

UKunitarianTVnews

GAissue



Filmed Service Training a Success

Saturday 23th February saw the UKUTV hosting a training day at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, for eight students, ministers and worship leaders. A well qualified and experienced instructor from The Media Trust had been brought in especially to instruct worship leaders on presentational skills, especially presenting to camera. Participants also experienced how to handle an interview situation as well as learning how to get their message across to a distant audience using video with auto-cue.

"I think all worship leaders would benefit from it" Rev Danny Crosby said after the course and Dawn Buckle added *"I got a lot from the training, particularly the feedback on our videos"*.



Filming at Sevenoaks by Joan Wilkinson

Sunday 17th February saw the UKUTV camera crew, James Barry, Kevin Lowe and John Wilkinson, travelling to film the Sunday Service at Sevenoaks Unitarian Chapel. As they arrived at the chapel, the fog lifted and in no time the sun shone filling the chapel with light. This would normally please most folk but the first comment was *"just look at all these shadows"*.

We were given a warm welcome by minister, Daniel Costley and as the congregation arrived we felt embraced by the warmth of fellowship, as bright as the sun that streamed into the place of worship.

The three camera men were busy sharing tips about the first outing of two new and upgraded video cameras. The benefits of having moveable seats were clear as Daniel had already made sure that the cameras could be sited ensuring that the film crew would be able to do their job without intruding during the service. The congregation was even more accommodating as they sat right up to the front leaving only the front row seats free in readiness for the children to join at the end of the service.

Afterwards, people were asked if they would mind being interviewed and again the response was positive. Not only were the members of the congregation comfortable at being filmed but seemed unperturbed as the still cameras snapped away.

No sooner had the arranged filming ended than tables were brought in and loaded with jacket potatoes, cole-slaw, cheese, butter and ham and yet more cups of tea drunk. Then what a lovely surprise we had. As we were eating the youngsters asked if they could perform something for us, and we were treated to a song with actions, telling us how special each person, including ourselves, is. Luckily James could quietly get a camera rolling to capture this fitting end to a wonderful day for the UKUTV team at Sevenoaks.

Thank you to all our friends at Sevenoaks Unitarian Chapel for welcoming us so warmly.



Filming at Altrincham by Rev Danny Crosby

It was an absolute delight to recently welcome the UKunitarianTV team to Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel Altrincham, to film a Sunday morning worship. I am yet to see the results, but am excited to see the fruits of theirs and our labour. The three sets of camera's, at various positions in the chapel, were in no sense inhibiting to the worship of those present. In some ways it may well have helped to build the atmosphere that morning. Certainly this has been said to me by several people in attendance. The congregation support the work of James et al. I have myself been involved from the beginning of the project. After the service several members and attenders of the congregation were interviewed and most people were happy to comment and speak of why they come to Dunham Road and what it means to be a Unitarian.

I personally believe in this project and know that it is one way of reaching those spiritual seekers out there, who may well find a home in our communities. I also believe that it is a way of enabling isolated or housebound Unitarians to join in worship with others. I look forward to seeing exactly where this project will lead.

Helping get Their Message Across

As well as filming the services, the UKunitarianTV crew have also produced a promotional film for the congregations they have visited. These interview videos let the congregation and worship leaders explain why they go to a Unitarian church. The plan is to create these for every Congregation we visit. The one from Sevenoaks can be seen at: www.ukunitarian.tv/sevenoaks



Manchester District Camera Purchased

Thanks to grants from the Manchester District Association and the East Cheshire Union, we have been able to purchase a camera that will be based in the Manchester area. At £2,500 the camera is a mid-range professional piece of kit and includes many functions to ensure we produce good quality video. With some of the services being held in dark churches, sometimes at night, it was important any camera can work in low light. Much of the functionality is involved with ensuring the audio is clear - far more difficult than getting good images.

Unitarian College Manchester

One of the first jobs for the new 'Manchester' camera was to create a short film for the Unitarian College, Manchester. The film is designed to give potential students an idea of what the college can offer. As well as the principal Rev Alex Bradley and tutor Dawn Buckle, the film has reflections from current and past students. see www.ukunitarian.tv/ucm

Filming creates NUF Mediations

The recent filming has created opportunities to create some new material for the National Unitarian Fellowship website. These films use the auto-cue purchased with a millennium fund grant. See www.nufonline.org.uk



Filming creates FUSE

The Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE) provided a great opportunity to create several films for the UKunitarianTV monthly loop and the London District website. Films were also created promoting the Inquirer and The Unitarian and well as some studio interviews. See the 'Show Guide' on www.ukunitarian.tv for details.

We need more money - can you help?

Producing quality programmes is the aim of UKunitarianTV. Poor output will not show us in a good light and encourage people to watch more or want to find out more about our movement. Producing films of a good standard requires many things. Those involved in the technical aspect of the project are learning their skills and the recent training in Manchester is helping those being filmed but it is being all too apparent that the right equipment is required. We have just purchased a Camera costing £2,500 and require a second. Video editing equipment starts at £1,650 and radio microphones are £270. Together with music licenses, download costs and insurance, we are appealing for funds so we can generate professional grade material. All donations of any size are very gratefully received. If you can help please contact our Treasurer: alaneastwood@ntlworld.com

UKunitarianTV Steering Group: James Barry (Chair), Janet Ford (ECU), Louise Rogers (ECU), Rev Danny Crosby (MDA), Joan Wilkinson (NUF), John Wilkinson (DUWIT), Peter Zone (NUF), Martin West (MDA), Kevin Lowe (ECU), Alan Eastwood (Treasurer)