

## Contact Addresses

### For Rites of Passage contact the Minister

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

### Group Management Committee Officers

<b>Chairman:</b>	Mrs A J Thursfield	2 Southfield Manor Park, Sandy Lane Charlton Kings Cheltenham Glos GL53 9DJ	01242 254825
<b>Vice Chair:</b>	Mr. P. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH	01386 443123
<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  
Web-site: [www.bayshillunitarian.org.uk](http://www.bayshillunitarian.org.uk)

<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>	Mr. Colin Bailey		01242 577656

**Evesham** Oat Street Chapel, Oat Street - Services held every Sunday at 11am. Founded 1696  
Web-site: [www.oatstreetchapel.com](http://www.oatstreetchapel.com)

<b>Chair:</b>	Mrs. J. Couper	17 Shannon Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 3FF Email: benedict@janedeacon.fsnet.co.uk	01386 424167
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Mr. P. Wright	5 Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH	01386 443123
<b>Secretary:</b>	Mr J Green	1 Holloway Drive Pershore Worcs. WR10 1JK	01386 553948
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mrs. D. Wright	5, Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH	01386 443123
<b>Lettings Secretary:</b>	Mrs. D. Wright	5, Blackberry Way, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2AH	01386 443123
<b>Organist:</b>	Mr. David Barnett	7 Hylton Road, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 2QB Email: david_barnett@btopenworld.com	01386 47510

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

<b>Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Vice-Chair:</b>	Vacant		
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Mr. G Lowthian	109d Tewkesbury Road, Longford, Glos, GL2 9BN	01452 730227
<b>Secretary:</b>	Vacant		

The Cotswold Group Newsletter & Calendar is published monthly.

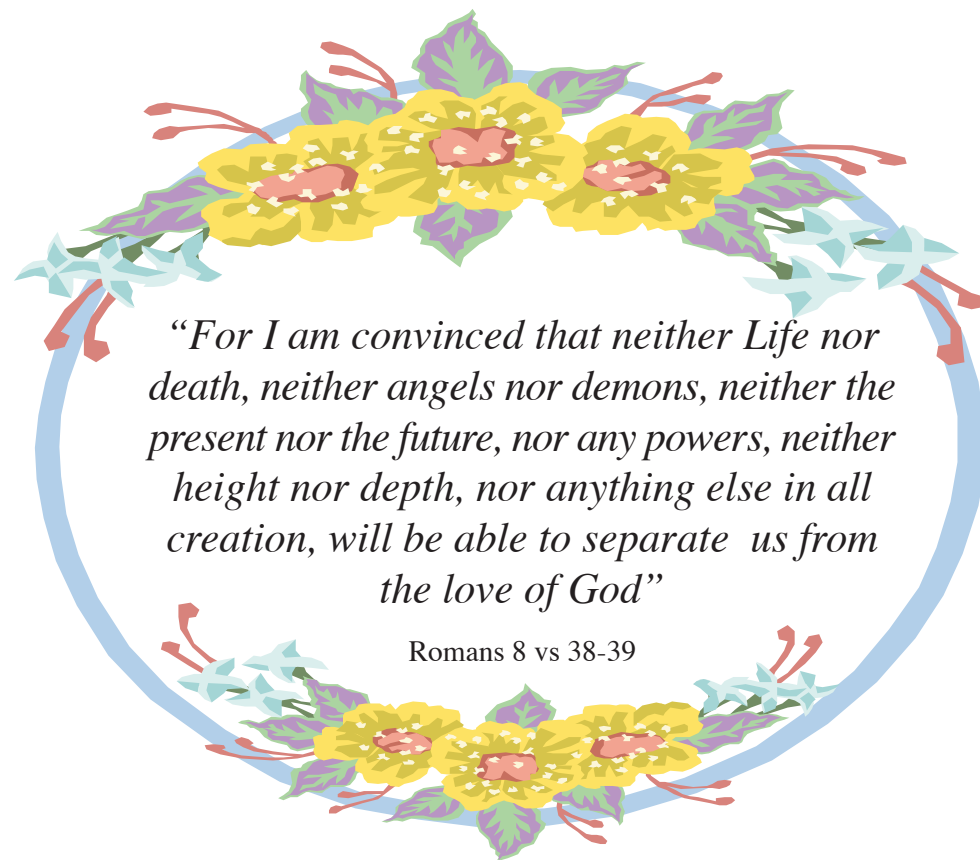
Subscriptions: £7.50 per year payable to the Treasurer of your nearest Cotswold Group Congregation. Friends must please pay this subscription to continue receiving the newsletter. Members are encouraged to cover the cost of receiving the newsletter in their annual membership subscription or donations 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 March 2006



