



Shrewsbury Unitarian Church

Founded 1662

nurturing faith embracing life celebrating difference

OCTOBER 2024

Services are held every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

Services:

Refreshments:

Sunday 6th October	Rev Sue Woolley	Debra
Sunday 13th October	Circle service: David John 'Purpose: manifest your highest potential.'	TBC
Sunday 20th October	Helen Mason 'Finding the time'	TBC
Sunday 27th October	Bronwen Taylor Favourite Hymns and Music	TBC

Follow Rev Sue Woolley's services here: <https://www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk/news-and-events/mua-news/>

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 Unitarian Association website.

Events:

Coffee and Chat every Tuesday from 9am to 2pm

Shrewsbury Food Hub Table every Tuesday from 9am

Saturday 5th October – Book Sale and Coffee Morning - 12noon to 2pm

Thursday 17th October – Poetry Group – Theme 'The Sea' 10.30am

Thursday 17th October – Shropshire Music Trust lunchtime concert 1pm

Thursday 17th October – Reminiscence group 2pm

Sunday 27th October – 'Favourite Hymns and Music' service – please send any contributions to Bronwen as soon as possible (or send via Jenni).

Date for the diary – Saturday 23rd November – Christmas Craft Fayre

Further information:

www.shrewsburyunitarians.org.uk

Facebook X 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 and News from the Pews are always welcome

Shrewsbury Half Marathon – Sunday 29th September

This will affect parking and access for our service:

‘Why we need Pride’ led by Sian Murray.

The information I have had from the organisers is:

Abbey Foregate and Raven Meadows are open throughout the whole event.

Last year’s timings were St Julian’s opened at 11am and Frankwell was 11:15. (*I have seen a sign that Frankwell is closed until 12*).

We had the whole road network open at 11:15am.

Access into town via St Michaels Street and up Castle Foregate, down Dogpole and Wyle Cop is also open throughout. There are likely to be long delays here due to all the work being done by the train station. Abbey Foregate is probably your best option.

Choir for Carol service – 15th December

I know this is a way off but please could you let me know if you would be interested in taking part in a choir for the carol service on 15th December. There are likely to be 3 rehearsals before the day, after Sunday services, probably on 8th December, 24th November and 10th November (if you can make 1 or 2 of them that’s ok).

It’s quite a lot of work to prepare this so I’m just checking that we have enough people! Thanks

Meditation Sessions

We have been considering holding regular meditation sessions in the church, possibly on a weekday. We are looking how we might run these. Please could you let me know if you would be interested in leading or stewarding these sessions?

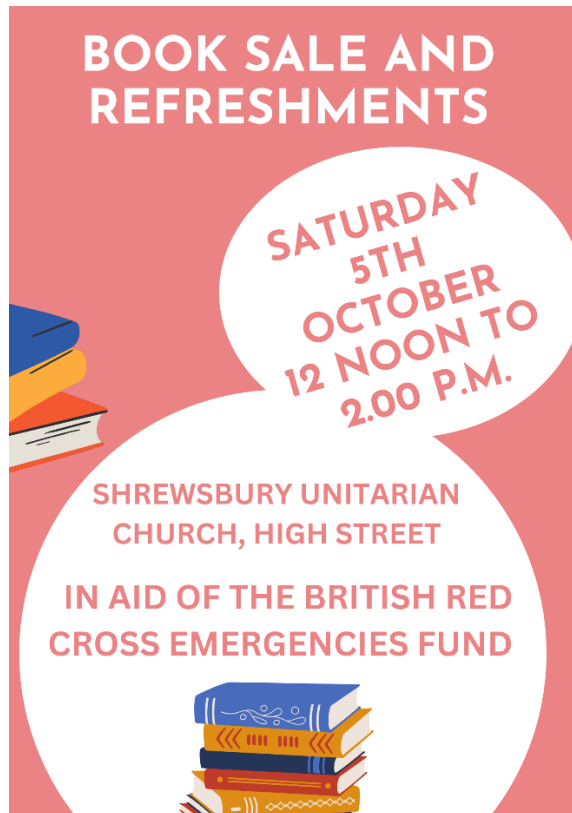
Visits to other congregations

We have also been thinking about visits to other congregations and for the time being we think this would be best done informally. If you are planning to visit another church, would you be able to take anyone with you, or could you organise a car share?

