



Kensington Unitarians

The Newsletter

July 2008

What's On at Essex Church

Sunday 6th July, 11.00am

“Right Belief:

True Experience:

Authentic Faith?”

Led by Rev. David Usher

featuring a performance by

Kensington Community Singers

Monday 7th July, 7.00-9.00pm

Kensington Community Singers

Thursday 10th July, 7.00-9.00pm

Creativity Engagement Group:

“Weaving Without a Loom”

Sunday 13th July, 11.00am

“Navel Gazing or

Growing through Reflection”

Led by David Francis Darling

Sunday 13th July, 2.00-3.00pm

“Nia Technique:

Holistic Movement”

Sunday 13th July, 3.30-5.00pm

“Songs and Silence for the Soul”

Sunday 20th July, 11.00am

“Revealing our True Heart”

Led by Daniel Hughes

Thursday 24th July, 7.00-9.00pm

Reading Engagement Group:

“Suite Francaise”

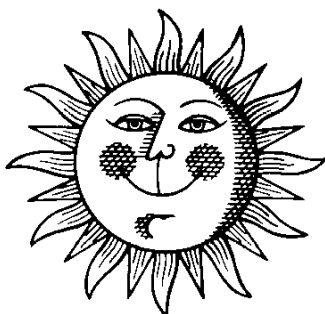
Sunday 27th July, 11.00am

“Devoted to Enchantment”

Led by Daniel Hughes

Tuesday 29th July, 7.00-9.00pm

Management Committee Meeting



A Message from Our Minister...

Different Perspectives

There is an owl watching over us here in Notting Hill. I saw him a few weeks ago sitting on the top of a tall building in the high street. At first I thought it was real and stood for a while waiting for it to fly off. But an impending cricked neck and fear of being trampled by the endless flow of pedestrians encouraged me to move on. I looked up high again the next day and the owl was still there. Perhaps it has been there for years.



The owl experience reminded me of Anthony Gormley's exhibition at the Tate last year where human figures were placed on assorted roof tops around the South Bank. They too were unnerving, not least because they seemed to multiply and move themselves around overnight. One of Gormley's stated aims was to encourage us all to look up, to become aware of the sky line in our busy city, instead of paying attention only to the pavements, shops, buses and posters.

We all have our routines, our set ways of doing things, our habitual vistas and areas of interest and concern. These help us to feel safe and secure but they limit our vision. How good it is that we have artists and stone owls to shake us up a bit from time to time, to remind us to look up or down or sideways, or close our eyes altogether. They encourage us to consider life from different perspectives and not to take reality for granted.

I wonder what you would choose to place high up on a building. Or if you were a stone owl, what would you be thinking as you looked down on a busy London street?

Prize Opportunity:

An exciting ornithological prize awaits the first person who also spots the Notting Hill owl, or tells us of its history, and a second prize will go to the person who knows where to find a similar owl on Euston Road. Are there more stationary owls in London? Do they move around at night? All sightings will be reported in future newsletters.

Rev. Sarah Tinker

In this Month's Newsletter...

* “Believing and Belonging” Questionnaire * News of new Community Arts Project: “The Fabric of Diversity” * “How I Came to Essex Church” article by Rachel Harland * New “God In Daily Life” Engagement Group * Iain Henderson * A message from Ministry Intern, Skye Shirley * News of GA Executive Elections * “Church? But You Don't Believe In God?” article by Mark Tribe * New Opportunity: Sponsor a Hymn Book! * Latest News of the Church Building Accessibility Project * Poems from John Hands * GA Email Lists * “Gathering of the Waters” Service * Engagement Groups Conference at Essex Church * and much more...

Kensington Unitarians

At Essex Church (founded 1774), Notting Hill Gate

We are here to share our experiences, to learn from each other, to explore our diverse faiths, to welcome spiritual seekers and offer companionship on life's journey.

We meet for worship each Sunday at 11.00am. The format of the service varies, and usually includes music, singing, meditation, an address, an opportunity to share joys and concerns, and a programme for children. Our activities also include religious education and spirituality workshops, engagement groups on a variety of themes, meeting for fellowship, a regular chanting session, and quiet meditation. All are welcome to come and join us.

Contact our minister to discuss our unique ceremonies, including child naming services, weddings, blessings, and memorials, which are available to all. Many other groups share our church building. If you are interested in hiring one of our rooms for your own organisation or event please contact our wardens by telephone or email.



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Notting Hill Gate
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Office Telephone: 020 7221 6514

Email: info@kensington-unitarians.org.uk

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Stewarding and Coffee



Stewarding:

6th July : John Rooney
13th July: Daniel Hughes
20th July: Angela Gasparetto
27th July: Jo Ridgers

Coffee:

6th July : Jo Ridgers
13th July: Julia Alden
20th July: Albert Dolan
27th July: John Hands

Please speak to Christine Joshi if you would be willing to help out with stewarding or coffee duties. This is a really easy way to get involved and help to support the life and work of our community.

...a date for your diary: don't forget to prepare for our...

“Gathering of the Waters”

Sunday 7th September 2008



We will be holding a congregational “Gathering of the Waters” service, led by Patricia Walker-Hesson, on the first Sunday in September to welcome everybody back from their summer travels.

Wherever you go over the summer, remember your friends back at Essex Church, and collect a small amount of water in a bottle to be saved for a lovely ritual in this service to gather us all back in after the summer break.

Essex Church Facebook Group



Our Facebook Group is slowly growing (we are now up to 12 members) and it is a great way to make links with other members and friends of the congregation. It is also a good way to find out what's going on at Essex Church: a number of autumn events are already detailed on the page.

To join up you need to sign up for a Facebook account (if you haven't already got one) at www.facebook.com and then search for “Essex Church” to find our group... this group will get better and better as we have more active users on board so please do consider giving it a try.

How I Came to Essex Church



Being brought up a Catholic in Liverpool, it was a relief to discover that there existed a religion that didn't impose dogmatic beliefs but focused on aspects of life that were particularly relevant to me: belonging to a community and embracing the diversities of life as a whole.

I was first introduced to Unitarianism by my mum who suggested the concert hall at the Ullet Road Unitarian Church in Toxteth as a possible performance venue for a classical concert I was going to be producing. I jumped at the chance to perform at this grade 1 listed building steeped in history, with memorials of William Rathbone and Henry Tate to be found in the cloisters.

After my concert, I went on to conduct the choir at Ullet Road Church for a year before moving to London to pursue my operatic career. Luckily I came across Essex Church on the internet, and chatting to Sarah after the first service we came to realise that we knew a few people in common. This is always a good feeling at the best of times, but especially after moving to a city where you can feel completely anonymous most of the time.

While I have been working in London, much of which has involved singing with Opera Holland Park, Essex Church has been a real point of contact for me. A place to come to gather my thoughts, centre myself and meet an array of warm-hearted and nonconformist people. Even when I have been working away for months on end, I am always welcomed back with kindness and enthusiasm.

