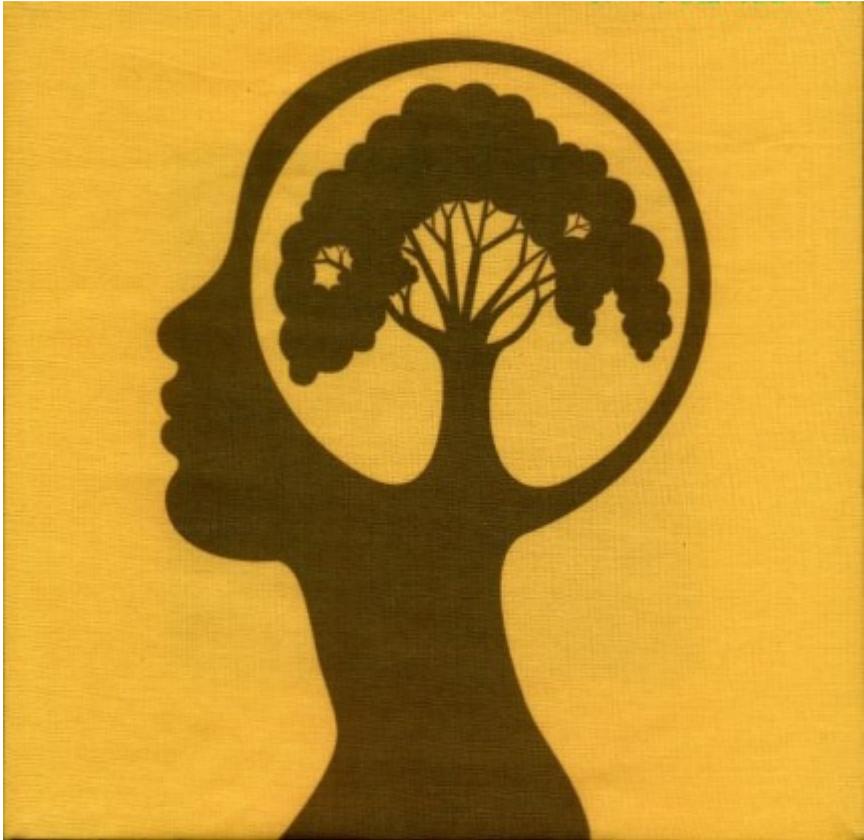


NUF

Newsletter!



- UKUTV
...and more

*“In the flow of religious thought and practice,
Unitarians represent openness and inquiry in the spiritual quest”*

Registered Charity Number: 1040294

President's Ponderings

How I love taking time to ponder. My father used to 'cogitate'. Others may just reflect or perhaps dream. Call it what you will I am someone who ponders. And what do I ponder about you may ask? Throughout this past year I have pondered on the material that came out from the Unitarian Theology Conference held at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester last year, and the lead to other literature that was mentioned in the various presentations.

All too often the differences of understanding of what being a Unitarian today means, highlights the difference between Christian Unitarians and those who feel they have moved on from being so defined. The approach of the conference seemed to approach the breadth of Unitarianism in a much more fruitful way. Three of the presenters stressed the importance of tradition and what it means for us now. Our faith became contextual over time, what is special in what we have inherited and how it can illuminate the present. This does demand of us a knowledge of our past. We need to have a chain of memory, and understanding of why we choose to be part of our much beloved movement, in order to have roots as well as to bear fruit.

One speaker pointed out that this chain of memory has been lost for those coming new to Unitarianism today. I wondered whether in the future, if we have a future, our generation will be just a missing link from that chain, or whether in fact we will have become something totally different to what many understand as Unitarianism. The suggestion that we should develop a theology of the public spaces more, is valid advice.

However, the other three speakers, were persuasive in showing the richness of our tradition. The spirit and understanding of what Unitarian spirituality means, is given a theological depth and continuity running through our history. Religious humanism is a strand that ensures that a lived presence in public spaces and with current social needs is part of that chain of memory and theological understanding. Hopefully future annual conferences will open up new avenues for developing Unitarian theologies. I for one have appreciated addressing feminist theology, eco-spirituality and

and psychological theology in a small way as well as reading around the material from world religions. All have embedded in them a concern for the public place and for the roll of humans in relationship with each other and with the world as we know it, and that in which we are often responsible for creating.

