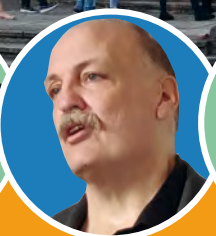




IMPULSE

Promoting Unitarianism in London and the South East

WINTER edition 2024



FUSE 2024 is launched!

Visit our website to see the full programme and to book:

www.LDPAunitarians.org/fuse2024



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COVER: We're back at The Friars for FUSE 2024



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The London and South East Unitarian District is a constituent part of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, whose stated purpose (Object) is: "To promote a free and inquiring religion through the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition."

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Beginning with a bang

Message from the District Minister Rev'd Jim Corrigan



Happy New Year to you all! It's going to be a busy year judging by the programme ahead. Really? What's going on? Well, here's a quick preview of events in the District (and they're covered in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter).

novelist Elizabeth and her husband William, who was a leading Unitarian minister. It's at **Harris Manchester College in Oxford** from 5.15pm, in the Chapel or livestreamed. And later in February, interfaith services for Unitarians in the District are being organised ... details still being finalised.

Innovation Challenge Scheme

Firstly, consultations with members and congregations are taking place on the denomination's new growth plan, the 'Innovation Challenge Scheme'. Ambitious in scope, it's already winning key support. But others feel the plan demands too much of weaker congregations. Whatever your views, let your voice be heard in the coming months, as the scheme is open to modification in the light of criticisms and suggestions.

Our District's AGM is at Croydon Unitarian Church on 16th March, with the President of our General Assembly leading the worship, followed by a key Executive Committee member making a presentation on the new growth plan. As always, there'll be good hospitality and good cheer at Croydon.

Early the following month, the **General Assembly's Annual Meetings** take place at Daventry in Northamptonshire, from 4 to 6 April, where we hope for a good District presence.

On Saturday 3rd February, Unitarians concerned about the climate crisis gather at Essex Unitarian Church in Kensington to hear informed speakers and to plan how best to contribute to the struggle to tackle climate change. Booking is required for this day-long event organised by **Unitarians for Climate Justice**.



On Monday 5th February there's a lecture about the prominent 19th-century Unitarians, the Gaskells: the

Then there's our annual Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE) in June with much to enjoy. Do book early to avoid disappointment!

Unitarian climate talks

'Faith in our Future' is the theme

Unitarians for Climate Justice (U4CJ) was formed early last year to connect Unitarians who want to get involved in the global struggle to tackle climate change, environmental degradation and the exploitation of indigenous people and the global poor.

Faith in our Future

We're holding a gathering for all Unitarians and friends who want to be part of this – perhaps the defining moral issue of our era – to meet, hear informed speakers, share our anxiety and hope and plan how we may join the growing number working for a better future for all earth's beings. It will be held on **Saturday 3rd February at Essex Church, Kensington, London.**



We are excited that Clare Farrell and Dr Tim Harrison (pictured above) have agreed to join us and speak about their approaches to environmental work. Clare is a fashion designer and environmental activist whose sense

of urgency about the climate crisis led to her to become an original organiser of Extinction Rebellion. She'll talk about how her devotion to defending life on earth and finding the limits to her own courage has changed her life. She'll also address how an exploration of faith and our relationships can help us confront the world's ecological crisis.

Tim's background is in ecology and ornithology. Currently a teacher in Suffolk, Tim is passionate about engaging young people in environmental issues and the natural world. He'll lead an interactive session on 'environmental eating', which has profound implications for tackling both the climate and extinction crises.

The day will include a session for 'creative expression' to help us tap into the creativity that can sustain and nurture our faith amid our struggles. We'll end with a Climate Vigil led by Unitarian Minister in training, Shana Begum.

Refreshments and a vegan lunch will be provided. The session is free but we would welcome a donation to help with expenses. Book a ticket via Eventbrite at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-in-our-future-tickets-760280779277 Let's make 2024 a year where UK Unitarians bring their unique voice of faith and hope to the struggle!

