



# STOCKTON UNITARIANS



*Margaret Robinson and Hazel Warhurst showing off our Toilet Twinning Plaque - see page 8 inside.*

## CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2020

## From the Editor's Desk . . .

I am sorry that this edition of the Calendar is going to print later than normal. This is mainly due to important family commitments. I hope to return to the normal schedule for the April-May issue.



A lot has happened since the last Calendar came out - the 'Get Brexit Done' General Election; Christmas and New Year; recurring bouts of atrocious weather resulting in a succession of desperately damaging floods; the advent and rapid spread of the coronavirus Covid-19; the moving and sobering remembrances of the liberation of Auschwitz; and Britain's exit from the European Union on January 31st. We are certainly living through dramatic times, though whether or not you regard them as 'exciting' times, in the words of the Chinese proverb, is very much a matter of opinion.

Whatever your view about Brexit, the direction of travel is now clear and we must all live with the consequences, for better or worse. It is to be profoundly hoped that the divisions opened up in our communities by the Brexit process will start to heal and irrational prejudice stoked up against those of a different view will subside.

I could not help noticing the supreme irony of Britain detaching ourselves from the European Union at the very moments when ceremonies were taking place across Europe to keep alive the memories of the dreadful atrocities of the Second World War, with former mortal enemies meeting together in friendship.

There were several deeply moving accounts by the dwindling number of survivors of the death camps. A letter in **The Guardian** on 27th January told how a survivor Esther Brunstein, near to the end of her life, was being treated in Barnet Hospital in London by a young doctor. It turned out that the doctor had heard Esther give a talk about her experiences when he was a sixth form pupil at a school in Dorset. Her words had had a deep effect on him and influenced him to study medicine. By an extraordinary coincidence there he was treating her several years later.

May the courage and fortitude of the survivors, and of all who work for peace and reconciliation, give us strength and hope as we navigate the difficult times ahead.

*David Warhurst*

## News of Members and Friends

### *Obituaries*

#### **Wendy Williams:**



It is with great sadness that we have to report that **Wendy**, sister of **Mike Tomlin** and **Rosemary Ruston** died in January after a long illness, which she bore with great fortitude and determination. Wendy was an active Unitarian and always accompanied Mike to services at our church when she visited Mike and Jane. She took a keen interest in our activities at Stockton, often commenting appreciatively about items in the

Calendar, of which she was a regular reader. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mike, Jane, Rosemary and Alan, and to their wider family members.

Mike writes as follows:

*Jane and I would like to thank all those who sent their condolences following Wendy's death, which were very much appreciated. She always asked after us in Stockton when we went to visit her in Bletchley and often sent a donation in support of our charity.*

#### **Pat Loudon (née Hall):**

It is with much sadness that we report that **Pat** died on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2019. Pat's husband, **Stuart**, and their family members are very much in our thoughts at this sad time.

**Pat Wilkinson** sent an appreciation as follows:

*It was with great sadness that Alan and I learned that Pat had passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 aged 75. Our sincere condolences to them all.*

*I got to know Pat around 1958 when I began attending the Unitarian Church youth club with Margaret Robinson where Pat was also a*

*member. Recollections of Pat during that time include her appearing in a youth club revue along with many other members, Alan and me included. Pat is on the extreme right of the photo. In that revue my brother Brian had to step in at the very last minute doing an Elvis Presley impersonation of Jailhouse Rock because our (now late) brother Terry had broken his collar bone when playing football with the youth club team. Brian's energetic impersonation was a resounding success!*



*Pat attended William Newton School from 1955 to 1959 before going on to Hartlepool College of Art. When she learned that Harold Code had passed away in October 2016, Pat expressed her sadness and recalled in an email to me how when she lived in Eaglescliffe she travelled to Middlesbrough on the train most days with Harold. She also reminisced about how she and Susan (née Barmford), also a former Unitarian youth club member, used to embarrass him when they were 15 and attending Hartlepool College of Art by shouting every morning to him across Church Square. Apparently Harold worked in the bank at Hartlepool at that time and every morning with a body guard and his brief case handcuffed to his wrist, he would get the bus to the Trimdon branch with the cash.*

