

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

Here is your 155th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for June 2021. If you want any news from your congregation included here, please send it to me (details below)

MUA 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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WHEN IS YOUR CHAPEL/CHURCH/MEETING HOUSE RE-OPENING?

It would be very helpful if you would let me know when your congregation is planning to return to in-person worship... contact details below. I'm hoping to re-start publishing the monthly Preaching Plan in July. I would also appreciate invitations to lead worship at your chapel, church or meeting house.

NEW MARRIAGE REGULATIONS

Some advice from my friend and colleague, Rev Anna Jarvis of Monton Unitarians:

The new system is actually way simpler than the old one. Everything before the actual church service is the same, so the couple have to register as normal at the Registrar's Office, but instead of blue forms, they'll be given a single sheet of paper, which is filled in with all their names etc. This is called the Marriage Schedule, and that is what has to be signed during the wedding.

Sections 1 to 7 are already completed (see above).

Section 8 is signed by the person who conducts the service, so the minister / lay leader.

Section 9 is where the couple sign.

Section 10 is for the witnesses – they can have up to six, but only two are required.

Section 11 is for the Authorised Person.

The Marriage Schedule then has to be returned to the Registry Office, who will then produce the actual marriage certificate. It is the responsibility of the Authorised Person to get it there, but they can give it to the couple for example (but it would probably be best to get them to sign a statement saying that they are taking it!).

All the old stock of certificates etc, one copy of the register(s) have to be returned, but the appointed Authorised Person should have a letter giving their allocated time to return all of that.

DOROTHY ARCHER MEMORIAL PRIZES

The National Unitarian Fellowship is delighted to announce the establishment of these prizes in memory of the late Dorothy Archer, member, past President and tireless worker for the NUF over many years. The prizes have been made possible by a generous bequest from Dorothy's estate. Details are circulated with this issue of *Bits & Pieces*.

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 Thanks!

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