



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/>

Spiritual Director Volunteer Needed

Karin Baynes is grateful for the part-funding she has received from General Church Council these past three years, for training up as a spiritual director with the Ministry of Spiritual Direction, affiliated with the Bath & Wells Church of England Diocese.

She is now in her final year of preparation for this use and requires a directee to meet with her around eight times between October 2021 and June 2022, as part of her training commitment. Given the

geographical range of our New Church family, it is likely that these one-hour confidential meetings will take place on Zoom.

It is becoming more common for lay people in churches worldwide to engage with an experienced listener on matters of spiritual development and discernment. A spiritual director or companion is trained to facilitate process around the directee's relationships with the Lord, the neighbour, themselves, and the Lord's creation. Concerns about uses, repentance, prayer, quiet time, or spiritual studies can also be explored.

Karin herself has found the process of engaging with a spiritual director affirming, clarifying and gently challenging. She is particularly keen to work with someone in our New Church language of spirituality, to adapt her Church of England training to our needs.

Please contact Karin by email at karin@stuartbaynes.com if you feel drawn to this opportunity and she will arrange a call to discuss matters further.

(There is no charge involved for the potential directee and Karin will have an adult DBS Certificate as well as supervision exchanges with her tutor throughout the period. She is a member of the General Conference Church and serves on the Purley Management Team and Task Force.)

Revd Gudmund and Mrs Laura Boolsen

Revd Bruce Jarvis writes:

News has been received in the last few days of the deaths last year of two good friends of the General Conference. Revd Gudmund Boolsen died on 3rd July 2021, and his wife, Laura, quickly followed him into the spiritual world on October 13th. They would both have been around 93 years old. Gudmund had been ordained into the New Church ministry many years ago in the United States, and his last pastoral appointment was to the group in Copenhagen.

Gudmund was known to people in Britain, particularly the Ministers, for he attended a number of Seminars at Purley Chase, along with other Ministers from Europe, and he was a valued member of our annual gatherings to study and reflect upon the revealed Heavenly Doctrines of the New Church. He had a warm and friendly character, and a deep knowledge of our Teachings.

It was in 2008 that Clifford and Marion Curry and I spent several days in Copenhagen during our 2008 Baltic cruise. We had contacted Gudmund well in advance, and received a warm response to our suggestion that we might meet up. Indeed, within a short time of calling him to say we had arrived in Copenhagen, he was with us and enjoying mugs of tea in *Emily Rudkin's* cockpit. We rejoiced to meet one another again



after over 10 years – almost like being in heaven! He was 81 at the time. The next morning he was with us early to go out for an hour's sail on the water. Having owned several small boats, he thoroughly enjoyed this time with us, especially taking the helm. He then drove us to his apartment where we met his wife, Laura, a delightful and charming hostess. We

sometimes say "It's a small world", and so it is. Laura's father, Revd Victor Gladish, had been the Minister at the General Church in Colchester, and Laura spent the first 12 years of her life living in a house opposite the Colchester Royal Grammar School, which I later attended.

Gudmund told us that his father, a poet, had discovered Swedenborg's theological books in a library in Frederikshavn, and read passages from *Divine Love and Wisdom* to his landlords in the middle of the night! Clifford and I were glad to spend time with Gudmund in his study, where he showed us some of the translating work which he was still pursuing with great vigour.



A lovely man, a delightful couple, and such a heavenly experience to share a meal and so much more with them both. Saying farewell was really quite emotional for all of us. But our shared convictions meant that, in reality, we knew that we would meet again.