



ADELAIDE CHRISTIAN NEW CHURCH

Newsletter

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June/July 2020



by Rev. Ian W.F. Hamilton – from the UK

When it comes to holidays, there are so many lovely resorts here in our own country. There are beautiful sun-drenched resorts and interesting places to visit. Soon, hopefully, it will be time to possibly choose our holidays. Choosing is a very serious business and it starts very early on in life. If you find that concept difficult to believe, just watch the face of a three-year-old who is given the chance of choosing one of two luscious cream cakes in a café. He really wants both, but in the end he has to decide on one of them.

Of course, as he gets older he'll begin to choose friends, and later on at High school, he will have to choose between subjects. Later still, he may have to choose whether to go on to further education or to leave school and start the job/trade apprenticeship of his choice.

But in terms of choosing holiday venues, if you have chosen to drive from the north to the south of the country in UK, you might, depending on the route you take, come across – just north of Birmingham – a marvellous network of motorways.

This network criss-crosses in an amazing series of intertwining roads and is set high up on great stilts. Every few seconds the person driving the car has to choose between two, three or even four lanes of traffic. If you choose the wrong lane then it's anyone's guess just where you might end up. Instead of heading for Oxford or London you may find yourself heading towards South Wales.

Spaghetti Junction – as it is known as – was truly an amazing feat of engineering when it was conceived and built, but to hit it when the traffic is heavy at holiday time means that you have to choose again and again with scarcely the chance to think twice, with or without the aid of a satnav.

It's important, of course, to start off knowing where your holiday destination is, but you must also know in advance the route you intend to follow. The same is true with the road of life, and for all of us the opportunity to make choices is the privilege of living in God's world. If we know the way to choose through life and if we know whom to choose to lead us, we're likely to go the right way.

Once upon a biblical time, Jesus chose and called four fishermen to follow him: Simon, Andrew, James and John. His actual words to them were "Follow me" and they did. You see, not only did Jesus choose to call them, immediately we are told that they, in turn, chose to respond to his call and to follow him.

So wherever you choose to holiday, whichever roads you choose to follow, by land, sea or air, may you have a safe journey and may your choice of holiday prove to be perfect.

As may be the path to follow in your life. Choose the right road!

As there is no Church at the moment, I've looked for some Spiritual food for you to take in and reflect upon.
Enjoy!

The Wisdom of Angels

Angels of the third and highest heaven, never try to figure out divine truths, much less argue whether some particular truth is true or not. They do not know what it is to believe or have faith, but say "What is faith? I perceive and see that this is so". They offer a comparison by way of illustrations. It would be like someone seeing a house and various things in and around it and telling someone with him that he ought to believe that they existed and that they were what they seemed to be. Or it would be like someone seeing a garden with trees and fruit in it and telling someone that she should have faith that it was a garden and that those were trees and fruit when she could see them plainly with her own eyes.
Heaven and Hell 2702

Key Concept

Swedenborg says that spiritual truths are just as obvious to angels as physical truths (e.g. "here's a house in front of me") are to us there's no need for reasoning or debate and there's certainly no room for doubt. He defines faith simply as the ability to recognise something because it is so, and he adds that here on earth, we can develop that ability through regeneration or spiritual rebirth (see his short work on this subject, Faith).

Thoughts for Reflection

Do you have faith in spiritual truths?
What are some of the things you believe, and why?
In our society, we often think of faith as a belief in something that we can't prove objectively.
What if there was empirical evidence of spiritual reality?
Would you still think of belief in that reality as faith?
Why or why not?

Service Dates for June and July 2020

14th June	Traditional Musical Service
21st June	New Church Day Service and shared luncheon
5th July	Traditional Musical Service
19th July	Service and – hopefully – Holy Supper; depending on 1.5 metres apart

Vale

It is with much sadness we inform that Alan Roberts – loving husband of Di Roberts – passed away on April 11th, after a long illness. Dianne is a direct descendant of William Holden, who with Jacob Pitman founded the Church here in Adelaide, travelling here on the same ship from UK.

Video funeral was shared to our members.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all family members.

Activities for June and July 2020 – with social distancing

At the moment, we can carefully resume gatherings and activities, but still observing social distancing. We can be in email and phone contact with each other, even text messaging. Zoom is another way of conversing with each other. When possible, we will be back to normality.

Just watch out for each other and ensure everyone is keeping safe.

Coffee and Chat

Thursday mornings 10.30am to 12.00pm resuming again! Along with optional jewellery making classes by arrangement with Ruth Bear.

Computers available

For general use, research, or just learning new computer activities. But apologies - no games – apart from Solitaire.

Back to Basics Bible Study

These are Zoom meetings, please contact the following Ministers for correct details and if you would like to join these very interesting meetings.

This is being planned by Rev. David Moffat via internet.as a group meeting.

If you have not already picked up the message from The New Church Google Groups, please contact June for more information.

Some very interesting topics are planned by Rev. Todd Beiswenger as well.

These are on alternate Monday evenings. Guest speakers too.

Please look on google groups for other very interesting topics online.
Zoom ID and passwords are available by email from the above people.
Further Information for any of the above, please phone 0417632207



Birthday Wishes

Celebrations are the order of the day as we wish

Ken Johnson

all the best on his 80th Birthday on June 7th



INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

“All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them; for this is the law and the prophets.” Matthew 7:12

How direct and clear the Lord's teaching is. What could be better than this? Simply treat others as you would like them to treat you. It is the conduct of heaven brought to the earth. It is the law and the prophets, because it is the truth, leading to the goodness of life.

Within your soul where heaven is, you know it is true and good. You know that if you let this teaching down into your earth life, and make it your law of neighbourly love, then you will be living as the angels do.

Prayer O Lord, Thou has beset me behind and before, and laid Thine hand upon me. **Amen**

Adelaide Church Motto

“The Law of the Lord is Perfect”

This motto was created at the time the New Church began here in Adelaide in 1844. As relevant today as it was then.

WORDS OF COMFORT

“We love because He first loved us” 1 John 4:19

In this current unusual world with ‘unknowns’ happening all around us, it is important to look after ourselves, our loved ones, and each and every one of us. The kindness and thought that has shone through while we are ‘all in this together’ is such a big reminder that we should always be looking after each other and being kind and caring to all we meet and share with.

The consideration of the ‘stay 1.5 mtrs apart with social distancing’ and the ‘Stay at Home’ guidelines, have been so well observed – a credit to us all. The impressive way that supermarkets and business allowed to operate, with giving online ordering and home delivering, has been such a help.

At the same time we are very concerned about the impact that loss of jobs has become a ‘new happening’ for many people. Our thoughts go out to them all, as well as those suffering.

Please always Pray for a better future for all.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR NEWSLETTER

If you have any news, articles, poems or submissions we would love to hear from you. Simply post us a letter, or send us an email.

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Or simply address your email to:

admin@adelaidenewchurch.org.au or: sanewchurch@gmail.com

More informative articles can also be found at: swedenborg.com.au It would be nice to receive your feed-back.