*I seem to remember that Pat worked as a window dresser for a shoe firm for a while before moving to work in London and we lost touch for some time. Eventually Pat returned to the north-east and began working for ICI Wilton preparing data for input to the computer. Our paths crossed again when she was later transferred to Billingham where I was employed as a computer programmer, although not in the same division of ICI. We lost touch again when I left ICI in 1972. However, Pat kept in touch with some of her ICI colleagues including her former line manager Dorothy Ambler who moved to Australia many years ago with her husband Stan. Dorothy and Stan visited the UK regularly over the years and Pat used to meet up with them for coffee etc during these visits. I accompanied Pat on one such occasion in May 2014 when she met up with Dorothy and others in Yarm. When Alan and I went to see Pat at her home in July last year where she was confined to bed, she told us that Dorothy and Stan had also recently visited her.*

*It was as a result of former (as well as present) Stockton Unitarian Church members being contacted and invited to special services to commemorate the new church building in 2007 that Alan and I renewed our friendship with Pat. We learned she'd declined the invitation for health reasons, having had cancer. This sad news prompted me to get in touch with Pat and she and I agreed to have lunch together and catch up on each other's family lives. I remember at the first of these lunches which was at the Cross Keys Hotel on the road to Guisborough, we had been sitting at the table chatting for well over half an hour when the waiter came to ask if we intended ordering anything. We hadn't even opened the menu!*

*Pat told me about her husband Stuart who worked as an Educational Inspector but they also ran a travel business together from their home. Stuart was also a football referee and their clients included football teams for whom they made travel arrangements and hotel reservations when playing away games. Pat and Stuart had two children Sarah and Christopher,*



*by this time grown up, and they later became grandparents when Sarah and her husband Andy had a daughter Millie and a son Harry. Millie is now six and Harry two and a half years old. Pat, Stuart and family were obviously very close to the family of Pat's sister Jen and her husband Phil. They too are now also grandparents.*

*After we had renewed contact with each other, Pat had further serious health problems which required a lot of unpleasant treatment but she remained cheerful and resolute throughout. She was always interested in hearing news of mutual friends from the past or present, and asked me to pass on her best wishes to them. She was very sympathetic if they were having problems or difficulties and very pleased for them if they had reason to celebrate. Pat was always good company to be with, and Alan and I regret we didn't manage to visit her more often. She will be sadly missed by her family and many friends.*

### *Concerns:*

We send our concern and love to **Merla Hopkins** who hasn't been very well lately. We hope she will soon be feeling much better.

It's lovely to see **Margaret Kirk** in the congregation again after her recent health setback. We send our love and best wishes for her continued recovery.

### *Birthday Congratulations to:*

**Pat Wilkinson** on 7th February; **Margaret Kirk** on 8th March; **Elisha Hutton** twelve years old on 11th March; **Josie Jobson** twelve years old on 3rd April; **Alan Wilkinson** on 9th April; and **Carys Thompson** eleven years old on 11th April.

**SUNDAY MARCH 22nd:-**

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

**[hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk](mailto:hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk)**

## Our Charity Appeal for 2019-2020

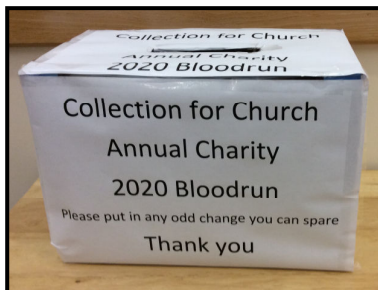
**Bloodrun Emergency Voluntary Service** is a bike charity, established in 2010, to provide a free, voluntary courier service to North East NHS hospitals and Trusts.

The charity is staffed by unpaid volunteers who give up their time to provide this vital service to the NHS; saving them much needed money and providing a professional transportation service. The Emergency Volunteer Service for Cleveland and North Yorkshire performs a very worthwhile job.

