

Hull Unitarian Magazine

Editor: Dr Ralph Catts; Writer and Compiler: Dr Adrian Worsfold

Instructions to Authors:

Members and friends of Hull Unitarians are invited to submit articles for consideration for publication by the Editor. Normally short items should not exceed 325 words and be suitable to fit on one page, and longer articles are not to exceed 650 words. There is a general limit of 2 pages per article and hence authors must allow on the one or two pages space for any photos or diagrams. Any exceptions to these limits are to be discussed in advance with the Editor, Ralph Catts. Authors are required to confirm ownership of copyright including any photos or diagrams or to declare open source materials, and to indemnify Hull Unitarians against any breach of copyright be it intentional or inadvertent. Copyright is vested in the authors of all material in this magazine. When authors cite sources use APA style (see <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/referencing/apa-referencing-guide>). The Editor and Compiler are happy to advise on how to cite references correctly.

Articles are to be submitted to the compiler in 10 point font and rich text format (.RTF), unless another format has been agreed. Photos or drawings are to be sent in large .JPG or .PNG or .BMP formats. For forthcoming issues articles are to be received by August 10 and October 10 respectively. The Editor reserves the right to either defer or to refuse to publish any materials. Authors may provide a brief biographical statement (maximum 50 words) as per the examples below.

Introducing Authors:

Dr Ralph Catts is the Pastor of Hull Unitarian Church.

Dr Adrian Worsfold is a friend of Hull Unitarians and Compiler of this newsletter. Articles and artwork unless otherwise stated are his, including the puzzles and jokes.

The second part of 'Our Unitarian Heritage' looking at Free Catholics and Unitarians (including Hull) will appear in the next issue.

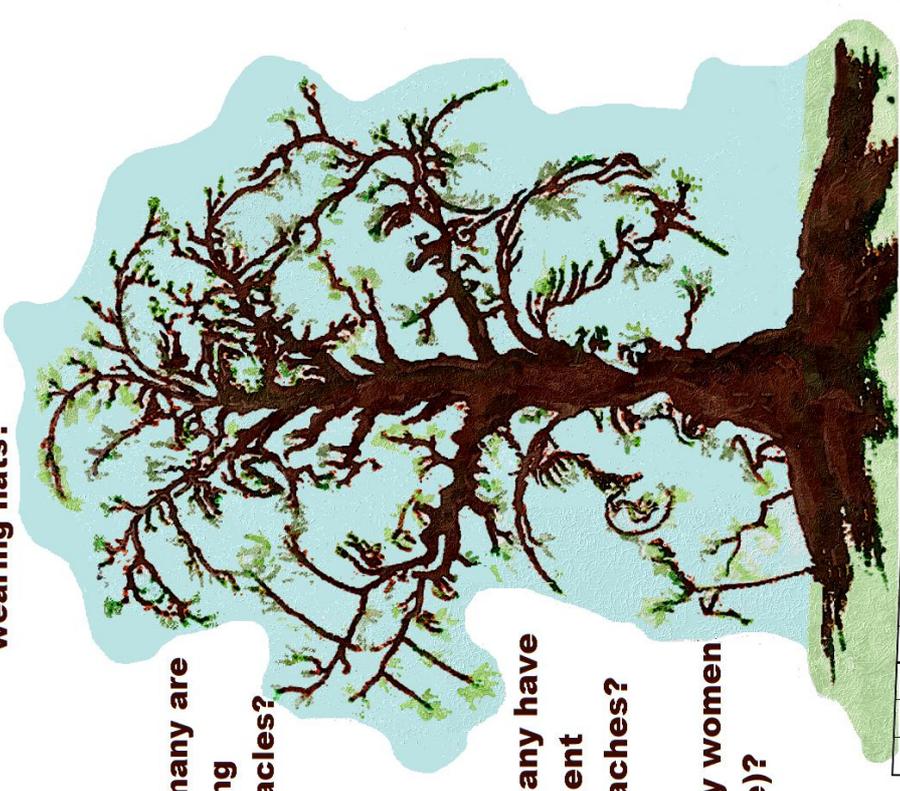
Do People Grow on Trees?

