

# *The Lighthouse*



*October / November 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>Helmut Lopaczuk</b>	<b>0409 184 643 letootensemble @gmail.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](mailto:anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au) by the 15th of the month prior to the next bi-monthly issue.*

**Websites: [www.newchurch.net.au/locations/melbourne](http://www.newchurch.net.au/locations/melbourne)  
[www.newchurch.net.au/locations/ballarat](http://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*

*October / November 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.*



“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are his. And he changes the times and the seasons; he removes kings and raises up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; he knows what is in the

darkness, and light dwells with him.”

(Daniel 2: 20 - 22)

*In the world, the process of being regenerated is represented by various things. For example, by the flowering of all things on earth in springtime and the ensuing stages of growth to the point of bearing fruit. Likewise, by the stages of development that every type of tree, bush, and flower goes through from the first to the last warm month.*

(Swedenborg: True Christianity paragraph 687<sup>2</sup>)

# *Do You Still Do It?*

~ by **Rev. Bruce Jarvis** of the New Church in Great Britain

---

Most years, stories are told in the media of how, in the good old days, spring was the time of the year to give the whole house a thorough “clean”. The accumulated dirt and dust would be eliminated as windows, walls and paintwork were washed down, carpets and rugs taken outside and banged, curtains washed and changed, cupboards and drawers cleaned, and much more beside. At the same time, the man of the house was expected to do some decorating.

Some of that way of life remains but few nowadays feel it necessary to



spring clean on the same scale. I don't need to explain the reasons – the changes in the way we run our homes, and in social patterns with women far more active in the workforce. Like most natural patterns of life, this old routine of spring-cleaning does have a spiritual counterpart. And, in this case,

there is no danger of it becoming obsolete. Actually, the natural cycles of life take their form from this inner dimension, not the other way round. That's a very important universal principle to remember, otherwise we have a topsy-turvy view of life. Life begins with our Creator, and flows out through several levels, coming to rest in the natural kingdom. So the daily pattern of day and night, and the annual seasonal cycle, are a reflection of what is going on within human nature and behaviour. For example, the daily change from light to darkness corresponds to the way we turn away from being in the light and warmth of our Maker's life to the dark and cold of human self-centredness.

Spring is clearly a time of renewal and fresh growth, coming out of a phase of apparently dormant activity. In our case, renewal and fresh growth can only emerge when we have willingly and deliberately undertaken a period of “spring cleaning”. Outwardly, it may appear to others that nothing much has been going on. But a genuine determination to take a long, hard look at our life, with a desire for change, will always bring benefits and blessings to ourself and to the people around us. It will be like that amazing rush of growth in the gardens and fields at this time of year.

Nowadays, people prefer not to think about sin, as though in some way there is a negative reflection upon them, or a judgmental criticism of their lifestyle. But, you know, sin is simply speaking about the way we men and women “miss the mark”. In other words, so often we live in such a way that we’re missing the whole point of life. Instead of being gentle and kindly, loving and forgiving, faithful and generous, we behave badly in so many ways. When we live that way, while we certainly make life difficult for others, it is we, ourselves, who are the greatest losers. We are damaging our own character, and the implications for us are serious if we allow “sinful” ways to become normal.

That is why it is so important for us to engage in periodic spiritual spring cleaning, when we evaluate what our priorities are, and assess the state of our relationships with our nearest and dearest – and with God! We can undertake this personal review at any time of the year, of course, not just in the spring. (Springtime simply reminds us. The start of a new year acts in a similar way.) If we are at all spiritually aware, we do this on a small scale as we go along. But we do need an occasional major self-examination. This is what Jesus Christ gave His life for, creating for us the freedom to grow strong in character if we want to. His resurrection from death means He is always available to help us and fill us with His Spirit during our major overhauls. How foolish and short-sighted we are if we neglect to take stock.

Have a lovely Spring!

## QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

*Contemplation is the highest form of activity.* - Aristotle

*When a man's willing and eager, God joins in.* - Aeschylus

*If you correct your mind, the rest of your life will fall into place.*  
- Lao-tzu

*Never underestimate your power to change yourself. Never overestimate your power to change others.* - H. Jackson Brown Jr

*What is now proved was once only imagined.* - William Blake

*One can resist the invasion of armies; one cannot resist the invasion of ideas.* - Victor Hugo

# Reflections on the Word

From *Daily Readings from The Word* by Reg Lang

**"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple."**

(Psalm 27:4)

Desires arise from what we love. If you love the Lord you will want to dwell in his house to behold his beauty: you will desire to inquire of his will, in His temple. If on the other hand, your first love is for yourself, your desires will be very different, they will then concern your own indulgences and interests. The temple of the Lord represents heaven, the church, and the Word. For in these the Lord dwells.

