

THE WAKEFIELD UNITARIAN

The Newsletter of Westgate Chapel, Wakefield

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/wakefield/



September 2015

Services at Westgate

Sunday 6th September (10.30am) - Stephen Carlile

Sunday 13th September (3pm) - Robin Hanford

Sunday 20th September (3pm) - The Reverend Bill Darlison

Sunday 27th September (3pm) - Paul Dawson

Tuesday 29th September (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.

If anyone has information to be mentioned in the **Chapel notices** each Sunday could you please send them to the General Secretary, Chris Pilkington, no later than the day before.

Kate's Memorial Service at the Cathedral

Kate Taylors Memorial will be at 2pm on Saturday 26th September, everyone is warmly welcomed to attend. the Cathedral will be grateful for ideas of numbers, and can be contacted at the cathedral centre admin@wakefield-cathedral.org.uk.

Unitarian Renewal Group Meeting - Saturday 26th September

The Unitarian Renewal Group will be holding a day gathering at Upper Chapel in Sheffield on Saturday 26th September (11am - 4pm). The topic for the day will be 'Handling our Diversity' and will feature various speakers including the Reverend John Midgley. To register for the event and for further information about it please contact David Dawson on 01943 608354  01943 608354 or at dcdawson3@hotmail.com.

Ralph Denby receives a Medal

We are pleased to report that Ralph Denby has received a medal from the Russian Government for his courageous service on the Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union during the Second World War. Well done Ralph!



Josh and I did the Wakefield Pride event again this year, leaving pro-equal marriage cards. We later found we had only covered a small part of the event, but I hope to liaise with the event a little better next year. If anyone has ideas or insights get in touch!

Congregational Development Day - Saturday 5th September

As advertised previously we will holding a congregational development day at Chapel on Saturday 5th September starting at 10am and finishing at 3pm. This will be an opportunity for us to discuss how we move forward as a religious community so please bring your ideas and enthusiasm!

Gillian took her first service at the chapel since joining us, on August 16th...here's a biog from her

I am a new member of the Wakefield congregation. I came to Unitarianism through conversations with a member of Bradford Congregation who lent me various copies of UU publications to learn a little more about a faith based on reason not dogma. Eventually, my curiosity was piqued and I was invited to a service at Bradford to check out what she had told me for myself. I'm so glad I did. Right from the start it felt welcoming comforting and friendly. When I attended Wakefield it felt like coming home.

What is the basis of my individual religious belief? Basically it is the belief that every

living thing has a spirit or soul and there has to be respect for all the living things we share our mother Earth with. The vital connection between spirituality and the natural world. The difference between literalism and symbolism. I believe that there is a divine force/ higher power in the world, which is something most of us agree on and that there is a Plan. We are an important and necessary part of that plan to make the world a better place.

As a long-time follower of the Medicine Wheel and lawyer as well as being the wife of a URC lay minister, in 1999, I was ordained into the ULC in America and in 2001, in the UK, did a LifeRites course, the logo being open hands and motto "Thus We Serve"(Do I sense a pattern here?) to become a qualified and registered LifeRites celebrant able to serve the Pagan Community and conduct handfastings, funerals, baby welcoming/naming and various other Rites of Passage celebrations. The course covered all aspects of counselling skills as well as a firm grounding in conducting services.

As the Unitarian Church has no traditional doctrine and as such believes in doing that which is right. Each individual has the privilege and responsibility to determine what is right for themselves, as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. No one stands between a Unitarian and their God.

Because of this I felt drawn towards this aspect in a Unitarian setting. I have been working through the "Build Your Own Religion" with Sheena McKinnon and I am already registered on the Worship Studies Course for lay worship leaders in Manchester, the Rites of Passage course in Birmingham and the Lay Ministry Annual Conference 2015 at Great Hucklow.

I believe that as Unitarians we need a higher profile showing that Unitarians are competent, proficient, cooperative, love our fellow man, appreciate the gifts around us, to be humble, to be honest, to be moral, to live positively, to be what we profess to be.

I asked for thoughts and ideas about the look and feel of the chapel

Signage - when I first came to chapel for the Interfaith service, I couldn't find the way in. It wasn't just me there was another man, an Anglican minister I think and we couldn't work out how to get in, as we were round the corner near the station. A sign with an arrow pointing left, straight on, then right would have helped. Before this chap came along, I very nearly gave up and left as I was quite nervous. Good signage to me is crucial.

I like the appearance of the chapel, the age, original features etc. . How about some more brightly coloured/contemporary touches about to enhance the period features? I don't know, banners, a cloth to go over the communion rail, wall hangings etc? I wouldn't want to lose the period features though and I love the "outdated" windows - no need to throw the baby out with the bathwater!

Vestry - I think we could make better use of the space. For me the biggest issue is that the table can be a barrier to conversation - I feel it inhibits people talking and "mingling". Obviously, you can't change the shape of the room, but the social aspect and making new people feel extra welcome so they come back is crucial. Maybe a smaller table? coffee table? If you need a table, there are good folding ones. Also some more welcoming/modern/brighter touches in here too? Colour makes a big difference to a space. Maybe an airpot where people could help themselves? Someone could fill it up with hot water before the service ready to use?

I think many people have found their way to this chapel, because they still don't feel welcome at "mainstream" churches. (I know I don't). We need to make people feel really welcome as we don't know what they've had to go through to get here. :-)

Regards, Lyn.

