



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

Rev'd Jack Dunion broadcasts his own online radio show every Sunday at 9am on Lomond Radio (formerly River Radio): <https://lomondradio.co.uk/shows/rise-and-shine>

The link below allows you to catchup Rise & Shine programs: <https://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/>



Bradford New Church

The Conference Council writes:

Some readers of E-News may be aware of the exciting work that has been going on at our Bradford Church for some time now. It began at the outset of the first Covid lockdown, when the pandemic was raising its head in a big way in the UK. People were becoming isolated and afraid. Some of the Bradford members decided they must do something to help, and set up tables outside the church, providing drinks and food and other necessities. Even during the coldest and

most unpleasant weather, the volunteers were there to help.

When the restrictions were eventually lifted, it became very obvious that the local community remained in great need of support. This led to the formation of the “Bradford New Church Project”. The aim was to provide a foodshare service, where short expiry date food is collected from local supermarkets and shops, and sold in the church hall at an extreme discount (ave. 20p) to the community members. What is left after midday is given away free. Besides helping to deal with food poverty, it has the added benefit of reducing food waste.

The gratitude and enthusiasm gradually extended the project to include a daily timetable of activities. A gardening club was formed for local people to grow crops on the land behind the church. A playgroup was set up, as was a home educated club, a parent advice group, and surgeries run by a local ward councillor. Pastoral support for people in need has been provided, which, in turn, has led to some families attending church services and events beyond Bradford.

Last year an application was made to Conference Council by Bradford Church Committee seeking financial support for the project. They had been receiving support from several local sources but needed more help to sustain the programme. In particular, the workload had reached the point where a paid organiser was needed.

Aware of the initiative to help the poor and needy, and pleased that some people were responding to the inner message the Church seeks to convey, the Council welcomed the request for assistance. At the same time, the Trustees were acutely aware of the Council's duty to administer the Conference's funds with due diligence. What is more, the Council is duty bound to follow Charity Commission rules which limit how charitable funds can be used. A period of intensive consultation and meetings with the Bradford people followed over several months - thank goodness for Zoom!

One conclusion quickly reached was that the central Church organisation could not take on responsibility for employing and managing employees at a local Church. The organisation simply does not have the personnel or support systems to micro-manage local church affairs. This must be dealt with locally, according to circumstances, and with proper liaison.

A decision was eventually taken to provide Bradford with a grant which would enable them to develop their project to reach out to people in their area who might otherwise have no contact with Christian teaching and witness. This would be a payment of £7,900 per quarter, with regular meetings on Zoom between members of the Council and members of Bradford New Church to monitor progress and the use of the grant. The position would be fully reviewed at the end of the grant aid period.

While all this negotiation was going on, news came of serious deficiencies and problems in the condition of the Church building, involving health and safety issues for people using the premises. The flooring and a stairway needed urgent repairs, and fortunately the work was carried out with help from the Jeggins Trust. Also, the roof was leaking in various places, and tiles were sliding off, causing serious danger to people entering and leaving the building. At the time the Council was considering this development, the remaining members at Radcliffe New Jerusalem Church became aware of the crisis. They decided they would like to use some of their funds to help a sister New Church get their roof repaired. Both the Council and Bradford members were very grateful for this generous response of £70k to cover the costs of the roof renewal.

Conference Council expresses best wishes to our fellow Church workers at Bradford New Church in their endeavours to reach out and break new ground. Alongside the routine work of managing so many aspects of our Church's life, it is encouraging for the Council and the whole Church to know of fresh initiatives emerging, and to give support where possible. We hope readers of E-News will also feel encouraged, and perhaps stimulated to consider what initiative they might be able to take. We can be sure that our Lord's Spirit will flow in wherever and whenever we speak and act in His name.

