

Stockton Unitarians

Harvest Festival 2023



Goods collected for The Mary Thompson Fund

Church News
November/December
2023



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



October

Gemma Hutton

November

Marcus Slaven

Jean Watson

Pam Coates

and

December

Elaine Dodds

Alexander Slaven

Richard Whitham



Congratulations to Jessica Eva Dodds (Margaret Robinson's granddaughter) on attaining her fashion MA Menswear Degree from the University of Westminster, she will graduate on 24th November 2023 at the Royal Festival Hall. London.



Congratulations to Paul and Christine Walker on the birth of their first grandson



Date for your Diary

Knit 'n' Natter Group meet on alternative Tuesdays from 11,00am to 1.00pm. Bring along your crafts, knitting, crochet and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat whilst you work.



Stockton Unitarians

Your Church Council decided on these words to put on the new external noticeboard. Please let the Secretary have your comments.



“Since 1688 free thinkers have met here - people who recognise that everyone’s search for truth is different and should be celebrated, not fought over. These people are called Unitarians...we are Unitarians, we are open and welcoming to all. Check us out, Google us, come and meet us - we would love to hear what you have to say.

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.”

A promotional poster for a Zoom event titled "coffee & comms #3". The text on the poster includes: "Revitalise your communications: newsletters, websites & more with Helen White Tuesday 7th November 2023 11am Online, via Zoom". To the right of the poster is a photograph of Helen White, a woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue polka-dot top and a necklace. To the right of the photo is the Zoom link information: "Zoom link 876 2474 1564 passcode: unitarian".

Zoom link

876 2474

1564

passcode:

unitarian

November brings us: Bonfire night, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, Pet Diabetes month, BBC Children in Need Appeal Night, International Day for the Elimination of Violence to Women, St Andrew’s Day (Scotland), Diwali (Hindu), and Birthday of Guru Nanak Dec Ji.

December brings us: World AIDS Day, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Advent Sunday, Hanukkah, Human Rights Day, Shortest Day, First Day of Winter, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, St Stephen’s Day, New Year’s Eve and Hogmanay.

Sunday Services

27th August 2023 Bring and Share “Community”

We had seven people in the chapel and two people joined us on Zoom. Everyone made a contribution to the service. Margaret Whitham not only played for the hymns, opening and closing music, but also read a story about Mole and Vole and the other members of their community. How they helped the blind mole to see the sunrise in his mind from their descriptions. Margaret Kirk read a piece by Muriel Hilton of why she went to church.



Jean Watson read the opening and closing words, Chalice lighting and read 'We are all more human than otherwise' by Richard S Gilbert. Hazel Warhurst read about Community.

Margaret Robinson gave two prayers about Community. Paul Walker told us about the Community of the street where he lives and David Warhurst told us of the Community of Trolley Bus enthusiasts. We sang a variety of hymns: "Let us break bread together"; "A church is a living fellowship"; "We can become" and "Spirit of Life"

3rd September 2023 led by Rev Margaret Kirk

Margaret introduced us to the book Cherishing the Earth—Nourishing the Spirit and concentrated on the chapter "Redeeming a Rubbish Dump: some lessons learned" A group of people in Oxford saved a piece of waste land and turned it



into a rich wildlife habitat of reed beds, woodland and meadow. We looked at 'guerrilla gardening' wild patches which people have transformed, growing vegetable and flowers for everyone to share.

10th September 2023 led by Rev Victor Ball

Victor spoke about Redemption and Karma, with a reading from Deuteronomy. We sang hymns 283 Awake, my Soul, 25 Where'er Thy People Meet, 234 God of Stars and Sunlight 209 A World Transfigured and 310 From all that dwell. All from Hymns for Living



17th September 2023 led by Rev Paul Walker

Paul asked the question "Who can I love?" Can we just love anybody. Paul told us of a lovely Wedding Blessing he had recently conducted for a couple with learning difficulties. A thought provoking service, during which we sang hymns from Sing Your Faith 34 Far too long, by fear divided, 83 Just as long as I have breath, 98 Love will guide us, and 174 Though I may speak with bravest fire.

24th September 2023 HARVEST led by the Worship Group

The service began with these opening words: **The Earth is our Mother** by Chief Seattle to the President of the United States, 1854 read by Hazel:



Teach your children what we have taught our children;
that the earth is our mother.

