



STOCKTON UNITARIANS



Members of the congregation pictured with representatives of the charity Bloodrun Emergency Voluntary Service on 27th June

CALENDAR FOR SUMMER 2021

News of Members and Friends

Obituaries

David Sickling:

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **David Sickling** who would have been 93 in September. David was married to **Margery Rudge** who was **Walter Rudge's** sister and he became a regular member of the congregation. David always seemed to be on hand when jobs needed doing at church and was an active member of the Building Group. When we dismantled our lovely Harrison pipe organ to send it to Sri Lanka in 2005 David was one of the team helping and can be seen here reading one of the many pieces of paper that were found when the foot pedals were removed.



David loved his garden and greenhouse and one of his pastimes was growing African violets and coleus plants. Sadly David lost a lot of his sight due to macular degeneration and was also stone deaf so life was not easy for him in his later years. He passed away very peacefully in a care home.

Margaret Whitham



David's funeral took place on September 6th at St Bede's Chapel, Teesside Crematorium, conducted by Kevin Leavesley. We heard that David spent his working life as an Instrument Artificer with ICI at Cassel Works. His marriage to Margery in February 1952 was a very happy one lasting 50 years and one month, until Margery died in 2002.

David pictured with Jane Tomlin and Molly Rudge on 8th December 2006 waiting for the key handover ceremony for our new building.



As well as the dismantling of the organ, David played a big part in the team which stripped materials from our previous building for recycling and he helped to prepare our new meeting house for its official opening in 2007. He continued to be a valued member of the congregation, attending services regularly until illness prevented it.

We send our sincere condolences to his son **Paul** and Paul's wife **Linda**.

David, centre, in the Worship Room after the key handover, with Joan Harrison, Molly Rudge, Margaret Whitham and John Turner.

Barry Dent:

We send our deepest sympathy to **Jean Watson** and family on the death of her brother, **Barry Dent**. As a child Barry attended our Sunday school and was a member of The Junior Choir. Barry always considered himself a Unitarian.

Margaret Whitham

Ray McLaren:

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Ray McLaren**. Ray opened his first hairdressers in March 1963 in Linthorpe, just before he and **Christine** were married in our old church building. Ray eventually owned several ladies and gents hairdressers, but the main one was on Stockton High Street which had been John Hunter's (quite famous in it's day) and where Ray had worked. Ray bought the salon (both ladies and gents hairdressing) from John Hunter and this was eventually bought by his son **Richard**. Ray continued with smaller hairdressing and barbers shops.

Ray died in North tees Hospital on August 2nd after a struggle with Parkinson's Disease, quickly deteriorating after the death of Richard. Ray's sister **Jean** was a member of the Sunday School and Junior Choir and went youth hostelling with us all. Our thoughts go out to all Ray's family.

Margaret Whitham

Finally:

We were sorry to receive the sad news that **Keith**, the partner of our caretaker, **Gail**, lost his mother. We sent both Keith and Gail our heart felt condolences.

Margaret Whitham

Congratulations

To **Richard** and **Caroline Whitham** on the birth of their daughter, **Grace Joy** on 28th April, a beloved sister for **Arthur**.



Grace

***One very proud Arthur,
big brother to Grace***



To **Jessica Eva Dodds**, grand daughter of **Margaret Robinson**, on gaining her First class BA(Hons) Fashion Degree.

Belated Birthday Congratulations:-

To **Charlie Thompson** (15 on 9th August), **Jane Tomlin** (27th August) and **Brian Hopkins** (4th September).

Forthcoming Birthday Congratulations:

To **Merla Hopkins** (18th September), **Jessica Dodds** (23rd September), **Melody Dixon-Oliver** (5th October), **Gemma Hutton** (née **Watson**) (14th October), **Michael Unwin** (16th October), **David Warhurst** (18th October), **Jane Jobson** (27th October), **Rhys Hutton** (18 on 29th October), **Josie Squires** (31st October), **Marcus Slaven** (16 on 15th November), **Jean Watson** (21st November), **Mike Tomlin** (3rd December) and **Alexander Slaven** (14 on 19th December).

