



E-NEWS



The General Conference of the New Church News

About Us

To find out more about The General Conference of the New Church, including the locations of our Churches, visit our web site at: gcnc.org.uk

Send Us Your News

If you have any news that you would like to share in a future issue of E-News, please send it via email to: gemma.mclean@gcnc.org.uk

Share E-News

Feel free to print and share this publication.

Sign up

Sign up for E-News and E-Read email notifications at: gcnc.org.uk/signup

Local News

View local Church newsletters at: gcnc.org.uk/resources/newsletters

Home Worship

To download the latest Home Worship material please visit: gcnc.org.uk/resources/home-worship

To subscribe via email, please sign up at: gcnc.org.uk/hwsignup

Donations

E-News and E-Read are provided completely free of charge.

If you would like to donate to support this ongoing resource, please do so here:

<https://www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/donations>

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 Leader

A Statement from Conference Council:

Conference was very fortunate that when a vacuum in the spiritual leadership of the Church occurred in 2021, Revd Helen Brown, who had recently retired as Leader of Education at New Church College (SOLCe,) agreed to step into the role of Spiritual Leader on a temporary basis. Conference Council was glad to give its support to Helen's nomination by the Ministers' Committee.

Later that year, the Ministers' Committee nominated Helen Brown and the Revd Jack Dunion to be Joint Spiritual Leaders from March 2022. Again, the Council was delighted to give its support to this proposal, and they were formally inducted into the office during the 2022 Conference Service. We are so glad and thankful that the two Ministers have been able to share the leadership role, putting their complementary gifts and talents to the service of the Church we all love. Helen's personality has been a key feature in helping our Church to begin the process of healing and renewal after a sad period of disruption and hurt.

Helen's intention has always been for these arrangements to be short-term, and at the recent annual meeting of the Ministers' Committee, she indicated that she would be stepping back as from the annual meeting of General Conference this coming July. At that meeting, the Ministers nominated Jack Dunion to be Spiritual Leader from the forthcoming Conference for a period of three years to 2026. A few days later Conference Council met and received this news, and was pleased to give its approval to the proposal.

There is no doubt that our Church has been blessed to have the wisdom and dedication of both Helen and Jack over the past two years or so. We owe a huge debt of thanks to Helen for her wisdom, her gentleness, and her commitment. She will now have more time to concentrate on her work with Purley Chase, and in other spheres. We thank her and wish her well for the future.

Now we look forward to Revd Jack Dunion leading us as we explore new ways and directions for our Conference to serve our Lord Jesus Christ in bringing about the descent of the Holy City, New Jerusalem.

Scam Warning Reminder

Gemma McLean writes:

Revd Bruce Jarvis kindly shared an article from a recent issue of the Church Times, which explains how scammers have attempted to impersonate the Archbishop of York.

You can read the article overleaf. It is very similar to a recent scam that circulated within this Church, where the scammer impersonated a Minister and asked for vouchers to be sent to them to help some people in need.

If you receive a message (email, text, WhatsApp etc) asking for you to purchase vouchers or gift cards, please assume it's a scam!

Also, generally speaking, I would urge people to always telephone the supposed sender of a message asking for a favour to confirm it's genuine.

2 NEWS

'I'm at prayer, so just send cash'

Paul Wilkinson

SCAMMERS have for a second time impersonated the Archbishop of York and other clergy to ask priests and church staff to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards.

The perpetrators use texts or emails to tell their victims: "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly", adding: "I am currently busy in a prayer session, no calls, so just reply to my email." They then ask for financial help, usually vouchers or gift cards, and for the recipient's payment details to be forwarded.

The ruse was exposed when staff at the Archbishop's residence, Bishopthorpe Palace, received messages signed "Rev Stephen Cottrell". He would correctly be addressed as the Most Revd Stephen Cottrell, but uses a different email sign-off.

The scammers are believed to have trawled church websites for contact details of clergy and parish officials.

A spokesman for York diocese said this week: "The sender has taken some trouble both with identi-

fying their chosen pseudo-sender and the intended victim. In many cases, the sender has used an untraceable Gmail address, or texted from an equally untraceable pay-as-you-go or 'burner' mobile phone."

At least one person is believed to have lost £1000 in the scam and another only narrowly avoided losing a similar sum when they became suspicious after being asked to supply the voucher codes.

The diocesan spokesman continued: "It seems this is a national trend. . . We have reported one specimen case to North Yorkshire police who have passed it over to Action Fraud, a national police scheme. Incumbents may like to consider advising their church officers and PCC members that: 'I will never ask you by email to spend your own money for the church'."

A joint unit of Northumbria, Cleveland, and Durham police has issued an alert over similar issues in the north-east, saying: "Clergy will never ask you to give them money, vouchers, or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need . . . Even if they're saying you'll be refunded, it is a scam."

The scam first appeared in 2020 (News, 28 August 2020). At that time, no one was taken in.

Our cover: Photo Alamy