

Ipswich Unitarian Meeting



Volume 5, Issue 6

June/July 2019

Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House

As part of our connections within the Community of Ipswich (and further afield), the Trustees would like to set up a Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House scheme. This will support our grant applications as well as raise our profile. Sadly some people – even residents of Ipswich – are unaware of the beauty and history of our Grade 1 listed building. This is a way of letting them know and perhaps attracting them to more of our events and services.

We are looking for a volunteer to lead the establishment of a Friends Group and to organise the administration and publicity. Many of us are devoted to our Meeting House and will want to sign up and we are also aiming to attract people to the Group who may mostly be interested in the historic aspects of maintaining and preserving a special example of a Non Conformist Chapel. If you are interested in developing the Friends Group or know of someone who would be an enthusiastic administrator, please speak to one of the Trustees.

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Spring Concert Success

Thank you to Robert Waller for organising our Spring Concert on 4th May. We raised £208 for our Restoration Fund that evening and enjoyed a selection of songs, readings, poems and music. Thank you too to all who supported us, including a contingent from the Quaker Meeting House and to everyone who contributed with refreshments ... and did the washing up!

Date for your diary – Robert will be doing an **Organ Recital** on Saturday 21st September at 7pm – all welcome – bring your friends too!

UNITARIANS IN EAST ANGLIA



On Sunday 30th June the East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group invites all Unitarians in East Anglia to spend the afternoon at our meeting house in Framlingham.

A service at 3pm will be followed by free time or a guided walk around the Unitarian 'hotspots' of this beautiful and historic market town.

The afternoon will conclude with time for conversation and a buffet tea in the Meeting House.

The time

Sunday 30th June, 3pm

The place:

Unitarian Meeting House
Bridge Street, Framlingham
IP13 9AJ

Further details

lindapendal@gmail.com

or

EAUWG

c/o Unitarian Meeting House

Friars Street, Ipswich

IP1 1TD



Report on the Unitarian General Assembly Meeting- 16th to 18th April 2019

The Assembly took place at the Birmingham Hotel Metropole (a large well appointed hotel) starting at 2pm on Tuesday and finishing at 1.45pm on Thursday.

Events went on to 9.15 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and started at 7.30am on Wednesday and Thursday. You could be very busy if you wished to attend as many meetings as possible! There were seven events to which all of the 360 delegates should/could attend.

There were 14 motions put to the full assembly. This year none of them was controversial. All of them were approved by a show of hands (you held up your voting card at the appropriate time to support, oppose or abstain from voting).

13 of the motions dealt with –

- a. The appointment of individuals to positions of authority for the year 2019 – 2020
- b. The approval of the appointment of the firm of auditors for 2019 – 2020
- c. Thanks to people for their work in the 2018-2019 year or a longer period and the approval of the Report of the General Assembly Executive Committee for 2018 – 2019.
- d. Motion 8 *'that greetings be sent to kindred churches and societies abroad'*
- e. Motion 12 appointed Rev Celia Cartwright as President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2019 – 2020
- f. Motion 14 thanked Joan Cook for being President for the year 2018 – 2019

There remains Motion 1 which (in my opinion) is the most important matter that was brought up at the GA meeting for this year. It concerns knife crime – the precise wording of this motion as approved is at the end of this report. Attendees were asked to write or otherwise contact their MP to ask them to support Government action along the lines of this motion. I will be writing to my MP. I wonder how many MPs we can cover between us – it might just be enough to get something done!?

The programme for the Assembly, (apart from the seven sections referred to above) is divided into nine one hour sections with three events going on at once for each section. Many of these subsections are either not of interest to 'ordinary' delegates i.e. Penal and Social Affairs; Welsh Department (in Welsh); and Minister's Pension Fund were all on in the same one hour time slot. I went to an hour on each of – Peace Fellowship; Lindsey Press and Psychical Society. I was interested to hear what would be said in the Psychical Society, but I came out with an 'empty' feeling. I wonder why or how I would ever go to a service!

