



THE YORK UNITARIAN

Minister: Myrna Michell
St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, York, YO1 8NQ
January 2010

FROM THE MINISTER

My family used to go to Scotland each year on holiday, chugging along on A-roads and filling the journey with dotty games such as counting dogs, or men with walking sticks! One marker of our progress concerned crossing from one county (or country) to another. Sometimes we would even get out of the car and put 'one foot in England and one in Scotland'. Good old lay-bys, eh! I used to remonstrate that the road surface looked just the same ahead as back, and that I couldn't see which bit was claimed by which country, and in any case, who owned what was under the road going deep into the earth?

There was no satisfactory explanation!

In a similar way, I'm a bit "Bah! Humbug!" at each new year. A clock chiming somewhere does not change anything unless we want it to, and "what is time anyway?" runs through my head. We invented ways to measure 'time' but we should not live by them, nor fear time's passing, but move with it. It is not due to a calendar but to our memories that something alters, or can alter, as we compare and contrast as each year passes.

I do remember my sadness at the time of the millennium, feeling alone, my two children living abroad. I felt forgotten as due to communication blunders, I had heard nothing from them. My son was staying in New Zealand at that point, and because NZ enters the 'new year' first, the razzmatazz was on TV which I was watching at my mother's house. Whatever time is, it moves on! As many of you know, I am due to fly to NZ for the first time, to stay with my son and his partner. Russ emigrated officially over four years ago, and it will be ten years since those millennium fiascos (if that is how we saw it!). Expensive domes became something else. In our lives, broken circles can become complete again.

Our biggest recent change was to experience Margaret' [Kirk]'s retirement and my subsequent appointment, as witnessed at the induction service in December. That was a bright and uplifting occasion, our visitors told us later! We did not rush into organising it, recognising that time is needed for our dreams to flourish. The occasion unfolded and an atmosphere of welcome prevailed.

As Rev. John Midgley said to me, many years ago the St. Saviourgate congregation once told him there were more cobwebs than members! A great deal of hard work since then means that the trend has been reversed, but work on so many levels is needed for us to really open our doors and flourish.

At the service the next morning, Rev. Bob [Wightman, President of the Unitarian General Assembly] directed us to welcome people warmly, encourage them in their wish to grow, allow them to share your space - but don't demand your usual pew when someone else accidentally sits there! We must be careful (full of care). I think Bob also meant 'be busy here, but allow others to work with you'. If you are a busy member, encourage another; and if you are new, join in gently with those who probably also remember being here for the first time!

Our building, our niche set aside from city life is still here for us, and I sense a continuing blessing here within its walls. So may we grow each in our own way - 'being careful' for others both in our chapel and in our neighbourhoods, whilst feeling at home in our community of faith.

Myrna

MYRNA IS PRESENTLY AWAY IN NEW ZEALAND

VISITING HER SON, RUSSELL.

SHE WILL BE BACK IN YORK, 17TH JANUARY

SUNDAY SERVICES at 11.00a.m.

3 January

Serendipity

please bring seasonal surprises to read,
share and talk about

Sunday 10 January

Brinley Price

Love, Light and Life: a trinity

12.30p.m. Chapel Committee (Upper Room)

Sunday 17 January

Alan Pennington

H₂O: a symbol for a symbol

Sunday 24 January

Andrew Hill

The Unicorn

Sunday 31 January

Myrna Michel

Thursday 28 January 2.00p.m. *Chapel Charity and Colton's Hospital Trustees Meeting* (at Simon and Marta Hardy's home)

Friday 29 January 7.00p.m. for 7.30p.m. *Play Reading Group* (at Michael and Eileen Scott's home)

Saturday 30 January *Yorkshire Unitarian Union Quarterly Meeting, Bradford Visit of the GA president Rev. Bob Wightman.*

Saturday 30 January 10.30a.m.-4.30p.m. *York Residents Festival – Chapel open*

Saturday 30 January 5.00p.m. *Talk about Elizabeth Gaskell by Adrian Lovett*

Sunday 31 January 12.30 a.m - 4.30p.m *York Residents Festival – Chapel open.*

SERENDIPITY SUNDAY 3 JANUARY

Serendipity is the 'art of making lucky discoveries'. On Sunday 3rd January please bring an appropriate seasonal item of up to 300 words to share – read, sing, talk about or perform as part of our worship on the first Sunday in the New Year. I'll open, close and co-ordinate the service but for the rest I wait to be surprised and inspired.

