



WESTGATE CHAPEL (UNITARIAN) WAKEFIELD

Telephone 01924-373307

website: www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/

**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.**

**SUNDAY SERVICES: 10.30am on the first Sunday of each
month and 3pm on all other Sundays**

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2010

Thought for the month

Faith communities bring a vision to serve and keep hope alive. We are rooted in local neighbourhoods as well as worship and prayer and have a strong desire to make life better for all. We share food, fasting, and festivals. We have a deep respect for the earth and the environment. We are committed to addressing inequality and unfairness.

Inderjit Bhogal, Chief Executive Officer, Yorkshire and Humberside
Faiths Forum.

Services in January, at 10.30am on 3 January, and at 3pm on all other days

3 January	Dr Melanie Prideaux
10 January	Jim Timiney
17 January	Kate Taylor
24 January	Reverend Tom McCready
31 January	Reverend Bob Wightman

President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free
Christian Churches

Rota of Welcomers

3 January	Pat Howard
10 January	Nancy Denison
17 January	John Goodchild
24 January	Ralph Denby
31 January	Pat Howard

As always, if you are unable to act as welcomer on the day indicated, you are asked to arrange an exchange.

Coming Services

The morning service on 3 January is to be on Changing the world with ARK - Acts of random kindness'

Discussion Service 10 January 2010

There has recently been a survey about honesty and what is honest, for example many people thought that it is ok to take stationary home from work or use the phone in work time. The problem with everyone having their own opinion about honesty is when a person is called to jury service.

We will explore this in a discussion with the congregation as well as having time for a reading and meditation, hymns and music. It would be helpful if the congregation were prepared to sit near the front of the church so that we can all interact with each other.

Jim Timiney

The January Forum, Tuesday 5 January at 10.30am in the Vestry

The focus of the January Forum will be Newspapers - what value they have and whether there is still any need for them. Do come.

Chapel Committee, Tuesday 12 January, at 7pm

The Chapel Committee meets in the Vestry at 7pm on Tuesday 12 January.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Lay Preachers' Association, Saturday 30 January, at Bradford Unitarian Centre, 10am, The last rite.

The Reverend David Shaw, minister at Old Chapel, Great Hucklow, will guide lay preachers through a range of aspects of the task of conducting a funeral. All are welcome to attend.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union Quarterly Meeting, Saturday 30 January, Bradford Unitarian Centre, 1.30pm

We shall be joined on 30 January by the Reverend Bob Wightman, President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Bob will also take the service at Westgate Chapel the following day.

The Reverend Bob Wightman



The Reverend Bob Wightman, who was formerly a Congregational minister, moved to Unitarianism in the 1990s. He became lay-person-in-charge at the Williamson Memorial Unitarian Christian Church in Dundee in November 1995, underwent training for the Unitarian ministry from 1997-1999 and has been the minister at the Dundee church since 1999.

‘I was drawn to Unitarianism,’ Bob says, ‘after I had been invited to conduct a service of worship in a Unitarian chapel. I enjoyed the freedom of the pulpit that, as a gathered fellowship, we could have tolerance for each, even when we all had a different way of believing in God (He or She). Most of all we were, and still are, a gathered community and willing to fight the cause for civil liberty the world over.’

A colourful and ebullient figure, Bob Wightman has had a varied career, working for eighteen years in the motor trade in sales and marketing and also having his own business, before reading Theology Studies at the Congregational College and the University of Edinburgh. In 1979 he became minister at Priesthill Congregational Church, Glasgow, an area of multi-deprivation. Here he was involved in the running of a Resource Centre which included an Alcohol Unit, a Bereavement Centre, a Citizens’ Advice Centre, a Drug Unit and a unit for Women’s Aid. He moved to Dundee in 1985 and spent nine years as the Minister at Gilfillan Memorial Church.

At present he holds the position of Chaplain to the City of Dundee Combined Ex-Services a post he has held for around 18 years.