From September this year I will be studying at the Flanders opera studio in Ghent, Belgium. Although I will be away for the best part of a year, I will return when I can and will carry the sentiments of this community with me wherever I happen to be.

I must admit that had it not been for the steward catching me at the door on the first day I visited, I can't say for definite that I would have come in - the layout unnerved me; being from an traditional Catholic background I guess. However, I now believe that Essex Church creates an intimacy during worship that I have not been a part of before and needless to say I am very glad I crossed the threshold that day!



Rachel Harland

New Community Arts Project at Essex Church:

“The Fabric of Diversity”

Starting in September 2008



!!! STOP PRESS !!!

We have just heard that Essex Church have been awarded a generous grant of £1300 by Kensington and Chelsea Council, through their Arts Grant Scheme, towards a brand new Community Arts Project that we are plan to run at the church in the autumn.

The project is entitled “The Fabric of Diversity”. Here is a description of the project from our arts grant proposal:

“The proposed activity is a community art project where a diverse group of local people will develop their creative potential, working together on a large-scale textile artwork, expressing aspects of their own personal life experiences and also exploring themes of interdependence and their connections to others in the local and global community. The predominant craft techniques will be feltmaking and hand embroidery and there will be scope for participants to introduce other mixed-media methods to the project as they see fit. The activity will be accessible to people of all levels of experience as no prior skills will be assumed.”

The provisional plan is that we will hold 15 drop-in sessions over the course of the autumn (mostly on Thursday afternoons with a few Sundays so that is accessible to people who work during the week). We would love to involve members of the groups who share our Essex Church building and will be attempting to make contact with their representatives over the summer.

We still need to raise another £1450 to run the project as originally proposed, and are actively seeking to top up our funding from other sources, but are confident that it will go ahead in some form, come what may. The first session is due to take place on the afternoon of Sunday 7th September and the project will then run on Thursday afternoons from 11th September.

Jane Blackall

A Message from Skye Shirley

Some of us had the pleasure of meeting Skye Shirley who is spending two months as a ministry intern here in the south east. By the end of her stay she will have spent time with seven or more congregations and their ministers or lay leaders. In the few days she was with us here in Kensington she managed to pack in plenty of experiences - including telling a story in our service, taking part in our Nia dance class, joining the creativity and chanting groups, talking with congregation members, ironing tea towels, helping collect future worship materials, and watering the garden. We wish Skye all the very best for her future studies and hope she will come and visit us again.

Sarah Tinker

I had a delightful Sunday at Essex Church, and when I think about that day, I think of gardens. The service helped me recognize the beauties of nature and the warmth of this changing season.



The Nia dance group was a challenge for me: I believe I was four the last time I took a dance class, but the laid-back environment and earthy rhythms of the music soon dispelled my insecurities! We moved our hands to mimic the course of falling leaves and held our feet to the ground like roots.

I was exhausted and invigorated by the time the class finished, and was happy to ease into "Songs and Silence" for an hour of peaceful chants. I especially appreciated the laughter we were able to share whenever we stumbled over the lyrics or noticed that our rounds were becoming dissonant! It was great to share "Witchi tai tai" with the group, as it is a Native American chant we sing in my family.

The day was glorious, and I was thankful to have a chance to stroll in the garden and relish the vibrant colours of spring flowers. In the late afternoon, I rolled up the cuffs of my jeans, leapt up onto the wooden planks separating sections of the front garden and watered the plants. As I teetered on the brick wall, I reflected on the service held that morning and realized how delicate we must be with the earth. One misstep and I could have crushed a bud! I needed to watch my step so I didn't trample over the nature in my path. It was right to have my day revolve so much around the unfolding of blossoms. From the opening hymn, "Mother Earth, Beloved Garden" to an evening picnic in Kensington Gardens, I was touched by the lives around me, and felt a pressing need to protect them.

Skye Shirley

Nia Technique



Holistic Movement Sessions:

Sessions led by Sonya Leite

Sunday 13th July - 2.00-3.00pm

A regular Nia class is continuing here at Essex Church, on the second Sunday of every month from 2-3pm (*usually the same day as "Songs and Silence for the Soul"*). The cost to take part will be £7.00 per session (£5.00 concessions).

Nia is holistic movement for body and soul. It is an expressive movement practice promoting fitness, creativity and wellbeing. Fusing dance, yoga, tai chi and martial arts, Nia provides a holistic workout and leaves you feeling energised, relaxed and centred. It suits any level of fitness, age and experience, working from where you are now.

Nia's barefoot, grounded approach maximizes body efficiency and teaches you to move consciously in a gentler way. Dance movements are mixed with subtle therapeutic suggestions and visualization techniques that help you develop awareness and heighten sensation. The result is a fusion of movement styles that is incredibly free and liberating. Moving between simple choreography (form) and freedom of movement (freedance), Nia classes combine the grace and expressiveness of dance, the power and explosiveness of martial arts, and the wisdom and stillness of yoga and tai chi.

"There are as many nights as days, and the one is just as long as the other in the year's course. Even a happy life cannot be without a measure of darkness, and the word 'happy' would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness."



"God is the name by which I designate all things which cross my path violently and recklessly, all things which alter my plans and intentions, and change the course of my life, for better or for worse."

Two quotes from Carl Jung

Backroom Bits and Pieces

News from the Church Management Committee



Every month the Essex Church management committee – currently nine people – meet to discuss issues regarding the running of the church. Here are some issues that have been discussed in the last month.

1. Both the front and the back gardens are looking good now, and we are grateful to anyone who has put in time and effort. If there is a dry spell, anyone at the church is welcome to locate a watering can and do a bit of watering.
2. The architect is still being consulted about the proposed new toilets and kitchen. We are asking for the work to go ahead on schedule even if the final details about kitchen units are not yet decided; the main building work needs to be done anyway before the premises are let again to the user groups in September.
3. We are happy to have Daniel Hughes to stand in for Sarah while she takes time out to write her dissertation. However, there are ten regular members of the congregation going to the Summer School in mid-August, so at present there are no volunteers for coffee and steward on 17th August. Anyone, first-timer or regular who could help out with this would be gratefully received.
4. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have awarded Jane a grant to help set up a community arts project at the church. These grants are considerably over-subscribed, so Jane did well to put in a successful application. Jane is now working on detailed plans for this.
5. The meeting looked at examples of banners that could be placed in front of the church, so its location could be seen from the main road. It was felt that any banner should be high enough to deter vandals. The Council will be consulted before we go ahead with this to make sure that there are no planning consent issues.
6. The wardens will be working on a modified contract in the near future, with Jenny taking on more of the work. The meeting wished to thank both Jenny and David for all the excellent work they have done as wardens, and for their contribution to transforming the finances of the church via a more efficient lettings procedure.

