

Horsham Unitarian Newsletter

September 2022



Helping Each Other

On Saturday 17th September we will be celebrating 300 years of our beloved church building. An important place for our congregation, for whom it is a spiritual home; and an important landmark in the town, hosting many events and activities. The building has seen many changes over the years and it's remarkable that it has been run and maintained by volunteers all this time. How grateful we should be to all those who have gone before us, as well as to all those who currently work so hard to make it a beautiful and welcoming place.



Whilst we appreciate our history however, our church today is very much focussed on today's issues. Not least among these is the current cost of living crisis, with many people worrying about how they will afford to pay their energy bills this winter. Businesses too are facing huge challenges. Hopefully the government will step in with some support, but we can also do things to help ourselves. This is what Unitarians have done in the past – recognised issues and found ways to help.

There is a story Jesus tells in the Gospel of Luke (chapter 11) where a man knocks on the neighbour's door in the middle of the night, saying, *can you lend me three loaves of bread because I've got unexpected guests and have nothing to set before them*. The neighbour says basically, *go away its late, the door is locked and the kids are in bed*. Jesus says, *if your neighbour won't get up to help you as a friend, then keep asking, your persistence will make him help you*.

I'm not suggesting we should go and harass the neighbours! However, those that are in a position to help, government or individuals, should wake up to that fact and we may have a part to play in that. And persistence can be an important quality for us to cultivate as we seek solutions to difficult problems. If we believe in a caring, supportive community, then it is surely worth working for. We need to help each other, and listen to each other. So, most importantly, if you have concerns, please do talk to someone. If you wish, I am available. It can really help.

One practical thing we are going to be doing in October is hosting a regular café every Wednesday morning in the church hall. This will be advertised to the wider community and I hope it will be helpful for anyone who would like some company, or somewhere warm to come for the morning. If you would like to volunteer to help, look out for the rota that will be going up on the notice board soon, and do come along when we start. Please share the details with anyone you think may be interested. I thought perhaps we could call it Unity Café. What do you think?

I am away at the beginning of September, but I look forward to seeing you in church when I get back. Look after yourselves and each other.

With blessings,

Duncan

*All are welcome to call in for coffee and chat
with the minister 10.30am -12.00noon
Wednesdays 21st and 28th September*

This Month

Saturday 17th September, 10.00am-4.30pm

Our Church's 300th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday 17th we are inviting all comers to visit our church and gardens in celebration of the 300 years since our church was built in 1721.

The event will feature an exhibition of the History of the Church, Environment and Wildlife displays, a Plant Sale, assorted other stalls and that most essential of items – a Refreshments Café. As well as members of the public we hope to see many members of our congregation on the day.



Quaker Meeting House, Saturday 24th September, 2.30pm-3.30pm

An Invitation from our Quaker Friends

We are invited to attend an unusual one-man afternoon presentation THE ASTONISHING STORY OF HENRY MORRIS, performed by Andy O'Hanlon. The event description reads:



'A humorous look at the life and times of twentieth-century educationalist Henry Morris, using his own words and told with objects from the period.

Morris' vision transformed ideas about learning and community. This is a story of determination, big dreams and resilience in the face of resistance to change. A show for anyone who, like Henry, wants to

leave the world a better place than they found it'

Entry is free but pre-registration is requested via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/n-u-m-i-n-o-u-s-the-astonishing-story-of-henry-morris-tickets-392536265537>. Registration button will be found beside picture on the site. Donations welcome on the day.

In Memoriam



We mark with sadness the passing last month of Alan Larcombe, chair of the Hastings congregation and only recently scheduled to lead a service in our Horsham church. Jim Corrigan, LDPA District Minister, writes of Alan:

'a Unitarian known and loved throughout our London and South Eastern District. As well as being chair of the congregation at Hastings Unitarian Church, Alan was a trustee at Tenterden and a lay preacher of more than 20 years' standing, regularly leading services at chapels such as Tenterden, Maidstone and Bessels Green (Sevenoaks)'

Alan's funeral was on Tuesday 6th September at Hastings Crematorium.

September services

Sunday 4 th	Rev Feargus O'Connor
Sunday 11 th	Rev Martin Whitell
Sunday 18 th	Jo O'Sullivan
Sunday 25 th	Rev Duncan Voice