

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

Swedenborg

The New Church In Victoria Newsletter

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Locations

Melbourne

Wadham House
52 Wadham Street
Mount Waverley 3149

Postal Address
PO Box 2224 Mount
Waverley VIC 3149

Ballarat

318 Fussell St 3350

Website

newchurch.net.au

Contacts

Karl Robinson

Chair of The Board
0417 514 960

Helmut Lopaczuk

Secretary
0409 184 643

Newsletter Coordinator

Neville Jarvis
03 8555 9116
anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au

Time for Patience

We live in a world where increasingly it seems that speed is of the essence and patience is a thing of the past. In all sorts of ways, from fast food to fast cars, everywhere you look the endeavour is to go more quickly and take less time. Sometimes the urge to do more is encouraged under the banner of greater efficiency. More is to be done with less, especially less time, because “time is money”. Maybe! - but I am reminded of the white rabbit in Lewis Carroll’s ‘Alice in Wonderland’ who rushes off exclaiming “no time to say hello goodbye, I’m late, I’m late, I’m late!”

For some people, virtue has become too strongly linked with rushing around doing things, but in all the things we feel we need to do, we can lose sight of some very valuable qualities in the process. Sometimes it is good to rediscover the value of things like patience, tolerance and the ability to take the time to listen and maybe understand another viewpoint. The great men and women of prayer challenge us to shift our focus from the quantity of our “doing” to the quality of our “being”.

The opening Psalm in the book of Psalms compares the righteous man to a tree planted by the water that bears good fruit and has healthy leaves. It is an interesting comparison that I had cause to reflect on when I went to a timber yard recently to buy some timber. In sharp contrast to the often impatient high speed world we regularly experience, the world of the woodsman works on a timescale of tens of years. The best timber is the slowest grown. Softwood which grows relatively quickly has neither the strength nor the durability of a hardwood because that has taken many more years to grow and mature. Even then, when such a tree is cut down it needs many years to season if it is to be used for first quality work. Used too soon, it will have a far greater tendency to warp, twist and split. As Joseph would no doubt have explained to Jesus, a good craftsman needs to have the patience to store and season timber for many years, or despite all his skill the work will be unsatisfactory.



The great English furniture makers like Thomas Chippendale, George Hepplewhite and Thomas Sheraton, whose work we admire in stately homes, depended on timber that their fathers and grandfathers had cut and patiently stored!

The psalmist writes “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him ... do not fret - it leads only to evil” [Psalm 37:7, 8 NIV]. Isaiah tells us that “Those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles” [40:31 AV]. Rome wasn’t built in a day and neither is our understanding of life, and of the wise ways of the love that created us and continues to watch over our lives. There is much to be learnt from the psalmist’s picture of a tree that takes many years to reach maturity. As one Christian leader put it, we need to be willing to ‘waste time in prayer’ to put our hands together in stillness and inactivity. To take the time to ‘wait upon’ and the patience to ‘wait for’ the Lord.

The tree by the river takes time to grow and mature. For the best quality work, it can take as long to season the wood as it did to grow it! It takes time and patience before the harvest of its timber can be used in a carpenter’s workshop, such as the one Jesus knew. For so many of us the hardest part of life’s journey to understand is the last part, when we have to learn to accept doing less and going slower. It is a time when we have to learn patience and tolerance in new ways, not just with others but with ourselves too.

Perhaps these less active years can serve a greater purpose than we realise, enabling the Lord to increase the QUALITY of our usefulness in His service. Let us seek to learn the ways of patience and tolerance, like timbers seasoning in the Divine Carpenter’s woodstore, awaiting the day when they are ready for the fine work for which they have been set aside.

Rev. Clifford Curry, New Church Minister (now retired) living in Great Britain.
First published in *Lifeline*, British New Church Newsletter

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An Event not to be missed!



When: Sunday 29 September 2019 at 11.45am

Where: Valley Reserve, 80 Waimarie Drive, Mt Waverley ~ only a 4 minute drive from Wadham House (no service that day)

Come and be part of a social and fun time in the park with rolls, meat, salad etc. provided by the Church for everyone to make their own lunch plus soft drinks and maybe a few other goodies!

Meet at the picnic area adjacent to the car park. There are tables and benches available (but we suggest you also bring a chair) and great children’s play equipment. For those preferring a barbecue, bring your own meat etc. and use the facilities in the park.

For catering purposes, please let Alexis and Neville Jarvis know by Wednesday 25 September if you will be joining in the activity (ph 85559116; email: anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au) and advise if you have any dietary requirements.

Invite your families and friends to make the time extra special. Put the date in your diary NOW.



But when warmth from the sun is not received, only light, nothing grows. All vegetation then becomes inactive, as it does in autumn and winter-time. The same also applies to spiritual warmth and spiritual light which come from the Lord. If a person is spring-like or summerlike they receive the good which flows from love and charity and produces fruit; but if they are autumn-like or winter-like, they do not receive that good and therefore do not produce any fruit. Yet they are still able to receive light, that is, they are able to know things that are matters of faith or truth.

