

Horsham Unitarian Newsletter

October 2022



Unity Café



This October I will have been minister to Horsham Unitarians for one year. I know it is a cliché, but where did the time go! I have enjoyed getting to know everyone at the church and exploring faith and spirituality together. I hope you feel you know me a little better too, and that we can continue to work together to build a caring community. Thank you for making me feel welcome.

Last October we were taking our first tentative steps out of Covid restrictions. Although the virus has not gone away, I think we all now feel a bit more confident about gathering in person. So, we have moved on from that situation to some extent, but now we find ourselves in an economic crisis fuelled partly by the war in Ukraine. The cost of living has already increased, and the winter months look like they may be difficult for many people.

When I started as minister I continued the practice of some of my recent predecessors of making myself available for coffee and chat on Wednesday mornings. However, I now feel that we should make different use of this time by extending our invitation to the wider community. So instead of just church members meeting up, anyone might pop in for a chat, a hot drink, snack, and keep warm. I have called this time of togetherness **Unity Café**.

I hope of course that church members will still come along, but I also hope others might benefit. For example, people who are lonely and would like some company or those struggling to heat their homes. So please keep coming and let others know too! If you are able, please volunteer to help out by making drinks and doing the washing up etc. There is a rota on the notice board. Get in touch if you have any questions.

With blessings,

Duncan

Children's Storytime

On Friday 28th October, at 11am, we will be offering a children's story time. It will last for about 30 minutes and will be followed by a drink and a snack. This is a free half term activity. So, if you know anyone with children who might be interested, please let them know. Contact Duncan if you have any questions.



All are welcome to call in for coffee and chat with the minister 10.30am -12.00noon Wednesdays 5th, 12th and 19th October. The minister regrets he cannot be available on 26th October

This Month

Sunday 9th October 10.30-2.00pm approx.

Harvest Service and Celebratory Lunch

We plan a rather special Harvest Festival this year by giving our harvest lunch the supplementary function of celebrating the first year of Duncan Voice's time with us as our new minister. After the service we will share a lunch of homemade soup, cheese, and fruit to mark the first year of Duncan's ministry.



As usual, the contributions made by members and friends will eventually be transferred to Horsham Matters Foodbank. **The foodbank has asked that this year we focus on long-lasting food items rather than the household goods and toiletries, which were at a premium in the past.** The Bank is already overburdened with Baked Beans and Pasta but particularly needs tinned vegetables and fruit and long shelf-life garden produce such as potatoes, apples and carrots.



Wednesday 5th October, 10.00am-12.30pm Launch of Our Church's 'Unity Café'

Starting 5th October our weekly 10am-12.30pm Wednesday meetings in the church hall will be open to visitors from outside our church and will be labelled as our 'Unity Café'.

Local advertising (see poster) will publicise our church hall meetings as offering a chat, a hot drink and a snack to all-comers.

It is envisaged that in the forthcoming Winter months of inflated food prices and hugely increased heating costs many financially challenged members of our local community may welcome the offer of a warm and welcoming moment of relief from hardship and loneliness.



Saturday 15th October, 12 noon-3.45 approx.

LDPA Autumn Quarterly

All Unitarians and friends are welcome to attend this Autumn Quarterly, being held at Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Hampstead. The highlight is to be a workshop led by the Rev Kate Dean entitled 'Spiritual Creative Writing'.

The timetable for the day is:

From 12noon -- Bring own lunch and enjoy in chapel or grounds.

1.00pm -- Service of Worship.

2.00pm -- Spiritual Creative Writing Workshop.

From 3.45pm -- Tea, Socialising and Departures.

The chapel is located at 3 Pilgrim's Place, Camden, London NW3 1NG. The nearest train stations are Hampstead, Belsize Park (Northern line), and Hampstead Heath (London Overground). The 46 and 268 buses stop close by.



To express your interest in attending please e-mail administrator@ldpaunitarians.org

...and In Review

Our Open Day Cancelled



It was with great sadness that we found it necessary to cancel our 300th Anniversary Open Day, scheduled for Saturday 17th September. That date coincided with the lying-in-state of our late Queen and it was considered by the Trustees that an organised and publicised celebration on that day would be disrespectful and inappropriate.

However, plans for an open-to-all celebration have not been abandoned. Currently under discussion is a replacement event of somewhat different character to be held on Saturday 20th May next year.

Wildlife Haven Developments

Our church's action in establishing this conservation area continues to attract Press coverage. As well as Facebook mention, an article in August's 'Love Horsham' and notification in our own LDPA 'Impulse', the magazine 'Horsham North Pages' has now featured a full-page article (pictured) in its September/October edition.



Following discussions between Teresa Ramsden, Alison Marshall of Transition Horsham, and Tony Whitbread from Sussex Wildlife Trust, plans for further development of the site is in progress. This includes appropriate trees and shrubs, owl boxes, bat boxes, insect hotels and – in an attempt to encourage continued Stag Beetle breeding – those all-important piles of dead wood.

STOP PRESS!!

Recent messages received from Horsham District Council in the early days of this month offer the possibility that HDC financial support might be available for two of our recently-planned initiatives.

The Wildlife Haven: Sarah Hogben who is Communications & Marketing Officer at the Council - and who runs yoga classes in our Hall - noticed a copy of the Horsham North Pages article on our Church Hall notice board and has kindly flagged up that there may be a funding possibility from the Council Community Climate fund under the banner of biodiversity. The next round of funding will start on 3rd October, so we must get our skates on!

The Unity Café: Duncan has received from Elizabeth Burt of Horsham Council the message 'As a team (Community Services) we are beginning to collate all the offers of 'warm spaces' over the coming months across our district and will add your Unity Café to this information. This then will be shared with residents who are looking for places to go to and with other professionals who are supporting residents who would find this helpful ... Regarding funding, we don't have a specific grant pot for this type of initiative but we do have a Community Grant which you may find helpful'.

Our October services

Sunday 2nd	Jenny Miller (Godalming)
Sunday 9th	Rev Duncan Voice (Harvest)
Sunday 16th	TBA
Sunday 23rd	Rev Duncan Voice
Sunday 30th	Rev Feargus O'Connor