



## Good news!!

We are so pleased to announce that work to restore our beautiful Meeting House will be starting in mid-February. We have raised enough money through donations, grants and our own fundraising efforts to be able to give the go ahead to our builders.

We have been awarded up to £421,000 from Historic England, £10,000 from Suffolk Historic Churches Trust, £5,000 from the Gregson Trust and together we have raised £20,000 with our own events and other fundraising sales and donations. There are two large grant applications still in the pipeline and we can only hope they are as generous. We also now aim to install a new toilet in the entrance lobby and to build proper disabled access at the front of the Meeting House as part of the last stages of the work. We do still have to raise more funds for these, so the hard work continues and Linda King and Tessa Forsdike are focussing on some more grant applications which will be ready to submit when details of costs and permissions are complete.

## Contents –

- 1 – Good News; Slightly Less Good News
- 2 – Thorpeness; Christmas Fundraising
- 3 – Howard League; Café Myra; Services; Membership Service; Inquirer Finance Director
- 4 – EA Women’s Group; Birthdays; Events
- 5 – Mother’s Prayer; Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment; Justgiving.com; 4Cs; Thought for the month

## Slightly Less Good News!

In order to allow the builders full access to do the extensive renovations, we will need to move out of the Meeting House after the service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. We will be holding our services in the Hall next door, which will be very different, but we are sure we will rise to the challenge and adapt well.

We are appealing for people to come and help at a Working Party on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February from 10am. We will need boxes to store books and papers (preferably ones with handles or grips holes). Most important is the availability of willing hands to help – or to make coffee for the workers. We can make it fun too.

We need to empty the outer pews, move the chairs and hymn books (so we can access them for services in the Hall), store all moveable items (children’s toys etc.), clear under the stairs, pack all books and our Bits and Bobs items and generally tidy so that we do not hinder the builders in any way.

There will also be only limited parking available during the building work. There will be four spaces left available for people with a disability. During the week these will be used by people from Willis (for which they pay us). We can use them only on Sundays, so if you are able to park in a nearby car park and walk to the service in the Hall, that will leave more space for people who can’t walk so far. Access round by the side of the Meeting House to the Hall will only be possible on Sundays. So we will need to be ready to work together.

## **Thorpeness.**

### **Christmas Day 2019.**

Soft breeze dawdling

In the sun filled air;

sea, a soft, soft

whoosh and scrape

covering and uncovering

sand and shingle

as it moves in and out

between shore and shallows.

Shadows of creeping

salty water fingers

permeating yellow grains;

stones shaped by movement

glistening with water and the sun's

unseasonable attempt

to spread light upon the earth.

Now's the time to embrace all the senses,

sizes and shapes, textures and colours;

to feel, to remember during this dark time,

this time of introspection,

to listen to my soul,

to be.

*Linda King.*

## **Christmas Fundraising**

Here is a letter responding to our donation to the St Elizabeth Hospice -

Dear Mr Hawes

Thank you to everyone at the Unitarian Meeting House for supporting St Elizabeth Hospice by making a donation of £115 received from the Mince Pie and Mulled Wine event.

I thought you would like to know how your contribution will help us to continue to grow local Hospice care for local people. Every hour of a nurse's time costs £20 and this year we will care for around 2,000 local people - either in their home or at the Hospice. Demand for our care is constantly growing and we rely on the generosity of local groups like yours to enable us to continue providing our care, free of charge both now and in the future.

There are many ways to support your local Hospice, however you choose to help, it really does make a difference.

Once again, thank you for choosing to support St Elizabeth Hospice

Yours sincerely, Fiona Ginn Community Fundraiser

Thanks go to Sandra and Malcolm for doing the organising and supplying the mince pies and to Linda King who raised £50 of that sum on the Bits and Bobs stall. In their comment piece below, Sandra and Malcolm wonder if it is time for a re-think ...?

The total of £ 115 is the lowest amount raised by this event over the 20 years or so that we have been organising this to support the local Hospice. We started the Mulled wine and mince pies event to raise money for the Hospice following a comment from our then minister the Rev Cliff Reed that with the carol service, Sunday service and then Christmas Day service so close together the Sunday service would be low on attendance. We suggested that having a social/fun event after the service might attract a larger congregation and also add to the Christmas atmosphere.

The idea was popular and we have continued each year since then. Sandra has made most of the mince pies (some are bought ones left over from the carol service) and we have provided the alcoholic and non-alcoholic mulled wine. I am afraid that we haven't kept a record of the amount we, the bits and bob stall and the draw for the Dundee cake have raised over the years. We have had help on the day from Phil and Ali and other members of the congregation.

