



Kensington Unitarians

Newsletter: April 2011

What's On in April:

Sunday 3rd April, 11am
"Who We Really Are"
Service led by Rev. Sarah Tinker

Wednesday 6th April, 7-9pm
Management Committee Meeting

Thursday 7th April, 7-9pm
Introduction to Taizé (2/2)
Led by Rev. Sarah Tinker

Sunday 10th April, 11am
"The Spiritual Dimension of Suffering"
Service led by Jef Jones

Sunday 10th April, 12.30pm
Small-Group Communion
Led by Tristan Jovanović

Sunday 10th April, 2-3.00pm
Nia Dance with Sonya Leite

Sunday 17th April, 11am
"A Hard Act to Follow"
Service led by Harold Lorenzelli

Sunday 17th April, 12.30pm
'Finding Your Voice'
Singing Workshop
Led by Margaret Marshall

Tuesday 19th April, 7-9pm
Creativity Group:
'Bring Your Own Crafts'

Thursday 21st April, 7-9pm
Tenebrae Service

Saturday 23rd April, 10.30am
Walking Group: Hyde Park
and Kensington Gardens

Sunday 24th April, 11am
"Easter Sunday"
Service led by Rev. Sarah Tinker

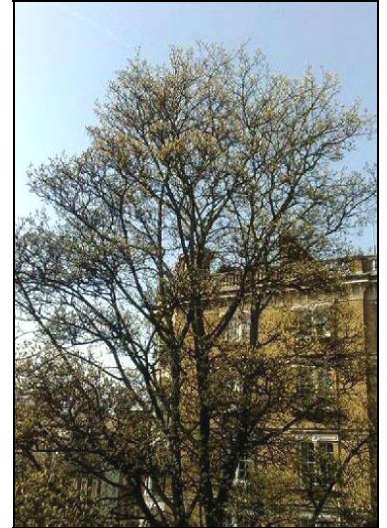
Sunday 24th April, 12.30pm
**Easter Potluck Lunch
and Congregational Book Launch**

Tuesday 26th April, 7-9pm
Reading Group:
'Goblin Market' by Christina Rossetti

Date for your Diary:
Sunday 15th May, 11am
Membership Service & AGM

A Message from our Minister: Noticing that Moment

By the time you read this newsletter it will probably be over. At this moment I am looking out of the window at the sycamore tree, which stands at the front of the church, and it looks so beautiful. It is covered in tightly furled leaf buds that are almost silver in colour and seem full of promise. I've never noticed them before. Once those buds unfurl I shall be cursing the sycamore tree like I do every year. It gives off a sticky substance that coats my car parked below it as well as the church notice boards. It provides the incontinent pigeon with branches from which to aim its missiles.



I should know by now that the sycamore is a spiritual teacher. A few years ago we asked a tree surgeon to come and cut back all the trees in the church grounds. Top of my list was the sycamore. I thought it was too high and so shaded the building and its leaves clog up the drains every autumn. A firm pruning seemed in order. But the tree surgeon saw things very differently. He dutifully chopped every other tree back as requested but when it came to the sycamore he put his foot down. He pointed out something that I'd never noticed – that the sycamore had never been pruned. "This is probably the only mature sycamore in West London that still has the original shape of its crown," he exclaimed. And he took me across the road so that we could have a better look and he could show me the tree from his perspective. The crown is indeed a lovely, rounded, natural shape. So in the end all he did was to 'raise the crown' by lopping a few of the tree's lower branches.

There is so much going on in life it's hardly surprising that we miss a few things along the way. And it's all too easy to miss one of those moments, the moments where something happens or something appears. The natural world is full of such moments and springtime shows nature at her best – full of fresh beauty and potential. Have a look round Notting Hill in the next few weeks. The church garden has begun its annual rolling programme of bulb surprises. Did you notice those lilac irises that appeared last week or the yellow forsythia that is brightening up the car park? Nearby streets will soon be cheered by cherry blossom and magnolia, and perhaps some of them are whispering to us, "pay attention – enjoy us – we won't be here for ever".

I do hope you can join us for some of our activities in the next month – our Easter Sunday service and congregational bring and share lunch perhaps, a Taizé service or story telling from the Middle East or a Saturday walk. And let us know if you notice and appreciate something for the first time in the month ahead. In the meantime I shall be meditating on the beauty of sycamore trees, stickiness and all.

Rev. Sarah Tinker

In this month's newsletter...

- * Launch of Congregational Book: 'Kindred Pilgrim Souls' * Unitarian Women * Reflections from our 'Tapestry of Life' Course * Report from the District AGM
- * Tibetan Buddhism on Film * RE Course: '12 Steps to a Compassionate Life' *
- A Book Recommendation from Carolyn Appleby: 'The Happiness Trap'
- * Sermon from Caroline Blair * 'A Tale of the Middle Sea' Event * and more...

Kensington Unitarians

At Essex Church (founded 1774), Notting Hill Gate

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

The community meets for a service each Sunday at 11.00am. The format varies, and usually includes music, singing, meditation, an address, an opportunity to share joys and concerns, and a children's group. Our wide range of activities includes religious education courses and spirituality workshops, meeting for fellowship, engagement groups on a variety of themes, community arts projects, regular chanting and dance sessions, and opportunities for quiet meditation. All are welcome to come and join us.

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 warden by telephone or email.



Kensington Unitarians at Essex Church
112 Palace Gardens Terrace
Notting Hill Gate
London W8 4RT

Office Telephone: 020 7221 6514

Email: info@kensington-unitarians.org.uk

Web: www.kensington-unitarians.org.uk

Tenebrae Service

Thursday 21st April, 7pm
in the library at Essex Church

This small group worship focuses on the themes of Holy Week and the events leading to Jesus' death on the cross. Tenebrae means shadows or darkness in Latin. We will meet in candle light and hear a series of readings taken mainly from the Gospels.

Readings will be interspersed with music, including a Taizé chant, and the candles are extinguished one by one until we are left in darkness and slowly and silently leave the room. The themes of Easter-time – betrayal, confusion, anguish, despair, humiliation, death – are often avoided or hidden in our modern society. Yet there is strength to be found in sitting with the unpalatable, as witnesses to that which is.

This will be the first time that we have held such a service here at Essex Church and it would be good to have a number of people actively involved, so do get in touch if you would like to be one of the readers.

Congregational Potluck Lunch

After the service on Sunday 24th April



There will be a traditional potluck lunch after the service on Easter Sunday. There will be a sign-up sheet in circulation in early April so please plan to bring food or drink to share.

