

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

Here is your 190th Midland Unitarian Association Inc. Bits & Pieces for May 2024. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

### **MUA Inc. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Support congregations
- Make things happen by providing leadership and initiating projects
- Find resourceful solutions
- Connect Unitarians in the Midlands.

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### **LAST CALL FOR SPRING TRAINING DAY**

#### **A I and Us**

**Workshop Leader:** Rev Andi Phillips

**When:** Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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

**Times:** 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Tea & coffee provided.

**Please let me know if you are planning to attend... contact details below**

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### **TEDDY BEARS FOR SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW**

The Lay Leader of Great Hucklow Unitarian Chapel, which is across the road from the Nightingale Centre in Derbyshire, posted this appeal on Facebook:

“First things first, we take all teddy bears. Upon receipt they are sorted. Steps and thinking:

1 Bears relating to Christmas or Easter are removed and retained by the Chapel for those seasonal celebrations.

2 Over-large teddies are separated and at some point a school trip is spoilt and they ALL get large teddies. Wow!

3 Bears with mechanics or batteries are extracted and passed onto a local charity shop. Safety matters.

4 Bears that have been formerly loved or are over-loved (worn out) are retired and passed onto a local craft group in Chesterfield. No landfill.

5 Bears that are perceived to be status bears (Winnie the Pooh, Tigger, Scooby Doo etc) are put to one side and donated to the Village Gala where they help raise money for local causes chosen by GH Community Spirit. They are popular and this avoids squabbles among school children and school groups.

6 Mini-bears are placed to one side and collected into a crate – these are available for anyone & all to take and dip into & act as a back-up to the main supply of bears. Always good to have reserves!

7 Bears that are damaged, torn, dirty etc are assessed. Where appropriate, they are repaired or washed and any that are too far gone are passed to the local craft group to use the materials. We ensure all bears are loved and put to use.

This leaves us with the main stay of teddies and bears ready for the staff at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. These are ordered in the back two pews of the Chapel and when a group of children is due to visit the staff come and select the appropriate number of bears and teddies. The tags are then attached asking the children to name the bear, take them home and to be their friend!

We reckon we are handling in excess of 300 bears a year and we are in constant need of new donations.” **CAN YOUR CONGREGATION HELP?**

**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](mailto:revsuewoolley@gmail.com) Thanks!**