

# Stockton Unitarians



**June 2nd** gave us the Anniversary of the Queen's Coronation, extra bank holidays for Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum (70th) Jubilee, also Whitsuntide, the Queen's Official Birthday Trinity Sunday, Father's Day, the longest day (Summer Solstice)  
**July 19th** gave us the hottest recorded temperature in England since records were kept at 40.3 degrees

## Church News

July 2022



*Congratulations and Happy Birthday to those Celebrating their Birthdays in:*

**August:**

**Jane Tomlin**

**September:**

**Jessica Eva Dodds**



*Congratulations to those celebrating their Wedding Anniversaries in:*

**August:**

**Pat & Alan Wilkinson celebrate their 59th.**

**Elaine & Stephen Dodds celebrate their 25th**

**September:**

**Mike & Jane Tomlin celebrate their 62nd**

**Paul & Jennie Robinson celebrate their 2nd**

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who like parsnips, can be counted on to see you throughout the winter;  
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;  
For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts, and witherings;  
And, finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;  
for all these we give thanks.

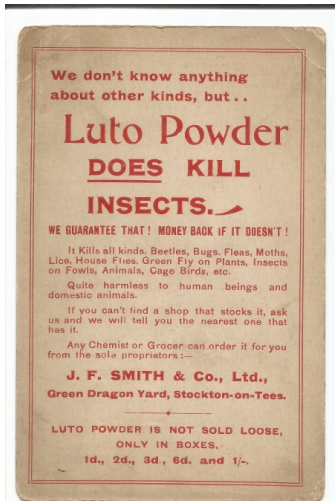
Rev Max Coots, UU Minister, Canton, New York

## Email from Fred Jordan

While Gaynor was sorting through a box of old family photographs, she came across the attached post card. It is an etching of Stockton High Street from 1785. The original Unitarian Church can be seen on the extreme right. I know that a framed copy of the same etching hung in the vestry of the old Wellington Street Church, does the picture still exist? (YES) On the reverse of the card is an advert for 'Luto Powder' which was sold by J.F. Smith of Green Dragon Yard.

J.F. Smith were also manufacturers of NEBO confectionary with their factory being in the Georgian Theatre (hope they kept the ingredients separate). We think that the card came from Gaynor's Grand Parents who ran the Allotment Holders shop in Farrer Street in the 1920's. A lot of Stockton social history from one little card!

My Auntie Rene worked at NEBO confectionary and my Dad was a delivery driver for them prior to joining the RAF in 1939. He always said that NEBO stood for 'Nobody Ever Buys Ours' Cheers Fred



## How to stay young

Throw out nonessential numbers. AGE, WEIGHT and HEIGHT.  
Keep only cheerful friends.  
Grouches pull you down (keep this in mind if you are one!)

Keep learning. Learn more about computers, crafts, gardening etc  
Never let the brain get idle. An idler is the devil's workshop.

Enjoy the simple things. Laugh often, loud and long.  
Laugh until you gasp for breath.  
And if you have a friend who makes you laugh.  
Spend lots of time with them.

Tears happen sometimes. Endure, grieve and move on.  
The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourself.  
LIVE while you are alive.

Don't take guilt trips. Go on another trip - elsewhere!  
Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity.  
Don't wait till it's too late.

Surround yourself with what you love, family,  
pets, music, plants, etc -  
your home is your refuge.

Cherish your health -  
If it is good, preserve it  
If it is unstable, improve it  
If it is beyond what you can improve  
Get help.

**LIVE - LOVE - LAUGH**



## Review of services

### Sunday 15th May 2022 Dr Barry Thomas

I think it must have been in the 1960's when I again became aware of Albert Schweitzer. I think there was a lot of talk in the Unitarian press about him at the time and Reverence For Life had just been written. I can remember reading a book about him and thinking what an incredible man he was, then on Sunday May 15th Dr Barry Thomas brought it all back. What a stimulating service it was with great hymns from Sing Your Faith. The theme of the service was Schweitzer's philosophy of Reverence for Life for which he was awarded The Nobel Peace Prize.

