

Horsham Unitarian Newsletter

January 2023



Turn Around and Start Again

Last December I was invited to visit Roffey Place, which is being renovated by the charity Turning Tides to provide help for homeless people. Roffey Place will eventually offer 24 hour support and accommodation to help transform the lives of people experiencing homelessness. Since my visit, the first rooms have been made available, but the charity is still fund-raising to complete the work. I was very pleased that our church committee decided to donate the collection from our Christmas carol service towards this worthwhile local cause.

Here is an extract from a card that was given to me, with some words by someone called Andy who has been supported by Turning Tides:

Thank you for your help in transforming Roffey Place. You're helping Turning Tides save lives through this innovative new service. I know first-hand what a difference this will make.

I've been supported by Turning Tides for just over three years. I had nowhere else to go. Homelessness can take your dignity away – you don't feel human. It is a very dark, lonely place.



Turning Tides offer so much - shelter, warmth, fellowship. They've been so helpful and understanding and through the charity I feel I have grown. I have such a better life now than I had

before. It's the support that makes all the difference....

It really is possible to turn everything around and start again.

A hopeful message from Andy as we begin a new year. Caring and working together we can make a real difference to people's lives!

During January we begin our book reading group, exploring Active Hope, which encourages us to have a vision for something better and to take hope from all that we **can** do. We also commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day on Friday 27th January at 4pm, where we honour the victims of genocide, and learn lessons from the past to help build a better future. This gathering will be in the hall and last for about an hour. We will also continue to try and make a difference by operating our own Unity Café every Wednesday morning throughout the winter months. And each Sunday we will pause to refresh our spirits.

So, come along. Bring your whole self. Get involved. Let's turn around and start again.

Happy New Year.

Rev'd. Duncan

Cheques:

Payable to Turning Tides
Post to: Turning Tides
Worthing Town Hall
Chapel Road
BN11 1HA

BACS: Payable to:

Turning Tides
Homelessness
A/c number:
31498959
Sort code: 40-47-23

All are welcome to call in for coffee and chat, and to participate in our Unity Café mornings from 10.00am to 12.30pm every Wednesday during January

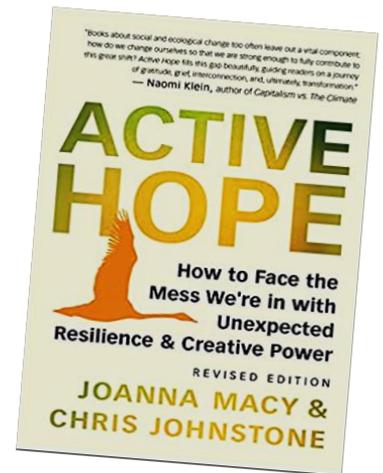
This Month

Saturday Afternoon, 14th January, 2.30pm

Active Hope Book Reading Group

The first meeting of our 'Active Hope' book reading and discussion group begins on 14th January at 2.30pm. See full listing of group meeting dates on page 4 of this newsletter.

To benefit fully it is suggested those attending purchase a copy of the *Active Hope* book (pictured), subtitled *How to Face the Mess we're in with Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power*. Some copies are now available to purchase from the church. Contact Duncan at (revduncanv@gmail.com or 07771 609347) if you would like to participate in this stimulating group.



Sunday Morning, 15th January, 10.30am



A Morning of Discussion and Reflection

On 1st January congregation members received the following e-mail from Janet Perkins:

'What better way to enter 2023 than with the first of our services put together by members?! Our January 15th service will be cafe style in the Hall and is being organised by Ann Malloch with the help of others.'

As Janet concluded in her e-mail: *'let's support each other, expand our spiritual horizons, and keep the light of our values and beliefs burning brightly!'*

Friday Afternoon, 27th January, 4.00pm

Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration

27th January is Holocaust Memorial Day, marking the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi death camps. We plan to host a commemorative event in the church hall, starting at 4pm, to mark that day in a world still scarred by genocide.