Caroline Blair

The next meeting of the Essex Church Management Committee will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 29th July.

Believing and Belonging Questionnaires



At the end of June I will be emailing or sending by post a questionnaire to members of Essex Church and I would be so grateful if as many people as possible could fill it in and send it back to me as soon as they possibly can and no later than 10th July.

- If anyone would like help in filling in the questionnaire I would be glad to come and visit or talk to people on the phone.
- People who are not members but who attend our services regularly or have a long connection with Essex Church or with Unitarianism generally are also welcome to fill in this questionnaire. Let me know if you would like a copy.

Sarah Tinker

Off-Duty Minister



Daniel Hughes will be taking over my ministry responsibilities for a month this summer whilst I write up that dissertation, starting the second week in July. For most of the month I shall still be here in London as there is an excellent theological library at Heythrop College in Kensington where I can work.

Sarah Tinker

“Faith is nourished by understanding. The practice of looking deeply helps you to understand better. As you understand better, your faith grows.”

Thich Nhat Hanh



Dominant Species



In the distance

Magnificent St Pauls: amphitheatre of white columns
Crowned by its circular dome, and a finger of pale stone
Pointing upwards to a Deity no one has ever seen.

Reduced by

Adjacent upended cigar- box towers
Ugly and impenetrable. Part of a new species
Spreading over all of the world, replacing the old
Ecclesiastical, nearly bred-out. But this is where now
Our faith and hope cling, stubbornly, like old ivy.
In these inflated times very tenuous, quite
Unconvincing: but still carrying on, still reproducing,
Still burgeoning in China and Brazil
India and Pakistan

Soon you may see

More of these cigar-shaped dinosaurs
Leering over the trees in this still-distant park,
Frowning fearfully down, enticing more acolytes.
For this is where the Money is
This is how Success is measured.
The murmuring of leaves
The liting waves of long-grass
Are deafened by long lanes of growling traffic
Moving steadily towards a destination no one now dares
Or wishes – to see.

Waterlowe Park, Highgate, London
John Hands, June 2008



Church Building Works



As this newsletter goes to press we still do not know if our building works will be starting this summer. It all depends on whether or not our architect finds a suitable builder who can do the work at the right time and at the right price.

We still are not clear how much the work will actually cost but can be fairly sure that like all building projects it will end up costing more than expected. So let's keep on with the fund-raising in the knowledge that one day, hopefully before too long, there will be the happy sound of builders building once again here at Essex Church.

Sarah Tinker



Follow the Religion of Love

My heart has become capable of every form:
It is a pasture for gazelles,
And a monastery for Christian monks,
And a temple for idols,
And a Ka'aba of the pilgrims,
And the tablets of the Torah,
And the book of the Koran.
I follow the religion of Love:
Whatever path Love's camel takes,
That is my religion and my faith.

Ibn Arabi
in 'Perfume of the Desert' by Andrew Harvey

Unitarian GA Email Lists

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches (GA) manages a number of email lists which enable people to receive automated announcements about issues relating to the wider Unitarian movement.

There are three announcement lists which allow you to pick and choose the information you'd like to receive.

GA: News about and from the General Assembly. Focus on National and International matters.

Events: Information and details about local and regional programmes and activities.

Social Responsibility: News and information regarding campaigns and events that primarily focus on social responsibility and justice issues.

To sign up for any of these lists go to this web page:

www.unitarian.org.uk/email_lists_info.htm

If you have information you would like to be considered for posting to these lists then send it to:

lists@unitarian.org.uk

O God, black can be beautiful!

Let us be aware of black blessings:

Blessed be the black night that nurtures dreams.

Blessed be the black hole out of which creation sprang.

Blessed be the black cave of imagination
that births creativity.

Blessed be dark wombs that cradle us.

Blessed be black loam that produces
nourishing food for our bodies.

Blessed be black jazz that nourishes our souls.

Blessed be black energy that swirls into gracefulness.

Blessed be black coal that heats us.

Blessed be black boiling clouds,
hurling down lightning and cleansing rain.

Blessed be even our own darkness,
our raw, undeveloped cave of shadows.

O God, help us to befriend black and not deny its power.

Help us not to cover over the dark with fear
but to open to it with your grace
and to be open to your life within the dark.

May we discover the blessings that lie
deep within our holy dark
so that we may freely affirm that

Black is beautiful indeed!

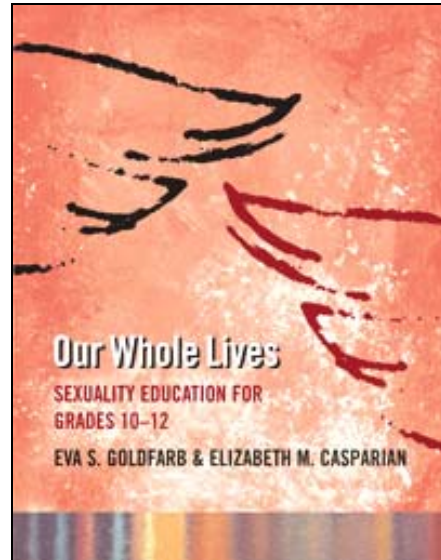
William Fitzgerald
in 'Blessings for the Fast Paced and Cyberspaced'

...a national Unitarian youth event you might be interested in...

“Our Whole Lives”

FDA (Five Days Away)

for 12-17 year olds



Monday 11th – Friday 15th August 2008

Five days of fun, creativity, friendship, discussion, walking and allsorts... we will also be exploring a UUA programme about sexuality called “Our Whole Lives”.

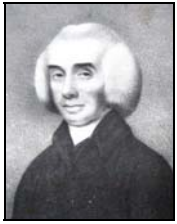
FDA is a special week away organised by the Unitarian Youth Programme. FDA brings together a mix of fun, outdoor activities, creative stuff and opportunities to help you make sense of some of life's challenges and changes. This year's theme is “Our Whole Lives” – this is the title of a programme developed by the UUA which helps us explore issues of sexuality through activities, discussion and role play. We will be picking a few sessions from the programme.

FDA is a great way to get to know new people. The friendly and supportive feel of the week quickly helps newcomers to be included as part of the group. So it's fine to come along on your own or to bring a friend. Non-Unitarians are welcome too!

If you or your parent would like to know more about FDA please contact John. The total cost of the five days is £100. However, there may be grants available to help young people attend, so contact John Harley if the cost is a problem: jharley@unitarian.org.uk

The leaders for Five Days Away are:

Sarah Warhurst, Rev. John Harley and Andrew Usber.



Theophilus Lindsey: Dates for your Diary

In November it will be the bi-centenary of the death of Theophilus Lindsey, famous for founding the first Unitarian congregation in England, which is our very own Essex Church. On **Saturday 15th November** we will be led by Alan Ruston on a pilgrimage to Lindsey's grave at Bunhill Fields. The following day, on **Sunday 16th November**, members of the Unitarian Christian Association (UCA) will be joining us for worship and a shared lunch and in the afternoon the UCA will be hosting a lecture here at Essex Church about Lindsey, delivered by Grayson Ditchfield who has done much research on Lindsey's life and work.



