

**YEARBOOK OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE NEW CHURCH: 2023-2024**

**INCLUDING THE MINUTES
OF THE 216th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Held at the Hayes Conference Centre,
Swanwick, Derbyshire
from Tuesday 25th July to Friday 28th July 2023**

The Deeds of Conference were enrolled,
in the High Court of Chancery, on 14th February 1822

The General Conference was incorporated,
under the Companies Acts 1862 and 1867, on 16th February 1872

It was entered in the General Register of Charities,
under the Charities Act of 1960, on 11th July 1967,
with reference number 253206

The General Conference became a Trust Corporation on 16th September 2019

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2023

A Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England No. 6039

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to express, share and experience with others in life an inclusive, non-judgmental vision of God's kingdom.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is of a network of individuals and groups interacting together to share spiritual insight and understanding in an open and non-judgmental way, in order to promote spiritual growth through the application to life of the Word, and the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.

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COUNCIL

TRUSTEES

Mrs ML COWIE	[until 2026]	Chairman
Mr NK SUTTON	[until 2024]	Vice-Chariman
Revd BR JARVIS	[until 2024]	
Mrs S CHESWORTH	[until 2025]	
Mrs PA GRIMSHAW	[until 2025]	
Mr R TAYLOR	[until 2025]	

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Revd BM TALBOT	[Ministers' Committee Secretary]
Ms N WELCH	[Company Secretary]
Mrs RJ JAGGS, CA, MA, BA	[Company Accountant and Finance- Purley Chase]

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Mr MICHAEL CLUBB
Mr DAVID RICHARD ALFRED FRIEND
Mr GORDON STANFORD KUPHAL
Mrs PAULINE ANNE GRIMSHAW
Mr ALAN C MISSON

AUDITORS: BW SERVICES LTD

INVESTMENT MANAGERS: RATHBONE INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT LTD

NEWTON INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT LTD

SOLICITORS: HARRIS AND HARRIS

USEFUL CONTACTS INCLUDING VOLUNTARY WORKERS

(Voluntary Workers are shown in italics)

Company Secretary	Ms N WELCH
Company Accountant	To be appointed*
Finance Manager	<i>Mr A BENTLEY</i>
Payroll & Pensions Manager	<i>Mr CV SKINNER, BSc</i>
Insurance Manager	To be appointed*
Auxiliary Ministry Co-ordinator	Mrs J MILLAR
Technology Manager	Mr P CRONE
Safeguarding	<i>Mrs S CHESWORTH</i> <i>Mrs J JONES</i>
Youth Leaders:	Mr R CLARK Mrs J JONES
Property Manager North	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Property Manager South	<i>Mr P BROOKS</i>
Health and Safety Manager	<i>Mr W WOODHOUSE</i>
Conference Organiser	<i>Mr J FORD</i>
Conference Bookings Secretary	<i>Ms N WELCH</i>
Data Protection Manager	Mr P CRONE
E-News & E-Read Production Manager	Mr P CRONE

* In the meantime, queries should be addressed to the Company Secretary and Nigel Sutton.

SPIRITUAL LEADER'S ADDRESS
Rev'd Jack Dunion General Conference AGM July 2023

Rediscovering Our Purpose

Those who attended Conference or listened in on Zoom will be aware that my Spiritual Leader's talk this year was recorded. Below is a shortened transcript of the talk. The full and expanded talk, including questions from the floor of conference, can be found posted on my YouTube channel. You can view it online by following the link below:

<https://youtu.be/paQDZgHVKjI>

Recap on Conference 2022 talk

Let me begin by saying how lovely it is to see you all in the flesh after such a tough few years, not being able to meet physically due to Covid 19. For the sake of continuity, I will recap on what we spoke about at last year's Conference. Firstly, we spoke about the first four previous churches on earth and what Swedenborg tells us about these (**AC 4706**). There is the Most Ancient Church, the Ancient Church, the Representative Church and the Christian Church. Each church has been founded on the Lord's love, and since people then had the Lord's love in their hearts, or rather, in their will. They therefore also had the Lord's truth flowing into their understanding from the will. But, as the love within the people of the church declined, so too did the truth in their understanding (**AC 585**), which was proportionately turned into falsity. Each of these successive churches declined in this way and so each church eventually died, only to be replaced by a new church. The first church on earth, the Most Ancient Church, had a will that was from the Lord (**AC 2730**). And, because they did the Lord's will they also had his truth manifesting in their understanding.

The "Fall of Man"

Swedenborg shows how the way in which each successive decline is recorded within the internal spiritual sense of the book of Genesis, beginning with the story of Adam and Eve. He shows how all the trees in the Garden of Eden represent all the various perceptions within the human mind. The one tree at the centre of the garden, which they were not to eat from, was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (**Gen. Ch. 2 & 3**). The tree at the centre of the garden represents the perception that life is from ourselves, which is an appearance given to us by the Lord so that we can make free and reasoned

choices. In reality, there is only one life and that is the Lord's life. The Lord, however, allows us the appearance of self-life so that we might be able to make his life our own by freely choosing to live from Him and not from the appearance of self-life. In other words, we are to live as though from ourselves, but, at the same time, we are to know and acknowledge that it is the Lord's life working in us and through us (**TCR 3**). By eating from the tree in the centre meant that they, the Most Ancient Church, made the perception or appearance of self-life their reality, as eating means to make something our own (**AE 617[31]**). After "swallowing" such an appearance, the people of the Most Ancient Church then began desiring a self-life. In order to respect their freedom to choose, which is essential if we are to be freely able to choose to live from the Lord, the Lord needed to grant us a "self-life" which Swedenborg refers to as *proprium* (**AC 3813**).

Self-life becomes our false reality

Since the self-life entered the human will it then also began perverting the truths flowing from the will into the understanding (**AC 585**). Swedenborg also describes how evils of the will must be allowed to manifest in the understanding so we can know they are there and begin desiring to have them removed (**DP 278**). It is only when we freely approach the Lord and ask him to remove our evils that he can do so. So, we must therefore be able to see our evils and build a desire to have them removed.

Freedom & reason

There are two faculties which the Lord has provided us with which no other species has, and these are "freedom & reason" (**AC 10777**). Freedom relates to our will and reason to our understanding. We are able to reason that there must be a God and be free to choose his life of love over our own life of self. Our will, having been corrupted by our tendency to live from ourselves, needs to be replaced with a will from our heavenly Father and we must therefore freely choose to do his will instead of our own. This brings us right back to the story of Adam and Eve where the will and the understanding were initially compromised. Since the human will was compromised, it follows that whatever our will produces in our understanding, although it appears as truth to us, it is in fact false.

Not my will but yours, Lord

Doing our own will, then, is not an option if we are to lead a truly heavenly life. Rather, we need to do the Lord's will instead of our own. Only in doing the Lord's will do we gain a clear understanding of what is true. In order for us to do this, the Lord has provided that we can think separately from our will by raising the understanding up into the light of heaven, looking down on our will, condemning it and doing his will instead of our own (**DP 278**). Our Lord and Saviour assumed a human will on earth through his mother Mary, and instead of doing that which came from the human will, the Lord did what was from the will of the Father, which is pure Divine Love, and from which proceeds pure Divine Truth. The Lord therefore put off the corrupted human will from the mother and put on a will from the Father, meaning the Divine Love. This, then, was the same will that existed with the first church on earth, before it was compromised, because it, too, was the will of the Divine Love. This is why in the garden of Gethsemane the Lord prayed to the Father *"Father, if you are willing remove this cup from me: nevertheless, not my will, but yours be done."* (**Luke 22:42**).

Manifesting our evils

Last year we also spoke about all the changes that are taking place in our world today, the challenges we face, the dilemmas and the difficulties confronting us. It looks as though the world has gone crazy; it looks at times as though our leaders are all going mad and don't know what to do, as though things are getting worse and worse. But, that in itself is an appearance. I would like to use an analogy here. Say there was a care home, where an abuse had been discovered which was found to have been going on for 20 years. Everyone would say how terrible it was. That is the just the appearance though. Of course, it "looks" terrible. However, in reality, we could say that although it has indeed been terrible for the past 20 years, and lay undiscovered. Now that it has been exposed, it will no longer be able to continue, and so it is actually a good thing. So, that which looked to be terrible, is actually what has previously been terrible, but is now coming to an end. In the writings of our church we read how "Evils cannot be removed unless they appear". This is a very important teaching (**DP 278, 278[6], AC 1740**). What Swedenborg is saying is that in order for our inner evils to be removed they must first be seen, by manifesting in our understanding. This also means they often need to be allowed to happen. If they were not allowed to manifest in this way, where they can be seen, there would be no way for us to become aware of them, build a desire to be free from them and so they

would lie within undetected, destroying people from within like a hidden cancer (DP 251).

So, to summarise our recap regarding the will and the understanding: the Lord a) protects our free will by allowing us to live in the appearance that life is from ourselves; b) gives us the ability to “see”, through our own reasoning, that there is a God who is one and who created all things; c) permit our inner evils to manifest so that we can see them and come to desire to have them removed; and d) we must approach the Lord with our desire to change and ask for his help and strength to do his will instead of our own. This, then, takes us full-circle in that we begin to regenerate and form the same will from the Lord that the Most Ancient Church had, before the so-called “fall of man”.

A need for change

It seems that our church has reached a stage in our evolutionary development, or dare I say, regeneration, where the desire for change is all but universal. We now accept that we need to change. There are, and will continue to be, different ideas of what kind of change should be implemented. This is, perhaps, inevitable, since we are all different. Our attempts to change in the past have been difficult and even caused divisions as people become more entrenched and defensive. This, in itself, demonstrates that we are a diverse group of individuals. If we are honest about it, we must admit that, in the past, we have been reluctant to embrace such diversity. Diversity has simply not been tolerated within the church, let alone encouraged. The difference now is that not only does everyone know that we need to change, there is also a will to change. Which, perhaps, just hasn't been there in the past. We have, it would seem, reached a stage where we are ready and able to embrace each other's differences in a way we never have been before and rather than stifle diversity within the church, we are beginning to embrace these different ways of seeing things. Instead of trying to make others conform to our own ideas of how things should be done, the Lord has perhaps brought us to a place where we are able to encourage our differences, by accepting that we are indeed all different and that we see things in different ways.

Actions required

We also looked last year at the idea of having some sort of a facilitation day, during which all those associated with the General Conference will be able to have their own views on how the church should develop moving forward. This

could involve, for example, a gathering of representatives from all the main groups within the church and having a facilitator(s) to help bring out an overall purpose and future strategy for our organisation. They could get behind this new momentum for change and join forces in support of it. If we can create a “road-map” of sorts, we could then agree on a common purpose for our church. We could then look at where we want to be as a church in, say, 5 or 10 years. Having decided on aims and objections going forward, based on the purpose of the Lord’s creation, which is that a heaven of angels be formed from the human race (**TCR 773**) we could then unite behind previously agreed aims and objectives and take our church forward in that way.

Three changes we might wish to work on going forward:

- Encourage the expression of the diverse range of views from within our ministry
- Move from an insular societal model and re-invest in outside professional help
- Encourage diverse groups to form through allowing more individual expressions of faith

It is envisaged that once the above barriers to progress are removed, the Lord’s love and truth will be more able to flow freely through us and out into the world through the church which the Lord will then be able to create for us. As we read in Psalm 127:

“Unless the Lord builds the house,
the builders labour in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the guards stand watch in vain”

Why do we need to change, though?

