

Hull Unitarian Magazine



Summer
2016

A 'Scrapbook'
of Memories

Hull Unitarians aim to welcome and care for all, celebrating life through free and inquiring religion, respecting the diversity of views of the congregation. Find us at Park Street HU2 8TA.

Why?

Members and friends are invited to submit pictures, poems or short articles to Ralph Catts for publication in this magazine. Articles of about 270 words will fit one page. Longer articles may be up to 540 or 810 words. All submissions are best sent electronically. Author biographies are limited to 30 words. Please refer to the Hull Unitarians Website for copyright matters and advice to authors.

What?

Each month Hull Unitarians also publish a newsletter, and it is in the newsletter that details of services and charity coffee mornings are published.

Services are held 11:00 am Sundays and Coffee Mornings 10:30 am Fridays.

The Pastor is Dr Ralph Catts. Telephone: 07468538821

The Board of Church Trustees: Michael Tracey, Barry Cundill, Mavis Lake, John Williams.

The Webmaker is Keith Brown; the Treasurer is Barry Cundill; the Reaching Out Co-ordinator is Mavis Lake; Music Providers are Iliana Ivancheva and Dr Adrian Worsfold; Pastor Dr Ralph Catts is the Magazine Editor and Dr Adrian Worsfold is the Writer and Compiler; the part-time Administrator is Valerie Fish.

Who?

Pastoral Letter

Summer 2016

In this issue we are celebrating our community, its recent past, and our current shared experiences. There are many people to whom we owe thanks for their support and efforts over the past 39 years since we opened what was then our new building. Some people have been stalwarts through that entire period, and others are still with us in spirit, although unable to attend. To honour their contributions and to celebrate our continued progress, we have dedicated this issue of our magazine to our Hull Unitarian community. We are glad to see some wonderful new members and friends who are contributing to the vitality of our congregation. Some members will recognise photographs of friends who are now too frail to join us regularly. We have also included some people who have died but whom we remember with affection.

There is a need after 39 years to look to restore and enhance the fabric of our church, and we have commenced by providing a wheel chair accessible toilet. We have at the same time refurbished the ladies toilets, and these are suitable for people who need additional hand rails. It means that those members with additional mobility needs can now attend the church confident that these facilities are suitable for their needs.

The trustees are now considering additional ways to refurbish the church and I anticipate that by the time we hold our AGM on September 18, we will have further plans to share with members and friends. We are preparing for the next stage of the ministry of Hull Unitarians with increasing confidence.

Pastor Ralph Catts

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH
PARK STREET

HON. SECRETARY :
MR. T. W. FAIRFIELD,
42 WOLDCARR ROAD,
ANABY RD. HULL
PHONE 55698

MINISTER :
REV. ERNEST PENN.,
844, ANLABY HIGH ROAD, HULL
PHONE 60024
BOOKINGS SECRETARY AND
PUBLICITY OFFICER :
MR. D. ARMSTRONG
32, SUTTON ROAD, HULL
PHONE 46075

HON. TREASURER :
MR. H. WRAGG,
27 SUTHERLAND AVENUE,
HULL
PHONE 44325

22nd Sept. 1960.

Dear Mr Morgan,

After our interview tonight we have decided to ask you to become our caretaker. We would like you to start your duties next Saturday 1st October.

I will get in touch with Mr Skelton and arrange for you to take over the keys. He will of course show you where everything is.

We hope that we shall have a long and happy association.

Yours faithfully,
T. W. Fairfield.

This letter was sent to Mr Morgan in 1960. Ten years later Mrs Morgan received a typed letter to take up the role. These letters are from Dorothy's scrapbook.

UNITARIAN CHURCH

PARK STREET, HULL

Telephone :

Secretary 408222

~~Caretaker 214398~~

16th. February 1970

Mrs. Morgan,
44. Gray Street,
Hull.

Secretary's address:-
18. Cranbrook Ave,
Hull.

