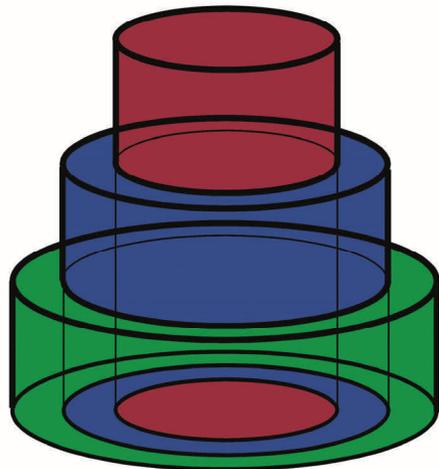


**TCR 394,395 Three universal loves**  
**- love of heaven, love of the world, and self-love**



- love of heaven - love of the Lord and the neighbour**
- love of the world - love of everything the world supplies for the delight of the bodily senses**
- self-love - love of glory, fame and eminence and dominating others**

**The Divine Order**

When a person has those three loves properly ordered, they are also arranged among themselves so that the highest love, which is that of heaven, is inside the second, the love of the world, and by means of this in the third or lowest, which is self-love. The love which is inside also has complete control over the one which is outside. So if the love of heaven is inside the love of the world, and is by this means in self-love, then the person is guided by the God of heaven in the services he performs at each level. The three loves function like the will, the understanding and action. The will acts upon the understanding, and there seeks out means for itself which allow it to perform the action. But there will be more to be seen on this subject in the next section, where it will be proved that these three loves if properly ordered increase a person's perfection, and if not properly ordered, corrupt him and turn him upside down. **True Christian Religion 395:3**

**Lifeline**

Editor: Alan Misson, 27 Woodland Way, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 7UB  
 Tel: 020 8777 5098 Email: alanmisson@btinternet.com

Distributor: Howard Turner, Kensington New Church, 5 Pembridge Villas, Kensington, London, W11 3EN Tel: 020 7229 9340  
 Email: howard.turner@generalconference.org.uk

ISSN 0308-3624

**new church**  
**Lifeline**



**Behold, I am making all things new.**  
**Revelation 21:5**

**March 2011**  
 Number 395

**Our mission is to express, share and experience with others in life an inclusive, non-judgmental vision of God's kingdom.**

## Prayer and Living

Prayer has gathered a great many wrong ideas. Its use (quite properly) in Services has led to the idea that you have to do it at set times in set ways. But prayer, by definition is **"talking with God"**, and that is best done while we are living our lives. We can talk over our problems and fears and joys with the Lord Jesus as they happen. Obviously, we sometimes need more time to talk out a difficult problem or to comfort a great grief; but then it can be done as easily walking in the park as facing the wall of our bedroom.

**And it really is "talking with God", not talking at Him.** It is no use pouring out our needs and worries if we do not stop to let Him answer. And He will. Do you remember the promise that the Holy Spirit will *"call to your remembrance all that I have told you"*? We have to let His spirit call into our minds the teachings and commands of the Gospel. These provide the true answers to our fears and worries. They will not always give the answer we want. Rather they tend to turn our thoughts to our own selfishness in many a situation; and they remind us that our purpose here is to learn to live loving others, not trying to get our own way or take what we want. Even in grief, He will call to our mind the lasting promise of heaven and the assurance of salvation.

But prayer serves its greatest purpose when we are asking, not for earthly benefits, but for spiritual strength and heavenly ways of life. Too much is so often talked of earthly change and reward, and this without a real change of

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Contents

Prayer and Living	2	Some historical notes	8
What can I do?	4	Relating the Love - the Secret Sower	10
Sermons in Verse - On Gluttony	5	Notices	13
In Memory	6	Extracts from Church Newsletters	14
Statement by the Ministers' Committee	7	TCR 394,395	16

For the current issue of Lifeline, back issues and other resources visit:

[www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk)

## Burnley

For the second year in succession we were deprived of our Festive Season Services by the harsh winter weather. Heavy snowfalls and icy conditions in our hilly district prevented travel to church and many members and friends were suffering ailments brought on by the cold. However, during our first service of the New Year on 9th January, arranged and led by Mrs Susan Wilson, we enjoyed singing carols in celebration of Epiphany.