"Some Unitarian Universalists employ God language; some do not. It really doesn't matter. When people tell me proudly that they don't believe in God, I ask them to tell me a little about the God they don't believe in, for I probably don't believe in him either. God is not God's name. God is our name for that which is greater than all and yet present in each. Call it what you will: spirit, ground of being, life itself; it remains what it always has – in Rudolph Otto's definition of the Holy – a mysterium tremendum et fascinans, an awe-inspiring mind-bending mystery..."

Theology is poetry not science. During our brief span, we interpret the greatest and most mysterious masterpiece of them all, the creation itself. The creation is our book of revelation, not a bound book vouchsafed to us by some ancient guru. We rely on the oracle of our own experience, drawn from our reading of the book of nature and of human nature, including our reading of the Bible and our study of philosophy. The text of meaning is vast, its nuances many and various. Honouring this reality, Unitarian Universalism enshrines freedom of thought. We also insist upon mutual respect in so far as it is earned by the reciprocal granting to us of the freedom to follow our own conscience.

Is this the foundation for principles of belief? Of course it is. True believers define religion narrowly and embrace it. Our sceptical neighbours define religion narrowly and reject it. We define religion broadly and embrace it. Unitarian Universalism is not an alternative to religion, but an alternative to being religious or irreligious in absolute ways."

UU Minister, Rev. Forrest Church

Creativity Engagement Group Weaving without a Loom

Thursday 10th July, 7.00-9.00pm

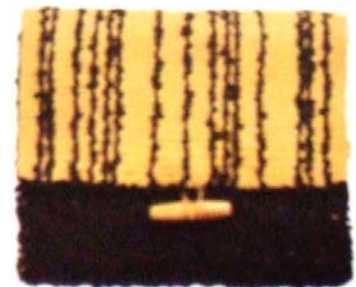


This month's session will be led by Patricia Walker-Hesson who says:

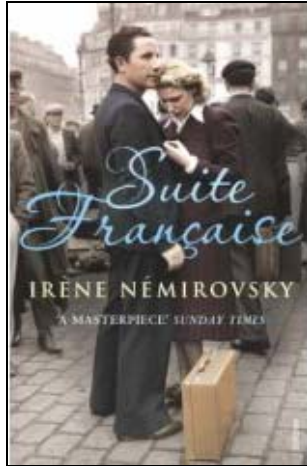
"At our next Creativity Group we will be learning to weave with weaving cards. My idea is for us to make big enough pieces to make a bag or a purse. For this we all need to collect yarn, ribbon and material. The material can be cut or torn into strips. There will be a requested donation of £2 per person for each of the weaving cards. We will all be experimenting. Do come and play with us!"

As usual, if this particular activity doesn't take your fancy, you are most welcome to bring your own crafts along, and simply sit with us in good company for the evening. There are usually biscuits and other goodies to be eaten too...

If you would like to know more about the creativity engagement group please do talk to Jane Blackall or Patricia Walker-Hesson about our activities. Photographs of work from several of the projects we've worked on over the last few years can be found on our church website.



Reading Engagement Group
“Suite Francaise”
 by Irene Nemirovsky
 Thursday 24th July, 7.00-9.00pm



The reading engagement group’s next topic of discussion will be “Suite Francaise” by Irene Nemirovsky. This book was chosen by Patricia Walker-Hesson and will be the focus of our next reading group meeting on **Thursday 24th July**.

Information from Amazon UK:

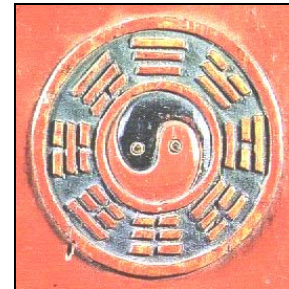
“In 1941, Irene Nemirovsky sat down to write a book that would convey the magnitude of what she was living through, not in terms of battles and politicians, but by evoking the domestic lives and personal trials of the ordinary citizens of France. She did not live to see her ambition fulfilled, or to know that sixty-five years later, “Suite Francaise” would be published for the first time, and hailed as a masterpiece. Set during a year that begins with France’s fall to the Nazis in June 1940 and ends with Germany turning its attention to Russia, “Suite Francaise” falls into two parts. The first is a brilliant depiction of a group of Parisians as they flee the Nazi invasion and make their way through the chaos of France; the second follows the inhabitants of a small rural community under occupation who find themselves thrown together in ways they never expected. Nemirovsky’s brilliance as a writer lay in her portrayal of people, and this is a novel that teems with wonderful characters, each more vivid than the next. Haughty aristocrats, bourgeois bankers and snobbish aesthetes rub shoulders with uncouth workers and bolsby farmers. Women variously resist or succumb to the charms of German soldiers. However, amidst the mess of defeat, and all the hypocrisy and compromise, there is hope. True nobility and love exist, but often in surprising places.”

All are welcome to join the book group. Please do try to read the books before the meeting if you’re planning to come along. It would also aid discussion if you pick out favourite passages to share. Members of the group take turns in choosing books so we read a wide variety of material.

...a new monthly activity at Essex Church later this summer...

Taoist Healing Sounds

Sundays 31st August, 28th September,
 26th October, 30th November at Essex Church



Something to look forward to in the autumn: once a month after worship there’ll be chance to learn a Taoist system of healing sounds with accompanying movements and self-massage techniques.

No particular skill or fitness is needed – just the willingness to have a go at something different and to make some unusual sounds.

Sarah Tinker

Regents Park Waterfall



Scarves of bickering foam thrown
 Clean over moss-draped miniature
 Cliffs. From park-peak summit down
 Ziggurat steps to an engorging pool
 Guarded by silver sheen sentinel
 Birch, visited by warblers, robins, and
 Diffident pigeons eager to slake thirst
 In the shallow rock mirror pools.
 Static green fountains of unflowering flag
 Nod in the crisp curling breeze.

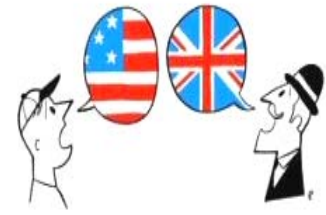
There are many avenues to this fabricated
 Industrious waterfall; and all around the park
 So much trodden down and reassembled. But here
 If I stand apart and unflinchingly gaze
 I may see, smell, undeniably discern
 A prospect of far-away Wales.

John Hands

What's in a Word?

We recently had a visitor to Essex Church – a Bostonian by the name of Skye. She referred to the difficulty she was having with some words in that the same word had different connotations in this country to the United States. I told her that someone once said that the Americans and English were two civilizations divided only by a single language. And what a strange, complicated language it is!

