



Shrewsbury Unitarian Church

Founded 1662

nurturing faith embracing life celebrating difference

OCTOBER 2025

Services are held every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Services:

Sunday 5 th October	Rev Sue Woolley
Sunday 12 th October	David Wood
Sunday 19 th October	Debra Burbery
Sunday 26 th October	Sian Murray

Refreshments:

TBC
Jen and Bryan
TBC
TBC

Follow Rev Sue Woolley's services here:

<https://www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk/news-and-events/mua-news/>



Events:

Coffee and Chat every Tuesday from 9am to 1pm and Thursday from 10.30am – 12.30pm

Shrewsbury Food Hub every Tuesday from 9am

Saturday 4th October – Book sale (12-2pm)

Thursday 16th October – Poetry Group – 10.30am – 12.30pm

Thursday 16th October – Reminiscence Group – 2-3pm

Further information:

www.shrewsburyunitarians.org.uk

Facebook Instagram Bluesky

www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk

www.unitarian.org.uk

Shrewsbury Unitarian Church, High Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1LR

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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 and News from the Pews are always welcome



Key Messages from Trustees Meeting 14th September 2025

- We reviewed in detail Rites of Passage charges and hire fees for church and schoolroom and set new rates.
- We looked at how we might fund work on the building to address the damp (in schoolroom) and agreed that in order to access grants and get the work done we may have to fund up to 50% of the estimated cost from our savings accounts. Jenni and Ann are working on various grant applications.
- * We agreed to progress the development plan prepared by Unitarian Transformers and funded by the GA Innovation Fund. The focus of this is to develop our community support within and outside the current congregation and to pilot an additional and alternative worship offer during the week. The next step is for Mark Hutchinson from Unitarian Transformers to visit us in October to talk with the congregation about this.
- The date of our Carol service was set as Sunday 14th December.
- Full minutes of the meeting are available on the notice board at the back of the church.

** Rev Mark Hutchinson will be attending on Sunday 19th October to talk about this project after the service, and also on Tuesday 21st October during the coffee morning.*



Service on Sunday 28th September

Don't forget that Sunday's service will be held at Bicton Village Hall due to a marathon and road closures in Shrewsbury.

[Bicton Village Hall - Google Maps](#)

We will be collecting items for the Shrewsbury Food Bank.
Please bring along any food or drinks that will keep well – eg tea, coffee, sugar, hot chocolate, biscuits (sweet or savoury), jams, tins. They would also like soap.

Thank you!

Candles of Joy and Concern will be on Sunday 5th October (not 28th September)



Reminiscence Group

The theme of October's meeting will be:
How did you spend your holidays as a child?



Fairtrade Fortnight

We have a Fairtrade stall in church now for Fairtrade Fortnight.



Pride

Saturday 27th September

There will be stalls in the Church and the upstairs room will be used as a green room for the events in the Square as in previous years.

Please come along and help steward if you can – 8.30am – 6pm.

Thank you!

STANDING STRONG IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY.

SHREWSBURY PRIDE 2025. COME AS YOU ARE, AND THRIVE.

A celebration of love, inclusivity and diversity,
throughout Shrewsbury Town Centre.

LOOK OUT FOR:

- Pride Parade
- Spoken Word
- Drag Performances
- Music and Dance
- Rainbow Storytime
- Live bands
- Arts and crafts workshops

For more info, visit our Shrewsbury Pride
Facebook page, or follow us on Instagram.

#ShrewsburyPride
#LetShrewsburyFlourish

FRIDAY TO SUNDAY.
26TH – 28TH SEPTEMBER 2025.





Sian Murray is doing a 5k run next month to raise money for SANDS.

If you would like to support her, please follow the link below.

<https://fundraising.sands.org.uk/fundraisers/sianmurray>



Autumn Workshop Imagining the Future of Unitarianism in the Midlands

Invitation: Three Horizons Workshop - Imagining the Future of Unitarianism in the Midlands

Join us for a creative and structured online workshop using the Three Horizons framework – a powerful and accessible way to explore the future of Unitarian congregational life in the Midlands.

Saturday 27 September, 11.00am - 3.00pm

Held online, Zoom - [Register here](#)

Together, we'll reflect on:

✗ What's no longer working in our 'business-as-usual' approaches to Unitarian life

- ✓ What a thriving, future Unitarianism might look and feel like
➤ What exciting ideas and innovations are already emerging to help us get there

This participatory session will help spark new thinking, share inspiration across congregations, and feed into wider efforts to renew and reimagine our communities.

All are welcome – members, ministers, lay leaders, trustees and newcomers with energy for the future.

Hosted by Nick Butler-Watts, General Assembly's Innovation Fund Programme Manager. Nick will also provide a brief presentation on the Innovation Fund and answer your questions. We hope that this workshop may spark ideas for applying to the fund!



