

The Lighthouse



October / November 2015

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Church Office: 9888 2850

While generally unattended, messages can be left which are regularly checked and responded to.

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

Secretary: Kim Bentley 9885 6932

Treasurer: Karl Robinson 9725 1891

Ballarat and District Len and Judy 5331 5638
Circle Leaders: Robinson

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

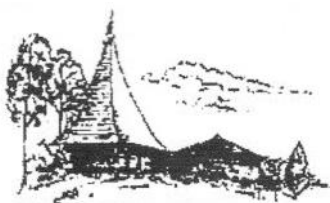
If you are in need of pastoral assistance or hear of anyone who is, please contact Marika Sivak by phone on (03) 9806 0059

You are welcome to submit items for this Newsletter. They should be sent to Neville & Alexis Jarvis, 15A Parkside St., Beaumaris, 3193 or emailed to anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au by the 15th of the month prior to the next bi-monthly issue.

**Websites: www.newchurch.net.au/locations/melbourne
 www.newchurch.net.au/locations/ballarat**

THE NEW CHURCH IN VICTORIA

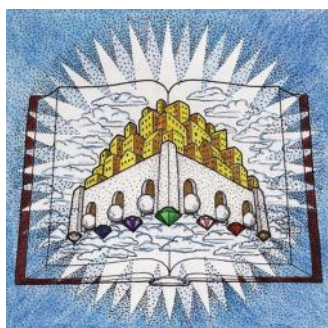
426 - 434 High Street Road, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149



Newsletter

October/November 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.



“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:3-4

All spiritual eras depend on the recognition and acknowledgment of the one only God, with whom the individual in that era is able to form a partnership God's divine love had no other purpose in creating the world than to unite humankind to himself, unite himself to humankind, and live with us in a partnership like this. (True Christian Religion 786)

Being a Short Term Pessimist and a Long Term Optimist

It is years now – no, it has to be decades – since I heard one of my then senior colleagues in the ministry of the New Church describe himself as “*a short term pessimist and a long term optimist*”. Intrigued by what he meant, and asking him about it, I have never forgotten it. In fact I have come to “own” the statement as true of myself and have both shared it with – and urged it on – others.

My colleague, to whom I am referring, was speaking at the time about the state of the world with regards to which he was emphatically, he said, “*a short term pessimist and a long term optimist*”. And the reason I have myself taken it on board is because like him I have come to believe that this is a position validated from countless statements and teachings in the Heavenly Doctrines, or Writings of the New Church.

Few things are more certain or more widely affirmed than that at the present time the world, and humanity, is going through tremendous change. For me personally, and being just one example, advances in technology and gadgetry make of education and a modern school almost unrecognisable to what, as a boy, I remember it being. But rapid and profound change is across the board, embracing attitudes, sensitivities, access to travel, job opportunities, communication and all the rest.

What is far less understood and appreciated is that the changes taking place are not just the outcome of social evolution. They are in fact the outcome of profound changes and shifts on the spiritual plane of life.

New Church Teaching has it that we are living through the end of one spiritual Age and the ushering in of another. It is not the first experience of this that the human race has gone through over its history and existence. The previous such time came about with the advent of the Christian era. Then, too, so many mindsets, practices, and behaviours were challenged and relinquished, even beyond our being able to quantify today. And the same is happening now. New light, new awarenesses, new understandings and new appreciations have been - and continue to be sweeping in from the spiritual world, setting change in motion. The abolition of slavery and of child labour (both of which are not yet universal) are cases in point. And look at the way attitudes have changed with regard to the sexual exploitation of children. Metaphorically, of course, but I nearly fell out of my chair when I read that as recently as the 1970's, and in Britain, representatives of a paedophile-rights Group (the “Paedophile Information Exchange”) were sought out to give interviews to the media and invited to appear at University Conferences! (See “The Economist”, August 8th to 14th, 2015, and an article published in it, “See No Evil”).



For a new Age to become established the debris of the previous Age has to be cleared away, and the word that is used for this in the Writings of our Church is “vastation”. For one thing it means that things hidden need to come to the surface to be seen – and judged – for what they are. There is considerable pain that arises in connection with this and many people suffer. But it has to be this way. To this day and in some parts of the world, slavery, racism and the ownership of women by men continue to be stoutly argued for and defended. No wonder, then, that change is painstakingly slow and over generations. Hence, *short term pessimism*, as we live through upheaval, conflicting ideas, fiercely argued and defensive mindsets and as unimaginable evils come to the surface and are carried out. But long term it is different.

