

For your diary

Wed 1 Feb : 7.30 for 8pm. Conversation: a lively, open, non-judgmental discussion about matters of faith and meaning.

Sun 5 Feb : 10.30am Service. Organist: Julian Warren. Bring & Share Lunch after service 6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

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

Sun 12 Feb: 10.30am Service. Pianist: Peter Shepherd. 6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Wed 15 Feb : 7.30 for 8pm. Conversation: a lively, open, non-judgmental discussion about matters of faith and meaning.

Sun 19 Feb: 10.30am. Service. Violinist: Mifune Tsuji. 6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Wed 22 Feb: 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. The theme for 2017 is : *Do we, as older individuals, still have a place in the future?* A donation of around £3 is suggested to cover the cost of the meal. Contact: 01480 432284.

Wed 22 Feb: 7.30pm - Freethinkers event - *Loss of faith and social action.*

Sun 26 Feb : 10.30am Service. Organist: John Dillistone. 6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Accessibility Project

Delighted to report that we have been awarded a grant of £5000 by the John Gregson Trust, and £44,000 by Wren Landfill. So it looks as if we can go ahead with our accessibility project in its entirety - ramp, accessible toilets, and a canopy sheltering the ramp and linking the church and hall. However, we do have to provide some funding from our own sources and a modest amount of local fund raising may still be needed.

Shirley, Sue, Andrew Brown and Rosemary met with the architect during January to agree various details of the building work.



Unitarians Annual Meetings 2017 (GA)

This year's annual conference of Unitarians takes place at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole, right next to the National Exhibition Centre, between 10th and 13th April.

It's a good venue for a conference, with its central location and excellent transport links in all directions.

GA provides an opportunity to meet other Unitarians to learn from their insights and experiences through informal conversations, workshops, talks, discussions, presentations, and worship.

On 12 April, in one of the GA workshops, we'll be sharing our experience of setting up the student ministry here at Cambridge.

Several member of the church committee will be attending for the full conference, and some as day visitors. Other members of the congregation are welcome to attend, and you'll find full details at the link below. Bookings should be made by 20 february. Late bookings close 14 March - £50 surcharge.

There is a generous 80% discount for younger people (aged between 17 and 39). There is a full programme of events and activities for children (5-11) and teenagers (12-17). A creche is provided for very young children (but must be booked by 1 February)

Full information about the conference can be found at <https://unitarianmeetings.com/> For more information, contact Andrew Bethune.

Our student ministry: the Freethinkers

'The Freethinkers' programme started on 25 January with an evening thinking about *2017: hope not optimism*. Everyone is welcome at these events - you don't have to be a student. Dates for February are:

Thu 9 Feb - 7.30pm - *Is radical church possible?* (with Adrian Alker, chair of the Progressive Christian Network)

Tue 14 Feb - 7.30pm - a screening of *I, Daniel Blake* in association with Cambridge Unite Community.

Fri 17 Feb - 7.30pm - *Inter-faith talk* with Feargus O'Connor, minister of Golders Green Unitarians.

Wed 22 Feb - 7.30pm - *Loss of faith and social action*, with Cambridge Unitarians.

Further ahead, a visit to the Cambridge Buddhist Centre is planned for Sunday 5 March (1.15pm) and Susanna is hoping to organise evenings on Wicca, refugees and a screening of the film 'Jesus, Queen of Heaven'.

Angela Lillyman

Many of you will know that Angela died shortly before Christmas. Angie was a relative newcomer to our congregation, and was often to be found at the church door on a Sunday helping to welcome the congregation as they arrived. Andrew Brown conducted her funeral on 29 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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[@FreethinkersCam](https://www.facebook.com/cambridgeunitarianstudents)

Children's Activities

Our thanks go to Marijke and Jon for organising the creche on the four 'Bring & Share Lunch' Sundays during the autumn. This proved to be a successful pilot project.

Success cannot be measured simply by numbers. But having an advertised creche did mean that several of our young families coincided at church which was not happening much before. Hopefully those contacts can continue and grow.

But where to go next? The committee is looking again at the possibility of hiring a paid creche leader. We'll let you know how that develops.

Meanwhile, children are always welcome at services. There are toys and children's books available in the Common Room if needed.

Advent/Christmas Appeal

Many thanks to everyone who supported the recent Advent / Christmas appeal for Rowan, a Cambridge City based charity and arts centre that brings artists and people with learning disabilities together in the production of fine artwork and crafts. We raised the magnificent total of £599.20 for a very good cause.

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

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