

Contact Addresses

Minister

Rev. Michael Dadson 68 Windsor Road, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 4QF 01386 423493
Email: michaeldadson@tiscali.co.uk

Group Management Committee Officers

Chairman: Mrs. J. Eldershaw 38 Hemingway, Fairfield, Evesham, WR11 2HH 01386 48643
Vice Chair: Mr. P. Wright 5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH 01386 443123
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

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 1XW 01386 48261
Vice Chair Mr T. Smith Nursery Cottage, Guthries Burgage, Back Ends, Chipping Campden, Glos. GL55 6AU 01386 841212

Secretary: Mr J Green 1 Holloway Drive Pershore Worcs. WR10 1JK 01386 553948
Treasurer: Mrs. D. Wright 5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH 01386 443123
Lettings Secretary: Mrs. D. Wright 5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH 01386 443123
Organist: Mr. David Barnett 7 Hylton Road, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2QB 01386 47510

Gloucester Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars - Services held 2nd & 4th Sundays at 3pm. Founded 1662
Email: unitarians@smallestspace.com **Web:** www.smallestspace.com/unitarians

Chair: Vacant
Vice-Chair: Mr. W. Hawkins 6 Sorrel Close, Robinswood, Gloucester, GL4 9UU 01452 536038
Treasurer: Mr. G Lowthian 109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos, GL2 9BN 01452 730227
Secretary: Vacant

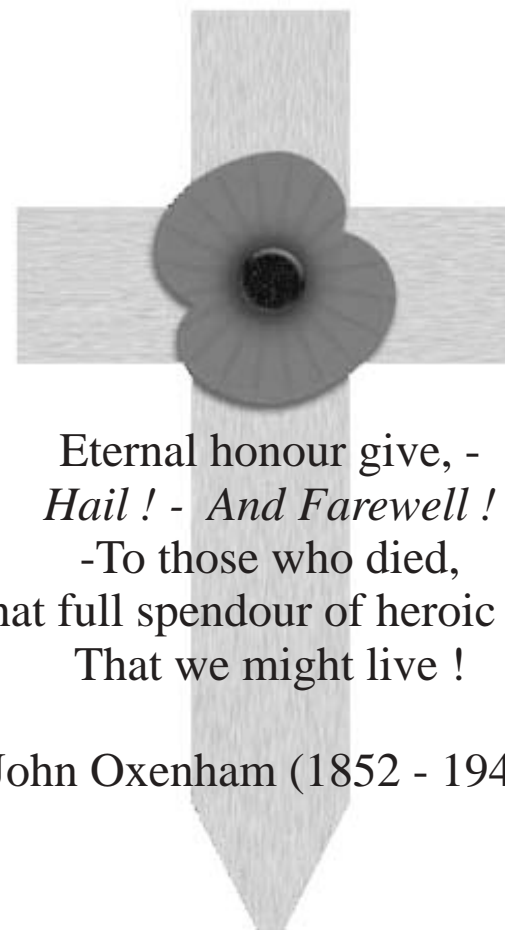
The Cotswold Group Newsletter & Calendar is published monthly.
Subscriptions: £7.50 per year payable to the Treasurer of your nearest Cotswold Group Congregation. Friends must please pay this subscription to continue receiving the newsletter. Members are encouraged to cover the cost of receiving the newsletter in their annual membership subscription or donations to their church.



Cotswold Group of Unitarian & Free Christian Congregations

Unitarians explore the meaning of life and encourage freedom of thought, giving respect to all religions and philosophies

Newsletter & Calendar November 2002



Eternal honour give, -
Hail ! - And Farewell !
-To those who died,
In that full splendour of heroic pride,
That we might live !

John Oxenham (1852 - 1941)

What a Bunch!

I would like to enthuse for a while about the Group Harvest Thanksgiving which many of us shared on September 22nd. This might seem strange so long after the event (especially now that the weather has moved us on into the rainy season beyond the mists of mellow fruitfulness!) but I find myself wanting to share and explore the imagery which underlay that Harvest Service all those weeks ago.

People had been asked to bring blooms with them, so that we would have an abundance of flowers there as the key element in the 'Flower Communion' which was the embracing form of the service. (One each would have done, but by bringing extra we ensured that there were enough flowers there for everyone who came – some of whom may not have heard the request, or may simply have forgotten!)

A short way into the service the flowers were collected in and placed randomly in a group of vases, at which point these words were said:-

“In this our seasonal worship we celebrate the beauty of the earth which is our home, manifest to us especially at this time in the loveliness of flowers. We celebrate also our gathering together to make a community of worshippers – each bringing ourselves; This is what community looks like – this vibrant jostle, stem by stem declaring the marvellous joining.”

But there was more imagery to appreciate, even more than the startling beauty of those assembled blooms. The water in those vases was not just any old water; we had combined water brought from the Avon in Evesham, water from the Severn in Gloucester, and spa water collected from the Town Hall pump in Cheltenham – an obvious symbol of the mingling of our three congregations.

What also struck me, though, was that we had constructed together a powerful tribute to the transient. Blooms, by their very nature, are passing glories . . . but none the less for that. Indeed they help to remind us when we forget that it is in the passing moment that we must find meaning, purpose, and fulfillment.

