

# Ipswich Unitarian



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## Ipswich Unitarians' website

We have a new look website thanks to our Minister, Lewis Connolly. You can currently find it by Googling 'Ipswich Unitarian' or at either of these website addresses which are linked – [www.unitarianipswich.org.uk](http://www.unitarianipswich.org.uk) or [www.unitarianipswich.com](http://www.unitarianipswich.com)

Do have a look and send us some feedback. We aim to refresh it regularly with new articles, photos and news. This newsletter is also there, so if you need to refer back to previous issues, just go to the website. The more traffic we can send to the website, the higher it will come in the Google rankings and perhaps the more people will be directed to learn more about us and our community.

We owe too a huge debt of gratitude to Philip Bradbrook, who has managed our website voluntarily for many years alongside working for a living and starting a family. Philip has always been helpful and quick to update the website with the latest news and information. He certainly deserves a rest and a big thank you!

As Minister, Lewis has direct links with what is happening, so can keep the website up to date.



Here is Atticus with his Mummy Liz. He seems very happy after his Naming Ceremony on 15<sup>th</sup> May

(photo – Maggie Hodges)

## Atticus' Naming Ceremony

Our Meeting House was host to the Naming Ceremony for Atticus and was filled with his family and friends as well as our usual congregation. It was great to see the pews filled – even the ones in front by the pulpit (see the photo below). The service was led by Lewis Connolly and both parents read a dedication to Atticus and well as the godparents making their promises. Afterwards we mingled and shared drinks, biscuits and chats.

We are always pleased to show off our beautiful Meeting House – and it is open to the public during the summer on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 to 4 pm. All are welcome to visit.



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## **Margaret Crabtree**

Margaret Crabtree (or as we knew her better, Peggy) would have celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016, had she still been alive. To mark the occasion, her family has kindly donated £500 in her memory towards the acquisition of the two commemorative chairs for the Meeting House. Peggy was a staunch and active member of our congregation for many years. She served as Trustee, Treasurer and so much more.

Outside of our church community she was also Mayor of Hadleigh twice. Peggy died in May 2011. She is fondly remembered by all who knew her.

*Paulette Reed*

**Birthdays – happy birthday in June to–** Zoe Bradbrook on 2<sup>nd</sup>; Alison White on 6<sup>th</sup>; Cat Connolly on 13<sup>th</sup>; Ian Gray on 14<sup>th</sup>; Ivan Hamilton on 16<sup>th</sup>; Stephen Reed and Malcolm Hawes on 17<sup>th</sup>; Lucy Shaw on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Services in June**

All our services start at 10.45 and everyone is welcome. We also have a children's box with toys, paper and colouring pens to entertain any younger visitors.

Lewis Connolly is taking all the services in June

## **Dates for your Diary**

The Meeting House is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the summer from 12 noon to 4 pm. We have a selection of second-hand books which have been donated and which are available for sale – bargains at 50p each and 5 for £2. When enough people are available on open days, we also put the books outside to tempt passers-by and to encourage them to come into the Meeting House to see the interior and to find out more about our approach to worship. We raise money for our charity the AgeUK Forget-me-not clubs and for the MH. On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June, St Peter's Street will be holding a Street Fair (10am to 4 pm) and we will be keeping the MH open with refreshments – tea, coffee and cakes. Please get your tins and mixing bowls ready and bring all offerings of cakes on 26<sup>th</sup>. This is another opportunity to show off our building.

Also see page 3 for details of our Cream Tea event in Hadleigh on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

## **EU Referendum**

**Thursday 9 June:** 7-10pm in the Cambridge Unitarian Meeting House  
EU Referendum Conversation Cafe.

A Transition Cambridge and Pivotal Cambridge event. In? Out? Or undecided? An evening of facilitated discussion and honest conversation to help voters with their decision ahead of the Referendum. No speeches or party-political debate, no fear-mongering or political spin, this event is a space in which to listen and be heard. Free entry (suggested donation £3 - £5)  
Booking required - visit this link - [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eu-referendum-conversation-cafe-tickets-25375385461?utm\\_term=eventname\\_text%23tickets](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eu-referendum-conversation-cafe-tickets-25375385461?utm_term=eventname_text%23tickets)

## **GA Youth Programme**

If there are young people in your household, you might be interested to learn about some activity breaks that are being run by the Unitarian GA's Youth Programme.

*Bridging Weekend* for 16-21 year olds is at Flag Barn near Buxton, Derbyshire and consists of discussions, walks, trips out and generally chilling out. (£30)

*Castles in the Clouds* (1-4 August) is a Unikids holiday for 7-14 year olds at Swanage youth Hostel in Dorset. Fun, games, creativity, walks, exploration of Unitarian values, sandcastles and a visit to Corfe Castle. (£110)

*Five Days Away* for 12-17 year olds (8-12 August at The Nightingale centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire). This will be five days of fun, creativity, friendships, discussions, outdoor pursuits and all sorts. (£125)

<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/get-involved/youth-programme/events>

Or email John Harley, Youth Coordinator on [jharley@unitarian.org.uk](mailto:jharley@unitarian.org.uk) .

## **Recycling**

When you are at the MH we invite you to put all your waste which can be recycled into the cardboard box under the hymn books by the inner front door of the Meeting House. It will be sorted and emptied at least weekly. Every little helps as the advert says!

