

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

Chairman:	Mr. P. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6AH	01386 443123
Vice-Chair:	Mr. T. Brewer	50 Rowanfield Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 8AG	01242 691438
Minutes Secretary:	Mr. J. Green	1 Holloway Drive, Pershore, Worcs. WR10 1JK	01386 553948
Treasurer:	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchory, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2JY	01453 825733
Secretary:	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

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

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

Chair:	Mr. G. Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos. GL2 9BN	01452 730227
Vice-Chair:	Mr. G. Webb	Fairview, Valley Lane, Upton St. Leonards, Glos. GL4 8DR	01453 372903
Treasurer:	Mr. G. Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos. GL2 9BN	01452 730227
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs. H. Parsons	Field Cottage, Marle Hill, Chalford, Stroud, Glos. GL6 8IQ	01453 884034
Acting Secretary:	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 May 2000



The Chalice

According to the Oxford Dictionary a chalice is a communion cup for wine or a flower cup. Unitarians do not think it is either of these. We have our own concept of a very special candlestick.

There are authorities for this going back to Moses, who was commanded by God to make one to light the Tabernacle. Later when Solomon built the tremendous Temple, he placed five on the North and five on the South side of the "Holy Place". The symbol continues to appear throughout ancient history. It was mentioned that following the destruction of Jerusalem, Titus carried it specially from the Temple, along with other spoils, back to Rome. It figures also in the catacombs on antiquities of Christians found there. Over the centuries candles and candlesticks became more and more elaborate, until, in this country, they reached a golden zenith during the 17th and 18th centuries. From then on, silver and other common metals and woods were used to create simpler practical holders for everyday use.

Today we Unitarians have adopted the chalice as our focal point to help our minds to picture light or enlightenment to shine upon us from the Infinite. So I light this simple symbol, signifying our unity within diversity, one with another, here; and in the awareness of the wider world, where all have common joys and sufferings. Amen

I was asked by Michael Dadson at the Cheltenham Service he conducted, to make a short introduction and light the chalice to start the service on Sunday April 2. The above was my contribution. Walter Hawkins.

Ministers Annual Meeting

Followed By Asparagus Luncheon
on Wednesday May 10th

at Oat Street Unitarian Chapel,
Evesham

Congregational Committee Meeting

to be held on
Tuesday May 16th at 11am
in the Chapel Vestry

Silence

There is part of you that is perfect and pure. It is untouched by the less than perfect characteristics you've acquired by living in a less than perfect world.

It is filled with divine qualities, so is in a constant state of resourcefulness and well being. Its total absence of conflict and negativity of any sort makes this part of you a Still-Point; a deep, enriching experience of Silence.

Make time to practise reaching this inner place of Silence. It will bring you untold benefit.

First, it allows you to manage your thoughts better. You will find, for example, that there is no need to think as much as you do, that simply sitting in Silence will emerge, effortlessly, much of all that you need.

Second, the experience releases you from the grip of your thoughts and conditioning. You will more easily experience the truth of your inner peace and dignity. This further aids your mind in remaining focussed and capable.

Third, the power of Silence can be shared. As you increase your experience of Silence, your power can help those around you to continue in their efforts of self-development and the experience of peace. Your stock of Silence and pure, loving thoughts will help others go beyond the limited into the unlimited and the divine.

It feels so good to 'go beyond' in this way, to leave behind thought and speech and become quiet for a little while. It's so refreshing and nourishing; it's habit-forming. Love for spiritual introversion, solitude and silence complement our life in such a beautiful way.

- from part of a talk given by Dadi Janki, Administrative Head of the Brahma Kumaris University of India.

Supplied by Carol Wilkinson

Bayshill News

Oat Street Chapel has set a very high standard with the improvements to the Chapel and Gatehouse, and we have been enthused by their example. The exterior decoration of the Church Hall is completed, and what a difference it has made. The entry yard, and entrance hall have also been decorated, so there is a much more welcoming entrance to the building. If the funds are available at the end of 2000, we shall turn our attention to more of the inside of our building.

As I write this on April 15th, our organist Peter Smith is in hospital being treated for a chest infection. We all send him our good wishes for a speedy recovery, and he will be greatly missed at our services.

Gloucester and Cheltenham Unitarians have enjoyed excellent services throughout 2000. We have outstanding speakers coming in May and June, and we are very pleased to welcome visitors.

Millennium Garden Party

Tim and Elizabeth Smith invite all members and friends and family of the Cotswold Group to a Millennium Garden Party at Swanbrook House, Pirton, Worcester, on Saturday June 10th at 3pm.

Please fill in and return the slip below to Tim Smith by 30th May and he will send directions.

