



## From the Editor's Desk . . .



April and May are always a particularly busy time of the year. As well as Easter, the General Assembly Annual Meetings and Foy Conference, the District 'Growth Initiative' has been getting under way. Hazel and I have also had to fit in two trips to the south west for our grandson Harry's birthday and Harry and his little sister Betty's naming ceremony at Frenchay Unitarian Chapel. It was, therefore, a big relief that I didn't have to produce a Calendar for May under the new bi-monthly publication schedule.

Meanwhile I have had a good influx of items for publication and I am most grateful to all those who have contributed. I was particularly pleased to receive the article entitled *How I discovered Unitarianism* from Melody Dixon-Oliver. Melody very eloquently describes her frustration that she only stumbled upon Unitarianism by accident, and how important it has become for her. This is something of a 'wake up' call for us. There must be others like Melody searching for a spiritual home yet completely unaware of our existence and the support that we can give them. Let us bear this in mind as we embark on our 'Growth Project' - we owe it to them to make our Unitarian philosophy more visible in the outside world.

On page 8 I have printed a letter which Hazel received from Jeannie Bloem of New Horizons with the sad news that CHAT has had to close due to lack of funding. It's a depressing comment on austerity Britain that a service for which there is so much demand (remember that CHAT started in our building but outgrew our facilities) receives so little support from the authorities. We extend our sympathy to Jeannie and her team of volunteers who work so hard to support those recovering from mental health problems. We hope for better times for them before too long.

As we go to press Paul Bell has given us shocking news of sudden and severe floods on May 13th in the Dickoya region of Sri Lanka, which Paul often visits - see page 9 and 10. I don't recall seeing this mentioned anywhere in our media. The quiet determination of Paul's friends to overcome this devastating blow is quite remarkable. I hope that by the time this Calendar is distributed we will have organised a collection to help their recovery. News like this helps us to realise that, despite our grumbling about the vagaries of British weather, we are so lucky to have a generally benign climate. Let us never forget those who are less fortunate.

*David Warhurst*

## How I discovered Unitarianism

It's fair to say, that as I grew up religion played absolutely no part in my life, with the exception of attending a handful of weddings and christenings in churches. I vaguely recall asking my Mum why I had not been christened like the majority of my school friends and cousins. I think at such a young age I felt as though I was the odd one out. Her answer was simple and has inspired me throughout my life: she hadn't had me christened because she wanted me to have the freedom to choose what I believed and how I lived my life. Even as a child I appreciated that decision and was grateful for it, and I never felt like the odd one out again. I felt privileged because I could make my own mind up.

Fast forward to early 2006 and trying to find a venue for my upcoming marriage to Richard was proving to be a colossal headache. We each had beliefs about God, about Spirituality, about the world around us, but nothing we could put a name to. Allerton Bywater, the village just outside Leeds where I grew up, had the most beautiful C of E church - St Mary the Less. It would be the perfect location aesthetically but practically it wasn't meant to be. We got in touch with the vicar at St Mary's, who told us about the preparation course, the requirement to attend so many services beforehand and a little about the vows, and suddenly it felt as though the wedding didn't belong to us anymore. Ownership had been taken by the church! We decided that it would feel wrong, pursuing that particular path, taking vows and participating in rituals we didn't believe in. Yes, the church and surrounding were perfect but not so much to warrant the feeling of hypocrisy.

Next we looked at registry offices and licensed venues such as hotels, but something about a civil service felt sterile and hollow; all about the legalities and nothing spiritual. We were stuck in Limbo, or so it felt.

One evening while trawling the internet for suitable readings and music for our ceremony, I was reminded of the one time I was a bridesmaid for my Auntie and Uncle when I was 12 years old. I always remembered that the church seemed quite odd! It was a big, beautiful, traditional looking church stuck smack bang in City Square, Leeds. I had memories of all the double decker buses full of Saturday shoppers watching the wedding party as we stood outside on a rainy 4th July having photos taken. So I Googled: "*Church in Leeds City Square*" and discovered that the church was Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel. "Wouldn't it be wonderful to get married there" I thought - but what on earth was Unitarian?! I had never heard of it before. True to form, the next thing I did was look up Unitarianism and the more I read, the more it made sense to me - now I could give my own beliefs a name. I was also frustrated as to why I

had to stumble upon Unitarianism by accident. Why had no one told me about this before? Why isn't everyone part of this wonderful religion?!