Andrew Hill

OTHER EVENTS

Tuesday 5 January 7.30p.m. Healing and Spirituality Group (Upper Room)

Thursday 7 January 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)

Saturday 9 January 7.30p.m. *Piano recital (Bach, Schumann and Chopin) by Jill Crossland* £5/£3

Sunday 10 January 12.30p.m. *Chapel Committee* (Upper Room)

Wednesday 13 January 7.30p.m. *York Interfaith Group AGM* (Upper Room)

Thursday 14 January 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)

Tuesday 19 January 7.30p.m. Healing and Spirituality Group (Upper Room)

Thursday 21 January 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)

Saturday 23 January *Unitarian General Assembly National Youth Programme Inters Committee* (Upper Room)

Sunday 24 January 2.00p.m. *Bright Lights*

Thursday 28 January 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)

YORK RESIDENTS FIRST WEEKEND

The Chapel will be open on Saturday 30th January from 10.00 a.m. until 5.00p.m. and on Sunday 31st January 11.00a.m for Chapel service and from 12.30-5.00p.m. It is hoped to have a display and talk about the Unitarian novelist Elizabeth Gaskell who was born 200 years ago in 1810. Help will be needed for stewarding, for conversation with visitors and for serving refreshments. Please sign up on the vestry notice board if you can help either for a short or an extended period.

SOME HELP NEEDED

Claire Lee finishes being responsible for co-ordinating concerts and other events in the Chapel at the AGM in March. Claire will continue co-ordinating art shows and Steve Crowther will continue co-ordinating Late Music events. Its other events we need help with. If you think that you may be able to help please have a conversation with Claire. These events are important for York Unitarian/Chapel publicity and the income from them helps us improve our facilities.

A SHARED COVENANT

At the induction service on Saturday 5th December for Myrna Michell as our new minister this shared Covenant was made between the York Chapel Community and our new minister Myrna Michell:

THE YORK CHAPEL COMMUNITY SEEKS THE MINISTER'S RESPONSE

First reader: Myrna, we offer you our hopes for continuing growth as individuals and as a community. Will you help us to build a welcoming spiritual community, which is tolerant and appreciative of our differences, and which is loving and compassionate?

Minister: I will.

Second reader: Myrna, we offer you our joys and concerns, our celebrations and our sorrows. Will you share our laughter and our tears; and support us when we are in need?

Minister: I will.

Third reader: Myrna, when we are troubled or confused, will you share your insights and understanding and help us to find the best ways forward?

Minister: I will.

Fourth reader: Myrna, we recognise that these are serious responsibilities and we thank you for your Willingness to accept them. Will you help us to face our challenges and to seize our opportunities?

Minister: I will.

THE NEW MINISTER SEEKS THE CHAPEL COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE

Minister: Thank you for inviting me to become your Minister. It is a great honour and I commit myself to doing my very best for the benefit of the whole chapel community. Dear friends, will you share with me your many talents, insights and experiences, so that together we can continue to build a spiritual and caring community?

Chapel community: We will.

Minister: My aim is to provide pastoral care to everyone who needs it and spiritual guidance to the whole chapel community. Will you help me to do this?

Chapel community: We will.

Minister: Will you help me to look beyond this chapel community to the wider community beyond, to understand its needs better and welcome those who may choose to share our activities and explorations?

Chapel community: We will.

Minister: Dear friends, when difficulties arise, will you give me your counsel and support so that, together, we may continue our journey?

Chapel community: We will.

Minister and Chapel community together:

Thus do we pledge. This is our covenant with one another.

Myrna Michell at her induction as minister . . .



. . . of York Unitarians Saturday 5 December 2009

The charge to the minister and to the congregation...



was given by Rev. John Midgley

£205 FOR JESSIE'S FUND

The Chapel concert by flute pupils of Jessie Quinone raised £205. *Jessie's Fund* is one of the two special causes adopted by the Chapel for the year 2009/2010. On this occasion the Chapel was happy to provide performance space for free so no costs have been deducted. Many, many thanks to all the musicians, to the audience and to Anneliese Emans-Deane who suggested *Jessie's Fund* as worthy of our support.

