



E-News



The General Conference of the New Church

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<https://lomondradio.co.uk/shows/rise-and-shine>

The link below allows you to catchup Rise & Shine programs:
www.mixcloud.com/RevJack/



Family Weekends Consultation Update

Shannon Fitzgerald writes:

Earlier this year, the Youth & Family Team reviewed how well our two annual Family Weekends meet the needs of children, teenagers, young adults and families. We wanted to explore whether different age groups were being served as well as possible, while recognising the value of bringing the whole church community together.

We received 22 consultation responses, including 9 from families with children under 18. The clearest message was that Family Weekends are highly valued: 13 respondents said they meet their household's needs 'very well' and 3 said 'mostly well'. The intergenerational nature of the weekends was particularly valued, with people highlighting friendships across generations and the opportunity for families to connect with the wider church community.

Most respondents did not support replacing the current model with separate age-focused Family Weekends. However, the consultation identified areas where we can improve, particularly:

- More age-appropriate provision for teenagers and young adults.
- Additional activities and targeted events during the year.
- Better accessibility and support for children who need quieter or more flexible spaces.
- Continued support for younger families; and
- attention to staffing, volunteer training and long-term sustainability.

What are we doing with the feedback?

- The existing Family Weekends will continue rather than being replaced by separate age-focused weekends.
- More activities throughout the year are already being developed, including day events and online opportunities.
- Provision for teenagers and young people will be reviewed following the November Family Weekend.
- Quiet corners will be provided in activity rooms, with the library available as a calm space with activities such as jigsaws and colouring during free time.
- The team will explore training for leaders and volunteers around diversity and inclusion, and review whether additional or paid staffing is needed. Volunteer availability will also be reviewed, including whether a crèche could be offered.

Thank you to everyone who contributed. Your feedback has helped us identify both what should be protected about Family Weekends and practical changes we can make. The consultation is therefore being used to shape future planning and provision, rather than simply gathering views.

Upcoming Events

9 th October	<u>A Space Apart - Purley Chase</u>
30 th October	<u>November Family Weekend - Purley Chase</u>
14 th November	<u>Voyage of Discovery - Wellspring House</u>
12 th December	<u>Angels – Discovering the gifts they bring - Wellspring House</u>
19-21 st February	<u>18 plus Weekend – Purley Chase</u>
19-21 st March	<u>The Still Centre - Purley Chase</u>
14-16 th May	<u>Dancing the Tree of Life</u>

Full details	<u>www.generalconference.org.uk/new-church-events</u>
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