



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

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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 allows you to catchup Rise & Shine programs:

<https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/>

Mr Walter Richardson

Jean Mrozek writes:

It is with great sadness to inform you that our dear friend Walter Richardson passed into the Spiritual World on 8th November. Walter had been a stalwart member of our Church since childhood. All the Richardson family have been closely connected with us for many years.

Walter always took an active role in the Church. He was a valued member of the Church Committee, he took charge of our Health and Safety business,

ensuring that policy requirements were adhered to as well as regularly inspecting the building, inside and out.

Walter celebrated his 90th birthday on 6th October and on the following day a wonderful birthday party was held at the Church attended by many family members and friends.

Walter's funeral will take place on 18th December at Huddersfield Crematorium at 1.15pm. The service there will be undertaken by his son-in-law Paul, to be followed by a Memorial Service at Dalton New Church at 3.00pm. Refreshments will be served. The family welcome all Walter's friends.



Howard was Howard

Revd Gillian Gordon writes:

Howard Turner sadly passed away on Wednesday 15th November 2023.

Howard was Howard – a one off, unique and thoroughly likeable. A good son, brother, uncle and friend to many especially Barry and I. When I needed a stalwart supporter he was it.

In addition to New Church youth schools at Purley Chase, he attended Kensington Church from early childhood and all through his life. He then worked and lived in the upstairs flat at the church for decades as its warden in later life.

He originally trained and worked as an antiquarian horologist on leaving school and was a perfectionist. He even wound clocks in Buckingham Palace and attended a tour of Big Ben with other horologists. He enjoyed auctions and his huge collection of clocks and watches filled his flat. A beautiful skeleton clock adorned my vestry windowsill until Howard decided I might break it and took it back to his flat for safety.

Howard loved to eat – the Nuns and ladies in Churches Together in Notting Hill who provided refreshments, knowing Howard was a bachelor always sent him home with all the leftovers, which he never refused. In fact he was a bit of a star in Churches Together making a huge rainbow, an archway and other artefacts for the annual ecumenical services and taking a major part in all of them. He was even the only man invited to the national Women's Day services because he was the only one who could operate all the technical equipment.

Howard and I were invited to countless events in London including services at Westminster Abbey, events at the Commonwealth Institute, an ecumenical meeting of church leaders at the new County Hall, a meeting at the Parliament building and to every church in Notting Hill and some in Kensington to take part in services from the Roman Catholic St Francis of Assisi to the Serbian orthodox church. We even had a personal invitation to attend a service at Westminster Abbey from the Embassy of New Guinea.

Howard was practical having built stairs and a room upstairs at the back of the hall to props for the many children's religious shows we staged at the church with the help of the ballet teacher who used our premises. An Easter one needed a cross - to my amazement Howard produced a full sized replica which certainly had an effect.

A regular attender at Swedenborg House he helped in many practical ways as well as being a loyal supporter and member of the committee. He ran the equipment for the popular film shows and cleaned the bust of Swedenborg.

When listening to the national zoom services one can often hear Howard's strong voice accompanying Lionel Friend's organ playing. Every hymn Lionel played Howard would record for posterity and I am so glad they are being used.

Howard was no stranger to controversy in cases where he thought an injustice was occurring. He would turn off the engines of the buses illegally standing with engines running outside our church. When a flashy open top sports car illegally parked on the narrow pavement so pedestrians and mothers with pushchairs had to walk in the road avoiding traffic he upturned a rubbish bin into it for the errant driver to discover on his return. Very noisy pneumatic drills being used at 7 a.m. on a Sunday morning were

suddenly silenced when their cords were cut to the astonishment of the drillers to name but a few.

Howard was a well known character in the area and the immediate neighbour to the church held a garden party for him when he moved for retirement in Sussex.

Howard could make my sides ache with laughter at his antics and my head boil with frustration at his legendary untidiness.

However we decided when I went to work at Kensington Church all those years ago that we would get along, and we did, for the sake of our beloved Kensington New Church and all the lovely people in it.

My husband and I visited Howard 2 days before he passed in the hospital at Portsmouth where I was able to give him the elements of the Sacrament of the Holy Supper which he gladly took as he listened to the Biblical wording. A New Churchman to the end.

There is a song that goes “to know him is to love him” - well for all his quirks, amusing and annoying ways, I think everyone loved him. I have no doubt that when our Lord embraced Howard in his loving arms as he passed into the spiritual world He said, “Well done my good and faithful servant”

Rev. Gillian Gordon

NCYA Children's Day Sunday 21st January

Gwendolen Rowe writes:

This a day when we can use the opportunity in worship to prayer for the children and young people in our church and indeed everywhere. Please keep a note of this date. Shortly the NCYA will be sending out a booklet with a message from the President and some prayers. If you are leading worship or doing activities with children on this Sunday, or a Sunday nearby and want to use this please look out for a copy or apply to our Secretary, Miss Gwendolen Rowe, who you can contact through our website:

www.ncya.generalconference.org.uk



As usual we would love to hear from you about how you celebrated this occasion in your Church, group or Sunday School.

Gwendolen Rowe NCYA Secretary

Seaburn Dean Creative Christmas Service

Nicky Ramsay writes:

On Sunday 26th November Seaburn Dene Church prepared for Christmas with a pre-advent creative Christmas service. We heard the story of Zechariah and the birth of John, as well as decorating the church for the advent season. We now look forward to hearing the stories of the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ.



A Candle for Christmas

Seaburn Dene New Church,
Shields Road, Sunderland

**Saturday 16th
December 2023 7pm**

Join us for our second community Candle for Christmas service. A chance to reflect and remember loved ones no longer with us by placing tags on the Christmas trees and lighting a candle in their memory. All against the backdrop of Christmas carols and readings in preparation for Christmas Day. Music will be provided by a small brass group and refreshments will be available to all afterwards. We will also be welcoming donations of new night-wear, toiletries and gift cards for women and children supported by Wearside Women in Need. Donations are welcomed but it is not a requirement of the service.