**Many happy returns to you all, and
apologies to anyone we've missed!**

Wedding Anniversary Congratulations:

To **Pat and Alan Wilkinson** on the occasion of their 58th Wedding Anniversary on 17th August.

To **Mike and Jane Tomlin** on the occasion of their 61st Wedding Anniversary on 3rd September.

And news from a good friend of ours:

Recently I phoned **Professor Paul Harvey** to see how he was keeping and also to ask whether he felt able to conduct worship for us. Paul reminded me that, like Mike Tomlin, he is now 90 years old and feels that he's no longer able to take services. He was pleased to have been contacted and assured me that he was doing well despite having had a fall at home. He keeps in touch with his colleagues, having lunch with one of them each week.

According to my records, Paul first conducted worship for us in June 2004 and has visited us at least once a year until his last service on February 16th 2020. Paul was occasionally accompanied by his wife Yvonne, who came to the rescue of the Durham Fellowship one Saturday, when we were locked out of our usual venue at Bede College in Durham. We were invited to their home to hold our meeting and she provided refreshments afterwards. Yvonne was a delightful lady. Paul once told me that she was always concerned that he might talk for too long! We'll miss Paul but, knowing that he uses taxis to get around, I assured him that he would always be welcome at Stockton should he wish to join us for worship. He said he just might take us up on it.

Margaret Whitham

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21st:-

Material for the Christmas/Winter Calendar to be in the hands of the Editor, David Warhurst, please. My email address is:

hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk

PROFESSOR P D A HARVEY

5th August 2021

Dear Mike,

It is extraordinarily kind of the Stockton congregation to send this book token – always welcome, even if much less generous than this. And really, I feel it is I who should be sending it to you, as it has always been such a pleasure coming to Stockton and meeting so many friends there. Please pass my grateful thanks to all concerned.

The card you sent is even more appropriate than you thought, as a significant part of my work has been on the history of maps: my first book (1959) was on the printed maps of Warwickshire, 1576-1900, and what will surely be my last (2012) is on medieval maps of the Holy Land (there are fewer of them than one might suppose!).

All best wishes, and again very many thanks,

Paul



Paul conducting our service on 24th November 2019

Knit 'n' Natter Group

The Knit 'n' Natter group was started by Margaret and Peter Whitham, and apart from the Covid-19 lockdown has continued to meet fortnightly in the church on Tuesday mornings, from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

It has attracted people who like to knit, crochet or sew. It started back up again on 8th June 2021, and has now met several times since. We usually have about eight people attending. Five of these are not church-goers, but come regularly for the company. People bring along their knitting, lunch and share in a cup of tea and chat.

Many of these knitting members have produced articles for the NHS, such as red hats for ill babies, baby blankets, premature babies cardigans and trauma teddies. Red and white poppies were also knitted and crocheted for display in Yarm High Street on Remembrance Day.

If you know of anyone, or do any crafts yourself, please come along, you will be made most welcome.

Margarets Whitham and Robinson



Article written by Rev Margaret Kirk for the Whitby Gazette of 24th June and still highly relevant today:

As someone who lived for many years in another seaside town much closer to mainland Europe than Whitby, I have always been interested in traffic back and forth across the sea. I would sit on the cliffs of Dover overlooking the Eastern Docks watching as the `roll on roll off` ferries took holiday visitors back and forth from Dover to Calais, some setting out for a lengthy stay, others day tripping. But I never saw inflatable boats laden with desperate men, women and children because at that time seeking refuge was less visible. Now the plight of refugees is there for us all to witness and it has become the subject of strongly polarised views

14th to 21st June was Refugee Week when we were asked to be generous in our response to this kind of desperation – generous in spirit, generous in giving. By and large we are a generous people. We respond to big catastrophes and we respond to individual stories of persecution and distress. Often we hear of local people who do their utmost to prevent the deportation of a refugee who has become a valued and respected person in their adopted community.

