

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS
at 11.0a.m. in the Chapel and also on zoom
Maximum number
of persons in the chapel 30

Sunday 6 June

Revd Stephanie Bisby
Open Hearts, Open Minds
Music by David Hammond
Zoom host Janet Eldred

Sunday 13 June

Dee Boyle
Taking Refuge
Music by Helen Drewery
Zoom host Claire Wilton

Sunday 20 June

Revd Stephanie Bisby
Open Doors
Music by David Hammond
Zoom host David Zucker

Sunday 27 June

Claire Wilton
Return to the Lost Words
Music by Myrna Michell
Zoom host David Zucker

A CUP OF TEA

Meike & David Dux-Harrap write:

Meeting over a cup of tea in chapel
for Unitarian members and friends /family
After many months of reduced meetings and
chats we want to get used again to see each
other and chat over a cup of tea.
Invitation for a cup of tea and a bowl of soup on
a table with max 6 people or 2 households
inside chapel – or outside

Wednesday 26 May 1-7 pm

Thursday 27 May 1-4 pm (after meditation)

Friday 28 May 1-7 pm

Please come along at those times.

Tea, coffee, soup provided.

Seating at tables of 6 - 2 metres apart

Contact : Meike and David Harrap

meike.dux@btinternet.com

OTHER EVENTS IN JUNE

Chapel Committee

Sunday 6 June at 12 noon

Poetry Group

Wednesday 30 June: 7.00p.m.

Weather and flowers

For zoom link contact Dee Boyle.

Meditation Group

Every Thursday 11.00a.m

in Chapel and on Zoom

For zoom link contact Dee Boyle

Discussion Group

Tuesday 15 June 6.30p.m.

'The Sermon on the Plain' (Luke 6)

For zoom link contact Dee Boyle.

York Interfaith Group

Tuesday 1 June 7.30p.m.

Planning meeting

Zoom link contact Dee Boyle

ABOUT PEOPLE

- *Myrna Michel* has moved to a bungalow in Huntingdon.
- We are delighted to welcome *Anneliese Emmans Dean* as a Chapel member. Anneliese has been a chapel supporter and friend for many years. She and her husband, Mike, were married in the Chapel.
- *Jenny Jacobs* gave a talk on housing for the Unitarian Penal and Social Affairs Panel.

YORK UNITARIANS

FRIDAY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

June – October 2021

After managing to host only one concert early in March 2020, York Unitarians are delighted to be welcoming audiences back to our building (St Saviourgate Unitarian Chapel YO1 8NQ) for a series of Friday lunchtime concerts at 12:30 in 2021.

- 25 June Sax Forte: York based saxophone quartet
- 9 July Stephen Raine: pianist
- 23 July Ruth and James Sanderson violin and piano
- 30 July Helen Drewery: piano

Tickets £5 cash only

Subject to government regulations

FROM THE CHAPEL COMMITTEE

- The Chapel Committee met on zoom after service on Sunday 2nd May.
- *Meike Dux-Harrap* was present to talk about 3 'coffee morning' type events [Open Church Project] being arranged for members and friends to reacquaint ourselves socially after 'lockdown' [details on p. 2].
- Sunday services and other events will recommence at the Chapel after Tuesday 1 June. Lunchtime concerts start from 25 June but Late Music concerts not until the autumn.
- *Jenny Jacobs* and *David Zucker* had been the Chapel delegates at the recent Unitarian General Assembly meetings. Their reports will be published in the June *York Unitarian* magazine along with a report to the Yorkshire Unitarian Union by *Myrna Michell* and *Margaret Robinson* from Stockton Unitarians. Our minister, *Stephanie Bisby*, had been recognised as a minister on the General Assembly roll.
- A Zoom host recruiter is needed for zoomed services and events; and a new organiser required well before the year's end for Sunday service leaders from 1 January 2022.
- The Chapel will receive £500 for the use of the Chapel as a polling station on Thursday 6 May. York Council is responsible for cleaning. Nick Morrice will 'open up' and Elizabeth Faiers 'close up'.
- New and simpler regulations for marriages in the chapel have now come into force. Our authorised persons are *Dee Boyle* and *David Zucker*. As a 'safeguard' the minister has been added as a third authorised person. The names of mothers as well as fathers will now appear on English marriage certificates!
- *Jenny Jacobs* with *Peter Exley* are working through Eco-Church's environmental audit process as part of the Chapel's development of an environmental policy.
- The 'tech project' for streaming live services from the Chapel - being led by *David Zucker* and *the minister* - is gradually progressing. Two recent live trials had been successful. David and Stephanie were meeting an additional adviser that afternoon.
- Finance: the treasurer, *Richard Brown*, reported that there is £40,354 in the Caf Cash account; £122,831 in the York Unitarians CIO account and £582,660 in the Chapel Charity permanent endowment account. There were 2 new regular donations.
- *Dee Boyle* and *Joan Sinanan* are to join *Barbara Barnes* on the Social Action Group.

