



Calshot Activity Centre

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new church

Lifeline



Brightlingsea Bicentenary

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Lifeline

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

NCYA Children's Day

On Sunday January 19th 2014 we are asking all Worship Leader's and Minister's taking services to support children and young people by remembering them in their worship. This is going to continue as a regular event on the third Sunday in January each year. As President of the New Church Youth Association I have produced a leaflet with some thoughts and prayers you could use or you can use your own words if you would prefer.

Let me give you some background to this event. As an organisation the NCYA felt it would be nice to have one Sunday in the year where, around the country, we remember the children and young people who form part of our organisation. We felt it was important to reflect on the value that these individuals bring to our Church and to those around them and to do this in some small way during one service a year. We are not asking you to devote the whole service to this, although you could if you wish, but to find some time in the service to remember these individuals who we need to nurture and support. The leaflet I have produced gives you a message from me, the President, and also some prayers which you can use as you wish or are free to adapt to suit you. This is in the process of being sent out to all Worship Leaders and Ministers but if you do not receive a copy and require one please do not hesitate to contact me (gwendolen.rowe@talktalk.net) or Alison Presland – Secretary (allyenglishgirl2003@yahoo.com) and we will send you a copy.

So whether you have children and/or young people in your congregations please support this event and hold these important individuals in your thoughts and prayers and spend, at least, part of your service doing so.

Thank You. **Gwendolen Rowe** NCYA President

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www.new-church-lifeline.org.uk

Letter

Dear Editor,

I valued reading Rev Brian Talbot's article in the October edition of Lifeline and am grateful for its inclusion.

However, I was disappointed that more of the references which Brian had researched were not included. I understand the question of readability needed to be considered and was pleased that the full article is available on the Lifeline website (as I was to see Rev Bruce Jarvis's article there as well). Having said this, my own feeling was that not including these references in the main body of Lifeline weakens one of Brian's main arguments in the article, namely that it is possible to support very different points of view from the Writings and the Word.

I'd also like to pick up on the question of "innovation" which is mentioned in this article as well as in Bruce's original article and elsewhere. Swedenborg describes people referring to him as an "innovator" in paragraph 112 of True Christian Religion (in most translations, but see below). The Latin word is "novator" in this paragraph rather than "innovator", which is the Latin word in Arcana Coelestia 1241, referred to by Bruce. Although John Chadwick includes "innovator" as an English translation for "novator" in his Latin lexicon, he used "original thinker" as the English translation for this word in his translation of True Christian Religion published by the Swedenborg Society. (It may be worth emphasising that neither of these references contains something which can be directly translated as "innovation").

It seems possible that Swedenborg wanted to distinguish between innovating in a positive sense and innovating in a negative sense and did so by using the two different words in the Latin. This makes me wonder how we each go about discerning whether something new is a good or a bad thing. It seems to me that opinion may well be divided on particular issues in this context. I also wonder how we can be absolutely sure that we know one way or the other about whether a particular example is "good" or "bad". My impression is that many discussions of this nature are based on a feeling that one view is to be preferred to other views, with other people demonstrating a different understanding from our own. We will naturally tend to favour our own view, but I wonder if there is a possibility of (and maybe even a need for) keeping a space open for a multiplicity of views.

Yours,

David Lomax

Sacred Dance Weekend - October 2013



I attended the Sacred Dance weekend at Purley Chase for the first time with no expectations or pre-conceptions other than that I had to buy a pair of flat shoes in advance, as my perennial heels would not be suitable!

What I found there was a very moving combination of love, acceptance and support through the togetherness of a group of people from various walks of life, ranging in age from 14 to 79 years (on this occasion all women, but this is not always the case).

The forming of a circle by giving and receiving hands joined us in so many ways, and the meaningful dancing to beautiful music provided a reflective opportunity to invite the Lord to join us too. The theme was Father Sun, Mother Earth, and the centrepiece around which we danced represented this with candles, prints and photographs to enhance the theme and provide a focus. The weekend flew by in a refreshing, yet peaceful, blend of learning/ practising new dances in a variety of styles, reflecting on the theme in our group, worship, and eating Anne's lovely sustaining food, and it was punctuated by fun, laughter and cheekiness! From my personal perspective, the weekend was a healing, joyful oasis in a world that can bring its challenges quite forcefully at times, and I am very grateful to the leaders, Rita and Mary, for facilitating and encouraging this environment. The essence of the weekend has followed me back to my little corner of the world, and I shall continue to nurture it until I can attend the next Sacred dance weekend!

