

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

Here is your 118th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for April 2018. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

WORSHIP STUDIES COURSE FOUNDATION STEP

Course Leaders: Rev. Winnie Gordon, Rev. Ant Howe, Rev. Stephen Lingwood, Jane Russell, Rev. Sue Woolley

When: Saturdays 12th May, 9th June, and 14th July 2018

Where: Kingswood Meeting House, Packhorse Lane, Hollywood B47 5DQ

Times: 10.00 am – 4.15 pm each day (refreshments from 9.30 am)

Cost: £39 to MUA participants, £48 to others.

Please contact me if you wish to participate in this course.

MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

More than 30 Unitarians from 11 congregations around the District assembled at Unitarian New Meeting Church in Birmingham for the District's 152nd Annual General Meeting.

Following a commendably brief business meeting, followed by an even briefer AGM of the Midland Unitarian Association of Lay Preachers & Service Leaders, both in the church itself, during which we welcome one new member to the Executive Committee, we adjourned to the Priestley Room and enjoyed a delicious cold buffet lunch, which had been laid on by the congregation of UNM. It was a chance to catch up with old friends, and to make new ones.

At 1.45, we moved back into the church for a short Presidential Service, led by MUA President, Ms. Diane Rutter. She took privilege and exclusion as her theme, and reminded us that until 1813, Unitarians were the "have-nots", who were not allowed to meet together in worship. She then spoke of the need to support refugees – today's "have-nots".

She then introduced our Guest Speaker, Stephen Lingwood, pioneer minister of Cardiff Unitarians. He gave us a fascinating talk about his new post at Cardiff – which is 1/3 for the congregation, and 2/3 doing Unitarian evangelism – sharing the good news about our Unitarian faith. He stated that our mission is to address the current spiritual crisis, which is causing the climate crisis, by inviting people into relationship with self, neighbours, community, the Earth and God. And to encourage a deep connection with the interdependent web of all existence – we are all one. A transcript of his speech will appear in the Spring 2018 issue of *MU Now*.

ASPARAGUS LUNCH 2018

When: Wednesday 9th May 2018

Where: Oat Street Unitarian Chapel, Evesham WR11 4PJ

Preacher: Rev. Peter Godfrey

Toast to Civil & Religious Liberty: Mrs. Joan Cook, GA President

Cost: £14.00 per head

Pastor Kath Forder will be sending round information about this event shortly. Please put the date in your diaries.

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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