

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	Banchroy, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2IY	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	
Treasurer:	Mrs. J. Buckland	50 Rowanfield Road, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 8AG
Acting Secretary:	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchroy, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2IY
Hall Lettings:	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchroy, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2IY

Evesham	Oat Street Chapel, Oat Street - Services held every Sunday at 11am. Web-site: http://welcome.to/OatSt.Chapel	Founded 1696
Chair:	Mrs. S. Slocombe	54 Laburnum Drive, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6XW
Vice-Chair:	Mr. T. Smith	Swanbrook House, Pitton, Worcs. WR8 9EL
Secretary:	Mrs. R. Beatson	44 Hoskyns Avenue, Worcester, WR4 0LL
Treasurer:	Mrs. D. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6AH
Lettings Secretary:	Mrs. D. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6AH
Organist:	Mr. David Barnett	7 Hylton Road, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 6QB

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
Vice-Chair:	Mr. G. Webb	Fairview, Valley Lane, Upton St. Leonards, Glos. GL4 8DR
Treasurer:	Mr. G. Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos. GL2 9BN
Minutes Secretary:	Mrs. H. Parsons	Field Cottage, Marle Hill, Chalford, Stroud, Glos. GL6 8IQ
Acting Secretary:	Mrs. J. Buckland	Banchroy, Pearcroft Road, Stonehouse, Glos. GL10 2IY

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 June 2000



Music can be a mirror to the soul,
together with song and dance it can illuminate
the wonder of humanity, nature, the cosmos, the
melody of which can enhance the spirit of life,
thereby drawing humanity to the
Holy Spirit and fulfilling its destiny

within the Divine Plan.
A Peter Thought



Looking Forward to Joining You!

Well you've done it now! You have invited this R.E. teacher, recently welcomed on to the roll of Unitarian ministry, to be your Minister in the Cotswolds. I would like to take this opportunity to say how happy we are at the prospect of becoming part of your community - my wife Julie, our two girls Abi and Gemma, our dog Polly, and of course myself! I felt it might be good to let you know a little about us, so that you know what to expect...

Our older girl, Gemma, will not in fact be much in evidence; she is embarking on a residential college course in Dorchester or in September, aiming to become a qualified Riding Instructor over the following two years. Horses are very much her passion!

Abi will soon be 8, and she is showing signs of an imaginative, creative nature - stories and poems, music and dance, are all grist to her mill.

Julie is currently taking her Finals - completing her four-year degree course in "Land-Based Enterprise" at Bournemouth University. She's looking forward, almost with disbelief, to getting back to a "normal" life in which there is time to keep on top of house and garden, there is time to spend with family friends ... plenty of new ones, too, we hope!

I am now completing my fifth year as R.E. Co-ordinator at Swanage Middle School - five years of juggling the pleasures and rewards of the classroom with the pressures and frustration of all the hard work which only begins when the children have gone home. I am looking forward to getting a family life back!

Both Julie and I are from the North - her Sheffield roots and my Mancunian origins making for a "Roses" household ... without the "Wars"! Perhaps because of our Pennine childhoods we both love walking, and have often opted for a day's walk as a birthday or anniversary treat. We are eager to sample the joys of the Cotswold Way.

Another thing we shall be keen to investigate in your area is the folk "scene"; we both Morris dancers, and take great pleasure in music and song sessions - we find we can put up with the fact that these tend to take place in interesting pubs serving good ale! (Can anyone give us any pointers towards local Morris teams? I dance the "Cotswold" tradition while Julie's experience is in the North-West tradition, but she would like to have a go at Border Morris).

We are delighted at this new stage of our shared spiritual Odyssey - more of which I/we will be happy to tell as we get to know you all. Finding Unitarianism was like suddenly seeing the beckoning fingertip that leads to that breathtaking viewpoint. What is more, the path leads on along the ridge, promising to offer more and diverse vistas... for those who are looking. We are looking forward to walking with you - finding abuse with you - for a while!

Michael and Julie Dadson

Peace

Getting home after a hectic day.

Waking up early and having an extra hour's sleep.

Sitting on a riverbank in a quiet meadow, watching the sunlight dancing on the ripples of water.

Stepping out into the sunshine from a noisy factory.

Listening to the bird songs in the early morning.

Realising that whatever happens in life, God is waiting for you to come home.

Peace is an inner happiness that protects you from the world.

Peace is a quiet melody drifting through your mind, floating you on a cloud of lullabies.

When I feel the jangling dissonance of the world crushing and polluting me, I remember that clear, warm place where I belong, where I can expand and become realigned I travel towards it like a lost child running to a parent and gently I arrive. I am completely myself, free and happy, safe, a million miles away from all that hurts and contorts. This is real, light and fresh, urgent, eternal, ancient, taking time to bask in this love - desireless - complete.

Peace is a cello recital, deep resurgent notes in an angelic phrase. Soaring, flying, creating, balance. Who was seen it? Where did it go? It fell from grace into turmoil and chaos, like shards of shattered glass. And to put it back together again? Faith, constancy, obedience to the laws of truth, one soul in union with the One who is called the Ocean of Peace.

