



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/



Growing!

Revd Becky Jarratt writes:

During the Conference Service at the end of July this year, I talked a bit about my gardening inadequacies and excitement at the plants I had grown. We were thinking about the parable of the sower, which can be found in Matthew 13:1-17. I showed a photo of a very sad and dead-looking plant which then flowered into a beautiful yellow viola. Next to that plant there was another dead-looking one, which I am delighted to report flourished – please see the photo of the purple flowers!

I had also planted some runner beans as we seemed to have been able to block out the wild rabbits, meaning there was some chance of a crop growing to the stage of being edible. It's fair to say that we didn't yield an enormous harvest, but the few that were hiding in the leaves were absolutely delicious!

My third plant also delighted me. The question was whether it was a squash or a pumpkin? We were right – it was indeed a pumpkin. The plant it was growing on didn't survive the hot weather while we were away from home, but it produced a small but perfectly formed pumpkin.

My lessons from this gardening experience: patience pays off. I was pretty sure that the runner bean plants would produce something edible, but the joy I felt when I saw the hiding beans was unexpected.

The pumpkin was wonderful to watch growing. I didn't know what to expect here, and the fact that the "fruit" grew so high on the plant was surprising for me. I still had to work to help it grow – provide optimum conditions so that it could flourish.

But the violas were another story. I can't believe that they caught me out twice! Perhaps they were varieties that flower at different times of the season. Autumn can be a season of new beginnings – those who are still in the education system will often have new teachers or subjects to start and need to put in the work to make sure they succeed in their studies. We can find delight in areas that we don't expect, and realise that we are good at things we didn't even know about. I am coming into a new season of my life this autumn, and I have yet to see what the Lord has in store for me.

Let us all remember to turn to the Lord in prayer and have patience and trust, even when our journey takes an unexpected turn. True peace and happiness may be just around the corner.



New Church Children's Society Annual General Meeting

NCCS will be holding its AGM on Tuesday October 6 at 7.00. pm

The meeting will be held on zoom

If you would like to attend please email sue.chesworth@generalconference.org.uk

Minister's Seminar

Trevor Millar writes:

This year's Minister's Seminar ran from Monday 14th September to Thursday 17th September at the Purley Chase Centre. The ministers, and invited guests, were warmly welcomed by Purley's new manager, Amanda and her team.

In such a peaceful and scenic venue, the theme "Unveiling the New Church" was enjoyably pursued by all participants. There was worship, and some free time but this was often taken up by meetings and networking.

Sessions covered included looking at Jesus and his relevance for faith and daily living for today; a sharing group which asked, "What is the New Church?"; how contemporary insights into the writings shape our understanding of the New Church; moving beyond Sunday-only church attendance by creating spiritual spaces for deeper connection in small groups, and examining New Church leadership, organisation and adaptive models that respond to modern needs. There was also Bible study; a short session on Capacitar, and a video presentation exploring young people's views on gender identity.

There were also two sessions run by outside speakers on the personal problems faced by transgender adults, and on the challenges faced by the parents of transgender children. Their stories were quite harrowing, and we are grateful to the adult trans woman Sinead, and to Sally, the mother of a trans child for sharing their experiences. It raised the issue of hidden suffering, loneliness and isolation amongst transgender people, and by implication among other groups and individuals.

Overall, the seminar proved to be an uplifting event which envisaged positive ways forward for our much-loved church. I went home filled with new hope.

Kearsley Sunday School Scarecrows of Moses in the Bullrushes



Upcoming Events

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