DR ROB OULTON

Lecture on the Gaskells

Oxford College explores its traditions

One of the most celebrated Unitarian couples of 19th century England, the Gaskells, are the focus of a major lecture at Harris Manchester College, Oxford, next month. Entitled 'William and Elizabeth Gaskell: The Unitarian Making of a Novelist', the talk will be given by Professor Dinah Birch on **Monday 5th February at 5.15pm in the College Chapel.** It will also be livestreamed.

Professor Birch is a specialist in Victorian literature and is Emeritus Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool. She has published extensively, including on Elizabeth Gaskell.



Elizabeth Gaskell was one of the leading English novelists of the 19th century; she had a strong social conscience as seen in works such as *Mary Barton* and *North and South*. She and husband William lived in Manchester, where he was a prominent Unitarian minister.

This event is the first of a new series, the Manchester lectures, exploring the College's history. It's part of an ambitious programme by the (relatively) new College Principal, Professor Jane Shaw, to honour the history and ethos of this institution which was founded and run by Unitarians for more than two centuries.

Jane Shaw has already revived the historic Upton Lectures, and later in January, Baroness Scotland will give the first Tayler Talk in London. These talks are named after Prof. Charles Upton, an Anglican, and J.J. Tayler, a Unitarian minister and abolitionist, both of whom taught at Manchester College.

Founded in Manchester by Unitarians in the 18th century, the College later moved to London and finally to Oxford, in the 19th century. It became a full Oxford college 30 years ago, after Unitarians were no longer able to maintain it. Unitarian ministry students still train at Harris Manchester College, as it's now called.

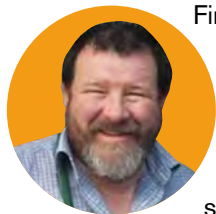
- Book for the lecture via the College website: www.hmc.ox.ac.uk/event/manchester-lecture
- Contact the College about the livestream.

REV'D JIM CORRIGALL

Spring Quarterly + AGM

Saturday 16th March 12.30pm

Two national leaders of our denomination will be making presentations at our District's Spring Quarterly and AGM at Croydon Unitarian Church on Saturday 16th March. So who are these two?



First, the President of the General Assembly Vince McCully is coming down from his Rivington congregation in the North West to lead the service of worship.



And then a leading member of the GA's Executive Committee, John Bates, will present its new growth plan for congregations known as the **Innovation Challenge Scheme** (see next page).

John, who has a distinguished background in business and academia, is the key motivator and architect of this new growth scheme. Our District Council has broadly welcomed what it describes as an 'exciting plan' but this is your chance to ask questions and have your say – love it or loathe it, come and give your views!

There'll be a streamlined AGM too, but with such a varied programme we were pleased to name this gathering a 'Spring Quarterly'. We're pleased to be returning to Croydon Unitarian Church which has always given us generous hospitality.

Timetable Arrivals with tea and sandwiches provided from 12.30pm. District AGM 1.15 to 1.35pm. Worship service led by GA President Vince McCully 1.45 to 2.30pm. GA Presentation by John Bates 2.35 to 3.45pm (to include Q + A). Tea with cakes + socialising to 4.15pm.

WHAT? London and South East District Quarterly and AGM.

WHEN? Saturday 16th March 12.30pm.

WHERE? Croydon Unitarian Church, 1 The Croydon Flyover, Croydon CR0 1ER. (Close to East Croydon mainline station. Limited parking at the church or use nearby NCP).

GA Annual Meetings

These are to be held this year at Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry, Northamptonshire, from 4-6th April. This hotel has excellent facilities. Apart from talks, worship, business meetings and socialising, the programme offers an exciting time for children and young people. Bookings now open.

Response to growth plan

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches has begun consultations on its ambitious new proposals for congregational growth, known as the **Innovation Challenge Scheme**.

The proposals were published on 5th December and our London and South East District (LDPA) has sent details to all congregations. The model of partnership described is full of promise. District Council discussed the proposals at a special meeting and subsequently sent a short initial response to the GA. Fuller consultations will be held in the District.

Our special Council meeting explored questions such as affordability, readiness of congregations to participate, and the District's capacity to support congregations in the process.