The world is changing very fast and what the church is trying to offer the world is being rejected, and has been for a very long time now. However, there stands the great irony that what the church has is exactly what the world is searching for and so very badly needs. How, then, do we reconcile these two things? If the world wants and needs what the church has and they are rejecting it, then the obvious conclusion would be that there is something wrong in the way the church is presenting it to them. Let’s look at why we

find ourselves in this situation and why it is so very hard for us to change things. One of the key teachings of our church, I think, sheds a great light on why this is happening. In New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrines (**NJHD 32**) *“Nothing is more important to know than how the will and the understanding make one mind”*. Whatever we love is in our will and whatever is in our will takes a form in our understanding. We know that the human will inclines continually towards the opposite of God’s will, a will which is pure Divine Love. The Lord’s will, then, being pure love, takes the form of pure Divine Wisdom. So, to the extent we do the Lord’s will is to the extent to which truth, which takes the very form of love, will manifest in our understanding. The trouble is, we all instinctively think what we do is good and what we believe is true. In fact, because what we think or believe is a product of our will, or our love, then we don’t only come to believe it is true, we do so with great passion and we therefore protect it as though it is from the Lord, when in fact, it may well not be!

Illustration of the will and understanding

Back in the days when public transport took the form of the horse pulling a two-person cart, one company dominated that particular market at that time. When a new company started selling the horse and carriage, which carried more people and had a roof, the two-person cart company resisted it. They even lobbied the politicians to pass a law saying that those who drive a horse and carriage must have someone walk in front of them with a red flag, just in case anyone was killed. This slowed the production and progress of public transport. It’s not that the two-person cart company thought they were doing anything wrong, it was more their stern opposition to the new idea that caused them to see it the way they did, and so they protested that it was a more dangerous mode of transport. What was actually happening was that their will, or love, was set on their own product. So, as this “self-love” manifested in their understanding, it took the form of what their love was telling them, i.e. it was producing reasons not to allow the new model. Incidentally, this is where the saying “a red flag” originated. So, if our will produces ideas in our understanding that support our loves, and our loves tend continually towards opposing the Lord’s love, what can we do?

The solution

Swedenborg tell us that once the human will had become corrupt in this way, and because the corrupted will flowed directly into the understanding at that

time, the Lord performed a great miracle by separating the will and the understanding from one another. Now, the human will is able to be elevated above the will all the way up into the light of heaven. A person can now look down on their will, see it for what it is in the light of truth, and begin to build a desire to change. **(AC 640)** By approaching the Lord in freedom, and having reasoned that there was a need for change, a person can now freely seek the Lord's help and strength to change. Now, instead of doing our own will, we can do the Lord's will instead. And, of course, having then done the Lord's will, his truth can now manifest in our understanding, which reinforces such truth in the form of a stronger faith and an increased desire to do more of the Lord's will. If the two-person cart company had seen fit to have the Lord lift their understanding into the light of heaven and look down on the will from such a vantage point, they would have clearly seen that they were protecting a love of self and not of the public good, as they no doubt would have convinced themselves. The question is, what are we as a church trying to protect when we resist change? For example, we might ask ourselves, "Does the Lord need us to protect him?". Is it really the Lord, or his truth, that we are trying to protect? Are we protecting the Lord and his truth, or are we protecting our own idea of what the Lord's truth is?

Outreach

One of the activities the church has always engaged in is outreach. Some would go as far as to say outreach is a duty. Why, though, after many decades of varying outreach programs, is the church still in steep decline? One logical way to look at the problem is to notice the following: anyone who has studied and practices what is taught in the writings of our church knows that they contain exactly what most people in modern life need and what many are in fact looking for. Combine this with the fact that we long to provide it for them, and we do the outreach for this very reason. So, we might ask, why are we not more successful in persuading them to join our church? My thoughts on this paradox are as follows: we recognise that people aren't being attracted to our church. So, we embark on an outreach project to help us invite more people in. The outreach project takes what we have and presents it in new and diverse ways. For example, we may use Facebook, Instagram, wear T-shirts with slogans, create colourful and bright images. We do this in order to appeal to the vastly diverse range of people out there. Yet, we do so in order to attract them into an organisation that they weren't attracted to in the first place, possibly because it lacked the diversity employed during our outreach project. Isn't that why we feel the need to outreach in the first place? So, if, having used diversity to attract people in, yet we are not a diverse organization, why

would we expect those who do come in to remain? Especially if we try to make them all the same by insisting they embrace the way we ourselves interpret things? Wouldn't our outreach efforts be far more productive if we ourselves allowed each other the chance to express our own diverse views? Wouldn't that diversity then begin to appeal to a more diverse range of people out there? If we allowed people to express their own individuality, while still retaining the spirit of the Word and the Writings, diversity would be allowed to emerge and therefore attract a more diverse range of people. It should be noted that this idea of diversity within the church is abundantly taught throughout the writings of our church: *"unity, that it may be perfect, must be formed from variety"*. Further, heaven itself consists of such diversity. *"Variety in worship of the Lord from the variety of good in different societies is not harmful, but beneficial, for the perfection of heaven is therefrom"* (H&H 56). That which would surely help stifle such diversity within the church is us saying to one another: *"you need to believe the same as me or us, and how I, or we, interpret this or that"*.

True freedom

Being diverse doesn't mean doing what we want. The idea that "the world" often has of allowing diversity is being able to do whatever we want. To many, that is their idea of being free. The writings of our church are very clear on the idea of freedom as not just doing what we want. In fact, Swedenborg tells us that in order to be truly free, we need to compel ourselves not to do anything we want. According to Swedenborg, doing whatever we want is a false freedom which actually leads us into slavery. He tells us *"the light of this world makes us think that spiritual slavery is freedom and spiritual freedom is slavery."* (DP 149). Self-compulsion, on the other hand, is what leads to true freedom. True freedom, according to Emanuel Swedenborg, is the freedom that comes from being led by the Lord and living in accordance with love for what is good and true (AC 2870).

Guarding against the Pharisees

One of the biggest mistakes that the Lord highlighted concerning the Pharisees was how they used the truths of the Word to make themselves look good and, by doing so, gain power over others. When the Lord came on earth, the church was at its end. When a church is at its end it has no love in it. It still has the truths of the Word, but, the way in which the church is interpreting the Word is based on self-love instead of a love of the Lord. For this reason, the church,

and what the Lord was teaching, were poles apart. The Lord was instituting a new church based on love. The Pharisees were running a church with no love at all in it. One of the ways in which the Pharisees were able to “lord it over” the people was to present their own interpretation of the Word as true, when in fact it was completely false. This is why the Pharisees thought the Lord was evil and they were good. This shows how there are the truths of the Word, and there are interpretations of what the truths of the Word are, and these are not necessarily the same thing. At one stage, even in the Christian church, we were told that faith was a mystery. In other words, we were not allowed to question whatever the church’s interpretation of the Word was. However, if we are not allowed to think for ourselves and must believe what we are told, without question, then how do we know those who are teaching it are not also being passed information that is false, if they themselves have not been allowed to question it? And, if we are all to accept a single interpretation, whose interpretation do we accept? Of course, we in the New Church should embrace what was revealed to Swedenborg. But, there are even different interpretations of the writings themselves. So, again I ask the question, if we are to have a unified view on such things, whose view should that be? My own view is that it should be left to the individual, especially perhaps within the ministry, to think and act as their conscience directs them. As long as that person has a love for the Lord and the neighbour as their priority, they ought to be left in freedom to express their views and act according to their personal conscience. After all, the Lord himself compels no-one. And so, we might ask the question, what right has anyone else to do so in his name?

“The Lord could by means of angels use almighty force to lead a person to have good ends in view; but that would be to take the person's life away from him, since his life consists of loves entirely contrary to those ends. It is therefore an inviolable law of God that a person should be left in freedom, and that goodness and truth, or charity and faith, should be implanted when he is in freedom, and by no means under compulsion” (AC 5854[2]).

AC = Arcana Celestia; NJHD = New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrines; H&H = Heaven and Hell; TCR = True Christian Religion; DP = Divine Providence

**MINUTES OF THE TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTEETH
ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW CHURCH**

Company Number 00006039

Tuesday 25th July 2023

1. In accordance with Minute 25 of the last Annual Meeting, the Conference assembled, as arranged by the Council, at 3.00 p.m. at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, on Tuesday, 25th July 2023.

2. The Revd Brian Talbot led a family service of worship, during which the Pledge of Commitment was repeated as follows:

“I promise to honour the Lord Jesus Christ as the One God of heaven and earth, who is love itself and in whom is the Divine Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I will endeavour to follow the teaching of His Holy Word, contained in the Bible and revealed anew in the theological books of Emanuel Swedenborg.

I will seek to overcome all evils in thought, word and action, and strive to do what is good as if of myself, whilst acknowledging that the saving power to do so comes from the Lord alone.”

3. Mrs Margaret Cowie, the Chairman of the Council, took the chair and welcomed members to the 216th Annual Meeting of the Conference. She announced that she had invited Mrs Jan Millar and Miss Gwendolen Rowe to check the credentials of Voting Members and to supervise the signing of the Conference Roll.

4. The Roll when completed contained the following names:-

COUNCIL

Chairman	M Cowie
Vice Chairman	N Sutton
Members	Revd B Jarvis
	S Chesworth
	P Grimshaw
	R Taylor

Officer	N Welch
Officer	R Jaggs

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

M Clubb

G Kuphal

MINISTERS

C A Bank

H Brown - Joint Spiritual Leader

C Curry

M Duckworth

J Dunion - Joint Spiritual Leader

D Gaffney

R Jarratt

M Stanley

B Talbot

R Wooldridge

AREA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Yorkshire and North-East G Rowe, J Millar

SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES

Accrington

A Walton, J Walton

Bournemouth

L Habgood, S Thomas

Bradford

P Blomfield

Dalton

J Mrozek

Derby

B Clubb

Kearsley

C Kennion

Keighley

P Brooks

Seaburn Dene

N Ramsay

West Wickham

D Brooks

SOCIETY MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT REPRESENTATIVES

Bournemouth

M Curry

Bradford

J Millar

Dalton

T Millar

Derby

J Jones, S Jones, R Kennion

Kearsley

A Presland, M Presland, J Ford

Keighley

A Clarkson

Seaburn Dene

T Jarvis, G Nicholls, L Griffiths

CENTRAL REGISTER MEMBERS

C Chambers
S Fitzgerald
B Friend
A Gaffney
M Haseler
M Hawkins
L Jones
M Morgan
P Morgan
A Ramsay
J Ramsay
S Griffiths

5. Ms Natalie Welch, Company Secretary, read out messages received from the Revd John and Mrs Jenny Sutton, Mr David and Mrs Susan Friend, Mrs Linda Wells and Mrs Ruth Ogden, and pointed out that they are displayed on the notice board. She stated that she had received apologies from the Revd Robert Gill.

Resolved: That the Conference, through the Chairman, sends greetings and best wishes at her discretion to those named above

6. The Revd Brian Talbot spoke about Mrs Mary Pulsford, Mrs Frances Mary Burnley, Mrs Madeleine Taylor, the Revd Geoffrey Clarkson, Mr Maurice Garnett and Mrs Barbara Stanley, all of whom had passed into the spiritual world during the past year.

Resolved: That the Conference expresses its high regard for these friends and their various services to the Lord's Church, and requests that a copy of the Memorial Notice be forwarded to the families, with the sympathy and goodwill of the Members of Conference.

7. At 4.15 p.m. there was an opportunity to look at the stalls in the Conference Hall displaying the work of the Ministers' Committee, the Committee for Auxiliary Ministry, SOLCe, the New Church Youth Association and the Youth and Family Team.

8. The Revd Jack Dunion presented a certificate and medallion to Accredited Worship Leader Mr Jonathan Millar. The Revd Robin Wooldridge presented SOLCe certificates to Mrs Jenny Jones, Mr Robert Clark, the Revd Jack Dunion and the Revd Becky Jarratt. Mrs Sue Chesworth was not present at the time to receive her certificate.

9. Mrs Carolyn Kennion presented gift-cards to six children in acknowledgement of their entries to the New Church Youth Association creative exhibition.