Volunteering Rotas: Stewarding, Coffee and Greeting



Stewarding:

3 rd April:	Maire Collins
10 th April:	Gina Bayley
17 th April:	Natasha Drennan
24 th April:	Kathryn Reynolds

Coffee:

3 rd April:	Susan Smith
10 th April:	Ruth Okine
17 th April:	???
24 th April:	Maire Collins

Greeting:

3 rd April:	Sheila Prellberg
10 th April:	Mark Tribe
17 th April:	Gina Bayley
24 th April:	Jo Ridgers

In recent months, we have been circulating the rota list via email, and this seems to be working well.

Please contact Jane with your email address if you are willing to receive this email once a month.

rotas@kensington-unitarians.org.uk

A Taste of Taizé

Thursday 7th April, 7-9pm
Here at Essex Church



In this second session about the French ecumenical religious community of Taizé, we will experience a typical form of worship created by the brothers of Taizé, with prayer and singing and silence – all followed by shared snacks and drinks. It is a gentle and reflective way to join together in worship. All are welcome and there is no need to have attended the first session held at the end of March.

Rev. Sarah Tinker

A date for your diary... coming up next month:

Walking Group

Hyde Park / Kensington Gardens

Easter Saturday 23rd April 2011

Meeting 10.30am at Essex Church



In April, our walking group will once again be opting for a route relatively close to home – we expect to go further afield during the summer when the days are longer and the weather might be more reliable – as we take in the sights of nearby Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

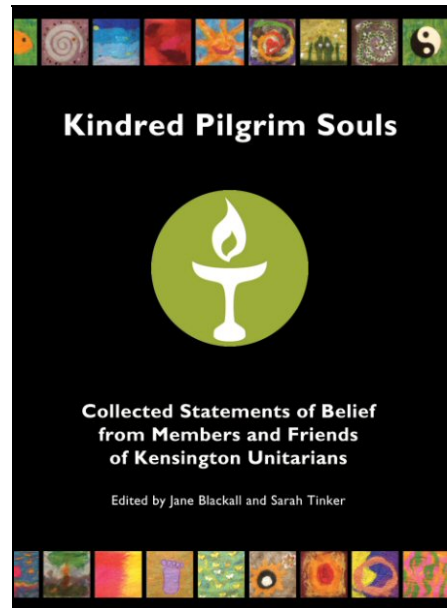
You'll need to let us know if you plan to come along and we'll confirm the meeting places and a mobile number for last minute contact. We try to start promptly so nobody has to wait around in the cold and will probably walk around 4 miles with a stop for lunch in one of the cafés.

Email info@kensington-unitarians.org.uk or phone the office on 020 7221 6514 or speak to Sarah or Caroline to let us know you are coming.

'Kindred Pilgrim Souls' Congregational Book Launch

After the service on Sunday 24th April

Please Note: Change of Date due to Production Delays



Over the last couple of months we have been putting together a book of essays ('statements of belief') written by members and friends of the congregation. The book is in the last stages of preparation as this newsletter goes to press and we intend to send it off to the printers before the end of March – a little later than originally planned – but we now hope to have it ready to launch on Easter Sunday.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone who took part in this project and contributed an essay to the book. In the end we exceeded my hopes, with 31 participants offering fascinating and varied pieces of writing which reflect our community, and I think the finished book is something we can be very proud of as a congregation.

Everyone who contributed to the book will get a free copy and we will have plenty of extra copies for sale at church. We hope that it might be the sort of thing members can give to family and friends. In due course people will also be able to buy print-on-demand copies online.

Jane Blackall

May Newsletter Deadline



The deadline for submitting items for the next issue is **Sunday 10th April**. Please send items (such as poems, quotes, articles, notices, rotas, etc...) to Jane Blackall or a committee member before that date.

Thank you!!!

Essex Church Creativity Group 'Bring Your Own Crafts'

Tuesday 19th April, 7.00-9.00pm



We have been experimenting with a new format for the creativity group in early 2011 and so far it is going well.

Instead of having a specific organised activity every month, which takes quite a lot of planning, we have decided that (most months) participants will simply be invited to bring their own art and craft projects along and enjoy the support and fellowship of the group. We are still intending to offer a specific activity once in a while and will work on projects for the church from time to time.

As ever, all are welcome, and the sessions are sociable and encouraging (with plenty of snacks to share).



A Date for Your Diary:

'The Merry Widow'

**Saturday 14th May at 7.30pm
at the Questors Theatre, Ealing**

Our very own Harold Lorenzelli has a part in the operetta The Merry Widow by Franz Lehár and so we're arranging a trip to see it. Performance dates are May 12th, 13th and 14th at the Questors Theatre in Ealing. We plan to buy tickets for the performance on Saturday 14th May at 7.30 – so do let us know if you would like us to buy a ticket for you, ideally before April 8th.

Rev. Sarah Tinker

Essex Church Reading Group 'Goblin Market' by Christina Rossetti



Tuesday 25th April 2011, 7.00-9.00pm

The reading group's April session will be based on 'Goblin Market' by Christina Rossetti. This was chosen by Caroline Blair.

Descriptions from Wikipedia:

"'Goblin Market' (composed in April 1859; published in 1862) is a poem by Christina Rossetti. In a letter to her publisher, Rossetti claimed that the poem, which features remarkably sexual imagery, was not meant for children. However, in public Rossetti often stated that the poem was intended for children, and went on to write many children's poems. 'Goblin Market' is about two close sisters, Laura and Lizzie, as well as the goblin men to whom the title refers, and another girl named Jeanie. Although the sisters seem to be quite young, they live by themselves in a house, and are accustomed to draw water every evening from a stream. As the poem begins, twilight is falling, and as usual the sisters hear the calls from the goblin merchants, who sell fruits in fantastic abundance, variety and savour. On this evening, Laura lingers at the stream after her sister has left for home..."

The group takes special care to ensure that everybody gets an equal opportunity to speak and be listened to. Members come together to share our diverse views and appreciate our differences in a spirit of curiosity and respect. The group has a relaxed and easy-going atmosphere and newcomers are always most welcome to come along to any session. The group has been meeting monthly since 2003. We take turns in choosing a book for everybody to read so we tackle a wide variety of material. For more information see:

www.kensington-unitarians.org.uk/book.html

Tibetan Buddhism on Film

Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm in the library
at Essex Church: May 5th, 12th and 19th



The 14th Dalai Lama, recently announced that he would be retiring as secular leader of Tibet. This has shocked some Tibetans, with their long held traditions, maintained despite the fact that their leader has lived in exile in India since 1959. In this short series of evenings we will watch 3 films about Tibet and in the later sessions there will be time for discussion of the issues they raise.