This we know;
the earth does not belong to humanity;
humanity belongs to the earth.

This we know.

All things are connected like the blood
that unites our family.

Whatever befalls the earth befalls
the sons and daughters of the earth.

Men and women did not weave the web of life:
they are merely a strand in it.

Whatever they do to the web,

they do to themselves.

We had a responsive prayer “Prayer for Harvest” by Sidney Knight and a Harvest Thanksgiving prayer by Cliff Reed. The Readings were “Starvation within Harvest” by Glenn Jetta Barclay and “Hell or Heaven” by Derek Smith. We sang hymns: Praise God for the Harvest and Now we sing a Harvest song. We shared bread and spoke these words together:

Lamas Statement

In sharing this broken bread
We acknowledge our dependence
On the divine bounty of the earth;
Our unity with all people who, like us, receive
Their daily bread in gratitude and humility.

We collected non-perishable food and toiletries for **The Mary Thompson Fund**, for asylum seeker (see photo on front cover by Hazel Warhurst)

1st October 2023 led by Hazel and David Warhurst

led a service Remembering the life of Annie Margaret Barr 1899-1973, outstanding Unitarian Minister, devotee of Mahatma Gandhi and “Granny” to her Extended family. In 1933, after working as a minister of Rotherham Unitarian Church, she sailed to India and secured a job in Calcutta (now Kolkata) teaching RE at a girls’ school. During the school holidays she travelled to the Khasi Hills, visiting churches and villages there, where she was well received.



Margaret Barr

She had met Gandhi, who advised her to ‘keep out of goal, don’t go getting mixed up in politics and find some constructive work to do’ by which he meant village work. Eventually she received a commission from the GA to ‘explore the ground’ in the Khasi Hills. The Unitarian Women’s League agreed to pay her salary for the first three years and continued to provide financial and moral support to her for the rest of her life.

We had music “The Spirit of India” by Ravi Shankar

and sang hymns 90 Let us give thanks and praise, 128 Our world is one world, 92 Let us renew our covenant and 125 One Human Common-wealth.

8th October 2023 NUA service led by Ann Howell, GA Social Affairs Officer

Ann spoke of her past experiences and about her role as Social Affairs Officer. What aspects of Social affairs should we concentrate upon?

Climate Change along with caring for everyone is important. Stockton members spoke of our/their involvement in charities and other social action we/they were/are involved with. We had a congregation of 10, plus 1 on Zoom. We sang

hymns 98 Love will guide us, 128 Our World is One World, and 198 We'll build a land. All very appropriate to the theme.



This Responsive Reading was used during this service:

Blessed are you who live from a place of gratitude; *for you will fully embrace life.*

Blessed are you who can question your own assumptions, listen openly, and are willing to change your mind; *you will receive new insights beyond your imagining.*

Blessed are you who volunteer; your efforts will move us forward toward a more just and loving world.

Blessed are you who build friendships as well as justice; even when you lose an issue, *you will have strengthened the foundation of your community.*

Blessed are you who lead with enthusiasm and confidence, resisting the temptation to shame the apathetic or self-absorbed; *you will inspire curiosity and hope in others.*

Blessed are you who collaborate and ask for help; *you will find teachers at every turn, and your work will remain relevant.*

Blessed are you who suffer attacks to stand up for what is right; *you will not be alone, for your courage will inspire others.*

Blessed are you who do not demonise your opponents; *your eyes and your hearts will be open.*

Blessed are you who study the rhythms of history; *you will have*

knowledge with which to shape the future.

Blessed are you who discover, train and encourage young leaders; *you will see your work expand and grow beyond your own time and talent.*

Blessed are you who will not let the perfect be the enemy of the good; *you will see progress in your lifetime.*

Blessed are you with an active spiritual life; *you will find perspective and comfort in times of loss and betrayal, and be able to meet the challenges of a new day.*

Blessed are you who play as well as work, who sing and dance; *you will find energy and joy to lift you on your journey.*

15th October 2023 led by Victor Ball

Victor spoke of the Spirit within us all, and Freedom of thought of Unitarians.. We had readings from Genesis, Hindu Scriptures “Knowledge of the Soul” and Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians (Chapter 2). There were seven in the congregation and one person on Zoom.