10. The Revd Brian Talbot presented a card to the Revd Clifford Curry signed by the Ministers, marking the fortieth anniversary of his ordination.

11. *Resolved:* That the Report of the Ministers' Committee be adopted.

12. At 8.00 p.m. there was a choice of free time or the following session:
Circle Dancing led by Mrs Marion Curry.

Wednesday 26th July 2023

13. At 9.30 a.m. a Family Holy Supper service was conducted by the Revd Helen Brown and the Revd Christine Bank.

14. The Revd Jack Dunion delivered the keynote address entitled "Rediscovering Our Purpose" followed by a discussion.

15. At 2.30 p.m. there were the following choice sessions:

- "Nothing off Limits" Question and Answer Session led by the Revd Mary Duckworth, the Revd Jack Dunion and the Revd Brian Talbot.
- Prayer led by the Revd Helen Brown.
- Reflective Taizé-style Worship led by the Revd Becky Jarratt and the Revd Bruce Jarvis.
- Colouring.

16. At 4.15 p.m. there were the following choice sessions:

- "Nothing off Limits" Question and Answer Session led by the Revd Christine Bank, the Revd Michael Stanley and the Revd Robin Wooldridge.
- Prayer led by the Revd Helen Brown.
- Psalm 91 led by the Revd Brian Talbot.
- Nature Walk.
- Colouring.

17. The Revd Helen Brown gave an illustrated presentation about the Purley Chase Centre and the garden party at which the summerhouse built in memory of the Revd Alison Southcombe was dedicated.

18. At 8.00 p.m. there were the following choice sessions:

- Evening of Singing and Playing led by Mrs Ruth Friend.

- Annual General Meeting of the New Church Historical Society.

Thursday 27th July 2023

19. The morning session was opened at 9.30 a.m. with family worship led by the Revd Becky Jarratt.

20. Mrs Rachael Jaggs presented the Report of the Company Accountant.

21. *Resolved:* That the Company Accountant's Report, the Balance Sheet and Accounts be adopted.

22. Mrs Margaret Cowie presented the Report of the Council.

23. The Revd Bruce Jarvis, chairman of the Constitution Revision Group appointed by the Conference Council, introduced the following proposed amendments to the Articles and Rules of Conference.

24. Resolved by special resolution: That a new sub-clause (l) be added to Article 11: "the representative of the New Church College".

25. Resolved by special resolution: That in the second sentence of Article 25 "four calendar months" be substituted for "eight calendar months" and that in the last sentence "in the Circular distributed by the Company Secretary not less than six weeks before such General Meeting" be substituted for "in the notice convening such General Meeting".

26. The Revd Bruce Jarvis explained that the following motion regarding an addition to Article 33 had been submitted to the 2021 Annual Meeting and had been rejected. Nonetheless, the Council considered that the proposed change was a wise provision and urged Conference to approve it. Mr Jarvis pointed out that this addition to Article 33 had been erroneously included in the Amendments to the Rule Book circulated after the 2021 Annual Meeting.

27. Resolved by special resolution: That a new sub-clause (g) be added to Article 33: "When for any reason it is not possible to hold a ballot at an Annual General Meeting any Council Member whose term of office

should come to an end at that Annual General Meeting shall remain in office until the following Annual General Meeting.”

28. The Revd Bruce Jarvis explained that at the 2022 Annual Meeting the question had been raised whether the appointment of Honorary Life Members should be reinstated. Accordingly, the Council had submitted a special resolution to this effect for the consideration of the Conference. The proposal included changing the name from “Honorary Life Member” to “Elder”. In discussion it was clear that the name “Elder” did not meet with universal approval.

The special resolution to change Article 45 was defeated, but the Council would review the matter and consider bringing forward a revised proposal to the next Annual Meeting.

29. The Revd Bruce Jarvis explained that at the 2021 Annual Meeting the Council proposed an amendment to Article 41 which would have deleted any provision for inspection of the accounts by Members. This proposal was defeated at that Meeting but was erroneously included in the Amendments to the Rule Book circulated after the 2021 Annual Meeting. To avoid possible confusion Mr Jarvis pointed out that the correct wording of the Article is:-

“The books of account shall be kept by an officer duly appointed by the Council and, subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and manner of inspecting the same, shall be open to the inspection of Members.”

30. Resolved: That, in the second sentence of Rule L3, “at least one of whom must be a Trustee and at least one of whom must not be a Trustee” be deleted.

31. Resolved: That Bates Weston Business Services Ltd, of The Mills, Canal Street, Derby, be appointed auditors to the Conference.

32. Resolved: That the Report of the Council be adopted.

33. At 2.30 p.m. the Revd Becky Jarratt led a session on “The Future of the Church” during which there was discussion in small groups on many aspects of change.

34. At 4.15 p.m. the Conference Service was conducted by the Revd Jack Dunion. His theme was based on Achan's sin (Judges, chapter 7).

The offertory for the Conference funds amounted to £553.

35. At 8.00 p.m. a social evening entitled "Party Time for Everyone" was prepared and hosted by Mr Steve Jones and Mrs Jenny Jones.

Friday 28th July 2023

36. The session opened at 9.45 a.m. with announcements.

37. Resolved: That the best thanks of the Annual Meeting be extended to the Revd Robert Gill for his service as a Trustee of Conference.

38. The children and the young people, under the guidance of their leaders, presented the work they had undertaken during the Conference.

39. A number of speakers contributed to providing feedback on yesterday's session on The Future of the Church.

40. A number of speakers contributed to a review of the Annual Meeting.

41. Resolved: That, in accordance with the Council's proposal, the 217th Annual Meeting be held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, starting on Tuesday 23rd July 2024.

42. *Resolved:* That the warm thanks of the Conference be conveyed to all those responsible for making arrangements for the Meeting, in particular Mr John Ford (the Conference Organiser); Mrs Margaret Presland (the Bookings Secretary), the Revd Becky Jarratt and the Revd Jack Dunion for the planning of Conference; Miss Gemma McLean, for Information Technology arrangements; Mrs Jenny Jones and all those involved in enabling and planning for families to be present at the Meeting; Miss Gwendolen Rowe and Mrs Jan Millar for acting as the Credentials Committee; Mr John Ford, Mrs Hazel Nicholls, Mr Michael Clubb and Mrs Betty Clubb for arrangements for the Holy Supper service; Mrs Ruth Friend (Music Director), the musicians and the choir; Mrs Jenny and Mr Steve Jones for the social evening.

43. Resolved: That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to all those unsung volunteers and church workers whose dedication to the Conference fills the 362 days of the year when the Annual Meeting is not happening. These include the members of the Conference Council, the Ministry, both active and retired, the Purley Management Team and the Company Accountant, plus many others who keep the Societies and institutions of the church running. Thanks also to Mrs Rita Russell who has stepped down after many years as Safeguarding Officer, and to Mr Colin Skinner who continues in his role as Payroll and Pensions Manager.

44. Resolved: That the warm thanks of the Conference be accorded to the Chairman of the Council, Mrs Margaret Cowie, and to the chairmen appointed by her, for their conduct of the Annual Meeting. Those who acted in this capacity were the Revd Bruce Jarvis and Mr Nigel Sutton.

45. The session concluded with closing remarks from the Chairman, Mrs Margaret Cowie.

46. At 12 noon a closing service of family worship was conducted by the Revd Robin Wooldridge.

47. The Annual Meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.

Signed:

Mrs Margaret L Cowie, Chairman

Ms Natalie Welch, Company Secretary

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL – YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2023

The Council held seven meetings during the year. Details of attendances are as follows:

Chairman	Mrs M L Cowie	7
Vice-Chairman	Mr N K Sutton	7
Trustees:	Mrs S Chesworth	6 (possible 7)
	Revd R A Gill	7
	Mrs P Grimshaw	6 (possible 7)
	Revd B R Jarvis	5 (possible 7)
	Mr R Taylor	6 (possible 7)

Also in attendance were:

Company Secretary	Ms Natalie Welch	3 (possible 3)
Company Accountant	Mrs Rachael Jaggs	7
Secretary, Ministers' Committee	Revd B Talbot	6 (possible 6)
President, New Church College	Mr C Chambers	7
Joint Spiritual Leader	Revd Helen Brown	5 (possible 7)
Joint Spiritual Leader	Revd Jack Dunion	5 (possible 7)

1. MEMBERSHIP

Following the ballot held at the Annual Meeting in July 2022 it was declared that Mrs Margaret L Cowie was elected as Chairman for four years until 2026. Mr Nigel K Sutton was elected as Vice-Chairman for two years until 2024. Mrs Sue Chesworth and Mrs Pauline Grimshaw were elected as Council Members until 2025. Mr Rob Taylor and Revd Bruce Jarvis were elected as Council Members until 2024. Revd Robert Gill was elected as a Council Member until 2023.

2. COMPANY SECRETARY

The Council appointed a new Company Secretary, Ms Natalie Welch, who started work on 7th November 2022.

3. THE COST OF ATTENDING CONFERENCE

In order to continue to encourage young people to attend Conference the Council has agreed that Mrs Jenny Jones be authorised to invite 16-19 year olds and those aged 20 and 21 who are undergoing full-time education to attend Conference 2023 as a free event.

4. LINK MEMBERS

Details of the links between the Council and those engaged in ministerial work are:

Purley Chase	Mr R Taylor and Revd H Brown
Finance	Mrs R Jaggs and Revd C Curry
Youth	Mrs S Chesworth and Revd R Jarratt
Human Resources	Ms N Welch and Revd B Talbot
Training and Development	Mrs S Chesworth and Revd R Jarratt
CAM	Mrs P Grimshaw and Revd C Bank

5. STAFF & REMUNERATION

In 2022/23 the total of stipends paid to ministers was £103,539. In the same year the total of salaries and wages paid to lay employees was £276,431. These figures include people employed for part of the year.

The Council approved a 6.6% increase from 1 April 2022 for all employees, because of the increased costs of living. The Average Weekly Earnings index has a total increase of 4.5% over the financial year to March 2022. The Council approved a one-off bonus payment equal to 6% of the average Conference salary to all staff to be paid in November 2022, as a result of the continuation of the Cost-of-Living conditions in the economy. There was a final increase in January 2023 of 6% for all employees.

6. VOLUNTEERS

The Council wishes to express its gratitude to the many people who have willingly taken on voluntary roles. Year after year they give generously of their time and energy, helping to maintain the church and its uses. We recognise that the Conference would be unable to continue its work without their contribution.

7. CONFERENCE'S MEDIA PRESENCE - Rise & Shine on Lomondradio.co.uk

People can tune into Revd Jack Dunion's radio show, "Rise & Shine", every Sunday morning between 9 and 10am. It has now been running for just over 3 years and has attracted people from far and wide. It has proven particularly popular among our isolated members, but others enjoy listening before heading off to their local church. With hymns/songs and some words in between, based on the Word and the Writings of our church, the hour-long show always focusses on a spiritual topic.

Anyone wishing to listen to back-dated issues of “Rise and Shine” can download from a collection of 55 shows (at the time of writing) which are loaded each week to Revd Dunion’s cloud at mixcloud.com/revjack.

8 SPONSORED ORDINATION STUDENT

We are delighted to welcome a new sponsored Ordination Student, Lynne Griffiths, who started her new journey with us on 1st January 2023.

9 POLICIES

Health and Safety

The Company Secretary, Natalie Welch, is currently liaising with Croner (employment law specialists) to update the Health & Safety Policy and the Safeguarding Policy.

10 NOMINATIONS AND MOTIONS

1. NOMINATIONS

The Council proposes that Messrs Bates Weston Business Services Ltd of Derby be re-appointed auditors for the Conference.

2. MOTIONS - CHANGES TO THE ARTICLES

The Council will propose the following special resolutions.

