



HULL UNITARIAN

AUGUST and SEPTEMBER 2013

**Magazine of Hull Unitarian Church
Park Street
Kingston upon Hull**

Founded:1672

**A Proud Tradition of Over Three Hundred
Years of Freedom, Reason and Tolerance.**



WHO'S WHO AT PARK STREET

Chairman:

Marie Penn Tel.: (01482) 508024

Administrator:

Alison Nicholson

Bookings Secretary:

Pat Clappison Tel.: (01482) 343353

Treasurer & Reaching Out:

Mavis Lake Tel.: (01482) 353752

Music:

Dr. Adrian Worsfold Tel.: (01482)

'Hull Unitarian' Editor:

Barry Cundill Tel.: (01964) 624101
barry@compton12.karoo.co.uk

Board of Trustees:

Barry Cundill, Helen Jackman, Mavis Lake,
Marie Penn, Michael Tracey.

CHAIRWORDS

Hello there!

How time flies; and what a wonderful change in the weather too. 'Too hot' you say. Yes! Except for sun-lovers. The sun used to be a great healer, but not any more, the atmosphere has changed so much and it is dangerous. I worry so much for the future generations and wonder where it will all end. One sure thing about this – we can do nothing!

We weather the weather, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not! We have no choice, changes will come.

Yes, things are changing within our own Church, with a good group of people helping. We had a good AGM and one or two more people are offering to help in many ways. The younger new people will gradually integrate and add richness with their different ideas. This surely is a good thing and a step forward – so let us encourage this attitude.

Barry and his father-in-law are working away in the back garden of our Church and it is now beginning to blossom. Gardening takes a little time but it is worth the wait.

We made the decision to close our building at the end of the year, hoping this will help move things along. We must then work together to make positive and useful suggestions and choices. This will help us to show our loyalty to the Church and to each other and we can march forward together.

Here is a prayer, oft quoted in services

*Look to this day, for it is life, the very life of life.
In its brief course lay all the verities
And realities of your existence:
The bliss of growth, the glory of action,
The splendour of beauty,
For yesterday is but a dream
And tomorrow is only a vision,
But today well-lived
Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness,
And every tomorrow a vision of hope.*

Look well, therefore, to this day. Amen

Enjoy each day and take care. Marie, your chairman.

SPIRITUAL CORNER FROM THE EDITOR

Seeing as this is my last issue and I've not had anything much through I thought I you might indulge me as I witter on about 'God' for a bit.

You see although I like the trappings of our church services, my current idea of 'God' is at the opposite end of the spectrum from the omnipotent bearded guy in the sky who appeared in fearsome form on the religious stamps I collected as a child in Sunday school.

To my mind, there is a rich seam of godliness and goodness of spirit which runs through humankind, though it is not always tapped into, as it were. God or 'good' is also found in nature. My views have chopped and changed around over the years as I have searched for the Truth, as perceived by me. Although I sense now that my search is pretty well concluded, we can never know for certain what is around the corner to change our beliefs.

Then there is the Jesus angle: that, as Unitarians, we persist in trying to adhere to the principles taught by Jesus makes complete sense to me for he preached a code for decent living which always wins through in the end – one knows instinctively that to 'love thy neighbour', for example, is the right way and it pays dividends – we are all winners in a spiritual sense, as a result. What I do find trying is people not using their own powers (I nearly wrote God given!) of deduction but believing what is written per se in the Bible which contains a deal of archaic drivel along with the largely common sense approach and sound advice of the New Testament.

I will always defend the right of anyone to believe anything they wish as long as they do not infringe the rights those with different views. The bigoted, patronising Atheist is just as abhorrent to me as the evangelic proselytizer who comes knocking on my door or the imam preaching hate.

I see 'God' when I look at the gorgeous skies we are having of late, one minute swirling silvery masses against an azure backdrop, the next an ominous dark

expanse pregnant with electricity.

I see 'God' in the innocence of a child and the amazing goodness which people are capable of.

I see 'God' in the wonder of science and a beautiful work of art or piece of literature as well as the beauty of music, even if it is a traditional hymn well out of synch with our broad beliefs, for the person who wrote those words did so from the heart and knowing that, I sing all the more heartily.