Thursday 5th May: 'Kundun'

Directed by Martin Scorsese and with music by Philip Glass, 'Kundun' tells the story of the Dalai Lama's early life until his exile. It's beautifully filmed, with a meditative feel.

Thursday 12th May: 'The Lost World of Tibet'

This is a BBC documentary based on footage found by the British Film Institute, filmed in Tibet in the 1940s and 50s. It gives a fascinating insight into a now lost way of life.

Thursday 19th May: 'A Year in Tibet'

First shown by the BBC in 2008 this 4 part documentary series gave a remarkable picture of life in modern Tibet, centring on the monks in Gyantse Monastery, in Tibet's third largest town. The film we'll be watching charts the problems of a young monk, his mentor and the monastery's leader. For us who so often take our freedoms for granted, it's a sobering thought to consider that we would be arrested in Tibet if the Chinese authorities found a picture of the Dalai Lama in our possession.

Please let our minister know if you would like to attend these evenings. All are welcome

Small Group Communion



Sunday 10th April, 12.30pm
Downstairs in the Church Library

On the second Sunday of each month we hold a small-group communion, after the main morning service, downstairs in the church library. A number of members of the congregation expressed interest in having a regular opportunity for communion here so, since the autumn, we have been experimenting with services led by a variety of different people, and we have been very encouraged by the experience so far.

We hope that different people will take turns to lead the small-group communion services so that we can experience a number of different approaches. The line-up for the next few months is as follows:

10th April – Tristan Jovanović
8th May – John Hands and Sarah Tinker
12th June – David Francis Darling

If you would like to find out more about these small-group communions then please feel free to speak to Jane Blackall or Tristan Jovanović.



A Fitness Fusion of 9 Movement Forms
Sessions led by Sonya Leite

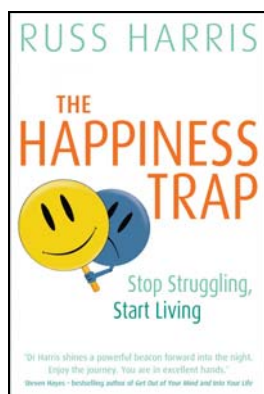
Second Sunday of the Month from 2-3pm:
10th April, 8th May, 12th June

An hour of whole-body conditioning, done barefoot to diverse music. Delivering a cardiovascular workout for any level of fitness. Specific routines allow you to experience - the power of the martial arts, the stillness of the healing arts and the joy of movement through dance. Cost now £8 (£5 to members). **Contact: Sonya Leite on 0207 371 1674.**

A Recent Addition to the Church Library:

'The Happiness Trap'

Recommended by Carolyn Appleby



This book is so good I bought it thrice – one for the library, one for me and one for a friend, which is currently going spare! I chanced upon it at my local library, attracted by its title at a time when I was feeling satisfactorily contented. But who is permanently in that state? The truth for at least most of us is that how we are thinking and feeling fluctuates all the time. Whereas "*Western society assumes that mental suffering is abnormal, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy,*" the basis of this book, "*is based on a dramatically different assumption: the normal thinking processes of a healthy human mind will naturally lead to psychological suffering.*"

I've read a lot of self-help books, including ones with the word "happiness" on the cover. I've also done and do a lot of appreciating the positives in my life. This book is different to any other that I have come across. Like others, the Australian author gives you exercises to do. In fact, don't bother reading it if you you're not prepared to take time over it and do them. Oh yes, do glance at the book before you dismiss it out of hand if you're feeling too busy now and let yourself be convinced. Russ Harris has a lovely gentle, coaxing way of getting you to go back and give the mind exercises a try. Not all will appeal to you but there are plenty of options to use and incorporate in to your daily life. I can't describe them as well as Mr Harris. He gets you to notice the kind of stories that are going through your head and name them, such as my "I'm no good" story. He gets you to "defuse" yourself from your thoughts, i.e. acknowledge and observe them but not get wrapped up in them. It takes some practice, after a lifetime of a mixture of brushing them away and being taken over by them.

To be honest, I haven't finished reading my copy of the book yet, as I keep re-reading small chunks to really incorporate the practice in to my every day life. To anyone who is in the least bit troubled I can't recommend this book highly enough. It awaits you in the library or in a member of the congregation's hands. Find it and learn!

Carolyn Appleby

District Quarterly Meeting



The London District and South Eastern Provincial Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches held its AGM here at Essex Church in March. This long titled group represents 28 Unitarian congregations in London and the south-east and is committed to promoting liberal religion in this area. It's also now known as PULSE – which stands for 'promoting Unitarianism in London and the South East. We are fortunate to have a District Minister, the Rev David Usher, who makes creative plans for having our Unitarian message be better heard. At the AGM we watched a film of the recent Light the Fire weekend organised by the London District and it's available via this link if you would like to see what the weekend was about: www.youtube.com/watch?v=UAL3gGR7ViY

The District also has a Council which meets every two months and joining that is a good way to get more involved in Unitarianism at a local level. Recent members of our congregation who have served on the LDPA Council are Howard Hague and David Darling.

It was good to have visitors to our building from other congregations and people were full of praise for our re-furbished building and high quality catering. Many thanks to Gill Hague in particular for all her work in the kitchen serving drinks – it was much appreciated, Gill.

Rev. Sarah Tinker

Photographs by James Barry



Warden's Column

What's Happening in Our Busy Building



Mmm . . . I'm looking out of the office window as I write this: the sun is shining and the little daffodils and that red-leaved bush thing look really gorgeous – I think this is the prettiest time of year in the garden. I'm resolved not to spend the whole column rhapsodising about bulbs like I do sometimes though. Instead I thought I'd have a look at the newly prepared 2010 accounts and work out who were our top-paying groups. We did very well on rental income last year, over £60,000 rather than the £50,000 we budgeted for – and that was despite losing nearly a month worth of bookings due to the asbestos. Many thanks to all the groups below, who contributed more than £1,000 each to that total!

	My Prediction For 2010	Top-paying Groups 2010
1	Seicho no Ie	Seicho no Ie
2	Associated Music Board	Associated Music Board
3	Yoga - Lynne	Yoga – Lolly Stirk
4	Yoga – Lolly Stirk	Beit Klal Synagogue
All the above over £5,000 per annum in 2010		
6	Tse Qi Gong	Tse Qi Gong
7	Yoga – John Stirk	Yoga – John Stirk
8	Independent Psychologists	Analytical Psychologists
9	Beit Klal Synagogue	Independent Psychologists
10	Kiddikicks	Yoga - Lynne
11	K&C Council etc. (i.e. public services)	Public Services
All the above over £2,000 per annum in 2010		
12	Analytical Psychologists	Pastoral Psychologists
13	Pastoral Psychologists	Yoga - Katrina
14	Heruka Buddhists	Kiddikicks
15	Sufis	Interfaith Seminary
16	Eritrean Cultural Group	Westminster Psychologists
All the above over £1,000 per annum in 2010		
17	Lucid Metaphysics	
18	Westminster Psychologists	
19	Yoga - Charlotte	
20	Yoga - Katrina	

Don't think I feel like sticking my neck out with predictions for 2011 at the moment – I expect the top ten will stay much the same anyway. We're very lucky to be blessed with so many loyal hirers who keep coming back to us year after year and really regard the Church as their home. Long may it continue so!

