

The New Christian Church Newsletter

April – May 2018



“We can tell what kind of freedom we are in by what we like to think and talk about, listen to, see, and do, since all our enjoyment comes from what we love.”

Emanuel Swedenborg, New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine 147

Update from the committee.

This is no joke:- Daylight saving ends on Sunday April 1st

Following our harvest service our gifts were taken to the Women's Refuge. They appreciated them very much. We are now proposing to again make up welcome packs for them and also have a food collection for them at our New Church Day Service June 17th.

Our thanks to Denis for climbing onto the kitchen roof and clearing the gully between the two buildings. This seems to have solved the leak in the hall.

Meeting the local community groups using our building.

Over the past few years, the number of people who use the church premises during the week has increased. The Eastern Spinners, Al-Anon, yoga classes and counselling offered by David Keyworth are currently using our facilities. Jenny Sutton is organising a coffee morning at the church on Saturday May 5th, at 10.30am, for any of the church users to attend. The aim is to make them feel a sense of belonging, and to come and share something about what their group does. It is also an opportunity to put forward any concerns, or ideas for improving the venue for their group. We are looking forward to meeting these people so that we can put faces to names and have a closer working relationship with them.

Decluttering the hall

We are wanting to make the premises as inviting as possible for the community groups. They are being cleaned regularly. We would also like to remove clutter from the hall space and get windows cleaned. PLEASE COME AND HELP IF YOU CAN on APRIL 21st from 9.30 a.m.

Fifth Sunday

On the fifth Sunday of April we are holding our spiritual smorgasbord which will be held at the church at 10.30 a.m. with the theme of Angels, followed by morning tea.

Fourth Sundays of the month

Due to Richard's ill-health there is some doubt whether he will be able to be present. So please look at our web-site or listen for announcements.

People News.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Richard and Gill. Richard has spent almost a fortnight in hospital with heart problems. Gill has kept us up to date on Facebook. We are thankful that he has stabilised and has been able to return home.

Ray Streeter has a severe case of shingles. The inflammation has caused him to have problems with double vision and he has had severe pain which he reports is greatly reduced. He thanks us for our prayers and good wishes. We send our good wishes to Ray and Barbara. Jenny Keal organised fruit bowls to be sent to both Richard and Ray.

John Sutton's sister Julia is back 'home' again after a nasty virus caused her to be very ill. John also came down with the virus after visiting Julia!

Best wishes to Jonathan for his new job, and to Karlana for her training in early education, and also to Laisa Keyworth for her training to be a chef.

We have enjoyed seeing photos of Sarah (Keal) and Darone Diamond's wedding on March 3rd.

We have recently been contacted by Bob Shaw. He is now known as Bronson. Bob was a young person here over 50 years ago. He came to the Church through reading a copy of T.C.R. He eventually became a stained glass window artist, married 40 years ago and lives in Catalan. He says how much T.C.R and the fellowship here have been an influence on the rest of his life.

From the President's Desk

A great intellect in the person of Stephen Hawking has passed on into the next world. This amazing person developed an encyclopaedic knowledge of the physics of the universe. Despite his daunting disabilities he is reported as being a caring person with a great sense of humour. One of his quotes was, "Life would be tragic if it weren't funny". He must have had great courage and determination to live life to the full. However highly intellectual people often have blind spots. He appeared to think that because he could provide laws of physics to explain the beginning of the universe, God was surplus to requirements. Ironically, he is quoted elsewhere as saying. "The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge." He appeared to live by the attitude that mankind does not need a creator because the material world is governed by the laws of

science, and is all that exists. I wonder if he had ever read 'Divine Love and Wisdom' by another great intellect and cosmologist called Emanuel Swedenborg

For many who have read it, it shows how the material world with its laws are a wonderful physical manifestation of God's spiritual laws. Creation is not a one off event but a continual product of the outpouring of Divine Love and Divine Wisdom.

Hopefully as Stephen Hawking enters life in the spiritual world he is now able to embrace the reality of a world he appeared not to believe in.

However Swedenborg wrote , *“people who possess no more than natural knowledge and as a consequence do not see things in any light other than the light of the world can have no belief at all in the things that belong to heaven. Furthermore if they wish to investigate these things with the light they see by, called natural illumination, they encounter a kind of thick darkness which blinds them and blots out everything heavenly. For that in the mind which appears to be thick darkness is in reality such. This explains why a merely natural man, however much he thinks himself to be more enlightened than others, at heart rejects Divine and heavenly realities. It is also the reason why so many learned people are made brainless by their knowledge; for more of them than of simple people refuse to accept the things that constitute the faith of the Church and of heaven.”*

Heavenly Secrets 10156

He says that all people with humility of heart can see above the materialistic world to the reality of the existence of the spiritual.

Good Wishes,

John

Calendar

A reminder: There will be no Good Friday Service

All services and classes begin at 10am

1 st April:	Easter Sunday: Holy Supper service / Sunday school (John)
8 th April:	Shared Inspiration from the Word
15 th April:	Worship Service. (John) Committee meeting following morning tea
21 st April:	Working Bee at church to declutter and tidy hall; clean windows. 9-30 start and shared morning tea.
22 nd April:	Open House for Spiritual and Natural Refreshment ? Please check.
29 th April:	Shared service at church followed by a shared morning tea. The theme is Angels
5 th May:	Community Coffee morning 10.30. Church users to be invited to come. Church people to bring a plate
6 th May:	Worship / Sunday School (John)
13 th May:	Shared Inspiration from the Word
20 th May	Worship / Sunday School. (?) Committee meeting following morning tea
27 th May	Open House for Spiritual and Natural Refreshment Please check.

Roster

April	GREETERS	FLOWERS	MUNCHIES
1st	Lesley	Lis	Jenny S
8th	John		Jenny K
15th	Ray	Jenny K	Lis
22nd	Richard ?		
29th	John		Jenny S
May			
6th	Jonathan	Sharon	Lis
13th	John		Jenny K
20th	Ray	Jenny K	Jenny S
27th	Richard?		

Selection of Excellent Internet Resources for New Church Books and Ideas

www.swedenborg.com

www.youtube.com/user/offTheLeftEye

www.swedenborg.org.uk

<https://newchristianbiblestudy.org/>

<http://www.spiritualwisdom.org.uk/>

<http://www.spiritualwisdompublishing.co.uk/>

<http://www.swedenborgdigitallibrary.org/>

**We use sermons and services from the following webpage:
newchurch.org/get-involved/find-online-services/livestream**

The New Christian Church in New Zealand

Incorporating the Auckland Society of the New Church and the General Church of the New Jerusalem Circle.

5 Ballarat St, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051

Phone: 09 579 6819

www.newchurch.org.nz

Contacts

Pastoral Services Rev Richard Keyworth (retired) (09) 527 6401

Rev John Sutton (retired) (09) 419 7509

Society President Rev John Sutton (09) 419 7509

Secretary Lis Keal (09) 816 9381

Swedenborg Centre Jenny Keal (09) 817 7949