YORK SAY FAREWELL TO THEIR MINISTER

On Sunday, 29th September York Unitarians are planning a Farewell Event for Myrna Michell, following their service, as she is leaving to move to New Zealand to be near to her son and his family.

Hull Unitarians have been asked to join them for her final service at 11.00am to be followed by lunch and a musical hour.

If there is enough interest we could cancel the service here and have a day in York. You may recall that our last visit there was curtailed due to bad weather and York is always worth a visit.

I could take a couple of people in my car if necessary - BC

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

It's been one of those months for me – I'm always busy engaged in something or other but July was hectic. When the sun's out and Sue's been working full time during the week or family beckons, like Ernest Penn did, I try to put family first and Church has to play second fiddle though that said, I can never go too long without my Unitarian fix.

So here I am tapping away at the keyboard – it's the end of the month and the mag is late. And when I was up to my armpits in mud and bullets and sausages on Sunday and someone asked if the mag was out yet I nearly bit my tongue off. It wasn't that person's fault, of course, it just that you can only spin so many plates before they start to fall. With that

fact in mind, I asked Keith Brown if he would edit the *Hull Unitarian* in future and he has very kindly agreed. If the Church website is anything to go by he will be a great success and you might even get to know who is taking a given service and when, on a more accurate basis! So if you have any submissions please leave them at church for Keith to collect (his contact details will also appear in the next issue, of course).

On the whole I have enjoyed the mag experience and the support of readers, particularly Dorothy Morgan, Marie, Bernard and Keith. Now I know what hassle can be involved I hope I can find a little time to submit the 'odd' article. Yes, although he would never admit as much, Chester is quite flattered at being asked to still contribute in future although I must confess to feeling a little put out on account of it.

To those who have enjoyed my oft quirky take on life I say 'cool, dude' and to those who haven't - well, tough! That's the way the cookie crumbles!

Take care, all of you.
Barry Cundill

CHESTER'S PIECE

Hi Fans,
I've been asked to cover the Chamberlain BBQ event held last Sunday 28th July. Don't know why. HHMO reckons he's busy but I'm not so sure. Maybe busy writing the mag when he should be out walking me!! So the BBQ.....firstly my apologies for getting under people's feet. The trouble is I can't be tucked out of the way and tucking in, as it were, both at the same time; let's be logical about it. Weren't those sausages great! And burgers to die for, in my humble opinion, that is.

We'd had thunderstorms during the night and before the barbie was lit there were mutterings along the lines of 'we're all doomed' a la Corporal Frazer. In the event, the huge blue tarp BC rigged up was not required and it was a pleasant afternoon for all sixteen of us.

Special thanks must go to all those who mucked in and helped, especially Dorothy Morgan who could not partake of the fare yet worked away in the

kitchen with a smile - good on her. Mavis and Michael must get a mention too. He joked about his service not taking too long but BC complained he missed half of those wonderful traditional hymns while tending the barbie, which goes the show you can't please everyone! It was lovely to meet old friends again like Wilf Jones, who is ninety-five yet gets out a lot and participates in social events as much as he possibly can.

Sue put a lot of hard work into the event which seemed to go down well (like the sausages). We may not see her at church services but we reckon she does a lot to back us up at these shindigs and particularly around Christmas though I did hear her muttering that a proper size fridge and a non-Mickey Mouse cooker that works consistently would oil the wheels exceedingly for the Candlelit bash!! So trustees please note).

If you are a Chamberlain resident who enjoyed the day, please spread the word so we can have more of you there next year - it's not as if we're trying to convert you or anything like that. And if you are a Church goer, even though barbie's are not your thing, just try and support us anyway next year - try not to think of the sausages - I'll do that for you!!

Chester.

BIRTHDAYS

We wish them all the Best:

8th August
12th September

Brian McGowan
Joyce Waites

REACHING OUT

On **Friday 27th September** it's the **MACMILLAN
BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**

Please try to be there! It's one of the very best of
causes.

