



Summer Opening

Each year in the summer we open the Meeting House and invite anyone passing by to pop in and admire our beautiful building. Often people who have lived in Ipswich for many years are surprised when they turn through the door and see the interior of a building that they have walked by over the years without realising what they have been missing. There is certainly a 'wow' factor! We open the doors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 noon until 4pm and rely on volunteers to be present to answer visitors' questions. If you have time to offer – maybe a two hour slot – please sign up on the board which is in the entrance to the Meeting House.

When it is your turn, please open up (if you don't have a key, please see Rosemary Hamilton), put out the banners on the railings outside and be ready with a smile to welcome anyone coming to explore. Some people like to wander in solitude, some ask many questions, some are impressed by our display board showing Famous Unitarians and this can spark discussion too. Until they visit, many people are unaware of what Unitarianism means, so a visit is a good introduction.

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Congratulations

Rebecca Gibbs and Imran Shaikh married at the Meeting House on 29th April. We wish them every happiness in their life together.



Rebecca and Imran's Wedding - English Edition!

On Saturday 29th April we were pleased that the formal, legal wedding took place in the Meeting House. After weeks of planning and anxiety for some, everything came together more or less as planned. Even the weather behaved itself producing beautiful blue skies in the afternoon. Our minister, Lewis, conducted a most entertaining ceremony and our organist, Robert, performed magnificently on the piano and CD player. We are very grateful to both of them and also to the members of the congregation who came along to support and help the ceremony go so smoothly. Thank you to all.

We retired to the Barandov Opera at Kennels Farm, near Needham Market for the reception. We were limited to a hundred guests so some

Wedding – English edition! cont.

people we wished to be there we were not able to invite. As is the Indian way, some people turned up who were unexpected, but fortunately the caterers were able to cope – just! It was a lively event with Rebecca's favourite singer Colin who came up from London, spurring people on to sing and dance. Many people commented on the flowers, provided by Kaye Souter of Rushmere St Andrew. Check her Facebook page, which shows beautiful pictures of the Meeting House and the Barandov Opera.

After clearing the reception area of all the props that had been taken there, putting our feet up with a glass of wine on Sunday evening was blissful.

So thank you again to all those who helped to make this a memorable day for us.

Carol and Andrew



The flower girls were Esmée Gibbs-Evans and Natasha Shaikh.

Taizé Singing Group

Fourteen people met in the Meeting House on 15th May to sing Taizé type chants led by Liz Gerrie and Jan Savage. The two hours together were relaxed, uplifting and moving in turn - and at times we almost raised the rafters! The next session will be at 10am on 13th June.

(Remember you do not have to be a skilled songster – just to enjoy singing with others.) Liz and Jan have very generously said that they are happy to donate their time, so that all monies raised will go towards Meeting House funds.



Love is ...

At the wedding, Rebecca's niece Esmée read a poem that she had written about love –

Love is a sign to be kind.

!

Love is to look after each other and look out for each other.

!

Love is taking care of each other; our insides and our outsides.

!

We must say and show that we love each other.

!

Love makes us feel so good inside.

!

Love is something to think about and show everyday.

!

Love is friendship, family and strangers.

!

Love is respectful and meaningful happiness.

!

Love is colourful cuddles and words to feel deep warmth inside our heads and hearts as one

For many of us, this reading was the highlight of the wedding. Thank you Esmée

Redemption

Artist Michael Lumb will be creating a piece entitled Redemption which will be installed at the Meeting House and open to view during the last week of June. Michael Lumb is a sole performance artist, installation artist, and writer. He is based in Ipswich, and has exhibited his work throughout Europe.

Michael writes of his piece –*With my installation 'Redemption' I have aimed to create a sense of calm both in approaching the work and also on entering the enclosure. However, as with many experiences of calm, a suggestion of something else becomes apparent. The work clearly references religious iconography but for me it also speaks of other issues which are especially pertinent today. A point of particular concern is the way in which we so easily and quickly cease to see the reality of that which is before our eyes. My passionate hope is for the work to generate positive debate.*

Our minister Lewis Connolly will be linking the service on Sunday 2nd July to this artistic display. All are welcome and we hope you will be stimulated to reflect and discuss what it means for you.

Tats and hats!

