



## After 300 years ...



It was important for us to sort the problem with the side door lock which developed last week – especially as this is a fire exit. So we called on our helpful handyman David Forsdike to take a look. We knew we could rely on him to mend the lock.

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The door lock on the side door had become stiff to operate and difficult to close, so I was asked to look at it. Probably one of the doors had dropped slightly and the bolt of the lock was hitting the keep, meaning it would only engage if the door was raised slightly ... and it is a heavy door!

It would have been very difficult to adjust the door, so I decided the only way was to remove a few millimetres from the top of the bolt of the lock. As the lock is held onto the door by three bolts, undoing these made removing the lock quite easy.

The lock itself was fixed into a wooden frame by four nails which I removed and then I could file about two millimetres from the bolt of the lock, give it a bit of grease internally and refit it. I am pleased to say it now seems to work perfectly.

Assuming the lock is original to the building of the Meeting House – and the key would indicate it is – it is an honour to work on a lock which is over three hundred years old and hopefully to give it many years of future service.

David Forsdike



## Coming out of the pandemic?

I'm acutely aware that there are those who have only vaguely adhered to the 'lock-down rules' and in fact partying was the order of the day throughout the past two plus years! I still don my mask in the supermarket and other indoor places if they are crowded. In my garden it's a different story. I feel free, I do my warm-up (with weighted hula hoop and Nordic Poles) before going on my early morning walk.

Recently, though, I've ventured out of town and county. I saw the 'Secrets of the Abbey: History Returns' at Saint Edmundsbury Cathedral, with Linda King and Angela Cowling. A fantastic collection of 16<sup>th</sup> century manuscripts on loan from Pembroke College, Cambridge, seven pieces all beautifully hand crafted by scribes. Also on display were pieces of silver (flagons, plates, sceptres, platters) from redundant churches around the country: one particularly fine piece was described as early chinoiserie.

Next I went to Norwich to see 'In Raiment of Needlework', an exhibition of textiles and vestments for the Platinum Jubilee, at Saint Peter Mancroft. It charts the history of how the idea of special clothes for use by the clergy has its roots in what first-century civil servants wore, and how the various garments have changed and developed over the last two thousand years.

These garments cover the whole range from day-to-day wear through to ones for 'high mass' and 'low mass'. Dr Nicholas Groves writes (as well as being a musician) and has an extensive knowledge of the history of ancient churches in Norwich (and maybe Norfolk). He also designs clerical vestments and he curated this exhibition. The pieces are all intricate and beautiful, traditional and new, and included the coffin pall made by the Guild of All Souls for the funeral of Queen Victoria in 1901.



*The photo shows Dr Groves standing by a batik chasuble, depicting the Benedicite; commissioned by the late Canon Michael McLean and made by Irene Ogden, 1990.*

In my home town I've been fascinated by the Big Hoot Trail – this year's street art being owls. They are displayed in public open spaces as well as smaller ones in some shop windows. You don't necessarily have to go specifically to find the displays; if you are in town keep an eye out or watch where there are clusters of children having their picture taken with the owl they've just 'found'.

by Paulette Reed

## Road Closure Advance Notice

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September (the same as the Heritage Open Days) the Ipswich Half Marathon will be held, with people running through the streets and many spectators watching and cheering them on. Some of these closures may affect your route to the Meeting House.

Road closures from 08:30 to 10:15 -

Buttermarket - closed from 08:30 to 10:15

Dogs Head Street closed from 08:30 to 10:15

Falcon Street closed from 08:30 to 10:15

Princes Street closed from 08:00 to 09:45

Queen Street closed from 08:30 to 10:15

Tavern Street closed from 08:30 to 10:15

Upper Brook Street closed from 08:30 to 10:15

## Phil Chatfield



We were so pleased to see Phil Chatfield and Ali Mercer joining us via Zoom at our service on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Many of you will know that Phil was our Property Manager and oversaw the Restoration Project. Without his skills we would have struggled to ensure our building was well and safely restored for the future. Phil has been unwell for some time but is pleased to share that he now has a diagnosis – Non Hodgkin’s Lymphoma – and he has started chemotherapy treatment. He and Ali have good support locally in Devon and the dogs keep them busy and are good company too. We join with Ali, who said *‘Hopefully chemo treatment will go smoothly and we’ll see some improvement in his symptoms soon.’*

We wish both of them well and hope they will be able to join us for more services when Phil is feeling up to it.

