

THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield
www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/

October 2012



*We cling to our own point of view, as though
everything depended on it. Yet our opinions have
no permanence; like autumn and winter, they
gradually pass away.*

Zhuangzi

Westgate Chapel was opened in 1752.

**Its congregation was established in 1662
and became Unitarian in view in the
eighteenth century.**

**It has taken a leading part in the
economic, social, educational, political -
and spiritual - development of Wakefield
and its vicinity.**



Sunday Services in October

All services this month are at **3pm**

7th October: Harvest Service led by Mel Prideaux

14th October: Anthony Dawson

21st October: Bill Darlison

28th October: David Arthur

Welcoming Rota

Welcomers have an important role in ensuring everyone, members and visitors alike, feel welcome and included in our services. Do remember to arrange a swap if you are unable to make your rota day.

7th October: Pat Howard

14th October: Nancy Denison

21st October: Ralph Denby

28th October: John Goodchild

Flowers

Flowers are provided by Nancy Denison. If you can offer to provide, arrange, or pay for the flowers in any week please do let her know!

News Of Chapel Members and Friends

After Phylis Lockwood's 104th birthday, reported in the last newsletter, she unfortunately suffered a fall at home, After a few days in hospital she was home again, bruised but undaunted!

Dinky Humphreys has also had a stay in hospital recently, though only briefly, as doctors continue to try to find effective medication.

Both are, as always, in the thoughts and prayers of everyone at Chapel.

Westgate Chapel Harvest Service 2012

Sunday 7th October 3pm

Arrive at 2pm to help decorate the Chapel.

Bring produce, flowers and greenery from the garden if you can - or blackberries you've picked on the way to Chapel! Anything fresh and attractive to bring the harvest season into the building.

Service will be followed by a bring and share afternoon tea

Bring a cake you've made, or something you've chosen especially!

During the tea we'll have a sale of produce, gifts (and the inevitable excess cake!) and decide on a charity to send our collection to.

Bring your friends and bring your family!

Worship Leader: Mel Prideaux



YORKSHIRE UNITARIAN LAY PREACHERS ASSOCIATION

Meet at Westgate Chapel, Wakefield

Saturday 13 October 2012 – 11am till 12-30.

Doors open from 10-30 for tea and coffee.

A MORNING WORKSHOP ON:-

INVOLVING THE CONGREGATION – HYMNS! WHY STOP THERE?

We will be taking a look at some of the ways worship leaders can involve a congregation. The most familiar and well used are the hymns, but there are other ways to involve the congregation such as responsive readings and candles of joys and concerns.

There will not be a leader for this session, please bring along your own thoughts, ideas and share your experiences with like-minded Unitarians.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

These sessions are for all those who participate in Unitarian worship.

Contact Kate Taylor for more information

Following the meeting of the Yorkshire Unitarian Lay Preachers' Association... **The Yorkshire Unitarian Union meets at WAKEFIELD**

1.30 Opening Devotions

1.45 The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the YUU

2.45 Robert Ince – GA Executive Committee Member and YUU 'link' talks on current issues facing the EC and the movement.

3.15 – short break

3.30 – YUU Quarterly Business Meeting

4.30 – Tea, kindly provided by Wakefield Unitarians

All are welcome to all parts of the programme.

The Westgate Forum meets at 10.30am on Tuesday 2nd October to discuss 'The Police Force: What grounds are there for anxiety?' A controversial topic! All are welcome to this informal discussion group.

Car Parking

Our car-park is almost full sometimes so Pat Howard (The Wakefield Unitarian's no. 1 reporter!) looked at the new multi-storey car park along Mulberry Way and found that for Short Stay users the charge is 60p per hour, and they must go up to the red level Floors 5 and 6. Useful information!

The Homeless

Pat Howard also continues to monitor issues regarding the homeless in Wakefield. An issue we may not have considered is how difficult (and expensive) it can be to store items like important documents. There is a nightshelter in Wakefield which makes a decision whether to open at midday (what happens if the temperature drops more than expected?). A notice about the night shelter is put in The Open Door Project, Smyth Street.