And what was made clear by the mingling of the waters was that we each of us contribute to nurturing and nourishing those moments of glory in each other; we all bring something to the waters in which others can find fulfillment. In congregational life we are all equally responsible to be the water in which the blooming of others can be prolonged and displayed, and we rejoice at the display as they bloom . . . with their help it will be our turn another time.

I don't know about you, but I shall be hoping to catch a glimpse of some winter bloomers pretty soon!

Michael

Some quotes submitted by Sylvia Slocombe

When life seems a dreary grind
and things seem fated to annoy,
Say something nice to someone else
and watch the world light up with joy.

Anon

If your heart will hold a bough of green,
God will send a singing bird

Chinese Proverb

There is no better way
to thank God for your sight,
Than by giving a helping hand
To someone in the dark.

Helen Keller

Lord still the clamour of our days
and calm our rushing anxious ways;
In silence teach us how to praise;
Give us peace within your love.

Anon

Newsletter Submissions

Please let Doreen Wright have any items for inclusion, poems, prayers, amusing anecdotes etc. by the **third** weekend of each month.

This is your newsletter, and we would like everyone to have a voice. We welcome contributions which invite discussion without causing offence. The Group Committee will act as arbiter should uncertainty arise.

Please type or clearly write your submissions, or send them by e-mail to: peter@blackberry.me.uk

The Midland Union
 of
Unitarian & Free Christian Churches
 Registered Charity No. 500,925

29, Woodlands Road, Cookley, Nr. Kidderminster Worcs. DY 10 3TL
 Tel: 01562 850538

To all Member Congregations
and Fellowships

19th October 02

Nominations for the Midland Union Representative on the G.A. Council

Your Congregation is invited to submit the name of one person as candidate for election to the G.A. Council as Midland Union representative for a period of three years commencing from the G.A. Annual Meeting in April 2003.

The Candidate must be a member of your Congregation or Fellowship and indicate that he/she is willing to stand for election. The Candidate should also be asked to supply a short personal statement for circulation to voting Congregations.

The General Assembly envisage the role of District Representative to be more of a two-way channel between Congregations and G.A. Council

Our current Representative Mrs Margaret Phelan M.A. of Kidderminster is due to stand down in April 2003 after serving for two consecutive three year periods. This is the maximum allowed under the G.A. Constitution and we offer Margaret our sincere thanks for her loyal service to the Unitarian cause both in the English Midlands and Nationally.

Nominations should reach me by not later than November 30th 2002

Voting papers and candidates' statements will then be sent out before the end of the year and the result announced early in the new year.

Please give this important and valuable exercise in Unitarian democracy your full support.

Yours in Fellowship.

Roger Mathews
Honorary Secretary

Services for November

November 3rd	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham
November 8th	6.30pm	Evesham "Friday Light"
November 10th	Remembrance Sunday 11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Gloucester
November 15th	6.30pm	Evesham "Friday Light"
November 17th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham
November 22nd	6.30pm	Evesham "Friday Light"
November 24th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham "Facets Sunday" Gloucester
November 29th	6.30pm	Evesham "Friday Light"

The collection at Evesham on November 3rd will go to "Angel Tree Project" which provides Christmas gifts for children of prisoners whose home lives are sometimes very difficult.

On Remembrance Sunday November 10th the collection at Evesham will go to the British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Remembrance

John Cook, Coder, HMS Trinidad 1942

Sleep well brave warrior of Russian Convoy fame
 The world will ever respect your name
 The enemy sunk your ship, you survived
 Now join your shipmates in seafarers paradise.
 No more to sail those nightmares of sheer hell on earth
 Even the pseudo hero's will acknowledge your worth.
 Sleep, sleep, brave warrior sleep.

Sam Pim

Minister's Doings – October/November

A glimpse of the 'extras' in Michael's Diary, beyond the week-by-week routines.

October 11th	Funeral, at Kettering Crematorium, of Mary Wiess – a lifelong member of the Northampton Congregation
October 13th	Special services were held at both Evesham and Gloucester, to celebrate our memberships and to mark G.A. Sunday
October 14th	Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Mary Wiess in Northampton
October 17th - 19th	Annual Retreat of the G.A.'s Development Committee in Cannock
October 19th	Annual Luncheon of the Midland Union (muggins the Speaker . . .)
October 20th	We've organised a joint service with the Cheltenham Baha'i Assembly to mark the start of One World Week
October 21st	Possibly going to Leicester with Evesham InQuirers to meet Bishop John Shelby Spong, whose work we have been studying recently
November 4th	Meeting of Engagement Support, in Unity Church, Islington
November 5th	Thought for the Week piece due at the Evesham Journal
November 11th - 13th	Ministry Consultation Group meets at Hucklow
November 14th	Midland Union Executive Meeting, in Birmingham
November 15th	Assembly at Swan Lane First School, Evesham

The Future Of The Cotswold Group

By now you will all be aware that Michael is leaving us at the end of the year to take up his new post of District Minister. This means that we shall be losing Michael as our full time minister but we shall be part of his district and therefore still able to turn to him for advice and guidance. The Group Committee decided that, owing to a shortage of funds we would delay looking for a replacement minister for three months. This will have the advantage of giving us some time to consider what we really want from a minister. Do we expect too much from our ministers in the hope that they will produce new members of our congregations and new activities and then fail to support them? Or do we really only want a minister to come on Sundays? Is this the limit of our energy level? I hope all members of the Cotswold Group will discuss this issue amongst themselves and in groups and let me know what their conclusions are. Above all be honest about what you want and what you feel you can support. Please feel free to get in touch with me and let me know your thoughts. We can then meet in the New Year to discuss the various possibilities.