Spring wishes

Jenny Moy

'Finding Our Voice'

Singing Workshops with Margaret Marshall

Sundays 17th April, 22nd May, 19th June,
17th July and 21st August - 12.30 to 1.15pm



Margaret Marshall has worked as a professional singer all her adult life and is also a very experienced singing teacher. Along with Harold Lorenzelli she has been singing in our choir here at Essex Church for over thirty years now and we're delighted that she is now leading monthly sessions to help us all find our voice.

These workshops are for anyone who is prepared to open their mouth and make a sound and Margaret will show us how to improve the quality and strength of our voices. Using a few simple exercises we'll gain joy and confidence in our singing by learning how to produce and develop the voice, something everyone can do. We'll work with the breath and overcome unconscious blocks that can prevent us singing with our true potential.

Fun and achievement are guaranteed and these sessions are designed for everyone, whatever your experience or ability. All are welcome.

One Light Spiritual Gatherings

Friday 8th April, 6.30-8.15pm
Held at Essex Church

The gatherings are led by graduates of the Interfaith Seminary. All are welcome.

Our theme this month is 'Body of God'. Are we the body of God? We will immerse ourselves in this fascinating topic through a beautiful body prayer, suggestions for spiritual practice and inspirations from a variety of spiritual traditions and philosophies.

Peaceful and Joyous connection with the Divine, the One Light at the Heart of All through music, meditation and inspiration from many spiritual traditions. Bring your beloved self, family, children, friends. All are welcome.

For further information contact service hosts:
Reverend Pamela Ramsden - 07966 478 980
Reverend Kathryn Reynolds - 07976 739 286

'In loving connection with Essex Unitarian Church'

Reflections on Our Recent 'Tapestry of Life' Course



I am new to the Unitarian movement, and had never heard of it before last autumn. I have been agnostic for most of my life. My early years were not helped when my vicar shot himself! I did wonder after that, "what is it all about?" Last Autumn I wanted to see if there was any group that had a wider view of religion. So I Googled and came up with a number of churches, some I had never heard of, including the Unitarians. One of the best websites I found was for the Kensington Unitarians, and also I saw advertised a "Tapestry of Life" course. This looked interesting, so I came to a Sunday service and spoke to Sarah Tinker. She was very welcoming and I have attended the course all the way through.

The first jolt to the system was that I was the only bloke on it. We surmised that the title might have put men off. Did it conjure up ideas of spending our

time sewing and knitting? However, I reckon we had all the ages from the twenties to the seventies covered, and this made it more dynamic. The quietly inspirational leadership of Sarah and the incredible organisation of Jane Blackall led the course. The sessions were well structured, with a welcome cake, baked by Jane every week. Was this heaven? We started with a check in for everyone, i.e. "my name is Chris and I have had a terrible week" etc!! Next, we would have some calming of stress with pleasant soothing music, and then onto exercises and activities. We were transferred back to playschool at times, even playing with plasticine, and what fun that was. We did drawings, sketches and writings. Many discussions were held in twos and threes, and some all group sessions. Sarah kept us all comfortable, Jane kept us on time and we had a set of "values" that we would follow, for instance, everything said was confidential. So sorry, no gossip here!!

Each week had a different topic, and they included listening skills, values, dreams, loss and grief and spirituality. We had lovely readings that were pertinent to the topic of the week. We each produced a personal life chart, which would be a great basis for a biography if I ever wanted to write my life story. We also were encouraged to complete a journal. The whole course was rather like a jigsaw that was put together over 9 sessions, and the picture I have at the end is very pleasant and interesting indeed. Highly recommended, and thanks to Sarah, Jane and all fellow "students" for putting up with me. I now know something about the Unitarian way of supporting people in their quest for some sense in life, and it is very positive.

Chris Mitchell



Chris dressed as St. George to act out an excerpt of the Mummings' Play he's involved in.

I turned 40 this month and saw this course as a way of tying a bow around where I have come from and a way to help me prioritise where I want to go next... I gained some surprising insights into why I have reached certain cross roads in my life and how best to set my course for the next 40+ years!

Sarah ran the course with her usual grace, humour, and sensitivity, together with Jane, whose generosity as usual was unsurpassed, not least in the culinary department.

We covered topics which more often than not had been a 'no go area' amongst my peers. Grief, intimacy, ageing, values, spirituality... I gained a richness and depth in addressing these subjects in a relaxed and safe environment, sharing ideas with some lovely people, all of whom added a distinct flavour to each topic, making each one all the more palatable.

Lucinda Lee-Steere



Some of the thoughts of group members on themes explored in the 'Tapestry of Life' course...

Reflections on Intimacy:

Intimacy is knowing and being known by another; feeling at ease, at home, in another's company; the comfort of contact and physical closeness.

Intimacy is uncomfortable with the wrong people but delightful with the right people. It's a connection at a deep level and a willingness to go beyond the usual weather-beaten chit-chat.

Intimacy is caring deeply about someone and spending a lot of time with them.

Intimacy is feeling a deep connection to another person; sharing of what is inside our lives; risking...

Intimacy is a close and loving relationship.

Intimacy is a kind of closeness achieved through sharing.

Intimacy is something I yearn for in life yet I know that at times I back away from it. I wonder why that is?

Intimacy is precious; to have no-one with whom you feel intimate diminishes one. Intimacy requires consideration, empathy, awareness of oneself as the partner, how one appears to the other, how the balance of sharing is working. Intimacy is a rich bond which makes a group special.

Intimacy is feeling that you can completely be yourself, and the other person their true self – never judging or being judged – understanding and acceptance between two people.

Intimacy is a close relationship with another person which includes: being loving, unconditional, open, positive, accepting, touching, no fear, trusting, delicate.

