

## Contact Addresses

**Ministry Office:** c/o Bayshill Unitarian Church, Royal Well Lane, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 3DL 01242 255820

### Rites of Passage

Though the Cotswold Group does not have a Minister at present, should anyone wish a Naming Ceremony, Wedding or Funeral to take place at either Oat Street Chapel or Bayshill Unitarian Church, this can be arranged. Please contact Peter Wright or Jenny Buckland, so that suitable arrangements can be made.

### Group Management Committee Officers

<b>Chairman:</b>	Mr. P. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6AH	01386 443123
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Mr. T. Brewer	50 Rowanfield Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 8AG	01242 691438
<b>Minutes Secretary:</b>	Mr. J. Green	1 Holloway Drive, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1JK	01386 553948
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchory, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2JY	01453 825733
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr. G. Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos. GL2 9BN	01452 730227

### Congregational Committee Officers

**Cheltenham** Bayshill Unitarian Church - Services held 1st and 3rd Sundays at 3pm. Founded 1832

<b>Chair:</b>	Mr. T. Brewer	50 Rowanfield Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 8AG	01242 691438
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchory, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2JY	01453 825733
<b>Acting Secretary:</b>	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchory, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2JY	01453 825733
<b>Hall Lettings:</b>	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchory, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2JY	01453 825733

**Evesham** Oat Street Chapel, Oat Street - Services held every Sunday at 11am. Founded 1696  
Web-site: <http://welcome.to/OatSt.Chapel>

<b>Chair:</b>	Mrs. S. Slocombe	54 Laburnum Drive, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6XW	01386 48261
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Mr. J. Smith	Swanbrook House, Pirton, Worcs. WR8 9EL	01905 820650
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mrs. R. Beatson	44 Hoskyns Avenue, Worcester, WR4 0LL	01905 25991
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mrs. D. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6AH	01386 443123
<b>Lettings Secretary:</b>	Mrs. D. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6AH	01386 443123

**Gloucester** Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars - Services held 2nd & 4th Sundays at 3pm. Founded 1662

<b>Chair:</b>	Mr. G. Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos. GL2 9BN	01452 730227
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Mr. G. Webb	Fairview, Valley Lane, Upton St. Leonards, Glos. GL4 8DR	01453 372903
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr. G. Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos. GL2 9BN	01452 730227
<b>Minutes Secretary:</b>	Mrs. H. Parsons	Field Cottage, Marle Hill, Chalford, Stroud, Glos, GL6 8IQ	01453 884034
<b>Acting Secretary:</b>	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchory, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2JY	01453 825733

The Cotswold Group Newsletter & Calendar is published monthly.

Subscriptions: £5 per year payable to the Treasurer of your nearest Cotswold Group Congregation. Friends must please pay this subscription to continue receiving the newsletter. Members are encouraged to cover the cost of receiving the newsletter in their annual membership subscription or donations to their church.



## Cotswold Group of Unitarian & Free Christian Congregations

### Newsletter & Calendar April 2000

#### The Principle Not The Label

The following quotation is from a fictional book I borrowed from the library recently. "It occurred to her, and she was not proud of the thought, that the greatest single factor that prevents us from helping the less fortunate, is not lack of compassion, but a sense of smell."

This also applies to our inability to accept all humanity, for our vision becomes myopic when there is a difference of race, colour, creed or even dress.

Most people have difficulty in accepting those who follow a different drum, no matter what the beat.

A Peter Thought

# Springtime

Spring is the loveliest time of the year, as the sayings go;  
To we who live in England, this is especially so.  
The bare and lifeless trees and hedgerows now begin to show  
The pale green tips of life, and shoots of wild flowers below  
Like a Resurrection; the whole countryside's rebirth.  
The warm sun a lover's kiss, to Sleeping Beauty - the earth.  
Tassels of catkins and velvet-like pussy willows now appear,  
Snowdrops bloom so tiny in the cold, first of the year,  
Then carpets of colourful crocus arrive, brilliant in display  
Camellias bravely bloom, to brighten up our day  
Patches of golden daffodils, nodding in the breeze  
Delicate pink laden blossoms smother branches of cherry trees  
Confetti like petals softly falling, as at a wedding  
Birds mating and nesting - for their soft bedding.  
Wistarias long purple trails, covering the cottage walls  
Springtime's colourful beauty around us always enthral  
Life's cycle begins all over again - Hope and Joy abound  
Lifting up our hearts - seeing God's wondrous handiwork all around.

