



STOCKTON UNITARIANS



*Snowdrops breaking through the snow on the moors behind
Ingleby Arncliffe on a cold day in February - see page 15*

CALENDAR FOR SPRING 2021

Diana's Sock Poems

Diana Bebbly contributed two poems during our Christmas Eve service. She said:

I wrote this poem to amuse my parents after my mum left a pair of socks at our flat after staying with us last year. I sent the two socks back separately with half the poem each.

Poem 1 with first sock:

I am a lonely little sock,
Found behind a chair.
My solitude don't seek to mock,
I'd rather be a pair.

Perhaps the other's in the post,
A-travelling on its way.
And so it isn't really lost,
We'll meet again some day.



Poem 2 with second sock:

I am another lonely sock.
I wonder, Where's my friend?
We prefer in pairs to flock,
This partnership to mend.

Please put us back together soon,
We've missed each other so.
I'd hate to be a sock alone,
I would be filled with woe.



My mum wrote a poem back as well.

From the Editor's Desk . . .

As the Calendar goes to press the long-awaited easing of the pandemic lockdown restrictions is beginning, just over a year since we were all plunged into our first experience of these drastic measures.



It has certainly been a year that few of us could have anticipated. Too many people have had to endure desperately sad bereavements, often made worse by isolation from the comfort and support of family and friends that would be freely given in 'normal' times. We have all had to learn to cope with long periods of 'lockdown' and none of our usual contact with family and friends.

Through all the gloom it has, nevertheless, been heart-warming to hear so many stories of the kindness and generosity of ordinary people stepping up to help those in need. I think we have all felt huge gratitude - and not a little pride - at the truly outstanding performance of everyone working within our wonderful National Health Service. We applaud those who developed such effective vaccines so quickly and the fantastically efficient NHS vaccination programme.

In our own Unitarian community, after a hesitant start, we have become adept at services and meetings on Zoom, with some surprising benefits. It has been so lovely to have people from afar joining our services and many of us have taken advantage of the opportunity to 'visit' other Unitarian services and events. I hope we can build on these new-found skills when we are allowed to meet together again.

Later in this Calendar you will find several invitations to join events elsewhere, some on Zoom, and one - a visit to Flowergate Old Chapel Whitby - **in person!** Yes, you read it right - **in person**, Covid permitting of course - how exciting is that?!

David Warhurst

SUNDAY JUNE 20th 2021:-

Material for the Summer 2021 Calendar to be in the hands of the Editor, David Warhurst, please. My email address is:

hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk

News of Members and Friends

Sad News:

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Richard McLaren**, aged 53, son of **Christine Canning**, formerly **McLaren**, and **Ray McLaren**. Ray was a well known hairdresser in Stockton. Richard worked for his Dad and then had a shop on his own for sometime. He had a genetic heart condition which worsened over Christmas. After spending five weeks in hospital, where they fought tremendously to save him, he sadly passed away on 5th February. Richard leaves two sons.

Christine's husband **Roy** conducted the funeral service, the family paid their tributes in memories and Christine read a poem.

We send our sincere condolences to Christine and her family.

Concerns and Best Wishes

It's lovely to see **Margaret Kirk** looking so well after her recent hip operation. We send our love and best wishes for her continued recovery.

It's good to hear that **Caroline** and **Richard Whitham** are recovering following a nasty dose of the Covid-19 virus, and send them our best wishes.

Victor Ball is in our thoughts following a gall bladder operation as we go to press. Victor reports that the op went well and he is now back home. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Special Birthday Congratulations to:

Pat and **Alan Wilkinson** who both celebrated their 80th birthdays this year - Pat on 7th February and Alan on 9th April; and warm Birthday Greetings to **Paul Bell** who will reach the wonderful age of **96** on 21st April.

Birthday Congratulations to:

Josie Jobson (thirteen years old on 3rd April), **Arthur Pyr Robinson** (two years old on 9th April), **Carys Thompson** (twelve years old on 11th April), **June Wood** (18th April), **Hazel Warhurst** (22nd May), **Pamela Kelly** (7th June), **Jaynie Dixon-Oliver** (eleven years old on 18th June) and **Victor Ball** (23rd June).

