



THE YORK UNITARIAN

St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel, York, YO1 8NQ

February 2020

FROM THE EDITOR

Ten years ago - with Historic England's permission (The Chapel is a Grade 2* building of historic interest) - inconvenient pews were removed from the 'chancel' area of the Chapel in order to provide a flexible space which could be used in a variety of ways for both religious and community purposes. As the National Churches Trust pointed out in its 2019 *Manifesto for Church Buildings* community as well as religious use is an important factor when seeking funds for the restoration and maintenance of church buildings. Toilets and kitchens are also important! We do have these but many older churches in rural areas do not.

So it is useful to recognise how community use of our chapel has grown over the past ten years and, as it happens, - because of our central location, and because of its sympathetic acoustics and because we have a concert quality Yamaha piano generously gifted by an anonymous donor. If a little inconvenient at times our complete lack of parking space seems to be an 'overcome-able' problem!

- Chapel member, Steve Crowther, realised the chapel's potential and arranged the ongoing *Late Music* [i.e. contemporary classical] concert series of music by living composers now in its 10th year. These concerts are much sustained by the music departments at both York universities.

- Then Myrna Michell, while our minister (2009-2012) and being a pianist herself, began organising occasional lunchtime recitals which then became the regular Last Friday series and which in turn is now supplemented by an Occasional Friday series! Interestingly, the musicians come to us (Adrienne Wilson is now the organiser) and don't have to be sought!
- Another community use of our premises is not musical at all. It's the chapel's use as a polling station. Recently we hosted polls for a local government election, an EU election and a general election with a police commissioner poll waiting in the wings.



Lunch in the chancel

All these groups pay specific amounts towards the use, heating, maintenance and upkeep of the chapel. Caretaking is an issue which may, in future, have to be faced and factored in.

Also, on Sundays, the Chapel holds its occasional 'Serendipity services' in the round in the chancel area (i.e. not in the pews) and

every Sunday, after service tables and chairs are set up for coffee hour and chat and last month - as the picture shows - on Nicky Jenkins's last Sunday with us as minister we served lunch and provided entertainment in the chancel for about 60 people!

Maybe, sometime we can talk Historic England into allowing us to remove that wooden railing. After all - it is not original to the building and came from somewhere else. [434]

**A MONTH OF SUNDAYS
at 11.00a.m.**

Sunday 2 February
Claire Wilton
Bright Lights Intergenerational Service
A service for Youth Sunday
Music by David Hammond

Sunday 9 February
Andrew Hill
If Jesus smiled like the Dalai Lama . . .
Music by Helen Drewery

Sunday 16 February
Revd. Celia Midgley
The habit of church
Music by David Hammond

Sunday 23 February
Nick Morrice
Remembering St. Francis
Music by David Hammond

OTHER EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Saturday 1 February 12 noon *Bootham Baroque "Domestic Devotions"* (Chapel)
- Monday 3 February 7.30p.m. *Soon Amore rehearsal* (Chapel)
- Thursday 6 February 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)
- Saturday 8 February 7.30p.m. (rehearsal 6.30p.m.) *Southbank singers: "Earth and Light" charity concert* (Chapel)
- Sunday 9th February 12.15 p.m. Leading a chapel service (Upper Room)
- Monday 10 February 7.30p.m. *Soon Amore: rehearsal* (Chapel)
- Thursday 13 February 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)
- Sunday 16 February 4.00p.m. *Soon Amore a cappella choir: Winter Solace: a concert of music and poetry* (Chapel)
- Monday 17 February 7.30p.m. *Soon Amore: rehearsal* (Chapel)
- Thursday 20 February 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)

- Monday 24 February 7.30p.m. *Soon Amore: rehearsal* (Chapel)
- Thursday 27 February 10.30a.m. for 11.00a.m. *Meditation Group* (Upper Room)
- Saturday 29 February 7.30 p.m. *St Ethelburga's Collegiate Chamber music concert for St. Catherine's hospice.* (Chapel), rehearsal 1 p.m.

**INTERESTED
IN LEADING A CHAPEL SERVICE?**

York Unitarians are fortunate in having several members who are willing and able to lead our Sunday worship services. Now that we are again without a professional minister, there may be others who are interested and would like to volunteer.

