



Autumn Newsletter 2014

of the
Merseyside Unitarians (M.D.M.A.)
Including
The Women's League Newsletter

O sacred season of Autumn, be my teacher,
for I wish to learn the virtue of contentment.
As I gaze upon your full-colored beauty,
I sense all about you an at-homeness with your amber riches.

You are the season of retirement,
of full barns and harvested fields.
The cycle of growth has ceased,
and the busy work of giving life
is now completed.

I sense in you no regrets:
you've lived a full life.
I live in a society that is ever-restless,
always eager for more mountains to climb,
seeking happiness through more and more posses-
sions.
As a child of my culture,
I am seldom truly at peace with what I have.

Teach me to take stock of what I have given and received,
may I know that it's enough,
that my striving can cease
in the abundance of Life's grace.
May I know the contentment
that allows the totality of my energies
to come to full flower.

May I know that like you I am rich beyond measure.
As you, O Autumn, take pleasure in your great bounty,
let me also take delight
in the abundance of the simple things in life
which are the true source of joy.



Edward Hays

Hi Folks

It is some time since I took over the editing of the Mersey News from Daphne Roberts - I began in 2009 and as a Unitarian who only knew the members of her own church I did not really know how to communicate with the members of the district.

I have filled the pages with the help of new friends, all the churches, Lynne Readett and many others. I have today been reading through some of the back numbers and realise that there are a lot of people who used to regularly contribute to the Mersey News and I have sadly neglected them.

I have been striving to make this newsletter a vehicle whereby the churches keep in touch with one another and find out what is happening within our district. Numbers in the churches are sadly going down and we become disheartened. On the other hand I see on the internet how busy some of the churches are becoming and it is not necessarily the numbers who attend the Sunday worship that reflect the growth in the movement.

So what of the future - I will strive to continue to bring out this newsletter four times a year and its content will reflect the articles that I am sent to include in it.

Some of our members are elderly and do not attend church on Sundays anymore and I would like to say hello to them and hope that they have received their copy via a member of the church that they used to attend. I would like to say hello to all the people who attend our church buildings for other activities, theatre, music, art, friendship, cups of tea, coffee mornings, committee meetings, keep-fit, children`s groups and many other reasons. Do the church members circulate this newsletter to the groups that attend their church on weekdays so that they will know what our churches think and perhaps encourage them to be there on Sundays.

If you would like to say something to all these people who come through our doors write an article and let me include it. If I have not contacted you like Daphne used to please don`t be offended we would like to hear from you again.

If you are a new member and are seeking a new way to express your faith then hello to you as well - we would like to hear from you on how you found the welcome, how were you attracted to Unitarianism, what could we be doing better to let people know about us.

If you do not fit any of these categories - well hello to you too.

If you do not like what I am doing with **your** Mersey News then let me know and I will consider changing the content.

You can send me articles in many ways. You could telephone on 01244 390590. You could write to me at 78 Western Avenue, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5PP - you do not have to type your article out as I can quickly do that for you if I can read your handwriting. Or if you are part of the more technically advanced you could email me at pocketsow@hotmail.co.uk. You do not have to wait for a deadline date if you send me articles when you think about them I will compile them ready for printing.

Bright Blessings

Eileen Wiggins, Editor - Mersey News

Unitarians: 'many beliefs- one faith'

As Unitarians we find a bond of unity in shared values e.g.

- the nurture of life's spiritual dimension.
- the use of reason and honest doubt in the search for truth.
- mutual respect and goodwill in personal relations.
- constructive tolerance and openness towards the sincerely-held beliefs of others.
- peace, compassion, justice and democracy in human affairs.
- reverence for the earth and our natural heritage.

For more information, local and national

Local: www.ukunitarians.org.uk/merseyside

News from Cairo Street

I once remarked when conducting a service at Ullet Road that when we join a congregation our motive is because we have found a home where we can worship but how quickly we become cleaner, caretaker, financial officer, news editor, tea maker, gardener and general dogs body. The problem a lot of us have is I am told 'is that we cannot say no.' But when things are happening as a result of our involvement don't we feel good.

There is always a drama or an event waiting to happen at Cairo Street.