2019 statistics record:

£145,000 + saved on taxis  
83,000 + covered by the bike runs  
60 + volunteers

Stockton Unitarians are raising money for this charity in a number of ways. Donations - small or large - may be left in this labelled box whenever you go into the worship room.



Hazel Warhurst is hosting a **Coffee Morning** in Ingleby Cross Village Hall on Saturday 18th April from 10.30am to 12 noon. Anyone willing to bake **cakes, buns, tray bakes or biscuits** for this event is asked to contact Hazel:

Mobile: 07765005870 or  
email: [hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk](mailto:hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk)

**Helpers to serve teas and coffees** would also be welcome.

Jean Watson is organising a **Raffle** to be drawn at the Coffee Morning. Raffle prizes can be donated via any church member. There will also be a **stall with craft items and second-hand books**. Please put the date in your diaries. It comes at the end of the school Easter holidays - **18th April 2020**.

The date for a **Walk Around Cod Beck Reservoir** (and beyond - for the energetic) will be announced soon. Sponsorship or donations for this event will also be added to the money we raise for Bloodrun.

## One of Our Toilets has been Twinned!

Our disabled loo is now twinned with a latrine in Kabindi, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo, pictured on the right.

We are continuing to raise money to twin our other two toilets. It costs a mere **£60** to achieve this very worthwhile benefit for communities which currently have no access to any kind of toilet facility.

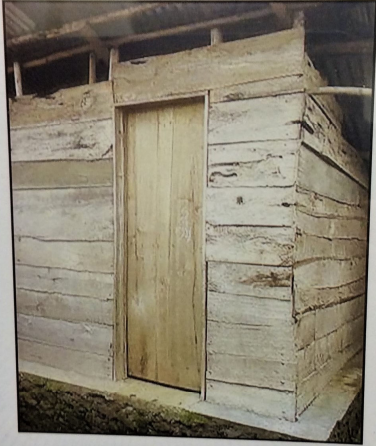
Every toilet provided by this wonderful charity gives huge benefits to the communities concerned, especially by affording privacy, safety and better hygiene to women.

Spare a thought for this next time you 'spend a penny' in one of our loos!

This toilet has been


# Twinned

by Stockton Unitarian Church



with a latrine at

Latitude: -1.2523 Longitude: 29.5233  
Kabindi, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo  
Latrine No. 11844



toilet twinning.org

1 in 3 people worldwide don't have a loo. By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty. Twinned is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

[www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

### Important Notice about Photographs

From time to time we take photographs of church events which may be reproduced in the Calendar. We do this carefully in order to add interest to the Calendar for our readers.

However if you do not want photographs of you to appear in print you have the right to refuse permission. If this is the case please contact the Editor to make your wishes known.

These will be respected and treated in confidence.

The Editor



# Around the Turn of the Year . . .

## Human Rights the World Over:

Our service on 8th December centred on "Human Rights The World Over" - in recognition of Human Rights Day which fell on Tuesday 10th December - and was conducted by members of the Amnesty Teesside Group.

A reading of *Stand* by Elwyn Davies, and appropriate responsive prayers complemented the wise words of Chief Seattle and hymns *For the healing of the Nation, I wish I knew how, Our World is One World, and the Song of Peace*.

The talk was drawn from a current Amnesty campaign which highlights that the climate crisis is a serious threat to human rights, particularly for people already marginalised by poverty and discrimination.



## Sing the Season:

On December 15th our *Sing the Season* event took a more light-hearted tone with a collection readings, songs, prayers and stories to get us into the mood for the festive season. Mince pies, tea, coffee and mulled wine rounded off a very pleasant event.

## **Christmas Carol Service:**

Mike and Jane Tomlin put together a delightful Christmas Carol service for 22nd December. It was lovely to enjoy singing six of the traditional carols, linked with readings of the Christmas story, an extract from a Christmas card from *Justice First*, read by Mike, and a lovely meditation and prayer by Jane.

Coming just after the General Election, which had left many feeling anxious about the future, Jane spoke of the hope that is embodied in the Christmas story of the birth of a baby. As Rev Bob Janis-Dillon had written in *The Inquirer*, hope is expressed in the birth of each new baby.