Reflections on Spirituality:

Feelings associated with spirituality:

A warmth radiating from the solar plexus
 Outside myself
 Uniqueness
 Awe
 Universal connectedness
 Fear
 Peace
 Wonder
 Hope
 Purpose
 Confusion
 Sublimity
 Elevation
 At peace
 Delight
 The feeling of unknown
 Understanding
 Emptiness / receptive
 Overwhelmed
 Insanity
 Uncertainty
 Power
 Love
 At one with all

Times and places of spiritual awareness:

Anytime
 In silent companionship
 Awaking with possibility
 The sea/rivers
 Awesome buildings
 Alone
 Driving – noticing how beautiful sky is
 The calm just before I fall asleep
 In bed
 Dreams
 Nature
 Dawn
 Night
 Sometimes when I've had too much to drink!
 Concerts
 Meditation
 Mountains
 In chapel

Images of Spirituality:

Ankh
 Candles
 Stars
 Some statues e.g. pieta
 Night sky with stars
 Sun/moon/stars
 A smiling face
 Stained glass windows
 Paintings
 Limitless sea and sky
 Light coming through clear church windows
 Golden light at dusk
 Rainbows
 Fireworks
 Hearts
 Coastline
 Sacred places
 Natural crafts
 The sky
 People
 Animals
 Nature

Things to do to elicit feelings of spirituality:

Pray
 Be with one's dearest
 Walk in beautiful countryside
 Watch a sunset/sunrise
 Church service
 Allow
 Listen to music
 Surrender
 Breath deeply
 Accept
 Closeness with others
 Attend a music concert
 Talk about deep things with close friends
 Singing
 Listening
 Light candles
 Stillness
 Conscious effort to find a deeper self
 Dance with abandon
 Meditate
 Play/childishness with animals/children/innocence

Famous Unitarian Women

At the Sunday service on 13th March, entitled 'Strong Women, Unitarian Women' (to coincide with International Women's Day), Sarah introduced us to a number of notable women from the history of our denomination. We were also given a quiz which is reproduced below. See if you can put the names (and faces) to their various achievements. Answers in next month's newsletter.



A: Anna Laetitia Barbauld (1743-1825)



B: Margaret Barr (1897-1973)



C: Mary Carpenter (1807-1887)



D: Frances Power Cobbe (1822-1904)



E: Sophia Lyon Fahs (1876-1978)



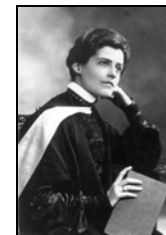
F: Margaret Fuller (1810-1850)



G: Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865)



H: Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)



I: Gertrude von Petzold (1876-1947)



J: Sylvia Plath (1932-1963)



K: Beatrix Potter (1866-1943)



L: May Sarton (1912-1995)



M: Anna Swanwick (1813-1899)



N: Kitty Wilkinson (1785-1860)



O: Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797)

Religious educator whose curricula and inspiration shaped mid- 20th-century Unitarianism.	Prolific American writer most famous for her journals.	Pioneered animal welfare campaigning, writer and public speaker.	Writer and journalist, anti-slavery campaigner, member of famous Unitarian family from Norwich.	Famous Lake District writer and illustrator, came from a Unitarian family.
First woman minister in England.	Writer, translator, feminist, helped establish Girton and Somerville Colleges.	Woman minister who worked for 32 years in the Khasi Hills of India, establishing education and health schemes.	Author of a number of best-selling novels detailing social injustices in Victorian Britain.	Wrote a hymn book for children that was in print for over a hundred years, educationalist.
Author of 'A Vindication of the Rights of Woman'.	American poet, novelist and short story writer.	Transcendentalist writer, educator, feminist, wrote #575 in grey hymn book.	Established first public wash house in Liverpool; also schools. Working class woman originally from Ireland. Her work financially supported by Rathbone family.	Worked with deprived children and juvenile offenders in Bristol and women in India.

Church Management Committee News

Notes from the March meeting of the committee...

1. The front garden looks lovely at the moment. A gardener has been abducted from the Christian Scientists' garden next door but one, and has tidied everything up so all Michaela's hard work in organising the planting last year can be admired.
2. Sarah is still weighing up options for improving the sound system in the church. As long as the hearing loop (for hearing aids) works well, we feel that a lapel microphone and a table microphone would be a good combination.
3. The number of people attending Sunday services is holding steady or gently improving. We are still thinking of ways to encourage new attendees.
4. We have had a number of visitors to the church recently, including Dublin's Rev Bill Darlison. They have expressed their appreciation of our friendliness, the excellent music, and the first class newsletter & website.

Caroline Blair

Joint Day Conference: The Alister Hardy Society World Congress of Faiths

Saturday 11th June 2011 at Essex Church

"How might spiritual/religious experience help towards understanding & compassion?"

The conference will begin with registration at 10am and will conclude at 4.30pm. It will include the following:

'Fellowship of Faiths: A Communion of Spirit'

Rev. Dr. Marcus Braybrooke
President of the World Congress of Faiths.

'Faith and No Faith: The Contribution of Atheism to the Spiritual Quest'

Dr. Gregory Barker
Director of Alister Hardy Religious Experience Centre

'From Contemplation to Compassion'

Eley McAinsh
Director of the Living Spirituality Network.

Cost £25; AHS/WCF members £20; students £12

Info: John Franklin, 21 Park Vista, London, SE10 9LZ.
0208 858 4750 e-mail: johnfranklin35@hotmail.com

'A Tale of the Middle Sea'

قصة من البحر الأبيض المتوسط

סיפור מהים התיכון -

Un Kuento de la Mar del Çentro

told by Sef Townsend and Raphael Rodan

**Friday 22nd April, 7.30pm
Here at Essex Church**



*"In the sea there is a tower
In the tower there's a window,
In the window sits a snow white dove"*

Suggested donation £10 .00 / £5.00 concs.
(includes interval refreshments)

**A fundraising event for Beit Klal Yisrael
and 'Jisr al Adam' peace project**

Ancient romances – Sephardic, Turkish and Arabic – are woven together in this gripping tale of bloody war and perfect peace by two highly theatrical storytellers. Following work in Israel and Palestine in 2009 Sef and Raphael have woven together some fantastical Mediterranean ballads and romances with a gripping fable drawn from a cultural melting pot, added some magical realism and created an adventure which takes us to the delights of the spice market as well as the horrors of the battle field.

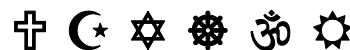
Sef Townsend '... one of our most popular, charismatic and talented storytellers' (Nell Phoenix, London's 'Torriano Storynight') Sef works mainly with refugees, and in peace and reconciliation projects in the UK, Ireland, and The Middle East where he uses traditional stories as a way to enable the voice of the silent to be heard.

Raphael Rodan is an Israeli storyteller, living in England, who has been studying theatre and anthrosophy for five years. He has a distinct storytelling style full of character. In Israel he uses theatre skills and storytelling to create a bridge of communication between diverse groups.

