DNC – November 2026

DERBY SOCIETY of the NEW CHURCH NEWSLETTER



Hello again.
I can hardly believe we are now into November. I trust the high winds of late have
not left you with damage to your property or to yourselves.

During our last church service, we were treated to a beautiful dedication of shoeboxes destined for Eastern Europe, with the intention of connecting with people who have very little by filling a shoebox with small gifts for Christmas. A tangible way of showing love for our neighbours.

Liz connected these gifts to stories of gifts in the Bible, including that of Kane and Abel, and the gifts of the Magi. Prayers around the shoeboxes linked the stories in a touching way. There were 26 boxes in all, many of which were donated by the Yew Tree Women's Institute. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and money in putting together these gifts.





Lord god our Heavenly Father, help us to love our neighbours as ourselves.
Fill our hearts with kindness, patience and compassion so that we may live in unity.
Amen

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment
greater than these."
Mark: chapter 12 v 31.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and your neighbour as yourself:"
Luke: chapter 10 v 27

Growing Up in a War Zone

Our Lord grew up in Nazareth in the Roman province of Galilee which was a notoriously rebellious part of the Roman Empire. We know that he healed the centurion's servant and was condemned to death by the Roman governor of a minor province. So it is a miracle that our Lord gave a ministry which still transforms lives.



My childhood from the age of 4 to 10 was spent in the shadow of the 2nd World War. My father was away in the RAF. 'Daddy' was someone I wrote letters to as a child in Chester; I watched German planes fly overhead to bomb Liverpool. I tremble to think of the bombing of the children of Ukraine, Gaza and Iran. The influence of hell is running riot in the world.

I'm sure that our Lord is working to influence the political leaders of our day. I thank him that large sections of the world are not under the influence of war.

May these sections grow and increase.

By Geoffrey

Borrowed Life

Swedenborg has helped me think differently about the things I call “mine.” My life. My love. My patience. My compassion. My capacity for joy. I wonder whether any of them are really mine at all.

So, my morning prayer has changed. Rather than asking to be more loving or more even-minded, I find myself asking to receive or ‘borrow’ these things for the day ahead.

Lord, may I borrow Your even-mindedness today?
May I borrow Your compassion?
May I borrow Your joy?
May I borrow Your love?

The word ‘*borrow’* helps me. It reminds me that these qualities don’t originate in me. I may receive them, live from them and, on a good day, let a little of them reach someone else. But I cannot claim to own them.

Swedenborg says this again and again. In *Divine Love and Wisdom* §4, he states plainly that God alone is life itself, while angels and people are recipients of life. I have known that teaching for years. But knowing something and beginning to experience it are different things.

If love is borrowed, I should live from it. If compassion is borrowed, I should use it. If joy is borrowed, I should notice it. And if life itself is borrowed, perhaps I should pay rather more attention to it.

We usually hear "living on borrowed time" as something ominous. But perhaps we all live on borrowed time every day, not because death is close, but because this moment was never something we made, earned or possessed. The morning light. Another breath. The person opposite us. A cup of tea. All of it is given. There is humility in that thought, and a great deal of gratitude.

Each morning, I remember, and I ask. And then, inevitably, I forget. I become absorbed in the business of living. I react rather than respond. I grow impatient or anxious or fall into that curious sleep in which we are perfectly awake yet barely conscious of the life flowing through us.

Then, occasionally, I remember. Perhaps that moment of remembering is itself a gift.

The Lord does not hand us a supply of life to carry about independently. The dependence is continuous: life, love and wisdom flow constantly from their Source. What changes is our willingness to receive them. Nothing needs to be handed back at night. These were never possessions, only life I was permitted, however imperfectly, to receive.

Perhaps that repeated movement (remembering, receiving, forgetting, remembering again) is a spiritual practice in its own right. Nothing possessed. Everything received. Swedenborg's life-receiver is not just something to understand, but something to become conscious of being.



And tomorrow morning, Christ willing, I shall try to remember again.

By an anonymous contributor

"Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful for beauty is God's handwriting."

"Those who do not remember the past are doomed to repeat it"
George Santsnya



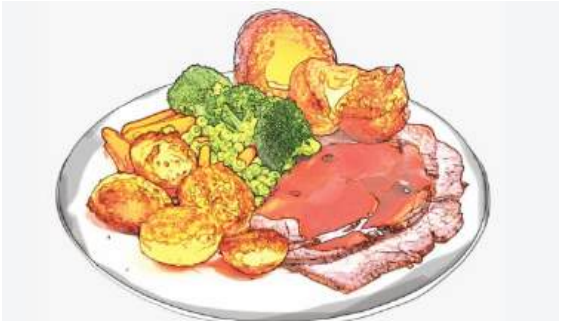
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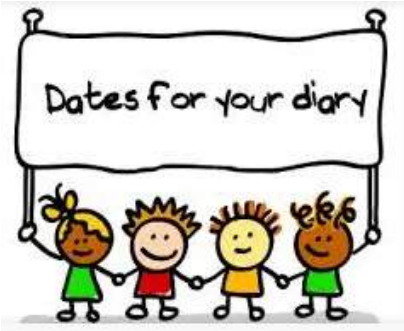


Thank you to everyone who contributes to our newsletters and services. All support is very much appreciated.

Notices:

All are warmly invited to a Christmas lunch gathering at Penny and Philip's home in Melbourne after the service on 13th December. It will be a traditional Sunday roast lunch or vegetarian alternative. The table will seat up to 18, and can be increased to a max of 26 if necessary, so we hope there will be room for all who would like to join us. The invitation is for the congregation and service leaders over the last few years, including partners. No charge. If you'd like to come, please let us know, including any food intolerances, by email at heath4345@gmail.com, or call us on 07511 811570 or 07966 287206, or at a November service.





November

8th - Remembrance Service - led by Nigel.
Coffee – Jane and Chris
10th November - Friendship lunch at 59 Hollowood Avenue at 12.30 pm

22nd – Service led by David Gaffney, including Sacrament
Coffee - Chris and Nigel
Flowers - Penny

December
13th - Nativity Service – Chris and Nigel
Flowers - all people who are able to help.

Let us know if there is anything you would like to share in the next issue. ☺
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