



THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel, 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.**

OCTOBER 2011

Thought for the month

Most of us ...see worshipping at our local Unitarian Church or Meeting House as the key expression of our association with the Unitarian movement. It is in our congregations that we think about life in all its fullness, the variety of approaches others have to faith as well as what our own conscience dictates, and it is from this base that we seek to express loving kindness and compassion to those who live round us. We enjoy friendship and interchange, we agree or agree to disagree, and we seek to be beacons of a way of living hallmarked by freedom, reason and tolerance both in belief and behaviour.

Martin Whittell, in the Summer 2011 issue of the Edmund Kell Unitarian Church occasional journal, *Interchange*

Services in October at 3pm

2 October	Stephen Carlile*
9 October	The Reverend Bob Pounder
16 October	Elizabeth Faiers
23 October	Jim Stearn
30 October	David Arthur

Rota of Welcomers

2 October	Nancy Denison
9 October	Ralph Denby
16 October	Pat Howard
23 October	John Goodchild
30 October	Nancy Denison

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

- Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival – 3pm on Sunday 2 October

Please note that the Harvest Festival service is in the afternoon. Gifts to decorate the communion table may be brought between 2pm and 4pm on Saturday, 1 October. Both fresh produce and long-life foods will be welcomed. The Chapel Committee has agreed that the harvest produce should be taken to the Wakefield Baptist Centre at Belle Vue for their work with the homeless and with asylum seekers. Their minister has advised that they can use tins of meat, beans, sardines, spaghetti hoops or pot noodles, packets of wraps or pitta bread, and packets of pasta. Tins with ring pulls are good as they can give them out for those needing an emergency pack but they would use other items for making up soups or other meals for their drop-in sessions. The same applies to fresh veg as they would turn it into soup to freeze. Probably the only thing that's not ever so helpful is tinned fruit.

The Westgate Forum, Tuesday 4 October, 10.30am in the Vestry

The Westgate Forum resumes this month after the summer break. Bearing in mind the interview by John Naish with Tim Berners-Lee in the issue of *The Inquirer* for 24 September, we shall debate whether modern technology is a blessing or a curse. How modern? Of course we could go back as far as the emergence of the motor-car but we may well focus on mobile phones, sat-navs, and other contemporary electronic devices.

The Unitarian Renewal Group, 20:20 Vision, Saturday 8 October 11.30am-4.30pm at Bradford Unitarian Centre

This event looks forward to where the Movement will be – or might be – in 2020. The principal speakers are Stephen Lingwood, Minister at Bolton, Yvonne Aburrow, the editor of *The Unitarian*, and the Reverend Andrew Hill, retired minister. The fees are £8 or £5 concessions. Bookings to David Dawson, 9 Olicana Park, Ilkley, LS29 0AW, Tel 01943-608354, dcdawson3@hotmail.com

The Yorkshire Unitarian Lay Preachers' Association, Saturday 15 October at 10.30am at Bradford Unitarian Centre

Our leader at this meeting will be the Reverend Celia Midgley who will conduct a workshop on Poetry and Worship. The event is open to all who lead services or would like to do so.

The Yorkshire Unitarian Union Annual and Quarterly Meetings, Bradford Unitarian Centre, Saturday 15 October, at 1.30pm

The YUU meetings will be preceded by a lunch-hour at 12.30pm. Hot drinks will be provided but participants are asked to bring their own food. These meetings provide an opportunity for Unitarians from across Yorkshire to come together and on this occasion we shall also have the presentation of the Annual Report with all the news of our fellow congregations.

Seminar on pastoral visiting, Saturday 29 October at 10.30am in the Vestry.

At the weekend Congregational Assessment earlier this year we recognised failures in our pastoral care. There was some feeling that this is the responsibility of us all. As a consequence we have invited the Reverend David Shaw, minister at Upper Chapel, Sheffield, to talk to us about his approach to pastoral visiting. It is hoped that as many members of the congregation, and friends, as possible will attend.

Feasting and Fasting

About twenty people met at the Treacy Hall on Monday 19th September to hear five speakers explain their thoughts about Feasting and Fasting. This meeting was arranged by the Concord Inter-Faith Group, led by Cynthia Dickinson and supported by the Bishop of Pontefract, Tony Robinson. I could not fully hear what was said, but we heard from a Bahia member from Castleford I think, and Pagans (should that be a capital P or a small one?), who had driven from Leeds in the rush-hour traffic to be with us for 6 p.m. I must say that they looked very healthy young people. Then Sheila Hammond spoke for the Brahma Kumaris, who are careful about what they eat. They do not want to heat up the emotions so they

avoid onions, garlic, meat and fish, but do eat vegetables , pasta, nuts and flour. As they cook they stir and meditate, and hope to stir good vibrations into the food. They think that if you are angry while you are stirring you will put bad vibrations into the food. The reason for not eating meat is that before an animal is killed it will be very frightened and have a rush of adrenalin, and they think that adrenalin will still be inside the meat if you eat it and would harm you. They always offer some food to God, but then put it into the main meal. They do not fast but they do not indulge because they avoid any vices such as lust, anger, greed, attachment or the ego.

