

Roseville New Church, 4, Shirley Road, Roseville, NSW 2069

CHURCH BULLETIN FOR JULY 2026

Minister's Message,

As this is the first of a number of monthly church bulletins, I'll just explain that each issue will come out online or get to you posted before the end of the previous month. So if anything is to go into the next one, it needs to be with me by the previous 25th, please. And feel free to contact me on 0427 938 732 or julian@duckworth.me Thanks, Julian

Where we are now we live up on the first floor of a fairly long house. The downstairs is our garage, storage (so much!) and hobbies area, with gardening things lining much of the walls. I've never lived on an upper floor before, although bedrooms have been upstairs in some places. It's pretty nice to be 'up' because the view is better, the wind is stronger, we're safe from local floods, the sky feels huge, and the whole place has a vague "Lord of the Manor" feel to it which plays wonderfully to my sense of my own importance!

But of course, 'Upstairs, Downstairs' has a kind of spiritual meaning to it as well as having been a popular TV series. It's a bit like a parable. We tend to think of God, heaven, good, truth, as being 'up' things, and daily life, responsibilities, doing, and going, as being 'down there' things. That's kind of right, but the 'downstairs' things are not just worldly; they are very much the activities out there in life which we do and try to do well because of what we believe is right and important. Don't forget that the upstairs sits upon the downstairs! You see the point.

And we're really meant to go regularly between the upstairs and the downstairs, so that both levels keep connected. Physically, yes. Personally and spiritually, yes. In our house we have a flight of outdoor stairs at one end. There are 15 stairs which delighted me because the Biblical Temple had 15 steps to go up before you entered the sacred place. I think of that almost every time I go up and down ours.

But the stairs are essential for the change of level to happen. So I see stairs being to do with a decision we make in our mind. Going up the stairs could be like I have a difficulty or a question or a sick friend and I need to refer to my spiritual beliefs and understanding. Going down the stairs is very much like me getting a wonderful thought or feeling and needing to find some helpful way to use it in my life, to do some good. And that makes me realise that I have to go downstairs to get out into the world around me!

Which all reminds me of the opening words of Psalm 127 that "Unless the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." May the Lord keep building our two-storey lives and may we live on both levels.

Have a safe and enjoyable July, Julian

Church Services at Roseville during July and August

Sunday, July 5th	Rev. Julian Duckworth Including the Holy Supper	Sunday, July 19th.	Wayne Kasmar
Sunday, August 2nd	Rev. Julian Duckworth. Including the Holy Supper	Sunday, August 16th.	To be confirmed in the August 'Bulletin'

Society New Minister notice
Most of you reading this will have received the email notice from our Secretary, Graham Hall, about our work in finding a new minister. I am giving Graham's notice again here, in case anyone has not heard what is happening.

We have had our first service since Howard and Debra departed, thanks to Joe and Julian. But I know many people are wondering about the prospect of finding a new Minister. The Committee is happy to tell you that we have had strong expressions of interest from two impressive people, They have sent us written accounts of their studies, experience and ideas. They have each had virtual meetings, firstly with Julian, Wayne and me, and then with the full Committee.

They are both in their thirties, and are both from the Swedenborgian Church of North America. (This is not the General Church, but is similar to the New Church in Australia and the General Conference in Great Britain.)

One is Rev. Rachel, a young woman who has done chaplaincy work, served at the Wayfarer's Chapel in California, and is now working in governance at the University of Southern California. The other is Ben, who has also served at the Wayfarers' Chapel (at a different time - they haven't met). Ben is assistant minister with the Boston Society. He is qualified, ready to be ordained.

We have invited each of them separately to visit Sydney, meet with us all, see the church, take a service, participate in some activities, and see something of Sydney. They are both keen to do so, and we are working on the timing. If you might be able to have them to stay for at least one night, please let me know.

While at this stage we have two strong expressions of interest, we don't regard this as a competitive recruitment process. We are looking to attract the spiritual leader who is best matched to the needs of the church here. We'll keep everyone informed.

Sincerely, Graham Hall, Secretary

Our Prayer Circle and WhatsApp Group

Ruth has started up a WhatsApp Group as another way of communicating with each other. You need to download the WhatsApp app. The group is called SSNC. If you want to join, send Ruth, Joe or Joel a message and they can help you. There are three subgroups you can join, one of which is the Prayer Circle. Once you have joined you can nominate people to be prayed for or just say prayers for them as in the past.