FROM THE CHAPEL COMMITTEE

- The Chapel Committee met on Sunday 22nd November.
- Vestibule lighting improvements now have planning permission. Pulpit is now movable.
- Bright Lights 'small children' friendly group organised by Claire Wilton and Jess Knox will meet monthly from January 28th.
- Induction service plans and 2010 preaching plan were progressed.
- Myrna represented the Chapel at an Interfaith Week vigil; is planning 3 lunchtime spring concerts; with Adrian Lovett will be approaching potential new members (i.e. attenders who have been around for at least 6 months). A minister's support group is being arranged. Myrna will be on leave in New Zealand 21st December to 17th January.
- Gift aided contributions during 2009 were £3,120 (2008: £2,400). The current account stands at £8000. £1,250 has been re-paid to the Chapel Charity towards repayment of £30,000 chancel improvement loan. The recent Craft Fayre raised £272. During December Elizabeth Faiers will be acting as treasurer.
- Chapel Charity Trustees are amalgamating two CCLA COIF accounts and transferring funds to CCLA's new more 'ethical' fund. It is also investigating the ethical policy of Newton's slightly better Global Fund for charities.
- Several concerts and art shows are programmed between January and June. When organisers have no Public Liability Insurance 'their events' are Chapel events with the Chapel sharing the proceeds with the performers/artists. A separate account, from which upgrades in facilities could be financed could helpfully be established for income from this source. Special lighting for evening events has already been acquired.
- Our publicity officer, Janet Eldred, needs an assistant. One or two extra people trained to understand the heating system controls would be useful. The Healing and Spirituality Group now put out the bin sacks. Many thanks to them.
- Our 2009 Christmas Tree will be in a pot, rented and re-cyclable for another year! Adrian is investigating this.

**Let us gather the old year
into quiet minds.
Let us for a while not think
to the year ahead.
Let us wait for a few moments
within this motionless while.
(Kenneth Patton)**

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CHAPEL MEMBER?

If you have been around for a minimum of 6 months, you might like to become a Chapel member. So what will you get from being a member?

A sense of belonging and responsibility

Helping to keep available for others
what is available for you.

A recognition that the Chapel
lives in the economic real world.

The opportunity to share in a democratic
(pew ruling) community; - and,

maybe, even get elected to the Chapel committee!

Copies of the Chapel Constitution and Application Forms are on the information table at the front of the Chapel. Please hand completed forms to the Chapel secretary (Margaret Hill) who will bring them to the next scheduled Committee Meeting.

If you would like to talk to someone first either the Chapel minister (Myrna Michell) or the Chapel chairperson (Adrian Lovett) or the Chapel Secretary (Margaret Hill) would be happy to be available. There will be a 'New Member Recognition Service' in the spring.

'BRIGHT LIGHTS' TURN ON IN JANUARY

The first Bright Lights gathering will be held on Sunday 24th January, 2-4 pm in the Chapel. Come and join our new family community! All are welcome across the generations, whether you come by yourself or with family. We will be sharing stories, music, craft and food on a theme of Light and Candles to celebrate the mid-point of winter on 2nd February, marked by the festivals of Candlemas and Imbolc. A small donation will be asked for on the day to help make Bright Lights financially self-sufficient.

The Bright Lights team would also like to set up a craft box for future months. We'd be very happy to receive any of the following that you might have lying around at the back of a cupboard or in the recycling box:

Flattened cereal boxes; scraps of fabric, ribbon and interesting paper; ends of yarn, thread and string; small yogurt pots; beads, shells, buttons; egg boxes; the inside of toilet and kitchen rolls; plastic drinks bottles.

There will be a box marked 'Bright Lights' for your donations in the pews behind the Fair Trade stall from the first Sunday in January.

Bright Lights will continue to be held on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you have any questions or suggestions please call Claire Wilton on 01904 672265 or email: cv.wilton@openworld.com

SEEKING ENLIGHTENMENT

an exploration by Adrian Lovett on Sunday 22nd November

SPIRITUAL PATHS

As a relatively recent Unitarian, I still enjoy the novelty of a community where it's accepted, and even encouraged, to explore a wide range of spiritual paths. But I find that too often I have done that as a spiritual tourist, delighted to watch others celebrating what has meaning for them, rather than as a pilgrim, clear about my destination and the path I need to follow. When I thought about which celebrations mean most to me, I was interested to find that two that I have found most moving are both to do with light. A month ago I was at the York St John Diwali night, when there was a wonderful procession and dance of candle-lit lanterns; and next Sunday evening I shall be at the Minster in good time to get a clear view of the great Advent Procession, to see the great surge of candle light passed from hand to hand to transform the Minster from almost complete darkness to brilliant illumination.

