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/

Reptile Time Reminder

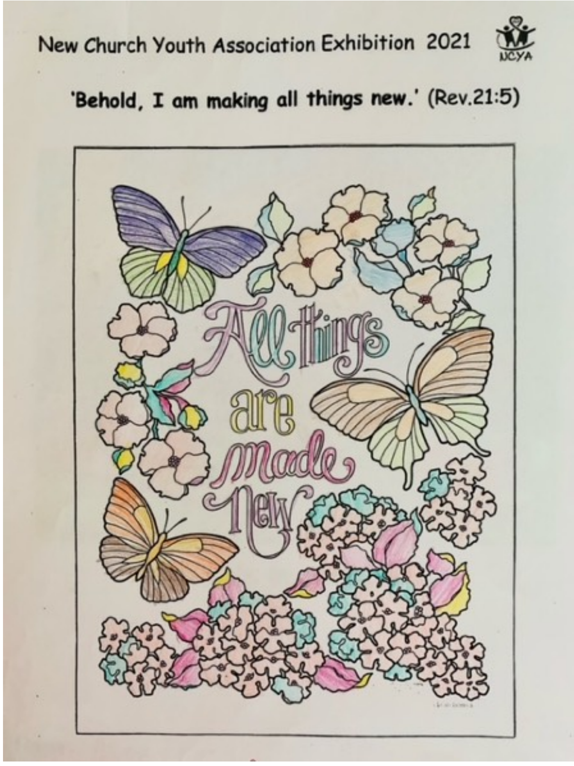
Don't forget to join the Youth and Family Team on Saturday 27th March at 3.30pm for "Dylan's Reptile Time". This will be an hour to get up close to a variety of reptiles including spiders and snakes.

Please message Robert Clark (robert.clark@gcnc.org.uk) to let him know that you would like to join in and receive the Zoom Code.

New Church Youth Association Exhibition Update

Carolyn Kennion reports:

We are delighted to have already received some superb entries for this year's exhibition on the theme of 'New Life'.



Have you started to colour one of the pictures provided, painted a pebble or thought of another creative way to illustrate New Life?

If you need to remind yourself how to enter please look in issue 85 of E-News or contact Carolyn Kennion: carolyn.kennion@ntlworld.com

Entries are welcome from all ages. Closing date: 30th April 2021

Sunrise Magazine

Gwendolen Rowe reports:

To help cut down costs and paper waste we are now only printing Sunrise for children, young people and for Churches to display for their congregations to read. The plan, in the not too distant future, is to have them available to download from the NCYA website but in the meantime if you would like to receive an email with Sunrise, and are not currently on my mailing list to receive it already, please let me know and I will add you to my mailing list. You do not need to do anything if you are already receiving it.

Palm Sunday and Easter Videos

Carolyn Kennion reports:

Watch an online celebration for Palm Sunday and a presentation of the Easter story from the Gospel of John made by New Churches in the U.S.A.

Access the Palm Sunday celebration in your browser using this link:
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=GWenRsfXdUw

You can also find it by searching for the following on YouTube:
Celebrating Palm Sunday – General Church 2020

Access the Easter Video - 'He Is Risen' in your browser using this link:
https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uq4Fa1HoKZI

You can also find it by entering the following into YouTube:
He is Risen – Kempton New Church

Thanks to New Church Sunday School, General Church Education U.S.A. We hope you enjoy them.

Book Wanted

Carolyn Kennion writes:

Do you have a copy of Brian Kingslake's book 'For Heaven's Sake' which you no longer need? We have received a request for this book but have been unable to locate one, so if you have one to spare please contact Carolyn Kennion: carolyn.kennion@ntlworld.com

News from the Council

Margaret Cowie reports:

Once again Covid prevented Conference Council from meeting in person, therefore we all made ourselves as comfortable as possible in front of our computers for a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Revd. Alison Southcombe is no longer attending Council Meetings. She continues her abundance of ministerial duties and Council talked about her work with Muriel Morgan to ensure that any material used online by the Church is registered with CCLI (Christian Copyright Licence International). All the hymns and music used in our services are licenced, being compiled with pictures taken by us and music created similarly. It is a delight to hear the voices of our members and friends. Council strongly supports this work which is stored on the Conference Website for use by worship leaders.

