



Cardiff
Unitarians
Undodiaid
Caerdydd

NOVEMBER 2023

Newsletter



Welcome

A very warm welcome to the November issue of the Cardiff Unitarians Undodiaid Caerdydd newsletter. In many ways, November is a time of remembering...not just (as the rhyme goes) the 'gunpowder, treason and plot' that occurred on the 5th, but for those who have passed before us, both on Remembrance Sunday, as well as 'All Souls Day', celebrated on the 2nd by certain Christian denominations.

This year, not only does the 12th mark the start of annual 'Interfaith Week', but also the celebration of Diwali; the 'festival of lights', celebrated in Hinduism, Jainism, and Sikhism.

What will you do this November to bring a little light into the darkness?

CU News

CU Representatives Attend Leadership Talk

Representatives of four of the South East Wales District congregations met on Saturday 21st October to discuss their current situation in terms of leadership. This meeting, organized by the District Executive Committee in gave an opportunity to speak of difficulties, their individual situation and of intentions for the future. (Two congregations were unable to send a representative and one congregation opted out of the discussion as they have their own Minister) There were two representatives from Cardiff Unitarians.

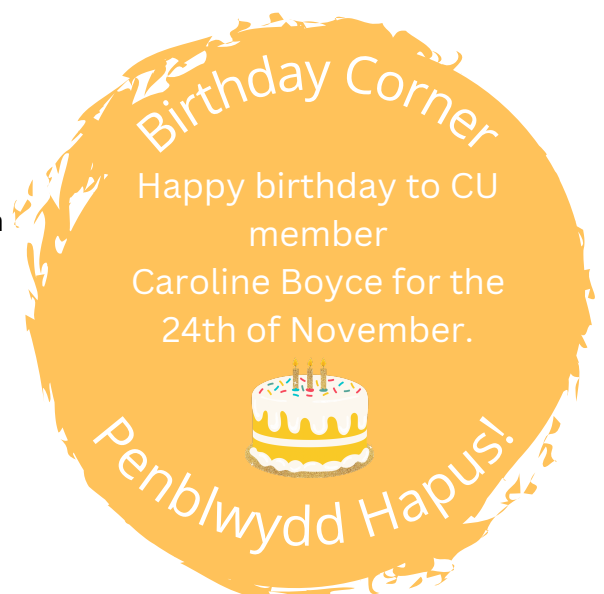
Discussion took place on whether any kind of district Leadership could be possible or desirable. Many issues were raised from overwork by some, building problems, lack of technical expertise,

Newsletter Highlights

CU NEWS:
LEADERSHIP TALK
OCTOBER'S SERVICES
INTERFAITH CHOIR

UPCOMING
SERVICES/MEETINGS

OTHER DATES FOR
YOUR DIARY



marketing Unitarianism locally, communication, financial restraints and the need to recognize today's society problems and not rely on volunteers to solve every problem.

There were some positive suggestions and it was clear that while some congregations are in a dilemma as to recognize how they might move forward, one congregation has bitten the bullet and embraced many of the challenges it faces. All of our congregations are vulnerable in terms of numbers.

Congregations were invited to discuss and decide to go forward or not with a proposal to employ a District Administer/Enabler to assist with various issues and that a brief statement to this effect is sent to the District Secretary by 6th November so that the Executive Committee can assess the opinions of congregations. (Notes of points raised and taken at a very long meeting will be sent to Churches/chapels and further information will be communicated from the District Executive Secretary)

Lis Dyson Jones
(District Secretary and Cardiff representative)



Two in One!

Last month we enjoyed not one, but two services, with our hybrid service on the 1st reflecting on our spiritual identity, and what 'worship' means to us.

As Unitarians, our beliefs can be diverse (as our questionnaire earlier this year discovered!); yet, as Sue Wooley states in her book *'Unitarians: Together in Diversity'*: "To be Unitarian is to have an open heart and an open mind" (Wooley, S., 2018).

When we come together in services, we create a space to not only consider our *own* beliefs, and worship these in the company of others, but to hold space for others also, in which their beliefs are welcomed.

Sometimes being part of a community with such diverse beliefs can be challenging, and just as actual families experience 'ups and downs', so too do spiritual families! On the 15th of October we met online to consider the topic of "getting through difficult times". From readings to biodanza, the service was as diverse as ourselves!

Thank you to Natalie Davies and Sarah Boyce for planning and leading the October services.



Reference: Wooley, S. (2018) *Unitarians: Together in Diversity*. London, Lindsey Press



CU Member's Dedication Pays Off!

In the September issue of the CU newsletter we shared that Natalie Davies would be facilitating an interfaith choir. This was in preparation for a concert marking 20+ years of the Interfaith Council of Wales. After much hard work, the choir will perform three pieces at the celebration, which takes place mid annual Interfaith Week. Please see the 'Dates for Your Diary' section for details.

You can find out more about Interfaith Week at the following link:

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/>



Upcoming Services/Meetings

5th November, 3:30 PM: Visiting Service

This month we'll be 'visiting' Aberdare Unitarians. If you would like to join online, please arrive by 11am using the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87409672149?pwd=R2RBa09HVUNFS2lBTfJxQ2dFWjR3UT09> Meeting ID: 874 0967 2149 Passcode: 538393

19th November, 3:30 PM: Hybrid Service (followed by congregational meeting)

You're very welcome to join us in person at the Friends Meeting House, or online using the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329899644> Meeting ID: 329 899 644

This month's service will be led by Julie Nedin.

Other Dates for your Diary

Saturday 11th November, 11-12 (and every 2nd Saturday of each month)

Silent vigil for climate justice.

Please meet outside of Barclays Bank on Working Street (Cardiff Central) opposite St John's Gardens.

Wednesday 15th November, 2pm

Interfaith Earth Vigil

Please meet outside of the Senedd building, Pierhead Street, Cardiff Bay.

Thursday 16th November, 7pm

UNA Cardiff & District: Why Does Israel's Impunity Extend to Nuclear Weapons?

Please join online using the following details:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89391522577?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89391522577?pwd=aDN6YjQrWUhlL1AxYlZoTDdRYVRRQT09)

[pwd=aDN6YjQrWUhlL1AxYlZoTDdRYVRRQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89391522577?pwd=aDN6YjQrWUhlL1AxYlZoTDdRYVRRQT09)

Meeting ID: 893 9152 2577 Passcode: 066336

Thursday 16th November, 6:30-8:30pm

20+ Years Interfaith Council of Wales Celebration

Please note tickets are sold out but may be made available in the event of cancellations. Please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/celebration-of-20-years-of-the-interfaith-council-of-wales-tickets-729772448037>

Share these events to support our spiritual community!

