



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

Issue 61, July - September 2019

Contents

Statement of belief & websites / social media	page 2
Calendar for July - September 2019	page 3
Reflection on G-D by Jon Small	page 4
The Power of Dreams by Sue Woolley	page 5
Regional Events / News	page 7
Who we are and how to contact us	page 8
Words on <i>Hope</i> by Katie Kandarian-Morris	page 8

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 July - September 2019

July

Sunday 7th Worship service, Rev. Jeffrey Bowes (Coventry)
Sunday 21st Worship service, Mr. Gavin Lloyd (Oxford)
Tuesday 16th Walk the Labyrinth

August

Sunday 4th Worship service, Rev. Sue Woolley (MUA)
Sunday 18th Worship service, Ms. Aleks Zgliniska
(Kidderminster)
No Labyrinth Walk this month due to Summer Holidays.

September

Sunday 1st Worship Service, Ms. Angela Maher (MUA
President)
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

*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!

Reflection on G-D by Jon Small

I am the winter wind that blows in through the trees and ruffles your hair.
I am the spring rain that falls from scudding clouds upon your head.
I am the heat of the summer sun that raises musk from your skin.
I am the leaves that carpet the world beneath your autumn feet.
I am here!

I have always been here
- and am now.

Each seed that grows has me within it
Each word spoken contains my essence
Each life is known to me – with all its bloody beginnings and bloody ends – and all the life and love that goes between.
All the boredom – all the excitement
All the love – all the hate
All the tears – all the laughter
All the births – all the bereavement
I am there
I permeate *every – thing!*
And though I appear *so* Omniscient
- *so* Omnipotent
- *so* Omnipresent

I care
Even for the sparrow that falls unheeded in some empty land

Even for you

I care.

The Power of Dreams by Sue Woolley

There is a quotation by Henry David Thoreau, which says “If we let our dreams guide us, success will surpass all our expectations.”



Photo from Harenberg calendar 2019 by Sue Woolley

I have a dream.

At the 2015 General Assembly meetings, all delegates were given a 48-page document entitled *Vision for Our Future*, produced by the Executive Committee, which also went out to all congregations, including ours. It was followed by another, *The Next Steps*.

In *Vision for Our Future* there were a series of headings, the first of which read “We want to be a faith that matters.” Well, our faith does matter, it matters enormously, both to current Unitarians

and to potential Unitarians, who are out there, desperately seeking somewhere they can call home, somewhere they can find like-hearted (not necessarily like-minded) folk to accompany them on their religious / spiritual journeys.

BUT, unless those seekers (and current Unitarians) *clearly understand* who we are and what we’re about, we aren’t going to attract new people through our doors. We need to find easy-to-articulate, POSITIVE answers to “What do Unitarians believe?” and “What are Unitarians?” Which is why I carried out my survey in 2017, which resulted in the book *Unitarians: Together in Diversity*. Which is chock-full of positive statements about what Unitarians believe, and how we come together in community.

I have come to believe that the statement the Executive Committee made in *Vision for Our Future*, about needing to “re-establish an identity, a unique spiritual position” is key to our future as a denomination, as a movement. As James Barry so acutely pointed out in his contribution, “We don’t have the advantage of the UUA, who have their seven principles defined.”

I believe that the most vital task for British Unitarians today is to adopt a widely agreed statement such as the UUA’s Seven Principles (or why not just adopt them wholesale – they work for me!) I believe that one of the main reasons why the Quakers are so much more successful than we are, is that other people understand what they believe in and stand for.

We could even produce (as Aleks Zglinzka suggested in our meeting with Liz Slade) our own versions of *Advices and Queries*, the Quaker touchstones, and of *Quaker Faith and Practice*, their comprehensive book about Quaker beliefs and practices.

Why not?

Regional Events / News

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 26th October 2019

Times: 11.00 for 11.30 am – c.3.00 pm

Cost: £10.50 per person

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

~~~~~

### MIDLAND UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION SKILLS DIRECTORY

Some years ago, in 2004, our then District Minister, Rev. Michael Dadson, compiled a directory of skills offered by members of MUA congregations to other congregations where that skill(s) was/were lacking. The MUA Executive Committee is minded to revive this idea, and when the District Minister next visits your congregation (on 4<sup>th</sup> August) she will be asking for offers of help and suggestions as to what is needed.

## Northampton Unitarians

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

**Chairman:** Mrs. Julie Small

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

**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)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Words on *Hope* by Katie Kandarian-Morris

Here we come into this sacred space –

quieter now with our readiness

Hushed voices, hoping, trusting for so many things:

For connection, for communion,

For inspiration, for information,

For healing, for wholeness,

For words, for music,

For celebration and consolation,

Here we have come into this space, bringing all of who we are,

Let us be willing... however we are changed.