## Kearsley

Who would have believed it but the weekend of 18th and 19th of December was almost an identical rerun of the same date last year. An exceptionally heavy fall of snow, worse than last year's blanketed the area on the Saturday morning. By Sunday the snow in Charles Street was still pristine as I think most people hibernated that morning. I had to pour boiling water over the padlock and over the latch on the gate because they had frozen solid.

The heating came on as scheduled so the church was lovely and warm for the afternoon Carol Service. All things considered we did very well to muster an attendance of twenty seven hardy and brave people! The singing was very good and the readers were excellent. Well done.

## Brightlingsea

Essex Air Ambulance - Congratulations to the supporters of our Friday coffee mornings. A cheque for £500 has just been sent to the Essex Air Ambulance from the proceeds of the coffee mornings. This brings the total contribution from the coffee mornings to this good cause during the last eighteen months to £1,500.

Widower's Tales - Did you hear this programme on Radio Four on New Year's Eve? Our good friend Guy de Moubray was one of four widowers who spoke about their life since their wife died. It was a fascinating and moving programme. The experiences of the four men were very different. If you missed the programme but would like to hear it, the Editor has an audio cassette of it.

## London and Southern Area

Did you see the cameo appearance of Richard Lines, Chairman of the George Macdonald Society, better known to many as Secretary of the Swedenborg Society, in conversation with Sally Magnusson on Songs of Praise on Sunday 16th January? His extensive knowledge of his subject was evident in his flowing presentation, covering a huge amount of ground in the few minutes allowed during the broadcast.

## Extracts from Church Newsletters ...

---

### Kensington

Although we all might well enjoy a bit of snow at Christmas, it's a bit irksome when it falls in sufficient a quantity nationwide to cause the cancellation of our Carol Service. The media urged us to question whether our journeys were really necessary and it had to be accepted that, with young families driving in from far and wide, it was not worth the risk of their becoming caught up in traffic chaos and stranded in deep snow somewhere out in the sticks. This was sad, because Rev Gillian Gordon had put a lot of time and effort into arranging for a Nativity play to take place. Undaunted, however, she decided to have another go on the 16th January. So it was then, albeit with fewer children, that a modified nativity celebration - carols but no tree - took place that morning followed by refreshments in the hall. It was a great success, but felt a little strange since that pre-Christmas anticipation just can't quite be revived after the event. Thank you Gillian; and also a big thank you to the children: Ewan, Katharine, Oliver, Pablo, Jamie, Iona, Sylvie, Tomas and Isobel.

### Paisley

#### The Bridge Project

The Bridge Project Steering Committee starts 2011 with the happy news of their recent success in securing £1,628 from a "Big Lottery" grant. This money will go towards the purchase of soft flooring and soft play equipment for a Toddlers' Club. It is envisaged that the club will meet in the church hall on Friday mornings.

The Toddlers' Club is the first phase of the Bridge Project's "Community Access Plan" which is a branch of a wider plan to open our church building up to the public. Future plans could see the expansion of the community access phase to incorporate a community cafe with a lunch club and a youth scheme bringing the younger and older generations together.

Further plans would see the development of a "Scottish Swedenborg Centre" which could help to promote the writings of our church throughout Scotland.

The Bridge Steering Group consists of the following people:  
Mr Alan Bowie: Rev Esther Byrne: Mrs Georgine Doherty:  
Rev Jack Dunion: Rev Robert Gill: Mr Raymond Laing.

spirit. There are none. When our Lord taught His disciples to pray, He taught them to do so in the fashion of the Lord's Prayer. In that, the only earthly request is "bread for today", and most of us understand that as a request for spiritual strength.

