



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

About Us

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

Send Us Your News

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

Share E-News

Feel free to print and share this publication.

Sign up

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

Local News

View local Church newsletters at:
www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/newsletters/

Home Worship

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

To subscribe via email, please sign up:
www.generalconference.org.uk/hwsignup

Donations

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

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

www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/donations

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:
www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/



New Church Youth Association - AGM

Joanne Walton writes:

The NCYA A.G.M. and Activities Afternoon was held on Saturday 15th June 2024 at Keighley New Church. All who attended enjoyed a great afternoon of fun. The weather really didn't want to play and was awful for most of the time!

The afternoon started when the A.G.M. part of the day was held in the Church. There were only a few of us to go through the news and reports on the various

aspects of the NCYA but we were keen. It was interesting to hear the details behind the year of work, provided and funded by the Youth Association. We arrange the Home Sunday club monthly, and produce the Sunrise Magazines 3 times a year. We hope that all who receive these are enjoying all the stories and information they provide.

Following the official part of the day the more enjoyable time could start. There were about 15 children who attended the activity afternoon. This started with the Bible story of Daniel in the Lions' Den to show the theme of Faithfulness, which is being used at Conference in July. After the reading and pictures there was a question-and-answer session for the children which showed how much they had been concentrating.

Next, we split the children into 3 groups to take part in the various activity options. They spent time in each area before moving on to the next.

Options were doing drama and games in the Church, including throwing a bean bag into the mouth of a lion! In the Church Hall they were taking part in a Daniel board game and craft. The craft allowed each child to make a lion mask, lion hand puppet or a chatterbox. Some of the children had enough time to make all 3 items! It was very interesting to see how each child decorated their mask differently from very scary ones to ones with beautiful long eyelashes.

Afterwards we returned to the Church so the children could receive their exhibition prizes. All the children received a £10 gift card for taking part in the exhibition. They needed to colour-in a picture of Daniel with the lions or write four short prayers. The pictures were lovely and will be being displayed at the Conference.

Whilst this was happening the pizzas were being heated. A buffet was set out and fruit provided. The lovely food was enjoyed by all.

Sadly, all too soon it was time to return home. Until next year!

All the NCYA would like to thank everyone who helped in any way to make the day special.



Vision Facilitation at Conference AGM 2024

Revd Becky Jarrett writes:

During this year's Conference AGM we will be forming into small facilitated discussion groups, which we hope will positively impact the future direction of our church organisation. In order to be more inclusive, we are inviting those unable to attend Conference this year to have their say.

Those attending Conference will have already received the aims given below. We are going to be looking at these aims as part of our facilitated discussions on Wednesday 24th July.

We are aware that many readers of E-News are not going to be with us on that day, and would very much appreciate hearing their views. If you would like your thoughts to be considered alongside those who are present, please send them to Becky Jarratt, who will pass them on to those facilitating the sessions: becky.jarratt@generalconference.org.uk. At this stage, it would be very helpful if you could restrict your reflections to the three aims listed below. There will be a chance to give views on other things in due course as this day of facilitation is only the beginning of the process. Please send these in by 19th July.

BE PART OF THE FUTURE

The charitable aim of the General Conference of the New Church is to spread the writings of Swedenborg, to enrich the lives of others. To fulfil this Vision effectively there needs to be clarity and direction to what we do and how we do it. Conference Council supports the strategic aims listed below as they support the Vision. Gathering the views of all members on these strategic aims is the next vital part of the process in developing ways of working towards the Vision.

Views on change and values, which were gathered at AGM 2023 have been collated. Details of what was said and how these comments relate to the consideration of strategic aims will be presented as part of the facilitation on 24th July.

Now, each person is invited to consider the following aims as part of working towards the Vision for the Future and on 24th July 2024 members will be given the opportunity at the AGM to share their reflections. There will be three sessions, so there will be time for each aim to be considered.

Aim 1

Encouraging and supporting varied and diverse approaches to worship.

The Ministry and Conference Council

For literally hundreds of years our church has poured enormous amounts of energy and resources into reaching out to those outside of our church. To reach out into the diverse world we live in, we need to be willing to offer a diverse range of approaches to worship. We want to encourage outreach by accepting new people who are forming their own “outer expressions” of worship, based, of course, on the Word as presented through the writings of our church, but also outwardly diverse and relevant to the world around us.

Aim 2

Applying doctrine based on personal conscience.

The Ministry and Conference Council

The church, and the world at large, face huge religious and ethical challenges. We want to be, and remain, relevant and vibrant within a changing and challenging world. Where there is no explicitly agreed upon guidance from the writings, we should allow freedom and open expression from within the ministry, from which each individual within the church can then form their own rational approach to the subject in focus.

Aim 3

Becoming more accepting and inviting.

The Ministry and Conference Council

We would want to encourage a broader based approach to inviting people into the church. Historically, we may have inadvertently discouraged new members by insisting on adherence to what we might call “traditions”. Rather than looking to utilise the skills we need solely from within our organisation, we should be willing to seek professional help from outside the church to support and inform our journey.