

# *The Lighthouse*



*December/January 2016/17*

## **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</b>	<b>Neville Jarvis</b>	<b>8555 9116</b>
<b>Service Organisers:</b>	<b>Karl Robinson</b>	<b>9725 1891</b>

<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Helmut Lopaczuk</b>	<b>0409 184 643</b> <b>letootensemble</b> <b>@gmail.com</b>
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Karl Robinson</b>	<b>9725 1891</b>
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<b>Ballarat and District</b>	<b>Len and Judy</b>	<b>5331 5638</b>
<b>Circle Leaders:</b>	<b>Robinson</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](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*

*December/January 2016/17*

*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.*



frankincense, and myrrh.”

“And behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to him: gold,

Matthew 2: 9 - 11

“The wise men from the East” meant those in the knowledges of truth and good; the worship of such from celestial good, spiritual good, and natural good is signified by “they offered gold, frankincense, and myrrh;” for “gold” signifies celestial good, “frankincense” spiritual good, and “myrrh” natural good. . . . the knowledge of correspondences had remained among them; therefore that they might testify their joy of heart they offered such things as signified every good from first to last.

(Swedenborg: *Apocalypse Revealed* para 324<sup>10</sup>)

# *O Come, O Come, Immanuel!*

~ by **Rev. Michael Stanley** of the New Church in Great Britain

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Are there times when you feel dissatisfied or unhappy about the current situation, and long for things to change for the better? Over 2000 years ago the people of Palestine felt badly treated, oppressed and painfully exploited by their Roman overlords, and were looking for a saviour - or Messiah, as they called him. And, as they understood from their scriptures, God had certainly promised just that.

In the New Testament, near the beginning of Luke's gospel, we learn of a devout man named Simeon, who was 'looking for the consolation of Israel' - a phrase that was used to mean looking for the saviour figure, or messiah, who had been prophesied to come and save Israel from her enemies. Then, inspired by the Holy Spirit, he came into the Temple in Jerusalem just at that time when Mary and Joseph had brought the eight day's old baby Jesus to be consecrated according to the Jewish custom of the time. On seeing the holy Child he took it up in his arms and praised God saying,



*Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation. Luke 2:29-30*

For Simeon, his wait was over and he felt he could now 'depart', that is die, in peace. However, for most of the Jews at that time, Jesus turned out to be a complete let down as their messiah. Why? - because he didn't save them from their overlord oppressors, the Romans. Their error, one easy for any of us to fall into, was to look for an external saviour who would sort things out for their benefit, rather than an 'internal saviour' within one's own heart and mind, effecting an inner change within oneself. Jesus Christ is the true Saviour because that is where he operates - within - to change each of us, rather than to change other people or circumstances for us.

Though naturally we would all welcome having our material or physical circumstances improved, it is salvation from our inner enemies such as self-centred fears, jealousies or pride that we need - especially if we are looking beyond just our welfare in this mortal life.

It is knowing and experiencing this inner salvation that enables a person to 'see this salvation of the Lord' and so be able to 'depart in peace'. This is what Jesus was talking about when He called people to repent of their sins, and when He spoke about being re-born or made new.

The 'salvation' that forms the heart of the Christmas promise comes not in what we may receive from others, but in what we feel released within to give freely to others.

Following Simeon's inspired experience, may we as it were hold the beautiful childlike image of perfect love and wisdom in our arms, knowing that herein lies our own true salvation through which we may be inwardly freed to spiritually 'rest in peace' now and always.

*And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."*

Luke 2:33-35

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Originally published in Lifeline magazine (New Church UK)

## QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STELLA GREEN

*Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never happen.* — James Russell Lowell

*The greatest mistake you can make is to be continually fearing you will make one.* — Elbert Hubbard

*There are three ingredients in the good life: learning, earning and yearning.* - Christopher Morley

*The best portion of a good man's life, his little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love.* - William Wordsworth

*Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.*  
- Mark Twain

# Reflections on the Word

From *Daily Readings from The Word* by Reg Lang

**“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.” (John 1: 10)**

It is speaking of Jesus: Immanuel, God with us. Present with us in the world he made, but unrecognised and unknown. Similarly, he is in the world of our life today. In the busy world of our mind, with its teeming feelings and thinkings. The little world of our own, made especially for us: where the sun of love rises and sets, and where the winds of our spirit blow.