Invitation Number One:

General Assembly Anniversary Service

'Recovery and Renewal: Inclusive worship for our beloved Unitarian community' is open to all at 6pm on **Friday 23rd April** led by Rev Kate Whyman, Shana Begum, Rev Peter Fairbrother, Rev Kate Brady McKenna, Simon Hall and Rev Bob Janis-Dillon.

We invite you all - younger, older and anywhere in-between - to join us on a journey of the heart through story, stillness and song. This is a chance to gather together after an extraordinary year to reflect on all we have lost, to celebrate what we've discovered, and to search for hope and inspiration for the way ahead.

There will be a time in the service for honouring those who have died over the past year. If you would like someone who has died over the last year to be honoured in this worship, please forward their names to bjanisdillon@unitarian.org.uk by the 19th of April for inclusion in the service.

Feel free to bring along a chalice and candle if you have it, as well as pen and paper and drawing materials for the story for all ages – but none of this is necessary; just bring yourself.

Zoom link for the Anniversary Service:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82214265024?
pwd=ZVcvcXhRYXNNazhYYm5nMjYxa291dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82214265024?pwd=ZVcvcXhRYXNNazhYYm5nMjYxa291dz09)

Meeting id: 822 1426 5024

Password: unitarian

Stockton Unitarians' Charity for 2021-2022

The Church Council recommends that the charity be **Stockton Butterwick Hospice**. This will be discussed at the Church AGM on 11th July.

If you have any other suggestions or ways of raising money for the charity, such as coffee morning, sponsored walk, raffle, please let the Church Secretary know.

Margaret Robinson

Invitation Number Two: Social Evening 24 April at 8pm

Missing the chance to catch up with old and new friends around the GA meetings?

Unitarian College invites you to join a Zoom call to meet others for a chat and relax. We can also answer any questions you may have about the work of the College too.

Feel free to come and go as you please between 8pm and 10pm. Bring a drink of choice.... Zoom links will be released nearer the time.

The Social Evening follows the **General Assembly Business Meeting** to be held by Zoom on the same day, from 11:00am to 5:00pm, when Motions will be discussed. Attendance at this event is limited to those who registered by April 3rd.

Hazel Warhurst is the delegate for Stockton Unitarians and Ben MacLeod of Newcastle Unitarians is the delegate for the Northern Unitarian Association.

New Initiative – Engagement Group

On **Wednesday 28th April 2021** we are to meet at **10:30am to 11.30am on Zoom**. 'Doors' will open at 10.15am for informal chat. Also, people can stay after 11.30am if they wish to continue conversations. Zoom details will be sent via email.

Margaret Robinson will be leading this first session. You are asked to bring readings, poems, stories, photographs, objects, pictures, or music, to share with the group on the topic of "**Freedom**". We will start with a Chalice lighting, a reading and prayer and end with a short reading.

It is hoped that this will be a monthly event and that other people will lead future sessions. Suggestions for the name of this group such as *Time Together; Heart and Soul; Joys and Concerns*, are invited. Also, your views are requested on whether it should remain on Zoom or be in the church or in someone's home later in the year; how often you wish them to occur and at what time of day; and if they should continue. All comments and suggestions are welcome.

Margaret Robinson

Covid-19 Pandemic - Surviving

Many people have felt lonely and isolated during this pandemic, but I have found so much to keep me occupied. Trying to fit everything in has been a challenge. I seem to be on Zoom at least once on most days. I have been singing hymns on Saturdays with **Uni-sing!**, singing with two online choirs **The Self-Isolating Choir** - Mozart's *Requiem* - and at present, with the **For-get-me-not Choir**, we're learning Handels' *Messiah* and singing "With joy, my soul sings".

