

Ipswich Unitarian



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November 2016

Successful fund-raising

For the past year we have been raising money in aid of AgeUK Forget-me-Not Clubs and Vickie Hutchinson from the organisation will be coming to our service on 6th November to receive our cheque for £2226.22p which is a fantastic total for a small congregation to raise. Vickie will be telling us after the service just what the money will mean to them and what they can do with it, so do come to hear what she has to say.

Choosing our charity for next year

At our AGM we will be voting for the charity we wish to support for the next year. Below you will see details of the charities which have been suggested. Please consider all of them and perhaps check out their websites, so that you can feel ready to vote on 13th November.

Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors without

Borders - proposed by Beryl Beech with June Teape and Maggie Hodges

This charity helps all people - like our own church beliefs - irrespective of race, religion, creed, gender or political affiliation. They are able to go INSTANTLY to the aid of the afflicted very fast and very effectively. www.msf.org.uk

Choosing our charity for next year – cont.

The Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House - proposed by Linda King

We have not done any fund-raising for our wonderful Grade 1 listed building for several years. In 2017 we look to a big expenditure to maintain the fabric of the building in good order and to reverse some of the damage done by unsympathetic repairs. I'm aware, given the high level of work necessary, the building may well attract grants from a variety of charities and local councils. However, as a congregation we should also be involved in raising the money instead of leaving it to the Trustees and Treasurer to write letters. The amount we could raise is not anywhere near what will be finally needed ... but if you don't know the story, ask me about the snowflake! www.unitarianipswich.com

East Anglian Air Ambulance - proposed by Maggie Hodges

It always gives me the shivers when I hear an ambulance rushing past with the sirens going and I wonder if the person inside is going to be okay. www.eaaa.org.uk

FIND - (Families In Need) –proposed by Ann Baepler
Imagine what it would be like if there was no food to put on the table for your hungry children - let alone yourself - or if you'd used the last nappy for your baby and had no money to buy another pack. But there is a lifeline in the form of "FIND", a charity, founded 16 years ago, which provides emergency assistance to desperate families or individuals in need in and around Ipswich. During 2015 almost 3000 adults and 3000 children received aid in some form from this local charity. www.findpswich.org.uk

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Choosing our charity for next year – cont.

Talitha Koum – proposed by Tessa Forsdike
An Ipswich based Christian charity which began in 2005 with a vision to reach out with love, compassion and practical support to women struggling with addictions. 'Women Together' is a self help group which meets twice a week to offer hope, support and encouragement to women affected by any addiction, helping them to regain the self-confidence, self-belief and self-worth their addiction has stolen from them.

The Hope Centre (a 14 bed dedicated residential rehab facility in Witnesham) is to be opened on 30th November, ten years after the bodies of five women murdered by a serial killer, were found in Ipswich. All of these women had a Class A drug habit. The Centre will offer women a place to begin the healing of emotional and mental scars which are left by addiction. A Registered Charity, TK is totally reliant on grants, gifts and donations for financial support.
www.talithakoum.org.uk

SIFRE Faiths Lecture

... will be given on 16th November by Martin Palmer with the title of - '**The wisdom of faiths and the business of faiths - addressing real issues of the environment**'.

Full details are on the University of Suffolk web site. If you would like to attend, you will need to register and book with the University by following the link - www.uos.ac.uk/events/annual-faith-lecture-wisdom-faiths-and-business-faiths-addressing-real-issues-environment

Martin Palmer is a theologian (MA Cantab), author, translator, broadcaster and environmentalist. He has been Secretary General of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC), a secular non-governmental organisation which he and His Royal Highness Prince Philip started in 1995. ARC helps religions to develop environmental and conservation projects based on their own beliefs and practices. It works with 12 major religions including over 60 different Christian traditions ranging from the Catholic Church to the New Psalmist Baptists in the USA to the Greek Orthodox Church leadership.

Harvest Festival



A lunch was shared after the Harvest Festival service on 2nd October. Thank you to all who cooked and contributed – and to everyone who decorated the Meeting House. The food contributions were delivered to the Women's Refuge who thanked us all.



Tim Macy – Memorial service

Tim Macy's funeral was held on Thursday 27th October at Parnwood Cemetery and Crematorium, Harlow. We will be celebrating his life at a Memorial service at our Meeting House on Thursday 17th November at 1 pm. There will be coffee and cake afterwards. The family request no flowers, but if you wish, you may make a donation to the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) or to Médecins Sans Frontières via <http://www.drobinson.co.uk/in-memory-pages>

SPILL Festival – 26th to 30th October

The Meeting House, bathed in candlelight, was the venue for the world premiere of [NAMES] performed by Elaine Mitchener. Over 200 people attend this "durational piece which is a chapter taken from *Sweet Tooth*, an anthology of music/movement-art work". In this Elaine Mitchener focuses on the names enslaved Africans were given by slave owners in a deliberate, cruel and decisive action to rob them of their identity and humanity. It is a contemporary viewpoint looking back on history; it tests and challenges ways of dealing with a particularly heinous crime. Slavery was and is a crime. The three-hour long performance was exhausting, brilliantly delivered, moving and sad. The recording of the names was continuous as Elaine performed excerpts from writings of the time. There were two surnames which stood out for me (Walker and Wedderburn), could this be the catalyst to trace my ancestry?

