

The Lighthouse



June/July 2015

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Joint Worship	Neville Jarvis	8555 9116
Service Organisers:	Karl Robinson	9725 1891

Secretary:	Kim Bentley	9885 6932
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Treasurer:	Karl Robinson	9725 1891
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Ballarat and	Len and Judy	5331 5638
District Circle	Robinson	
Leaders:		

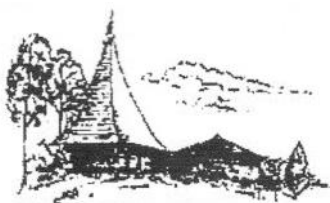
Books by Emanuel Swedenborg and about the spiritual teachings he wrote, together with associated CDs & DVDs, are available for purchase and free borrowing at Mt. Waverley and in Ballarat. Please contact Neville Jarvis or Judy Robinson for details.

If you are in need of pastoral assistance or hear of anyone who is, please contact Marika Sivak by phone on (03) 9806 0059

Website: www.melbournenewchurch.com or www.newchurch.net.au

THE NEW CHURCH IN VICTORIA

426 - 434 High Street Road, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149



Newsletter

June/July 2015

The New Church is a Christian-based approach to spiritual growth, personal responsibility and choice, focusing on the Lord Jesus Christ as God, on the spiritual understanding of the Bible, on human immortality and free will, and on the life of true religion being one of mutual love and useful living.



*Then the seventh angel sounded:
And there were loud voices in
heaven, saying "The kingdoms of
this world have become the kingdoms
of our Lord and of his Christ, and
he shall reign for ever and ever!"*

Revelation 11:15

After this work was finished, the Lord called together the twelve disciples who followed him in the world. The next day he sent all of them out to the entire spiritual world to preach the gospel that the Lord God Jesus Christ reigns and that his kingdom will last for ages of ages, as foretold by Daniel (Daniel 7:13, 14) and by the Book of Revelation (Revelation 11:15). This occurred on June 19, 1770. True Christian Religion 791

New Church Day

This month we celebrate New Church Day. We thank the Lord for what we know to be true from the Book of Revelation, Chapter 21: 1,2:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the former heaven and the former earth were passed away; and the sea is no more. And I, John, saw the holy city New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."



Whatever truly makes the New Church is, and can only be, the Lord's. The New Church is the Lord's because it is His kingdom on earth. The New Church that comes down from Him out of heaven is therefore whole and perfect. In this sense we need have no fear regarding the future of the New Church.

On New Church Day we also thank the Lord for the privilege we have of being able to serve Him in an organised church which endeavours to be a part of His New Church. In this sense we do need to be concerned for the future and it is here that our responsibility begins. Our Church teachings tell us that everyone receives exactly the same life from the Lord. What makes the difference is how we receive it and this depends on the spiritual states which the Lord has been able to cultivate within us. So it is with His New Church. The state of the New Church varies with each person according to how they have chosen to and been able to receive it into their minds. This applies to people individually and for those societies of people who come together in New Church organisations and churches. As we work on our regeneration in our daily lives, shunning evils as sins and learning new truths from the Word to live, the Lord can open our spiritual mind. This means we will be able to receive His New Church into our minds and lives in deeper and fuller ways. In turn we will be able to love and serve Him and His New Church more and more effectively. This is true church growth and it needs to be the starting place and the inner life of our need to engage in spreading a knowledge of New Church teaching.

Our individual and society church life is very important. Our worship, going to the Word, reflection and prayer should be the best we can make them. This being not primarily for what we get from the church but so that we can express our love to the Lord and to the neighbour in the greatest use of living in the light and life of His New Church. With the New Church quality counts; that is quality of life and quality of teaching.

It always must do because ultimately only the best we can offer is good enough for the Lord and His New Church.

The name of church is given where the Lord is acknowledged and where the Word is known. For the essential elements of the church are love and faith directed to the Lord and coming from the Lord; and the Word teaches how a person must live, in order to receive love and faith from the Lord. (New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine 242)

For a church to exist, there must be teaching from the Word, since the Word is not intelligible without teaching. But it is not teaching alone that makes the church in the case of a person, but living in accordance with that teaching. (New Jerusalem and its Heavenly Doctrine 243)

Rev. Alan Lewin of the New Church in Great Britain

Reflections on the Word

“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.”

Psalms 27: 14

To wait on the Lord is patiently to trust Him. To be of good courage is to walk fearlessly with Him. To be strengthened in heart is to feel His loving care. These are the things that make all the difference. They are qualities that can be ours too, for God's gifts are for us all. But even God does not give us things when we refuse to receive them. His part is to give, ours to receive. In order to receive, we must seek His face, and listen to His word, and thus wait patiently for Him.

Prayer: Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of my enemies.

*What we are is God's gift to us; What we become is our gift to God
~ Eleanor Powell*

Remembering Chris

~ a Tribute from Rev. Ian Arnold

There is something very special about a person who laughs readily and heartily, for whom humour and a joke comes so easily and who, along with this, has his feet firmly planted on the ground and doesn't take himself too seriously. As I saw him to be, this was Chris. And he had other endearing and admirable qualities as well, such as his love for Margaret and his family, his deep and unswerving commitment to the New Church, his clear cut, obvious integrity, his friendliness and his empathy.