Needless to say, we chose to have our Wedding at Mill Hill with the wonderful Rev Paul Travis marrying us. What a unique man, not like any religious man we had ever encountered before. After briefly telling us about how the ceremony would go and how we had lots of freedom to include what we wanted, he spent a lot of time telling us about his life on the stage and as a musician! Everyone who met him thought he was wonderful and even now, 6 years on, people still comment on what a lovely ceremony we had at Mill Hill. I firmly believe that the reason for it being memorable is because it was all about us. Our hymns were in fact Christmas Carols (we were married on 16th December), our readings were non-religious, 20<sup>th</sup> century poems, our music came in the form of Pachelbel's "*Canon*" and Coldplay's "*A Message*". Guided by Rev Travis and the Unitarian Church, the ceremony belonged to us and our day was unique and individual.

When I lost my Mum in 2008, we returned to my husband's home town, Stockton, and two years later we had a similar dilemma to the one we'd had in Leeds: we'd had our daughter Jaynie in June 2010, and wanted a ceremony to welcome her into the world. Again I took to the internet and discovered the Unitarian church in Stockton. I also discovered that it was just around the corner from our first home together, Burgess Street, from 2004 to 2006, and we had never even known! Thanks to the church we were able to give Jaynie a beautiful welcome into the world and the community around her. My Mum chose not to christen me so I would have the power to choose my beliefs, and by holding Jaynie's Naming Ceremony in the Unitarian Church, I feel that we have given her the same power.

Right now I feel it is time to explore my own spirituality. Studying counselling has opened my eyes and mind to the power and importance of self-awareness and self-development. Developing my own beliefs, understanding more about Unitarianism and being able to educate others about the movement feels vital at the moment. I get a lot out of the services: time to think, time to consider, being challenged to look at things in a different way and a sense of community and welcome.

I can only hope and pray that more people can be educated in what it is to be a Unitarian and make sure that the movement keeps moving and growing in the future. It would be a shame to let such a wonderful institution go to waste.

Melody Dixon-Oliver

## My Family Tree Unitarians!

I had always known that I was part of the Clephan family, but not that they were all good Unitarians! My Grandmother, Mary Bryan, my Great Grandmother, Elizabeth Walton (née Clephan) and my aunt, Margaret Clephan Bryan, (Marmie - some of you will remember) all attended at Stockton. As part of the Clephan family, my aunt and I were invited to the unveiling of "*The Diceplayers*" at Middlesbrough Art Gallery in 1974.

For those unfamiliar with "*The Diceplayers*" - it is a painting by Georges de la Tour bequeathed to Stockton Corporation in the will of one Annie Elizabeth Clephan in 1930 in commemoration of her father, Edwin Clephan (my great, great uncle!) who had purchased the painting. It lay undiscovered in an attic at Preston Hall until 1972 when a routine insurance valuation caused a stir. It now hangs in a newly decorated and secure room at Preston Hall .

Edwin, a son of Robert Clephan, a baker of Silver Street, although born in Stockton, had moved to Leicester, where he became a bank manager, an avid art collector and a JP. He has a hall named after him at de Montfort University. He became a member of the Great Meeting - the Unitarian Church in Leicester - and on its wall there is a plaque to commemorate him.

Another member of the Clephan family was Eugene (another great, great uncle!) who, along with a Mr Briggs, laid the foundation stone of Stockton Unitarian Church in 1872.

James Thomas Clephan was also the son of Robert, the Silver Street Street baker. He was a member of Stockton Unitarian Church until he moved, first to Edinburgh and latterly to Newcastle, where he became a newspaper editor in Gateshead and worshipped at The Church of the Divine Unity in Newcastle.

I wonder if I will find any further Unitarians among my ancestors?!

Chris Canning (née Gill)



## EAVES Poppy Project Result

Our 'bed' money box was opened at the recent General Assembly meetings. In total we raised **£64** for the Poppy Project. This will pay for more than 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> bed nights for vulnerable women. Thank you for your support.

Hazel Warhurst

# Spring

What a tumultuous Spring we have seen this year! So much cold wind and general weather - little or no rain so the gardens look very grey, as they need to be watered either by the clouds or by human intervention.

And how green everything is. It is only a fortnight or so ago when we wondered if we were going to get any blossom or new green growth at all and then suddenly everything erupted. If you had been away for a week or so you would have come back to a different countryside. And the cherry blossom - how cheery it looks and how quickly it disappears, especially when we get those cold northerly winds. But at least the blossom is here.