Article 11

Last year the College enquired whether it could appoint a representative to be a Voting Member of the Conference. The Council thinks that this is a good idea and proposes the following addition to Article 11:-

That a new sub-clause (1) be added to Article 11: “the representative of the New Church College”.

Article 25

The Council considers that the period of notice required for the submission of proposals to make a change to the Articles is excessive. The current period, which is eight months before the Annual Meeting, was only adopted at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Prior to that the period was two months. The Council thinks four months is a reasonable compromise and proposes the following:-

That in the second sentence of Article 25 “four calendar months” be substituted for “eight calendar months” and that in the last sentence “in the Circular distributed by the Company Secretary not less than six weeks before such General Meeting” be substituted for “in the notice convening such General Meeting”.

Article 33

The following proposal was submitted to the 2021 Annual Meeting, but was rejected. However, the Council thinks this is a wise provision and urges Conference to approve it.

The Council takes this opportunity to point out that this addition to Article 33 was erroneously included in the Amendments to the Rule Book circulated after the 2021 Annual Meeting.

That a new sub-clause (g) be added to Article 33: “When for any reason it is not possible to hold a ballot at an Annual General Meeting any Council Member whose term of office should come to an end at that Annual General Meeting shall remain in office until the following Annual General Meeting.”

Article 45

At the 2022 Annual Meeting the question was raised whether the appointment of Honorary Life Members should be reinstated. The Council acknowledges that criticism has been made that it is invidious for Conference to choose particular Members to be honoured, but points out that it is useful to have recognized people who can be appointed to represent the Conference at the funerals of Members in order to show formally the regard in which the deceased Member was held, or at other events. It would also be useful to have experienced Members to whom the Council and Officers could turn for advice from time to time. Alternatives to the name ‘Honorary Life Member’ have been suggested and after consideration the Council proposes the name ‘Elder’. ‘Elder’ has strong biblical provenance and is affirmed in the Heavenly Doctrines as meaning, “the chief characteristics of wisdom and intelligence that accord with truth and good” [Arcana Caelestia 7912]. This name seems to fit well with the role and uses envisaged for this group of long-serving and experienced lay members.

The Council intends to allow time for a full discussion of this matter at the forthcoming Annual Meeting and will submit a revised Article 45 for consideration by the Conference, as follows:-

That the following be substituted for the existing Article 45: “There may be appointed, from among the Members of the General Conference, up to twelve Elders to act in a consultative, advisory or representative capacity on its behalf. They shall hold office for life unless they resign, become resident outside the United Kingdom, or are removed by resolution of a General Meeting. Any vacancy occurring among the Elders shall be filled by resolution of the General Conference in General Meeting.”

Correction to Article 41

At the 2021 Annual Meeting the Council proposed an amendment to this Article which would have deleted any provision for inspection of the accounts by Members. This proposed amendment was defeated at that Meeting, but was erroneously included in the Amendments to the Rule Book circulated after the 2021 Annual Meeting. To avoid possible confusion the Council points out that the correct wording of the Article is:-

“The books of account shall be kept by an officer duly appointed by the Council and, subject to any reasonable restrictions as to the time and manner of inspecting the same, shall be open to the inspection of Members.”

CHANGES TO THE RULES

The Council will propose the following resolution.

Rule L3.

The Council considers that it is inappropriate for members of the Council to have the power effectively to prevent any person from standing for election to the Council. The Council therefore proposes that the requirement that at least one of the supporters of a nominee should be a Trustee, i.e. a member of the Council, should be deleted as follows:-

That, in the second sentence of Rule L3, “at least one of whom must be a Trustee and at least one of whom must not be a Trustee” be deleted.

11 CONSTITUTION REVISION GROUP

The passage of time and changing circumstances have left the Constitution of Conference in need of a thorough revision. The Council appointed Mr David Friend, Revd Robert Gill, Mrs Pauline Grimshaw, Revd Bruce Jarvis, and Mr Gordon Kuphal as a Constitution Revision Group. The Group began work in the autumn of 2022 and the Conference solicitor has been consulted at every stage. It has been agreed that the Memorandum of Association is still fit for purpose and no change is proposed to it.

The Articles of Association need some updating, and the Group will shortly be looking at the Rules to consider what, if any, changes are needed there. Because the Constitution is rather a daunting set of documents, the Group is planning to draft a simple explanation and guide to help members understand its purpose and find their way around it. It is hoped that special resolutions proposing changes will be brought to the 2023 Conference AGM. Further resolutions to complete the changes to the Articles and Rules will be prepared for submission to the 2024 Annual Meeting.

12. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Company Accountant, Mrs Rachael Jaggs, reports on the Income and Expenditure accounts for the year ended 31st March 2023 and the Balance Sheet as at that date, subject to audit:

Overall Summary

The operational surplus in 2022/23 has decreased by £83,000 compared to last year – to £70,000

Income

There has been a slight increase in income of 1% compared to the previous year.

Society income has increased slightly to £111,000. Donations to Conference decreased slightly to £12,000.

Investment income continues to be the largest source of income, accounting for 69% of total income.

Expenditure

There has been an increase in total expenditure of nearly 15% compared with the previous year. Human Resources costs increased by 11%, and administration costs increased by 20% this year.

The Laity costs increase is the result of planned recruitment costs, including the wage increases and bonus payment. The total costs of Purley Chase have increased by £40,000 to £159,000 when compared with last year. This is due to the planned increase in staff wages and the appointment of new employees at Purley.

13. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PURLEY MANAGEMENT TEAM 2022 – 2023

The Team

Chris Woodhouse	Chair
Rachel Gilsonan	Manager
Dawn Scaife	Deputy Manager
Charlotte Gilsonan	Bookings Manager
Rachael Jaggs	Accountant
Nigel Sutton	Conference Trustee
Karin Baynes	Task Force Team

This year has been a very busy one with Covid being thought of as a thing of the past and groups getting larger and some guests meeting friends for the first time since 2020. The Purley Management Team has not changed this year, and has once again had all management meetings face-to-face, with Karin Baynes joining us on zoom and once a year in person. Rachael Jaggs and Nigel Sutton attend Purley Chase most weeks to discuss financial matters.

Events

2023 and 2024 dates are full, and 2025 dates are at present provisionally full with some groups booking well into 2029. We are still having help from Ministers who come to Purley to take the Sunday services each month, and we are very thankful for their help.

A new summer house in the style of Swedenborg's in Stockholm, has been designed and is being built by Chris Woodhouse in memory of Revd Alison Southcombe. We would like to express our thanks to Chris for all his hard work. We are planning to celebrate the opening of the summer house with a garden party in June 2023.

We would like to express our thanks to everyone who has kindly donated towards the summer house which was Alison's vision.

Staff

We still have the same faces here at Purley Chase. All staff have completed their mandatory training for the next 12 months.

We are trying to recruit another chef to add to our team but are finding this difficult, but not through lack of trying!

Buildings and Grounds

The main work this year has been the refurbishment of all ensuite bedrooms and the Cedar Room with most rooms newly painted, carpeted, and new soft furnishings. We are looking to be finished mid 2023 with all decoration, but Purley Chase being such a large building it always needs some sort of maintenance.

New immersion heaters were installed last year. LED lighting has been fitted in the kitchen and dining room this year to cut the cost of both bulbs and electricity.

After a visit from our insurance company, new risk assessments were carried out by outside parties, resulting in work in and around the Centre to comply with new legislation. This will be ongoing throughout 2023, and will be a recurring event every 3-5 years, dependant on future changes to regulations.

Some of the children's play area erected in 2007 has been taken down as the horizontal timbers had become rotten. We have since had a new piece built by a local carpenter which uses the trees and wooded area. This work should be completed by mid-2023, and the remaining old play area will have a re-vamp later in this year.

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE CHURCHES YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

1 YORKSHIRE AND NORTH-EAST AREA COUNCIL

The Secretary, Miss Gwendolen Rowe, reports:

In the last year the Yorkshire and North-East Area has lost 5 of its members which has been a testing time.

Bradford

Bradford continues to support the community Project. It continues to be very much needed. Bradford has been busy with a steady group of families attending services and taking part in the life of the Church. They continue to hold services twice a month. They have had two baptisms which has been a great pleasure.

Dalton

Dalton have been delighted to welcome a new member, Jonathan Millar, who is taking a really active role in the church and is currently training to be a

Worship Leader. They continue services weekly and meet for Fellowship twice a month.

Seaburn Dene have continued to hold regular worship over the last year and have had a wide variety of services. They have, for the first time, held 'A Candle for Christmas' service where they remembered loved ones and people brought in donations of toiletries etc to support a local charity. This proved successful so will be repeated. Most of their young people have moved away but they are kept in touch with and much valued on visits home.

Keighley

At Keighley, services continue on a weekly basis occasionally led by Worship leaders alongside their Minister. They have enjoyed Christmas and Summer Fairs. They were able to hold their Christmas concert for the first time after 2 years of restrictions due to Covid and it was a delightful occasion.

As ever we are very grateful to our Ministers, Retired Ministers and Worship Leaders who lead our services, and to all those who work hard to maintain the life of the church.

2 KILDWICK CENTRE

The Secretary, Mr Keith Sandiford, reports:

For the first time since 2019 the Centre was able to open at Easter and run for a full season until the end of October. The work which had been planned for the winter period had all been completed. This included painting the dining room and touching in a few other areas, the five yearly check of the electrical system as well as the usual maintenance of gas appliances, legionella checks etc.

Bookings this year were better than they had been for a number of years. In total there were 19 bookings on 82 days (19 on 72 days in 2021). Of these 13 on 68 days (14 on 63) were church family/friends groups. Outside bookings were 6 on 14 days (5 on 9) and were mainly family groups including a 75th birthday party.

There were no major problems during the year and it was good to have no enforced breaks. The premises been maintained in good order as indicated earlier. The only setback came in October when the gas convector heater in the dining room finally failed beyond repair. This was not a big surprise considering its age and the number of encounters it has had with the River Aire over the past few years. However, it will have to be replaced or some other form of heating considered.

3 HOME WORSHIP

The Revd Gillian Gordon, reports:

Home worship is appreciated by those unable to get to church. Some people add their own hymns and prayers. The whole of 2023 has been subscribed to by many Ministers and Lay folk which provides a wide variety of services. There are already 5 contributors for 2024. Thanks to all those who work hard to contribute to home worship and to keep to the deadlines and to Linda Wells and Gemma McLean without whom the whole system would not function. A grand group effort in service to the Lord.

4 THE EDWARD JEGGINS TRUST

The Secretary, Revd Robert Gill, reports:

As a matter of courtesy, the Trustees report that the past year has been largely devoted to putting our internal affairs in order. This has involved matters both legal and financial. In consultation with our solicitor, deeds have been prepared and signed to enable Revd Gillian Gordon to retire from office as a Trustee. We extend to her our warm thanks for twelve years of service to the Trust. Our solicitor has also drawn up new deeds to confirm the continuing Trustees in office, namely Revd Robert Gill, Revd Helen Brown, and Revd Jack Dunion.

As reported last year, our bankers gave us six-month's notice of the closure of our bank accounts. However, the withdrawal of our funds from those accounts proved to be a lengthy process fraught with difficulties. Our attempts to resolve those difficulties were met with confusion, error and incompetence on the part of the bank. It took more than six months of persistent pressure on our part to gain access to our funds once more. Thankfully, the opening of our new bank account was an altogether smoother and happier experience. The Co-operative Bank has been extremely helpful and our new account with them was up and running without a hitch.

We are relieved that, after this hiatus, the Trust is fully functional once again. However, the number of New Church societies dwindles and, as a result, the Trustees are receiving fewer applications for grants. With this in mind we have recently taken legal advice in order to explore the possibility of widening our sphere of operation to include New Church residential centres. The legal advice is that such a change is not possible without the consent of the Charity Commission. We are therefore in the process of stating our case and seeking that consent.

