


February 2020 Newsletter	
Hull Unitarian Church Chamberlain House, Park Street, Hull, HU2 8TA	

Pondering Membership

Rev. John Philip Carter

Throughout my life, and spiritual journeying, I have pondered the meaning of membership.

It is important to feel that you belong. Yet the old tribes, networks, clans and clubs are losing to newer ones. People don't feel it is important to be members of the traditional civic groups, or to churches, or even to denominations. Still feel important to identify with the local sporting club, be it football, rugby, etc. Or will be proud to mention their membership in a gaming community online.

What does membership mean? Well I view it in different ways, each speaks to a sense of responsibility to the whole, in our case the congregation.

Membership can be simply those persons who come on a frequent basis, which could be, once a month to once a week. Another form is to do the previously mentioned with the added sense of regular giving. Giving as in service to the community, such as always being sure

that the water is boiled for tea, or the biscuits are out, or the chairs are set up and the place ready for service. Others can only give in attendance and we should never discount that commitment, and others in the traditional understanding of giving as a cash offering.

There are many permeations of these forms of membership and giving, and it is our work to find the one that fits us at this moment. These forms are also dependent upon the other, my and your presence give more than a warm body in the “pew”, it is a visual support. The smile, the friendly chat, the simple act of contemplative listening. The remark on the address, or conversations around a particular reading that sparked your imagination, your spiritual self. These are also ways of giving.

Each congregation has a form, or sense of membership and what is required. In some they are more relaxed, in others more formal. Just to note if you are interested in membership please ask.

Membership also ensures that our spiritual and liturgical needs are met. From weekly services, to rites of passage. That is celebration of children in a family, we call these namings, or dedications or christenings. There are weddings, and we are able to perform all legal marriages, and of course rites of remembering deceased loved ones in funerals or in Memorials Services.

Membership is more than simply joining, it is being and helping and ensuring the life of this congregation.

If you are interested in formally becoming a member, or want to enquire about ceremonies of marriage, or child namings etc., just ask. I would love to have that conversation with you.

Salam, Shalom, Peace...

John

Music Lesson

For Paul

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra was founded in 1999. It was set up as a forum for different countries of the Middle East: Palestine, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, etc. It was intended to provide an opportunity for young people to make music together and also learn about each other in a non-political setting.

Its founders Daniel Barenboim and Edward Said stressed from the start that making music together means that if you really think seriously about the nature of music you realise that it is absolutely imperative that you listen to each other. What they were able to create as a group of individuals who had never even played in an orchestra before demonstrates the tremendous power of the simple skill of listening.

The orchestra's playing of Beethoven's cycle of nine symphonies at the proms marked their arrival on the international music scene. It was a triumph! But it carries a more profound lesson about the crucial role of listening.

Just as the success of an orchestra is built upon its collective listening skills, is not the world's desperate search for peaceful solutions to its many conflicts due to the fact that we ignore the skill of listening? In all too many cases we do not even begin the conversation.

The Bible tells us that blessed are the peacemakers. But peace making requires not only listening skills however important but listening with a loving heart and an attentive mind. If we are to build a peaceful world we must strive to make our minds peaceful, and for that we are back to listening, to patiently listening to the breath, the gentle art of meditation.

- Bernard McHugh

Musical Cavalcade Resumes

Bernard McHugh's music afternoons at the church, raising money for anti-slavery causes, will resume on Tuesday, the 4th of February at 2:30 PM, and continue on the first Tuesday of every month.

Unitarian Sunday Services in February/March at 11.00 am

If you have not attended worship in a Unitarian Church, it is not quite what some people imagine. No one will tell you what to think, but what you hear may start you thinking. Your ideas are welcome and people enjoy the fellowship and the thoughts that are shared. We always conclude with refreshments and time for sharing.

On the 22nd of March we have another Café Church led by Martin King with the theme "Mothering Sunday—Nurturing". Please bring poems, songs, stories, pictures, whatever you can around the theme.

