

THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel,
Wakefield www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/



HAPPY NEW YEAR

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Neil Gaiman

Services at Westgate

Sunday 4th January (10.30am) - Stephen Carlile

Sunday 11th January - The Reverend Bill Darlison

Sunday 18th January - Chris Pilkington

Sunday 25th January - David Arthur

Tuesday 27th January (7pm) - Paul Dawson

Our thanks as always to our welcomers. It's so important to have someone there to greet members, friends and visitors, and the contribution is not unnoticed.

The 2015 General Assembly

We are looking for a delegate for the 2015 GA!

The 2015 Unitarian General Assembly - Birmingham Hilton 29 March – 1 April 2015

If you'd be interested could you let Kate know before the meeting on 13th January please. There is a subsidy available from Chapel. The programme is very full and varied, as well as a promise of good food and accommodation, not to mention the excellent company.

Changing Times

The AGM of the congregation took place on November 30th.

John Commented on the quality of the tea, The secretary's and treasurer's reports were given and accepted and Pat led a vote of thanks to the committee members for their ongoing work.

The new officers and committee members are- Stephen Carlile-President, Sally Fairweather-Treasurer, Kate Taylor- Secretary, Paul Dawson and John Goodchild-finance secretaries. David Arthur, Paul Dawson, Nancy Denison, Bill Humphries, Chris Pilkington, and Mel Prideaux Committee members. Nancy and Kate, Flower Secretaries, Nancy-Inquirer distribution, Chris-Pulpit Supply,

David, Paul, Bill and Chris YUU representatives. Mrs K Dyson- Examiner of the books.

Apologies for the sparse condition of the magazine this month, but I can't make bricks without straw, and have been ill over Christmas. How about dropping me a line to say how your Christmas went?



The Winter is not a season of dying, but its a time of rebirth. It's interesting to see these comparative charts which show the birthdates of certain figures. Dionysus, born December 25th, of a virgin dies and comes back to life three days later. Other claimants include

- Horus (c. 3000 BCE)
- Osiris (c. 3000 BCE)
- Attis of Phrygia (c.1400 BCE)
- Krishna (c. 1400 BCE)
- Zoroaster/Zarathustra (c. 1000 BCE)
- Mithra of Persia (c. 600 BCE)
- Heracles (c. 800 BCE)
- Dionysus (c. 186 BCE)
- Tammuz (c. 400 BCE)
- Adonis (c. 200 BCE)
- Hermes
- Bacchus
- Prometheus
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and of course the most famous one for us is Jesus, who's birth we celebrate in one form or another very year, while holding the thought in our heads that since there were shepherds in the fields it most certainly wasn't December!

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.

Our Safeguarding Policy is available in the Chapel Vestry, and the summary statement and poster on display on the entrance notice board. 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 Safeguarding Procedure A chapel fire procedure is available on the notice board. Fire Officer is Paul Dawson, who can be contacted at Chapel with any queries or concerns.

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.

Temporary Editor, Stephen Carlile, 182 Wakefield Road Pontefract WF8 4HE. 07951063828. boudicca7@talktalk.net Any copy for the next edition gratefully received.