'...I was so impressed by 'A Tale of the Middle Sea' ... it has some of the most dynamic theatrical storytelling I've seen, but never losing its connection with the audience...' Kat Quatermass - Dreamfired



Multifaith Calendar



✠ 3rd April – Mothering Sunday – Christian

Mothering Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Lent, has now become secularised and is popularly known in the UK as Mother's Day. It was traditionally a Sunday when Christians visited their 'mother church' and took gifts to their mothers, often including a simnel cake.

☸ 4th April – Varsha-Pratipada – Hindu

Varsha-Pratipada is also called Yugaadi, which is a combination of the words yuga (era) and aadi (beginning). The first day of Chaitra, the first month of the Hindu lunar year, is regarded as an auspicious day for starting anything new. (Divali, in the autumn, is also a new year festival.)

🌸 8th April – Hanamatsuri – Buddhist

Mahayana Buddhists celebrate the Buddha Sakyamuni's birthday with this flower festival. Tradition has it that the Buddha was born in a garden, so floral shrines are created with an image of the infant Buddha. Theravadins celebrate Buddha's birth, enlightenment and passing away all on the same day, at Wesak - at the full moon in May.

✠ 10th April – Passion Sunday – Christian

This is the 5th Sunday in Lent, when Christians begin to concentrate their thoughts on the Passion or suffering of Jesus.

☞ 14th April – Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) – Sikh

The Sikh New Year festival celebrates the founding of the Order of the Khalsa, by the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singhi Ji, in 1699. On this day the 'Five Ks' were instituted and the amrit initiation ceremony was introduced. Sikhs visit the gurdwara and parades are held. Many Sikhs choose to be initiated into the Khalsa order on this day.

🕉 16th April – Mahavira Jayanti – Jain

Festival celebrating the birthday of Mahavira, the last Tirthankara, or great teacher of the Jains. The events surrounding his birth are re-enacted, and if there are monks or nuns present, there will be readings from the scriptures and teaching about the rest of Mahavira's life. Lay people will also celebrate with a special meal at home.

✠ 17th April – Palm Sunday – Christian

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, when Christians remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, followed by his arrest and crucifixion. Many churches commemorate Palm Sunday by processions, where the congregation carry symbolic palm crosses, or branches of trees.

✠ 17th - 23rd April – Holy Week – Christian

The most solemn week of the Christian year. Christians recall the events of the final week of the earthly human life of Jesus.

☸ 18th April – Hanuman Jayanti – Hindu

Hindus celebrate the birth of Hanuman, the monkey-warrior. Hanuman is Lord Rama's supreme devotee, and his story is told in the Ramayana.

✠ 19th - 26th April – Pesach / Passover – Jewish

This Jewish festival lasts eight days and commemorates the Exodus from slavery in Egypt. The Seder meal, which takes place at home, at the beginning of Pesach, is an important highlight. The Haggadah, the story of the deliverance, is recounted, and special food, including matzah (unleavened bread) is eaten throughout the festival.

✠ 21st April – Maundy Thursday – Christian

On Maundy Thursday Christians reflect on The Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. In blessing the bread and wine he told them to continue to do this to remember him. Known variously as Holy Communion, the Eucharist, the Mass, the Divine Liturgy, or the Breaking of Bread, depending on the church tradition, this is a central act of worship for most Christians. Some churches also remember Jesus washing the feet of the twelve disciples, as the feet of twelve members of the congregation are washed.

☸ 21st April - 2nd May – Ridvan – Bahá'í

Ridvan is the most important Bahá'í festival. It is named after the garden outside Baghdad, in which Bahá'u'lláh was staying when he declared himself as the Promised One prophesied by the Báb. The first, ninth and twelfth days, being particularly significant are celebrated as holy days, when no work is done. During these twelve days Bahá'ís elect their local, national and international governing bodies.

✠ 22nd April – Good Friday – Christian

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Christ - special services are held to mark the time that Jesus spent on the cross. Christians call this 'Good' Friday because of the greatest example of God's sacrificial love, in Jesus giving up his life for the sins of the world.

✠ 23rd April – Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) – Christian

This is the last day of Lent, and in the evening many churches will have special services when the Paschal Candle is lit, and baptismal vows are renewed in preparation for Easter.

✠ 23rd April – St George's Day – Christian

Although he lived and died in the Middle East, St George is the patron saint of England. All that is known for certain about St George is that he was martyred for his Christian faith and was a soldier. His red cross on a white background was adopted as a symbol after the Crusades.

✠ 24th April – Easter Day – Christian

Easter Day is the most important festival of the Christian year, when the resurrection of Jesus is celebrated. Many Easter traditions, for example Easter eggs, symbolise new life.

✠ 24th April – Easter Day / Pascha – Orthodox Christian

The date of Easter is calculated on a lunar calendar, but as many Eastern Orthodox and Armenian churches still use the Julian rather than the Gregorian calendar the calculation of dates differs from the Western churches, so at present there is no consistent relationship between the dates of the Orthodox and Western Easter.

News from Mbabane

A letter from SOS Children's Village, Mbabane, Swaziland, where Essex Church sponsors two orphans, Patience Qinisile Zeeman and Fortunate Quiniso Zeeman; we also help with a donation towards the general working of the village.



Dear Friends and Sponsors,

The SOS Children's village children, youth and staff once again greet you. Here is our news of 2010. The year began with all children and youths in good health. The fact that the African continent was to host the World Cup for the first time in history brought a lot of excitement to everyone. Expectations were high that Swaziland was going to benefit somehow through tourists, but the outcome did not match the expectation. (Sadly, tourist numbers to Swaziland actually declined, perhaps because flights were more expensive).

In summer the temperatures soared to over 40 degrees with a lot of rain. This affected the health of some of the children, but the medical centre was able to keep everything under control. There was an outbreak of measles, which was also controlled. A lot of activities took place in the country this year. The Umhlanga Reed Dance, an annual cultural even for young girls, was attended by a substantial number of maidens. This whole country is strongly in support of this culture as it promotes young girls to abstain from sexual activities and thus reduces the high rate of HIV and AIDS infections currently prevailing in the country. Several heads of states and representatives also touched the soil of this tiny Kingdom for the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) summit, where His Majesty King Mswati III was appointed Chairman.

