



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

**Issue 62, October - December 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 October - December 2019

### October

Sunday 6th Worship service, Rev. Jeffrey Bowes (Coventry)  
Sunday 20th Worship service, Dr. Mark Beaumont  
Tuesday 15th Walk the Labyrinth

### November

Sunday 3rd Worship service, Rev. Sue Woolley (MUA)  
Sunday 17th Worship service, Mr. Simon Hall (Leicester)  
Tuesday 19th Walk the Labyrinth

### December

Sunday 1st Worship Service, Mr. Gavin Lloyd (Oxford)  
Sunday 15th Worship Service, Mr. Jon Small  
Tuesday 17th 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)

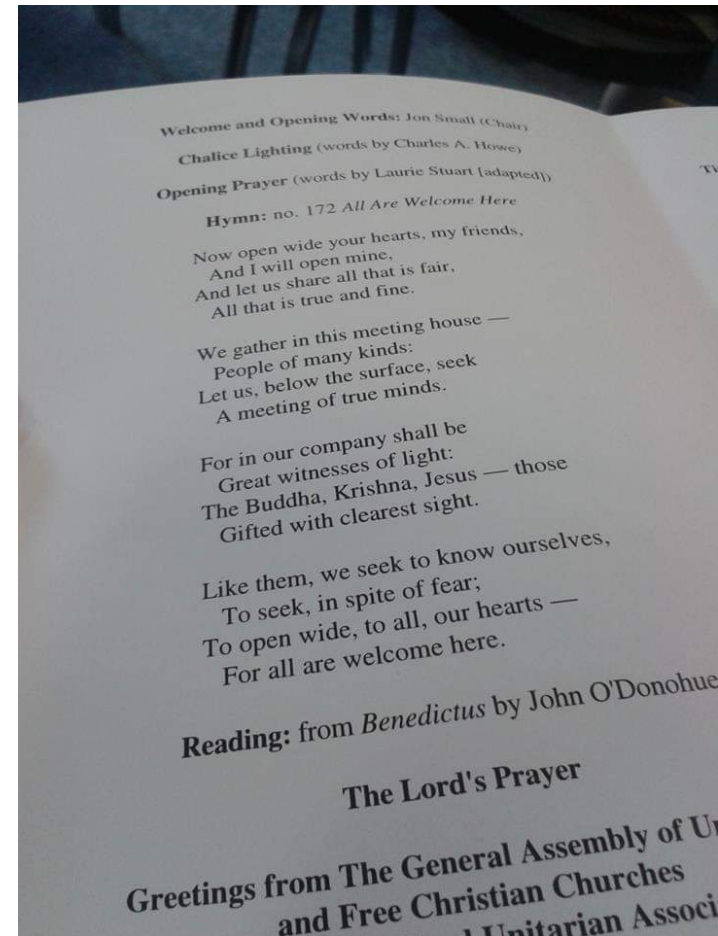
*All Worship Services and Gatherings are held at  
Northampton Unitarians Meeting House, St. Katherine's Terrace,  
Northampton NN1 2AX.*

*Worship Services start with refreshments at 10.30 am – the service  
itself at 11.00 am; Labyrinth Walk at 7.00 pm*

*ALL ARE WELCOME!*

## Our new Community Development Coordinator introduces herself

The first time I came to Northampton Unitarians was for the Grand Opening of the new Meeting House on 7th May 2016 and I remember the warm welcome and the ripples of excitement at the opportunity of having a new home in the town centre.



“Brilliant words by a previous minister of Northampton Unitarians with the hymn, *All Are Welcome Here!* What a truly welcoming message for the wider community! Very, very happy to be here.” (a post I made on my Facebook profile the first time I visited on 7th May 2016).

Almost three years to the day later, I moved to Northamptonshire (a move I'd been planning a while!). In the intervening time I'd visited the congregation to lead worship, and learned how much this welcoming atmosphere wasn't just for 'special days' like the Opening. It was part of the fabric of this community just as Peter Galbraith wrote.

Sharing this version of the 'good news' with the wider community within Northampton and beyond to other areas of the county is what I hope to be able to help the congregation achieve going forward. We have always maintained links with other local churches and faith groups as well as connecting with the wider local and national Unitarian bodies supporting our movement.

Community Development is defined on Wikipedia thus:

The United Nations defines community development as "a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems." It is a broad concept, applied to the practices of civic leaders, activists, involved citizens, and professionals to improve various aspects of communities, typically aiming to build stronger and more resilient local communities.

Churches have for a long time had a key role in assisting building strong and resilient communities. Looking back into our heritage and history, we can see evidence of the times when this community has been part of this; the roll of honour displayed on the wall of the Meeting House from the First World War, and the

framed subscription to the United Nations Peace Declaration being just two examples of our collective action and our responses to events.

Collective action can only grow out of connection and conversations. One of my hopes as I begin to explore our potential to engage with new people and groups is to have opportunities to talk with people, discover their passions, interests, pursuits, find out the challenges they face, see how they want to change the world for the better, and then explore if we can developing relationships where our goals align.

For me the spiritual aspect of our lives is deeply intertwined with our personal and collective experiences, our reactions and actions in the face of the multitude of things that make up our lives is somewhere we can help each other, celebrate, remember, acknowledge, progress and process all that comes to pass.

I would like to invite all of our current and prospective members to seek me out for a one to one conversation. A roughly 45 minute chat where we can mutually share our thoughts and experiences. In this way I can find out what you would like to see happening in our localities, what you're already involved in etc. In learning more about each other we can begin to build these conversations into collective action over time. I'm contactable on [aleks.zglinska@gmail.com](mailto:aleks.zglinska@gmail.com) and I'll also leave some cards out at the Meeting House with some more information on how I see this process working for us and with a request slip so folks can drop me a note to arrange a time to talk.

Hopefully in future *News* I can share more on the ideas and potential this ongoing process reveals.

*Aleks*

## Regional Events

### MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL LUNCH

**Guest Speaker:** Rev. Cliff Reed, author of *Unitarian? What's That?*, and several collections of Unitarian worship material

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

**When:** Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Times:** 11.00 for 11.30 am – c.3.00 pm

**Cost:** £10.50 per person

A letter went out to congregational secretaries at the end of August with a booking form.

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### MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION AUTUMN TRAINING DAY

#### **Beyond the Hymn Sandwich**

**Course Leader:** Christina Smith (Derby Unity)

**When:** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2019

**Where:** Unitarian New Meeting Church, Ryland St, Birmingham  
B16 8BL

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

## Northampton Unitarians

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

**Community Development Coordinator:** Ms. Aleks Zglinska  
e-mail: [aleks.zglinska@gmail.com](mailto:aleks.zglinska@gmail.com)

**Chairperson:** Mrs. Julie Small  
e-mail: [julieasmall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julieasmall@hotmail.co.uk)

**Secretary & 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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### Gathering Words by Kathleen McTigue

Into this home we bring our hunger  
for awakening.  
We bring compassionate hearts,  
and a will toward justice.  
Into this home we bring the courage  
to walk on after hard losses.  
Into this home we bring our joy,  
and gratitude for ordinary blessings.  
By our gathering we bless this place.  
In its shelter we know ourselves blessed.

