

“All religion has relation to life and the life of religion is to do good”.

Swedenborg

# The New Church In Victoria Newsletter

May & June 2018

## Locations

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### Website

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## Contacts

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Chair of The Board

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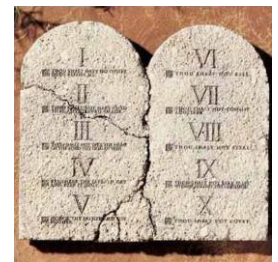
### Helmut Lopaczuk

Secretary

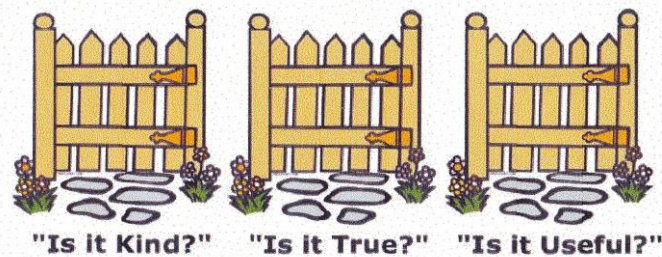
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## *Loving Life*

The word of the Lord teaches us to treasure life. To emphasise how important this is in the approach we take towards others, Jesus explains to His hearers the deeper spiritual significance of the 5th commandment "thou shalt not kill". This command that Jesus explains in the Sermon on the Mount, includes the unloving use of hurtful and angry words. Verbal violence seeks to do harm and on a deeper level this breaks the command. This kind of thing can be quite subtle, but the hurt caused by things like rumour, innuendo, gossip or unkind criticism is very real and often very painful. It is the opposite of a love for life and for enhancing the quality of life. This is well illustrated by a man who spread malicious rumours about a religious teacher. Feeling guilty about what he had done, the man went to the teacher and asked what he could do to make amends. He was asked to bring a pillow. The man did so and he was told to go to the top of a hill, tear open the pillow, and let the feathers blow away in the wind. He followed the instructions and from the top of the hill watched the feathers drift away in every direction. Returning to the teacher he said, "Is that all?" "Not quite" was the answer, "now you must go and collect the feathers". The man replied "Why that would be impossible. They have blown away in every direction." The teacher looked at him and said, "Yes that is true, and it is the same with the malicious rumours you have told. They cannot be reclaimed, for they have been spread abroad in every direction." No one is perfect. It is easy to 'pull someone else's life apart' by highlighting their faults, real or imagined. When we do this by words that show the opposite of a love for their life we need to realise we cannot unsay them. In Leviticus 19:16 we are told directly "You shall not go about as a talebearer (or gossipmonger) among your people." It then goes on to speak about 'endangering' someone's life! That is what happens when there is a 'character assassination' or a 'cutting down to size'. Things like 'a pointed remark', 'backbiting', or 'the shattering of dreams' can all be very damaging. Let us all use words in the opposite way - to give life instead of to kill another's happiness, hope or reputation. The heavenly attitude is to look for the best in people and to put the kindest interpretation on the way they live their lives.



This is what we tend to do with the people that we love and who are close to us. How would it be if you were asked to say nothing critical to or about anyone for a week! I have had suggested to me one way of keeping a check on this, so that I am keeping the deeper meaning of the 5th commandment. It is to see if what I am going to say will pass through three imaginary gates. Each one asks a question.



As an example, we may correct someone in the presence of their friends by saying what is true . . . but is it kind? Will it be useful? A quiet word may be far kinder and more useful, and will avoid embarrassment. Another time we may be so keen to please someone and be kind to them that what we say does not reflect the real situation . . . so what we are saying ceases to be true. Jesus said "Out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" in Matthew 12:34 indicating that what I say to or about others says most about my own my character. I need to ask if my words add to, or take away, from life and love. May the Lord's love inspire you.

**Rev Clifford Curry**, a retired New Church Minister living in Britain. This article was published in the July/August issue of New Church Lifeline, the bi-monthly magazine of the General Conference of the New Church.

The recent *Rise Above it* spiritual growth sessions led by Mary Alden focused on the Ten Commandments. So this message by Rev. Curry can be followed up through reading *Rise Above it* by Ray & Star Silverman. Should you wish to obtain a copy (\$15), please contact Neville Jarvis on (03) 8555 9116.

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### March and April 2018

What a busy two months these turned out to be in our Church calendar.

- Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March saw us celebrate Harvest, the service being conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden. The Church was well decorated with fruit, vegetables and other food which following the service was taken to a local charity who were greatly appreciative of our donation (a letter is on the Notice Board in the Foyer).
- Three services were held to remember the events of Eastertide, all inspiringly conducted by Rev. Glenn Alden. The Sunday before Easter was Palm Sunday with its emphasis on the kingship of the Lord. The Good Friday morning was much more reflective with a combination of readings and contemplative music. In contrast was the joyous Easter Sunday morning service with appropriate hymns and newer songs being lustily sung. The administration of the Holy Supper was included.
- Continuation of the two spiritual growth series by Mary and Glenn which regrettably could not be completed by them due to their return home to USA. Participants are able to continue through the remaining sessions using the work books provided.