I/We accept the invitation to Tim and Elizabeths Garden Party on June 10th.

Signed

Dated

Calendar

May 7th	Oat Street Cheltenham	11.00am 3.00pm	Ken Becker Ken Becker
May 14th	Oat Street Gloucester	11.00am 3.00pm	Malcolm Sadler Barbara Russell
May 21st	Oat Street Cheltenham	11.00am 3.00pm	Janice Ashley Janice Ashley
May 28th	Oat Street Gloucester	11.00am 3.00pm	Sandy Ellis Sandy Ellis
June 4th	Oat Street Cheltenham	11.00am 3.00pm	Peter Cartright Ruth & Benjamin Rowntree
June 11th	Oat Street Gloucester	11.00am 3.00pm	Ruth Fowles Ron James
June 18th	No Service - Hinckley Visit		

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.

Opening Recital of Organ

Saturday 13th May 2000
at 7.30pm

Service of Rededication of Organ

Sunday 14th May 2000
at 11.00am
Malcolm Sadler from Warwick

Three Sundays In India

With my brother David, and Sister in Law, Liz, I flew to India for a three week holiday in the Himalayan foot-hills.

After a hectic first day in Delhi, we took the night train to Kalka, then the narrow gauge railway to Simla, one time summer capital of the British Raj. The old colonial buildings have become dilapidated over the years, but most of them, including the, gothic Christ Church, are still in use.

Next day was Sunday, Liz and I decided to go to the early morning English speaking Service. The congregation numbered twelve, all Indian apart from one other British couple. The elderly Indian minister spoke with great conviction and sincerity, but we had difficulty following the order of service as the page numbers in his prayer and hymn book did not correspond with the numbers in our books.

After the service we looked around the large dusty church. The walls were covered in brass plaques to the memory of former worshippers: Viceroys; men lost in battle; people that Kipling (himself a regular attender) must have known.

The next Sunday found us arriving in MUSSOORIE, another old British Hill Station. Struggling up a steep hill with our heavy luggage, trying to find a hotel, we almost collapsed at the gate of a Methodist Church. We sat on the church wall for a while, then the bell started ringing for morning service. Liz and I decided to go inside while David looked for somewhere for us to stay.

The church, which just looked like a Methodist church in England, was almost empty when we entered. Five minutes before the service was due to begin it suddenly filled up. The congregation were all Indian apart from one lady who we discovered later was Australian and worked at the local hospital. The minister again was an elderly Indian, but as the whole service was in Hindi, with just the odd English word or phrase thrown in, we were unable to follow the service, but enjoyed the singing and the friendly atmosphere. Several people came to chat to us after the service, and we had an invitation to someone's home.

The following Sunday we had just returned to Delhi by over night train from Dehra-Dun. We arrived at the YWCA before our rooms were vacated, so went to sit in a Small lounge. We heard singing in Hindi from a nearby room and on investigation found a service in progress. We joined in for the last twenty

minutes or so.

Another service was due to begin in half an hour. Liz went to that and I went out to explore the nearby streets. Almost immediately I came across a Sikh Temple. It was an impressive building with a large golden dome, it was approached by a courtyard at the side of which was a swimming pool. I took my shoes off, covered my head and entered. The Sikh holy book the Guru Granth was being read continuously, some of the congregation sat and listened, others wandered in, said a prayer and left again.

It was interesting meeting Christians of another culture and equally interesting and rewarding to make comparison with the other Indian religions and reflect on the differences and similarities between them.

Ruth Beatson

Trust Peter Cartright

I have often heard it said "Don't trust anyone until you know them". This I feel is a fallacy for a degree of trust, that is instinctive, must be the Starting Point of any relationship whether personal or in general. There will be many times when you will experience being let down and having that trust instinctively given thrown back in your face. It is essential that you have the starting point of instinctive trust to return to, for you can then, in the words of an old song, "Pick yourself up, brush yourself off and start all over again". Without instinctive trust you are left in a web of self pity and bitterness which results in a much diminished quality of life.

In a long and varied working life, which has included being a soldier and firefighter but mostly a professional driver, instinctive trust is the catalyst needed to do the job required. Lack of that trust can result in failure, disaster, injury or even death.

Instinctive trust is the oil that lubricates the engine of life, without it the engine will seize or blow up. The deeper trust that comes with experience and knowledge can be likened to upper cylinder lubricant, with it the engine of life, with Gods will, run smoother and last longer and therefore be of greater use to humanity and its purpose.

It is the same with my trust in God. In accepting the existence of God I was using instinctive trust. Then as a growing knowledge and spiritual philosophy developed, I found it is now leading to a deeper trust and stronger faith in God.