



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

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Rise and Shine Radio Show

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/



A Taste of Heaven?

Margaret Presland and Carolyn Kennion write:

Following more than a year of preparations the weekend of the Festival of Angels at Kearsley finally arrived!

After a rather quiet start on the Friday, due to atrocious weather, over the next 3 days we welcomed around 60 visitors plus 6 classes of children from the neighbouring primary school; every single one of them seemed to enjoy the experience. Visitors

included church members from around the north-west, many local people from the community and also friends from as far away as Devon and Scotland!

For me one outstanding feature of the Festival was the way so many people from all over the country volunteered and contributed in a multitude of different ways – making angels, creating artwork, providing written materials, designing posters and banners, advising on advertising, moving furniture, setting-up lighting, providing and serving refreshments, greeting visitors etc etc. It reminded me of our church's teaching that the Lord's kingdom is a kingdom of uses. Just as every angel has their own unique use in heaven, each one of us on earth also has our unique God-given abilities that can be used for the benefit of others. Maybe it was this teaching in action that created such a beautiful atmosphere and experience at the festival.

Sincere thanks to everyone who helped in any way to bring the festival into being and to those who visited. If you were unable to visit you may like to watch a video of the festival that will soon be available.

Margaret and I very much hope that you will feel inspired to hold your own Festival of Angels in your part of the country. It provides an opportunity to share some of our church's wonderful teachings in a way that is attractive and accessible for many different people. Most of the displays used at Kearsley can be borrowed, so the bulk of the preparation is already done and the festival can easily be adapted to suit your particular building and circumstances. We have learnt from the experience so will be able to advise on how to go about it and what works best.



I think that the **photos** and the comments from some of the visitors give a clearer impression of the event than I can.

Some of the many positive comments received from visitors:

'We visited the Festival of Angels as a family, and we felt so welcomed from the moment we arrived. The displays were engaging, beautifully designed, and incredibly creative. There was so much to see and enjoy, and it was truly a festival filled with angels. We had a wonderful time!'

TW - Stoneclough, Bolton

'On entering the church I was unaware of what I might see. The church had been transformed into a haven of heavenly beauty. The angels – knitted, crocheted or made of paper or many other materials. It was absolutely stunning. A lot of work had gone into creating this display and the members should be congratulated. A wonderful, heavenly, peaceful display to remember for a long time.'

CH – Farnworth, Bolton

'Took Eddie and Dede to the Festival of Angels at Kearsley New Jerusalem Church after school – we had a lovely time. The minister was so nice and showed them all the displays and explained it all to them. Drop in and see it, it's lovely.'

CK-Haslam

'Something for everybody – young and old. Art and craft activities for the children, beautifully made models illustrating Bible stories featuring angels, and instructive quotes from New Church teachings to exercise our minds. A truly unique and very memorable exhibition.'

JT - Hose, Leicestershire

'It was wonderful to see the children enjoying the Festival of Angels and to realise that an angel can take many forms. They really appreciated seeing the angels they'd made displayed in the church. It was a beautiful representation of angels of all shapes and sizes.'

Jackie Fitton – Headteacher at Kearsley West Primary School

'I really did enjoy my visit. As well as seeing your lovely church again and being very impressed with all the effort that went into the Angels Festival, I also got to meet some lovely people! Thanks again for all your hard work!'

Revd. Jack Dunion - Paisley, Glasgow

'I was so glad to see the absolutely delightful and amazing angels display.... All the various scenes and beautiful small figures, Swedenborg and the little girl in the mirror, Biblical scenes, the beautiful quotations so clear and meaningful, glorious strings of angels, lots of very individual angels created by lots of children – how delightful for them to be able to take part in this way and come and see all the rest. I do hope the displays can be shown elsewhere; it is so good.'

Revd. Mary Duckworth – Clayton-le -Moors, Lancashire

Operation Christmas Child

Revd Lynne Griffiths writes:

For many years now I have personally made up a shoebox of gifts for Operation Christmas Child which is part of the Samaritan's Purse organisation. You select a gender and age bracket and fill your shoebox with gifts such as hair accessories, hygiene items, toys, crafts and clothing then it is processed and sent abroad to many countries in need, all distributed through church networks. Each recipient is also offered the opportunity to partake in a church programme following this but this is completely voluntary and is not a requirement to receive a shoebox. About half of the 12 million recipients last year chose to follow on with a church programme with many becoming Christians.

Being new into ministry I am keen to explore all avenues of service and my line manager agreed that I could spend a day working as a volunteer at a distribution centre in Leeds for Operation Christmas Child. Early on Wednesday 26th November I left home for the 2hr + drive to Leeds, unfortunately getting stuck in traffic so missing the briefing. I was quickly assigned to a lovely lady who filled me in and turns out was also from the North East and was the regional rep for the charity. She soon becomes my new best friend and had signed me up for everything by the end of the day insisting on supporting me in next years efforts and wanting to work together as much as possible!

To say that I found the day inspirational would be an understatement – I enjoy practical tasks but this really felt like we were acting as the hands and feet of the Lord carrying out His work as you could feel the love that went into every shoebox that had been so carefully packed by families, children and so many kinds of people. A personal highlight for me was opening a box and finding a black Labrador cuddly toy, only for a photo of the family to fall out and they actually had a black Lab themselves! My role as a volunteer involved working alongside many others opening and checking the contents of each shoebox, removing anything inappropriate i.e. used items, liquids etc and replacing them with suitable alternatives. The boxes are then sealed with tape to show customs they had been checked before being loaded in bigger boxes and moved ready for distribution. It was a never ending task and I cannot begin to explain how many shoeboxes were there – for every 1 I checked at least 2 had been added to the 'to-do' pile such was the quantity needing sorting.

