

Who will be leading it?



David Gaffney is an ordained minister of the New Church and the Programme Director at Purley Chase Centre. Having had careers both in the construction industry and as a teacher he now takes pleasure in sharing his understanding of universal spiritual ideas with others, particularly those gems found in the writings of Swedenborg.



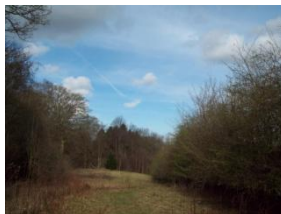
Stephen Russell-Lacy is a psychologist who has worked for many years as a psychotherapist for the National Health Service. He is also an experienced worship leader; recognised by the New Church. With both of these hats on, he is interested in applying his experience and in-depth knowledge of Swedenborg to resolve issues that most of us face in our daily lives.

EXPLORING KEY SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES IN THE WRITINGS OF SWEDENBORG

Through short talks, discussion and group work we will explore some of the key concepts in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg which are so relevant to contemporary life and spirituality.

*We very much look forward
to seeing you.*

The Centre



This recently extended and refurbished retreat centre in the heart of Warwickshire, is set in 7 acres of beautiful grounds enhanced by some spectacular specimen trees.

The Centre accommodates up to 60 people, 27 of these in the new annexe with en-suite rooms. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the en-suite bedrooms. Towels and bedding are provided but please bring your own toiletries.

Whilst dining on good, wholesome cooking you can enjoy restful views of the grounds and wildlife. There is always a vegetarian option (inform on booking please) and special dietary needs can be catered for.

There are several meeting rooms, two containing the latest audio visual equipment. Other facilities include a lounge, games room, quiet room, library and conservatory. There is wireless internet access for guests and for children and those young at heart a magnificent outdoor play area.



The Centre has full access, including en-suite accommodation with adapted wet room. There is ample car parking on site.

How to reach the Centre:

Take the A5 from the M6 or M42 towards Nuneaton. After Atherstone turn right off the large roundabout onto the B4111 towards the small village of Mancetter (¼ mile). Turn right in Mancetter just past The Plough pub – there's a brown sign for Purley Chase Golf Club. Over traffic light controlled bridge, follow road round to right signed Steppey Lane, up the hill through an archway of trees, and the Centre is on your right after ¼ mile.

If travelling by public transport, see details on the web site or ring the Centre for advice.

Centre Manager: Anne Gaffney
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Nr Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2RQ Tel: 01827 712370
enquiries@purleychasecentre.org.uk
www.purleychasecentre.org.uk

*Where is God in
innocent
suffering?*

EXPLORING KEY SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLES
IN THE WRITINGS OF EMANUEL SWEDENBORG



19th to 21st February 2010

Friday 7pm to Sunday 2pm

Leaders:
David Gaffney
Stephen Russell-Lacy

Host:
Grant Brackley

What is the Weekend about?



All of us are touched by suffering in some form or another and many of us wonder how a loving God could possibly permit it. What good could possibly justify human suffering such as disease and wholesale destruction of civilian populations in war? Attendees will be encouraged to share their thoughts on this difficult

topic in the light of the New Church's teachings. In the world today we are faced with horrific events and disasters on a daily basis it seems. Whenever we turn on the television or pick up a newspaper we are confronted with someone suffering. Throughout the weekend we will be looking at where 'god' figures in innocent suffering.

Some questions might be:

- Do we need to suffer to grow as people?
- Is anyone truly innocent?
- Is there a greater good at work?
- Why should anyone suffer?
- Does evil exist and what might be its origin?
- Why the activity of divine providence is not obvious
- What might be the reasons for divine permission of tragedy?

This is what Helen Keller said of Swedenborg's Writings: "Were I but capable of interpreting to others one-half of the stimulating thoughts and noble sentiments that are buried in Swedenborg's writings, I should help them more than I am ever likely to in any other way."

Who is it for? This weekend is ideally suited to those who want to start at the beginning. It is open to everyone, whether you are an active member of the New Church or someone interested in learning more about the fundamental concepts contained in Swedenborg's writings and how they might give depth and purpose to your life.

Programme Outline

Friday Evening: Arrive after 4:00pm
Buffet supper from 7:00pm
Introduction 8.30pm

Saturday: Breakfast 8:30am
Matins 9:30 – 9:45
Session I
Coffee break
Session II
Lunch 1:00pm
Free time (2:00 to 4:30pm)
Session III
Dinner 6:00pm
Optional Activity
Vespers 8:45 – 9:00

Sunday: Breakfast 8:30am
Session IV
Coffee break
A Christian Service
Summing up
Lunch 1:00pm
Homeward bound 2:30pm

*Numbers limited so book early
to save disappointment*

Reply Slip Where is God in innocent suffering?

Please complete and return with a £30 non-returnable deposit. Cheques to: 'Purley Chase Centre' (please put your address on the back)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Accommodation preference (please tick)

Standard (dormitory) £80

En-suite single £100

En-suite twin £100

I should like to share with _____

En-suite adapted £100

Dietary preferences (please tick)

Standard Vegetarian

Food Allergies/Special Dietary Needs? _____

I enclose a cheque for: non-returnable deposit £30
Donation to Purley Chase Centre £
Total £

Return to: Bookings, Purley Chase Centre, Purley Chase Lane, Mancetter, Atherstone, Warwickshire CV9 2RQ

I'd like to receive information about other forthcoming events at Purley Chase Centre. My details will not be passed onto anyone else.