I also dip into **Teesside Age UK Sing, sing, sing** and participate in several online quizzes - Newcastle Unitarians, Altrincham Unitarians, Darlington Hippodrome and Teesside Age UK. That's on top of Sunday services, Church Council and Worship Group meetings and some courses I have also taken part in - "*Leading Change in the Congregation*"; "*Safeguarding for Trustees*" and "*Designated Person Safeguarding training*". Then there is watching television and looking at social media - *Twitter*, *Facebook* and *Instagram* - and trying to keep up with my many emails - personal, Stockton Church, Amnesty Teesside, UMS, Whitby, UWG and on-line choirs.

I am so lucky to be living beside the river at Yarm as, no matter what the weather is like, there is always something to look at - different cloud formations, changes in the river itself, people and dogs, wild swimmers, boats of all shapes and sizes, ducks, gulls, swans and

other birds and students rowing or paddling boats of various description. Also, I have a supermarket five minutes away and many lovely walks close by. My 13-year-old grandson stays with me most weekends (as he and his Mum and Dad are in my bubble). I have had both my vaccinations and even a haircut, so feel so blessed.

It doesn't seem that long ago I was conducting Arthur Tyr Robinson's naming ceremony and now he has just had his second birthday, with a very small party of five. Many people, both young and old, have missed out on birthday and other celebrations during the pandemic. Let's hope we can all celebrate in July or August.



Arthur

Margaret Robinson

Invitation Number Three: To a Special Spring Service:

On behalf of the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry (LCM), which comprises the Unitarian churches in Chorley, Padiham, and Rawtenstall, I am delighted to invite you and the members of your congregation to a special **Spring Jamboree Service**, to be held, by Zoom, on **Saturday, May 1st, 2021, at 7 p.m.**

We will be inviting several congregations to join us, especially those in North Lancashire, and we sincerely hope that you will all be able to join us. The service will be conducted by the LCM's Lead Minister, Rev Shannon Ledbetter, and will be light-hearted in its approach, with favourite hymns, humorous readings, and special music. We want to provide a little light relief from the seriousness of lockdown as, hopefully, we begin to emerge from all the restrictions that have beset us, into the joys of Spring. All are welcome to join us, so why not come along?

I shall be present in my capacity as the LCM's Secretary, but also as The General Assembly President. I feel that it is important for all of us, as the first anniversary of lockdown passes, to come together as one community of friends and fellow-Unitarians.

I send you my warmest wishes, and will look forward to "seeing" you all, next month.

Best wishes,

Anne Mills.

To join the Zoom Meeting click on the following link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83300464206?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83300464206?pwd=R2JHWTFLczJoQUtOVERDUWxMMkI4dz09)

[pwd=R2JHWTFLczJoQUtOVERDUWxMMkI4dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83300464206?pwd=R2JHWTFLczJoQUtOVERDUWxMMkI4dz09)

Or use the Meeting ID: 833 0046 4206, Passcode: 313995

The service was originally planned to take place on Saturday 17th April but the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry Committee decided to postpone it to May 1st out of respect for anyone who would not wish to participate in a fun, festive service on the day of Prince Philip's funeral.

Mike's Musings

Home Thoughts from the Lockdown:

How have you coped with the Covid-19 pandemic virus over the last 15 months? Or does it seem as if it has lasted for longer than that? It seems to have gone on forever, but we know that will be the case for those folk who have lost a relative or very close friend. When the daily statistics come across our television screens each evening the first number I look at is the number of Covid-19 deaths that have been notified that day. Each day I have to remind myself that these are people, just like you and me, who have died. The numbers are mind blowing. Will it never end? And then of course we're only now having to cope with the after effects of the virus which seem to attack people in so many different ways.

Finally there's the worry and the fear of succumbing to the virus which can be just as debilitating in its own way. We at number one, up until now, have been most fortunate health wise, but... who knows?

Then there are other worries - losing contact with relatives and friends because we can't actually hug them, talk to them face to face or go shopping. Skype is OK and does allow us to talk one to one, and Zoom allows us to have meetings, but you can't talk to the person next to you at a Zoom meeting. Also, if you don't have a computer or iPad you are effectively cut off from seeing the person you are speaking to.