Being an avid reader, I come across many inspirational books and a book, recommended by one of the speakers, has inspired me more than most. John McLachlan's *The Divine Image*, published by The Lindsey Press in 1972, may have been written almost fifty years ago, before there had been a move to using gender free terms, but other than that could have been written today. Sadly the copy from the NUF Book Collection is falling apart (I hope from being read many times), but if members wish to read the book it can be found on the GA website at: <https://www.unitarian.org.uk/resources/document-library/divine-image-religious-humanism-homer-hammaraskold>

McLachlan traces religious humanism from classical Greek, through mediaeval times, Renaissance and to modern times. The rational and mystical aspects of this religious humanism are demonstrated through the lives of key individuals. The work of the spirit, as one of our speakers, centred his presentation on: *Unitarian theologies of the Spirit*, (Jo James) directs us, is a God of love and mercy, where humans are not tainted by the original sin, expressed in the life and work of St Augustine, which the churches of all denominations espoused. Unitarians have not followed the theology of Atonement of Jesus for our sins, but turned to the goodness of God and the spirit within, as lived and demonstrated by mystics through the ages.

The Divine Image should be available to all who come to Unitarianism, wanting to find out who we are. We are not secular humanists but religious (spiritual) humanists, many who draw on a mysticism which does not offend the reason but rather benefits from it.

Unitarian Theology – Conference, Cross Street Chapel Manchester May 2016 published by Faith & Freedom for the Hibbert Trust,

2016. Editor David Steers.

The presentations can be viewed at www.ukunitarian.tv. They can be found by clicking on the 'Theology Conference' at the bottom of the right-hand side menu.

Unitarian Theology Conference 2017 – 500 Years On – The Reformation Must Continue -Friday 13th October – “On God”. To be held at Mill Hill, Unitarian Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB. For further information contact: Jim Corrigan at: 07909572279 or email: corriganjim@gmail.com

Joan Wilkinson



ABOUT URG

'Renew and Refresh your Congregation's Worship' urged the advertisement for the Unitarian Renewal Group's presentation at the 2017 General Assembly Annual Meeting, so indicating what has been the focus of URG's activity in recent years and indeed for most of its existence. The clue is in the name, in particular, the word 'renewal' and, since a congregation's main purpose is to congregate for worship, the aim has been to breathe new life into the worship in our churches, chapels and meetings houses. Further, since new life is unlikely to come to groups that are inward-looking and stuck in old ways that exclude new thought and practice, the Unitarian Renewal Group has long worked to encourage inclusivity in matters of theology and the language and forms of worship.

URG's aims, little changed since the group's inception in the mid-1970s, are expressed as follows:

Those affiliated to the Unitarian Renewal Group wish to

1. Assert that Unitarian religion today should be defined by principles rather than beliefs disbeliefs.
2. Ensure that all religious liberals are made to feel equally welcome and at home in Unitarian congregations.
3. Influence all Unitarians to adopt modes of worship which

will, as far as possible, seek to meet the needs of a broad religious spectrum.

In the Group's early years, however, the focus of its energy was on the felt need to improve ministerial training with greater interaction of students with active ministers, and secondly the urging of a denominational plan to safeguard the existence of congregations in cities and large areas of population. Where there was no Unitarian witness for miles, a new congregation might be started, for example in Carlisle.

It was divisions opening up between congregations that were exclusively liberal Christian and those that were seeking to embrace wider or other theologies that focused URG's attention on the importance of embracing all within the General Assembly, both at national and at local level. Members of URG were on the committee of the ground-breaking Hymns for Living (1985). URG members were also active in the GA Objects renewal process in the 1990s and it was URG which produced the British version of Building Your Own Theology, the most successful adult course to be followed by British Unitarians. Some years later, Keith Gilley, for the Renewal Group, wrote and URG published Building Our Identity, the underlying ethos being the necessity to explore and realize what it is that holds us together in all our diversity. Over the years, the Unitarian Renewal Group has done many a presentation at the GA Annual Meetings, usually very well attended, has most years held Day Gatherings in congregations as far apart as Edinburgh, Brighton, Ipswich and Cardiff and has produced its *Viewsletter* twice a year. It has over 70 affiliates. Currently it is looking forward with enthusiasm to the conference in the Autumn of 2018 to be held jointly with the National Unitarian Fellowship, Unitarian Earth Spirit Network and the Unitarian Peace Fellowship. Again, we are breaking new ground.

