



Family meeting



On 21st January Paulette and Cliff's family came to show off new baby Erin and we queued for a cuddle!

L to R - Edmund, Paulette (holding baby Erin), Josh, Mel, Jorjia (mother of Erin), Leon, Brad (father of Erin), Jess, and Clifford.

Paulette said - 'Looking at the line up brings to mind a sandwich...Clifford and I the bread and the others as the filling!'

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Up to us ...

10 little church members come to worship all the time,

1 fell out and then there were 9,

9 little members stayed up late,

1 overslept and then there were 8,

8 church members on the way to heaven

1 took the low road and now there are 7,

7 church members all chirping like chicks,

1 didn't like the music and now there are 6,

6 church members seemed very much alive but 1

got 'travelitis' and now this left 5,

5 church members pulling for heaven's shore,

1 got disgruntled, and this left 4,

4 church members, busy as can be,

But 1 got his feelings hurt and now there are 3,

3 church members and the story's almost done,

For 2 of them got weary and this left 1.

Now everybody knows that 1 can't do much, but

one brought a friend last month and then there

were 2.

2 church members each brought one more. Now

don't you see, two and two equals 4.

4 church members worked early and late. Each

brought one and now there are 8.

Have you got the message, pointed and true? Come

on folks, we've got a job to do. In this little jingle,

there is a lesson true. You belong to one of the two

- either the building or the wrecking crew.

Found in The Community News: The Community

Church of New York: Unitarian Universalist 26

January 1986. Thanks to Stockton Unitarians for

finding it.

CCTV

We are pleased that the cameras for the CCTV are all installed and working well. If anyone notices any 'suspicious' activity, please note the date and time so we can search the recordings, download the evidence and pass that on to the Police or other authorities. The recordings last for 31 days before being written over.



The Home Office grant also covered an intruder alarm. However because of a faulty movement sensor, this has caused some false alarms and until this is replaced, we cannot set this.

Decorating Inside



We are investing in decorating the interior of our Meeting House. Here the masking to protect the woodwork is being laid – a fiddly job for Deben Construction.

New Tenant



We are pleased that our property which was formerly used as a sweet shop has now been let to Joe of Hairluzz Barbers. The Mayor officially opened the shop in early January. We wish Joe every success with his new venture.

Decorating Inside



The scaffolding necessary for the decorators to reach the higher areas is extensive – and continues along the whole gallery space too. We look forward to having a beautiful Meeting House, both inside and out.

GASKELL LECTURE

Harris Manchester College Oxford

5 February 2024

Harris Manchester College Oxford's inaugural Manchester Lecture will be on "William and Elizabeth Gaskell: The Unitarian making of a novelist", given by Professor Dinah Birch. [Find out more and book your place here.](#)

Guides to Suffolk Churches Online

The project to assemble all Suffolk church guidebooks online was the brainchild of the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust (SHCT) who celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2023. Suffolk, with Norfolk, has the greatest concentration of mediaeval churches in Europe - indeed the world- and over the years vicars, scholars and enthusiasts have documented the individual stories of these churches. Now for the first time those histories have been painstakingly collected, scanned and uploaded as a new "Guides to Suffolk Churches Online", hosted by the Trust.

There are already hundreds of Suffolk churches on the website and more will be added, including any denomination of church, chapel or meeting house that has a guide.

"We were conscious that many of these guides have gone out of print and that if we didn't collect them now an important part of Suffolk's social and architectural history would be lost forever," explained Geoffrey Probert, Chairman of Suffolk Historic Churches Trust. *"I should like to thank Lynda Aldred, who gave so generously of her ingenuity and time in making it all happen"*

The Guides are available, without charge, via Suffolk Historic Churches Trust website: <https://shct.org.uk/guides-to-suffolk-churches>

Check this out – and also Simon Knott's comments on the Meeting House. Our guide is also available in print for £5.

Thank you all!