Karen Jenkinson

Brightlingsea Bicentenary Celebrations

We remembered that we last visited Brightlingsea New Church in the mid-1960s and so the bicentenary celebrations on Saturday 17th August provided us with an opportunity to return. We picked up two other members at West Wickham and set off in plenty of time in warm sunshine. After having lunch a few miles from our destination we soon arrived at the church where Reverend Bruce Jarvis and his wife Tonia were standing at the top of the steps waiting to greet visitors. We were made very welcome and then moved into the vestibule where we met many friends, several of whom we had recently seen at Conference in July, and many people new to us. After signing the visitors' book, we entered the Church and took our seats. Immediately noticeable were the beautiful floral arrangements all featuring gold coloured roses and white carnations. Andrew Fisher then started playing the large pipe organ, which we understand came from another church in 1970. The magnificent sound produced on this instrument was a highlight.

The Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by Reverend Bruce Jarvis who was born and brought up in Brightlingsea. The Church was filled with members of the Brightlingsea congregation, plus visitors from the New Churches in Colchester, Southend and London and some from further away. Local people including the Deputy of the Cinque Ports Liberty, the Deputy Town Mayor and friends from other churches nearby brought the total attendance up to about seventy. The first hymn was "*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord*" which was sung with great gusto and set the tone for the whole celebration service. Bruce then spoke movingly about remembering the past and why we all enjoy recalling our memories. Prayers were led by Gordon Kuphal, the Church Secretary and a lay preacher, followed by the sung Lord's Prayer, which is one of the traditions of the Brightlingsea Society. There were five hymns in all during the service. Major Jean James, a local Salvation Army officer, read Psalm 122 and Nick Skinner, the Church Treasurer and a lay preacher, read John 17:6-19.

Between the readings, Bruce mentioned many of the highlights of the last two hundred years. As a summary, the following was printed in the service booklet. "Arthur Munson was a gardener by trade, who raised seeds for the London market, and was also a local Wesleyan preacher. He was ordained as a New Church Minister in Brightlingsea on 15th August 1813 by two of the leading Ministers of the Church, the Rev Manoah Sibly and the Rev Joseph Proud. Munson had originally become interested in the New Church teachings around 1809 through Dr Moses Fletcher, a recent arrival in Brightlingsea, who had come here to practise as a surgeon. Munson held meetings probably in his home in Cook's Lane, now Mill Street, but soon after started using a large hired room at Hurst Green. A specially built church was opened in 1814 and is still standing as

18 New Street. The congregation moved to our current church in Queen Street, when it was newly built in 1868.”

The text for the address by Reverend Bruce Jarvis was “*That they may be one as we are one.*” (John 17:11) This quote is part of the long prayer of Jesus before the crucifixion, where He prays for His disciples and their future welfare after He has left them. Bruce speculated that none of us knows what the future will bring, but that the way forward should be one in which all churches become closer and more united with one another. After time for personal reflection the offertory was taken, to be divided equally between St Helena Hospice in Colchester and Children in Need. The Faith of the New Church was declared and the doxology sung before a prayer for those who had been prevented from attending the service because of illness and infirmity. The service ended with the hymn “*To Jesus be praise without end*” and the benediction. Finally, Andrew played an organ voluntary.

Everyone was invited to stay for light refreshments in the hall at the back of the church. This was a lovely large, modern hall that had been built since our previous visit, the old one having been demolished and the land sold. A display had been mounted containing historical documents and photographs of ministers and other notable people and events. Alongside was a table of greetings cards and messages from other churches and individuals, including two from Australia and one from Reverend John Sutton in New Zealand who was minister at Brightlingsea from 1970 to 1975. The refreshments were delicious and plentiful. There was an opportunity to move about and it was a pleasure to greet old friends and make new ones. There were speeches from the Deputy of the Cinque Ports, the Deputy Town Mayor and Gordon Kuphal. Finally, Bruce rounded off the occasion with a few more personal comments. We left with the feeling that everyone thought the afternoon had been an inspiring and enjoyable experience. Thank you to all the large number of people who had made a contribution to the success of the celebration.

Afterwards, we had a quick drive to see the sea and found the field where Ann had camped with the Fire Fellowship back in the 1950s. On returning through the town, we found ourselves in New Street and stopped momentarily at number 18 to look at the original Brightlingsea New Church building, before driving back to London.