*Do get the following date in your diaries: **Weekend Event, Great Hucklow, 26-28 October 2018.** Look out for further details on the Winter edition of the Newsletter.*

Celia Midgley

News from UKUTV reported by Joan Wilkinson

We have learned, from our filming visits, to different chapels this year, that Unitarian Chapels include music, both vocal and instrumental, to give a high-quality worship experience.

Our first visit of the year was to Doncaster Unitarians, where the theme was 'Community'. The service consisted of musical groups sharing in that community, which brought the act of worship alive. Youngsters, and the more mature participated, fully, which gave musical offerings of a very high standard. This was a memorable service, demonstrating that the Unitarians at Doncaster are grounded in the community and in music. The service can be seen at: www.ukunitarian.tv?doncaster-service .

The second service to be filmed this year was from Great Meeting Leicester, when members from other chapels across the East Midlands swelled the congregation. Instead of a chalice lighting, was a chalice meditation written and composed by a member of the congregation, David Kent, who led a small but talented group of singers, to the words: 'Do What Most Kindles Love'. Later in the service, the same group sang the anthem, again written and composed by David, 'Let us shine'. In both cases the words and music were easily picked up by the congregation, who joined in, retaining the sacred character of the pieces. The hymns reflected the place of music in our worship and religious lives: 'We sing a love that sets all people free', 195 in the purple hymnbook: 'For the music of creation' 38 in the PHB: 'When in our music God is glorified' 206 in the PHB. The sermon again was based on the music theme. www.ukunitarian.tv?leicester-service .

Bradford Unitarians was the third visit of our filming year, where we expected music to play a prominent role in the service, and so it did. David Dawson, being not only the pianist for the day, but also the musical director of the Unitarian Music Society, has trained his congregation well. The UniSingers, performed 'I am a small part of the world' by Sally K Albrecht and Jay Althouse. David's choice of Elgar 'Chanson de Matin' for the prelude, his own composition 'Reflection 1V' for the interlude and Schubert's 'Impromptu Op.

142, No 3 Theme' as a postlude, held the congregation in silence and reverence for the music. www.ukunitarian.tv?bradford-service. We so often hear that the hymn-sandwich is so 'yesterday', but in all of the above cases, a well-structured service, held together by good music, enhances our Unitarian worship.

The May Reflection was filmed and presented by Tony McNeile, who took his camera onto the countryside, where he recorded the following. If any member wishes to try their hand at filming a Monthly Reflection, do feel encouraged to give it a go, and send the results in, to be included on the NUF and UKUTV websites.

Life Demands – NUF May 2017 Meditation – by Rev Tony McNeile

www.ukunitarian.tv?nuf-may17

Life demands and we obey. The world turns at one speed but life runs faster. The world clock ticks in days and seasons, we rush by in seconds and less than seconds. Tomorrow's needs bury the memories of yesterday. Tomorrow makes today a little irrelevant and pushes it to one side. So relentless is the speed of life. The bends become tighter, the roads narrower, the horizon shrinks to a tunnel filled with greyness and then well, what might happen?

This is not meant to happen.

The world is calling back, there is healing in the slow speed of the world. There is peace in the slow drift of time. There is stillness in the pace of the long seconds. There is stillness within movement.

My tree stands by the river like a statue. I think of the tree having its own spirit, calm, even when the breeze comes rustling. Branches dance and stretch. Young leaves flutter but the root is firm, the trunk is firm. The spirit is not afraid of the breeze.

I found this tree when walking. Funny how it's energy of slow time makes it strong. Many years and many seasons of leaves budding and unfolding and turning to gold in autumn and then sleeping in winter, goes on and on through the ages and through lifetimes.

Stretching into the sky.

