

Anniversary Lunch

After our anniversary service on 24th April, some of us gathered for a shared lunch in the hall. Happily we were squashed together as there was a good group, which led to lots of talking and enjoying the food. The parable of the loaves and fishes has nothing on us!



We look forward to another year of community, worship, support for one another and sharing. Maybe next year we will be even more squashed as our community grows. Thank you to all who brought food and drinks to share – and to those who carried chairs and tables and washed up!



Celtic Spring Concert

Our organist Robert Waller organised a concert on 16th April to share our music and poetry readings while raising money for our charity AgeUK and the Forget Me Not Project which supports people with dementia and their carers. The current total raised is £149.50. Thank you to all who contributed (including the beautiful flowers above) and here is a sample of the evening for those who couldn't join us. Andrew Gibbs read 'The Celtic Commandments' from the ancient oral tradition of the Carmina Gadelica –

*Give thou thine heart to the wild magic,
To the Lord and the Lady of Nature,
Beyond any consideration of this world.
Do not covet large or small,
Do not despise weakling or poor,
Semblance of evil allow not near thee,
Never give nor earn thou shame.
The Ancient Harmonies are given thee,
Understand them early and prove,
Be one with the power of the elements,
Put behind thee dishonour and lies.
Be loyal to the Lord of the Wild Wood,*

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Celtic Spring concert – cont.

*Be true to the Lady of the Stars,
Be true to thine own self besides,
True to the magic of Nature above all else.
Do not thou curse anyone,
Lest thou threefold cursed shouldst be,
And shouldst thou travel ocean and earth,
Follow the very step of the ancient trackways.*

Thank you to all who contributed, (whether music, poetry or food) and especially to Robert (below) who organised everything.



Birthdays – happy birthday in May to–
Lewis Connolly on 3rd; Simon King on 16th; Gerrie Hawes on 28th; Paula Chapman on 31st.

Services in May

All our services start at 10.45 and everyone is welcome. We also have a children's box with toys, paper and colouring pens to entertain any younger visitors.

1st May – Lewis Connolly

8th May – Lewis Connolly and a communion will follow the service

15th May – Lewis Connolly – Pentecost and the Naming Ceremony for Atticus

22nd May – Matthew Smith

29th May Lewis Connolly

Correction

In the April issue of Ipswich Unitarian the letter 'r' crept into the name of the local Unitarian chapel which had closed recently. Those in the know realised that we meant Bedfield (not Bredfield). I apologise.

In memory

Peter Randon Odell (1930 - 2016) was born in Leicestershire into a family of coal-miners and railway men. His lifetime interest in energy emerged from this background. On being awarded his BA and PhD by Birmingham University, he joined the RAF for a three-year commission as an education officer where he met and married his beloved wife Jean.

They spent their first year of married life in America; Peter as a Rotary Foundation Fellow and Jean working as a nurse at the Boston Children's Medical Centre.

Peter worked for Shell International's Economic division via the London School of Economics. He travelled the world with his job and finally hung up his academic boots when he was well into his 70s.

The funeral service at Ipswich Crematorium was conducted by Rev Lewis Connolly and Rev Clifford Reed, minister emeritus. Peter is survived by wife Jean, four children and seven grandchildren.

Our condolences, love and sympathy go out Jean and the family as well as to Phil and Ali Chatfield on the death of Phil's beloved mother, who died on 6th March (Mothering Sunday).

Charity event

There will be an Open Afternoon at The Old School 3-5 Bridge Street, Hadleigh IP7 6BY on Saturday 18th June from 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm, with all proceeds going to our supported charity, AgeUK the Forget-Me-Not project. For those who do not know Hadleigh well, Nigel Crisp, Secretary of Hadleigh URC and keen local historian, will lead a gentle amble around the town centre pointing out the most interesting of Hadleigh's fine old buildings, starting 2.30 pm. During the afternoon Miranda McIntosh will be happy to show people round her Art Collection and, if the weather is fine, the garden as well. Plants, cards and CDs will be on sale, and Cream Teas will be available 4pm onwards at £4.50 each. Jasper and Maybelline, the resident cats, may or may not make themselves available for viewing. There is plenty of seating, both inside and outside, for those who just want to sit and relax. (cont. on page 3)

Charity event – cont.

There is disabled parking for 5 cars in the forecourt, and car-parking for everyone else about 100 yards down Bridge Street in the Babergh District Council Car Park just before the bridge. Miranda will provide a street plan nearer the date.

You are invited to a relaxing and informative afternoon – and can support our charity at the same time – all we now want is guaranteed sunshine ...?

Message from Lewis Connolly

If last month was my month of 'firsts', this is my month of new things. We have a new Meeting House logo, we have moved into a new house, and we're on the brink of getting a new, modern looking website. In our Sunday addresses, we've heard of the Jinn Wars; we've been to Krypton; and we've frolicked with Jemima Puddle Duck.

As we move into our summer months here in the Meeting House, we begin opening our doors during the day and then making new friends and making new connections will be the order of the day. As of this Sunday the Ipswich Adult Tabletop group will be meeting weekly in our 'Upper Room'. This group is for serious board gaming action, none of this monopoly, or scrabble nonsense!

Pastoral care – if you would like to have a chat or have a home visit from me, let me know. My email is revdlewisconnolly@gmail.com and you will have my new home phone number as soon as it's set up.

Summer opening

The Meeting House will be open for visitors from May to September on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (as well as for services on Sundays). Each day we will be open from 12 noon to 16.00 and we need volunteers please to welcome visitors. There is a sign-up sheet in the hall on Sundays, or you can contact Rosemary Hamilton (email - rosieandivan@uwclub.net) to offer your support.