Shrewsbury Pride

Saturday 28th September

We will be open for Shrewsbury Pride on Saturday 28th September from about 8am to 6pm. The church will be used as a green room throughout the day and there will be a number of stalls in the church.



More information about the British Red Cross Emergencies Fund:

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

Letting the Light In Concert

Wednesday 23rd October

Dasom Baek & Minseon Choi + Leaving

Dasom Baek pursues ground-breaking and modern music rooted in traditional Korean instruments.

[Tickets: Dasom Baek & Minseon Choi + Leaving | Shrewsbury Unitarian Church Shrewsbury Wed 23 October 2024 \(skiddle.com\)](#)



- 📅 Wednesday 23rd October 2024
- 📍 [Shrewsbury Unitarian Church](#) in Shrewsbury
- 🕒 6:45pm til 10:15pm (Performance starts 7:30pm)
- 👤 Minimum Age 12+



DUO ARPEGI IN CONCERT

**A recital of music for cello and guitar
from Spain and South America**

François Ragot – Cello • Nathalie Mengual – Classical Guitar

Two of France's leading performers present a wonderfully diverse programme of duets and solos by de Falla, Granados, Albéniz, Cassadó, Piazzolla and others

**Thursday 17th October 2024: 1pm, The Unitarian Church, High Street,
Shrewsbury, SY1 1LR**

Thursday 17th October 2024: 7pm, St Alkmund's Church, Whitchurch SY13 1LB

Tuesday 22nd October 2024: 7pm, St Mary Magdalene, Bridgnorth, WV16 4AF

Tickets available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/smt.

Tickets for lunchtime concert £10, evening concerts £12 (Free to children under 18)



shropshiremusictrust.co.uk

Shropshire Music Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (no 515026).

Reminiscence group

Marlies would like to start the Reminiscence group on Thursday 17th October at 2pm. This will run monthly on the same day as Poetry group.

The sessions usually last about 1 hour and you are very welcome to listen as well as contribute thoughts.

The sessions can include topics such as:

Where were you born and grew up?

What was your first job?

What did you learn through experience?

What can you tell us about your grandparents?

Marlies can suggest topics but everyone is welcome to suggest themes for the sessions.

Shropshire Humanists

The Shropshire Humanists will meet in the church on Thursday 17th October.

Arrive 6.30pm for 7:00pm start

AGM followed by discussion on:

‘What and who is Shropshire Humanists for?’

Further information can be found here:

[Shropshire Humanists Events – Shropshire Humanists \(wordpress.com\)](http://www.shropshirehumanists.wordpress.com)



U4CJ
Unitarians For Climate Justice

NURTURING NATURE, NURTURING FAITH

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Wednesday 24th July
Thursday 15th August
Wednesday 25th September
Thursday 24th October
Wednesday 20th November
Thursday 19th December

5.30PM ON ZOOM
ZOOM MEETING ID: 822 6162 7458
PASSCODE: 944633

To join our WhatsApp group go to: <https://bit.ly/Unitarians4CJ>
or for more details email AHowell@unitarian.org.uk

Shrewsbury Fairtrade

On **Saturday, 5th October from 10.30 until 12 noon** , we will be holding a **Fairtrade Coffee Morning at Shrewsbury URC** in the St Nicholas Hall.

We shall be take time at about 11.15, to tell you how trading in the Indoor market, and other stalls, has fared over the last 12 months.

We also want to tell you about a new scheme, whereby we will be linked with a producer group in India through "Transform Trade" (formerly Traidcraft Exchange).

There will be the usual Fairtrade stall, with Christmas cards to order, and a range of goodies which might be just what you need as Christmas presents!