How many are wearing hats?

How many are wearing spectacles?

How many have prominent moustaches?

How many women (right side)?



3	2	7	6	8	1	4	9	5
8	5	6	2	9	4	3	7	1
9	4	1	5	7	3	8	6	2
6	1	5	3	2	8	9	4	7
2	3	8	9	4	7	1	5	6
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5	8	2	7	3	9	6	1	4
4	7	9	8	1	6	5	2	3
1	6	3	4	5	2	7	8	9

Answer
April-May

3	7	6	9	2	5
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6	4	7			2
7	3	5		4	8
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United by our ethos and values, Hull Unitarians aim to create a faith community of caring and committed people, welcoming of all who are respectful of the diversity of views held by members of our congregation. We seek to celebrate life in the experience of free and inquiring religion.

Who Does What?

Pastor: Dr. Ralph Catts
Tel: 07444540925

Board of Church Trustees:

Barry Cundill, Keith Brown
Mavis Lake, Michael Tracey,
John Williams

Board of Chamberlain

Trust trustees:

Mavis Lake, Michael Tracey,
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Website; Secretary: Keith Brown

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Music; Magazine Writer and Compiler:

Adrian Worsfold adrian@pluralist.co.uk

It's simpler than this, historically: Greek was the common language of the Roman Empire and Jews coming together with different languages would speak Greek, as did Gentiles. Greek had the function that English has today as a world language. So the importance of words and the ending of confusion is in that Christ is called The Word.

The Resurrection is a key event regarding Christ, but it is limited, and all is quieter still after the Ascension; then everything bursts out at Pentecost. It's the spiritual fire, the dove of peace and a celebration with green branches (in parts of Europe). Green is the East's liturgical colour: it is white in the West for purity: indeed, the English have called 49 days after Easter Sunday Whitsun.

What can Unitarians make of Pentecost? In the end, it is whether Unitarians consider their institution is part of the Universal Church. There's no settled authority statement for this: some individuals say it is and some say it isn't. Arguably not, because there is no general confession to say 'Jesus is Lord' among Unitarians that declares the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit as a central concept does not imply the Trinity: there is no doctrine of the Trinity in the Bible and at best an economic trinity relating to baptism; there are many arian and unitarian implications of biblical statements. Unitarians have long referred to the Holy Spirit and many continue to do so: it is that of God which acts, receives and motivates: it is God's verb.

Unitarians will apply the historical-theological method to Pentecost before asking if it is of use. First of all, there was no single day of the birth of the Church. It emerged from messianic Jews thinking Jesus would return rapidly, and having to organise their own synagogues, and through Paul's brilliance at turning this Jesus faith into a salvation religion for Gentiles who wanted a Jewish-like monotheistic faith. They created Churches of a monotheistic faith with a Christ and an active Spirit. The festival gives continuity and legitimacy from Judaism and crosses the cultural divide, just as Paul did. It is a theology of language: that the Spirit gives life and expression: it joins biology and culture. There is Wisdom, the Word, the words on the page and the words we being alive express: words that make things real.

So a Unitarian use is that of a rapidly emergent spirituality: gathering, receiving and giving, of ethical talk and behaviour towards unity, and of multiculturalism where we understand one another in generosity. It is both a reflective and motivating humanism. These should be expressed within Unitarian congregations, and we are motivated to be empathetic about the world around us: that each of us is the keeper of the other.

Reflection on the Loss of Kate Taylor by Adrian Worsfold

The death of Kate Taylor of Wakefield Unitarians raises a similar issue that presented itself at the death of Sir Patrick Moore, the astronomer, in that all that knowledge, which was coherently expressible to the end, was suddenly silent. This is the theology of culture and biology intertwined: the Word, or words, are embodied. Kate Taylor embodied Unitarianism. Unitarianism is embodied in those who express it.

