



## Candlelight Carol Service



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 6pm**

## Congratulations!



Erin Edith Jennifer King was born on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023, weighing 6lb 10oz, daughter to Jorjia Reed and Brad King. Cliff and Paulette Reed are now great grandparents! We understand that all are doing well.

We congratulate them all, especially at this Christmas time of celebrating new birth.

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## The Saga of the Benches

The Trustees decided to restore the benches to the front of our Meeting House, hoping to provide a service and to encourage people to sit and admire our beautiful building. With the support of WTW, they were fixed in place and on sunny days people did start to take a break there – including a regular visitor, Rob (pictured below) who lives in a flat nearby but has spent his life working outside on a farm, so prefers to be outside as much as possible.



Frustratingly on some nights a group of drinkers is also using the benches (which in itself is not a problem) but also leaving their rubbish for us to clear up. They have at times moved the benches round to a more secluded place, which blocks the parking area. We will continue to replace them and hope that when the CCTV is all up and running, we will have evidence of any problems as they arise.

## Birthdays in December/ January

Happy birthday to all of the following people –

Edward Shaw on 22<sup>nd</sup>, Carol Gibbs on 26<sup>th</sup> and both John Hamilton and Liz Constable on 30<sup>th</sup> December.

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> January.

## CCTV Update

Approval for our planning application for CCTV has gone through and almost immediately the company tasked with installing it (CDS Systems) have started work. They have set up the intruder alarms and started to dig the channels outside for the cabling for the external cameras. These will be mounted on three posts (like lamp posts) which will be fixed in place before Christmas.



This means that anyone entering the building will need to input a code (the same number as the gate code) and on leaving, to reset the alarm.

Instructions are on the inside of the front door.

**Please follow these so that we avoid any false alarms. Otherwise, Robert Waller and Tessa Forsdike (the Trustees with a car) will have to keep going down to the Meeting House to sort out the problems.**

Thank you.



## Celebration of Human Rights

Hosted by the East of England Faiths Agency on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023.

This year's theme was based on Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says:

"1 Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2 Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection."

Following a welcome to the Mayor, Lynne Mortimer, her consort and participants from Sanjaya Martin Spettigue, on behalf of the Ipswich Hindu Somaj and Sri Chinmoy Centre, contributions were offered from the Bahai, the Quakers and the Unitarians represented by Paulette Reed and Linda King. The offering from the three Abrahamic religions, Islam, Judaism and Christianity was given by Cynthia Capey.

Charles Croydon on behalf of the Ipswich & District United Nations Association thanked the participants for their contributions. Cynthia Capey then expressed thanks to everybody on behalf of the EEFA, and especially to the Cooperative Funeral services where the group had their base. This has now come to an end, the library has been dispersed; Christian theology books are now housed at the Riverside Church Key Street and the rest of the library at the Quakers Fonnereau Road.

Cynthia & David Capey, after many years, are

now stepping back from the Interfaith work which started with SIFRE and now the EEFA. They have contributed a great deal to the development of Interfaith relations in Suffolk and East Anglia; we wish them well in their working retirement!  
By Linda King



We are also invited to attend the **Suffolk Holocaust Memorial Day 2024** on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January from 14.30 to 16.00 at the University of Suffolk, Lecture Theatre 1, Waterfront Building IP4 1QT  
*'Life can go on if there is courage to embrace tomorrow with love, peace, dignity and respect,'*  
Hope Azeda

**Heritage Open Days Feedback** After our Open Days in September, visitors were invited to send in comments and feedback to the Heritage Open Days national team.

Here are a couple of comments sent in about our Meeting House –

*-It was wonderful to see inside a beautiful building that I would not have normally gone to and to learn about its history from people who were clearly passionate about it. I came away from the visit with a much better understanding of the history of the building. The experience also led me to research about the Unitarian movement after my visit.*

*- Very enjoyable. Wonderful to be able to access buildings that are not normally open to public. Obviously we need to publicise our summer open days more widely! (Ed.)*

## **Brave Futures**

At our AGM in November, Paula Chapman proposed, and members voted to support the charity Brave Futures for the next year.

Here is some information about them –

Brave Futures (previously Fresh Start new beginnings) was established in 2012. We provide one-to-one specialist support to children and young people who have been sexually abused. An estimated 1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before the age of 18 - the equivalent of three children in every classroom. This amounts to over 14,000 children and young people in Suffolk.

We work with children from as young as three, up to 18 years old. Someone who has previously accessed our service can also re-refer themselves up to the age of 21. Children often enter our service full of shame and guilt. Our aim is to help them make sense of the confusion they feel and teach them coping strategies to enable them to move forward with their lives. By the end of their time with us, our aim is that symptoms such as anxiety, depressions, nightmares, flashbacks and self-harming are absent or significantly reduced. Our aim is for each child or young person to feel more positive about themselves and their future.

Our support is free to all families and is unlimited – we are there for each child for as long as they need us. We also provide support for the rest of the family where it is needed, including parents and siblings. We work across Suffolk and Norfolk and support approximately 250 – 300 children and young people each year.