Dear Mrs. Morgan,

The Church Committee discussed your offer of taking over officially the position of Caretaker at this church and are pleased to offer you this position at a weekly wage of £5.0.0.

Will you kindly let us know if you accept this offer.

Yours truly,
H. Secty.
H. Secty.



Some pictures of Dorothy from the very distant past!



'A BIT OF POETIC LICENCE' Dorothy

HULL UNITARIAN CHURCH

Park Street, Kingston-upon-Hull, HU2 8TA
Founded 1672 Registered Charity no. 251739



15/4/86

MRS DOROTHY MORGAN
A PERSONAL APPRECIATION

With Dorothy Morgan retiring from her active role as Caretaker, Key Holder, Cleaner, Occasional Painter, Church Setter Out, etc., etc., and so many other voluntary duties and, as being a fairly long member of the Church, I was invited to write a few lines on how I saw her support for the Church over 38 years.

She is a very special person, in my view, and how fate decided that we would enjoy the benefit of her and that of her family over so many years is just one of those unpredictable situations which one cannot quite resolve.

Just going back in time, I can remember so clearly Dorothy and her super husband, John, disappearing into the bowels of the Church on Saturday mornings to light the huge old fashioned coal boiler in time for the enormous Church building to be warm for the Sunday service. It was like going into a castle dungeon where a century of filth and dust had collected together with all those kinds of items which we had to store "just in case". Stoking had also to take place at 10.00 pm on the Saturday evening, otherwise the boiler would go out.

I recall Dorothy's family, so many of them, organising concerts for Church funds doing the catering, singing, dancing, guitar playing, and playlet writing. The family provided prizes and ran the raffle and, in fact, did everything

necessary to provide a warm and enjoyable concert. Such occasions happened many times.

How many displays in one form or another has Dorothy Morgan arranged for the Spring Festivals? I remember her writing poems, essays, doing excellent paintings and her enthusiasm engendered at many of the festivals was a major contributing factor to our Church winning many of the cups and trophies. Latterly Dorothy put together a special display representing Hull's Unitarian contribution. Where she got everything from I do not know, but much research had to be done to make it the most successful contribution to win the prize for that year.

In the earlier years, if it was anything to do with Church activities, "ask Mrs Morgan" was the cry and she always had an answer. with Booking Income being an important part of our revenue, Dorothy was always helpful to[o] and, of course, was respected by the organisations which use the Church and as the Treasurer over many years it was always a comfort to know that she would make sure the buildings were opened and closed at stated times. I remember also how she polished the pews in the old church every Sunday, there were many of them and most of them were not in fact sat upon.

I could go on. Dorothy Morgan is my friend and also a friend of many others and her contribution has been quite extraordinary and, together with her family, we have been extremely fortunate to have them around. Although she will no longer be doing church duties, we hope to see lots of her.

Thank you Dorothy,

Roger Strachan



Top:
Hinckley
visiting
Hull
September
1995

Others:
Hull goes
to YUU
Lydgate
April 1996

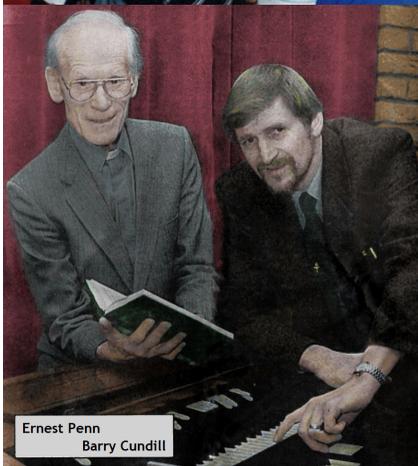


Above: January 1991: Hull Chalice Garden opening, including Marie, Barbara, David S, Barry, Mary, Colin, Susan, Pat, Bryan, Jennifer, Roger, David A and Joan, with Lord Mayor Les Taylor and the Reverend Ernest Penn.

Below: Ernest and Leeds colleague Rev. Austin Fitzpatrick and Jill A at GA Meetings 1989 Aberdeen in GAZette office.



