



*A spiritual fellowship, encouraging tolerance,  
reason and independent thought*

**Issue 60, April - June 2019**

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## Statement of Belief (taken from our website)

Unitarianism is a religious movement in which individuals are free to follow their reason and conscience; there is no pressure from creed or scripture. We are open to change in the light of new thought and discoveries.

### 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 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.

*Our thanks to the General Assembly Information Department, for extracts from 'A Faith Worth Thinking About' by Peter Sampson et al; and to Ipswich Unitarians for extracts from a leaflet by Rev. Cliff Reed.*

## Websites & Social Media

[www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk](http://www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk)  
[https://www.facebook.com/Northampton Unitarians](https://www.facebook.com/NorthamptonUnitarians)  
<http://sue-still-i-am-one.blogspot.co.uk>  
<http://www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk>  
[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)  
[www.unitariansocieties.org.uk](http://www.unitariansocieties.org.uk)

## Calendar for April - June 2019

### April

Sunday 7th Worship service, Rev. Jeffrey Bowes (Coventry)  
Sunday 21st Worship service, Dr. Mark Beaumont  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Walk the Labyrinth

### May

Sunday 5th Worship service, Rev. Sue Woolley (MUA) to be followed by our Annual General Meeting.  
Sunday 19th Worship service, Ms. Aleks Zglinska (Kidderminster)  
Tuesday 21st Walk the Labyrinth

### June

Sunday 2nd Worship Service, Mr. Simon Hall (Leicester)  
Sunday 16th Worship Service, Mr. Jon Small  
Tuesday 18th Walk the Labyrinth

### \*\*\*\*\*Weekday Gathering\*\*\*\*\*

Join us to walk our beautiful Labyrinth, based on the Troyes Cathedral Labyrinth. Find peace in the walking.

More details on our website: [www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk](http://www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk)

*All Worship Services and Gatherings are held at  
Northampton Unitarians Meeting House, St. Katherine's Terrace,  
Northampton NN1 2AX.  
Worship Services start at 10.30 am; Labyrinth Walk at 7.00 pm*

*ALL ARE WELCOME!*

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Friends,

A few days ago, I and several other Unitarians from our MUA congregations met Liz Slade, the incoming Chief Officer of the General Assembly of Unitarian & Free Christian Churches. The story of that meeting will be shared in the May issue of *MU Now*.

But Liz asked several important questions, which I'd like to share with you:

- How do we invite more people into the movement?
- How do we tell the story of what we stand for and protect the good things we're already doing, while inviting new people in?
- How do we share our learning and principles?
- Where do we want to get talked about? How do we get our voices heard?
- What will grab people's attention, give them hope and inspire them?
- How do we continually shine light on the positive things that are happening, and grow from these strengths?
- How would we want Unitarianism *now* to be remembered by people 200 years in the future?

Let's talk about these things in the context of Northampton Unitarians, when we hold our Annual General Meeting after the service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Yours in fellowship,  
*Sue*

## Appreciating the Whole by Sue Woolley

There is a quotation by Hans Christian Andersen, which says “When you are far away from the mountains, you can see them in their true forms. This is also true of friends.”



Photo from Harenberg calendar 2019 by Sue Woolley

I understand the first half of this quotation easily – when we see a mountain from far off, we can see its beauty and majesty as a whole. Whereas if we are closer to it, or even climbing up it, it is difficult to appreciate the whole of it. Especially, perhaps, when we think we’re getting near the top, and we come to what we thought was the horizon, and there is another long bit to climb.

There are so many different ways of interpreting the second half. It could mean that we only appreciate our friends when they’re

not around... or when we’ve lost their friendship. Or it could mean that when we’re away from them, we miss their company.

But I think it means that it is often difficult to appreciate our friends as individual human beings, as whole people, when they are close to us, inter-connected with us, involved in our lives. And that sometimes, we need to make the effort to see them objectively, to insert that little distance between ourselves and them, in order to understand them clearly. And not to impose our own thoughts and feelings on them.

Perhaps it is only when we are at a (little) distance to our friends that we can see them whole, and truly appreciate them as unique, precious children of God. Which we all are.

There is a beautiful Arabian proverb about friendship, which reads:

A friend is one  
to whom one may pour  
out all the contents  
of one’s heart,  
chaff and grain together,  
knowing that the  
gentlest of hands  
will take and sift it,  
keep what is worth keeping  
and with a breath of kindness  
blow the rest away.

May we all be such friends, to each other, and to the wider world.

**MUA MINISTERS MEETING  
ASPARAGUS LUNCH**

**When:** Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Where:** Oat Street Unitarian Chapel, Evesham WR11 4PJ

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Celia Cartwright,  
President of the General Assembly

**Times:** 10.30 for 11.00 – 4.00

Come along to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

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**MUA OF LAY PREACHERS & SERVICE LEADERS  
SPRING TRAINING DAY**

**Topic:** Music in Worship

Led by Rev. Ant Howe and Rev. Danny Crosby

**When:** **NEW DATE** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Where:** Kingswood Meeting House, Packhorse Road, Hollywood  
B47 5DQ

**Times:** 9.30 for 10.00 am – 4.15. pm

Cost: FREE to MUA congregations / £10 to others

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**Northampton Unitarians**

**Northampton Unitarians Meeting House,  
St. Katherine's Terrace, Northampton NN1 2AX  
website: [www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk](http://www.northamptonunitarians.org.uk)**

**Chairman:** Mr. David Cook

tel: 07763 191 566; e-mail: [dac313@f2s.com](mailto:dac313@f2s.com)

**Secretary and Newsletter Editor:** Rev. Sue Woolley

tel: 01604 870746; e-mail: [revsuewoolley@gmail.com](mailto:revsuewoolley@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Mr. Jon Small

e-mail: [jonasmall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jonasmall@hotmail.co.uk)

**Organist:** Dr. Mark Beaumont

tel: 079804 98970; e-mail: [drmarksmusic40@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:drmarksmusic40@yahoo.co.uk)

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From *Spring* by John Knopf

Spring is a time of movement and unrest... Keep our hearts steady through its storms, our faces firm against the rain and hail.

It is a time for pruning and for repair, for discarding what is broken and useless, for repairing what is worn, but useful. May we have the judgement to know which is which, and the strength to do what is needed with both.

Spring is a time of light and glory, of the snowdrop, the crocus and the daffodil. Open our eyes to see its gifts. May the green gold of spring shine in our hearts, our spirits be filled with its coinage of beauty.

Spring is a time of cleansing airs. Let us open our windows to the breath of heaven, our hearts to the winds of change. Fill our lungs with new life, our sails with the breath of power, that we may live and sail to the glory of God.