



## Heritage Open Days

Each year in September we open our Meeting House for visitors as part of the national Heritage Open Days when buildings across the country open their doors so people can see inside, sometimes as the only opportunity each year to do so. For us, this is a continuation of our summer opening three times a week from May to September and we are very thankful for all the volunteer hours people have given to make this possible.

Some of our visitors on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> September this year were coming as part of the Suffolk Historic Churches Ride and Stride sponsored event.

Volunteers were kept busy on the Heritage days as we welcomed a total of 848 people – on Saturday there were 396 adults and 40 children; on Sunday

there were 329 adults, 83 children and 3 dogs! People were interested to visit for various reasons, including researching family history, the restoration work done, the architectural or religious history and just for their own interest. One visitor played our organ – Ollie Woods visited with his friends and family and was tempted to entertain us on the organ – thank you Ollie – your playing brought the Meeting House alive and people stopped wandering round to listen.



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## Death of HM Queen Elizabeth

We were sad to learn of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Trustees agreed a message of condolence from the Meeting House congregation which we posted on our website and on posters on our noticeboards. David and Tessa Forsdike represented the Meeting House at the Civic Service of Remembrance at St Mary le Tower church.

## Cardinal Wolsey – for King and Country

Author Philip Roberts dressed up as Cardinal Wolsey and walked round the town on the Heritage Open days to promote his new book – ‘Cardinal Wolsey – for King and Country’, which is available at Amazon, Waterstones, WH Smith, Dial Lane Books in Ipswich and all good bookshops at a cost of £20.



The Wolseys of Suffolk date to Anglo-Saxon times. The earliest notice of a Wolsey as inhabitant of Ipswich is Thomas Wolsey's father, Robert. He was a successful small businessman and married a Joan Daundy. Thomas was probably born in 1471 in an Inn and was almost certainly baptised in St Mary at the Elms church, Ipswich. Wolsey graduated from university and then his climb to power was extremely fast.

He entered the Royal Household as the chaplain to King Henry VII. When King Henry VIII ascended to the throne, Wolsey became his Almoner, which gave him access to the King's Council. Henry was very impressed with Wolsey's work. Thomas gained many important clerical positions. In 1515 Wolsey became Lord Chancellor of England. Thomas Wolsey's most famous peace treaty was signed between Henry VIII and Francis I of France at the glorious Field of Cloth of Gold in 1520. Henry had not produced a male heir. A woman called Anne Boleyn came on the scene. Henry began to think that she could mother him a son. The king asked Wolsey to seek a divorce from his first wife. He tried his outmost, as always, but the Pope kept delaying the matter. Wolsey failed and fell out of favour with Henry. He was charged with treason and escorted to the Tower of London. On his way, Thomas became very frail and sadly, on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1530 he died at Leicester Abbey.

## Services in October

2<sup>nd</sup> - Harvest Festival - led by Ann Baepler

We will be decorating the Meeting House on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October from 11am. All donations of food will be delivered to the Women's refuge after the service. **Shared lunch afterwards.**

9<sup>th</sup> – led by Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus –

Samuel Taylor Coleridge – the Unitarian Years – to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poet's birth on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

16<sup>th</sup> – led by Jodi Warren, Ipswich Unitarians

23<sup>rd</sup> – led by Jenny Jacobs, York Unitarians.

(Zoomed to the MH). Some roads closed today for the Ipswich fun run.

30<sup>th</sup> – led by Rev Matthew Smith, Minister to Framlingham & Bury Unitarians.

## Book Group

The next Book Group meeting is on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm via Zoom. We will be discussing ‘Once Upon a River’ by Diane Setterfield. This is Diane's third book and is set on the banks of the Thames where strange things seem to happen ... All welcome – ask Tessa Forsdike for the link.

## **Build Your Own Theology/Beliefs**

This is another in our series of sharing the list of ethical commandments written by people who took part in our recent BYOT course.

