

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

Here is your 129th Midland Unitarian Association Bits & Pieces for April 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: Kingswood Meeting House, Packhorse Lane, Hollywood B47 5DQ

Times: 9.30 am – 4.15 pm

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

Please let me know if you are interested in attending this.

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**MEET THE NEW CHIEF OFFICER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

A goodly number of us met the incoming GA Chief Officer, Elizabeth Slade, on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March. It was a very fruitful and interesting exchange of views – she told us something of her background, and of her hopes for the future. We shared our concerns and joys about Unitarianism.

She commented that we need to take care of our spiritual selves, in our materialistic, consumerist society, and argued that Unitarianism was an ideal place to do this. “The DNA of Unitarianism is exactly what is needed for our culture now.” She said this was because we offer open and inclusive community, which is non-hierarchical, decentralised and active in social justice.

Liz asked several challenging questions:

How do we invite more people into the movement?

How do we tell the story of what we stand for and protect the good things we’re already doing, while inviting those people in?

How can we share our learning and principles? What can we do differently to help us attract new people?

How do we continually shine the light on the positive things and grow from these strengths?

And, how do we want Unitarianism now, to be remembered, in 200 years’ time?

I think all of us left UNM feeling inspired and encouraged. We wish Liz all the very best for her tenure as Chief Officer.

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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!