But too often we close our hearts and minds when we see the vast numbers of people who make that channel crossing, fearing we are being overwhelmed and exploited, forgetting the desperation and human need that propels families into such extreme action.

The 5th anniversary of the death of the MP Jo Cox on 16th June reminds us of someone who had worked for Oxfam before becoming an MP and who was deeply aware of human desperation in countries torn by conflict. Her compassion for such people and her speeches in Parliament supporting refugee families escaping brutality was the hallmark of her political mission and, we should never forget, the cause of her death. Her words about the brutality of the Syrian conflict always rang with sincerity and conviction as on the occasion when she said "*I know that I would risk life and limb to get my two precious babies out of that hellhole.*" She understood that nobody risks life and limb with young children unless their situation is one of extreme desperation.

Back in Dover in 2021, there are people who gather to demonstrate their opposition to the influx of asylum seekers crossing the channel, risking life and limb, seeking refuge in our country whilst others in churches and charities try to act in accordance with a Christian culture that bids us remember to protect the stranger: "*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.*" Matthew 25.35. That message reverberates throughout both Old and New Testaments and has become part of a moral code that the least religious of us recognise to be the only human response to suffering.

The History of The Worship Committee

Thinking about whether or not to continue to take the collection on a Sunday spurred me on to do something I've always intended to do, that is write about the history of the Worship group. So here goes:

Part 1 I think I'm correct in saying that in the early 1960s the denomination was talking about having sub-committees such as worship, visiting, building and social committees to take the pressure off the main committee or council. I think the idea came from the UUA in America. Peter Whitham was minister at Stockton at the time and introduced the idea to the congregation and so the Worship Committee was born, along with others such as The Women's Friendly Hour, Visiting Group, Building Group etc.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday October 25th at 8pm (rather late). The committee comprised of Mr and Mrs McArthur, Mr Jack Sharpe (choir master), Mr John Allison (organist) - who wasn't present at the first meeting - myself, Mr Alan Sudron (secretary) and Mr Whitham (Minister). Our terms of reference at the time stated "The committee shall be responsible for services and the musical content thereof. It requires 6 months notice of special services and details of the content, at least one month prior to the service being held". We had a lot of organisations at the time who all wanted their own service during the year, so this was to avoid clashes. Mr Whitham felt that the Worship Committee should set the date for The Church Anniversary.

The Chairman, Mr McArthur pointed out that the committee shouldn't dictate what music should be played or sung. We were there to support. A suggestion had been put to the organist that the organ should be played ten minutes before the service began and Rev Whitham informed us that Mr Allison didn't think it was worthwhile because the congregation talked and didn't listen. Heard it before somewhere! We discussed people entering during the introit and prayers and how and when to take the collection. It was suggested that standing at the Altar rail for it to be received was awkward so could it be left in the porch or should it only be taken at special services? This was left for further discussion. The last topic at the first meeting to come under discussion was church notices which was left over to the next meeting as no agreement could be reached.

During this period cooperation between the different groups in the congregation was not at its best which resulted in four Christmas services going to take place in one week. After much argument and

discussion the problem was solved and discussions still took place on taking of the collection, sides peoples' duties, church notices and the playing of the organ before services.

In 1967 Rev Whitham resigned and went to Durham University. Rev McCormick joined us and Mr Sudron moved to the South so Miss McArthur (me) was appointed as secretary. Sadly the Sunday School at this time was a separate entity and thought the Worship Committee was interfering especially at Christmas so we assured them that we were only there to help. The problem of Christmas services was solved by inviting a representative from each department to attend our next meeting to discuss their plans for Christmas. Finally a family service was decided upon, to be held on Christmas Eve at 4pm, involving Sunday school, youth club and the church choir. The Rev McCormick, along with David Rudge, Denis Cheeseman and Margaret McArthur were responsible for the organising of the service and we chose the theme of *Light*. Prior to this service, on December 10th 1967, we held our first Human Rights service, published by the GA.



