



# E-News



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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/](http://www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/)



### Summer School Centenary

#### Wilf Woodhouse writes:

This year is the centenary of the first Summer School held at Purley Chase, which was a very important event instigating the beginning of the Church's use of the Centre. It would be remiss not to celebrate this fact as it began the very important association with Purley for the church members over the next hundred years and the growth of the Centre as a very important

venue for many New Church families and other visitors from around the world.

The following are extracts from 'The History of the Summer School' volume one – 1925 – 1933 – and written by Ernest Haseler.

## FOREWORD

In writing this history an attempt has been made to give an interesting and accurate account of how the Summer School first originated, of the first session in 1925, and of many sessions subsequently held each year.

As a history of the glorious Summer School with its treasure of delightful experiences and golden hours at 'Purley Chase', it leaves much to be desired for it represents only the viewpoint of one individual, a student.

It is to be hoped at least that these notes will show how outstanding is the result when many people meet together for a period for 'instruction in heavenly things', with one end in view, and without self consciousness, do all they can to contribute to the happiness of the 'family'.

As the School progresses in numbers and years it is to be hoped that the purpose for which the school was instigated by the late Rev. E.J.E. Schreck will still be kept to in spite of all the difficulties that will arise; the school then will go on from strength to strength.

## INTRODUCTION

During the time that the Rev. E.J.E. Schreck was minister of the Detroit, Michigan, Society it came about that he was asked to minister to the needs of the little Society at Almont whose wooden chapel had been erected on a half-acre plot, the corner of one of the members' farm – four miles from the nearest village and in a region at that time was difficult to access. The Society had been formed by Scottish New Church pioneers. Mr. Schreck found that their families had become scattered over an area of hundreds of square miles.

On making a tour of them he learned from the young people themselves of their desire to be instructed in the Doctrines of their forbears. This led him to establish a Summer School in their little church for a week in the year 1898; it met with such success that it was decided to hold another session the following summer but for two weeks.

The experience gained and the wholesome fruitage of this fresh field of New Church activity led him to be on the look-out for a similar movement when he came to Great Britain.

An opportunity seemed to arise when Alderman T. Slack, a member of the Leicester Society, bought, in the way of a business, a large estate, 'Purley Chase' near Atherstone in Warwickshire; the principal building on which is a beautiful twenty four roomed disused mansion. Mr. Schreck saw it, and being much concerned about a large class of boys in the Intermediate Department of the Birmingham Sunday School, who were with great difficulty kept in the School, he obtained the delighted assent of Alderman Slack to hold a Summer School with them during the August Bank Holiday week in 1922. On talking to the boys about the project he received sufficient promises of attendance to warrant his making due preparations.

Mr. & Mrs. Schreck immediately started making plans for the Summer School. Mr. Schreck prepared talks and lessons with the great object of interesting the boys in the New Church. Mrs. Schreck made large bags, for filling with straw or chaff, to be used as beds, and made arrangements for cooking etc..

They both went out at the beginning of the summer and took a load of crockery, cooking utensils and other necessities. The grounds of the house and surrounding countryside would provide the boys with plenty of opportunities for games, walks and exploring when the morning lessons were concluded.

However, when the time came for the boys to go over to Purley Chase it was discovered that they had not asked their respective employers early enough if they could have a holiday at this time but waited until immediately before the proposed holiday; this resulted in their application being refused by their employers.

Mr. & Mrs. Schreck were naturally very disappointed, they had got everything ready and not one boy turned up, their preparations had been apparently wasted. They packed all the crockery, bedding, etc. in a large cupboard and returned home.

### NEW HOPE

At the meeting of the Midland District Sunday School Union, held at Wretham Road, Birmingham, on March 28<sup>th</sup> 1925, the Rev. R.H. Teed, Minister of the Derby Society, gave a very able paper on the need of a general training school for New Church Sunday school teachers.

While Mr Teed was giving his address, one of the audience, who was keenly interested, Mr. Schreck, realised that the opportunity had come to carry out his ambition. He explained his ideas to the assembled gathering and that a good-hearted New Churchman had offered to lend him a beautiful country mansion and estate called Purley Chase near Atherstone in Warwickshire, which he described as being imminently suitable for his project.

Mr. Schreck did well to 'strike whilst the iron was hot' – the 'sparks' he caused to fly fired everyone's imagination and an enthusiastic discussion ensued. They all thought it was a splendid idea. Mr. Schreck then went about recruiting volunteers to help in running the school and after early reservations he managed to persuade Mr. & Mrs Morley to take charge of the cooking and catering.

The Summer School was born and the first session was held on August 1 – 8 1925.

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If you would like to contact Wilf Woodhouse or have memories of summer schools to share, please email [paul.crone@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:paul.crone@generalconference.org.uk)

### Conference 2025 Slides

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It was wonderful to see so many of you at Conference this year. As promised, here is a copy of the [presentations](#)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch by email at [ministers.secretary@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:ministers.secretary@generalconference.org.uk) if you have any questions, feedback, or if you have any new ideas.

Warmest wishes,

**The Committee of Ministers**

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There are pictures of this year's conference on the General Conference website [gallery](#)

## Adventure into Lower Earth

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## Adventure into Lower Earth

An exploratory format created by Michael Stanley



**Discover** your courageous/confident self  
**audaciously venturing**  
 over seas - exploring forests -  
 terrifying towers - safe  
 sanctuaries  
 humble huts - hospitable hostelries

**Encountering** their inhabitants  
 – welcoming or otherwise

**Filling you** with fear/caution -  
 delight/dismay

**Find** opportunities - choices -  
 challenges

**Seek** to lighten this blighted landscape as you  
**Explore** with your guide and  
 fellow adventurers  
 - **approaching** ever closer to your desired goal



### Wellspring House

25 Radcliffe New Rd,  
 Radcliffe,  
 Manchester  
 M26 1LE

07508 236617

All workshops are:

**10am - 4pm**

*Refreshments available from 9.30am*

**Workshop fee:**

£10 includes light lunch  
 and refreshments

This workshop will be led by  
 Michael Stanley who is a  
 Senior Tutor with the  
 Swedenborg Open Learning Centre.

Adventures will be guided by  
 Michael Stanley and Ray Kennion

For more information contact

Mary Duckworth:

01254 386519 or

[mary.duckworth2@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:mary.duckworth2@generalconference.org.uk)

To book go to: [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or to: [www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk](http://www.swedenborg-openlearning.org.uk)

or email [melanie.bennett@solce.org.uk](mailto:melanie.bennett@solce.org.uk)

## Upcoming Events

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|                                            |                                               |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 30-31 <sup>st</sup> August                 | Dalton 200 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary          |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep      | Swedenborg Weekend – Purley Chase             |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Sep      | New Forest Family Bunkhouse Weekend           |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> Sep                        | Adventure into Lower Earth - Wellspring House |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> Sep                       | Dream Workshop – Purley Chase                 |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov | November Family Weekend – Purley Chase        |
| 17-18 <sup>th</sup> October                | Leaders United                                |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov      | Autumn Fellowship – Purley Chase              |
| 14 - 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov                  | Festival of Angels - Kearsley                 |

Full details     [www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events/](http://www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events/)