Channel Swim (in the swimming pool)

On 4 April I tentatively stuck my toe in the water, thus commencing the first step (one foot still on dry land!) to swimming 22miles, the distance across the English Channel. In the 25m pool it is 1416 lengths. The challenge is to raise money in aid of our 2016

(cont. on page 4)

East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group.

The EAUWG will be meeting at 11.30am on the 10 May at the Bury St Edmunds Unitarian Meeting House, Churchgate Street.

The subject of the meeting will be 'Visual Arts'. Please bring along something important to yourself and which you can share with others as to why it is valued.

Linda King

Dates for your Diary –

8th – Communion after the service

8th – in Norwich 3pm. – Dexterity Trio concert (flute, cello, piano)

10th – start of Mindfulness Course (for 8 wks) with Carol Deguilhaume

11th - Trustees meeting

14th (or 21st) - Spring walk round Holywells Park

15th - Atticus' Naming Ceremony during the service with refreshments afterwards

15th to 21st – Christian Aid week

1st to 4th JUNE – in Framlingham – Rag Rug exhibition

Sunday 26th June – Street Fair and the Meeting House will be open – please bake cakes to sell.

Thinking of Mark

Mark Hawes family would like to thank everyone who sent positive thoughts to him when he had his operation last month. He is doing well and Sandra says he is looking so relaxed it is as though he is on holiday!

Trustees' Meeting Report

During the time when there was no monthly newsletter I used to send the congregation a brief report following the 6 weekly Trustees' meetings. This lapsed when Tessa Forsdike took on the task of publishing the "Ipswich Unitarian", as news of many matters discussed at our meetings would be reported in the IU. But perhaps it would still be of interest for you to hear in the newsletter a brief outline of some of what was covered, so here goes!

We last gathered on 5th April and were glad to welcome Lewis to our meeting for the first time.

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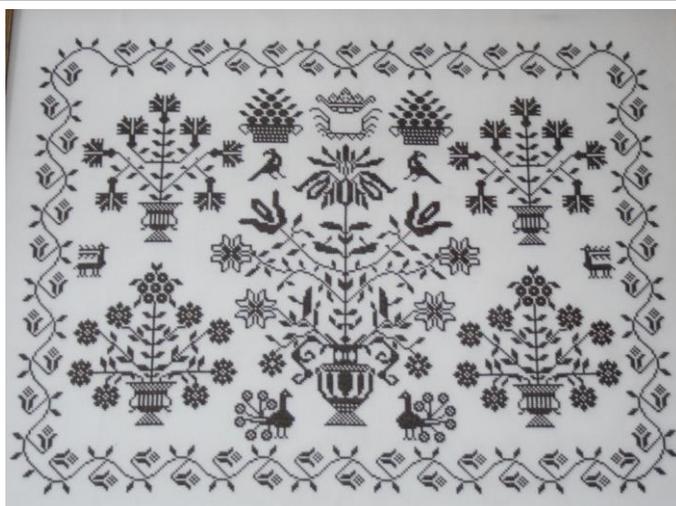
Channel Swim – cont.

AgeUK Forget-Me-Not groups in the Ipswich area. The 'official' finishing date is the 30 June but I hope to finish before then.....splutter, splutter!

If you wish to sponsor me, per length, per mile or just for finishing the distance, there is a signup sheet on the notice board. If unable to get to the Meeting House, donations/cheques (made out to 'Ipswich Unitarian Charity Account') can be sent to Linda King c/o The Unitarian Meeting House, Friars Street, Ipswich IP1 1TD. Thank you! *Linda King*
I think this is worth a photo ...! (Ed).

UFOS

The Unitarian Focus on Seeing project continues. Here is a photo from the April – 'Made by Me'. – a beautiful sampler made and photographed by Riena Jackson. The theme in May is 'Made of Iron'.



New Book – John Midgley's new book 'Funny Old World' is now available from Rev John Midgley, 2 Hirds Yard, Skipton, BD23 2AGF. Cost is £8.99 plus £2.50 p and p – cheques to John Midgley. If you read this we would love a review for the newsletter.

New name for the newsletter?

It has been suggested that we choose a new name for the Ipswich Unitarian newsletter. One suggestion is 'Ipswich Unitarian Dial' ... what do you think? All suggestions and comments to the editor, Tessa Forsdike by the deadline for the June issue.

Trustees' Meeting – cont.

As minister he can provide information and offer guidance and suggestions but decisions can only be taken by the trustees.

As usual, our deliberations covered a wide variety of issues connected with the running of the Meeting including ordering banners to be hung outside the Meeting House when the building is open to the public, preparations for responding to the St Peter's Street Fair on 26th June, charges made for the rental of the Upper Room, and the possibility of updating our sound system and our website.

Please feel free to ask any trustee for more information – to remind you, these are: Riena Jackson (Hon. Sec.), Andrew Gibbs (Treasurer), John Ellis, Linda King, Paulette Reed, Rosemary Hamilton, Sandra and Malcolm Hawes, Tessa Forsdike.

We will be meeting again on Wednesday, 11th May, so if there are any issues you would like discussed, please let one of us know.

Ann Baepler (Chair)

Did you know ...?

Of the 80 churches registered to perform same sex marriages, over half of them are Unitarian.

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 Wednesday 25th May.

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 –

It's not our job to toughen our children up to face a cruel and heartless world.

It's our job to raise children who will make the world a little less cruel and heartless. –G.R. Knost