The vesper we sang at the end of the service could not have been more appropriate - *Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me*.

During the notices Margaret Whitham passed on good wishes from *The South Tees Mission to Seafarers* who had been delighted to receive our shoeboxes at a time when the port is busier than ever.

## **Bring and Share - Looking Back and Looking Forward:**

I was away in Somerset so I have nothing to report about this service but I believe it came together well, as *Bring and Share* services usually do.

## **Food:**

Margaret Robinson's theme for the service on January 5th was *Food* - very appropriate after the indulgences of the Christmas season. She included several of Bill Darlison's stories - *Diluting the Wine*, *The shortest distance* and *Stones or Bread*. She spoke of the importance of hospitality and we shared stories of eating and enjoying dog biscuits, spooning condensed milk out of the tin and using evaporated milk when cream was unavailable.

We heard of the history of food and the laws surrounding it in Leviticus. Our prayers naturally included concern about exploitation, conditions of trade and of those who put profit before people. *'May we be aware of poverty and injustice surrounding food production and do what we can to make a change in our lives'*

*Jane Tomlin*

## **Why do humans think it matters what they believe?:**

We welcomed Rev Paul Walker again to take the service on 12th January. Paul began by reading part of the Nicene Creed, something which may have helped Paul and Christine to come through our door. In the Creed the crucial part about Jesus talks about what he **was** but says nothing about what he **did**. What we believe defines us but is really unimportant. Sadly, Unitarians are also defined by what we believe about god.

Paul challenged us to remember the 10 Commandments - we didn't do very well! We then listened to part of Martin Luther King's *I have a dream* . . . speech. This said nothing about what he *believed*. Other great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Greta Thunberg demonstrate that what really matters is what people say and do, how they live and encourage others to live, not what they believe.

Paul pointed out that the religious denomination which stood most strongly against the Nazis was the Jehovah's Witnesses - it wasn't what they *believed* but what they *did* which really mattered.

Hymns by Cliff Reed and John Andrew Storey fitted very well with Paul's theme and he played a song by one of his favourite folk groups - *Prefab Sprout* - entitled *Life's a Miracle*. Quote: *We gotta do our best, before it's time to rest* . . . To see all the words put *Prefab Sprout* and *Life's a Miracle* into Google.

Paul presented us with a signed copy of his book *I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For - God for Agnostics* which has been placed on the book table in the Worship Room for members of the congregation to borrow and read.

## **Bring and Share:**

With little advance planning it is amazing how these *Bring and Share* services come together so well. It happened again on 19th January. We heard an article by Rev Tony McNiele from the NUF magazine, a piece by Frank Walker *The Turning of the Year*, one by Richard Gilbert *We are all more human than otherwise*, a clever poem about refugees by Brian Bilston with the opposite meaning when read backwards, writings by the great Unitarian hymn writer, John Andrew Storey, about the start of the year *January - Janus*, and a poem by Rachel Rooney *The Language of Cat*.

A presentation of a pot of flowering primroses and well chosen hymns and prayers completed the service.

## **Connecting with Divinity in Nature:**

In his service on January 26th Rev Victor Ball explored *Earth-Centred Spirituality - connecting with divinity in nature*. Victor said that more and more people are drawing inspiration from the cycles of seasons, the beauty and complexity of the natural world, and the intricate relationships between humans and all the other life on this planet.

Earth-Centred Spirituality is for those who find in nature a sense of wonder and mystery, and feel that every living thing is part of something greater. Earth-Centred approaches to worship value the spiritual teachings of those traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and teach us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Victor referred to his Druid connections where Earth-Centred Spirituality is central to its ethos. There are significant Unitarian connections too. In Green Park, London, there is a plaque commemorating Edward Williams, better known by his bardic name *Iolo Morganwg, the Bard of Glamorgan*. He was an influential Welsh antiquarian and poet, and a founder of the *Gorsedd* (Welsh for *gathering*). He was contemporary with Theophilus Lindsey and became a Unitarian preacher in Wales. He performed Unitarian Druidic celebrations and believed in seeing the Divine in the natural world.