B.Pim

Dear friends in the Cotswold Group,

Every afternoon I go deer hunting with my dog. Or should I say that every afternoon I go out with my dog and she goes deer hunting, or hare hunting, or cat hunting. She also wants to stop at every place where another dog has stopped in the last three days. Of course she never catches any deer or hares, even though we see them nearby, since she has me on a lead and I do not run. I do not think that she could run fast enough to catch them any way, but she could catch up with another dog if she had the chance. She never does get a chance, though, as we are always tied together when we are in the forest, especially after the time that she disappeared for eight hours, and that was on the day before we travelled to China of all days. I don't really like having so much power over her, though, deciding what she should eat, when she should go out, who she should meet etc. It is a heavy responsibility, having a right of veto in another creature's life. And dogs don't "grow up" and escape from the situation like children do.

Changing the subject, rather, please let me quote a Rumi poem for you.

## LOVE DOGS

One night a man was crying, Allah! Allah!  
His lips grew sweet with the praising,  
Until a cynic said, "So! I have heard you  
calling out, but have you ever  
gotten any response?"

The man had no answer to that.  
He quit praying and fell into a confused sleep.

He dreamed he saw Khildr, the guide of souls,  
in a thick, green foliage. "Why did you stop praising?"  
"Because I've never heard anything back."  
"This longing you express is the return message."

The grief you cry out from  
draws you toward union.

Your pure sadness that wants help  
is the secret cup.

Listen to the moan of a dog for its master.  
That whining is the connection.

There are love dogs  
no one knows the names of.

Give your life  
to be one of them.

Love from Liz

## THE GARDENER

Ruth Beatson

My parents moved to Doxey in 1936 when I was 18 months old. Our house was a new semi detached, one in a row built on farmland.

My Father was not keen on gardening, he always had more interesting things to do such as working on his electrical inventions, three of which he eventually got patented. In view of this lack of interest in the garden he decided to make it trouble free. The front garden was crazy paved with a rockery in the centre and four flowerbeds at the sides. He must have made his own concrete paving because in later years my friends and I had fun looking for the letters of the alphabet he had marked in the concrete. One stone had the impression of my baby hands and feet in it. At some stage he made a square concrete sundial with faces on the four sides, a smiling one facing south and a grumpy one facing north. I no longer remember the expressions of the other two.

The back garden was very long; land was cheap in the 1930's. Dad concreted an area beyond the back veranda, leaving space for flower borders, and then he made a small lawn. The remainder of the garden was field apart from a rockery at the very end that hid the compost heap. For about five years this part of the garden was scythed once a year and left. It would be called a nature conservation area these days.

The neighbours however were not so pleased. Mrs. Miller was always grumbling about our garden and used to set fire to the squitch grass that was threatening to creep into her garden. Mr. Price on the other side was a keen gardener, but as he liked Dad said nothing.

Eventually the 'Dig for Victory' notices made Dad feel guilty. For the next four years we ate misshapen carrots, stringy beans, grubby peas and tough beetroot. When the war ended we breathed a sigh of relief and the garden returned to its natural state.

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## The Diet

The vicar decided to go on a diet. It was hard going. Three days after he started, he walked into the church office with a large chocolate gateau. "I thought you were going on a diet?" his incredulous secretary remarked. "I prayed about it", said the vicar, "and I am sure that the Lord gave me a sign that it was alright to eat this chocolate gateau". "Oh" said the secretary, "and what was that?". Replied the vicar, "I was driving past the shop when I saw the cake in the window. Then I prayed, Lord, if you want me to have that cake, let there be a parking space right outside the shop, and the eighth time I went round the block, there it was!".