We sang hymns 76 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, 27 To cloisters of the Spirit, 69 Praise to the living God, 46 breathe on me, Breath of God, and closed with 226 Song of Peace. Both the opening words and two of the hymns (27 and 69) were written by William Channing Gannett, an American Unitarian minister. He was a strong supporter of the rights of women and African Americans, a prolific hymn-writer, and a champion of non-sectarian religion.

WORSHIP STUDIES COURSES

Since becoming part of Unitarian College, the Worship Studies Course has been re-imagined – keeping the best of a tried and trusted system, along with new elements which incorporate Unitarian College’s experiential and immersive style of learning.

The **Foundation Step**, run by districts for many years, now runs as an eight session Zoom course. A mix of live teaching, videos, discussions and practical tasks make up the input aspect of this course. It is an ideal for first step for anyone wanting to explore their Unitarian leadership and gain worship leading skills. Following the eight teaching sessions, students lead a short online worship service before then going on to deliver two locally assessed services.

There are **also Intermediate** and **Advanced** Level Courses.

EC WELCOMES 3 NEW MEMBERS



The GA are pleased to announce the co-option of three new members to our Executive Committee (EC): Sarah Benfield, Simon Hall, and Sue Morrison. The EC act as trustees for the General Assembly (GA) and Nightingale Centre and work with the Chief Officer and other staff and volunteers to develop and oversee the strategic direction and smooth running of the GA.

WHAT LOSS MEANS by David Breeden (First Unitarian Society in Minneapolis)

Just as the last leaves on branches in autumn fail to cast shade, so the words we cast to fill the silence left by one we loved never are enough. Like any sound, words will break the spell silence casts, for a little time. And even sometimes over again. Words may stir the afternoon, words forming in wan light, and the dust motes might fall into meaning. Words may soothe the night's stark quiet. And so we carry words, in our minds, in our hearts, to fill the vast silence of what it means to be alive, which is what loss means.

"Autumn leaves shower like gold, like rainbows, as the winds of change begin to blow"

Dan Millman



"I hope I can be the autumn leaf, who looked at the sky and lived. And when it was time to leave, gracefully it knew life was a gift."

Aaron Robinson's visit to Belgium - September 2023

Thank you so much for everyone who sponsored me. I really enjoyed the Belgium trip and I'm thankful for all the money you gave to help me go on the trip. Thank you so much for helping me pursue the trip.

Yours faithfully

Aaron Robinson

Two weeks ago, I went on a trip to Belgium with school to the original WWI battlefields and their surrounding areas. Here's my experience.

Sunday to Monday's coach ride was tiring, it was a long journey that lasted around 10 hours of travelling on a cramped bus with little sleep. We stopped at a service station around 3am to go to the toilet and get some food if we wanted to, then hopped back on the coach for another 3 and a half hours. When we finally arrived at Dover, it was around 6:30am and the sun still wasn't up and our ferry wasn't until 8am, so we were sat around pretty much doing nothing for an hour. Then around 7:30am, we went to customs to have our passports checked. I felt nervous going into customs because they didn't speak English, so I didn't really know what to say, so I just stayed silent the entire time. Then we got onto the ferry and had breakfast there. This was also when we met up with our tour guide, Richard.

After the ferry, we went back on the coach for another 2-hour journey through France to Belgium. Once we got to the hostel, we looked around it a little and met up with our second tour guide, David. David took us to our first stop which was "Haringhe Bandaghem". It wasn't the nicest place to go, but for our first stop it was okay. Then we went back to the hostel to eat and went straight back out to see an old WWI bunker and a big memorial for the Canadian soldiers that were attacked. After this, we went to our last stop for the day, a German cemetery, which had an eerie atmosphere.



We then headed back to the hostel for some more food and to settle down for



the night.

Tuesday was a little more interesting, as we went to more places and had more activities. We started by going into this forest area where the original British trench lines were, and we waked through the area and looked at a few cemeteries on the way. We then looked at a crater that was made by a Mortar Shell,

it was very large and quite scary to think how such a massive hole was made by a bomb. After this, we looked at a replica WWI trench. Then we got to hold and fire an original Luger P08, that was lots of fun. After this we went to a few museums, and I bought a .55 bullet. Then we went to look at some more bunkers and craters. After these, we went to “Bedford House Cemetery” which is where my Great-Uncle is buried. It was a nice cemetery though, reminded me of the ones you see in America where they’re all grassy and neat. But after, we went to the world’s largest commonwealth cemetery, Tyne Cot.