Our questions now are –

1. Can we improve the event?
2. How can we involve others?
3. Can we create a different fundraising event for the Hospice?
4. Should we abandon this event (although we are still happy to continue?)

Please reply to Malcolm and Sandra ([sandra.j.hawes@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.j.hawes@gmail.com)). Or put your views to Tessa for the Ipswich Unitarian.

### **Howard League for Penal Reform**

We have received a request for support from this charity which campaigns for reform in prisons, including raising the standard of conditions, education, exercise and to overturn the restrictions on books in prisons. They also fund a national legal team to offer free legal advice for children and young people in custody. If you would like to become an individual member, at a cost of £3.50 per month (£2 a month for those unwaged), please contact Poppy Cabbage, Membership and Project Officer on [poppy.cabbage@howardleague.org](mailto:poppy.cabbage@howardleague.org) or write to Howard League for Penal Reform, 1, Ardleigh Road, London N1 4HS.

### **Café Myra**

The little café in St Nicholas Street at the end of the alleyway through from our Hall has changed hands and the new owners welcome new customers – for drinks, snacks, lunch or afternoon tea. Having tried it, I am happy to recommend the cake! TF

### **Services in February** (all start at 10.45)

2<sup>nd</sup> - Nick Groves from the Octagon, Norwich

9<sup>th</sup> - Andrew Benedict – from the East of England Faiths Agency

16<sup>th</sup> - John Stevens. - Ipswich Unitarians

23<sup>rd</sup> - Linda King. Ipswich Unitarians with Communion following the morning service, conducted by Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus

### **Thank you**

Thank you to all who led and contributed to the services in January – including Martin Gienke, Riena Jackson, Ian Hartley, Tessa Forsdike, Ann Baepler and Cliff Reed.

### **Membership Service – 26<sup>th</sup> Jan**

At our annual membership service the theme was 'Belonging' and as Claire Johnson and Daniele Falcinelli were welcomed formally as members of our congregation, they shared with us some of their personal journey to joining us and belonging to our community.



Thanks to Maggie Hodges who took this photo after the service – L to R – Rev. Cliff Reed, Claire Johnson, Daniele Falcinelli, Ann Baepler (chair of Trustees)

### **Finance Director – for The Inquirer**

Our Bi-Weekly Unitarian Journal is seeking a Finance Director to find different ways of financing the paper and keeping an eye on trends and the overall financial picture. Details from Phil Tomlin – [the.tomlins@live.co.uk](mailto:the.tomlins@live.co.uk)

## East Anglian Women's Group

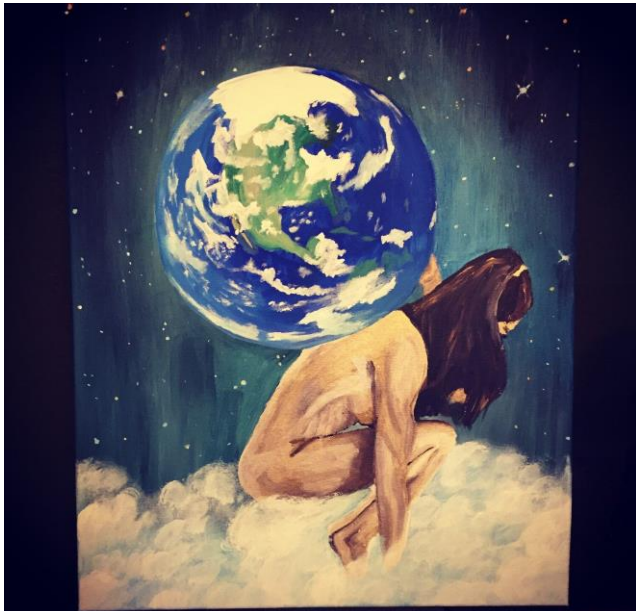
On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March (St Patricks Day!) local Unitarian Women will be meeting in Ely for a joint visit to the cathedral. Those from Ipswich will be travelling by train. If you would like to join them, speak to Paulette or Linda. Also -

## Unitarian Women's Group Conference

23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow

# Killing Eve



Women of all ages are welcome to this weekend of friendship. We will explore a feminist perspective on the climate change emergency, through workshops and discussion. The conference will be facilitated by Sue MacFarlane and Jo O'Sullivan. Alongside the thoughtful exploration of the issues raised, there will be fun and laughter! Booking: Stella Burney [info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk](mailto:info@thenightingalecentre.org.uk) or 01298 871218 and send Registration form to: Margaret [margaretrobinson81@gmail.com](mailto:margaretrobinson81@gmail.com) During the conference there will also be a conversation regarding transwomen. Copies of the application form with further details are available on the side table or if you are interested & want to know more, see Linda King.

