

Ipswich

Unitarian Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 3

April 2017

Updating our Newsletter Banner

Welcome to the April issue of the Ipswich Unitarian newsletter with the new banner using our logo. Our Minister Lewis Connolly designed this logo soon after he joined us and we have been using it on our website (www.unitarianipswich.com), on our orders of service, on our posters, and on our banner for the railings to advertise when the Meeting House is open to visitors. So it is fitting to add it now to our newsletter.

The definition of 'logo' is '*a graphic representation or symbol of a company name, trademark, abbreviation, etc., often uniquely designed for ready recognition*'.

Companies are very protective of their logo because their identity is important to them and as we expand as a community too, it is important that we have a consistent logo which people also recognise. Our previous logo was designed by Nicholas Teape, who was our Minister from 1957 to 1974 and we have used it successfully ever since. The new logo updates and brings continuity to the symbols we use to represent our community.

Ipswich Women's History Trail



The Ipswich Women's Festival Group aims to research and promote women's achievements and organises events and develops resources such as the local Ipswich Women's History Trail in which our minister Rev Winifred Elsie May Brown (pictured above) is featured. She was the first woman church Minister in Ipswich when appointed in 1943 – and the 19th female Unitarian Minister in the country. She worked as our Minister for three years until 1946.

The trail takes you around Ipswich, marking the achievements of 21 local women. You can do the walk in two stages (1 to 9) or if you are feeling energetic as one complete walk. For a booklet about the trail, costing £1, go to the Tourist Information Centre, in St Stephen's Church, St Stephen's Lane or check out

<http://www.ipswichwomensfestivalgroup.co.uk>

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Banner update; Ipswich Women's History Trail
- 2 Rebecca and Imran's Wedding; Anniversary service
- 3 Taizé Singing Group; Fundraising; Correction
- 4 Events; Services; Birthdays; UFOS; Poem; Parking

Rebecca and Imran's wedding in India

On the 13th February Carol, my sister Lorna and brother in law Tony and I set off for Mumbai to attend the Indian wedding of our daughter Rebecca to Imran. Imran's family lives in Thane just north of Mumbai. As it was such a long way to go, we thought a short holiday before was in order. So we stayed at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel for a three-night stay. The hotel looked over the Arch of India right by the sea and through which the last of the British army left in 1946! The little we saw of Mumbai showed amazing contrasts ... extreme wealth and poverty, a great variety of religions living together and chaotic traffic that I do not think I could cope with. We discovered that different curry dishes could taste very delicious and quite different from what we can buy at home!

After three days of luxurious rest we went north to Thane and prepared for the wedding, which was held out of doors in the National Park just north of Mumbai. We were warned about all the wild animals that roamed in the park but fortunately did not confront any.



The outdoor venue was very colourful and all the guests wore very brightly coloured clothes. The ceremony was due to start at 6 pm but everything was so relaxed that it didn't happen until 8 pm! The ceremony itself was quite short but we had a lovely reception afterwards. This experience has whetted our thirst for more exposure to India, which we are looking to do in the coming months and years.

We hope you enjoy the pictures and that you will all join us on Saturday 29th April at 2.00 pm for the English wedding ceremony at the Meeting House and for a glass of something afterwards to celebrate.

Andrew and Carol Gibbs

Photos - Imran and Rebecca and with their UK family

Anniversary Service – request from Ann

On 30th April we will be celebrating the opening of our Meeting House in the year 1700. Lewis, our Minister, will be away on holiday so I will be co-ordinating the service – and invite members and attenders to contribute. Please will you search out hymns, prayers, readings etc. to include and let me have your suggestions by 15th April at the latest?

At our recent Trustees Meeting Linda suggested that we make it our 317th Birthday Party! So we invite everyone to bring a muffin or cupcake with a birthday candle and we will place them on the centre table. Candle lighting & singing will happen appropriately!

I look forward to hearing from you with contributions and suggestions

Ann Baeppler

Taizé Singing Group

We propose to start a Taizé Singing Group and invite all interested singers to join us in the Meeting House once a month to learn and above all to enjoy singing Taizé chants and then to form a core group for any future Taizé services.

The sessions will be led by Jan Savage and Liz Gerrie, with the first taking place on Tuesday 16th May from 10.00 – 12.00. Each chant will be taught mainly by ear (though we will have some reference to the music when needed.) Anyone is welcome to come along – and you do not need to be expert singer! A donation of £3 per session is suggested.

At a previous Taizé service led by Lewis and Cat, we were able to practise the chants to a degree beforehand, but because we were not able to sing all the parts, we weren't able to enjoy their full beauty, so this group will be able to form a core group to lead the singing for any future Taizé services.