Mitchener made good use of the space. Parts performed on the central floor were obscured from view but that did not take anything away from the overall effect. There was some breast massage going on but no nudity or profanity.

Elaine has a most beautiful voice and she used it to good effect. What stamina that woman has!

Paulette Reed

Services in November

6th – Vickie Hutchinson from AgeUK Forget me Not Clubs talking after the service

13th – Remembrance Sunday and AGM

20th – St Cecelia service – a mix of music and musical poetry and prose. Contributions to Lewis asap.

27th – Advent Sunday – lighting the candles

All services will be led by our Minister Lewis Connolly.

Birthdays in November

Happy birthday to –

Hilary Hamilton on 11th

Mathilda Hawes on 24th

Events for your diary in November –

4th to 6th – National Unicoms Conference – The Unitarian Digital Age Survival Pack – Great Hucklow.

12th – Big Sky Concert in aid of Inside Out at St Peter's by the Waterfront 7.30 pm. £15/10. Also workshop in the afternoon with Sian Croose, who has been described as one of the most gifted natural voice network teachers in the country.

13th – Annual General Meeting for our MH – also a review of the By Laws – copies will be emailed and printed in advance for your consideration.

16th SIFRE Faiths Lecture

17th Tim Macy – Memorial Service at our Meeting House at 1 pm.

17th to 19th - Felt and Design Exhibition at Framlingham Meeting House contact: Gillian Stringer 01728 603551

18th to 27th – five Jazz Concerts at the Cambridge Meeting House

21st to 23rd – Unitarian Women's Group

Conference – 'Finding Beauty in the World, in each other, in ourselves.' Great Hucklow – Sheila Burney 01298 871218

27th – Amnesty International member Stephen Broadbent will bring cards for people to sign after the service in support of prisoners worldwide.

On 3rd December – Tim and Tony's wedding

Syria – the story of the conflict

More than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives in four-and-a-half years of armed conflict, which began with anti-government protests before escalating into a full-scale civil war. More than 11 million others have been forced from their homes as forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad and those opposed to his rule battle each other - as well as jihadist militants from so-called Islamic State. BBC news gives an 8 point review at - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-26116868>

It can be difficult for us to conceive of, let alone to understand the extent of suffering and tension in Syria.

Supporting our community

Those of you who have been able to join us at services will have heard some updates from Malcolm on Sandra Hawes' progress and will have learned that she was readmitted to hospital with an infection. The latest news is that she is now progressing well. We hope she continues to do so and that she will be home soon.

We also hold in our thoughts and prayers Morag Blue who will be having an operation very soon. We wish Morag a successful outcome and good healing. Christine Hyde is making slow progress.

Please let Lewis know if you are unwell, or would like him to visit to talk through any personal concerns.

UFOS for November

Our topic in October was 'Fungi' as this is a season for damp and usually various fungi. So far we have only two contributions. Maybe the fungi were hiding this month? Below is one photo by Tessa Forsdike. The topic for our Unitarian Focus on Seeing in November is 'Saintly things', meaning pictures in connection with saints. You can interpret that in any way which calls you.



Reflection and chat after services

We recently introduced the idea of occasionally staying in the MH after a service to discuss and reflect on the theme of the address. On 23rd October we discussed 'This is Reality', which gave some of us the chance to share our reactions and thoughts.

Thought for the month –

'Be who you are and say how you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind.' Dr Seuss, Cat in the Hat

Syria – the story of the conflict – cont.

Here are bullet points from the BBC article -

- 1 – in March 2011 prodemocracy protests erupted in Deraa after teenagers were arrested and tortured for painting revolutionary slogans and security forces opened fire on demonstrators
- 2 – the violence escalated leading to civil war and fighting reached Damascus and Aleppo.
- 3 – The UN commission of inquiry has evidence that all parties have committed war crimes (including murder, torture, rape and enforced disappearances). Civilians' suffering has also been used as a method of war.
- 4 – Hundreds were killed in August 2013 after rockets filled with the nerve agent Sarin were fired at suburbs of Damascus. There is contention about who fired them.
- 5 – More than 4.5 million people have fled Syria and 6.5 million are internally displaced.
- 6 – So called Islamic State has capitalised on the chaos and took control of large areas of Syria and Iraq in 2014.
- 7 – Only a political solution seems possible. Talks broke down in 2014. In January 2016 the US and Russia led efforts to get representatives of the government and the opposition to attend 'proximity talks' in Geneva.
- 8 – What was an Arab Spring uprising has now developed into a brutal proxy war that has drawn in regional and world powers.

Ipswich Unitarian Newsletter – For

contributions to future newsletters, 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 Thursday 24th November The next issue will cover two months – December and January

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive this regularly by email, please just ask.

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

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