



HULL UNITARIAN

APRIL and MAY 2012

**Magazine of Hull Unitarian Church
Park Street
Kingston upon Hull**

Founded:1672

**A Proud Tradition of Over Three Hundred
Years of Freedom, Reason and Tolerance.**



WHO'S WHO AT PARK STREET

Chairman:

Marie Penn Tel.: (01482) 508024

Deputy Chairman:

Michael Tracey Tel.: (01482) 833143
michael.tracey@hemscott.net

Secretary and Bookings:

Pat Clappison Tel.: (01482) 343353

Treasurer & Reaching Out:

Mavis Lake Tel.: (01482) 353752

Music:

Dr. Adrian Worsfold Tel.: (01482)

Board of Trustees:

Keith Brown, Pat Clappison, Barry Cundill,
Mavis Lake, Marie Penn, Michael Tracey.

Hull Unitarian Editor:

Barry Cundill Tel.: (01964) 624101
barry@compton12.karoo.co.uk

CHAIRWORDS

Hello there!

Welcome to the spring. It is good to have the gradually lengthening days, when we all feel more comfortable to get on with our daily lives. The gardens are looking so beautiful and the spring flowers bring a joyful feeling into our hearts.

*'April is a lady, a pretty, pouting lady,
And off she goes a-primrosing. All in a flaunting
gown:*

*There's a kindness in her eyes of blue,
There's magic when she smiles at you,
There's laughter on her lips, and tears,
And sometimes there's a frown.*

*Oh April is a lady, a winsome, wayward lady,
She leaves a trail of flowers behind
Where're her feet have passed.
There's May with all her garlands gay,
There's June with roses all the way.
But April with her tears and sighs enthrals me to the
last.*

*O April is a lady, a dainty dancing lady.
I met her at the valley's end, just where the bluebells
sway:
She spoke my name in glad surprise,
She glanced at me with dewy eyes.
She kissed my brow, she touched my hand,
And stole my heart away.'*

On behalf of the Trustees and Congregation I would like to officially welcome Helen Jackman as a new member of our Church. We hope to share many years of worship together.

We have two new regular friends in our congregation each week now and what a pleasure it is to welcome them into our midst. We enjoy meeting them and they bring fresh new ideas into our work. Once we begin to grow more aware of the community around us, then and only then do we become part of that community which stretches

across the world.

We all know pain. From this, we can all be ministers, caring for each other and for different friends in different situations. So let's all be optimistic and rather than look inwardly, look out there and see whom we can help. Just a smile makes a big difference.

Our services continue to be very refreshing and interesting. They are all different and all have different ways in putting across a message. So we are getting a good variation, hopefully making it clearer where our own ideas and beliefs are taking us.

This we should really appreciate. I think the YUU talk on, 'I could hear every word you said – is that enough?' No, it isn't but it is a good start and it isn't much good saying anything at all if it cannot be heard or understood. It is so easy to criticise but so hard to do, and the fact that we have a choice should make us very thankful.

Let us look forward to an excellent summer together.

Love to you all.

Marie Penn

SPIRITUAL CORNER

LIVING IN THE PRESENT

These roses under my window make no reference to former roses or to better ones; they are for what they are; they exist with God today. There is no time to them. There is simply the rose; it is perfect in every moment of its existence. Before a leaf bud has burst, its whole life acts; in the full-blown flower there is no more; in the leafless root there is no less. Its nature is satisfied, and it satisfies nature in all moments alike. There is no time to it. But man postpones or remembers; he does not live in the present, but with reverted eye laments the past, or heedless of the riches that surround him, stands on tiptoe to foresee the future. He cannot be happy and strong until he too lives with nature in the present.

Ralph Waldo Emerson.

We tend to be alive in the future, not now. We say, 'Wait until I finish school and get my Ph.D degree and then I will be really alive'. When we have it, and it's not easy to get, we say to ourselves, 'I have to wait until I get a job before I become *really* alive'. And then after the job, a car. After the car, a house. We are not capable of being alive in the present moment. We tend to postpone being alive to the future, the distant future we know not when. Now is not the moment to be alive. We may never be alive at all in our entire life.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Submitted by Bernard McHugh

A PRAYER

I feel I know, where ere I go
 A world of wonder's waiting there
 To fold and comfort me,
 For ever since I walked the world
 I've sought to find
 How it unfurled
 And why its strange, yet lovely face
 Would meet me in some quiet place.
 So when towards the end of day
 The sunlit clouds their form display,
 Then do I often quietly pray
 And thank whatever gods there be
 That I can hear and feel and see.