James Brabazon, author of *Albert Schweitzer: A Biography*, defined Reverence for Life as follows: "Reverence for life says "That the only thing we are really sure of is that we live and want to go on living. This is something that we share with everything else that lives, from elephants to blades of grass - and, of course, every human being. So we are brothers and sisters to all living things, and owe to all of them the same care and respect that we wish for ourselves." It means that all life is valuable and important, and that no life (human, animal or plant) should be sacrificed without compassionate consideration of the life lost compared to the greater good the sacrifice may yield.

Albert Schweitzer, born on January 14th 1875 in Alsace, Germany (now part of France), was the son of a Lutheran minister and a member of a family of ministers, scholars and musicians, which included a famous cousin, Jean Paul Sartre. As a child, Schweitzer played the organ and piano, and was only nine when he first performed at his father's church. His musical talent earned him international recognition. Although he dedicated his life to the healing profession, he continue to perform as an organist throughout his life, even publishing a book on organ construction and a biography on Bach.

In 1904, Schweitzer experienced a turning point in his life after reading an article published by the Paris Missionary Society, which highlighted an urgent need for physicians in Gabon, a French colony in Africa. The article so moved him that he immediately decided to pursue a medical career, much to the disappointment of his family, colleagues and friends-the only exception being a woman, named Helena Bresslau whom he eventually married.

A determined Schweitzer re-entered the University of Strasbourg in 1905 at the age of 30, funding his medical education with fees from concert performances and lectures. Eight years later, he graduated with specialisations in tropical medicine and surgery. Incredibly, the Paris Missionary Society initially rejected his application to join its programme in Africa, fearing that other 'liberals and radicals' would follow suit. However, the Schweitzers agreed to raise their own funds to cover the first two years of expenses, which caused the Paris Missionary Society to relent. In March 1913, Dr and Mrs Schweitzer left for Africa to build a hospital at Lamborghini in the French Congo and according to historical records the work had started in a modified chicken coop.

Albert Schweitzer died on September 4th 1965 at the age of 90 in his modest quarters at Lamborghini and was buried on the banks of the Ogowe River, a simple self made cross marking his grave. Today his hospital in Lamborghini continues to serve the needs of the people of the region. Albert was a musician, theologian and physician, but above all he was a true humanitarian, the overarching principle that guided him was 'reverence for life' a philosophy that took him to the jungles of Africa where he healed many and touched the lives of millions worldwide.

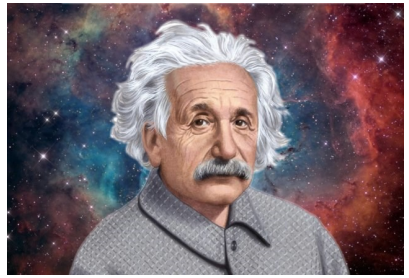
Thank you again Barry for building your service around this incredible man.

Margaret Whitham

**Sunday May 22nd 2022**

**Arek Malecki**

“There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.” **Albert Einstein**



We sang hymns 32 Earth was given as a garden, 67 I am that great and fiery force, 125 One more step along the way I go and 39 For the splendour of creation. We shared our individual joys and concerns. Arek gave us poems and readings .“Meditation on a Grapefruit.” a poem by Craig Arnold , “You Might Find Yours” a reading by Tom Rosenthal and “ God Says yes to me” a poem by Kaylin Haught. As usual an inspiring service.

**Sunday May 29th 2022 Rev**

**Margaret Kirk**

We sang hymns from Hymns For Living 247 A World of Wonder, 233 Others Call it God, 52 Divinity is Round Us, 235 A Melody of Love and vesper 315 Rejoice in love we know and share. Margaret talked of the link between all the services we had had throughout the month of May. At Margaret’s request we had a large vase full of lilac.



**Sunday June 5th 2022**

**Rev Victor Ball**

Victor chose the following hymns from Sing Your Faith 20 Come all who look to God today; 177 To you who would as pilgrims go; 87 Leave behind your bags and baggage and 10 Be that guide whom love sustains.