The Art Walk at Westgate Chapel, 26th September

The Art Walk continues to be an exciting project in which Westgate Chapel play a very active role. In September Trudy Kepke, pictured below, exhibited some of her paintings. The evening attracted more than 65 visitors.



Photo by Kate Taylor

Being 'spiritual' simply means being willing to look into the nature of life, to ask questions and to wonder, and to listen. It also means seeing art everywhere. (Quang Ho)

MONTHLY “OPEN CIRCLE” TO MEET AT YORK UNITARIANS

On Wednesday, 10 October, the monthly “Open Circle” will gather at the Unitarian Chapel, St Saviourgate, York, starting at the usual time of 12.00pm. Everyone is most warmly invited to come along.

Why “Open Circle”? Myrna Michell, York Unitarians’ minister, explains: ‘Firstly, it’s to say that anyone can walk in and join us’, says Myrna. ‘But also a circle can mean conversation or shared silence, with music and readings, and afterwards we share a simple meal of bread, fruit, and cheese. There is no other commitment. Please feel welcome to share this lovely chapel space with us.’

Open Circle meets at noon on the second Wednesday of each month.

Myrna suggests that, before arriving for the first time, you check with her in case the Circle is on another week that month. Her mobile number is 07931 775 329.

INTER-FAITH in Wakefield

The Wakefield Inter-Faith Group met in the Treacy Hall on a very wet evening in September. The speaker, Irshad, a Sufi teacher, was to tell us about 'The Way of the Heart,' but he did not arrive. However the Quakers, pagans, Amnesty International, Bahais, Earth Spirit Movement, and Christians of various sorts had a good meeting chaired by the Bishop of Pontefract, Very Rev. Tony Robinson.

Food was shared and then we heard about the plans for the next Inter-Faith Tree Planting in November, and plans for an Amnesty International signing campaign in town. The Wakefield City of Sanctuary was explained and the reopening of Angel Lodge for Asylum Seekers and the need for volunteers.

from Pat Howard

The Chapel Pastoral Care Team

Members of the Chapel's new pastoral team are willing individually to provide a confidential ear if anyone feels the need of this. They are also happy to visit people at home. Contact Kate Taylor (kate@airtime.co.uk).

The Engagement Group

An 'Engagement Group' consisting of Unitarians and non-Unitarians, is organised by Mel and Steve. The group chooses a different location and theme for each meeting, actively engaging with one another following engagement group principles. We explore and discuss spiritual themes, and the beliefs and attitudes which shape our lives. The group has been dormant for a while, so if you are interested please do get in touch. Newcomers are welcome, and should contact Steve (boudicca7@talktalk.net) or Mel (melpx@hotmail.com).

Safeguarding

The Chapel Committee recently approved a new policy on how we will deal with concerns about, or allegations of, abuse of children and vulnerable adults. The policy needs some additional work, and processes and documentation need to be put in place. While developments continue please contact the Safeguarding Officer, Mel Prideaux (01924 781020 or by email) with concerns and/or questions.

The Unitarian path is a liberal religious movement rooted in the Jewish and Christian traditions but open to insights from world faiths, reason and science, and with a spectrum extending from liberal Christianity through to religious humanism. (From The Unitarian Path by Andrew Hill.)

Officers of the Chapel Committee:

Chairman John Goodchild, 12 Shakespeare Avenue, Normanton, WF6 1EA

Hon Secretary Kate Taylor, 19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield, WF1 4AH

Pulpit Supply Tel 01924-372748 kate@airtime.co.uk

Hon Treasurer Bill Humphreys, 4 Gloucester Grove, Lupset WF2 8NG

Editor Mel Prideaux, 3 Pinfold Lane, Sandal, WF2 7LN melpx@hotmail.com