Tyne Cot really did live up to the “world’s largest”, it took me 25 minutes to walk around the entire thing, but I’m not complaining, it was a beautiful cemetery. But after this, we went to Ypres city centre, and we went to the chocolate shop and then attended the “Last Post ceremony” which they do every night. Then we went back to the hostel to sleep for the night.

On Wednesday, which was our last day, we packed all our stuff and then went to a place called “Pond House Farm” which was this nice lady’s home, and she had lots of old WWI items and a replica Mark 4 Tank. After this, we went to our second to last stop which was a metal pole and a little prison where all the soldiers suffering from “Shell Shock” were sadly shot. For our last stop, we went to one last cemetery, said goodbye to David and got back on the coach to head for the ferry. Back on the ferry we ate some food then once we got off, we said goodbye to Richard and headed back home.

I enjoyed the trip a lot and I would recommend it for anyone who is interested in WWI as it’s an experience you won’t forget. Aaron Robinson

Tyne Cot Cemetery photos by Aaron Robinson



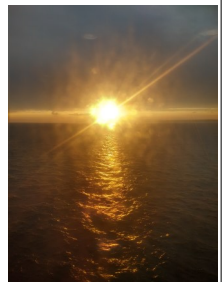
Tyne Cot Cemetery is a Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery located in the Ypres Salient in Belgium. It is the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world, with nearly 12,000 burials, and is one of the principal sites to see on the battlefields of Belgian Flanders.

The cemetery contains the graves of soldiers from the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa who fought in the First World War.

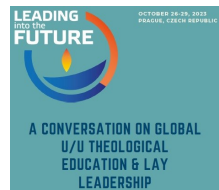
The cemetery was named after a barn which stood near the level crossing on the Passchendaele-Broodseinde road.

The Tyne Cot Memorial to the Missing is located at the rear of the cemetery and commemorates nearly 35,000 servicemen from the UK and New Zealand who died in the Ypres Salient after August 1917 and whose graves are not known.

The name "Tyne Cot" is said to come from the Northumberland Fusiliers, seeing a resemblance between the many German concrete pill boxes on this site and typical Tyneside workers' cottages (Tyne cots).



Leadership into the Future



Over 26th-29th October, Unitarians from across the world will gather for a weekend in Prague to discuss 'Leading into the Future' – the future of our Unitarian movement. I'll be attending – thanks to the NUA for support! on 29th September 2023, we met online via Zoom to say hello to each other and start to share ideas. It was great to meet Unitarians from across the world and share our different perspectives. We have so much in common if we lift our eyes from our everyday concerns. Looking forward to the event!

Here's what people said – thanks to the convenors for collating this:

"In advance of our gathering in Prague, we hosted three online Storytelling Circles. Over sixty people from around the globe joined us to dream about their hopes for the future of global theological education and lay leadership development within our shared faith. We asked "How is the Divine calling us forward?" This is what they told us:

CONNECTION IS MOST IMPORTANT

We find meaning in making connections. We recognise each other as cousins, knowing we are all different, and still are part of a larger U/UU family.

DEEPENING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

When we explore our faith together we find what we have in common, and what is unique, in our institutions, our theology, and our spirituality. We deepen our personal faith by sharing with each other.

MOVE WITH PURPOSE, AND STAY OPEN TO POSSIBILITY

Intentional inclusion requires slowing down, listening to others, and dismantling oppression. Possibility emerges with new voices, multigenerational gatherings and leadership, and use of technology.

WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER

In sharing creative ideas and leadership, connecting resources and financial support, we create an interconnected network of faith that mentors each other while being grounded in the local community.

WE MUST ACT TOGETHER FOR THE EARTH

The climate crisis threatens our planet. Our faith communities are feeling the impact of climate change daily. Our commitment to the earth is also a commitment to humanity

Louise Reeve

NUA AGM Saturday 7th October 2023

The day started with arrivals, welcome and coffee, then Hazel Warhurst led the opening devotions. The NUA Annual General Meeting started at 11.30am with five members present, with a number of apologies received. A Chairperson was appointed to lead the meeting and a Committee Motion to amend the NUA Rules to permit electronic/hybrid meetings was agreed. The Minutes for the 2022 AG were agreed and reports from the NUA Committee, NUA Delegate to the 2023 GA Meetings, both Stockton and Newcastle Churches, and the Treasurer (along with the accounts) were received. The Election of Officers then took place, with the Secretary, Hazel Warhurst, and Treasurer, David Warhurst being re-elected.