The whole point of this world is that we should develop so that we are not dependent on our surroundings. We have to develop that inward spirit that is confident in faith, that can hold fast to God's love whatever the happenings of the moment. That can make us an active force in human living, not just a passive spectator carried into joy or despair by things around us. God's purpose for us here is to make a human spirit able to know and use the power of His love in any circumstances. It makes us a messenger of His way — and messengers in the Word of God are angels.

It doesn't mean that we are to ignore the sadness of difficulty around us. Rather we are to do something positive about it and not just lament it. But we are to do it all with confidence in God's love and the power of our faith. Deprivation, sadness and difficulty will not pass away because of our attitude, but we shall see them without the hopelessness and despair that makes them truly a tragedy. Here is the weakness of those who teach that prayer will bring us the desired result in earthly rewards and results; what it will do is to let God create us the kind of person who can live out His way in anything that happens and find His joy in serving others in any situation.

Modern life has taught for too long that the right ambition in life is success, ease and comfort. If we are to have any real communication with the Lord in our prayers, we must remember that the purpose of our life here is to choose to be the kind of person who can receive the Lord's loving life and use it to help others. There will be times when our selfishness makes it difficult to see that, and times when we can only express our love for others by asking for earthly comfort and help for them. But the real object of our prayers must be for salvation, so that we may live life for others.

### Stephen Thomas

---

*The truth that what comes first must reign in what comes next, and so on sequentially is clear from the individual parts of the things spoken by the Lord, in particular from His prayer called the Lord's Prayer All its parts follow one another in such a sequence that they constitute a pillar so to speak, widening from the top down to the base and holding inside itself the things that appear earlier in the sequence. What is first there is inmost, and what comes after in sequence adds itself gradually to the inmost and in that way grows wider. What is inmost then reigns in all the surrounding parts; it reigns universally, that is, in every detail, for it is essential to the existence of them all.*

**Arcana Caelestia 8864:4**

## What can I do?

I'm not smart like the top bankers, I'm not talented like a concert pianist or a pop singer, I'm not beautiful like a top model (too old, too many lines!), I'm not skilled like a top surgeon. What can I do?

The first thing to do is to stop moaning! Look at yourself, what **can** you do? The teachings of our church state quite forcibly that the first person we must take care of is ourselves. This is not done for self glory. It **MUST** be done so that we become less of a burden to those around us. If we are on medication of some sort, then we must take it regularly and properly. A lady has played around with her diabetes. In, her 40's she is becoming blind and needs a kidney transplant.

We must keep ourselves and our homes as clean as we can. These days, we must insulate them as well as we can afford to in order to use less fuel and reduce our impact on the environment.

There are other practical steps that we can take which do not involve expense. Almost whatever age we are, we can offer our bodies for transplant purposes. Under 50's (it may be older ages now) can become blood donors or bone marrow donors. A few can take part in health surveys.

In the church's teaching we are told to pay our taxes honestly! This may go against the grain for many of us when we see the unfairness of big bonuses and the burdens of those on lower incomes. Yet, if everyone defaulted on their taxes, the health service, the education system, street cleaning and the police force would all vanish. It would be the end of our civilisation. So pay up gracefully for the alternative is national disaster.

All of these activities come from one source. "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." A few, very few, are able to love their neighbour **more** than themselves. You and I are not expected to do this. It is difficult for most of us to love our neighbours as much as ourselves. It is a continual temptation to love everybody else a bit less than ourselves! History is littered with people who had only contempt for their neighbours as seen in the lives of dictators like Stalin and Hitler.

So it our duty to encourage ourselves to be true neighbours in the spirit of the second great commandment. It is also our duty to encourage all those around us to be good neighbours as well. When we hear of plans to default on taxation, we can be brave and speak against it. When we see someone drop money on the street or in the shop, it doesn't take a minute to point it out.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Honorary Life Member of Conference

At its May meeting the Governing Council will vote for a Member of Conference to be recommended to be appointed an Honorary Life Member by the Conference annual meeting in July 2011. Any member, society or group wishing to suggest names for consideration by the Council should send them by the end of April to:

### **Michael Hindley**

Chief Executive, The General Conference of the New Church

or by email to [michael.hindley@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:michael.hindley@generalconference.org.uk)  
or by telephoning him on 01206 303800.