## Birthdays in February –

Happy birthday in February to – Jean Odell on 1<sup>st</sup>; Robert Waller on 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ali Mercer on 3<sup>rd</sup>; Kate Dickinson and Rachel Hamilton on 5<sup>th</sup>; Tracy Sakals on 11<sup>th</sup>; Linda King on 14<sup>th</sup>; Beryl Beech on 16<sup>th</sup>; Ralph Spence on 19<sup>th</sup>; Tessa Forsdike on 20<sup>th</sup>; John Ellis on 29<sup>th</sup> ... and for once John can celebrate on the actual day!



Riena kindly brought in a cake to share during coffee after our service on her birthday 26<sup>th</sup> January – here we are singing to her!

## Events in February

11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Trustees Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> Feb – Working Party to clear the Meeting House in preparation for the builders to start. From 10am, all welcome.

16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Tessa Forsdike on BBC Radio Suffolk to review the newspapers and promote our Meeting House – from 7.20am!

18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Faith in Ipswich – An evening of Reflection - 6.30 to 8.30pm Mayor's Parlour, Ipswich Town Hall

**In March** – on 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – 2020 Faith Lecture - "The Changing Landscape of Religion and Belief: Standing at the Crossroads" – Uni of Suffolk

## **Mothers' Prayer**

Our mother who art underfoot  
Hallowed be thy names  
Thy seasons come  
Thy will be done  
Within us as around us

Thank you for our daily bread  
Our water, our air, and our lives  
And so much beauty  
Lead us not into selfish craving  
And the destructions  
That are the hungers of the gluttons  
But deliver us from wanton consumption  
of thy vast but finite bounty.

For thine is the only sphere of life we know  
And the power and the glory  
Forever and ever  
Amen by Rebecca Solnit  
(Posted on Suzanne Cleary's Facebook page)

## **Shared Act of Reflection and Commitment**

In a world scarred by the evils of war,  
racism, injustice and poverty  
we offer this joint Act of Commitment as we  
look to our shared future.

We commit ourselves as people of many faiths,  
To work together for the common good,  
Uniting to build a better society,  
Grounded in values and ideals we share:

Community, personal integrity,  
A sense of right and wrong,  
Learning, wisdom and love of truth,  
Care and compassion, justice and peace,  
Respect for one another,  
for the earth and its creatures.

We commit ourselves, in a spirit of friendship and  
co-operation, to work together  
alongside all who share our values and ideals,  
to help bring about a better world  
now and for generations to come.

*Words spoken at the 'Stand Together' Holocaust  
Memorial Day gathering in Ipswich on 29<sup>th</sup> January*

## **JustGiving.com**

Thanks to Adam Whybray, the 'Just Giving' page on our website is being set up in order hopefully to raise more funding towards the Meeting House restoration work. Like many things, sometimes it's necessary to invest to get a return! Our investment to run the page for 6 months is costing £15 per month. If anybody would like to sponsor a month at £15, or a week or two at approx. £3.50 per week, please put your contribution into the collection bag with a little note to say what it's for. All donations gratefully received! Thank you.

## **The 4c's Group**

A group of people from the congregation meet informally to plan special services and events throughout the year. At our recent meeting we discussed the prospect of not being able to hold services in our Meeting House for several months while the builders are occupying it. As a way of holding our community together, we propose regular social events - and the first of these is a joint meal at The Ottoman Turkish Restaurant on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. We hope as many people as possible will come and are organising the details with the restaurant. Paulette will prepare a sign-up sheet for anyone interested.

**Disclaimer** – We welcome contributions from all members and friends of our congregation. Views expressed in the articles are those of the individual and not necessarily those of our congregation or of our Unitarian community

**Contacts** Contributions PLEASE for the next newsletter to Tessa before the deadline of Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February – to [ipswichunitarian@gmail.com](mailto:ipswichunitarian@gmail.com) or post to 48 Crabbe Street, Ipswich IP4 5HS  
To contact our Secretary, Riena Jackson, ring 01473 210064/email [mjack76748@aol.com](mailto:mjack76748@aol.com)  
Website – [www.unitarianipswich.com](http://www.unitarianipswich.com)

## **Thought for the month**

Don't be content in your life just to do no wrong,  
be prepared every day to try and do some good.

Sir Nicholas Winton (who rescued 669 children from Nazi-occupied Europe)