



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/>

Conference Council News

Revd Bruce Jarvis writes:

The Council's most recent meeting took place on Zoom over two evenings in the third week of January. As ever, the agenda was full with all manner of items, from personnel to properties, finance to articles and rules, Conference 2023 to Purley Chase. The seven elected Trustees were present, together with our joint Spiritual Leaders, Jack Dunion and Helen Brown, Brian Talbot (Secretary of the Ministers' Committee), Chris

Chambers (New Church College), Natalie Welch (Company Secretary) and Rachael Jaggs (Company Accountant). It's particularly pleasing to see Rachael and Natalie gradually becoming familiar with their responsibilities and all the departments and idiosyncrasies of our organisation, and so able to advise the Council.

One matter that will not be resolved especially speedily, and which cannot be settled by the Council alone, concerns our Articles and Rules. It has become clear in recent years that it is time for our existing Constitution, last completely overhauled over 50 years ago, to be re-examined and possibly revised. Of course, revisions have been approved by the General Conference during that period, but now a more comprehensive review is taking place. The Council appointed three of its members (Pauline Grimshaw, Robert Gill and Bruce Jarvis), along with two of our Honorary Life Members – Gordon Kuphal and David Friend – to be a sub-committee to oversee this process. They have begun work, and are liaising with Conference's solicitor. It is hoped that the Council will be in a position to make recommendations to the 2024 Conference.

Talking of the Annual Meeting, arrangements for this year's meeting - 25th-28th July - are taking shape. Members may well have already received their letters convening the Conference, along with booking forms for those wishing to attend. They can also be found on the Conference website. Our beloved Church needs enthusiastic and committed people to come to this annual gathering to show support, and to bring new ideas for our work. You are asked, if at all possible, to send in your booking form(s) as soon as you can. This will be of great help to the organisers. If circumstances change, and you are unable to attend, refunds can be made provided the cancellation is notified by 3rd July.

On a very practical note, please consider whether you might be willing to serve as a Trustee. The Council is currently one Trustee short, and another vacancy will come up at the Annual Meeting. If you are interested, please speak to one of the Trustees. You could also attend a Council meeting as an observer to test the water. Please don't leave this vital work to others!

The Company Accountant presented figures relating to the nine months up to the end of December. The overall picture shows an excess of expenditure over income of around £16,000. Comparisons with previous years is not easy because COVID has made them an exceptional period in so many ways. The year-end will give a more complete picture.

What has been missing at Purley Chase Centre since Revd Alison Southcombe's death has been a programme director. A small team is currently working on how to resolve this vacancy, and we look forward to hearing developments before too long.

Good communication lies at the heart of Church life, as it does with all human activities. Our annual Year Book is one way of keeping people in touch. In recent years, as a result

of new laws on data protection, the Council had to modify its practice of producing a list of addresses. The result has been a separate publication with a restricted list, as the law requires. Another casualty was the Overseas Directory, which provided contact details of sister organisations in our international New Church family. The Council is looking to see if it will be possible to help maintain contacts and links in a different way.

A very busy two evenings, but all in a positive and optimistic atmosphere as we do our best to serve our Lord and His Church.

SOLCe - Wanted Workshop and Seminar Leaders!

Revd Robin Wooldridge writes:

Have you got what it takes to run workshops to those new to the Teachings? Solce will be running 'Workshop and Seminar Leader Training Day' later this year where you can learn how to be a brilliant workshop leader. If you are interested please contact Robin:

robin.wooldridge@solce.org.uk

NCYA AGM

Gwendolen Rowe writes:

The New church Youth Association (NCYA) are holding their Annual General Meeting on Saturday 24th June, which is a slight change to any previously announced dates. The venue and timing is yet to be confirmed but further details will be announced soon. There will also be an activity for children on similar lines to last year and families are invited to join us for this. During our AGM Miss Joanne Watton, who stepped in as acting Treasurer, will be fully appointment. We are very grateful to Joanne for taking on this role which has been a somewhat challenging changeover and we look forward to confirming her appointment. We will be back in touch once we have finalised a venue and timing.

Gwendolen Rowe
NCYA Secretary



Purley Stories

Muriel Morgan writes:

We want your stories!

Most of you will have fond memories, funny stories – any good anecdotes from one of your visits to Purley (maybe you met your husband or wife...).

If you would like to share them with us, we would like to hear them!

Please send your story to muriel.morgan@generalconference.org.uk and it can be added to our website and/or social media (with your permission – even anonymous if requested).

Thank you

Muriel



Gathering Leaves 2023: Reminder Call for Presentations

Gathering Leaves, the international retreat for Swedenborgian/New Church women, will be held at the Lord's New Church in Bryn Athyn, 24-27 August 2023. The theme for 2023 is "Delighting in Spiritual Variety." If you would like to give a presentation or workshop, organise an activity, or have questions about the event please contact Amy Glenn at amydwyer08@gmail.com **by 14 February 2023**. Attendee registration coming soon.