So we think of the places on the earth where they don't have Spring and everything is drab and dusty all the time and pray that the folks living there will be able to grow things for themselves with help from outside agencies such as Christian Aid or Oxfam. The amount raised by our collection for Christian Aid, following our Christian Aid service in May, will be announced in the next Calendar.

# The Winter Season

As I said earlier the Winter and Spring this year have been pretty awful for the weather but we have been lucky this year with our visits to the theatre and concert hall. Although we had booked concerts at the Sage in Gateshead over the winter months, and there were times when we wondered if we would get there, we were lucky and made all the concerts.

We went to a number of concerts given by the Northern Sinfonia Orchestra which were superb. The orchestra always plays so well and we were treated to performances which held us in our seats, always wishing they could go on playing long after the programmed work had finished.

And as if that were not enough we were able to go to Hartlepool and Darlington to hear more music this time given by soloists or duets and trios.

We are told that there is a lack of things going on up here in the North East but there are plenty - one just has to look for them and maybe go that little bit further than expected.

We are now looking forward to seeing what the season starting in the Autumn and New Year promise, and we hope for good travelling conditions.

Mike Tomlin

## Letter to the Editor (1)

Hello,

I thought you might be interested in this photograph taken in early April, 2013, when Harold, Code, Joe Evis and I met in Brighton for a "reunion". Harold lives in Dymchurch in Kent, Joe lives in Heathfield in West Sussex and I live in Bournemouth on the South Coast.



***L to R: Harold, Joe and Brian reminiscing***

Harold and I started the UYPL branch at Stockton in 1954 which Joe joined later. Harold was Minutes Secretary and I was General Secretary. The Treasurer was Judy Betteridge (now Judy Hutton).

We all took part in the Youth Group Shows produced by Nancy Betteridge which some of you may remember.

Incidentally, Harold and I were the producers and editors of the first ever Church Calendar - a copy of which of which you reproduced some time ago.

Thank you most sincerely for the copies of the Calendar. I always enjoy reading about all my old friends and what is happening.

My sincere best wishes to everyone who remembers me.

Brian Boddy

## Letter to the Editor (2)

Hello Everyone,

This is Rev Tom McCready from Doncaster passing on a piece of news. I am very involved with the preparations for Refugee Week here in Doncaster and members of the group coordinating the plans raised the idea of a suitable song or poem we could use. I sent an

email round with a hymn by Frank Clabburn - number 69 from the purple hymn book - and it was enthusiastically accepted. People absolutely loved it.

So may I please suggest that people consider singing this hymn or having it as a reading on Refugee Sunday (June 23rd) and passing it along to any refugee or asylum seekers support group you are in contact with?

Rev Tom McCready

*Ed - The hymn is printed on page 16.*

## **Letter to Hazel**

Good morning Hazel,

I am sorry to have to say that CHAT has had to close down due to no funding being available.

The group of Service Users are meeting a couple of times a week at Norton Road Social Services building free of charge to try and stay together. We still have to pay the lease on the Yarm Road payments and I have to say we are struggling to stay alive.

It is bad times for charities at the moment but we are in our 41st year and are doing our best to carry on.

Please could you forward any mail onto:

New Horizons (Teesside)  
c/o Parkside CMHRC  
Park Road North  
Middlesbrough  
TS1 3LF

This would be greatly appreciated.

Hope all goes well for you and that the sun will, eventually shine but I wouldn't bet on it.

Warmest wishes

*Jeannie Bloem*

*Quotation:*

*It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive.*

*Robert Louis Stevenson*

## **An Invitation:**

# Newcastle upon Tyne **Unitarians**

You are invited to a  
**Unitarian Universalist Service**

entitled

**“Technology and the Human Spirit”**

at

**Newcastle Unitarian Church**

**Ellison Place**

**Newcastle upon Tyne**

**on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 11.00 am**

**Elizabeth Buie**, who is a PhD Student at Northumbria University researching “User Experience and the Human Spirit” and a Unitarian Universalist from the Washington DC area, will lead our service.



# Flood Disaster in Sri Lanka

The following material has been selected from information sent to Paul Bell by Rev Father Andrew Devadason of Christ Church, Dickoya, Sri Lanka. Paul has been working with Father Andrew installing an organ in one of his churches (not the one affected by the flood).

