

Stockton Unitarians



August brought more rail strikes, and a Summer Bank Holiday. Then postal strikes
September brought us the Autumn Equinox, the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the succession to the throne of King Charles III with a Bank Holiday for the Queen's funeral, a very grand occasion.
October brings us the end of British Summer Time, don't forget to put your clocks back on Sunday 30th.

Church News

October 2022



I have received this message from Jane Tomlin

'We have all been very comforted and supported by the many messages, letters and cards we have had from church members and their family members in the weeks following Mike's death in August. Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving and special thanks to Rev Margaret Kirk for help with planning and leading the service. Finally we were delighted with the 'In Memory' edition last month - interesting, amusing and full of love.

The Tomlin and McKelvey families

The collection for SACH and for Justice First has raised more than £2000.

I received an email from Pat Wilkinson this morning which was concerning Alan. Here is what she wrote:

I got a phone call from Alan who was doing a little bit of shopping in Wellington Square after he'd been for a docs appointment. He had felt the need to sit down because his back was aching, probably because he'd been on his feet too long. It seems as he got close to the seat he was intending to sit on, he fell backwards and hit his head. People were helping him and an ambulance had been called when he first rang me. However, a very kind couple, realising that it might be ages for the ambulance to turn up, offered to take Alan to A&E and got the Wellington Square security man to cancel the ambulance that had been requested. They then brought their car round to near where Lidl used to be (opposite KFC) to where Alan was OK to walk. I said I'd drive to A&E and find Alan there. Not only did this couple kindly take Alan to A&E, they waited there with him till I arrived, and they had even bought Alan a bottle of water and a cake for each of us! It really restores your faith in human kindness! As you can imagine, we were at A&E for hours but fortunately after the general examination, blood pressure, ECG and a CT head scan were deemed OK, I was able to drive Alan home. Moving about is rather painful for him, but it could have been so much worse.

In the same email Pat told me that Brian had had a fall but fortunately no damage was done.

We hope that he soon makes a full recovery. Margaret Whitham

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to those Celebrating their Birthdays in

October *Melody Dixon-Oliver* *Michael Urwin*
Jennie Robinson *David Warhurst*
Jane Jobson *Rhys Kulton*
Josie Squires



Congratulations to those who celebrated their wedding Anniversaries in August:

Jane and Andrew Jobson and Richard and Caroline Whitham



My Credo

I believe that everyone is equal in the sight of "God", whatever you may call God, nature et cetera. I see "God" in people, in tree, flowers and animals. Jesus was a son of God, as is every son and daughter. He was a revolutionary leader, who inspired people to do good and be the best they could be. But he was not the only inspirational leader, there have been many more.

Love our neighbour, whoever they may be, is a good maxim to live by. I believe in helping other to improve their lives for the better. We should not judge other people because of their race, colour, sexual orientation, beliefs, culture or status. Live and let live.

The natural world is an amazing place, which we need to protect and preserve for future generations. I believe in being useful and practical as much as I can. To repair, reuse, reclaim and recycle is more important than ever. Many denominations and other faiths have more things in common, than that which divides them.

But where are the philanthropists? The people with millions (£s or \$s), could do more to help the poor and starving. Rich people in the past built libraries, museums, affordable housing etc.

Margaret Robinson

Editor: How about writing your Credo for the next Church News

Whitby Chapel Opening Service

We had thought that Whitby Flowergate Chapel had closed for good back in October 2021, so it was very welcome news to hear from Rev. Margaret Kirk that it was having a “grand re-opening” on August 21st and that services would continue on a monthly basis. As Rev. Kirk told us:



“We are very excited about this as at the same time we are about to complete a licence arrangement with two community workers who provide arts-based activities and offer a community fridge and cafe in the basement of church premises nearby. They will be using our chapel throughout the week as auxiliary space and are very well regarded for the work they do! This arrangement has the support of a community regeneration officer from Scarborough Borough Council, and we’re very fortunate to have had financial support for the toilet floor repairs from the YUU (Yorkshire Unitarian Union) which has now been completed, and the truss beams were repaired in February from our own funds and a grant from the Leonard Chamberlain Trust. Much more needs to be done but the chapel is now a safe space!”

On 21st August, Unitarians from the Newcastle and Stockton congregations headed to Whitby to join Unitarians from across Yorkshire for the grand re-opening. It was an excellent and well-attended service, with a short reading from Rev. Kirk about how we got to the point of re-opening, Rebecca Denniff from Flash Company Arts Ltd CIC outlining their plans for community use of the chapel, and the Whitby Community Choir giving a very well-received performance of ‘Bread and Roses’, which many members of the congregation joined in out (albeit some of us had to surreptitiously look up all the lyrics on our phones!) We enjoyed coffee and cakes afterwards, before heading home in the sunshine.