If you are interested and would like to know more about leading worship -

- preparation?
- service layout?
- resources - printed (in chapel library?) and on-line?
- speaking in the chapel?
- microphone use?
- writing your own prayers/meditations?
- sources of help?
- before and after services?

come to the Upper Room with your tea or coffee on Sunday 9 February at 12.15p.m. when Andrew Hill and others will try and answer your questions.

SPARKLERS GROUP

The Chapel 'Sparklers' group for children that is held once a month during the morning services is taking a temporary break. We hope to offer other provision for families, children and young people so please keep an eye on this page. Let us know what kind of activities your family would like to take part in. *Claire Wilton*

FROM THE CHAPEL COMMITTEE

- The Chapel Committee met on Sunday 19 January with David Zucker in the chair. There were no apologies.
- The Chapel's December collection for the *Send a Child to Hucklow Fund* came to a splendid £620.
- Laura Cox has completed the worship leaders' rota until the end of April. Bright Lights intergenerational services led by Claire Wilton are continuing but the Sparkers' Children's programme has been suspended. A gathering of present and future worship leaders will be convened by Andrew Hill after service on Sunday 9 February.
- Barbara Barnes has taken over preparing and posting the worship leaders' information for the chapel outside noticeboard.
- The farewell service marking Nicky Jenkins' retirement as our minister on Sunday 12 January, had been a much appreciated event. Grateful thanks were expressed for those who served lunch for 60 people including visitors from Nicky's previous charges at Dukinfield and Chorlton.
- Nicky had held a pre-retirement meeting with the Chapel's pastoral care group (Claire Lee convenor).
- The transfer of the Chapel trusts to the new *York Unitarians CIO* was progressing. Vesting of Chapel property has been almost completed and that of the Chapel Charity authorised. Our solicitor, Roderick Ramage, is also to register the chapel with the Land Registry.
- Nick Morrice presented the financial report. Two sets of accounts will be presented at the annual meeting on Sunday 29 March - one up to January 2019 and one since. Nick is anxious for some rationalisation of the Chapel's six separate accounts. He is also seeking advice regarding ethical investments. A gift aid claim for £3000 has been made.
- Margaret Hill and Adrienne Wilson will be the Chapel delegates to the Unitarian General Assembly meetings in Birmingham 7-9 April). Richard Brown will attend under the newcomers' bursary scheme, Nick Morrice for the Unitarian Music Society and Andrew Hill in his own right as a minister on the GA roll. A resolution regarding fossil fuels investment is likely to be debated.
- Fabric - Peter Exley is to clean the Chapel windows.

- The Yorkshire Unitarian Union AGM, Saturday 24 October, will be held at York. The General Assembly President for 2020/21, Anne Mills, will take our Sunday service on the following day.
- 5 new Chapel members had been welcomed in October taking our membership to 44. One member Clara Barnett, has resigned on moving from York to Scotland.

2020 HUCKLOW SUMMER SCHOOL

22nd-29th August 2020

'Speaking the Truth in Love':

Having the Courage of our Convictions
in a Post-Truth Age

[Download the 2020 Application Form Here](http://www.hucklowsummerschool.co.uk)
www.hucklowsummerschool.co.uk

How can we discern the difference between truth and lies, in a world which increasingly seems beset with malicious forces intent on sowing confusion by spreading disinformation, propaganda, and 'fake news'?

How can we ensure that our openness to multiple truths does not leave us vulnerable to manipulation by people of ill intent or unwilling to 'take sides' in matters where justice is at stake?

How can we be sure enough of what's right and wrong to stand up and speak out boldly about our moral convictions? How can we cultivate the qualities of honesty, integrity, truth-telling, and good judgement in our own everyday lives?

And how might we best articulate our shared Unitarian values, and focus our collective action, in order to help bring about a better world? In this year's summer school we'll consider how we can summon the confidence and courage to 'speak the truth in love' as individuals, communities, and as a denomination.