## **Disaster** that hit us on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 3:00PM

- Rain fall of **around 16"**
- Flash floods rendered **04 dead, including one 9 year** old child in the town.
- Approximately **1250 families and about 5400** persons were affected due to the flooding in my region.
- There was **07 feet** of water that came into my church precincts and vicarage and washing away almost everything.
- **Praise God** our lives were protected.

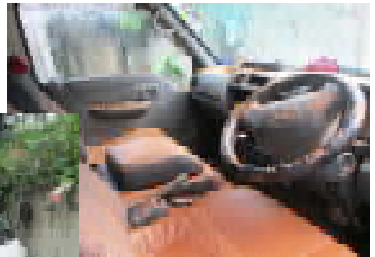
### *Pictures from inside the Church*





*The Vicarage*

The Vehicle was totally damaged



## Dates for Your Diary

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June** - Open Day at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June** from 10.45am to 12.30pm - Children's Group meets at church

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** at 6.00pm - Northern Unitarian Association (NUA) Committee meeting at Stockton.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.00pm - Worship Group meeting at church

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.15pm - Amnesty Teesside meet in the church.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June** at 7.15pm - Church Council meeting at church.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July** from 10.45am to 12.30pm - Children's Group meets at church

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July** - Unitarian Discovery Week at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. Theme: *Windows on the World and Beyond*.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.15pm - Amnesty Teesside meet in the church.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August** - *Five Days Away* for young people at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. Theme: *Be a Justice Maker*.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August** - Unitarian Music Society Conference at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August** - Hucklow Summer School at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. Theme: *Living at the Edge*.

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August** - 'Come and go as you please' at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August** - Mid-week Break at the Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow.

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014** - Unitarian General Assembly Annual Meetings at Whittlebury Hall, Towcester, Northamptonshire.

Margaret Robinson

## Amnesty Teesside Report

Amnesty Teesside is now up and running! At our most recent meeting, on 8th May, we selected several of Amnesty's current campaigns and sent letters and emails as appropriate. The campaigns we selected were:

- Action to protect innocent civilians caught up in the conflict in Syria.
- Action to end violence against women in Afghanistan.
- A call to the Russian authorities demanding justice for members of the Pussy Riot group, currently imprisoned.
- A call to the Zimbabwe Embassy to respect the human rights of peaceful activists who are members of WOSA - Women of Zimbabwe Arise.
- A call to the Indonesian authorities about the treatment of a teacher detained since 2007 for leading a peaceful protest.

A detailed reply has been received from Alex Cunningham MP on the issue of violence against women in Afghanistan with a promise to take up the issue on our behalf with members of the government.

The next meeting will be held on June 12th. Why not come along and add your support to this important work.



## Spring Sparklers

A lot has been happening at Stockton since the last Calendar roundup, beginning with the last service in March, on 31st, taken by Margaret Kirk. As this was also Easter Sunday, Margaret explored the subject of how we approach Easter. Unitarians have trouble with the literal story of the resurrection, as do many people in the mainstream churches these days. We are much more comfortable with celebrating the spring time uplift that we get at this time of year. Margaret reminded us of Mole in Wind in the Willows, feeling the urge to come out of his burrow. Margaret calls it "the awakening spirit of new life".

The next service, on April 7th, was taken by Tom McCready and the service on April 14th was a "Bring and Share" service. Regrettably I missed both of these as we were away in the south west for family reasons on the 7th and away at the GA meetings on the 14th.

Stockton was well represented again at the General Assembly in Nottingham, with Margaret Robinson, Mike and Jane Tomlin, and Hazel and myself attending. Margaret, as joint chair of the Local Leadership Strategy Group (LLSG) played a prominent role and received commendations for her presentations. Mike was also in action because of his Ministers' Pension Fund and Peace Fellowship responsibilities. Hazel was busy running the Foy Society stand for much of the time and, although I have officially retired from running **GA Zette**, the handover process kept me fully occupied.



**Mike at the podium for the Ministers' Pension Fund**



**David selling Zettes**

The meetings have been well reported in **The Inquirer** and **GA Zette** (copies are still available from me) so I will not go into detail here, except to say that there was a very good atmosphere and considerable optimism generated by a number of success stories related to us and about plans for the future.