We recently held a 'boon day' and members came along and cleared our old garden area of weeds and self grown seedlings and now mown and managed we intend to use the area for what it was intended as an area for the holding of events and for our younger members to play in.

As costs increase the struggle to maintain our churches and chapel as places of worship becomes even more difficult. We at Cairo Street have had a difficult few years. One of our main sources of income, the letting of our shop premises, has over the past few years been of great concern. The difficulties began with the tenant not paying the rent and his cheques bouncing and then he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to a Prison sentence. During this time the Inland Revenue took an interest in his business activities and his assets were seized. To ensure that the property could be re-let we applied and received a loan from the MDMA to undertake repairs to the property. However, the shop remained un-let and with no income from the shop, money was draining from our account.

Now the former Jewellers Shop is a hair dressing salon and nail centre and I went along to the Official Opening and was impressed with the structural changes that the new tenants have undertaken (at their own expense) and inwardly thinking of the income that the chapel will soon be recouping in rent which will assist our chapel to remain solvent and plan for the future with renewed vigour.

Our Heritage Day event proved a great success with an increased number of visitors. We had some visitors who had travelled a considerable distance to visit the chapel. One visitor Pam Morris who contributes to our flower fund travelled from Fleetwood to visit us and reminisced of her childhood memories of the chapel. Our connections with Joseph Priestley, William and Elizabeth Gaskell and Warrington Academy interested many of our visitors as did the information we have on display outlining our Unitarian Beliefs and Values.

On Sunday 21st September we held our Annual Academy Service. This year Janice Hayes of Warrington Museum Services spoke on the political life of Frederick Monks. With a number of his descendants present it was interesting to listen how his Unitarian faith shaped his life and the good he did for his fellow man. One quote that Janice used from his writings included this, 'the Irish workmen employed on a day by day basis should be treated as equal to everyone else' So when you next visit Warrington go along to the Town Hall and inspect the Town Hall Gates presented by Frederick Monks. Now called the Golden Gates they are a testament to a great Warrington Unitarian.

After the Academy Service at Cairo Street Chapel the Rev Lynne Readett, the Monks family and Deputy Mayor of Warrington Geoff Settle, lay flowers on the grave of Frederick Monks.



On Sunday December 21st at 3pm Cairo Street will be holding a Light for Life Service you are most welcome to attend and light a candle for a loved one and to leave a message on the Christmas tree. At the service we are planning for the children to perform for the first time in many years a short Christmas Play the story Babouskha.

Ray Beecham

Wirral Unitarians: Minister: Rev John Keggen

Services Normally 6.30 on 2nd and 4th Sundays (except August) at the Quaker Meeting House, North Drive, Heswall

SPECIAL SERVICE

Sunday 21st December

A Carol Service 4pm and followed by buffet tea

DISCOVERY GROUP - OPEN TO ALL

7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House North Drive Heswall

Wed 15th
October

The Spirituality of Art

Wed 19th Nov

Who am I? a neuroscientific exploration of self

All are welcome

On a regular basis we have Discovery meeting (see above), a Book Group that meets in members' homes. We hold Church rambles and each year visit another church. This year we went to Stand Chapel in Whitefield and visited the Jewish Synagogue in Manchester. For more information about life at our Unitarian Wirral community please contact Helen 0151 625 5488 or go to our website www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wirral

.....and finally

Charity Classics Concert



Sunday 23rd November 3pm

in aid of the St John's Hospice House

A variety of music for voice, flute and euphonium

Come and enjoy a hour of varied music perfect for a Sunday afternoon

Junior weekend is filled with fun and friends.

Participants explore different themes through craft activities, outdoor trips, playing games and having a giggle together.

At Old Chapel Great Hucklow the children retell the story of the 'Stone Soup' Sophie mixes up the soup to begin the story.



