

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

Here is your Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for February 2010. 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**

Topic: Alternative Worship

Led by: Mrs. Alison Thursfield and Mrs. Sue Woolley

When: Saturday 13th February 2010

Where: The Great Meeting House Unitarian Church, 116, Holyhead Road, Coventry CV1 3AE

Time: 9.30 am – 4.15 pm (coffee/tea available from 9.00 am)

Includes the opportunity to walk a Labyrinth (guest speaker: Dr. Mel Prideaux)

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK YOUR PLACE: LET ME KNOW ASAP IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND.

MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Saturday 27th March 2010

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

Times: 10.30 am – 4.00 pm

All Congregational Secretaries have had a letter about this important meeting. This is your chance to let your Executive Committee know what you think about the events of the past year, and to influence plans for the next. And it's a good social occasion too!

MUSIC COPYRIGHT

This important notice was received from the General Assembly.

Charitable bodies and other not-for-profit organisations have been exempt from paying for a licence for public performance rights when playing recorded music in their premises. However, in early November 2009, the Government response to the consultation on changes to music licensing announced that it would repeal the exemptions and change the system of charging.

It should be emphasised that there is no intention of disturbing the present exemption for music used during religious services (defined as "music for divine worship"). Similarly, playing recorded music at a wedding reception in the church hall does not count, because a wedding reception is regarded by the collecting societies as a private function.

What is at issue is payment for secular use: discos, aerobics classes and similar activities. Many of our churches and chapels use recorded music in various ways and will be affected by this change. The Churches' Legislation Advisory Service, of which the General Assembly is an Associate Member, has been involved in various discussions to highlight the implications.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) has launched a 'Don't Stop the Music' Campaign to campaign against the Government's decision.

If you or your congregation wish to get involved with the campaign you can get in touch with NCVO - email dontstopthemusic@ncvo-vol.org.uk or call Elizabeth Chamberlain on 020 7520 2559. For further information www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/policy-research-analysis/our-campaigns/dontstopthemusic

SING YOUR FAITH

David Dawson is planning to produce some more CDs to accompany "The Purple Book". If you use this book in your congregation, please send details of your favourite hymns not already on CD to him at dcdawson3@hotmail.com

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. Thank you!