## Annual Meeting of the New Church College

The Annual Meeting will be held at The College on Saturday, 25th June 2011 at 14.30.

Following on from the business meeting, there will be a practical session on Listening in the Church. As we communicate together in church life, we often fail to realise how much is needed to make our listening effective. In mistaking listening for something passive, we can easily miss how much we bring of ourselves into this process. In a positive sense this can be our understanding of or empathy towards another person, but it can equally be our own fixed ideas or even prejudice. We shall be working together on how we can increase our awareness of what enters into our listening.

The work of The College continues to develop in new and interesting ways, and we would warmly like to invite you, whether or not you are a Governor, to join us for the afternoon. Tea and cakes will be provided; a donation towards the cost will be welcomed. If you are able to attend, it would be helpful if you would contact:

### **David Haseler**

Secretary

0121 440 8070

[david.haseler@generalconference.org.uk](mailto:david.haseler@generalconference.org.uk)

*(Continued from page 11)*

it begins to infuse our life. Do I need to worry if I know in my heart that the Lord provides for me and all people?

based on Arcana Caelestia 5212:4 & 10124:3

### **Experiential/Personal Reflection**

Plant two seeds, one in a pot the other in a transparent container (runner bean seeds work well). You might like to do this with your young children or grandchildren. Water and watch them grow: one seed you will be able to see what is going on below the surface of the soil and the other you won't.

As you observe these two seeds growing, reflect on times when life has been difficult, perhaps nothing seems to be moving forward. Life appears dormant. But is it? When you look below the surface perhaps new life is stirring unknown and unseen by you under the Lord's providential care.

### **Meditation**

Imagine you have a bare patch of ground before you. It has been prepared, weeded and made ready to be seeded. This ground is you - imagine yourself as the ground ... ready and waiting.

On the surface it looks as if nothing is happening ... no growth ... just barrenness. But you can now see with spiritual eyes and you see beneath the surface of the soil ... now you can see many seeds, waiting for the right time and season to grow ...

You focus on one seed ... knowing that life is stirring within it ... energy is building up ready for it to break out of the seed casing.

As you watch, a root tip begins to grow down into the depths of the ground ... to find an anchor ... nourishment and water ... many more roots follow.

Then you notice a shoot beginning its journey up through the soil to find light ... it breaks through the surface and emerges, young and tender. Up it grows sprouting leaves ... turning to the sun, the source of all light and warmth. The time of growth and fruitfulness is here ...

The blessing of growth is yours, freely given, with its own rhythm. It will happen many times ... there are many seeds given.

Is it today, now, that a seed of new growth will begin its cycle within you? Is it now?

.....  
Five Essentials - Aspects of Loving - a focus for the Church  
2nd Essential: Part 2: Relating to Love - the Secret Sower  
Published by The General Conference of the New Church.  
Downloadable from [www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk](http://www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk)

In the end, it is a way of seeing activities like those of our Lord and Saviour in our own lives and the lives of those around us. Looking for the chances to be of some help can become a way of life, indeed, **MUST** become a way of life.

How do people feel when they have been talking with you, walking with you, working with you? Have you ever thought about it? Are they made even more miserable? Do they go away with a glow of encouragement no matter how dire the situation they find themselves in? Our Lord came across many sorts of people in His life. He taught some, He healed others, He told others where they were going wrong (are we brave enough to do this?) Every day gives us an opportunity to do some good in this world.