On the plus side we are told by Boris that from June 21st we shall be able to shop, go to concerts and the cinema, and talk to friends and relatives face to face. Things will be back to normal . . . or will things ever get back "normal"? What will "normal" look like? Shall we be able to go to a restaurant or the pictures without looking round to see if anyone is wearing a mask? If anyone coughs shall we instinctively move away from them? Will we have a fear of being too close to people or in a crowd? How long will it take us to resume our old habits, I wonder?

Mike Tomlin

Quotation:

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."

Bill Keane

Invitation Number Four:

To a Very Special Service at Flowergate Old Chapel:

Having consulted with Eileen, Arthur and Liz, the members of **Flowergate Chapel** would like to invite you to a service on **18th July at 2.00pm**. We so very much missed your annual visit last year and this summer will be a special occasion. It is likely to be the last time we meet in the chapel as we all know it.

If our plans to re-purpose the building succeed - and I`m hopeful our bid for a Towns` Fund grant will materialise - the chapel building will become a different space where we still hope to have gatherings from time to time but it will be transformed. If the bid doesn`t succeed, it`s unlikely we can continue to meet there because of our concerns about the building.

So, this service will have a valedictory tone as well as being a celebration of what it has meant to us, with gratitude to all the support we`ve been given and our vision for its future.

Please will you put the date in your diaries but with the proviso that I`ll be having a meeting with Eileen and Arthur in May to discuss any issues that might affect safety after which I hope to be able to confirm that we will be going ahead.



Our visit to Whitby in 2017

Just to add, that we`re planning another service on August 15th for members of Whitby Civic Society and friends in Whitby which will be very similar in tone and content.

All good wishes

Margaret

Exciting Times at Flowergate Old Chapel?

On March 19th the ***Darlington and Stockton Times*** carried a piece about the government's Town Fund. The Budget on March 3rd included the announcement of an award of £17.1m to boost economic growth in Whitby. The report in the paper included the following paragraph in a list of possible projects under consideration:

Innovation Hub: *a digital space for entrepreneurs and learning opportunities within Flowergate Chapel, the origins of which date back to the 13th Century.*

Knowing how hard Rev Margaret Kirk has been working on this project the Editor asked her to bring us up to date. This is what she wrote:

"Thank you for sending me the piece from the D&S paper.

I think what you have there is a breakdown of the main projects, which includes ours, and was prepared by Scarborough Borough Council (SBC) some time ago in quite a glossy Towns Investment Fund Brochure. This was some time in October, I think and well before the news earlier this month, that the government had agreed £17.1 million of the £25 m for Whitby.

Since then we have needed to put our skates on as SBC asked for detailed project brief, risk assessment and development planning documents by yesterday from all the projects. This was a big ask in a very tight time frame and we decided to ask the *Friends of Flowergate* for funding to employ a professional consultation company, who deal with charities, to do the bulk of the work. It was the best decision we made. They have been terrific, working closely with Neil Swannick, who is directing the project, liaising with a variety of people, using research to strengthen the economic case.

The project brief submitted yesterday reads very well and I think we have a strong chance of getting through this first stage to stage two at which point there is development funding available leading to the first business plan submission, followed by a second one, after which it goes to the Treasury for full approval



around October.

The main issue we have to address is finding a further £360, 000 for revenue funding. It will take five years to break even and the Towns Fund only provide capital funding.

So, "edging forward" is about right and we'll be very exercised over the next month looking for other funders knowing that it won't pass the next hurdles unless match funding is in place and looks sustainable. I am optimistic despite the challenges ahead".

Margaret Kirk

It's been so lovely to have Eileen and Arthur Brewster from Flowergate joining our Sunday services on Zoom. Eileen and Arthur, together with Eileen's sister Liz and her late husband Pete Hill, have worked so hard for many years to keep services going at Whitby - we take our hats off to them. Flowergate Old Chapel holds such a precious place in all our hearts.

David Warhurst

The Editor's Lament?

Deadline

by Les Parsons

Writing to a deadline,
Time is flying by,
Words elude my thinking,
As I sit and sigh.

Got to make a showing,
Got to fill that space,
Got to hit the deadline,
Got no time of grace.

