

Contact Addresses

For Rites of Passage contact the Minister

Rev. Don Phillips Email: Don.Phillips@btinternet.com 01242 255820

Group Management Committee Officers

Chairman:	Mrs A J Thursfield	2 Southfield Manor Park, Sandy Lane Charlton Kings Cheltenham Glos GL53 9DJ	01242 254825
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
 Web-site: www.bayshillunitarian.org.uk

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:	Mr. Colin Bailey		01242 577656

Evesham Oat Street Chapel, Oat Street - Services held every Sunday at 11am. Founded 1696
 Web-site: www.oatstreetchapel.com

Chair:	Mrs. J. Couper	17 Shannon Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 3FF Email: benedict@janedeacon.fsnet.co.uk	01386 424167
Vice Chair	Mr. P. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH	01386 443123
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 Email: david_barnett@btopen world.com	01386 47510

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

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.

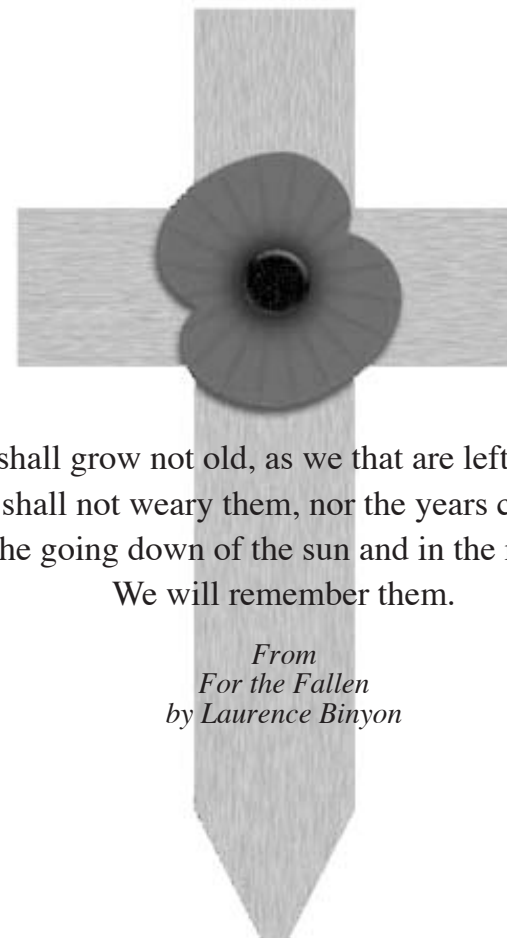
Subscriptions: £7.50 per year payable to the Treasurer of your nearest Cotswold Group Congregation. Friends must please pay this subscription to continue receiving the newsletter. Members are encouraged to cover the cost of receiving the newsletter in their annual membership subscription or donations 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 2005



They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
 Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun and in the morning
 We will remember them.

*From
 For the Fallen
 by Laurence Binyon*

The Minister's Piece

Last month I said that I'd be away on Sunday 2nd October, attending the Induction service of Rev Wyn Thomas at Prengwyn in Ceredigion, South West Wales. This turned out to be quite a day and I really feel that I must tell you all something about it – especially as, as far as we know, Linda and I were the only Unitarians based this side of the Welsh border to have attended.

We travelled to Wales by what I would call the 'pretty route', via Gloucester and Ross-on-Wye, Abergavenny, Brecon, and Llandovery to Lampeter. The tiny village of Prengwyn lies just a few miles beyond Lampeter and its Unitarian chapel, named 'Pantydefaid Unitarian Chapel', is the largest of the six chapels, all within a distance of no more than eight or so miles of each other, that now form Wyn's ministry.

Being the largest, it was chosen as the venue for the Induction service and with good reason. We arrived forty-five minutes before the start of the service to find the chapel full. Indeed it was absolutely packed! We, along with others who arrived at around the same time, had to sit on a narrow wooden form to one side of the front of the chapel. Those who arrived later were provided with chairs to sit outside, and have the service relayed by the PA system. A senior chapel member explained that the chapel's capacity was 225, but he estimated that more like 325 had squeezed into the building. This must have been a daunting prospect for Wyn, who was more used to seeing perhaps twenty-five people facing him on an average Sunday, but he couldn't have received a warmer welcome to his home district in his new role.

As I explained last month, Wyn is a recent graduate of the University of Wales at Lampeter and he undertook part of his ministry training with Linda at Harris Manchester College in Oxford. Our aim was to be there for Wyn, and to take in the atmosphere, knowing that we wouldn't be able to understand much of what was going on with the service being entirely in the Welsh language. We were therefore delighted, along with other non-Welsh speakers from other parts of Wales, to be provided with headphones to listen to the voice of a simultaneous translator. This thoughtful and tolerant gesture enabled us to feel fully involved in the proceedings.

