



Harvest Service and Lunch



We held our harvest service on Sunday 1st October, followed by a shared lunch with plenty of food and lots of conversation. Linda King took the donated dry goods to the Co Op FIND food bank. The day was also the 47th anniversary of Rev Cliff Reed joining us as our Minister. He has now been retired for thirteen years and we are still calling on his services for talks and to lead worship. Such dedication. We also celebrate Paulette Reed's valuable support over the 47 years.

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Unitarian Women's Group Annual Meeting

Paulette and I set off from Ipswich to attend the annual Unitarian Women's Group Meeting at the Nightingale Centre. After swinging by to pick up Angela in Bury St Edmunds we finally set off 'proper', along the A1 looking forward to lunch at our regular truckers' pit stop. Replete, our journey continued until the A1 appeared to be like the Red Sea, with no road through it ... but we managed it. Worse was to come ...

The Peak District was awash & we were unable to reach Hucklow. Got stranded about 5 miles away! We thought we'd have to spend the night sleeping in the car in a Beefeater carpark - along with about 9 others who were also stranded and were hoping beyond hope that a booking would be cancelled at the small Premier Inn next door. Over our meal at the Beefeater, preparing to leave at closing time 11pm (they could not accommodate overnight on their comfortable seats because of regulations & insurance - never mind that people are freezing to death in their car park!!) a man heard us talking; he too was stranded 5 miles from home & fortunately had a room in the Premier Inn. He insisted we have it and he would sleep in his car. Not only this, he had already paid for the room and wouldn't accept any payment from us. The kindness and generosity of a total stranger will remain in our memories for a long time. In the morning, the Beefeater only charged the three of us for one breakfast. We eventually arrived at Hucklow at midday on Saturday.

Unitarian Women's Group Annual Meeting – cont.

Lynne, Marilyn and Mary were stuck on the other side of Chesterfield and managed to find accommodation. Unfortunately, they were still unable to get through the next day so returned to Norwich. Helen & Saint were stuck overnight near Worksop and managed to get to Hucklow for breakfast Saturday. Sue arrived at Hucklow Friday evening after overriding her sat nav and managing to make it through the flooding encountered. We all arrived safely back in Norwich, Cambridge, Bury St Edmunds & Ipswich. Exhausted.

So, yes, we had a 'good' time as it's an experience we can mark up as hopefully 'never again'.

Linda King

Suffolk Archives

We are delighted to report that two collections, acquired at auction by The Friends of Suffolk Archives (FOSA), have been catalogued, made available online, and are now available to researchers at Suffolk Archives, Ipswich. As a registered charity, FOSA aims to promote the work of Suffolk Archives, a Suffolk County Council service, and to facilitate the acquisition and conservation of archival material of relevance to the historic county of Suffolk.

HD4335 – Unitarian Meeting House Ipswich

This significant collection, which dates from the 17th Century, comprises a substantial collection of manuscript deeds and documents related to land off St Nicholas Street and the Unitarian Meeting House built on the site in 1700.

Amongst the nineteen title deeds, written on vellum, are those relating to the acquisition of the land in 1699, and the first Trust Deed signed by 21 congregation members in 1711. The documents include lots of detail about ownership, transactions, and uses of the land over time, and beyond this, they also act as interesting social history records. They include

the full names, occupations, and places of origin of the parties involved, including the trustees recruited from the congregation, comprised of beer-brewers, clothiers, a linen draper, a schoolmaster, and a chair maker.

HD4313 – Brewery Ledgers Tolly Cobbold and Star Breweries

Dating back to 1855 this collection of brewery ledgers comprises 25 leather-bound volumes from Star Brewery, Tollemache Ipswich Brewery Ltd, and Cobbold and Co. Ltd.

The collection also includes the Norfolk and Suffolk Brewers Association Minute Book. They include summary accounts for Trade Suppliers or beer, wines, spirits, and brewery items, e.g. bottles, corks, etc; Tradesmen completing maintenance and repairs of public houses; and Tenants of properties. (Not all Suffolk pubs), and financial accounts for Suffolk public houses in 'Town' and 'Country' locations. Also an inventory of furnishings, fixtures, and fittings at The Golden Lion Hotel Ipswich.

