



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

Issue 59, January – March 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
[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
www.unitariansocieties.org.uk

Calendar for January – March 2019

January

Sunday 6th Worship service, Mr. Gavin Lloyd (Oxford)
Sunday 20th Worship service, Dr. Mark Beaumont
Tuesday 15th Walk the Labyrinth

February

Sunday 3rd Worship service, Rev. Sue Woolley (MUA)
Sunday 17th Worship service, Ms. Aleks Zglinska
 (Kidderminster)
Tuesday 19th Walk the Labyrinth

March

Sunday 3rd Worship Service, Mr. Jon Small
Sunday 17th Worship Service, Mr. Gavin Lloyd (Oxford)
Tuesday 19th 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

*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,

Happy New Year! I wonder how 2019 is going to pan out for Northampton Unitarians?

I hope it will be the year in which we reach out to our local community, and make a difference in the town.

I hope it will be the year in which our wonderful Unitarian faith appeals to new people, and they start to come along, to find out more.

I hope it will be the year in which we care for each other, and for the wider world.

I hope it will be the year in which more groups start to use our hall to hold activities.

What can we do to make these hopes come true? We need to commit to the Unitarian cause, share our faith with our friends, find a local cause to support and show the world what being a Unitarian means.

If we have one resolution this year, let it be this: “To live Unitarianly, to witness for Unitarianism, and to make a positive difference in the world.

I wish you all a Peaceful and Blessed Christmas, and a Brave New Year.

Yours in fellowship,

Sue

Meditation on a Tree by Jon Small

Imagine you are sitting on a comfortable chair on a fine Autumn day. This chair is on a large grassed area, perhaps in a park. In front of you is a large, mature, deciduous tree, perhaps a beech or oak. It is far enough away for you to see the whole thing without having to turn your head.

You can feel a light breeze on your face and hear the leaves of the tree rustling in the wind.

There must have been rain a little while ago because you can smell damp grass and earth.

The sky is blue, however, and small fleecy clouds are passing slowly by.

You look at the tree and see that some of the leaves are already turning brown and gold.



Just one leaf detaches itself from a branch and lazily falls to the ground to become entangled in the grass.

You begin to imagine what the tree will look like in the fullness of winter with dark, stark, branches black against the sky.

Whilst you are thinking on this you are looking at the tree without actually “seeing” it so as to speak; but you begin to realise that around the tree, a few feet away from it, against the sky you can see a sort of lighter area.

Above the tree against the sky the lighter area resembles an invisible flame waving back and forth with the wind. You are seeing the tree’s aura.

You now notice that the aura extends to the ground and there is within it a sort of current flowing up from the ground and circulating down from the lower branches.

This is the process by which the tree lives, drawing water and nutrients up through its leaves from its roots and every year dropping its leaves and fertilizing the soil for another year.

It is always cooler beneath a tree, not just because of the shade, but because of the air circulating under its foliage, it acts as an air-conditioner.

You are watching one of the cycles of life. We are all part of the great rhythm of life that is made up of countless of these rhythms.

So now, you wish your tree well and relax, taking comfort in this knowledge and returning gently and gradually back to the here and now.

Regional Events

MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Saturday 30th March 2019

Where: Shrewsbury Unitarian Church, High Street,
Shrewsbury SY1 1LR

Guest Speaker: Ms. Karen Hanley

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:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**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

## 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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### The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the kings and the princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with their flock  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost  
To heal the broken  
To feed the hungry  
To release the prisoner  
To rebuild the nations  
To bring peace among people  
To make music in the heart.

**Howard Thurman**