The story begins A tramp knocked at the farmhouse door. "I can't let you in, for my husband is not at home," said the woman of the house. "And I haven't a thing to offer you," she added. Her voice showed unmasked scorn for the man she held to be a beggar. "Then you could make use of my soup stone," he replied, pulling from his pocket what appeared to be an ordinary stone. "Soup stone?" said she, suddenly showing interest in the tattered stranger. "Oh yes," he said. "If I

just had a potful of water and a fire, I'd show you how it works. This stone and boiling water make the best soup you've ever eaten. Your husband would thank you for the good supper, if you'd just let me in and put my stone to use over your fire. **Perhaps you could find the rest of the story for yourself.**

First timers at the weekend have a ritual baptism in the horse trough. First time attenderz have a ritual baptism in the horse trough. In the picture below Molly is 'christened' in the trough. Calvin and Sophie watch the proceeding with great interest they were 'christened' at the trough some time ago.



News from Gateacre

Gateacre Brow, Liverpool, L25 3PB

Chapel Leader:

David Buckley

Tel: 0151 608 7271

Email: gateacrechapel@aol.com

Sunday 9th November 10 45 a.m. : Remembrance Day service

Sunday 30th November :

A special Christmas tree service where members of the congregation will be invited to hang a star on the Christmas tree for all those who have lost a loved one during the previous year.



Sunday 14 December :

Toiletries service :
Members of the congregation invited to bring items which will be donated to a local charity

Thursday, 18 December :

8.00 until 11.00 p.m. The congregation will be singing carols at the Black Bull Inn, Gateacre.

All members of the district are invited to attend and the proceeds of the evening will be sent to Send a child to Hucklow.

Sunday 21st December : Church carol service : Christmas Eve
6:30 p.m. carol service

All our services take place at 11.00 a.m. unless otherwise specified.

Women`s League Newsletter

Greetings - Ladies of the Women`s League

At our last meeting at Ullet Road church I told you all that the Women`s League Newsletter was included in the pages of the Mersey News. I also told you that I would print out a compilation of some of the articles from the past newsletters since I began being the editor.

Today this compilation is available to you all and you will see that they have been written by many of the ladies that attended in the past and many of the ladies who still attend.

When Daphne Roberts was the editor of the Mersey News she had a rota of ladies from each of the branches that contributed articles when it was their turn. Since I have been the editor some of the branches have closed, some of the people who wrote have become too elderly to attend and some of the ladies I did not know who they were to approach.

I would like to include the thoughts of the members of the Women`s League in this newsletter and also to perhaps restart the rota. If you would be willing to be one of the people on this rota or just to contribute when you can please contact me in one of the following ways or just approach me at the meeting.

You could telephone on 01244 390590. You could write to me at 78 Western Avenue, Blacon, Chester, CH1 5PP - you do not have to type your article out as I can quickly do that for you if I can read your handwriting. Or if you are part of the more technically advanced you could email me at pocketsow@hotmail.co.uk. You do not have to wait for a deadline date if you send me articles when you think about them I will compile them ready for printing.

I look forward to your comments and suggestions.

**Eileen Wiggins - Member of the Women`s League and
Editor of the Mersey News**



"Mental sunshine will cause the flowers of peace, happiness and prosperity to grow upon the face of the earth. Be a creator of mental sunshine." - Kathi's Garden

As we visited Sefton Park the sun shone brightly and old friends soaked up the sunshine as they chatted. At the summer meeting of the district Women`s League we all met and Lynne Readett took the service. At the business meeting we decided the activities during the coming months. We ate a bring your own lunch and then we all went to visit the Palm House in Sefton Park.

What a joy to sit on a park bench and chat over old times, remember happinesses, discuss problems and seek support and encouragement.

To cure sometimes
To help often.
To console, always,

Anon

Women`s League Ladies in Sefton Park in the Summer Sun



Summer is the time when one sheds one's tensions with one's clothes, and the right kind of day is jeweled balm for the battered spirit. A few of those days and you can become drunk with the belief that all's right with the world.

Ada Louise Huxtable

A Song for Autumn

Golden leaves are falling, Why should this be sad?
Rather, we`re recalling all the joys we`ve had

Round us, like a glory in the autumn air,
Tell again the story of a past so fair.

Lift your hands to catch them drifting from the trees,
Lift your heart to hold them - Golden Memories

Anon

As I looked back over the back copies of the Women`s League Newsletter many of the articles referred to “forgetfulness”. Forgetting where we have put our keys, forgetting people`s names, forgetting birthdays and many other things. Also there were grumbles about the infirmity that advancing years bring.