It's not manners that make a person, as the old adage has it, it is qualities. And whether as friends along the way, people to whom he ministered or the Church in a more general sense, we were blessed by the Lord through Chris embodying as he did these qualities identified.

I first met Chris in 1961 in his home town of Brightlingsea in Essex in the UK. He was one of a fine group of other young people associated with The New Church there all of whom, remarkably, have had a life long association with it.

An appointment greeted at the time with a mixture of surprise, some slight consternation, but overall welcome, at just 21 Chris was elected Secretary of the Brightlingsea Society of the New Church. And via that appointment and him representing Brightlingsea at annual meetings of The General Conference, Chris emerged onto the national scene of the New Church in the UK.

It was in fact at the annual meeting of the Conference in England, in 1967, held in Haslingden in Lancashire, that – and out for a walk with him one late afternoon there – Chris talked with me of his thoughts about becoming an ordained Minister. Along with his diffidence, and for different reasons, the timing wasn't right for him to proceed to training at that point. But the call was there; it had been heard; and it was to be answered many years later.

We can, I'm sure, all imagine the feelings of New Church people in Brightlingsea, especially, when in 1970 Chris migrated to Melbourne to follow through with marriage to his soul mate Margaret. There was happiness for him but sadness as well at losing this outstandingly committed and fine young member. Overall, however, the New Church didn't "lose" Chris because once in Melbourne he quickly and whole heartedly became involved with the Melbourne Society. Members, ever growing in appreciation of his qualities, Chris was chosen to be the Lay Leader of the Society in 1992. In 1997 both circumstances and opportunity opened up for him to commence training for Ministry and in January 2001 he was ordained, thereafter serving the New Church in Victoria as Pastor.



Chris loved people, just as we loved him. He was a “natural” people person, at ease in everyone’s company, ever solicitous and ready to respond whenever called upon or where he saw he might be of help. He was a keen evangelist and agitated throughout the years of his ministry as to how best to reach people of the “outside” world; keen for the Church to modernise; ever urging it to use simplified language and concepts to get the message across. And he had the knack of getting alongside people – and representatives – of other faiths, comfortable with his own faith of course and somehow making others feel comfortable with theirs.

Already we are all just so aware of how much we miss Chris. But from where he now is, in the spiritual world, he can – and surely will – be a vehicle in the Lord’s hands for the strengthening and encouragement of we who remain as we continue to seek to build the Lord’s kingdom in our midst.

From the Church Committee

It is with a sense of deep sadness that The New Church in Victoria enters a new phase in its life following the passing of our beloved Minister, Pastor, friend and guide into the spiritual world on 23rd April 2015. After being diagnosed with liver cancer in late 2013, Rev Chris Skinner put up a valiant fight against this insidious disease. Our thoughts and prayers are now with Chris’s wife Margaret, daughters Suzanne & Tracey, and Suzanne’s family.

Following his appointment as Leader of our Society in 1992, Chris worked tirelessly in not only carrying through the worship and pastoral roles he accepted but also the many administrative duties he willingly took on. He was always more than generous with his time. This all continued after his ordination in 2001 and acceptance to become the Minister of The New Church in Victoria. Our Church has greatly benefitted from Chris’s leadership and caring nature but also from all the support and input from his dear wife, Margaret, which has been very much appreciated too. The affection and esteem in which Chris and his family are held was shown by the over 250 people from Victoria and further afield who filled the Church and foyer to overflowing for the Thanksgiving Service for Chris’s life.

The Committee recognises the difficulties being faced in carrying through the regular activities and management of the Church. However, while accepting the situation has changed considerably with the passing of Rev. Chris Skinner, it is determined to continue serving the Lord’s work as best it can. Already a structure has been put in place for the continuance of weekly Sunday services of worship and the pastoral care needs of members and friends. Some details of persons involved are given on the inside cover of this Newsletter. The Committee is grateful that Neville & Alexis Jarvis have agreed to prepare and distribute the Newsletter which is seen to be a very important part of the life of the Church. Please let Neville & Alexis know of anything you wish to have included in each issue.

Kim Bentley, Secretary

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

Gentle time will heal our sorrows. - Sophocles

Enjoy when you can and endure when you must. - Goethe

Whatever difficulties you have had in the past, you can make a fresh start today. - Buddha

However long the night, the dawn will break. - African proverb

Only tears can heal. - Oscar Wilde

Every goodbye is the birth of a memory. - Dutch proverb

Birthdays and Anniversaries



To all members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during June and July, we wish you a very happy and memorable celebration.

Particular congratulations go to Jordan Batchelor who achieves 21 years on 15th June and to Cameron Robinson celebrating his 30th birthday on 1st July.

***The New Church in Australia Family Camp
4th—10th January 2016, Vision Valley, Arcadia, Sydney***

Brochures are now available at the Church giving full details. Please pick one up if you would like to know more or contact Kim Bentley, Church Secretary, to have one sent.

