



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/>

Maurice Garnett (1931-2023)

Revd Brian Talbot writes:

I first knew Maurice over 30 years ago, when I was a student at the New Church College in Manchester, and he was my car manager. Through Maurice and his many connections in the motor trade, the students had access to a Mini Metro. After I was ordained Maurice assisted the Conference Council in replacing Ministers' Ford Escorts, with more comfortable, second-hand Rovers. Years later he and I would meet up at New

Church College whenever the College Council was meeting.



I always found Maurice full of fun and a proud Yorkshireman. He once asked me, as an Australian living in Manchester, what was great about Lancashire. He then added, "The M62 leading to Yorkshire!" (At the time, I, as a neutral, saw that the joke could be easily reversed to favour Lancastrians!) I also knew Maurice and his wife, Barbara, when I was the Minister at Keighley New Church, whenever I took services at the Bradford Church or attended Yorkshire and North East Area Council Meetings. We also met up at Annual Meetings of the General Conference which Maurice attended on ten occasions between 1983 and 1993, nine of them with Barbara, on quite a few occasions, along with Barbara's sister Mary Burnley.

Maurice was a great stalwart of the Bradford congregation, reliable, ever-present, and ever-active in so many ways behind the scenes. Already a regular leader of services, he was recognised as a Worship Leader in 1993, and later became an authorised celebrant of the Sacrament of Holy Supper. He was leading worship until May 2020.

Maurice's funeral was held on Monday 3rd April at the Keighley New Church due to the Bradford Church being used for a Children's Holiday Club. It was conducted by Revd David Gaffney. In the eulogy composed by his family, it was confirmed that Maurice's last job involved him travelling the length and breadth of northern England and Scotland, delivering car electrical components. I also learned about his love of Formula 1.

It's difficult to think of Maurice without Barbara. Maurice was definitely ready to meet up with his wife of 48 years. He had been without her physical presence for 16 years. Their two daughters, Christine and Helen, played their part as children and young people in the life of the Bradford New Church, and then went on to form their own families and produce three grandchildren – Emily, Henry and Felicity. Understandably, Maurice was delighted when Christine applied to train for ordination into the New Church Ministry, and then after ordination in 2008, her appointment as Minister to the Keighley congregation meant she would still be close to home.

During a eulogy it's always enjoyable to hear about a person's idiosyncrasies. Apparently one of Maurice's quirks was to have loads of razor-sharp knives. Another, despite having a small garden, was to have different hedge trimmers and gadgets, to satisfy his mechanical turn of mind. Maurice was a well-sought after handyman, who was quite happy to be rewarded with a nice 'lunch out'.

²³ 'His master replied, "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! ... ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them." (Matthew 25:23, 29 [NIVUK])

Gemma McLean

Margaret Cowie, on behalf of Conference Council, writes:

Readers will be sorry, and perhaps surprised, to learn that Gemma, our Technology Manager, will be leaving her post at the end of August. In her employment with General Conference these past seven years, she has become a key figure in our organisation. Her expertise has been an invaluable asset, helping many of us on multiple occasions to resolve issues with our computers. She has advised us on how to avoid criminal scams, and how to improve our skills. When in 2018 there was a need to provide a successor to Conference's monthly journal, Lifeline, the Council asked Gemma to look into producing an electronic format. E-News and E-Read have been appearing ever since, with over 250 editions produced to date. How would we manage to publish articles and communicate information without these two?

She is leaving at this point to enable her to undertake professional development by fulfilling a long-held wish to achieve a Master's degree in Advanced Computer Science. She has been accepted to do her MSc studies at Leicester University, starting in September 2023. Her experience with us, along with her newly acquired skills and knowledge, will enable her to explore fresh avenues and opportunities.

There will be an occasion in due course to thank Gemma, but in the meantime, she is committed to continue serving us in the way she has been doing. Many of us will look forward to seeing her at this year's annual meeting of Conference at Swanwick, where she will put her talents through their customary high paces. God bless you, Gemma.

Government Alert Text Reminder

Gemma McLean writes:

Just a quick reminder that this Sunday 23rd April at 3pm there will be a national test of the UK Emergency Alerts service.

