



Hull Unitarians Newsletter

November 2018

Invitation for Christmas Lunch – RSVP essential.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of several members and friends we will once more share Christmas Day lunch at church.

If you would like to share Christmas Day lunch, please be in touch with Chris Carr by phoning the church as soon as possible. There is strong interest but you are welcome and you can bring a friend. We have extended the deadline for acceptances until November 25 but this is an absolute deadline. Let us know how many will come, and also how you can help on the day.

Minister to Retire

Our Minister will retire on August 24 2019. He will have served for 4 and ½ years. He will be taking leave prior to retirement from June 30. The period from June to September is the best time of the year to find a new minister, as it is when those in training will graduate. Announcing this now gives the congregation time to consider the future of ministry for Hull Unitarians.

On Friday December 7 at 12.30 pm you will welcome Simon Bland from the UK General Assembly to advise you on how to proceed with the plans for the future ministry of Hull when Ralph retires. Simon will advise you on issues to consider and all can share ideas before decisions are taken.

A minister is appointed by a vote of the church members. To choose a minister it is usual to appoint a search committee that is representative of people who are active in the church. If you have been attending regularly and are willing to contribute to helping one another in our caring spiritual community, speak with Ralph or one of the trustees about becoming a member of the church, so that your vote can count.

Celebrate Interfaith Week with us

On November 18 Hull Unitarians will host an interfaith celebration to mark interfaith week 2018. This event will be from 1.30 pm and we will welcome people from other faiths as well as the president of the UK Unitarian General Assembly.

Mindfulness

We gather every Thursday and commence at 2.30 pm for 50 minutes of meditation. Afterwards we share tea or coffee and enjoy our fellowship. The meditation is guided so, if you have not tried meditation before, you will be guided through the experience. A donation for the refreshments is welcome. In November our meditation sessions will be as follows:

Mindfulness in November

Date	Theme	Leader
1	Paula Chearman	To be advised
8	Ralph Catts	Sound Meditation
15	Ralph Catts	Loving Kindness
22	Ralph Catts	Purpose work
29	James Bell	To be advised

UNITARIAN SERVICES in November, Sundays BUT NOTE TIMES

Date	Time	Worship Leader	Topic	Music
4	11 am	Ralph Catts	All Soul's Day	Recorded Music
11	10.45 am	Chris Carr	Remembrance Sunday	Recorded Music
18	11 am	Ralph Catts	Meditation on Sunday	No music
18	1.30 pm	Ralph Catts	Interfaith Week Celebration	Andrew Palfreman
25	11 am	Ralph Catts	George Harrison's spirituality	Stanislava Svarogina
Dec 2	11 am	Rosemary Francis	1 st Sunday of advent - hope	Graziana Precisse

Plan to join us to remember loved ones on All Soul's Day, November 4. Remembrance Sunday at **10.45 am** will be of special significance as we commemorate the centenary of the Armistice. Join us for meditation on November 18, followed by lunch (RSVP essential) and then at 1.30 pm welcome Joan Cook, the UK Unitarians President of the General Assembly as we celebrate Interfaith week 2018. Next, we turn to acknowledge the spirituality of George Harrison on November 25 with guest musician Stanislava Svarogina. On December 2nd we will welcome the return of Rosemary Francis for the first week of Advent.

Membership of the Church

If you have attended any of our events on a regular basis for at least 6 months and you support our Unitarian principles then you are eligible for membership of the church community. Members agree to support our objectives and to participate, to the extent that you are able, but there is no membership fee.

Charity Coffee Mornings. Fridays 10.30 to Noon.

Our coffee mornings are an opportunity for enjoyable refreshments and good fellowship. On November 16 we will raise funds for the Unitarian children's charity, 'Send a child to Hucklow' (SACH) which for more than 50 years has provided holidays for disadvantaged children including children from Hull. On other Fridays, funds raised will be used for the relief of need in our community and to help to subsidise our next outing. Last month we provided the Open Doors Charity with gifts of clothing, food and household goods and a small donation of cash.

HOW TO AVOID SCAMS: NOVEMBER 9 11 am to noon

Invite neighbours and friends to join us for coffee and refreshments to hear from Amanda Smith talk about the scams that are used to steal your money by phone, at your door, and via the internet. Learn how to protect yourself.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November 4: All Souls Day. Please join us to remember our loved ones.

November 6: Deadline for the winter issue of the church magazine.

Send us your original poems, articles or art work.

November 9 11 am to noon. How to protect yourself from Scams. Join us for coffee and learn to protect yourself and your family. **Meet Amanda Smith**

November 16 10.30 to noon. Charity coffee morning in aid of the Unitarian children's charity (SACH). Raffle, bric a brac, refreshments.

November 18 1.30 pm. Celebrating Interfaith Week at Hull Unitarians,

Friday December 7 at 12.30 pm. Meet with Simon Bland from UK Unitarian headquarters to consider plans for the future Ministry of the church.

Meet our Ministry Advisory Committee

Our ministry advisory committee is responsible for providing advice and support to our Minister, and for advising the trustees on the recruitment, support, and if necessary the dismissal of our minister, and for organising the supply of worship leaders and meditation leaders, in the absence of a minister.

The committee members are James Bell (chair), Mavis Lake, Chris Carr and Bernard McHugh. All members and active friends are invited to raise any suggestions or concerns about ministry with any member of the committee.

Outcomes of Meeting of Church Trustees, October 18

New Member: The trustees have invited Ambrose Brown to be a member of the church. Ambrose has attended our Mindfulness on Thursdays meetings for 2 years. He is a welcome new member.

Church Renovations: Subject to confirmation of financial support, the trustees have authorised the Secretary, John Williams, to finalise the contract with the construction firm with work to commence for three months on January 7. The church will re-locate to a venue which we hope to announce by the end of November. We expect to accommodate all our tenants in the temporary venue so that all the activities can continue with minimum disruption.

Further financial assistance is required both from members and friends and through applications for grants. You can help either by donating toward the cost of the renovations, or by making a commitment to include funds for the church as a bequest in your will. We can advance funds from reserves if we know they will eventually be repaid.

Sheena McKinnon who was our external trustee and has made a valued contribution to the governance of our church has resigned due to ill health. We wish Sheena a speedy recovery and thank her for her service.

The trustees have confirmed an invitation to Simon Bland, the UK Unitarian Congregation and Ministry Support Officer, to come to Hull on Friday December 7 at 12.30 to speak to all members and friends about planning for the future of our Ministry. The trustees and church members need to get things underway now to allow us time to consult and to then issue a call for a new minister. Please mark this date and make every effort to attend.

Our former musician Ilina Ivancheva sends a message from Bulgaria. 'I send my love to all Unitarians. I think of you often, with so much warmth in my heart'.

How to Contact Hull Unitarians

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Blessings, Revd Dr Ralph Catts