On 21st April it was time for our annual Christian Aid service taken by Mike Tomlin. The theme was *Fight Back from Hunger* and we heard stories from three developing countries of people being helped to help themselves. This is the cornerstone of the best kind of overseas aid, and there is much more that could be done if governments had the will to do it. This is the big **IF**, hence the 'IF' campaign . . . Then things may change for the better - it's up to us.

Next up was Victor Ball on 28th April but I have no information about this service as we were back in Somerset for the naming ceremony of Keith's children Harry and Betty at Frenchay Unitarian Chapel.

Margaret Kirk was back again on May 5th, her theme: *The Joy of Birds - spectacle and song*. At a time when many bird species are in decline Margaret celebrated the beauty of birds, their presence in our gardens, their sounds in our countryside and considered what is lost to us when habitats are destroyed. Birds have been the inspiration for poets throughout history and are a source of spiritual joy.



**This woodpecker is a regular visitor to our garden in Ingleby Arncliffe**

On May 12th we welcomed Ernest Baker, Hon Secretary of the Unitarian charity *Send a Child to Hucklow Fund (SACH)*. This was a moving service which traced the history of SACH from its humble beginnings to an organisation which raised over £80,000 last year to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Ernest wove a tapestry of slides, stories, music, readings and beautifully worded prayers and meditations to create a service which left a very big impression on those present. SACH was our chosen charity last year and Jean Watson presented our cheque to Ernest during the service.

Victor Ball returned on 19th May, exploring the theme *Life is a Journey* with well chosen readings and poems. Victor explained the pagan influence on early Christian doctrines about resurrection and reincarnation. It is natural for people to wonder what happens after death but what is really important is the life we lead now, taking inspiration from the Taoist saying - "*the journey is the destination*".

On 22nd May Hazel and I were privileged to be asked to accompany the President, Bill Darlison, and his wife Morag, to represent Unitarians at a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, as did Mike and Jane a few years ago. It was a fascinating experience.

Finally, on May 26th, it was Margaret Robinson's turn to take the service. Her theme was '*do you have to be religious to be spiritual?*' This was an exploration of different interpretations of spirituality with appropriate readings, hymns and prayers. Margaret's benediction was:

*May you always have*

*Enough happiness to keep you sweet;*

*Enough trials to keep you strong;*

*Enough success to keep you eager;*

*Enough faith to give you courage;*

*And enough determination to make each day a special day.*

That brings us to the end of the current period. Our sincere thanks go to all those who put so much work into making our worship meetings so insightful and inspiring.

David Warhurst

**SUNDAY JULY 21<sup>st</sup>:-**

**Material for the August/September Calendar to be in the hands of the Editor, David Warhurst, please. My email address is:**

**[hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk](mailto:hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk)**

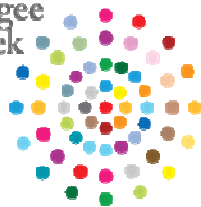
Refugee  
Week



Refugee  
Week



Refugee  
Week



## DIFFERENT PASTS, SHARED FUTURE 17 – 23 JUNE 2013

### *I Stand Outside Your Door*

*I stand outside your door, will you admit me?  
I have no home, no land, no friend, no life.  
I ask so little from your great abundance,  
A place to sleep, some food for child, for wife.  
I have no pride, no plea except 'asylum',  
A place of peace beyond our world of strife.*

*We heard a promise from your distant country:  
A whisper of your peace through sounds of war;  
We travelled long, rejected, cast asunder,  
No rest we found, far from our native shore.  
We had no pride, no plea except 'asylum',  
Will you provide for us an open door?*

*And so we come and wait upon your borders:  
Anonymous, forsaken and alone.  
Where now your promise? Where is love, compassion?  
Where now the hope? Has your heart turned to stone?  
Forget your pride and hear our plea 'asylum',  
And let us know one country and one home.*

*Frank R Clabburn  
(Hymn no. 69 in 'Sing Your Faith')*

## Services in June, July and August

<b>June 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Margaret Kirk
<b>June 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Victor Ball
<b>June 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 am:</b> Rev Jeffrey Bowes - Flower Service
<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Refugee Service
<b>June 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Tom McCready
<b>July 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Michael Unwin
<b>July 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> David Arthur
<b>July 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Visit to Whitby - service at 2.30pm at the Old Chapel, Flowergate</b> (No service at Stockton)
<b>July 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Professor Paul Harvey
<b>August 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Tony McNeile
<b>August 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Nicky Jenkins
<b>August 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev June Pettitt
<b>August 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm:</b> Rev Margaret Kirk

