

THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

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



September 2014

Mindful of truth ever exceeding our knowledge
And of community ever exceeding our practice,
Reverently we covenant together
-beginning with ourselves as we are-
To share the strength of integrity
And the heritage of the spirit
In the unending quest for wisdom and love

Walter Royal Jones Jr.

Gathering for Worship in September

Sunday 7 th Sept	10.30am	Stephen Carlile
Sunday 14 th Sept	3pm	Kate Taylor <i>Conscientious Objectors</i>
Sunday 21 st Sept	3pm	The Prideauxs <i>Bringing Summer School Home</i>
Sunday 28 th Sept	3pm	John Goodchild
Tuesday 30 th Sept	7pm	Kate Taylor

Sunday Welcoming Rota

Please arrange an exchange if you are unable to act as welcomer

Sunday 7 th Sept:	Bill Humphreys
Sunday 14 th Sept:	Liz Kitson
Sunday 21 st Sept:	Pat Howard
Sunday 28 th Sept:	Chris Pilkington



Come, come, whoever you are
Wanderer, worshipper, lover of
leaving.

Ours is no caravan of despair.

Come yet again, come



SYF223

Chapel News and Notices

The Westgate Forum: Tuesday 2 September 10.30am

How can goodness be fostered? *In a world where vicious thoughts are openly expressed and evil acts perpetrated, is there any way in which goodness can be quickened?*

Chapel Committee: Tuesday 9 September 7pm in the Vestry

Heritage Open Day

The chapel will be open from 11am to 1pm with an opportunity to look in and learn about the catacombs at 12 noon.

The Art Walk: Images of the Horse

Wednesday 24 September 5pm-9pm

Drawings and paintings by Paul Dawson. As well as being an author on the theory of equitation and an equestrian himself, our Director of Music, Paul Dawson, is a self-taught artist, who has come back to painting and drawing after a gap of over 15 years. He writes, 'At first I started drawing again to memorialise horses I have loved and are no longer with us, and the creation of the images for this exhibition grew from this. I am pleased that Westgate Chapel is hosting my exhibition- this is my spiritual home'. Do come. As always Kate and Paul would be grateful for volunteers to help in staffing the Chapel.

Do you want to learn Hebrew?

Rev. Jo James, Minister at Mill Hill Chapel, Leeds, would like to know whether anyone is interested in joining him in learning Hebrew. He can be reached at jojames.email@gmail.com

Other events this month in the Chapel

This month the Chapel is hosting a number of events organised by outside bodies.

Long Division music and arts festival

<http://www.longdivisionfestival.co.uk/>

Saturday 13 September 12 noon to 9pm

Wakefield Lit Fest

<http://www.wakefieldlitfest.org.uk/>

Friday 18 September 7.30pm: Poet and writer Jackie Kay and Wordsworth Trust poet in residence Zaffar Junial

Sunday 21 September 6pm: The launch of Simon Armitage's latest collection 'Paper Aeroplane'

Thursday 25 September 8pm: Joanne Harris reading from her epic fantasy novel 'The Gospel of Loki'

The object of us... is to make daylight shine through us; to suffer the light of nature to traverse our whole being without obstruction, so that, on what point soever of our doing that light falls, it shall report truly of our character; whether it be your diet, your house, your religious forms, your society, your mirth, your vote, your opposition, it shall speak your truth to the beholder.

While ever we are not homogenous, but heterogeneous, and the ray does not traverse, then there is no through light: the eye of the beholder is puzzled, detect many unlike tendencies, and a life not yet at one.

Ralph Waldo Emerson – '*Spiritual Laws*'.

Tent of Nations

From Cynthia Dickinson

Daher and Daoud own and run a farm on a hilltop not far from Bethlehem.

They are Palestinian Christians with a love of the land and a vision of peace, building bridges between people of different nations and between people and the land.

