



E-NEWS



The General Conference of the New Church News

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

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/>

Finding a Way Forward - Part Two

Margaret Cowie and Nigel Sutton write:

Following our previous statement in E-News, we want to explain more fully about what is happening with the formation of the new Conference Council.

A full, functioning Council is very necessary to enable urgent items that naturally arise to be dealt with promptly, along with all the normal routine matters that require attention. It had been expected that elections would take place in the normal way

during the Annual Meeting, so there were nominees in place. Unfortunately, it was not possible for the election to take place, leaving the Conference in a tricky situation.

At present, as we have explained, there are just 2 Council Members/Trustees who were nominated by the last 2 Trustees of the previous Conference Council before they resigned on 20th August. These are the undersigned - Margaret Cowie, Chairman, and Nigel Sutton, Trustee. In the unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves, it means we have only a small democratic credibility. It would be foolish and unwise to think that the two of us could carry out this work on our own.

As a result of detailed discussions with a lawyer, we believe that, in line with the Articles, these 2 Trustees can appoint another 6 people to form a full Council, which, of course, can serve only until the next Annual Meeting. At that point all 8, together with any other nominees, could stand for election in the normal democratic way. This explains the emergency measure outlined previously enabling the vacancies to be filled with the support of the Voting Members by means of a ballot, which would at least create some sense of democratic accountability. These 6 people would then need to be appointed to the Council by the 2 current Trustees, as the ballot is an extraordinary procedure.

We realise that there is no precise provision for this procedure in the Articles and Rules but we hope that it will show the new Council that they have the support of Voting Members and that the Council will have more democratic credibility than if all the Trustees had been appointed, as allowed for in the Articles.

Up to this point we have been unable to consult the Conference solicitor as he has been on annual leave until the end of August. In the meantime, a potential objection suggests that Article 33 may not allow vacancies that arose at the Annual Meeting to be fulfilled in this way. We are, therefore, seeking an early meeting with the solicitor to clarify this point. At the moment, we do not know how quickly he will be able to meet with us, nor how long it will take for him to give his advice about these procedures. Accordingly, the ballot mentioned in the previous E-News statement is being delayed until we have confirmation. We apologise for this delay, and hope you will understand that we wish both to be open with everyone, and to be sure that we are acting correctly.

We are acutely aware that readers may be feeling anxious about what is happening in the governance of our Church but we believe that this is the best way to achieve a full and functioning Council at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, we are drawing upon other experienced Church members for advice and help. We shall be in touch again at the earliest opportunity to give further news.

Margaret Cowie (Chair) and Nigel Sutton (Trustee)

A Kildwick Holiday

Pauline Grimshaw reports:

Kildwick is a tiny village in between Skipton and Keighley, with a magnificent Parish Church, that seems rather out of proportion to the population of the village, and a public house 'The White Lion.' On one side of the village is the Liverpool Leeds canal and on the other side the River Aire. Next to the White Lion is a property owned by the General Conference, which was once the premises of the small New Church Society of Cross Hills. This building was formerly a Conservative Club until 1930 when it was purchased by the members of the Cross Hills society for use as a church. The church closed in 1947 after which the premises were used as a hostel and Young People's schools were held there.

I first went to the hostel for a Young People's school when I was aged 15 with a group of young people from Spring Hill and other Sunday Schools in North Lancashire. It certainly was a great adventure travelling on a bus across the Pennines! My 15 year old self would have no difficulty recognising the surroundings today as outwardly very little seems to have changed, although Covid seems to have put paid to the White Lion next door! In the intervening years I have stayed there at least once a year and this year was no exception. This time I went along with my three children and four of my grandchildren.

Perhaps the only reminder of the hostel's past as a church is the stained-glass window in the Common Room. It depicts the Lord with children by his knee and the inscription records that it was dedicated in memory of George Simpson. The dining room and kitchen are down a flight of outdoor steps through the front garden. This year a small piece of land has been planted with flowers and has a little plaque with the inscription 'Hilary's Garden' carved on it. This is in memory of Hilary Eastwood (formerly Taylor) of the Radcliffe church who recently passed into the spiritual world. Hilary's family spent many happy hours at Kildwick.

Outside the kitchen door is a newly renovated bench with a plaque on it in memory of Margaret and Allen Taylor, Hilary's parents who also loved to sit and look out across the fields. As I sat on the bench I thought of the many other persons who I had known who had enjoyed sitting on the bench over the years. This year there were rabbits frolicking in the field, a heron by the river and as evening drew on bats flittered around overhead. It truly is a place to appreciate the wonders of the Lord's natural creation.

One of the activities that we do each year is to climb up to the 'Pinnacle' - a large stone cairn erected on the top of highest hill to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. We also pick 'whinberries' from the surrounding moorland. These delicious little berries (not to be confused with blueberries) are seldom found in

shops today but make the most delicious fruit pies. This year for the first time ever we hired a barge to sail along the beautiful scenery of the Liverpool Leeds canal.