In a series of daily theme talks our team of speakers will offer their perspectives on the theme: Louise Baumberg, Stephanie Bisby, Linda Hart, Ann Peart, Mel Prideaux.

THE SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW FUND

Our retiring collection in December for SACH, which provides holidays for disadvantaged children who would not otherwise have a holiday, raised £620.

NICKY'S FAREWELL Sunday 15 January 2020



Nicky Jenkins's Farewell and Retirement service as our minister on Sunday 12 January was a great occasion. We were delighted to have with us members and friends of Nicky's previous congregation at Chorlton in south Manchester and at Dukinfield in east Cheshire where she served a student pastorate.

A splendid lunch for 60 was served in the chancel area of the Chapel (picture on front page), after the service thanks to the efforts of Barbara Barnes, Joan Sinanan, Marta Hardy and Margaret Hill. A splendid musical entertainment, organised by Adrienne Wilson followed.



To honour Nicky's Scottish roots a Chapel Choir sang: *Ye Banks and Braes* by Robert Burns; and to recognise her New Zealand associations the Maori song. *Pokarekare Ana* and another group performed a Maori *Haka* to honour Nicky's New Zealand associations.



A Chapel recorder band (Jenny Jacobs, Claire Wilton (treble recorders), Myrna Michell, Adrienne Wilson, Ruth Childs (descant Recorders), Nick Morrice (Piano) played: *Ceremonial March*; *Irish Tune*, *Siesta* and *Minuet* all by Stanley Taylor.



Helen Drewery played two of her own piano compositions; Myrna Michell and Nick Morrice played a *Berceuse* by Faure for one piano four hands (theme tune for Listen with Mother); Nick Morrice (piano) and Adrienne Wilson (clarinet) played *Misty* by Erroll Garner and *Fly me to the Moon* by Bart Howard.

Brinley Price wrote and spoke a specially written sonnet (see next page).

Nicky was presented with flowers, a cheque and a card of good wishes for her retirement.

MESSAGE FROM NICKY



Thank you to the congregation of York St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel for this sumptuous bouquet given at my retirement service. It's gorgeous!

ON THE RETIREMENT OF THE REV. NICKY JENKINS

Sometime ago, and to my shame and guilt,
Because I cannot spell or I misheard,
I thought a modern MINSTER would be built
When I of bright new MINSTER got word.

Since then, our Nicky's been an edifice
More solid and more grand than that great church
And I believe has brought more peace and bliss
To York than Minster she's knocked off its perch.

The Minster's been in York a thousand years,
Our minister's been here much less and yet
I've seen swift restoration of its piers
That trembled from her competition's threat.

Now she retires and all such pressure's gone
That pile of stones subsides, no more outshone.

Brinley Price

THINKING SCIENCE, THINKING FAITH

*A Progressive Christian Network Conference
on Science and Religion
Saturday 25 April 2020 10.30 am – 4.00pm
Friends Meeting House, Friargate, York*

Keynote Speaker :
Professor Tom McLeish, FRS
University of York
a.m. From Ancient Wisdom Literature to
a Modern Theology of Science
p.m. A few 'Alternative Facts' from the History
of Science and Religion

Email: sarah.guilfoyle@pcnbritain.org.uk
Cost: £14 non-members/£12 members

Following Prof McLeish's address, there will be
the opportunity for participants to choose one of
three topics to discuss over the two sessions:

Climate change
Cosmology,
Issues in Medical Ethics,

*for more information
speak with York Unitarian Jenny Jacobs*

FROM THE LATEST UNI-NEWS

January 2020

THE UNITARIAN ANNUAL MEETINGS

We are looking for enthusiastic, friendly and helpful volunteers to join the Welcome Team at our Annual Meetings in April 2020. The team will be looking after attendees (especially first timers), staffing the Welcome Desk, and generally helping to make the Annual Meetings a great experience to everyone. Get in touch by emailing [Rory Castle Jones](mailto:Rory.Castle.Jones@yorkunitarian.org.uk), our Communications Officer.