An Earth-Centred worship service can include music, guided meditation, readings, and spiritual practices drawn from a range of traditions and these all featured in Victor's interesting service.

## **Youth Sunday:**

2nd February was designated Unitarian Youth Sunday and for this Margaret Robinson devised a lovely special service. A notable feature of the service was three recordings made by Unitarian young people at a *Five Days Away* event at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, in August 2012. In the first track the participants talked about *Something I Celebrate in my Life*. The second track was *Ambient Music for Meditation and Prayer*. The third track was about their *Hopes and Fears*.

Margaret skilfully interspersed these with appropriate readings, hymns and meditations including *February* by Simon Barlow, *Speak to us of Children* by Kahlil Gibran and a very appropriate and meaningful responsive payer by Betty Pingel, a Unitarian Universalist minister (*Every child should be allowed . . . .*).

## What is a God?:

This was Rev Paul Walker's theme for his service on 9th February. Paul's services are always fascinating and challenging and this was no exception.

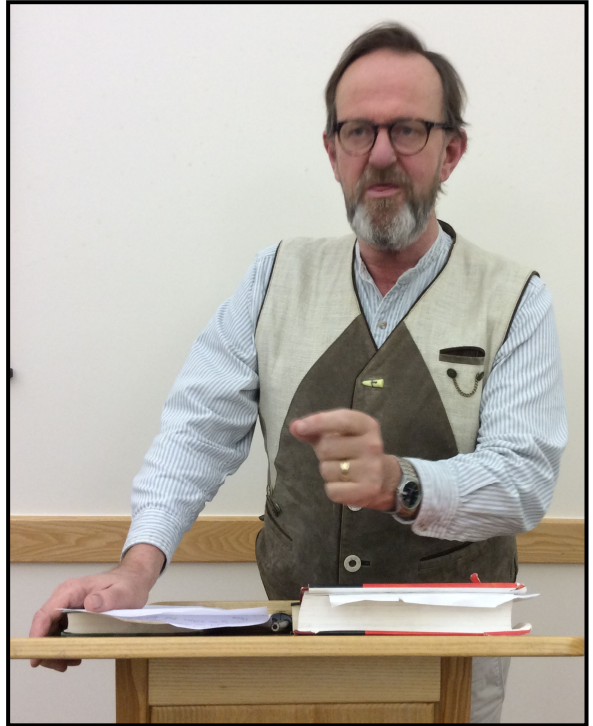
Paul suggested things that the people who wrote the Bible might have considered to be divine - such as telephones, television, flying in aeroplanes, the internet . . . Jane Tomlin then read us the story of the Tower of Babel from the Book of Genesis.

Paul used this story to illustrate that the first 11 chapters in the bible demonstrate how clearly the authors understood human nature. After the

creation there are four stories in which humans get 'too big for their boots' - *Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and The Tower of Babel* - which God deals with in various ways.

The next reading was taken from the book "*Sapiens*" by Yuval Noah Harari. The book postulates that from around 70,000 years ago *homo-sapiens* basically killed off all the other hominids to become master of all. Paul commented that humans have advanced from canoes to space shuttles, but no-one knows where we are going and we are accountable to no-one. We have become god-like in our power over the earth and all its creatures. In our arrogance and greed, we have ruthlessly exploited the world's resources in pursuit of "happiness".

Harari said "*Is there anything more dangerous than dissatisfied or irresponsible gods, who don't know what they want*". As a species we



**Rev Paul Walker**

have little to be proud of but, Paul said, there are some encouraging signs such as the reduction in famine and war, and the success of the ban on smoking in public places.

Paul brought the service to its conclusion with a song by a folk duo *Show of Hands* entitled *AIG* (short for *Arrogance, Ignorance and Greed*), which included the following chorus:

*At every trough you stop to feed  
With your arrogance, your ignorance and greed  
You're on your yacht, we're on our knees  
For your arrogance, your ignorance and greed*

It was a powerful service that left us searching our consciences.