Council was delighted to approve the proposal by the Ministers' Committee that Revd. Jack Dunion be appointed Spiritual Leader for the term of three years.

The original members of the Apocalypse Study Group have decided that the time has come to hand over the baton to a younger generation, therefore future work will be undertaken by Revds Jack Dunion and Becky Jarrett. They have exciting new ideas to get the result of many years of work on line and available for all.

It is planned to hold Conference at Swanwick at the end of July so please send you applications to Margaret Presland. The Hayes Conference Centre has undergone a refurbishment programme. The Book Room, which we previously had use of, has now become part of the enlarged public space area. This means we will only have two rooms available for meetings, therefore the Historical Society has moved their AGM from Wednesday evening to the Tuesday evening. The NCCS (New Church Children's Society) has decided not to hold their AGM concurrently with Conference.

One of Council duties is to review the policies - a necessary, but not always exciting task! A new Coronavirus Vaccine Policy was adopted. A few amendments were made to the Financial Procedures and Risk Management Policies, and four new appendices were added to the Health and Safety policy. Purley Chase has been registered to receive Covid Lateral Flow Tests so that its staff are tested easily and on a regular basis once it reopens.

Some Council members will be standing for re-election in July, and one will be standing down. Sadly, Lara Nicholls has, due to personal circumstances, found it necessary to leave Council in July. She is a conscientious, hard-working, and valuable member, and will be greatly missed, and not just for her expert proof-reading skills! Lara, along with Rita Russell, has responsibly for the Safeguarding Policy. Shannon Fitzgerald will take this on from July. Lara's other responsibilities, the Youth Leader's Line Manager, and Conference Programme will be undertaken by me. [note added by Chairman – many, many thanks to you both for volunteering]. The loss of Lara gives YOU an opportunity. I have found the work surprisingly interesting and am excited to get more involved. I hear about all the developments that are planned and our new Spiritual Leader shares the renewed enthusiasm of the Ministry with us all. This is a really good place to be and all expenses are paid. The

group is relaxed, friendly and helpful. Purley is a wonderful meeting place. Great food, lovely surroundings, and there is a bar which we have time to use!!!
As you have skills and experience to offer surely you would like to know more? It is an exciting time for the Church as we come out of Lockdown. Please phone Judith (Chairman) on 01425 279408, or any other Council member, for a chat.

It is hoped that the next Council meeting, in May, will actually take place, in person, at Purley - already looking forward to it!!!

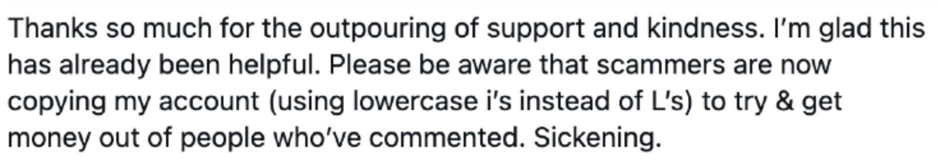
More Scam Warnings

Gemma McLean writes:

I found a story written by a lady on Twitter (@EmmelineHartley) about how she was scammed out of the contents of her bank account (her full story overleaf).


I mentioned yesterday that I'd been scammed out of every penny I had. Thought I'd post what happened in case it helps anyone avoid being in the same position. Please save the lectures, I don't think it's possible for me to feel any stupider 🤦🏻‍♀️ #royalmailscam #safeaccountscam

Even more worrying is the fact that after her story was widely read and well received on Twitter, more scammers tried to pretend to be her by setting up a Twitter account with a similar name in order to try and con people out of money! Presumably by asking for donations to help her.


Thanks so much for the outpouring of support and kindness. I'm glad this has already been helpful. Please be aware that scammers are now copying my account (using lowercase i's instead of L's) to try & get money out of people who've commented. Sickening.

This really does show the lengths that they will go to so please be careful. If someone phones you claiming to be from your bank, hang up the phone and then phone your bank using their official phone numbers. If it's genuine they are more than happy for you to do this. You can use this method with any company that phones you asking for money or personal information. Just tell them you'll call them back and then dial up their official number (you can find this on the web or it might be on letterheads from things like statements you have received). Also, be incredibly wary of texts or emails asking for your financial or personal information.

