



Shrewsbury Unitarian Church

Founded 1662

nurturing faith embracing life celebrating difference

JULY 2024

Services are held every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Services:

Sunday 7 July Debra Burbery

Sunday 14 July Sue Lewis
Flower Communion Circle Service

Sunday 21 July Rev Sue Woolley

Sunday 28 July Sian Murray

Refreshments:

Sonya

Alison

Debra

Dorothy

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 9.00am to 2.30pm

Shrewsbury Food Hub Table every Tuesday from 9.00am

Saturday 6th July – Book Sale and Coffee Morning - 12noon to 2pm

Tuesday 9th July 7pm - Hmm Squad <https://www.facebook.com/groups/hmmsquad/>

Thursday 18th July – Poetry Group 10.30am – Theme 'Beauty'

The Church will be closed on Thursday 27th June as we will be out on the summer trip.

Further information:

www.shrewsburyunitarians.org.uk

Facebook X (Twitter) Instagram

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 are always welcome – deadline for July Newsletter will be 19th July.

The **AGM** will be held on Sunday 7th July after the service and this will be followed by a **Congregation meeting.**

Congregation meeting – what's that all about then?

It's all about making the most of our Unitarian fellowship / community – not just the building but also the talents/skills and interests of our congregation. The AGM stuff looks back at what the figures in black and white/or paper, tell us what's happened in the last (financial) year, but the congregation meeting is all about what is or could be happening in the year ahead with **your help.**

So what will happen? There'll be a very 'loose' agenda with information about what we trustees hope will be happening in and around the church in the future months, but it will give you the opportunity to discuss what you'd like to see happening too!

In the meantime there's something I'd like you all to have a think about and it could come under the heading -

'It's not just what the church community can do for you but what can you do for our fellowship/community?'

Do you have any interests or skills you could share? Maybe you can't commit to doing anything every week, but you could help steward an evening concert or event? (and listen to it for free!). Perhaps you could help with providing flowers from your garden when they're in season? If you enjoy reading, why not write a brief review of a book you love for our newsletter? (You don't need to type it out – we can do that). Maybe you have IT skills or like to browse the internet – could you keep an eye on our website and check that it's up to date now and again? Do you know of an organisation/group that might like to use our social space/upstairs room/building and you could 'pass the word' about our availability to them?

I know that in these times of economic restraint and hardship for many of us, just asking you for more money in the offertory, is not an option but maybe you can serve our Unitarian fellowship/community in other ways – with a little of your time or skills or interests.

I look forward to hearing what you can offer.

Debra Burbery. Chairperson of the trustees.

BOOK SALE AND REFRESHMENTS



**SATURDAY
6TH JULY
12 NOON
TO 2.00 P.M.**

**SHREWSBURY UNITARIAN
CHURCH, HIGH STREET**

**IN AID OF THE BRITISH RED
CROSS EMERGENCIES FUND**



More information about the British Red Cross Emergencies Fund:

<https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/emergencies-fund>

Summer Craft Fayre

Saturday 20th July

10.30am - 3.30pm

Shrewsbury Unitarian Church, High Street

Featuring local artisan craft workers specialising in

Crocheting	Painting
Embroidery	Jewellery
Pottery	and others

Plus refreshments, preserves and cakes

ADMISSION FREE





Faith in our Future II

Join an enriching, informative gathering of climate-conscious Unitarians for discussion, workshops, and connection

Saturday 14th September - 11am - 4pm

Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester, M2 1NL

The Keynote talk will be given by Professor Geoff Levermore

Please follow this link for more information and to book: <https://tinyurl.com/faithfutureII>

A SUSTAINABILITY AUDIT PROPOSAL FOR MIDLANDS UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION CONGREGATIONS

UNITARIAN TRANSFORMERS MARCH 2024

Unitarian Transformers (UT) is a grassroots organisation that started almost three years ago, funded initially, by the Wood Green Trust. The focus of UT is building community, transforming lives through online presence, education, and collaboration under the leadership of Rev Mark Hutchinson. UT has worked to develop a weekly online ministry which is now part of what is becoming a more unified national presence online. Within an educational collaboration UT are providing children lessons and activities that will be available online. A substantial part of Unitarian Transformers' work has advanced several project opportunities with Unitarian congregations, developed through an initial sustainability audit.