The representatives for the NUA Committee from each church, are Brian Robson (Newcastle) and Margaret Robinson (Stockton). The Accounts Examiner (Jane Tomlin) was re-appointed and a Vote of Thanks was given to everyone for their work during the year.

After lunch we were joined by two other members and had a session led by Ann Howell, Unitarian Social Action Officer on the topic of "People So Bold"



We looked at Social Actions, Ann posted notes around the walls, on areas of concern. She asked us to put our names against the three most important to us and to stand next to the most important one (see photo below). Topics were 'Global Warming, Crime, Education, Women's issues, Food Poverty, Racism to name a few. Which we discussed. The afternoon closed with the singing of a hymn, tea and cake.



Dancing Successes

On the weekend beginning 7th October 2023 Jane and Josie Jobson travelled to Blackpool to take part in the Premier Festival Finals Weekend held in The Empress Ballroom in The Winter Gardens.

Josie and Jane were both in the finals of The Ragtime Swing Classical Sequence Dance where Josie came first and Jane was seventh. Josie also gained first place in The Jubilee Quickstep.

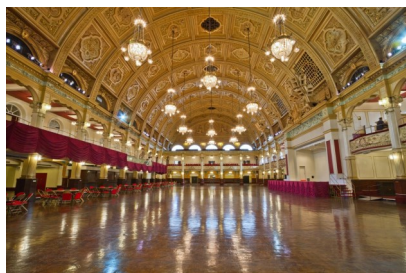
Josie also gained First place in the Latin section dancing The Jive, and came Second in The Ballroom Section dancing The Waltz.

Jane also reached The Quarter Finals in Ballroom and Latin dances. This was her first competition.



So I was a very proud mum and granny.

Margaret Whitham



A visit to Sandtoft Trolley Bus Museum

During the August Bring and Share Service David mentioned his love of transport and his nostalgia for the trolley bus. He had already decided we would visit the Trolley Bus Museum near Doncaster the following day - Bank Holiday Monday. Then Paul Walker asked "what's a trolley bus?". David explained that they were electrically driven buses taking their power from overhead wires and were used in large numbers in towns and cities across Britain until the 1960s. Being beautifully quiet and emissions free they were, in a sense, ahead of their time and were all taken out of service before environmental considerations, which might have given them a reprieve, came to the fore. I grew up in Newcastle, where they had a fleet of more than 200 so my everyday means of transport into the city was by trolley bus.



The next day David and I drove to see what is the largest collection of trolley buses in the world. There were a number of buses in the sheds needing major restoration work, but also quite a few running on overhead wires on a circuit around the museum grounds. Visitors could ride on them as much as they liked. I was hoping to have my photograph taken next to a Newcastle trolley bus, however it was not to be. The only Newcastle trolley bus had been on loan to Sandtoft in the past, but was now back on display at Beamish. I had to content myself with buying a little model of it, to go in David's display case next to the vehicles in his transport collection!

Hazel Warhurst

Date for your Diary
10.00am to 11.30am

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

Coffee Mornings every Saturday



Stockton
Unitarians



Come and **Celebrate** with us by joining in our
Tree Dressing and Carol service
on **Sunday 3rd December at 3.00pm**

Shoe box gifts for Seafarers

and

Sing the Season

on **Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm**

We look forward to seeing you.





The South Tees Mission to Seafarers

We are once again collecting shoe boxes for the Mission during the annual *Tree Dressing and Carol Service*. Rev Peter Barrigan will take them and hand them out at the Port until the end of January.

If you are able to donate some gifts please bring them along to the **Tree Dressing and Carol Service on Sunday 3rd December 2023 at 3.00pm**

Woolly hats, warm gloves, socks, scarves, tooth brushes, tooth paste, shaving foam, disposable razors, shampoo, soap, pens, sweets and chocolate. Please also include a Christmas card sending greetings to a lonely seafarer far away from home.

If you have any *Readers Digest* magazines or something similar these are much appreciated to help the crews to practise their English reading. Please select gifts that are suitable for men as there are no female seafarers coming into the Port at present.