## The Minister's Piece

Spring is coming at last! And with it, if not exactly a planned programme of events, at least a series of separate events, taking place over the next two months, in which, I hope, as many members of our Cotswold congregations as possible will be able to take part. I know that not everyone can, or would ever wish to, join in on every occasion, or even on any one single occasion, but these are opportunities to bring members our Cotswold congregations together more often.

Saturday 11th March will be a retreat day - as promoted in the February Newsletter. Anne Wheeler, of Evesham, has arranged the day and it will take place at The House of the Open Door, a retreat centre at Childswickham, Broadway. It's to be an all-day event on the theme of 'Being Together'. We'll spend time together in groups, using the meeting rooms and worship space, and an important part of the day will be the sharing of lunch in an unhurried atmosphere. Anne has booking forms and more information about the day's programme. It's hoped that members of both Cheltenham and Gloucester will be able to join Evesham for this event.

Evesham's Friday Light group will visit Avebury, the stone circle in Wiltshire, on Friday 7th April - though everyone is welcome to join in. This event will begin with lunch in the Red Lion pub, in the village of Avebury, set in the middle of the vast circle of stones. After lunch we will tour the stones with Dr Graham Harvey, of the Open University, who is an international authority on Contemporary Paganism as well as being a practising Druid. This event is proving popular - with members, friends and family members from all three of our Cotswold Group congregations and Cirencester planning to come.

The Cirencester congregation will join Cheltenham and Gloucester's joint service on Sunday 23 April. Members of Evesham are invited to come along and join in what I hope will be the beginning of a closer relationship between the Cotswold Group and its near neighbour in South Gloucestershire.

As I wrote in last month's Newsletter, I have every expectation for an active and successful 2006 for all of our Cotswold congregations.

Don

## Gloucester Services At 3:00Pm

**March 12th** Rev. Don Phillips  
Our membership service, when we will all celebrate our membership of the Gloucester Unitarians and welcome new members

**April 9th** Rev. Don Phillips

## Gloucester News

We are delighted to welcome David Wright as our Secretary. We thank Gordon for looking after Gloucester's finances so well.

## General Assembly Annual General Meeting

We are delighted that Lesley Harris will be the delegate for Gloucester and Cheltenham.

## Cotswold Group Annual General Meeting

Hosted by Gloucester Unitarians on April 9th at 3:45pm after the service at Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars, Gloucester.  
Light refreshments by members from Gloucester after the AGM.  
Please come and support your committee.

All your officers are willing to stand down and Gordon who has been secretary for many years and Jenny, Treasurer, for quite a few, would be grateful if someone would come forward to take these tasks. Please advise Gordon after March 5th if you are willing to volunteer. Contact details are on the back of the newsletter.

## Puppets in Royal Well 10th to 19th August 2006.

Cheltenham Unitarians will be hosting a special summer event this August when the British Puppet and Model Theatre Guild presents "Puppets in Royal Well". An exhibition of puppets of all varieties, marionettes, rod figures, glove puppets, and toy theatres, one of which is only three inches wide, complete with figures and scenery for Shakespeare's "Hamlet". Puppet and toy theatre performances will also take place throughout certain days. Pelham Puppets originated in Marlborough in the late 1940's, and were later produced in Cheltenham until the early 1990's. A number of Pelham figures will be on display, and also taking part in performances of "The sleeping beauty" "Hansel and Gretal", and "Pelham Puppet Parade" For further advance information contact Unitarian member Colin Bailey on 01242 577656

Watch this space for further details

Colin Bailey

### Bayshill Services at 3:00pm

**March 5th** Rev. Don Phillips  
**March 19th** Rev. Ann Latham (from Kidderminster)  
**March 26th** Gavin Lloyd (President of the Midland Union)

#### *British Summertime Begins!*

**April 2nd** Rev. Don Phillips  
An opportunity to share your "Joys & Concerns"  
**April 16th** EASTER SUNDAY  
Do members wish for a service on this day?  
If you do, it will be led by one of our members  
**April 23rd** Rev. Linda Phillips  
We shall be joined by Cirencester Unitarians and  
hope that Evesham members would like to attend.  
Light refreshments will be served after the service  
by Bayshill Members  
April 30th 3:00pm Social Gathering, hosted by Alison Thursfield  
at her home

#### Thursday Discussion Group

7:30 – 9:00pm at Bayshill  
March 16th and April 20th.

