

# *The Lighthouse*



*February / March 2016*

## CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

Registered Office: PO Box 2224, Mt. Waverley 3149

Telephone: 03 9888 2850

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

<b>Joint Worship Service Organisers:</b>	<b>Neville Jarvis Karl Robinson</b>	<b>8555 9116 9725 1891</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Sophy Athan</b>	<b>9756 6117 sophy_euroforcemusic @bigpond.com</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Karl Robinson</b>	<b>9725 1891</b>
<b>Ballarat and District Circle Leaders:</b>	<b>Len and Judy Robinson</b>	<b>5331 5638</b>

**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

## *Activity Locations*

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

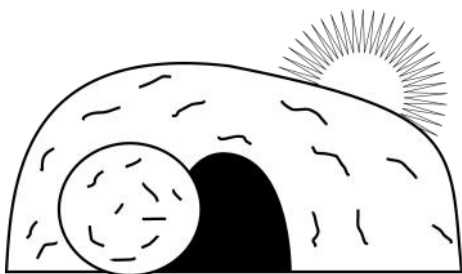
*and*

*318 Fussell Street, Ballarat, 3350*

## *Newsletter*

### *February / March 2016*

*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.*



Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you

weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."

(John 20: 11-13)

*The Lord was conceived from Jehovah . . . And therefore He could glorify the whole body, so that even that part of the body, which is set aside by those who are born of human parents, and putrifies, in Him was glorified and made Divine from the Divine in Himself; and with this He rose, leaving nothing in the sepulchre, differently to any human person.*

(Swedenborg: Last Judgement Posthumous 129)

## *'Lent'* by Rev Norman Ryder

originally printed in *Lifeline*, a publication of the New Church in Britain (March 2015)

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The word is linked to a very old English word which means 'Spring time', and traditionally it was the occasion for spring cleaning your house – for sorting out your belongings, throwing away stuff no longer usable, and cleaning rooms from top to bottom. The result (if you do it) is that everything inside is fresh to match the new growth outside.

As a Christian festival, Lent is a time for us to spring clean our souls. It's a time to take stock of what we LOVE to do, what we BELIEVE to be true, and what we actually DO to and for other people.

Days and years speed along more and more quickly, and we tend to let our Christianity go off the boil. Lent is a time for putting this right. Lent also marks the approach of EASTER, so it reminds us to make a serious effort to remember what Jesus suffered during the last 6 weeks of His life on earth, symbolized by the 40 days and nights which He spent in the wilderness without food and being tempted to act from selfish motives - read the record in Matthew 4:1-11.

Why did Jesus choose to let Himself be tempted like this? It was so that the power of His Divine Love could be seen and felt and known. The power of Jesus' love for mankind brought Him (safely and successfully) through all the temptation-attacks which the devils of hell could make on Him.

At Easter, His resurrection showed that His love had made Him GOD ALL THROUGH so that death was not the end of Him, and never will be. The 40 days of Lent will be of no use to us unless we remember how much God loves us - all of us - each of us.

Suppose that while we are spring cleaning our souls we realise that we have developed habits of being selfish, or of not telling the truth as much as we can, or of putting our own interests before anyone else's. OK, we are all tempted to do such things just as Jesus was tempted to look after His own needs, to save Himself from harm, and to act as if He were an earthly dictator. But He will use the power of His love to overcome these

inclinations in all of us - IF WE LET HIM DO SO.

But why does He risk us giving in to temptation when it ambushes us? Simply, so that we can grasp the essential truth, that without God's love we can find and experience and enjoy no real happiness in our lives.

During Lent this year (Wednesday February 10th to Thursday 24th March 2016), let's be determined to make time to think about God's love for us. Remember that His love never stopped in spite of what people did to Him during His earthly life as Jesus, and it never ceases now, in spite of our preoccupation with living in this busy world. In the words of a well-loved hymn, "Take time to be holy." The result is that we'll be readier than ever before to praise our Lord God Jesus Christ at Easter when we celebrate His conquest of evil for ever.

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## *The Path: The Inner Life of Jesus Christ*

The Gospels tell us something about the major events in Jesus' life, especially during the last 3 years of his life, and his approach for living in true kindness towards others. They provide little indication what was going on in his heart and mind when with his disciples or dealing with the authorities of the time.



Our Church teachings provide us with the ability to understand something of this inner process which the majority of Christians would think is impossible to know. The twelve volume work by Emanuel Swedenborg, *Arcana Caelestia* or *Secrets of Heaven*, of which seven (two to eight) refer to the Genesis stories of Abram and Sarai, Isaac through to Joseph. Swedenborg explains in great detail how these stories are divinely-inspired accounts of the inner life of Jesus from birth to his resurrection. Symbolically they reveal the inner development, intense struggles and triumphs of Jesus as he developed and forged a path of love and wisdom for us to follow.