Ann and Colin Skinner

Editor - Picture opposite shows side view of 18 New Street, Brightlingsea - Google Street View.



from that time, and declared it? You are my witnesses. Is there a God beside Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one. (44:6-8)

Break forth into joy, sing together, you waste places of Jerusalem! For the Lord has comforted His people, He had redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (52:9-10)

It may be a very suitable preparation for celebrating the Lord's birth if we were to read one or two chapters each day – there are 66 of them! And as you read each chapter remember that it is the Lord Himself who is speaking to you and preparing you - no, not just for Christmas, but for your entrance into heaven when you leave this world. If the words seem a bit harsh sometimes, or impatient, then you are getting a glimpse of the Lord's Fatherly love and His desire for you to fulfil the purpose of your birth! If you are a parent, then try and have sympathy for the Lord and His parental love for each one of us. Try, because you will establish a new and deeper relationship with your heavenly Father.

I would like to add an extract from Swedenborg's *Arcana Coelestia*, or *Heavenly Secrets* 7750:2 -

If man were governed by his love - which is love to God and love towards his neighbour, the love that is properly man's own and marks him off from beasts - he would not only possess all the knowledge he requires, but also all the intelligence and wisdom. He would have no need to acquire these through learning, for they would flow from heaven into those two forms of love, that is, from the divine by way of heaven. But since man is not governed by those forms of love but by their opposites, that is to say, by self-love and love of the world, he is inevitably born into complete ignorance and lack of knowledge. He is however brought by Divine means to some measure of intelligence and wisdom, though even then he does not actually enter into it at all unless he removes self-love and love of the world and thereby opens the way for love to the Lord and towards the neighbour.

Last of all, let us hear the Lord Himself speaking to us directly in Psalm 103:17-18.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children's children, to such as keep His covenant and to those who remember His commandments to do them.

Rev Christopher Hasler

us and then reach others: our children to begin with, and all our own friends and those we meet at work and anywhere. We are just as much a part of the prophecy of Isaiah as those in the past. Let us rejoice and drink in the pure water of life.

The prophecies of the Lord's coming

Isaiah simply abounds with these! There are so many that we can only select some, and they make wonderful reading as they bring the Lord into focus in our life. Here are some:

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Curds and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. (7:14-15)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.... For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgement and justice from that time forward, for ever for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. (9:2,6-7)

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (11:1-4)

O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. He shall feed His flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. (40:9-11)

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you

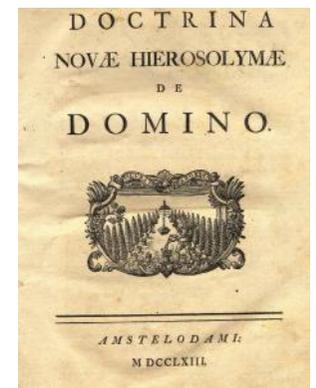
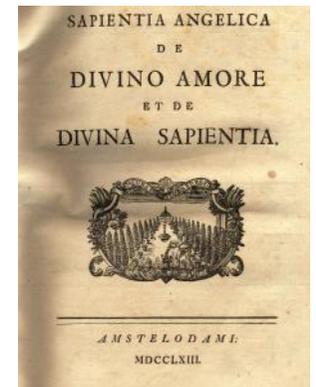
Seven Publications in Seven Months

According to the June 1763 issue of a Swedish magazine published in Stockholm 'Herr Assessor Swedenborg, famous for his learned works and peculiar ideas, despite his advanced age, left here by sea for Holland in the beginning of June.' The purpose of the 75 year-old's journey was to publish seven more books of religious teaching, five of which were fairly short, two considerably longer. Presumably Swedenborg's printers in Amsterdam started their type-setting of the seven books in early July, and by the end of the year six had been printed and published. The seventh followed during the first couple of months in 1764. We may therefore speak of Seven Publications in Seven Months.

At present, exactly 250 years later, the Swedenborg Society is engaged in the preparation of new translations of those seven works, though the publication of them will be spread over very many more months than seven. The first of the fairly short five is about to go to the printers and binders, and copies will probably be available by the end of 2013, while the first of the two longer ones - translated by KC Ryder, known to many of us as Ken - will appear in print sometime next year. The work he is translating, assisted by Rev Alan Lewin, is of course that which most people refer to as **Divine Love and Wisdom**.

