



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/>



Preparing for Conference?

Don't miss E-Read Issue 85, out tomorrow!

Musical Musings

Revd Bruce Jarvis writes:

Sing to the LORD a new song.

It was in 1982 that the then President Conference, Revd Christopher Hasler, asked me if I could pull

together some singers to form a choir at the forthcoming annual meeting, the first to be held at Swanwick Conference Centre. I was then in my first year at New Church College, and due to attend the meeting as an ordination student. Having previously worked as a teacher, I had never been able to get to Conference. The answer to Christopher had to be "yes!", and so it began.

It was a modest and quite simple beginning, and here we are, 30 years on, and still going! There have been three years when it was not possible to form a choir. In 1983 and 1985 Conference met, respectively, at Southampton University and a teacher training college in Clacton-on-Sea, when it was not practically possible to rehearse, and in 2020, of course, COVID meant the Conference could not meet in person. This year, then, will be the 38th annual meeting at which music has played an important part.

Over those years, there have been seven Directors of Music: myself, Julian Duckworth, Rita Russell, Becky Jarratt, Barbara Fordham, Marion Curry, and Ruth Friend. And what a change and growth there has been, both in the range of music sung by the choir, and, more recently, the introduction of instrumental groups to embellish our singing. We have also been blessed to have among us pianists and instrumentalists giving yet more variety.

Music in all its forms bring joy and inspiration. It enables those with musical gifts to express their God-given talents. It brings joy to those who listen, and satisfaction to those who perform. Whether what has become such a vital part of our gathering was envisaged by Christopher in 1982, we cannot know. But I am sure he would be delighted that his innovation has brought such delight to so many people over these 40 years.

Psalm 150

¹ Praise the Lord.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.

³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre,

⁴ praise him with tambourine and dance,
praise him with the strings and pipe,

⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord.