

For your diary

Sun 4 Dec (Advent 2): 10.30am Service.
Organist: Julian Warren.
(Please note - No Bring & Share Lunch today)
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Sun 11 Dec (Advent 3): 10.30am Service
Organist: Hugh Taylor.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Sun 18 Dec (Advent 4): 10.30am - Christmas
Carol Service 'Welcome the Stranger' with
choir led by Mark Mason. Creche for 2-8 year
olds in Common Room during service. Festive
Bring & Share Lunch after service. Organist:
Hugh Taylor.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Christmas Eve : 6.30pm. Christmas Eve
Communion Service.

Christmas Day : 10.30am - Worship for
Christmas Morning. Organist: Julian Warren.
(No evening service)

New Year's Day : 10.30am Service. (No
evening service)

Sun 8 Jan : 10.30am Service. Pianist:
Rosemary Wheeler.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Sun 15 Jan : 10.30am Service. Pianist: Peter
Shepherd.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Sun 22 Jan : 10.30am Service. Organist:
Hugh Taylor.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Wed 25 Jan: 12noon-2.30pm. Lunch Club
Offering companionship, good food and an
opportunity to talk about a particular issue
relevant to the well-being and happiness of
retired people or those planning retirement. A
donation of around £3 is suggested to cover
the cost of the meal. Contact: 01480 432284.

Wed 25 Jan : 7.30 for 8pm. Conversation: a
lively, open, non-judgemental discussion about
matters of faith and meaning.

Sun 29 Jan : 10.30am Service. Organist:
Richard Hinitt.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

December Bring & Share Lunch
is on Sunday **18th** Dec (not Sunday 4th)



Some of
the
Christmas
decorations
we use
each year
in our
church.

Do Unitarians celebrate Christmas?

When I came to sit down to write some words for you about Christmas none, alas, came. There are such times in the life of every writer but this blank gives me the opportunity to offer you this fine short passage by the Revd Cliff Reed who inspired and encouraged me to enter the Unitarian ministry.

The answer is yes. Why? It marks the birth of a religious leader of seminal importance. The birth of Jesus stands as a symbol of the divinity inherent in every human birth. It stands for the perennial rebirth of innocence and hope in every new child. It calls to mind the values of peace and goodwill that should be with us all the year. It coincides with the winter solstice, the turning of the earth towards the light and the warmth of a new year. All these factors play a part in the Unitarian Christmas. Unitarians do not, in the main, let it worry us that we do not know the precise date of Jesus' birth. Nor do we worry that the two quite distinct Gospel Nativity stories probably have little or no historical basis. As myth they express later beliefs about the significance of Jesus and other, more timeless, truths. Unitarians believe that Jesus was conceived and born in the usual human manner, which in no way diminishes him — quite the contrary. Many, though, are willing, for the season, to suspend disbelief, enter into the Christmas myth, and find at its heart a message of divine love for a world that needs it. (From 'Do Unitarians celebrate Christmas?' by Cliff Reed)

Warm Christmas greetings to all of you, from
Susanna and me !

Andrew Brown

Volunteers needed

If you'd be willing serve coffee after the morning service, set out table and clear up after bring & share lunches, give the opening prayers or readings during the morning services, speak to Tony Burns. There is a clipboard in the church to which you can add your name.

Advent/Christmas Appeal

Every year during december, we invite the congregation to give donations to a good cause. This year, we are once again inviting you to 'Rowan Creating Art, Improving Lives' Rowan is a Cambridge City based charity and arts centre that was established in 1984 to bring artists and people with learning disabilities together in the production of fine artwork and crafts; while providing opportunities for self-expression and creative exploration.

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

Exhibition 'Places': 21 Nov-7 Jan at Michaelhouse

John Dillistone, one of our organists, is putting on an exhibition of paintings and prints at Michaelhouse, Trinity Street, Cambridge, until 7 January. It includes work by John, some of his friends, and his students on the 'Painting without Boundaries' course which he teaches at Hills Road Sixth Form College. Michaelhouse is open 8am-5pm Mon-Sat.

Our student ministry: the Freethinkers

'The Freethinkers' has got off to a good start, thanks to the hard work put in by our Student Ministry Worker, Susanna Hartland, who organised an event or activity for each week of the autumn academic term. There were talks, discussions, watching 'I, Daniel Blake', and interfaith 'crawls' visiting places of worship of several faith communities in the city. She also set up a TimeBank, which is open to the whole congregation, not just students. Success of this venture mustn't only be measured in numbers, but it's been good to welcome students to our services recently. Susanna Hartland is writing a short article about the project for the Unitarian fortnightly magazine, *The Inquirer*. We are receiving a grant from our General Assembly, and it's important that we share our experiences with friends around our network of churches. The programme for the January-March term is still being worked on. Expect an announcement during January.

Christmas Carol Service - 18 December

Inspired by the Cambridge City of Sanctuary movement, we've chosen the theme of 'Welcome the Stranger'. If you'd like to be involved in helping to organise the carol service, please contact Andrew Bethune.

Children's Activities

Creche for children aged 2-8 in the Common Room during the morning services on 18 December.

About our church

This church belongs to a liberal Christian tradition which welcomes the loving, critical and enquiring spirit. It is founded upon an 'open trust' which imposes no doctrinal tests upon its minister or members. We meet in the spirit which is exemplified in the life and utterances of Jesus, for the worship of God and the service of humankind.

Church address: Memorial Church (Unitarian), Emmanuel Road, Cambridge CB1 1JW

www.cambridgeunitarian.org

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Vice-Chairman: Tony Burns 01480 432284

Treasurer: Shirley Fieldhouse 01223 426514

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Committee Members:

Katie Burns 01480 432284

Sue Tombs 01223 844454

Minister Emeritus: Frank Walker

01223 874460

Campus Ministry Worker : Susanna Hartland

studentministry@cambridgeunitarian.org

Creche Leader: Marijke Janssens

Hall Bookings: Sue Tombs 01223 338543

roombookings@cambridgeunitarian.org