

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

Here is your third 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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**UNM Wednesday Evening Meditation & Study Courses**

Since the beginning of June, UNM have been holding a Wednesday evening Meditation Service, at 6.30 pm, followed by a study session, at 7.30 pm. The first study course, which will run for about six weeks, is examining the ideas and practices of Ralph Waldo Emerson, leader of the 19<sup>th</sup> century American Transcendentalist movement.

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Midland Union runs Worship Studies Course Foundation Step

Seventeen Unitarians from ten Midland Union congregations and one East Midland Unitarians congregation gathered at Kingswood Meeting House on Saturday 7th June for the first of three sessions, leading to the GA-recognised Worship Studies Course Foundation Step certificate. In the morning session, Rev. Don Phillips led a discussion on the subject What is Worship, followed by a presentation by Mrs. Sue Woolley on the Practicalities and Precautions of leading a service. After a brief lunch break, we were joined by Mr. Peter Sampson, from Cross St, Manchester, who spoke to delegates about Speech & Communication. We concluded with an introduction to the Elements of the Service, which will be the subjects of the next two study days. The next day is Saturday 5th July.

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**Shrewsbury Unitarians host Art Exhibition**

There is currently an Art Exhibition in the Church, by Dorothy Cross of Dublin. There are several videos relating to humans and animals, taken on the Galapagos Islands, which are displayed in different parts of the church. The exhibition has been arranged and stewarded by Shrewsbury Museum staff.

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New Carpets for Kidderminster New Meeting House

Members of the Kidderminster congregation are currently investigating the possibility of obtaining new carpets to renew areas that have got worn. At least they live in the right town for the job! They are also enjoying meeting together regularly for their Friday Forum, at which various issues are debated. At the end of May, the motion was "this House considers that the customary method of communal worship is the most desirable way to profess our Unitarian faith." Interestingly, 35% of those present voted against this motion, so presumably we can look forward to some innovative worship at Kidderminster in the near future!

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

Warwick Unitarians were pleased to welcome several members of Northshore UU Church into their chapel and their homes during the last week of June. Details in the next *Bits & Pieces*.

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News from Northampton Unitarians.

June has been a month of "news" for Northampton: they have adopted a new constitution, welcomed a new member, and updated their website. The new website may be viewed at www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk

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**Further Ahead:**

**Unitarian Experience Week at Great Hucklow**

***The theme for this year is "To everything there is a season"  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August***

***Full details from Kathy Beckett on (02380) 273 420***

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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. Thank you!