But although he is present in our world, do we know him? He is present to bring us love and understanding; to heal our sickness and disease; to save us from ourselves.

**Prayer: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.**

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## *A Christmas Prayer*

*Bless us, Lord, this Christmas with quietness of mind;  
Teach us to be patient and always to be kind;  
Give us reassurance when everything goes wrong,  
So our faith remains unfaltering, our hope and courage strong,  
And show us that in quietness we can feel your presence near,  
Filling us with joy and peace all seasons of the year*

By Helen Steiner Rice

*All readers of 'The Lighthouse' and their loved ones are wished a most joyous celebration of Christmas in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
May 2017 bring many blessings and spiritual advancement.*

## ***The Survival of Christmas***

For the majority, Christmas has everything except Christ. The public holiday, family gatherings, statistics of Christmas sales before the REAL sales start on Boxing Day, the sporting fixtures, the special food, the over-eating and excessive drinking, the overspending - ALL seem a world away from the founder of the feast. Only the Charity Christmas Cards and Appeals have any relation to the birth of our Lord. So, to redress the balance let's have the where, who, when, what and why of Christmas.

**Where** In Bethlehem (which means 'House of Bread') on the ancient border between the tribal territories of Judah & Benjamin. Bread is an emblem of love; the tribal border is where the union of the Divine to the Human begins. Our Lord came to reveal what true love is and to rejoin heaven and earth.



**Who** was born? Almighty God Himself! Concealed in the body of an innocent baby. Prepared to face all the evils of mankind, fight them and subdue them, so that we have a chance of entering heaven one day.

**When** Certainly not in December! The shepherds were out in the fields. Our Lord was probably born in spring.

**What** was He like? Were there rings of light about His head as on many Christmas cards? NO! He looked like any other Jewish baby. Blue eyes (ALL babies have blue eyes to start with) and black hair. The only thing that distinguished Him for the shepherds was that He was lying in a manger.

**Why** did He come? Because we are the finest and noblest people in the created Universe? Sorry, NO! We remain the most external, rebellious, materially minded folk in the whole of creation. We needed our Lord then. Most certainly we need Him now. So, worship & thank Him.

**Originally published in the Newsletter of the Derby New Church, UK**



*All members and friends of The New Church in Victoria having birthdays and anniversaries during December 2016 & January 2017, are wished happy and memorable celebrations. In particular, greetings on 27th January to Davy Batchelor celebrating a special birthday.*

## *One Solitary Life*

*He was born in an obscure village  
The child of a peasant woman  
He grew up in another obscure village  
Where he worked in a carpenter shop  
Until he was thirty when public opinion turned against him*

*He never wrote a book  
He never held an office  
He never went to college  
He never visited a big city  
He never travelled more than two hundred miles  
From the place where he was born  
He did none of the things  
Usually associated with greatness  
He had no credentials but himself*

*He was only thirty three*



*His friends ran away  
One of them denied him  
He was turned over to his enemies  
And went through the mockery of a trial  
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves  
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing  
The only property he had on earth*

*When he was dead  
He was laid in a borrowed grave  
Through the pity of a friend*

*Nineteen centuries have come and gone  
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race  
And the leader of mankind's progress  
All the armies that have ever marched  
All the navies that have ever sailed  
All the parliaments that have ever sat  
All the kings that ever reigned put together  
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth  
As powerfully as that one solitary life*

*Dr James Allan Francis 1926*

## ***But why was he born?***

*Jehovah God came into the world as divine truth for the purpose of redeeming people. Redemption was a matter of gaining control of the hells, restructuring the heavens, and then establishing a church. Divine goodness does not have the power to do these things, but divine truth that comes from divine goodness does. In and of itself, divine goodness is like the round butt of a sword, like a blunted piece of wood, or like a bow by itself. Divine truth that comes from divine goodness is like a sharp sword . . .*

*Nothing but divine truth from the Word could attack, conquer, and bring under control the falsities and evils that the entirety of hell possessed then and still possesses now. Nothing else could found, build, and organize a new heaven - another thing God did at the time. Nothing else could establish a new church on earth. Besides, all God's strength, force, and power belong to the divine truth that comes from divine goodness. This was why Jehovah God came down as divine truth, which is the Word. This is why it says in David (Psalm 45:3 – 5):*

