



PULSE e-Bulletin

PROMOTING UNITARIANISM IN LONDON & THE SOUTH-EAST



MAY 2011

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Dear Friends,

Welcome to the slightly new-look monthly eBulletin, designed by our new District Administrator, Danielle Wilson. Our former Administrator, Stella Eve, did a wonderful job in making the eBulletin fresh and attractive and we thank her most warmly for her year in the position, and now Danielle is bringing her own skills and visions and we welcome her gladly.

Please encourage others in your congregation to subscribe to this publication which is circulated only by email on those months when IMPULSE is not published. One of the District's goals is to communicate effectively amongst ourselves, and this is a primary vehicle towards that end.

I hope to see as many of you as possible in the coming months, either when I come to your church to take a service, or at a District-sponsored programme.

Sincerely,

David Usher

Dear District Friends,

It is with great trepidation that I take the reins from Stella Eve!! She has done such a fantastic job with the various forms of communication now used in the District. I only hope I can add my own improvements in time.

I have been a member at Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, London for over 15 years. I currently serve, for the 2nd time, on the Management Committee and have just recently completed the long and arduous task of finding ourselves a new Minister.

I realised (post-Search) that I would have so much time on my hands (!) and so decided to work as the District Administrator. Please bear with me as I get to grips with everything!

Blessings to you all,

Danielle Wilson

District well represented at General Assembly

Forty two PULSE Unitarians, from a total of thirteen congregations, attended the 2011 General Assembly meetings in Swansea. Blessed with glorious weather and a favoured location overlooking Swansea Bay, the meetings engaged everyone's interest except when they were playing hooky in the sunshine.

There were several matters of internal interest.

- * The national Executive Committee presented its plans for a strategic way forward which involved a re-structuring of the present Commissions

- * Bangor Unitarians were welcomed as a new congregation.

- * A constitutional amendment now allows the Executive Committee to co-opt should the need arise.

- * Kate Buchanan was one of the three people featured in videos about being a volunteer.

- * David Usher was honoured as the Founding Visionary of ICUU (International Council of Unitarians & Universalists). Christine Hayhurst (Godalming) will also be honoured by ICUU at our Summer Quarterly in June.



David Usher, at the Annual Meetings, promoting visibility

Resolutions of external interest were passed.

- * Joining and endorsing the Charter for Compassion (unanimous)

- * Congratulating Amnesty International on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary. (unanimous)

- * Calling on the Government to change its harsh policies against asylum seekers. (overwhelming majority)



The Anniversary Service, conducted by Rev. Ant Howe with the sermon preached by Rev. Jeffrey Gould, was its usual highlight, this year held in the magnificent Brangwyn Hall (pictured left). A rousing hymn sing, assisted by an excellent children's choir, preceded the service.

Full reports will appear in the denominational press, and no doubt will be given by delegates representing their congregation.

Rosslyn Hill calls new minister



At a Special General Meeting held after the service on 10th April, the congregation voted 106-1 to invite Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill to be its new minister, with effect from September 2011. Rev. Dr. O'Neill is presently minister of the First Unitarian Congregational Society in Brooklyn, New York, and has a distinguished thirty year career in the ministry. He is particularly noted as a gifted preacher. He has been married to Patricia Williams for 25 years and she will be accompanying him to London.

Patrick is a passionate amateur artist and unrepentant lifelong NY Yankees fan.

"I love the ministry. While it has certainly been a conscious professional choice for me, I'm not really sure I could have gone any other route for my life. I have found it to be a rich life, full of opportunities for learning and for service. I feel blessed and privileged to share it."

Rev. Dr. Patrick Thomas Aquinas O'Neill

American Minister to spend month in London

Rev. Victoria Weinstein is a Unitarian Universalist minister currently serving a congregation in Massachusetts. She is also on the Adjunct Faculty of Andover Newton Theological Seminary on the outskirts of Boston, where she teaches a very popular course in Worship. She will be in London for a month, July 8 – August 10, staying in the manse flat at Bethnal Green. In addition to taking services in London churches (Newington Green/Islington on July 10, Hampstead on July 17 and 31, and Kensington on July 24), she will lead two workshops and a residential retreat for ministers.

Sunday, 17th July - "Moving Through the Liturgy" This will take place at Hampstead from 2.30 – 5.30pm, with the participants then leading the evening service at 7.00pm. An evening meal will be shared between the workshop and the service. Publicity about this is being sent to all Lay Worship Leaders in the District.

Saturday, 23rd July - "Nurturing a Ministry of Activism" This will take place at Unity Church, Islington from 1.00 - 5.00 PM. This workshop will address the challenge of involving congregational members in the work of social activism.

Monday 25th – Wednesday 27th July - "Moving through the Liturgy: A Workshop for Worship Renewal" This will take place at The Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. This workshop will explore the minister's roles as teacher of tradition, mediator between the sacred and the mundane, and manager of communal energy.