Although we do not give support towards a society's day-to-day running-costs,

the Trust is happy to arrange grants towards the costs of capital projects, fixtures and fittings, and also any remedial work required to ensure public safety. However, we must advise that our established practice is that we do not make grants retrospectively. It is very important to submit applications, together with estimates, before work is put in hand. Applications should be made via the Senior Trustee. However, all the Trustees are available for an informal chat prior to the submission of an application, and we encourage applicants to make an early approach. We are keen to help wherever we can, and we hope to continue and expand this service in future years.

5 THE COMMITTEE FOR AUXILIARY MINISTRY

The CAM co-ordinator, Mrs Jan Millar, reports:

General

It has been another fairly quiet year for CAM but I still continue to support lay people who work voluntarily for the Church in many capacities. It is with great regret that this year three of the closest workers for CAM have passed into the Spiritual World. Mrs Madeleine Taylor was the first CAM coordinator and both Revd Geoffrey Clarkson and Mrs Mary Burnley served on the committee for many years and were a great support and inspiration to me personally.

Leaders United

At last, we managed to hold a weekend at Purley Chase in November, which was the first one since the onset of the Covid pandemic. The theme was 'Followers of Jesus' and sessions were led by Trevor Millar, Gwendolen Rowe and me. I also delivered a session on Paul and Swedenborg using material prepared by the late Revd Geoffrey Clarkson. I am very grateful to Mrs Anne Clarkson for making this available. Each participant gave a presentation on a follower of their choice, and this led to an in-depth discussion about the future of the Church. Following this, a meeting has been arranged with representatives of the Ministry and the Conference Council for their ideas and concerns to be discussed. I am delighted that this dialogue is taking place.

Worship Leader Training

Jonathan Millar is currently undergoing the training required to become an Accredited Worship Leader and two people have expressed a wish to train to become a Holy Supper Celebrant.

Resources

CAM continues to hold a variety of resources which are available to anyone who may find them useful. These are obtainable free either electronically or in hard copy.

Finally, CAM would like to thank the Conference Council and the Committee of Ministers for their continuing support for the work of lay people. The committee would also like to thank all the Auxiliary Ministers who give generously of their time, skills, inspiration and enthusiasm in service to the Church in a variety of capacities. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

6 THE NEW CHURCH YOUTH ASSOCIATION

The Secretary, Miss Gwendolen Rowe, reports:

3 Council Meetings have been held on Zoom during the last year. We were delighted to welcome Miss Joanne Walton to our meetings co-opted on to take on the role as our new Treasurer.

NCYA Conference: It was a delight to hold this at Bradford New Church where, following the AGM, we held a very lively activity afternoon involving 21 children and their parents.

Home Sunday Club: Currently Home Sunday Club is posted or emailed to 46 children and 2 adults every month. Members range in age from 3 to 18 years. Judith Taylor continues to write the Starters letters with Alison Presland writing the Junior letters. In addition to receiving a letter and Bible story leaflets, members also received birthday greetings, Christmas cards and letters to parents, Children's Day leaflets, Sunrise Magazines, and exhibition materials.

Creative Exhibition: The Bible passage from this year's Conference – '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 14:27)' has been used as the exhibition theme this year. Children and adults were invited to colour the pictures provided, make an origami peace dove or create their own piece of work to reflect the theme. Entries will be displayed at Conference, in E-news and Sunrise Magazine and all children who enter will receive a small 'prize'.

Sunrise Magazine: 120 Sunrise Magazines continue to be sent out 3 times a year. We continued our decision to send out electronic production for adults whilst still posting copies to children and Churches.

Children's Day: This was held on the third Sunday in January and Ministers, Worship Leaders and HSC families were invited to focus on children & young people. Our President, Carolyn Kennion, produced a useful leaflet with a short talk and some prayers for those who wanted it.

Links with other organisations: We continue to endeavour to improve our

connection with other organisations working with children and young people. To this end, at Christmas we sent each of the Sunday Schools £100 to spend how they wanted. This proved very successful and has been well documented elsewhere.

History of the NCYA: Pauline Grimshaw's book was promoted at our AGM, in E-News and at Conference last year. Contributors were given courtesy copies and 23 books were sold.

Grants and Loans: We continue to offer financial assistance where appropriate when needed.

Website: Our website is now up and running. Keith Dunbar is being supported by other members of the council to endeavour to keep it up to date.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all those who work so hard with the children and young people in our organisation.

7 THE YOUTH AND FAMILY TEAM

Mrs Jenny Jones reports:

The Youth and Family Team consisting of Robert Clark, Jenny Jones, Rev Becky Jarratt and Rev Jack Dunion continue to work to spread the teachings of our church and bring a sense of community and fellowship to the children, young adults and families who attend our events and receive the information we produce.

Sue Chesworth also acts as our link to the Council and as Line Manager to Jenny and Robert. She is the designated Safeguard Lead for the church and Jenny has recently taken on the role of Deputy.

We continue to run a full programme of events around the country for children, young adults and families. These include family bunkhouse weekends, activity fun days, All age family weekends at Purley Chase, Walk and Talk get togethers, weekends at Wellspring House for 18 plus, Outdoor pursuit weekends and Easter Rally.

We also run the Summer Camp for 9-12 year olds at Wellspring House and form part of the team who administer and lead the 13+ Summer Camp at Purley Chase.

We continue to run the Facebook Group Purley People which is used for advertising and reporting on our events. It is also used by church members generally to let the online community know what is happening in their own

areas.

8 THE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Mrs Maeve Hawkins reports:

The members of the Committee are Gordon Kuphal, Maeve Hawkins, and Pauline Grimshaw. Pauline is unable to attend the meetings but her support with queries and her knowledge of New Church history is very helpful.

Gordon and Maeve met at Swedenborg House on four occasions during the year. We met in the Gardiner room in the basement where Alex Murray is at work cataloguing the Conference collection and on one occasion, he had the assistance of an intern. She was listing a part of the large collection of letters, many dating back to the mid-19th century and some dating from early in that century.

It has been very helpful to have Alex 'on hand' as he can as he can report on the progress of his work and also the new locations of the collections stored in the basement.

It is good to see the further progress with this work each time we meet. A much larger area of the basement is now dedicated to the Conference records and the Gardiner room houses the collection of New Church Periodicals not only from this country but also some published abroad.

New items are regularly deposited, the most recent being those of the Radcliffe Society which at one time was one of the largest in the country.

Our very grateful thanks are given to Chris Chambers, who undertook the large task of sorting, listing and sending the Radcliffe archives to Swedenborg House.

9 NEW CHURCH MARKETING & RESOURCES GROUP

Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy reports:

We continue to promote our teachings through booklets and leaflets as well as readable material on the spiritualwisdom.org.uk, and spiritualquestions.org.uk websites, and through podcasts.

One way of seeing outreach is communicating our worthwhile, inspirational and empowering message with those outside our movement in their own place and in their own terms. We have written 'Reaching out to People'. It is not a plan for outreach but is designed to provoke thought and comment about how to do it and what obstacles might hinder our progress.

10. BROADFIELD MEMORIAL BENEVOLENT FUND

The Secretary-Treasurer, Mr Nick Skinner, reports:

I am pleased to report that after a tortuous process a bank account is now set up with new signatories. All those who it is believed may be entitled to request assistance from the Fund were contacted.

Payments totalling £21300 were made to 15 recipients in relation to payments that would normally have been made in the Autumn of 2021.

Payments of £19140 were made to 15 recipients in Autumn 2022.

A donation of £17000 was received in the year. The balance on the bank account is £2520-80. The Fund also holds 7360 units in the Common Investment Fund on which quarterly dividends are received.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERS' COMMITTEE 2022-2023

The Secretary, Revd Brian Talbot, reports:

1 Meetings: The Committee met on 3rd October 2022, 8th and 9th November 2022, and held their Annual Meeting from Monday 27th February to Wednesday 1st March 2023. There were 8, 7, and 9 (plus 1 on Zoom) members present respectively. We also held a meeting on Zoom to discuss Outreach on 14th March 2023.

2 Spiritual Leadership: We would like to pay tribute to the Revd Helen Brown, who became our interim Spiritual Leader and then our joint Spiritual Leader in 2021. We thank her for her pastoral care and attention. From Conference 2023 Revd Jack Dunion will be the sole Spiritual Leader. We have nominated Jack to be the Spiritual Leader for three years from Conference 2023, subject to Conference Council's approval.

3 Spiritual Leaders' report from Revd Helen Brown and Revd Jack Dunion

A Time of Transition 2022 to 2023 was a year of transition for the whole church. As there had been a complete change of personnel on the Conference Council in 2021, this has still been a real challenge throughout this year as the various members have continued to settle into new roles. The ministry is very grateful indeed to those hard-working volunteers who came forward to fill these essential roles of trusteeship.

The appointment of Natalie Welch as our new Company Secretary continues to be a growing support to the ministry as well as the Council. With two students currently in training and the Revd. Brian Talbot having recently returned to full-time ministry, we go forward with a renewed sense of optimism. It is hoped that various initiatives, which, for now are only emerging from the planning stages, will soon be up and running and bolstering plans to facilitate a new vision for the church going forward. Watch this space!

4 Zoom Services: Revd Becky Jarratt is the co-ordinator of Zoom Worship. Worship has been held every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. There were additional services at Easter and Christmas.

Ministers and worship leaders have been taking these services, as well as the NCYA and Youth and Family Team at festivals. We are appreciative of the support of Muriel Morgan, who has continued to create PowerPoints for Worship Leaders, find readers, and create the videos for new hymns. She has also operated the technical side for many services and sends out the link for each one. There are complications around the area of copyright, and these are being looked into to ensure we are compliant.

We are grateful to have recordings of hymns from the Kensington Society that we have been using in our services.

5 Link Ministers: The Ministers endeavour to keep in touch with all parts of the Conference organisation. We have appointed the following:

Youth	Becky Jarratt
Purley Chase	Helen Brown
Finance	Clifford Curry
Human resources	Brian Talbot
CAM and Local Churches	Christine Bank
Training and Development	Becky Jarratt

This year we are delighted to hear about the work of Miss Shannon Fitzgerald at Bradford and Jonathan Millar's progress as a Worship Leader.

6 Transition: It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of our colleague, Revd Geoffrey Clarkson in September 2022.

7 Isolated members: We thank the Revd Gillian Gordon for her work in keeping in touch with those who are isolated from church societies. 30 cards were sent at Easter.

8 Home Worship: Revd Gillian Gordon reports that the team of Linda Wells, Gemma McLean and Gillian Gordon are working well and continue to produce materials that can be used at home, in a group and as a basis for Zoom Worship for each Sunday of the year. These are written by a variety of ministerial colleagues and worship leaders.

9 Committee of Auxiliary Ministry: The Ministers work closely with CAM. We appreciate all the work that lay worship leaders and group leaders do for Conference and individual societies.

10 SOLCe: We always enjoy updates from Revd Robin Wooldridge on the work of SOLCe.

11 Apocalypse Awakening: Revd Becky Jarratt and Revd Jack Dunion continue to work on the Apocalypse Awakening material, based on the work of the Apocalypse Study Group. The address of the website is: <https://apocalypseawakening.org.uk/>. They welcome your comments.

12 Retired Colleagues: The Committee wishes to acknowledge the work of retired colleagues and thank them.

13 Ordination Students: We are delighted to hear about the progress Lynne Griffiths is making with her courses, and also about Paul Morgan's pastoral placement with the Derby Society.

14 New Christian Bible Study website: We always enjoy being updated on Steve David's work. The Conference translation of the Pentateuch and Lomond Radio shows, Rise and Shine, are now on NCBS. Some of the Apocalypse Awakening videos are featured, and links to the website will be added shortly.

