

The Upper Chapel, Sheffield

NEWSLETTER

February 2011

A thought or Two from David

As people set about the task of confining their Christmas decorations to the hidden corners of cupboards or the loft I heard many a cry of, "Oh, I hibernate at this time of the year".

January and February have that feel of getting tucked in, especially as the long dark nights are still with us and the temperatures bite, even though nature seems (so far) to be treating us kindly. There are plenty of other months to be busy – so if a bit of hibernating seems to be not only appropriate but a well-deserved rest – then why not?

Robert Fulghum, a Unitarian minister in the United States, tells a story of a game of Hide and Seek that goes wrong when the ones who hide do it too well! He reckons that the game is 'Hide and Seek' not Hide so well you can't be found and Seek but give up easily if you can't find.' In his opinion the game only works if the one hiding does it in a way so they can be found and the Seeker doesn't give up or go home for tea.

Hibernate if you wish but don't tuck yourself away too well! Spring is coming and as those early bulbs peep up above the soil, the buds appear on the trees we are to be reminded that rebirth is around the corner.

On the second day of February we see Candlemas. Two traditions weave together – the time of the presentation of Jesus at the temple and the putting away and blessing of the Church candles together with the old custom of observing the weather on the day for fine weather means that there is a lot more winter to come. If you do fancy some hibernation – then have a look at the film 'Groundhog Day' and all will be explained – or not.

Enjoy your hibernation but let the stirrings of another new year and the pathway from Christmas to Easter find you. The spirit of God seeks us all so don't hide too well!

In Friendship,

David

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Sheffield District Women's League will be holding their A G M in the Hollis room of Upper Chapel on Thursday February 16th at 11-30am to 2-30pm.

Everyone welcome, please bring your own lunch
Tea and Coffee will be provided

Patricia Emmingham

Services February

5th February	11.00am and 6.30pm 'Manna, Milk and Miracles' Philippa Woolven Flowers: In memory of Beryl Hanley
12th February	11.00 and 6.30pm 'A Celebration of the Life of Charles Dickens' Rev David Shaw and Members of the Sheffield Dickens Fellowship Flowers: Alan & Sheila Walker
19th February	11.00am and 6.30pm Peter Rowson Flowers: Pauline Ollerenshaw
26th February	11.00 and 6.30pm "Wednesday - A Whole Extra Day !" Rev David Shaw Flowers: vacancy

UPPER CHAPEL INDIA FUND

A very big thank you to every one who has given their support to both the India fund and Spiti, over this past year it is very much appreciated.

Unitarian India Fund £100. Aid for Himalayan Education (Spiti) £250 cheques from Upper Chapels contributions for 2011 have be sent to the treasurers.

Patricia Emmingham
Fund Co ordinator

Thank You Joe

I am delighted to have the opportunity to write an appreciation of Joe Woodhouse, who now, at the age of 92 years, has advised the members of the Upper Chapel Trustees that after many years of service, he wishes to resign his membership of the Board, a position he has held from around 1987. In January this year, Joe also resigned as a Trustee of Fulwood Old Chapel and as a Director in connection with the Sheffield and District Association. He will retain his membership of the Unity Church Charity which was formed on the closure of Unity Church, Crookesmoor Road in 1989. The members of Unity Church transferred to other District chapels.

Joseph Woodhouse, born 1918, was encouraged by the mother of a friend to join the cubs and Sunday school. In the mid 1920's, the minister at that time was the Reverend Mossop who saw potential in Joe and he persuaded Joe's father Charles to allow him to stay on at school until the age of 16, instead of 14. He was in the first class at the new High Storrs School.



Joe's sporting interests included football - in the 1930's he was goalkeeper in the Sheffield Church League - and cricket and playing tennis on the Unity tennis courts where he courted Kathleen. (He remembers walking to Bramall Lane with one of the United players. The player had his boots tied together over his shoulder). Joe also has many happy memories as Scoutmaster at Unity Church, leading scouting activities and camping holidays in the UK and abroad.