I thought you might enjoy the poem below even if your not 80 yet.

80!

Today Dear Lord I am 80 and there's much I haven't done,
I hope Dear Lord, You'll let me live until I'm 81.
But then if I haven't finished all I want to do,
Would you let me stay awhile until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go, so very much to see,
Do You think You could manage to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast
There is much in store,
I'd like it very much to live until I'm 84.
And if by then I'm still alive,
I'd like to stay till 85.
More planes will be up in the air,
So I'd really like to stick,
And see what happens to the world when I am 86.
I know Dear Lord it's much to ask,
And it must be nice in heaven.
But I would really like to stay until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast, and sometimes will be late,
But it would be so pleasant, to be around at 88.
I will have seen many things and had a wonderful time,
So, I'm sure that I'll be ready to leave at 89 . . . maybe.

Harvest at Ullet Road Church. Thanks to Jaki, Liz and Bunty.



Ullet Road Unitarian Church
Invite you to a children's...

HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Friday 31st October
7pm

Come and join us and be a little bit scared!!
(The castle entrance is in York Avenue)

Games Tickets £5 Food
 Under 3's free Raffle

Prizes

Happy Halloween



Friday 31st
October 2014
doors creak
open at
7pm.....dare
you enter!

Heritage events on the 13th of September 2014

Many of our churches open their doors for the Heritage weekend which this year was 13th September. Young Mr Gabriel was happy to report that Ancient Chapel welcomed over 200 visitors. They took all the leaflets that were available and contributed to a very happy weekend.

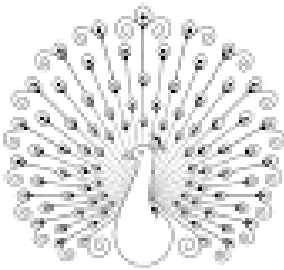
Hucklow Summer School

Two intrepid Unitarians from Wirral attended the annual Unitarian Summer School in the Derbyshire village of Great Hucklow in the third week of August.

It was a new experience for both of us as we were led into a week of **Discovery** to find **'the Authentic Self'** – indeed the theme for the summer school.

It was hectic, stimulating, exhausting, sometimes tearful and just a whirlwind of activities to blow your inner psyche or perhaps do a bit of painting, walking or singing. Something for everyone, young and old including *'a silent auction'*, book stall fund, meditation and evening lantern walks to Hucklow Chapel.

The week was introduced by the Rev Michael Dadson, the pastoral leader and a long-term member of the current Summer School planning committee. The planning committee tried to reflect the range of Unitarian theological positions in the theme talks and *engagement groups*.



Michael talked us through the purpose of the week; the fellowship and *Covenant* that we would build over our short period together – our covenant to feel responsibility towards the Community. Part of this fellowship was singing songs (often in rounds), making friendships in groups and at meal times, sharing ideas, acknowledging and enabling the young people to be part of the Community.

There were optional workshops such as poetry, writing and walking but the thrust of the week was based on the *Engagement Groups* and *Theme Talks* (a sort of mini lecture based around the authentic Self). You were expected to attend these throughout the week.

Everyday you would attend the same engagement group and build on the progress of each session working towards a resolution or room for more discovery.

I attended the 'Conference of Birds' group. This was based on the poem written by the medieval Islamic poet, Attar. I really enjoyed this group as we explored the journey of the birds to find their quest of a higher power. This poem provided a lovely metaphor for our own personal journeys through beginnings, youth, discovery, ups and downs, loss and towards the end finding our destiny. The poem was influenced by Sufism. I liked it because it included a variety of creative and non-threatening settings to look at life. Just a taste of it – we made our own birds and danced to music to express the different paths on our (or the bird's) journey. (Christine)

Irene took part in the 'Identifying and living as your authentic self' engagement group. I know that all the participants worked really hard in this group and there was plenty of soul searching going on. Everyone seemed to survive and live for another day. But I do know they wanted to get to the 'heart of the matter' in our own spiritual and personal lives.