Conference Council

Evelyne Eynaud 1940-2023

Bruce Jarvis and John Elliott write:

Evelyne Eynaud is a name likely to be known by only a few within the General Conference. Why is that? Well, readers may already have guessed from her name that Evelyne has French connections. Sharp-eyed readers of the Conference Yearbook will have noticed her name in the list of Lay Preachers recognized by the General Conference for service in Mauritius. News reached the UK recently that Evelyne died in May last year at the age of 82, leaving only Clifford Phanjoo and Yves Radhanauth on that list

Evelyne's family background was steeped in the New Church, its teachings and life. Her mother Elsie was born into the de Chazal family, and married Philippe Carosin, a descendant of early French settlers and an active member of the New Church. The de Chazal family played a leading and influential part during the mid-19th century in the establishment of a New Church community on this small island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. and its descendants have remained part of that community ever since.

Evelyne's Christian faith was drawn from the new revelation given through Emanuel Swedenborg, and people who came to know her recognised the central part it played in her life. Growing up within the bosom of the Church family in the post-WW2 period, which included several very large families, she eagerly absorbed the teaching delivered by a succession of Ministers from the UK, Australia and USA. A number of Ministers trained in the General Conference, some later serving the Australian New Church, had pastorates in Mauritius, among them a young and enterprising Christopher Hasler from 1952-60. Latterly, Ian Arnold, Julian Duckworth, Trevor Moffatt, Michael Stanley, John Elliott and Bruce Jarvis provided short-term ministerial leadership of varying periods, and Evelyne loved to listen and learn from them. Besides her role as a worship leader, Evelyne served the Mauritian Church as its president for many years.

Evelyne qualified as a professional librarian holding the position of Librarian at the prestigious Loretto Convent School in Curepipe. She was also for many years librarian of the extensive collection of books at the New Church in Curepipe.

For some time before her death, Evelyne's health had been poor, eventually confining her to home, as a result of which she lost the regular contact with the friends and the worship she had loved all her life. The Church in Mauritius, too, lost the presence of someone for whom its Teachings had been the foundation of her spiritual life. We send best wishes to her daughter Elvina, her two sons, Francois and Eric, and their families, and to her friends in Mauritius who will miss her, along with thanks to our Lord for the service she gave to her beloved New Church.

Bruce Jarvis and John Elliott

Brenda Slack

We have received news of the passing of Brenda Slack into the spiritual world on 31st December 2023. Brenda was a lifelong member of Kearsley New Jerusalem Church, and represented the members at a number of Annual Meetings of General Conference during the first decade of this century. We rejoice that, after a lengthy period of decline and illness, Brenda is now enjoying her introduction into the spiritual dimension, which awaits us all.

The funeral service for Brenda will be held at the Kearsley New Jerusalem Church at 13.00pm on Tuesday 30th of January 2024, followed by a cremation service at Overdale Crematorium at 14.15pm

The service will be taken by Pauline Grimshaw.

Children's Day at Kearsley Church

Carolyn Kennion writes:

How did you celebrate Children's Day? At Kearsley Church we are very fortunate in having some children who attend regularly and form a small Sunday School. On 21st January, Revd. Brian Talbot led the service and included the Children's Day prayers supplied by the New Church Youth Association and the Bible account of the parable of the lost son (Luke 15 v 11-32). Alison Presland, who attends Kearsley and is also an NCYA council member, gave the talk which she had written on the same theme. The Sunday School gave a dramatic presentation of the story. The budding young actors all performed very well and really brought the story to life.



1 father with his two sons and servant



2 younger son asks for his share of the inheritance



3 younger son takes the money and leaves home



4 In a far off land he spends all the money on drinking and gambling



5 When he has no money left he gets a job looking after pigs but is soon hungry and sad



6 He returns home to ask to be a servant. His father is overjoyed, welcomes him and tells the servants to prepare a party.