Daher works the farm, looking after the crops and animals, organising the planting and harvesting. Daoud works at the vision, making contact with people locally and abroad, organising camps for children and adults
(www.tentofnations.org)

But life for Daher and Daoud is not easy. As Palestinians they have been fighting a legal battle to keep hold of their land since it was threatened with confiscation by the state in 1991, despite the fact that they have all the documents of purchase, registration and tax payments back to 1916 when their grandfather bought it. His son, Bashira (which means 'good news') developed the farm and the vision of being peace-makers, based firmly on his Christian faith

When their water and electricity supplies were cut off assistance came from visitors - donations and help with the construction of solar panels, compost toilets and rainwater-butts. Some time ago Israeli soldiers dumped boulders on the track, making vehicular access impossible. And still Daoud persists in upholding the vision of peace-maker. On one boulder are the words 'WE REFUSE TO BE ENEMIES' another is painted in rainbow colours and a third says 'WELCOME'.

On May 19th this year Israeli bulldozers went onto Daher's farm, they destroyed terraces of vines and fruit trees planted 10 years ago. Daher and Daoud are the only Palestinian farmers in that area, they are one of very few Christian families left.

On May 20th Daoud wrote to his international contacts:

Dear friends of Tent of Nations,

What happened is an unjust and illegal act. Please feel free to contact your friends, churches, members of the parliament and write to your governments.

We need your political support now. Please inform yourself, there are friends of Tent of Nations in different countries who started to act.

Thank you for your solidarity.

Blessings.

Daoud.

This information came through **Friends of Sabeel**, (www.friendsofsabeel.org.uk) an organisation started by Palestinian Christians to promote justice, non-violence and reconciliation. English members of the Friends of Sabeel are regular visitors to the West Bank and will come to talk about the life and hopes of Christians there. Contact **Kath** on **0113 260 3614**

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel

(www.eappi.org) set up in response to a call from the Churches in Jerusalem to stand in solidarity with people in Palestine, sends volunteers of all faiths and none, from all parts of the world, to live alongside Palestinians on the West Bank for three months at a time,. They provide a protective presence, monitor and report human rights abuses and support Palestinians and Israelis working together for peace.

Ken Hodgson, who has recently returned from his visit to the West Bank will be giving a talk on his experiences at **7.30pm on Thursday 9th October** in the **Wakefield Quaker Meeting House**, Thornhill Street WF1 1NQ.

Admission is free. All are welcome

Hucklow Summer School 2014

On September 21st Mel, Ned and Lauren will be leading a service sharing what they learned and experienced at this year's Hucklow Summer School. The theme this year was 'The Authentic Self', and we asked ourselves deeply and often the question 'Who Am I?'

You can find out more about Summer School, and listen to the Theme Talk podcasts online: <http://www.hucklowsummerschool.org.uk/>.

All of the words of reflection and prayer in this month's Wakefield Unitarian were used during Summer School 2014.

Benediction – Susan Manker-Seale

Our shared calling is the work of benediction;
Much of our mutual ministry is the work of benediction;
A speaking well of each other and of the world,
A speaking well of what we value
- honesty...love...forgiveness...trust –
A speaking well of our efforts,
A speaking well of our dreams.
This is how we celebrate life:-
Through speaking well of it,
Living the benediction
and
Becoming
as
a
word
well
spoken.

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.

Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding Policy is available in the Chapel Vestry, and the summary statement and poster on display on the entrance noticeboard. 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 Procedure

A chapel fire procedure is available on the noticeboard. Fire Officer is Paul Dawson, who can be contacted at Chapel with any queries or concerns.

Officers of the Chapel Committee:

Chairman: John Goodchild, 12 Shakespeare Avenue, Normanton, WF6 1EA

Hon Secretary and Pulpit Supply: Kate Taylor, 19 Pinder's Grove, Wakefield, WF1 4AH, 01924 372748 kate@airtime.co.uk

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

Newsletter Editor and Safeguarding Officer: Mel Prideaux, 3 Pinfold Lane, Sandal, WF2 7LN, 01924 781020 melanieprideaux@virginmedia.com

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.