To have a rough idea of the number of chairs to put out, it'd be helpful if you could let Ann Baepler know beforehand if you would like to come. Please ring her on 01473 327089.

The **Taizé Community** is an ecumenical monastic order in Burgundy, France, composed of over 100 brothers from Catholic and Protestant traditions. The community, though Western European in origin, has sought to include people and traditions worldwide. They demonstrate this in the music and prayers where songs are sung in many languages, and have included chants, simple phrases, often repeated and sometimes sung in canon.

Correction

In the article last month on Famous Unitarians, we listed JB Priestley as a Unitarian. We were confusing our 'Priestleys' – and so apologise. It is Joseph Priestley FRS who was an 18th century theologian and Unitarian, a natural philosopher and the chemist who discovered Oxygen.

Fundraising

You may know that our Property Manager, Phil Chatfield is working on a detailed review of the repair work needed on the fabric of our Meeting House and that we will have some large bills to fund later this year. Although we will also be seeking grants and charitable contributions, we are also ourselves responsible for raising as much as we can.

One way you can support our project is by taking a **collection tin** home and popping all your spare change in it, using it as a 'swear box', inviting donations from friends or visitors. All contributions are welcome. Thank you to Linda and Karen who made these beautiful tins and boxes. Pick yours up from the piano in the Meeting House



Music on the Green

We are also planning a big event on the Green beside our Hall on Saturday 15th July. We will have live music from 11 am to 4 pm, teas, coffees, raffle, book stall, bits and bobs stall – and the Meeting House will be open to welcome people who are curious to see inside.

We need please –

- Volunteers (we can find everyone a job!)
- Musicians (we have some and more would be good)
- Loan of gazebos (to shield us from the sun!)
- Raffle prizes
- Bits and Bobs
- Offers of cakes – homemade if possible

Offers to Tessa on 01473 728498

Events in April

6th – Ramivana Harmonic Concert at Framlingham Meeting House at 7pm £12/£8

10th to 13th General Assembly Meeting

Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel – where Rev Cliff Reed is to be made an honorary member of the General Assembly in recognition of all his contributions to the Unitarian Movement nationally and internationally throughout his ministry – congratulations Cliff!

22nd – Jazz - Spring Music Evening at our MH 6pm

28th - Film at Quaker MH 7pm – Dead Man Walking

29th Rebecca and Imran's wedding 2pm.

... and in May

Summer opening of our MH starts on 2nd – volunteers to help please contact Rosemary Hamilton.

11th - Trustees Meeting

13th to 14th - Framlingham Meeting House

Tercentenary Weekend

14th to 20th – Christian Aid Week – in aid of the East Africa Crisis Appeal

16th – first Taizé Singing Group meeting at the MH 10am to 12 noon.

Services

Services on Sundays start at 10.45, are led by our Minister, Lewis Connolly and all are welcome.

Friday 14th April – Good Friday – Communion Service at 10.45

Easter Sunday 16th – do bring your Easter bonnet!

23rd – Post service discussion, led by Lewis.

30th – Anniversary service co-ordinated by Ann Baepler.

Happy birthday in April to –

Miranda McInnes on 3rd; Kate Gray on 5th; Morag Blue on 6th; Rev. Cliff Reed on 12th – when he will be 70 years young; David Forsdike on 19th; Sheila Seal on 21st; Rosemary Hamilton on 26th.

UFOS

The themes for the Unitarian Focus on Seeing each month for your photography projects are –
March – Sign posts

April – Masonry patterns

May – water

Please interpret these topics as you will and bring your photo to add to our book.

How others see us

Recently Lewis went to a discussion session with the local Humanists and to advertise this to their community, Richard Layton wrote the following poem –

Unitarianism!

In March we Suffolk Humanists

(A Pyrrhonistic laity)

Will with civility, gainsay,

The fact of any deity.

Our guest's a Unitarian

Who claims there's but one single God;

Thus Jesus and the Holy Ghost,

Are paths to godhead never trod.

Hence Unitarianism is,

That doctrine of divinity;

That doth in each degree eschew,

All notions of the Trinity.

©Richard Layton

How well does this convey our approach and beliefs? Does anyone feel inspired to write a response in poetry form?

Disabled Parking

Please consider signing this petition – to protect spaces for disabled drivers and people with children -

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/190566>

Ipswich Unitarian Newsletter –

Please email contributions for the newsletter to Tessa at - ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS before the deadline for the next issue of 26th April 2017.

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

To contact our Minister Lewis Connolly, you can email on revdlewisconnolly@gmail.com or ring him on 01473 422528

Thought for the month –

"To keep the body in good health is a duty, otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear." Buddha