Key points from our discussion are:

- The Council believes the Innovation Challenge Scheme to be an exciting proposal that, with the right support structures and human and financial resources, has the potential to revitalise our Unitarian movement.
- The Council – through supporting partnerships of congregations and/or

as a District working with congregations – would like the LDPA to be an 'early adopter'.

- There will be real challenges in getting Innovation Challenge projects developed, even with the relative strengths and advantages of the LDPA's resources and encouragement, but they are worth embracing to reignite the Unitarian flame as an inspiring 'temple of ideas'.
- We should be realistic about the level of resources and energy that will need to be invested to make any project sustainable.

Here is a framework – backed with a promise of money – to ensure our Unitarian values of a free and inquiring religion, service of humanity and respect for all Creation, continue to feed our spirits well into the 21st Century. Let's boldly engage with what is being offered.

I pray that we embrace this Scheme, wisely, with heads and hearts.

REV'D MICHAEL ALLURED

Chair of the LDPA Council
For a copy of the GA proposals, email administrator@ldpaunitarians.org

*“If you plan for one year, plant grain;
if you plan for ten years, plant trees;
if you plan for centuries, plant souls.”*

Quote V. Emil Gudmundson *The Fields of Promise*



FESTIVAL OF UNITARIANS
IN THE SOUTH EAST



The Power of Story + Song

- Theme Speaker **Hanna Yaffe**
- Workshops for Body, Mind and Spirit
- Worship and Morning Devotions ▪ Meditation and Nature Walks

For programme, booking and further details visit:

www.ldpaunitarians.org/fuse2024



FUSE booking now open!

Bookings have opened for the District's annual Festival of Unitarians in the South East (FUSE), being held once again at The Friars monastery and retreat centre at Aylesford in Kent on the weekend of 14th to 16th June 2024. All are welcome once more at this stunning venue. For our full programme, booking and further details please visit: www.LDPAunitarians.org/fuse2024

What's on offer?

A rich mix of music and song, prayer and meditation, talks, workshops, socialising, nature walks and a children's programme, all at this historic friary.

What's the theme?

'The Power of Story + Song' with Hanna Yaffe from Jerusalem as the theme speaker. Hanna describes herself as 'an ardent peace-maker' who uses stories and music to foster healing and unity in her work with Jewish, Christian and Muslim musicians and story-tellers in Israel/Palestine and in the UK.

Anything different this year?

The new theme has inspired a range of workshops. There'll also be more emphasis on the body this time – with circle dancing, embodied meditation and 'nature bathing' all available. And leaders of the General Assembly and Unitarian College will be making separate presentations on their work – a first for FUSE.

Why should you book early?

Booking closes on 17th May, four weeks before the start of FUSE. This is to allow the centre time to let out any rooms we do not fill. Booking early may help you secure a room suitable for your needs, although this can't be guaranteed.

What capacity does The Friars have?

There are 68 bedrooms available, many suitable for sharing. Only a few bedrooms are on the ground floor, so let us know if you need one. Rooms are comfortable and the food is good, but the centre does not meet full hotel standards. There are hotels in Aylesford and nearby Maidstone if you'd prefer.

What are the costs (per person)?

Single occupancy full board	£295
Double occupancy full board	£245
Child (5-17 years old)	£50
Day Delegates:	
Friday pm (includes supper)	£35
Saturday (includes two meals)	£95
Sunday (includes one meal)	£60

Subsidies

We are heavily subsidising fees for children but there may be some assistance for families too. In addition there are a limited number of bursaries available for those aged under 35.

FUSE publicity - see Facebook posts at www.facebook.com/theldpaunitarians as well as the flyer included with this newsletter. Help spread the word!

FUSE 2024 Programme

Friday 14th June

1-5pm	Arrivals & Room Allocation	
5pm	Registration	
6pm	WELCOME Childrens' Welcome	Jim Corrigan Jim B. & Jenny C.
7pm	Supper	
8pm	Welcoming Service	Kate Dean & Hanna Yaffe



Jim B. & Jenny C.



