



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/



An Appeal

The 219th Annual Meeting of Conference is just around the corner, so we are seeking a kind person to volunteer to write a report to appear in E-News. Please don't be put off thinking it needs to be a long, full account of every detail. Rather, it's more about giving readers a flavour of the event.

If you feel you can do this, please let one of the Trustees know.

Volunteer Opportunity: Payroll & Pensions Support

The Conference Council is looking for a dedicated volunteer to assist with our internal payroll and pensions function.

This is a vital "behind-the-scenes" role that helps ensure our staff are supported and our financial processes remain resilient. By having a trained volunteer as a backup, we can ensure business continuity and keep these important tasks managed directly within the Church.

- No previous experience in payroll or finance is required.
- Full training and ongoing support will be provided by our Company Accountant.

If you are interested in learning more about what is involved, or if you would like to offer your support, please contact Paul Mehew at:
company.accountant@generalconference.org.uk.

John Ford

John Ford has been General Conference's Property Manager North for around fifteen years. During this time he has dealt with many of the Church's properties, from manses to church buildings, and everything in-between. Like so many other offices and jobs that members undertake, all of this was done as a volunteer.

He has now decided it is time to hang up his negotiating skills, and step down from this role, once he completes the sale of the Chester Church.

The Conference owes John a huge debt of gratitude for all the work he has undertaken on our behalf.

Thank you, John.

Gathering Leaves Subsidy Fund

Dear friends,

We are writing to invite your church to support an important opportunity for women in the Swedenborgian community: Gathering Leaves 2027, which will be held in Los Angeles, California, from May 6–9, 2027.

The theme of this gathering is:

“Be Still and Know”

These words offer a powerful reminder of the Lord's constant presence and guidance. In a world where we can easily become caught up in worries, responsibilities, and the many demands of daily life, we are invited to become still and trust in His Divine Providence.

Gathering Leaves is an opportunity for women from across Swedenborgian communities to come together in worship, reflection, conversation, and friendship. Through shared experiences, prayer, and spiritual exploration, participants are able to be renewed and strengthened.

One of the blessings of gatherings such as this is the way they bring together women from many different places and circumstances forming deep connections with one another.

However, we recognise that the cost of travel and attendance can sometimes create barriers for those who would deeply benefit from being present. To help remove those barriers, we have a Gathering Leaves Subsidy Fund.

This fund will provide financial assistance to women who feel called to attend but may not have the means to make the journey. By contributing, your church will be extending a helping hand to ensure that this spiritual gathering remains open and accessible.

Your generosity will help create a space where women can experience fellowship, deepen their understanding of the Lord's Word, and return home renewed.

We invite you to consider supporting the Gathering Leaves Subsidy Fund via Gofundme, please click on the following link: [GoFundMe](#). A gift of any size will help make a lasting difference and will become part of the work of bringing people together in love and spiritual growth.

Thank you for your kindness and your continued support of the Lord's work among us.
With gratitude,

Muriel Morgan

Muriel Morgan
Chair of the Gathering Leaves Planning Committee

New Church Youth Association Day at Bradford

Carolyn Kennion writes:

‘We were made to feel so welcome from the moment we arrived.’

‘Gwendolen led a lovely service. I thought she did a wonderful job engaging a room full of children...’

‘It was good because we got to make lots of stuff.’ ‘I liked that we were all joined together.’

‘I enjoyed all of the activities.’ ‘It was fun.’ ‘When can we go back to Bradford?’

Just some of the comments from the 35 adults and children who attended the New Church Youth Association Activities and AGM Day at Bradford New Church on 5th July, when we explored the conference theme of ‘Unpacking the New Church.’

The event started with an all-age service, skilfully led by Gwendolen Rowe, which included a ‘Pass the parcel’ activity. As the parcel was unwrapped clues were revealed which led us to identify various Bible stories. Gwendolen likened this to how our knowledge and understanding of the Bible grows as we attend church week by week, year by year. Gwendolen used the parable of the Lost Sheep to illustrate how there are different layers of meaning in the Bible for us to ‘unpack’.

Following the service, prizes were awarded to some of the 25 children who had submitted entries for the NCYA Creative Exhibition which was on display. It was heart-warming to read what some of the children had written about what the Church means to them and to see them enthusiastically use their craft-kit prizes to create sun-catchers, mobiles, key-rings and jewellery

A slight delay with the pizza order for lunch called for a change to the timetable and we went into groups for activities designed to illustrate some of the things that are important for us at church – friendship, learning about God and His love for us and understanding Bible stories. Activities included making friendship bracelets and ‘truth-tellers’ (sometimes known as chatterboxes or fortune-tellers). Our ‘truth-tellers’ contained simple New Church teachings about God, the Bible, angels etc to share with friends. The younger children used stickers to show God’s wonderful world and made playdough animals.

By this time we were all ready to tuck into pizzas, salad and fruit for lunch.

With renewed energy the children worked in pairs to find answers to a ‘Treasure Hunt’ around the church. Do you know whose name is on the lectern in Bradford Church or where to find Alfred Kirkham’s address?

So a busy and very enjoyable activities session drew to a close with most of the families spending the rest of the afternoon at a gala in a nearby park while the necessary business

of the NCYA AGM took place. I was once again struck by the lovely atmosphere at the Bradford New Church and how everyone helped and got along together. As one of the children wrote on their Exhibition entry 'We are one big happy family'.



[More Pictures Here](#)



Upcoming Events

26 th July	<u>Online Service led by Jan Millar</u>
28 th July	<u>AGM Conference - Hayes</u>
2 nd August	<u>13-18 Summer Camp - Purley Chase</u>
9 th August	<u>Online Service led by Revd Helen Brown</u>
23 rd August	<u>Online Service led by Revd Lynn Griffiths</u>
29 th August	<u>Divine Sex - Wellspring House</u>
4 th -6 th September	<u>New Forest Family Bunkhouse Weekend</u>
4 th -6 th September	<u>Swedenborg Weekend - Purley Chase</u>
13 th September	<u>Online Service led by Revd Brian Talbot</u>
19 th September	<u>Where am I headed after I die? - Wellspring House</u>
2 nd -4 th October	<u>Derby Weekend - Purley Chase</u>
5 th October	<u>Autumn Fellowship - Purley Chase</u>
9 th October	<u>A Space Apart - Purley Chase</u>
30 th October	<u>November Family Weekend - Purley Chase</u>
31 st October	<u>Divine Providence - Wellspring House</u>
14 th November	<u>Voyage of Discovery - Wellspring House</u>
12 th December	<u>Angels – Discovering the gifts they bring - Wellspring House</u>
Full details	<u>www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events</u>