7 The older son is jealous but his father assures him of his love and asks him to join in the celebrations for his brother's safe return

Home Sunday Club

Carolyn Kennion writes:

Calling all parents, grandparents and great grandparents! Do you know of any children aged 3 years plus who would enjoy receiving a monthly pack containing a letter and a Bible-story activity leaflet? If so, please complete the form on the New Church Youth Association website or contact Carolyn Kennion (details in conference directory). Membership is free and also includes birthday greetings, Sunrise magazine, Christmas cards.



Run by the New Church Youth Association





- For children 3-7 years & 8+ years
- Monthly letter and Bible-based activity by post
- Sunrise magazine
- Christmas cards
- Birthday greetings







Free membership! Donations welcome

Sign up here:

www.ncya.generalconference.org.uk

Christmas at Bradford New Church

Shannon Fitzgerald writes:

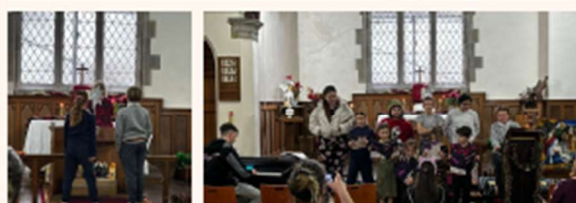
CHRISTMAS AT BRADFORD NEW CHURCH



Christmas is a busy time of year and it was no different at Bradford New Church.



A few of our families spent the day before our Carol service decorating and preparing the church for Christmas which included a sleepover. Our Carol service was held on Sunday 3rd December where we heard about the birth of Jesus through Bible readings, meditations and songs. We were very lucky to have one of our young people, Connor, play away in a manger on the piano whilst the rest of the children sang together.



The following week on Sunday 10th December we had a lovely afternoon Christingle service. We explored the different elements of the Christingle as well as eating probably too many sweets and raisins in the process. The children sang away in a manger again, this time in the dark with their Christingles lighting the room which felt very magical.

To finish off our December services at Bradford the children and young people performed a Nativity play called Prickly Hay! They had been practising twice a week together until their final performance. The Revd Christine Bank delivered a lovely opening and closing to the play and the kids really enjoyed their parents, aunts, uncles, and grandparents coming along to watch them perform.



CHRISTMAS AT BRADFORD NEW CHURCH

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Our volunteers at the Community Project then went straight into our Holiday club that kicked off on Monday 18th. Local families came together and enjoyed hot meals each day and participated in Christmas arts and crafts, gingerbread house decorating, a walk using chalk spray paints, wreath and pom pom making, bowling, cinema, learning sign language and we finished off with a party. During our holiday club, our families celebrating the tradition of gift giving at Christmas received toys for their children and food parcels were also given to those in need of one.



At supermarkets all over the country Christmas eve usually leads to a large amount of food waste. A group of volunteers spent the day collecting from supermarkets and bringing the wasted food to the church to give to people at low cost. Then into the evening some of the volunteers started preparing food to be cooked for our Christmas meal the next day. We then opened the doors on Christmas day at 10.30am with Christmas films on the projector, leftover crafts from the holiday club and an Elf hat and cracker for all! We opened our meal together at about 1pm, we cooked some food at the church and other volunteers and individuals cooked in their homes and brought the food to share with all. We had meals from various countries' traditions including English, Slovakian, and Pakistani dishes.

After cleaning up we closed the building and all had a well deserved week off as we welcomed in the New Year.

The birth of Jesus is a time for remembering why Jesus came to Earth. He taught values of love, kindness, compassion, and service to others. We are so grateful to have volunteers and service users that share our values which mean we can put what we learn in services of worship into practice in our local area.