**Prayer: O Lord, let your beauty be on us; and establish the work of your hands upon us.**

- o O o -



*All members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during October & November 2016, are wished happy and memorable celebrations. In particular, 80th birthday greetings on 16th October to Barry Rabone and to Peter Teed who will reach 60 on 1st November.*

*Real repentance is examining oneself, recognising and acknowledging one's sins, appealing to the Lord and beginning a new life.*

(True Christianity 528)

# *Spiritual Living - The Golden Rule*

One of the fundamental moral principles found in nearly all religions is the concept of “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” – this is the ‘Golden Rule’. Examples of this approach to life can be found in many sacred scriptures:

## **Christianity**

*So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.*

Matthew 7:12

## **Confucianism**

*Do not do to others what you would not like yourself.*

*Then there will be no resentment against you, either in the family or in the state.*

Analects 15:23

## **Buddhism**

*Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.*

Udana-Varga 5:18

## **Hinduism**

*This is the sum of duty; do not do to others what you would not have them do unto you.* Mahabharata 5:1517

## **Islam**

*No one of you is a believer until he desires for his brother that which he desires for himself.* Sunnah

## **Judaism**

*What is hateful to you, do not do to your fellowman. This is the entire Law; all the rest is commentary.* Talmud, Shabbat 31a

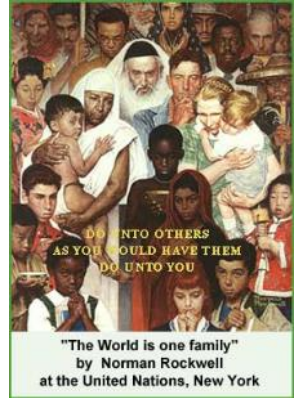
Accepting the Golden Rule as a principle for living adds a completely new dimension to the meaning of life. It emphasises that we should not act in our own interests regardless of others but rather see ourselves as part of a wider community in which we want to build a reciprocal relationship with others based on goodwill. And the fact that this ‘rule’ appears throughout world religious texts encourages us to see that it should be applied regardless of race, religion or culture.

The American poet Edwin Markham wrote:

*“We have committed the Golden Rule to memory; let us now commit it to life.”*

And this is where the difficulty arises. It is very easy to know we should apply this rule in daily living but another thing entirely to actually follow it in everything we do. Take a simple example like driving a car.

Imagine you are driving along an urban road in slow traffic desperate to make progress (an unfortunately common experience). You are about to pass a junction on your left from which several drivers are waiting to join your line of traffic. Do you (a) – ignore them completely and carry straight on regardless or do you (b) – waive to them to drive into line in front of you?



Now if we are honest with ourselves we probably adopt tactic (a) far more often than (b) because we see it as serving **our** purposes best – after all **we** want to get to where **we** are going! But the Golden Rule asks us to put ourselves in the other person’s position – what would we want to happen if we were waiting at the junction. The answer, of course, is very clear but how often do we act upon it? And where does failing to follow the Golden Rule in driving lead us to? Well ultimately it can lead to such problems as ‘road rage’ which can have terrifying implications for those involved.

As we can see from this example, what we need to do to follow the Golden Rule is often quite simple but actually obeying it can prove quite difficult. All spiritual living involves three steps:

### Step 1

Spiritual living starts in simply following some ‘ideal’ or ‘rule’ about how we should live, such as the Golden Rule. We look at the Golden Rule and see the sense that it is a good way to live – and then we try to obey it. In this way we get onto the first step in living spiritually according to the Golden Rule. This ‘first step’ is quite basic and ‘down to earth’ and has something of self-interest in it – after all we are “doing for others what we would wish them to do for us”. But we can move on away from this rather self-interested approach.

### Step 2

As we try harder and harder to follow this ‘first step’ and obey the ‘rule’ in all aspects of our lives we begin to appreciate the good this leads to for others. We are then ready to move on upwards to the ‘second step’ – we begin to follow the ‘rule’ not because we feel we have to obey it or because we see the value for ourselves but because we see the truth that it is a wise way to live. Following it has become easier because it is now part of the way we think about life and how it should be lived. We have replaced basic obedience with a developing wisdom.

### Step 3

But there is a ‘third step’ in our spiritual growth – the step where love takes over. We no longer want to follow the ‘rule’ through simple obedience, nor because we see it is a wise way to live but because our love for others drives us to live that way.



All spiritual living needs to involve these three steps of growth from obedience through wisdom to love.

**Emanuel Swedenborg** commented on the difference between obedience and love when we are doing good for others:

*Doing good from obedience is one thing, and doing good to the neighbour from an affection of love towards him is another. The difference is like that between the heat and light by night from the moon and stars, and the heat and light by day from the sun.*

Swedenborg: *Charity (Neighbourliness)* paragraph 210

This article is taken from the British New Church *Spiritual Wisdom* website



## News of People and Events



The New Church in Victoria has a new Secretary, our newest member, Helmut Lopaczuk. Sophie Athan resigned due to pressure of work in her business, but remains a member of the Board. We thank Sophie for her diligence over the last 12 months. We are fortunate that Helmut agreed to take over the position in August and is wished the best in the role. His contact details are on page 2.