- 1.) All humans are human. Non-human others are no less important. Bias towards humans by ourselves is inevitable, but should be treated with caution.
- 2.) Killing of humans after birth is wrong unless expressly consented to by an individual able to consent.
- 3.) Suicide is an individual right as no-one chooses to be born. This does not make it morally free.
- 4.) People should not be touched or have their bodies altered or interfered with without consent, though this requires mindfulness more often than contract law. Rare exceptions can be made to prevent suffering and death.
- 5.) Climate change and biodiversity collapse are the most pressing ethical issues of the 21st century and require collectivist solutions.
- 6.) Chaotic evil on an individual level should be treated with more pity and mercy than lawful evil on an institutional level.
- 7.) Redemption is a process not an endpoint and is always possible with or without forgiveness (which is preferable and worth seeking).
- 8.) Freedom of speech is worth protecting as a fundamental legal right; no more, no less.
- 9.) Libertarian principles should be pursued after class, race, sex and disability-based discriminations have been rigorously addressed.
- 10.) Being kind is more often more important than being right, but not always.

These lists are published anonymously each month and represent the conscience and thoughts of an individual. Each of has our own approach which we respect and acknowledge.

## **Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, 'Ride & Stride' 2022**

After many years of participation walking around the churches in Ipswich, I decided to venture over the border to the city of the North Folk for the SHCT annual walk.

Norwich has 31 mediaeval churches, so for any walk around the city, a grey flint tower is almost always in view. Whilst my aim was to visit as many churches as possible the walk gave me a good idea of which ones I'd like to visit again to explore further.

After 12 mediaeval churches and the Quaker MH (where Elizabeth Fry worshipped) and being about halfway through my list, I stopped for lunch with friends at the Octagon then, after several previous failed attempts to see inside the Old Meeting House, Colegate, it was 'bingo'. The congregation is one of the earliest foundations of a Dissenting congregation in England. Founded in 1643, this Meeting House was built for the Independent/Congregationalists in 1693. The earliest church book is dated 1644 it is well worth reading about the book's contents on the OMH website, especially the bit about the 'Ranter Women'! If you wish to listen to an interesting talk on this early Meeting House congregation look up on the web Dr Joel Halcomb, a lecturer at UEA.

As above, it is almost impossible not to side track and explore the backgrounds to the many churches visited; amazing that the early ejected vicar & his congregation from St Georges Tombland, now anglo catholic in worship, were some of the core founders of the OMH congregation and that St George's Tombland now shares the same vicar with St Georges, Colegate, appears highs & lows together! A beautiful, calm Georgian church with, I think by the names on the wall plaques, some family connection with the dissenting Meadows family of 18<sup>th</sup> century Needham Market Independents

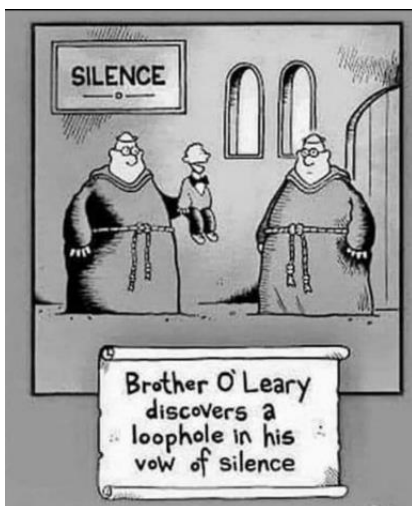
– that’s something else to look up!!

The cheerful Salvation Army cyclist of 3 churches back, greeted me with ‘mind the cobwebs’ as I entered St Peters Hungate. The site-specific art installation of string cobwebs all around the church slightly detracted from looking at the very old stained glass in the East window. Two enthusiastic young people told me of their fund raising and hopes to raise enough money to put toilet facilities in what is now a mediaeval arts centre. Next stop, St Michael-at-Plea, the church where at one time the Archdeacon of Norwich held his courts is now the Revelation Bookshop, (full of interesting 2<sup>nd</sup> hand religious books) with a café in the chancel; well worth a visit for a fruit scone, cup of tea.....and the books.

With rucksack a tad heavier after purchases from the aforesaid bookshop, it was a quick visit to St Andrews before heading to the bus station. After 7 hours, 24 churches, (some closed), 1 Unitarian Chapel, 1 Quaker Meeting House, 1 Congregational Meeting House and walking 5½ miles I headed for the bus stop and back over the border to home.

