



Redemption

We are honoured to have Michael Lumb's installation entitled 'Redemption' in the centre of our Meeting House and welcome all visitors to view and reflect on what it means for them. On Sunday 2nd July, our Minister Lewis Connolly will be taking the artwork and his own reflections on redemption as the focus for the service – starting at 10.45. (photo below shows Michael and Lewis beside the installation)



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Welcome to Molly Cecilia Stevens



Molly Cecilia Stevens was born on June 1st at Lewisham Hospital to me and Cerian. Weighing in at 9.5 pounds and with a full head of hair, Molly resembled a small toddler and has carried on eating ever since. She is largely nocturnal. Beatrix is enjoying having a new sister to torment, and Cerian and I are in serious need of sleep! We look forward to bringing Molly along to meet you in July.

John Stevens

I am sure all the congregation will be queuing up for a cuddle! (Ed)

Music on the Green

On Saturday 15th July we are holding our fundraising event – Music on the Green – from 11 am to 4 pm. There will be teas/coffees and cakes to enjoy while sitting listening to the live music as well as a book stall to tempt you, a ‘bits and bobs’ stall to seek for hidden treasures and a raffle to try your luck with lots of great prizes. We are raising money for our Restoration Fund as there are several areas of the Meeting House which need repair including the windows on the south elevation, which are all suffering from rot. Even replacing these windows is likely to cost several thousand pounds. So every penny we raise will be a help.



The programme of music is –
11 – 11.30 – The Drowleys (Bluegrass with banjo, bass, mandolin and guitar)
11.30 – 12noon – Adam Rawcliffe – solo trombonist playing jazz and classics
12 – 12.30 – Gina Silburn – pop and soul singer
12.30 – 13.00 – Cotton Picking Raccoon and Miss Susie – banjo, washboard and spoons
13.00 – 14.00 – Robert Waller on the organ in the Meeting House
14.00 – 14.30 – Bitzy Cave singing and playing ukulele
14.30 – 15.00 – Corrina Dolso – soprano singing classical songs
15.00 – 15.30 Band of Four – traditional folk with 3 melodians and 1 harmonica
15.30 – 16.00 Gina or the Drowleys

You are welcome to come for all or part of the day – raffle to be drawn at 16.00.

The Rev. JOHN STORER

John Storer may not have been known to everyone at our Meeting House, unlike his late wife, Jean, who was a member and regular attender until ill-health overtook her. However, John took a keen interest in the Meeting and, when in better health, came to many of our cultural and social events. He chose not to attend services, though, something which – as a retired minister myself – I can understand. During my time as minister, and sometimes afterwards too, I used to visit John and always received the warm, cheerful and genial welcome that was characteristic of the man. Our conversations were wide-ranging – he was an avid ‘Guardian’ reader as well as taking an interest in matters Unitarian. He was also teaching himself Russian! Often, though, he would reminisce about his time in the ministry. John prepared for this at Unitarian College, Manchester, from 1947 to 1951. He was Minister in Cheshire and in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. I think John took particular pride in his years there. Older members remember him with affection. One of them – Maurice Large – told me recently how John was instrumental in getting a UYPL branch going in Newcastle. It was through UYPL – the Unitarian Young People’s League (of blessed memory) – that I first met John in 1966, when his church hosted UYPL’s annual Drama Festival. I have a vivid memory of John standing in the pulpit on the Sunday morning as he conducted the Festival service.

In 1971, John moved into full-time teaching, although he remained on the ministerial roll for the rest of his life. After retirement, John and Jean moved to Ipswich to be nearer to family. When Jean died and John’s health deteriorated to the point when he could no longer live independently, he moved into ‘Norwood’, the Methodist Home on Park Road. He was not the first Unitarian to end their days there. John died on 28th May 2017 and, as a community, we extend our condolences to his family on their loss.

Cliff Reed Minister Emeritus

FRAMLINGHAM UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE CELEBRATES ITS

TERCENTENARY - Built in 1717, Framlingham Unitarian Meeting House marked its tercentenary with an exciting and uplifting series of planned events over the weekend of 13-14 May.