So if you want to enjoy a relaxing holiday in old-fashioned surroundings, away from technology but in the midst of beautiful surroundings why not try a few days at Kildwick!

Conference 2022 Flowers

John Ford writes:

Erica Cunningham has advised me that she will not be able to provide the flower arrangement at conference next year. I am therefore looking for a volunteer to provide and arrange flowers for the platform either one or two displays.

We also need one or two stands for the displays, does any church have ones we can use? Please let me know if you are able to help.

Many thanks, John Ford

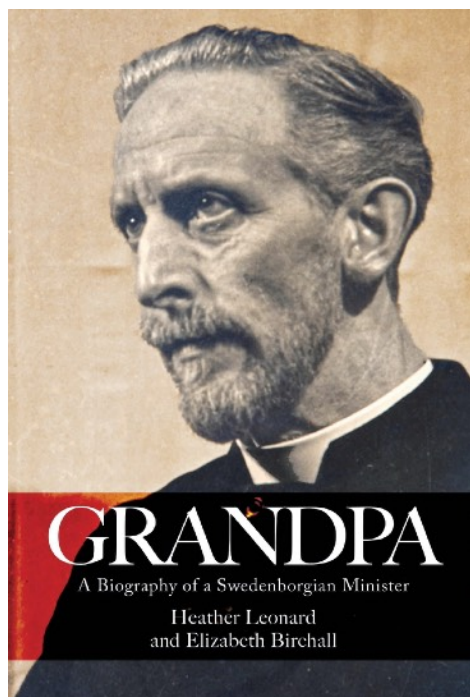
Email: ford.a1@sky.com

Mobile: 07974 954093



Grandpa: A Biography of a Swedenborgian Minister

Heather Leonard write:



This biography of my grandfather, Rev Edward John Pulsford, arose as a project during the Covid-19 lockdown and has come to print just as the environment has begun to open up. Forty-seven diaries had languished in my loft for many years but proved to have their limitations, being simply a log of engagements both personal and pastoral. Together, I and my co-author constructed the story of his adult life as much from the unwitting testimony of what he didn't say as from what he did. Despite the exigencies of lockdown, in due course help arrived from the NC and SS archivists; and many articles and a couple of books on spiritual and doctrinal matters came to light. In addition, a lot of interesting pieces of descriptive journalism of his years in South Africa was found. Some elderly members of the church were also able to contribute a few personal memories, as were a few family members. A man with a strong sense of justice

and a devoted pastor emerged from previously bare bones.

He trained for the ministry within the New Church in the first years of the twentieth century and pursued a pastoral career spanning from the southwest to Glasgow, mostly in industrial cities except for one significant span of four years in the twenties when he was superintendent of the NC Native Mission centred around Johannesburg but actually reaching out across a huge tract of eastern South Africa. We gathered a clear picture of his deputy, the founder of the Native Mission, Rev David Mooki, and lively vignettes from his travels across the veldt on bumpy ox carts and problematic trains, etc.

He constantly strove to increase the influence and impact of the faith beyond the boundaries of his own flock, tirelessly using pen and pulpit to preach what he firmly believed to be Swedenborg's authentic vision. In the course of a long ministry he became eminent in the senior offices of the New Church, in numerous learned and administrative committees and as editor of the New Church Magazine.

In addition, his diary hints at an inexhaustible interest in broader intellectual life – emerging scientific thought, concerts, theatres, films and so on. Wherever he found himself, a first port of call was the library and museum but sadly he told us little of his particular delights.

Heather Leonard (nee Pulsford) and Elizabeth Birchall.

Note from Gemma:

The book is available to buy directly from Heather for £14.99 (£3.20 p&p). Please contact her to purchase a copy:

Email: rheatherleonard@yahoo.co.uk

Phone: 07964014022

GRANDPA

Rev Edward John Pulsford was an eminent member of the Swedenborgian New Church throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Swedenborg was clearly a gifted man of the Enlightenment, a scientist and mystic who hoped to re-enliven contemporary Protestantism and never intended to found a separatist denomination – but that happened.

Pulsford's home pastorates spanned from the southwest to Glasgow by way of Manchester and Birmingham. Four years of crucial importance to himself were spent as Superintendent of the Native New Church Mission, centred in Johannesburg but embracing much of the eastern half of that vast and problematic country.

He tirelessly used pen and pulpit to preach what he firmly believed to be Swedenborg's particular vision of the New Jerusalem Church as the true culmination of Christian truth. It was to be a saving grace among the ordinary shortcomings of human society and the particular turmoil of two world wars and the South African polity. He was a devoted pastor and an intellectual asset in central church affairs. Family life mattered but sometimes suffered markedly in service to his higher calling.

The authors have written respectfully of his sense of vocation even though not sharing his convictions and have enjoyed exploring other fascinating aspects of his life in its historical context.



Heather Leonard and Elizabeth Birchall are happily and productively retired after many years in social work, during which Heather raised a large family and Elizabeth ended up in academic social policy research.

£14.99