As I sit and ponder,
Seeking what to say,
Time is past me flying,
Though I beg it stay.

Writing to a deadline,
Haven't got the time
To sit and make it clever,
God! Is that the time?

Seconds past me fleeting,
Fast the minutes run,
Writing to a deadline,
Thank the Lord it's done!

Editor's Note:

The poem on the left was sent to me by Jean Watson from a collection entitled **House Calls and Other Poems**.

Les Parsons was a former Poet Laureate of Radio Cleveland.

We have been unable to locate a contact to gain permission to use it and apologise unreservedly if any copyright infringement has occurred.

Zooming into 2021 - a Round-up of Recent Services

The continuation of Coronavirus restrictions meant that all our services during this period took place online by Zoom. This can never give us the warmth and fellowship of meeting together face to face and how we have missed singing together, which we love to do at Stockton. A particular sadness for all of us is that some much loved regular attenders at services in the church have been unable to join us on Zoom for technical reasons. We miss them very much and look forward to the day, hopefully before long now, when we can meet together again.

However, it's by no means all on the negative side. Once we got to grips with Zoom - and a special shout out here to Margaret Robinson who has taken on the role of Zoom Master for us - we discovered some unexpected benefits. Zoom allowed people to join our services from afar and it has been lovely to welcome them. In turn we have been able to join the Zoom services of other congregations. Zoom has allowed service leaders to introduce all kinds of special effects, such as pictures, video clips, music and the like, for us to enjoy on our screens at home.

Also on the 'plus' side, it has to be said, is the ability to 'meet' together for services without having to make journeys before and afterwards - something that was particularly appreciated during the cold winter months, especially when we had so much snow and ice on the ground.

Another benefit of Zoom has been the facility to invite people from almost any location, too far away to visit us in normal times, to take services as if they were beside us in the room; all courtesy of the seemingly magical powers of the internet! During this period Rev John Midgley and Helen Mason led services, supplementing our regular team of service leaders - Revs Margaret Kirk, Victor Ball, Paul Walker and Margaret Robinson and members of the Worship Group.

The services have, I believe, maintained a very high standard, covering a variety of subjects but always thoughtful, interesting, informative and often challenging and very moving in content. Here are some of the highlights:

January 3rd: A ***Bring and Share*** service looking forward to better times in 2021.

January 10th: Rev Paul Walker's theme was ***Being on the right side of history***. Paul gave us a number of examples of times when

courageous men and women, often reviled and persecuted, took stands against issues of the time, such as slavery, women's rights, racism, Nazism and, more recently, climate change. They were on the right side of history. All good changes come about by people who are prepared to stand with the minority. One of Paul's readings was a hard-hitting poem by David Kossoff - *Dirty World*.

January 17th: Rev Victor Ball spoke of ***The Time of Re-awakening***, thinking about the things we have learned about different ways of doing things as we emerge from these extraordinary times. Perhaps we are seeing a deeper wisdom.

January 24th: Rev Margaret Kirk's theme was ***Levelling***. The phrase *levelling up* is much tossed around these days in the context of areas in the north which have fallen behind the rest of the country. It's a good slogan and few would object to the idea. The Levellers campaigned for equal rights and freedom of speech until, by 1650, the movement was crushed. It seemed like the ideals had been stamped out but they kept re-appearing and our religious tradition built on them, forged out of a passion to bring equal rights and freedom to all.

Then came the United States *Declaration of Independence* based on the same principles. Most of us had been immersed in following the recent saga of the US Presidential election which had shown how fragile democracy can be. We may have breathed a sigh of relief about the outcome but we still have much levelling to do. In conclusion Margaret said "let us not forget these words of Robert F Kennedy":

"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events. It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."

January 31st: This was taken by the Worship Group on the theme ***Uplifting - Improving the mood; causing cheerfulness***. It was a compendium of uplifting music, readings, hymns and prayers raising our spirits after the cold, wintry month of January.