The service lasted for two hours and included contributions from representatives of each of Wyn's congregations, as well as other denominations in the local area, and other Unitarian communities in Ceredigion and other parts of Wales. There was also some wonderful singing by the congregation and by the many children and young people present.

The event drew publicity that might be the envy of many of our congregations. On the day, BBC Wales broadcast a piece about Wyn, referring to him, at 22, being the youngest minister in Wales and certainly one of the youngest in Britain.

It was a rare experience and a privilege to be there for this special and very moving occasion.

Don



Christmas concert

On Friday 16th December at 7.30pm

**At Oat Street Chapel, Evesham
(next to the Library,
ample parking in Oat Street Carpark)**

Retiring collection for Christian Aid

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

Coffee Invite

This wonderful Autumn weather, and the support I have received from so many different people has enabled me to be very positive and forward looking over the past few weeks. I am working hard at the “do I really need this, why am I keeping that”, because I should move to somewhere more compact than this lovely house. In the meantime, if I can persuade any of you to pick up the phone, and invite yourselves to coffee, lunch or tea, I should be absolutely delighted. We British are not very good at this but I do hope to hear the telephone ring!!

Jenny Buckland 01453 825733

Nightingale Centre Hucklow Refurbishment Fund

We raised £45 at the Harvest Gathering, which Julie Dadson was delighted to receive for the fund. Julie sends greetings to you all.

Gloucester Services 3:00pm

November 13th	Rev. D. Phillips
December 11th	Rev. D. Phillips
December 25th	NO SERVICE

Natural and Man Made Disasters

Every news bulletin over the past few weeks has been dominated by the most terrible natural disasters. We can only hope it will make people more compassionate, so there are eventually less man made problems. I hope the world can quickly develop much better ways to respond to these unexpected mass tragedies. I wish I had the courage and ability to do more than write a cheque, but at least, that is better than doing nothing.

Jenny Buckland 01453 825733

Services for November 2005

Nov. 2nd	11.00am	Evesham	Wednesday InQuirers Group In The Gatehouse Room
Nov. 4th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'Remember the fifth of November' Alison Thursfield
Nov. 6th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham	Rev Don Phillips Rev. Don Phillips
Nov. 11th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'Family' Janet Eldershaw
Nov. 13th	10.50am 3.00pm	Evesham Gloucester	Rev. Don Phillips Rev. Don Phillips Remembrance Sunday
Nov. 16th	11.00am	Evesham	Wednesday InQuirers Group In The Gatehouse Room
Nov. 18th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'Montserrat' Lesley Harris
Nov. 20th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham	Mr Gavin Lloyd Mr Gavin Lloyd (Midland Union President)
Nov. 25th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'What do we mean by Prayer' Rev. Don Phillips
Nov. 27th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham	Mrs Alison Thursfield (Midland Union VicePresident) Member Led Service “Favourite Things” Please bring an object,poem,prose, or music to present.
Nov. 30th	11.00am	Evesham	Wednesday InQuirers Group In The Gatehouse Room

Forthcoming Social Event Evesham 2005

Christmas Party

*Monday 12th December
Oat Street Chapel,
in The Gatehouse Room
7.00 for 7.30pm*

Musyck Anon Christmas Concert

*Friday 16th December at 7.30pm
At Oat Street Chapel Evesham
Admission Free*

*a retiring collection for Christian Aid will
be available for those wishing to support
this worthwhile charity*

Heritage Open Days

As in 2004, we participated once again in the national 2005 September Heritage Open Days on the Saturday and Sunday. It required a considerable effort to prepare for this, but was, I think worthwhile - at least we had a spruced up Chapel at the end of the weekend! In anticipation, we carried out the necessary health and safety audit, tidied up the garden, cleaned the Chapel, put in plenty of flowers, ensured that we had the required handout for visitors (plus a free keyring as a reminder of their visit) and had refreshments at the ready.

On the day we were not blessed by the weather, sadly it was a miserable dull Saturday, complete with dispiriting drizzle. Although our visitor numbers were modest (in the twenties) those who came were very knowledgeable and interested in spending time looking at the Chapel itself, the garden, and Victorian Scullery. Several visitors sat down to share tea and coffee with those of us who were on duty and seemed happy to spend time talking about both the Chapel itself and Unitarianism. In addition we had the Fairtrade Stall available, which added an extra point of interest and reflected something of our ethos.