Eleanor Chiari



CJ McGregor



Heather-Jane Ozanne



Richard Bober

Saturday 15th June

7.30am	Early Morning Prayer	Jennifer Sanders
7.30am	Meditation	Richard Bober
8.15-9.15am	Breakfast	
9.30-10.40am	THEME: The Power of Story + Song	Hanna Yaffe
10.45am	Tea/Coffee Break	
11.15-12.45pm	FIRST WORKSHOP SESSIONS	
	Everyday Rituals	Sue Sinnamon
	Graphic Visual Storytelling	Eleanor Chiari
	Creation Stories	CJ McGregor
1pm	Lunch	
2.15-3.45pm	SECOND WORKSHOP SESSIONS	
	Stories about Stories	Jacky Woodman
	Attending to our Life Stories	Heather-Jane Ozanne
	Embodied Meditation	Richard, Lizzie, Rob, Sheena
3.45pm	Tea	

Saturday 15th June (CONT'D)

4.15-5.45pm	THIRD WORKSHOP SESSIONS	
	Come Circle Dancing!	Michael Allured
	Nature Bathing	Sarah Tinker
	Share your Story-Songs	Stuart Coupe
6-7pm	Connecting to Nature	Jennifer Sanders
6pm	Presentation by the GA	
6pm	Presentation by Unitarian College	
7pm	Supper	
8pm	Meditative Service with Song	Sheena, Rob, Jenny C.
9pm	Time to socialise	



Jennifer Sanders



Stuart Coupe



Sheena Gabriel



Sue Sinnamon



Jacky Woodman

Sunday 16th June

8am	Early Morning Prayer	Jennifer S & Hanna Yaffe
8am	Meditation	Richard Bober
9am	Breakfast Check Out (before attending the Sunday workshop)	
10.15-11.15am	FOURTH WORKSHOP SESSIONS (shorter by 30mins)	
	Understanding Jewish Rituals & Traditions	Hanna Yaffe (Q&A)
	Nature Bathing	Sarah Tinker
11.15am	Tea/Coffee Break	
11.45-12.45pm	CLOSING SERVICE + Children's Farewell	Jim Corrigan + others Jim B. & Jenny C.
1pm	Lunch & Departures	

Please note the programme may be subject to change

Funding for Citizens UK

The London and South East District has committed funds to enable congregations in the District to join Citizens UK and to take part in its social justice campaigning. This involves congregations in London as well as those beyond the capital.

The decision was taken at a District Council meeting last November: £2,500 was committed for London Citizens membership to last until the end of June 2024. In addition to New Unity, which was already a member, the following congregations are now included in London Citizens and can take part in local and national activities: in North London (Rosslyn Hill and Golders Green), in West London (Kensington), in East London (Stratford) and in South London (Lewisham Unity). It is hoped that members of other London congregations might join in activities as Unitarians.

The District also voted to contribute half the joining fee to congregations outside the M25 who are interested in joining Citizens UK. Oxford is in the process of joining the organisation, and the District is paying half its £700 fee.

Training opportunities

There are training opportunities for members in community organising: a free training day, as well as three- and six-day courses at reduced rates.

Citizens UK groups in south east England are currently campaigning in areas such as climate change, homelessness and housing, support for the Living Wage and the welcoming of refugees.

The driving force behind this process for Unitarians has been Rev'd Julio Torres, minister at Lewisham Unity and member of the LDPA Council. He's offered to take on the administrative tasks to enable Unitarian congregations to engage. In particular, he is appealing for support at the London Mayoral Accountability Assembly on 25th April, when London Citizens will present its agenda for change to candidates for London mayor.

See page 20 for an update from Julio. Further details and any questions email: juliouu4equality@gmail.com

Citizens UK has defined its role thus:

Men's groups merge

When we met for the LDPA Quarterly last October, collaboration between congregations was a primary area of focus. The men's groups at Rosslyn Hill Chapel and New Unity took that idea to heart. In November, our two North London groups held their first joint meeting, and shortly afterwards decided to merge. In the coming months the combined men's gathering will select a new name and align their covenant statements, meeting formats and timings.

Through sharing organisational work, we intend that the merged group should serve more people and to greater effect. We even hope this might serve as a model for co-operation between congregations in the future.

