

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

Here is your fourth Midland Union Bits & Pieces. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

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**Synod of the Unitarian Christian Association at UNM**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Unitarian Christian Association is being held at UNM, Birmingham on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August from 2.00 p.m. Details from Rev. Simon Ramsay 0121-243-1560

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***Midland Union runs Worship Studies Course Foundation Step***

*The second session of the Worship Studies Course Foundation Step took place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July, when we covered the topics of prayer and readings and involving children in the service. The delegates were edified by the sight of tutors Don Phillips and Sue Woolley crawling through the legs of Rev. Linda Phillips, as they took part in a role-play as children being told a story! The final meeting (covering the address, and hymns and music) is being held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, at Kingswood.*

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**Oxford Unitarians**

After their service on 6<sup>th</sup> July, Dr. Jacqueline Woodman addressed members of the Manchester College Oxford Chapel Society on the subject of ‘The impact of cultural and religious practices on women’s health and well-being.’ Member Leo Bowder has attended a colloquium on Christian and Buddhist contemplative prayer and meditation when the Dalai Lama visited Oxford in May. His report is in the latest Oxford newsletter, which may be seen on the Oxford website.

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**Cotswold Group pay return visit to Hinckley**

*Last summer, 27 members from the Hinckley Great Meeting congregation visited Oat St. Chapel Evesham. On 8<sup>th</sup> June, 13 members of the Evesham and Cheltenham congregations paid a return visit to Hinckley. Worship was led by Rev. Linda Phillips, ably supported by Rev. Don Phillips. Rev. Steve Dick, Chief Executive of the General Assembly, gave the address, which concerned recent developments affecting the Unitarian movement in general and the organisation of Essex Hall HQ in particular. After the service, a fine buffet lunch was provided by the Hinckley congregation.*

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**Warwick Unitarians host visit from Northshore UU Church, Danvers. Mass.**

Warwick Unitarians gave their UU visitors a great time. Events included a barbeque in the chapel garden, a visit to the Talisman Theatre Kenilworth, a day in Oxford, including a visit to Manchester College chapel, a concert at the chapel, a ramble through the Warwickshire countryside, finishing up with a fish and chip supper and a skittles match, which the visitors won. As Rev. Ant Howe wrote in the July newsletter “It seems that they had a wonderful time with us and I think we can be proud of all that we managed to do together.”

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**Kingswood Tercentenary Open Day**

*On a fine sunny way, the Open Day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> July was visited by people from near and far. Other religious denominations were well represented and joined in the activities – there were stalls, Irish dancers, games and displays as well as cream teas - they were all appreciated. A visit from the local MP Julie Kirkbride was very well received – people were so pleased that she had been able to fit the visit into her busy schedule. A short service of thanksgiving was held late afternoon and this was followed by a Musical Evening to which people were invited to bring picnics. The music was a fine selection led by the Chapel’s organist Peter Flower.*

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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!