

Seaburn Dene New Church

News sheet

September/October 2026



To contact the church please ring

0754 6116071

Our email address is

seaburndenewchurch@gmail.com

We also have a Facebook page



Seaburn Dene New Church

Website www.generalconference.org.uk/locations/seaburn-dene

Welcome to the Seaburn Dene News sheet.

**"By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night."
(Exodus 13:21)**

Services of Worship

If you would like to join us in worship, then please make a note of the following dates, all are welcome to attend...

Sunday 13th Sept	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths
Sunday 27th Sept	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths
Sunday 11th Oct	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths
Sunday 25th Oct	10.30am	Worship	Revd Lynne Griffiths

The late Mrs Pamela Ryder

In 1964, the recently married Pamela and Norman Ryder moved into 108 Dovedale Road, next door to Seaburn Dene New Church, where Norman was to be the Minister. He had been ordained into the Ministry at the recent annual meeting of the General Conference held at Besses o'th' Barn New Church. Pamela had grown up in the New Church community at Anerley New Church in South London, and before his call to Ministry, Norman had been a member of Kidderminster New Church.

In the 1960s, Seaburn Dene estate was full of young families enjoying life in new, modern homes. The New Church had a large Sunday School, and there was a buzz about its life, welcoming people who found both the worship and the fellowship supportive. Both their daughters, Abigail and Deborah, were born in Sunderland. After five very busy years, in 1969 the Ryder family moved to Chester, where Norman took on the Chester and Wallasey pastorate.

In many ways, you could say that Pamela was a traditional "Minister's wife"! In addition to the duties of his pastorate, Norman also had many commitments beyond Chester, and Pamela loyally supported him throughout his Ministry, and into his so-called retirement years. Norman died in July 2018, and prior to that he'd spent some time living in care. Pamela had several years of caring for Norman, and then of living on her own. Her body began to show signs of ageing, she found herself increasingly limited in mobility, and so she, too, moved into a care home for the last phase of her earthly life. She passed into the spiritual dimension on 13th August.

Let's end with an amusing incident from their Seaburn Dene days, recorded by Norman in his contribution to the History of the New Church in Sunderland, published in 1992. He wrote: *Beyond our church walls, the kindnesses and the welcomes always came. The local bus terminus being outside the church and manse had unexpected bonuses. One of the first to visit newly-born Abigail was a bus driver, whose wife was about to bear their*

first child, nipping up the stairs while the passengers waited to pay for their bus tickets!

We give thanks for Pamela's life, and think of her and Norman, reunited in the spiritual world, now continuing their partnership. And we send love and best wishes to Abigail and Deborah and their families.

Ron Shaw

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ron who remains in hospital following a period of ill health. Revd Jarvis has visited Ron and his family and has passed on our good wishes to him. We keep Ron and his family in our prayers.

New lawnmower and beautiful gardens!

We are delighted to announce that thanks to a kind donation we have been able to purchase a new like for like lawnmower. This will help keep our grounds in top condition moving forward especially following recent gardening work where the hedges were trimmed, the beds cleared and in general everywhere spruced up. It's looking good!

Building improvements

If you've passed the church you may have noticed we have had a section of the front wall finally knocked down and rebuilt. Repairs to the damaged wall have maintained its structure for many years but the harsh winter proved too much and full repair was now necessary. We are thankful once again to the Jeggins Trust for their kindness in assisting with the costs of this crucial work.

Tea vicar?

Come along to Fulwell Community Library Café and meet Revd Lynne for a chat, ask a question or just enjoy some company. A no pressure meet up where you drop in at any time with no

pressure to stay for any set period of time. She'll even buy you a cuppa!

Monday 21st September 1.30-3pm

Monday 19th October 1.30-3pm

Litter picking

Our next dates for litter picking are:-

Tues 22nd September 2-3pm Seaburn Seafront, meet at Dykelands Road car park

Tues 20th October 2-3pm Dene Estate – meet at the New Church, Shields Road

All equipment is provided and all are welcome to attend.

Spiritual Space Group

We will be restarting our spiritual space groups which are welcoming to people of all faith or none. We meet downstairs in the church (access via back door) and use a mixture of music, images, poetry and questions to prompt discussion and friendship. Refreshments are also provided. All are welcome. Dates are :-

Thursday 24th September – 11am

Thursday 15th October – 11am

Thursday 29th October – 11am

Ministers letter – Revd Lynne

As the new football season is about to begin it has me contemplating the seasons in our life. The changes that are inevitable and which we also bring about and the endings and new beginnings which make up the cycle of daily life. A new season brings a new start – some familiarity but a chance to start over once again. Who do we wish to be now? What will we take of ourselves moving forward and what may we wish to leave in the past? We are ever changing – change is the only constant in life. It leads me back to thinking of the Israelites and how the

Lord led them by pillars of cloud by day and fire by night. How is the Lord leading us in our lives right now? Do we look for Him and do we follow where it is we are being led? Just like the Israelites we are being led to our own land of milk and honey – a state of delight and joy. What wonderful place to be led to, if only we let the Lord lead us.