Submitted by Marie Penn

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

To say that Sue and I have been knocked sideways yet again with a flu type illness would be no exaggeration. Half our village was laid low by it, I hear. With the recent soaring scrap metal prices the rag and bone men have been calling almost every day – including Sundays. Just of late their shouts have put me in mind of that Monty Python film sketch where the cretin has a cart laden with bodies as he goes from house to house yelling, 'Bring out your dead!'

Humour, of course, is a very subjective thing. For example, I know that in the film *The Life of Brian*

there are many hilarious sketches though in my opinion, when the alien spaceship snatches Brian as he is falling, only to crash shortly afterwards and save his bacon: that surely, must be a main pinnacle of the film's genius?

When we consider how many film repeats there are on the telly it seems strange that the other funniest film of all time (in my humble opinion) never gets a look in. I refer to It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad world' where Snozzle Durante literally kicks the bucket but not before telling a group of onlookers where his gangster hoard is buried hundreds of miles away. Of course, the worst side of human nature is revealed as each group or individual tries to do the others down and get to the treasure first.

Finally, I apologise should you find any errors in this issue – believe me, it's been a real struggle to get this one out.

CHESTER'S PIECE

Hi Fans

Nothing much to report, except I've been missing out on my long walks while Barry and Sue have been laid low. Things are more or less back on track now though and I hope to be with you all checking out the biscuit situation after Easter.

YORKSHIRE UNITARIAN UNION MEETING

Bernard and I travelled to York for the Lay Preachers meeting. The meeting looked at the use of poetry in services. It is hoped that Dawn Buckle will be available at a later date to make her contribution which had to be postponed.

In the afternoon the Rev Ernest Baker talked about our Sunday Charity – Send a Child to Hucklow. He spoke of children who travelled to Hucklow for a short holiday and how they enjoyed the activities and fresh air. Children from Hull will get the opportunity this year.

Future Events for the YUU

25 April Organ Recital at Wakefield on their restored organ

21 June The next meeting will be at Pepper Hill

Mavis Lake

CHALICE CLUB MEETING

We finally managed to have a Christmas celebration but we are now back to holding our monthly meeting at 944.

Mavis Lake

REACHING OUT

On behalf of the Boyes Lane recreational Ground Committee I would like to thank all those who gave so generously at our tabletop sale on 23 March. The event raised £51. Special thanks also to Georgina.

Barry Cundill

WILLING WORKERS

To see a task wants doing is the first sign of a willing heart.

Then to do something about it and be prepared to make a start.

The inner motivation is to get down and make a start,

To take the job with zest and not shirk.

Selfish ones will sit on the fence and not see the need,

Will stand back and let others take the lead.

The ones who seek God's will desire to see things done;

They will get to work,

And continue to labour and will not shun.

Submitted by Dorothy Morgan

BOWLALLEY LANE CHAPEL AND THE OCTAGONAL ERA

The Hull congregation started out as Presbyterian, not Unitarian. It only fully became Unitarian as the 1800's began, and it was at this time that the old mercantilist influenced chapel was replaced by an octagonal building. Why would they choose an octagon with twice the usual number of walls?

The answer probably is because the Presbyterian denomination had something of an identity crisis, and yet by now the chapel had established continuing wealthy and influential trustees with their families providing generations of worshippers (something that ended recently with the last of the Strachans as members.)

Examples of those wealthy people would include Benjamin Blaydes who became a chapel trustee in 1744. He commenced the Hull/Hamburg trade and was important in civic life. Dr John Alderson was a senior physician who is remembered to this day in health circles. Alderson was one of the founders of the Literary and Philosophical Society. Another significant person was Joseph Pease, who in 1802 chaired a committee for rebuilding the chapel. W Spence FRS was probably involved, first editor of the *Hull Rockingham*.

The reason for an octagonal chapel was not because the devil was unable to hide in any corners, a popular view of architecture, or even the satisfying effect that no corners were particularly further than another from the pulpit. The shape was chosen so the Church of England would not be offended. There are several examples based upon a design pioneered on the continent. The Hull building cost £1,300 and was opened in August 1803, housing identifiably illegal beliefs until 1813.

The chapel agitated towards the all important 1832 Reform Act and the 1835 Municipal Reform Act that recognised the place of the middle class in political life, nationally and at root locally.

Given the rise of middle class families in status and politically, it was thought to be both with the grain of religion and prestigious to draw on the Anglican high church. Romantic, liturgical influences came into play when a new steepled church was built in 1881. It cost the sum of £3,800. Park Street then was a well off suburb of Hull. Unitarianism might never merge with Anglicanism yet the new church would

be recognisable as a church and would not be left in the shadow of Anglicanism like the octagonal chapel had been.



A painting of Bowlalley Lane Chapel by Adrian Worsfold from an old sketch

The views expressed in Hull Unitarian magazine are solely those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the views of Hull Unitarian Church.



Hull Unitarian Church is a member congregation of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.