Yorkshire and Humberside Faiths Forum, 10 December 2009

Rather because there was to be a screening of a short film about the City of Sanctuary concept than for any other reason, I attended the Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Faiths Forum held in Wakefield Town Hall on a December evening. The Forum was founded in December 2005 and has substantial financial support from Yorkshire Forward and from the Yorkshire and Humber Assembly, and has the blessing of the Archbishop of York. Among its aims is to ‘Encourage and educate faith communities to work together in matters of policy, strategy, and action. Its Chief Executive Officer, Inderjit Bhogal, is one of the two initiators of the City of Sanctuary, a scheme which began in Sheffield and

is now slowly spreading elsewhere; it is in an embryonic stage in Wakefield.

There were perhaps 25 people at the meeting. I was made to feel very welcome. Among those I spoke to were a part-time (and black) Pentecostal minister from Leeds whose principal income is as a printer, a Buddhist woman, and an Anglican priest. Uniquely in my own experience, the chair was taken by a Muslim woman, Sajda Shah.

The event began with a hot meal (what a wonderful idea!). The dishes were vegetarian and delicious – I had a mushroom and spinach stroganoff with rice and garlic bread. To follow came rhubarb crumble and custard. There was a rare selection of herb teas as well as tea, coffee and orange juice to drink.

A formal welcome by Councillor Olivia Rowley in her role as Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Community Safety Cohesion was followed by an efficient and brisk annual meeting. There were short talks about future projects being promoted by the Forum including ‘Spirituality and Safety’ which will focus on older people and encourage volunteering amongst people from all religious and ethnic background: it will seek to know what is important to older people in terms of safety and social inclusion.

The evening ended with the short City of Sanctuary film which reflects the workings of the scheme in the country’s first City of Sanctuary, Sheffield. I have asked for a copy of the DVD and will hope to show it at Chapel.

Kate Taylor

Hard of Hearing?

People concerned about their ability to hear a speaker may phone the RNID on 0845 600 5555 for an Auditory Test. I was glad to find my result was in the normal range.

Pat Howard

The General Assembly Annual Meetings, 8-11 April 2010 at the Jubilee Campus, The University of Nottingham

Bookings for the 2010 General Assembly must be made by 25 February (the relevant form says 2009 but I guess that is wrong!) If we are to send a delegate from Westgate Chapel we shall need to know of anyone who would wish to represent us by the end of January.

You can, of course, always book for one or two days rather than all four. Kate has booking forms but you can obtain your own from the General Assembly offices at 1-6 Essex Street, London WC2R 3HY.

The Anniversary Service will be on Friday evening, 9 April. This always attracts people who are not actually attending the conference and, since Nottingham is not all that far away, you may like to make a note of the date.

Motions to be debated at the business sessions must be submitted by 11 February and must have the support of a congregation or of the governing body of a district association. If you have a motion that you consider we should put forward, it would be helpful if you could let Kate Taylor know before the end of January so that we can convene a meeting of the congregation to consider it.

Gather the Spirit through Music, 17-19 February 2010

We have a poster for this event at the Nightingale Centre which costs (at a minimum, depending on your room requirements) £86 including accommodation and all meals. Details from Helen Merritt 0151 625 5488, or e-mail richardandhelenmerritt@hotmail.com

General Assembly and other Unitarian news now available by e-mail

If you have the facility of e-mail, you can now ensure a regular update of all General Assembly news and of many nationwide events by going to the Unitarian website www.unitarian.org.uk and then clicking on UNI-NEWS

Send-a-child-to-Hucklow

Over Christmas and the new year we shall again be collecting donations to the Send-a-child-to-Hucklow fund. Each year the money provides for children from disadvantaged homes to spend a week at the Nightingale Centre, some of them seeing countryside for the first time for real.

Donations can be placed in the dish at the back of the Chapel or given to our Treasurer, Bill Humphreys.

The Unitarian path is a liberal religious movement rooted in the Jewish and Christian traditions but open to insights from world faiths, reason and science, and with a spectrum extending from liberal Christianity through to religious humanism. (Prologue to *The Unitarian Path* by Andrew Hill.)

Chairman	John Goodchild, 12 Shakespeare Avenue, Normanton, WF6 1EA
Hon Secretary Calendar and Pulpit Supply	Kate Taylor, 19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield. WF1 4AH Tel 01924-372748
Hon Treasurer	Bill Humphreys, 4 Gloucester Grove, Lupset, Wakefield WF2 8NG

