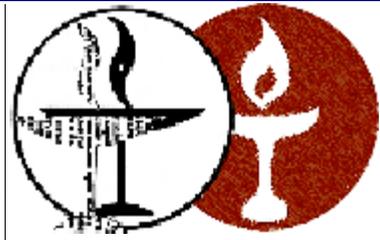


Ipswich Unitarian



Volume 2, Issue 2

March 2016

Welcome to LEWIS CONNOLLY

By the time you read this, Rev Lewis Connolly will have taken up his post as our new Minister following the unanimous vote in favour of his appointment by the members present at the Special General Meeting held on 14th February. His face will of course already be familiar to almost everybody, as he has been a regular visitor to Ipswich over the past months, but he will conduct his first service in post on 6th March. Because Lewis was formerly in the Anglican ministry, to be accepted on to the "GA Roll" he has to undertake some additional Unitarian training. This he should complete in July 2017 when, all being well, his status as our minister can be formally confirmed.

Because our manse in Tuddenham Road is currently rented out, Lewis and his wife Catherine will initially live in a flat in the town, with Catherine spending time in Oxford as she studies to become a Church of England priest.

No doubt you will all want to join with me in offering Lewis and Catherine our warmest wishes!

Ann Baepler



Message from Lewis Connolly -

Having been elected as the new Ipswich Unitarian Minister, I am very excited about the possibilities ahead and getting to know you all better. The Meeting to me is like a conversation, one BIG conversation, which slowly unfolds from week to week; over coffee, from the pulpit, from the texts we read, to the experiences of life we all bring.

A bit about me: I was born in Glasgow, Scotland, but grew up primarily in Texas; at the age of twelve moved here to England, went to school in Farnham, Surrey; University at the London School of Theology; and then Westcott House, Cambridge. My spiritual journey has been one of ever broadening the questions, from Pentecostal Christianity, through liberal Anglican ministry, and on into Unitarianism. When I was twenty-one I married Cat, who is herself training for Anglican ministry at Ripon College Cuddesdon, Oxford. We have two cats, Podrick and Daisy; my interests and hobbies range from film, to politics, to walking, to travelling, to eating good food with my wife. To me the spiritual quest is very much alive. It matters what we believe. Words and ideas change the world. So let us be optimists, loving, dreamers, and ever hopeful.

The photo of Lewis above was taken in the 3600 BC Hagar Qim temple on Malta

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Google Search and Maps

The Meeting House now appears when people search for it on Google Search and on Google Maps – there is one review (with 5 stars!) and so we invite people to add more. We have recently updated the contact phone number and will aim to do more over the coming months to raise our profile.

Birthdays – happy birthday in March to–
Joel Waller on 7th and Tim Macy on 8th.

Services in March – (all at 10.45)

Now our minister is in post, Lewis Connolly will be leading the service regularly.

6th – Mothering Sunday – please help decorate the church with daffodils on Saturday 5th.

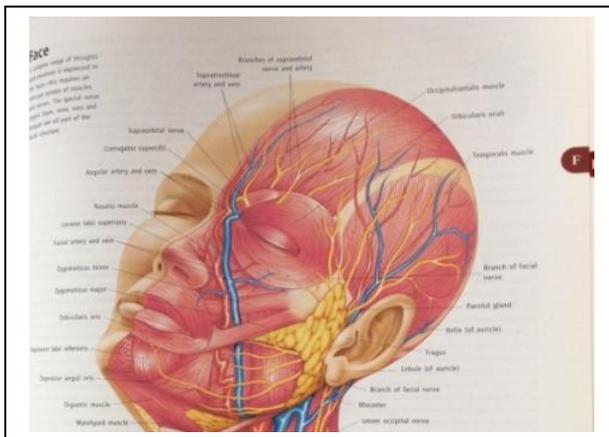
13th – after the service Vicky Hutchins from Age UK will come to talk about our charity the Forget Me Not support services.

20th – Palm Sunday

27th Easter Day

Unitarian Focus on Seeing – UFOS

The theme for the photo during February was 'Inside' and here is Maggie's photo which is literally inside our body!



All are welcome to contribute a photo each month. On the last Sunday of the month after the service we share our ideas and photos and collect them in a book. There is no competition as such, just the pleasure of raising our awareness of what is around us. The theme for photos taken during March is 'Outside' to complement February's theme and because we hope the weather will be warming up!

Coffee Morning with Aconites –

Christine and Michael Hyde welcomed us to their home last month for a coffee, wonderful home - made biscuits and to see the beautiful spread of Aconites and Snowdrops in their garden.



Thank you for the warm welcome on a very cold day – some of us less hearty souls admired the flowers from indoors!



Eastern Union Extraordinary Meeting

A reminder that the Extraordinary Meeting of the Eastern Union will take place at Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House at 1.30pm on Saturday 19 March. Tea/coffee will be available from 1pm and again after the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider a proposal to wind up the Eastern Union, followed by conversation of how best to network our congregations in East Anglia.