Best wishes, *Margaret Whitham*



Stockton Unitarians

We respect the fact that there are many pathways to what is true, many ways of expressing what we hold to be of greatest worth and many differences among people, which should be celebrated as part of one great diverse whole.



We are encouraged to think for ourselves, the truth is best served where the mind is free and we trust that through open hearts and minds we will all grow in knowledge and understanding.

Within this democratically run, self-governing congregation we each take responsibility for our own spiritual journey, but unite to celebrate our common humanity.

The presence of divinity in the world around us and in each and every human person is central to our life and community. This inspires us to care for the earth and all its creatures with more compassion.

If you wish to join your search with ours in a spirit of freedom, reason, tolerance and love you will be made most welcome.

We would love to see you on a Saturday, Sunday or Tuesday.



Uni-sing! A Zoom hymn singing group, with break out groups for a chat in the middle. For more information email Louise Rogers louise.rogers256@gmail.com
see [facebook.co/groups/ 687366168770017](https://facebook.co/groups/687366168770017)

Sessions: Saturdays at 3.00pm - 4th November “Harvest”, 18th November, 2nd December “Family” and 7.00pm Monday 18th December “Christmas and Mid-winter”

Uncovering the Hidden Power of Women in Unitarian and Universalist Histories

Thursday, 9 November 2023

Reckoning
International
U/UU
Histories
Project

Registration is now Open for the 3rd Reckoning Webinar

Presenters: Alisha Rani, Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology, St. Dominic's College, Shillong, India will talk about the life of Pharienbon Rani who was the first Khasi woman to become a Unitarian. Qiyamah Rahman, Executive Director of Sister Source in the USA, will speak on "Profiling Black Women's Ministries in Unitarian Universalism."

Moderator of the webinar: Rosemary Bray McNatt, President, Starr King School for Ministry

Responders: Ann Peart (UK), Olga Flores (Bolivia), and Maria Pap (UK and Transylvania)

The Webinar begins at : **3pm GMT (UK)** To register follow this link:

https://sksm-edu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EXZgzBN-Rr-zVXDGYJMgFw When you register you are also agreeing to be on our Reckoning email list.

If you have questions about the list, please contact Erika Orban in Budapest, orbanerika1213@gmail.com

All are welcome to attend this **free webinar** which is the third in a series of unique international Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist collaborative programs. We are an ad hoc group of U/UU historians and ministers committed to uncovering oppressed, marginalised and hidden stories in our histories.

For further information about the Reckoning International U/UU Histories Project, please contact Claudia at celferdink@comcast.net

Harris Manchester College

"Harris Manchester is the present-day Oxford University college that was founded by Unitarians in Manchester in 1786 and transferred to Oxford in 1889. It hosts students, who are all aged over 21, and has served the Unitarian movement through training ministers and caring for a remarkable collection of historic and contemporary documents, books and images relating to the history of Unitarianism and Dissent.



Rev. Dr Claire MacDonald writes: "I trained there, and I am now its Chaplain and Ministry Tutor. It's an exciting time. HMC's Governing Body has the development of a centre where we can house ministry education and research in its strategic plan. How that happens, how we create projects, enable access to Unitarians, develop new programmes and how we as a movement care for the future of education and research across our movement and in our two colleges, is what the Zoom meeting is about. If you are interested in what HMC is, what its future might be, what we are planning – and most of all, if you would like to be involved in some way – please come along."

It was a fascinating discussion, in which we explored the history of Harris Manchester College, and what might happen next, with chance for small group discussions among attendees about what matters to us for the future. It was noticeable that knowledge of Harris Manchester College and what it offers varied among those attending. Perhaps an 'Introduction to British Unitarianism' course is needed - congregations vary greatly in terms of their engagement with the wider UK movement, and the resources they've got to share knowledge about it with their members. Thanks to all involved in organising.

Louise Reeve

Another chocolate quiz

Can you name the chocolate bar from the clues below?

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Talk quietly | 2. Bigger than a domestic cat | 3. Small dog |
| 4. Content of conversation | 5. Part of the Universe | 6. God of war |
| 7. Public transport | 8. Dairyman's local | |
| 9. Where 9, 10, and 11 come after | | 10. Pirates treasure |
| 11. Eastern pleasure | 12. Cinderella's friend | 13. Clever little things |
| 14. In a spin | 15 American coin | 16. The local in the sky |
| 17. Stranded at sea on a raft | | 18. Giving a helpful lift up |
| 19. Twin sticks | 20. Not quite a kitty kat. | |

Answers on page 23

How many can you get right?

