

Ipswich Unitarian



Volume 2, Issue 6

July 2016

Charity fundraising this month –

Members of our congregation have been very busy during June and have more plans for raising funds for charity during July and August.

The Cream Tea event in Hadleigh attracted over 50 people despite the unpredictable weather and raised £326 for our AgeUK Forget-me-not charity. Miranda, the organiser said *'All in all it was a satisfactory result and worth the effort'*. We second that and thank you too Miranda!

Linda King has now finished her Channel swim (in the pool) and sent us this message -*Thank you to all who sponsored me swimming 22 miles for our chosen charity, AgeUK Forget-me-not clubs in Ipswich. The swim took about 17 hours to complete over a five week period. The final total raised was £665. Thank you again for all your support.....and money!*

On Sunday 26th June, the shops in St Peter's Street held their annual Street Fair and three gallant women spent four hours at the Meeting House after service to be on hand to sell books, mugs of teas and delicious home-made cakes to visitors who were in town to visit the fair.

Continued on next column

A number of people came in, some for the first time, and enjoyed our hospitality. Several people took time to just sit and appreciate the calmness of the space. Numbers were fewer than last year but there was a good atmosphere. One couple bought a box full of books!

Enormous thanks to those who baked or provided cakes.

Because it was just us three it did not allow sufficient time to engage in conversation with our visitors. We raised £42.30 towards our fundraising for the local AgeUK Forget Me Not.

Linda, Karen and Paulette

PS: During quieter times two of us went and supported our neighbour's dress shop!



A corner of the room with people enjoying their Cream teas in Hadleigh

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Future charity events for your diary –

Old Fashioned Fair in aid of the MS Society on Saturday 30th July (more inside)

Annual Fundraising BBQ on Sunday 21st August raising funds again for the AgeUK Forget me Nots.

A Special Occasion

Some time during 10th November 1845, my great, great, great grandfather James Cross was standing nervously inside St Nicholas Old Meeting House. Eventually, his bride-to-be, Grace Jane Daldy entered and the couple were married that day by the minister, Rev. Thomas Felix Thomas.

On 22nd May 2016, over 170 years later, their great, great, great grandson was seated in that same Meeting House, quite possibly in the very same pew where they had once sat, when their banns were announced prior to their wedding.

Although I spent the first 21 years of my life in Ipswich and had passed the building countless times, I had never once been inside. To be taken to a service there by Malcolm and Sandra and, afterwards, to have the privilege of exploring this wonderfully historic building was a memorable experience. To cap it all, Linda unearthed a framed photograph of that same minister who had married James and Grace all those years ago. It was like travelling back in time!

Thanks to all at the Unitarian church for a lovely welcome and for such a fascinating and enjoyable morning.

Rod Cross, Southampton. (May 2016)

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Thank you too Rod, for sharing this story and your experience with us. It arrived too late to be included in the June issue, but after a gap of 170 years, what is a month's delay between friends?

Does anyone else have memories or stories which would fill out some of our history as a congregation or as a building of historic interest? I am sure our readers would be interested to hear them. Personal stories and connections are often the most popular. They also remind us of what has changed and what despite all the years has stayed the same.

Raising funds for the MS Society

Tessa and David Forsdike will be holding an Old Fashioned Fair in their garden on Saturday 30th July



Old Fashioned Fair

2 - 5pm Sat 30 July

48 Crabbe Street Ipswich IP4 5HS

Lots of traditional fun and stalls

Coconut shy! Splat the rat! Fish for a duck!
Test your strength! Human Fruit Machine!
and more traditional stalls ...

Teas, Coffee and Cakes! Raffle!

To find out more or volunteer to
help contact
Tessa or David on
01473 728498

Raising funds for the
MS Society,
both Nationally and Locally

Multiple Sclerosis Society Registered charity no. 1139237 / 30561990
Registered as a limited company in England and Wales 07481971

We have personal reasons for supporting people with Multiple Sclerosis as one of our sons has it and we are aware of the challenges of living with a chronic condition which affects every part of your day (and night!).

It promises to be an afternoon of great fun, so do come along and try to win a coconut ... or milk the mechanical cow ... or try out the human fruit machine ... as well as relaxing with tea/coffee and cake. There

Safeguarding

As a responsible congregation, we have a policy regarding the safety and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults. If you have any concerns which you would like to discuss in confidence, please contact either Malcolm Hawes or Tessa Forsdike.