Janet Eldershaw, Group Chairman

Unitarian Music Society

This is an expression of gratitude to Evesham congregation for contributing to the fees of the Unitarian Music Society weekend. The weekend proved to be of much enjoyment for me. The organ recital was lovely and very much complimented its beautiful home of Oxford Unitarian chapel. The chapel itself is not much older than 100 years but was still breathtaking. I was particularly fond of one of the glass engraved windows: the one of the 'angel of liberty'. The angel's wings are not where one would expect them to be, but instead are carried in her arms: the symbolisation of this being that she will not wear them on her back until all areas of the world have been granted liberty and freedom.

I found the workshop on composition quite demanding and difficult as it has been three years since I last studied harmony and counterpoint and I was surprised at the speed of which the mind forgets. However, this workshop was interesting and I did learn a lot from it.

I really enjoyed the choir rehearsals and have now sung a few freshly composed Unitarian hymns, which our congregation will see and sing in the near future. I also talked at length with Christopher Bodlam, a practising Unitarian who composes all genres of music from organ music to the symphony and I found him to be a fascinating man. I also got along very well with the singing leader, Sarah, who is not much older than myself and is touring with the musical 'West Side Story'. She has promised to send me details of the Unitarian youth weekends.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise, as I did not sing in the concerts. I would have liked to have performed in the concerts, but I am sorry to say that my confidence was knocked when a few ladies said that my choice of music was silly and that they would not enjoy it. I must say that everybody else was very friendly and welcoming.

I still greatly enjoyed the weekend and would like to thank you all for helping me to attend.

Thanks again,
Charlotte

Resignations

Unfortunately, due to family commitments and their recent move, Paul and Carey Hackett have resigned as chairman and secretary of the Gloucester congregation.

Please contact Gordon Lowthian for any Gloucester matters for the time being.

Oat Street Notices

Christmas Party

At Oat Street Chapel
to be arranged by Chris and Sally

Monday December 9th 2002 - 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Good food and Entertainment
Father Christmas will be present - Raffle

Admission by ticket only, available from Doreen Wright - £5 each
Closing date November 17th. Numbers required for catering purposes
If anyone has a raffle prize they would care to donate please see Chris and Sally

Christmas Concert

Still looking forward to December we shall be having our
Christmas Concert with Musyck Anon. This will be on
Friday December 6th 7.00pm.

Concert will be followed by coffee and mince pies.

GA Chalice Appeal - October 13th GA Sunday.

A thank you from June Marriott

My sincere thanks for the generous amount given to my fund for the GA. I would like the Evesham congregation to know that my personal fund raising will go specifically to Ministerial Student Support at the request of the GA. Through the personal giving and goods sold on the stall Evesham's contribution was £100.25. I am most grateful for your co-operation. My total now stands at £639.00. I am much heartened that I will reach the £1000 target by GA Assembly time next April. Thank you Evesham folk very much.

June

Bayshill News and Events

Services

Sunday November 3rd	3.00pm
Sunday November 17th	3.00pm

It is a salutary thought; we only have 4 more services with Michael as our Minister. To reassure our members; services are arranged for the future.

January 5th	Congregation Members
January 19th	David Wright
February 2nd	Kay Millard
February 16th	June Marriott
March 2nd	Linda Phillips
March 16th	Gavin Lloyd

Inquirer Group

Thursday November 14th 2.30pm at Bayshill Meeting Hall when we shall be discussing Chapter 6 of "Prospects for the Unitarian Movement"
All welcome. Refreshments served.

Bayshillians Social Evening

Tuesday November 19th at 7.00pm. The venue will be decided nearer the time to suit members.

Midland Union Annual Lunch

Three of us thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Birmingham New Meeting on October 19th. The sun shone and we appreciated the joys of the English countryside in Autumn. The company was, of course, excellent. We really enjoyed the meal, the best since I have attended and it was a pity Michael's hectic schedule meant he was unable to join us for the lunch. However, his entrance, right on time, was spectacular and his talk based round his hobby of Morris Dancing was entertaining and very thought provoking. Undoubtedly one to be used again especially when his back has recovered and he can dance as well as sing. Thanks to Janice Ashley and all at the M.U. for a lovely day.

One World Week

It was a joy to welcome three members of the Bahai's to our service for One World Week especially as one visitor came from Iran and another was a student from Norway. I hope they will spend time with us in the future so that we can share ideas and learn from others.

Jenny Buckland