I recently went to a talk at the Royal Geographical Society by Professor Steven Pinker of Harvard and he referred to a book which I subsequently bought. It's called 'Crazy English' and I give the following excerpt for your enjoyment and further research.



Will Lyons

English is the most widely spoken language in the history of our planet, used in some way by at least one out of every seven human beings around the globe. Half of the world's books are written in English, and the majority of international telephone calls are made in English. English is the language of over sixty percent of the world's radio programmes. More than seventy percent of international mail is written and addressed in English, and eighty percent of all computer text is stored in English. English has acquired the largest vocabulary of all the world's languages, perhaps as many as two million words, and has generated one of the noblest bodies of literature in the annals of the human race.

Nonetheless, it is now time to face the fact that English is a crazy language -- the most lunatic of all languages. In the crazy English language, the blackbird hen is brown, blackboards can be green or blue, and blackberries are green and then red before they are ripe. Even if blackberries were really black and blueberries really blue, what are strawberries, cranberries, elderberries, huckleberries, raspberries, and gooseberries supposed to look like?

To add to this insanity there is no butter in buttermilk, no egg in eggplant, no grape in grapefruit, no bread in shortbread, neither worms nor wood in wormwood, neither mush nor room in mushroom, neither pine nor apple in pineapple, neither peas nor nuts in peanuts, and no ham in a hamburger.

To make matters worse, English muffins weren't invented in England, French fries in France, or Danish pastries in Denmark. And we discover even more culinary madness in the revelations that sweetmeat is made from fruit, while sweetbread, which isn't sweet, is made from meat.

In this unreliable English tongue, greyhounds aren't always grey (or gray); panda bears and koala bears aren't bears (they're marsupials); a woodchuck is a groundhog, which is not a hog; a horned toad is a lizard; glowworms are fireflies, but fireflies are not flies (they're beetles); ladybugs and lightning bugs are also beetles (and to propagate, a significant proportion of ladybugs must be male); a guinea pig is neither a pig nor from Guinea (it's a South American rodent).

If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of booth be beeth? One goose, two geese -- so one moose, two meese? One index, two indices -- one Kleenex, two Kleenices? If people ring a bell today and rang a bell yesterday, why don't we say that they flang a ball? If they wrote a letter, perhaps they also bote their tongue. If the teacher taught, why isn't it also true that the preacher praught? Why is it that the sun shone yesterday while I shined my shoes, that I treaded water and then trod on the beach.

And so on -- and on -- and on.

From 'Crazy English'

Bodywork Sessions:

Available on Mondays here at Essex Church between 10.00am - 4.00pm

Using a combination of massage, aromatherapy and craniosacral therapy, Fiona Watson (ITEC dip.) can provide individual sessions to meet each client's unique requirements. For full details please phone Fiona on 07960 758068.



Engagement Groups and Small Group Ministry Conference

Saturday 1st November at Essex Church



The Engagement Support Panel, which works as part of the Unitarian GA's Education and Training Commission, is currently in the process of organising a conference on Engagement Groups and Small Group Ministry to take place in the south of England this autumn.

This event is due to be held on Saturday 1st November here at Essex Church and will be organised by Rev. Jim Robinson and Jane Blackall. Please put the date in your diary if you are already involved with small groups or are interested in finding out more about facilitating them.

Please contact Jane or Jim for more information and watch out for more announcements about this event in the newsletter and on our noticeboards over the summer.

...a forthcoming district event – put the date in your diaries...

“Growing in Hospitality and Passion”

Second London District Growth Day
Saturday 20th September at Essex Church

Following the success of the first Growth Day in February, the District Growth Group is planning a second Workshop for Saturday 20th September, to be held here at Essex Church, Kensington. Full details will be sent to all congregations in due course, but please put the date in your diary now.

The day will be divided into two parts. The morning will examine the concept of Radical Hospitality, based on the book of the same name, an open-hearted outlook of welcoming and inclusiveness for people of any faith by Lonni Collins Benedictine Fr. Daniel Homan.

The afternoon will look at how each congregation can identify and build on its particular strengths and passions. Not all congregations are the same, and although there are general good practices which all congregations can adopt, each has its own character and is more likely to be energised by its own particular passion than by trying to conform to external standards. We will share some success stories and look at ways to discover our own passion.

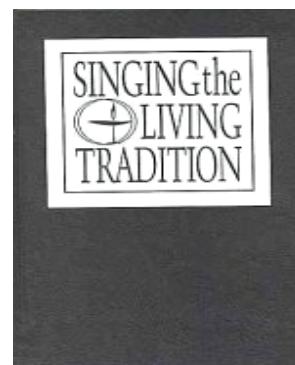
Exciting Hymn Book Opportunity

I must be in the right line of work if I can get excited about the arrival of new grey hymn books. But if you too are glad to hear that we won't have to share hymn books so often on a Sunday morning there is a simple way to enhance your pleasure even further – sponsor one of the new hymn books.

Yes, for only £20, you can dedicate one of the hymn books to a person or cause that is dear to you. An inscribed bookplate will record your dedication and then every Sunday you can have the added delight of checking if you have received your own hymn book that day.

Make cheques payable to Essex Church and hand them with a note of your chosen dedication either to me or a committee member. We have spent £400 on these new books so why don't we aim to raise at least that much through dedications. If you have a look at the new books you will see that they have all been stamped as 'Property of Kensington Unitarians' to deter would be borrowers from keeping them for too long. We have also numbered each book and now have 50 copies.

A few months ago we were delighted to receive a hymn book from Richard and Stephanie Andrew who had read of our shortage in the newsletter and brought us a copy from their congregation when they were over from the States. We are very pleased to welcome Richard and Stephanie as our first transatlantic members. Whenever they are visiting the UK they come and join us not only in services but at any other events they can reach, including the book group and inter-faith gatherings. Will they start a trend? Here at Essex Church we have such loyal visitors, particularly from Canada and the USA; perhaps more of them would like to consider becoming members.



Sarah Tinker

July Multifaith Calendar

✿ July – Chokhor (Chokor Duchen) – Buddhist

A Tibetan and Nepalese summer festival that commemorates the Buddha's first Turning of the Wheel, the first teaching concerning the Four Truths. Statues of the Buddha and copies of the scriptures are carried around with music and festivities, to symbolise the spreading of the Buddha's teaching. The whole community joins in the processions and picnics that follow.

✿ 9th July – Martyrdom of the Bab – Bahai

This major holy day commemorates the events surrounding the death of The Bab in 1850. The Bab (a title meaning 'the Gate') had many followers but his beliefs did not meet with approval from the leaders of the state religion in Persia and they decided he should be taken from prison and put to death. To commemorate this day, Bahá'ís read special prayers at noon, which is the time the execution was scheduled for. This is also a day of rest, when Bahá'ís should not work.