The theme talks took place every morning before the engagement groups; Jane Blackall, Maria Curtis ..., Michael Dadson, Celia Cartwright and Ralph Catts were all contributors. The talks outlined a range of approaches to the Authentic Self and in the late afternoon we had the opportunity to discuss the talk with the morning's speaker.

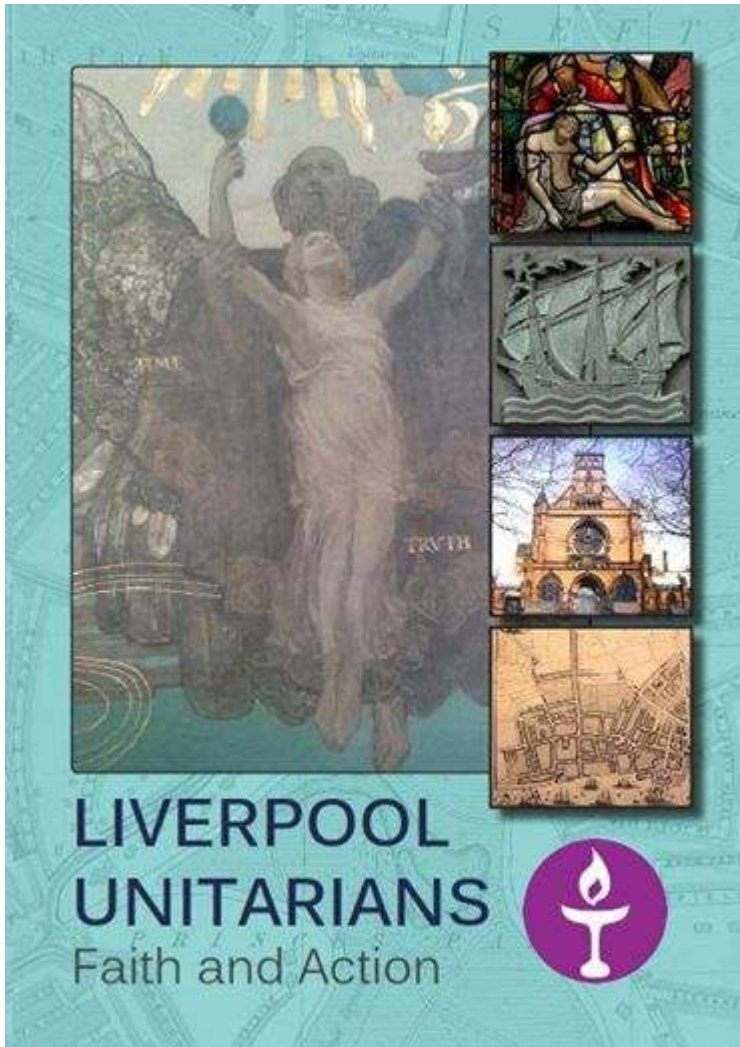


There was a lot to take in at this summer school and it was quite tiring, however we (Irene and I) managed to have some pretty good conversations of our own with a few hearty laughs along the way (compulsory).

For me, there was more emphasis on community than I had expected but this has given me a better insight into the breadth of current thinking **within** Unitarian circles. I learnt a lot. Plenty to think about and consider for another year.....

Warm greetings from Christine and Irene.

Liverpool Unitarians : Faith and Action



MDMA proudly presents its new publication *Liverpool Unitarians: Faith & Action*. The book was launched in September at The Athenaeum club in Liverpool. If you wish to purchase a copy please email liverpoolunitarians@gmail.com. It is also available from Amazon and Waterstones. This book was edited by Daphne Roberts and David Steers.

In his introduction to the book David Steers writes ...

This books explores some aspects of the contribution to society made over time by selected members of the Unitarian community in Liverpool. The Unitarian church is a small but long established part of religious life and has always had a particularly prominent place in the life of Merseyside and District.

The Unitarian churches on Merseyside have an unbroken history that stretches back over four hundred years. In that time they have included in their number many people who have made remarkable contributions to the life of Liverpool, the region and the nation, whether in industry and commerce, in education and the arts or in responding to the needs of society, particularly the poor and marginalized.

