

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

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

RILEY/FORDER WEDDING AT EVESHAM

The chapel at Oat Street Evesham was filled with family and Unitarian and other friends to witness the joining in marriage of Kath Riley, member at Evesham and Lay Pastor student at Unitarian College Manchester, and Peter Forder, chairman of Evesham Unitarians. Evesham's minister, Rev. Don Phillips officiated, and Humphrey Bright was at the organ. It was a lovely Unitarian wedding; the bride and groom had put it together between them, which meant it was personal and meaningful. At the beginning of the service Kath and Peter lit a candle each, lighting a third one together towards the end to symbolise their new life together. Three lovely hymns from the purple book had been chosen, but they had the wisdom to choose well-known tunes to match the beautiful words, which were sung with full hearts by everyone present. The ceremony over, the guests adjourned to the Gatehouse, where we found champagne (or tea and coffee) and three delicious choices of cake. When the official photos had been taken, Mr. & Mrs. Forder joined their guests to thank them for sharing their day, and we all raised our glasses (or cups) to the happy couple. May they have a long and happy life together.

WARWICK UNITARIANS CELEBRATE 375 YEARS OF UNITARIAN WITNESS

Warwick Chapel was filled with Unitarians from all over the Midlands and beyond, to celebrate 375 years of Unitarian witness in Warwick. Features of the service included a potted history of the congregation by Warwick Treasurer Cherry Dodd, greetings from the new Mayor of Warwick, who confided that he was quite familiar with the outside of the chapel, as his wife used to attend Weight Watchers classes there (!), greetings from Rev. Peter Hewis, President of the Midland Unitarian Association, and from Neville Kenyon, President of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches. Added to this some rousing hymns and an inspirational address from Warwick's minister Rev. Ant Howe, and some wonderful music from Peter Flower, Kingswood's talented organist, not forgetting Stuart on the clarinet. The only sad note was the continued absence of Malcolm Sadler, Warwick's Secretary, accompanist and sometime Lay Leader, who is still in Warwick Hospital with a bad leg. After the service, we all adjourned to the Chapel garden, and enjoyed a lavish spread laid on by the Warwick congregation. Long may they flourish!

MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LUNCH

When: Saturday 30th October 2010

Where: Kingswood Meeting House, Hollywood, Worcs B47 5DQ

Time: 10.30 am for 11.00 am

Guest Speaker: Mr. Derek McAuley, Chief Officer of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches

Cost: £8.50 a head (menus & booking forms are with Congregation Secretaries)

MUA OF LAY PREACHERS & SERVICE LEADERS: AUTUMN TRAINING

Topic: Faith in Action: Social Responsibility

Workshop Leader: Mrs. Karen Hanley of the Faith & Public Issues Commission

When: Saturday 9th October 2010

Where: Kingswood Meeting House, Hollywood, Worcs B47 5DQ

Times: 10.00 am – 4.15 pm (coffee/tea available from 9.30 am)

Cost: Free to MUA delegates

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!