February 7th: ***Earth - A pale blue dot*** was the intriguing theme chosen by Rev Paul Walker. He showed us a video by Carl Sagan, *Pale Blue Dot*, which dramatically illustrates how the Earth, with all its

strife, turmoil and suffering, is but a tiny speck in the vastness of space. Quote: *There is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.* It was profound, and somewhat chastening, to have our earthly concerns put into proper perspective like this.

To lighten the mood Paul closed the service with *The Galaxy Song* from *Monty Python's Meaning of Life* - very amusing but, in its way, equally profound!

February 14th: Rev John Midgley was our visiting service leader on this occasion, accompanied by his wife, Rev Celia Midgley. John's theme was **Love and Truth**, very appropriate for St Valentine's Day with readings, hymns and prayers suited to the theme. These included Kahlil Gibran's *On Love* which was beautifully read by John.

We were then treated to a fascinating address about **The Religion of Donald Trump**. John traced the early influence on the young Donald Trump of his domineering father and a preacher, Rev Norman Vincent Peale, whose *Gospel of Success* was dinned into Trump. He took this to such extremes that failure was never admissible and we all saw this play out during his Presidency. Trump is the very opposite of a Unitarian. For us *Love is the doctrine of this church, and the quest for Truth is its sacrament.*

February 21st: This was an **Interfaith Service**, led by Rev Victor Ball. Readings were included from Ramakrishna, Swami Vivekananda and from the first meeting of the World Council of Faiths. It was good to have visitors join us from the Cleveland and Tees Valley Interfaith, one of whom, Hassan, gave a short talk on the subject of **Fasting as a Spiritual Practice** which was much appreciated.

February 28th: Rev Margaret Kirk's subject for this service was **Snowdrop**, celebrating snowdrops as springtime approaches, with *The Snowdrop Story*, memories of the *Greatham Snowdrop Walk* with photos and appropriate words and music, together with contributions from members of the congregation.

March 7th: Freedom was Rev Victor Ball's topic. Beginning with an extract from Dr Martin Luther King's famous *I have a dream* . . . Speech, Victor remarked on how easy it is for us to take for granted the freedoms that we enjoy today. He then traced the struggles through the centuries to gain these freedoms. Yet there are still so many places in the world where tyrannical and oppressive regimes hold sway, denying people these basic human rights. There is still much to do.

March 14th: This was well attended for **Mothering Sunday** and Margaret Robinson put together a delightful service to do justice to it.

There was a *Poem for Mother's Day* by an anonymous child, a *Prayer For All who Mother* by Victoria Weinstein and lovely readings - *Honouring the Bouquet of Our Mothers* by Judy Welles and *My Many Mothers* by Vanessa Rush Southern.

Those present were then invited speak about their mothers and someone they had mothered, with photos of mothers shown on the screen. Altogether it was a moving celebration of what motherhood means to us all.

March 21st: This was a departure from the normal routine as we had been invited to join our Glasgow Unitarian congregation on Zoom for their evening service, led by Lyanne Mitchell on the theme ***Don't Forget to Write***. Lyanne is a self-confessed "communication junkie". She extolled the power of the written word and lamented the fact that it seems to be a dying art. Emails are just not the same - and how many of them are preserved for future historians to study?

Lyanne said that a letter is a kind of historical artefact - witnessed by the fact that there are many "Letters of Note" to be found in museums up and down the country which tell us so much about the times in which they were written. She read us some examples. Finally, Lyanne said that letter writing can be viewed as a spiritual practice. If you are angry, write it out of your system! It's never too late to bring peace and healing into a relationship by writing a letter.

March 28th: This is the last service covered in this review and it was given by Rev Paul Walker, ably assisted by his son Sam. 21st March was ***Down's Syndrome Sunday***. Sam has Down's Syndrome and Paul and Sam used the service to tell us about the wonderful relationship they have with each other. After the chalice lighting by Sam we were shown a series of ancient images of Down's Syndrome. It was clear that people with Down's were fully accepted in some cultures whereas others treated them appallingly.

When Sam was born a consultant at North Tees Hospital told Paul that, in his culture, you are considered to be blessed if you have a child with Down's Syndrome. Paul clearly had found that to be profoundly true. Sam is also very close to his elder sisters, Ellen and Jess, and even when Jess got married Sam was still the most important man in her life. He attends Riverside College, volunteers in Paul's NHS office doing various jobs to help people. His favourite TV show is *Strictly Come Dancing*.