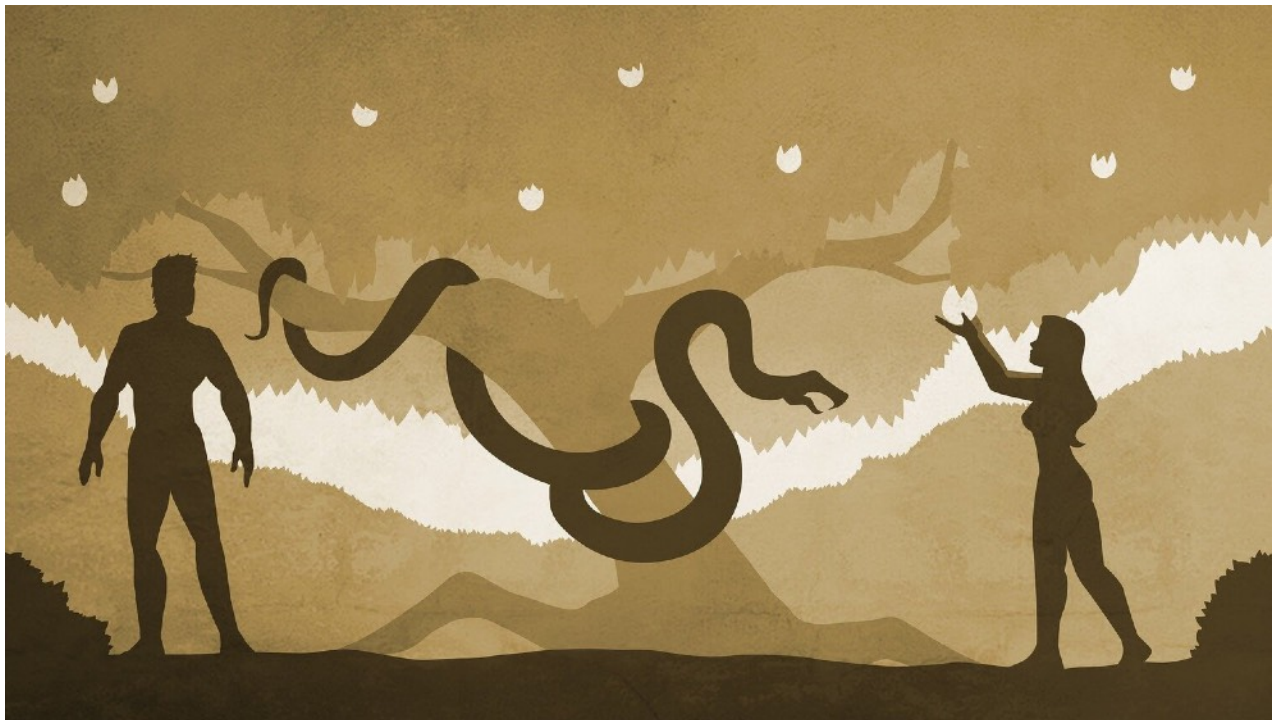
This is just a 'drill' so the Government can test the service and will involve an alert being sent to eligible tablets and mobile phones. No action is needed.

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/alerts>

New Bible Study Group

Erik Buss, Colchester New Church writes:



Please join a monthly online group led by Rev Erik Buss to study Genesis. We will have our third group on 24 May at 7 pm (Zoom link below). We are working our way through Genesis and this time will be looking at Genesis 3, story of Adam and Eve and the snake, which has all kinds of important details, and which has been poorly understood for thousands of years. We will look at the literal story for what we can glean from it, and also explore some of the inner meaning with a view to how it is relevant to our lives. We will also explore some of the principles New Church teaching [say Swedenborg if that fits your ethos better] offers for gaining a better understanding of Scripture.

This group meets monthly.

<https://zoom.us/j/2369823698?pwd=VUwzOFVhTWRJWE1PeEcvMGxHM2FEZz09>

Please contact Erik with any questions (07897 343933, erikbuss@gmail.com)