I would like to thank everyone who sponsored me for my November Knitting Challenge in aid of Dementia UK. I have raised an incredible £330 - much more than I hoped for! So thank you all again. Paula Chapman

Poetry Group

The poetry group will next meet on 29th February at 2pm to look at poems by Kathleen Raine. To join the group, contact Riena Jackson (rienajackson@icloud.com) or Ann Baepler (annbaepler@gmail.com).

Book Group

After agreeing that the last book we chose to read was heavy going and giving ourselves permission not to continue if we hadn't yet finished it, we decided to choose a completely different book to discuss when we next meet on Thursday 14th March at 19.00. The book is 'Politics on the Edge' by Rory Stewart. A companion book if we have time is 'Chums' by Simon Kuper. Anyone is welcome to join us, whether just for this discussion or for future book group meetings. Contact Tessa Forsdike for the info (tessa@tessajordan.co.uk)

February Days

NSPCC Number Day – 2nd (a day of maths)

World Cancer Day – 4th

Islamic Laylat al-Isra wa-I-Meraj Prophet's ascension) – 7th

Buddhist Parinvara Day – 8th or for most, 15th

Chinese Lunar New Year – 10th - the start of the year of the wood dragon

Shrove Tuesday – 13th

Ash Wednesday – 14th

Positive News -

<https://www.positive.news/society/what-went-right-in-2023-the-top-25-good-news-stories-of-the-year/>

Worth a look to offer some cheer ...

Birthdays in February

Happy birthday this month to Jean Odell on 1st; Robert Waller on 2nd; Ali Mercer on 3rd; Kate Dickinson, Rachel Hamilton & Matilda Forsdike on 5th; Gryphon Bradbrook on 9th; Tracy Sakals on 11th; Linda King on 14th; Beryl Beech on 16th; Ralph Spence on 19th; Tessa Forsdike on 20th and John Ellis on 29th. Happily for John, as this is a leap year he can celebrate his birthday on the correct day!

Dates for your diary –

15th February – Mayor's Quiz in aid of Brave Futures (our charity for 2024). We are sending a team – wish us luck!

22nd February – Trustees meeting

16th March – Pulling out all the Stops! – a celebration of fifty years of Robert Waller playing the organ for us – we have posters to publicise this, please collect one (some) and find homes for them. Starts at 19.00 – donations to Brave Futures.



PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS!

A celebration of our organist Robert Waller playing at the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House for half a century!

Saturday 16th March 2024 at 7pm

At the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House
Friars Street, Ipswich IP1 1TD

All welcome – donations invited for the charity Brave Futures

Refreshments too!



28th April – Anniversary Service and Lunch
2nd May (through to end of September) Summer opening on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 16.00. please think about volunteering.

17th May – Celebrating 325 years of Dissenters - Conference in co-operation with the Humanities department of the University of Suffolk.

Services in February

4th - Robert Waller - Ipswich Unitarians

11th - Margaret Robinson - Stockton Unitarians (via ZOOM)- to include a presentation to Suffolk Sight of the funds we raised for them in 2023.

18th - Andrew Benedict. - East of England Faiths Agency

25th - Linda King - Ipswich Unitarians.

COTE – Choir of the Earth

This is addressed to you all, yet mainly for our UK supporters. You may have watched the recent TV programme about the **Sub-Postmasters** and the Post Office scandal. We felt at COTE HQ that we had to do something to show our support.

And what better than to sing a song together and dedicate it to them?

So today we ask that you join with us to sing a song together with people from all over the country for the Sub-Postmasters with the poignant opening words:

I've paid my dues

Time after time

I've done my sentence

But committed no crime

Yes, you've guessed it - WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS by Queen in a new arrangement by our friend, Richard Gowers. This is open to everyone anywhere in the world, whether you are a member of COTE or not. So do tell anyone and everyone so that we create a huge choir of people to show our support for the Sub-Postmasters. Please feel free to pass on the link below by social media, email etc.