This book examines a number of prominent individuals and families who have been part of this story. Its contributors are all people who themselves have a contemporary connection with the same community of faith and are David Steers, Bernard Cliffe, Annette Butler, Philip Waldron, Len W Mooney, Daphne Roberts, Richard Merritt, John Keggen and Elizabeth Alley.

Thanks go to everyone who co-operated in the production of this volume but particularly to Daphne Roberts who conceived and began the whole project and who assembled the original section of articles. Thanks also went to Phil Waldron who took many of the photographs for this volume and who tracked down a number of portraits for inclusion which, to the best of anyones knowledge, have never been published before.

Buy your copy now it is well worth it.



District Service 2015 Date for your Diary

It was agreed at the last MDMA meeting on the 12th of July, that we invite Rev Dr Vernon Marshall to preach at the Merseyside District Service, this will be on the 26th of April at 3pm at Gateacre Chapel. There will be provision for a children's event and refreshments afterwards in a nearby hall, please put this date into your diaries and advise your chapel secretaries etc.



Members of the District at the annual weekend away at Hucklow.

Chester Church continues to meet and is often surprised by new people walking in through the door. On Sunday we thought there would be two of us and six people came. This was the miracle of my day.

Oct 5th	Harvest and Solstice
Oct 19th	Lynne Wilson
Nov 2nd	Mexican Day of the Deaths - Maricarmen Cardinas
Nov 16th	Circle and AGM



The Nightingale Centre - 2014

For enquiries about general activities at the centre contact
Stella Burney 01298 871 218 info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk

		<i>Contact for further information</i>
10 th -12 th Oct	Unicoms (Formerly UCCN) - The Unitarian Communicators' Conference	Julian Smith 01773 829736 julian.cl.smith@gmail.com
10 th -12 th Oct	Unitarian Peace fellowship (UPF) - An inspirational weekend of workshops and fellowship	Sue Woolley 01604 87074 sue.woolley@virgin.net
24 th -26 th Oct	Unitarian Women's Group (UWG) Conference: LIFE THROUGH A LENS	Angela Maher angela.j.maher@gmail.com or Kate Buchanan 07870 322 519
9 th -11 th Jan	Winter Walking 1 - Walking, and recharging the batteries after the Christmas festivities	Contact:: Stella
17 th -18 th Jan	Winter Walking 2 - Walking, and recharging the batteries after the Christmas festivities	Contact:: Stella

Merseyside District Churches

<http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/merseyside/congregations.php>

Ancient Chapel Toxteth, Park, Liverpool, L48 4UE	11.00 a.m. (Fortnightly from Dec 7th)
Chester Cheshire County Sports Club, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, CH2 1PR www.chesterunitarians.co.uk	10.30 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays) Tel: 01829 740533
Gateacre Chapel Gateacre Brow, Liverpool, L25 3PB www.ukunitarians.org.uk/gateacre/	11.00 a.m. each Sunday Tel: 0151 608 7271
Isle of Man Fellowship Meeting in members homes	As arranged
Park Lane Chapel Wigan Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 0BY http://parklanechapel.ukct.net	11.00 a.m. each Sunday
Southport Unitarian Church The Spiritualist Church 27a Hawkshead Street Southport PR9 9HF www.ukunitarians.org.uk/Southport	11.00 a.m. each Sunday
Ullet Road Church Cheltenham Avenue, Sefton Park, Liverpool, L17 2AA www.ukunitarians.org.uk/ulletroad	11.00 a.m. each Sunday Tel: Vestry 0151 733 1927
Warrington Cairo Street Chapel Cairo Street (off Sankey St) Warrington, WA1 1EE www.ukunitarians.org.uk/warrington	1st and 3rd Sunday 3.00 p.m. Tel: 07966 883 694
Wirral Unitarians Quaker Meeting House, North Drive, Heswall, Wirral, CH60 0BD www.ukunitarians.org.uk/Wirral	6.30 p.m. (2nd and 4th Sundays) (No services in August) Tel: 0151 632 5256
MDMA President	
MDMA Secretary	Graham Greenhall
Lay Preachers Secretary	Miss Beryl Black Tel 0151 733 2927