

Ipswich Unitarian Meeting



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LGBT+ Unitarian Voices

The nationally touring exhibition LGBT+ Unitarian Voices started its journey in our Ipswich Meeting House with a launch evening on Friday 14th July. Lizzie Kingston Harrison led the introduction and set the scene with a meditation and information about the development of this project.

We were honoured to welcome the Ipswich Mayor, Councillor Lynne Mortimer and her consort Mr James Hayward.



Contents

- 1 – LGBT+ Unitarian Voices
- 2 – Dr Nick Groves; Worship Studies course; Living our Dreams in England; Service Delayed
- 3 – Services; Road closures; Birthdays; Suffolk Sight Fundraiser; Book Group;
- 4 – Suffolk Day; Mayor's invitation; Poetry Group; Organ Concert; Meeting House Open Days; Duke's Concert; Thought for the Month; Contacts

The exhibition mainly consisted of banners exploring the history of the struggle for equality for the LGBT+ community, the contribution made by Unitarians nationally and the sharing of personal experiences. On the banners are links to more online information, films and interviews. You can find out more here -

<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/lgbt-unitarian-voices-timeline/>

Ipswich Unitarians feature strongly in the photos and films too -

<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/2023/07/21/lgbt-exhibition-brings-community-together-in-ipswich/>

We publicised the exhibition and opened our Meeting House to visitors for the whole weekend. Rev Cliff Reed led a service the following Sunday focussing on Pride. We made an impression especially on one visitor who shared that she is gay, a Catholic, feels unable to go to confession or communion and yet attends her church each Sunday. She shared that she didn't know that there is a place of worship where she would be accepted for who she is.



Dr Nicholas Groves

MA, BMus, PhD, FRHisS, FBS.

Our friend Nick died on 29th June. He died peacefully and we give thanks that he did not suffer. He loved all the kind and loving messages from all of those who knew him at The Meeting House



Nick, was a member & trustee of the Octagon Chapel, Norwich, his favourite community & building! We here at the Ipswich Meeting House were second favourite; a position we were happy to hear that we occupied!

We were introduced to Nick as a potential service leader at the beginning of last year, following which he conducted a few services and on visits in between imparted bits of wisdom about our buildings - for me, the most interesting information being about our Grade 2 listed Unitarian Hall.

Nick's interests didn't only lie within the Unitarian movement. As Academic Director for Parish Church Studies (2017-22, Norwich Historic Churches Trust) his knowledge as a church historian was shared in schools, University, groups & with individuals. The exhibition of ecclesiastical garments which he curated 'In Raiment of Needlework' at St Peter Mancroft was very much enjoyed by some of our congregation....we were further surprised on hearing that in 2008 he won the University of Malta's International competition of the design of the New Masters & Doctoral gowns! We were very pleased to be invited to Nick's 'Celebration of Fifty Years as a Church Musician' during which time he was organist at ten churches. As one of the organists at the

Octagon, his playing was always a pleasure to listen to.

He was a published author of books and academic papers in addition to his ability to lead a service on teddy bears, play the organ and conduct the service as well! We will miss Nick visiting us. 'Well, there you are then!'

Nick's funeral will take place at the Octagon Unitarian Chapel, Colegate, Norwich NR3 1BN at 11.30am on Saturday 5th August.

Linda King

WORSHIP STUDIES COURSE (ONLINE)

Worship Studies Course Foundation Step: a course in conducting high quality Unitarian Worship, this Autumn. Are you interested in leading Unitarian services? Do you want to improve the quality of your worship leadership? Need help with leading online worship? Unitarian College are offering an online course for all interested Unitarians in conducting high quality worship. [Find out more here.](#)

Living Our Dreams in England - Life in a Country Village Attending the Unitarian Meeting

Our friends Dan Cohen and Suzanne Cleary Cohen spend part of the year in the US and part in their second home in Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds, when they take the opportunity to join us some Sundays for our service. On their return to the US they were invited to lead a service at their Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, VA. The service focussed on the differences and similarities between the UK and US Unitarian approaches. You can watch the whole service here -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zwUniMmpWQ&t=384s>

Service delayed ...

Luckily, we in Ipswich (UK) have not so far needed to send out a message to the congregation like the following - URGENT: TODAY'S SERVICE DELAYED UNTIL 10 AM - Due to the tornado warning in the area, this morning's worship service will begin at 10 am.

Everyone, please stay safe!

Ellen Spero - Chelmsford UU Church Massachusetts, USA

Services in August

6th - Paulette Reed & Linda King - Service in the round.

13th - Adam Whybray - Ipswich Unitarian

20th - Robert Waller - Ipswich Unitarian

27th - Rev Cliff Reed - Minister Emeritus, Ipswich.