I think it was right to open again this year, and I'm certain we can build upon the experience for the future. It was good to welcome Lesley Harris from Cheltenham to both our Sunday service, and as a host to visitors in the afternoon. We are a small band, but in future, I think we need to be able to call on more people to help on the days themselves, and in the preparation for the event. There is a Portuguese proverb that seems appropriate here, "Mighty doors move on small hinges!", and so it proved to be.

On behalf of the congregation, I should like to thank John and Eileen Green for their stalwart help, Janet Eldershaw, and Anne Wheeler for their Saturday morning presence, my husband Ian Couper for his hours spent cutting back and tidying the garden, and Chris Grove, and Basil Shufflebotham for their work in the garden over several weeks

Jane Couper

(My apologies to Jane for missing this item from the October Newsletter - Peter Wright)

Garden Seat

A big thank you to Chris Grove and his sister Sally Attwood who recently donated to the Chapel, a magnificent garden seat, in memory of their parents Bill and Avis Grove. The seat will I am sure bring much pleasure to all those who wish to rest upon it for a while in our lovely Chapel garden.

Bayshill Services - 3.00pm

November 6th	Rev. D. Phillips
November 20th	Gavin Lloyd
November 27th	Member Led Service: "Favourite Things" Please bring an object, poem, prose or music to present
December 4th	Rev. D. Phillips
December 18th	Rev. D. Phillips and Members A reflective gathering on the "Festival of Light" We shall be discussing the contributions members would like to make over the next few weeks
December 25th	NO SERVICE

Thursday Night Discussion Group

Meetings are scheduled for 10th & 24th November and 8th December. They take place at Bayshill from 7:30 – 9:00pm. All welcome. The discussions are led by different members on a wide range of topics, notified in advance.

I need to think about Service Leaders for January onwards. Suggestions for who you would like to take services, and themes would be welcomed.

Jenny Buckland 01453 825733

The Gardener's Hymn

All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention though gard'ners know it's true,
Is when He made the goodies He made the baddies too.

All things spray and swattable
Disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable
The Lord God made them all

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas,
Manure that fills out noses, He also gave us these.

All things spray and swattable etc.

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens
The slugs that eat the lettuce and chew the aubergines.

All things spray and swattable etc.

The drought that kills the fuchsias, the frost that nips the buds,
The rain that drowns the seedlings, the blight that hits the spuds.

All things spray and swattable etc.

The fly that gets the carrots, the wasps that eat the plums,
How black the gard'ners outlook, though green may be his thumbs

All things spray and swattable etc.

But still we gard'ners labour midst veg'table and flowers,
And pray what hits our neighbours' will somehow bypass ours.

all things spray and swattable
Disasters great and small,
All things paraquatable
The Lord God made them all.

Barbara Robinson.
Submitted by Chris Grove

Music for Organ and Voice at Oat Street Chapel

A small but appreciative audience was present at Oat Street Chapel for the concert on Saturday evening, 15th October. Organist Malcolm Foster's accomplished playing of a varied programme of music for organ, gave full expression to the Chapel organ's excellent qualities. Soprano, Sarah Comley sang two pieces with organ accompaniment. The first, Malcolm Foster's setting of Psalm 23, then in the second half of the programme, Pie Jesu from Faure's Requiem. Sarah's singing was a delight and I would venture to say that seldom can the Chapel have been blest with such a voice. Thanks are due to David Barnett for arranging such an enjoyable evening of music making which raised £41.60 for the Chapel's organ fund.

John Green

Gloomy Gloucester

Some years ago I was on a train journey which included a stop at Gloucester. It was late November. The sky was overcast with a fine steady rain falling. As the train drew into Gloucester station I looked out of the window. What a gloomy place Gloucester looked I thought. My thoughts were given an added prompt by the dreadful events associated with Cromwell Street, still filling the news at that time.

Then I overheard a conversation from the seat behind. From the voices I judged it was a mother talking to her teenage daughter. "When I was young, for a treat my mum used to take me to Gloucester for a day out. We didn't do anything very special. We would walk round the shops, have a cup of tea and a cake in a little cafe, and usually ended up in Woolworths.

My mum would let me choose a small toy. One day after a day out, I remember when I went to bed cuddling my Woolies toy, a little doll, and my mum tucked me up and kissed me goodnight I thought - I must be the luckiest girl in the world."

The train gave a lurch and started out of the station, I looked out again; the sky was still overcast and rain falling, but somehow Gloucester didn't look such a gloomy place after all.

John Green