



Shrewsbury Unitarian Church

Founded 1662

nurturing faith embracing life celebrating difference

APRIL 2024

Services are held every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Services:

Sunday 7 April

Gavin Lloyd

Sunday 14 April

Wendy Holton (Circle service)

Sunday 21 April

Dorothy Haughton

Sunday 28 April

Rev Sue Woolley

Refreshments:

Sonya

Ann

Dorothy

TBC

Congregation members are welcome to join our service via Zoom – please contact the Church Administrator for joining details by emailing shrewsburyunitarians@gmail.com. You can listen to Rev Sue Woolley's Sunday service on the Midland Unitarians website.

Events:

Coffee and Chat every Tuesday from 9.00 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

Shrewsbury Food Hub Table every Tuesday from 9.00

Quiet Prayer every Thursday 1.00 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. – come light a candle and sit in peace.

Sunday 7th April – Shared lunch

Saturday 13 April – Book Sale in aid of Red Cross Ukraine Appeal 12 noon to 2.00 p.m.

Thursday 18th April – Letting the Light in Concert 7.30 p.m.

Thursday 18 April – Poetry Group 10.30 a.m – theme 'Spring'

Further information:

www.facebook.com/ShrewsburyUnitarianChurch

<https://twitter.com/ShrewsUnitarian>

www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk

www.unitarian.org.uk

Shrewsbury Unitarian Church High Street Shrewsbury SY1 1LR

shrewsburyunitarians@gmail.com tel: 07487 531913

Registered Charity Number: 1140696

Any views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Shrewsbury Unitarian Church or the Unitarian Movement as a whole.

Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome – deadline for May Newsletter will be Wednesday 24 April.

FUNDRAISING FOR 'SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW'

"Send a Child to Hucklow" Fund is a charity to arrange and administer holidays at the Unitarian Holiday Centre, Great Hucklow, Derbyshire, for groups of disadvantaged children, having no regard to religious, political, racial and other considerations.

Thanks to the encouragement from Sonya Richards, a member of the Shrewsbury Unitarian Church and its inspiring Church Administrator, Fiona Checkley, I decided to raise some money for a charity that is close to my heart, Send a Child to Hucklow fund. I was hoping to raise at least £375 to send at least one child to Hucklow by Easter.

I started in January by asking the congregation to bring second hand clothes in, to sell, and we also had a "guess the weight of a cake "that Nigel made specially for the competition. We raised £130.

Next we decided on a Spring Fayre that was held on the 23rd of March. Many people from the congregation supplied us with articles for a Bric a Brac stall, cakes and preserves for another stall and bottles and chocolates for the Tombola stall. It was a roaring success. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to supplying things for the stalls and also a big thank you to the workers on the day, Albert especially, Sue Lewis, Sue Davies, Jill Ashurst, Ruth Taylor, Sonya Richards, Bronwen Taylor, Fiona Checkley, Marlies Cope and Christine Birtles. We raised £656.14 on the day!!

I mentioned that SACH is close to my heart because I remember when I was in the Unitarian Young People's League, I saw first-hand what a difference it makes to some of these deprived inner-city kids. My brother Ian, a Unitarian minister, used to help out at these special weeks. Some children had never even seen a cow and the comments they made stating that they were getting "three meals a day" made you think.

Finally as a U.Y.P.Ler at based at my church in Chorlton Manchester, I was involved from the inception of the Chorlton UYPL Football Club in 1969 which I was involved for over 25 years. When I moved to Whitchurch Shropshire 24 years ago I joined the local football team Whitchurch Alport FC as a coach then as the Chairman and now their Vice President - a club of over 16 teams. This led on to joining a sub-committee that raised money for local charities called The Commander Ethelston Cup Competition which is over 120 years old. Having finished our recent competition, I asked the committee if they would donate an amount towards my Charity, thankfully they were very generous and donated £330.

This raised the total of all the events to a staggering £1116.14, which can now send three children to Great Hucklow.

Thanks once again to all who contributed to a great cause.

Kim Marchbank-Smith
Member of Shrewsbury Church

Shared lunch to mark Fiona's retirement

Sunday 7th April
after the service

Please join us and bring
some food to share

Please let us know if you are
able to attend



Teddies for Hucklow!



A few years ago Hucklow Old Chapel (Unitarian) started collecting teddies and decided to donate them to the Send A Child To Hucklow Fund, our own Unitarian children's charity. They live in the chapel until a group of disadvantaged children (not the regular school children) are visiting.

At this point Ann, the housekeeper at The Nightingale Centre, takes time to choose an appropriate teddy for each child to take home.

And, yes, this includes the boys.

With 400 children visiting this year alone we need to keep up a steady supply. So I invite all of you to see if you can knit, sew or buy a small teddy to donate. I can assure you these teddies are much loved by the recipient.