15 Index to Minutes: The Committee would like to record its thanks again to Mr Gordon Kuphal for indexing our minutes.

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REPORT OF THE COMPANY ACCOUNTANT YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2023

The Company Accountant, Mrs Rachael Jaggs, reports:

During the year we received a legacy amounting to £63,000 from the estate of Laura Cordelia Boolsen and Revd Gudmund Ulrich Boolsen.

Total receipts are very similar to the previous year. The boost in Investment capital of our funds from the Closed Societies over the past four years means that dividends are back to a high amount again this year, as hoped. Investments income remains our largest form of income now standing at 69% of the total income.

Total payments have increased by 11% compared to the previous year. Both human resources have increased by 11% and administration by 15%. Human resources being down to the extra employees this year as well as the agreed cost of living payroll increases, and a staff bonus granted by the Council in an effort to retain our current employees in the cost-of-living crisis. An extra student is being supported too.

Purley's income this year has included total donations of more than £73,000 and accommodation receipts of £81,000.

Purley's increase in cost is down to increased wage costs as more people are employed which is as expected. The increase in catering costs now that the headcount at Purley has returned to its pre-Covid levels is also as expected. The planned maintenance costs have included items that need repairing or replacing.

We are expecting an operating surplus of £91,000 this year.

The capital price per unit of the common investment fund at the end of the financial year has decreased slightly to £10.48. from £10.74. The split between capital growth and income received from the investments remains at a 50/50 split.

Should investment income remain at this level, the trend over the next three years is consistent with operational surplus. The income received from all of the Closed Societies over recent years have boosted the capital and is resulting in a higher CIF dividend

Income and Expenditure Accounts

For year ended March 31st 2023

	£,000	£,000
	2023	2022
Societies	111	106
Donations - Conference	12	15
Investment Income	467	459
Trust Income	70	69
Bursary Grant	10	10
Other Income	6	7
Total Receipts	676	666
	379	307
Human Resources		
Ministry	114	151
Laity	137	84
Student grants	33	24
Self Employed Fees	2	0
Employment Allowance	-5	-4
Pensions	17	19
Housing	24	13
	322	287
Administration		
Travelling Expenses	20	10
Professional fees	37	31
Insurance	16	12
Office	14	8
Marketing /Resources	1	1
Central Costs	20	27
Education & Training	3	7
Youth Leading	3	4
Purley Chase	159	119
Kildwick	11	7
	284	226
Total Payments	606	513
Operational Surplus/(-Deficit)	70	153

Other Receipts and Costs

	£,000	£,000
Depreciation	-76	-63
Legacies	63	
Closed Society Funds		
Property Sales		29
Women's League		
Non Conference - CIF (Common Investment Fund)		-19
Net Surplus/(-Deficit)	57	100

Note. The market value for the CIF per unit

2023	2022
£10.498	£10.733

Balance Sheet as at March 31st

	£	
	2023	2022
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible Assets	1,974,048	2,028,042
Investment Assets	29,818,810	30,863,396
	31,792,858	32,891,438
CURRENT ASSETS		
Net Current Assets	950,483	751,864
Less Creditors		
NET ASSETS	32,743,341	33,643,302
Represented by:-		
Endowment funds	1,945,967	1,902,084
Restricted funds	22,574,789	23,048,281
Unrestricted funds	8,222,585	8,692,937
	32,743,341	33,643,302

STATISTICAL TABLE

	Society Members	Non-resident	Total new members	Deceased	Removed	Increase	Decrease	Members of Conference
Accrington	29	7	0	0	1	0	1	22
Bournemouth	27	5	0	2	3	0	5	#27
Bradford	10	0	0	2	1	0	3	#13
Dalton	34	2	1	0	0	1	0	12
Derby	46	#24	0	2	0	0	1	#32
Kearsley	28	9	0	2	0	0	2	#19
Keighley	28	11	0	4	0	0	4	16
Paisley	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
*Radcliffe								
Seaburn Dene	23	4	0	1	0	0	1	14
West Wickham	23	10	0	0	0	0	0	23
Other members								84
Total 2022/23	271	72	1	13	5	1	17	274
Totals 2021/22	291	73	5	7	2	4	14	385

* No details available

Last year's figures, as no details provided for year to 31 March 2023

	Baptisms	Marriages	Funerals	Sunday School No. of children	Avg. attend. 16-	Holy Supper Administrations	Holy Supper Average Attendance	Overall Average Attendance
Accrington	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	8
Bournemouth	0	0	3	0	0	3	15	16
Bradford	0	0	0	22	10	12	14	15
Dalton	2	0	0	0	0.4	11	9	11
Derby	0	0	0	0	0	10	12	16
Kearsley	1	0	2	3	2	3	13	16
Keighley	6	4	9	0	2	11	12	19
Paisley	2	0	0	0	0	4	6	6
*Radcliffe								
Seaburn Dene	0	0	0	2	1	2	14	#14
West Wickham	0	0	0	0	0	9	10	10
Totals 2022/23	11	4	14	27	15.4	68	113	131
Totals 2021/22	2	1	9	11	13	55	121	125

THE NEW CHURCH COLLEGE REPORT OF THE COLLEGE COUNCIL 2022 - 2023

**Below is a summary of the full report.
The full report has been sent to all Governors of the New Church College
and copies are available on request from the Treasurer of the New
Church College.**

This Report covers the work of the College Council for the year ended 31 March 2023. The New Church College uses the working name of The Swedenborg Open Learning Centre [SOLCe] and is based at Wellspring House.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the College's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

1. COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

1.1 Attendance at Council Meetings

The Council met, in person for one full Council meeting and on Zoom for 2 full Council meetings making a total of 3 occasions during the year in April 2022, October 2022 and January 2023. There was also an AGM in July 2022. Membership and attendance at meetings were as follows:

Council Members	Council Meetings (3)	AGM (July)
Mr C Chambers, President	3	1
Mr RJ Nicholls, Treasurer	3	1
Ms Gwendolen Rowe, Secretary	3	1
Revd M Duckworth	3	1
Dr P Isherwood	3	1
Mr R Kennion	3	1
Mr S Kennion	3	1
Mrs D Lewin	3	1
Revd MW Stanley	3	1

The Administrator, Melanie Bennett, attended 3 Council meetings (3 possible) by standing invitation.

The Leader of Education, Revd Robin Wooldridge attended 3 full Council meetings (3 possible) by standing invitation.

1.2 Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 158th Annual Meeting of Governors of the New Church College was held on Saturday 2nd July 2022 with an attendance of 15 Governors and 9 guests/friends.

2. EMPLOYEES

The New Church College currently employs 1.37 full time equivalent (FTE) staff:

Name	Job Role	Hours	FTE
Revd Robin Wooldridge	Leader of Education	20	0.5
Melanie Bennett	Administrator	35	0.87

Linda Stoney undertakes House Keeping duties on a casual basis, averaging around 2 hours a week.

The work of the Leader of Education is supported by a team of tutors who are engaged on a consultancy basis to assist with module writing and delivery.

3. EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

It is the current policy of the Council to follow the lead of the General Conference in determining salaries. In line with this, the Council agreed to increase the salaries of the Leader of Education and the Administrator by 6% from 1st January 2023. It was then agreed to follow this with a further 4% above, starting on 1st May 2023.

4. GENERAL REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COLLEGE

4.1 Performance of the Charity

With the building now being open more events have been taking place.

- Easter Rally – April 2022
- 158th AGM 2nd July 2022
- Summer Gathering - July 2022
- Summer Camp 1 - August 2022
- Shorecliffe Rise AGM - 2022
- Navigating Uncertainty Awareness Group led by Stephen Russell-Lacy in October 2022
- Bradford New Church Families weekend.

- 18+ Weekend - Feb 2023

4.2 Highlights of the year:

- Miss Lynne Griffiths commenced full-time training for the ministry in January 2023. She is doing very well.
- Paul Morgan took six months on sabbatical leave and is now doing a six-month placement with the Derby New Church.
- Revd Robin Wooldridge has continued working on the Stepping Stones courses and 5 courses are now available online. There are also 3 introductory courses which are a bridge between the stepping stone courses and further study. The website is now up and running and appears on approximately 60 other websites. Mr. Stephen Russell-Lacy is supporting him with this.
- The College continues to reflect on its future with action groups looking at the different areas of its work

4.3 Future Development

The College has continued to provide online courses. Our plans to extend the building remain on hold as there hasn't been enough use of the building yet. This will continue to be monitored. Moving forward it is planned to hold regular workshops beginning with one on how to lead workshops expected to run in the autumn.

4.4 Staff

Leader of Education

Robin Wooldridge has now completed his second year as Leader of Education and he has continued to work on the stepping stones courses. He has also continued to reach out to other organisations and we are now in a partnership with the Youth Ministry University. This is an American online study site. There are currently 5 members studying with them. More advanced courses are also being looked at too. He has done a lot of work to update our website which is now active and has continued to keep it up to date.

Administrator

Melanie Bennett has continued to work, on behalf of Wellspring House, from home continuing to split her time between her home and Wellspring House. She provides administrative support to the college but has also taken on extra roles due to the resignation of the Centre Leader. The college is deeply grateful for her tireless work keeping in contact with people and continuing to administer to the college, going above and beyond.

Facilities Management

The Facilities Management team has continued to work hard on the fabric of the building and the grounds. These continue to flourish and the college is grateful to the team who work tirelessly to ensure our beautiful building is well cared for and that the grounds stay well presented. We have continued to improve the building, carrying out maintenance work whenever needed. In December there was a flood and a lot of time, resources, and finance has been spent in repairing the damage to the building. This is ongoing. Ray Kennion, Melanie Bennett, and Ian Hayes worked hard to get the situation under control. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude for all their efforts in this area. Measures are being taken going forward to provide an alarm monitoring system for our building, which will lessen the burden on staff and also ensure any remedial work is carried out at the earliest possible moment.

Support Staff

The college continues to benefit from the invaluable work Sue Chesworth does within her role supporting students in working with the youth leaders and their training needs. We sincerely thank her for her continued work in this area.

We cannot forget the amount of hard work Ray Kennion does as the caretaker. His work for the college in this way is tireless and we really thank him for this work. In March, Ray stepped down from his role on the Facilities Management Team

and the council extend their gratitude to him for the many years of service he has given to the College.

Volunteers

We value greatly the many lay people who volunteer at the college and provide so much support to the team. We warmly thank them all for their commitment and dedication to the college.

4.5 SOLCe

Sponsored Students

During this last year, our student Paul Morgan has taken sabbatical leave and is now on six months' placement at Derby New Church.

Miss Lynne Griffiths completed her entry for ordination and has started full-time training for the Ministry as of January 2023. She is doing really well and is extremely enthusiastic. She is on course with her studies.

SOLCe Students

As of May 2023, there are 42 students enrolled on SOLCe courses. Of these, seven are tutored on fee-paying modules, and 34 are on the free Stepping

Stones courses, where the study is self-directed. Our student body comes from ten different countries, across five continents.

4.6 Outreach

The College advertises its open learning courses and events programme on the website www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk. These are available to those in the general public and to church members. Our endeavour is to provide a welcoming sphere for people to learn, to come together and to share in spiritual matters in a safe environment, albeit this has been on Zoom for most of the time. We continue to reach out to the wider community to build networks and establish new relationships whilst always aiming to reach a wider audience.

4.7 Related Party

The Trustee, The General Conference of the New Church, is a registered charity. The General Conference is entitled to a proportion of the net income resources from the Jersey Fund and provides payroll facilities for which the College pays a service charge. The College also relies on the support of Conference for tutors, examiners and module writers.

4.8 Governors

There are currently:

Honorary Governors - 3

Life Governors - 5

Honorary Life Governors – 5

Annual Governors - 40

Making a total of 53 in all.

