

For your diary

Sun 2 Apr : 10.30am Service.
Organist: Julian Warren.
Bring & Share Lunch after service.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Sun 9 Apr (Palm Sunday): 10.30am Service.
Organist: Hugh Taylor
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Fri 14 Apr : 6.30pm. Good Friday Communion Service

Sun 16 Apr (Easter): 10.30am Service for Easter Sunday.
Pianist: Peter Shepherd.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Sun 23 Apr : 10.30am Shorter than usual Service. Followed by coffee in the church.
11.30am Church AGM
Organist: John Dillistone.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Wed 26 Apr: 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.

Sun 30 Apr : 10.30am Service.
Organist: Richard Hinitt.
6.30pm. Service of mindful meditation.

Concert for Accessibility

Friday 21 April - 7.30pm

Rosemary Wheeler and friends will be giving a concert on 21 April in the church hall.

They'll sing some favourite Gilbert & Sullivan items, ballads, and 'Songs from the Shows'.

Singers are : Jennifer Thompson (soprano), Caroline Dyson (mezzo), Will Hale (tenor), Rex Freeman (baritone) and David Brown (bass).

Tickets, priced £10, will be on sale at church on the three Sundays before the concert.

Proceeds from the concert go to our church's Accessibility Project.



Sanctuary

The concept of 'Sanctuary' comes from the medieval church. Those who 'had committed a great offence', such as murder in self-defence or breaking out of prison, would be given 37 days of sanctuary when they could try to reconcile with their enemies or plan their escape. They were fed, clothed and given the necessities of life.

Building on this concept, the idea of 'City of Sanctuary' was born in 2005 in Sheffield.

Cambridge became a City of Sanctuary in January 2016. Our City Council have, for example, responded to the government scheme to welcome and house vulnerable Syrian families from refugee camps in Jordan and Lebanon, by taking in 100 refugees. So far 10 families have arrived, and are being helped to settle. For faith groups it means pledging to seek to learn what it means to seek sanctuary and to raise awareness of this, to recognise the contribution of sanctuary-seekers and refugees to the city and to welcoming them and including them in their activities, and to explore ideas of how to turn their pledge of commitment into practical action.

Our own Church committee signed up to this pledge last Autumn.

To help as an individual the best start is to look through the websites of the three main refugee-supporting voluntary organisations in Cambridge (below).

As a Church we give a room for the committee meetings of the Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign, we raise awareness and support fundraising through e.g. hosting the Medaille Trust Concert for help to those escaping modern-day trafficking and slavery. We are now committed to exploring what more we can do for those who 'come knocking'.

Rosemary Watson

<https://cityofsanctuary.org/>
<https://cambridge.cityofsanctuary.org/>
<http://www.cecf.co.uk/>
<http://www.cambridgerefugees.org/>
<https://camcrag.org.uk/>
<https://techfugees.com/>
<http://www.medaille-trust.org.uk/>

Accommodation sought for a refugee family

Through our link with Cambridge City of Sanctuary, the church has received this request.

A professional family with 3 children have just received their leave to remain in the UK, and are urgently seeking a 3 bedroom property in or near the city needed within the next 2 or 3 months. They have been living in Cambridge during the last year while claiming asylum, so are familiar with the area, and the children are well established in local schools. They will probably need to start renting at Local Housing Allowance rate or similar (see <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/local-housing-allowance-and-rates-we-pay>) but hope to get into employment as speedily as possible.

If you know of a property they could rent on either a short-term basis while they get their income established, or for the longer term, please contact Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign on contactcrrc@gmail.com

Student Ministry

Susanna Hartland, our student ministry worker until the end of February, has written a report on the six-month project. It provides an account of what she did and an insightful comment on working with university students. It will be on the church website in early April and hard copies can be provided on request.

Church AGM : 23 April

Our church's AGM will be on Sunday 23 April after the morning service. The service will be shorter than usual, coffee will be served in the church, and we'll start the AGM at about 11.30am. Anyone may attend the AGM, but only Members of the church may vote.

We'd welcome a few more committee members. If you are interested, please speak to Andrew Brown or Andrew Bethune.

Your committee has been revising our 'Membership Procedures' document which is couched in rather archaic language. We have tried to revise the text, to make a clearer statement of what being a Friend or Member of the church means in a practical way. A copy is being circulated with this newsletter. The congregation will be asked at the AGM to approve the new membership statement.

Other papers for the AGM will be circulated during the early part of April.