NIGHTINGALE CENTRE EVENTS

Unitarian Music Society Annual Conference
(Great Hucklow) 14-17 August 2020

Summer School (Peak District) 22-29 August
2020

Groups Weekend (Peak District) 20-22
November 2020

[Download the 2020 Brochure to find out more.](#)

THE INQUIRER SEEKS A FINANCE DIRECTOR

we are looking for a Finance Director who can look at different ways to finance the paper whilst drawing attention to funding trends and the overall financial picture.

IN TIMES OF DISASTER

Chapel member Sue Catts, now living in Australia has sent us this article about the Australian fires. Many thanks Sue and we look forward to seeing you in the British summer.

There is no way of downplaying the tragedy and losses resulting from the bush fires but amid the shocking images of bright red skies and blackened woodland, there has been goodwill and kindness to help those who are suffering. The greatest need is for money and millions have been raised both at home and around the world, from Elton John's \$1,000,000 to the widow's mite, it is all appreciated.

One cannot fail to praise the CFS (Country Fire Service), the volunteer firefighters who have left their own homes and families to serve their communities in the face of adversity.

Then there are the individuals such as two ex-soldiers, Garth and Luke, who turned up to help the CFS fight a monster bushfire. Disregarding their own safety but equipped with years of military training and chainsaws, the duo plunged headlong into the fires with strike teams to cut down burning trees, create firebreaks, and clear the way for trucks and emergency vehicles.

Nicole McIntosh lost her home in the Cudlee Creek fire yet continued working at her cafe The Olive Branch at Balhannah. "We're a community-based cafe. We've been flat out, people coming to support us, people needing somewhere to be," she said. "We're not the kind of people who sit and do nothing."

The country's wildlife faces intense danger as the fires rage. People across the world have grabbed their knitting needles to create protective pouches and blankets for the animals made homeless by the blazes. Volunteers have made hundreds of bat wraps, joey pouches, birds nests, possum boxes, koala mittens and other items for marsupials. Mogo Wildlife Park, in New South Wales, is home to Australia's largest collection of primates and rangers have gone above and beyond to keep all 200 creatures safe with one keeper opening up his home to monkeys, a panda and a tiger with every room fully occupied.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service, has extended its role into affected communities increasing its mental health services, much needed after the

traumas, with many more telephone consultations and advice. A number of RFDS members are also volunteer fire fighters, staff from the patient transport team have been sourcing appropriate out-of-date medical supplies such as bandages for Koala rescue centres, some staff are part of the 'Need for Feed' project helping to deliver hay and animal feed whilst others are backfilling shifts to make up the shortfall opened up by those volunteering.

There are many, many more individual stories of kindness, bravery and community.

It is true to say that times of crisis bring out the absolute best in people.

Sue Catts

18th January 2020

Sue is a member of York Unitarians and of Melbourne Unitarian Universalists

YORK RESIDENTS' FESTIVAL

25th & 26th January

It was a good weekend for York Residents' Festival when the Chapel was open to the public all day on Saturday and on Sunday afternoon with 142 visitors (compared to 110 in 2019). The exhibition was "Then and now" with old photographs and drawings to compare with modern ones.



Who knew there was originally a high wall to protect the property? - now replaced by a low wall and fence.

Who knew there was once an organ? - removed a long time ago - now we have a wonderful piano.

Who knew the ministers all used to be men? - until the last three who were women.

The exhibition was a great voyage of discovery!

SERENDIPTY READINGS

Sunday 29 December 2019

1. Richard Brown - *The Darkling Thrush* by Thomas Hardy
2. Claire Wilton - *New York Office chit-chat* by Brian Ilston
3. Adie Wilson - *The Darkling Thrush* by Thomas Hardy
4. Joan Sinanan - *The first day after Christmas* by Frederick Silver
5. Brin Price - his own *Advent poem*
6. Myrna Michel - personal childhood memory of the New Year sweeping out the Old Year
7. Susan Leadley - *The road not taken* by Robert Frost