Swedenborg: *Arcana Caelestia* 4180:3

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News of People and Events

Apart from many members and friends suffering from the inevitable winter coughs, colds and body aches, concern has focused on Klaus Drevermann who suffered a stroke in late May. Thankfully he was rushed into the nearby hospital where the staff took immediate steps to alleviate the severest symptoms. Over the past two months through regular therapy sessions within walking distance of home, Klaus has recovered from most of the debilitating aspects of his stroke, getting out into his beloved garden and doing odd jobs around the house. Writing and tiredness remain issues and it will certainly be quite a time before Klaus will be able to drive again. Please keep Klaus and Elke in your thoughts and prayers as they journey together along the road to see Klaus back to full participation in life; we greatly miss having them with us at Church.



The visit of **Roslyn Taylor** (now Rev. Roslyn Taylor) during several weeks in May and June was greatly appreciated. Ros' leadership style and input into services, as well as the Bible study and spiritual sessions, was much appreciated. Our last activity during Ros' visit was in the afternoon of Saturday 8 June when a group assembled for a Spiritual seminar led by Ros on the subject of *Providence: Getting you into a Heavenly place*. This was followed by a jolly meal at a local Thai restaurant in Mt. Waverley. Sadly the evening came to an end with our final farewell's and thanks to Ros for her marvelous contribution to the life of the Church in Victoria.



Three days later, Ros left Victoria to head back home to USA via Sydney in preparation for her ordination during the 2019 Swedenborgian Church Convention gathering in Indiana. The Ordination service was broadcast live on Facebook and a good number viewed it here in Australia, being in the morning. It was the first time Convention had attempted to broadcast such a service. Due to the positioning of equipment in the cathedral-like College/University Chapel, the sound and picture qualities at the beginning of the broadcast were poor but greatly improved as the service continued.

The screening is still available on Facebook for those who missed seeing it live. Click on the following link, go to videos and click on the 2019 Convention service - <https://www.facebook.com/SwedenborgConvention/videos/vb.247596978595872/501500550390405/?type=2&theater>.

Following the service, Rev. Jane Siebert, President of The Swedenborgian Church of North America presented Ros with a congratulatory card from The New Church in Victoria together with a pictorial book of Victoria, a thank-you gift for her time with us. We certainly wish Ros many blessings on her future work in ministry.

Along with Ros there were two other ordinands, each of whom presented their Ordination Reflection. Ros' was based on Jeremiah 29:11 -14 - *For I know what I have planned for you,' says the LORD. 'I have plans to prosper you, not to harm you. I have plans to give you a future filled with hope. When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you. If you seek me with all your heart and soul, I will make myself available to you,' says the LORD.*

Ros has kindly forwarded her reflection and should you wish to have a copy, please contact Neville Jarvis on (03) 8555 9116; Email: anjarvis72@optusnet.com.au

Our 2019 New Church Day service was conducted by Rev. John Teed on 16 June and included the sacrament of the Holy Supper. We greatly appreciate John travelling all the way from Woodend to lead worship and especially to administer this most important sacrament for us. Sadly Mary was 'under the weather' that Sunday and had to remain at home. It is good to know she has recovered well and enjoying time with John in Queensland on the Sunshine Coast with son Richard and family.

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Diary of Events in August & September 2019

All activities will take place at Wadham House, 52 Wadham Parade, Mt. Waverley unless otherwise advised.

August	
Sunday 4 10.30am	Family Service led by Neville Jarvis There will be Bible story time and related activities for the children
Sunday 11	No service
Sunday 18 10.30am	Service of Worship led by Karl Robinson
Sunday 25	No Mt. Waverley service Ballarat – 318 Fussell Street. Devotional worship led by Judy Robinson commencing 3pm. For more information, phone (03) 53 315 638
September	
Sunday 1 10.30am	Family Service led by Neville Jarvis There will be Bible story time and related activities for the children
Sunday 8	No service
Sunday 15 10.30am	Service of Worship led by Neville Jarvis
Sunday 22	No service
Sunday 29	Mt. Waverley - Picnic in the Park , Valley Reserve, 80 Waimarie Drive. See notice on page 2 Ballarat – 318 Fussell Street. Devotional worship led by Judy Robinson commencing 3pm. For more information, phone (03) 53 315 638
Following Month - October	
Sunday 6 10.30am	Family Service led by Neville Jarvis There will be Bible story time and related activities for the children

Duty Roster – Mt. Waverley

<i>August 2019:</i>	Sunday 2	Rose & Karl Robinson
	Sunday 16	Alexis & Neville Jarvis
<i>September 2019:</i>	Sunday 7	Norma Whelan
	Sunday 21	Marika Sivak
<i>October 2019:</i>	Sunday 4	Rose & Karl Robinson

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