Hi, Fran here, editor of The Unitarian. It's coming up to deadline day again for me and I am currently reading through all the newsletters sent to me. I've just read yours, including Sue Emerson's lively account of her holiday at Great Hucklow in her youth. Lovely reminiscences. She ends with "*Often we were collected at the end of our walk by a coach to take us back to base. Then the singing would begin. 'Ilkley Moor by Tat' was a favourite. To this day I still don't know what a 'Tat' is but nevertheless we joined in with gusto, or at least with the chorus.*" I am sure someone has solved the mystery for her by now, but if not, the phrase is actually 'On Ilkla Moor Baht 'at' and means 'On Ilkley Moor without a hat'!!

We will leave you all to decide how necessary a hat is on Ilkley Moor and how easily it stays on in the wind!

UFOS – Unitarian Focus on Seeing

The June focus for your creative photographs is 'Waste'. You can be as imaginative as you like and interpret the title a widely as you are inspired to do. All contributions welcome. Please bring them to the Meeting House on the last Sunday of the month.

Birthdays - Happy birthday in June to –
2nd – Zoe Bradbrook; 6th – Alison White;
13th -Cat Connolly; 14th Ian Gray; 16th Ivan Hamilton; 17th Stephen Reed and Malcolm Hawes

Events in June

4th – Communion after the Whitsun service
8th – General Election
17th – Bagpuss and Clangers exhibition opens at Ipswich Art Gallery – to 29th October
22nd – Trustees meeting
22nd – Update on Refugee Issues in Ipswich – with Abigail Grace of the Suffolk Refugee Forum – at the Ipswich Faith and Community Forum
26th June to 1st July – Redemption - art in the Meeting House.
15th July – Music on the Green 11 to 4 outside the Meeting House

Music on the Green

Plans for our fund raising event on Saturday 15th July are going ahead and we have a wide variety of live music booked in for your entertainment. We will have cake, teas and coffees, books and bits and bobs stalls, a raffle and will be welcoming everyone into the Meeting House too. Several of you have already volunteered to help and I hope you will enjoy being part of the day. We will need plenty of home baked cakes, contributions for the stalls and raffle prizes please. All offers of help please to Tessa Forsdike or Kate Dickinson. Does anyone have a gazebo or parasol they can bring for us to use on the day? We have ordered sunshine and it would be good to have some shade against the heat! All monies raised will go to our Restoration Fund to update and repair the Meeting House.

One hundred donations!

Soon to be 101, but donations, not dalmations! David Forsdike has now donated 100 units of blood. He works in the Blood Transfusion Department at Ipswich Hospital, so is very familiar with the need for blood and what a difference it can make to people's lives. When David first donated his blood, he was only allowed to give twice a year. Now unless you are ill or have visited a country on a restricted list, men can donate every three months and women every four months. It can still take some time to build up to such a total. If you have never given blood, feel free to chat with David. He will reassure you and answer any questions you may have. Here is a photo of him giving his 100th donation – he looks pretty cheerful!



Thinking of you

Beryl Beech had her operation at the end of May. We wish her a very speedy recovery and hope she will be home very soon.



Cakes at our Anniversary service on 30th April. We sang 'Happy Birthday' and blew out the candles.

Christine Hyde

Christine's funeral will be a private family cremation led by Ann Baepler and her Memorial Service will be held at the Meeting House on Thursday 1st June at noon to which all are welcome.

Our condolences go to Michael and her children Laura and Anthony. Christine will be missed in our congregation.

The Lord's Prayer – an Aramaic translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos,
Focus your light within us – make it useful:
Create your reign of unity now –
Your one desire then acts with ours,
As in all light, so in all forms.
Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,
As we release the strands we hold of others' guilt.
Don't let surface things delude us,
But free us from what holds us back.
From you is born all ruling will,
The power and the life to do,
The song that beautifies all,
From age to age it renews.
Truly – power to these statements –
May they be the ground from which all of my actions grow.

Amen

Contacts

Contributions for the newsletter to Tessa please before the deadline for the next issue, which is Thursday 29th June to – ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS.

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

To contact our secretary Riena Jackson sing 01473 210064/email mjack76748@aol.com

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

Thought for the month

'Hell, I never vote for anybody. I always vote against' - WC Fields