Margaret at the organ

The theme of *Light* for Christmas Eve was based on the idea that with the birth of Jesus the world came out of darkness into light, light in which we are still struggling. For the effect of dim light we used candles. Unfortunately this seemed to have posed problems of insufficient light in which to sing carols and that of candle grease. We apologised for these and hoped that our mistakes in this service would help us when producing further services of this nature.

So the Worship committee was born. I thought it important to know about the opening period and those that follow will not be in such detail.

Yours in Fellowship

Margaret Whitham

Round Up of Services and Events

April 4th (Easter Sunday): Rev Victor Ball explored the subject of **Resurrection or Reincarnation**. The concept of reincarnation is that the non-physical part of us begins a new life in a different form.

April 11th: A welcome visit (on Zoom) from Helen Mason, Director of the Unitarian College. Helen reminded us that a Unitarian's belief system morphs and changes over time. The beautiful core of our faith is **The Learning We Do Together**.

April 18th: Rev Paul Walker's theme was **Easter without the Magic**. Paul explored the fact that the gospel stories were written many years after the events they relate, concentrating on the person of Jesus rather than what he actually said. The further away we get from the event the more miraculous it becomes.

April 25th: On this occasion Rev Stephanie Bisby, who now ministers to our York congregation, led our worship and we were delighted that her husband, Steven, was also able to join us. Stephanie didn't give us a title for her service but it could have been something like *Step into the woods to stay our restless souls*.

In fact the whole service seemed to be designed to help us to slow down and take break from the hectic round of our daily lives. Stephanie has a knack of choosing readings, prayers and poems with lovely meaningful words appropriate to the theme - prayers by Kathleen McTigue (*Sabbath Home*) and Linda Hart (*Ministry*); a poem by Wendell Berry (*I Go Among Trees*); and a reading by Wayne Muller (*Remember the Sabbath*). This was complemented by some lovely hymns - *To Worship Rightly* (HFL 191), *Come and Find the Quiet Centre* (SYF 21), *Spirit of Earth, Root, Stone and Tree* (SYF 147) and *Where our Heart is in a Holy Place* (SYF 208).

May 2nd: Rev Paul Walker took **Compassion** as the subject for this service. We were shown a video clip which used a series of stunning images of people acting in compassion for the good of others. This was followed by a piece by the Dalai Lama. This made the profound point that if we only extend compassion to those who are close to us it is only partial or biased. He said:

Genuine compassion is based on the recognition that others have the right to happiness just like yourself, and therefore even your enemy is a human being with the same wish for happiness as you, and the same right to happiness as you.

In a few moments of quiet reflection Paul invited us to think about people we know are in need of compassion now. India's desperate

struggle to contain the virus came to mind immediately. The terrible conditions in Syria, Brazil, the Ukraine and the Yemen were mentioned. The persecution of the Rohingya people in Myanmar and, closer to home, the enforced confinement of elderly people in care homes for over a year during the pandemic were also mentioned.

Paul said that the word *compassion* means *to suffer with*. It's not a soft option - it's actually hard to stand up for it. Paul had the feeling that with the advent of Trump in the US, Brexit and the pandemic, people were moving away from compassion towards more exclusivity. We need to find ways to help people to become more compassionate - we need it and the world needs it from us.

Paul closed the service on an optimistic note with a delightful Japanese video *Joy and Heron* in which a little dog helps a heron to feed its chicks with worms and the heron comes back with fish in return.

May 9th (Ascension Day) - Rev Victor Ball explored concepts of ***Transformation or Transmutation?***

May 16th: Rev Celia Midgley's theme was ***Reclaiming the Spirit of Whitsuntide***. Celia reminded us of the joyful celebrations that used to be held at Whitsuntide before Whit dropped out of fashion with the modern fixed bank Holidays. Celia loved Whitsun as a child. It lifted our spirits making us ready and able to go forth. Catching the spirit of Whitsuntide would help us, especially, this year when we are, at last, beginning to reconnect and share, and do things for the common good.