8. Jen Atkinson - *Staying on the path when the way is lost*
9. Dee Boyle - An end of the year blessing by John Donahue
10. Simon Hardy - *The Lizard* by D.H.Lawrence
11. John Issett - a rhyme by Spike Milligan
12. John Brogden - story about family history by Alex Hayley
13. and 14. Zoe and Paul Bojelion - a poem by their late son Adam
15. Carol Ann [a visitor] - *Do not try to save the whole world* by Martha Postlethwaite
16. Marta Hardy - *Snowdrops* by Louise Gluck
17. Susan Elliot - *Hope is the thing of feathers* by Emily Dickinson
18. Laura Cox - *Thank you body* by Carl Stuart
- 19 & 20. Meike Dux-Harrap and David Harrap - family story: '*Christmas is when the baby Jesus comes down the chimney!*'

21. Alan Pennington - *I hope that in this year - you make mistakes* by Neil Gamen
22. Barbara Barnes - some favourite quotations
- 23 & 24. Jimmy and Sheila Timiney [Bradford Unitarians] - a story about their son
25. Joan Hill [Bradford Unitarian] - *Macavity the mystery cat* by T.S.Eliot
26. Jenny Jacobs - from *Looking in the Distance* by Richard Holloway
27. Janet Eldred *Midwinter flowers* by E.J.Scovel

28. David [a visitor] - *Harry L a u d e r Keep right on to the end of the road . . .*
29. Elizabeth Faiers - *The well of Christmas*
30. Nick Morrice - *Schubert To Music*

KILLING EVE UNITARIAN WOMEN'S GROUP CONFERENCE

23 to 25 October 2020

The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow

Women of all ages are welcome to this weekend of friendship

We will explore a feminist perspective on the climate change emergency, through workshops and discussion.

The conference will be facilitated by Sue MacFarlane and Jo O'Sullivan.

Alongside the thoughtful exploration of the issues raised, there will be fun and laughter.

Bookings to Stella Burney
info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk or 01298
871218 and send the Registration form to:
Margaret margaretrobinson81@gmail.com

ST. CRUX FUNDRAISING DAY 2020



Our 2020 fundraising day for Chapel funds at St. Crux Hall (Stonebow end of Whip-Ma-Whap-Ma Gate) will be:

Friday 21st August

We need crafts, new gifts (perhaps those unwanted ones from Christmas), jams and cakes, good quality bric-a-brac and pre-loved books as well as supplies for the cafe serving teas, coffee, cakes, and lunches.

Please start working towards this now!

YORKSHIRE UNITARIAN UNION SPRING GATHERING

Saturday 7 March 2020 at Bradford Unitarians

10.30 : Welcome – coffee/tea...

11.00: Opening Devotions led by Stephanie Bisby

11.15: YUU Matters and Motions for Unitarian GA Meetings

12.15: Lunch (provided by Bradford Unitarians)

13.00 Afternoon session led by Helen Mason – Director of Unitarian College

- How the College is progressing
- Training secretaries and treasurers
- Mini-exercise in ministry training
- Discussion + your thoughts and ideas

15.00: Short closing devotions

15.15: Departuressafe journey.

Come for all or any part of the day's programme – all are welcome -

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS



York Unitarians,
St. Saviourgate Chapel,
St. Saviourgate, York YO1 8NQ
www.york.unitarians.org.uk

Chairperson: David Zucker
<davidgzucker@gmail.com>

Secretary: Margaret Hill
☎ 01904 693427
<mhill.york@gmail.com>

Treasurer: Nick Morrice
☎ 01904 765424
<nickmorrice@gmail.com>

Chapel Committee Members:,
Barbara Barnes, Dee Boyle, Laura Cox,
Elizabeth Faiers, Simon Hardy, Andrew Hill,
Jenny Jacobs, Joan Sinanan, and the
Officers

St. Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel Charity
(registered charity: 230167) Trustees:
Elizabeth Faiers (Treasurer), Simon Hardy,
Jen Atkinson, Andrew Hill (Chair),
and Claire Wilton.

Colton's Hospital Trustees
Elizabeth Faiers (Treasurer), Dee Boyle,
Trevor Gant, Marta Hardy, Simon Hardy,
Nicky Jenkins (Chair), Carol Lawson,
Richard Thompson, Geoffrey Williams,
(registered charity: 221281)

York Unitarian editor:
Andrew Hill
☎ 01904 693427
<amckhill@gmail.com>