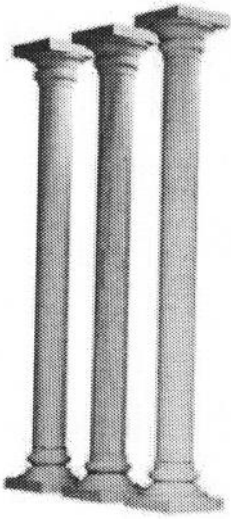
In July it was a delight to have Rev. John Teed conduct the service once again, John having been the Minister in Victoria between 1974 and 1981. Rev. John, with his wife Mary and daughters Pam and Margaret, drove from Woodend to lead worship including Holy Supper. Following the service, they continued on into Melbourne for a party to celebrate the 60th birthday of John & Mary's eldest daughter Rosemary. John's sister Rosemary and brother Sam were also in the congregation. The service and John's message were well appreciated by all present.

The name Coutanceau will be familiar to some readers, Henri & Paula and family being very active members in Melbourne in the second half of last century. A very welcome and interesting email arrived recently from daughter Suzanne who is now living in Trentham where she is currently building a house and enjoying life in the country Victorian community there. She also gave news of older brother Maurice who lives with Betty his wife in Queensland, but regularly visits Nepal to be with their four adopted Tibetan sons, and managing a luthier (stringed instrument) business in Pokhara. Sadly Suzanne's sister Annie has recently been diagnosed with cancer and is currently undergoing treatment. Suzanne continues to enjoy receiving 'The Lighthouse' as a way of keeping in touch with the church, reading news of people and recalling lovely past times of camps, fetes, playing the lovely old organ (being part of a team of three, the others being Margaret Parker and Neville Jarvis).

Others who are no longer able to regularly attend Church activities in Melbourne and Ballarat are encouraged to send snippets of news to share (see page 2 for correspondence details).

~~~~~  
*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.* - Anne Bradstreet, English-born American Poet (1612 - 1672)





## ***THE PILLARS OF***

### ***NEW CHURCH BELIEFS***

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

This time we are thinking about **WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR EVILS?**

Let's start with some explanation. You and I are not evil. You and I are likely to be fairly normal well-intentioned people. But even so, simply by being human and because we get caught up in how things seem, we have evils which can influence us.

Everybody does. Nobody is perfect.

Even when we are living an active religious life and wanting to do what is good, various evil tendencies affect us. Part of religion is knowing this and knowing how to manage it properly. Nobody, least of all God, is blaming us for being like this. It is just how it is. Now we come to the point and can ask, What happens to our evils? What happens to them when we have turned away from their influence and seen what they can do to us (and yes, to other people too)? Some churches would say that when we turn to Jesus and make our personal commitment to him for what he has done for us, then our evils are no longer of any account and they are wiped away as if they never were. This is like saying that your belief in Jesus overrides everything else and to use the phrase 'I am saved' puts it very clearly. But the New Church doesn't go along with this. It says that when we turn to the Lord (as we should) we then work with the Lord in dealing with whatever evils are there in us. And when the Lord and we have sorted it out, then these evils are taken away, made dormant, but not wiped away as if they had never been.

The reason for this is that they can be brought back and shown to us as gentle reminders, never to accuse us but just to help us see our progress more clearly. They are over and done with, and dumped at the side, but if needed, we can be shown them, and that is to help us.

**Diary of Events for the Months of  
October and November 2016**

**Mt. Waverley** *(All Worship Services commence at 10.30am unless advised.  
Worship Leaders may be subject to change.)*

**October**

**1st** \*\*\* **MOVE CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR BEFORE  
GOING TO BED (Daylight saving starts 2am on 2nd October)**

**2nd** **Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis

**9th** **No Service**

**16th** **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson

**23rd** **No Service**

**30th** **Spiritual Discussion meeting in the hall at 10.30am**

**November**

**6th** **Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis

**13th** **No Service**

**20th** **Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson

**27th** **No Service**

**Advance Notice - December**

**4th** **Christmas Musical Service of Worship** led by Neville Jarvis

**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.

**Duty Roster - Mt. Waverley**

**Flowers**

**Greeters**

**October 2016**

**2nd** Mr & Mrs K Robinson

Mr & Mrs K Robinson

**16th** Mr & Mrs N Jarvis

Mr & Mrs N Jarvis

**November 2016**

**6th** Mrs N Whelan

Mr J Cook

**20th** Mrs J Wilkins

Mrs A Jarvis

**December 2016**

**4th** Mrs M Sivak

Mrs M Sivak

