



# Happy New Year for 2022

## Christmas Celebrations

We were so pleased to be able to hold our Christmas Carol service – though with extra Covid precautions. The candelabra was alight and about 50 people joined us in person, all socially distanced. Thanks to Robert Waller, we can all watch the recording of the service – please go to this link -

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DChX3y2Kjj29JOBQyiw\\_Fc-ysIPVX2LUXn4YzKfWnFOBPc55vmU5ol7gQERiitPn.7AUcjO9A0rkOQdF0](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DChX3y2Kjj29JOBQyiw_Fc-ysIPVX2LUXn4YzKfWnFOBPc55vmU5ol7gQERiitPn.7AUcjO9A0rkOQdF0) Passcode: \$1Q9X@vx

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Thanks to Sandra and Malcolm Hawes who donated the tree by the front of the Meeting House.

## Hi-Di-Hi - David Webb

Thanks go to the Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House for organising an entertaining evening with David Webb on Friday 10th December, when he talked, sang and showed us film clips about his life as a Yellowcoat in the BBC TV comedy series. Sadly the Covid uncertainties affected the number of attendees, who missed a really great evening. David generously gave his services completely free and we raised a total profit of £292.53 for our Meeting House.



David with his famous yellow coat – which he told us had shrunk by two stone over the years!

Thanks to Rachel Sloane for this photo and for being the main organiser of the event.

**Book Group** – on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January the Book Group will meet via Zoom at 7pm to discuss the 2021 Booker Prizewinning *'The Promise'* by Damon Galgut. Contact Tessa Forsdike for the link.

## Birthdays in January –

Special happy birthday wishes to Paulette Reed on 14<sup>th</sup>; Riena Jackson on 26<sup>th</sup>; Juliette Spence on 27<sup>th</sup> and Mark Hawes on 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Services in January –

2<sup>nd</sup> – led by Paulette Reed and Liz Constable - Ipswich Unitarians

9<sup>th</sup> – led by Linda King - Ipswich Unitarian

16<sup>th</sup> – led by Ali Mercer - Ipswich Unitarian in Devon

23<sup>rd</sup> - Rev Cliff Reed - Minister Emeritus.

30<sup>th</sup> - **Membership Service** led by Ann Baepler and Linda King - Ipswich Unitarians

This year we have two people who are to be welcomed into membership - Dr Elizabeth Constable and Hilary Hamilton. Liz's welcome was postponed from last year due to the pandemic and lockdown. We look forward to welcoming them both, publicly and officially.

A shared lunch will follow - please see the sign-up sheet on the noticeboard.

If you are considering becoming a Member of our Meeting, do speak to one of the Trustees, who will be happy to answer any queries you may have.



## **Why Domestic Abuse is Everyone's Business**

How can we support family and friends impacted by domestic abuse?

Why is this an issue affecting so many people in our society?

We are offering an awareness presentation to find out more:

**Thursday 3rd February at 2pm**

**- OR -**

**Tuesday 15th February at 7pm**

Unitarian Meeting House Friars Street,  
Ipswich IP1 1TD

Come along to this session on raising awareness of domestic abuse and you will leave with a better understanding of some of the major issues affecting our society in relation to this devastating issue. At Lighthouse we aim to help raise awareness among communities about domestic abuse and how to spot the signs, support survivors and know where and how to get help. It is a sad fact of life that domestic abuse remains widespread in UK society, with an estimated 2.3 million adults in England and Wales (ONS) experiencing domestic abuse in the year ending March 2020. The restrictions put in place in response to COVID-19 have intensified the abuse and the experience of victims and their children. Domestic abuse services have reported huge increases in the number of visits to helplines and websites. Home should be a safe place for everyone however for those experiencing domestic abuse it is clearly not and for many, their home has become their workplace and where they spend so much of their time. With access to other social support reduced, communities can be a life saver for some victims and for many their social networks offer them the respite and support that they so desperately need. Despite its prevalence, domestic abuse has often been seen as just that – a domestic issue. However, we are increasingly seeing communities taking an interest in how it impacts their members, friends, families and

colleagues. As part of a holistic response to domestic abuse, Lighthouse is committed to building awareness, understanding, skills and a drive to a longer-term culture change.

The event will be hosted by Katherine Ahluwalia, Lighthouse's Training Manager and Chair of the Ipswich Domestic Abuse Forum.



Lighthouse is the charity we are supporting this year and we invite any interested people to join us for information and to find out what you can do to support the project.

### **Care Packs**

As part of our support for Lighthouse we prepared some care packs for women and children who have to leave their homes at short notice.

There were some general packs for the women and some for children aged 2 to 6 and also for over 6 years old. It was important to consider the contents carefully.

We had to read the story books for younger children before including them, to be sure about the story lines, the toys needed to be relevant for both boys and girls and we wanted to include some special items while still balancing the costs so that we could provide as many packs as possible. It also felt important to include in each pack a similar range of items so it was as fair as possible to all the women and children.

## Care Packs (cont.)

This is what Lighthouse worker Emily Edgell said about the packs we delivered before Christmas -

*'The care packs were fantastic, we and the clients were really pleased with them so thank you to all who put them together. The actual material bags themselves were great, it makes a real difference being able to hand out nice bags, rather than plastic ones!*

*Everything for both the women and children were great – the note pads and puzzle books were a lovely touch. The personal products and shower items were all really nice too, all really essential too!'*

A special thank you to Ruth Day and Tessa Forsdike who sewed the bags and to Paula Chapman who is sewing the next batch. We look forward to working closely with Lighthouse throughout the year. If you would like to be more directly involved with this project do contact Tessa Forsdike or Karen Poulter.



## 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 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January by email to

[ipswichunitarian@gmail.com](mailto:ipswichunitarian@gmail.com) or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS

To contact our Secretary ring 01473 728498

email [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)

Website – [www.unitarianipswich.com](http://www.unitarianipswich.com)

## Thought for the month

Poem by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai -

‘From the place where we are right

flowers will never grow

in the spring.

The place where we are right

is hard and trampled

like a yard.

But doubts and loves

dig up the world

like a mole, a plough.

And a whisper will be heard in the place

where the ruined

house once stood.’

(from “Selected Poems of Yehuda Amichai” trans. Chana Bloch and Stephen Mitchell) – read at a recent East Anglian Unitarian Women’s Group meeting.