May 23rd: Andrew Parkinson's theme was ***Be Inspired***. Andrew reminded us of words spoken by great leaders like Martin Luther King and Winston Churchill, which inspired millions of people. He challenged us, as the world opens up after the pandemic, to make a connection to someone who has been neglected - perhaps a phone call or a visit.

May 30th: This service taken by Chris Carr from Hull Unitarians but I was not able to join and have no details to report.

June 6th: Up to this point services had continued to take place on Zoom. This marked our return to services in the building so Rev Victor Ball's theme was ***Welcome Back!*** We celebrated singing again, albeit behind masks, and shared thoughts about being together, and appreciating things we never noticed before.

June 13th: It was lovely to welcome Dr Barry Thomas back again to Stockton. His service was about ***Seeking to grow in***

understanding and awareness. Transcendence appears in many fields such as philosophy, physics and mathematics. We are focusing on religion. We use words and music a lot in our services but Barry wanted to share thoughts on how artists can express transcendence to complement the other elements that we use. He illustrated this with artwork, including pieces by Raphael and Kandinsky.

June 20th: This was a "Bring and Share" service on the theme of **Summer**.

June 27th: This was our annual charity service, conducted by Jean Watson. We were delighted to welcome three representatives from our chosen charity for the year - **Bloodrun Emergency Voluntary Service**. After presentation of the cheque (£300) from our fund-raising, we were given an excellent talk by Jim Finnegan and his colleagues Anita and Steve. They told us about the vital services they provide, transporting blood, equipment and, sometimes, even patients for the NHS. Their dedication and commitment was truly inspiring and it was good to be able to make our modest contribution to their work.

July 4th: This was, of course, US Independence Day and for the service on this day Rev Paul Walker's subject was **The USA, An Ambiguous Beacon**. We listened to the preamble to the Declaration of Independence (which took much of its inspiration from the English Civil War and people like John Milton and, especially, John Lock), and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

The pilgrims, dissenters and free thinkers that crossed to America in search of freedom contrasted with the boats heavily laden with a living cargo, chained and destined for a life of slavery. There lay the ambiguity of the USA - on the one hand a beacon of freedom, generosity and hope; and on the other hand a purveyor of enslavement, greed and war.

The hymns and musical accompaniment by Margaret Whitham (including Gershwin's *Summer Time*) were perfectly appropriate to the theme.

July 11th: Jean Watson conducted our **Membership Service**, delayed for a year by the pandemic. We stood to remember the lives of Peter Whitham, Edna Anderson, Marion Kelly, David Muncaster and Barry Dent. Then we were able, at long last, formally to welcome Christine and Paul Walker into membership. It was moving, and not a little humbling, to hear them speak so warmly of how welcome they feel when, in truth, they have both already contributed so much to our community.

July 18th: This should have been the day for a trip to Flowergate Old Chapel, Whitby, for what was expected to be the final service. For Covid reasons this had to be switched to online by Zoom at the last minute. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise due to very hot weather, holiday crowds in Whitby and severe traffic jams caused by accidents on the road to Whitby. Instead it was 'hats off' to the three Margarets - Kirk, Whitham and Robinson - who put together certainly the best online service that we have done so far. In support of Margaret K's theme - **Community and Connection - Past, Present and Future** - Margarets W and R created wonderful effects with video, photographs and music which really made us feel as though we were actually present in the lovely old Chapel.

Margaret K celebrated the illustrious past of the Chapel, dating back to the late 1600s, notably the courage of those who met there risking persecution. Then along came the great character of the minister Francis Haydn Williams who created havoc in the town - "*a brave defender of public rights and a true defender of the poor*". There is so much to be proud of. Sadly, strenuous efforts to secure the future of the Chapel have not succeeded. It's not quite the end of the road but Margaret felt that we have done the best that we could.

