



E-NEWS



The General Conference of the New Church **News**

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

Rev'd 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/>

Let's Be Creative

Carolyn Kennion writes:

Are you nearer to 9 or 90 years old? Would you like to spend wintry days and evenings doing something relaxing yet satisfying, simple yet creative.

Whatever age you are, the New Church Youth Association invites you to take part in their annual Creative Exhibition. This year we are sharing the Conference theme of 'Peace' with the Bible passage,

‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.’ John 14 v27.

We can provide you with some lovely pictures and designs to colour, as well as easy-to follow instructions on how to make an origami peace dove. Alternatively, you are welcome to interpret the theme in your own creative way – poetry, prayer, painting, embroidery etc.

If you would like to take part please contact Carolyn Kennion (details in the conference directory), or via the NCYA website: www.ncya.generalconference.org.uk
You will be sent more information and entry sheets to your postal address.

All completed entries must be received by Carolyn by 21st April.
All children who enter receive a ‘prize’.

So, why not enjoy some creative time? We would love to see what you produce.

SOLCe Announcements

Revd Robin Wooldridge writes:

Wanted Tutors!

Swedenborg Open Learning Centre continues to expand and we need more tutors . If you feel you have what it takes to be a tutor then please contact me. Full training will be given.

What courses would you like to see offered by Swedenborg Open Learning Centre?

As Swedenborg Open Learning Centre expands its current selection of online courses, what new course would you like to see made available? Drop me an email.

We are looking for individuals to make short videos for our new Facebook and Instagram accounts.

Contact me for further details.

Rev Robin Wooldridge Leader of Education
robin.wooldridge@solce.org.uk

Madeleine Taylor 1931-2022 – An Appreciation

Revd Bruce Jarvis writes:

Madeleine, known by most people as Maddy, was born in 1931 to Rupert and Hilda Stanley in Lytham St Annes, where Rupert was serving as Minister. When she was six months old, her father was called to the Radcliffe pastorate. There she and elder sister



Pamela and younger brother Michael grew up in a lively New Church environment, and attended the primary school in the Church premises. Maddy was aged 14, and attending Stand Grammar School, when her father took over as minister of Woodlands Road New Church in Glasgow. She found this move very hard, and left school two years later to train as a nursery nurse. She had long wanted to work with young children, and at the age of twenty she took this further by moving down to Leicester to live with Pamela. Soon she was training to be a teacher at Coventry Teacher Training College, which she thoroughly enjoyed, and came away with a distinction.

Meanwhile, her parents had moved to London, and one Sunday at Kensington New Church she met a young New Churchman, Bruce Taylor. Romance followed, and they married in 1956. Married life took her to sea initially, but then Captain Bruce took a shore job training would-be mariners, first in London, and then at Fleetwood Marine College, where the family lived just outside Blackpool. Peter, Rosemary and Mark joined Helen, who had been born in London. Maddy was not content to confine her energies to being a housewife and mother, and she took another step to fulfilling her ambitions by opening her own nursery school in the family home several mornings a week. From this point on she always worked, finding fulfilment in using her skills and knowledge of early years development in nurseries and schools.

When the family moved over to the North-East for Bruce's new job at South Shields Marine College, Maddy taught at Cleadon Primary School, and then got the exciting opportunity to be Headteacher of the first purpose-built local authority nursery school in South Shields. She loved this challenge, from buying all the equipment and appointing the staff to then running the nursery school and working with the parents.

Later she found the time and energy to undertake further study and gain extra qualifications in Early Childhood Education, which led to an appointment with Newcastle Education Authority as an Early Years Advisor. Living in Cleadon, just a mile along the road from Seaburn Dene New Church, Maddy was able to enter more fully into the life of a local congregation, where she and Bruce became leading members. At first that mainly involved serving on the Church Council, but gradually she entered more and more into various aspects of the congregation's life.

It was in the late 1980s that a great change for Maddy came along. The Conference Council and Ministers' Committee were wanting to find new ways forward in the approach to ministry, especially encouraging participation by lay men and women.