There were only two or three people at the Assembly (other than the three other Ipswich delegates) who I knew, but we were all wearing name tags with our name and the name of our congregation printed on each side of the tag and everybody was easy to talk to.

I understand that the GA will be at the same place next year. The food was good and with self service for breakfast and lunch we were in good time for our pm meetings. BUT the waiter service for the two evening meals was poor, which meant that the two one hour evening events (JRB Keynote Lecture on Tuesday and Anniversary Service on Wednesday) started late.

John Ellis

John was our congregation representative at the GA meeting.

Motion 1 passed as resolution 7

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Churches :

Expresses its concern at the increasing incidence of devastating knife crime in Britain's towns and cities.

Report on the GA meeting – cont.

Expresses its strong support for an adequately funded multi agency campaign to tackle this significantly raised threat to public safety, along the lines of that which has been so successful in Glasgow.

Urges Her Majesty's Government and the devolved administrations to establish an immediate investigation into ways and means of drastically reducing, over time, the ready availability of sharp pointed knives by the introduction of appropriate controls on retail and internet sales.

Calls upon Unitarian congregations to publicise the resolution amongst their members and friends and to ask their local elected representatives to raise these concerns with their relative Ministers and the Home Secretary's Serious Violence Task Force, with particular regard to the issue of sharp pointed knives.

Patchwork Quilt

Sarane Brennan has very kindly donated a patchwork quilt that she made for us as a way of raising funds for our Restoration Fund. We all know how much time and work goes into making a quilt and are very grateful to her.



Instagram

Unitarians UK are now on Instagram, the image-based social media platform! You can follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). We also have our own Facebook page – search for Ipswich Unitarians and Minister Lewis has a blog too – <https://www.lewisconnolly.com/blog>

Ginkgo Biloba Tree

Two members of our congregation remember Professor Cooke whose memorial tree was released from its metal grill to 'breathe' again recently -

Long years ago before PR appeared on the Meeting House scene, I wrote to Willis as the tree men they paid to cut the churchyard trees were unaware of the rarity of the Ginkgo Biloba: the sacred tree from the Far East and were shaping it up as if it were an English specimen. Willis replied appreciatively and said they'd pass on the message. Probably the Ginkgo Biloba's rarity is not being passed on again.

I am probably the only person in this time who has actually met Professor Cooke whose remains lie under this tree in our cemetery. He was an American Unitarian who usually joined us in August when he visited a relative south of Suffolk. I remember him as a man: small, quietly spoken and clearly unwell as he usually dined with Rev Nick Teape and me at the manse. When he preached his whole personality changed and he was exceptionally clear and inspiring. He asked that if he died on one of these holiday visits, his ashes might be placed in the cemetery under this rare sacred tree from the East. This was done. Maybe the present Trustees can retrieve the metallic details of his resting place and put them where they can be read.

The Ginkgo Biloba leaf of the 'Maidenhair plant' has been a healer for centuries and still has, according to the Internet, particular ability on aiding the memory to function.

J E Teape

In the May Ipswich Unitarian Paulette asked if there was anyone who knew anything about Professor George S Cooke. I recall Prof. Cooke as a very small man, brown as a berry with twinkling eyes and little glasses!

Whilst in my mind's eye I can see him walking up the pulpit stairs I can recall little of his services except he was a very interesting man who loved the Meeting House.

Linda King

St Peter's Street Fair

On June 16th there will be a street fair in St Peter's Street & St Nicholas' Street and the trustees thought that this would be an excellent opportunity to participate in a community event & to make visitors to the fair aware of the beauty of the Meeting House as well as to raise funds towards the restoration.

I have taken on the role of co-ordinating this and would ask you if possible to be around on Sunday 16th June during the afternoon after the service.

We are hoping to offer refreshments in the courtyard as well as book, plant & bric a brac stalls. Please could you write this date in your diary & be thinking of how you might contribute?

Very many thanks

Ann Baepler.