Former minister, Rev Cliff Reed was speaker on the Saturday evening for a well-attended special gathering called '1717 and All That' at which he traced the history of the Meeting House, and the most remarkable characters associated with it. Perhaps chief among these fascinating figures were the courageous and influential abolitionist Thomas Cooper, who went on to be minister at the Meeting House later in life, and Goodwyn Barmby - who claimed to have introduced "communism" into the English language and who also invented the word "communitarian" (quite fashionable nowadays).

Barmby, unlike Cooper, was never Minister at Framlingham but was born at nearby Yoxford and his funeral was conducted in the Meeting House in 1881. The trajectory of his thought during his lifetime was from a radical Socialist and believer in communal living to a Unitarian minister of ardent Liberal political sympathies, as well as an accomplished poet. Among those also acknowledged were Lucy Tagart and Florence Hill. Their financially generous support of the Unitarian cause at nearby Bedfield (during the ministry of Alfred Amey in furtherance of the Postal Mission - the Meeting House there having then closed in 2010), is a large part of the reason that the relatively new ministry at Framlingham with Bury St Edmunds has become possible so many decades later.

The Saturday evening event was further enlivened by music from international tenor, Adrian Cave, with accompanist James Recknell. Even the current minister, Rev Matthew Smith, did a few musical turns, and the evening ended with a rousing rendition of the duet "Excelsior" by Balfe, to words of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - evoking the era of Victorian parlour ballads.

H.W. Longfellow also featured prominently at the Tercentenary Service on Sunday afternoon, where Marion Baker - former GA President and a member of the GA Executive Committee - constructed her theme around his words "All are architects of Fate / Working in these walls of Time", from the poem *The Builders*. The service was led by current minister, Rev Matthew Smith, with music provided by regular organist Robert Waller. The service was not solely a celebration of the past but highlighted our responsibilities to carry the flame of free, non-dogmatic faith from the present into the future. Prior to the service, the goodly crowd had followed a splendid tea by listening to beautiful music provided by Zephyr Baroque.

Arranging the weekend was a collaborative effort between the congregation, trustees and minister and great credit is due to the volunteers who helped make it all happen. The wonderful restoration of the Meeting House that took place in 2010, due to extraordinary hard work by trustees and friends at the time - making the building a more attractive place to worship and to hold other community events - was celebrated during the weekend. This change has been a big contributory factor to the small but significant revival taking place in the fortunes of the Meeting House, further boosted by the beginning of the new ministry in October 2014. Here's to the next 300 years!

--- Matthew Smith is Minister to Unitarian congregations in Framlingham and Bury St Edmunds

Christine Hyde – In Loving Memory

Following Christine's death on 11th May, the family chose to have a private committal at Ipswich Crematorium on 1st June which I had the privilege of conducting. This was followed by a moving memorial service on the same day led by our Minister in a crowded Meeting House, with readings offered by Maggie Hodges and Linda King. A spectacular floral arrangement graced the space by the pulpit, putting us in mind of the beautiful displays of flowers often placed there by Christine. We were also able to admire a striking photograph of Christine in her younger years on the table under the lectern.

Christine had been an active member of our congregation for many years, regularly attending Sunday services and serving as a trustee for a time. And I know we will all remember Christine and Michael's kind hospitality when we were invited each spring to admire the spectacular display of snowdrops and aconites in their wonderful garden.

When a eulogy is read at a funeral we often learn things about someone that we hadn't known, and this was certainly the case on June 1st. Of course her family were well aware of the extent of Christine's creativity and her thirst for learning, but there were not many of us who knew about her pottery, painting, carpentry (!), needlework and knitting (though I do remember admiring a Kaffe Fassett intricately patterned jacket Christine wore one Sunday). One of her creative projects was designing a curved pergola for her garden which culminated in a planting party – reflecting her sociable nature, which extended to an ongoing concern for other people. During her life Christine volunteered as a prison visitor, an adult literacy teacher, served on the Council and until just recently, worked for Age UK as a befriender. Christine's warm personality and kind nature will be long remembered and her quiet and gentle presence is sadly missed by so many.