## **A Fundraising Channel Swim (in the swimming pool)**

From the 4 April I visited a swimming pool twenty times to swim 1,416 lengths of the 25m metre pool, equivalent to 22 miles and being the distance across the English Channel to France. I finished on the 12 May.

My grandson calculated that were I to swim the real channel and there were no jelly fish, boats and a calm sea with no tides, it would take me about 17 – 18 hours ... he forgot the bit about going home to sleep in a bed!

So why? I love swimming and took on the challenge of my club to 'get fit' for summer. Malcolm Hawes offered to sponsor me and that's why I've been – and still am, after your money!

All money raised will be going to our Meeting House charity for 2016, the local AgeUK Forget-me-not clubs, for dementia sufferers and their carers. The 'purse' is still open for further donations so if you wish to donate as well as declaring astonishment & admiration that I actually completed the distance (it was a long swim!!!!), cash or a cheque, made out to 'Ipswich Unitarian Charity Account' would be very gratefully received. Please give or send to Linda King c/o Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House, Friars Street, Ipswich IP1 1TD.

Thank you to all who have given their support both financially and, most importantly, by way of encouragement.

*Linda King*



Thank you for the photo Linda – proof of your dedication and achievement. Currently the amount raised stands at just over £500 and we hope for more for this good cause.

## **Trustees' Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Once more our deliberations ranged widely, covering such issues as to whether we need to have a licence to play recorded music at our services and investigating further the use of the front row of the gallery which has been limited up till now by the conditions laid down in our Public Liability Insurance policy.

One of our main considerations is whether to go ahead with some major restoration work to the Meeting House – Phil Chatfield our Property Manager has agreed to undertake a thorough survey of the structure, so that we can possibly apply for appropriate grants.

Some discussion also took place about our re-vamped website – which is still "work in progress".

*Ann Baepler (Chair)*

## **Forget-Me Not Clubs**

Invited to address our congregation after a service, Vicky Hutchins from AgeUK mentioned first of all that as their funding had been cut this year they were especially grateful that we, the Ipswich Unitarians had selected The Forget me Not Club, as our charity for 2016. Vicky then told us that money was needed to rent premises to hold a variety of gatherings where people and their carers could meet. These groups could be for singing, talking and playing games, having a fish and chip lunch, or speakers to talk about care, it could be from Social Services, the fire station, a nurse, things that might make life easier at home. Also money could be used for outings in the summer this is a very popular event. Vicky would be very willing to return on another Sunday to update us on The Forget me Not Club.

*Rosemary Hamilton*

We are raising money for our charity through selling second-hand books and also have special events planned, such as the **Cream Tea** afternoon on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June at The Old School, 3-5 Bridge Street, Hadleigh IP7 6BY** from 2.30pm to 5.30 pm. There will be a tour of Hadleigh, plants, CDs and cards for sale, with cream teas available from 4 pm for £4.50 each. All are welcome and the resident cats may come too.

## 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 May was *'Something made of iron'* and here is one of the photos submitted.

The theme for July is *'A front door'*. Time to get looking, seeing and taking a photo!



This iron poker is a contribution from Christine Hyde and has special memories attached, being a wedding present from the village blacksmith in 1952 - Charley Dawes.

### **Thomas Becket's elbow ...**

A fragment of bone has been preserved in Hungary encased in a reliquary and recently has been touring churches in the UK – including Westminster Abbey, Rochester Cathedral and other churches associated with the 12<sup>th</sup> century archbishop of Canterbury who was murdered on the assumed instructions of King Henry II. The leader of the Catholic Church in England and Wales, Vincent Nichols said *"St Thomas's martyrdom reminds us what can happen when the state seeks to dominate religious belief and reshape it to its own ends, to its own selection of values. When observance of those particular values become absolute requirements then we are on a path of confrontation,"* Unitarians may identify with these sentiments, but perhaps be confused by the idea of relics?

### **New name for the newsletter?**

Feedback about the newsletter name has been in favour of keeping it as the 'Ipswich Unitarian'. One reason often given was that it has only fairly recently changed from Suffolk Unitarian. So at the moment we stay with the same name.

## **Sweet Summer**

**by Wayne Jarus**

The boats adrift in the harbour  
As thoughts in a calm mind  
A liquid sun beaming today and forever  
We hoard happiness a smile at a time

As thoughts in a calm mind  
Finding respite in cool shade  
A liquid sun beaming today and forever  
Butterflies flutter in a golden haze

Finding respite in cool shade  
In this pastel world of light and shadows  
Butterflies flutter in a golden haze  
And crickets sing in motionless meadows

Oh sweet summer stay and sleep  
A liquid sun beaming today and forever  
Lingering dreams and afternoons of heat  
The boats adrift in the harbour.

Copyright Wayne Jarus, 2008

## **Ipswich Unitarian Newsletter –**

For contributions to this newsletter, please email them to Tessa at - [ipswichunitarian@gmail.com](mailto:ipswichunitarian@gmail.com) or post them to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS before the copy deadline for the next issue of Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June

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](mailto:mjack76748@aol.com)

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

## **Thought for the month –**

*"The remarkable thing is, we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day."*

*Charles R. Swindoll*