But I hear a distant cry:

Why have men's groups? Well, my answer has been: 'Men often have trouble building meaningful connections with each other, and discussing any kind of relationship can be a challenge for a lot of men. Moreover, some male issues warrant discussion within a group that can ensure confidentiality. Finally, there are times when men may need to unpack male-dominant perspectives in a manner that, frankly, women shouldn't have the burden of sitting through.'

As far as topics go, we've talked about friendship, anger, and what we need from our congregation(s).

ADAM SLATE Ministry Assistant
www.rosslynhillchapel.org.uk/post/why-a-men-s-group



“We build power with people so that together we can move from the world as it is towards the world as it should be.”

Southend's holiday lifeline



How an Essex town became a Hucklow outpost

There are always surprises in being a Unitarian minister. A recent one for me was to discover that disadvantaged children from Southend-on-Sea in Essex are taken on holiday each year to the Unitarian Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow in the Derbyshire Peaks.

Then my questions came: *But I thought those Unitarian-sponsored holidays were only for inner-city kids from the North and Midlands? Not so, it seems! And anyway, we don't really have a Unitarian congregation in Southend anymore, so how is this possible?* Well, thanks to Christine Hayhurst of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund and some delightful youth workers from Southend, I've been able to piece together the story.

Twelve years ago, Southend youth worker Hayley Duff was looking for a central venue for her youth groups to meet. She came across the Unitarian meeting house and it seemed ideal. It was lovingly looked after by caretaker and committee member Gary Leggett and cleaner Synnove, she recalls. The youth groups have been meeting there ever since.

One day Gary gave Hayley a leaflet about holiday trips to Hucklow for children from disadvantaged backgrounds. *Just right*, thought Hayley, and for the past 10 years, the Southend Association of Voluntary Services has been arranging for local children from families who can't normally afford such holidays to go to Hucklow for four or five-day breaks.

PICTURED LEFT: Southend children high in the Derbyshire Peaks

PICTURED RIGHT: Hands-on learning

PICTURED BELOW RIGHT: Lady Lucy

Last year, 20 Southend children (aged 8 to 13), together with local youth leaders, made the 400-mile round trip. In a letter to the Unitarian charity, youth leader Aimee Bruin gave a detailed account of their holiday, including the care taken beforehand in preparing children (and their families) for the excursion. She writes of the joy children found on the walks and outings in the Derbyshire countryside, as well as in the food, accommodation and games at the Nightingale Centre. A very positive experience for all, she said.



and his daughter Sarah Benfield is Chair of Trustees. To donate to the Fund, go to: www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk

What's the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund?

It's our leading Unitarian charity, still going strong after 60 years. Last year it provided holidays for almost 400 children, in 20 groups, from urban centres in the North and Midlands (and also from Southend!).

The charity began with an idea of Rev'd Peter Godfrey, who'd been taking Unitarian youth groups to Hucklow. He realised the Nightingale Centre needed more visitors, particularly during the week. What about providing young people from difficult backgrounds with the chance to experience the beauty of the Derbyshire countryside? By raising money to pay for this, the charity was born.

It remains very active, sustained by donations from Unitarians around the UK. Peter Godfrey is now Life President,

Novel way to donate

One suggestion for giving comes from Rev'd Peter Hewis, Emeritus Minister to our Oxford congregation. He's offering a free copy of his new booklet for anyone who donates to the 'Send a Child' Fund.

His booklet *Lady Lucy of Little Blenheim – and other reflections on life* is a delightful collection of 15 tales and life lessons gleaned from more than 50 years in ministry. It caught the eye of celebrated children's author Michael Morpurgo, who wrote to Peter to say he'd read it from cover to cover with much enjoyment. If you'd like a copy and are prepared to donate, email: peter.hewis13@gmail.com



Photo: Elizabeth Fry

REV'D JIM CORRIGALL

Oxford's guest preachers

Oxford Unitarians are now using monthly themes to focus on specific spiritual values, and for the month of February we have chosen the theme Justice and Equity. We are privileged to be having two non-Unitarians address our congregation on this theme. Everyone is welcome to attend, either 'in person' in the beautiful Chapel at Harris Manchester College, or online via Zoom.

So who are our guests?