**Geoffrey Bentley**

## **Sermons in Verse - On Gluttony**

---

It's said obesity, if left unchecked,  
Could spell the end for humankind.  
Now this is often, though not always, caused  
By lack of exercise and eating to excess,  
What would once have been known as surfeiting or gluttony.  
Not only does this harm our bodies, it may too  
Rob others of their chance to live a healthy life.

Though we forever get advice on what to eat,  
Seldom today do we hear gluttony itself is wrong.  
Yet there it is among the seven deadly sins!  
The laws of Moses take a stronger line. (1)  
A son rebellious, gluttonous and drunken  
Should by the elders be condemned to death by stoning.  
A punishment too harsh by far for modern times  
But which may lead us all to think of things,  
Wrong things, which we hold dear, which we could purge  
By looking at them in the light of truth.

Gluttony's only punishment today is fatness  
Leading to less ability to do the things we want  
And, maybe, to death before our time.  
Temptations are many to indulge ourselves too much  
With adverts on the telly and celebrity endorsements.  
Even the lure of temporary fame (however spurious)  
By victory in a race for eating doughnuts or some such.

*(Continued on page 6)*

In the Word gluttony and drunkenness are often paired  
 Such as when our Lord himself met accusations (2)  
 And when He urged His followers not to let their hearts (3)  
 Be overweighed by such indulgences,  
 Advice which we should heed as much today.  
 Just as our bodies need their food and function best  
 When that's nutritious and not harmful,  
 So too our minds need sustenance to grow in goodness.  
 This is best supplied by holy teachings,  
 Put into use performing useful deeds,  
 Working with others with the aim of helping  
 All to enjoy what God has plentifully given.

The spirit's gluttony is fed by things unwholesome, (4)  
 Unworthy of us and of our God, which constantly  
 Are thrust upon us on TV, in papers, magazines,  
 In books and on the internet. Just as we all,  
 At times, give in to food "naughty but nice"  
 So do we let our souls be soiled with wrong ideas  
 Often unthinkingly absorbed. Help us, good Lord,  
 To know and eat what food will keep the body whole  
 And, better still, that Heavenly fare which truly feeds the soul.

- |                         |                                   |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Deuteronomy 21:18-21 | 2. Luke 7:33,34                   |
| 3. Luke 21:34           | 4. Apocalypse Explained 617:32,33 |

**Jeff Lomax**

## In Memory

---

George Braunston, a very well known member of the New Church, at the good old age of 91 years passed away on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2011. A loving father to his family, and a Swedenborgian to the core, he was very much respected by all.

George had been a good friend to me for many years. I will miss the regular letters he used to send me, often containing precious advice that gave me a positive outlook at times when I was experiencing a stressful situation.

He was a much loved member of the Northampton society and always very supportive of any outreach project involving the local community. He will be remembered with great affection. Sincere condolences have been offered to his family and friends.

**George Young**

wisdom. From this seed of love comes a harvest as it becomes an abundance which produces the seeds of more cycles of spiritual growth.

This is what was promised in Genesis, at the end of Noah's flood:

**As long as the earth endures,  
 seedtime and harvest,  
 cold and heat,  
 summer and winter,  
 day and night  
 will never cease.      Genesis 8: 22**

**The following are ideas of different ways you can explore and experience the Lord as the Secret Sower**

### Bible focus

This parable shows the reality of our dependence on the Lord. It is he who provides the seeds and the opportunities for these seeds of true spiritual growth to grow. This is how he works deep within us, unseen.

This is a cycle of growth; read this parable again and then read the passage from Genesis 8:22, which is another cycle. What do these two Bible passages show you about the patterns of spiritual growth in your life?

### Teaching focus

The seed that was sown means love and comes only from the Lord. And everyone, no matter what their beliefs, if they have love from the Lord alive within them, then they are part of heaven. They are being created anew from within, by the Lord. From this grows a living faith, that makes us truly human.

based on Arcana Caelestia 1025

The stalk, ear and full grain mentioned is heaven within the person and its progression through different stages of growth. The stalk symbolises knowledge of true ideas such as the Lord as my loving Father provides for me. This is a factual statement that has been a part of my upbringing. It is a concept that I have but it only is an idea that has been given to me at this point.