The small work about to be printed has been translated by myself, with the very valuable help of Rev Robert Gill. The original Latin text has also been edited by us and will appear alongside the translation; and an editor and translator's introduction and footnotes are included as well. In this small work Swedenborg provides teaching which sheds light on questions people have been asking for 2000 years – Who was/is Jesus Christ? What did He achieve when in the world? What is the Risen Christ doing for people in the here and now? How are we to understand the Trinity and His becoming flesh?

The title of the forthcoming translation is **The Teaching of the New Jerusalem concerning the Lord**. I have used the word *Teaching* rather than *Doctrine* employed by previous translators and revisers, not only because I feel it is preferable but also because the late John Chadwick entitled his translation of



one of Swedenborg's '1758 Five' **The New Jerusalem and Heaven's Teaching for it** (instead of *and its Heavenly Doctrine*). Indeed the work concerning the Lord published in 1763, though small, serves as an expansion of the section headed *The Lord* in that also small work which appeared five years before, in 1758. And it might be mentioned in passing that Swedenborg took up the same subject again, in 1771, in **The True Christian Religion**.

In all three of these works the teaching presented is drawn from Sacred Scripture and confirmed – dare I say, backed up – with many quotations from it. But Swedenborg did not ignore Christian teaching and belief that existed in his day. On the contrary, although he endeavoured to show where that teaching went against Scripture or was irrational, he nevertheless looked for what was true in it and sought to uphold this. This is particularly so in what he published in 1763, in what he wrote about the **Athanasian Creed**. You will be able to read more about this in the introduction contained in the forthcoming publication by the Swedenborg Society; but let me in conclusion mention one surprising fact dealt with there. Swedenborg was relying on the English version of that creed that appears in the **Book of Common Prayer**.

Rev John Elliott

Titles of and other details concerning the latest English translations of 'the 1758 Five' published by the Swedenborg Society –

- 1 **The Worlds in Space** translated by John Chadwick, published 1997
(previously known as Earths in the Universe)
- 2 **Heaven and Hell** translated by KC Ryder, published 2010
- 3 **The Last Judgment** translated by John Chadwick, published 1992
- 4 **The New Jerusalem** translated by John Chadwick, published 1990
(previously known as Heavenly Doctrine)
- 5 **The White Horse** translated by KC Ryder, published 2007

Publication of new translations by the Swedenborg Society of 'the 1763 Seven' -

- 1 **The Teaching concerning the Lord** – currently at the printers
- 2 **The Teaching concerning Sacred Scripture** – expected to go to print in 2014
- 3 **The Teaching for the New Jerusalem concerning Life** – in preparation
- 4 **The Teaching concerning Faith** – awaiting preparation
- 5 **Continuation of the Last Judgment** translated by John Chadwick, published 1992
- 6 **Divine Love and Wisdom** – expected to go to print in 2014
- 7 **Divine Providence** – awaiting preparation

For information regarding new Latin as well as English editions of Swedenborg's works go to www.swedenborg.org.uk

many people can't afford a room, then clearly the world has not changed very much since the Lord spoke through Isaiah. But let me at this point insert a very wonderful truth about the Lord. The words I just quoted may suggest the Lord's anger with greedy and selfish people, and many cathedrals and larger churches have huge paintings of scenes of the Last Judgement in which unbelievers are cast by the severe looking God into hell to everlasting punishment. Rejoice that you have come across the doctrines of the New Church which completely reject such a doctrine of everlasting punishment. The Lord is the source of life and love - everlasting love. He cannot torture and punish those who have used their freedom (given to them by the Lord) selfishly and therefore foolishly. That was their choice. They will live in the company of similar people, which, in a sense is punishment enough, but they are still receiving their life from the Lord, the only source of life. Let us always see our Lord and Creator in the right light: as the only source of the warmth of love - and this can never change.

But let us return to the present. In the last six months or so, many vile actions have been revealed in our country from some of the highest in the land to the lowest. Suddenly one felt a shock: "If the highest in the land can rob the country of millions, and clearly, this has been going on for years, can we trust anyone?" Well, of course we can! There are believers who are honest and good, but we do need to be careful, because many of us have been taken for a ride as the saying goes. But we certainly need to be careful in our society and not trust those who are offering to make us richer; and we certainly need not be jealous of those who have become millionaires - during the few years they are in this world.

We need to think more about what is really important in our life. Or to put it another way, "What can I take with me when I die?" My money, estates, supercars or boats? Should it not be my realisation that the Lord has been guiding me and protecting me, once I realise that unselfish love is something that I can carry in my heart and take wherever I go?