- An application for Chapel membership had been received from *Anneliese Emmans Dean*. It was approved unanimously.

WALK A LABYRINTH IN YORK CITY CENTRE



York Unitarian Janet Eldred and two colleagues are creating a temporary labyrinth at King's Manor as part of York's Festival of Ideas 2021. The labyrinth will be in situ 8-20 June.

The use of a turf labyrinth in villages across medieval Britain often shaped mid-summer festivities associated with the summer solstice and the Feast of St John the Baptist. The King's Manor temporary, sawdust labyrinth is based upon the Shepherds Ring, a medieval labyrinth that occupied the village green of Broughton, near Northampton. It was established in response to the three-day Midsummer Fair granted by Edward III in 1353 and was enjoyed by children and adult revellers at the festival.

Details are on the [Labyrinths for Wellbeing webpage](#). Daily announcements leading up to the event are on the [Labyrinths for Wellbeing Facebook page](#). If you can't visit in person, the webpage tells how to use a finger labyrinth wherever you are, whenever you like. Want to know more? Contact Janet at jbe100@yahoo.co.uk or 07951 600907.

THE GUARDIAN at 200

Chapel members and friends with an interest in history will enjoy exploring Harris Manchester College Oxford's [previously Manchester College, York] exhibition marking the *Guardian* newspaper's 200th anniversary.

- <https://www.hmc.ox.ac.uk/about#/>

Harris Manchester College, in earlier life was Manchester College, York on Monkgate (see blue plaque). Chapel minister Rev. Charles Wellbeloved was the College principal and Chapel member Rev. John Kenrick tutor and later (when the College returned to Manchester) principal.

The AGM of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches held on Zoom on Saturday 24 April 2021. Our Chapel delegates David Zucker and Jenny Jacobs report:

David Zucker writes: This was my very first AGM and apart from a meeting of Yorkshire Unitarians a little while ago, my first opportunity to get to meet fellow Unitarians. Though we did not know each other well we greeted each other like long lost friends, with a hug, each telling each other about how we had coped over the last year, exchanging ideas and opinions all over a nice cup of tea or coffee before the start of the business of the day. Well that was my fantasy. It wasn't like that at all, though the organisers did their best, it was all a bit impersonal, meeting, as we did, on Teams.

It will be recalled that at our York AGM we discussed which of the 6 possible motions for the national AGM we would wish to be debated. The six were about: (1) alcohol misuse; (2) green investments; (3) youth programmes; (4) gender issues; (5) code of ethics; and (6) the interfaith Red Cross Peace Appeal. We, at York, chose to support motions 2, 3, 4, and 5. The national AGM chose 2, 3, 5, and 6. All were carried.

The passing of the badge of office from the outgoing President, Celia Cartwright to the incoming President Ann Mills was a little bizarre. The badge could not physically be handed over because the two officers were not side by side, though I suspect that a little magic trick went wrong. When Ann gave her speech accepting her role, if one looked careful one could see that the spotlighted image of Ann giving her speech was not the same as the micro screen of her, even though she was wearing the same outfit. Ann must have recorded her acceptance speech in advance and if it had not been thought of there might have been the opportunity for Celia to have done likewise some time in advance of the AGM and then send the badge through the post to Ann.

I would not ordinarily have been so fixated on such minutiae but apart from some pleasant hymns the day was quite a challenge made all the more so by the dreadful mind-numbing repetitive music which was played at each vote. Of course being Unitarian I understand that others may have loved it and I respect that and I am tolerant of that and....but..... Jenny and I were in constant communication through texts and honestly the music was driving us to distraction. David Hammond where were you?

So, if next year the national AGM is again on Zoom, and I sincerely hope not, please volunteer, it would be my pleasure not to attend.