Whatever the outcome the past will stand proud and, in the words of the US theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr:

"Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in our lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope. Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith. Nothing we do, however virtuous, can be accomplished alone; therefore we must be saved by love. No virtuous act is quite as virtuous from the standpoint of our friend or foe as it is from our standpoint. Therefore we must be saved by the final form of love which is forgiveness."

July 25th: The annual **Flower Service** was the work of Margaret Robinson who selected poetry, prayers and readings. By late July we were able to bring some different flowers for the shared vase - huge purple Buddleia, tall stately crimson crocosmia Lucifer, a white highly perfumed phlox and a partly opened blue hydrangea were amongst the contributions. So many of the readings confirmed exactly what flowers mean to individuals. A prayer by Roger Courtney reminded us that flowers can teach us important life lessons: that we, and all human beings, need the right conditions, care and love, to flourish.

There are so many different flowers each needing to grow, flower and expand and add to the incredible beauty of this world.

August 1st: We were very pleased to be able to welcome **Ann Mills** and her husband **Roger**. Ann is the President of the General Assembly this year and brought greetings from her own church in Bury. Her theme was **'Loss or Gain?'** and she reminded us of many of the experiences of the pandemic since March 2020: the loss of freedom and the liberty we take for granted; the gain of so much experience of people rising to the needs of others. One of the readings *'Colours of the rainbow'* was a real lift to the spirits. This was from Cliff Reed's new book *Beyond Darkness* .

Ann spoke about the effect that the pandemic has on our Communities and we were asked to consider just how we had changed as individuals as a result of the lock downs and restrictions on what we regarded as our normal ways of living. How have **we** changed since those long ago days of March 2020. Are we still the same people?

The last hymn reminded us that mercifully there are still places we can call our own.

August 8th: Rev. Michael Unwin's service was thoughtful and inspiring, using Evelyn Underhill's poem *'I come in the little things; saith the Lord'*, and a sermon preached in 1983 by Jacob Trapp, *'Return to the Springs'*.

It was said of Evelyn Underhill that she had saved the spiritual life of the Church of England in the 1920's when it was in danger of losing its way. *"Her own insights into the spiritual life were unmatched, the way to go, the things to do and she touches on so many of the issues and the yearnings of the spirit as a way to God"* explained Michael.

Jacob Trapp's sermon made reference to Jesus (*consider the lilies of the field*), St. Paul, (*faith hope and love but the greatest of these is love*) St Francis (*brother sun, sister moon, fire earth and water*); all invoking the springs of love and the importance of caring for all the little things which we so often fail to notice, in the widest possible way. Our souls need us to do this. Love is the soul's looking. Are we able to care and develop the love which was shown to so many in the pandemic and return to the springs?

August 15th: This date is the Catholic Feast of the Assumption of Mary for which Rev Paul Walker gave the subtitle ***What have we done to women over the centuries?*** He said that evangelical Christians bridle at 'Mary idolatry' but she is important to many

people even though there is little evidence to substantiate it. Paul said that the Bible is essentially patriarchal. Mary's role is entirely passive. In such a society women are dominated by men. We may think this has gone away but it hasn't.

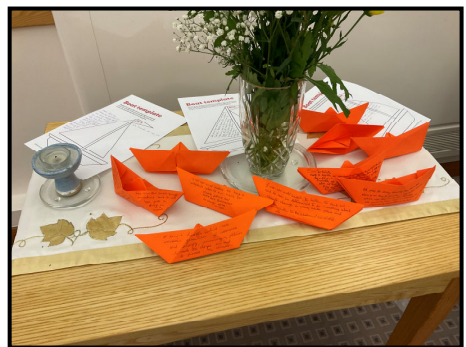
August 22nd: Rev Victor Ball was contemplating *The meaning of life* in this service. This had been prompted by family history research that Victor has been doing during the lockdowns. This led him to some fascinating discoveries. His mother was born in the US then adopted by an English couple working there. They brought her to the UK. Subsequently she married and Victor was born in Tunbridge Wells then brought up in Northampton. Victor found out that his mother had traced and met her birth mother in the US. Then he discovered lots of relatives living, unbeknown to him, close to where he was brought up in Northampton.

