

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

Here is your 83rd Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for April 2015. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

**Midland Unitarian Association of Lay Preachers  
and Service Leaders: Spring Training Day  
Workshop: The Road Ahead**

**Rob Gregson**, and **Ann Howell**, Programme Director and Programme Manager of **SimpleGifts (Unitarian Centre for Social Action)** will be leading this exciting workshop, in which participants will be able to explore how their congregations have been involved in social action in the past, and how they might become more active in the future. The following topics will be explored:

- Short Overview of SimpleGifts, and how it fits into the history of domestic missions / Unitarian & Free Christian social justice work
- Timeline Exercise - a history of social witness in MUA chapels (participants will be asked to do some basic research beforehand)
- Social Action Audit: what social action has worked well in the District? What has fallen flat? What might work in the future? (please come along with a general sense of the current level of social action within your congregation *as a congregation*)
- Force Field Analysis: a list of the qualities and forces that help or hinder future success. What might social action yet be in the MUA?

**When:** Saturday 25th April 2015

**Where:** Unitarian New Meeting Church, Ryland Street,  
Birmingham B16 8BL

**\*\*NEW\*\* Times:** 11.00 am - 4.15 pm (coffee/tea from 10.30 am)

**Cost:** FREE to MUA participants; £10 to others.

\*\*\* So far I have only 8 participants down for this, from Cheltenham & Gloucester, Evesham, Kidderminster and Northampton. It would be wonderful if some folk from other congregations would decide to come along - it's going to be a great day! \*\*\*

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**Midland Unitarian Association of Lay Preachers  
and Service Leaders: Conducting Rites of Passage  
Foundation Step Course**

**Session 1, Weddings:** 9th May, led by Rev. Martin Whitell

**Session 2, Christenings/Baptisms/Namings:** 18th July, led by Rev. Lynne Readett

**Session 3, Funerals:** 26th September, led by Rev. Ant Howe

**Session 4, Putting it all into practice:** 14th November, led by Rev. Sue Woolley

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

**Times:** 10.00 am - 4.15 pm (coffee / tea from 9.30 am)

**Total Cost:** £55.00 (£15.00 in advance, £10.00 for each session)

You **must** attend all four sessions to get your Local Leadership Strategy Group certificate, but if you are only interested in one or two, you are still welcome to come along for those.

**For more details about both training courses, contact Rev. Sue Woolley - see below**

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 [sue.woolley@virgin.net](mailto:sue.woolley@virgin.net) . Thank you!