**Sunday 12th June 2022**

**Jane Tomlin**

Jane told us of her favourite hymns and what they meant to her. The words meant a great deal to her, and the music make the words come to life



and fix them in our sharing thoughts when singing together. The hymns that Jane chose were 178 Together now we join as one, 3 Each speaking faith, 195 We limit not the truth of God, 15 Brother, Sister let me serve you and Great God your love has called us here. Jane shared her life journey through her hymn choices.

**Sunday 19th June 2022** Service had to be cancelled due to illness

**Sunday 26th June 2022**

**Arek Malecki**

Arek read a lovely story about a boy and the golden thread. He met an old woman who gave him the gift of the golden thread. This made him able to proceed to the next stage of his life by pulling



this thread (by-passing many years inbetween). Then when he was an old man, he realised he had missed out on a lot of life and he again came upon the old women. She let him go back to being the boy he was.

Arek had been on a course where they had talked about stories in the Bible. The participants were encouraged to start their own Bible, by including stories, poems etc which they loved. Arek showed us his and he had the above golden thread story in this.

Arek's choice of hymns were 280 HFL morning Has broken; 58 SYF Grant us, God, a mind to know you; 50 SYF God of every stonr and pebble and 188 HFL Let Love Continue Long.



**July 3rd 2022**

**Rev Paul Walker “Are we ready for hunger?”**

As the weather is warming up, causing the earth more floods, droughts and storms leading to famine, because of loss of crops:



are we prepared? Paul gave us a lot to think about. We sang the following HFL hymns: 193 Wisdom and Courage; 197 Westward, Look; 206 The Choice is Ours and 207 Stranger on the Mountain.

**The Church AGM 2022** was held following this service where we approved the 2021 AGM Minutes, accepted reports and elected two additional Council members — Paul Walker and Margaret Kirk. Mike Tomlin stepped down as Church Treasurer, due to ill health, he was thanked for all his hard work since 1975. A new Treasurer has not been appointed as yet. We decided on the charity for the year “Butterfly Giving” and on a letting leaflet to promote the use of the church building.

**10th July 2022**

**Margaret Whitham and Margaret Robinson  
Theme “Summer”**

Margaret R wrote the chalice lighting and Margaret W wrote the Benediction. We opened the



service with the song “Summertime” sung by Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. We sang 244 Glad that I live am I; 268 Moods of Summer; 247 A World of Wonder; 245 All these things belong to me, all from HFL and the vesper 102 May the road rise with you. We had readings by Tony McNeille and Joan Wilkinson on Summer. Two poems by Betty McKellar, The Purple Time and Posy and a prayer / meditation by Harry Youlden on Nature’s Beauty.

**Sunday 17th July** Unfortunately we had to cancel the service. The people leading the service were the only ones able to attend.

## Some thoughts on Refugees and Asylum

We are the product of genetic interaction. We are moulded by our parents, the wider family, friends and our countryside, because they are familiar. We belong there. Our roots are there. We are at home.

But what if home becomes a dangerous place, so that to remain there, one must face death from starvation, from violence or from the unreasonable rule of law. Then it makes sense to move away, to become a refugee. Where to go? Where one has heard or read that conditions are better, of course.

Leaving is not only painful, it is often dangerous, and usually expensive. Not all governments will issue passports, and there is no travel agent to consult about the route. It is a big leap of faith, with no guarantee of a safe landing.

When refugees arrive in Britain hoping to find sanctuary, they are not welcomed. If they don't instantly join a queue to register, they won't qualify for money, or somewhere to live. They weren't expecting to live on handouts. Everyone who has come here has had the 'get up and go' to do something already about an intolerable situation. They expect to work to support themselves and their families. In most cases our Asylum 'system' does not allow them to do so.

If people hope to make their homes in Britain, they should learn to speak the language. Indeed, colleges are running many more classes in English. But no one is insisting the adult asylum seekers go to them. The system should include tests in spoken and written English, and a Citizenship course, to help people understand the society they are trying to join. It would not be too harsh, to insist that able-bodied adults attend these courses in order to qualify for benefits.