It was evident from the discussion afterwards, that this lovely service had made a profound and lasting impression on everyone present.

David Warhurst

Forthcoming Services

Sunday Services on Zoom, all at 6.00pm:

Zoom joining instructions and Orders of Service will be sent by email on the preceding Friday:

April 18th:	Rev Paul Walker
April 25th:	Rev Stephanie Bisby
May 2nd:	Rev Paul Walker
May 9th:	Rev Victor Ball
May 16th:	Rev Celia Midgley
May 23rd:	Andrew Parkinson
May 30th:	Chris Carr

Sunday Services in the Church, at 6.00pm:

❖ We hope to return to Sunday services in the Church building on Sunday 6th June ❖

June 6th:	Rev Victor Ball	Flowers: Jane Tomlin
June 13th:	To be announced	Flowers: Margaret Robinson
June 20th:	To be announced	Flowers: Flower Fund
June 27th:	Jean Watson Charity Service for <i>Bloodrun</i>	Flowers: Mrs Powley
July 4th:	To be announced	Flowers: Mrs Smith
July 11th:	Jean Watson Membership Service - renewing our commitment and welcoming new members, followed by the church Annual General Meeting	Flowers: Jane Jobson
July 18th:	No service at Stockton 2.00pm service at Flowergate Chapel, Whitby	
July 25th:	Flower Service	Flowers: Gail Moore
August 1st:	Anne Mills President of the General Assembly	Flowers: Jeffrey Bowes

Dates for your Diary

Friday April 23rd at 6.00pm - GA Worship Service (see page 5).

Saturday April 24th 11.00am to 5.00pm - General Assembly Business Meeting when Motions will be discussed. Hazel Warhurst is our congregation delegate.

Saturday April 24th 8.00pm to 10.00pm - Unitarian College Social Evening on Zoom (see page 6).

Saturday May 1st at 7:00pm - Spring Jamboree service by the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry (see page 8).

Thursday May 6th from 7.00am to 10.00pm - Our Church will again be a Polling Station for the local elections for the Tees Valley Mayor and the Combined Police and Crime Commissioner.

Wednesday May 12th at 10.30am - Church Council meeting by Zoom.

Saturday May 8th at 7.00pm - Foy Society AGM on Zoom.

Wednesday May 19th at 10.30am - Worship Group meeting by Zoom.

Wednesday June 9th at 7.00pm - Northern Unitarian Association (NUA) Committee meeting, probably by Zoom.

Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th June - Unitarian Society Days on Zoom: **Penal and Social Affairs Panel (PSAP)** 17th June from 1.30pm to 2.30pm; **Unitarian Women's Group (UWG)** 17th June from 2:45pm to 3:45pm "*Unitarian women*"; 18th June **Unitarian Music Society** "*60 musical minutes with UMS*" 18th June from 2:45pm to 3:45pm; 19th June from 11:30am to 12:30pm **The Foy Society** "*The Unitarian Ginger Group*".

Saturday July 10th - the Yorkshire Unitarian Union (YUU) are having a Summer Gathering at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, everyone is welcome.

Sunday July 18th at 2.00pm - Special Service at Flowergate Old Chapel, Whitby (see page 10).

Friday August 27th to Monday August 30th - The Foy Society Conference at The Nightingale Centre (Covid-19 permitting), theme ***Plants and Us***.

Church Directory

Church Address: Wellington Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1QQ

Church Telephone Number: 01642 671115


Church email address: mail@stocktonunitarians.org.uk

Church Website: www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk

Church Facebook Page: Unitarians in and around Stockton-on-Tees

Chair:	Jean Watson ☎ 01642 658376	10 Albany Road Norton Stockton-On-Tees TS20 2QX
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We are united in a spirit of mutual sympathy, co-operation, tolerance and respect.

We recognise the worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate.

We believe that truth is best served where the mind and conscience are free.

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

the unitarians



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