Interfaith News

Wednesday September 30 Cycles of Celebrations
7pm

A brief overview of the yearly festivals from different faith perspectives in St Austin's Community Hall, Wentworth Terrace WF1 3QN. Everyone welcome.



Sunday 18 October Multifaith Peace Gathering 3pm

Wakefield Unitarians and Wakefield Interfaith Group invite you to share words of peace and friendship at the Unitarian Chapel, Westgate, Wakefield WF1 1XR.

Monday 16 November Art and Spirituality 7pm

Tracey Yates, Community Learning Manager at Wakefield Cathedral, will give a short introduction about how she started using art to grow in faith then lead a workshop on creative visual responses so members of the group can explore their own faith – no experience necessary.

Treacy Hall, Wakefield Cathedral WF1 1PJ

Kate Continues to Make Headlines

I'm pleased to report that Kate's story continues, even though she herself has gone. John Midgeley submitted an obituary piece to the Guardian, which first appeared online, then in the newspaper itself.

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/aug/17/kate-taylor-obituary>

Hopefully members who wish to go along to the memorial will be able to represent her Unitarian family, and if people wish to come into Chapel the day before, on Friday 25th, at 6pm, you'll see that other people thought she was a star too!

Stop Press....

Westgate Chapel at the LITERARY FESTIVAL

An Evening with Gillian Clarke

Don't miss an evening of readings with poet Gillian Clarke, National Poet of Wales since 2008. Awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry 2010, the Wilfred Owen Award 2012. Her recent books include 'Ice', shortlisted for the TS Eliot Award 2012 and 'The Christmas Wren', 2014. Gillian is one of Wales' most influential and widely read contemporary writers. She'll be reading from a selection of works including work-in-progress, 'Zoology'.

'Gillian Clarke's poems ring with lucidity and power...her work is personal and archetypal, built out of language as concrete as it is musical.' Times Literary Supplement.

18th September 2015 19:30 - 21:00
Westgate Chapel £10 / £7 Concessions

The Anglo-Saxons and Why They Matter with Michael Wood

In the year celebrating the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, join leading historian, broadcaster and Lit Fest patron Michael Wood as he looks back before the Norman Conquest to find the real roots of English culture. The Anglo-Saxon period (450-1066) includes the creation of the English state as we know it with the regional government of shires and the establishment of charters and laws many of which still exist today.

22nd September 2015 19:30 - 21:00
Westgate Chapel £10 / £7 Concessions

Ian McMillan - Neither Nowt Nor Summat

If there were such a thing as a professional Yorkshireman, Ian McMillan would be it, described by Carol Ann Duffy as 'world-class – one of today's greatest poetry performers'. This hugely popular and entertaining poetry superstar returns to Wakefield Lit Fest to explore the meaning of Yorkshire – the theme of his new book 'Neither Nowt Nor Summat' followed by a book signing and festival wrap party at The Orangery.

27th September 2015 19:30 - 21:00
Westgate Chapel £10 / £7 Concessions

Knitwear: Chanel to Westwood

5 September –14 November 2015

This autumn, The Civic in Barnsley will be presenting two fabulous fashion related exhibitions. Knitwear: Chanel to Westwood charts inspirational vintage fashion knitwear from the 20th century. Highlights of the exhibition include



Knitwear designs by Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel, 1930s woolen swimwear, 1970s Bill Gibb and conceptual garments from 1980s and 90s designers Comme des Garçons, Vivienne Westwood and Julien MacDonald. An exciting combination of famous names and visually exciting pieces, the exhibition charts the influence of art movements Pop, Punk and Deconstruction alongside new knitwear technologies and design innovation.

'Decade by decade, this incredible collection charts over 100 years of knitwear history. It is the

first exhibition of its kind to explore not only key designers but also technical innovations in hand, machine and industrial knitting. Knitwear in fashion is often taken for granted, but this exhibition is an opportunity to celebrate knitwear centre stage and to inspire future design directions.'


Yorkshire Fashion Archive 5 September –14 November 2015

Based in the School of Design and underpinned by research excellence in textiles at the University of Leeds, the Yorkshire Fashion Archive is a publically accessible collection of haute couture, fashion garments and everyday clothing. It provides a unique historical and cultural record of Yorkshire life and documents clothing produced, purchased and worn by Yorkshire folk throughout the 20th Century. The collection reflects changing social attitudes and multi-cultural influences, economic prosperity, global trends and the regional technical excellence in textiles and clothing over a 100 year period.



Many of the garments have been donated with accompanying photographic images, information and anecdotes concerning the piece itself, the wearer or the situations in which they were worn. As we progress further into the 21st century, it is imperative that we continue to gather evidence of Yorkshire history from this new perspective before the voices are lost forever.

David Sinclair, Exhibitions Curator

The Civic t:01226 327 011  01226 327 011

e:davidsinclair@barnsleycivic.co.uk

The Gallery@ **The Civic, Hanson Street, Barnsley, S70 2HZ**

I'm still interested in hearing any ideas about the appearance and layout of the chapel, the chapel magazine would be a good place to discuss.

Copy for the next issue needs to be with me by the 20th of the month.



Information about the literary festival arrived after this date, which is why there is a second digital edition.

Some may remember (Cal and) Dan's dog, Oscar, who attended chapel as a pup. He's now reached the grand age of 14. I have fond memories of him staying at ours, and indeed, when Boudicca stayed with him when we went over to stay with Bill in Ireland, and they got burgled! They would have had a warm welcome from the two guard dogs!!!!

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.

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