Accessibility Project

We continue to raise funds for this because the tenders came in significantly higher than our original estimate. However, we are still hopeful to be on course to achieve the ramp and the toilet re-furbishment this summer. We have decided to postpone the glass canopy for a possible future year. It is a separate piece of work, while the ramp and refurbishment do need to be done at the same time as there will be drainage under the ramp, and underfloor wiring for automatic doors. Two more applications have gone off for the shortfall, and we are now working with the Architect and the builder we hope to contract to look at fine details of the project. Do speak with me or committee members if you would like to know more details.

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

[@CamUnitarian](https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Unitarians-446299165559139/)

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

Minister: Andrew J Brown 01223 576952

minister@cambridgeunitarian.org

<http://andrewjbrown.blogspot.com>

[@caute](https://www.facebook.com/Cambridge-Unitarians-446299165559139/)

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

Minister Emeritus: Frank Walker
01223 874460

Hall Bookings: Sue Tombs 01223 338543

Being a Friend or Member of the Church

The church committee has been revising the church's membership document. The previous 'Membership procedure' document was couched in rather archaic language. We have tried to revise the text, to make a clearer statement of what being a Friend or Member of the church means in a practical way. We've not made any significant change to the 'rules'.

If you have any comments or suggestions about this document please contact the chairman or minister.

The committee will invite the congregation to approve the new membership statement at the AGM on 23 April.

About our Church

The Memorial Church (Unitarian) Cambridge ('The Church') is an independent, democratic, self-governing, self-financing religious community. Its governing body is the church committee, which is elected by the church members. The Church is founded on an 'open trust' which imposes no doctrinal tests upon either its ministers or its members.

The Church's ethos is outlined in its 'Covenant', which says that *'we meet in the love of truth and in the spirit of Jesus for the worship of God and the service of humankind'*.

The Church co-operates with other like-minded congregations through its affiliation to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches ('General Assembly') whose constituent congregations, societies and individual members unite in a spirit of mutual sympathy, tolerance and respect. The General Assembly recognises the worth and dignity of all people and their freedom to believe as their consciences dictate; and holds that truth is best served where the mind and conscience are free. The General Assembly's 'Object' is: *To promote a free and enquiring religion through the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition; encourage and unite in fellowship with bodies which uphold the religious liberty of their members, unconstrained by the imposition of creeds; affirm the liberal religious heritage and learn from the spiritual, cultural and intellectual insights of all humanity.*

Friends of the church are those who have asked to have their names added to the Church's mailing list. They receive regular updates about news and events related to the church, including copies of the church newsletter, either in print form or by email.

Members of the church are those who, after a discussion with the Minister and/ or Chairman, and by agreement of the church committee, have signed the church membership book.

Anyone who has been attending services at the Church for six months may apply to become a member.

People transferring their membership from another Unitarian Church may be accepted as members without waiting six months on the recommendation of their previous church.

Although Members are not asked at assent to any specific credal statements, they are expected to be in sympathy with Unitarian values as expressed in the 'Covenant' of this Church and in the 'Object' of the General Assembly.

By becoming a Member of the Church, you are making a commitment to contribute to Church life by taking part in worship services and other Church events; to offer your skills, abilities, knowledge and time to help ensure that the Church can flourish; to contribute financially according to your means to the work of the church and the upkeep of its buildings and the support of its ministry. When deciding on their financial contributions for the work of the Church, Members are asked to bear in mind that a quota payment (£35 per member in 2016) is made to the General Assembly annually. Members receive regular updates about news and events related to the church, including copies of the church newsletter, either in print form or by email.

Members of the Church share a responsibility for the running of the Church and deciding its priorities, plans and projects, by having a vote at Church business meetings. They are eligible to stand for election to serve on the Church committee, or as its Officers (i.e. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer).

The church's membership list shall be kept up-to-date on a regular basis. Once a year, the Minister, Chairman and Treasurer shall review the list of members for the purpose of deciding our quota payment to the General Assembly. The quota shall be paid for all Members and Friends who have made a financial contribution to the Church greater than the current year's General Assembly quota.

New Members will be welcomed into the congregation at a Membership service once a year.

A Member may resign his or her membership, by notifying the Minister or Chairman of the Church in writing. Former members are welcome to continue on the Church mailing list as Friends.

If a Member fails to attend services for a period of six months without having given prior notification of being unable to do so, or ceases to contribute in any way to the running of the church, the committee has the right to withdraw his or her membership. If a Member's conduct or opinions are not in sympathy with Unitarian values as expressed in the Covenant of this Church and in the 'Object' of the General Assembly, his or her membership may be withdrawn. The member will be contacted before a decision is taken and shall have the right of appeal.

Cambridge Unitarians
March 2017