

THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/



December 2015

Services at Westgate

Sunday 6th December (10.30am) - Stephen Carlile
(Marking **World AIDS Day**)

Sunday 13th December (Carol Service - 3pm)
- The Reverend Bill Darlison

Sunday 20th December (3pm) - Gillian Scott

Friday 25th December (10.30am) - John Goodchild

Sunday 27th December (3pm) - Sally Fairweather

There will be no service on the last Tuesday
evening of the month.

Our thanks as always to our welcomers. It's so important to have someone there to greet members, friends and visitors, and the contribution is not unnoticed.

If anyone has information to be mentioned in the Chapel notices each Sunday could you please send them to the General Secretary, Chris Pilkington, no later than the day before

Ralph Denby

We were sad to lose a chapel member and a friend recently. Ralph was in the pew just in front of me when I came to Westgate and he extended me a warm welcome, lending me his copies of the Inquirer, and showing his willingness to be a tireless worker for the chapel, always finding out the worst jobs that needed doing. His willingness to take on the awful jobs isn't the main reason that he'll be missed. He was a real gentleman, and a gentle man. Below are some pieces from his funeral services,

Stephen

Ralph was brought up in Bradford, attending Bradford Grammar School where he enjoyed playing cricket and rugby. He then went on to read Classics at Clare College, Cambridge. Ralph continued to enjoy the sports, adding rowing to his list. It was there that he met his future wife, Kathleen, a student. His time at Cambridge was cut short, due to the war and after just two years got his degree. Ralph joined the navy, becoming a lieutenant. He sailed in Arctic waters and spent time in the Far East. After the war, he was presented with several medals, including the recent Arctic Star. It was sent by the Russian Government, for those who served in the Arctic Convoy.

Ralph and Kathleen married in 1946 and then left England to join the Colonial Service in the Gold Coast. They served 3 tours, before it was given independence and became Ghana. Ralph was a district commissioner.

On returning to England, Ralph was articled in Wiltshire and then moved to Sheffield as a solicitor. He then returned to Yorkshire working for the West Riding County council, until he retired.

From then, until the age of 70, Ralph worked throughout the country, as an inspector for public enquiries.

Ralph worked tirelessly for the Royal British Legion for many years and it is poignant that he should be buried around Poppy Day. It should also be noted that he died on Trafalgar Day. Ralph was also a great supporter of the Wakefield Hospice, which is where the family are requesting, the collection is sent. Ralph followed his faith as a Unitarian to the end, hating being ill and missing the services. He was a faithful and energetic member of the congregation.

Ralph died suddenly and at home, knowing that he was loved by his family, Kathleen, his wife of nearly 70 years, his daughters, Anna, Kate his three granddaughters, Nicola, Rosalie, Talitha and son in law Craig. He has been described by a lot of his neighbours, as a true gentleman.



Kate's memories

Neighbours have mentioned how dad kept himself fit and walked most days. He used to tell me how as a school boy he would get on his bike in Bradford, cycle to his beloved Dales, climb Pen y Ghent, eat a bit of Kendal Mint Cake and then cycle home again. Dad loved the outdoors and walked the Like wake Walk and Dales Way on his retirement. Dad could walk faster and further than I could, even at the age of 70!

He told us recently how he once played Rugby for England, in Iceland, during the war. The team was made up of crew members. We never established who one. Beat that granddaughters!

During Dad's 30's he was still a keen cricketer and Mum always seemed to be washing whites on a Monday after his matches, playing locally.

He was very private in some ways, did not boast about the way he made a difference. He was quietly passionate about the countryside. However, I do like to boast that we once had the cheque in the house over night, for the purchase of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal, bought for the West Riding County Council, from the Viner Family. The Estate was cherished and then sold on to the National Trust at a later date. He spent years of his life making sure that we could continue to enjoy walking the special footpaths in Yorkshire, residing over disputes between farmers and rights of way. It was a glorious day for dad when he got his Right to Roam.

The family were fascinated when in later years, Mum and dad managed several amazing trips visiting Japan, India and North America. This was through the International Association for Religious Freedom. This was a very exciting time for both of them and they forged some special friendships and had some very different experiences. 94 years, I have been saying to him for several years, that I don't know how he did it. Advice to us all, work hard, care for others, eat and drink in moderation and mainly, keep on exercising. I think I overtook him in speed and distance when he was pushing 75-80 and I was fit! At some point after the war he met the runner, Harold Abrahams and due to his love of sport and Cambridge connection I chose the music from Chariots of Fire .



