

# THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield

[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/)

January 2014



## Gathering for Worship in January

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 10.30am:	Stephen Carlile
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 3pm:	Paul Dawson
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 3pm:	David Arthur
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 3pm:	Revd. Cody Coyne

## Sunday Welcoming Rota

*Sunday Welcomers do an important job in making everyone feel welcome at our services. As always, if you are unable to act as welcomer on the day indicated, you are asked to arrange an exchange.*

5 <sup>th</sup> January:	Ralph Denby
12 <sup>th</sup> January:	Pat Howard
19 <sup>th</sup> January:	Kate Taylor
26 <sup>th</sup> January:	John Goodchild

**Flowers** are provided by Nancy Denison. Nancy is currently unwell and unable to provide flowers. Offers to provide, arrange, or pay for the flowers in any week are particularly valued at the moment – please contact Kate Taylor (who is currently looking after this task) if you can help.

## The Westgate Forum Tuesday 7 January at 10.30am in the Vestry

This month we shall discuss whether we are too circumscribed by rules and requirements aimed at health and safety or the prevention of fraud.

## **The General Assembly appeal for the disaster in the Philippines**

The General Assembly has responded to the 8 November disaster when Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines by asking each Unitarian and Free Christian Congregation to donate at least £10 to the Red Cross Clara Barton Fund Typhoon Appeal. Donations should be sent to Laura Deacon, British Red Cross, 44 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL. Cheques should be made payable to British Red Cross with 'Clara Barton Typhoon Appeal' clearly marked on the back. As an alternative we can follow the link from the Unitarian website [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk) or go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/UnitarianChurches> and donate on line.

### **The Wakefield Unitarian**

Our congregational newsletter is entirely dependent on contributions from members of the Chapel community. As you will see, the responsibility for providing information falls largely on one person... It would be great if Chapel friends and members could consider sending news items, short articles (up to two pages) or other items. Especially if you are leading worship – can you share some of the words you use – or tell us what your theme will be?

## **Prospecting for Ministry - Report of the December Forum from Kate Taylor**

There were only three of us at the Forum on 3<sup>rd</sup> December and we were all very much in accord. But we cannot take our views as reflecting those of the wider congregation. We talked first about the notion of a Yorkshire Unitarian Union Collaborative Ministry for which ministers would be appointed by Bradford/Wakefield, Hull/York, and Leeds. We would look for some financial support from the YUU, employing some of the money from the sale of Pudsey Chapel. We would also hope that some money could be released from the (long ago) sale of the chapel at Halifax, Northgate End. Westgate Chapel itself has already applied for money from the 20:20 Congregational Development Scheme. A collaborative team would include the YUU lay preachers and might, we hoped, draw on the experience and wisdom of the Reverend Bill Darlison. Whilst we would expect regular reports to YUU meetings, each chapel, or pair of chapels, would have ultimate responsibility for paying its minister. We thought this Collaborative Ministry was a good idea and saw money as the major obstacle.

But what would be want of the ministers? They could be male or female. They should be good communicators, speaking intelligibly! We were happy to have people fresh from college, hoping that they would bring enthusiasm, and be up-to-date. They must be able to relate especially well to young people. They must be resourceful, ready to make initiatives, and have the pastoral skills to care for the older members of the congregations. We thought, too, that they should be committed to the activities both of the YUU and the General Assembly and should really be 'part of the Movement'.

## Future Unitarian Events

### One-day course in pastoral care

We have details of a course in pastoral care at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, on Saturday 18 January, from 10.15am to 4.30pm. The cost is £10. See Kate Taylor if you are interested or e-mail Ann Peart – [ann.peart3@virginmedia.com](mailto:ann.peart3@virginmedia.com)

### Yorkshire Unitarian Union meeting at YORK (St. Saviourgate) SATURDAY JANUARY 18<sup>th</sup>

*All are welcome at YUU Meetings. They are a good opportunity to meet Unitarians from across the region and learn more about the Unitarian movement.*

11.00: Arrivals – tea/coffee

11.30 – 12.30: Maria Curtis, Anna Jarvis and Ralph Catts – ministry students at Unitarian College, Manchester give us their views on different types of ministry – single, joint, collaborative...

