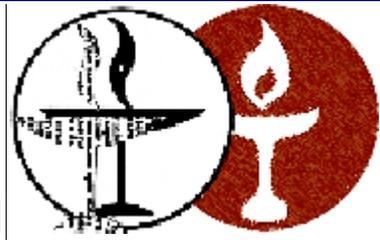


Ipswich Unitarian



Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2016

Welcome – this is the first issue of 2016, so we wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful year ahead. We welcome all contributions for future issues. Please email them to ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post them to Tessa Forsdike (48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS) by the deadline for the next issue – Monday 29th February 2016.

To receive this newsletter regularly by email, just send us an email request. Please feel free to pass this newsletter on to other interested people.

Charity Collections

In December we collected monies in different ways: the Bits and Bobs table top sale of people's unwanted items, a raffle for a cake baked by Sandra Hawes and the red collection boxes. Members, friends & visitors to our Carol Service gave generously to the Christian Aid Syria Appeal and we have sent them £322.60. The St Elizabeth Hospice will benefit from £281.06 from donations for mulled wine and the cake raffle after the service on 20th December. Amnesty International (Ipswich branch), (courtesy of Stephen Broadhurst & Ruth Lloyd) reports that we signed 15 cards to send to people imprisoned around the world and we donated £53.10. Thanks!

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New chairs

Thanks to a donation in memory of Harry and Peggy Baker, we have two new chairs to use for special services like weddings.

Harry and Peggy were members and regular attenders at our Meeting House for many years and it is lovely to remember them in this lasting way. Thank you to craftsman Roger Barford, who created them for us. To contact him – ring 07896 832 477.



Comfort and security

We now have heated cushions on each pew, so with the under floor heating, we can guarantee our congregation a warmer experience during services. The cushions have been so successful that on warmer winter Sundays, people have switched off their individual pew seats as they felt too warm. Better to be too hot than too cold perhaps?

Most of us only see the Meeting House in daylight hours when we attend a Sunday service, though you may have been aware that the exterior used to be floodlit, but this fell by the wayside many moons ago. The lighting, organised by the Borough Council, has now been re-instated and at night the beauty of the building is now greatly enhanced by a subtle diagonal floodlight. If you have a chance, do go and admire! There is also a new security light behind the building which goes on when it detects movement. Thank you to Phil our Property Manager who has organised much of this work.
Anne Baepler

4Cs?

Who or what is 4Cs? Clarity, carat, colour and cut are the hallmarks for diamonds. We in the 4Cs are of the rough variety! In 1998 a working group was set up to plan a series of events which culminated in a re-enactment and service to celebrate the 300th anniversary in 2000 of the opening of the Meeting House – hence 3 Cs. At the end of this project we realised that we enjoyed what we did and continued working together, but now as 4Cs (as the fourth century).

We discuss and plan activities for the year and a good many of them involve food and drink. This is an informal group, so anyone can come along to the gatherings or can make suggestions of things they would like added to the social calendar. We've gone on walks in the countryside and in the local cemetery, visited the home of Charles Dickens ...etc.

So feel free to join us!

Paulette Reed

Birthdays – happy birthday in February

to– Jean Odell on 1st; Robert Waller on 2nd; Ali Mercer on 3rd; Rachel Hamilton on 5th; Tracy Sakals on 11th; Linda King on 14th; Beryl Beech on 16th; Ralph Spence on 19th; Tessa Forsdike on 20th; John Ellis on 29th (which must make John very young only having a birthday once every four years!)

Services in February – (all at 10.45)

7th – Lewis Connolly

14th - Lewis Connolly

21st – TBA

28th Carol Palfrey

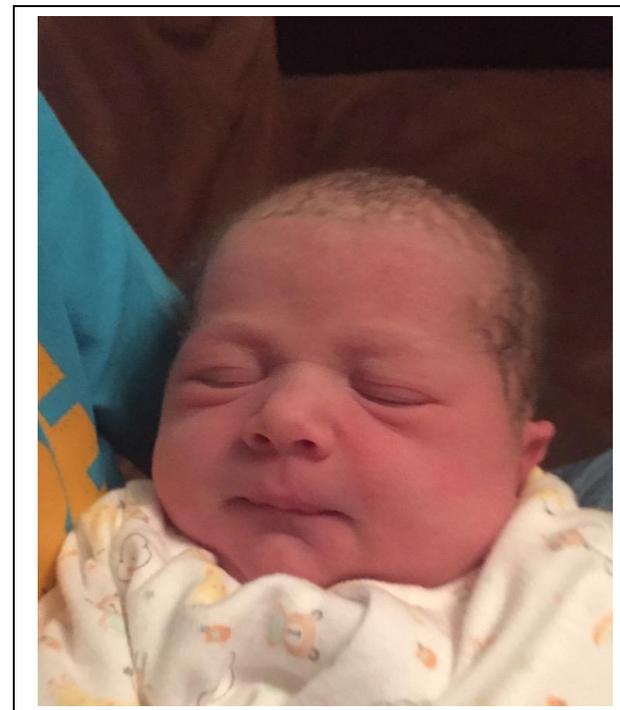
There will be a communion and special congregational meeting after the service on Sunday 14th. We ask that as many members as possible attend the meeting.