Sharing Suffolk's Stories

Launching at Suffolk Pride 2019, Suffolk Records Office is incredibly excited to begin work on a project entitled 'Pride In Suffolk's Past' as part of a larger group of projects under the banner 'Sharing Suffolk's Stories'.

This project will aim to combine both an examination of existing archival material exploring the history of LGBT+ people in Suffolk with a whole array of new stories in a whole array of media including written word and oral history.

Pride In Suffolk's Past will culminate in various events throughout 2020 including the opening of The Hold, Ipswich's new Archive and Learning Centre, World Pride Month and Suffolk Pride 2020, aiming to present to the people of Suffolk an exciting, interesting and perhaps previously unknown history of our counties' LGBT+ community, including providing a new catalogue of resources for use in schools and libraries.

Information from Mandy Rawlins via the local LGBT+ group.

Unwanted Fridge Wanted

The fridge in our Upper Hall is now defunct and we need to replace it. If anyone has a small fridge which they no longer need, we would be grateful to have it and can arrange collection – please speak to one of the Trustees.

Prayer for the Day – letter published in The Times 13th May 2019

Today's politicians certainly need our prayers.

There is a lovely story about the Rev Dr Edward Everett Hale, the popular American Unitarian Minister (1822-1909) who became chaplain to the US Senate. When asked if he started each day by praying for the senators, he responded 'No, I look at them and I pray for the country.'

Zaki Cooper, Trustee, Council of Christians and Jews

Events in June -

5th – Catholics and Quakers – an evening of dialogue 7pm – 9pm Quaker MH, 39 Fonnereau Road, IP1 3JH

15th – National TWAM (Tools with a Mission) Day and AGM – 11am to 3pm, Whitton Baptist Church 209 Highfield Road, IP1 6DH

16th - St Peter's Street Fair and our MH open after the service for teas/coffees and stalls

20th - Discussion in the Upper Room – based on the Delta course – 7pm

21st to 13rd – Ipswich Jazz festival

22nd - Suffolk Pride Parade and celebrations on the Waterfront 12 noon to 6pm

30th – Unitarians in East Anglia – 3pm at Framlingham MH IP13 9AJ

Events in July

8th – Trustees Meeting 6pm

18th – Discussion Group in the Upper Room – based on the Delta course – 7pm

23rd – East Anglian Unitarian Women's Group meeting – Norwich – 11.15 for 11.30

26th Karen's Twilight 10K race

Advanced Notice – please add these dates and events to your calendar –

Sunday 4th August – Congregation BBQ after the service in Tessa and David's garden, 48 Crabbe Street, IP4 5HS

Saturday 21st September – 7pm – Organ Recital by Robert Waller in aid of our Restoration Fund

Saturday 9th November – Way Beyond the Blue concert and poetry readings in aid of our Restoration Fund

My Fundraising for the Restoration Fund

A year ago I took up running and it has now become something I really enjoy. It's hard and I'm not fast but I love the sense of achievement. So far the furthest distance I've completed is 10k, or 6.2 miles, but I've only done this once. However I've signed up to run the Twilight 10k through the streets of Ipswich on Friday 26th July to raise money for our Restoration Fund. The route goes past the Meeting House, twice, which is very appropriate. It will be a challenge for me so if anyone would like to sponsor me I've set up a Just Giving Page at -

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/karen-tricker>

I'll also drop a paper form into the Meeting House. I had better get training!
Karen Tricker



Good luck Karen!!

Best wishes Beryl

We wish Beryl Beech a continuing recovery after her sudden illness and look forward to welcoming her back to our services.



I AM THE VERY MODEL OF A MODERN UNITARIAN by CHRISTOPHER GIST

RAIBLE (Sung to "I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General", From Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance')

I am the very model of a modern Unitarian,
I'm not a Catholic, Buddhist, Hindu, Jew, or Presbyterian.

I know the world's religions and can trace their roots historical

From Moses up to Channing, all in order categorical.
I'm very well acquainted, too, with theories theological,
On existential questions I am always wholly logical,
About most any problem I am teeming with a lot of views,

I'm full of fine ideas that should fill our church's empty pews.