NUBI (New Unitarian Beginnings, In-Gathering)

NUBI (New Unitarian Beginnings, In-Gathering) meet monthly on alternate Friday and Saturday mornings at 10.30am. Next meeting Friday 10th October, 10:30am,

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88181445773>

All will be warmly welcomed in this informal gathering - no pressure, you can stay or go as you need, camera on or off, it's fine to ask loads of questions or just stay quiet, all up to you.



Fairtrade Coffee morning

It is my pleasure to invite you once again, to a
"Brew it Fair" Fairtrade Coffee Morning,
10.30am - 12.00noon on Saturday, 4th October,
at the St Nicholas Hall, Shrewsbury United Reformed Church.

We shall have a Fairtrade stall, with the chance to buy Christmas cards,
and as ever, we shall be serving Fairtrade teas and coffees, and homemade cakes with
Fairtrade ingredients!

The main focus will be on tea
- and the results of our year's trading, 1st October 2024 - 30th September 2025.



Concert on Saturday 11th October

The evening concert is in the Unitarian Church.

COMING to SHREWSBURY...for *one day only* ...

MOIRA SMILEY from USA

SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER

TICKET PRICES: Sing Workshop £30/ Concert £22/ Both £45

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

Moira Smiley

world-renowned singer / song leader

SINGING WORKSHOP 1 - 5pm

CONCERT w/string quartet + YOU! 7- 830pm

*Moira brings joyous, multi-layered singing to Shrewsbury!
Unusual folk songs, vocal freedom, movement & creativity...*

Mereside Park +
Shrewsbury Unitarian Church

TICKETS HERE NOW



SCAN FOR INFO



Moira is a Grammy-nominated singer, composer, and song-collector and has performed, recorded and collaborated with the likes of Laurie Anderson, Tune-Yards, Sam Lee, Sam Amidon, Eric Whitacre, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Chris Thile, Fretwork Consort of Viols, The National Symphony, Solas, and The Lyrus String Quartet. Moira's original compositions, choral arrangements, and folk music are sung by millions of voices around the world today. Folded into her busy commission and performing schedule are guest artist residencies at countless universities and music organizations across the planet.



Mid Wales Unitarians

In addition to the monthly gatherings, there are going to be more meetings – see below.

4th October: House Group lunch

Not everyone interested in our group can attend our Sacred Steps activity, so we're going to try out hosting a range of other activities. The first will be a House Group to be held in Carno. We'll start with a shared lunch, have a short period of meditative worship, and have plenty of time to discuss ideas for what we would like to do. If you would like to attend, please email Mel Prideaux. drmelpx@gmail.com

Mel is sending our regular news emails – send her an email if you would like to receive these.



SACRED STEPS: CERDDED CYSEGREDIG

“Dod yn ôl at fy nghoed”

*Join us on short pilgrimages in which we
“return to our trees” to find life balance.*

- 10TH AUG - ANNE GRIFFITHS WALK *
- 21ST SEPT - AUTUMN EQUINOX CELEBRATION **
- 26TH OCT - LLANGADFAN'S CHAPEL & WELL *
- 23RD NOV - SHELTER & STORM **
- 21ST DEC - WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION *

*For more information and to register your interest, please go to
our  page or contact: mel prideaux @ drmelpx@gmail.com*

*Please note: Everyone is responsible in assessing their own level
of fitness to participate.*

MID WALES UNITARIANS IS A NEW FELLOWSHIP GROUP BASED
NEAR MONTGOMERY, POWYS, WALES. UNITARIANS ARE
GUIDED BY REASON, FREEDOM OF BELIEF AND THE INHERENT
WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON. WE HAVE NO
CREED OR DOGMA. ALL FAITHS, AND NONE, ARE WELCOME.



NB: * Walk led by Jenifer Brenner; ** Walk led by Mel Prideaux.



Shropshire Humanists

Thursday 16th October

Unitarian Church

Arrive 6.30pm for 7:00pm start

A.G.M.

followed by discussion of future of Shropshire Humanists

Voting is restricted to subscribing members of Shropshire Humanists, though all are welcome.

[Programme – Shropshire Humanists](#)



Honest Faith Group

The next Honest Faith meeting will take place on Sunday 5th October at 6.30pm in the Lecture Room, Shrewsbury United Reformed Church (by the English Bridge).

We'll explore 'Direct cremation and new funerary movements' by viewing a webinar (first streamed live 21st May 2025) from the Mission Theology & Apologetics Group (MTAG) in which Dr Anne Richards, National Public Policy Adviser for the Church of England explores with The Revd Dr Peter Colwell, Deputy General Secretary, CTBI (Churches Together in Britain and Ireland), how changing societal practices around death and funerals are affecting grief, mourning, and pastoral care. It reflects on the significance of the body in Christian theology and considers how the Church can respond with compassion and insight to evolving attitudes towards death and bereavement.



MUA

If you have any contributions for the next ***Bits & Pieces***, please also send them to Rev Sue Woolley.

Please send contributions to Rev Sue Woolley: revsuewoolley@gmail.com

Thank you

