

DNC - September 2026

DERBY SOCIETY of the NEW CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Hello again,

As I write this, we are looking forward to a few days of relaxation on holiday. Sometimes these are the times we have space for reflection. We hope you have benefited from a similar experience or are maybe still looking forward to one.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

Lord Jesus Christ, our Heavenly Father,
We often become weary on our spiritual
journey. Sometimes our faith feels fragile.
Lord, we ask you to give us the endurance
to stand firm in times of trial. May we call on
your power to overcome our weaknesses,
strengthen our resolve to depend on your
Word, and restore our zeal and renew our
spirits.
Amen

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their
strength. They will soar on wings like eagles"
Isaiah 40:31

Uselessness

To outside observers, my life must appear lacking in usefulness. I have carers calling in 4 times each day. As a result, I am awakened at 7pm each morning, supported in preparing for bed, and am back in bed by 8.30 pm.

Nearly all of my carers are from Pakistan, with a minority from Nigeria. All of them are terrified by the work visa regulations. All of them, with one minor exception have been unfailingly kind. Most of them are of the Islamic faith.

Has this caused difficulties? Not at all. They cheerfully get me ready to attend our Church on the relevant Sunday mornings. My family make sure that I have food and clean bedding, for which I am truly grateful. Friends get me out once a month.

So, what use am I?

I receive an NHS pension, a great deal of which pays for my carers. So, I suppose, I keep them employed.

As I understand it, heavenly happiness comes from being useful. Think about when you have been most happy. Even in relationships, joy comes from helping your partner in activities which bring pleasure, even if it's only doing the washing up! My father told me, 'If a woman has gone to a great deal of trouble to make a special meal, the least you can do is to wash up afterwards.'

No-one is useless. Even the children who are limited mentally and physically provide a need of care. Hopefully, they find fulfilment in the spiritual world.

Would that the leaders of nations could see that bombing others is a useless occupation. It has to stop sometime to allow the repair of all the damage.

Or are these views part of my uselessness?

By Geoffrey



Kindness: Ancient Wisdom, Modern Science, Eternal Truth

I was reading a medical journal recently that reviewed the growing evidence on kindness. Researchers have found that people who intentionally perform acts of kindness tend to experience lower anxiety, greater wellbeing and even healthier responses to stress. One experiment found that people who gave a small gift before facing a stressful challenge recovered more quickly afterwards. Another showed that carrying out just three acts of kindness each week improved self-esteem.

It made me smile because this “new discovery” is nearly three thousand years old.

The writer of Proverbs simply observed: “Those who are kind benefit themselves” (Proverbs 11:17). At first sight, that sounds almost self-interested, as though kindness is worthwhile because it pays dividends. But that is not the spirit of Scripture, nor of Swedenborg’s teaching.

Swedenborg reminds us in Divine Love and Wisdom that the Lord is Divine Love itself, constantly seeking to communicate His life to every human being. The very nature of love is to share its own joy with another. When we act from genuine charity, we are not persuading the Lord to bless us. Rather, we are opening ourselves to receive the love He is already giving.

This helps explain why kindness blesses the giver. In Heaven and Hell, Swedenborg teaches that the Lord is present with everyone, yet His presence is most fully received by those who live in love towards Him and their neighbour. The Lord’s presence has not changed; what changes is our willingness to receive it. Kindness is therefore not merely good behaviour. It is participation in the Lord’s own life.

Conversely, selfishness and cruelty close the heart. As Swedenborg explains in Divine Providence, every choice either opens us more fully to heaven or turns us away from it. The proverb is therefore deeper than it first appears. “Those who are kind benefit themselves” is not a promise of earthly reward but a description of spiritual reality. Whenever we become willing channels of the Lord’s love, that love necessarily passes through us before it reaches anyone else. In blessing another, we ourselves are blessed.

So here is a simple invitation for the week ahead. Choose one person, a neighbour, a colleague or a stranger and offer one deliberate act of kindness without expecting thanks. Afterwards, pause for a moment and notice what has changed within you. That awareness is more than a pleasant feeling. It may be the quiet joy that comes as the heart opens a little more to the Lord’s ever-present love.



Modern science is discovering that kindness changes the mind and body. Proverbs proclaimed long ago that “those who are kind benefit themselves.” Swedenborg reveals why.

The Lord's love is always flowing into every human heart. Whenever we choose to let that love pass through us to another person, it leaves its blessing within us as well.

Perhaps that is why kindness is one of heaven's deepest secrets. The love we give away is the only love we truly keep.

By an anonymous contributor



Link to Hope Shoeboxes

Once again, we are supporting the Link to Hope Shoebox campaign.

The **Link to Hope Shoebox Appeal 2026** brings practical help, dignity, and hope to families and elderly people living in poverty across **Ukraine and Eastern Europe** — not just children. Each shoebox supports an entire household or an elderly person facing isolation or hardship.

If you'd like to help this project, please pick up a leaflet from the vestibule or have a look online to find out what to pop in your shoebox. Please bring your shoebox(es) to church or contact Alison or Janet by **October 25th**. The shoeboxes will be blessed during the service on **October 25th**.

There are plenty of ideas on the website.

Please see <https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2026/>

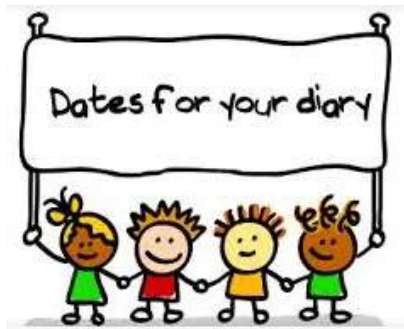
If you are unable to fill a shoebox but would like to make a donation, please speak to Alison or Janet.

Many thanks in anticipation.



Derby Weekend

This will be held on 2nd - 4th October for Derby Weekend at Purley Chase. Please book through the [Purley Chase website](#)



September

13th - Service led by Chris Chambers

Refreshments - Chris and Nigel

Flowers - Penny

15th - Friendship lunch at 59 Hollowood Ave.
at 12-30 pm

27th - Harvest Service led by Nigel

Refreshments - Betty and Michael

Flowers - Everyone who can help the day before
from 10.30 am

October

11th - Service led by Jenny Jones

Refreshments - TBC

Flowers - Penny

25th - Service led by Liz Clemmett

Refreshments - TBC

Flowers - Penny

*No act
of kindness,
no matter
how small is
ever wasted*

AESOP

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