## April Services

April 2nd	Oat Street Cheltenham	11.00am 3.00pm	John Green Michael Dadson
April 9th	Oat Street Gloucester	11.00am 3.00pm	Margaret Phelan Kay Millard
April 16th	Oat Street Cheltenham	11.00am 3.00pm	Peter Cartwright Edward Jones
April 23rd Easter Sunday	Oat Street Gloucester	11.00am 3.00pm	Michael Dadson Michael Dadson
April 30th	Oat Street Cheltenham/Gloucester	11.00am	Paulette Micklewood No Service
May 7th	Oat Street Cheltenham	11.00am 3.00pm	Ken Becker Ken Becker
May 14th	Oat Street	11.00am	Malcolm Sadler

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## Advance Notices

### Ministers Annual Meeting Followed By Asparagus Luncheon

on Wednesday May 10th  
at Oat Street Unitarian Chapel,  
Evesham

### Cotswold Group Millennium Garden Party

on Saturday June 10th at 3pm  
at the home of Tim & Elizabeth Smith  
Swanbrook House,  
Pirton, Worcester.

More details to follow in the May Newsletter

## Bayshill Unitarian Church

1999 has been a very successful year financially. We have purchased 30 new chairs, 20 new hymn books, in addition to our usual expenses, and have an operating surplus of £1548.33, which will enable us to carry out essential exterior decoration repair lighting, and pay for the burst water pipe repair.

Optimistically we are on a secure financial footing, and look forward to building our congregation, and making an important contribution to the community in general.

Bayshill Church is alive and well!

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### History of Organ at Oat Street Chapel

Provided by David Barnett, Organist

1820	Gallery built at Chapel
1829	Organ installed as a single manual instrument
1900	Swell organ added
1927	Blower motor added?
1962	Gravity Swell pedal and Pedal Board altered
1993	Refurbishment and clean
2000	Tonal alterations began in January and completed in March

### Opening Recital of Organ

Saturday 13th March 2000 at 7.30pm

### Service of Rededication of Organ

Sunday 14th May 2000 at 11.00am

Malcolm Sadler from Warwick - Preacher

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### Collection for Sue Ryder

£30 was sent to this charity following the Bring & Buy held at Oat St on March 19th.  
Many thanks to all who brought and bought. Jenny Buckland

## The Friday Group

You don't need a GCSE in theology in order to qualify as a member of the Friday Group! We have had some very good meetings so far covering such subjects as good and evil, religion and politics. Future subjects include the importance of worship and the Unitarian interpolation of Easter. We would welcome and new members. There is no need to feel intimidated. Perhaps you would like to come as an onlooker at first to test the water. No one will put pressure on you to speak - but once we get going it is sometimes difficult to keep quiet!

We meet in the vestry of Oat Street Chapel between 10.30am and 12noon over a cup of coffee. Why not give us a try?

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### Hinckley Visit

Members of the Cotswold Group are invited to attend the service at Great Meeting, Baines Lane, Hinckley, Leics. at 11.00am on June 18th. Lunch will be provided. It is hoped to arrange a coach from Evesham to Hinckley. Please let John Green or Jenny Buckland know by April 30th if you would like to attend.

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### Nursing the Elderly

Enrolled Nurse Kathy Doyle wrote this when she was working at the Infirmary of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, nursing the Chelsea Pensioners.

He was a child before we were born,  
Now he is helpless, old and forlorn,  
He was a husband long years ago,  
He walked with his wife, their cheeks all aglow.  
His wife was a mother; she had babes at her breast,  
Caring for others, and giving her best.  
He was a man, salute him for this,  
Now he is withered, and harder to kiss.  
Speak to him gently, and nurse him with pride,  
Now, as he waits to sail with the tide.  
Ours are the last hands he'll ever hold,  
Let him know love, now he is old.