Failure to address these issues, permits the growth of an underclass which clings desperately to the ways and language of the old country. If they seek asylum in Britain, they will not be allowed to return to the old country. Their children, meanwhile, are being educated in English, and are learning the expectations and customs of their classmates. The brave people who sacrificed so much to cut their losses and try to make a fresh start for themselves and their families, will only face further heartache if they are unable to understand the life choices that their own children will have to make. Janet Briggs from Unitarian Earth Spirit Network file 2004.

It's now 2022, has anything changed?



## Hucklow Summer School 2022 - Online

# Right Relationship

Practising Love, Peace, and Justice in Everyday Life

### Save the Dates: Hucklow Summer School 2022

#### 'Right Relationship: Practising Love, Justice and Peace in Everyday Life'

We are once again presenting an online series of events during the week when Hucklow Summer School would usually take place. There will be five daily theme talks on Zoom at 7pm from **Monday 22nd-Friday 26th August**. This year, in keeping with our relational theme, each talk will be given by a pair of speakers exploring an aspect of 'Right Relationship' together:

- **Monday 22nd August: Sarah Tinker and Jane Blackall**
- **Tuesday 23rd August: Nicola Temple and Lizzie Kingston-Harrison**
- **Wednesday 24th August: Laura Dobson and Arek Malecki**
- **Thursday 25th August: Torry Glinwell and Alex Brianson**
- **Friday 26th August: Cody Coyne and Winnie Gordon**

During these talks we will be reflecting on the idea of 'right relationship' with self, others, and God. How might we cultivate practices of 'right relationship' in our everyday lives? Over the course of the week our speakers will consider what living in 'right relationship' might require of each of us in our closest connections with friends and family; in our congregations and wider communities (local and online); with people near and far who we don't come into direct contact with, and whose life experiences are very different from our own, but with whom our existence is interdependent; and with the Earth itself. After each talk we will host breakout rooms for those who would like to stay on and explore the topic in small-group conversation.

[All are welcome to sign up to this list via the Summer School website.](#)

We look forward to seeing you in August!

*Jane Blackall On behalf of the Summer School Organising Panel*



Rev. Kate Dean shares her inspiring work at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead. She discusses the ways in which she engages the community beyond Sunday morning services, including online spiritual development courses, monthly gatherings, workshops, and community outreach.

Click on the link below to watch the recording of session.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IW-LSbHmHCQ>

Spirituality is how we as individuals experience that which is beyond us, or in beauty. It is what happens when we meet with others and speak of these moments. Religion is a collective spirituality.

Religion is what happens when we talk to each other about our experiences, or make music, art, poetry, so others can experience this.

Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons. When they are grown, allow them to find their own place.

## The Engagement Group

**Met on 25th May** where we considered “What or Who is your God?” This was led by Margaret Whitham who began with saying that it all began with what Dave Allen (the comedian) used to say at the end of his programme “May your God go with you”. The dictionary meaning of God is 1. (in Christianity and other monotheistic religions) the creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority, the supreme being. 2. (in certain other religions) a superhuman being or spirit worshipped as having power over nature or human fortunes; a deity. Or A god can also be someone who is admired a lot or too much.

### “What is God?” “Who is God?”

A Great Spirit - looking much like us?

A mass of energy - without form such as we can recognise?

A being from beyond our galaxy - appearing to us long ago with powers we had never seen?

Atoms and Molecules making up the universe - our ourselves?

A Man - albeit one more powerful than any of us?

A combination of Spirit and Man - able to appear at will in human form?

A bird of some kind - with wings to shelter the whole world?

An Angelic being?

The voice inside us which acts as our conscience?

The force which appears to us as coincidence?

A vast emptiness - a void of great power?

A Woman - A Man - A Child - An Animal?

A group of Gods and Goddesses who interact with all individually?

Nature?

There is no right or wrong answer to these questions. To have a definitive answer would mean to see and know God totally - anything else is simply belief - not knowledge.