It was truly uplifting to see Whitby chapel returning to its rightful place as a valuable part of the local community, and inspirational for those of us here in Newcastle. We wish all involved all the best!
Louise Reeve



Dorothy Archer Memorial Prizes 2022

Theme: 'Finding my Space'

Closing date 31st October 2022

1. 'Unitarian? What's that?' is the 'elevator question' many of us have been asked. This prize is for a **short podcast** explaining your definition to a person who asks that question. The recording should be prefaced with your name and contact details and emailed to nuf@nufonline.org.uk. Value £100

2. A Unitarian prayer or poem of between 100 - 150 words based on the theme of 'Finding my space'. This should be an original piece written for the competition. The winning piece will be printed in the News & Views as well as a selection of other entries. Email as a pdf to nuf@nufonline.org.uk. Value £100

3. A cover design for The News & Views. The News & Views is the quarterly magazine of the National Unitarian Fellowship which is distributed as a digital and paper copy to all members of the Fellowship. The cover should reflect your interpretation of the theme, 'Finding my space' and contain 'National Unitarian Fellowship and the charity number 1040294. Email as a pdf to nuf@nufonline.org.uk. Value £100

4. A Unitarian hymn that reflects the theme of 'Finding my Space'. Minimum of two verses set to a recognised tune or original composition. Email as a pdf to

nuf@nufonline.org.uk. Value £100

5. Digital Connections Award. This prize for innovation in Digital Connections. The last two years have brought exciting new ways in which congregations and other groups have connected using technology. This award will be for the most innovative use of digital methods to broaden the reach of your Unitarian resources. This could be as simple as a new format for your email newsletters; podcasts, worship, videos, a revamped website, online meetings, discussion groups, activities or networking.

In the first place please submit a resume of your project, no longer than 1,000 words, giving links to resources where possible.

Dorothy Archer Memorial Prizes 2022 (continued)

The judges will be looking for Digital connection projects that started or primarily evolved within the last 2¹/₂ years, and which are inclusive, accessible, creative and sustainable and you should explain how the project meets these criteria.

The prize for the winner is £200 but we hope to showcase all submissions in an (online) event in 2023, as an opportunity for connection and learning from each other.

If you wish to send your entry in print for sections 1-4, please contact the NUF secretary:

nuf@nufonline.org.uk.

Dorothy Archer was a former president of the National Unitarian Fellowship and its publicity officer. She left a generous legacy for the promotion and outreach of the National Unitarian Fellowship.

Congregations In The Community 18th October 2022



In this Congregations in the Community event Lizzie Kingston Harrison, our Congregational Connections Lead, will be in dialogue with Rev. Lizzie Harley, to discuss some of the inspiring ideas she has put in place at the Unitarian Chapel in the Garden, Bridport. For more details & Zoom Link go to:-

[https://www.unitariansinyorkshire.org.uk/events/
congregations-in-the-community-18-oct-2022/](https://www.unitariansinyorkshire.org.uk/events/congregations-in-the-community-18-oct-2022/)

Sunday July 24th 2022 Worship leaders Hazel & David Warhurst

“If I had a flower for every time I thought of you I could walk through my garden forever.” Alfred Lord Tennyson

Hazel and David reminded us of the origins of the Flower Communion by Norbert Capek and his wife. They chose hymns 19 Colour and Fragrance, 13 Bring Flowers to Our Altar, 159 The Green Grass Brings the Air to Life and 268 Moods of Summer. They gave us the meaning and language of flowers (Floriography), the sentiment the colours of flowers eg love. Also the flower for each month of the year. Those present brought a flower and placed it in a communal vase during the service and received a different flower at the close of the service.

Hazel read an English Fairy Story about The Proud Rose, the **rose** was so proud of her beautiful looks and her only complaint was growing next to an ugly **cactus**. The service included a prayer and a Flower Communion Blessing. There were two songs projected onto the wall, with words, “Where have all the flowers gone” by Pete Seeger and “Rhymes and Reasons” by John Denver.



Sunday 31st July 2022 Worship leader Rev Margaret Kirk

Margaret looked at what makes us special. “Blessings feed life just as water does”. We sang these hymns 75 HFL, 98, 119 and 195 SYF and closed with Joan Baez singing “Let us break bread together”. The reading was the introduction from the book *My Grandfather’s Blessings* by Rachel Naomi Remen. Her story ‘At the city gates’ was from the book *One hundred wisdom stories* by Margaret Silf.

Sunday 14th August 2022 No service was held this Sunday as many members were away.

Sunday 21st August 2022 Visit to 11.00am service at Whitby, so no service held at Stockton.

