

BITS AND PIECES . . . AND PLEASE KEEP THEM COMING IN!

Here is your 130th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for May 2019. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

**MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION OF
LAY PREACHERS & SERVICE LEADERS
SPRING TRAINING DAY**

Topic: Music in Worship

Course Leaders: Revs. Ant Howe and Danny Crosby

When: NEW DATE: Saturday 11th May 2019

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

Times: 9.30 am – 4.15 pm

Cost: FREE to MUA congregations; £10 to others.

LAST CHANCE: LET ME KNOW BY FRIDAY 3RD MAY IF YOU ARE ATTENDING.

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**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETINGS**

The General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches held its Annual Meetings in our District this year – at the Hilton Metropole by the NEC. Over 350 Unitarians gathered together is something to see!

This year's Meetings included a good many Unitarians from MUA congregations, some of whom were attending the Meetings for the first time. They will doubtless be reporting back to a congregation near you in the next few weeks (unless they've already done so!).

Cheltenham & Gloucester Unitarians' Secretary, Alison Thursfield, was one of the "Three Wise Men" who ensure that correct procedures are followed during the business meetings.

Rev. Ant Howe, Kingswood's minister, gave two presentations about Unitarian College, one at the official launch, and one to the National Unitarian Fellowship. It was fascinating to hear how the students are being trained in this new and exciting venture.

David Taylor, of Stourbridge Unitarians, is also Secretary of the Unitarian Society for Psychical Studies. He was also their guest speaker this year, and gave an interesting presentation about psychical research and the precious gift of doubt.

The Annual Meetings will be at the same venue for the next two years (2020 and 2021). I urge all congregations to send a representative – it is a wonderful way of getting to know the larger denomination / movement better.

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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 revsuewoolley@gmail.com Thank you!