

THE HULL UNITARIAN

OCTOBER and NOVEMBER 2013



OURS BE THE POEMS
OF ALL TONGUES,
ALL THINGS OF
LOVELINESS AND WORTH.
ALL ARTS, ALL AGES,
AND ALL SONGS,
ONE LIFE, ONE BEAUTY
ON THE EARTH.

KENNETH L. PATTON 

1911-1994

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTER

©1980

Magazine of Hull Unitarian Church

Founded:1672

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

the **unitarian** and
free christian
churches



Web: www.hullunitarians.org.uk

Email Hull Unitarians: hull.unitarians@yahoo.co.uk



WHO'S WHO AT PARK STREET

Chairman: Marie Penn Tel.: (01482) 508024

Administrator: Alison Nicholson

Minutes Secretary: Helen Jackman

Bookings Secretary: Pat Clappison Tel.: (01482) 343353

Treasurer & Reaching Out: Mavis Lake Tel.: (01482) 353752

Music: Dr. Adrian Worsfold

Web & Print Editor: Keith Brown Tel.: (01482) 863337

Board of Church Trustees:

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

Board of Chamberlain Trust trustees:

Barry Cundill, Mavis Lake, Michael Tracey, John Williams

CHAIRWORDS

Hello there!

A sudden change in the weather, what a shock! It has gone from one extreme to the other, and heating has had to be put on, whatever the date. "The Autumn leaves are falling fast" but are they? Not yet in my garden. Many of us have reached the autumn of our lives, but it's a pleasant time of colour and what jewel boxes of colour we all have in our lives, some sparkle like diamonds but others are longer lasting pieces of gold and silver – much rarer, longer lasting and precious these are the things we have to think about in the darker days.

Autumn

The autumn breezes gently blow, leaves falling all around
Their movement is so gentle until they touch the ground.
The Colours are so varied, the orange and the brown
The yellows, Beiges, purples, all floating gently down.

There is so much beauty in the carpet lying there
Sometimes it's quite a good thing, just to stop and stare
If only we could spare the time to look around and see
The beauty all about us, in the gardens and the trees.

Have you noticed people pass you when going up the street?
Their bodies leaning forward, and their eyes -, no time to greet.
No time to look about and see the Autumn beauty there,
For as we're told in poetry there's "no time to stand and stare"

The gardens are so interesting you notice something new,
Each time you pass and look around, it does take time that's true
But what a pleasure added to a walk you have to make.
A glance a second or short pause, that's all you need to take.

On sitting in the garden surrounded by many a tree.
I was absolutely stunned to see an elephant gazing down on me.
It looked to be approaching as the breeze began to blow

It was a Weeping Willow changing, beginning to lose its glow.

The branches on the trees are bare the leaves now fallen down
A skeleton is all you see, in colours black and brown
But look again; you're sure to find a framework of some kind
A picture you can conjure up in the corners of your mind.

Harvest Festival is coming soon on the 6th October; lets make it a good one. Progress is being made on the new frontage and also being made on the piece of land which we are trying to buy for our own use. It looks to be slow progress, but never the less progress it is! Something to look forward to.

Joy each day and take care.

Marie, your Chairman.

A PRAYER



Help me Lord today, sufficient attention pay,
to things I have to do, yet not forgetting you.
If there's a problem or a task Lord, for your help I
humbly ask,
while my hands at work all day, may thoughts from
you not stray.
If there's a chance to help another, be it workmate,
friend or brother,
stir up my thoughts within my mind, to help say
things that are kind.

And as the day draws to an end, if I have said things I did not intend, or did things I should not have done, help me to say sorry, as before you I come.

Submitted by Dorothy Morgan

YORKSHIRE UNITARIAN UNION MEETING AT BRADFORD

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12th



YUU Lay Worship Leaders meet at 10.30 – Tea/Coffee

11.00 Using Art in Worship...led by Kate Taylor

You may care to bring a painting (reproduction!) that you have used, or would like to use, in a service.

12.30 LUNCH. Bring your own food – tea/coffee provided.

1.30 Opening Devotions led by Rev. Myrna Michell.

1.45 YUU Annual General Meeting...including the Annual Report and Accounts, election of officers and executive committee, and the installation of Michael Tracey as the YUU President for the next two years.

2.45 Elizabeth Faiers talks about her extended visit to the Unitarian communities in Maghalya and the Khasi Hills of north-east India. Illustrated with many pictures.

3.30 YUU Quarterly Meeting

4.15 Tea (food and drink) provided by the Bradford Congregation

5.00..ish Departures

Everyone is invited to any part or all of today's activities. Bradford Unitarians are at Russell Street, Bradford BD5 0JB. This is a 15/20 minute walk from the Interchange (Train and Bus)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to our autumn edition of the Hull Unitarian. My first task as a new editor, must be to thank my predecessor, Barry Cundill. Barry stepped in at short notice and at a difficult time to keep things running and we have since benefited from his common sense approach and sense of humour. And, of course, he introduced us to our most illustrious correspondent, Chester, who regularly gives us the low down on the Cundill household. It's also worth pointing out that it's not as if Barry isn't already committed to other Church activities, such as Trusteeship, looking after the Church garden, organising barbecues and so on, let alone managing his own life!

