

Cambridge Unitarians

Newsletter - Dec 2015 and Jan 2016

For your diary

Wed 2 Dec : 7.30 for 8pm : Worship Workshop on how to prepare and give an address.

Sun 6 Dec : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm. No Bring & Share Lunch today. Music: Julian Warren (organ)

Wed 9 Dec : 10.30am : Decorating the Church Christmas Tree - coffee and perhaps mince pies. Everyone invited.

Wed 9 Dec : 7.30 for 8pm : Worship Workshop exploring practicalities of leading worship.

Sun 13 Dec: Services 10.30am and 6.30pm. Music: Peter Shepherd (piano). Choir rehearsal during coffee after the morning service. Contact [Mark Mason](#) if you are interested in singing.

Sun 20 Dec : 10.30am Christmas Carol Service with church choir. Music: Hugh Taylor. Bring & share lunch. 6.30pm: Service of Mindful Meditation.

Christmas Eve: 6.30pm : Communion Service.

Christmas Day : 10.30am : Service for Christmas morning.

Sun 27 Dec: Service at 10.30am only. Music: John Dillistone (organ). No evening service.

Sun 3 Jan : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm. No Bring & Share lunch today. Music: Julian Warren (organ)

Sun 10 Jan: Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Music: John Dillistone (organ)

Sun 17 Jan : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Music: Peter Shepherd (piano)

Wed 20 Jan : 4.30pm : Church Committee

Sun 24 Jan : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Music : Mifune Tsuji (violin) and Yukie Smith (piano)

Sun 31 Jan : Services at 10.30am and 6.30pm. Music: Richard Hinitt (organ)



Image: Manger scene and star in our church.

Christmas greetings from Andrew Brown

Although we are all likely to have a very different theological view of Jesus to that held by the Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) his words which follow still seem to me to have great power and relevance. As we begin to enter into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I offer them to you as a text upon which to meditate. As always, Susanna and I wish you all a very good, peaceful and happy Christmas.

We are talking about the birth of a child, not the revolutionary act of a strong man, not the breathtaking discovery of a sage, not the pious act of a saint. It really passes all understanding: the birth of a child is to bring the great turning around of all things, is to bring salvation and redemption to the whole human race. What kings, statesmen, philosophers and artists, founders of religions and moral teachers vainly strive for, now comes about through a newborn child.

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 'The Turning around of all things', in 'The Mystery of Holy Night' (New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 1996), 27).

Wed 27 Jan: 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 around £3 is suggested to cover the cost of the meal. Throughout 2016, the Lunch Club will be exploring 'Attachment and Separation'. Contact: 01480 432284.

Worship Workshops:

Wednesday evenings 2 , 9 December - 7.30
for 8pm finishing by 9.30pm

We've already had two excellent workshops looking at what worship is and some of the resources, such as readings and prayers, we can draw on when creating a worship service. In the final two workshops Andrew Brown will be offering some hints and advice on writing and giving an address, and practicalities such as voice production, using the microphone, getting the church ready for a service. The workshops are for anyone interested in being involved in helping to run our Sunday services.

Sabrina Lewins

Sabrina has served on our church committee for several years, including a long spell as church secretary. In that role she usually gave the welcome and notices at our services. But now Sabrina feels it is time to step down from the committee. I'd like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well for the future.

Andrew Bethune, Chairman

Neil Falkner

Neil, a regular attender at our Sunday services, has died. Andrew Brown conducted his funeral on 9 November. We offer our sincere sympathy to Neil's family.

Wedding

Congratulations to Iona Robinson and Leanne Zeki who were married in the church on 31 October.

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),
5 Emmanuel Road, Cambridge CB1 1JW

www.cambridgeunitarian.org

@CamUnitarian

<https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Unitarians-446299165559139/>

Hall Bookings: Marie Paisley (until 31 December)
Sue Tombs (from 1 January)
roombookings@cambridgeunitarian.org

Advent/Christmas Appeal

Every year our church supports a good cause in the run-up to Christmas.

This year we have chosen [Rowan](#), a Cambridge based charity and arts centre established in 1984 to bring artists and learning-disabled people together in the production of fine artwork and crafts.

Rowan is a charity with a strong social enterprise ethos, providing opportunities for self-expression and creative exploration. By working in small groups with tutors, participants can develop social and communication skills, and gain a rounded and stimulating group experience. Rowan produces work for commissions and for sale at exhibitions and events.

You can make donations at church or by contacting Shirley Fieldhouse, our church treasurer.

Christmas Choir

I thought it would be good to get a few folk singing carols together this Christmas. We won't do anything too ambitious: just two or three short items. I suggest we sing during the service on Sunday 20 December. We shall rehearse after the service on Sunday 13th December and for 15 minutes before the service on the 20th. If you are interested, please let me know and tell me which part(s) you usually sing in a choir.

Mark Mason 07976371528
cambridgepianoteacher@gmail.com

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

Pastoral care: 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: Brendan Boyle 01480 387883

Committee Members:

Katie Burns 01480 432284

Sue Tombs 01223 844454