Eastern Union

There will be an Eastern Union Extraordinary Meeting on Saturday 19th March – at the Ipswich MH. This is very important, called specifically to discuss the future of the Eastern Union. The meeting will be chaired by Derek McAuley, Chief Executive of the UFCC.

Welcome to Emily Rose

Congratulations to Margaret Hutchings, who has been our cleaner at the Meeting House for many years and regular attendant for the summer opening. Margaret has announced the arrival of a new granddaughter. Emily Rose was born to Margaret's daughter Deborah and Steve on Sunday 3rd January weighing 6 lb 6oz. She is a sister for Thomas. The family are all doing well. Thank you for sharing this with us Margaret.



Winter –

“I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields, that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says “Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.”

— *Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass*

“Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home.”

— *Edith Sitwell*

Christmas 2015



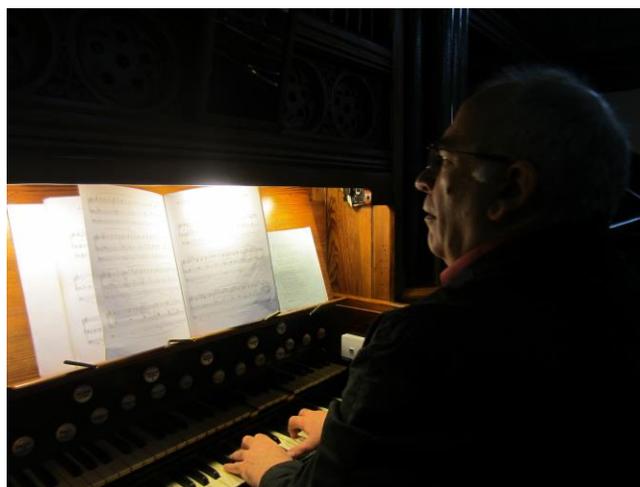
A group of volunteers preparing the Meeting House with greenery and decorations for the Carol Service. Thank you everyone – it looked wonderful!



Evidence that all are welcome at our services – here is one of Ali and Phil's dogs, Peg and Bob, at the Carol Service – s/he seems to be appreciating the music and readings!



Christmas Day – after the service



Our organist Robert Waller at the Carol Service, providing wonderful music to entertain and to get us singing.



Lighting the Advent candles on Christmas Day – welcome especially to our visitors from Switzerland



Dates for your Diary –

Saturday 13th February from 10.30 am – Coffee Morning at Christine and Michael Hyde’s home – Rushmere Villa, Tuddenham Lane, Rushmere St Andrew, IP5 1DT – with Aconites and Snowdrops

Sunday 14th February – Special General Meeting after the service – all members specially welcome

Sunday 28th February 3 pm – at the Octagon, Norwich, OCS Concert *Vienna Matinee* – Imperial Vienna Orchestra

Tuesday 1st March – Trustees meeting

Sunday 6th March – Mothering Sunday - come to decorate the Meeting House with daffodils on Saturday 5th

4th to 6th March ‘Clean for Queen Campaign – to collect litter ahead of the Queen’s 90th birthday. The aim is to get more than 1million people involved.

Saturday 19th March – Extraordinary Meeting of the Eastern Union at our Meeting House

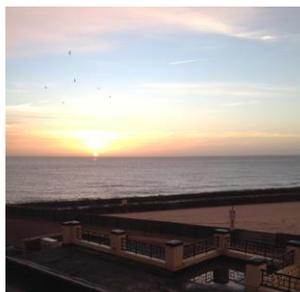
UFOS – Unitarian Focus on Seeing

We invite any photographer to bring along (or to send in) a photo on a theme each month. The aim is to encourage us to see what is before us and to share with others. All photos are collected in an album at the Meeting House. Here are some photos from December (something old) and January (something new).



A very old garden gnome on a very old tree stump (left) for December and the sunrise on Riena’s birthday (below) for January

The theme for February is ‘*Inside*’ and if you are planning ahead, the theme for March is ‘*Outside*’.



Message from The Unitarian

Just a quick note to introduce myself to you all as the new Editor of *The Unitarian*. An Editor is dependent on his or her contributors and to that end I am writing to encourage you to play your part and send me your favourite quotations, a poem you have written, your views on some aspect of Unitarianism or current modern life, etc., plus any items relative to your church, chapel or organization that you consider newsworthy, or any aspect of your chapel, church or movement history that might interest readers. If there is anything *not* in the magazine that you would like to see included or, indeed, any feature you feel it would be best without, then please let me know that as well. Naturally, I cannot guarantee to fulfil all requests nor to include all submissions, but feedback and interaction will be most welcome.

One proviso: please do not send for publication in *The Unitarian* the same article you are sending to *The Inquirer*. It is virtually impossible to tell if duplication has occurred until both publications have gone to print. Newsletters that you send to both magazine addresses are, of course, welcome as always.

I look forward to getting to know some of you better through the pages of the newsletter - and let us see where this journey takes us!

Best wishes - Fran Pickering

Please send to theunitarian@outlook.com

Bulbs for the Spring

Some of the daffodils and flowers from the other bulbs planted recently are now starting to show in the forecourt. We look forward to seeing the anemones, bluebells, grape hyacinths and other flowers showing their heads as the weather gets a little warmer.

Thank you to all who donated bulbs and planted them.

Thought for the month –

"Develop interest in life as you see it; in people, things, literature, music - the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself." - Henry Miller