Some quotes, wise words worth thinking about:

- “Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than going to the garage makes you a car.” Albert Schweitzer
- “A profound understanding of religion allows the destruction of the barriers that separate them.” Mahatma Gandhi
- At the heart of **Christmas** is the message of love, and a reminder of the divinity in every human heart.
- “If liberty and equality as is thought by some, are chiefly found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.” Aristotle
- Focus on the good things in life, no matter how small, and they will multiply.
- There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it. Edith Wharton
- Creativity nourishes the soul; get creative, do the things you love and feel the pleasure that it brings.
- There is more one way forward in life; you have trouble on one path, try creating a new one. Seek harmony in your soul and kindness in the people close to you; happiness found in material things will not bring you lasting joy.
- You cannot predetermine your future; but the choices you make today will help to shape it, so make them carefully and you’ll reap the rewards.
- We are never given more than we can handle, so hold tight to the belief that you can get through anything – because you can.

Halloween greetings from the Unitarian Earth Spirit Network. Actually the old English word is **Samhain**. In rural communities of old, they celebrated the end of autumn and the gathering of the last harvest of nuts and berries. It was a time to take stock of the year gone by and plan for the winter ahead. Families would gather around the supper table where a place had been laid for anyone who had died during the year. It was a time to pay tribute to that person, remember their life and what had been learned from them. tony mceile

GA Worship Words - a collection of inspiring, beautiful and meaningful resources for worship. Have you written something that you're proud of or that you know other people have liked or found valuable? [Please send it to us](#). The collection now holds over 320 resources.

UNITARIAN
ANNUAL MEETINGS

4-6 APRIL 2024

at Staverton Park Hotel



CHURCH DIRECTORY

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website: www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk

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Twitter: Stockton Unitarian Centre

Chairperson and Flower Secretary: Jean Watson - 01642 658376

Margaret Robinson - Secretary and Church News Editor
telephone: 01642 782219 mobile 07799896452
email: margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

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

**While we do our good works let us not forget that the real solution lies in
a world in which charity will have become unnecessary.**

Chinua Achebe

The Worship group meet on **Wednesday 1st November 2023** at 10.15am
to plan the Tree Dressing, Human Rights and Sing the Season services

The Church Council meet on **Saturday 18th November 2023** at **11.30am**

Answers to Chocolate Quiz 1. Whispa, 2. Lion, 3. Yorkie, 4. Topic,
5. Galaxy, 6. Mars, 7. Double Decker, 8. Milky Bar, 9. After Eight, 10. Bounty,
11. Turkish Delight, 12. Buttons, 13. Smarties, 14. Twirl, 15. Dime, 16. Star Bar,
17. Drifter, 18. Boost, 19. Twix, 20. KitKat

**Deadline for the next edition of Stockton News is
Thursday 28th December 2023.** Please send your
contributions for the January/February edition to the Editor:
Margaret Robinson margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

Sunday Services for 2023



| Date | Time | Worship Leader |
|---------------|------------|--|
| 29th October | 6.00pm | Dr Barry Thomas |
| 5th November | 3.00pm | Hazel and David Warhurst |
| 12th November | 3.00pm | Rev Victor Ball |
| 19th November | 3.00pm | Rev Paul Walker |
| 26th November | 3.00pm | Rev Margaret Kirk |
| 3rd December | 3.00pm | Tree Dressing and Carol service |
| 10th December | 3.00pm | Human Rights |
| 17th December | 3.00pm | Sing the Season |
| 24th December | No Service | |
| 31st December | No service | |
| 2024 | | |
| 7th January | 3.00pm | Bring & Share service "Looking Forward" |

Offers to lead worship would be appreciated, please contact Margaret Whitham 01429 298641

Flowers for October-December 2023

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 29th October | Gail Moore |
| 5th November | Mrs Jean Watson |
| 11th November | Rev Margaret Kirk |
| 19th November | Hazel & David Warhurst |
| 26th November | Flower Fund |
| 3rd December | Mrs Pat Wilkinson |



If you would like to contribute to the flower fund or buy flowers in memory of a loved one and have your name added to the flower list please let Jean Watson know. 01642 658376

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