Jenny Jacobs writes:

David has done an excellent job with his account and there's not a lot for me to add. I could point out that we met on Zoom not Teams but that would be unnecessarily pedantic, so I won't.

We were allowed, even encouraged, to bring our knitting along, to alleviate the hours of focussing on a small screen. I don't knit, but I did finally get around to mending a much-loved but ancient linen towel, doing a bit of kantha-style embroidery around the rip and raw edges (I completed seven rows, and the towel has now gone safely through the washing-machine without ripping any further).

Sessions began with a short act of worship. One of these was led, beautifully, by our own Minister, Stephanie. Both David and I felt very sorry for Michael Allured, whose opening act of worship was blighted by internet glitches and all we could hear were strange musical notes.

The five hours of meeting – actually four and three quarters, plus breaks – were a pretty gruelling experience, knitting/mending notwithstanding. The electronic voting system held up well apart from the last vote, which had to be repeated again and again, as apparently it wasn't working. Each time there was a vote (five minutes voting time most times) there was, as David has said, a pianist playing the same bit of music every time. It had hints of Satie, hints, perhaps, of Debussy, and the first time I heard it I thought it was rather nice, but just like when you're holding on the telephone and the same short bit of Vivaldi's Four Seasons plays again and again ad infinitum, it got extremely wearing. A variety of pieces would have helped.

There was a social evening after the meeting (yet more Zoom!) and some people who are clearly gluttons for punishment did attend this (not me). To my dismay, these people - as you might expect – thought Zoom was a jolly good thing, and suggested, I gather, that holding the AGM on Zoom might be a good idea even post-pandemic.

I hope this idea does not take hold. I found the whole experience so exhausting that I was in bed by half-past eight and sound asleep by nine. But to everyone involved in organising the event, well done! It was clear that an incredible amount of hard work had gone into making the AGM

UNITARIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS
report for Yorkshire Unitarian Union by Margaret Robinson (Stockton) and Myrna Michell (York)
I enclose detailed notes covering Motions discussion and outcomes at the GA Meetings on Saturday. These notes are based upon the amazing Margaret Robinson who reported in detail to UMS members and agreed that I might include them in my report to YUU.

Of the six Motions put forward to the GA for consideration at the GA Business Meetings last Saturday, the four chosen were as follows: Motions 2, 3, 5 and 6. Motions 1 and 4 were not debated. This varied from our preferred list, which would have included Motion 4 but not no. 6.

The Motions debated were:

Motion 2 from Cardiff Unitarians - **Fossil Fuel Divestment**. For 91, Against 3, Abstentions 10, the Motion was carried. Mindful of the climate crisis, and the GA Object to "promote . . . the service to humanity and respect for all creation" requests that the Executive Committee: a) not invest GA funds in companies whose total turnover is more than 10% derived from the extraction and /or supply of fossil fuels, including thermal coal, natural gas and oil; b) complete the divestment required by 2025; c) **strongly encourage and support all Unitarian congregations and funds to do the same.**

Motion 3 from Stockton - **Provision for Young People**. For 52, Against 27, Abstentions 31, the Motion was Carried. There was debate about section d) which implied some pressure upon Youth Officer Gavin. However, the main body of the Motion was accepted. It was notable that Gavin commented himself, giving detail of the surge in activity which has resulted from the restrictions! The impact has not limited communication and activity between young people. Nevertheless, the Executive Committee is urged to ensure that a programme of Youth Events at the Nightingale Centre, Hucklow, is put in place

as soon as permitted by Covid-19 regulations, with the emphasis on provision for 7-11 year olds, which has been the much-valued bedrock of Unitarian Youth programme for over 50 years. **Other venues could be used and also the ongoing on-line provision should continue for those unable to travel to Derbyshire or any other part of the British Isles.**

Motion 5 from the Findhorn Unitarian Network - **Code of Ethics** For 73, Against 25, Abstentions 17, the Motion was Carried. It asked the EC to appoint an ad hoc committee to prepare a) a Code of Ethics; b) call for submissions from member congregations, **affiliated societies**, districts, Ministers, Lay Leaders and others employed or engaged in the Unitarian movement to support this work; and c) ensure the Code contains appropriate mechanisms for addressing

complaints, grievances and disciplinary matters. This was not agreed without substantial discussion. My own feeling (Myrna) is that, though we already have ethical and behavioural codes in place, the emphasis has been upon Ministers' Role. We continue to move forwards as a Movement/denomination by re-visiting and widening our ethical and spiritual models.



