



*Celebrating long-standing member Pat Clappison
(Picture: Adrian Worsfold)*

**Come and enjoy a Summer Time Barbecue
On August 2nd 2015, from 2:00 pm**

All members and friends of Hull Unitarians are invited to come to join us in an afternoon of fun where we will celebrate and give thanks for the long service of Mavis Lake. This is also the YUU Summer Event. Transport will be provided for members who are otherwise unable to get to church – please call the church (01482 224662) and leave a message if you would like a lift. Family members and friends are most welcome.

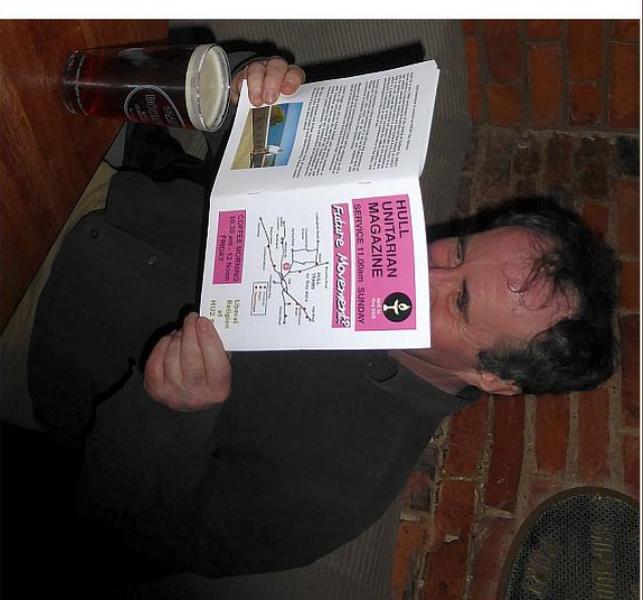
**HULL
UNITARIAN
MAGAZINE**

June to
August 2015

SERVICE 11.00am SUNDAY



Roots (& Wings)



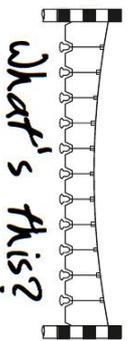
**COFFEE MORNING
10.30 am - 12 Noon
FRIDAY**

*Liberal Religion
at
HU2 8TA*

Answers



Answers



It's a sign ahead of bells suspended above the road

How

that will ring if your vehicle is higher than

Many

the electric power lines running above

Squares?

the railway at the level crossing.

Services

All Services at 11:00 am

July 05	Barry Cundill	Priorities and Perspectives in Our Lives
July 12	Ralph Catts	350 Years of Dissent
July 19	Ralph Catts	On Being Spiritual – Not Religious
July 26	Ralph Catts	Belonging to a Spiritual Community

August 2	Ralph Catts	Mavis Lake - Recognition of Service to Hull Unitarians with barbecue starting at 2:00 pm (see back cover)
August 9	Ralph Catts	Joseph Priestley
August 16	Ralph Catts	19th Century Christian Unitarians
August 23	Bernard McHugh	Breath of Life
August 30	Ralph Catts	James Luther Adams - a 20th Century Unitarian Theologian

At last some Unitarian jokes:

Did you hear about the Unitarian with a blocked up nose who had a Socinus problem?

Did you hear about the Welsh Unitarian prisoner who went to the Black Spot to finish his sentence?

Pentecost

Adrian Worsfold

The Christian Calendar moves from the resurrection, discussed in the previous issue, through to Pentecost, which is the marking of the birth of the Church. It features in Acts 2:1-31. Pentecost comes ten days after Ascension Sunday, when all resurrection appearances of Jesus had to cease. By tradition Pentecost begins specifically in the Upper Room where Jesus celebrated his last supper, thus relating to the central ritual of Holy Communion, and spreads out geographically.

The origin of Pentecost is Jewish. It was the name given by Greek-speaking Jews to the festival which occurred fifty days after the offering of the barley sheaf during the Passover feast. So there is an obvious Christian parallel, given the 'offering' of Christ regarding the Easter Passion.

Indeed, the Eastern Church regards the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost as Pentecost itself.

The Jewish festival in the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) is the "Day of the First-Fruits", of wheat and from labouring, in dance and praising God, which again translates to the birth of the Church people as the first fruits. Later it became the "closing season of the Passover", the end of the fruit harvest, to distinguish it from other Passover festivals. The Jewish Shavuot occurs 50 days after Passover.

The Jewish festival further invokes the celebration of the giving of the Law through Moses at Sinai: so, again, there is a parallel made with the giving of the Christian Gospel into the community.

With the Spirit descending, Pentecost then has the notion of everyone understanding everyone else, despite speaking many languages of many nations. So the Spirit puts back together at the birth of the one Church what Babel had confused into many languages. People understand one another again. There was also people speaking in tongues, using the writings relating to Joel: they sounded drunk to outsiders (non-believers), although the opinion of the Apostle Paul about the practice was negative.