The Bishop gave the Christian point of view. So this was an interesting meeting and to be continued.

Pat Howard

New Members, Sally Fairweather and Paul Dawson

At its September meeting, the Chapel Committee welcomed an application from Paul Dawson and Sally Fairweather to become formal members of the congregation. Readers may like to know more about them and they have sent us the following:

Sally works as a care support worker at Field Head Hospital, a job she finds both challenging, fulfilling and inspiring. She has lived in Wakefield for three years, moving from her native Norton on Derwent, where she worked on a Stud Farm, breeding race horses. After leaving school she attended Northern Racing College in Doncaster to train to be a jockey. However a serious



accident curtailed these ambitions, but not her desire to work and be around horses. Sally rides as a key member of a team of riders who provide riders for film, TV and live shows, and is treasurer of the oldest Napoleonic living history group in UK, founded in Wakefield in 1971.

It was this love of horses that drew Paul and Sally together in 2007. Paul has ridden for over 25 years, being tutored at a young age by his late mother and grandmother, the former was a riding instructor in Hunmanby, East Yorkshire, and she also bred Haflingers, as well as Thorough Bred cross Cleveland Bays. In July 2010 Paul was class winner of the Riding for Disabled National Dressage championships, putting him amongst the top disabled riders in the UK. In 2000, Paul was diagnosed with a rare motor nerve condition which is slowly sapping the use of his body. This has made him more determined to succeed in life.

Since graduating from the University of Bradford with a first class honours degree in Archaeology, he worked in Archaeology, working from 'digger' to Project manager in a few short years working all over the UK and for the ubiquitous Time Team on Channel 4. In the new year of 2008 he gave up his career to return to Wakefield to care for his terminally ill mother. With her death in the closing days of December 2008 after an eight year struggle with bone cancer, Paul went back to university to study for a Master of Arts degree by Research at the university of Leeds, which he completed in November 2010. His mother's death resulted in Paul being diagnosed with a psychosis which is ongoing.

As well as digging holes, Paul is an established author on Napoleonic history with over twenty books, and articles published in the last ten years. Having completed his MA, a serious riding accident has resulted in his focus shifting, working instead as a researcher, historical costumier and embroiderer, as well as continuing to be a free lance riding instructor and skill- at- arms tutor. Both Sally and Paul find needlepoint a pleasant way to unwind from the distraction of the day. Paul is also an organist, having held posts at a number of Yorkshire churches, as well as being a chorester at St John the Baptist Parish Church, Longbridge, having initially been taught to sing by a member of Huddersfield Choral Society.

His music- room boasts a one manual and pedal pipe organ, made by Messrs Marshall Brothers of Wakefield in 1898.

Both Paul and Sally were brought up in the Methodist tradition. However, their enquiring minds and seeing that all faith traditions have goodness and insight, brought them to Westgate Chapel, where Paul has attended on and off for about a decade, due to work commitments, Paul is probably best known as Anthony's elder twin.

Anthony Dawson found this for us:

Rev T Hincks, induction at Upper Chapel, Sheffield. January 1852

“I have always felt...we must have the general cooperation of the members; that we must have members not merely nominally connected with us, but engage them doing something connected...With every man standing upon his own private judgement, and claiming the libretto carry out his own ideas in his own peculiar way, it is difficult to get harmony amongst us for common work, so terribly independent we are. If we could merge our own individual peculiarities for the sake of forming one compact body that shall work for the common good, we should remove one of the greatest difficulties that we now have to attend with. If we are to work as a Christian body, we must, on points not of vital consequence, lay aside some of our individuality. We must rise higher for the sake of common good, and for the peace, and harmony and power of the church, we must fall in with the rest, and contribute what gifts we have to the work of the whole. The right of Private Judgement was a glorious thing in its place, but now it becomes almost a nuisance amongst us, so much does it interfere with other members and the common good...I wish that our church should become a church professing Gospel Christianity rather than theologies – a church whose all-sufficient creed is the Christ of the Gospels, and its test of discipleship harmony with the life and spirit of the Great Master- that it should be a church of Free Thought, unfettered by formularities – a church in which the doubter whose affections and aspirations are yet Christian, but whose understanding is troubled with speculative difficulties,

may find shelter and nourishment for his religious nature, and not be met with an anathema; that it should be a church of Catholic sympathies – a church ready to welcome the True and Good, wherever found, rejoicing to discover points of union between itself and the great Christian commonwealth; and lastly that it be a church of Good Works – a church not content to remain unmoved amongst prevailing sin – a church not practically repudiating the example of the good Samaritan – a church...which grows and spreads amongst us, a church whose members feel the duty which membership lays upon them and shall be willing to contribute their gifts and talents to increase its power and efficiency; in one word a church which shall nourish. A church which shall nourish well the religious life of all its members – that shall welcome all earnest free thinkers...a church that shall be devoted by its constitution to teaching the gospel to the poor and carrying the influence of holy religious to the afflicted and outcast. That is my conception of a church ought to be that dares call itself Christian.”