EU Referendum – statement

Derek McAuley, Chief Officer of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches made this statement on Monday 27th June at 17.33:

‘The result of the European Union Referendum has revealed a sharply divided nation and much dissatisfaction with the current political and economic system. Faith and community groups working on the ground have a responsibility to do all in their power to ensure communities stick together at this time of uncertainty and change.

We ‘call out’ the racism and xenophobia that has emerged from the shadows over the weekend with attacks on European and other perceived immigrants. Racism has no place in our multi-cultural and pluralist society in or out of the EU.

As Unitarians and Free Christians we have a longstanding commitment to civil and religious liberty believing in the inherent worth of all human beings. We encourage our congregations and individual Unitarians to respond with compassion to those directly affected by intolerance and to join with others to build united local communities. We call upon our Government to reaffirm its commitment to the rights of refugees and asylum seekers under international law.’

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This is a time of many and fast changes politically and socially in our country. The message above still stands current although this is a monthly newsletter

A view from the balcony in the Meeting House during the service to remember the people who died in Orlando on Monday 13th June



Service - after Orlando

A powerful service to pay tribute to the 49 victims of the shootings in Orlando, as well as the horrific murder of Jo Cox (MP for Batley and Spen), was created and conducted by our Minister on Sunday 19th June, to which he had the forethought to invite members of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender) community as well as the police, the Triratna Buddhist group and the Society of Friends. We remembered those who had died by lighting a candle for each one on the central table, as well as in 2 moving periods of silence. It is so easy to react with anger and outrage after such events, but we were encouraged to move beyond such thoughts with the help of Lewis’ address, as well as the music and readings chosen and to think much more in terms of committing ourselves to a path of loving kindness, inclusivity and reconciliation.

I was not the only one who was moved to tears at times, and I can only think that each and every person in the large congregation will have left the Meeting House deeply affected - and with much food for thought .

Thank you Lewis!

Ann Baeppler



Following the service, Roger Chapman wrote to us via Facebook –

‘I wish to extend my thanks to Ipswich Unitarian congregation and Lewis Connolly (your Minister) for making a service of commemoration for the shootings in Orlando available to us today. I found the service a warm and loving experience; well and sensitively prepared. Much appreciation to all.’

UFOS

The **Unitarian Focus on Seeing** project invites us all to look at what goes on around us and to take a photo linked to a different title each month. The theme for June was 'A front door'. July's theme is 'After the rain'



Above is a photo taken by Riena Jackson of her front door in Brick Lane – something of the Harry Potter about it??

Below is the front door to the Bach Centre in Oxfordshire – the home of Dr Edward Bach who developed the healing system of flower remedies. Photo taken by Tessa Forsdike



Birthdays in July

Happy birthday this month to – Angus Hamilton on 1st; Cherrie Wilkinson on 2nd (and will be 70 this day); Pipiri Hudson on 6th; Beatrix Gwen Stevens on 15th; Harold Mangar on 27th (and will be 80 this day); Edmund Reed on 28th.

Services in July

Sunday 10th – Flower Communion
Saturday 16th – Wedding of Hottensiah and Robert
Sunday 31st – Lammas and communion
Our Minister Lewis Connolly takes most services but is on holiday until 7th July. Everyone is welcome to join us for a service, which starts at 10.45. There is a Children's Box with toys and colouring paper and pens to entertain all the younger visitors. We welcome you for a coffee and chat after the service too.

Events for your diary in July

10th – Indian Summer Mela in Christchurch Park (12 noon to 6 pm)
21st – Trustees meeting 7 pm
30th - Old Fashioned Fair 2pm to 5pm at 48 Crabbe Street Ipswich in aid of the MS Society
21st August – BBO hosted by Maggie and Neil Hodges in aid of the AgeUK Forget me Nots project.

Ipswich Unitarian Newsletter –

For contributions to this newsletter, please email them to Tessa at - ipswichunitarian@gmail.com or post them to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS before the copy deadline for the next issue of Saturday 30th July

If you would like to be added to the mailing list to receive this regularly by email, please just send us a request. Do feel free to pass on copies to any interested person.

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

To contact our Minister, Lewis Connolly, you can email him at revlewisconnolly@gmail.com or ring him on phone number 01473 422528.

Thought for the month –

"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough." – Albert Einstein