These days, willing volunteers are as gold dust and as difficult to find. A wise Church will always cherish and encourage such people and will carefully match its activities and aspirations to the resources and capabilities of it's, often dwindling, and overburdened, band of helpers, accepting with gratitude, every minute, as every hour. I guess we would all hope to aspire to be the "Willing Workers" so graphically described by Dorothy below.

For anyone exploring religious ideas and spirituality, this summer's appalling events in Syria, and now Kenya must seem particularly distressing and depressing. David Bumbaugh has written that "The history of religion is so soaked with blood that we might well be advised to shake ourselves free from it's claims." Except that, this year, the forces of secularism seem to be just as bad as all the others. Never has belief seemed more perverted, cruel and savage. We apparently live in a world where merely shooting or shelling children is somehow more acceptable than using chemicals to kill them. If, as Bumbaugh claims, "human beings seem to be religious animals by nature", our message of freedom, reason and tolerance is needed more than ever, but it is difficult not to feel completely useless and overwhelmed in this situation.

Finally, a word about flowers in the Church and just to say that Mavis confirms that people are still encouraged to commit to bringing flowers on a particular Sunday, by putting their name in the Flower Diary hanging up at the back of the Church. If you can't commit to a particular date, then a contribution to the Flower Box on the table would be much appreciated. I think we all appreciate the difference they can make to our worship environment.

Keith Brown

WILLING WORKERS

To see a task wants doing is the first sign of a willing heart,
Then to do something about it and be prepared to make a start.

The inner motivation is to get down and make a start
to tackle the job with zest and not shirk.

Selfish ones will sit on the fence and not see the need,
will stand back and let others take the lead.

The ones who seek God's will and desire to see things done,
will get to work and continue to labour and will not shun.

Submitted by Dorothy Morgan

BIRTHDAYS

22nd October	Stuart Grant,
23rd October	Sandy Morgan,
30th October	Bryan Burgess,
10th November	George Carmichael
17th November	Wilf Jones,
23rd November	Dorothy Morgan
24th November	Keith Brown

We send them all our very best wishes.

REACHING OUT

Please support our forthcoming Coffee Mornings in aid of local Charities:

**Friday, 4th October for the NSPCC
Friday, 15th November for the St John Fellowship.**

**Note that there will also be a morning for the St John Cadets,
On a date to be confirmed in November or December.**

CHESTER'S PIECE



Hi Fans,

When a dog has been 'under the weather' (feeling ruff) it has the opposite connotation as for a human, so I'm just glad that we are having some cooler September weather now. That said, I have, in case you hadn't heard, been suffering from the dreaded kennel cough'. Not that I've been anywhere near a kennel for a few years (it's quite beneath my dognity now) but HWMO reckons I could have got it from finishing off a fox's meal in a field. Well whadyknow, where would we be without tinterweb?

Getting to the vet after one terrible night for all was a priority and it quickly sorted me out apart from the inevitable side effect of the medication which, fortunately, did not manifest itself during David Arthur's service. Unfortunately, the ambience of the Special Meeting which followed the service was somewhat diluted by my little problem, (every cloud eh, Marie?) Fortunately, a decision to hold talks on talks with York re the possibility of a shared minister was reached before participants bolted for the emergency exit clutching wet towels to their faces.

Giles Coren, is quoted as saying, 'the trouble with dogs is they have no sense of shame' but I do try to rectify any misconceptions on this score in this column, of course. At least I don't have a wicked sense of humour like someone who offered the veterinary assistant some of my medication for her bad chest, made her laugh and set her off with a coughing fit so there were two of us retching away, not to put too fine a point on it.

Both of us wish Marie a speedy recovery after her latest setback. Barry asked me to mention that we now have a brass plaque attached to the garden archway to the memory of Rev Ernest Penn who was minister here for a remarkable forty-five years.

Regards, Chester

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

MINISTRY IN OUR CHURCH

A Special Congregational Meeting was held after our Sunday morning service on the 9th September, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a proposal from the Yorkshire Unitarian Union regarding the future of professional ministry within the District.

All too aware of the continuing decline in congregational numbers and the fact that once Myrna Michel leaves York at the end of September, there will be no professional ministry within the District, the YUU has put forward a proposal that the possibility of shared ministry should be considered by congregations. The YUU hopes to promote and possibly facilitate a renewal of professional ministry, whilst fully acknowledging that each congregation remains entirely free to make their own decisions on this matter.

On this basis, it is suggested that the York and Hull churches might support a joint ministry. Thus it was that twelve Hull Church members and supporters met on the 9th September to consider whether or not to enter into preliminary discussions with York about the YUU proposal. Mike Tracey chaired the meeting, and there were four apologies for absence.

