

BITS AND PIECES . . . AND PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING IN!

Here is your 108th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for May 2017. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

SUE'S SURVEY

You may have heard or read that I am carrying out some research, which I am hoping will provide an informed answer to that difficult question "What do Unitarians believe, and how do they express their spirituality?"

The plan is to send a detailed questionnaire to a wide cross-section of Unitarians across the United Kingdom. Each participant will be asked to complete this survey, which can be received either via e-mail, or in the post; in private, in your own time. So far, I've sent out nearly 300 questionnaires, and received over 80 back. BUT I NEED MORE! And would particularly welcome input from you, the members of MUA congregations.

It covers themes including beliefs about Unitarianism, Unitarian ethos and values, beliefs about the divine, beliefs about Unitarians' relationships with Christianity, beliefs about Unitarians' relationships with other faiths; beliefs about people; and Unitarian spirituality and activities.

You are invited to respond as fully as you feel able to. The questionnaire is likely to take at least an hour to complete. You may wish to take more time to consider your responses and fill in the questionnaire slowly over the course of several days.

I hope that you will be willing to participate in this project. If you are, please contact me at the address below, and I will send you a copy of the survey questionnaire, together with an information sheet and a consent form.

The closing date for responses will be **30th June 2017**, after which all the data received will be analysed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

AUTUMN TRAINING DAY (EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT)

I am delighted to report that, following a fruitful meeting at the GA Meetings, **Rev. John Harley**, the GA's Youth Officer is going to lead a training day on the important topic of **SAFEGUARDING**, in the Autumn.

Please put this in your diaries now, as it is something which EVERY congregation needs to know about, as it applies to vulnerable adults as well as children:

When: Saturday 4th November 2017

Where: Unitarian New Meeting Church, Birmingham

Times: 12 noon – 5.30 pm

Cost: FREE

Please contact me for a booking form.

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!

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