I love it where in his book, “*True Christian Religion*”, Swedenborg was given to write of successive spiritual Ages over the course of the history of humanity on this earth, from the outset (see para. 786). It was the way the Lord always knew it would be. As with each individual, the human race has gone through – and is going through – ages and stages towards its adulthood and towards a living, insightful, believable and mature relationship with Him. And we are, today, moving on towards that. It is the promise of the New Jerusalem come down to earth (Revelation Chapters 21 and 22). And these successive Ages haven’t just happened of themselves. The Lord has been and is ever at work behind the scenes making sure the ground work is in place, all the time protecting our freewill or freedom to choose so as not to feel anything imposed on us.

The Christmas event, His incarnation, was just one of those interventions into the situation, its real – and utterly vital – purpose mostly hidden from people. And, as touched on earlier, it opened the way for a new Age to sweep in thereafter. So too, the Last Judgement and the revelation of the internal or spiritual meaning of the bible in the 1700’s was another, paving the way for the new Age dimly dawning in our day.

It is on the basis of these realities that my colleague spoke of himself as “*a short term pessimist and a long term optimist*”. And, once thought about, I became one, too. We can use that freewill we have to undo and destroy it all, (of this there can be no doubt) but as the Lord would have it be the future for humankind is full of light and brightness, of deeper and more meaningful connection with Him and of living in far more real trust, care and compassion with each other, being spiritually motivated in doing so.

May His Peace and Blessing be with you at all times.

Jan Arnold (now retired New Church Minister living in Brisbane)

Reflections on the Word

Preparing for Advent

“That was the true Light which gives light to every man who comes into the world.”

John 1:9

This verse refers to Jesus, the Light of life. Without light we could not see anything in the world about us. Similarly, without spiritual light, the eyes of the mind cannot see anything in the spiritual sphere.

Jesus is the true light; from Him comes all the light of our understandings. The more we love Him, the more light we have, for all light arises from love. Even in the natural world, the more we love it, the more beauty we see. Jesus has told us that they who follow Him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Prayer: *O Lord, You are my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? You are the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?*

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NCIA Conference

The NCIA is planning to hold an Assembly in Canberra on Friday 6 May 2016 to Saturday 7 May 2016.

The Agenda is still being worked on but in the main discussions will centre around future directions for the New Church in Australia. If you would like more information about this Assembly, please contact The New Church in Victoria Secretary (see page 2).

*A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity;
An optimist sees the
“Opportunity”
in every difficulty.*

Winston Churchill

Meeting of Members - Sunday 15th November

Following the service on Sunday morning, 15th November, there will be a meeting of New Church in Victoria members. Church friends are invited to attend and be involved in discussions. During October, members will receive the meeting Notice and more information about agenda items. Essentially the Agenda will include:

- ◇ Welcoming Norma Whelan and John Cook into membership of The New Church in Victoria;
- ◇ Future directions for the Society;
- ◇ Consideration of a revised Constitution for the Society.

This will be an important meeting and the Committee trusts that members will be prepared to attend.

Please note the date in your diaries now.

Christmas is coming

For your calendar, arrangements for Sundays in December and January.

Particularly note that we will be most fortunate on Christmas morning to have the service conducted by Rev. David Moffat from Canberra.



6th **Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis with an emphasis on Advent

13th **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson ~ *Toy service*. Please bring a toy for a charity to distribute.

20th **Service of Lessons and Carols** led by Neville Jarvis.
A special morning tea will follow.

25th **Christmas Day Service** led by **Rev. David Moffat** ~ 9.30am.

No services on 27th December

3rd January. **Service of Worship for New Year** led by Karl Robinson

No services on 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st January



***A smooth sea never makes a
skilful sailor***

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

Being here and now, with life simply as it is, is the paradise we have been seeking. - The Happy Buddha

Life satisfaction is determined less by material acquisition and more by a sense of meaning, purpose, personal growth, healthy relationships and self-acceptance. - Richard Gilpin

If you find yourself judging and blaming others for how you feel, stop.
- Maria Arpa

There is no danger of developing eyestrain from looking on the bright side of things. - Church sign

Let go of a past you cannot change. - Dave Pelzer

When all else fails, hug your teddy. - bumper sticker

Birthdays and Anniversaries

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



In particular, two special celebrations will take place in October:

70th birthdays for Margaret Skinner (4th) and Neville Jarvis (28th)



*How foolish is the pessimist, despondent and forlorn,
who always when he gets a rose goes hunting for the thorn.
The optimist has better sense; the charm of life he knows.*