I had a fairly standard low key Anglican (Protestant) upbringing, and as a teenager was quite a regular attender at my local church. But, what I valued most was the passport it gave to its rather good Saturday night Youth Club, which at that time was the centre of my social life, and not the more explicit spiritual messages delivered on Sundays. At University, and for many years afterwards I think it would be true to say that I had virtually no spiritual life at all. But then, on at least three separate occasions, a 'penny' seemed to drop. The first was when I was reading one of Rowena's textbooks about Homeopathy and I stumbled across a sentence that said 'the good thing about pagans is that they see themselves as part of nature and not 'in dominion over it', (as set out in the Book of Genesis), and immediately felt that I had been a 'pagan', in that sense, all my life, without ever realising it. In those days we didn't have a community of pagans so that was a fairly private experience though I read more about it and got into the habit of looking out for promising festivals to go to!

The second 'penny' dropped when I came into this Chapel, several years ago now, and discovered that in this community it was quite acceptable not to know what spiritual path to follow and that there was no pressure to rush to settle upon any particular one of them as the right answer. So I am very grateful for the many opportunities you have all given me to try to find my own spiritual path.

And the third 'penny' dropped, this summer, not here at Saint Saviourgate, but at another of those festivals, when one morning, not paying a great deal of attention, I became dimly aware of and then riveted by a man, Gregory Sams, talking about a book he had spent years writing *The Sun of gOd*, which is, if you like, my spiritual tour guide for the day.

UNKNOWN REGIONS

So let's take a closer look at those 'unknown regions' of the sun and its 'planets of new birth'. My facts and figures are derived from Greg Sams' – but if you find any more accurate ones do use them in stead. Scientists tell us that they now think that our Universe began with a bang - The Big Bang! 13.7 billion years ago. Before that there was nothingness, a 'black hole', no time, no space. The Sun itself has only been around for about 4.5 billion years, about a third of the lifespan of our Universe. And it seems that the planets, including Earth arrived within the next 100 million years, as a sort of after-birth to the Sun's birth. The sun is a truly 'massive' component of the whole solar system accounting for 99.8% of the total mass, with two planets Jupiter and Saturn contributing most of the other 0.2%. Earth amounts to just 0.01%! But, heavyweight though it is, 98% of the sun's content is made up of just two of the lightest (sorry for the pun!) elements – three quarters of it Hydrogen and a quarter Helium. The visible part of the sun is about 870,000 miles in diameter, but it



has no hard edge and its exterior invisible layers extend maybe 2 million miles into space. It's far too hot to send probes inside to find out what it's made of, but helioseismologists have worked out ingenious ways to listen to it and analyse the 'sounds' which are radiated to guess at its structure. The inner core is incredibly hot, say 15 million degrees Kelvin and incredibly dense, say as dense as gold. In these conditions, nuclear fusion takes place. Two atoms of Hydrogen fuse into one of Helium, losing less than 1% of their mass, but converting it into colossal amounts of energy. In crude terms, 1 second of the Sun's energy output would be enough to power the whole of the United States for 4 million years! Fortunately, what starts out as high-energy 'gamma radiation' which would be lethal to us is transformed in its journey to the surface of the core, almost completely, into light in our visible spectrum, which is the basis of all life on the planet.

To give you some idea of the process, the journey from core to surface, which at the speed of light and as the crow flies, would take less than a second. Instead, it takes more like a million years. By then it is a doddle for light to travel through space, to Earth, at the speed of light, which is about 186,000 miles per second in less than 10 minutes! The more you find out, the more mysterious it becomes - the sun is rotating, but somehow its equator rotates faster than its poles; the temperature beyond the surface rises rapidly, instead of falling as you would expect; huge filaments of energy leap over a quarter of a million miles out into space, surviving for days or even weeks on end, slowly changing shape. They defy all our current scientific logic and have been described as the equivalent of ice cubes surviving in a hot oven!

It is very easy for us to think of the sun as if it is just a giant light bulb in the sky, but instead we can now see that it is a massive multi-layered powerhouse, with regular patterns to its activities, sending complex and powerful forces throughout the universe. And the point of all this, for Gregory Sams is not to wonder at it, wonderful though it clearly is, but to see that the Sun has the complexity and array of self-generated activities that we would normally associate with an intelligent being – what he calls the self-organising consciousness that underlies everything.

