

THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

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

September 2012



Phyllis and Nancy on Phyllis's 104th Birthday

17th August 2012 (more on p5)

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.**



Sunday Services in September

2nd September: The first service of the month is intergenerational worship at 10.30am and will be taken by Stephen Carlile

The rest of the services for the month will be at 3pm:

9th September: Reverend Bill Darlison

16th September: Reverend Bill Darlison

23rd September: Myrna Michell

30th September: Anthony Dawson

Welcoming Rota

Welcomers do an important job in making everyone feel welcome at our services. As always, if you are unable to act as welcomer on the day indicated, you are asked to arrange an exchange.

2nd September: Pat Howard

9th September: Nancy Denison

16th September: Ralph Denby

23rd September: John Goodchild

30th September: Kate Taylor

Flowers

Flowers are provided by Nancy Denison. If you can offer to provide, arrange, or pay for the flowers in any week please do let her know!



Reverend Kenneth Ridgway

Reverend Ken Ridgway, retired minister, who will be known to many of the Chapel congregation, died on Wednesday 22nd August.

The funeral for Ken will take place on Friday, 31st August.

It will be held at the Quaker Meeting in Ackworth School, Ackworth, WF7 7LT.

It will start with the burial at 2.00 p.m., followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at 2.30. Refreshments will follow.

All f/Friends welcome

Wakefield Interfaith Group

The next open meeting of the Wakefield Interfaith Group will be on Monday September 24th at 6pm in Treacy Hall (next to Wakefield Cathedral) and is titled:

"The Way of the Heart" by Irshad, a Sufi teacher.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

Vegetarian food to share would be appreciated.

Tea and coffee are provided

For more information please contact 01924 250781
or email bishop.pontefract@wakefield.anglican.org

September Events at the Chapel

Tuesday 4th September 7pm Open Discussion

Should Assisted Suicide be made legal? The issue will be introduced by Robert Ince of Old Chapel, Fulwood, Sheffield, who proposed a motion at the Unitarian General Assembly this year on pressing the Government to legislate on the matter. After extensive discussion, the motion was withdrawn for further and wider debate. All are welcome to attend.

Saturday 8 September 11am to 3pm Heritage Open Day.

Visit the catacombs at 11.30am. Volunteers needed to welcome visitors and assist with refreshments. Please let Kate know if you can help.

Tuesday 18 September 7pm Chapel Committee

(nb this is a week later than usual)

Friday 21 September 1pm Organ recital

By Philip Tordoff, organist and Halifax Minster, and marking his 75 birthday. Admission free, bring your own lunch. Collection in aid of the organ fund.

Wednesday 26 September 5pm to 9pm The Art Walk

Our artist this month is 41-year old Trudy Kepke, the daughter of a Polish coalminer. who paints landscapes in oils, acrylic, and watercolour. Volunteers needed to welcome visitors.

Bradford Unitarians have invited us to their Food for Thought discussion and bring-and-share lunch on **Wednesday 19 September at 12.30pm**. Contact Christine Dawson (dcdawson3@hotmail.com) for more information.

Miss Phyllis Lockwood at 104

On Friday August 17th Phyllis celebrated her birthday with visits from friends and family, including several members of the Chapel congregation. The photograph on the cover was taken by Pat Howard, who visited along with Nancy Denison, also pictured. Phyllis is still full of fun and beans, though has a few health niggles which are making it more tricky for her to join us at Chapel. Phyllis is a wonderful presence in the Chapel community and we all benefit so much from her sunny disposition, her wonderful honesty and her openness. Despite her failing eyesight and hearing Phyllis is still as interested in and concerned for us all as ever. Phyllis loves having visits at home – do contact the Chapel Pastoral Care Team if you might be able to fit in an hour with her. We are very grateful to Phyllis's good friend Rosemary Ridgway who often transports her to Chapel, with assistance on occasion from other members of the congregation which Rosemary organises. If you could offer to drive Phyllis to Chapel when she is well enough please do let Rosemary know (rjr@rosemaryridgway.plus.com).

The Chapel 'Benchmark'

Pat Howard recently met with two surveyors who came to the Chapel looking for our Bench Mark. We have one and Pat found it. But can you find it?! Josh and Lauren might like to see who can find it first?

Caring for the Homeless

Pat Howard, one of our Chapel members who is keenly interested in matters concerning the homeless, draws our attention to the charity CAP, Community Awareness Programme.

CAP was formed by Ernest and Elizabeth Hibbert in 1997 to try and meet some of the needs of the homeless and disadvantaged in the Wakefield District. It is funded and resourced by public and private donations and is headed by six trustees, a management committee and a team of 40 dedicated volunteers.

The Resource Centre at 7 Wood Street is open 5 days a week, from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., for clients referred to them.

The statistics for 2011 are on its web-site and reveal both the amount of need there is in Wakefield, and the range of support provided, for instance:

12806 client visits including 232 new clients

376 issues of toiletries

2799 issues of clothing

12776 meals/food parcels served

Having a Laugh with Bill Humphreys...

How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?

The correct answer is: Open the door on the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and then close the door.

This tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?

Did you say, Open the refrigerator door, put in the elephant and then close the door? This is the wrong answer.

Correct answer: Open the refrigerator door, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and then close the door.

This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All of the animals attended except for one. Which animal did not attend the conference?

Correct answer: The elephant. The elephant is still in the fridge. Remember you just put him in there!

This tests your memory. Even if you did not manage to answer the first three questions correctly you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles and you do not have a boat. How can you manage it?

Correct answer: You jump into the river and you swim across it. Have you been listening to anything I have said! All the crocodiles are attending the animal conference called by the Lion King.

This tests whether you learn quickly from your previous mistakes!!

Summer School

Three from Wakefield (Bill Darlison, Ned and Lauren Prideaux) attended this year's Hucklow Summer School, with Bill giving a theme talk and Ned leading a workshop. This is a highlight of the Unitarian year for many of us.

Attendance bursaries are available. Do speak to any of this year's attendees if you'd like to learn more, or visit the website:

<http://www.hucklowsummerschool.org.uk/> for podcasts of the theme talks and more information.

The Chapel Pastoral Care Team

Members of the Chapel's new pastoral team are willing individually to provide a confidential ear if anyone feels the need of this. They are also happy to visit people at home. Contact Kate Taylor (kate@airtime.co.uk).

The Engagement Group

An 'Engagement Group' consisting of Unitarians and non-Unitarians, is organised by Mel and Steve. The group chooses a different location and theme for each meeting, actively engaging with one another following engagement group principles. We explore and discuss spiritual themes, and the beliefs and attitudes which shape our lives. The group has been dormant for a while, so if you are interested please do get in touch. Newcomers are welcome, and should contact Steve (boudicca7@talktalk.net) or Mel (melpx@hotmail.com).

Safeguarding

The Chapel Committee recently approved a new policy on how we will deal with concerns about, or allegations of, abuse of children and vulnerable adults. The policy needs some additional work, and processes and documentation need to be put in place. While developments continue please contact the Safeguarding Officer, Mel Prideaux (01924 781020 or by email) with concerns and/or questions.

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. (From The Unitarian Path by Andrew Hill.)

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