Maddy was in a position to take early retirement, and applied for the new post of Auxiliary Ministry Co-ordinator. She was clearly “made for the work”, and the Conference was blessed to be able to appoint someone with her gifts and experience to serve in this new and innovative role. Starting in September 1989, she spent the next seven years pursuing this vision, using her experience and previous professional contacts to open doors. She had energy and drive, used always with great charm and integrity, and many men, but especially many women, were encouraged and empowered to serve their Lord and Church in new ways. It was a halcyon period in many ways, and when her retirement came along all too quickly, she gracefully handed on the baton.



Alongside this national role for our Church, Maddy entered even more wholeheartedly in a voluntary capacity into the life of her local congregation. Now she was able to offer her time and energy in several new ways. She was always keen to join in local inter-church activities, like the Bible Society Action Group and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, where she made lasting contacts with several people from other churches. For some while she ran a monthly Mums and Toddlers group on Saturday afternoons for families in the area. She loved to attend the monthly Discussion Groups, often hosted by her and Bruce in their home, where a Bible passage was studied, drawing upon the unique teaching of the New Church to open up the meaning within the text. When in 1988 there was a special anniversary of Emanuel Swedenborg’s life, she played a leading part in setting up public lectures and exhibitions in Sunderland and Newcastle. Then, now that she had the time, for several years she co-led Enquirers Groups in both cities.

Another dream was fulfilled when a Prayer Fellowship was begun, meeting monthly for an hour on a weekday morning, which she also co-led. Those hours have proved to be very special to the members, and it is a tribute to her that, 24 years on, the Prayer Fellowship still meets. Another activity that she helped develop was a pastoral care group, ministering to elderly, isolated people in their homes to offer comfort and support. It was yet another way of putting her faith and principles to work in very practical ways, at the same time fostering others to be able and competent to do the same work.

Worship was a core part of Maddy’s religious life. She loved the cycle and rhythms of worship, and appreciated a high standard of practice. The sacraments and ceremonies

were of the deepest importance to her, and for a number of years she undertook the practical preparations for administrations of Baptism and the Holy Supper. But she went further and undertook study and training to become licensed to administer the two sacraments, and to conduct funerals, building upon her earlier recognition as a Worship Leader. In the Minister's absence, she conducted resurrection services for several Church members. She found it moving and fulfilling to serve in this very special and intimate way, not simply the public ceremonies but the pastoral support to families in their hour of need.

Her work for New Church College (SOLCe) must not be forgotten. She was a creative member of the College Council, always looking for new ways for the College to meet the needs of the 21st century. She always had the best interests of the students at heart, and was responsible for setting up the bursary scheme to help students pay for their courses. A lending library for training resources which were used for activities such as group leadership training was another of her initiatives. At another level, she assisted her brother Michael in producing the Mysticism module, and then tutored at least one group. In many ways, this module spoke to Maddy's own spiritual approach.

Maddy led a full and useful life. Even after Bruce's death in 2002, she found many ways to serve her Lord and the people around her. It was a wrench in 2010 for her to leave her



home in Cleadon, the Sunderland area, and all her local friends, but it was really an act of love for her to make herself more accessible to her own family. She led an active life in Poppleton village, and only moved to live in sheltered accommodation in Wetherby, and later in North Wales and Chester, when her health began to fail. It was in Poppleton Tithe Barn that a good number of family and friends gathered in November to give thanks to the Lord for all that had come to them through Maddy's earthly life. Beyond all her public life and service, she was at heart a mother, a grandmother and great-grandmother, and that deep love was entirely reciprocal.

Madeleine Taylor will remain in our hearts and memories, and we rejoice that she is now enjoying life in the spiritual dimension. So we say, as the Lord said in the parable: *Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness.*

Matthew 25:21

BRUCE JARVIS



J U N E
16-18
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We would love it if you could join us at Purley Chase for the garden party weekend. On the Saturday, we will have the grand opening of the summer house dedicated to the memory of Revd Alison Southcombe.

Included in this event will be all kinds of stalls, crafts, tombola, bake sale, teddy bear picnic, face painting, music, book sale and plenty of good food.

There will also be a service on Sunday.



Please go to
www.purleychasecentre.org.uk to
book your room and get more
information.