Date	Worship Leader	Theme	Music
Feb 2nd	Rev John Carter	Telling Our Own Story	Graziana Presicce
Feb 9 th	Chris Carr	Tu B'Shevat	Recorded
Feb 16 th	Rev John Carter	The Oddities of February	Graziana Presicce
Feb 23rd	Bernard McHugh	Tears	Andrew Palfremann
Mar 1st	Rev John Carter	To Everything There is a Season	Graziana Presicce
Mar 8th	Chris Carr	A Reflection on Lent	Andrew Palfremann
Mar 15th	Derek Crouch	Vernal Equinox	Recorded
Mar 22nd	Martin King	Mothering Sunday - Nurturing	Café Church
Mar 29th	Steven Hible	British Summer Time Begins	Recorded

Yoga at Hull Unitarian Church



Dru yoga is a style that has an emphasis on flowing movements and breath.

It can help to ease back pain, increase energy levels and reduce stress.

It can be practiced by people of all abilities and fitness levels.

Mondays – 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm and Thursdays - 9.30 am to 11.00 am

For more details, contact Cheryl on 07855085340
or e mail on cherylgreaves@hotmail.co.uk

**Tuesday Evenings
7.15 pm – 9.00 pm
£6.00**

A popular, longstanding yoga class at the Unitarian Church with a friendly, relaxed approach to health and well-being. A gentle, uplifting way to support your weekly routine.

**Give me a call if you'd like to find out more.
Melissa (BWYdip) (07516969638**

YUU Spring Gathering

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union Spring Gathering is approaching on the 7th of March at Bradford (see poster included). If you're interested in attending please contact John or Chris at the church to arrange transport.

Booking the Church

Looking for a space for your yoga group, gaming group, book club, choir practice or anything else? The church can be rented at very reasonable rates, for one-off or ongoing bookings, and several weekly evening slots are currently available. For any enquiries please contact Daniel at the church, 01482 224662 or hullunitarians@gmail.com.

Charity Coffee Mornings - Fridays 10.30 to Noon

Our coffee mornings are an opportunity for enjoyable refreshments and good fellowship. Funds raised will be used for the relief of need in our community and to help to subsidise our next outing.

On Friday the 26th of March our coffee morning will be raising funds for Hull and East Yorkshire Mind.

Fundraise for a Charity of Your Choice

Would you like to raise funds for a charity that you support? You can by organising a Friday coffee morning at the church. You will receive £15 to purchase raffle prizes, and there is bric-a-brac stored in the church that you can sell. Invite representatives of the charity to join you, and let our members and friends learn about the charity that you support. Please contact Daniel to express your interest.



Yorkshire Unitarian Union

SPRING GATHERING

Saturday 7th March 2020

at Bradford Unitarians

10.30 : Welcome – coffee/tea...

11.00: Opening Devotions led by Stephanie Bisby

11.15: Issues in the YUU

Motions for the GA Annual Meetings

12.15: Lunch (provided by Bradford Unitarians)

13.00 Afternoon session led by Helen Mason – Director of Unitarian College

- How the College is progressing
- Report on pilot project for training administrators and treasurers
- Mini-exercise in ministry training
- Discussion... with your thoughts and ideas



15.00: Short closing devotions

15.15: Departuressafe journey.

Come for all or any part of the day's programme – all are welcome.

Bradford Unitarians, Russell Street, Bradford BD5 0JB Good parking and a twenty minute walk from Bradford Interchange (Bus and Rail)

Mindfulness at Park Street

Every Thursday we gather from 2.00 pm for meditation from 2.30 pm to 3.20 pm followed by discussion and refreshments. Please note that the timing of meditation is under review. Ask James Bell for more information.

How to Contact Hull Unitarians

Phone: 01482 224 662 or 07468 538 821;
email: hullunitarians@gmail.com
facebook.com/hullunitarians.org.uk
www.hullunitarians.org.uk

Minister & Spiritual Director

Unitarian & Free Christian Churches



Rev John Philip Carter
Chair Unitarian Peace Fellowship

07956 304314

revjohn.ukuni@gmail.com

M.Divinity & M.A.Th/Peace Studies

London Centre for Spiritual Dir.
