

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

Here is your 1<sup>st</sup> Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

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**GOODBYE MIDLAND UNION – HELLO MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION!**

At our Annual General Meeting held at The Great Meeting House Unitarian Church in Coventry on 21<sup>st</sup> March, it was decided that we should choose a new name for the Midland Union. Four names had been put forward; and after an informal straw poll, these were whittled down to two, on which the meeting voted. The clear winner was 'Midland Unitarian Association', so that is our new name. Sandy Ellis and Sue Woolley are currently busy with all the admin. that such a change involves.

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**MU / MUA AGM AT COVENTRY WENT WELL**

*Thirty-eight members from fourteen of our congregations assembled at The Great Meeting House Unitarian Church in Coventry on a beautiful Spring day. Our new President is Rev. Peter Hewis of Oxford, and the new Vice-President is Mrs. Bronwen Taylor of Shrewsbury. The business meeting in the morning went very smoothly, and after an enjoyable lunch, we gathered for a short service given by the President, on the theme of the life of the famous conductor, Sir Adrian Boult, who was also a Unitarian. Then Rev. John Harley, the GA's Youth Coordinator, gave an interesting and stimulating presentation on attracting and catering for young people and children in our churches and chapels. It was a very interactive session, which all present enjoyed. Our thanks to the Coventry congregation for their hospitality.*

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**MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION OF LAY PREACHERS & SERVICE LEADERS**

**Creating a Vibrant Spiritual Community through Small Groups Ministries**

**When:** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009

**Where:** Kingswood Meeting House, Hollywood B47 5DQ

**Time:** 10.00 am – 4.15 pm

The session will be led by Rev. Jim Robinson of Hampstead. Further information from me, details below. PLEASE APPLY SOON!

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**OXFORD UNITARIANS FORM A CHOIR**

*Oxford Unitarians have formed a new choir. It meets at 10 a.m. on Sundays, and is aiming to sing not just hymns but also other pieces that could be integrated into morning worship. Membership is open to all: "we aim to be eclectic, inclusive and inspirational."*

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**KINGSWOOD ROUNDS OFF CENTENARY YEAR WITH ROYAL VISIT**

The Kingswood congregation were delighted to receive a visit from HRH The Duke of Gloucester recently. The Duke was able to meet Committee and Trustees of the Chapel, the volunteers who tend the grounds, the choir and organist, Women's League members, WI members, and the leaders of Kingswood's young people's groups (Boy's Brigade, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides). He spent some time looking at a historical display created by Kingswood's archivist, Ms. Nina Caddick, and went on to enjoy a drink and a slice of cake whilst chatting with various members of the congregation. The full report (with pictures) is on the MUA website.

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**CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP AT ROSS-ON-WYE FELLOWSHIP**

*After two and a half years and forty-eight meetings, David Wright has decided to step down as lay leader at Ross-on-Wye. His last service will be on the first Sunday in April. Arrangements are in hand to continue with services at 3.00 pm in the Friends Meeting House, Ross on Wye, on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays monthly, from May 2009 onwards.*

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