On 4th February, local member Holly Templer will co-lead the service with Keith Hebden, who is lead organiser for Oxford Citizens, the local branch of Citizens UK. Holly is a member of Oxford Unitarians' Social Justice Group and has been a passionate social justice

campaigner for 10 years. Before moving to Oxford in 2022, she was a member of New Unity in Stoke Newington, North London. There, through New Unity's membership of Citizens UK Holly helped win local community campaigns, including fixing damp in 100 council homes, organising training in mental health and first aid within 30 local businesses, and in securing homes for dozens of Syrian refugee families.

Holly explained her own journey:

"I used to find politics boring. I hated seeing decision makers promising what they think we want to hear and then not following through on their promises. Things changed for me when I attended a Citizens UK assembly."



PICTURED:
Holly Templer

“for the month of February we have chosen the theme Justice and Equity”

Citizens UK forging alliances

Citizens UK is a non-partisan charity that helps faith groups and community organisations work together for the common good. Keith Hebden is a former Church of England priest and author of books on faith and justice, including *Re-Enchanting the Activist: Spirituality and Social Change*. He has helped forge alliances in social justice campaigns in several areas: Gloucester, Mansfield, parts of Leicestershire and the Thames Valley. Keith lives with his family in Didcot, having moved to the area for his wife's work in climate research.

In their service, Holly and Keith will highlight how working together for justice and equity can strengthen our community and our faith.

Secularism as a model

Then on 18th February, Megan Manson (*pictured right*), head of campaigns for the National Secular Society, will co-lead the service with Oxford Unitarian member Sheila Bond. Megan previously worked for the Japanese government promoting cultural exchanges and language learning. She has long been active in local interfaith initiatives, and her own faith tradition is paganism. She will speak on how 'secularism', that is the separation of church and state, provides a model for how everyone in our diverse UK society can live together in harmony and equality.

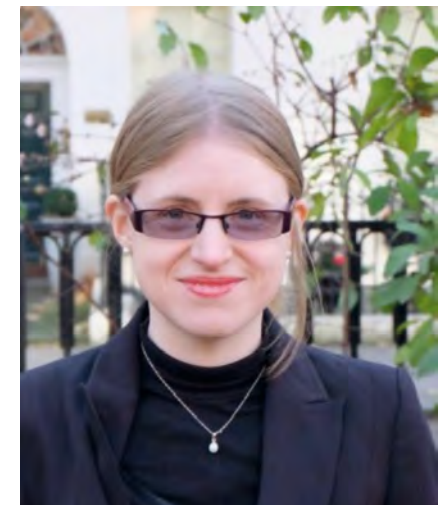
Our weekly 'hybrid' services are held every Sunday at 11am and all are welcome to attend either online or in person. All our services are livestreamed, and most are recorded, edited and posted on our website for later viewing.

The weekly Zoom link is: 825 9832 2448 (no password). To access video and audio recordings of services, visit our website: www.oxfordunitarians.org/past-services/

For more information, including about parking, email our Admin Team: OxfordUnitarians@gmail.com

DR JACQUELINE WOODMAN

Chair, Worship Group,
Oxford Unitarians.



Grants and Funds

Congregations within the LDPA might be eligible to apply for grants from a variety of funds and trusts. This listing is designed to give information about these trusts and funds, their terms of reference and their primary contacts.

London District

The LDPA administers funds from which it makes grants to congregations and Unitarian organisations in the LDPA area for various purposes in keeping with its goals. This may include assistance with ministry, social action, publicity or expansion work. Applications should be made to the District Minister, email: district.minister@ldpaunitarians.org

In all grant applications, full details should be submitted, including project costs, congregational budget for the current or coming year and sources of other funding, to enable the LDPA to make an informed decision. It should be noted that some funds will not give grants if work has already commenced.

The LDPA can very occasionally offer financial help with repairs to buildings, usually by loan. However it should be recognised that the LDPA has very limited capital resources for this type of work.

General Assembly

Grants are made towards Ministers' stipends by the General Assembly Sustentation Fund on the recommendation of the LDPA. Applications for annual stipend grants from both the LDPA and the Sustentation Fund are made on a

single form, obtainable from the District finance officer or District Minister, and should normally be received in September for the grant year beginning in October. Applications must be accompanied by the congregation's accounts and budget.