In 1986 Hull sent many to experience the General Assembly in Leicester. Photo by Adrian.



Ernest Penn
Barry Cundill

This was a dinner shared with the Doncaster congregation in 1995.

Also in 1995 Barry publicised his hymn in the *Hull Daily Mail*, which we continue to sing.

CHESTER WRITES: We had this trip out to Hornsea on 6th April with twelve and a half of us leaving just enough room for me on my personal seat and the 24 assorted wheelchairs trolleys and zimmers!



I'd remembered the superb fish and chips from Whiteheads and had heard the name bandied about. But imagine my shock when the whole bus load deserted me and decamped to the restaurant. No one remembered to return with a doggie bag. Gutted! I was however granted, along with little Leonora (see her picture on page 12), a romp along the beach and the sun came out briefly for that. I don't know who between us was the most excited.

Everyone was happy with the way things went and were able to chat with old friends, particularly Wilf Jones who now resides in Maybury Court on Holderness Road, one of the friendliest residential homes we've visited.

Cheers!



Bowlalley-Lane Sunday Schools.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY, 1869.

NOW PRAY WE FOR OUR COUNTRY.

Now pray we for our country,
That England long may be
The holy and the happy,
And the gloriously free!

Who blesseth her is blessed ;
So peace be in her walls,
And joy in all her palaces,
Her cottages and halls !

THE HARDY NORSEMAN'S HOUSE
OF YORE.

The hardy Norseman's house of yore
Was on the foaming wave ;
And there he gather'd bright renown,
The bravest of the brave !
Oh ! ne'er should we forget our sires,
Wherever we may be ;
They bravely won a gallant name,
And rul'd the stormy sea.

What tho' our power be weaker now
Than it was wont to be,
When boldly forth our fathers sail'd,
And conquer'd Normandy ;
We still may sing their deeds of fame
In thrilling harmony ;
For they did win a gallant name,
And rul'd the stormy sea.



Left and above: Children past and present. See how jingoistic were the lyrics sung by ordinary children at a Christmas gathering.

Oh, and the church has held the occasional wedding as well! This was in 2001. The reception was also held in the church.



Children at Park Street: We would like people to write in and suggest the years that these photographs were taken!





Park Street children at the Spring Festival in Bradford 1986





Highlight of Hull's contribution to the Spring Festival at Bradford in 1986 (above) and the Christmas/ New Year Party on January 3rd 1987 at Park Street (below).





Above: Spring Festival 1987 at Wakefield.

Others: Iranian Jasmin attending for the final time, with her mother.



It's not all history! **New attender Chris Carr**

I first attended in June 2016. I did encounter Unitarianism because I knew Rev. Ant Howe. I also did page-turning on three occasions for the organist at Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



The services there were not to my taste. Then I looked online and it took a few months before I actually attended in Hull, especially with shift working on Sundays.

Coming to services at Park

Street resonates with my outlook and it is great not to be told what to think. Everyone has been welcoming.

I am a Support Worker for adults with learning disabilities. Although I am a fairly solitary person, I am interested in the performing arts, for example storytelling dramatised by using hand puppets. I would like to get back into music too, through singing and playing the guitar.





On June 5 we congratulated **Daniela, Tim, and Leonora**, on the arrival of **Veronica**. Andrew Parkinson from Scarborough, who had officiated at Tim and Daniela's wedding, led the service. Veronica was the centre of attention, but her big sister was also welcomed. Leonora celebrated her fifth birthday with a party with friends at the church on June 25.



Hull Unitarians host five Yoga classes each week, and many identify **Hilda Ormrod** as the Pioneer who initiated Yoga in our church. Husband Eric is with her in Amsterdam.

Hilda Ormrod by Bernard McHugh: *published in 2007 in Yoga and Health: this is edited to particular spiritual aspects.*)

Hilda came into yoga in her fifties via her first great yoga hero, Wilfred Clark, founder of the British Wheel of Yoga. For nearly forty years Hilda went on to serve the British Wheel in various capacities. She took three weekly classes in Hull for Howard's fledgling Yoga for Health Foundation. She also helped run a yoga class for the M.S. Society.