Motion 6 from LDPA, the Peace Fellowship and 12 Full members - **Interfaith Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal in aid of the Global Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, the Yemen Crisis Appeal and other urgent**

humanitarian and medical appeals in the spirit of the Charter for Compassion. For 92, Against 11, Abstentions 11, Motion Carried. It urges Unitarian congregations, Districts and **individuals** to support this interfaith initiative and so work with the Religious Society of Friends and other faith communities in taking timely action to aid victims of this global Covi-19 pandemic and of wars, conflict and natural disasters and to act decisively to help save human lives worldwide.

Margaret Robinson and Myrna Michell

ZOOM SOCIETIES DAYS

17—19 June 2021

10.00 to 4.00 each day

Have you ever wondered what our Unitarian Societies get up to? Join us for a fascinating three -day event, exploring what twelve of them do. Each day, four Societies will show-case what they do and what they are about. You are welcome to join any or all of the sessions.

Each day will split into two sessions, 10.00—12.30 and 1.30—4.00.

Thursday 17 June

- National Unitarian Fellowship
- Unitarian Christian Association
- Unitarian Penal & Social Affairs Panel
- Unitarian Women's Group

Friday 18 June

- Unitarian Historical Society
- Unitarian Renewal Group
- Unitarian Association for Lay Ministry
- Unitarian Musical Society

Saturday 19 June

- Findhorn Unitarian Network
- The Foy Society
- Unitarian Earth Spirit Network
- Unitarian Peace Fellowship

Register today for this FREE event with:
revsuewoolley@gmail.com.

A PRAYER

Out of a troubled world of expediency and selfish strife, we come to this place set apart for the renewal of vision.

Great Unity beyond all differences,

- should our lives be narrowed by personal sorrow or tragedy, envision us with a sense of worth;
- should we be weary of the diminishing purposes of community and the persistence of global conflicts, envision us with your larger purpose;
- should we feel lost upon earth's lonely cosmic shore, envision us with joy and wonder.

Uphold us when weak. Embrace us when broken. Transform us when partial. Restore to us your great unity that we and the green earth and the cosmic law may become as one.

Great Unity, bless us now, in this moment of worship, with your commanding vision. Amen.

DON'T JUST LOOK AT THE BOOKS

by John Issitt from the service which John led on Sunday 9 May

Look in the corners
Look through the cracks
Look behind their eyes
Look for their goodness and acknowledge
their pain
Look for their sisterhood
Look for their brotherhood

Don't just look in the books

Taste the air
Taste your life
Taste their friendship
Taste their sweat, their need and their hope
Taste their experience
Taste their love

Don't just look in the books

Feel the world around you
Feel them - they need you
Feel yourself - don't hide
Feel the earth it supports us
Feel the moment
Feel the past

Don't just look in the books

Touch the trees
Touch the sea
Touch your need
Touch their weakness
Touch what might be
Touch what you can

Don't just look in the books

Listen to your heart
Listen to theirs
Listen to the wind
Listen to the spirit of the world
Listen to silence
Listen

Don't just look in the books.

**MY DAILY WALK TO THE SHOPS –
a religious experience of everyday life
by John Issitt**

from the service led by John on Sunday 9 May

I'm a morning man. I relish the morning in fact I generally feel best in the morning and worse as the day goes on. I like the quiet and the space to focus on my day's work. I like the sounds which seem clearer and sharper and the taste of the air which feels fresher and somehow more honest. Most of the time in the mornings for a brief period at least, I feel released from the cares and struggles of the previous day and from the fears and sometimes horrors left with me from last night's BBC news.

I'm in the habit of going to the local co-op which is maybe 3/400 yards away. I go as early - as I can. I like the walk there. I notice the birds who seem to be going about their daily doings with a similar relish as I am. The birds are always alert to danger but they don't seem to get distracted by anything and they appear at ease and in themselves as they sing and seek out their food and go about their family responsibilities. There is something that both delights and reassures me about the birds. I live in the same space as them and we all have to get on and breathe the same air.