We, of all animals, are unique. We are not unique in mass organising, because the simplest animals mass organise, as shown by lots of computer units given simple instructions that then pattern organisation. We are not unique in communicating symbolically, or having tribal social structure, because many animals do this and some do it knowingly.

What makes us unique is the library. We have communication so precise that we can record it, and we do this about abstract thought as well as concrete happenings. We know, biologically, that we learn language and grammar faster and deeper than we are taught its detail.

But imagine if all we had were libraries (in other words, museums). Imagine we are gone and aliens landed. How much would they understand? Do even we understand our past? Looking at scripts rediscovered, do we really know the ancient Jewish and Gentile mindsets from our reading of Qumran, Early Christian and Nag Hammadi Gospels, say? What leap of imagination is needed to get back in time, when the past is another country?

We have enough difficulty understanding one another, but at least we can converse. The living are constantly negotiating presumptions and particulars of meaning. Culture and biology are in full flow.

Kate Taylor was herself an historian, but she expressed the present

The Role of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union (YUU)

By *Ralph Catts*

Bernard McHugh led us in worship on June 7 and invited us to reflect upon the 200 years since the formation of the YUU on June 8 1815, just two years after the Unitarian Relief Act was passed by Westminster. This was before we had the railway and at that time many people who lived in Hull would not have travelled further than they could walk - and yet Unitarians from Hull, Lydgate near Huddersfield, from York, Whitby, Sheffield, Leeds and Scarborough gathered to form a Union to support one another.

As a spiritual community we are dispersed and some congregations are small. There is a tendency among some to hunker down and say: "It is too far" or, "We have enough on our plate without travelling from one end of Yorkshire to the other." Furthermore we are so diverse in our approaches to Unitarianism and hence we will not all agree on either theological or social issues.

So, you may well ask, why bother with the YUU? My answer is that the YUU is what we make it, and for that to happen we need to *participate*. If any member or friend is willing to be a delegate to the YUU from Hull, please speak with me. Give it a go and then walk away if you decide it is not to your liking.

For the 200th anniversary, the YUU produced the book, *Roots and Wings*. It is a wonderful collection of thoughts and reflections from Unitarians across Yorkshire. It includes a creative piece from our Secretary Keith Brown. The church has ten copies and I wonder if others would like to join me in an evening sharing our favourite pieces.

Pastor's letter from Ralph Catts June to August 2015

I have been with you now for four months and through dialogue with members, friends and trustees I have framed my goals in ministry that are in keeping with the Vision Statement adopted by the church as a basis for my call.



My aim is to enable all members and friends of the church to be part of our sacred spiritual community, contributing to activities if they are so moved, and by sharing the joy and inspiration of our spiritual community. However, we also have to accept from time to time that people who have been associated with the church may choose to take their leave. One such person is Bryan Burgess who has been a member of this church on and off, for nearly thirty years. Over the years he has played a prominent but controversial role in church affairs. In view of his long association with the church, I advise that Mr Burgess has decided that he no longer wishes to renew his membership of the Church.

Looking ahead, I intend my ministry to be one of love and insight, innovation and creativity. I also intend to find ways to ensure that the renewal of our spiritual community will be sustainable and lead to growth in our influence in our city. I hope also to provide spiritual nurture and growth for those who take part in all the activities supported by your church.

I, among others, was very emotional. Met some great people.

A wonderful experience and a lovely service. The lads and lass looked so smart.



Wreaths were laid at the Hull Paragon Cenotaph after the service.