### **Thinking Freely and Thinking Justly:**

On Sunday 16th February we welcomed Professor Paul Harvey to take our service. His theme on this occasion was *"Thinking freely and*



**Professor Paul Harvey**

*thinking justly*" an important topic for our present times. It was a profound address from Paul, delving deeply into the way we think, and to where our thoughts may lead us.

Paul recalled an inscription in Swedish above the door of the Great Hall in the University in Stockholm. Paul's initial translation was "to think freely is great but to think correctly is better". On reflection he realised that a more sympathetic translation was "to think freely is great but to think **justly** is better".

Paul's address moved across all the different ways of thinking, especially thinking 'freely'. Free thinking will almost certainly include thoughts which cannot be expressed – and which certainly cannot be turned into action. He reminded us of The Lord High Executioner's song in *The Mikado* when he describes those he would like to execute! He was enjoying thinking freely but included racial references that would not be remotely acceptable in this day and age.

We value freedom of thought and expression, but always need to think it through in the light of the changes in our society. *The Merchant of Venice* by our greatest playwright is thought of as a fine play – but would anyone dare write it today? He summed up by saying that the inscription was indeed right. We must think '**justly**'

Paul included one of my favourite hymns in the service: '*We Limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind*'.

*Jane Tomlin*



My grateful thanks go to Jane for providing two of the service reports this time.

*David Warhurst*

*Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future,  
concentrate the mind on the present moment.*

*Buddha*

**On 15th March we will hold our Annual Membership Service. The following thoughts on *Membership* by Rev John Philip Carter are reproduced, with permission, from the Hull Unitarian Church February 2020 Newsletter:**

## **Pondering Membership:**

Throughout my life, and spiritual journeying, I have pondered the meaning of membership. It is important to feel that you belong. Yet the old tribes, networks, clans and clubs are losing to newer ones. People don't feel it is important to be members of the traditional civic groups, or to churches, or even to denominations. But still feel it's important to identify with the local sporting club, be it football, rugby, etc. or will be proud to mention their membership in a gaming community online.

What does membership mean? Well I view it in different ways, each speaks to a sense of responsibility to the whole, in our case the congregation. Membership can be simply those persons who come on a frequent basis, which could be once a month to once a week. Another form is to do the previously mentioned with the added sense of regular giving, as in service to the community, such as always being sure that the water is boiled for tea, or the biscuits are out, or the chairs are set up and the place ready for service. Others can only give in attendance, and we should never discount that commitment, and others in the traditional understanding of giving as a cash offering.

There are many permutations of these forms of membership and giving, and it is our work to find the one that fits us at this moment. These forms are also dependent upon each other, my and your presence give more than a warm body in the "pew". It is a visual support. The smile, the friendly chat, the simple act of contemplative listening. The remark on the address, or conversations around a particular reading that sparked your imagination, your spiritual self - these are also ways of giving.

Each congregation has a form, or sense of membership and what is required. In some they are more relaxed, in others more formal. Just to note - if you are interested in membership please ask.



Membership also ensures that our spiritual and liturgical needs are met, from weekly services, to rites of passage. These include celebration of children in a family (we call these namings, or dedications or christenings) weddings, and of course rites of remembering deceased loved ones in funerals or in memorial services. Membership is more than simply joining, it is being and helping and ensuring the life of this congregation.

Rev John Philip Carter

## **. . . . and these are the Stockton Unitarian Church Membership Rules:**

### **3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONGREGATION**

- 3.1 Full Membership, which shall include the right to vote at General Meetings of The Congregation shall be open to all who:
  - 3.1.1 express sympathy with the Objectives of the Congregation;
  - 3.1.2 have attained the age of eighteen;
  - 3.1.3 apply and are accepted by the Church Council, which shall be entitled to reject an application for reasons which it deems good and sufficient;
  - 3.1.4 either pays an annual subscription direct to the Treasurer or is a regular subscriber to the Envelope Scheme or gives a regular weekly offering.