➤ The much enjoyed *Dinner for six at the Alden's* continued also and will be remain a well-remembered program initiated by Mary and Glenn. The Board will be looking at possibilities for including more regular social activities in the Church program.

➤ Following the Easter Morning service, members and friends gathered in the hall to enjoy a farewell lunch, provided by the Church, for Glenn and Mary who were leaving for home in USA the next Tuesday. Homemade soups and corned beef, prepared by Alexis Jarvis, plus cheeses of all kinds and other tasty dishes, made for a sumptuous meal. There was lots of chatter before the farewell formalities during which both Glenn and Mary were presented with gifts of appreciation from the Church. Saying goodbye to Mary and Glenn was not easy after such a positive time for the Society during which they made such a significant contribution to the life of the Church and provided useful pointers for the way ahead. Their friendly indefatigable energy was inspiring and infectious.



Members and friends at the farewell lunch for Rev. Glenn and Mrs Mary Alden

➤ Two weeks later we held our Annual General Meeting to review the past twelve months, approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017 and appoint directors for the next two years. Those elected were: John Cook, Klaus Drevermann, Alexis Jarvis, Neville Jarvis, Karl Robinson and Marika Sivak. Our Secretary, Helmut Lopaczuk, continues in this position as he was elected for two years at the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

➤ Finally, in this period, a contract to sell the Mt. Waverley premises was effected after being confronted with some difficult issues since being placed on the market. Negotiations continue with the purchaser concerning our final vacating of the premises. The Church Board is now actively considering premises requirements into the future as a precursor to searching for an alternate location. Members will be kept informed on the progress.

## News Of People

It has been wonderful to welcome Sandra Mission back at our Sunday services after a long absence due to a series of operations. It was also a delight to have Eva Teed along on several occasions. Christine Kent was in town on Easter Sunday having travelled from her home in Grantville, Gippsland and able to catch up with a number of friends from several years ago. Barry and Edith Rabone from Majorca were at this event too, keen to see Glenn and Mary once again; they had known each other when studying at Bryn Athyn. It was great to see and catch up with Winifred Hirst on Easter Sunday too. This brought back memories of Woori Yallock camps and her parents who lived in Lancefield for many years.

## News Of People (continued)

Our best wishes go to Rose Robinson whose woes continue following falls causing shoulder injuries just as Rose was beginning to recover well from her knee replacement surgery in January. It will likely be sometime before she is able to come along to Church services.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Margaret Parker who is currently in Box Hill hospital undergoing treatment on severely ulcerated legs which have been causing much pain. We trust the medicos can quickly determine the best way of dealing with the condition so that Margaret is able to get back to Strathdon as soon as possible.

## Diary of Events in May and June 2018

Activities at Mt. Waverley unless otherwise stated

### MAY

Sunday 6 10.30am	<b>Family service</b> led by Neville Jarvis <b>There will be a Sunday School for the children present</b>
Sunday 13	No service at Mt. Waverley
Sunday 20 10.30am	<b>Service of Worship</b> conducted by <b>Rev. John Teed</b> including the administration of the Holy Supper
Sunday 27 3.30pm	No service at Mt. Waverley <u>Ballarat</u> – 318 Fussell Street. Devotional service led by Judy Robinson

### JUNE

Saturday 2	A <b>Social Activity</b> is being planned for the late afternoon in conjunction with the visit to Melbourne of Rev. David Moffat, President of The New Church in Australia, Canberra. Details will be provided separately when arrangements are finalised.
Sunday 3 10.30am	<b>Family service</b> conducted by <b>Rev. David Moffat</b> . The service will include the Baptism of Lucy Alexandra Joy Francis <b>There will be a Sunday School for the children present</b>
Sunday 10	No service at Mt. Waverley
Sunday 17 10.30am	<b>New Church Day Service</b> – Worship leader to be confirmed and details advised.
Sunday 24 3.30pm	No service at Mt. Waverley <u>Ballarat</u> – 318 Fussell Street. Devotional service led by Judy Robinson

### JULY - Advance Notice

Sunday 1 10.30am	<b>Family service</b> led by Neville Jarvis <b>There will be a Sunday School for the children present</b>
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### Duty Roster

<i>May:</i>	Sunday 6	Elke & Klaus Drevermann	Sunday 20	Alexis & Neville Jarvis
<i>June:</i>	Sunday 3	Elke & Klaus Drevermann	Sunday 17	Marika Sivak