Shades

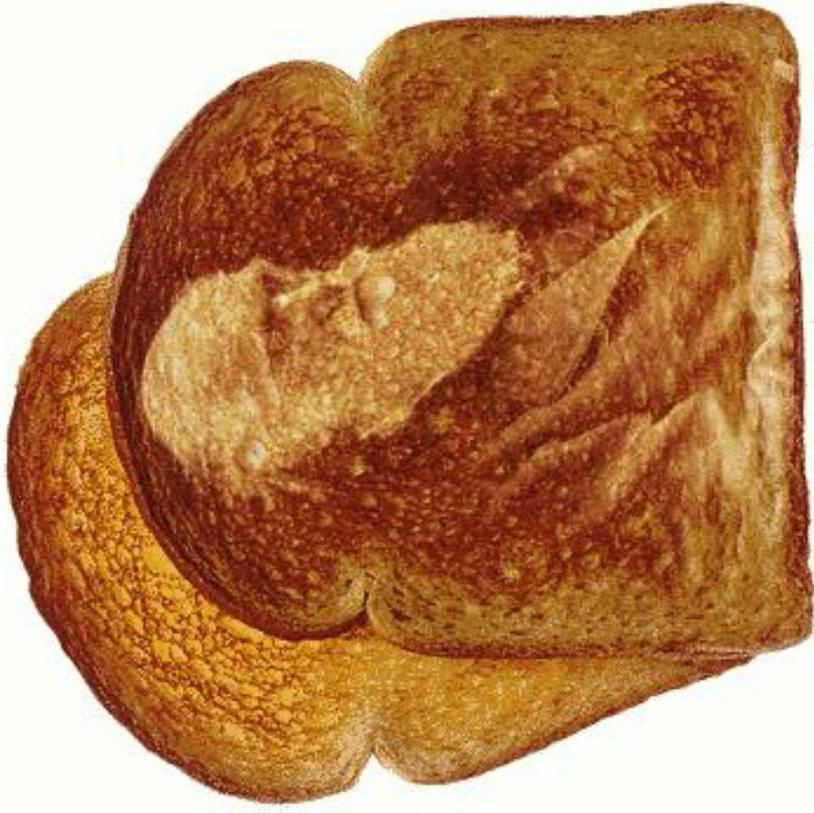
A Poem For ANZAC Day

Terry Ireland

One hundred years on and
Old enemies are now friends
So often the way of the world
After conflicts ends.
And that War To End All Wars
Just laid the foundations
For so many more.
From Suvla Bay to Basra,
To our modern days,
The world remains ruled by
Ever more aggressive ways.
Do the shades of the fallen
From a Valhalla somewhere
Look at the turning world
And sigh with despair.

Was their sacrifice wasted:
Were any lessons learned;
Did the people benefit
From any victory earned.
Do they draw the curtains
Shut out the view
Very little changes
Very little is new.
One hundred years further on
A very different where and when
May greet those restless shades
With curtains drawn back again:
A new world maybe emerged
With conflicts all long done,
That War To End All wars

It's a Miracle!



Fridays 10:30 - 12:00

Coffee Morning

ask for cheese

on toast

Friday Morning Charity Stalls

For a long time Hull Unitarians have raised money for charities including through charity stalls during the Friday Coffee Mornings. Members and friends attend and support our charities, offering companionship, an opportunity to pick up a bargain, a good cause.

Charities who join us for fund raising include the Hull Veterans' Support Centre, Dove House Hospice, MacMillan Nurses, Cancer Research UK, and St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Each is invited to bring along their own supporters.

Some of the members and friends of our church take a special interest in supporting each of these charities. Here is an invitation and an opportunity for you to play a role by proposing a charity to support and, if it is agreed by the trustees, becoming our liaison person once or up to four times a year. If you would like to be involved, please talk with Mavis Lake in the first instance.

One of our regular charities at coffee mornings has been St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. It is the only provider of eye care in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. Recent fund raising, including at Park Street, has been used to provide a mobile outreach clinic in the West Bank. Their Spring 2015 newsletter reports that this new clinic: *"is intrinsically important in the occupied territories as it enables us to reach remote Palestineans who would not have access to eye care."*

For photos of their outreach work please see:

<http://www.sjohnseyehospital.org/photolibary/photo-library/mobile-outreach#>