*He doesn't mind a scratch or two if he can get the rose.
So don't be a pessimist, bogged down with discontent;
the optimist has heaps of fun that doesn't cost a cent.*

News of People

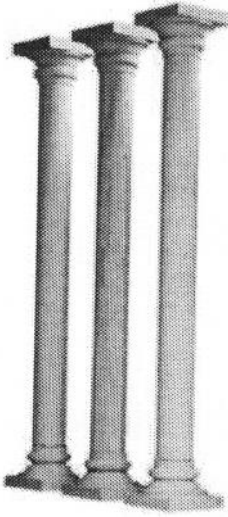
Following a broken hip in late April, Mary Teed is now able to get around without any walking aids, helped greatly with continuing physio. Currently Rev. John and Mary are in UK visiting family and holidaying. Eva Teed had a hospital visit in August to have a melanoma on her leg removed. There have been continuing skin issues also but these have now been cleared. It has been really nice to see Eva back for morning services quite regularly now as it has been with Margaret Parker, after a forced break due to ongoing health problems. Not surprisingly, in the long cold winter Melbourne has experienced, a number of members and friends have succumbed to bad coughs and colds. The onset of warmer weather has seen these begin to pass.

Two couples will be heading out of Melbourne during late September and in October. First, Alexis & Neville Jarvis will be flying to Perth to join a 10-day coach tour of South West WA particularly to see the wildflowers. Over the weekend following the tour, they hope to join the members and friends of the New Church Society in Perth for their service. Later in October, Rose & Karl Robinson will be away for about two weeks enjoying time in the Murray Valley. Good wishes are extended to both couples for a wonderful time.

For those who attend Mt. Waverley regularly, it is hoped you have noticed all the garden improvements and pruning which Klaus Drevermann and John Cook have been attending to. Many thanks to you both for this; it compliments the new ramp from the car park into the Church.

Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley

	Flowers	Greeters
October		
4th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
11th	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr K Bentley
18th	Mr G Scoble	Mr G Fox
25th	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
November		
1st	Mrs A Jarvis	Mr J Cook
8th	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann
15th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
22nd	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis	Mr & Mrs N Jarvis
29th	Mr G Scoble	Mr G Fox



THE PILLARS OF NEW CHURCH BELIEFS

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

This time we'll think about HOLINESS.

The word *holy* is closely linked to two other good words – heal and whole. Some churches offer healing services to help people become whole. Today, most people know that a holistic approach to life means looking at everything together, mind, body and spirit.

This is very different from the popular idea of holy as something set apart or revered. A church building can be seen as a holy place – or place of holiness – because people get help from its quietness, or feel its

atmosphere or the beauty and awe of its décor. It is not of the world.

So while we might need and value such helps and reminders, we shouldn't limit holiness to them. There is personal holiness in many people's lives when they live sincerely, act authentically, carefully manage the way they respond to the people they are with and choose to join in things or not join in as they see fit.

People like this set their personal standards very high but they aren't walking around in white robes. You might not notice any difference about them to anyone else, but when you get to know someone like this fairly well, you begin to sense there is something special about them.

So try and see holiness more completely rather than compartmentally. It all comes from God and this is the ground of everything holy. See it in ordinary things like a box of matches or a toothpick – yes it's there. See it in astounding things like the motionless hovering of a hawk and its sudden plunge. But most of all see it in humanity and the endeavours of those who wish good to all others.

Wherever you see it, God is being received in holy ground.

We are all judged after death according to our deeds. It is not that these deeds are tallied up but that we return to them and behave in the same way. Death is a continuation of life. (Divine Providence 277)

**Diary of Events for the Months of
September (remainder), October and November 2015**

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

September

- 20th **Favourite Hymn Service** led by Mr Neville Jarvis.
25th **Swedenborg Association Group**: Speaker: **Rev. David Millar**
26th **Saturday Half-day Seminar** with **Rev. David Millar**
27th **Service of Worship** led by Rev. David Millar including the
administration of the Holy Supper.

October

- 4th **Musical Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson
11th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson
18th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis
25th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis
30th **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm
Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Lorraine Parkinson** (retired Uniting Church
Minister, author and presenter).
Topic: *What has Christianity done to Jesus?*

November

- 1st **Musical Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis
8th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson
15th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson, including
Membership Introduction.
A meeting of Society members will follow (*see page 6 for details*)
22nd **Service of Worship** led by Mr Neville Jarvis
27th **Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm
Details to be finalised.
29th **Service of Worship** led by Mr Karl Robinson

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.