When I stand before the tree I feel the strength that comes from it. Strength that feels like the fading echo of a bell that hums on and does not stop.

The shape is perfect but not perfect. Within the perfect shape there have been many changes. There have been slow bursts of growth and hesitations but overall it is right.

I can speak to my tree and think to my tree and like to feel it is absorbing what I say and slowing my thoughts. I speak in thought and my breathing slows. My eyes stop their darting from branch to branch, leaf to leaf, but linger in study and concentration. My tree is a living miracle, a silent sentinel absorbing sunlight without effort, lifting streams of water and breathing them out from every pore of every leaf. Giving back the oxygen I steal from the air.

I have made a bond with my tree. To be unashamed before it and honest before it. To respect its great age.

I have my precious moments before my tree. When I am apart from it, I can still imagine its presence. I know of others who find peace for themselves beside a tree. There may be many others who stand before my special tree. If they do, I feel linked to them. They are my brothers and sisters and cousins. They are of my world. In the frenzied world, interacting, negotiating, speaking, listening, manoeuvring, I try to keep in my mind the image of my tree. I try to radiate its peace into my fast world. It keeps me calm. I hope it spreads from me in the same way.

The tree is my portal to life as it should be. No need to drop out of the world, just keep the sap of wisdom flowing through my veins, and change what is damaging to something we can all share and breathe.

I told a friend about my tree and she drew one for herself and then painted another and she said it was her tree of life.

We seem to agree on one thing about our different trees. That the spark of divinity exists in them both, and when we look beyond our trees we see that spark everywhere.

I wish you the peace of being near a tree.

I am Tony McNeile, the minister to the National Unitarian Fellowship and of the Earth Spirit Network.

John and I travelled to a small village outside Northampton to film the June Reflection. We had been kindly invited over by Rev Sue Woolley, Minister for three small chapels and District Facilitator of the Midland Unitarian Association.

The Wisdom of Life Experience—NUF June Reflection by Rev Sue Woolley

www.ukunitarian.tv?nuf-jun17

For many young people, June is the most stressful month of the year. It is the time of year when all their accumulated knowledge, gained by hard work in classroom or lecture theatre or library, is tested. And on the results of those exams, their entire future often depends.

It seems so unfair that our academic year is structured to end in the Summer, although I understand why it does: in former times, children had to be available during the Summer months to help with the Harvest.

But it is so hard to have to be indoors, either revising, or in an exam, when outside the sky is blue, the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and there are so many fun things they would rather be doing. I can remember sitting my O and A levels in a sweltering, airless gym, wishing I could be anywhere else.

Looking back across the many years since then, I wonder at how little of the knowledge and facts I crammed into my brain in those days has come in useful in later life (except in pub quizzes!)

Admittedly, I am eternally grateful to the English teacher who passed on his love of good literature, but otherwise, not much else has had any lasting meaning for me, or influence on me.

It makes me wonder whether we are teaching our children the right things in school. I think that perhaps there is too much emphasis on gaining knowledge, on the accumulation of facts, and not enough on learning the important lessons of life, through gaining wisdom. Perhaps wisdom cannot be learned through study, but only through the experiences of our lives. Wisdom is more about being awake, about paying attention to what is going on around us. Wisdom is more a way of living in the world; of responding to it, following the best that we know. It is about working out what we believe is right and good and true, and then trying to live wholeheartedly, with all of ourselves, as Brené Brown would say.

There are many great teachers of wisdom around, if we could only learn to wake up and pay attention to them. We may learn wisdom by reading the words of wise men and women, or by listening to the worship leader in church or chapel on a Sunday; but I think that a surer route to wisdom is through our own life experiences.

There is nothing to beat actually experiencing something to teach us the wisdom it holds. For example, a child can be told repeatedly that fire burns, but it is only when she sticks her finger in the candle flame that she learns.

The opportunities to gain wisdom are all around us – in the wonders of Creation, in our interactions with one another, and in the things, we see, hear, smell, touch, and taste. Let us resolve to be awake and pay attention.

Finally, for the July Reflection, Kevin & Bronwyn Lowe, took time out of their holiday in the Lake District, to film Minister, Celia Cartwright, recently retired Minister of Kendall Unitarian Chapel.