### Organists

### Welcome Rota

<b>June 2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Hazel Warhurst
<b>June 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Jane Tomlin	Mike Tomlin
<b>June 16<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Joan Unwin	Molly Rudge
<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Joan Unwin
<b>June 30<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Margaret Robinson
<b>July 7<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Jean Watson
<b>July 14<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Jane Tomlin	Margaret Whitham
<b>July 21<sup>st</sup>:</b>	(Whitby Visit)	(Whitby Visit)
<b>July 28<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Peter Whitham
<b>August 4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Whitham	Hazel Warhurst
<b>August 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Jane Tomlin	Mike Tomlin
<b>August 18<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Joan Unwin	Margaret Robinson
<b>August 25<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Molly Rudge

### Flowers

### Sunday Tea Rota

<b>June 2<sup>nd</sup>:</b>	Mrs Rowe	Hazel and David Warhurst
<b>June 9<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Victor Ball	Melody Dixon-Oliver
<b>June 16<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Mrs Beech	Molly Rudge and June Wood
<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup>:</b>	Margaret Robinson	Joan Unwin
<b>June 30<sup>th</sup>:</b>	Mrs Smith and Mrs Fish	Hazel and David Warhurst



# Church Directory

**Church Address:** Wellington Street, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1QQ

**Church Telephone Number:** 01642 671115

**Church email address:** [suc\\_admin@stocktonunitarians.org.uk](mailto:suc_admin@stocktonunitarians.org.uk)

**Church Website:** [www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk](http://www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk)

**Church Facebook Page:** Unitarians in and around Stockton-on-Tees

**Chair:** Jean Watson 10 Albany Road  
☎ 01642 658376 Norton  
Stockton-On-Tees  
TS20 2QX

**Secretary:** Margaret Robinson 2 The Meadowings  
☎ 01642 782219 Yarm  
TS15 9QR

**Treasurer:** Mike Tomlin 1 The Oval  
☎ 01642 592145 Brookfield  
Middlesbrough  
TS5 8ET

**Lettings Secretary and Women's League Contact:** Edna Anderson 315 Surbiton Road  
☎ 01642 643179 Stockton-on-Tees  
TS19 7SA

**Worship Committee Co-ordinator:** Margaret Whitham 2 Burn Valley Road  
☎ 01429 298641 Hartlepool  
TS26 9BS

**Flower Secretary:** Jean Watson 10 Albany Road  
☎ 01642 658376 Norton  
Stockton-On-Tees  
TS20 2QX

**Calendar Editor:** David Warhurst "Greenlee Lough"  
☎01609 882442 18 Priory Way  
Ingleby Arncliffe  
Northallerton  
North Yorkshire  
DL6 3LR

Email: [hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk](mailto:hazndaz@warhurstfamily.co.uk)

### *From our Noticeboard*

There has been a non-conformist religious witness in Stockton-on-Tees since 1688.

The first congregation worshipped in a room in Bolton House Yard, off Thistle Green.

Later, a chapel was built in the High Street, paving the way for other Non Conformist places of worship to be established in the town.

In 1873 the congregation built a church on this site. It was demolished in 2006.

The present building opened in 2007.

In 1969, Middlesbrough Unitarian Church joined with Stockton Church.

*Here we affirm the unity of the human family, regardless of race, colour, creed, class or sex. We believe that peace, compassion and justice should be the hallmarks of a spiritual society, pursued in a spirit of freedom, reason and tolerance.*

#### *This church exists to:*

- Promote a free and inquiring Religion through worship and celebration
- Serve God and humanity in deeds of love and justice
- Honour the Liberal Christian tradition and remember the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth
- Affirm our living heritage, learning from the insights of all humanity
- Respect and cherish the living earth and the universe of which we are part
- Uphold the right of civil and religious liberty worldwide
- Encourage liberal religious people to come together without the constraints of creeds and dogmas, to share their experiences and to express their faith in their chosen way.

*We are always pleased to assist with the celebration of special occasions such as naming ceremonies, weddings, funerals and dedications. You do not need to be a member.*

*For further information please contact: -  
The Secretary, telephone (01642) 782219  
email: [suc\\_admin@stocktonunitarians.org.uk](mailto:suc_admin@stocktonunitarians.org.uk)  
or look at [www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk](http://www.stocktonunitarians.org.uk)  
or Facebook: Unitarians in and around Stockton-on-Tees*