Thank you to all who have sponsored me and afforded me with a good reason to take exercise!  
Linda King

Half of the funds raised by Linda through sponsorship will support the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust and half will come back to support our own Meeting House. If you have not yet sponsored Linda it is not too late! Please contact her on [lindapendal@gmail.com](mailto:lindapendal@gmail.com)



## Photo Gallery



Congratulations to Joel and Marianna on their wedding in Portugal – we wish them every happiness.



Congratulations to Neil Hodges on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in August – his family gathered to celebrate with him.



Terry Kent from Valiant adds more limewash to the outer walls of the Meeting House. Craftsman Terry has been perfecting the finish over several weeks – he might say months!

## Kindertransport Memorial



I was very pleased and honoured to be invited, with my brother Michael, to the unveiling at Harwich of the bronze memorial sculpture, by Essex artist Ian Walter.

The sculpture was to commemorate the arrival of refugee children from Germany. The first children arrived in Harwich on third of December 1938 just before the war started. It's estimated that 10 thousand children's lives were saved.

The sculpture depicts five children walking down a gangplank, the youngest child with his name label in his mouth.

Dame Stephanie Shirley, who unveiled the sculpture, was herself a passenger on the Kindertransport as were more than thirty of the other guests.

My brother and I were there because my parents were amongst those who opened their homes to the Kindertransport children. Werner was one of the lucky ones, he met up with his parents after the war ...many never saw their families again.

I was lucky to sit with Hanne and Robert, who themselves managed to escape on the early trains. Both in their nineties and married for 75 years they were a delight to sit with.

We sat and listened to people tell their stories. It was at times very emotional but Hanne and I held hands and cried together.

I thought of my parents and felt honoured to represent.

Rosemary Hamilton

## Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our AGM after the service on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November – please put the date in your diary and join us in person or via Zoom. There is one vacant position as Trustee and two Trustees offering to stand again. If you are a member of at least one year's standing and would like to make a positive contribution to the life of our Meeting House, please talk to a Trustee about what is entailed.

At that meeting we will also be voting on which charity to choose as our main charitable fundraising focus for the following year. Two suggestions have been made and more are welcomed before we vote at the AGM.

## A Shush Word for October ... Christmas!

Spring, Summer and Autumn have all arrived early this year, so mentioning 'Christmas' in the October newsletter should not come as any surprise!

## On Sundays 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> December following the service we will be reviving our Christmas Stall.

For those not familiar with this table it is frequented by those who have forgotten to buy a little gift or just want a bargain; it helps clear the clutter in your home of any unwanted presents, next to new & good condition unwanted items and seasonal table decorations; in fact anything which may be useful to someone else please bring to the stall – it may be just what someone else is looking for! No prices placed on items, it's donations only.

**In addition to the above, on the 18<sup>th</sup> December Malcolm and Sandra Hawes will be providing their usual cheer of alcoholic and non-alcoholic punch....and mince pies.**

All profits made will be donated to St Elizabeth Hospice, Ipswich.

## **Events and dates for your diary**

Spooky Stories from MR James – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm – Adam Whybray will be reading two scary stories, Robert Waller will be playing scary organ music and we will offer spooky refreshments. Do tell your friends!

Dickens by Candlelight – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm – Bob Allen will be reading some extracts from Charles Dickens. We will be having mulled wine and mince pies. Entrance is by ticket which you can buy on the door or contact the Friends of the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House secretary Ann Baeppler - [annbaeppler@gmail.com](mailto:annbaeppler@gmail.com)



Here Bob gets into character to prepare for the Dickens evening.

Defeat Dementia Walk – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October in the afternoon – our Meeting House is the venue for the Prosecco Point where walkers are offered a well-deserved glass of bubbly. We will also be opening our Meeting House so they can use our ‘facilities’.

Meditation for All – weekly on Thursdays at 7.15 to start at 7.30pm

To join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87445055226?pwd=V1YUWs1WjdSZnZJbnZjbHh4Qm1pQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 4505 5226 Passcode: 949149

Tower Talks – Why Christianity still makes sense in the modern world.