Financial Review

5.0 FINANCE

Annual Accounts

The Treasurer reported a net decrease in resources of £9,651 before capital movements for the year to 31st March 2023. (increase of £8,352 in 2022).

During the year, losses on the disposal of investments of £35,176 were realised with notional losses of £190,554 arising from the revaluation of investments.

Stock markets at this time were struggling as a result of the continuing war in Ukraine, the persistently high inflation rate in the UK along with interest rate rises globally. This seems to have contributed to bank failures in the US along with concerns about Credit Swiss in Europe, as people remembered the banking crash in 2008/9. All of this contributed to a fall in stock market values

at this time. Clearly it is hoped that over time the valuation of our investments will improve but we remain subject to economic factors impacting performance of global stock markets.

The budget for 2022–2023 projected a deficit of £1,150 (before investment management fees) but the actual surplus for the year was £4,261 before investment management fees and a deficit of £9,651 when these are included. The main reason for the improvement compared with the budgeted figure, was a slightly higher investment income than expected coupled with lower expenditure in some areas including council and staff expenditure. There was also some unexpected income and expenditure resulting from the flood and related insurance claim.

A budget for 2023-2024 projects a deficit of £25,000 before any adjustments arising on the real and notional gains and losses or charges for managing our

investments. This deficit is due in the main to work on the roof which needed to be undertaken to protect the fabric of the building.

During the year the Royal Bank of Canada (“RBC”) announced that it had completed the acquisition of Brewin Dolphin Holdings PLC (“Brewin Dolphin”), a multi-award-winning wealth management firm. Brewin Dolphin now operates as ‘RBC Brewin Dolphin’, as part of RBC.

Investments

The unrestricted funds, including the Jersey Fund, are amalgamated to minimise trading costs and to form a larger portfolio. The funds continue to be separated from an accounting point-of-view.

Brewin Dolphin, continue to follow the agreed investment policy statement which provided additional flexibility to the managers around our investment categories to hopefully improve income from our investments.

6.0 FUNDING AND RESERVES POLICY AND RISK REVIEW

Objective

The objective of the Charity is stated in the Charity Commission Scheme dated 13th July 1977. This states that the Charity shall promote the education of members of the New Church, with emphasis upon the doctrine and life of the New Church. The land and investments belonging to the Charity shall be held in the name of the Trustee (The General Conference of the New Church). The income from investments held in the name of the Trustee in accordance with the Charity Commission Scheme dated 13th July 1977, is by agreement paid directly to the College.

Principle

The New Church College operates to a balanced budget, while recognising that, within each individual year, a small operating surplus or deficit may arise. Any deviation from this objective will be agreed with the Trustee in advance.

Monies available to the College are invested to obtain both an income and capital growth. The income is used to fund the day-to-day activities of the College, while the capital growth ensures the continuing viability of The College, enabling it to meet future commitments and objectives.

Small donations and legacies, which are not given for a specific purpose, will be used at the discretion of the College Council to fund and enhance the day-to-day activities of the College.

Substantial donations and legacies may be added to reserves to fund the future development of The College's Objective. These monies will be added to the Non-Permanent Endowment account at the discretion of the Treasurer of the College, in consultation with the Council. Donations or legacies that are given for a specific purpose may require the establishment of new endowment funds. When required, these will be set up.

The handling of these accounts, the level of reserves, and investment policy are subject to regular review by the Council at its meetings, and as part of the annual budgeting exercise.

To assist in this objective, The New Church College currently operates the following accounts:

National Westminster Bank account. This is used for meeting day-to-day operating expenses.

Investment accounts are detailed below. In addition, the Council and the Trustee have responsibility for the assets as defined on the Balance Sheet, including the property in which the College currently resides.

- Investment accounts operated by Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd.
- Deposit accounts. For each of the investment accounts below, Brewin Dolphin hold cash balances from the purchase and sale of investments and to meet transaction expenses.
- Permanent endowment account established under the Charity Commission Scheme. This restricted fund contains the investments as defined in the Scheme. Over time, the detailed investments have

changed as the result of sound investment decisions, but the principle of income together with capital growth remains. (These funds fall under the definition of Permanent Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classed as reserves).

In one combined account, the two following funds are maintained with separate records of income kept for the two constituent funds.

- The non-permanent endowment account contains additional non-restricted funds that have been donated to the Charity over time. These have been invested in line with the above principle, thus increasing investment income while allowing additional flexibility for funds as required by the Council. (These funds fall under the definition of Expendable Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classified as reserves).
- The Jersey Educational Fund was established following a substantial donation from the Jersey Society, and the non-restricted fund was established so that the income from the Fund would be allocated to the College for the development of New Church education. This is administered in line with the 'Memorandum of Intent' agreed by the Councils of the General Conference of the New Church and of The New Church College, signed on 8th April 1998. (These funds fall under the definition of Expendable Endowment as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19, and are therefore not classified as reserves).

Note. Included within the funds, which are administered on behalf of the College by Brewin Dolphin, are investments in both the General Conference Pool, which is administered by the General Conference of the New Church, and the COIF Charity Funds administered by CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

This means that The New Church College does not currently hold reserves as defined in the Charities Reserves booklet CC19.

This policy is subject to an annual review as part of the budgeting process to ensure that the reserves still meet the requirements of the Charity, and that the policy is still being followed.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustee is responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). This activity is managed by the Treasurer (whose nomination for the post must be approved by the Trustees) and with the College Council on behalf of the Trustees.

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustee is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply these consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the ongoing concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enables it to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and the provisions of the charity's constitution. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Structure, governance and management

The College is a charitable incorporated organisation registered with the Charity Commission, which is managed by the College Council on behalf of its trustee, The General Conference of the New Church.

The College Council who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:-

Mr C Chambers
Mr R Nicholls
Ms G Rowe
Revd M Duckworth
Dr P Isherwood
Mr R Kennion
Mr S Kennion
Revd M W Stanley

The College Council report was approved on behalf of College Council.

C Chambers
President
Dated: 1 July 2023

R J Nicholls
Treasurer
Dated: 1 July 2023

LEADER OF EDUCATION - ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Revd Robin Wooldridge, reports

At last year's conference, Elliot switched the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre onto the world wide web. This meant that our new website and our courses are now accessible to anyone who has an Internet connection. Then slowly, students started to enrol and they came from the four quarters of the world, from China, Jamaica, Australia and the USA to name but a few.

As of 1 June 2023, there are 43 students enrolled on SOLCe courses. Of these, seven are tutored on fee-paying modules, and 36 are on the free Stepping Stones courses, where the study is self-directed.

We also launched two online groups: 'An Introduction to Swedenborgian Spirituality' and 'Navigating Uncertainty' and have plans to offer new online groups later this year.

A range of monthly Saturday workshops is being planned which will also be held at Wellspring House. These are designed for those new to the Teachings and the first workshop will be in September 2023.

We have also welcomed a new ordination student, Lynne Griffiths. Lynne is well known within the Conference and currently runs Seaburn Dene New Church. Lynne has vast experience of the New Church and we are delighted to welcome her as a student. This is certainly an exciting time for the Swedenborg Open Learning Centre

The New Church College
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds general
	2023
	£
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>	
Donations and legacies	17,768
Other trading activities	4,757
Investments	72,890
Other income	23,938
Total income	119,353
<u>Expenditure on:</u>	
Raising funds	11,280
Charitable activities	126,433
Total resources expended	137,713
Net gains/(losses) on investments	56,683
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers	75,043
Gross transfers between funds	17,174
Net movement in funds	57,869
Fund balances at 1 April 2022	1,236,634
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	1,178,765

Unrestricted funds Jersey	Restricted endowment funds	Totals	
2023 £	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
-	-	17,768	23,055
-	-	4,757	3,541
11,341	-	84,231	75,698
-	-	23,938	1,128
11,341	-	130,694	103,422
2,632	-	13,912	15,550
-	-	126,433	79,520
2,632	-	140,345	95,070
34,371	134,676	225,730	209,359
25,622	134,676	235,381	217,711
(10,884)	(6,290)	-	-
36,546	140,966	235,381	217,711
443,878	1,723,558	3,186,359	3,186,359
407,332	1,582,592	3,404,070	3,404,070

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Investments	3,121,608	3,361,578
Current Assets		
Debtors	10,775	22,087
Cash at Bank and in hand	53,229	35,085
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	64,004	57,172
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(16,923)	(14,680)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Current Assets	47,081	42,492
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	3,168,689	3,404,070
less current liabilities	<hr/>	<hr/>
Capital Funds		
Endowment funds	1,723,558	1,723,588
Income Funds		
Unrestricted funds - Jersey Education	407,332	425,806
Unrestricted funds - general	1,178,765	1,236,634
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The accounts were approved by the College Council on 1 July 2023.

C Chambers [President]

The accounts have also been subject to an Independent Examination and were signed by Douglas Grange Accountants on the 12th July 2023.

NEW CHURCH COLLEGE

Names of people who have successfully completed accredited Courses, other than those who have been recognized as Ministers.

Certificate holders

Ruth Duckworth	1979
David Fitzjohn	1979
Margaret Presland	1989
Alan Bowie	2002
Bev Johnson	2004

Diploma holders

Raymond Kennion	1990
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Swedenborg Open Learning Centre

Certificate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level One)

Marion Curry	2004
Bev Johnson	2004
Lenka Machova	2004
Judith Wilson	2004
Thelma Wilson	2006
Anna Woofenden	2007
Trevor Millar	2007
Stephen Thomas	2008
Helen Newton	2009
Alan Misson	2015
Paul Morgan	2020

Graduate in Swedenborgian Studies (Level Three)

Rita Russell	2001
Alan Bowie	2006
Lee Differ	2019

LAST 40 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

Year	Place	President/ Senior Minister/ Spiritual Leader	Preacher	Members
1983	Southampton	C.V.A.Hasler	I.P.Johnson	86
1984	Swanwick	C.V.A.Hasler	F.Clarkson	95
1985	Clacton-on-Sea	N.Ryder	N.Ryder	91
1986	Swanwick	N.Ryder	J.O.Booth	85
1987	Manchester	N.Ryder	J.C.Duckworth	91
1988	Hoddesdon	N.Ryder	J.E.Elliott	77
1989	Durham	N.Ryder	B.R.Jarvis	82
1990	Swanwick	R.A.Gill	R.A.Gill	86
1991	Birmingham	R.A.Gill	C.V.A.Hasler	82
1992	Swanwick	R.A.Gill/N.Ryder	J.D.Allsopp	80
1993	Glasgow	N.Ryder	J.M.Sutton	72
1994	Hoddesdon	N.Ryder	B.J.Presland	77
1995	Swanwick	N.Ryder	B.M.Talbot	78
1996	Lancaster	J.M.Sutton	J.M.Sutton	83
1997	Hoddesdon	J.M.Sutton	O.C.E.Jackson	81
1998	Swanwick	J.M.Sutton	N.Ryder	72
1999	Swanwick	J.M.Sutton	G.Clarkson	79
2000	Hoddesdon	J.M.Sutton	D.A.Moffat	77
2001	Swanwick	I.Russell	R.P.Brugler	83
2002	Swanwick	I.Russell	I.Russell	68
2003	Swanwick	I.Russell	C.Curry	76
2004	Hoddesdon	I.Russell	M.E.Duckworth	70
2005	Swanwick	I.Russell	R.A.Gill	79
2006	Swanwick	M.Duckworth	G.L.Gordon	86
2007	Swanwick	M.Duckworth	J.C.Duckworth	98
2008	Swanwick	M.Duckworth	R.A.Gill	87
2009	Swanwick	M.Duckworth	D. Lomax	88
2010	Swanwick	M.Duckworth	M.W.Stanley	88
2011	Swanwick	M.Duckworth	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	82
2012	Swanwick	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	J. Dunion	74
2013	Swanwick	G.Gordon/D.Gaffney	R.Russell	76
2014	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	C.Curry/C.Bank	72
2015	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	C.Bank	76
2016	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	J.Dunion	83
2017	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	H.Brown/J.Dunion	77
2018	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	M.E.Duckworth	69
2019	Swanwick	D.Gaffney	C.Bank/J.Dunion	67
2020	Via Zoom	J.Dunion	None	-
2021	Swanwick	-	-	52
2022	Swanwick	H.Brown/J.Dunion	M.E.Duckworth	54
2023	Swanwick	H.Brown/J.Dunion	J.Dunion	56