Kate Taylor of Wakefield



The funeral for Kate Taylor took place on 5 June at Wakefield Unitarian Church. It was a remarkable celebration of a remarkable person. It was led by Rev. Bill Darlison and there were more than 200 in attendance. Among those who spoke were local civic leaders, Derek McCauley, Chief Officer of the GA, and clerics, including the Anglican's

Suffragan Bishop of Wakefield who said of Kate that she was possibly the only self-confessed atheist to have been afforded the title of honorary canon by the Church of England. *Ralph Catts*

On 7th June Bernard Mchugh led a service celebrating two hundred years of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union. The YUU began two years after Unitarianism was made legal in 1813. The service began with a silence in memory of Kate and used the YUU published Roots and Wings of writings from individuals, including Kate Taylor. Bernard gave two reflections on then and now.

I've been a bit down of late but am now out of the woods. My recurring skin complaint demanded steroid treatment with all the unfortunate side effects. Despite looking like the moths have been at me I am growing the hair back. Worst moment was at the park. I'm tied up at the railings while HWMO entertains young Oscar: as he returns, a mother stops her own young child from patting me with the words, 'Oh! Don't touch that dog, it's got mange!'

What a great walkies! The summer smells are at their best and the rabbits are there for the chasing. The hay has been mown and baled so I get the ultimate back-scratch treatment on the stubble (don't knock it if you've never tried it!). Others like the colour (whatever that is!) and go quite lyrical at the sight of 'swallows swooping low over patches of radiant buttercups. The very summery scent of the first flush of elderflower curds is so heady and the first butterflies are now about.'

*Butterfly....A flower that flies and all but sings*Robert Frost.

In the Cundill garden we have spinach (you would think it was truffles the way he goes on about it and the new potatoes, saying he could eat a plateful in butter all on their own)

There is a barbeque in the offing at church yours truly is offering his services in advance to help clear up (waste not, want not!).

Final Doggy Words.... Teaching an old dog new tricks: *If a hair of the dog is what is required, don't bitch about it but paws for thought a while or it could turn around and bite you on the backside!*



and future of Unitarianism. She became an expert in contemporary publicity, and thus (at the Unitarians' Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow) I learnt directly from her on how to send an email with one supporting image to a journalist, written in the fashion of journalism. Journalists are busy and lazy at the same time, and so one best writes their material for them. Next time you read a newspaper, spot the news item that is, in fact, a 'package' from a group that wants its message across. Learn to write like a journalist!

Into that format, as into others, she could express Unitarianism, because she knew Unitarianism to an incredible depth. The richness of the tradition, in its different aspects, was in her.

Some theologians say that God is revealed in communication. God is in the language that expresses itself and that expression becomes reality. All values and ethics are in this exchange: God - the Holy Spirit - is thus living within the expression of Unitarianism. It draws from the library, processes in conversation, and deposits anew into the library.

Kate Taylor was a substantial guide to Unitarianism. And now, this is suddenly silent. All we have is her lifetime deposit into the library, and the echo of her voice. We do better than the ancients because we have pictures and sound recordings, but there are no new conversations. We have lost this embodiment. This is why, in the end, the theology of culture is always a theology of biology. It is real presence. Otherwise the living have to employ imagination to recover meaning from the dead.

Buddhists say that everything is transition. We cannot keep these voices forever and we have to develop rebirth into the new. The tragedy is that voices develop: every loss is a significant loss, and it takes a long time to nurture the next voice. Otherwise it is a museum.

Connecting with Our Community



Terry Ireland and David Crook delivered the address

On Saturday April 25 2015 over forty people joined us to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC Day. We welcomed the then Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Anita Harrison, David Crook, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, from the Australian High Commission, in London, and members of the Hull Veterans Support Centre. Members of the public, including a New Zealand family and others with family within Australasia, also joined our service. Terry Ireland from the Hull Veterans provided a poem especially for the day as part of the traditional address. ITV reported the event that evening in *Calendar*, the news programme.

Attendees greatly appreciated the experience. Councillor Harrison said it was especially moving because she has family members in Australia and it gave her an understanding of the Australian Anzac tradition. Several Hull Veterans posted messages on their web site. A few show how the service was received:

Hull Unitarians will be a spiritual light in the centre of the city. By our words and by our deeds we will address the needs of those who are disadvantaged and unfairly treated in our exploitative materialistic society. We will do so by humble engagement with the human condition and outreach to the margins of society. We will also engage in our society by taking up the issues that warrant debate and analysis informed by reason and spiritual love. We are concerned for the plight of refugees, for the freedom of expression, and for the values of democracy and individual liberty, while having regard also for the common good.

Hull Unitarians will offer to all members and friends opportunities for fun and shared joys through social events. Please note the forthcoming barbecue advertised on the last page of this newsletter.

I will also be with you when there are times of sadness, fear, or other needs. I can however only minister to your needs and share your joys if you continue to let me know of events in your life where I may be of support. I hope that you feel free to speak to me or to ring me up to discuss things in confidence.

I welcome ideas to enhance the experience of being a member of our church. I will never put the onus on you alone to address any needs because your contributions are voluntary and are respected as such, but not expected. You are free to come to any events simply to enjoy and share. There are many members and friends who do take initiatives on behalf of us all including support for our Sunday worship and for our charity friday morning coffee sessions. These and many other contributions are much appreciated, but not taken for granted. Please let me know how I and others can better support you in those efforts you make on our behalf.

Ralph Catts June 2015