

DNC - October 2026

DERBY SOCIETY of the NEW CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Good morning.

At the time of writing, it is well and truly into the or season of a beautiful autumn this year, which I appreciate more because of the very hot summer that we have endured. The mornings and evenings have reminded me what we expect and are used to with the English climate.

We have enjoyed our harvest service with fresh produce from the Heath Nursery in Melbourne, provided with affectionate memories of Frank and Jane Heath who ran the nursery in their working lives. Tinned and dried goods were donated by church members. All was delivered to the YMCA and Padley Day Centre.

Lord Jesus Christ, we come before you with grateful thanks for all the food we are blessed to have access to. We pray with compassion and love for those who are unable to get enough to eat or are unable to meet their families' needs. May we be glad to share what we have and never take your gifts for granted. Amen

What good things have we encouraged to grow in us? have we become more patient or kind ?

Have we become more helpful or loving?

This is the harvest we must encourage to grow in our hearts.

"Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying 30, 60 or even a hundred times." Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Mark 4: 8-9



Proper Potatoes!

Our Harvest celebrations started with a service led by Nigel, which reminded us that our actions are our own spiritual harvest. The church was decorated with homemade bread, corn, berries, leaves, pinecones and flowers; our donated produce was spread around the two jolly scarecrows at the front of church.

After the service, the donations were gathered together. These were taken to the YMCA & Padley Centre on Monday. We were kindly given help to unload the car and take them inside when I heard a loud exclamation of "***Proper potatoes! We can have proper potatoes....***".

The fresh produce from Melbourne, along with the tinned and dry goods, were all gratefully received, and it is good to know it will be enjoyed by those attending the YMCA & Padley Centre.

By Alison



Photos from our Harvest Service



Staying to read the credits

I wonder if at the end of a film you have been watching, you stay and read the credits. I am aware that I sometimes do it at the cinema but rarely at home in front of the TV. At the cinema I sometimes sit and watch as the credits roll, and the theme music is being played while I am still cocooned in the feelings I am left with at the end of the film. I must admit that I don't always stay to see the producer's name. The thing that always amazes me is the very large number of unseen people involved in producing 90 minutes of film. Several of them have strange-sounding occupations.

It reminds me of the number of people contributing to my and everyone else's individual life. Apart from many unseen people who work on our behalf throughout Society, the Lord teaches that there are angels and spirits from many different spiritual communities who have played and continue to play essential roles in our lives. He teaches that we all receive life from Him. This flows through the lives of angels in heaven and spirits from hell. It appears in us as our own thoughts and feelings. These contain the similar issues and variety of feelings of any film we have seen.

The Lord's life not only flows through angels and spirits to us, but He Himself is also present within each of us. As adults, He gives us the ability to stand back and not only reflect on what theme is playing out in our inner world, but also the ability to choose whether we wish to make that part of our life story or if it ends up on the cutting floor.

There are remarkable stories of people who have changed their lives for good when they discovered their ability to reflect on their inner world and the power to choose to deny or accept the current theme.

The key is to wait until the end of the credits and remember who really deserves the credit. The name of our executive producer is The Lord Jesus Christ, Creator, Redeemer and Saviour.

I would encourage you to regularly read the credits for your life right to the end.

By Rev. John Sutton

The Lamp

A Story About How The New Jerusalem Can Begin Within Us

There was once a couple who bought an old house together. Among their possessions was an old lamp. It had belonged to the wife's family for generations. Her grandmother had sat beside it. Her mother had read to her by its light when she was a child. During some of the darker periods of her life, she had switched on that lamp and somehow felt less alone. Her husband didn't understand this. To him, it was simply an old lamp. And because he valued reason and truth, he would point this out.

"It's only a lamp," he would say. And sometimes that made her upset. This puzzled him, because he wasn't trying to hurt her. He was only saying what he believed to be true.

Then one evening she said something he hadn't expected. "I know you don't see what I see when that lamp is on. But when you tell me it's only a lamp, I'm hearing you talk about my grandmother, my mother, my childhood, the times when I was frightened and found comfort in its light.

"I'm not asking you to believe there is anything special about the lamp. I'm asking you to understand that there is something special about its light to me." Her husband was quiet for a while. Eventually he said, "But I can't pretend to believe something I don't believe." She replied, "I've never asked you to."

That sentence stayed with him.

Some weeks later, an old carpenter came to repair a door, and the husband told him about their disagreement. The carpenter listened, then said something rather strange.

"You know, when two people make a home together, sooner or later they discover there are rooms inside the other person that don't belong to them."

"You can be invited into those rooms," the carpenter continued. "You can learn about them, ask questions, perhaps understand why they are so precious, but you don't get to redecorate them without invitation."

The husband smiled. Then the carpenter grew more serious.

"And there's something else people sometimes learn too late. If someone you love repeatedly tells you, 'When you do this, it hurts me,' eventually the important question is no longer whether you intended to hurt them. The question becomes why you keep doing it."

That evening, the husband sat alone beside the lamp. He switched it on. Nothing happened. But a small, stubborn question arrived anyway - one he hadn't thought to ask before, because he'd always aimed it at her.

Not: What's wrong with the lamp?

But: What's happening in me?

And he looked at his certainty. His need to be right. And for the first time, he realised he had spent years correcting the lamp when perhaps something had been quietly waiting to be corrected in him.

He didn't have to believe in the light. He only had to notice what was stirred up in him whenever he felt the need to argue against it. And then something rather beautiful happened. Sometimes he would find his wife sitting beside the lamp, and he would sit beside her. Sometimes she told him the old stories and he asked questions. And sometimes they simply sat together in its light.

He never learned to see the lamp exactly as she did. And she stopped needing him to. But something had changed. He had begun to discover that perhaps the most useful question wasn't always, "What is wrong with who or what I'm looking at?"

Sometimes it is simply:

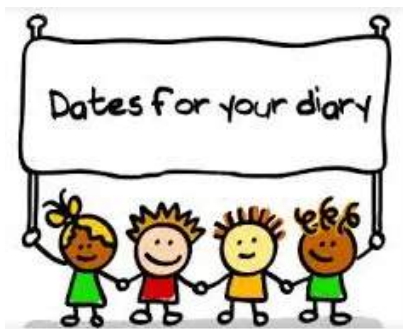
"What is it that's going on in me?"

By an anonymous contributor

Shoutouts and Updates



Thank you to the wonderful people who helped decorate the church for harvest and transported the goods to the Padley Centre. We really appreciate your help.



October

2nd -4th Derby weekend at Purley Chase

11th - Service led by Jenny Jones - flowers Penny

Coffee: Janet

25th - Blessing of the shoeboxes - service led by

Liz. Flowers - Penny

Coffee - Alison

November

8th - Nigel leads Remembrance Sunday

22nd - Service led by Rev David Gaffney, including Sacrament

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this newsletter. We are grateful you have taken the time to share your thoughts. Let us know if there is anything you would like to share in the next issue. ☺