Charges: Adults (18+) \$560; Students (14-17) \$550; Young People (9-13) \$490; Children (3-8) \$260 Pre-School (0-2) \$0; Twin Room \$620; Single Room \$675

News of People and Places

Mary Teed fell and broke her hip in late April requiring a long operation at the Royal Melbourne Hospital followed by rehabilitation in Brunswick. It is good to report that Mary is now home, progressing very well although having to still use crutches.

Margaret Parker has also had another stay in Bellbird Hospital, Blackburn to enable treatment for venous oedema of the lower legs. Thankfully Margaret is now back walking at Strathdon, where the staff are able to provide her with the care she needs.

We were without the organ on Sunday 17th May with recorded music being used for that service. This was due to Graeme Scoble having an overnight stay in hospital and continuing treatment as an outpatient with fluid on an elbow. Strong antibiotics have contributed to the healing process so Graham expects to be back playing shortly.

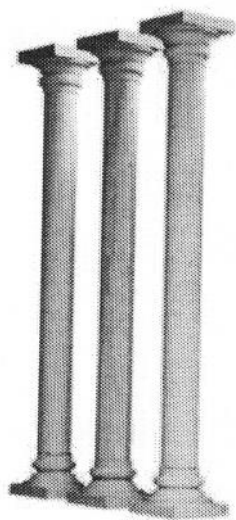
We were delighted to welcome Clifford and Linda Phanjoo from Mauritius, visiting daughters Jennifer and Christelle, to the service on 3rd May conducted by Rev Ian Arnold and incorporating the Sacrament of the Holy Supper. We greatly appreciated Ian taking this service and also making two hospital visits.

The service on 21st June will be the last to be held by the Brisbane New Church at its building in Rosalie, which was erected by the Society and opened in August 1961, just two years before our building in Mt.

Waverley. From July onwards, services will be held at the Chapel of the Trinity Uniting Church Theological College, Auchenflower (just 10 minutes away by car). The Chapel is being rented while the Society searches for appropriate premises to purchase. We wish the members and friends of the Brisbane New Church well in their new circumstances.

Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley

	Flowers	Greeters
June		
7th	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis
14th	Mr G Scoble	Mr G Fox
21st	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
28th	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
July		
5th	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann
12th	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr K Bentley
19th	Mr G Scoble	Mr G Fox
26th	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis



THE PILLARS OF NEW CHURCH BELIEFS

Continuing a series on our beliefs in plain English by
Rev. Julian Duckworth (Sydney).

This time we'll take a look at what's called INFLUX.

This teaching called influx is one of the really big ones and it runs through all the beliefs of the New Church.

Don't be put off by the word influx. Think of it as something FLOWING IN, a bit like water through pipes into your tap. Every time you turn your tap on, you draw on a bit more water that's coming through pipes all the way from the reservoir.

It's all about being on the receiving end of things. But for us, it's about receiving life from God, all the time. We're not self-perpetuating - God's life is keeping us being in existence every nanosecond. In fact that's happening with everything. God flows in and keeps it all there.

Of course we don't feel that. We feel we are in charge of ourselves and free to do what we like! That's how God wants it to feel to us so that we seem to be free agents rather than puppets on a string.

God's inflowing life means that he - God - is always in control and managing the way things go. It brings God very close to us, so close that he is in everything in us. So, if we make bad choices, God knows that and adapts accordingly. We can't say what God does, but, through influx, he might close off something in our mind and open something else so that it's safer for us in the long run.

God's long-term aim is to help us choose the things that make heaven, and choose them because we want that kind of life. So, God's influx into everything creates a lot of things to help us do just that – a beautiful world, sex and attraction, love, family life, sleep and dreams, friendships, abilities, everybody's different, sudden rushes of inspiration, and so much more. We think so much of it is our doing, we need to get it that it's God and we're on the receiving end of it all.

Diary of Events for the Months of May (remainder), June and July 2015

Mt. Waverley (*All services commence at 10.30am unless advised*)

May

29th **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm.

Speaker: Joe Vandermeer (Sydney)

Topic: *Spiritual decluttering— how to stay focussed, make sense of what we encounter, and avoid common mistakes.*

31st **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

June

7th **Musical Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

11th **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

14th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson

19th **New Church Day**

21st **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis ~ New Church Day

25th **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

26th **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm.

Speaker: Julian Duckworth (Sydney). Topic: *The Law of Affinity*

28th **Service of Worship** led by Rev Julian Duckworth ~ including the Sacrament of the Holy Supper.

July

5th **Musical Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

9th **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

12th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson

19th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis

23rd **Coffee, Chat & Craft Group** at 10am in Church Hall

26th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson

31st **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm.

Speaker: Paul Kiritis (Melbourne-born transpersonal psychologist now living in USA).

Topic: *Cognitive Dreams and the Collective Unconscious*

Ballarat and District Circle

A Worship Service/Discussion Group is held on the last Sunday in the month commencing 3.30pm at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Len & Judy Robinson, 318 Fussell Street, Ballarat. Telephone 0353315638 for more information.