For the year 2010, the SOS Children's village in Mbabane provided care to a total of one hundred and seventy children and youths, made up of 92 girls and 78 boys. These were accommodated in 13 family houses and four youth houses. Currently there are 13 SOS Mothers, 7 Mother assistants and two Youth Leaders. Three youths, two girls and one boy were reintegrated into their biological families. One of the girls was academically challenged, and she opted for vocational school, where she is studying catering. The other girl and a boy have completed their high school education and are now enrolling in higher institutions of learning. The departure of the three allowed the admission of three into the village, two boys and one girl.

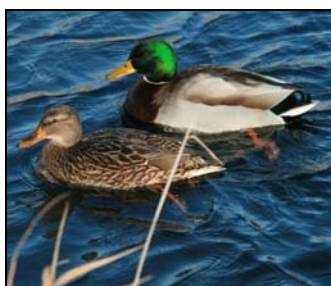
The children were kept busy throughout the year with a number of programmes including studies. Academic performance was above average for children and youths. On 23rd June we had an open day when children from the Family Strengthening Programme, and their carers, were invited. The theme was Child Trafficking. Children were encouraged to write and draw pictures that depict the theme, and prizes were awarded for the best drawing. The World Cup brought some fears of child trafficking and the objective of this theme was to sensitize children and the community about different ways of child trafficking and how it can be prevented. The guest speaker was the Director of Save the Children.

The Sports academy has continued playing soccer, netball and basketball. Numerous teams from the local community have been invited to play, which has helped the children to integrate into the community. The SOS Children's Village ballroom dancing group has also attended a competition in Mozambique, where they won several trophies. An English reading group has also been formed, leading to a lot of improvement.

External work has also continued, with the Family Strengthening Programme providing health and education in the community. One of our pupils has graduated from catering college, and another has graduated in fashion and design. We have also trained and supported caregivers and provided support for four families to start their own individual income generating projects. Two families have been assisted in building their own homes. We have also supported three bee keeping projects, with a total of eleven colonies of bees.

That is all for now, and we hope to further update you next year.

Philile Millicent Khumalo



“Easter is an exercise in letting go. It is a reminder that life is precious and fragile, beautiful and impermanent. It is a reminder that love is a gift of immense proportions, that if we have shared it for even so fleeting a moment as the time it takes for a pair of mallards to sanctify our pond, or dawn to come to a grieving woman who watches by a tomb, then love has touched us and we will never be the same again.”

Elizabeth Tarbox

To read the whole meditation on Easter (and better understand the reference to mallards!) you can have a look at the wonderful meditation manual 'Evening Tide' in our church library.

Tobias, Sarah and the Entirely Unnecessary Dog

Sermon by Caroline Blair - Given at Essex Church on 6th March 2011

The story of Tobias and Sarah

Many years ago – the story is set in the 7th century BCE to be exact – a pious man called Tobit lived in exile in what is now Iraq. In spite of being so far from his home near Jerusalem, he was determined to keep the Jewish law – he gave generously to the poor, and got into all kinds of trouble by insisting on burying the Jewish dead when the king ordered that they should be left where they fell. Eventually he had a stroke of particularly bad luck when he got bird droppings in his eyes, which left him completely blind. He had to be supported by his wife Anna's weaving, and when she was paid in goats he felt humiliated and depressed and prayed to die. Luckily he remembered that he had deposited a large quantity of silver with a friend in what is now Iran, and asked his only son, Tobias, if he would travel to collect it.

Looking for a travel guide, Tobias was pleased to find a beautiful young man outside his house, who was not only an experienced traveller but appeared to be a relation. Little did he know that the beautiful young man was actually the angel Raphael in disguise. They set off on their journey, accompanied by a little dog. On the way, Tobias stopped to wash his feet in the river Tigris, and startled when a large fish tried to swallow his foot. Raphael ordered him to drag the fish out by its gills. "The heart, liver and gall will be useful to you," he said. So Tobias ate some of the fish and salted some for later, but kept those bits.

Meanwhile, not far from their destination, a young woman called Sarah, a relation of Tobias's, had problems of her own. All she wanted was to get married and have a family; she had already been married seven times, and each time the bridegroom had been killed by a demon on the wedding night. (I must say that I take my hat off to numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7). Depressed by this she considered suicide; but not wanting to disgrace her father, she prayed instead for a natural death. As they approached her town, Raphael ordered Tobias to marry her. Knowing the story, he said, "Hang on..." But Raphael convinced him that he had a cunning plan. And, in a frankly puzzling verse, we are told, "When Tobias heard Raphael say that she was his kinswoman, of his own family's lineage, he fell deeply in love with her."

Sarah's father seems not to have put up much of a fight



when Tobias proposed, and ordered a magnificent wedding feast. After the feast, Tobias, Sarah, Raphael and the dog all adjourned to the bridal chamber where a romantic atmosphere was created by burning the fish's liver and heart. The affronted demon was then wrestled out of the building by Raphael, and fled to Upper Egypt for good. Sarah's father was so optimistic about the prospects for the marriage that he spent the night digging Tobias's grave, but when Tobias turned out to be alive in the morning, he discreetly filled it in again. Raphael rode off to pick up the silver and Sarah's father, filled with joy, gave Tobias half his goods as a wedding gift.

Tobias, Raphael, Sarah and the little dog then travelled back to Tobit and Anna; in a disputed verse from a 4th century manuscript, "as they returned to Nineveh, the dog ran ahead, bringing the news of their return, and showed his joy by jumping and wagging his tail." Raphael reminded Tobias of the fish gall, and told him to rub it on Tobit's eyes. After a minute's stinging, Tobit's sight is restored. Tobit and Anna were filled with joy and praise and held another magnificent wedding feast. Raphael revealed that he was not a kinsman but an angel, and ascended to heaven. They all lived happily in peace and prosperity for the rest of their lives.



"Mostly, heartfelt practice is about keeping the heart open to the world around us — to people, places, ourselves, and the divine. It means coming from a place of empathic attunement. It's about seeing the connections, the interlocking webs of energy among people and things, and residing as much as possible in that place of no separation."

Belleruth Naparstek

Tobias, Sarah and the Entirely Unnecessary Dog - Sermon by Caroline Blair (continued)

A popular question that is often asked is, "What era of history would you like to have lived in, if you had the choice?" During the era of the BBC *Pride and Prejudice*, there were any number of people longing to step back into the early nineteenth century when men wore tight jackets and riding boots and everyone seemed to live in beautiful ivy clad stone mansions. The truth is that none of us would want to live in any era but our own. Go back even 100 years and discover what dental treatment was like; go back any further and ponder on any kind of medical treatment at all. Imagine childbirth at a time when it could very easily mean death for mother and baby. Imagine the sanitation, the summer smells, the winter chills, imagine being born poor and growing up hungry, imagine the ignorance and narrowness of most peoples' worlds.