### **Stockton Unitarian Church will propose the following motion at the General Assembly meetings in April:**

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful that Junior Weekends formerly known as *WMYUs (Weekend Meetings for Young Unitarians)* have been the much-loved bedrock of the Unitarian Youth Programme for over 50 years:

1. Regrets the abrupt cancellation of Junior Weekends without consultation or communication.
2. Calls upon the Executive Committee to reinstate the Junior Weekend programme pending thorough communication and consultation with churches, districts, regular participants and other interested parties about any changes proposed and the rationale for them.



Yorkshire Unitarian Union

## SPRING GATHERING

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2020

at Bradford Unitarians

**10.30** : Welcome – coffee/tea...

**11.00**: Opening Devotions led by Stephanie Bisby

**11.15**: Issues in the YUU

Motions for the GA Annual Meetings

**12.15**: Lunch (provided by Bradford Unitarians)

**13.00** Afternoon session led by Helen Mason – Director of Unitarian College

- How the College is progressing
- Report on pilot project for training administrators and treasurers
- Mini-exercise in ministry training
- Discussion... with your thoughts and ideas



**15.00**: Short closing devotions

**15.15**: Departures ....safe journey.

Come for all or any part of the day's programme – all are welcome.

Bradford Unitarians, Russell Street, Bradford BD5 0JB Good parking and a twenty minute walk from Bradford Interchange (Bus and Rail)

# Regular Events at Stockton Unitarian Church

## Knit 'n' Natter



Why don't you bring along your knitting, sewing and other handicrafts, and your lunch, and enjoy a couple of hours chatting over a cup of tea. Men are welcome. We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays from 11.00am to 1.00pm on the following dates:

**4th and 18th February; 3rd, 17th and 31st March; 14th and 28th April**

- see you there!

## Children's Group

The Children's Group, parents and grandparents meet occasionally for stories, crafts, special events, other activities and outings to places of interest. All families with links to the church are welcome to join us.

**Watch these pages and look out for announcements in church for further details.**

## Amnesty Teesside Local Group

This is the official Amnesty Teesside Local Group, supporting the work of Amnesty International throughout the world. We operate mainly through an email contact list with occasional meetings at the church by arrangement.



If you would like to be added to the contact list please email the secretary at [amnestyteesside@gmail.com](mailto:amnestyteesside@gmail.com) .

## Coffee Mornings

These are usually held every Saturday from 10.00am to 11.30am Come and join us for the least expensive cup of coffee or tea in town - **only 50p** including biscuits.



## Booking the Church

Looking for a space for your yoga group, gaming group, book club, choir practice or anything else? The church can be rented at very reasonable rates, for one-off or ongoing bookings. Several weekly evening and day-time slots are currently available. For any enquiries please contact the Church Secretary (see page 23).

## More Dates for Your Diary

**Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd February 2020** - Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE) at the Chatsworth Hotel, Worthing.

**Monday 2nd March** at 7.15pm - Church Council meeting.

**Wednesday 4th March** at 7.00pm - The Northern Unitarian Association (NUA) Committee meets at Stockton Unitarian Church.

**Saturday 7th March** from 10.30am to 4.00pm - Yorkshire Unitarian Union (YUU) Spring Gathering at Bradford Unitarian Chapel (see page 18).

**Monday 9th March** at 7.15pm - Worship Group meeting at church. If you have anything you would like to contribute to our worship please contact Margaret Whitham.

**Tuesday 7th to Thursday 9th April** - Unitarian General Assembly Annual Meetings at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel.

**Saturday 18th April** from 10.30am to 12 noon - Our Charity Coffee Morning in Ingleby Cross Village Hall (see page 7).

**Friday 1st to Monday 4th May** - Foy Society Annual Conference at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, study subject '*Plants and Us*'.

**Friday 5th to Sunday 7th June** - **UNIFEST: play, create, explore, believe** - a weekend of Unitarian family fun at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

**Saturday 20nd June** from 10.30am to 4.00pm - Yorkshire Unitarian Union (YUU) Summer Gathering at Scarborough Unitarian Chapel.