The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, 22 January 1852.

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation, Sunday 20 November at 4.30pm

Just an advance notice of the annual meeting in the Vestry after the service on 20 November. Nominations are sought for officers and for places on the Chapel Committee and a sheet on which to record these will be available at the back of the Chapel from Sunday 30 October.

The next vice-president of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Nominations are currently being sought for the Vice-President of the General Assembly for 2012-2013, Conventionally this will be a minister since we alternate each year between ministers and lay people. Our own Reverend Bill Darlison has agreed to being nominated by us and the Chapel Committee is unanimous in supporting this.



The Reverend Bill Darlison in action at his Dublin Chapel

Internet Discussions

If you go to the BBC web-site, which is : <http://www.bbc.com.uk> and follow it to the end you will find the word 'podcast.'

A podcast is like a magazine, and pictures of covers appear with titles of the subjects. If you see one which interests you click on to the picture and then the contents are shown and sometimes the speaker's voice, and you can comment on it

If you put Religion+Discussion into the search box it will produce millions of entries, and much controversy.

Pat Howard

Westgate Chapel on the ‘Experience Wakefield’ web pages

As a consequence of discussions with officers from Wakefield MD Council about the addition of signs to the Chapel on the new finger-posts, the local authority has now added us to the section of their website on heritage attractions in the city. The lengthy way of finding us is via the URL

www.experiencewakefield.co.uk/thedms.aspx?dms=13&venue=1991099

But the site will come up if you simply put Westgate Chapel Wakefield into a search engine. We understand that Wakefield is also to produce a heritage guide and we shall feature in that.

Problems with vehicular access to the Chapel

Concern was expressed at last month’s meeting of the Chapel Committee that the new road layout in Westgate is putting vehicles at risk as they turn in to the Chapel driveway or seek to get back into the traffic stream on leaving. We have set out the problems in some detail for the local authority’s Highways Engineer and asked for comment and possible strategies to lessen the hazards.

The Chapel grounds

We are very grateful to Pat Howard, Stephen Carlile, and Ralph Denby for the work they do to maintain the Chapel grounds. Recently Pat has planted many more daffodil bulbs so that we hope for an even better display next Spring. Pat notes, however, that the large rose bush near the front gates has been pushed over in such a way that it is smothering the new – and very pathetic – Beech tree planted for us by Clegg Construction. The rose bore a splendid array of hips so that it has seemed a pity to cut it back for the moment.

More Yorkshire dialect tales from Bill Humphreys

A Yorkshireman's wife dies and the widower decides that her headstone should have the words 'She were thine' engraved on it. He calls the stone mason who assures him that the headstone will be ready a few days after the funeral. True to his word, the stone mason calls the widower to say that the headstone is ready and would he like to come and have a look.

When the widower gets there he takes one look at the stone and sees that it's been engraved 'She were thin'.

He explodes, ' ells bells, man, tha's left the flippin "e" out.'

The stone mason apologises profusely and assures the poor widower that it will be put right at once.

Next day comes and the widower returns to the stone mason: 'There you go, sir, I've put the "e" on the stone for you'.

The widower looks at the stone which, neatly chiselled, reads:

'E, she were thin'.

Macmillan Coffee Morning, 30 September

Friday 30 September is being marked nationally by coffee mornings held in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research. Both Barclay's and HSBC banks in Wakefield are taking part and Kate Taylor has organised one from 10.30am to 1pm at the Chantry Chapel, Wakefield Bridge.

The Engagement Group

An 'Engagement Group' consisting of Unitarians and non-Unitarians, is organised by Mel and Steve from Westgate Chapel. The group meets every month, choosing a different location and theme for each meeting, but actively engaging with one another following engagement group principles (see website: <http://www.unitarianengagementgroups.org.uk/>).

We explore and discuss spiritual themes, and the beliefs and attitudes which shape our lives. Newcomers are welcome, and should contact Steve (boudicca7@talktalk.net) or Mel (melpx@hotmail.com), either at Chapel or by email.

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,
Pulpit Supply
and Calendar

Kate Taylor, 19 Pinder's Grove,
Wakefield. WF1 4AH Tel 01924-372748
kate@airtime.co.uk

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