Gemma Smith

For more information check out the website - [www.bravefutures.org](http://www.bravefutures.org)

If you have suggestions for fundraising please talk to Liz Constable and Paula Chapman.

## **Amnesty International**

Jenny Brabazon from Amnesty joined us for the service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December and brought with her cards and information about prisoners the organisation is supporting. Afterwards she wrote –

Thank you very much for having us at your service yesterday. We had some good conversations. We had 27 cards signed, 9 each of the three cases below and received donations of £30.51.

Ana Maria Santos Cruz - Brazil

Rita Karasartova - Kyrgyz Republic

Uncle Pabai and Uncle Paul - Australia

Here is a link to more information if anyone would like to do more:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-2023-get-started>

Jenny Brabazon

## **Services for December 2023/ January 2024**

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December – 18.00 – Candlelit Carol Service – co-ordinated by Rev Cliff Reed. This is a carol service with a difference, and we will serve refreshments afterwards.

17<sup>th</sup> – Adam Whybray – Ipswich Unitarians

24<sup>th</sup> - John Stevens – Ipswich Unitarians

25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day – Rev Cliff Reed – not available on Zoom.

31<sup>st</sup> - Robert Waller and Linda King – Ipswich Unitarians – ‘Hymnus Usu’.

January –

7<sup>th</sup> - Linda King. Ipswich Unitarians

14<sup>th</sup> - t.b.a

21<sup>st</sup> - t.b.a.

28<sup>th</sup> - Paulette Reed. Ipswich Unitarians. Membership service & congregational lunch.

## Mayor's Fundraiser

Liz Constable attended the Mayor's fundraiser at Christchurch Mansion on 14<sup>th</sup> December to represent our Meeting House and here is her report-

I'd say about 35 or so attended, many of us a bit bewildered about how to reach the mansion since all the gates to the park but one were shut! But we made it in the end.

It felt really festive entering the Mansion where there were decorated Christmas trees in each room – a wonderful welcome after the dark icy night air outside.

The evening opened with 30 minutes of carols (both sacred and secular) sung by an 8-part chamber ensemble, *Musicology*, in which the Mayor's other half, James, sings tenor. Lynne Mortimer is in her element hosting such events, and her bubbly pleasure is palpable. She throws herself into such events, helping to serve trays of sausage rolls.

From there, we were split into groups for tours of the mansion . . .and I certainly learned much more about specific artworks and artefacts in the mansion.

Once we came to the refreshments, we all had the opportunity to mingle and chat, and of course I shared the greetings of the Meeting House with Lynne herself, found myself chatting to Judy Rimmer and Paul Geater from the *East Anglian Daily News*, and also made sure to talk to Councillor Carole Jones. All in all, a very enjoyable evening, and one where the folks I chatted with all spoke very warmly about our Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House.

One of the Mayor's charities is Brave Futures which we have chosen to support through 2024 and this event was a fundraiser for them too.

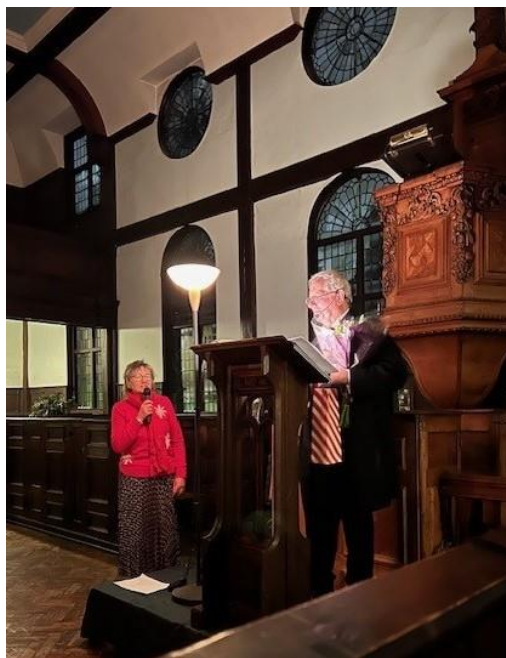
Liz Constable

## Book Group

We next meet on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January via Zoom at 19.00 to discuss 'The 7 Moons of Maali Almeida' by Shehan Karunatilaka.

## Dickens Readings

The Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House organised a fundraiser for the Meeting House on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December with Bob Allen reading extracts from Dickens' 'Great Expectations' and 'A Christmas Carol'. It was a big success again and is likely to become an annual event.



## Thought for the month

At the heart of Christmas is the message of love, and a reminder of the divinity in every human heart.

## 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

This issue covers 6 weeks through to the end of January. Contributions PLEASE for the next newsletter to Tessa before the deadline of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January ideally by email to [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)  
To contact our Secretary, ring 01473 728498 or our Treasurer Robert Waller on 01473 610723  
email [tessa@tessajordan.co.uk](mailto:tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)