

Cambridge Unitarians

Monthly Newsletter - July 2015

For your diary

Sun 5 July : Services 10.30am and 6.30pm.

Bring & Share Lunch.

Wed 8 July : 4.30pm : Committee Meeting

Sat 11 July : 3.00pm : Afternoon tea party at 17B Mill Lane, Histon

Sun 12 July : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm

Sun 19 July : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm

Wed 22 July : 12noon-2.30pm. Lunch Club.

Offering companionship, good food and an opportunity to talk about a particular issue that is relevant to the well-being and happiness of retired people or those planning retirement. A donation of £2.50 is suggested to cover the cost of the meal. Contact: 01480 432284.

Sun 26 July : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm.

During the morning service we'll think about what membership of this religious community means, give a welcome those who have joined us during the past year, and re-affirm Andrew Brown's ministry among us as his contract is renewed and made permanent.

Sat 1 August : 10am-1pm : Work Party. We are looking for volunteers to help with some annual cleaning, maintenance and painting jobs around the church and garden. Please let Shirley know if you are available to help.

Sun 2 August : Service at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Bring & Share Lunch after the morning service.

Summer Tea Parties

For the past few summers, we have enjoyed summer tea parties at the homes of some of our church members. Everyone is welcome, no need to book, simply turn up on the day. This year's tea parties are as follows:

11 July at Jerry and Caroline's (17B Mill Lane, Histon) 3-5.30pm

8 August at Martha and Amit's (8 Ross Street, Cambridge) 3-5.30pm

If you're interested in host a September tea party, please get in touch with Andrew Bethune

Welcome to a new baby

Charlotte Amy Seren Upchurch, baby daughter of Samantha and Paul, was named and dedicated at a service in the church on 27 June.



Jazz musician, Peter Shepherd, at the church piano.

Eastern Union

Shirley Fieldhouse, Sue Tombs and I went to the Summer Meeting of the Eastern Union of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches in the beautifully restored meeting house at Framlingham on 28 June.

Framlingham's congregation was joined by representatives from Ipswich, Norwich, Bury St Edmunds, Great Yarmouth, our own church and the GA.

Bruce Chilton from Norwich reminded us that Shirley was retiring as Secretary to the Eastern Union. There was a buzz of appreciation for her 15 years service as president and secretary.

Framlingham and Bury St Edmunds' new minister Matthew Smith moved proceedings along, but the service was conducted by GA President, the Rev John Clifford dashingly attired in kilt and sporran. The day was General Assembly Sunday so this was doubly apt.

'We have a crucial message about respectful enquiry and committed practical love working for a world of personal value and justice', he said, also noting the role of the GA in giving coherence to the network of Unitarian congregations across Britain and Ireland. He asked for our contributions to the consultation on a 'vision' for the GA that is currently taking place and asked congregations to use 'more modern tools to communicate and to reach out to others'.

After the service there was a walk around historic Framlingham guided by Cliff Reed and a stunning tea party laid on by the Framlingham congregation, including Angela Hatt.

Julian Holloway

Note: Vision Document is at https://www.unitarian.org.uk/sites/default/files/2015_VisionofFuture.pdf

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

In previous years, there was a tacit presumption that church communities in particular should be presumed safe environments for children and vulnerable adults. The slew of cases flooding the media in recent years has demonstrated that was far from the case.

In response to the increasing need for all churches to ensure that they are able to deal with these very sensitive issues, CCPAS (The Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service) came into being as the only independent Christian safeguarding charity. In reality CCPAS is now recognised nationally as experts in this field and run regular courses, not just for all churches including Quakers and Unitarians, but also for social services, police forces and education authorities throughout the country.

As the designated Safeguarding Officer for our Cambridge Unitarian community I recently took the opportunity of participating in a core course entitled Facing The Unthinkable (safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). Although this is an area very familiar to me from my working career as a GP, there have been significant revisions to some of the associated legislation, some such as the 2014 Care Act only becoming law in April 2015. As a course was being held in nearby Peterborough, this seemed an excellent opportunity to update my knowledge and skills.

I was surprised to find over 200 participants from a very wide spectrum of church communities. The course was held at Kingsgate Community Church – a mesmerizingly huge building hosting several large meeting spaces, not least the main hall

which currently seats a congregation of 1250 and is in the process of having an upstairs tier constructed!

Having attended numerous similar courses over the years I was extremely impressed by the way the essential information was covered. The course itself comprised 4 modules starting with What is Abuse?; Signs, Symptoms and Effects in Children and Vulnerable Adults; Taking Action; Safer Practice. Essential points were backed up by real case studies and although harrowing at times, the material was presented in an entertaining and interactive manner with ample opportunity for audience participation. We were also given a workbook covering all the material with ample opportunity to make notes if desired. There was a wealth of additional supporting reading and viewing material available. CCPAS run a whole range of more courses and if you might be interested, well worth having a look at their website <http://www.ccpas.co.uk/>

One point repeatedly stressed was that it is the role of social services and the police to investigate these issues and not for individual church communities. It is always worth reporting any suspicious/ worrying behaviours. Whilst of course hoping that the need for any such reporting within our own Cambridge Unitarian Church community is unnecessary, please ALWAYS speak to either myself or indeed any member of the church committee if you ever have any concerns.

Brendan Boyle

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.

Minister: Andrew J Brown 01223 576952
minister@cambridgeunitarian.org
<http://andrewjbrown.blogspot.com>
@caute

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5 Emmanuel Road, Cambridge CB1 1JW
www.cambridgeunitarian.org

Minister's visits: Please let Andrew Brown know of any cases of sickness or if you would like him to meet with you or someone else.

Minister's Rest Days: Mon, Tue

Minister Emeritus: Frank Walker
01223 874460

Chairman: Andrew Bethune 01480 387883

Vice-Chairman: Tony Burns 01480 432284

Treasurer: Shirley Fieldhouse 01223 426514

Secretary: Sabrina Lewins 01223 476237

Committee Members:

Katie Burns 01480 432284

Brendan Boyle 01480 387883

Sue Tombs 01223 844454

Hall Bookings: Marie Paisley 07527 890164