Advanced warning of road closures - on Sunday 17th September 2023

some roads will be closed to accommodate the Ipswich Half Marathon. The route will start from Russell Road heading out towards the town centre via Princes Street > Tavern Street > Buttermarket > Queen Street > Falcon Street > Dogs Head Street > Lower Brook Street and heads onto Star Lane. The route will then go towards Holywells park via Fore Street > Rope Walk > Grimwade Street > Duke Street > Mrytle Road. Runners will head thorough the park onto Cliff Lane and head towards the Marina via Holywells Road and Neptune Quay. Runners will then head onto Bridge Street > Dock Street > Stoke Quay > New Cut West and Bath Street before a left turn onto Hawes Street and then Wherstead Road. Runners will then complete an out and back towards Freston via the B1456 and Freston Hill / The Street heading back up Wherstead Road but this time onto Grafton Way from Bridge Street. Runners will then head towards the finish inside Portman Road stadium via Commercial Road > Chancery Road > New Cardinal Street > Chalon Street > Princes Street > Portman Road and Sir Alf Ramsey Way.

Although Friars Street is not mentioned, the runners will be leaving in our area and they start at 9.30am, so we may not be affected on our way into the Meeting House for a service at 10.45. We have informed the organisers that we will need access to Friars Street for our service, so hopefully all will go smoothly. We will of course still be opening the service via Zoom and you can join us that way if you think you may be affected by the closures.

Birthdays in August

Happy birthday to all those who celebrate their special day this month -

Madeleine Spence on 11th ; Phil Chatfield on 15th ; Saskia Sakals on 20th ; Jenny Spence on 21st ; John Stevens on 23rd; Sidonie Sakals on 31st .

Suffolk Sight Fundraiser

Many of us know friends and relatives who are partially sighted or blind. And many of us will face some vision loss during our lifetimes. Knowing about available resources that support independent access to the news and to reading materials is relevant to us all. As a fundraiser for **Suffolk Sight**, Ipswich Unitarians are collaborating with Tim and Rachel Pennick from **Sound On: The Ipswich Talking Newspaper** and Adam Whybray, talking about **Librivox: free public domain audio books** to host a presentation and discussion of free resources available to support the partially sighted and blind. Do join us on August 10th, from 18:30 – 21:00 at the Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House.

Free entry – donations invited for Suffolk Sight and in recognition of the refreshments.

For further information, please contact Liz Constable (elconstable@gmail.com)

Book Group

We will be meeting online via Zoom on Thursday 24th August at 19.00 to discuss *'Standing Heavy'* by Gauz. Originally written in French and translated into English by Frank Wynne, we don't mind if you read it in English or in French! This is *'sharply satirical, political and poignant – a deconstruction of colonial legacies and capitalist consumption, an unprecedented and unforgettable account of everything that passes under a security guard's gaze'*.

To request the link contact Tessa Forsdike – tessa@tessajordan.co.uk

Suffolk Day – Mayor’s invitation

Paulette Reed and Riena Jackson accepted the Mayor’s invitation to represent our Meeting House at the Suffolk Day Proclamation and celebrations. There was a fly past, a band and lots of people celebrating our county’s special day. Paulette says she really enjoyed it.

Mayor’s At Home

Tessa and David Forsdike also represented the Meeting House at the Mayor’s ‘At Home’ which was held at the Ipswich Town Football Club and that gave David the chance to have a look at the newly laid grass on the pitch. There was also a chance to network with people and to raise the profile of the Meeting House.

Poetry Group

We meet next at 2pm on Thursday 31st August. We have chosen to look at the work of a local poet, Anne Beresford. Her husband Michael Hamburger was also a poet, so if there’s a problem finding Anne’s poems, feel free to present one of Michael’s! Do join us if you’d like to, and if you’d like to find out more, contact Ann Baeppler or Riena Jackson.

Organ Concert

If you are in the Hastings area on Sunday 6th August from 3.00pm to 4.00pm why not pop along to HASTINGS UNITARIAN CHURCH, SOUTH TERRACE, TN34 1SA. FREE ADMISSION – DONATIONS

Meeting House Open Days

We open our Meeting House for visitors on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 12 noon to 16.00 and that means we need volunteers to be there, to welcome people and to answer questions – or to find out the answers later ...! Recently we welcomed an Iranian who played our piano, another visitor who played the organ ... and lots of interesting people with stories to tell.

To volunteer and to take advantage of special time in the Meeting House, contact Paulette Reed (etty.reed@gmail.com) to add your name to the rota.

D’ukes – ukelele band concert



The concert at 7.30pm on Saturday, 5th August 2023 is in aid of Amnesty International and takes place at Landguard Fort, Viewpoint Road, Felixstowe IP11 3TW. Evening parking at the car park opposite the Fort is free.

The concert is in aid of Amnesty International, the human rights charity, which works to help those around the world who face torture and injustice and wherever truth and freedom are denied. The Amnesty trust focuses on funding work on monitoring human rights abuses, educating the public about human rights, raising awareness of human rights, researching human rights issues, seeking justice for victims of abuses and advocating for human rights on an international level. It is currently compiling evidence of war crimes in Ukraine.

Thought for the month

A greetings card that can play ‘Happy Birthday’ has more computing power than existed in the whole world in 1950. (QI Elves)

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 Friday 25th August 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
Website – www.unitarianipswich.com