

Second Unitarian service I attended.
2nd December 1984

(Less than a
page written
this time!



UNITARIAN SERVICE -

This was the third of Rev Penns services on light and it was much better than last weeks' where the readings were a bit long. It included the thing about light in darkness, and 2 brief references from Matthew & a little longer than those from a unitarian book. He did a gimmick of lighting the "burning chalice" symbol - I was left to wonder what he meant by "divine spark" and even, god forbid, "Holy Spirit". (Also in a hymn). The context of the latter was clear however, and so was the divine spark within us. It is us. The point was that humans have it in them to glow, and he also spoke of community glow. One can see here the distinction between orthodox christian pessimism as regards the human, and the unitarian. I've always been one to stress the reality of sin or limitation, but here perhaps is the logical reply in that humans must shine their light within, i.e. that they can. Now, I think they can - but it's hard going. I didn't ask a question at the end because he had mentioned the darkness in the sense that people have it and so there wasn't just an idle optimism - indeed he said so - but it was the necessity to kindle the light. To me 'ultimate goodness' has to be achievable somehow and I suppose the unitarian view has answered my question whereas the christian view always had that gap the gap was real, and still is, but it used to be one which gave Jesus superhuman ability to break it when we, dragged down by limitations, could not. Now there is a better continuum I think. An area of thought I think here about the nature of man.

Now attendance was pathetic again (2 + 1 minister but 5 were new faces so that's 10 people at least or more who are connected but were not there - the quaker & the bloke who spoke to me last week were not there - The organist was different. What a right funny situation. I got given some leaflets by the enthusiastic American bloke.