During each session (3 sessions a day and I stayed for all) a break was held mid-session and stories of how the shoeboxes have helped individuals were heard. Two stories that stick in my mind were firstly of a young girl who had received some underwear in her shoebox one year, a gift many of us take for granted. For her however attending school meant compulsory uniform and now having underwear she expressed she could now be more comfortable in attending and focus on her schoolwork. The other story was that of a young child who had been orphaned and when asked what they would like for Christmas they replied 'a family'. The leader explained that they couldn't do that sadly but maybe a new ball or some toys could help. In the shoebox that child received was a letter and photo

from the family who sent it and with help the young child replied to the family thanking them. Long story short they struck up a friendship and in time the family adopted the child so the child's original Christmas wish had actually come true.

Time and time again we were reminded of how the Lord's providence was at work with shoeboxes landing into the hands of who each needed to receive the box. Once the boxes left the distribution centre they were not opened again until in the hands of the child and yet each seemed to get to where they needed to be. Opportunity to pray over the shoeboxes was also offered each session with their safe delivery and positive impact prayed for.

I came away uplifted that not only had I delivered 15 boxes made by people from Seaburn Dene but I had personally helped check hundreds and hundreds of boxes and played a very small part in what could be a life-changing moment for many. So many people in the room now have heard of the New Church and we are on the list to continue to support next year also. I warn you now that I feel so inspired by this, I will be encouraging everybody to join in where possible next year. It has taken me back to Scripture this week of Luke 21:1-4 where the widow gives her all in comparison with the rich giving a fraction of their wealth. Not only are we encouraged to give all in our service to the Lord but also we must give our all to serve others and I come away with a renewed sense of purpose and gratitude that the Lord's love is present and active through us all. In the words of the faith of the New Church "good actions are to be done, because they are of God and from God, and these are to be done by man as if from himself; but it ought to be believed that they are from the Lord working in man and by Him".



An Introduction To Logopraxis

Living the Word in Everyday Life



If you've ever wondered what it really means to *live* the Word, this small group journey might be for you. Logopraxis—literally “the practice of the Word”—is about bringing spiritual ideas from Scripture and Swedenborg’s Writings into everyday life, where they can actually start to change how we see ourselves and the world around us.

Over **eight sessions (every two weeks)**, you'll explore together how the Word can come alive within you. Along the way, you'll be guided through:

- **The Logopraxis Cycle** – a six-step approach that helps you read, reflect, and take a spiritual idea into daily life as a personal task.
- **Spiritual Awareness** – learning to notice what's going on inside - your thoughts, moods, and reactions—and to see them through the lens of Divine truth.
- **Seeing the Self** – discovering how our familiar sense of “me” (what Swedenborg calls the *proprium*) tends to take centre stage—and how becoming aware of it opens space for something higher and freer to move through us.
- **Journeying Together** – being part of a small, supportive group where everyone's reflections contribute to a shared sense of being in contact with something larger — the Divine Human.
- **Transformation in Everyday Life** – realising that even our struggles and failures can be moments of awakening, showing us where real change wants to happen.

Each session weaves together readings from Swedenborg's book *Heaven and Hell* with personal task reflections and group sharing, helping you see how the Word can be *lived*, not just read. Whether you're new to spiritual practice or seeking a fresh way to live your faith more deeply, this course offers an opportunity to bring light, healing, and a deeper sense of Divine connection into everyday life.

Readings will begin during the week commencing **9th February 2026**.

The first Life Group meetings will be 2 weeks after the first reading post. As a global community, we offer various days and times to suit different schedules.

To register your interest Email:

LPI@logopraxis-institute.online

To find out more about Logopraxis Visit:

<https://logopraxis-institute.online/>



Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Paul Crone writes:

AI is becoming mainstream and you could be using it without even realising. This article in the Which? magazine provides some useful advice -

Can you trust AI? ChatGPT and other AI chatbots put to the test - Which?

IT Manager's New Working Hours

Please be advised that the working hours for the IT Manager, Paul Crone, will be changing, effective January 1st, 2026.

Should you require IT assistance after this date, please note the new schedule:

Monday to Friday: 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

E-News Submission Reminder

To ensure timely inclusion of your announcements and updates in the weekly publication, please send all items intended for the E-News to Paul Crone, IT Manager, by Wednesday of that week.

Items received by this deadline will be included in the corresponding Friday E-News edition.

Upcoming Events

6 th December	A Candle for Christmas – Seaburn Dene
7 th December	Zoom Advent service of worship – Gwendolen Rowe
12 th December	Christmas Carol Service - Purley Chase
14 th December	Zoom carol service – Revd. Jack Dunion
19 th December	Meet The Minister
22 nd December	Meet The Minister
25 th December	Zoom Christmas Day service – Revd. Becky Jarratt
28 th December	Zoom service 'towards epiphany' – Jan Millar
11 th January	Zoom service of worship – Chris Chambers
9 th February	An Introduction To Logopraxis
25 th January	Zoom service of worship – Revd Lynne Griffiths
8 th February	Zoom service of worship – Revd Becky Jarratt
22 nd February	Zoom service of worship – Revd Brian Talbot

Full details www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events/