✿ 4th July – Ratha Yatra – 'Chariot Journey' – Hindu

This festival is most notably celebrated at Puri in Orissa, India, where thousands of people push huge wagons (rathas) with images of Krishna, known as 'Jagannath' (Lord of the Universe), from which the term 'juggernaut' comes in English. Ratha Yatra is celebrated by Hindus in Britain with processions through some cities.

✿ 13th July – Ulambana (Obon) – Buddhist

Ancestor Day. The day when the gates of Hell are opened and the ghosts may visit the world for fifteen days. Food offerings are made during this time to relieve the sufferings of these ghosts. On the fifteenth day, people visit cemeteries to make offerings to the departed ancestors.



✿ 18th July – Asalha Puja Day (Dharma Day) – Buddhist

Turning of the Wheel of Teaching - Buddhist observance of the day when Gautama Buddha made his first public proclamation to five ascetics. He taught the middle way, the noble eight-fold path and the four noble truths.

✿ 30th July – The Prophet's Night Journey and Ascension (Lailat-ul-Isra' Wal Mi'raj) – Muslim

In the tenth year of his prophethood, Prophet Muhammad journeyed from Makkah to Jerusalem and through the heavens to the presence of God, all in one night. The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem marks the rock from which Muhammad ascended. On the journey the Prophet received the command to pray five times a day.

General Assembly of Unitarian
and Free Christian Churches (GA)

Executive Committee Elections



An election for eight members of the Executive Committee for appointment from April 2009 will take place in November 2008, and nominations by those wishing to stand can be made in September 2008. All arrangements for the election will be conducted by the organisation which has been appointed to carry out the task. Detailed information about the election will be made available at a later date by the Electoral Panel.

Rev Steve Dick, GA Chief Executive

Note from Essex Church Secretary: *It is our understanding that the responsibility for distributing EC election ballot papers will be with congregational secretaries. We will be sent sufficient ballot papers to cover all the registered members for whom we have made a quota payment to the GA.*

Timetable for Executive Committee Elections:

The following is the timetable that is expected to be followed. Further details will follow later.

Nominations open: 22nd September 2008

(4 weeks for nominations)

Nominations close: 20th October 2008

Ballot papers sent out: 3rd November 2008

Election starts: 8th November 2008

(5 week ballot period)

Election closes: 13th December 2008

Results: 17th December 2008

New EC meets at Annual Meetings: April 2009

Electoral Panel Members:

Alan Ruston, Rev Peter Hewis, Rev Andrew Hill

“Plan Ahead and Solve Your Gift Problems...”



Stephanie Saville reminds us that Hyacinths to flower at Christmas need to be planted in August and she is offering to plant them for you as she did last year. You need to:

Provide a pot/container with your name on.

Say what colour bulbs you would like (*white, blue or pink*)

Collect them from Stephanie at Christmas and make a donation of around £5.

The Youth Programme of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches invites you to:

A regular event for teenagers in the South...

“Uniteens”

Come along to a brand new monthly YOUTH GROUP for 13-17 year olds



**One Sunday per month from 5.00-7.30pm:
Next meeting is on Sunday 6th July**

Time to make friends, be creative and have fun.

At Unity Church, accessed through the gate entrance located between 277 and 278 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 2TZ, next to the Islington Fire Station.

Map available at: www.new-unity.org

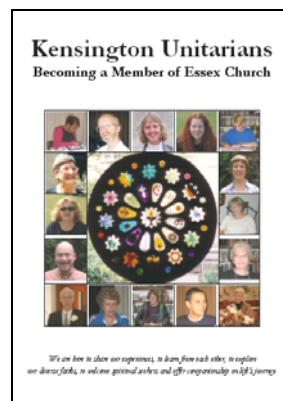
If you want to join in please send your details (*name, age, contact details, parent or guardian's name, and congregation if you have one*) to John Harley, Unitarian Headquarters, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex St, London WC2R 3HY.

For further information ring John on 020 8670 9280.

New Members of Essex Church

At our membership service in May we were delighted to welcome the following new members:

Victor Anderson
Richard Andrews
Stephanie Andrews
Louisa Bird
Jo Darling
Margaret Darling
Angela Gasparetto
Jen Hazel
David Krisman
Mike Pritchard
Rita Woditsch-Ogle
Stephen Woditsch-Ogle



And to welcome back into membership after a little while away:

Julia Alden
Kate Brown
Ann Mamak
Roy Parnell



Some of the latter list of people did not realise they had ceased to be members. That's because it is now good practice in voluntary organisations to ask people to fill out a form each year stating that they still wish to be considered a member. So we will hand out forms at the beginning of each year for members to fill in. But don't wait till 2009 if you are thinking of joining Essex Church. Just talk to a member of the committee and ask for a form.

Sarah Tinker



“Everyone wants to be happy... but when it comes to the question ‘What is happiness?’ there are probably six billion different answers — one for each person on the globe.

Happy people see life as opportunity. Challenges are blessings in disguise. When we feel happy, our minds are open and expansive. Conversely, when we're open and expansive we feel happy. Happiness is an 'upward spiral,' as one researcher describes it. It makes us not only feel better but be better — better able to forge fulfilling relationships, find meaningful pursuits, and handle the vicissitudes of life. Happiness helps us stay healthy and whole no matter what the circumstances. Best of all, we can pass it on to those around us.”

Joan Duncan Oliver

Iain Henderson

Iain Henderson had been a member here at Essex Church for many years but in recent times had lost touch. Before his death in March this year he made it clear to his cousin Sandra that he wanted his funeral to be here at the church and so it was that on 3rd April some of his friends and family, and congregation members, gathered here to celebrate his life in a simple ceremony, followed by a lunch and time to reminisce at the Mall Tavern over the road. Here is an extract from Iain's eulogy:

"I am sorry that I never met Iain. I have heard so much about him in the last few weeks and have some sense of what a thoroughly interesting person he was. I already knew his name because I had read something Iain wrote back in 1987 for this publication called *The Kensington Quest*. It was a collection of writings by members of Essex church in which they explored their own spiritual beliefs and Iain's contribution, which I am going to read to you in a moment, is apparently characteristically articulate and complex. Iain was a thinker. He had a large collection of books, no wonder he was a librarian; he read widely on a great range of topics particularly religion and history, two of his loves. He painted and drew throughout his life, this *Kensington Quest* booklet was illustrated by him as were many of our church newsletters. He was a man who went deeply into things, he was fascinated by symbolism and esoteric systems of thought. He was known for his idiosyncratic views of the world and of human nature. Within the Unitarian church, which he joined back in 1961, he found a spiritual home where he could explore the esoteric ideas that so fascinated him and where he was a well regarded member of the community, serving for some years on the church committee. People I have spoken to about Iain this week all mentioned his humour, his interest in people, his lovely Scottish accent, his collection of pottery, his wide interest in mythology, art, cinema, in life itself."



