



# **THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN**

**The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield**

**Telephone 01924-373307**

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

## **SEPTEMBER 2011**

## **Thought for the month**

In the modern world, art and tourism have taken the place of religion and pilgrimage.

Waldemar Januszczak in *The Sunday Times Culture*, 31 July 2011

## **Services in September at 10.30am on 4 September and at 3pm on all other Sundays**

4 September	Stephen Carlile
11 September	Chris Pilkington
18 September	Kate Taylor
28 August	Reverend Mother Mhoira Lauer-Patterson

## **Rota of Welcomers**

4 September	Pat Howard
11 September	Nancy Denison
18 September	Ralph Denby
25 September	Pat Howard

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

## **Chapel Committee Tuesday 13 September at 7pm**

Committee members are reminded of our meeting on 13 September in the Vestry.

## **An event at Oldham, Saturday 10 September at 10am**

Michael Meacher MP will be speaking in Oldham (Unitarian Chapel) at 10am on Saturday, September 10th on his latest book, *Destination of the Species – The Riddle of Human Existence*.

## **Heritage Open Days at St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, York, 9-11 September: A focus on Catherine Cappe (1744-1821)**

York Unitarians are marking the Heritage Weekend this year with a series of *Wakefi* many happenings are a talk by the Reverend Andrew Hill at 2.30pm on Friday 9 September on 'Catherine Cappe, a pattern of York feminism as spinster, wife and mother' and a talk by the Reverend Dr Ann Peart on Saturday 10 September at 2.30pm on 'Education for Rational Beings: the contribution of some Unitarian women to teaching and learning in England.' For full details of other events, please see the Chapel notice board or e-mail Kate Taylor ([kate@airtime.co.uk](mailto:kate@airtime.co.uk)) for a copy of the York poster.

## **The Chapel Harvest Festival, Sunday 4 October at 3pm**

Please note that, contrary to earlier plans, we shall mark the gathered Harvest at an afternoon service – not a morning one – on Sunday 4 October. The service will be led by Stephen Carlile. It will be preceded by a light lunch in the Vestry at 1pm (soup, bread, fruit, cheese) Do come. Fresh fruit and vegetables can be brought to decorate the Chapel at that time. The October *Wakefield Unitarian* will carry more details.

## **Singing for Pleasure**

There are plans for a 'Singing for Pleasure' music group to start, perhaps once a month. What day and time would be most suitable? Ideas to Pat at Wakefield 373020 please.

From [patsyhow@gmail.com](mailto:patsyhow@gmail.com)

## **John Goodchild M Univ**

It was good to see our President back at Chapel on 21 August and to know that he is making a steady recovery after his operation.

## **She did it!**

Lauren cycled her 25 miles for Pontefract's Prince of Wales Hospice Cyclothon in 4 hours. Without a moan. She has enjoyed an enormous dinner and a long bubble bath as a reward. We could have done without the rain (or the wind for that matter) but it was a pretty route, and mainly quiet.

There was something of an excess of lycra and disregard for red lights among many of the other riders but they were encouraging, and clapped Lauren heartily when she crossed the line, the youngest girl doing the 25 mile route.

As we cycled we met someone we knew when we lived nearer Pontefract. She is our age with two kids Lauren's age. Her husband (again, our age) died from cancer last year. In a perfect world the resources and skills of hospices, which are there to support families experiencing such tragedies, would be a part of the NHS rather than separate entities. Given that they aren't, they deserve all the support we can give to them.

So thank you most sincerely for your sponsorship.



## **The other Westgate Chapel**

Whilst on holiday at Eastbourne, Sussex, this August, I took the opportunity of visiting Westgate Unitarian Chapel in Lewes, situated about ten miles away, one Sunday morning. The chapel itself is situated in the High Street of the town, and it was explained to me that it took its name from the fact that it was situated on the site of the old west gate entry through the fortified walls of the town.

There were just five people at the service which was taking place as I entered the chapel. The service was conducted by the resident minister, the Reverend Andy Camper, BA. He later informed me that he was an ordained minister of the United Reformed Church. His address was on the ethical teachings of Jesus. The six of us sat in a circle at the front of the chapel and the address was followed by a short interval for discussion on the topics raised before we had further hymns and a prayer. Music was provided by taped recordings. It was all a friendly and informal affair and I was made to feel welcome.

The minister explained to me that the original building was part of an old hall but that had been a chapel since 1700. Tom Paine, the left-wing writer and activist, author of *The Age of Reason* in 1793, was married in this church. There is a small library at the church in which Paine's works are held.

Tony Scott

## **More news in regard to the signs on WMDC finger posts**

Kate has met with two officers from Wakefield MD Council to discuss the placing of signs to the Chapel on some of the finger posts around the city. We should see some appear soon. The officers have also put an entry on the City's web site at [www.experiencewakefield.co.uk/attractions/thedms.aspx?dms=13&venue=1991099](http://www.experiencewakefield.co.uk/attractions/thedms.aspx?dms=13&venue=1991099) This can be readily amended. Finally the Authority is creating a booklet about the City's 'heritage' buildings and proposes to include us. The officers were rather anxious that we should have something happening at the Chapel – talks, organ recitals, etc. to justify (in their minds) our appearance on finger posts. They



will list any happenings on What's On web pages..... There is some food for thought here!

### **A happy gathering at 3 Pinfold Lane**

A modest cluster of members and friends, including a couple from the Engagement Group, gathered at the home of the Prideaux family for a (lavish) bring and share lunch and some excellent chat. The event was very specially enjoyed by Phyllis Lockwood, just approaching her 103 birthday and feeling that she rarely gets a good 'outing'. Lauren and Joshua did a splendid job of communicating with her via a wipe-clean board and large pens. And Phyllis herself kept us all in fits of laughter. She had been nonplussed to be told that she would be brought to Chapel and on to the lunch by 'Bill'. Who was this person, Bill? She remarked that she had not previously 'investigated Bill'. But we all had a great time. And Bill was duly investigated.



## **The wording on the projected notice board facing onto Mulberry Way**

Many thanks to all those who indicated their preference for the wording on the proposed notice board. The most popular one was

**Westgate Chapel (Unitarian)  
Welcoming all who seek spiritual meaning in life and  
who believe that religion is wider than one faith**

That may be rather long. Much liked, too, was

**A sacred space at the heart of Wakefield**

Chapel Committee will no doubt consider at its next meeting which is to appear and whether we should add other details about, for example, the times of services or the chapel telephone number.

## **You never expected to see this!**

Scaffolding erected in the Chapel in July by Woods of Huddersfield to provide a means of getting the repaired organ bellows back into the gallery! The rebuilding of the organ is progressing.



## **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](mailto:dcdawson3@hotmail.com)

### **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](mailto:boudicca7@talktalk.net)) or Mel ([melpx@hotmail.com](mailto:melpx@hotmail.com)), either at Chapel or by email.

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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](mailto:kate@airtime.co.uk)

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