

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

Swedenborg

The New Church In Victoria Newsletter

July & August 2018

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Change must go on . . .

Think of your favourite piece of music, it may be an enduring tune that means something significant in your life or it could be the latest and most recent 'favourite' in a long line of enjoyment which will soon be displaced by something else. The latest music is always evolving and changing –



the sounds I enjoyed in my teens can easily remind me of those years but I can't claim it all sounds as exciting when I listen to it now. It was very much what was around at the time and each new generation finds its own expression or voice which can often seem designed to annoy or even challenge the previously accepted boundaries.

Spiritually there are always challenges, and while life evolves and discoveries change the way the world functions, there are some timeless values and desires we still recognise from the earliest parts of the Bible. They are still uncomfortable challenges for us too.

And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.' (Genesis 2: 16-17)

The newly formed 'celestial man' in this part of the Bible is told to rely on the Lord, with the trees in the garden being the perceptions as explained in our Church teachings:

He is also permitted to acquire a knowledge of what is good and true by means of every perception from the Lord, but he must not do so from himself and the world, nor search into the mysteries of faith by means of the things of sense and of memory-knowledge which would cause the death of his celestial nature. (Secrets of Heaven paragraph 80)

Human nature has of course meant we live with the consequences of eating that forbidden fruit and the celestial state mentioned here is lost. Human life clearly goes on and changes, evolves and develops and the Bible leads us into new ways of discovering the Lord's presence with us and His love for us.

Trying to 'go back' in our life and undo previous actions is often tempting, but impossible. The world keeps going forward, be it music or any other arena we care to reflect on. We find our own ways and live accordingly. All around us others are finding and developing their own understanding which may be harmonious with or discordant to our way of life. Finding how to adapt to new ways is a constant challenge in life; the Lord knows our nature and provides for it all under His Divine care and mercy.

Rev Christine Bank, a New Church Minister living in Keithley, Britain. This article was included in the June 2018 Home Worship material distributed in the UK - <https://www.generalconference.org.uk/resources/home-worship/>

Some changes look negative on the surface but you will soon realise that space is being created in your life for something new to emerge

Eckhart Tolle (German-born spiritual teacher now living in Canada)

May and June 2018 activities at Mt. Waverley

- We held our family service on the first Sunday in May and it was wonderful to have 6 children present with parents to boost congregation numbers. There was a hiccup with the multimedia projector which meant we had to abandon singing songs with words on the screen. Thankfully, all but one were in the Songs for Worship book so it was all manageable. The children learned all about Noah's ark in their class and enjoyed the activities provided.
- Rev. John Teed conducted the service on 15 May which incorporated the administration of the Holy Supper. We greatly appreciate John and Mary travelling all the way from Woodend to lead worship. John's subject was *No man shall see me and live* (Exodus 33:20) and his sermon was greatly appreciated.
- We were fortunate to have Rev. David Moffat visit over the first weekend in May. As President of The New Church in Australia, David met with the Board on the Saturday afternoon to update us on what was happening in the wider Australian Church and particularly outcomes from the recent Assembly. We were also able to share and discuss the directions being taken in Melbourne for future leadership and location now the Mt. Waverley property has been sold.
- Rev. Moffat led worship on the Sunday morning, the service including the baptism of Lucy Alexandra Joy, third child of Linda (Jarvis) and Michael Francis. This happy occasion saw a fairly full Church with family and friends of Linda & Michael present. 9 children learned about Joseph and his many coloured dream coat in Sunday School and made very colourful drawings to show proud parents.
- The service on 17 June was a celebration of New Church Day (19 June) but through necessity did not take place in the Church as expected. The rain was heavily teeming down and the noise on the Church roof was so loud that it would have been impossible to hear. The foyer was hastily rearranged so the service could be held there. We were once again very pleased to welcome Rev. John and Mary Teed, John using the tree of life, originally in the centre of the Garden of Eden in Genesis and then in the centre of the Holy City in the Book of Revelation, as the theme for New Church Day. We were pleased to welcome friends Vidura Jayaratne and Steven Higson who had come across Swedenborg's teachings through the Internet and wider reading.

May and June 2018 activities at Mt. Waverley (contd.)

