

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

**Here is your 7th Midland Union Bits & Pieces. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)**

~~~~~

**Autumn Training Course**

The Association of Midland Union Lay Preachers & Service Leaders is having an Autumn training day, led by the Revs. Don Phillips and Ant. Howe.

TOPIC: PASTORAL CARE

Date & Time: 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008, 10.00 am – 4.15 pm

Venue: Kingswood Meeting House

**Further information & booking form from Sue Woolley (details below; closing date 31/10)**

~~~~~

**Rev. Simon John Barlow**

It is with great sadness that we announce the untimely death on 16<sup>th</sup> October of Rev. Simon John Barlow, following a collapse while shopping. Simon John was Lay Charge at Shrewsbury & Wolverhampton from 1996 – 1997, and Minister at Wolverhampton from 1997 – 99 and at Shrewsbury from 1997 – 2000. GA Chief Executive Rev. Steve Dick writes “Simon John was a true individual and a much loved spiritual leader in our General Assembly. In recent years, he was particularly known for working with a number of our congregations during periods of transition and change. He will be missed, and our larger community is diminished by his absence.”

~~~~~

**Macmillan Coffee Morning at Warwick**

**This happened on 26<sup>th</sup> September, and was very well attended. The total takings amounted to £266 – well done Warwick!**

~~~~~

**Midland Union Annual Lunch**

34 Midland Unitarians from 17 congregations plus guests had a very enjoyable lunch on 18<sup>th</sup> October at UNM, Birmingham. Our guest speaker was Rev. Penny Johnson, National President of the Unitarian Women’s League. It was a time to meet up with old friends and make new ones, and went very well.

~~~~~

**PARGETER & WAND TRUST: COULD YOU BE A BENEFICIARY?**

**This Trust was set up in 1868, to make small gifts to ladies aged 55 or over who have never been married, and whose financial circumstances could be helped a little by this assistance.**

Nine trustees, eight of whom are Unitarians from the West Midlands and Leicestershire Group of Churches, manage the Trust.

Gifts to beneficiaries are paid out quarterly and the present rate is £100 per quarter (i.e. £400 per year). These gifts do not affect any supplementary benefits received, and are not confined to those in the lowest income bracket. Ladies with modest savings may be considered, especially if they are living alone and having to maintain their own houses. The Trust can also make one-off grants towards items like a new fridge or cooker etc.

Ladies who have moved into residential or nursing homes are unfortunately not eligible.

**Application forms are available from Mrs. Heddwen Hewis, 1, Little Blenheim, Yarnton, Kidlington, Oxon. OX5 1LX**

**Tel: 01865 372265 e-mail: [peter.hewis@hmc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:peter.hewis@hmc.ox.ac.uk)**

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!