Seaburn Dene New Church 50th celebration



Sunday 17th March 2024

March 16th sees 50 years since Seaburn Dene New Church moved to its current location on Shields Road. Join us on Sunday 17th for a thanksgiving service followed by afternoon tea and a chance to chat and reminisce amongst friends old and new.

**RSVP by 17th February to :
seaburndenewchurch@gmail.com**

The Edward Jeggins Trust

Robert Gill writes:

Communique from the Trustees

November 2023

We are writing as trustees to inform readers of a recent and significant change to the Charitable Objects of The Edward Jeggins Trust. This change widens our remit and will enable us for the first time to consider applications for one-off financial grants from Residential Centres of the New Church in Great Britain.

When it was first established in 1881, under the provisions of the Edward Jeggins will, the terms under which the Trust was to function were laid down with great care. The trustees were to control the residue of that gentleman's estate, *"To be held by them in trust for such one or more of the several Societies or Congregations of the New Christian Church (Swedenborgian) Worshipping in Great Britain."*

These terms have remained unchanged ever since 1881 and have set clear boundaries for the Trust. Over the years, legal opinion has been that the trustees may only make grants to New Church Societies in Great Britain, but not to any other New Church institution or facility.

However, as we know, many aspects of church life have changed dramatically since 1881 and lots of New Church Societies have now closed and more are likely to follow in the next few years. It was becoming increasingly evident that the Edward Jeggins Trust was in danger of becoming redundant despite having significant capital at its disposal. Yet the New Church in this country remains active and its work continues in different ways and settings. As trustees, we felt that this inability to meet many current needs of the New Church in Great Britain was nullifying the legacy left us by Edward Jeggins. We felt therefore that we must seek to make changes to the terms of the Trust even though this was a major undertaking that couldn't be accomplished without the full agreement of the Charity Commission.

Earlier this year we sought legal advice as to how we might best proceed. On the basis of this advice, we then approached the Charity Commission to discuss a possible widening of the Objects of the Trust. The Commission confirmed that the trustees did not have the authority to make such changes by themselves. We were therefore asked to satisfy the Commission that our proposed changes were necessary and in line with the terms of the Edward Jeggins will. After presenting our case, the Commission advised that we should submit a Section 275 resolution applying for a change of wording to our Charitable Objects.

A special meeting of the trustees had to be convened at which a proposed change of wording was put to the vote. We were unanimous in approving this proposed wording and the Section 275 resolution was then submitted to the Charity Commission in September. We

are delighted to report that, after a required sixty day interval, the Commission has now approved our submission and has authorised our changes to the Objects. The new Objects of The Edward Jeggins Trust became effective as from the 3rd November 2023.

The new wording of the Trust's Objects which we have agreed with the Charity Commission and which now replace the 1881 version, reads:-

"To be held by them in trust for the benefit of such Societies or Congregations, together with one or more of the several places for Retreats, Education, and Worship, of the New Christian Church (Swedenborgian) worshipping in Great Britain as the trustees shall decide."

This change means that Jeggins Trust for the first time is able to consider applications for financial grants from New Church Residential Centres in Great Britain, including Purley Chase Centre, Wellspring House, and Kildwick New Church Centre.

There are, and always have been, some restrictions on the types of grants that the Trust makes. We do not make contributions towards normal running costs, such as utility bills, insurance, and wages. We do, however, give grants towards property repairs and improvements. We also support the purchase of new fittings such as kitchen units and equipment, heating and lighting, furnishings and carpets, IT installations etc. We always give priority to any repairs or fittings considered necessary for the benefit or safety of the public.

It has long been our practice to encourage self-reliance on the part of our beneficiaries and so we do not normally make 100% grants, but we do make a significant contribution. This is often, but not exclusively 50% of the total costs incurred. Nor is it our practice to make grants in excess of £5,000 as we have to keep a healthy balance in order to meet other applications for help.

Residential Centres or Societies considering an application for a grant are welcome to contact any of our trustees for an informal chat to sound out what the possibilities are. Official applications should be made in writing to our senior trustee, Revd Robert A Gill. Applications should be accompanied by at least two estimates for the work or equipment required, plus the latest full set of audited accounts.

We are thankful that, following a difficult period of challenges and change, The Edward Jeggins Trust is now fully up-and-running once more and we look forward to being of continued use to the New Church in Great Britain for many years to come.

Trustees:

Robert A Gill
Helen T Brown
Jack Dunion

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to Joyce and Jeffrey Shepherd on their Platinum Wedding Anniversary



Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to Joyce and Jeffrey Shepherd on their Platinum Wedding Anniversary.

They married in the Burnley New Church on Dec 5th 1953. They eventually set up home in Letchworth. They would go to Finchley Church quite often and became very involved with The Green Hill Church up until its closure a few years ago.

Company Accountant

It is with regret that we have to inform members and friends of General Conference that Mrs Rachael Jaggs' employment as our Company Accountant was terminated from 30th November 2023.

Arrangements to appoint her successor are in hand. In the meantime, financial matters requiring attention should be sent to our Company Secretary, Ms Natalie Welch (tel: 02477 110461; email: natalie.welch@generalconference.org.uk), or to Trustee Mr Nigel Sutton (nigel.sutton@generalconference.org.uk).

We wish Rachael well and thank her for the commitment she showed during her 20 months with Conference.

Margaret Cowie (Chair)

Nigel Sutton (Vice-chair)

Natalie Welch (Company Secretary)