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Rowan Williams

9<sup>th</sup> October – Francis Spufford

23<sup>rd</sup> October Helen Langton

The talks are for people with or without a faith who are interested in the big questions. They start at 4pm (after Choral Evensong by the Tower Choir at 3.30) – at St Mary le Tower church.

End of Season Plant Sale – 6<sup>th</sup> October from 10am to 2pm at Chantry Walled Garden

Visit our lovely plant nursery in Chantry Park to buy plants for your garden and to also enjoy our lovely walled site.

By doing so you will be supporting ActivLives, we aim to bring people together to learn skills, improve their health and well-being, and connect into their community.

Our dedicated volunteers will be on hand to help you pick something perfect for autumn planting from our range of perennials, bedding plants, climbers and shrubs. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available at Nursery Cottage – so join us for a cuppa and chat to find out more about what we do.

We do our bit for the environment – growing varieties which are bee and butterfly-friendly to attract pollinators to your garden and using environmentally friendly methods and peat-free compost. Customers can return our pots, trays and labels to us to use again to cut down plastic wastage (Please note we only accept our pots, as other returns can become a waste issue for us).

Every penny you spend with us goes to supporting people who need our help in Suffolk. Please spread the word about us to your friends, family and colleagues.

Parking is available at Chantry Park and the closest to the nursery is at the Sue Ryder Car Park. For disabled parking please call ahead, contact Ian on 07599 951060

## Birthdays in October

Happy birthday to Claire Johnston and Maggie Hodges on 17<sup>th</sup> ; to Isaac Shaikh on 18<sup>th</sup> ; to Sandra Hawes, Louis Hawes and Edmund Bradbrook on 25<sup>th</sup> ; to Andrew Gibbs on 27<sup>th</sup> and to Jodi Warren on 28<sup>th</sup> . We hope you all have a wonderful celebration and a great year ahead.

## Ipswich CAN – Clean Air Now

(a letter to leading local councillors, shared with the press)

After 18 years of recording illegal levels of Ipswich Air Pollution, Ipswich CAN are delighted to see that our local authorities are planning a public Air Quality event and survey in October 2022. This work follows the private event for all of Suffolk's councillors and senior council staff in January 2022. This closed event made clear that air pollution not only kills over 60 Ipswich people a year but is the cause of serious illness for young and old, affects poor more than rich, is caused by mostly by traffic, and shared evidence that taking action leads to cleaner, safer, more prosperous communities. Links to more information and output from this event can be found at [www.ipswichcan.org](http://www.ipswichcan.org)

These events have happened because local people have demanded change, by talking and writing to their councillors and public sector leaders, raising questions at council meetings and the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board, demonstrating, crafting banners, creating posters at school and sending beautiful hand-sewn felt lungs to their local councillors.

They demanded change because they know things can be better. They know that individuals can help by taking personal action, but pollution can only be reduced to safe, legal levels if our councils take action, as they are required to do by law. They know that Ipswich can build on the experience of other councils up and down the country that have already taken action to protect their citizens health. They know that tackling air pollution will improve our health, reduce the burden on the NHS, help alleviate the climate crisis and deliver a prosperous and more attractive town.

We need your October event to be the just the start because we need clean air now.

We urge you to;

**1- INFORM.** Everyone affected needs to be directly informed. Be honest and tell Ipswich residents, workers and visitors about air pollution, where it is illegally high, the health impacts and then the various actions that we as individuals can consider. People only act when they understand the reasons why.  
**2 - TAKE MEASUREABLE ACTION** that actually reduces air pollution.

Ipswich CAN celebrates the start of this work and are ready to work alongside our local authorities - until we have clean legal air for **everyone** in Ipswich.

Chris Armstrong for [www.ipswichcan.org](http://www.ipswichcan.org)

## Beryl Beech

Beryl has recently moved into a residential Home and will welcome letters, cards and phone calls – Broadwater Lodge, Summers Road, Farncombe, Godalming GU7 3BF - 01483 6102117 (please do not phone at mealtimes – 8 - 10; 1- 2; 5 – 6)

## 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 Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 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

That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons that history has to teach. – Aldous Huxley