forever between God, you and me?

by LYNNE GRIFFITHS