And of course, there will be tea, coffee and home made Fairtrade cakes to enjoy.

REAL FAIR TRADE – An Introduction.

Nearly 50 years ago a group of mainly Christian people from the North East of England set up Traidcraft – the world’s first specifically fairly trading organisation. A not for profit company Traidcraft pioneered guaranteed price agreements direct with with food and craft producers in developing countries. Traidcraft imported, processed and sold - mainly via Churches, charities like Oxfam and independent Fair Traders. Realising the limitations of this business model and wanting to get larger retailers and food processors more involved, Traidcraft was a major player in setting up the Fairtrade Foundation, whose approach is more that of a regulatory body – setting standards and licensing wares produced and marketed by others. The success of Fairtrade (FT) was too some extent a problem for Traidcraft whose limited volumes struggled to price compete with similar FT products sold now by all the main supermarkets. The trading arm of Traidcraft went into administration in 2023, although a recent revival has re-launched some products, including the famous tea, back on to the market. The Traidcraft associated organisation, the NGO Transform Trade, continues to exist as an important and influential lobbying and research organisation.

Fairtrade Foundation is a massively important and successful organisation with more than 2 million independent farmers, grouped into near 2,000 locally based trading organisations holding licences that guarantee them the stability of minimum prices levels and are monitored to ensure they meet certain set standards on environment, equality and employment issues. Moreover the producer communities benefit for a community premium generated as a small percentage of the retail sales. This premium is administrated by FT Foundation but its application is decided by the communities themselves on the basis of need. In many such communities the premium is a major funder of their education, health and infrastructure needs. Every time you buy FT tea, coffee or bananas you are helping build clinics and schools, train nurses and teachers, improve roads or internet access in communities that would not otherwise have these things. Last year FT trade sales in the UK raised £28million for the Community Premium. The FT monitors FT licenced producers to ensure its standards are met. It can do this independently, because, unlike the large producer global corporations, it has no direct interest in the production level. The monitoring is funded from the significant income FT gets from the UK based processors and retailers who pay it a license fee to display the FT logo. That logo - AND ONLY THAT LOGO – guarantees that product you are buying is comprised of at least 85% materials produced by licenced and monitored FT producers.

Alarmed by the growth of FT and unwilling or unable to met its standards and democratic methods of production, some large corporations looked around for alternatives. No doubt those responsible for originating some organisations like The Rainforest Alliance had very good intentions, but their certification standards are nothing to do with Fair Trading and their logo’s main purpose, in my opinion, is to confuse the consumer in to thinking they are with the good people. They are not. Don’t buy this stuff, it’s the moral equivalent to sleeping with the enemy. There are 6,000 licenced FT products on sale in the UK, not just tea and coffee but wine, gold and craft items. Buy them and feel good about yourselves!

Tim Dawes

There are copies of this at the back of the church.

Finding our Centre: Exploring Different Ways to Meditate



The Midland Unitarian Association is offering an enjoyable afternoon, giving you the opportunity to experience various different meditational practices for themselves... The practices will be set up in three different rooms, in timed sessions, so there will be ample chance to try each of them: **walk a labyrinth**, participate in **sensory exploration**, do a traditional **seated meditation**, or **lectio divina (sacred reading)**.

We are also planning some social time in the middle of the afternoon, plus a shared meal at the beginning, so that you are able to spend time with old friends and make new ones...

- Where:** Unitarian New Meeting, Ryland St, Birmingham B16 8BL.
- Dates:** Saturday 19th October 2024
- Times:** 12.00 noon to 4.00 pm
- Cost:** FREE (to people from MUA congregations)
£10 (to people from outside the MUA)

Refreshments will be provided during the afternoon. You will need to check whether you need to pay a congestion charge, as UNM is located in Birmingham's inner city.

Name Congregation

Address

Please return this slip to Sue Woolley, District Minister, The Midland Unitarian Association, 5 Martins Road, Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DN, by Friday 11th October 2024 or e-mail me at revsuewoolley@gmail.com

MUA

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