I often encounter somebody – a neighbour perhaps or someone on their way to work. We usually exchange greetings which can be just a smile or, depending on how well I know them and the texture of our friendship, is often some form of commentary on the weather 'Bit sharp! It's nithering!, warmer than yesterday! It'll clear up!' Or if I know them well and we have a friendship that permits humour, one of us might say 'What's your game?' or 'Now then' combined with a mock raise of the eyebrows and a quizzical look that somehow teases and gently reminds us of what we really did and why we really did what we did and why we really are doing what we are doing. A stage-managed raised eyebrow can speak volumes and enter places where words cannot tread.

My daily walk to the shops leads me to notice the world around me and brings me these glancing but meaningful encounters. My senses are heightened, and my sense of shared humanity becomes vibrant and immediate. There seems to me something ritualistic about my walk to the shops. It has a pattern; it positions me in relation the other creatures with whom I share this life. If I look at it this way, my daily ritual walk to the shops promotes a

religious appreciation of life. I witness life acutely. I revere the life forms I encounter. I open a window on me and sometimes I share an experience with others. That seems religious to me.

When I get to the shops, after putting on my mask, as everyone must, I enter to meet the people who work there. There are two groups of people on the early 6 to 2 shifts and I want to tell you about them – I use made up names here but they are based on my impressions of the actual people. For 4 days there is Lisa on the bread, Jenny restocking the shelves with young Dave and Sheila behind the tills who has to sort out those wretched automatic checkouts that infuriate me and leave me arguing with a machine. For the next 4 days the next early shift will be saucy Dianne, miserable Steve, sad Wendy and space cadet Rory who really doesn't seem to know what planet he is on. The 2 to 10 shift also has two teams of 4. One is made of bolshy Kate one of the managers, acquiescent and dour Peter, won't speak to you unless you speak to him, Raymond and bubbly Nigel who is doing a degree in philosophy. The other team comprises 'yes my darlin' Jane, drink everyday David, I've just to get through this with a smile Jean and sweetness and light Susan. There are 6 or 7 others who work when required.

I know and love them all. Some I talk at length with, some I hardly speak to but normally acknowledge unless they give off signals that they don't really want me to communicate. They all have good and bad days. They are all relaxed sometimes and not others. They will all meet your eyes on some occasions but not others. They will all extend their trust sometimes but not at others. They all will deport themselves with high fences around them one day but with their barriers pulled down the next. They will all step lightly one day and heavily the next. They will all see you and talk to openly as if you are a person and friend one day, but with the restricted register of customer relations the next.

But they all reassure me. They are all human like me. They all need and grieve and bleed. They all put their faces and masks on and they all let them drop on occasion. They are all kind in their ways. They all have compassion. They are all weak and sometimes strong. They all have wisdoms and journeys and places of peace of their own.

Being with them early in the morning is a religious experience for me. I feel the rub of humanity and I it both reassures me and urges humility – to them, to the world and to myself.

REFUGEE WEEK YORK

We cannot walk alone 14-21 June

Facebook: York Refugee Week Twitter:
@WeekYork

Monday 14 June, 6 - 7pm:

Bootham School presents

Michael Muthukrishna, (LSE), a virtual lecture
The Science of Culture

Tuesday 15 June, 7.30pm:

Online pub quiz for Refugee Action York (RAY)

Donation to [Refugee Action York](#)

Wednesday 16 June, 6.30 - 8pm:

University for All

York University celebrates becoming a 'University of Sanctuary'. Film, discussion & band performance.. Donations to Refugee Bursary Fund.

Thursday 17th June, 2-3pm:

Journey of a Child Refugee.

Bootham School presents: Gulwali Passarlay's captivating story of surviving year long journey from Afghanistan to Free.

Friday 18th June 6.45pm.

Yahala at Home

Cook at home with Syrian chef Anas teaching over zoom. More information and tickets (£15) www.yahalarestaurant.co.uk

Sunday 20 June, 12-1 pm.

Desert Island Discs with Rachael Maskell MP

[link here]. Donations to [Refugee Action York](#).

Sun. 20th June, 3pm,

Young People's Art Competition:

Children's artwork can be viewed online. [Link here] from Monday, 14 June. Winners announced live here.

**People usually consider
walking on water or in thin air
a miracle.**

**But I think the real miracle
is not to walk either on water
or in thin air, but to walk on earth.**

Thich Nhat Hanh

USEFUL CONTACT DETAILS



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Faiers, Andrew Hill, Joan Sinanan, and
the Officers

Colton's Hospital Trustees
Elizabeth Faiers (Treasurer), Stephanie
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