



# Northampton Unitarian News

Number 20, January to March 2008

## CONGREGATIONAL SERVICE: WHAT CHRISTMAS MEANS TO UNITARIANS

### SERVICE TAKERS FOR JANUARY TO MARCH 2008

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

13 <sup>th</sup> January	Sue Woolley
27 <sup>th</sup> January	Alison Thursfield (Midland Union President)
10 <sup>th</sup> February	Jon Small
24 <sup>th</sup> February	Mark Beaumont
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Sue Woolley
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Frank Field, to be followed by the Annual General Meeting

**All are very welcome!**

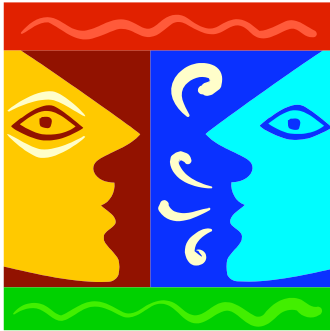
## CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS: INTERIM REPORT

Since the visit of the Assessors, Rev. John Clifford and Martin Gienke, in April 2007, some progress has been made concerning the Action Plan then proposed. This report shows what your Management Committee has done, and what is in the pipeline.

1. Quarterly rolling review hasn't really happened – we have discussed the Action Plan as a whole congregation, and as a Management Committee, but there was no formal review.
2. Review membership issues Fiona Boyle is addressing this currently, and we will be discussing this at the next Management Committee meeting (in February 2008)
3. Website The Management Committee is meeting in Northampton Central Library early next year to look at various websites; Fiona Boyle is leading the revision of our website, once we have seen what is possible
4. Signage Jon Small has made a sign to hang outside 31 Hazelwood Road, and is due to meet someone at the Borough Council's Planning Department soon. We don't think that a signpost at the top of Hazelwood Road would work, because the building doesn't look like a church anyway.
5. Window a display has gone up by the ticket point and there is a small display in the window. The blinds have not been changed yet.
6. Unitarian leaflets a quantity of these has been received from Essex Hall, and Mark Beaumont is in the process of distributing them, as agreed.
7. Communications with the Press a link has been forged with the Chronicle & Echo: we have a contact who is publicising our Discussion Group and other matters.
8. Review of Constitution Sue Woolley and Jon Small are to bring a revised draft to the next Committee meeting in February.
9. Posting minutes these have been posted on the notice board.
10. Finance issues Martin Weiss, our Treasurer, has been absent from the congregation for a couple of months due to a hip replacement, so the financial issues have not yet been addressed.
11. Building issues have been discussed in Committee, but no conclusions have been reached, except to continue looking for another property. We plan to explore letting opportunities in the near future.
12. Pastoral issues tend to be dealt with informally – we all look out for each other.

So you can see that some progress has been made, and we are actively working on the rest! But with so few people, who all have other concerns, it is difficult to make rapid progress.

December 2007



### DISCUSSION GROUP

Explore current / spiritual issues in our new Discussion Group, relaunching in September

**WHERE:** 31 Hazelwood Road, Northampton

**WHEN:** 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7 pm to 9 pm  
(except January, when it is on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday)

#### **THEMES FOR JANUARY TO MARCH MEETINGS**

January: *Is God a bloke? Issues of gender in religion*

February: *What makes a true religion?*

March: *Does Hell exist?*

For further information, please contact Sue Woolley at  
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Please send any contributions to  
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2DN or via e-mail to [sue.woolley@virgin.net](mailto:sue.woolley@virgin.net)

*The Committee of Northampton  
Unitarians would like to wish  
you a very Merry Christmas and  
a Peaceful and Happy New Year.*