For any of these events, please book through Danielle Wilson at danielle@daniellewilson.com



New Council meets for first time



The newly elected District Council will hold its first meeting at Essex Hall on Monday, 9th May. The members of the new Council are James Barry (Ditchling), Kate Buchanan (Hampstead), Rev. Andie Camper (Lewes), Rev. John Carter (Lewisham), Maria Curtis (Brighton), Jen Hazel (Kensington), Miriam Lahage (Islington), Tanya Morrison (Hampstead), Rev. Feargus O'Connor (Golders Green), Phillida Simpson (Brighton), and Matthew Smith (Newington Green).

Joint Day Conference

The Alister Hardy Society & World Congress of Faiths

Saturday 11th June 2011 at Essex Church-10 AM to 4:30 PM

Dr. Marcus Braybrooke, World Congress of Faiths
Dr. Gregory Barker, Alister Hardy Religious Experience Centre

Eley McAinsh, Living Spirituality Network

Cost £25 - Students £12

Contact: John Franklin, 21 Park Vista, London SE10 9LZ
020 8858 4780 email johnfranklin@hotmail.com

KESUU Spring Meeting, 7 May

The Tenterden congregation will host the Spring Meeting of KESUU (Kent & East Sussex Unitarian Union), starting with a service at 11.15 led by Rev. Ashley Hills. After lunch there will be a discussion about the group, and at 3.00pm, everyone is invited to the wonderful farm home of David Embry, Chair of the Dover congregation, for his annual Garden Party. All are invited to attend at Lyndhurst Farm, High Halden, TN26 3JP

Ministry Student to spend the summer in London



Aimee Downes is a student for the Unitarian Universalist ministry in the United States, and will be spending three months this summer as part of her preparation for ministry. She will be sponsored by the District but will work primarily with Rev. Andy Pakula and his congregation at Islington and Newington Green. If you see her at any District event, please welcome her warmly.

Church Officers Appreciation Dinner Saturday 4 June 2011

The London District cordially invites all Congregational Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers to a Dinner in appreciation for the work you do in maintaining the Unitarian witness of your congregation. The Dinner will be professionally catered. Gathering at 3.00 pm, there will be presentations on developing the skills needed by a church officer followed by the dinner:

- How to be a Church Treasurer - Rev. Jim McClelland, former District Treasurer
- How to be a Church Secretary - Mr Jeff Teagle, former General Secretary of the General Assembly

Please RSVP to David Usher no later than 28/5/11 and advise of any dietary requirements.

International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF)

Annual Meeting, 12 May

The British Chapter, IARF invites you to their Annual Meeting: Thursday 12th May 2011

1:30 PM – 4 PM. Dr Williams Library, 14 Gordon Square, London

Speaker: the Rev Chris Hudson MBE, Minister of All Souls Church, Belfast, and Chair of Northern Ireland Chapter, IARF



General Baptist Annual Meeting, 5 May

This will be held at Dr. Williams Library, Gordon Square, London on Thursday 5th May at 2.00pm. This historic body dispenses grants to support the ministry of its sixteen member congregations, nine of which are in the London District. They are Billingshurst, Brighton, Chatham, Ditchling, Dover, Godalming, Horsham, Lewes and Sevenoaks. The other seven are Newport I of W, Nottage, Portsmouth, Taunton, Trowbridge and Wick. The Secretary is Rev. Daniel Costley.

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Promoting Unitarians in London & the South-East



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.ukunitarians.org.uk/pulse or www.unitarian.org.uk

Calendar



May

Thursday 5 - 2.00 General Baptist Assembly Annual Meeting, Dr. Williams Library, London

Saturday 7 - 11.15 KESUU Spring Meeting, Tenterden

Saturday 7 - 6.00 LGBTI discussion group, Richmond

Saturday 7 - 7.30 Karaoke, New Unity Church, Islington, London

Monday 9 - 6.00 District Council meeting, Essex Hall, London

Thursday 12 - 1.30 IARF Annual Meeting, Dr Williams Library, London

Thursday 19 - 12.00 Pastoral Leaders' Meeting, Essex Hall, London

Advance notice

June

Wednesday 1 - 5.00 Annual Meeting WCF, London

Saturday 4 - 3.00 Congregational Leaders' Workshop & Dinner, Sevenoaks

Saturday 11 - 9.00 'Cycle for Youth' Bike Ride to Brighton, start point Croydon

Saturday 11 - 10.00 Joint Day Conference WCF, Essex Church, London

Saturday 18 - 1.00 Summer Quarterly Meeting, Godalming

Saturday 18 - 4.00 Formal launch 'Rainbow', New Unity Church, Islington, London

July

Sunday 17 - 2.30-5.30 Liturgy workshop, Rosslyn Hill, Hampstead, London

Saturday 23 - 1.00-5.00 Activism workshop, Unity, Islington, London

Monday 25-Wednesday 27 - Liturgy workshop (residential), Emmaus Centre, Kent

To subscribe to the e-bulletin, e-mail danielle@daniellewilson.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line. Requests to unsubscribe can be sent to the same address with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Contributions are welcome.

"We Unitarians value the freedom of thought, to explore and understand faith from each individual's perspective. Therefore every word spoken and written ultimately reflects the thoughts and beliefs of the person speaking or writing. We welcome your responses in the spirit of mindful discussion and debate."