

PULSE e-Bulletin

Promoting Unitarianism in London
& the South-East



**FEBRUARY
2010**

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Welcome to the February PULSE e-bulletin and thank you for all the encouraging feedback on the new format. We've added a calendar on the back page so it's easy to see when events are happening. Do let me know if you have any ideas on or suggestions by emailing me at stella@frankeveconsulting.co.uk



District Minister
Rev David Usher

Council appoints District Administrator

District Council is delighted to announce the appointment of Stella Eve as quarter-time District Administrator. Stella has been an active member of our Horsham congregation since she and her husband, Francis, married there seven years ago. Stella has already taken over the

editorship of the monthly e-Bulletin, and in addition to her established computer and administrative skills, she also has her own ideas on how we can improve the District's internal and external communications. Stella and Francis run a Management-

Consultancy specializing in e-commerce and marketing services for the mortgage industry.

Stella will be working from her own home for up to ten hours per week. Please welcome her warmly to her new position.



Stella Eve
New District
Administrator

New District Administrator

Since discovering the Unitarian movement just over seven years ago, I've become increasingly passionate about the unique values we have to offer.

My other interests include pottering on our

allotment with a flask of tea and enjoying time with my family. Between us, Francis and I we have a daughter and two grown-up sons.

I hope to use the experience from working

in our Consultancy business, to help the District promote our Unitarian values, and develop a thriving community.

"Prayer is less about changing the world than it is about changing ourselves."

David J. Wolpe



"He who allows oppression shares the crime."

Erasmus Darwin

District schedules its Annual Meeting

The District AGM will be held at Essex Hall on Saturday, 20th March. Rev. Jim Robinson will lead the worship, and this will be our final opportunity to appreciate Jim before he returns to his native United States after his excellent ministry at Hampstead.

The District's finances have been affected by the downturn in the national economy, but thanks to the careful stewardship of Rev. Jim McClelland as our former Treasurer and his continuing role advising on investments, and the conscientious work of our present Treas-

urer, Phillida Simpson, we are in better financial shape than we might have been.

All congregations are being invited to submit a brief report of its past year. Please ensure that your congregation does so.

Would you like to serve on District Council?

The Council consists of up to twelve people who are elected annually. This past year we have been well served by Michael Allured (Secretary), Bruce Bebbington, David Darling, Howard Hague, Liz Hills, Jef Jones, Miriam Lahage, Tanya Morrison (Chair), Rev. Feargus O'Connor, Beryl

Payne and Phillida Simpson (Treasurer). David Darling and Howard Hague have indicated their wish not to stand for re-election, leaving up to three vacancies.

The Council currently meets every two months, early on a Tuesday evening at Essex Hall. Its work is

interesting and the atmosphere at meetings is congenial and co-operative. Would you consider serving? If so, you will need to be formally proposed and seconded by two people known to your congregation and/or Council, and then be put forward for election at the AGM.

Marriage Equality Day

In March 2008 Newington Green Unitarians decided to stop conducting weddings for as long as the law bars us from treating same-sex and opposite-sex couples equally as far as weddings and civil partnerships are concerned, but instead to offer blessing services for all couples.

We are keen to explore

the implications of our decision, and options for next steps, with other London and southeastern Unitarians.

We invite you all to a 'marriage equality day' of discussion and debate, at Newington Green Unitarian Church, on Saturday 27 February, from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm,

followed by lunch provided by members of the congregation. Please email guyben-tham@hotmail.com for more information about the event - and details of the speakers involved..

New Congregational Leadership Course underway

The successful Course in Congregational Leadership started again in January. If you are interested in attending please contact David Usher to book your place. It is preferable for participants to attend all sessions, but part-attendance is also possible

The remaining sessions are:

February 20 Rites of Passage, led by Rev. Jane Barton at Brighton

March 13 Leading Small Groups, led by Rev. Jim Robinson at Sevenoaks

March 27 Building Community, led by Rev. Art Lester at Horsham

“The fool wanders; the wise man travels.”

Thomas Fuller

District's numerical growth continues

According to the numbers reported for the most recent General Assembly quota (admittedly, not necessarily the most accurate of measures, but the only one we have), the District has grown by 11.8% in the past two years. Twenty one congregations (out of 28) have reported their numbers so far,

and in those, total numbers have increased from 545 in 2007 to 612 in 2009. Six congregations reported a decline, eleven an increase, and five were stable over the past year.

If the remaining six congregations report the same numbers as last year, the total for

the District will be 697, or an increase of 9.7%.

It is excellent news that we have grown in the past two years, and although we are well on the way we still have some work to do to achieve our five year goal of a 50% increase to a total membership of 945.

Martineau Hall to be converted to offices?

The Trustees of Essex Hall are considering an option to convert Martineau Hall into office space to be rented to one of its existing tenants. This would have significant impact on the London District, as it is the venue for most of our meetings and is

not only a central meeting point but has a lot of sentimental value for many. District Council has considered its own response to this proposal and if you would like more information, please contact the District Minister. If you

would like to express your own views, please address them to Andrew Mason, Essex Hall, 1 - 6 Essex St, London WC2R 3HY. ama-son@unitarian.org.uk



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Unitarianism is a liberal religious faith

Unitarians are religious people, heirs to a historical tradition of over 400 years, who recognize and seek wisdom in all the world's great religious, philosophical, and artistic traditions.

Unitarian congregations offer weekly worship services that draw upon the breadth of these great sources of inspiration.

Unitarians believe that each individual is on their own spiritual journey, but that together we can journey toward wholeness.

The LDPA (Pulse) serves the 28 Unitarian congregations in Southeast England, including 9 congregations in London. For more information please go to www.ldpa.org.uk or www.unitarian.org.uk

Valentine Talent on Show 13th Feb

Unitarian congregations in North and West London are coming together for an evening of home-grown entertainment - a Talent Show with a Valentine's theme. The organisers are looking for songs, skits and poetry (3 minutes maximum)

with a Valentine theme. Spaces are limited. Contact Kate Buchanan by 15 January. Kateboo@gmail.com or 07870 322519.

Organisers are also looking for volunteers to help set up and run the bar. If you are interested, please

contact Margaret Perry. Margaretperry14@hotmail.com or 020 7284 0790.

Put the date in your diary and come along. Previous Talent Shows have been great successes. Money raised will be for various Unitarian causes.



Andy Pakula at his recent Induction at Newington Green/Islington on January 16th.

February Calendar

Saturday 13th— 7:30pm Talent Show, Hampstead

Monday 15th— 7:30pm Theatre Affinity Group, National Theatre, "The Power of Yes" contact David Usher for details

Saturday 20th— 11:00am Congregational Leadership Course, Brighton, Rites of Passage, led by Rev. Jane Barton at Brighton

Saturday 27th— 10:30am - 1:30pm Marriage Equality Day, Newington Green