JOIN HERE:

<https://choiroftheearth.com/sing-for-subpostmasters>

HOW IT WORKS

As soon as you join us, we'll email you a stream link to tune in via YouTube for the rehearsal at **18:00 on Friday 23 February 2024**. This will be led by Choir of the Earth's Musical Director, Ben England BEM, and will start promptly at **18:00 on Friday 23 February**. If you can't make that time, don't worry as you can watch it later on and as many times as you wish.

COTE – Choir of the Earth – cont.

We'll show you how to record your own voice onto your mobile phone/recording device and will explain how to submit your track to us.

We'll then combine all voices together in the recording studio to create our **SING FOR SUB-POSTMASTERS**.

Then on **23 April 2024**, the anniversary of the quashing of criminal charges at the Court of Appeal, we shall play our version of the song to the world through a live broadcast on YouTube. It costs £5 to register and join us - all net proceeds will be donated to the Horizon Scandal Fund <https://www.horizonscandalfund.org>

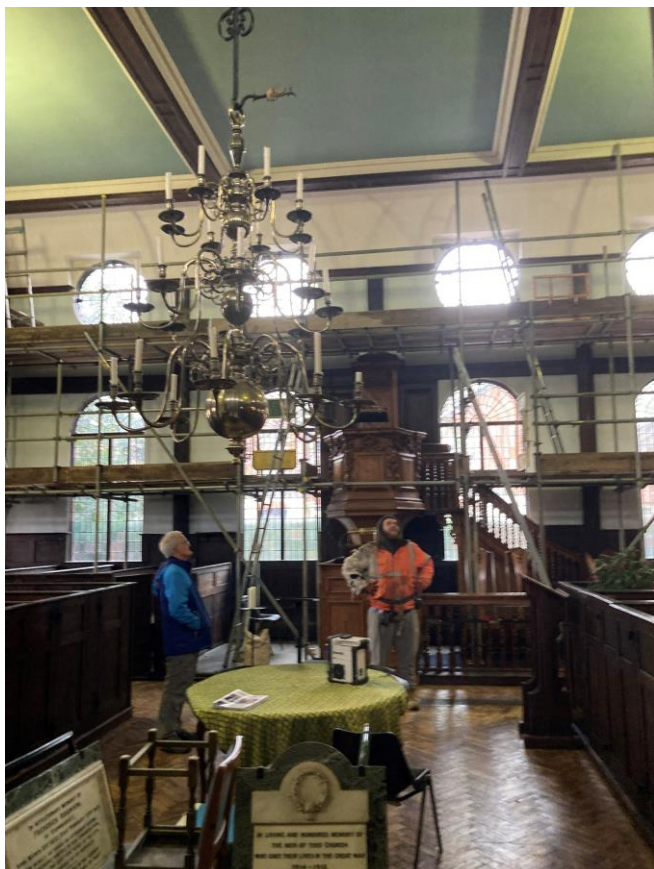
Join here:

<https://choiroftheearth.com/sing-for-subpostmasters>

Always here when you need us,

[TEAM COTE](#)

mark@choiroftheearth.com



Blessed are you ...

The following is an excerpt from "Beatitudes for Justice Builders": from the UUA web site:

Blessed are you who can question your own assumptions and listen with an open mind; you will receive new insights beyond your imagining.

Blessed are you who suffer the attacks of others to stand up for what is right; you will not be alone, for your courage will inspire others to rise.

Blessed are you who build friendships as well as justice; even when you lose an issue, you will have strengthened the foundation of your community.

Care Packs

We have a few items left to fill the care packs for Lighthouse Women's Aid and need to complete the remaining bags. If you would like to donate any missing items, please contact Liz Constable - elconstable@gmail.com

Thought for the month

We are never given more than we can handle, so hold tight to the belief that you can get through anything – because you can.

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 Forsdike before the deadline of Wednesday 28th February ideally by email to tessa@tessajordan.co.uk

To contact our Secretary, ring 01473 728498 (or email tessa@tessajordan.co.uk) or ring our Treasurer Robert Waller on 01473 610723