SONG OF THE EARTH

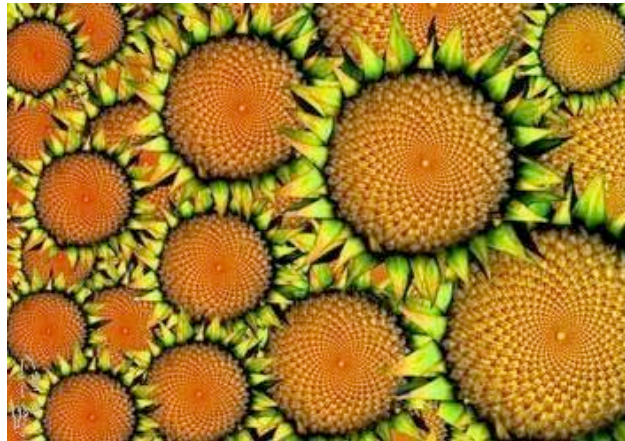
This is a brand new recording from NASA of various planetary sounds. The one I'm going to play a bit of is called *Song of the Earth*. The sounds have been collected by the Voyager spaceship which is exploring the edge of our solar system and beyond and beaming messages back to Earth. Because the 'sounds' would be inaudible to us they have to be processed, by taking a 40 day recording and speeding it up 42,000 times

LIGHT AND LIFE

Light is invisible, yet it allows us to see. Light hurtles through space for years, yet loses none of its energy in the process. Light can be reduced to a single irreducible particle, the photon. Because it travels at the speed of light, it is always the same time to the photon, which means it is on every place on its trajectory at the same time. It behaves as both a wave and a particle. The gamma-radiation from the sun's

core has, by the time it reaches Earth been almost completely processed into the safe visible light that enables life on earth. This visible spectrum occupies only a thousandth of one per cent of the total spectrum of radiation and yet this narrow band of white light carries within it all the colours of the rainbow and can, with prisms (or raindrops!), be split up into separate colours and then recombined into the original white. It carries information with it that enables us to see shapes and colours and far more; and modern communications depend increasingly on optical fibres because light can carry such huge amounts of information so efficiently. Light is a mystery, which becomes ever more mysterious as science discovers ever more of its properties. And the Sun emits a million megatons of pure light every second!

Light gives substance and form to the vegetable world, yet itself has no physical form or structure. Organic life is designed to receive and utilise this energy. In a very real sense, we – and all other life forms – are built by sunlight, using our bodies as biological batteries to store and release their solar energy through the process of life. Light powers photosynthesis, the commonplace daily miracle that takes place in every blade of grass and every plant. The vegetable matter produced is the basis of the food chain for all animal



life on this planet. And the process takes carbon out of the carbon dioxide in the air and hydrogen out of water – and what's left over is Oxygen, the breath of life, for all of us animals. Isn't that neat! As we know from our own Darwin 200 celebrations earlier in the year, the idea of evolution caused widespread controversy and the battles still rage between 'natural selection' from myriad random changes leading to survival of the fittest and 'intelligent design' almost always interpreted as meaning a version of human intelligence. Instead Greg Sams puts forward a different idea, that there is a self-organising intelligence within every individual organism and indeed within every cell within it. To us that may seem very far fetched, especially when we add in his idea that the Sun itself is another part of this self-organising intelligence, possessing some form of consciousness, receiving information from the rest of the solar system as well as radiating light (and intelligence?) into it. I can't do justice to the detail of Greg Sams arguments, but if you are interested you can read the book for yourself – it is very readable, and I will get a copy for

the Chapel Library. On a human scale, we forget how intelligent we were even before we had a brain. When two single cells meet and set off on a journey of reproduction. Within a mere 9 months, those two cells manage to craft the entire organism we call a human being, without the need for any further human intervention so to speak. Limbs and internal organs are formed, with nerve connections to our brain and a circulatory system able to deliver fresh blood to every single cell in our body!

Could this whole process from amoeba to jellyfish to human being really have come about by chance; and far less by 'intelligent' design. Although Sams doesn't use this term I have an inkling that it might be appropriate to think about whether it could perhaps be called 'enlightened design'.