For more information about the work of The Friends of Suffolk Archives please visit their website <http://www.fosa.org.uk/>

Meeting House AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the members of our Meeting House will be held after the service on Sunday 12th November. It will be held in person and via Zoom. Three trustees are coming to the end of their three-year stint and are prepared to stand again – Paulette Reed, Tessa Forsdike and John Stevens. If any member (of at least one year's standing) is interested in also standing for election, please speak to one of the current trustees. We welcome support and skills which contribute to the work of looking after our building, our congregation and our community outreach.

We will also be voting on whether to continue to support this year's charity – Suffolk Sight – or to vote for another focus for our fundraising.

Letter from Roger Tarbuck

Dear Friends,

If I start from a large and beautiful church, walk up a gently rising country road, rest by a tall fir tree after a quarter of an hour – about a mile – and look back, I'll clearly see the church in the distance. Then, if I walk for another quarter of an hour, sit on a stile and look back, the fir tree will be distant and the church will be yet farther away, but the distance between the church and the tree will seem much less than the distance between the tree and my stile. And if I continue walking and keep looking back now and then for a couple of hours, the farther landmarks will congregate in a seemingly small area, almost touching each other in the far distance, with increasing spaces between the landmarks all the way to the road at my feet.

I'll be well aware of the landmarks in the nearest part of the road: the trees, the buildings, etc. The earlier landmarks will be less and less memorable, more related to each other than to my present situation. Please forgive my apparent assumption that you know nothing about perspective, but it's something that always strikes me if I apply the same principles to events in our journey through time.

There's perspective here, too. The dreadful reality suffered by my nineteen-year-old dad, on his first day at the Front, ameliorated over decades, and sanity survived. Life had to go on. He didn't talk much about his experiences, but I have a vivid memory of his deep Lancastrian tones: *"You can't begin to imagine the fear as you come up to the trenches. There's nothing like it."* There was a 5 second silent moment and he added: *"The big guns..."* The finality of that trailed-off remark has haunted me ever since.

"The war to end all wars." That was said of World War I. Again and again we need to remember the suffering during and after World War I, but the shocking list of events since those increasingly distant times easily shows the

untruth of such an observation. Another remark, was *"Never again!"* *"Never again!"* should nation rise against nation. *"Never again!"* the atrocities of war, necessitating the very actions of war itself to uncover and eradicate yet another festering nest of evil. *"Never again"* the Holocaust – please, God Almighty! But it does happen – and will happen – again and again.

Wikipedia tells me that the total dead and wounded at Waterloo was 50,000 – in one battle. It was a terrible shock for the people of the time. But it sank into its place in Napoleonic history – numbers, places, dates – details for scholars and specialist historians – to say nothing of the battle of Borodino, where 68,000 were killed or wounded. This shocked the whole of Europe at the time, but the memory faded into facts, events, lists, numbers. At such a distance in time, it takes some effort to imagine *"the big guns..."* But the roaring of those hideous monsters was frightening at the time, as men and boys indulged in the deadly ritual that dogs our march through history like a curse. War! And it increases. As progress in science, medicine, art, feeding the multitudes, saving lives and many more blessings increase, so also do the means of killing human beings. The horrors of Borodino and Waterloo fade away, as slaughtering people expands to possible "mega deaths". World War One: 40 million, World War Two: 100 million.

When will we ever learn? But it isn't just us: we have responsibilities confronting evil at all levels; we may honestly call it a mega problem, which calls for a mega idea for an answer. In all the painful, history of humankind people have turned to a mega idea when in distress – yes, also hardy non-believers. Many people call that idea "God". This word drives some others away, often with hostile feelings (I know from experience) but here we are dealing with symbols, which mean different things to different people – even worshippers in the same type of religion, or denomination. Again and again I read in the newspapers how dark and threatening our future seems. The worst prospect at the

Letter from Roger Tarbuck – cont.

moment, so many say, is the destruction of our Planet Earth if we carry on living as we have been doing ever since the Industrial Revolution. Others say that the possibility of a world-destroying nuclear war is greater even than the chance of ruining the planet as we are now, because there is the danger that one of the war lords eventually battling for supremacy might have primitive ideas about dealing with other people and get his hand on nuclear weapons, starting with the little ones and graduating to the deadliest. Or World War III might even start by accident. At such a time, people turn to God. That is a fact that we cannot deny. Religion is an instinct. We need it now more than ever. And our Unitarian doorways to a redeeming faith – with comfort and joy – are ever open to any who need spiritual help and support.