And this is where Isaiah comes in. No, not Isaiah himself, but rather the hand which received a beautiful direct dictation from the Lord. And over the years he wrote it faithfully, so that it is not he who is communicating with us, but the Lord Himself, who chose Isaiah to reach us, and to give us a message we shall not always like. It will interfere with our natural ways: it will shame us and plead with us to change our ways and our life. Only the Lord has the right to speak to us in this way.

And joyfully we should recall that the book of Isaiah contains the most direct and the most beautiful prophecies of the Lord's birth. Written more than 700 years before the Lord was born in a stable, and to the last detail, everything went according to these prophecies - including the dangers into which Mary and Joseph were plunged because that birth, which had been foreseen. Come to think of it, those dangers are still ready to choke the holy infant out of our life. Therefore the Lord still needs our response, our love, so that He can come in to

The Impatience of Isaiah

The Book of Isaiah is the longest in the Bible, and Isaiah wrote it around the years 740 BC until about 701 BC, though he may have lived longer. His name in Hebrew mean 'Jehovah saves' and since the name Jesus is drawn from 'Jehovah', Isaiah can also mean 'Jesus saves'. During his life the land of Israel was barely free, because large countries surrounded it and it survived at the good pleasure of Assyria for some years. But the times were very uncertain. Soon the land of Israel was to disappear from the map.

Isaiah himself is regarded as one of the greatest Hebrew prophets by the strength of his personality, wisdom and statesmanship. But what has he to do with us, 2,700 years later? His repetitive prophecies and warnings are very much up to date, because they are not Isaiah's own ideas, but he was inspired by the Lord to say words which fitted the times. And if we are honest, we shall realise that when the Lord speaks, He speaks to His people in the present. The message does not change, because the Lord's love does not change and human nature does not change. The Lord is constantly reminding us to turn to Him, to repent and to begin to lead a new life. The Lord also knows that we are not going to change overnight, but will be sliding back into selfishness again and again.

Let us use an example: Didn't your parents worry about you when they knew you had to hand in an essay by Thursday - and this was Tuesday and you had not even started on it? "When will you get down to it?" "Oh Mum, stop nagging me!" (But deep down you knew that this nagging voice sprang from a deep love and concern for you.) And yet, there is an even a deeper, divine concern for you, which is expressed so clearly in the book of Isaiah. We can even be a bit put off as we are with our parents when they seem to be nagging us. We all love our freedom and ourselves first, and resent being censured in any way. So let us begin at the beginning and realise that the book of the prophet Isaiah expresses a divine concern for your salvation and so an entrance into heaven after you die - as of course, are all the other prophetic books. And dare we answer, as we may have done impatiently to one of our parents, "Oh, stop nagging me all the time!"? The Lord knows to the day when we shall leave this earth and enter the spiritual world, perhaps without making the right decisions and choices and turning to the Lord and following His urgent appeals - He describes very clearly the way many people conduct their lives:

Woe to those who join house to house, add field to field, till there is no place where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land! In my hearing the Lord of hosts said, "Truly, many houses shall be desolate, great and beautiful ones, without inhabitant." Isaiah 5:8-9

When we read about the rich grabbing fields and building huge houses, while so

Calshot Activity Centre - a report by some of the children ages ranging from 7-13

On Sunday 15th September 2013, a group of us went to Calshot Activity Centre down on the south coast. The Centre (housed inside an old RAF flying boat hanger) is next door to Calshot Castle built by Henry VIII to defend Southampton Water. But we were here not to defend England but to do some rock climbing and archery, plus in the afternoon, some high and low ropes activities.

But first, we had a long journey down from London. We got up extra early and sat in the car for ages until finally arriving at the centre. As we arrived a huge container ship was floating past the site which was amazing as it was just so close to us. We arrived and met the other children which we would be going round with for the day. Their names were: Seb, Millie, Toby, Lara, Daniel, Jason and my brother James and I. As we were walking in, we met Robert, Jen and our instructor Joe. We put all of our coats and bags away, and set off for an adventurous day!

Our first activity was rock climbing. The steep, uneven walls were poking out making us dangle over to reach the holds. The holds were colour coded meaning you had to stretch to reach the ones you needed. When you had reached your height destination you'd abseil back down the wall. Next up was the archery. We raised the bow, and clipped in the arrow and fired it at the target ahead of us. Rob, Jen and Joe's turns were great, with most of their shots getting close or dead on the target. It was really good fun! So after a busy morning, we went to have our lunch. We'd all brought along a packed lunch and had a room allocated to us where we could eat. However soon after, we were collected by Joe and were taken to high ropes. High ropes are swings you are attached to by a harness. Not only are you not sitting on it, the swing is about the size of a three storey house, you get winched up by the other children and then you fall. Lots of people were screaming .. it was great.