Sunday 28th August 2022 was a Bring & Share service on the theme of Holidays. We sang these hymns 216, 167 and 148 SYF and 9 and 235 HFL. We opened with the Chalice Lighting:

“We light this chalice in celebration of holidays and holy days, days of fun, friendship and relaxation, enjoying time together and the world around us.”

The Meditations were from the Holy Quiet by Richard S Gilbert, and the Readings were: Picnic from Patience Strong and Thank you for the big blue sea by M E Swann. The closing words were from John Wesley:

Do all the good you can, By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can, In all the places you can,
At all the times you can, To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

Sunday 4th September 2022 was led by Rev Jeffrey Bowes

Where he looked at “Who or What is God?”

Is it God of Hardwork, Winners, Power, Time, Money, Media or our own desires, to name a few. It is a falsity to follow these Gods.

Jeffery read the story by Lionel Blue about the shortest sermon,

Your God is what you do in love, generosity and friendship.

“The divine shines through the human”

Mother Teresa said “we are called to strive and witness.”

Sunday 11th September 2022 led by Rev Margaret Kirk

Margaret's theme was 'Unhistoric Acts'

"The growing good of the world is partly dependent on unhistoric acts. and that things are not so ill with you and me as they might have been, is half owing to the number who lived faithfully, a hidden life, and rest in unvisited tombs" George Eliot, from *Middlemarch*, a 19th century novel.

Margaret read "*The Hat*" a Frog and Toad story and some writings from David Foster Wallace (which Margaret read at the 2018) "A friend is one who you can pour out your heart."

Sunday 18th September 2022 led by Rev Paul Walker

We sang hymns 35, 84 SYF; 214 and 210 Jerusalem HFL

Sunday 25th September 2022 Harvest Festival led by Rev Victor Ball

Victor gave us *The Magic Beans* story for all ages. We sang 272, 272, 274 and 184 HFL Readings were *Mark 4: 24-32* and *The Peace and Plenty Petition* by Cathy Hunt. Victor closed with the harvest Prayer from the Community of the Cross of nails, Coventry Cathedral.

God of Creation, we pray for all people and nations of the earth. Enlighten our minds and guide our hearts to seek peace, teach our hands to bring comfort. Encourage us to strive for justice and reconciliation and strengthen us in our resolve.

God of Abundance, your bounty is for everyone and yet many struggle to feed their families because of the greed of a few.

God of Love and Forgiveness, break down the barriers that divide us that we may practice justice with mercy and live in peace. Amen



Goods for the Mary Thompson Fund

Dates for your Diary

Knit 'n' Natter Group meet on alternate Tuesdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm. **4th & 18th October, 1st, 15th and 29th November 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 Saturday 26th November 2022 at 11.30am at church (bring your lunch)

Worship Group next meeting Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 10.30am at church

Uni-sing! A Zoom hymn singing group, on alternate **Saturday** afternoons at **3.00pm**, with break out groups for chat in the middle. for more information email Louise Rogers louise.rogers256@gmail.com see [facebook.co/groups/ 687366168770017](https://www.facebook.co/groups/687366168770017) Sessions: 15th October, 5th and 19th November, 3rd and 17th December 2022

Next Engagement Group Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 10.30am on Zoom

Sunday Services for 2022



Date	Time	Worship Leader
2nd October	6.00pm	Margaret Robinson
9th October	3.00pm	Rev Sue Woolley
16th October	6,00pm	Rev Paul Walker
23rd October	6.00pm	Diana Bebbly
30th October	6.00pm	NUA Helen Mason
6th November	3.00pm	Rev Margaret Kirk
13th November	3.00pm	Dr Barry Thomas
20th November	3.00pm	Send a Child to Hucklow 60th Anniversary service
27th November	11.00am	Rev Paul Walker
4th December	3.00pm	Human Rights
11th December	3.00pm	Tree Dressing
18th December	3.00pm	Sing the Season

No services 25th December 2022 or January 1st 2023

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**

Here is the link to Oliver's Journey Home' on the UkunitarianTV channel of YouTube at <https://youtu.be/lct5FdYvPc0>

Thank you to Hazel Warhurst and Louise Reeve for the photographs

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Worship Committee Co-ordinator: Margaret Whitham 01429 298641

Flower list for October, November and December 2022



2nd	October	Paul Walker
9th	October	Mrs Smith
16th	October	Mrs J Watson
22nd	October	Mrs Jane Tomlin
30th	October	Mrs J Squires
6th	November	H & D Warhurst
13th	November	M Kirk
20th	November	Mrs J Watson
27th	November	M Whitham
4th	December	Pat Wilkinson
11th	December	Mrs Smith

**Deadline for next edition of Stockton Church News -
Sunday 20th November 2022.** Please send your contribu-
tions for the October edition to the Editor Margaret Robinson
margaretrobinson81@gmail.com