LIGHT AND DEATH

In the course of preparing this service, I came across two books by the Dalai Lama – one called 'The Universe in a single atom' and the other 'Becoming Enlightened'. Well I could hardly ignore that, could I? As I began to read them, I was delighted to find how knowledgeable he is about science as well as about Buddhist philosophy. This was not the result of him being taught science, but because he came across some western technology brought, by his predecessor, the 13th Dalai Lama, into the Monastery in Lhasa, where he was brought up. This consisted of three motor cars and two film projectors and, the one he learnt most of all from, the telescope. He used it to study the everyday life he did not have direct contact with, far below in the market place in Lhasa; but he also turned it out into space and particularly onto the moon. One night he was amazed to see craters on the moon, with shadows on one

side, and worked out for himself that that meant the light must be coming from somewhere else, not from inside the moon as he had previously thought. He rushed off to discuss this with his tutors and was delighted to find that not only was he right, but that in fact, as he had suspected, but not dared to say, the light came from the Sun.

His teachings in both these books are difficult to summarise, but approximately are that the best approach to enlightenment is three fold, the intellectual external evidence of science, the internal spiritual growth from meditation, and the wisdom of great authorities, particularly Buddha. But he is very clear that if science disagrees with either inner thinking or received wisdom, one must take great care not to reject 'new' science but to bring all three into alignment. To finish I want to bring in some ancient Tibetan wisdom about light, from a book which Rowena has been reading, about a young woman, Soname Yangchen, a Tibetan refugee who has written a very moving book about her early life as 'A child of Tibet' in which she describes the ideas of Tibetan Buddhism about the links between death and light and particularly about the 'Rainbow Body Lamas', which is what Rowena is now going to read to you.

"The mind is a very complicated subject and through the centuries Tibetans have studied and written many texts about it. In fact that is what our Buddhism is about – developing the understanding of our own mind and evolving it to the state of full awakening or Buddhahood. It is what our entire country was involved in before the Chinese invasion.

As an uneducated girl of course, I knew little about the mind, except the simplest facts, like what happens at death. But later I learnt that mind exists as a stream of consciousness, one moment of awareness leading to another in a continuous line stretching back to what is called 'beginningless time'. That is why reincarnation is possible and how it takes place. When we die, our mind is severed from its old body taking with it all the imprints it gathered during its life on earth – in other words its karma. If we have been angry, jealous or aggressive, then we have amassed the habits of these harmful, destructive emotions in our mind stream and will draw to ourselves a disturbing and unhappy rebirth. If, on the other hand, we have been gentle, kind and wise then we will be drawn to a peaceful happy next life. Karma is all important – we reap what we have sown. As such, we believe that we ourselves are responsible for the kind of life we have, not any outside god. We literally make our own life. Our external reality reflects our inner reality.

It is said that ordinary people, when they die, have little or no control over their minds because they are terrified of finding themselves without a fleshly body that consequently they are at the mercy of all their mind projections. That is why we read the Tibetan Book of the Dead to them, to help soothe and direct them. Still, they are normally flung into their next

birth according to their karma without much say in the matter.

But whatever life it is it will not be permanent. No life lasts forever. When the karma of one life runs out, we die, and then we start another. In this way we circle around and around on the wheel of life, sampling one type of existence after another, until we have learnt all our karmic lessons and achieve enlightenment.)

Accomplished meditators, however, who have spent decades looking into their mind and learning how to control it can do amazing feats at death. There are many stories of lamas who stay sitting bolt upright in the lotus position for days and even weeks with their complexion still fresh and their bodies still pliable. There is no smell of decay about them at all. They are continuing to meditate in the Bardo (that's the space between lives), using the powerful clear light of mind to dictate whatever future rebirth they want. When their meditation is finished, their body collapses and rigor mortis sets in.

More spectacular tales tell of yogis who attain what is known as 'The Rainbow Body' at death, whereby they manage to dissolve all their physical elements into light. When their followers go looking for them they find no sign of a body – only their clothes."

Earlier, I talked about three stages of a spiritual path: existence, consciousness and enlightenment. From reading the Dalai Lama I can now begin to see that enlightenment is not enough and what is also needed is to take action in some way – to move along the right path and in the right direction. In this context, I was very taken by another saying of the Dalai Lama, that "compassion is the heart of the enlightened mind" where compassion means 'understanding and acceptance', not 'pity'. So we need to look for the right way forward with compassion and act on it.

I went to a very good gig last night (The Arts Barge Fundraiser) and amongst the many very talented people performing was Rory Motion, whom some of you may know. I was quite taken aback, when he had to busk for a while between acts and came out, impromptu with a perfect summary of the past four months over which I have been trying to put this service together: "I sat up all night thinking about the sun, and in the morning it dawned on me!"