Yours sincerely, Roger Tarbuck

Reprinted from the Newcastle Unitarians Calendar for October 2023

Readers may also be interested to read the address given by Minister Emeritus Cliff Read at our service on Sunday 22nd October. It is entitled 'Poisoned by the Past'.

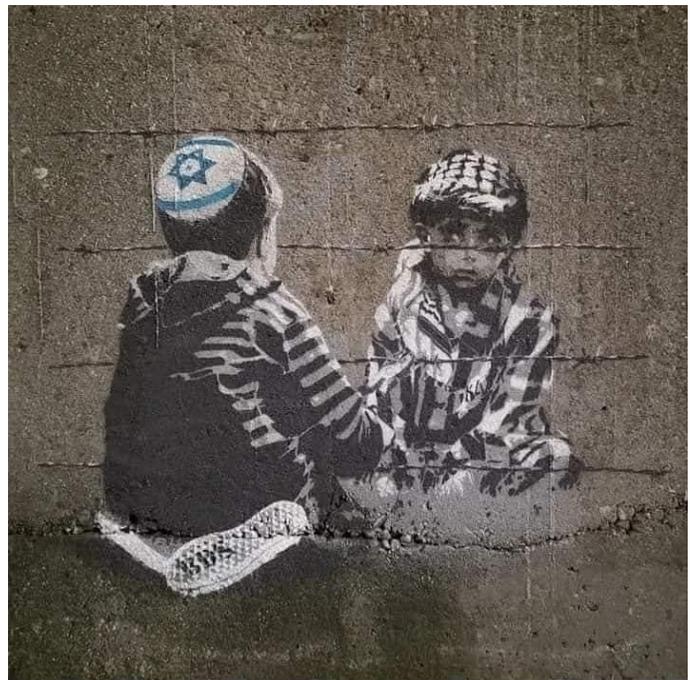
You will find it on our website - <https://unitarianipswich.com/sermons-1/2023/10/23/poisoned-by-the-past>

Extract from the Statement from UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofía Betancourt Regarding the Conflict Between Israel and Hamas

Beloveds, I invite you to stop what you are doing if you can and sit with me in the depth of this tragedy. How to reconcile the cost of occupation and of war? How to nuance two very real histories of oppression and violence? I am holding close the words of U.N. Middle East peace envoy Tor Wennesland who said: *"This is a dangerous precipice, and I appeal to all to pull back from the brink."*

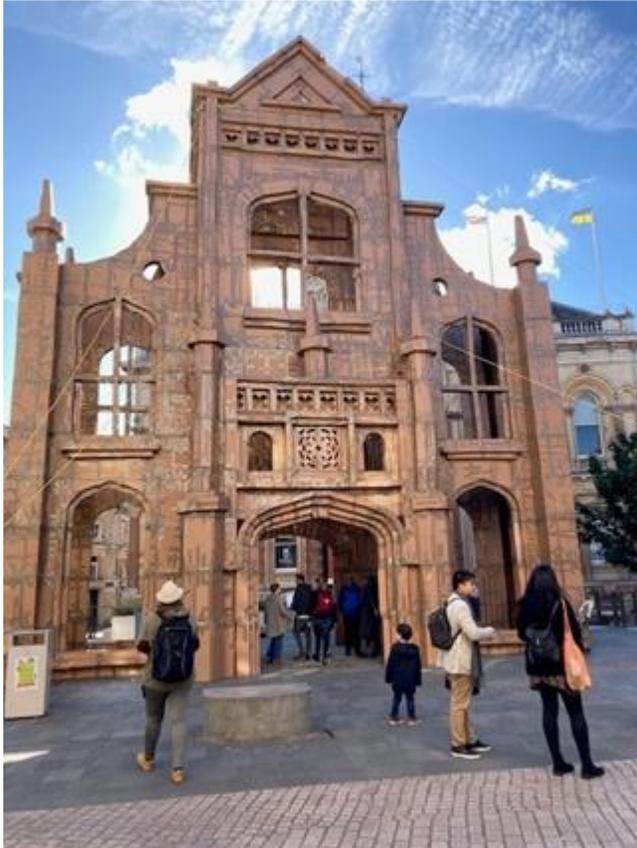
We as a people of faith can condemn violence against civilians while at the same time engaging the full legacies and histories of oppression that shape such devastating conflict. As a faith tradition, Unitarian Universalists have long worked for peace, and our principles and values call for the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

