

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

Here is your 98th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for July 2016. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

SHREWSBURY UNITARIAN CHURCH'S SPECIAL PROJECT

The June 2016 issue of *Shropshire Magazine* contained a three page report about Shrewsbury Unitarian Church. The Shrewsbury Decorative and Fine Arts Society is carrying out a two-year study "to produce a formal record of the church furnishings, including memorials, windows, paintings, and ancient books. ... On completion, an illustrated hard-bound copy of the record will be lodged at the church, the Victoria & Albert art library, Shropshire Archives, and Historic England." The article included some lovely photos of the church, and also of their fine new banner.

*****INVITATION TO A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY*****

You may have read in *MU Now* that I am training to be a Spiritual Director. Unlike therapy, spiritual direction is not necessarily centred around a problem, although it could be. Often it begins with a desire to grow - to move beyond the place where one is, to a deeper, richer place.

Spirituality is not a distinct area of life, but a dimension of all life. God is not present to us only when we pray; nor is spiritual growth confined to such times. Therefore, spiritual direction is not just focused on the obvious aspects of a spiritual life: prayer, religious vocation, temptations, delusions, and other such things.

Since there is no area of human life where God is uninterested ... no corner of it in which the Holy Mystery is not present ... no aspect of life is inappropriate to bring to spiritual direction. **God is the deepest dimension in all areas of human life:** thus, nothing is off limits.

At this point in the course, I need willing "directees" to practice my skills on. So if you are interested in going deeper on your spiritual journey, please get in touch. Details below. Thank you. **Sue Woolley**

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

As most of you will know, the MUA celebrated its 150th Anniversary at our AGM at the end of March. A commemorative book, called *Celebrating Our Community: the Midland Unitarian Association at 150*, is available to buy from me (contact details at the bottom of this sheet). The price is £8.00, plus £1.20 P+P. Please make cheques payable to 'Midland Unitarian Association' or e-mail me for details of our bank account, to transfer the money electronically. As well as including a history of the District, and a short summary of what the District Association does for its member congregations, the bulk of the volume (pages 23-90) comprises a collection of some lovely worship material, written by the many talented writers in our congregations.

MUA SOCIAL EVENT: DAY OUT AT QUARRY BANK MILL AND STYAL

As part of the celebrations for our sesquicentenary, we are organising a day out to Quarry Bank Mill and Norcliffe Chapel, Styal. A flyer for this event was issued with the June copy of *Bits & Pieces*. It is **Saturday 24th September**, and Rev. Alex Bradley and the Styal congregation are looking forward to welcoming us all.

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 . Thank you!