After the morning service, there were refreshments in the hall and a session on 'The Future' based on a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Neville Jarvis on behalf of the Board. It summarised issues currently being considered by the Board as we move forward into a period of change. The input of Rev. Glenn and Mary Alden from their experience in other locations was acknowledged as being very helpful for focusing on what needed to be addressed. Areas covered included a simplified vision and mission statements and related potential activities for our Church organization, the priorities of spiritual leadership and premises, funding, the general decline of interest in traditional church life and ways we might address this when presenting ourselves to the wider community. Questions and comments provided the Board with more food for thought. The session finished with the cutting of a New Church Day cake which Alexis Jarvis had supplied and decorated which was heartily consumed by all.

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News Of People

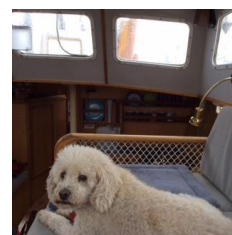
It was delightful to receive greetings and news from Rev. Glenn & Mary Alden, now well settled back into life in Washington State, USA after an enjoyable visit with family in Japan enroute from Melbourne. Mary was so happy to have her dog, Alice, back again and spending time with the Alpacas although the horses were still out on a pasture lease at the time. Glenn started work on his sailboat as soon as

they arrived home to get it ready for the season. No doubt many pleasant hours have already been spent on the waters. Spring in Washington State was glorious with blossoming fruit trees and various blossoming shrubs. They send their affectionate greetings to all their friends in Melbourne and Ballarat, both old and new. They miss not being part of Church life in Victoria just as much as we miss not having them amongst us. They look forward very much to keeping in touch with us as the Church in Mt. Waverley moves forward to new arrangements and location.

Our thoughts are with Eva Teed and her family, especially Peter & Dorothy Teed. Eva herself has been suffering from a very heavy winter cold for a good number of weeks while Peter & Dorothy have both been dealing with significant health issues. Following a heart attack, Peter required an operation which was only partially beneficial. Currently on strong painkillers, a second operation is due quite soon. Dorothy herself had a significant fall down a flight of stairs breaking bones in her foot. This coupled with her sight and other medical conditions has meant she has been unable to give Peter the attention she would like.

Several other members and friends have been unwell including Joy Wilkins and Edna Sharp. We wish them and others currently under the weather a speedy recovery. It is good to know that Adam Okienko's cancer is now under control although he still needs regular checkups to ensure there is no further spreading. Please place them all in your prayers.

Congratulations to Alexis & Neville Jarvis on the birth of their fifth grandchild – Isabel Charlotte, born on 24 June to Marian and partner, Shane Holst. Mum and baby are doing very well.



Diary of Events in July and August 2018

Activities at Mt. Waverley unless otherwise stated

July

Sunday 1 10.30am	Family service led by Neville Jarvis There will be a Sunday School for the children present
Sunday 8	No service at Mt. Waverley
Sunday 15 10.30am	Service of Worship led by Karl Robinson
Sunday 29 3.30pm	No service at Mt. Waverley <u>Ballarat</u> – 318 Fussell Street. Devotional service led by Judy Robinson

August

Saturday 4	Visit by Rev. David Millar from Adelaide (Director of The New Church in Australia College). There will be a gathering during the day. Details will be provided separately when arrangements are finalised.
Sunday 5 10.30am	Family service conducted by Rev. David Millar . There will be a Sunday School for the children present
Sunday 12	No service at Mt. Waverley
Sunday 19 10.30am	Service of Worship led by Karl Robinson
Sunday 26 3.30pm	No service at Mt. Waverley <u>Ballarat</u> – 318 Fussell Street. Devotional service led by Judy Robinson

SEPTEMBER - Advance Notice

Sunday 2 10.30am	Family service led by Neville Jarvis There will be a Sunday School for the children present
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Duty Roster

<i>July:</i>	Sunday 1	Elke & Klaus Drevermann
	Sunday 15	Norma Whelan / John Cook
<i>August:</i>	Sunday 5	Neville & Alexis Jarvis
	Sunday 19	Marika Sivak
<i>September:</i>	Sunday 2	Elke & Klaus Drevermann

Note: If you are unavailable on the Sunday allocated, please contact a member of the Duty Roster to swap.

One day at a time - this is enough. Do not look back and grieve over the past for it is gone; and do not be troubled about the future, for it has not yet come. Live in the present, and make it so beautiful it will be worth remembering.

Ida Scott Taylor, English Author