From John Harley

Please find attached information about a retreat I'm leading with Lindy Latham to Inishmore. We will be staying on this beautiful and culturally vibrant island for eight days of creativity, walks, exploration of ancient sites, meditation, storytelling, living mindfully, sharing meals and free time. We are excited about the prospect of returning to this island off the west coast of Ireland for a time of reflection, adventure and discovery. If you would like to join our trip take a look at the information sheet or let us know if you have any questions. Contact us at:
lindy@belindalatham.co.uk<mailto:lindy@belindalatham.co.uk> and
jharley@unitarian.co.uk<mailto:jharley@unitarian.co.uk>

We would also appreciate this retreat being publicised in church/chapel newsletters or websites just to spread the word.

All the information is

at: <http://www.beherecreate.co.uk><<http://www.beherecreate.co.uk>>

Membership Service and Annual Meeting of the Congregation

In November we held a membership service, not something to particularly welcome new people into membership as we don't have a tradition, though perhaps from next year we can specifically welcome new members. There were impressive offerings of food after the service then we joined together in a meeting where we both reflected on the past year, remembering friends who have died, and events we have held. At the same time we were very much looking to the future. We have some wonderful workers in the congregation. We welcomed new people onto the committee, and people took on jobs in the chapel for another year. Pat led a heartfelt vote of thanks for those on the committee for all their work through the year.

The RPS Members Biennial 2015

Location: The Gallery,
The Civic, Hanson Street
Barnsley S70 2HZ

**Dates: 20 November –
15 January 2016**

The Royal Photographic Society has a rich and diverse heritage. It was founded in 1853, to promote the art and science of photography, and is still a leading voice in the world of photography today. It is an educational charity with a worldwide membership of over 11,000. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in photography. The Society has been staging photographic exhibitions almost every year since it was formed, with its open International Print Exhibition entering its 158th year in 2015. The International Members' Print Exhibition is exclusively for members of The Society and takes place every two years. For the 2015 exhibition Nearly 3,300 images were submitted from RPS members worldwide, and the selectors had the difficult task of selecting just 100 for the exhibition. Encouraging entries across all genres and styles of photography, including art and science based work, the Exhibition aims to represent members' interests within photography, which is broad in both style and subject.



David Sinclair, Exhibitions Curator, The Civic t:01226 327 011

The Civic, Hanson Street, Barnsley, S70 2HZ

Human Rights Day is celebrated annually across the world on 10 December.

The date was chosen to honour the United Nations General Assembly's adoption and proclamation, on 10 December 1948, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the first global enunciation of human rights and one of the first major achievements of the new United Nations. The formal establishment of Human Rights Day occurred at the 317th Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 4 December 1950, when the General Assembly declared resolution 423(V), inviting all member states and any other interested organizations to celebrate the day as they saw fit.

The day is normally marked both by high-level political conferences and meetings and by cultural events and exhibitions dealing with human rights issues.

ABOUT WORLD AIDS DAY-**WHAT IS WORLD AIDS DAY?**

World AIDS Day is held on the 1st December each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day, held for the first time in 1988.

WHY IS WORLD AIDS DAY IMPORTANT?

Over 100,000 people are living with HIV in the UK. Globally there are an estimated 34 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.



The Engagement Group The group chooses a location and theme for each meeting, engaging with one another following engagement group principles. The group has been dormant for a while, so if you are interested please get in touch. Contact Steve (boudicca7@talktalk.net) or Mel at Chapel.

Our Safeguarding Policy is available in the Chapel Vestry, and the summary statement and poster on display on the entrance notice board. If you have any concerns about the safety of our children and vulnerable adults please contact the safeguarding office (Mel Prideaux) immediately. All contact information and procedures are in the policy document.

Fire Evacuation Safeguarding Procedure A chapel fire procedure is available on the notice board. Fire Officer is Paul Dawson, who can be contacted at Chapel with any queries or concerns.

Westgate Chapel was opened in 1752. Its congregation was established in 1662 and became Unitarian in view in the eighteenth century. It has taken a leading part in the economic, social, educational, political - and spiritual - development of Wakefield and its vicinity.

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Cyclamen in the snow at Hucklow in November