Joe was a Unitarian Lay Preacher all over the District for around 40 years. During the war he often cycled out to Hucklow to hold services and Sunday school for boys evacuated there from cities threatened by the Blitz. Fortunately, he had an excellent book of lesson ideas for such occasions.

His interest in theatrical productions at Unity led him to joining Rep. at the Sheffield Playhouse and appearing with Patrick McGoohan who later became well known for his work in 'Danger Man' and 'The Prisoner' on TV.

Joe's work with the Sheffield City Lighting Department as Deputy Lighting Engineer, was recognised in the 1950's when he was appointed Lighting Engineer for Derby and for a few years his name did not appear so regularly in the Unity Church Record - however he continued to be active in Unitarian affairs there.

Joe, Kathleen and his three children subsequently returned to Sheffield. The following is taken from Unity Church Record, April 1960:

*" **Congratulations.** We extend warm felicitations to Mr. J. Woodhouse on his appointment as Lighting Engineer for Sheffield, his native city. We missed his contribution to our work and witness when he departed to Derby some years ago, but our loss was some-one else's gain. During Mr. Woodhouse's stay in Derby our congregation there has benefitted from his zeal for our cause, and he has also been active with scout work. we do not forget Mrs. Woodhouse and her contribution to Unity in former years and to both of them we say "a glad welcome back" and express the hope that Mr. Woodhouse will find much happiness in the important work he will take up in our city. "*

Joe was also a welcome advisor to the organisers of the Blackpool Illuminations and a recent issue of our local Sheffield newspaper carried an article expressing appreciation for his inspiring contribution.

I might just mention that my late wife, Sally's, maternal Grandmother and Joe's Mother were sisters and we have enjoyed wonderful family occasions together over the years in addition to the many memorable activities at Unity.

Whilst this short article cannot pay tribute to all Joe's work and achievements, I know that the Trustees, along with all Joe's other friends at Upper Chapel wish to thank him for his dedicated service as a Trustee of Upper Chapel and we look forward to enjoying his company as often as possible in the future.

I am grateful to Graham Woodhouse, Joe's youngest son, for supplying me with notes.

Ken Smith

A Poem for The New Year

**When I think about the future all seems dark to me
Everything is veiled in shadows of uncertainty
But when I think about my friends my heart is comforted
I am given strength to face whatever lies ahead**

**There'll be burdens to be borne along the unknown road,
But always there'll be somebody to help me bear the load.
Or someone somewhere needing me.
And so my prayer ascends,
On the threshold of the year I thank God for my friends.**

Patience Strong's

HARC CAROL SING

Thanks to everyone who came to the Carol Singing in the yard, to sing or help in anyway, to Phil for the accompaniment and to Bill for being Father Christmas. There was quite a good crowd of us and it raised £140 for HARC some of whose members came along and sang with us.

Music Together will re-start in March and the dates are

14th and 28th March
18th April
2nd, 16th and 30th May
27th June
25th July

Some months there are only one because of other activities in the Chapel etc

The first meeting on the 14th March will start with a discussion of ideas for the first half of the year so please come along with (or without) any suggestions you might have so we can plan a varied programme. We will also be discussing other matters, including the allocation of money raised to the different charities. Hopefully time will allow for a short selection of music.
Everyone welcome. Cost £1.50 to include refreshments.

The Party and French Evening in November was a great success. Many thanks to Phil and Patrick for a lovely evening and to Joan for the supper and everyone else who contributed to the entertainment.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 1st	11.30—1pm Chapel open
Wednesday 8th	11,30 - 1pm Chapel open
Friday 10th	2pm Dickens Fellowship meeting in Hollis Room
Wednesday 15th	11.30 - 1pm Chapel open
Thursday 16th	11.30 am District Women's League AGM in Hollis Room
Wednesday 22nd	Trefoil Guild Service in Chapel
Thursday 23rd	7pm Social Concerns Meeting in Hollis Room
Saturday 25th	11am—2.30pm Coffee morning & Cake Sale
Wednesday 29th	11.30 - 1pm Chapel open



**SATURDAY
25TH
FEBRUARY**

11am – 2.30pm

**COFFEE
MORNING**



&



CAKE SALE