I pray for the people of Israel and Palestine. I pray for leaders around the globe who must respond to this latest flare of violence and the untenable ethical considerations that abound. I pray for Muslim and Jewish UUs who experience the impact of this long strife acutely. I pray that those of us less likely to know the trauma of unending brutality and harm will not turn away from generational loss, from the devastating realities and their root causes, or from the relentless tragedy of war and occupation. Be gentle with yourselves when you need to be, but do not turn away unless you must. We are one global family living tenuously on the same human-impacted Earth. Let us center ourselves in justice as we call for peace.



By Banksy – as shared via Facebook

Spill Festival



As part of the Spill Festival in Ipswich, world renowned artist Olivier Grossetête and the Bâtisses Soeurs invited us to help to build a cardboard representation of Cardinal Wolsey's Gate and the entrance to his College which was sadly never completed. This was presented on the Cornhill in front of the Town Hall. Since 2000 Olivier Grossetête has travelled across the world to create almost 250 different constructions inspired by local architecture. Visiting 5 continents and recruiting thousands of people in his adventure. The cardboard structure was built on Saturday 21st October and deconstructed (with help from the public) on Sunday 22nd. Thanks to Maggie Hodges for the photo.

Poetry Group

On 28th November at 2 pm the poetry group will be looking at poems by David White. Please contact Ann or Riena if you would like to join us that afternoon.

Services for November and December

5th November - Alan Ruston - Watford Fellowship - via Zoom – also held in the Meeting House

12th - Rev Cliff Reed. Minister Emeritus.

Remembrance Sunday & AGM to follow the service

19th - Robert Waller. Ipswich Unitarians. St Cecelia Day

26th - Helen Simpson. The Octagon, Norwich.

3rd December - Rev Cliff Reed, Minister Emeritus.

10th - Andrew Benedict - East of England Faiths Agency. Jenny Brabazon from Amnesty will be bringing cards to sign after the service.

16th at 18.00 – Candlelit CAROL SERVICE co-ordinated by Rev Cliff Reed

Please think about your musical contribution or reading and let Cliff know the details as soon as possible.

17th - Adam Whybray. Ipswich Unitarians

24th - John Stevens - Ipswich Unitarians - Via Zoom and in the Meeting House

25th CHRISTMAS DAY - Rev Cliff Reed. Not available on Zoom

31st - Robert Waller & Linda King - Ipswich Unitarians 'Hymnus Usu'

Birthdays in November/December

Happy birthday in November to Hilary Hamilton on 11th; Franklyn Bradbrook on 21st; Mathilda Hawes on 24th.

Happy birthday in December to Ray Seal on 12th; Edward Shaw on 22nd; Carol Gibbs on 26th; and to both John Hamilton and Liz Constable on 30th.

Book Group

We will next meet via Zoom on Thursday 7th December at 19.00 to discuss 'Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow' by Gabrielle Zevin. All welcome to join us. Ask Tessa for the link.

University of Suffolk

Our Meeting House now has direct links with the University through the Head of Humanities, Michael Sauter, who brought the MA History and MA Creative Writing students to the Meeting House for a live source research session on 10th October when our Minister Emeritus gave a talk and Linda King, Paulette Reed and Tessa Forsdike answered the students' questions afterwards. This will be an annual visit and we hope to expand the connections.



As part of their course the students will be required to prepare a podcast about the Meeting House. We look forward to hearing that! The photo shows just a few of the students with Cliff and (in the centre with the name badge) Michael Sauter.

Gardeners

Thanks to all those who came to plant bulbs and plants in the churchyard on 14th October – we look forward to seeing them all bloom in the Spring.



Adam's Mum kindly took the photo!

Thought for the month

The best revenge is not to become like your enemy - Marcus Aurelius, Meditations, Book 6

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

This issue covers 6 weeks and the next will also cover 6 weeks through to the end of January. Contributions PLEASE for the next newsletter to Tessa before the deadline of Wednesday 13th December by email to tessa@tessajordan.co.uk

To contact our Secretary, ring 01473 728498 or our Treasurer Robert Waller on 01473 610723 email tessa@tessajordan.co.uk