When I look back through my life and realise that all of my life he has been providing for my inner growth even though at the time I couldn't see it. This is the ear - this spiritual principle is beginning to be true for me personally, I can see it working in my life, at least retrospectively.

But the full grain symbolises when this becomes part of our inner fabric. The true idea lives in us when it guides our perspective and how we interact with others -

*(Continued on page 12)*

## 2nd Essential: Part 2 - Relating to Love - the Secret Sower

---

**This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.**

**All by itself the soil produces corn - first the stalk, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.**

**As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.**

**Mark 4:26-29**

Last month we focused on the Lord as the *ground of our being*, this time we are relating to the Lord providing seeds of potential spiritual growth, *secretly*.

This parable from Mark's gospel is one of the series of parables concerning the kingdom of God; each parable gives a different perspective or description. Have you ever wondered why this is so? Perhaps each parable highlights what the experience of the presence of the Lord's love alive within us feels like. We need these reminders in our times of inner conflict and struggle. This particular parable highlights our receptive role in the development of heaven within us. We are just the ground, the soil in which this spiritual growth takes place. The man is the Lord, who as the unseen Sower, continually gives us heavenly seeds, the potential to grow into truly spiritual people. And we know nothing about it, or how it is developed hidden deep within us.

This seed is love that he plants within us. This seed is received by all people throughout the world who dwell in his Divine Love, no matter what belief structures they have. This power of love only comes from our Lord, who plants it deeply in our actual life and there it remains forever. Without this seed of love no knowledge or understanding of truth will be rooted in us and grow. Our part is to be open to receive what he gives, to choose to turn away from our own needs to control and to have ownership of our life.

On the surface it seems as if the impetus to love and do kind things comes from us, but this is just the appearance. We are asleep, unaware of this process going on within us. Everything comes from the Lord, the stirrings in our heart to be loving and wise perception to see how to go about this. Yet we are given the delights of the harvest as *if* they belonged to us. We get the joy of giving to others, of being of service, the warmth of loving connection and the insights of

## Statement by the Ministers' Committee

---

### Sexual Orientation

Following our publication in 2009 of a policy statement on "Sexual Orientation", the Ministers' Committee is continuing its study and discussion of this matter. The Ministry is particularly aware of the pastoral implications of any further statement that it might make with regard to sexual orientation, as well as the effect that this might have on church practice. For this reason we are allowing ourselves sufficient time for in-depth study and reflection. Although the process is protracted, the Ministry is serious in seeking a better-informed and more enlightened understanding of these matters.

At the recent meeting of the Ministers' Committee, held in November 2010, all those present had the opportunity to write down their hopes and concerns in regard to these issues. These were then read out anonymously without any comment from the assembly. This process proved to be illuminating and revealed many shades of opinion. What unites the Ministry is a clear belief in the love of God for all his people and a concern that as a church we should provide the very best pastoral care for each one. At the same time it is clear that there are significant differences of emphasis within the Ministry that we need to understand and work with.

For some ministers the prime emphasis is on the need to accept all people, whatever their sexual orientation, in a spirit of charity. For others it is to uphold the teachings and principles of conjugal love because these are the basis of human sexuality and essential to true heavenly joy. Whilst these emphases are not mutually exclusive, tensions can arise between them. The divergent approaches that result require careful listening and sharing to reconcile. It will inevitably take time to work through this dialogue, requiring mutual respect and patience. The prize will be a deeper and more mature understanding of human sexuality and a more compassionate and wise ministry to all, no matter what their sexual orientation.

The Ministry asks for the prayers of the wider church as it continues this process of study and dialogue. We also urge members of the Laity to think about these matters and communicate any thoughts and concerns that they may have to us. This can be done by speaking to any minister or to the secretary of the Ministers' Committee. In the meantime we shall continue to keep the church informed of our work and progress in these important discussions.