Other General Assembly Trusts and Funds might be available for assistance with stipends, buildings and/or special projects. Enquiries should be made to Unitarian Headquarters, Essex Hall, 1-6 Essex St, Strand, London WC2R 3HY www.unitarian.org.uk

The Hackney and Stamford Street Chapel Funds

Applications are invited from Unitarian congregations in London and the South East for the 2024 meetings of the New Gravel Pit Unitarian Chapel Fund, commonly known as the Hackney Trust, and the Stamford Street Chapel Fund, which will take place in late May 2024. The trustees may make grants to assist with the maintenance, repair and upkeep of LDPA churches and chapels, but not church halls or manses. The Stamford Street Chapel Fund is restricted to those congregations within the Greater London area. For some years the trustees of the two Funds have been working towards closer cooperation,

together with the trustees of the Highgate Hill Unitarian Church Fund.

For applications the trustees will require the following information: a detailed statement of the work to be undertaken; copies of any quotations or estimates received for the work; and a copy of the congregation's most recent annual accounts. Applications, preferably by email, should be sent by 30 April 2024 to the secretary: Howard Hague, The Saddlery, Lychgate Lane, Aston Flamville, Hinckley, Leics. LE10 3AQ. Tel 01455 233232 email: howardhague@btinternet.com

Highgate Trust

The Highgate Hill Unitarian Church Fund (1961) makes small grants towards stipends of ministers or lay leaders of LDPA congregations. They work closely with the Hackney Fund and Stamford Street Chapel Fund Trusts, who make grants toward maintenance of buildings. The Highgate trustees will be meeting in late May 2024. Applications by 23 April 2024 to Mrs Carol Chambers, email: carolmchambers17@gmail.com

General Baptist Assembly

The General Baptist Assembly Fund supports former General Baptist Churches. Grants from this fund are solely for stipend assistance for ministers of congregations of General Baptist foundations. The members of the Assembly usually

meet in early May. Applications to Rev'd Daniel Costley, email: unidan2010@gmail.com

Gregson Trust

The John Gregson Trust (1956) may make grants for maintenance of the fabric of places of worship of historical or architectural importance, but not halls or manses. The trustees usually meet in June and November. Applications to: theseecretary@thejohngregsontrust.org.uk

Wood Green Fund

This Fund is currently considering special grants for Unitarian growth, Unitarianism in North London, and Young Unitarians locally and nationally. The Trust meets annually in May. Applications to Isobel Mason, email: isobelmason07@gmail.com

BELOW Wood Green Fund has supported the children's programme at FUSE



LDPA Goals for 2024-29

These are the District Goals for the coming five years:

GOAL 1

To deepen the sense of 'Belonging Together' by building stronger links in the District, among congregations, and with nearby Districts – while continuing to promote diversity and inclusion.

GOAL 2

To support congregations financially so they can survive and flourish.

GOAL 3

To inspire effective online presences coupled with wide-ranging visibility and communication.

GOAL 4

To provide and promote training and inspiring events on themes which enrich spiritual enquiry.

GOAL 5

To continue to promote Ministry and leadership, while encouraging congregations to engage in social action and interfaith initiatives.

These goals were agreed by Council late last year.

REV'D JIM CORRIGALL

District Minister

Citizens UK update

Citizens UK will be leading a Mayoral Accountability Assembly on Thursday 25th April at 6pm (ending 8.30pm) at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster SW1H 9NH. We intend to hold the Mayor of London to account on issues affecting local communities. You can register here: <https://actionnetwork.org/events/london-citizens-2024-interest-in-tickets/>

Three areas will be covered: the Living Wage, Housing, and Migrants and Refugees. More details are on the Citizens UK website.

The assembly will provide an opportunity for dialogue between London Citizens and mayoral candidates. In partnership with Citizens UK in London, which has a membership of over 75,000, we ask for your support to build the power needed to make London a city of hope, justice and new possibilities. Please contact me if you want to find out more. Email: juliouu4equality@gmail.com

REV'D JULIO TORRES

Minister at Lewisham Unity and member of the LDPA Council

Funding for Citizens UK, see page 12