**Friday 14th to Monday 17th August** - Unitarian Music Society Conference at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

**Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th October** - Unitarian Women's Group Conference at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire, *subject A feminist perspective on the Climate Emergency* .

### **Important Note:**

**The Northern Unitarian Association (NUA) offers grants towards the cost of attending appropriate conferences and courses - apply to the Secretary, Hazel Warhurst, at:**

**[hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk](mailto:hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk)**

## Services in February, March and April

<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Youth Sunday
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Rev Paul Walker
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Professor Paul Harvey
<b>February 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Rev Victor Ball
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Louise van der Hoeven
<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Bring and Share - Kindness
<b>March 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Membership Service
<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Rev Margaret Kirk - Mothering Sunday
<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Rev Victor Ball
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 am:</b>	To be confirmed
<b>April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Rev Victor Ball - Easter Sunday
<b>April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	To be confirmed
<b>April 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b>	Rev Margaret Kirk

## Children's Group Events

The Children's Group meets periodically for celebrations, special events and organised visits. Watch these pages and look out for announcements in church for further details.

### Organists

### Welcome Rota

<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Jean Watson
<b>February 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Joan Unwin	Hazel Warhurst
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Jane Tomlin	Mike Tomlin
<b>February 23<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Margaret Whitham
<b>March 1<sup>st</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Margaret Robinson
<b>March 8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Jane Tomlin	Joan Unwin
<b>March 15<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Joan Unwin	Jean Watson
<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Hazel Warhurst
<b>March 29<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Mike Tomlin
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Jane Tomlin	Margaret Robinson
<b>April 12<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Joan Unwin
<b>April 19<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Joan Unwin	Margaret Whitham
<b>April 26<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Jean Watson



# 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

<b>Chair:</b>	Jean Watson ☎ 01642 658376	10 Albany Road Norton Stockton-On-Tees TS20 2QX
<b>Secretary:</b>	Margaret Robinson ☎ 01642 782219	3, Castle Dyke Wynd Minerva Mews Yarm TS15 9DE
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mike Tomlin ☎ 01642 592145	1 The Oval Brookfield Middlesbrough TS5 8ET
<b>Lettings Secretary and Women's League:</b>	Edna Anderson ☎ 01642 643179	315 Surbiton Road Stockton-on-Tees TS19 7SA
<b>Worship Committee Co-ordinator:</b>	Margaret Whitham ☎ 01429 298641	2 Burn Valley Road Hartlepool TS26 9BS
<b>Flower Secretary:</b>	Jean Watson ☎ 01642 658376	10 Albany Road Norton Stockton-On-Tees TS20 2QX
<b>Calendar Editor:</b>	David Warhurst ☎01609 882442	"Greenlee Lough" 18 Priory Way Ingleby Arncliffe Northallerton North Yorkshire DL6 3LR

Email: hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk

## Stockton Unitarians:

(taken from the Constitution, last revised 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012)

### ***The aim of the congregation is:***

To maintain a Unitarian witness within and around the area of the former county of Cleveland.

### ***The objectives of the congregation are:***

To serve the existing members and satisfy their needs, pastoral and spiritual.

To serve the community.

To maintain a distinctive Unitarian approach to worship.

To be known as a caring community for both its own members and others.

To maintain a Unitarian religious voice in the area, and to make sure we are heard.

To keep a close working link with other churches in social responsibility.

To continue to provide better facilities for the community.

To continue to play an active part in District and National Unitarian affairs.

To encourage people to expand their own personal religion.

To grow.

To promote religion in accordance with the principles of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.



*We are always pleased to assist with the celebration of special occasions such as naming ceremonies, weddings, funerals and dedications. You do not need to be a member.*

*For further information please contact: -*

*The Secretary, telephone (01642) 782219*

*email: [mail@stocktonunitarians.org.uk](mailto:mail@stocktonunitarians.org.uk)*

*or look at [www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk](http://www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk)*

*or Facebook: Unitarians in and around Stockton-on-Tees*

