



# 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 Lomond Radio (formerly River Radio):

<https://lomondradio.co.uk/shows/rise-and-shine>

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

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

### Mrs Sally Field

#### Margaret Cowie writes:

In our Conference Council Report, we referred to Sally's service to the Conference as Company Accountant. It should also be recorded that Sally has actually been working for Conference over 14 years in total. Starting initially dealing with the accounts and bookings for Purley Chase Centre shortly after it re-opened. We thank her for her years of service.

## Revd Christine Bank

Revd Christine Bank sends Christmas greetings to friends around the churches and rather than posting cards will be donating to a local charity supporting people in need.

## Kearsley News

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### Shoeboxes for Christmas

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#### Pauline Grimshaw reports:

Here at our Church in Kearsley, the second half of October and the earlier part of November have probably been one of our busiest times of the year. For a good number of years we have been packing shoeboxes to send to children, and more recently adults as well, across the world to communities who are far less fortunate than we are. This effort was initiated and is organised by Mrs Jean Ford.

The shoeboxes contain warm clothing - a hat, scarf, and gloves, educational gifts such as pens, crayons, notebooks, geometry sets and pencil cases, personal hygiene items such as bars of soap, toothpaste, and facecloths, a small cuddly toy and as a luxury, a few sweets. As you can see from the photos they are all packed in shoeboxes that have been covered in Christmas wrapping paper. We have been doing this for a number of years now - in



our first year we managed seventeen boxes whilst this year we packed seventy one boxes and one year we managed over ninety boxes.

One of our main difficulties this year has been finding suitable shoe boxes. Until recently shoes came in two separate parts - boxes and lids. Now the boxes and lids are joined which makes them far more awkward to cover in wrapping paper!

This year, on the first Sunday in Advent, after morning service we had a special visitor who came to talk to us. He was Bernard Cocker, the founder some thirty years

ago of 'International Aid Trust,' which has grown into a world-wide organisation based on Christian principles and helping people in many countries in the poorer parts of Europe, Africa and Asia. He showed pictures of transporter lorries - one laden with seventy thousand shoeboxes destined for Eastern Europe, and pictures of some of the communities receiving the gifts. One girl was thrilled to find a comb in her box. Another adult recipient was delighted with a needle and cotton that she planned to use to repair her clothes. It certainly brought home how fortunate we all are.

Other activities of the 'International Aid Trust' include educational and building projects, family sponsorship, providing schools and homes for orphaned children and organising holidays for deprived children. The organisation also provides Bibles and sponsors churches and schools. In this part of the North West there are a dozen charity shops that help to fund these activities.

We often think that there is very little that we can do as individuals in this world, but it was certainly a source of inspiration to see how much one individual had managed to achieve in helping to change the lives of others.

As we prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord into the world at this time of year may we too be moved to work for the Lord in helping others.



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## Toy Service

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### **John Ford reports:**

The Kearsley Church once again held its annual Toy Service this Sunday, just two weeks before Christmas. Wrapped presents were placed under the beautifully decorated Christmas tree in church, all labelled for a boy or girl and a suggested age. Each year these gifts are taken to Fortalice, a charity based in Bolton who provide frontline services for people who are or have been affected by domestic abuse and violence. The charity is housed in a modern building giving warm and welcoming accommodation for women and children in 22 self-contained fully furnished flats. After fleeing a violent partner the women often arrive at the charity with nothing and the home gives them safety, peace and support to enable them to rebuild their lives and make a fresh start. It is lovely to be able to provide presents for their children on Christmas morning in what could otherwise be a very bleak time.



## NCYA Children's Day

**Carolyn Kennion (NCYA President) writes:**

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Sunday 16th January 2022

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Each year the New Church Youth Association invites you to use your time of worship on a particular day to focus on children and young people. This invitation is for all; whether or not we have children in our family or church society, whether we are worshipping in a group or at home, we can all give thanks for children and pray for them. We suggest Sunday 16th January 2022 as a date for celebrating Children's Day at the same time as others in our church community. We ask you to hold all children and young people in your prayers; those involved in our church and also those in your family, neighbourhood and throughout the

world. We offer some suggestions for readings and prayers which we hope you will find helpful.

You may be aware that, here in the UK, there is National Children's Day on Sunday 15th May, while International Children's Day is held on June 1st. November 20th is designated as World Children's Day as it was on this date in 1959 that the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. More information about these days and suggested activities can be found at:

[www.unicef.org/world-childrens-day](http://www.unicef.org/world-childrens-day)  
[www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com](http://www.nationalchildrensdayuk.com)

You are, of course, very welcome to use our Children's Day worship suggestions on one of these dates, or any other to suit you.

However you choose to mark Children's Day, the NCYA would love to hear about it.

Download the NCYA Children's Day leaflet here:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ncya.pdf>