



Northampton Unitarian News

Number 5, July - September 2004

OUR FAITH (taken from our website)

We believe that:

- everyone has the right to seek truth and meaning for themselves.
- the fundamental tools for doing this are your own life experience, your reflection upon it, your intuitive understanding and the promptings of your own conscience.
- the best place to do this is a community that welcomes you for who you are, complete with your beliefs, doubts and questions.

We offer:

- liberty of conscience and freedom from imposed creed, confessions and dogmas.
- a fellowship where people come together to worship; to share times of celebration and trial; and to help each other in the quest for a faith to live by.

We affirm the universal values of love and compassion, peace, truth and justice.

We welcome all who come to us in the spirit of goodwill and enquiry, regardless of ethnic or religious background, age, gender or sexual orientation.



SERVICE TAKERS FOR JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2004

We meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays, at 10.30 a.m. Except where indicated, service takers are members of the congregation.

11 July	Mark Beaumont
25 July	Tony Roberts
8 August	Frank Field
22 August	Outdoor congregational service – venue TBA
12 September	Gavin Lloyd, Oxford
26 September	Sue Woolley

All are very welcome!

POST-WORSHIP DISCUSSION

As any regular attender will know, we usually round off our services with a short discussion, which can be very stimulating. Unfortunately, the Committee has received some adverse comments about the way in which we conduct our post-worship discussions. After some debate, it was agreed that discussion in the Worship Room after the service should be confined to the subject of the service, and that general conversation / banter should be saved for the Congregational Room. It was further agreed that post-worship discussions need to be structured, rather than a free-for-all. It was suggested that Fiona (or in her absence, Sue) should guide these discussions. The Committee would be grateful if attenders could abide by these guidelines.

DOCTOR MARK BEAUMONT

We are delighted to report that our organist, Mark Beaumont, will be awarded his Ph.D. at the University of Sheffield on 22nd July.

The main disciplines he studied were psychology, art, language, music and psychophysics. The title of his thesis was 'Synaesthesia: in synaesthetes and its manifestation as a wider phenomenon'. Synaesthesia is a condition where someone perceives sensations in one sensory channel (such as vision) in response to activation of another sense (such as hearing), so that one might, for example, see colours in response to certain sounds.

For the lay person wanting to understand what this is like, I can recommend a book called 'Mondays are Red' by Nicola Morgan, which is a fictional first person account of a boy who has an accident and wakes up with synaesthesia.

Our hearty congratulations to Mark on a successful conclusion to years of study.

Sue Woolley, Editor



CONGREGATIONAL CONSULTANCY PROJECT

Sue Woolley and Tony Roberts attended a one-day workshop at Harris Manchester College, on Saturday 26th June. We will be reporting back in the next issue of the Newsletter.

STARTING YOUNG

Our service on 13th June was delivered by Becky Woolley, Sue's 9 year old daughter. The theme of her service was Happiness, and after a well-chosen selection of hymns, prayers and readings, she asked each member of the congregation to share something that made them happy.

It was interesting to hear how much we all had in common – most people mentioned the love of friends and family, and the beauty of nature. Becky's own contribution was a reading of a book called 'The Big Big Sea', which she and Sue find very special.

We all appreciated the amount of effort she had put into preparing the service, and look forward to her next one.



FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

The traditional description of summer holidays used to be "Sun, Sea and Sand", and however true it may be, this summer so far seems to be "Sport, Sport, Sport", and no rain. So the gardens seem to be a bit parched. However, do not despair! Wimbledon fortnight is imminent. And guess what?

Yes, the latest forecast suggests it could be "Showers, Showers, Showers" for a few days! Now there is a surprise....

Whether you are off on holiday, like sitting out in the garden in the evening, or a sports participant or watcher, I hope you have a great time. Relax and enjoy!

Love **Fiona**

Please send any contributions to:
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