Rev Eirion Phillips, minister here from 1965 to 1977 remembered Iain well, not least because Iain was such a regular attender at church and had indeed rented one of the bed-sitters in the manse for some years, for which he apparently paid £3 a week. Eirion described him as an unforgettable man, kind and intelligent, with a fascinating mind.

We send our good wishes to Iain's friends Julian and Mark, and to his cousin Sandra, all of whom did so much to support him during his illness.

Sarah Tinker



SIVA - NATARAJA
THE LORD OF DANCE

IMAGES OF DEITY by Iain Henderson: SIVA NATARAJA, The Lord of Dance

Iain Henderson provided several drawings for "*Kensington Quest*", a book which was published by Essex Church back in 1987, including this drawing of Siva shown on the left.

The following is an excerpt from Iain's own statement of belief which was included in "*Kensington Quest*":

"So-called progress is uncertain and sometimes dubious; this is the case on social, scientific and technical levels. The process of the Universe remains unchanged – natural processes bear witness to this... I suspect the ancient and even pagan approach was closer to the truth, especially the Zoroastrian, Buddhist, Manichean and Gnostic systems. Many of the newer humanist ideas are remote from the truth... What one believes does not matter so much; it is the quality in the world that is important, both on a physical and spiritual level, and the conduct of that life. Everything is either of good quality or bad quality, it is not concerned with being human or not, or with wealth, fame, or social divisions."

Dances of Universal Peace

Sunday 13th July, 2-5.00pm



at **Richmond Unitarian Church**
Ormond Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6TH

The Dances of Universal Peace are inspired by the wisdom and sacred phrases of the world's authentic spiritual traditions, which are sung while dancing. The words and movement engender a mood of joy, peace, liberation, contemplation and presence.

There is no need for any previous experience of this, or any other form of dance. Please bring snacks to share during the break. The sessions will run on the first Sunday of every month from 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Admission will be a sliding scale of £5 (concessions) to £10. For more information, please contact Lindsay (telephone 020 8891 5825 or email lindsaystevens@blueyonder.co.uk).

...a forthcoming adult RE course at Essex Church...

Death and Dying

Thursday Evenings from 7-9pm
4th, 18th September, 2nd, 16th October



A number of people have asked about the possibility of us running a course in which we can explore our thoughts and feelings about death and dying. Here are the dates for your diaries and there will be more information about the individual sessions in next month's newsletter. The group will be run by Michaela von Britzke and Sarah Tinker.

“Church? But You Don’t Believe in God!”



I find it very hard to tell people that I go to ‘church’ – it catches in my throat and I have to force it out. Church is not cool. It’s not fashionable. It has bad connotations for many people and for most of my life anyone who regularly went to ‘church’ was seen as a bit odd, one of the “God Squad”.

I’m always nervous of the reaction I’m going to get when the conversation comes around to weekend plans and I casually mention that I’m going to church. The reaction usually mirrors the above title – Church? But you don’t believe in God. This makes me think two things: Firstly, have I really made my near-atheistic views clear to ALL of my friends and secondly, why do I actually go to church?

It’s a question I’ve been asking myself a lot lately. I’ve recently moved to London and having previously been a regular at my local church, it seemed natural to seek out a new congregation. But should I really? London’s a busy place, I’m a busy person, do I really want to spend my Sunday mornings (!) in church? What do I hope to gain? As you know – I don’t believe in God.

Firstly, I hope to genuinely challenge my religious and spiritual beliefs/ideas/values (delete as appropriate for which ever word you prefer!). Being an atheist is not a simple as might be imagined – it only answers one of the big questions, leaving you to figure out the rest for yourself. I hope my church is a place to frankly discuss the reasoning behind, and merits of, answers to all the other questions.

Secondly, I’m after a sense of community, although it’s hard to define that. I have a loving family and some fantastic friends, but there is something very different about people you meet through shared values; something different about a place where you’re welcomed just for walking through the door and for however much you want to contribute in word or deed.

Thirdly, I am, as I say, a busy person in a busy city and it’s good to have a moment’s pause. I find it hard to still my mind, to stop thinking about the hours and days ahead, but the surroundings of a church and congregation make it easier.

Lastly, singing. I’m not a good singer but I do like to sing in a group and without the time to devote to joining a choir the odd hymn or song is a definite bonus. The wonderful presence of professional singers at Essex Church may just be the icing on the cake!

Finally, I’d like to share an answer I received when I asked a devout Christian friend of mine why she went to church when God was “all around”. She answered that our spiritual selves are like embers: Alone we struggle, easy to extinguish and hard to relight; together however, we feed off each other’s heat and glow all the more brightly.

Mark Tribe

Songs and Silence for the Soul: Chanting and Singing at Essex Church



**Sundays 12th July, 10th August
from 3.30 to 5.00pm**

Suggested Donation: £2.00

An opportunity to sing chants from the world's faith traditions and to sit together in candlelit silence. All are welcome, no experience is necessary. A space in which to re-connect with yourself, one another and with whatever you hold to be divine.

Phone 020 7221 6514 for more information
or email sarah@kensington-unitarians.org.uk

...a forthcoming event which you might be interested in...

“Elegant Solutions”

10th July 2008 at 7:00 pm
Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, W1S 4BS



Scientists frequently talk about ‘beauty’ in their work, but rarely stop to think quite what they mean by it. What makes an experiment beautiful? Is it the clarity of the design? The elegance of the apparatus? The nature of the knowledge gained?

With demonstrations of some of the most beautiful experiments in chemistry, this talk by Dr. Phil Ball will challenge you to think anew about how we come understand the world around us.

Tickets cost £8, £6 concessions
Book tickets at www.rigb.org or call 020 7409 2992

Our Wardens’ Column: What’s On in Our Busy Building...

July seems to be the month for concerts. The Lloyd Williamson School (who also run the nursery in our basement) are holding their summer concert here on 1st July, on the 11th there’s another school concert organised by Ivor Flynt and on 18th July one by Beit Klal, the gay and lesbian synagogue based here.

Still on the musical theme, we have another two weeks of Associated Board music exams to go. It’s been an especially busy summer session this year as the timing of Easter put many candidates off entering then.

Other notable bookings include an Interfaith Service on the theme of Freedom, Friday 4th July from 6.45-8.15pm and a talk by the Analytical Psychology Club on ‘Jung, Zen & Psychic Energy’ on Thursday 17th from 7.30-9.00pm.

After that things go very quiet as many of our regular groups take a break in August, so we are hoping that the renovation work on the toilets/kitchen will be able to start on July 21st. The existing ground floor toilets will be replaced by three single cubicles – one suitable for wheelchair users. The current kitchen units, original to the building, will be replaced, possibly with stainless steel. Fundraising for this project has been going well, but we still have a fair way to go as the total cost will be around £50,000.

