



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

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

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



Nick Skinner meets Princess Anne

Revd Bruce Jarvis writes:

On Wednesday 11th December last year, Brightlingsea Museum was honoured to host a visit by the Princess Royal, HRH Princess Anne. The accompanying photograph shows Nick Skinner meeting her as part of the welcoming group. Why was Nick there? He has been Chairman and Treasurer of the Museum for a number of years, so was an official representative.

It was a busy day for the Royal visitor. She had been at Harlow in the morning before spending about an hour and a quarter at Brightlingsea Museum, and went on to Colchester for a visit to the Garrison there. The Princess had been very impressed with the Museum on two previous visits, so responded to this invitation, which had been encouraged by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex. The Museum endeavours to be a community resource, and a number of representatives from voluntary organisations in the town were also present.

Some of us, particularly members of the Brightlingsea New Church Society which sadly closed its doors in 2016, 203 years after its formation, know Nick as a lifetime loyal member of the New Church, and Treasurer there from 1972 until the closure. He was a committed member of the congregation, and for many years served as part of the lay worship team. Nationally, he serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Broadfield Memorial Benefit Fund.



Nick tells me it was a most enjoyable experience to meet her Royal Highness in a relaxed and informal setting.



Conference 2025 – Monday Attendance

The time of year is fast approaching when the official notification of the Conference and Annual General Meeting will be posted out.

Conference Council has been reviewing the costs of the Conference and AGM, which are considerable. Rather than make the whole event shorter, which has been considered, we have been looking at other ways of how we can reduce our expenditure.

As a result of this, we have made the decision that people who wish to arrive at the Hayes Christian Conference Centre on Monday, but do not fall into any of the categories listed below, should be prepared to pay the full costs for adults and children for that night. We intend to implement this for the 2026 Conference and AGM, but this year we are offering a subsidy of 50% of the costs

- Trustees
- Company Secretary
- Other regular attendees of Conference Council meetings
- Conference Organisers
- Director of Music
- IT Manager
- Youth and Family Team

We appreciate that this may be disappointing to those who enjoy the free time on the Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning and are sorry for anyone who is upset by this decision. We hope to be able to continue running our AGMs at The Hayes, and this decision will help us to do so.

Mr Nigel Sutton

After much thought and deliberation, Nigel has regrettably decided that he must retire as a Trustee of Conference, and therefore as a member of Conference Council, at the forthcoming AGM in July.

This has not been an easy decision for him as he knows that the Council is already under strength but feels that with increasing responsibilities at the New Church in Derby, he simply cannot give the time and commitment the national role requires.

Nigel was appointed as Vice-Chair of the Council in 2021 and served in that role until last year when he resigned as Vice-Chair and was elected as a Trustee for a term until 2027. However, events have overtaken him, leading to his conclusion that he must retire from the Council. He hopes to continue as a member of the Purley Chase Management Team and contribute to the work of Conference's Financial Advisory Committee.

Conference Council, and indeed General Conference, owes Nigel a huge debt of gratitude for his willingness to serve, and his commitment in doing so. He has brought with him a reservoir of knowledge and experience of Conference's Finances, and of the wider Church, from his many years of service at a national level, not least as Treasurer of Conference 2001-2012.

Thank you, Nigel.

Margaret Cowie, Chair

Natalie Welch, Company Secretary

Upcoming Events

Saturday 1 st February	Walk & Talk
Sunday 16 th February	Bournemouth New Church Closing Service
20 th -23 rd February	Febru-rally for 13-18 year olds Wellspring House
Saturday 26 th April	Daytrip to Flamingo Land Theme Park
Full details	<u>www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events/</u>