Discussion topic to be arranged.  
Ideas welcomed.

### Bayshill News

Fortified with refreshments, we held a rather informal AGM, when we agreed that all is well at Bayshill Church. Jenny will continue as acting Chairman and Treasurer, Alison as acting Secretary and Colin as our Lettings Secretary with overall responsibility for care of the building. We had an operating surplus again this year, which puts our finances on a secure footing. Meetings on the 4th and 5th Sundays have been a great success and the discussion group has enabled us to get to know each other much better. We thank Don for all his help and support and encouragement throughout the year.

### Services for March 2006

Mar 3rd	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'Idols' Lesley Harris
Mar 5th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham	Rev. Don Phillips Rev. Don Phillips
Mar 10th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'If Venice spent what Venice earned' John Green
Mar 12th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Gloucester	Rev. Don Phillips Rev. Don Phillips
Mar 17th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'Unitarians and Tolerance' Group Discussion
Mar 19th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham	Rev. Ann Latham Rev. Ann Latham (From Kidderminster)
Mar 24th	6.45pm	Evesham	Friday Light 'Hope' Janet Eldershaw
Mar 26th	11.00am 3.00pm	Evesham Cheltenham	Mr.Gavin Lloyd Mr Gavin Lloyd (Midland Union President)
Mar 31st	6.45pm	Evesham	'Friday Light Let's talk about Avebury' Rev. Don Phillips

#### 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](mailto:peter@blackberry.me.uk)

**Oat Street Chapel**  
**Evesham**  
**Social Events Calendar for 2006**

Monday April 24th	Easter Parade
Monday June 26th	Salmon & Strawberries
Monday October 2nd	Harvest Supper
Monday December 11th	Christmas Party

N.B. dates chosen are subject to alteration should unforeseen difficulties arise, we hope however to keep to this schedule.

Tickets are now available for the Valentines supper price £6.00 from Sally Chris, or Peter.

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**A Date For Your Diary**

David Barnett Oat Street Chapel Organist will be giving a recital to Oat Street Chapel on Saturday 22nd July 2006 commencing 7.30pm. David is devising a varied programme which will include works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Edward Elgar, and Caesar Frank.

**The Midland Union AGM**

The Midland Union AGM will take place at Warwick Unitarian Chapel, High Street, Warwick on Saturday 26th March 2006 commencing at 10.30am. Guest speaker Mrs Kay Millard.

Please try to attend this important event.

**For Information**

Several people have asked me for details of the book on which I based my address for the Evesham and Cheltenham services on Sunday 15 January It was from a book by :-

Bill Adams The Five Lessons of Life.  
Published in 2000 by Rider.  
ISBN No 0 7126 7075 0. Price £8.99.

Evesham's Wednesday InQuirers Group meetings for March will take place at 11.00a.m. in the gate-house upper room on:

1 March                      15 March

Rev Don Phillips

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches has just announced the result of the ballot for the new Executive committee as follows:-

Jennifer Atkinson	Neville Kenyon
Dawn Buckle	Rev. Ann Peart
Rev. Stephen Dick	Sir Peter Soulsby M.P.
Dorothy Hewerdine	Rev. Robert Wightman

We wish them every success in their new role

**On the Lighter Side**

**Daft Definitions**

Polarize;	What penguins see with
Raisin;	A worried looking grape
Shin;	A device for finding furniture in the dark
Gossip;	Letting the chat out of the bag
Barbeque;	A wait at the hairdressers!

**Hospital Hiccups!**

An old man woke up in the recovery room after an operation and said, "Thank goodness that's over!".  
"You're lucky," said the man in the next bed "they left a scalpel inside me, and had to open me up again".  
"Me too" said the man on the other side "They left a sponge in me"  
Just then the surgeon who had operated on the old man came into the room and said "Has anybody seen my hat?"  
The old man fainted.

Submitted by Walter Hawkins