### Services in August

7<sup>th</sup> - Rev Cliff Reed - Lammas Communion.  
14<sup>th</sup> - Robert Waller, Ipswich Unitarian  
21<sup>st</sup> - Linda King, Ipswich Unitarian  
28<sup>th</sup> - Andrew Benedict, East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA)

### Birthdays in August

Happy birthday to Madeleine Spence on 11<sup>th</sup>; Phil Chatfield on 15<sup>th</sup>; Saskia Sakals on 20<sup>th</sup>; Jenny Spence on 21<sup>st</sup>; John Stevens on 23<sup>rd</sup>; Sidonie Sakals on 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Build Your Own Theology/Beliefs

Over the last weeks, a group of people has been meeting to reflect on and discuss their approach to theology. Their aim is to clarify what they individually believe. As part of this they discussed the Ten Commandments, wondering how relevant these feel now and whether they would adjust any for their own set of ethical commandments. Each of them wrote their own set and here is one example–

- Love others with no expectation of return
- Respect the natural world
- Respect and honour the wisdom of others even when you disagree with them
- Be true to your own truth
- Protect those who are vulnerable
- Continue to grow and to learn from life experience
- Hold on to hope
- Aim for inner peace
- Be ready to let go of all that is unnecessary
- All is possible when we will it

With permission of the other members of the group the newsletter editor hopes to include more of these sets of ethical commandments. Maybe this is an exercise others of you may find helpful? If so, and if you are happy for your ideas to be included in the newsletter, do please submit them.

### Events for your diary

On Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> August from 2pm, Bob Allen will be telling stories and reading poetry in the Meeting House – no charge and all are welcome. Do tell your friends and invite all the children you know ... a special entertainment.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm Adam Whybray will be dressing up to read ‘Spooky Stories from MR James’. Feel free to dress up too. There will be candlelight and scary refreshments.

## Ride and Stride Launch



On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July the 2022 Ride and Stride event which raises funds for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust was launched officially. In the photo (l to r) are Simon Ronan the SHCT Ride and Stride Chairman; Pastor Wale from the Ipswich International Church; Curtis Blanc the rapper who is the main launch person and Tessa Forsdike the Ipswich area organiser.

If you would like to take part and be sponsored to walk or cycle round the churches, meeting houses and chapels in Suffolk, do speak to Robert Waller or pick up a set of forms from the piano in the Meeting House.

We will be opening the Meeting House on the 10<sup>th</sup> September for the Ride and Stride and on the 11<sup>th</sup> too for the Heritage Open days so we will also need volunteers to welcome (and count) visitors.

## Book Group

The next meeting (via Zoom) of the Book group is on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm. We will be discussing 'Women of Troy' by Pat Barker. If you would like to join us, let Tessa Forsdike know and she will send you the link. All are welcome – even if you haven't finished the book!

## Sad news

We are sad to announce that Corrina Dolso has died and her funeral will be held at the Meeting House on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm, before a burial at the green burial site in Wrabness.

Corrina joined us for services occasionally before the pandemic and also attended Unitarian services in London. We remember her too for leading her beautiful singing group – Equinox Voices – who gave a concert in May 2018 to raise funds for our restoration project.



Corrina is pictured in the centre of her group.

## Disclaimer

We welcome contributions from all members and friends of our congregation. Views expressed in the articles are those of the individual and not necessarily those of our congregation or of our Unitarian community.

**Contacts** Contributions PLEASE for the next newsletter to Tessa before the deadline of Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August by email to

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## Thought for the month

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. Audre Lorde