The Book of Tobit seems to have been written down in the second century BCE, but its origins are literally lost in the mists of time. If you traced the story back it would clearly divide into two at some point: there is the Persian myth of Sarah and her seven husbands and the Jewish story of pious Tobit and how God sent an angel to rescue him from misfortune. At some point these stories were combined to make the powerfully imaginative work that we have today.

Apart from Tobit and Anna's song of praise at the end, it is not perhaps a hot favourite in churches, perhaps because the spiritual message is not very clear. The Protestant Church has never allowed it full Biblical status at all.

The Bible is full of rather bald, unornamented stories and this one stands out for its charming, non-didactic details. What is the dog doing there at all? Dogs do not get a good press in the Bible. They are scavengers, not pets. Their main starring role, apart from this one, is in devouring Jezebel's body so that all that could be retrieved for burial was her hands and feet. I think that this is the only occasion in the whole Bible when an animal appears merely as a companion. He perhaps originated as a character in the Persian myth, but why did the Jewish writers keep him in – and later, in the disputed verse, why was he given a bigger, more personal role? Bible commentators have suggested vaguely that Persians believed that dogs had power over demons, but there is no reason to believe that the Jewish writers had any such belief. They seem to have put a dog in the story for no better reason than that they found his presence engaging and fun – the image of Tobias and the angel solemnly plodding along, with a little dog at their heels. In an era when times were hard, people were often hungry, thirsty, ill and constantly afraid of war or drought, a story full of colour, even of humour, was created. People are always asking if the Bible contains any jokes, and if not exactly a gag, I think Tobias's dog represents a moment of humour.

Moving forward seventeen hundred years, we come to the German stained glass window, now in the V&A museum. If life in the Middle East in the second century BCE was hard, sixteenth century Germany managed to be much worse. Forensic archaeologists examining skeletons have shown that people were smaller, thinner and less well at the time the stained glass window was made. They were hungry. They would often have been miserably cold. In addition they lived in fear: it was the era of witch hunting, which could be targeted at people from any class. The Pope not only allowed torture to be used to identify witches, he encouraged it. Once arrested, your only hope of mercy was to put up other names in the hope that they would be hanged or burnt in your place. It was a desperately dark time. But during that time a whole new school of art emerged: artists started using stained glass not to depict great stories of martyrdom and triumph, but to create quiet scenes of domestic harmony. One anonymous artist decided to depict Tobias and Sarah in their marital bed. With infinite love and tenderness he depicted their pretty bed covering, the tiled floor, the half burnt candle, the little bonnets on their heads, the slippers, slightly askew, on the floor. And right in the middle of the picture, curled up in his own pane of glass, is the little dog. Our first reaction when we see this picture is surely something between a smile and a laugh.

Stephen Fry's piece about Oscar Wilde [*a reading earlier in the service*] attacks the view that what is important is Wilde's cleverness, and suggests instead that what is important is his imagination, in the sense of humanity and empathy. In the book of Tobit, and again with the stained glass window, I think we have examples of creators who are less interested in getting a message across than in conveying a feeling of tenderness and gentle humour. Humour has been described as "the soul waking up". There is something absurd in life which cannot be conquered through knowledge and wisdom. Nietzsche said, "I know best why it is man alone who laughs; he alone suffers so deeply that he had to invent laughter." Creativity, imagination, empathy and humour are all ways of knocking down the walls we build round ourselves. They are a kind of communion, bringing us together and letting us treat the unknowable as a playroom to be explored together.

When we look back to the time of the Old Testament, or to late medieval Germany, they seem to us times of horror: violent, pitiless, full of concentrated brutality and helpless suffering. But out of these times we have been given these absurdly, unnecessarily joyful works of art: the dazzling story, full of disguised angels, magic fish and fleeing demons; and the tender, loving, beautiful window. And in the middle of both we have our little dog, trotting alongside Tobias or curled up on Sarah's feet, and with no reason or function other than to make us smile. So the aim of my service this morning was simply to give thanks for the love and beauty that can light up even the darkest times.

Amen.

A Date for your Diary:
**Membership Service
and Church AGM**

Sunday 15th May 2011



Apologies to anyone who has not received a form asking them to renew their membership this year. Hopefully we will reach everyone in April who we have not yet heard from for 2011 or do contact us and check that we have you down as a member.

On May 15th, we will be holding a special Membership Service to celebrate all our members and to welcome those who have joined us in the last year.

The service will be followed by our Annual General Meeting, required by charity law. This is a brief but worthwhile meeting and gives everyone a chance to find out more about how we run our congregation. So do put this date in your diaries and plan to be with us on May 15th if you possibly can.

Our Annual Report will be published in April and sent to our members and friends. Something to look forward to in the post!

Rev. Sarah Tinker

New Adult RE Course for the Summer:

**‘Twelve Steps to a
Compassionate Life’**

Thursday Evenings from 9th June, 7-9pm

Based on Karen Armstrong’s book, this course will help us to explore how to live more compassionately with ourselves, with others and with the world. The course will run weekly on six Thursday evenings, starting on June 9th at 7.00pm.

Participants will be given a copy of Karen Armstrong’s book to study and places will be limited to 10 – so check your diaries and see if you would like to join us for this new course. Contact Sarah or Jane to sign up.

**Sunday Services at
Essex Church**

3rd April, 11am – “Who We Really Are”

Service led by Rev. Sarah Tinker

Questions of identity have probably always troubled us humans. It is perhaps the curse of self-awareness to be concerned about who we are and how we appear. In this service we will consider this issue from a spiritual perspective and explore ways to be more true, both to ourselves and to others. The service will include a short ritual to honour those who have cared for us, in recognition of Mothering Sunday.

**10th April, 11am – “The Spiritual
Dimensions of Suffering”**

Service led by Jef Jones

This morning we will be joined by Jef Jones, lay leader of Brighton Unitarians, who says: “This service is about suffering. Does suffering mean anything more than itself? What are the spiritual dimensions of suffering?”

12.30pm - **Small-Group Communion**,
led by Tristan Jovanović (lasting ~30 minutes)

**17th April, 11am –
“A Hard Act to Follow”**

Service led by Harold Lorenzelli

Our own Harold Lorenzelli will be leading the service on the 17th April. Harold says that this will be “a look at what shapes our lives and defines us as human beings”.

24th April, 11am – “Easter Sunday”

Service led by Rev. Sarah Tinker

With its timeless message of loss and renewal, despair and hope, Easter time can help guide us along the path of life. Come and join us for this special service, which will be followed by a bring and share lunch. We also hope to have copies of our new congregational book ‘*Kindred Pilgrim Souls*’ available for a launch after the service on this day.