These strange, but meaningful, coincidences got Victor thinking. Where are we from? Where are we going? What does it all mean? What is good? What is beauty? What is truth? These are all difficult questions which science cannot answer. Victor said that, maybe, the answer is not to try to put it into words, but to go beyond words to a deeper awareness.

August 29th: This was a "Bring and Share" service on the theme of *Friendship*.

Finally, on September 5th: with the approach of COP26 in Glasgow, Margaret Robinson gave us a timely and thought provoking service on *Climate Justice*. We were given origami boats and were invited to write a prayer on our boat on the theme of Climate Justice.

We discussed the tricky and complex issues involved in getting many diverse countries to act together; and the possibility that the climate could already have passed the 'tipping point'.



The paper boats with messages

My thanks to Jane Tomlin for providing reports of the services on 25th July and 1st and 8th of August.

David Warhurst

Forthcoming Services

(at 6pm, unless otherwise stated)

September 12th: Rev Margaret Kirk **Flowers:** Rev Margaret Kirk

September 19th: Arek Malecki **Flowers:** Mrs Powley

September 26th: Rev Victor Ball **Flowers:** Mrs Squires

October 3rd: Rev Jeffrey Bowes **Flowers:** Rev Paul Walker

October 10th: Rev Sue Wolley **Flowers:** Mrs Smith
*** at 11.00am *** Vice-President of the General Assembly

October 17th: To be announced **Flowers:** Mrs Watson

October 24th: Rev Victor Ball **Flowers:** Jane Tomlin

October 31st: Arek Malecki **Flowers:** Flower Fund

November 7th: Rev Michael Unwin **Flowers:** Hazel & David Warhurst

November 14th: Worship Group Remembrance **Flowers:** Rev Margaret Kirk

November 21st: Rev Victor Ball **Flowers:** Mrs Watson

November 28th: Arek Malecki **Flowers:** Flower Fund

December 5th: Human Rights **Flowers:** Mrs Wilkinson

December 12th: Tree Dressing **Flowers:** Mrs Smith
*** at 3.00pm ***

December 19th: Carol Service **Flowers:)**
) Christmas Tree

December 24th: Christmas Eve **Flowers:)**
Miscellany

Please Note:

All services will be held in the church building unless new Covid-19 restrictions come in to force. Some services will also be transmitted simultaneously by Zoom in which case joining instructions will be sent by email by the church Secretary.

Dates for your Diary

Knit 'n' Natter:

Tuesdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm on the following dates:

14th and 28th September
12th and 26th October
9th and 23rd November
7th December

Wednesday September 15th at 10.30am - Worship Group meeting by Zoom.

Saturday October 9th from 10.30am to 4.00pm - Northern Unitarian Association (NUA) Annual Meeting Event at Stockton Unitarian Church.

Friday 22nd to Sunday 24th October - Unitarian Women's Group (UWG) Conference at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, theme "*Killing Eve*". For further information contact:

margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

Wednesday November 10th at 11.00am - Church Council meeting at church.

Friday 7th to Sunday 9th January 2022 - First Winter Walking Weekend at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, for families with younger children.

Friday 14th to Sunday 16th January 2022 - Second Winter Walking Weekend at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, for families.

Uni-sing!

3.00pm on Zoom on the following days:

Saturdays:
2nd October
6th November
4th December
18th December

Mondays:
18th October
15th November

Church Directory

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To promote a free
and inquiring
religion through
the worship of
God and the
celebration of life;
the service of
humanity and
respect for all
creation; and the
upholding of the
liberal Christian
tradition.

General Assembly of Unitarian and Free
Christian Churches Object (2001)

the unitarians



For further information please contact: -

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Unitarians in and around Stockton-on-Tees