Tightrope Walker – July NUF Reflection – Celia Cartwright

www.ukunitarian.tv?nuf-jul17

Not long ago, as I walked my daughter's ball-obsessed collie in a local park, I caught sight of a young man, some seventy-five yards away, teaching himself how to walk a tightrope.

As I repeatedly and energetically, flung a yellow tennis ball and the collie, red tongue hanging out, hurtled up and down the field to retrieve it, the young man concentrated, his body still, his mind clearly centred and focused on his challenge - the green wire, sparkling and flickering in the bright May sunshine, stretched tautly, some three feet above the ground, between two stout trees,

The young man seemed completely unaware of the dog and I as he stood for what seemed an age beside the wire, motionless, his concentration totally on his body and the task he had set himself.

Slowly and carefully he positioned one bare foot on the wire, this leg bent to his chest his back straight, his arms at his side while the other foot remained on the ground.

He stood in this way for another long while until, at some unseen prompting, he carefully and without haste, lifted the other foot off the ground and placed it carefully on the wire behind the first. Now his weight was wholly on the narrow wire.

Taking his time, he carefully found his balance, and then, straight backed, he rose elegantly to an upright position on the wire, arms outstretched for balance. For a few seconds it seemed he was in control, then as I watched, his balance faltered and he fell off landing clumsily on the ground beneath. I watched as he picked himself up, dusted himself down, looked at the wire, and walked away.

He sat down by the tree, arms hugging his knees.

The dog and I walked on.

Returning from our walk an hour or so later I saw the young man again and slowed the progress of the dog and I for a while. Undaunted by his fall he had picked himself up and I watched as he went through his whole procedure, with the same grace and

purpose again. This time as he rose to a standing position on the wire, his body steadied, his balance held, and began the walk between the two stout trees across the narrow wire.

I wanted to cheer him on, but, not wanting to disturb his concentration, I just smiled to myself and threw the ball for the dog as I walked on, reflecting on the fact that I had just witnessed something truly amazing.

Later that evening I watched the TV news round-up, which often seems like a daily, confirmation that we are still living through endlessly difficult times that test our ability not to falter; cyber-attacks on the National Health Service that made the treatment of thousands difficult for a while; Brexit insecurities and a feeling that as a 'kingdom' we are far from 'united'; climate change, a melting ice-cap, floods, droughts and the plight of the polar bear; warring nations far away displacing millions who risk life and limb to escape to less than welcoming destinations, and a tweeting president who boasts that he doesn't read! These are turbulent and often terrifying times.

Soren Kierkegaard said: 'Life can only be understood backward, but we must live it forward' and I suspect that some future hindsight may give this time understanding, but right now, as we go forward now it's often confusing, often disturbing, sometimes frightening. It can leave us feeling like the young man learning to walk on the tightrope, off balance, bruised and thoughtful, though I hope not too despairing.

This human race to which we all belong might do well to take notice of the young man and his tightrope. Learn to slow down, learn to consider more deeply the multi-faceted tasks of living, and do it more carefully; learn to take our time not rush in with knee-jerk reactions, but focus more intently on the task on living kindly.

When we don't at first succeed, let us learn to calmly and thoughtfully pick ourselves up, dust ourselves down and with a stronger focus, try again, and again, until we do succeed, to live, more kindly, more carefully, more thoughtfully and with greater

more kindly, more carefully, more thoughtfully and with greater focus on progress towards a just world for all creation.



Secretary's Notes

I have now been in post for a couple of months and it has been quite a learning curve! I receive emails about all kinds of things, and often need to get in touch with John or Joan Wilkinson to ask how, or if, I should respond! They have, and continue to be, very patient with me... I am gradually now getting a 'feel' for the job, and enjoying the variety of duties. I already work in an office (a 'little' retirement job after a teaching career) so, although the work is not unfamiliar, certain ways of doing things need to be learned.

I was fortunate this year in being able to attend the General Assembly (the first time I had been to one) and met John and Joan Wilkinson, and attended the NUF AGM. I was most impressed, and that meeting was instrumental in my decision to take on this role. I am hoping that I shall be able to attend next year as well, and perhaps meet more of the members.