The meeting will be chaired by Alan Ruston, a Lay Leader & member of Watford Unitarian Fellowship. I apologise for giving the wrong name of the chairperson in The Ipswich Unitarian last month. If further information is required please see Linda King or Paulette Reed

Our Meeting House *has been described as having "a specialty of presence" – this piece by John O'Donohue amplifies this beautifully.....*

In a great religious tradition, the house of God is a special place. The church, the temple, the mosque is where a community gathers to hear God. Cumulatively, over years, the interior becomes threaded with the desires, intimacies and longings of a community. The interior of God's house is not a vacant space; it is the place where the spiritual Eros of a community collects. This interior is richly textured with the aura of those who have worshipped there. When one enters there one does not simply enter a building; rather one enters unknowingly the gathered memory. This house is a living archive of transcendence. This is the space where the voice of God became audible, where that tranquillity which the world cannot give waits to comfort the mind. People have come into this house with burdens of heart that could find healing nowhere else in the world. They have come in here for shelter when storms have unravelled every stitch of meaning from their lives. And they have come in too to give thanks for blessings and gifts they could never have earned. The house of God is a frontier region where the visible world meets the ultimate but subtle structures of the invisible world. We enter this silence and stillness in order to decipher the creative depths of the divine imagination that dreams our lives. Somewhere in this kept-darkness the affection that created us waits to bless and heal us.

From "Divine Beauty – The Invisible Embrace" John O'Donohue – contributed by Ann Baeppler.

Thank you - A big thank you to all those who expressed kindness, sympathy and shared a good dose of 'courage blood' recently over my double bereavement. *Paulette Reed*

Please - Have you taken any photographs recently (January/February) of events at the Meeting House? If so please let Maggie or Paulette have prints of any which may be suitable to put in our album.

East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group.

The next meeting of the EAUWG will take place on Tuesday 8 March at 11.30am in the Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street, Bury St Edmunds.

The topic under discussion is 'Music' so please bring readings, music, musical instruments or your 'move to music' body! Our last topic on 'Dance' resulted in exercise of the mind and body; I suspect the same will be happening at this meeting.

'Sing, dance, paint for the sheer pleasure of it – instead of getting lost in achieving marks for artistic performance!' Anne Dickson.

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea/coffee will be provided.

For further information please speak with Paulette, Riena or Linda.

Dates for your Diary –

Tuesday 1st March – Trustees meeting

Friday 4th March – Chris Ingham Quartet –

'Celebrating Hoagy' at St Peter's by the Waterfront, Ipswich 7.45 start – with Andrew Brown, Bass player and minister at Cambridge UMH

4th to 6th March – Clean for Queen – national campaign to clean up litter

Saturday 5th March – Jane Austen at Home – 7.30 pm start - A costumed recital-performance of extracts from her writings at Framlingham MH. Tickets £10 (£8 Concessions) at the door or call Helen on 01728 723127 or email life.sliceof@gmail.com

Saturday 5th March – decorate the Ipswich MH with daffodils for the Mothering Sunday service

Sunday 13th March – Vicky Hutchins from Age UK will come to speak to the congregation after the service about the Forget Me Not support services offered. This is our chosen charity for this year.

Saturday 19th March – Eastern Union

Extraordinary Meeting – Ipswich MH 1.30 start (drinks from 1 pm) – all welcome to decide on the future of the Eastern Union.

Saturday 16th April – Celtic Spring – evening of music and poetry at the Meeting House – let Robert know your contribution asap

Quotes for Spring

You can cut all the flowers but you cannot keep
Spring from coming.

— Pablo Neruda

Spring is the time of plans and projects.

— Leo Tolstoy, Anna Karenina

In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell
like dirt.

— Margaret Atwood, Bluebeard's Egg

"Is the spring coming?" he said. "What is it like?"...
"It is the sun shining on the rain and the rain falling
on the sunshine..."

— Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden

She turned to the sunlight

And shook her yellow head,
And whispered to her neighbour:
"Winter is dead."

— A.A. Milne, When We Were Very Young

It is spring again. The earth is like a child that knows
poems by heart.

— Rainer Maria Rilke

It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And
when you've got it, you want—oh, you don't quite
know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes
your heart ache, you want it so!

— Mark Twain

Der spring is sprung

Der grass is riz

I wonder where dem boidies is?

— Anonymous



Charity fundraising –

We welcome ideas for raising funds for our
supported charity and for the Meeting House.
There are boxes of books for sale in our Meeting
House and we plan to take them on a sunny day to
the front of our churchyard to sell to passers-by.
This will give us clearer pews and hopefully a way
to both interest people in the Meeting House and
maybe in Unitarianism too. If you are interested in
helping, please let Tessa know (01473 728498).

MS Society – because of a family and personal
interest, Tessa and David have held a charity
fundraiser in their garden over the years for the
MS Society. This year there will be an Old
Fashioned Fair on Saturday 30th July from 2 pm to
5 pm. The fair will offer fun and games as well as a
raffle, tea, coffee, cakes and ice creams. Stalls will
include – coconut shy; splat the rat; test your
strength; human fruit machine; fish for a duck and
more – hopefully even an old Punch and Judy
show. If you can help, please let Tessa know. We
are also looking for a children's roundabout, so if
you have any helpful contacts, please put them in
touch!

Ipswich Unitarian Newsletter –

For contributions to this newsletter, please email
them to Tessa at - ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or
post them to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS
before the copy deadline for the next issue of
Tuesday 29th March.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to
receive this regularly by email, please just send us
a request. Do feel free to pass on copies to any
interested person.

To contact our secretary Riena Jackson, ring 01473
210064/email - mjack76748@aol.com

Thought for the month –

Zero is where the real fun starts.
There's too much counting everywhere else!
Hafiz, a 14th century Persian poet.