The Spirit/Energy is alive! And all around us - inside and outside - in the rocks, the trees, the water, the animals, the air - we are connected to it even if we choose not to believe so.

If we believe and accept nothing else . . . We need to believe and accept that we are all part of the same web - whoever created it!

Kay Hadfield

## What or Who is your God?

## Dates for your Diary

**Knit 'n' Natter Group** meet on alternative Tuesdays from 11.00am to 1,00pm. **9th and 23rd August; 6th and 20th September 2022**. Bring along your crafts, knitting, crochet, and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat whilst you work. £1 contribution for the tea/coffee and biscuits.



### **Coffee Mornings every Saturday**

10.00am to 11.30am

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and biscuits and good conversation with a friendly and welcoming group.

**Church Council meeting** Sunday 31st July 2022 at 3.00pm at church before 6.00pm service

**Worship Group** meeting Wednesday 3rd August 2022 at 11.00am at church

**Uni-sing!** A Zoom hymn singing group, on alternative **Saturday** afternoons at **3.00pm**, with break out groups for chat in the middle. for more information email Louise Rogers [louise.rogers256@gmail.com](mailto:louise.rogers256@gmail.com) see facebook.co/groups/687366168770017 Sessions: **6th August Sue Good,; 20th August, Margaret's Robinson and Whitham "Summertime"; 3rd and 17th September 2022**

### **UMS (Unitarian Music Society)**

email [unitarianmusicsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:unitarianmusicsociety@hotmail.com) for link.

**UMS Summer Conference 12th to 15th August 2022** at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire with "Oliver's Journey Home" at Ilkley on Sunday 14th August at 5.00pm

## Sunday Services for 2022



Date	Time	Worship Leader
31st July	6.00pm	Rev Margaret Kirk
7th August	6.00pm	Rev Victor Ball
14th August	6.00pm	to be decided
<b>21st August No service at Stockton — visit to Whitby to attend the 11.00am service at the Unitarian Church in Flowergate, Whitby</b>		
28th August	6.00pm	“Holidays” Bring and Share
4th September	6.00pm	Rev Jeffery Bowes
11th September	6.00pm	to be arranged
18th September	6.00pm	Rev Paul Walker
25th September	6.00pm	Harvest - Rev Victor Ball
2nd October	6.00pm	to be arranged
9th October		Rev Sue Woolley
16th October	6,00pm	Rev Paul Walker
23rd October	6.00pm	to be arranged
30th October	6.00pm	NUA Helen Mason
20th November	6/00pm	Send a Child to Hucklow 60th Anniversary service - Worship group

Please note all services will be held in the church building. Most services will also be transmitted via Zoom, in a hybrid service. Joining instructions for Zoom will be sent out through email by the Church Secretary Zoom: 6680459646

## ***CHURCH DIRECTORY***

**Address:** Stockton Unitarian Church, Wellington Street,  
Stockton-on-Tees, **TS18 1RF (please note post code)**

**Telephone:** 01642 671115 **email:** mail@stocktonunitarians.org.uk

**website:** www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk

**facebook:** Unitarians in and around Stockton-on-Tees

**Chair and Flower Secretary:** Jean Watson - 01642 658376

**Margaret Robinson** - Secretary and Church News Editor  
telephone: 01642 782219 email: margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

3 Castle Dyke Wynd, Minerva Mews, Yarm, TS15 9DE

**Worship Committee Co-ordinator:** Margaret Whitham 01429 298641

### **Your Church Garden**

First plant four rows of **Peas:**

Promptness, Preparation, Purity, Perseverance.

Then three rows of **Lettuce:**

Let us be faithful, Let us be loyal and unselfish, Let us love one another.

Save room for **Turnips:**

Turn up at the meetings, Turn up with a smile, Turn up with prayer.

Don't forget to throw out, the **Weeds:**

Weed out gossip, Weed out criticism, Weed out indifference.

**Deadline for next edition of Stockton Church News -  
Sunday 18th September 2022.** Please send your  
contributions for the May edition to the Editor Margaret  
Robinson margaretrobinson81@gmail.com