Peace is a place within my mind. It fills me with a warmth, silence, stillness, so soft and safe. It is the place where no one else can enter, intrude. They can only share, catch, become part of, but never intrude. It is so powerful, filled with the power of love, happiness, a spreading outwards. It envelops everyone around, like a soft cloud opening up and carrying you gently along. No bumps, no sharp stops, fast, smooth and easy.

From "The Wisdom and Words of Dadi Janki"
Published by the Brahma Kumaris World University
Submitted by Carol Wilkerson

And Still The Constellations

Poem by Peter Henniker-Heaton

Happy are they who are not afraid of living,
 Who do not weary as the scenes slip by;
 They make their peace with life every morning
 And at the closing of the day.

They are alive and alert and contemporary minded,
 Always abreast of the times or a pace ahead,
 But wise in their going. They do not wish to be martyred,
 Rather to understand and be understood.

They do not seek success, as the world accounts it,
 Nor find a romantic solace in defeat.
 They do their duty, accept it's recognition;
 Being truly themselves, they are truly great.

They keep the ways of their thinking and feeling clear,
 Not clogged too much with dreams of the future or past.
 Furnished, but not over furnished, they live in the present,
 Receiving from past and future only the invited guests.

They have not fix the end of all music and painting
 With some departed artist at some dead date.
 They know that duty has neither beginning nor ending,
 Climbing from plateau to plateau without surfeit

They have the enduring courage, born of quietness,
 Not only of plumed valour and proud panache.
 They pass through the fire without the smell of burning
 And emerge from stony places wearing a wreath.

Happy are they who live and delight in living,
 Who do not weary as the scenes slip by;
 They make their peace with life every morning
 And at the closing of the day.

Suggested by Jenny Buckland

Calendar

Services for June

June 4th	Oat Street	11.00am	Peter Cartwright
	Cheltenham	3.00pm	Ruth & Benjamin Rowntree
June 11th	Oat Street	11.00am	Ruth Fowles
	Gloucester	3.00pm	Ron James
June 18th	Hinckley Visit		
	No service at Oat Street or Cheltenham		
June 25th	Oat Street	11.00am	Rev. Hilton Birtles
	Gloucester	3.00pm	Members of the Congregation

Services for July

July 2nd	Oat Street	11.00am	Peter Cartwright
	Cheltenham	3.00pm	Malcolm Sadler
July 9th	Oat Street	11.00am	Elsie Bright / John Green
	Gloucester	3.00pm	To be arranged
July 16th	Oat Street	11.00am	Tom Marriot
	Cheltenham	3.00pm	Margaret Phelan
July 23rd	Oat Street	11.00am	Vicki Newman / Sylvia Slocombe
	Gloucester	3.00pm	To be arranged
July 30th	Oat Street	11.00am	Kaleidoscope
	No service in Cheltenham or Gloucester		

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.

Millennium Garden Party

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

From South of the Cotswolds

Some of you will know that I am a Unitarian living in Chalford near Stroud so not surprisingly, I am a member of both Trowbridge and Gloucester. It occurred to me that you might be interested in - perhaps even meet - those who live south of the scarp. The Trowbridge congregation is at the Eastern end of the Western Union. The Trowbridge Church is linked to the Bath Fellowship, the Swindon Fellowship, (which now meets intermittently) and the Cirencester Fellowship which is very new. These form the Wessex group (WALUM) and as in the Cotswold Group several people have double memberships.

Trowbridge is a large congregation of 40-50. Although it is an hour's drive from here I attend once a month with my friend Helen Royal who also lives in Stroud. She's in charge of the junior Church and around eight children. She and I also lead the Religious Development Working Party in the Western Union. I also have other long-standing friends at Trowbridge, we are all members of the Unitarian Women's Group.

The Trowbridge Church is a converted bungalow on the outskirts of the town. The old "Gothic" Church has long since gone. The through room is the worship space. Lacking much character it is furnished with beautiful flowers. There are rumours that an artistic member will adorn the long wall with a painting - I hope so! The congregation has just acquired a new and dynamic young minister, Mark Shields, so there are many plans afoot. We had been without a minister for nine months since Elizabeth Birtles left for Croydon. The building has a garden and a car park. Sheds are to be moved and a lovely piece garden made. Margaret Pyle, the gardener in charge, hopes to ask every congregation in the UK for a single pebble which will be incorporated. I'll tell you more of this and other activities next time.

Helen Parsons

The Dream, and the Promise

Now I feel no fear	But this alone
Only contentment	Will not stop me
And blissfulness	Tonight again
And understanding	Myself I promise
It seemed so strange	For I cannot exist
That only just today	Without contentment and bliss
I did someone harm	And my spirit will not die
Or felt dislike	So if I cannot change
Or was so sad	Without changing the world
And I wonder why	The world and I will
I act that way	Have to change
When I feel like now	Good night
So I promise myself	Grow love on this
To stay as now	Summer's night
But soon I sleep	And build
And sooner I rise	Dreams on this -
To forgotten dreams	What if love and peace
And promises	Was all we had!

Written by 12 year-old girl on a North Carolina
summer's evening in 1963

Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Alfred Benton

A memorial service for the late Rev. Alfred Benton will be held at Unitarian New Meeting Church, Birmingham on Saturday 3rd June 200 at 11.00am. Everyone is invited to attend. A light buffet lunch will be served after the service. An indication of numbers attending would be appreciated.