

Cambridge Unitarians

Newsletter - February 2016



Image: Church member Jenny Gibson hands over a cheque from our Christmas Appeal to Rowan Humberstone's manager and director of operations, Des Trollip. Andrew Brown is also in the photo.

Advent/Christmas appeal

Many thanks to everyone who supported our special appeal during December.

We are pleased to say that we have handed over a cheque for £408 to [Rowan](#), a Cambridge based charity and arts centre that brings artists and learning-disabled people together.

You may be interested to visit Rowan's current exhibition - *Portrait: new print works from Rowan*.

This runs from 25 January to 6 February 2016 at the Michaelhouse Centre, Trinity Street, Cambridge, CB2 1SU. Michaelhouse is open 8am to 5pm Monday-Saturday.

This exhibition profiles the extraordinary print work emerging from Rowan, by our learning-disabled students. Since opening their print room a year ago, the students have been working with artists learning how to use a variety of techniques including monoprint, intaglio and relief printing.

Portrait: New print works from Rowan presents a range of portraits and self-portraits. Within this theme, students have tried to capture more than just a representation, incorporating the uniqueness and essence of the individual that create powerful and striking images.

A wide variety of interests are explored by Rowan's students within their practice, such as nature, memory and identity and these are also on display in this exhibition.

This exhibition explores how art has the power to develop confidence, self-esteem and wellbeing. Rowan's students benefit from the transformative power of the visual arts and this can be life-changing.

Church member, Jenny Gibson, has work in this exhibition.

For your diary

Sundays 7, 14, 21, 28 February:

10.30am - family service of prayers, hymns, readings, music and an address followed by tea, coffee and conversation.

6.30pm - quiet service of mindfulness meditation, prayer, reflection and music.

Sunday 7 February: Bring & share lunch after morning service

Music at morning services:

7 Feb - Julian Warren (organ)

14 Feb - Hugh Taylor (organ)

21 Feb - Peter Shepherd (piano)

28 Feb - John Dillistone (organ)

Wed 24 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. A donation of around £3 is suggested to cover the cost of the meal. Throughout 2016, we will be exploring 'Attachment and Separation'. Contact: 01480 432284.

Fri 26 Feb : 5-9pm. [Spire Live](#) - a concert combining organ and electronics, the acoustic with the digital with voice and piano,. The concert will be recorded and the entry fee (£12) guarantees you a free copy of some of the recordings [wav files]. [Online booking available](#).

Accessibility project:

improving access to church and hall

The church committee has recently appointed the firm of [Arch:Angel](#) as our church architects. They are a small firm, based just outside Cambridge at Impington, and specialise in work with churches. Their website shows many local examples of their design work. They will be doing the regular 5-yearly inspection of our buildings.

Many of you will be aware that our church and hall are not very easily accessible for wheelchair users and parents with buggies. Currently we use a folding ramp which has to be fetched out of the shed on request, set in place, and then removed and stored away afterwards.

Nor do we have a proper accessible toilet.

Our church and hall are regularly used as a venue for community groups and events and we are keen to ensure that the premises are as good as possible.

For some time we've been wondering what to do about making these improvements. Now we have asked Arch:Angel to produce plans for creating redesigning the toilets, creating some storage space, installing a ramp linking the hall, the church, the street and the garden, and

possibly creating a canopy between the church and hall.

We'll need to seek planning permission, of course, and to schedule any work carefully to minimise disruption to regular users of our buildings.

When it comes to money, we shall be seeking grant aid, and in this, we are being greatly helped by the expertise of a regular attendee at church services, Rosemary Watson. We may also be able to use money from a recent bequest to the church. We see these improvements as a practical outworking of our ministry to the local community, and for that reason may be able to use some of our Ministry Development Fund to support the project.

Ideally we'd have liked to get the work done during August 2016, when our hall is deliberately kept free of lettings. But the timetable of grant-making bodies and of building firms may mean that the project can't be completed until into 2017. The detailed timetable and phasing of the work have yet to be agreed.

It's an exciting prospect, and we plan to consult not only with the congregation, but also with the many people and organisations who hire our facilities.

Unitarian Annual Meetings (GA) at Birmingham 30 Mar-2 Apr

This is a yearly conference when people from our group of churches can get together to talk, learn, plan, relax, worship, think. There is some official business to get through during, but plenty of 'fringe' events including activities for young people. If you might be interested, please ask Andrew Bethune or Shirley Fieldhouse for information. A discount of 80% available to those aged 17-39.

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:

Sue Tombs 01223 338543
roombookings@cambridgeunitarian.org

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