Our last activity was low ropes. This is an adventure course in which you never cross the obstacles by yourself, but only as a team. Unfortunately the weather was getting worse by the minute and it was pouring down with rain and blowing a gale as we did the course. To make matters worse the obstacles were made out of wood and metal so were cold and wet and the ropes were slippery. Every time we fell off, we had to start again. Eventually though we got to the end and we ran inside to dry off. By then our parents had arrived to take us home. We had a great day out and would like to thank Bob and Jen very much for arranging everything so well.

Thomas Skinner

I really enjoyed the activity day at Calshot. In the morning we did rock climbing and archery. After lunch we did low ropes which was an obstacle course. At one point I was blindfolded on the low ropes and we all had to work as a team to get me across a part of the obstacle course. Finally we did high ropes where we were harnessed into a huge rope swing. Then the other people on the ground pulled a rope and we would go up high to the ceiling of the aircraft hangar. When we got to the top we pulled a rope which was to the side of us and then we would fall down and start swinging up and down. We had great fun. A big thank you to Jen and Rob for organising the fantastic day.

Jason Nicholls

I was worried about going to Calshott in case I didn't know everyone, and I was scared I didn't quite know what to do on the activities. I didn't need to worry though, because everyone was really friendly and helpful! I liked the climbing wall, and going through the hula hoop at the top. The high ropes were fun, and Jen looked after me, and I managed it! I enjoyed archery because it was new to me, and we had fun on the beach all together collecting shells. It was all really exciting. When can I go again?!

Lara Jenkinson

As I looked down the colossal climbing wall, I felt a rush of excitement flow through my body. My church friends were like ants on the ground! Then I heard the instructor tell me to jump off, so I swung around and pushed off... I found myself pretending to be Robin Hood; with bow in hand, string stretched and breath held... Suddenly I felt the huge swing begin its speedy descent and the ground got closer and closer! I saw the line go taut, and I was swinging up into the air... I had an exhilarating day, and can't wait to do it again!...

Toby Jenkinson

With the church, I went to Calshot Activity Centre. Being there was really fun – we did loads of activities that I had never done before! Archery was my favourite because it was like I was Robin Hood!!!! First we were given arrows according to our size. Three at a time we were lined up and given 3 arrows to shoot with. At first it was really hard but gradually I started to get better with more and more practice. Soon everyone was hitting the target!! Competition time came – we had one arrow. The winner would be the person who got closest to gold or the straw leg of the target. Leg is better than gold. It was really fun and it was great to see everyone's progress and guess what?? I won!! But well done to everyone who took part – it was really close!

To end the day we got to do the giant swing. We were harnessed to a metal bar and our team mates had to pull us up until we wanted to stop. Then, when we

were ready, we pulled an orange cord to release the rope holding us up. For a terrifying moment we dropped and then swung – it was as if we were on a giant play ground swing! It was amazing – even though I am scared of heights – I was really glad that I did it! We all took it in turns and it was less scary the 2nd time. It was funny seeing the fleeting expression of shock on people's faces as they dropped. All in all, it was an amazing day out and I hope to go there again some time soon.

Millie Clark

I must take this opportunity to thank the New Church for subsidising Millie and Sebi's day out at Calshot Activity Centre. They were very happy with the day and thoroughly enjoyed their time. They were particularly enthused with the archery so perhaps they are budding William Tell! The day was very well organised and highly recommended. Thank you to Robert Curry, Jen Pickard, Joe and everyone involved.

Robert Clark (Millie and Seb's father)

Brass Altar Vases

A recent break-in at the Southend-on-Sea Church resulted in the theft of a pair of brass altar vases. We seek replacements - suitable height about 20-25cm (8-10 inches). Purchase from another Society or from any private individual equally welcome.

Please contact Southend's Treasurer, Bryan Smith tel. 01702 556350 or the Secretary, Peter Cunningham, tel. 01702 600462.
Thanks, in anticipation.

Change of Registered Office

At Conference this year the Council announced its intention to change the registered office of The General Conference. This was done at the Council meeting on 18 September and the new registered office is:
Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2RQ.