Bradford Centenary

**BRADFORD NEW CHURCH
CENTENARY
CELEBRATIONS**

Ashfield Avenue, Frizinghall, Shipley BD18 3AL

Saturday 1st June

10.45am: The church will be open to welcome guests
11.30am: Service
1.30pm: Buffet style light lunch
2.30pm: Celebration to include drama, sing Happy Birthday and a surprise guest involving a trowel!
5.30pm: Finish

**So why not
Come and join the celebration!**

For futher information or to confirm your attendance please
contact Dawn Nolan (if you have a Conference directory)
or email bradfordnewchurch@gmail.com

New Church Youth Association AGM & Creative Afternoon

Gwendolen Rowe writes:

New Church Youth Association

AGM & Creative afternoon

Date: Saturday 15th June 2024

Venue: Keighley New Church

Time: 2-5pm

Theme: Faithfulness



Our session will start with the Annual General Meeting after which there will be activities based on Daniel in the Lion's Den. Daniel who maintained his faith despite all that happened to him. This session is for all ages so why not come along and have a lovely time finding out what we are up to and learning more about Daniel and faithfulness. All welcome.

For further information and to confirm attendance please contact:

Gwendolen Rowe (Secretary): gwendolen.e.rowe@gmail.com

Support and Funding by the NCYA

Gwendolen Rowe writes:

The NCYA's main goal is to support Sunday Schools and children and young people in our Church. Part of that support can be financial.

We are aware that there has been confusion in the past as to what funding can be applied for. So this is here to guide you.

The NCYA support funding to societies, groups or individuals to:

- Provide or improve premises – *For example if the room you are using for children's activities needs some refurbishment or repair*
- To purchase resources for teaching children – *Eg :This could be books, audio equipment, visual aids eg. TV or Ipad.*
- To finance activities that enable education, fellowship and worship for families, children and young people in accordance with the teachings of our church – *Eg At family weekend & Summer Camps we support an outing for the children and young people.*

Also, most importantly, the NCYA will **NOT** pay out funding retrospectively so you need to approach them before having any work carried out or purchasing any equipment or supplies.

Requests for funding need(s) to be made by applying via email or letter to the Secretary (currently Gwendolen Rowe) who will send a form to fill in. When filling in the form it is vital to give as much information as possible to support your application. The application will then be submitted to the Council for their approval. The funds can be either a loan or a grant. In the case of a loan the Council will require satisfactory evidence that the borrower will be able to raise the funds to pay this off in due course.

PLEASE DO NOT LET LACK OF FUNDS PREVENT YOU FROM WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH – FIND OUT IF THE NCYA CAN HELP.



Divine Providence Workshop

Robin Wooldridge Writes:

saturday 24th February 2024

Divine Providence

- and the way of the spiritual bracelet



Wellspring House

25 Radcliffe New Rd, Radcliffe,
Manchester M26 1LE 0161 766 2521

10am - 4pm

Ever felt that your life is being 'guided'? Divine Providence works on an internal level and always leads us in the direction of regeneration or spiritual enlightenment. In this experiential workshop you will be invited to look at your life in terms of Divine Providence.

Each participant will make a unique 'spiritual bracelet' as we explore Divine Providence and how it is at work in each of our lives. Each bead chosen will represent a significant event in your life and each bracelet will be highly personal. We will then look at how this can be used in our own spiritual path.

This is an ideal workshop for those looking to take their first steps on the path to spiritual enlightenment and will give an introduction to the Heavenly Teachings revealed by Emanuel Swedenborg.

The workshop will be led by Robin Wooldridge,
Leader of Education at Swedenborg Open Learning Centre

Details of the workshop can be found on:
www.swedenborgopenlearningcentre.org.uk

Other News

Printer Cartridges

Gwendolen Rowe has some surplus printer cartridges available which are suitable for:

Canon Pixma iP7200/iP7240/iP7250.

Canon Pixma iP8700/iP8750.

Canon Pixma iX6850.

Canon Pixma MG5450/MG5450S/MG5550

Please contact Gwendolen directly: gwendolen.e.rowe@gmail.com

Yearbooks and Address Directories

2023/2024 yearbooks and address directories are in the post. If you haven't received your copy please email: paul.crone@generalconference.org.uk

You can read and download all year books from the General Conference web site:
www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/yearbook/