**REMINDE US, O GOD,
THAT ALL THE DARKNESS
IN THE WORLD
HAS NEVER YET
PUT OUT THE LIGHT.**

UNITARIAN WEEKENDS AWAY!

For those who live in and around York the Unitarian Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire is easily accessible – either by car or by public transport (train to Sheffield then bus from Sheffield Interchange to Great Hucklow). So here are some 2010 weekends away. York Unitarians already attend Unitarian Music Society and Hucklow Summer School events. Others are involved in organising Unitarian Youth Programme weekends. Maybe you would like to join them or to try one of the other weekends. More and booking information is available at the Chapel and from the Centre info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk

- *January 27th-29th* Winter Walking in Derbyshire
- *February 5th-7th* Unitarian Youth Programme Junior Weekend for 7 - 11 year olds.
- *February 17th-19th* Gather the Spirit - through Music Unitarian Music Society
- *February 19th-21st* Communication and Coordination Network (UCCN) Conference
- *February 26th - 28th* Unitarian Youth Programme - Inter and Senior Weekend for 11-17 year olds
- *March 5th-7th* Spring Congregations Weekend Bring a small group from your church and meet other church groups.
- *March 19th-21st* American Patchwork Quilting a retreat for beginners and more experienced quilters led by Dr Judy Campbell
- *March 21st-25th* Writing Retreat a retreat for those who wish to test their writing skills led by Dr Judy Campbell
- *April 6th - 8th* Pre-GA youth workshop 12-17 year olds
- *April 30th- May 3rd* Foy Society - Stuart Sokell
- *May 14th-16th* Unitarian Youth Programme Bridging Weekend for 16-21 year olds.
- *May 29th* Centre Open Day and week-end
- *May 29th-June 1st* Wildflower walks and gardens led by Julie Dadson
- *July 12th-16th* 60s plus weekend
- *July 16th-18th* Family Activity Weekend
- *July 24th-31st* Unitarian Experience Week - Reaching the High Notes
- *August 7th-13th* Unitarian Youth Programme Five Days Away for 12-17 year olds.
- *August 13-16th* Unitarian Music Society Annual Conference
- *August 21st-28th* Hucklow Summer School 'Speaking of God'
- *August 28th-30th* Summer Congregations Weekend

- *September 3rd-5th* Unitarian Society for Psychological Studies
- *September 6th--9th* Unitarian Ministerial Fellowship Conference
- *September 29th-31st* Unitarian Women's Group
- *October 1st-3rd* Unitarian Youth Programme Junior Weekend for 7 - 11 year olds
- *October 18th-20th* 60s+ Autumn Weekend
- *October 22nd-24th* Autumn Congregations Weekend Bring a small group from your church and meet other church groups.
- *October 29th-31st* Unitarian Earth Spirit Network
- *November 5th-7th* Unitarian Association for Lay Ministry and National Unitarian Fellowship
- *November 19th-21st* Unitarian Youth Programme Inter and Senior Weekend for 11-17 year olds
- *December 3rd-5th* Christmas walking weekend
- *December 10th-12th* Hucklow at Christmas

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS

York Unitarians,
St. Saviourgate Chapel,
St. Saviourgate, York YO1 8NQ
www.ukunitarians.org.uk/york
<yorkunitarians@hotmail.co.uk>

Minister: Myrna Michell
☎ 07931 775329
myrnamichell@yahoo.co.uk
[Myrna's 'days-off' are Mondays and Tuesdays]

Chairperson: Adrian Lovett
☎ 01904 656504 <alovett151@yahoo.co.uk>

Secretary: Margaret Hill
☎ 01904 693427 <mhill.york@gmail.com>

Treasurer: Simon Hardy
☎ 01904 423604
<hardy67@btinternet.com>

Chapel Committee Members: Jen Atkinson, Elizabeth Faiers, Claire Lee, Brinley Price, Sue Leadley, Richard Thompson, Andrew Hill and the Officers

St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel Charity (registered charity: 230167) Trustees: Margaret Kirk, Elizabeth Faiers, Alfred Fletcher (Treasurer), Marta Hardy, Simon Hardy, Adrian, Lovett, Jen, Atkinson, Andrew Hill (Chair).

The Chapel Charity Trustees are also Trustees of the Thomas Colton Hospital almshouses (registered charity: 221281)

York Unitarian editor Andrew Hill
☎ 01904 693427
<amckhill@gmail.com>