

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

Here is your 2nd Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

THERE ARE NO LESS THAN THREE LOCAL EVENTS COMING UP, WHICH ALL SECRETARIES HAVE BEEN SENT DETAILS OF:

MINISTERS' MEETING HYMN SING

What: A chance to learn new hymns from the new hymnbook *Sing Your Faith*

When: Saturday 13th June 2009, 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm

Where: Kingswood Meeting House, Packhorse Lane, Hollywood B47 5DQ

Cost: FREE to all MUA congregations

What do I need to bring? Yourself, your singing voice, and a copy of the new hymnbook if you've got one. Don't worry if you haven't

Kingswood's choir will be on hand to lead the singing, and organist Peter Flower will play.

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**MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION PUBLICITY WORKSHOP**

**This workshop, to which we hope ALL congregations in the MUA will send at least one person, is all about how to raise our profile in our local communities.**

**Led by Sue Woolley, MUA District Facilitator**

**When:** Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009, 10.00 am to 4.15 pm (tea/coffee from 9.30 am)

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

**Cost:** FREE to all MUA congregations

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MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION SUMMER OUTING: 27th JUNE 2009

Join us on a visit to the National Trust's **Quarry Bank Mill & Styal Estate**, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 4LA. One of Britain's greatest industrial heritage sites, it shows how a complete industrial community lived. The Norcliffe Unitarian Chapel is part of the Styal Estate, and Rev. Alex Bradley has offered to lead a short service for us in the afternoon.

All details on the flyer, which should be up in your church. I need to know numbers from each congregation by 23rd May at the latest please.

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**Report of General Assembly meetings, held at Chester, 15th to 18th April 2009**

No less than 20 MUA people attended the recent GA meetings, including two ministers, three retired ministers and the District Facilitator. Nine of our 18 congregations were represented. There was the usual plethora of meetings and workshops to choose from, quite apart from the business meetings, and the big set-piece events of the Opening Celebrations and Anniversary Service. The Growth session on the Friday was rather better organised than last year, with delegates from two adjacent districts getting together to swap ideas and share good practice. It will all appear on the GA website in due course.

But the highlight of the meetings for me was the presentation by Rev. Jane Dwinnell of the UUA, who delivered an inspiring talk about how to manage and grow small congregations. I was one of the fortunate few who managed to pick up her book *Big Ideas for Small Congregations* before the bookstall sold out, and it is crammed with good ideas. Watch this space ... **SW**

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OXFORD UNITARIANS TO TALK ABOUT DARWIN

*Central Oxford will be closed to all traffic for a Fun Run on the morning of Sunday 17 May, so the service will be held at **6 pm**. Led by Dr Howard Oliver on the theme of Charles Darwin's religious background and significance, it will be preceded at 5 pm by tea and cake, and a display of publications by and about Darwin.*

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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!