

Ipswich

Unitarian Meeting



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September 2020

National Churches Trust

We have more good news about funding for our Restoration Project – we are grateful to the National Churches Trust who have given us a cornerstone grant. **Broadcaster and journalist Huw Edwards, Vice President of The National Churches Trust, said:**

“The UK’s historic churches and chapels are a vital part of our national heritage. But to survive, many need to carry out urgent repairs and install modern facilities. The cost of this work is far beyond what most congregations can pay for themselves.”

“So I’m delighted that Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House is being helped with a £40,000 National Churches Trust Grant. It was built in 1700 and the fittings and interior details are almost all original. The National Churches Trust’s grant for structural repairs will do much to secure the future of this extraordinary historic building and help to remove it from Historic England’s ‘At Risk Register’.”

www.nationalchurchestrust.org

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SHCT Ride and Stride – Saturday 12th September

Each year the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust organises a Ride and Stride event to raise funds for the repair and support of Suffolk churches. We regularly take part and this year, we are pleased that Linda King, Sandra Hawes and Malcolm Hawes are all seeking sponsorship for their walking or cycling trip round the churches of Ipswich and the surrounding area of Suffolk. Half of all the sponsorship money goes to our own church and half to the SHCT. If anyone else is also spurred to visit Suffolk churches and to raise funds, do contact Rosemary Hamilton (rosieandivan@uwclub.net), our organiser, who has the forms and details.

To sponsor Linda, Sandra or Malcolm, either contact them or go to www.justgiving.com/suffolkhistoricchurches - BUT REMEMBER TO SAY THAT YOU ARE DONATING FOR THE IPSWICH UNITARIAN MEETING HOUSE TOO so that we receive half! We will also be setting up outside our Meeting House during the day, to sign visitors’ sponsorship forms and to let them know about our own Restoration Project. Sadly, like many other churches this year, we will not be able to welcome people into the building, but hope we can whet people’s appetite for seeing it once it is finished!



Meeting House Update 20th August 2020

I visited the site on Thursday 20th August to make my usual two weekly inspections and can report excellent progress is being made. Glenn is now making the visits in between mine.

All four walls have received the first coat of render, called a scratch coat or pricking up coat, and this first layer is curing very well with very little shrinkage cracking (see photo). This first coat is scratched to help provide a good bond with the second coat. This was also inspected by Cooks and they confirmed that all the walls will be ready for the second coat from the 1st September saving some programme time. The topcoat will closely follow the second coat to ensure full bonding, with the render work being completed hopefully by end of September.



The recovering of the roof has started in earnest to the point where the south elevation has been under felted and battened ready to receive the new tiles (see photo – opposite). The good news is that the roof structure is in good shape and no repairs have been needed to this first slope. If this is the case on all slopes then some funding can be channelled towards the lowering of the paved areas in front of the building. The roofers confirmed my opinion that the old tiles are not reusable. The roof insulation to a total thickness of 300mm will be laid as the roof replacement progresses. Safe walkways are also being installed in the roof spaces over the insulation, to give access for lowering the lights and servicing the fire



alarm system. The roof voids are to be fire compartmented to minimise the spread of fire in the roof spaces.

We have noted some small repairs are necessary to one of the high level windows on the front and Mark has this in hand. This work and the walkways will be completed by Mark and Peter which, along with any roof repairs, will be the last of the carpentry work on site.

KLH and I are going to review the front paved areas at my next visit and we will have a cost review with our surveyor, Kevin from Castons, following the next valuation towards the end of September. At present there is every indication that all the work currently scheduled will be covered, with just the toilet facility still to be funded. With a fair wind the Christmas service will be our opening.

All the best to you ALL, Phil Chatfield

Cycle Path Improvements

Suffolk County Council have made temporary improvements for cycling during the lock-down and will only make them permanent upon feedback. I know there are some cyclists amongst us so maybe they could send in their views - <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TRP2020/>

Adam Whybray

Pastoral Care

Without a Minister in post there is no specific person for Meeting House members or attenders to turn to if in need of confidential pastoral care. We are, I know, a very caring community, but now and again it can be helpful to know that there is someone who can be called on to offer an impartial but empathic listening ear. The Interfaith Ministry training I completed in 2006 included a spiritual counselling component, and I also worked as a BAC accredited counsellor for some years – with this in mind, I would be very willing to offer that “listening ear”.