*“Gird your sword upon your thigh, O Mighty One, and in your honour arise, ride on the word of truth. Your right hand will teach you amazing things. Your arrows are sharp. Your enemies will fall beneath you”.*

*These statements concern the Lord, his battles with the hells, and his conquests of them.*

*From True Christianity, paragraph 86*



### **News of People**

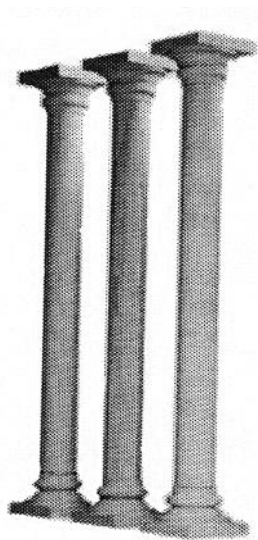
Following a welcome return of reasonable mobility in his wrist and ankle after a long convalescence, it has been a delight to see Klaus Drevermann with Elke join us again for Church activities. We trust that the use of long ladders will be on hold for Klaus for a long time!

Regrettably, Eva Teed has also had a major fall resulting in broken arm bones and broken hip. A period of hospitalisation followed plus convalescence which continues. Writing remains difficult as does moving around although Eva hopes to get along to Church once before the end of the year.

Having made really good progress to recovery after breaking an ankle several months ago, Margaret Parker has suffered a setback through a skin complaint on her legs. Walking is again difficult and has meant that coming to Church is once more on hold.

Matthew Arnold took the brave step of having cataracts removed in both eyes within a fortnight of one another during October. This has meant several weeks without driving but he is now getting quite used to his improved vision, being surprised at some things he can now see!

(continued on Page 11)



## **THE PILLARS OF NEW CHURCH BELIEFS**

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

This time we're looking at **FUTURE EVENTS**. This one isn't such a major teaching in the New Church but we do have some helpful insights about it. However, it is a major teaching in many churches, among those who think about the end of the world, the physical return of Jesus, and who see in the words of the Bible the actual prophecies about such things. You may have come across these at times.

Let's start with the idea of us knowing anything about the future. We do have some teaching about that, and it is that we are not allowed to see into the future because if we did, we would try and interfere with what we saw, for our own advantage. This would be right against the order of things.

Only the Lord knows the things about the future because he is not fixed in time like we are, but sees eternal things as being present. This gives the Lord full knowledge of all outcomes and especially the way we are heading. Because of this and because he cares about us so much, he not only keeps it from us but also manages it with infinite care.

The one thing the Lord wants is for us to choose the life which leads to heaven. He can't make us do that, nor would he, but he can do several things. He can steer things so that we are kept from knowing truths before we are ready for them. He can also make us forget harmful memories and quash them so that they no longer trouble us.

Another thing the Lord can do, especially if we are following a spiritual path in our life, is to let us become aware of our current trends. And then, seeing the way we are heading in some selfish direction, we stop, and choose the better way.

We should not be too concerned about the future but live in the present, and trust the Lord with all our futures.

## **News of People** (continued from Page 9)

News has come through of the passing of Jean Greig into the higher life during November. Jean attended Church and activities at Mt. Waverley over many years until illness prevented her. We send condolences to her surviving family members.

## **Diary of Events - December 2016 and January 2017**

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

### **December**

**4th Advent Service of Worship** conducted by **Rev. John Teed**, Woodend, including the administration of the Holy Supper

**11th No Service**

**18th Congregational Service of Lessons and Carols/Christmas Songs** led by Karl Robinson

**25th Christmas Morning Service** led by Neville Jarvis  
**PLEASE NOTE: Service commences at 9.30am**

### **January**

**1st No Service**

**8th Service of Worship** led by Karl Robinson  
**No further services this month**

### **Advance Notice - February 2017**

**5th 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**

	<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
<b>December 2016</b>		
<b>4th</b>	Mrs M Sivak	Mrs M Sivak
<b>18th</b>	Mrs N Whelan	Mr J Cook
<b>25th</b>	Mrs A Jarvis	Mr K Robinson
<b>January 2017</b>		
<b>8th</b>	Mrs J Wilkins	Mr N Jarvis