Mavis Lake

Please note: to see our Calendar of Services and Events, go to:

<http://www.hullunitarians.org.uk/>

TRUE FRIENDSHIP

The sunshine of friendship's rays
 Brighten life's pathway in many ways
 To show that, there are those who care,
 Uphold each other in constant prayer.
 Life's burdens together we share
 And care for each other's welfare.
 In the friendship of kindred minds,
 Hearts become one in love entwined.
 As the years come and go,
 True friendships the more precious grow.
 Bonds are formed in Christian love
 Truly commended by the lord above

Submitted by Dorothy Morgan

NINETY

I'm 90. Yes, I'm 90 though I don't feel it at all
 Here I am sitting all day, wrapped in a shawl.
 Rocking in a rocking chair, wishing to reverse a gear
 Thinking thoughts about myself but mostly
 yesteryear.

Wish I'd had a better life, which brings me many
 tears.
 Wearing ancient clothing I've kept for many years.
 Tatty bits of this and that with buttons which won't
 fasten,
 Quoting bits of conversation to which no-one else
 will listen.

Sorry, but that's not me at all though the first line is
 untrue,
 The second, third and fourth likewise – the second
 verse? Untrue!
 Just think of four score years and ten – it's the time
 I've lived on earth.
 I think of grandchildren and great-grandchildren -
 worry from their birth.

I've such a lovely family, two daughters and one son
 The girls have busy lives but still see I'm not left
 long.
 They need to sort my tablets out, make sure I'm not
 unfed,
 Make sure I know the programmes I like, before I go
 to bed.

A life-long love of music from beginning up til now

Went on to train for professional work, bad health
 stopped that – and how!
 Still, eighteen months in Switzerland got rid of the
 disease,
 So then I turned to easier work, enjoying a life of
 ease!?!?

The family formed a musical group which did a
 variety of things
 Stephen on double bass and cello, Elizabeth on flute
 and variety of strings,
 Marie-Louise on cello, Ernest on glockenspiel and
 timpani
 The girls danced with dad and we all sang in
 harmony.

I went on to help with others, producing plays and
 conducting choirs
 Wrote and produced 3 bi-annual gang shows for the
 West Hull Scouts cubs and others
 Was invited by the authority to teach singing in
 schools
 And became a peripatetic visitor, did more study, as
 was the rule.

Appointed 'temporary organist', which lasted
 twenty-five years
 It was the most rewarding job, despite my many
 fears.
 And when we formed a singing group, my goodness
 what a thrill!
 With David's tenor, Ernest's bass and Mary's gentle
 trill.

There was Barry, Susan, Mavis and Paul, making
 sound which filled the hall
 Oh, that we had those voices to sing – but we never
 know what the future will bring

The past thirty years the U3A's played a large part
 At Hessle, then Cottingham, I worked hard from the
 start.
 Awake newly formed Willerby and Kirkella for
 Anlaby group
 Already has 30 study groups, a sound committee, a
 solid 'troop'.

The happiest years were with Ernest of course.
 We worked together for 59 years, very little remorse
 Now many times I think of him, wonder if I go the
 right way.
 He's there on my mantle-piece, I consult him every
 day.

What a wonderful man he was, not perfect, but
human and kind.
His family came first then his Church, then his books
-
He had to refresh his mind.

I'm 90. Yes, I'm 90 but my mind's only 24.
I've loved life, not done much, but can certainly read
the score.

What a life to look back on, a life with few regrets
Somewhere along the road I've listened, I've loved,
done my best.

Marie Penn

REFLECTION

*Sing in celebration, time to remember
Those who in past ages kept love of truth alive;
Now, in dedication, as we pay them homage
We too would pledge for truth and love to strive.*

Readers may recognise the first verse of Hymn 135
in *Hymns for Living*.

The views expressed in Hull Unitarian magazine are
solely those of the contributors and do not
necessarily represent the views of Hull Unitarian
Church.



Hull Unitarian Church is a member congregation of
the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free
Christian Churches.

The Hull Unitarian Church website can be found at:

<http://www.hullunitarians.org.uk/>

Email Hull Unitarians:

hull.unitarians@yahoo.co.uk