She had detailed knowledge of the asanas and the way the body works; Hilda used to say: "The brain, that computer far more wonderful than any man has made."

Hilda had deeply imbibed the spiritual and ethical teachings of yoga and she believed passionately that these should be imparted to students. The second half of her lessons were always more spiritual - an inspiring reading with a spiritual message (from any source), gentle breathing exercises, a short meditation, and every eight weeks or so a discussion on one of the ethics of yoga, a final relaxation, and an Om chant.

Hilda loved her students. She admired yogic qualities of character wherever she found them. If someone she knew was ill or in trouble she would send them a prayer from the heart that they would find the inner resources to cope. Yoga students, friends and fellow teachers turned to Hilda for help not just with yoga or health problems but with emotional and personal crises as well. Hilda was a patient listener and when she gave advice it was always given in love, acutely aware of the difference between genuine love and mere sentiment.

Early in her yoga life Wildred Clark gave Hilda a yoga Sanskrit name she never used. Its English translation is 'Great Spiritual Energy'. We saw her as 'our little guru'. She died on August 23rd 2007 after a long illness aged 93.

Purposes of Attending Church

As churches appeal to ever smaller minorities, the question has to be asked about their appeal (*writes Adrian Worsfold*). What are they for? Fresh thinking comes from asking searching questions. If worship was designed to build friendships, what would it look like? If its activities are to demand social justice, what does a church do? Does not a church build friendship networks and 'relational power' from the bottom upwards? Purpose-finding is necessary for social justice and can lead toward personal Transformation. This can include being creative, as well as leading towards social transformation and building community with accountability to one another. These together enhance persons and their creative potential.



Community



Personal
transformation



Social
transformation

Many secular groups exist to enhance one or more of these outcomes. For churches, the sort of theology that derives from this perspective is a radical enabling theology for communities similar to the education theories and practices of Paulo Freire. Known as Liberation theology, it has to be educational and create the tools for the job. Liturgy then becomes more like crafting for the future using words of enablement. The churches need to learn a totally new language to be able to speak to the millions who would never even step into a church building today. They need a new perspective on society from the theology suggested.

Churches should invite the gathered and the nearby to reflect on life's big questions. How could congregations attract others to participate in making meaning and creating beauty? Yes, in words, and by song, and through quiet, but surely not with the old Protestant models.



Purpose
finding



Creativity



Accountability

We can consider using natural light and coloured lights, movement, artworks and literature. Rhythmic secular and relaxation music can also help. We should encourage mindfulness and engagement with issues, and also practices of good health. Poems and stories, and shared experiences can connect personally and socially.

See <http://howwegather.org/> (symbols derived)

Added to the Roll of Members: Tim (left), Daniela (right), and Pam (centre) with Pastor Ralph Catts.

Later in the year Adrian also became a Member of the Congregation.





PUZZLES

Below is the answer to the Spring issue's Spot the Difference: At the General Assembly Bar.



Meanwhile, you might be wondering what has happened to Juan the Galápagos Penguin. Having died, he is unable to send any more letters. To find out what happened in full detail, go to <http://www.pluralist.co.uk/> and then Fictional (top menu) and The Galápagos Letters (left menu). Also go to Learning - Religion - Unitarianism etc., and scroll down for reports on the Unitarian Theology Conference held on 21 May 2016.

Puzzle

This issue's puzzle is a **Spot the Difference**, plus *Spring* answers.



Here, three residential houses are converted into a Unitarian church. Can you see how many changes there are between the two pictures? (E.G., each front door is one change each.)



Bird Anagram Answers: Bitterns, Blackbirds, Bluebirds, Boobies, Canaries, Cormorants, Eider Ducks, Grouse, Magpies, Ostriches, Peacocks, Pelicans, Penguins, Rooks, Sandpipers, Seagulls, Swallows, Toucans, Wagtails, Woodpeckers.



Colouring
In!