In my daytime office job, I am in contact with local churches, mosques and temples, circulating information about events being held. It brings churches and other places of worship into contact. I love my job because I communicate with so many interesting people, and the strong element of interfaith, to me, is very important. During my career, I have taught English as a second language, initially in pupils' own homes, which taught me about different cultures; and more recently, with local asylum seekers, in a town center location.

I hope you are all enjoying the summer, despite the variable weather. We have such beautiful countryside, to enjoy, and yesterday I was gazing in awe at the local scenery in all its glory. From a vantage point not too far from where I live I could see from Blackpool to Liverpool and on to Snowdonia. In front of me was a beautiful reservoir and behind me were the hills. The peace was wonderful. Not a sound could be heard.

On that note I will finish my ramblings for this time, and hope that by the next Newsletter I shall be much more familiar with this new role. Please continue to bear with me, and feel free to get in contact if you need, or wish, to do so.

A very happy holiday to you all.

Janet



New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Fellowship:

Tom Harvey-May
Elizabeth Alley
Meadow Unitarian Chapel, Godalming



UNITARIAN THEOLOGY CONFERENCE, 2017.

Fri 13th + Sat 14th October.

500 Years On -- The Reformation must continue!

Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel, City Square, Leeds LS1 5EB.

FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER: 'ON GOD'

(Starts at 11.30 with Worship) + SPEAKERS (from 12 noon):

- 1) **Ant Howe:** *'Wrestling, Resisting and Resting': different ways of responding to the Divine voice.* On the theology of talking to God.
- 2) **Jane Blackall:** *Models of God and the Meaning of Love.* Do our experiences of love shape our concepts of God?
- 3) **Lewis Connolly:** *'The Unchained Spirit': Kenotic Theology and The Unitarian Epic.* Exploring Altizerian 'Death of God' theology.

- 4) **PANEL DISCUSSION** with the speakers
[Due to end 5.45 pm. to be followed by 90' meal break, then informal discussion groups in Chapel buildings (with drinks) until 8.30 pm. For those still awake, 'pub theology' in city centre hostelrys continues.]

SATURDAY 14th OCTOBER: 'UNITARIANISM'

(Starts 9.30 am with short Devotions) + **SPEAKERS** *(from 9.45):*

- 1) **Ann Peart:** *Theology from Women's Experience.* Unitarian women's engagement with theology and gender.
- 2) **Justin Meggit:** *Early Unitarians and Islam: radical dissent and its consequences.* How encounters with Islam in 17th Century England helped shape Unitarian identity and belief.
- 3) **Stephen Lingwood:** *What is our Unitarian good news? Do we have a message for souls seeking salvation?*
- 4) **PANEL DISCUSSION** with: **Claire MacDonald, Lucy Harris, Robin Hanford.** (To end at 3 pm).

All welcome! There'll be breaks for tea and meals. There is **no entry charge**, and **no need to book a place**. **Donations to cover costs will be requested on each day.**

ADDITIONAL INFO:

VENUE: Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel is in Leeds city centre. It is a 2 minute walk from the main Leeds Railway Station, and lies diagonally north across City Square.

MEALS will not be provided at the Chapel, so please bring your own lunch etc, or buy nearby.

ACCOMMODATION: For those who need this, there are reasonably-priced hotels in Leeds central area. Here are a few links you might want to try:

<http://www.ibis.com/gb/hotel-6002-ibis-budget-leeds-centre/index.shtml>

<http://www.expressleeds.co.uk/>

<http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-leeds-city-centre-LBACCDI/index.html>

All speakers and Panellists are members of our Unitarian and Free Christian denomination, except for Justin Meggit who is a Cambridge academic.

Please Note: This conference will be filmed for the Internet by UKUnitarianTV (as happened last year).

The conference is organised by Revs Jo James, Jim Corrigan and Stephen Lingwood. Further info, contact Jim on: corriganjim@gmail.com or 07909 572 279.