This year's Memorial Day theme is 'Ordinary People', a reminder that *Genocide is facilitated by ordinary people. Ordinary people turn a blind eye, believe propaganda, join murderous regimes. And those who are persecuted, oppressed and murdered in genocide aren't persecuted because of crimes they've committed – they are persecuted simply because they are ordinary people who belong to a particular group (e.g. Roma, Jewish community, Tutsi, Rohingya).*

At our commemoration we shall remember the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust and the millions of people of other groups killed under Nazi persecution, as well as the victims of more recent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

25th January invitation to Horsham congregation just received

Spirit of Peace is now beginning a new series of events to foster interfaith and intercultural understanding. The first of these will be taking place in Crawley on Wednesday 25th January, in collaboration with the Crawley Inter Faith group. Please see the attached poster. It would be lovely if members of your congregation might like to attend.

Many thanks and kind regards,

Heather-Jane (CEO, Spirit of Peace)

Please send any replies to both Heather-Jane (info@spiritofpeace.co.uk) and Isabel (hellospiritofpeace@gmail.com).



CRAWLEY INTER FAITH NETWORK

SPIRIT OF PEACE REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1122834

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

through multicultural lullabies and storytelling

featuring guest artist from Jerusalem

Hanna Yaffe

musician and storyteller
(www.lullabies-of-loss.org)

Hanna will be joined by other artists on the night

Wednesday 25th January 2023, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Crawley Museum, The Tree, 103 High Street,
Crawley, RH10 1DD

Admission is free. Donations will be invited on the night to cover costs.

For more information, please contact info@spiritofpeace.co.uk or 07711 960 644

...and in Review

Progress on our Wildlife Haven



Recent focus has been on clearing tangled bushes and undergrowth and removing invasive bamboo, with Andrew Ramsden demonstrating full ability in the handling of the necessary mechanical digger (pictured).

There has been early excavation in preparation for the installation of a pond, and we have been notified by HDC's Community Climate Fund that our application for a £500 grant towards the cost of hiring equipment for garden clearing purposes had been approved.

Supplementing online listings and smaller posters at various locations throughout Horsham, we now have the large size banner (pictured) dominating our wayside pulpit.

Readers of the latest issue of LDPA EPULSE will have noted mention of our Unity Café initiative as one which other Unitarian churches might follow. Duncan reports: *'Things seem to be going well. We have some regular attendees and some occasional visitors. More church members also attend, which is good.'*

Thanks are due to those members who have assisted Duncan on Wednesday mornings.

Higher Profile for our Unity Café



Stay Warm This Winter - Join Us Here At Our

Unity Café

A WARM LECTURE
To meet, chat, play games

A WARM WELCOME
To each and every visitor

A WARM DRINK
With biscuits or light snack

Every Wednesday morning 10am-12.30pm
We look forward to welcoming you

Horsham Unitarians

Beginning this month, a Reading and Discussion Group Directly Focused on
The Crises We All Face Now and in The Future

Active Hope

Book Reading Group

Starting 14th January 2023

"The challenges we face can be difficult even to think about. Climate change, the depletion of oil, economic upheaval, and mass extinction together create a planetary emergency of overwhelming proportions. *Active Hope* shows us how to strengthen our capacity to face this crisis so that we can respond with unexpected resilience and creative power."

Discussion group meetings will be held in the church hall on the following Saturdays, starting 2.30pm:



- 14th January - Chapters 1 and 2
- 28th January – Chapters 3 and 4
- 11th February – Chapters 5 and 6
- 25th February – Chapters 7 and 8
- 11th March – Chapters 9 and 10
- 1st April – Chapters 11, 12 and 13

To join in this discussion you will need to purchase a copy of *Active Hope*. Some copies will be available to purchase from the church from early December. Before each meeting, please try to read the appropriate chapters.

This will be a relaxed, informal group where we can reflect on the ideas presented in the book and share our personal perspectives. Please contact Duncan, on 07771 609347, if you would like to attend or have further questions.

All are Welcome.

Our January Services

Sunday 1st	Daniel Costley (Video)
Sunday 8th	Rev Duncan Voice
Sunday 15th	Congregational Discussion and Reflection
Sunday 22nd	Rev Duncan Voice
Friday 27th	Holocaust Commemoration, 4.00pm (Rev Duncan Voice)
Sunday 29th	Member-led Service