**Mary Duckworth** [Senior Minister]

**Robert A Gill** [Ministers' Committee Secretary]

## Some historical notes



Richard Carte was born in Silchester, Hampshire in 1808. Silchester had been a Garrison Town during the Roman occupation but when they left it slipped into obscurity remaining to the present day as a small rural village. Richard soon left Silchester and moved to the Soho area of London. At some point he came into contact with the New Church in Cross Street, Hatton Garden and became a member on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1834. His name was entered at number 212 on the register between Thomas Presland and Jane Johnson (who married Thomas Presland the following year). Intriguingly it was nearly a year before he was baptised on 18<sup>th</sup> October 1835 by Rev Samuel Noble.

Richard was very talented musically both in playing, particularly the flute, and in developing and making musical instruments. On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1840 he married Eliza Jones at Saint Martin in the Fields and they lived initially in Greek Street, Soho. Over the following twenty years they had 6 surviving children including Richard D'Oyly Carte, born on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1844. Meanwhile Richard Carte became a partner in the firm of Rudall, Rose and Carte in 1850 and they made a range of wind and brass instruments but notably flutes. One of these was known as 'Carte's 1851 flute' having won him a prize medal at the 1851 Exhibition. But Richard also maintained his close association with the New Church and this continued through into the late 1880's although prior to his death on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1891 he had moved to be with his son Henry in Reigate, Surrey. The 1892 Committee Report for the Camden Road New Church included these words: "Two we have lost by death. Mr Richard Carte, who was for 54 years a member of the Society, for many years its senior member, and since their erection, one of the trustees of the present buildings. And ...."



Richard Carte

But we need to return to Richard D'Oyly Carte who is, of course, universally known for his association with W S Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. Richard D'Oyly Carte must have grown up involved in some way with the New Church but I do not have the relevant records to hand to prove it. Richard married Blanche Julia Prowse in 1870 and they had two children, Lucas and Rupert. Lucas was born on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1871 and was baptised at the New Church in Cross Street on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1872 (Note - the congregation moved to Camden Road in 1874). At the time the minister was Rev Dr Rudolph L Tafel who had been born in Germany in 1831 but the baptism was actually conducted by Rev William Bruce,

a retired New Church minister famous for his wonderful commentaries on a number of the books of the Bible. But there is no record of any New Church baptism for Rupert who was born in 1876 after the move to Camden Road so it seems that at this point Richard D'Oyly Carte parted formal company with the New Church.

Richard D'Oyly Carte's partnership with W S Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan commenced in 1875 with *Trial by Jury* and finished for the first time in 1890 after a run of *The Gondoliers*. But they got together again briefly, finally finishing with *The Grand Duke* in 1896.



Richard D'Oyly Carte

But it is *The Mikado* that is of importance to this article. *The Mikado* was the partnership's most successful operetta first performed in March 1885 at a time of great public interest in things Japanese. In the second act the Mikado sings a song about his *object all sublime ... to make the punishment fit the crime ...* In the second verse he describes the punishment for some people who – **are sent to hear sermons from mystical Germans who preach from ten till four.**



Rudolph Tafel

Now this is almost certainly a direct reference to Rev Dr Rudolph L Tafel who was the minister at Cross Street and then Camden Road from 1870 to 1891. As I have shown above the family were closely connected with the church at various stages and one can imagine that W S Gilbert, the lyricist of the partnership, would have been well aware of the existence of the church and may have attended worship there with Richard D'Oyly Carte and/or his father during the long period when Rudolph Tafel was minister.

Alan Misson

*Affections are of two kinds, spiritual and celestial. Spiritual affections are affections of wisdom, and celestial affections are affections of love. There are therefore musical instruments the sounds of which relate to spiritual affections, and there are those that relate to celestial affections. The voice or sound of harpers and musicians relates to spiritual affections, and the voice or sound of flute players and trumpeters to celestial affections.*

**Apocalypse Revealed 792** (See Rev 18:22)