Minister's Page

I have dragged myself away from watching the Weather Channel covering hurricane Irma. It is frightening to see nature's power unleashed in such a terrible way. There is a sense of helplessness before the onslaught. But set against that is the organisation put in place to deal with the consequences of this destruction. Plans are being executed, workers are preparing to help, volunteers have come forward.

In the worst that nature can produce, the best can be found in the actions of humankind. And such is the way of humankind we will no doubt see the worst side of it too but not in the proportion of the goodness that emerges from the reaction to Irma. The religious part of me thinks all this is some kind of punishment for not heeding the warnings to care for the planet on which we live. Whether this is divine punishment or not, we should take this as a warning of what can happen as the planet begins to warm up. We are making a contribution to it.

In the coming weeks may our thoughts and our prayers be focussed on the people suffering the tragedies in what we call the New World. May we pray for all who risk life and limb to help and support the people there and may we pray that somehow that in the

the future they be safer from such similar tragedies.

Prayer

'Peace, be still !' commanded the man from the God to the storm on the Sea of Galilee. If as we believe our souls are one with the universe then let us al so command 'Peace, be still !'.

'Peace, be still !' to the hurricanes in the Atlantic that strike the shores of America with destruction and suffering.

'Peace, be still !' to those who spread terror in the world, may their hearts hear the message of peace.

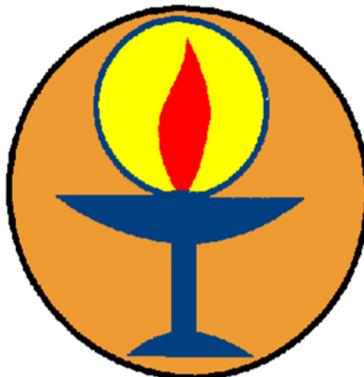
'Peace, be still !' to those who live by anger.

'Peace, be still !' to those who have contempt for human life and human suffering.

'Peace, be still !' to those who deal in the weapons of death and spread humankind's own terrible hurricanes of fire and destruction on the innocent.

'Peace, be still !' to those who suffer in the world. May they embrace peace in their hearts and find solace in the calmness of universal love.

Tony McNeile



Why I Have 'Failed' as a Unitarian.

I'm George. Some of you may know me better as the GA Zette Co-Editor from the last few years. I've been a Unitarian for the last twenty-two years of my life (since birth), but the GA is one of only two Unitarian events I attend every year. The other is Bridging Weekend at Flagg. I have failed as a Unitarian.

As a member of that excellent 'Millennial' generation, I have benefited from extensive progress in the field of technology, but not much else. So far, I have attended school, college, and had eight part- and full-time jobs; leaving me with little time for much else. I tried to go to Church when possible in my formative years, but working late Saturday nights for the last six years meant that Sunday was my only day off and became my actual 'day of rest'.

I fell out of love with going to Church and found myself dreading the traditional hymn sandwich and sitting on wooden pews whilst enduring the caterwauling of the Organ. Psalms grew increasingly dull, prayers are not my thing (I'm more of a 'lie down and reflect on stuff' guy), and let's just say I may have fallen asleep during the odd Minister's address. TL;DR - Church is not my scene.

I still live my life as a Unitarian and hold those same values I had been brought up with, but I fell out with 'Religion' the day I found my 'Faith'. As a young Unitarian, I know that it's down to me to keep flying the flag, as it were, but I just don't see how going to a Church really does that. It may well have done it for generations before mine, but I simply can't see it.

You see, I may have 'failed' as a Unitarian, but maybe I'm succeeding as a member of the next generation. Maybe the future of a modern Faith in this day and age lies not with attending a weekly Church service, but with a simple community. The young Unitarians in the UK have always demonstrated a strong sense of community and belonging, despite the fact that most of us only see each other once or twice a year. We are a family who show each other love, respect and treat each other with dignity, whilst welcoming newcomers with open arms. I feel as if Unitarianism could have a thriving future if only we could band together to recreate the same thing on a national scale, rather than relying on maintaining Churches and Sunday services which often seem to alienate newcomers; especially young ones.

In short, perhaps my failings as a Unitarian are not, in fact, failings after all. Perhaps I have somewhat stumbled upon a successful future for Unitarianism. Or perhaps I'm downright wrong.

George King



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