There was a full and frank discussion. Members were keen to see continuing variety in worship style and content, feeling that the development of lay worship leaders would remain important for the church. However, it seemed clear that, as proposed, ministry in each separate location could only be part time anyway, so that there would obviously be a need for continuing lay leadership. As Mike pointed out, there could be quite difficult logistical problems to be resolved in trying to split ministry equally between the two congregations.

There was a discussion about the merits or otherwise of professional ministry for Hull. Having the capability to offer wedding and funeral services might well benefit the church, as would improved pastoral care. The church's public profile and community links might also be improved. However, in the light of past history, there was a recognition that, firstly, any candidate must be the right candidate for Hull and that the job specification would need to be crystal clear for both sides and the ministry actively managed by the church. There

was also clear recognition of the continuing difficulties in attracting part-time ministers to Hull. Whilst some members supported full time ministry for the church, others remained very concerned that the atmosphere and variety currently enjoyed might be put at risk to no obvious advantage. Mike confirmed that the Leonard Chamberlain Trust would be likely to offer significant financial help towards the cost of ministry in Hull.

It was noted that York had already indicated that it would prefer to give some time and thought to the issue of Myrna's replacement, so that nothing was likely to happen very soon. However, the meeting agreed that, in any event, there could be mutual benefit to be had from considering these issues jointly with York, with the proviso that all discussions be fully reported back for consideration by the full congregation at future meetings.

On a separate matter, Michael Tracey reported that the Church Trustees had decided that the Church rebuilding works should not now start until April 2014 at the earliest, thereby hopefully avoiding weather problems.

EDITOR'S COMMENT.

I felt that we had a good meeting about ministry. Mike Tracey tried to involve everyone and get everyone to give a view. As someone once wrote "religion is a serious business and not part of the entertainment industry or a social organisation like the Lions or Rotary Club" and in many ways it was a sombre meeting. We cannot and should not conceal the division between those who are keen on having a minister and those who are very worried about what we might lose. But I also think that everyone at that meeting knew that there is no "magic bullet" which will put everything to rights and bring people flooding through the doors. The problems are complex and national as well as local. It now seems very clear that York are not going to rush into anything anyway. The time for recrimination is long gone. Our real problem is that the number of fit and able people available to enable the church to do what it's always customarily done is now probably at a tipping point, i.e. of collapse. If I won't do it, how can I reasonably expect someone else to do it for me? Frankly, I'm relieved the building project has been put off for a while. Perhaps it gives us time to refocus on what we should be doing.

**But you may think that this is far too gloomy: if so write and tell me so!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

WHAT IS UKunitarianTV?

...a report from James Barry.

For a while the NUF (National Unitarian Fellowship) and the UCCN (the Unitarian publicity group) have been experimenting with videos to help share the Unitarian message. *UKunitarianTV* created a year ago, builds on this work and can now provide a film-making service for many congregations and groups in the movement.



Walking into a Church for the first time is a big step – people do not know what they are going to find! Creating video to show them what we stand for and how we worship is one way to break down this barrier. It helps convince them that we are not “*God for vegetarians*” which is what my friend thought we were! We know people do their research on the

internet these days and having good video about us there is what we need to recruit the next generation. We know of British Unitarians who started coming after watching American Unitarian worship on the internet. Our films also gets worship to those who cannot get to churches.

It is now very easy to include video on the internet and social media web sites such as *YouTube* and *Facebook* gives us an enormous audience. *UKunitarianTV* is using these new opportunities to make information about our movement far more available. We put a new set of programmes out each month on www.ukunitarian.tv and on *YouTube* where our videos have been watched more than 15,000 times in the last year.

If you would like to get involved or would like more information please contact James Barry on jbarry@kyla.co.uk

***God sleeps in the minerals,
Awakens in plants,
Walks in animals,
And thinks in man.***

Arthur Young (1741-1820) EUnifier magazine, 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We hold a regular **Coffee Morning every Friday morning**, held in the Church between 10.30 and 12.00 noon. Often this is in support of local charities, (see the Reaching Out item), and everyone is welcome to come along for a coffee and chat.

We meet for worship on **Sundays at 11.00 am. at our Park Street church:-**

OCTOBER

Sunday 6th Harvest Festival Service with Adrian Worsfold, 11.00am.

Sunday 13th Service with Chris Pilkington, 11.00am.

Sunday 20th Service with Bernard McHugh, 11.00am.

Sunday 27th Service with Rosemary Arthur, 11.00am.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 3rd To be confirmed.

Sunday 10th Service with Stephen Carlile, 11.00am.

Sunday 17th Service with David Arthur, 11.00am.

Sunday 24th Service with John Williams, 11.00am.

Join us for worship. We sing, we reflect, we pray and meditate together. We often listen to an address prepared by the worship leader. We draw from sources of insight both traditional and modern.

You will be very welcome.