12.30 – 1.15: Lunch – bring a sandwich (drinks provided)

1.15 – 1.45: Worship led by Maria, Anna and Ralph

1.45 – 2.15: General discussion on ‘types of ministry’

2.25 – 3.10: Facebook for Congregations (Stephen Carlile)

3.15 – 4.30: YUU Quarterly Business Meeting

## Unitarians on Radio 4

A lively discussion has followed the inclusion of two Unitarian 'Thoughts for the Day' on Radio 4's Boxing Day 'Today' programme. The guest editor was Tim Berners-Lee, Unitarian and inventor of the worldwide web. An atheist Unitarian minister (Andy Pakula) gave an 'alternative' Thought for the Day and a theist Unitarian minister (Jim Corrigan) gave the traditional Thought for the Day. The controversy? The BBC would not accept an atheist Thought for the Day in the traditional time slot, despite previously accepting Buddhist (non-theist) speakers. Some media coverage can be found in various newspapers online. A secondary discussion has ensued on the Facebook discussions – to what extent will this very high profile coverage change the fortunes of declining Unitarianism? Does the energy we put into advertising ourselves divert attention from our work to be effective, supportive and engaged communities? Will people wish to join us because they agree with us, or because they find a community of which they wish to be a part?

For those who use the internet, you can read more on the Facebook discussion groups (search for 'Unitarian' in Facebook), or here:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/radio-4-today-programme-and-now-its-time-for-thought-for-the-day-there-is-no-such-thing-as-god-9026037.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/bbc/10538125/Sir-Tim-Berners-Lee-banned-from-having-atheist-on-Radio-4s-Thought-for-the-Day.html>

[http://www.theguardian.com/media/2013/dec/26/atheist-radio-4-thought-day-tim-berners-lee?CMP=twf\\_fd](http://www.theguardian.com/media/2013/dec/26/atheist-radio-4-thought-day-tim-berners-lee?CMP=twf_fd)

## *The Journey* by Mary Oliver

One day you finally knew  
what you had to do, and began,  
though the voices around you  
kept shouting  
their bad advice-  
though the whole house  
began to tremble  
and you felt the old tug  
at your ankles.  
"Mend my life!"  
each voice cried.  
But you didn't stop.  
You knew what you had to do,  
though the wind pried  
with its stiff fingers  
at the very foundations,  
though their melancholy  
was terrible.  
It was already late  
enough, and a wild night,  
and the road full of fallen  
branches and stones.  
But little by little,  
as you left their voices behind,  
the stars began to burn  
through the sheets of clouds,  
and there was a new voice  
which you slowly  
recognized as your own,  
that kept you company  
as you strode deeper and deeper  
into the world,  
determined to do  
the only thing you could do-  
determined to save  
the only life you could save.



### **The Chapel Pastoral Care Team**

Members of the Chapel's pastoral team are willing to provide a confidential ear and to visit people at home. Contact Kate Taylor (kate@airtime.co.uk).

### **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.

### **Safeguarding**

Our Safeguarding Policy is now available in the Chapel Vestry, and the summary statement and poster on display on the entrance noticeboard. 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 Procedure**

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

#### **Officers of the Chapel Committee:**

**Chairman:** John Goodchild, 12 Shakespeare Avenue, Normanton, WF6 1EA

**Hon Secretary and Pulpit Supply:** Kate Taylor, 19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield, WF1 4AH, 01924 372748 kate@airtime.co.uk

**Hon Treasurer:** Bill Humphreys, 4 Gloucester Grove, Lupset WF2 8NG

**Newsletter Editor and Safeguarding Officer:** Mel Prideaux, 3 Pinfold Lane, Sandal, WF2 7LN, 01924 781020 melanieprideaux@virginmedia.com

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.