Ann Baeppler

A TOWERING HOLOCAUST

Grenfell Tower, North Kensington, 14th June 2017

*"My eyes are spent with weeping;
my soul is in tumult;
my heart is poured out in grief
because of the destruction...
in the streets of the city."*

- Lamentations 2: 11

I saw it, dumbstruck, on TV

The night an unremarkable block of flats burned,
and was burned for ever into our consciousness

The night when people's homes, remarkable and
special, filled with smoke and were consumed by
fire

The night when people choked in the smoke,
fell to their deaths, were consumed by the fire

I can't imagine the fear, the terror

I can't imagine the devastation of loss,
the desperation of not knowing

I can't imagine the courage it called forth

I can't find words to describe the grief

I can't do justice to the love in
community, city, and country

Once again we are called
to believe and to know
that we are one.

Once again we are called
to act accordingly.

Miserere

*Cliff Reed,
16th June 2017*

Events in July –

2nd – Ipswich Music Day in Christchurch Park
8th – Global Rhythm Festival – Christchurch Park
9th – Indian Mela Festival – Christchurch Park
7th – 9th - UK Unitarian Youth Bridging Weekend –
Pride London
15th Music on the Green – beside the Meeting
House – 11 to 4
23rd – Octagon Wedding Fair – Norwich
28th – Quaker Film Night – Agora - set in Alexandria,
Egypt, 391 AD and exploring the relationship between
pagan rulers and increasing numbers of Christians-subtitles

Services in July – all at 10.45

2nd – Redemption
9th - Flower Communion and envelope for
contributions to the General Assembly
16th - Still at the Shores of Walden: Celebrating
300 years of Henry David Thoreau
23rd - The Life & Works of Ety Hillesum
30th - Lammas Communion

Birthdays–

Happy birthday in July to
1st - Angus Hamilton
2nd - Cherrie Wilkinson – congratulations on your 70th!
6th - Pipiri Wilkinson
15th - Beatrix Stevens
27th - Harold Mangar – congratulations on your 80th!
28th - Edmund Reed

Moving On Celebration – 23 September 2017

The Newcastle Meeting House congregation will be moving out of their building (which is now too big) and finding another home for worship. The final date for our leaving the Church of the Divine Unity building following its sale has yet to be confirmed, although it is not imminent. We have decided that the church will celebrate our time at the Church of the Divine Unity in Ellison Place on Saturday 23 September at 2-3pm. The celebration will be held on a Saturday to enable Unitarians from around the country to attend without missing their churches' services on Sunday morning!

Church Unity?

Proposals have been submitted to the Conference of the Methodist Church and the General Synod of the Church of England which may lead to a re-connection of the two religious paths, so that priests and pastors can work together and serve in one another's churches, without a need to be re-ordained. This would end a 200 year old rift which arose from John Wesley (who saw himself as Anglican), ordaining ministers to serve in America. This went against the Anglican tradition as only bishops were allowed to ordain priests.

Religion in Japan

On a recent holiday in Japan we heard of a few notable facts and customs/beliefs. Apparently the number of people describing themselves as Shinto or Buddhist (the two main religions) comes to a total higher than the population of Japan. Sometimes people marry in the Shinto tradition and have their funeral in the Buddhist tradition. We saw many temples and shrines and only one Christian church in our travels.

It is believed that it is a sin for a child to die before their parents, so the child's soul has to wait in limbo until their parent dies and the parents often make red 'bibs' for stone statues and leave fruit or flowers as a way of asking the Gods to look after their child in limbo.

Contacts

Contributions for the next newsletter to Tessa please before the deadline for the next issue, which is Wednesday 26th July 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, ring 01473 210064/email mjack76748@aol.com
To contact our Minister, Lewis Connolly ring 01473 422528 /email revdlewisconnolly@gmail.com

Thought for the Month

"I prefer people who rock the boat to people who jump out." - Orson Welles