

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

**Here is your Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for January 2010. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)**

**FEAST OF FESTIVE PUPPET FUN AT BAYSHILL**

Colin Bailey of Bayshill organised a Christmas Puppet Spectacular at Bayshill Unitarians during the last ten days of December. The three features were *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, *The Enchanted Christmas Eve* and *Mother Goose's Magical Farmyard*. Visitors also had the chance to join in puppet making workshops and to see the puppet and toy theatre displays.

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**SPECIAL CELEBRATION AT SHREWSBURY**

Shrewsbury's redoubtable organist, Joyce Griffiths, will be celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at the service on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. It will be led (at Joyce's request) by Sandy Ellis, and will be followed by a celebration in a local hotel. Congratulations Joyce!

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**HUMOROUS POETRY AND MUSIC EVENING AT WARWICK**

Warwick Unitarians will be enjoying an evening of poetry and music on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. It is being organised by Stuart and Val Cook, and starts at 7.30 pm.

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**CREATING COMMUNITY AT OXFORD**

Oxford Unitarians now have a dedicated group working to foster closer communal and spiritual ties in the congregation. At the end of October, they initiated an Information Table, which makes the following resources available: signposts to useful sources of information, information about Unitarian societies and interest groups, a who's who of the congregation, a pack for new members and a 'Good For' list, in which members share their expertise and time. This is a really good initiative, which other congregations within the MUA might like to emulate.

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**KIDDERMINSTER FOCUS ON GROWTH AND RENEWAL**

Kidderminster's new Vice-President, Mr. Ashley James, will be presenting plans for Growth and Renewal at a meeting in January, during which the congregation will also decide whether to switch to weekly services. Watch this space!

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**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 13<sup>th</sup> 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)**

**All congregations should have a copy of the flyer for this. If not please contact me.  
I NEED TO KNOW WHETHER YOU WISH TO COME TO THIS – PLEASE LET ME KNOW  
ASAP – DETAILS BELOW.**

*Wishing all MUA congregations a very Happy New Year*

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!