MINISTERS, WORSHIP LEADERS, LAY PREACHERS AND CELEBRANTS

1 MINISTERS

The following are the Ministers recognised by the Conference:

*Retired or not in active service

#Overseas

Ordaining Ministers

	ORDAINED	INDUCTED
* Robert Arthur Gill	June 30,1970	July 25,1990
* Mary Elizabeth Duckworth, B.A	July 10,1996	July 27,2006

Ministers

	ORDAINED
* John Edward Elliott, B.A., B.D.	June 23,1954
*# John Emanuel Teed	June 23,1954
*# Ian Allan Arnold	June 30,1965
*# John Maitland Sutton, B.Ag.Sc.	June 30,1970
(served as an Ordaining Minister 1996 to 2001)	
* Michael William Stanley, M.Sc., Ph.D.	June 27,1971
*# Trevor Alexander Moffat, B.A.	July 15,1978
# Julian Clayton Duckworth	July 19,1980
* Clifford Curry, B.Sc	July 22,1983
* Bruce Roger Jarvis	July 30,1985
Brian Mark Talbot, B.A., DipEd., B.Sc.	July 26,1989
*# David Allan Moffat, B.Mus.	July 23,1997
* Gillian Lindsey Gordon	July 5,2000
* David Edward Gaffney, B.Sc	July 29,2004
Christine Anne Bank	July 31,2008
* Helen Thelma Brown	July 30,2009
Jack Dunion	July 30,2009
Rebecca Mary Jarratt	July 30,2015

(Ministers in the following categories are not entitled to vote at General Meetings of Conference by virtue of their office)

Phillip Nicholas Brooks	1993
Alan Christopher Misson	1994
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2013
*Pamela Joy Moffat	1995
*Clive Goalen	1995
*James Alan Bowie	2001
*Constance Thelma Wilson	2001
*Judith Margaret Wilson	2003
Pauline Ann Grimshaw	2004
Jan Millar	2004
Trevor Millar	2004
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2008
Stephen Thomas	2005
Recognised as a Lay Pastor	2009
*Kittie Methuen-Jones	2006
Jean Mrozek	2006
Nigel Sutton	2006
Helen Newton	2007
David Haseler	2007
Gwendolen Rowe	2013
Richard Cunningham	2018
Jenny Jones	2020
Lynne Griffiths	2022

Accredited Worship Leaders

*Derrick Pearce	1999
*Enid Nicholls	2000
*Diane Lewin	2002
*Jonathan Armitage	2003
*George Hunt	2003
Janet Benson	2003
*Dorothy Margison	2004
*Linda Wells	2006
Grant Brackley	2006
David Brooks	2006
David Sharrock	2008
Tonia Jarvis	2012
*Susan Wilson	2012

*John Harris	2014
*Philippa Peacock	2014
Christine Mrozek	2018
Shannon Fitzgerald	2022
Jonathan Millar	2023

Lay Preachers recognised for service in Mauritius

	Authorised
Clifford Phanjoo	1991
Evelyne Eynaud	2005
Yves Radhanauth	2005

3 CELEBRANTS

The following are the Authorised Celebrants for the Sacraments and Ceremonies recognised by the Conference:

*Retired or not in active service

Mr Alan Misson - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mrs Anne Clarkson - Holy Supper.

Mr Phillip Brooks - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Stephen Russell-Lacy - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr David Sharrock - Holy Supper and Funerals.

*Mr David Friend - Holy Supper.

Mr Trevor Millar - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Dr Geoffrey Bentley - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Michael Clubb - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

*Mrs Thelma Wilson - Baptism, Holy Supper and Funerals.

Miss Gwendolen Rowe - Holy Supper.

*Mrs Kathryn Brooks - Funerals.

Mrs Pauline Grimshaw - Baptism, Holy Supper, Funerals and Marriages.

Mrs Jean Mrozek - Funerals.

Mrs Marion Curry - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr Stephen Thomas - Holy Supper and Funerals.

Mr David Brooks - Holy Supper and Funerals.

*Mr Alan Bowie - Holy Supper.

Mr Nigel Sutton - Baptism and Holy Supper.

Mr Gordon Kuphal - Holy Supper.

LAND AND BUILDINGS HELD IN TRUST BY CONFERENCE

Insurance of buildings (excluding contents)

B Conference Block Policy

M AMP

+ Index Linked

Held in trust for the Embsay Fund

Conference maintains with Ecclesiastical a combined insurance policy for employers, public and products liability on the properties listed below and also for other Societies and associated institutions

In London and the South of England

Bournemouth. Church and rooms at Tuckton Road, Southbourne BH6 3HT	B £2,247,759	+
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West Wickham. Church and rooms at High Street BR4 0LZ	B £599,727	+
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General Conference.

House at 18 Pollard Road, Whetstone, London N20 0UB Freehold.	B £955,532	+
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Bungalow at 80 Broadway, Southbourne Bournemouth BH6 4EQ Freehold.	B £343,956	+
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In the Midlands and West

Derby. Church and rooms at Horwood Avenue DE23 6AN	B £1,372,787	+
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House at 409A Burton Road, Derby DE23 6AN	B £505,763	+
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General Conference.

Bungalow at 215 Coventry Road, Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV10 7AX Freehold.	B £665,464	+
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Purley Chase Centre, Atherstone Freehold.	B £7,634,796	+
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In North Lancashire

Accrington. Church at Hargreaves Street BB5 2BB	B £887,048	+
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General Conference.

House at 5 Whittycroft Drive, Barrowford, Nelson BB9 6AS Freehold. #	B £273,239	+
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In North-West (Manchester) and Cheshire

Chester. Church and rooms at Brook Lane, Newton CH2 2BT	B	£478,097	+
House at 51 Woodlands Drive, Newton CH2 3QQ	B	£374,626	+
Kearsley. Church and rooms at Bolton Road BL4 9DD	B	£1,933,073	+
Radcliffe. Church and rooms at Stand Lane.	B	£1,950,146	+
General Conference. House at Church Street, Kearsley BL4 9DD Freehold.	B	£360,487	+

In Yorkshire and the North-East

Bradford. Church and rooms at Ashfield Avenue, Frizinghall BD18 3AL	B	£830,897	+
Dalton. Church and rooms at Grove Place, Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 9LH	B	£1,484,220	+
Flats at 111 and 113 Long Lane, Dalton, Huddersfield HD5 9LL	B	£936,388	+
Keighley. Church and rooms at Braithwaite Road, Braithwaite BD22 6PX	B	£701,305	+
Seaburn Dene. Church and rooms at Shields Road, Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8ND	B	£5644,371	+
General Conference. House at 22 Wimborne Drive, Keighley Jointly owned freehold. #	B	£467,534	+
Kildwick New Church Centre, Main Road, Kildwick Freehold. #	B	£949,171	+
New Zealand 59a Balmain Road, Birkenhead, Auckland, 1310 (Conference share 86.7647%)	M	NZ\$549,140	

Property of the New Church College 25 Radcliffe New Road, Radcliffe, Manchester.	B	£1,161,330	+
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SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS OF NEW CHURCH INSTITUTIONS AND CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

	Secretary	Treasurer
Broadfield Benevolent Fund	Mr.N.Skinner	Mr.N.Skinner
New Church College	Miss.G.Rowe	Mr.R.J.Nicholls
Committee for Auxiliary Ministry	Mrs.J.E.Millar	
Examining Board (College Education Studies)	Leader of Studies	
Home Worship Scheme	Rev.G.L.Gordon (Organiser)	
Jeggins Trustees	Rev.R.A.Gill	Rev.J.Dunion
Kildwick Committee	Mr.K.Sandiford	Mr.K.Sandiford
Library & Archives Committee	Mrs.M.Hawkins	
Marketing and Resources	Mr.S.Russell-Lacy	
Ministers' Committee	Rev.B.M.Talbot	
New Church Children's Society	Mrs.S.Chesworth	Mrs.C.Rowlands
New Church Historical Society	Mrs M Morgan (Convenor)	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw (Sec/Treas)
New Church Youth Association	Miss.G.Rowe	Miss J Walton
Purley Chase Centre	Mrs.R.Gilsenan	To be appointed
Swedenborg Society	Ms.D.Prentice (Admin)	Mr.A.Morley
Yorkshire Missionary Association	Miss.G.Rowe	
Yorkshire & North-East Area Council	Miss.G.Rowe	Mr.T.Millar

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Accrington	Hargreaves Street Accrington BB5 2BB		Miss.J. Walton	Mrs.A. Walton
Bournemouth	Tuckton Road, Southbourne BH6 3HT	Rev.C.Curry	Mrs.J.Pike	Rev.G.Gordon
Bradford and Saltaire	Ashfield Avenue, Shipley W Yorks BD18 3AL	Contact Secretary	Ms.P.Blomfield	Mrs.D.Nolan
Dalton, Huddersfield	Grove Place, Dalton Huddersfield HD5 9LH	Mr.T.Millar	Mr.R.Jessop	Mrs.J.Mrozek
Derby	Horwood Avenue Derby DE23 6AN	Mrs.C.Sutton	Mr.N.K.Sutton	Mrs.R.F.Delderfield
Kearsley (07913 121119)	Bolton Road Kearsley Lancs BL4 9DD	Contact Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw	Mr.D.Ormes	Mrs.P.A.Grimshaw

LIST OF SOCIETIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE GENERAL CONFERENCE
(For addresses and telephone numbers see Address List)

City, Town, etc.	Situation of Church	Minister or Lay Leader	Treasurer	Secretary
Keighley	Braithwaite Road Braithwaite Village Keighley BD22 6PX	Rev.C.Bank	Mr.M.Pepper	Mrs.K.Higgins
Paisley	5 King street Paisley PA1 2PP	Rev.J.Dunion	Mr.C.A.Macpherson	Mrs.W.Laing
Seaburn Dene, Sunderland	Shields Road Seaburn Dene, Sunderland SR6 8ND		Mr.G.Nicholls	Mrs.N.Ramsay
West Wickham (07534 702887)	142 High Street, West Wickham Kent BR4 0LZ	Mr.A.C.Misson	Mr.C.V.Skinner	Mr.D.E.Brooks
Mauritius	Remono Street, Curepipe Road and 2 Rue Champ de Lort Port Louis		Mr.R.Sookeeah	

AREA COUNCIL

This Council comprises a Secretary, a Treasurer and as many Ministers and Lay Members as are deemed necessary.

The numbers in brackets after the names of the Societies denote the number of representatives which the Society is entitled to send to the Annual Meeting of the Conference.

An asterisk indicates that the property of the Society is in Conference Trust.

Yorkshire and North-East

Ministers: Rev.C.Bank, Rev.B.Jarvis, Rev.R.M.Jarratt

Secretary: Miss.G.Rowe

Treasurer: Mr.T.Millar

*Bradford and Saltaire (2); *Dalton (1); *Keighley (2); *Seaburn Dene (2)

WEB SITES

General Conference

NCYA

Purley Chase

Spiritual Wisdom

Apocalypse Awakening

Spiritual Questions

SOLCe

Swedenborg Society

www.generalconference.org.uk

www.ncya.generalconference.org.uk

www.purleychasecentre.org.uk

www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk

www.apocalypseawakening.org.uk

www.spiritualquestions.org.uk

www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk

www.swedenborg.org.uk