Best wishes, Sue Catts

Thank you for the bears we have already collected! Please bring any more into church before 21st April please and Debra will collect them. Thank you!

SPRING TRAINING DAY

AI and Us

Workshop Leader: Rev Andi Phillips

When: Saturday 18th May 2024

Where: Unitarian New Meeting, Ryland St, Birmingham B16 8BL

Times: 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Tea & coffee provided.

Please let me know if you are planning to attend... contact details below

If you have any contributions for the next *Bits & Pieces*, please send them to me at 5, Martins Road, Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DN or via e-mail to revsuewoolley@gmail.com Thanks!



Letting the Light Concert : Audrey Carmes + Roberto Biffarini 18 April at 7.30pm

Doors open 6.45pm

Audrey Carmes is a composer and artist based in Paris, France. Having graduated from the Paris School of Fine Art, she found herself drawn towards the city's experimental electronic music, developing a sound practice that she combined with her poetry and writing.

On her spellbinding debut album *Quelque chose s'est dissipé*, Carmes creates spacious worlds that shimmer with subtle intricacy. Inspired by ambient, krautrock and avant-garde electronic music, the French artist draws on a range of sonic elements to create her own distinct blend of sound design and composition. Songs build through evolving layers of synthesizer, easing the album seamlessly through its eleven tracks, surrounding Carmes' delicate vocals and spoken word segments with bass guitar, vibraphone and flute.

Audrey will be supported by our dear friend and collaborator Roberto Biffarini who will share a blended electronic soundscape that will take us on a deep and meditative journey. Roberto is inspired by Jon Hassell, Kawabato Makoto, Thomas Koner and Giya Kancheli.

Buy tickets at: <https://www.skiddle.com/whats-on/Shrewsbury/Shrewsbury-Unitarian-Church-/Audrey-Carmes--Roberto-Biffarini/37269921/>



Many thanks to everyone who has brought items in for the Food Bank. These are the items they are currently asking for in particular: tinned meat (ham / corned beef), tinned main meals, jam/spread, UHT milk, rice pudding, pasta sauce.

Gift Aid

If you have not filled in a Gift Aid form and are able to gift aid donations, please could you fill in a form and return it to Jenni. There are forms on the noticeboard at the back of the Church.

Thank you

AGM

The Church AGM will be held on Sunday 7th July after the service. Nomination forms have been emailed and are available in the Church.

Loopfest



“Championing Shropshire’s musical talent and shining a spotlight on our vibrant music scene, we foster a nurturing environment that supports artistic growth through events and other community engagement initiatives.”

Shrewsbury Unitarian Church will be hosting events on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th May

(See below)

<https://loopfest.co.uk/shrewsbury-unitarian-church/>

Please could you let Jenni know if you are able attend and steward during the weekend.

Thank you

SHREWSBURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

37-38 High St, Shrewsbury
SY1 1LR

SATURDAY 4TH MAY

SI ALTON 15:00
Si has been on the Shropshire scene for some years now and never fails to disappoint. If you love a bit of an indie-based singalong, mixed with some stunningly crafted originals, then you've come to the right chap.

ESME JOHNSON 16:20
Like a summer's day and your favourite cocktail coming together in the form of a glorious indie-pop sound.

AARON W EVANS 17:40
Acoustic troubadour and then some. Aaron is a singular talent who has wowed countless venues within Shropshire and the Midlands. One of the finest voices the county has to offer.

ROWAN LAWSON 19:00
Rowan writes gorgeous songs that combine blues, country, murder ballads and folk. He has been one of our favourite performers for some time and the scary thing is he keeps getting better and better.

SUNDAY 5TH MAY

JENNY LA FEMME GUITARE 13:20
Folky songstress who brings together a wealth of worldly knowledge, delivered with an empathetic hymn.

QUANTUM PENGUIN 14:40
Not many artists know how to play the bouzouki, tbh not many musicians know what one is. However, QP does, and he employs it with his expert guitar and violin tones to create a truly original folk sound.

ELLIE GALVIN 16:00
Ellie has been writing her own material for herself, and others for the past decade. Live she can enrapture a crowd with her own soothing but raw originals as well as performing a cover with her own alt folky stylings. A gem of an artist.

TAMMY WILDE 17:20
Manchester has a habit of producing ace singer-songwriters doesn't it? Tammy is one of those, with an eye for poetic lyrics and an ear for sun-drenched melodies. A hypnotic performer.

THE GODDESS OF SOUND 18:40
Shrewsbury-based singer who is one of those rare gems, who feel like they're singing specifically to you when they're playing. Intimate, soulful, joyful and always unapologetically her true self, an enthralling artist.





Summer Trip



We are considering a summer trip this year – please speak to Kim if you have any thoughts on where you would like to go.