In the 260 pages of his book, *The Path*, Geoffrey Childs summarises Swedenborg's exposition into a thoughtful and moving study. While not a substitute for Swedenborg's work itself, it provides a very helpful overview and clearly shows how Jesus fought against and overcame evils that beset us all. We too can fight in his strength and enter into the joy of his victory by following his path. A useful read leading up to Easter.

Available for free borrowing or purchase. See page 2 for details.

# Reflections on the Word

From *Daily Reading from The Word* by Reg Lang

***Choose you this day who you will serve; . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.***  
(Joshua 24:15)

To be able to choose! This is something we all value. Yet, when we think of it, we see it makes us responsible: and it is easy to make a mistake. Joshua knew that he could not force the Israelites to follow this or that course. They, like us, had to choose to follow their own way, or the Lord's. But having made their choice, they alone were responsible. Nevertheless, Joshua gave them inspiration and an example . . . "As for me and my house," he said, "we will serve the Lord."

**Prayer: O Lord, one thing have I desired, that I will seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

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## ***Society Annual General Meeting***

This will be held after the service on Sunday 20th March commencing at 12 noon. It will provide an opportunity for members and friends to consider reports concerning the activities of the Church over the past twelve months and discuss plans for the immediate future.



Formal papers regarding the meeting, including nomination forms for Board membership, will be provided to members in due course. Full details of any item a member wishes to be placed on the Agenda for discussion must be forwarded to the Secretary, Sophy Athan, either by mail to the registered office or via email (see inside front cover for contact details) to arrive before 29th February 2016.

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***Everything seems impossible until it is done.*** - Nelson Mandela

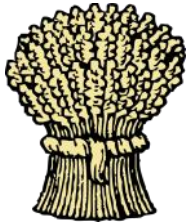
## ***Thinking About Harvest - First Fruits***

*When you come into the land that I give you and reap its harvest, you shall bring the sheaf of the first fruits of your harvest to the priest, and he shall wave the sheaf before the Lord, so that you may be accepted. Leviticus 23:10-11*

Bringing of 'first fruits' to the Lord included all these: the first fruits, the first grain, the first wine, the first shearing, the first oil and also firstborn animals – not as a sacrifice but simply in thankfulness for blessing. The first fruits offered were supposed to be the choicest and were meant to be fresh but for Israelites living far from Jerusalem dried figs and grapes were also acceptable. And it wasn't just one or two bunches of grapes or the odd fig that was involved. As the custom developed the 'first fruit' amounted to about one-fiftieth of the entire crop.

In Galatians 5 the apostle Paul says: *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

From these words we can perhaps see that our 'fruits' are the good and true things in our lives such as love and faithfulness that can grow and develop year after year. But these are not really our own as Jesus says:



*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

For the Israelites, the offerings of 'first fruits' were a thanksgiving for all the fruits of the earth and an acknowledgment that these came from God alone. And it was an affirmation that this was the most important thing or 'first' thing they should do with the fruits of harvest. And it can be the same, spiritually, for us.

The most important thing or 'first' thing we can do when reflecting on the good and true feelings and thoughts that come to fruition in our lives is to offer them in service to the Lord acknowledging they come from him alone and not from ourselves.

(an extract from a *Lifeline* magazine article - October 2014  
[www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk))

*A word of understanding  
Spoken in an hour of trial  
Is an unexpected miracle  
That makes life more  
worthwhile.*

*My mouth shall speak wisdom; the  
meditation of my heart shall be  
understanding (Psalm 49:3)*

Today speak words of compassion.  
You can help to soften the sorrow  
of a friend.

**Helen Steiner Rice**

## QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

*You cannot do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

*A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.* - Winston Churchill

*There is no cure for birth or death save to enjoy the interval.*

- Geo Santayana

*There are two ways of spreading light: To be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.* - Edith Wharton

*The essence of genius is to know what to overlook,* - William James

*The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time.*

- Abraham Lincoln



### Birthdays and Anniversaries

*To all members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during February and March 2016, we wish you a very happy and memorable celebration, particularly to Eduardo Santos who will be celebrating his 40th birthday on 15th March 2016.*

### **Visit of Rev. Ian Arnold from Brisbane**

We are delighted that the Rev. Ian Arnold will be with us for the last weekend in February. He will be giving a talk titled **Swedenborg, Africans and the anti-slavery movement** to the Swedenborg Group (all welcome) on Friday evening, 26th. On the Saturday, there will be opportunities for 'home' visits (please contact Neville Jarvis on 8559116 if you would wish to be included). Ian will lead the Sunday morning service at Mt. Waverley which will include the sacrament of the Holy Supper and the Baptism of Charles Francis, second son of Linda & Michael. In the afternoon, Ian will travel to Ballarat where he will give a talk to the Ballarat and District New Church Circle.



