

## *Bits and Pieces . . . and please keep them coming in!*

Here is your 95th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for April 2016. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

### **WORSHIP STUDIES COURSE FOUNDATION STEP**

We are offering a three-part course, leading to a GA-recognised qualification – the Worship Studies Course Foundation Step. (You will also need to do two assessed services).

#### Session 1

- What is worship?
- Storytelling
- The Sermon / Address

#### Session 2

- Practicalities and precautions
- Speech and communication

#### Session 3

- Prayer and Meditation
- Readings
- Hymns and Music

**Where:** Kingswood Meeting House, Worcs. B47 5DQ

**Dates:** Saturdays 23rd April, 14th May, 11th June 2016

**Times:** 10.00 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. (coffee/tea from 9.30 a.m.)

**Total Cost:** £39 (to Midland Unitarian Association participants) £48 (to others)

**\*\*\*\* please let me know by Friday 8th April if you are planning to attend. \*\*\*\***

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### **STRONG MUA PRESENCE AT GA ANNUAL MEETINGS**

I am delighted to report that there was a strong Midland Unitarian Association presence at the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches Annual Meetings, which were held at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham last week. No less than ten folk attended from Birmingham UNM, four from Kingswood, three each from Shrewsbury and Warwick, two from Kidderminster, and one each from Evesham and Cheltenham & Gloucester. Three ministers and three retired ministers were also present; and Gavin Lloyd from Oxford, one of our most popular lay preachers, was also there. A few other folk came just for the Anniversary Service, which was beautifully led by Rev. Winnie Gordon, minister of Birmingham UNM and Kidderminster. MUA folk were also prominent in the break-out workshops, speaking at the Unitarian Peace Fellowship, Worship Studies Course, 2020 Group, Unitarian Renewal Group, and Unitarian Christian Association slots. We done good!

The General Assembly meetings are a wonderful opportunity to see "Unitarians at their best" - to meet old friends, make new ones, and learn more about our beloved Uncommon Denomination. It would be great to have an even stronger representation from MUA congregations next year, which will also be at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham, so there isn't far to travel. If you want to know more, please ask.

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If you have any contributions for the next *Bits & Pieces*, please send them to me at 5, Martins Road, Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DN or via e-mail to [revsuewoolley@gmail.com](mailto:revsuewoolley@gmail.com) . Thank you!