The full story of the scam can be read below.

Also available here if you require larger print: https://twitter.com/EmmelineHartley/status/1373649332747046914

On Friday, I received the Royal Mail text that's been doing the rounds, asking for me to pay £2.99 additional postage fee. I didn't know about the scam and I even checked the website and thought it was legit. Given that it was my birthday on Saturday, I knew a couple of packages were on their way and have had to pay additional postage fees before, so thought nothing else of it. I put my bank details in.

Then yesterday, I got a phone call from Barclays to say that someone had tried to set up direct debits in my account to Vodafone and Curries/PC World. They said a transaction of over £300 had also been attempted to Argos. They took me through security before cancelling my cards and issuing new ones, saying they'd take 3-5 days to arrive. They then added that, because I'd also given away my sort code and account number along with address and other details, it put my online banking at risk, meaning they could access all my Barclays accounts including my business account and ISA. They therefore needed to generate a new sort code and account number for my account, which they did and gave to me over the phone.

Guys, the next bit is going to sound really stupid, but I was so embarrassed by my stupidity of falling for the Royal Mail scam, shocked and scared that someone had been trying to use my card, and also in a rush because my friend was waiting for me outside as we were going to go for a socially distanced birthday walk.

The guy on the phone asked me to transfer all my money into my new account, at which point I asked him how I could know he was really phoning from Barclays. He gave me some more information about myself that I had not yet given, as well as the balances of my accounts. By this time, I had forgotten that I had actually disclosed the bank balances to him as part of the security questions at the start. For further peace of mind, I also checked the number he was calling from on the Barclays website and it was the official Barclays Fraud contact number. He also reassured me that if the name was wrong on the account I was transferring to (as I was putting my name), the app would tell me it wasn't a name match. However, it didn't. It said the account wasn't verified to which the guy said 'of course it isn't, you have to verify it when you receive all the details in the post.'

So I transferred everything I had across all three accounts (which wasn't much) in two different instalments that he said his system had generated the figure for, for security purposes. It all sounds so stupid now but, like a fool, I trusted this man. This man knew it was my birthday, he knew I have been excluded from government support throughout the pandemic due to being newly self-employed, he knew I am a student and he knew I currently have no meaningful income. He knew all those things because of how profusely I'd thanked him for protecting my money and went on to explain how devastating it'd have been if the transactions were successful. Yet he had no shame in watching me clear out all my accounts to £0.00. The money in my business account was not even mine to spend.

It only dawned on me what was happening when he then asked me to transfer my overdraft. I told him I do not have an overdraft and he said his system shows that I do. Funny, seeing as my recent overdraft application had been declined. I said then if I have an overdraft, just set one up on my new account - this is not how overdrafts work. He insisted that I have one. Despite knowing deep down that something wasn't right, I tried to transfer the sum of money he told me to transfer. It didn't work, confirming what I guess I already knew. I broke down in tears there and then and he hung up.

I now know that the reason the app said 'account not verified' and did not tell me that there was a name mismatch is because the guy was using Clydesdale Bank who have not signed up to this service. The reason I didn't get the correct scam warnings is because he took me through the 'friends and family' route because I was transferring it to someone I know - me. The reason it didn't trigger an alert on Barclays system is because he made me transfer it in smaller instalments. Also, the reason Barclays actual telephone number showed up on my phone is because they had 'spoofed' it. Companies can protect their numbers from Spoofing but for some reason, Barclays haven't. These guys know what they're doing.

I spent the rest of the day sobbing while on hold to Actual Barclays and after several hours, they'd cancelled my cards and issued new ones and have launched an investigation into my fraud claim. They said that this is a very common scam known as the 'Safe Account scam'. I think a lot of people have heard that term floating about but throughout the entire call, the guy never once said 'Safe Account', so it didn't trigger any alarm bells. Barclays said they can't guarantee I'll be reimbursed but that there's a high success rate for these types of claims.

I'm usually very good at not falling for scams, but this one caught me off-guard at a pretty vulnerable time in my life. I look at it now and feel very stupid, but the warnings from Barclays were not adequate. I thought I'd done my due diligence but it wasn't enough.