## News of People and Events

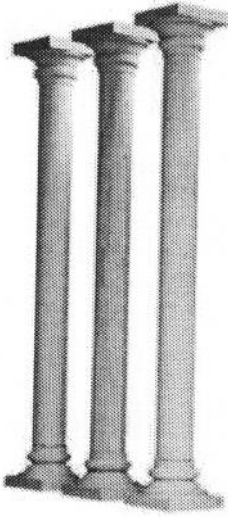
Christmas worship began with a musical service including advent songs and hymns played by Helmut Lopaczuk on the accordion. We appreciate Helmut's willingness to freely give of his time on one Sunday each month. The following Sunday was a Toy service ably led by Brian Robinson; all the toys brought to Church were given to the Salvation Army for distribution to children of less well-off families. Our Lessons and Carols service involved a number of congregation members including Rev. John Teed reading the final lesson from the first Chapter of John and then giving the blessing.

Christmas morning was a highlight with 35 present. We were privileged to have Rev. David Moffat from Canberra conduct the service, including the administration of the Holy Supper. It was also a delight to welcome David's wife Pam and their three adult children - Alycia, Alex & Ebony - as well other Church friends who attend less regularly.

It was delightful to have visitors from further afield with us during the Christmas/New Year period.- John Cook's granddaughter Jessica from Vancouver for several weeks and on Christmas day, his son Owen from Eastern Europe and Analia from Uruguay, a friend staying with the Robinson family .

### Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley

	Flowers	Greeters
<b>February 2016</b>		
7th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
14th	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann
21st	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr G Fox
28th	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
<b>March 2016</b>		
6th	Mrs N Whelan	Mr J Cook
13th	Mrs A Jarvis	Mr N Jarvis
20th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
25th	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann	Mr & Mrs K Drevermann
27th	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr G Fox
<b>April 2016</b>		
3rd	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
10th	Mrs N Whelan	Mr J Cook
17th	Mr & Mrs K Robinson	Mr & Mrs K Robinson
24th	Mrs A Jarvis	Mr 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 think about **TAKING RESPONSIBILITY**

This might seem a strange heading for a religious beliefs page, but it is something which runs right through all our church teachings - the point that ultimately we take responsibility and make our own choices and decisions.

Sometimes religion seems to come across as the need to get it right to be acceptable to God. There is something in that of course - we should try and do what we know is right, and God tells us the things that are right and true.

But the downside of that is that it can leave us wondering if we are ever good enough. It's as though we are striving to please someone else - in this case, God - rather like a school student trying hard to please his teacher.

God is not really that interested in how much good we try to achieve, he is only concerned that we genuinely prefer what is good to what is evil. He looks at our heart while we look on the outside at our record.

Taking responsibility, then, is something that God puts in your court. Rather than trying so hard to live up to some ideal you feel is the pass mark or which warrants a merit or distinction - we become responsible for what we choose to be and do.

We can and should take responsibility for the good we want to do, and set out to be of some use in this life, to others, to our community, and even to life itself.

And we should do the same thing with whatever bad we find we get caught up in, whatever that may be - usually they're thoughts - and take a stand and say something like 'I will decide what I will think about, not you!' And God will commend us for that.

## **Diary of Events for the Months of February and March 2016**

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

### **February**

- 7th **Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis  
14th **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson  
21st **Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis  
26th **Weekend Visit by Rev. Ian Arnold from Brisbane** (see page 8)  
**Swedenborg Association Group** at 8pm. Talk ~ *Swedenborg,  
Africans and the anti-slavery movement*  
28th **Service of Worship** led by **Rev. Ian Arnold** including the  
Baptism of Charles Michael Francis and the Sacrament of the  
Holy Supper

### **March**

- 6th **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson  
13th **Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis  
20th **Service of Worship celebrating Harvest** led by Judy Robinson,  
Ballarat. The Society Annual General Meeting will be held after  
the service commencing 12 noon (see page 6)  
25th **Good Friday Service** led by Karl Robinson **commencing at  
9.30am**  
27th **Easter Sunday Morning service** led by Neville Jarvis

### **Advance Notice:**

**Rev. Trevor Moffat** from Perth will be visiting **over the weekend of  
22nd - 24th April**. Included will be a **Talk** to the **Swedenborg  
Association Group** on 22nd and leading **Worship** on Sunday 24th  
including the administration of the Holy Supper.

### **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. Len & Mrs. Judy  
Robinson, 318 Fussell Street, Ballarat.  
Telephone 0353315638 for more information.