There may well be others who would feel prepared to do this too – please make yourselves known if so! -

Ann Baepler

JustGiving Confusion

With the best of intentions, we set up a JustGiving page to invite donations towards our Restoration Project. This has led to some confusion as we already had a page under the ‘charities’ heading. Some people have found that the contributions they made seemed to be ‘lost’ or they couldn’t find the mention of them. We can assure you that we will receive all the donations and we are trying to clarify the situation.

Hopefully this will explain – there are two links -

www.justgiving.com/campaign/meetinghouse

and

[**www.justgiving.com/unitarianipswich**](http://www.justgiving.com/unitarianipswich)

Please use the **second** link above (in bold), where tax payers are also invited to donate with gift -aid, which increases the money we receive. So far this option has raised £740 towards our target of £1000. We intend to close the second (and confusing) page so that all donations are directed through one page. Thanks go to Adam Whybray for sorting this out and managing the pages for us.

GOSPELS, Gnostics AND THE GROWTH OF THE EARLY CHURCH

At the time of writing Cliff has led us through three Zoom sessions on the early church, with two still to come. I am so glad I raised the possibility of this course with him, which he agreed to offer if there were sufficient interest. With 23 participants signing up, there was no doubt that there was, and I think we have all been fascinated by what we have heard so far, though it may have been perhaps slightly unnerving to discover that what most of us probably assumed from our school R.E. lessons and from exposure to traditional church or chapel services was “gospel ” was not the only version – I gather from our session yesterday that there were at least 30 forms of Christianity in existence in the early centuries A.D!

Cliff has clearly gone to great lengths in his presentation of the course, sending out notes in advance and promising us a final handout at the end which, since each hour’s session on a Tuesday has presented us with such a wealth of information, will offer a welcome opportunity to revisit the material. Instead of accepting the offer of a fee for participation in the course, Cliff has generously suggested that we make a donation to the Meeting House Restoration Fund.

Here is the link -

www.justgiving.com/unitarianipswich

The last two sessions are -

Session IV – 1st September

5. The Apostolic Fathers and the Developing Christian Mainstream.

Session V – 8th September

6. Gospels of the Passion and the Infancy of Christ.

If you would like to join these and are not already on the list, do contact Ann Baepler on annbaepler@gmail.com and she will send you the invitation.

Services in September

6th - Rev Nicky Jenkins. Retired Unitarian Minister (York)

13th - Ali Mercer. Ipswich Unitarians (Devon)

20th - Rev Matthew Smith. Framlingham & Bury Unitarians.

27th - Martin Gienke. Bury St Edmunds Unitarians.

All services are still held via Zoom from 10.45 on Sundays and anyone is welcome to join us. Do contact Adam Whybray for an invitation - adamwhybray@gmail.com

Poetry Group

The next meeting will be on 24th September and we will discuss poetry by DH Lawrence.

The October meeting will be on 29th and the poet we will focus on is Lemn Sissay

Both meetings start at 2pm and to join, please contact Riena Jackson - mjack76748@aol.com

Book Group

The next meeting (via Zoom) of our Book Group is on Thursday 10th September at 7pm. We will be discussing 'Lanny' by Max Porter, which is a Sunday Times top ten bestseller.

Riena Jackson found this film of an interview with the author -

<https://youtu.be/Qwy9uaFiCgA>

Anyone interested in books and reading is welcome, whether you have finished the book or not. Contact Tessa Forsdike for a link to join us –

tessa@tessajordan.co.uk

www.unitarianipswich.com

Thanks go to Adam Whybray for updating our website – including now links to sermons from our services. Do take a look!

Trustees Meeting

The next Trustees meeting is on Tuesday 8th September – please let one of the Trustees know if you have any concerns.

Birthdays in September –

Happy birthday to Karen Tricker on 7th; to Freddie Gray on 14th and to Ann Baeppler on 20th

We hope you all enjoy a great celebratory day and a healthy year ahead.



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 23rd September by email to ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS

To contact our Secretary, Riena Jackson, ring 01473 210064/email mjack76748@aol.com

Website – www.unitarianipswich.com

Thoughts for the month

'The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but no vision'

and

'The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart.' – Helen Keller

(an American author, political activist, and lecturer. She was the first deaf-blind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree.)