The garden continues to blossom, the current highlight being the elegant crocosmia in the middle terrace - the agapanthus look set to burst into bloom this month too. Various other plantings from the Warden and the church gardening group are also doing well.

Jenny and David started their work here as Wardens two years ago this month, and David has decided that it is time for him to move on. He will continue to work at the church one day a week for the rest of the summer and, with support from Sarah and the trustees, Jenny hopes to be able to work out how to manage the job on her own from then on.

Working here together has been challenging at times, but we’ve both really appreciated the warm welcome we received and the ongoing friendship and support. David is glad to be staying connected for the time being, and Jenny is glad to be able to stay in her home here and continue doing a job she enjoys. Thank you all.

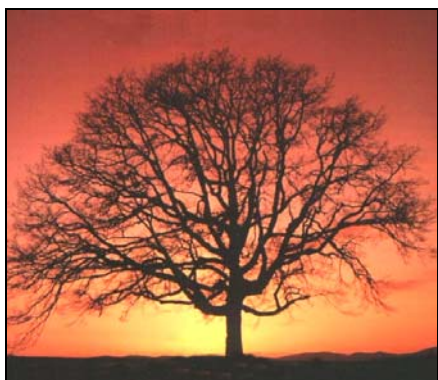
Jenny Moy and David Berridge

...a forthcoming event at Essex Church...

“God in Daily Life”

A new Engagement Group at Essex Church

...sign up NOW to express your interest...



We are currently planning a new engagement group to take place this autumn. “God in Daily Life” will be held weekly on six consecutive Monday afternoons, from 2-4pm, starting on 15th September 2008.

The group will be based on creative listening and draw on ideas from the book ‘Reflecting with God’ by Abigail Johnson. Members of this group will be asked to make a commitment to attend all six of the sessions and to give a 15-minute presentation at one of them on the theme “How is ‘God’ present in my daily life?” (*please feel free to interpret the word ‘God’ in any way that is meaningful to you*). We also ask that all participants commit to offering other members of the group respectful attention and confidentiality.

We think the group would be enriched by diversity (in terms of age, gender, theology etc.) and we hope to include some participants from outside this church. We also think it will be very helpful if people are able to come to all the sessions. So if we are oversubscribed we will bear these factors in mind rather than just take the first six people. However, we hope to offer the course again next year if there is sufficient interest. If you'd like to know more please speak to Jenny or Jane – Jenny can be reached on the church office phone – 020 7221 6514.

Jenny Moy and Jane Blackall

“We may have good intentions to reflect on the many layers of our lives, but the busyness of our existence tends to take priority over quiet time. Typically we reflect on issues by letting them rattle around in our heads... We reflect theologically when we pray, and in the midst of crisis when we ask, “Why me, God?” We do it when we ask, “Is that all there is?” We do it when we try to bring justice into the decisions we make. Although such theological reflection takes place, it can often be random and unstructured. In this group, we will offer a structured process for engaging in theological reflection by looking at real-life events through a series of questions, which are designed to help individuals to think through situations with the eyes of faith.”

Abigail Johnson, in “Reflecting with God”

Invitation to Dover

Dover Unitarians offer hospitality to District Churches, Fellowships, Friends and Family on Saturday 9th August, from 10:30 to 4:00pm

Visitors will be free to explore the nearby town and seafront, to socialise in the hall, listen to music, and gather together for a closing service of worship.

10:30am	Hall opens to welcome visitors
3:00 - 3:45pm	Service of Worship
4:00pm	Tidy-up and departures

Dover Unitarian Church is an easy 8 minute walk from Dover Priory Station, which is approx. 1 hour 45 minute journey from Charing Cross. The handsome and distinctive church has disabled access (through the Hall) and plenty of on-street parking.

Bring your own packed lunch, or buy something from a variety of places nearby. Tea and coffee will be provided (donation 50p).

...a request – and ‘competition’ – from the Unitarian GA...

Unitarian FAQ



Do Unitarians have six toes? (*or should it be a single toe*)

Can you believe whatever you want?

Is Unitarianism one of those new age religions?

FAQ stands for **Frequently Asked Questions**. What are the questions you are asked most frequently about Unitarianism? And what answers you do offer in response (*in 50 words or less*)? Please send FAQs/answers to info@unitarian.org.uk by Monday 4th August.....

If one of your Questions and the associated Answer (remember, answers should be 50 words or less) are chosen to be included in the GA FAQ, your name and congregation will appear on the website under your answer, and you will receive a prize and personal acknowledgment from the chief executive.

info@unitarian.org.uk is awaiting your emails!

...to all supporters of Lesbian and Gay freedom in religion...

Unitarians at Pride London Saturday 5th July from 12 noon



This is to announce that there will be a Unitarian presence at the Pride London event this year on Saturday 5th July.

Supporters from our communities in London and the South including ministers and GA officers will be walking with all the other groups (including various religious ones) from Baker Street to Trafalgar Square.

We will be assembling from 12.00 outside Baker Street tube station and will have the Lesbian and Gay Unitarians banner for easy identification! But please note that this invitation is to all friends and supporters who may be able to join us on the day.

Afterwards there will be a chance to attend the other festival events of the day and we are planning a social event in the evening elsewhere in the Capital.

For further details please contact:

John Prickett
john@johnp.demon.co.uk
0777 225 8843

Sunday Services at Essex Church

Our Minister, Rev. Sarah Tinker, will be off-duty throughout July whilst she completes her dissertation. However, we are fortunate to have some excellent services lined up, courtesy of David, David and Daniel:

6th July – “Right Belief: True Experience: Authentic Faith?”

Service led by Rev. David Usher

We will be welcoming the London District Minister, Rev. David Usher, to Essex Church for the first service in July. This service will also feature a performance from our choir-for-all, the Kensington Community Singers.

13th July – “Navel Gazing or Growing through Reflection”

Service led by David Francis Darling

David says: “I hope to explore the importance of listening to others and the Divine Spirit in everyday life”.

20th July – “Revealing our True Heart”

Service led by Daniel Hughes

Daniel says: “Exploring through devotion and reflection the significance of living a life that understands human nature as ‘empty’ rather than ‘stained’. Unitarians rejected the notion of ‘original sin’ early in our history and during the nineteenth century stressed the perfectibility of humanity - both of these views however fall short of human experience. What is the middle way approach for Unitarians today and how can this transform our lives?”

27th July – “Devoted to Enchantment”

Service led by Daniel Hughes

Daniel says: “This morning I invite you to celebrate all that you benefit and contribute by gathering at Essex Church for worship or devotion. Whether we gather to become aware of the transcendent, or turn our attention to immanent reality, human beings continue to gather in a ‘set apart’ place. What is the significance of this for our outreach to the wider community?”

Summer Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for submitting items for the next issue (a double issue for August and September) is **Sunday 13th July**. Please send items (such as poems, artwork, quotes, articles, notices, etc...) to Jane Blackall or any committee member before this date.

Thank you!!!