I quote from Freud and Jung and all the experts psychological.

I'm anti nuke, I don't pollute I'm chastely ecological.

In short, in matters spiritual, ethical, material,

I am the very model of a modern Unitarian.

In short, in matters spiritual, ethical, material,

He (She) (We) is the very model of a modern Unitarian.

I use the latest language;

God is never Father or the Lord,

But Ground of Being, Source of Life or almost any other word.

I never pray, I meditate, I'm wary about worshipping.

I serve on 10 committees none of which accomplish anything.

I give to worthy causes and I drive a gas conserving car,
I have good UU principles (although I'm not sure what they are).

I'm open to opinions of profound or broad variety,
Unless they're too conservative or smack of righteous piety.

I formulate agendas and discuss them with the best of 'em,

But don't ask me to implement, we leave that to the rest of 'em.

In short in matters spiritual, ethical, material,

I am the very model of today's religious liberal.

In short in matters spiritual, ethical, material,

He (She)(We) is the very model of today's religious liberal.

Copied from Hale and Dean Row Newsletter. They added the comment 'With special thanks to Rev. Alex Bradley who gave a splendid performance of the above during his Service at Hale in August 2013. Anyone up for this at our next concert in Ipswich?

Birthdays in June/July

Happy birthday in June to -

Molly Stevens on 1st; Suzanne Leary and Zoe Bradbrook on 2nd; Alison White on 6th; Cat Connolly on 13th; Ian Gray on 14th; Ivan Hamilton on 16th; Stephen Reed and Malcolm Hawes on 17th and June Teape on 30th.

Happy birthday in July to -

Angus Hamilton on 1st; Cherrie Wilkinson on 2nd; Piripi Hudson on 6th; Beatrix Stevens on 15th and Edmund Reed on 28th.

Services in June/July

Unless otherwise mentioned, all services are led by our Minister Lewis Connolly.

Services all start at 10.45 and everyone is welcome – including dogs and children.

2nd June; 9th June – Whit Sunday; 16th June – led by the Poetry Group and focussed on the works on Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore; 21st; 28th; 7th July; 14th; 21st; 28th.

Thank you to Adam Whybray who led the service on 5th May. Here is the closing poem he read –

Initiation Song from the Finder's Lodge (Ursula K. Le Guin from *Always Coming Home*)

Please bring strange things.

Please come bringing new things.

Let very old things come into your hands.

Let what you do not know come into your eyes.

Let desert sand harden your feet.

Let the arch of your feet be the mountains.

Let the paths of your fingertips be yours maps
and the ways you go be the lines on your palms.

Let there be deep snow in your inbreathing
and your outbreath be the shining of ice.

May your mouth contain the shape of strange words.

May you smell cooking you have not eaten.

May the spring of a foreign river be your navel.

May your soul be at home where there are no houses.

Walk carefully, well loved one,

walk mindfully, well loved one,

walk fearlessly, well loved one.

Return with us, return to us,

be always coming home.

Definition of Hope

From Chelmsford MA newsletter –

Unitarian Universalist, the Reverend Victoria Safford gives her definition of hope:

Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of hope — not the prudent gates of Optimism, which are somewhat narrower; nor the stalwart, boring gates of Common Sense; nor the strident gates of self-righteousness, which creak on shrill and angry hinges; nor the cheerful, flimsy garden gate of “Everything is gonna be all right,” but a very different, sometimes very lonely place, the place of truth-telling, about your own soul first of all and its condition, the place of resistance and defiance, the piece of ground from which you see the world both as it is and as it could be, as it might be, as it will be; the place from which you glimpse not only struggle, but joy in the struggle — and we stand there, beckoning and calling, telling people what we are seeing, asking people what they see.

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–

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Website - <http://unitarianipswich.com>

Contributions to this newsletter – to

Tessa please by the deadline for the August issue of Saturday 27th July - to ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS

Thought for the month

Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it isn't there. You can't see the future, yet you know it will come; you can't see the air, yet you continue to breathe. - Claire London