MUA

The MUA has commissioned Unitarian Transformers to offer a sustainability audit to congregations within the MUA fellowship. The MUA objective has always involved offering training, support, advice, where appropriate – funding, and foster links with its fellow congregations. Conscious that the effects of the Covid pandemic have left our congregations in precarious ways, the MUA 2024 remit is to acquire a clearer picture of the needs and wants of the congregations in its area. In this way responding to the needs of those member congregations in a more strategic way. To achieve this objective, the MUA has contracted Unitarian Transformers to undertake a specific audit review.

Congregations are offered the chance to take up this opportunity, at no cost, up until July 2024.

The Audit:

The audit aims to assess the current position of each congregation around aspects of resources and programs. It aims to also review congregations' hopes for the future and aid them in drawing out areas of possibilities, mapping future needs.

The aim of the Sustainability Audit is to aid congregations in their decision-making process. It will also facilitate the work of the MUA to meet their objectives of offering support, advice, funding and training, where appropriate, for all the congregations of the MUA. This audit will enable each individual congregation to assess their needs going forward. But it will also allow for an accumulation of congregational information. This can then help the MUA meet their objectives of assessing the support and aid requirements. It can also help towards assessing any potential collaborative ministry that can assist the development of Unitarianism in the Midlands.

Reasons to work with the UT MUA project.

- 1 No charge to the congregation. The cost of each audit is around £1500+ (*met by the MUA*)
- 2 The UT team brings a background in looking to assist a range of different congregations.
- 3 UT successfully applied for the grant with the Wood Green Trust and can help both the MUA and individual congregations prepare the ground, look for financial support, especially the new GA fund that is likely to become available before the end of 2024.
- 4 Doing nothing is no longer a viable option if we wish to prevent further closures of our churches and Unitarianism in the Midlands is to survive into the future.
- 5 A great chance to share the burdens and opportunities all congregations have, and to develop a way of working together and minimize duplicated processes.

What does the Audit Involve?

The audit requires your time. The Unitarian Transformer team will visit you over a period of 5-9 days, ask questions, leave and do with you questionnaires, research your demographics, assess your resources regarding finances, people, skills, and time. Unitarian Transformers have done this before and have been able to suggest to congregations ways to maximise their resources and re-engage in their community. The audit looks at areas of worship, pastoral care, rites of passage, building accessibility, governance and policies, programs, administration needs, rental and events, finance, membership, social action, outreach and children. This list is not exhaustive.

What is not involved in this Audit?

- a study to assess whether your building is suitable.
- a study to see about extension building works.
- architectural services, property advice or surveys (drawing up plans for alterations/ extensions)
- aiding with building regulations consent
- project managing building works audit.
- asbestos audit
- access audit surveys (regarding disability accessibility)
- condition surveys (to inspect the building for deterioration- although this is recommended that you do every 5 years)
- structural survey

- Quinquennial inspection reports

After this work:

The MUA will have information to develop strategic planning to aid congregations better.

Each congregation will have a document to assist decision making.

Each congregation may also contact the Unitarian Transformers for more specific studies that are outside of this audit's remit, at the cost and discretion of the congregation.

If you are interested, please contact your District Minister, Rev Sue Woolley, before the end of June 2024 to record your expression of interest. revsuewoolley@gmail.com

The trustees have already been in contact with UT to start off this process.

Shropshire Youth Theatre will be holding a Shropshire Youth Fringe event in the Church on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July. If you know anyone who would be interested in performing, please see the poster below. If you are able to come along and help over the weekend please let me know. It will be all day Saturday and Sunday afternoon.



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!