



# Shrewsbury Unitarian Church

Founded 1662

nurturing faith embracing life celebrating difference

## DECEMBER 2024

Services are held every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

### Services:

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Professor Geoff Levermore

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Jen Deacon and Margaret Harris  
Circle service 'Sacred Geometry'

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Carol service – Dorothy Haughton

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December**

Alison Patrick

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

Gavin Lloyd

### Refreshments:

Debra

Bryan and Jen

Sonya

Dorothy

Bronwen

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 2pm (dates TBC for the Christmas / New Year period)

Shrewsbury Food Hub Table every Tuesday from 9am (dates may vary around Christmas/New Year)

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December – Book Sale and Coffee Morning - 12noon to 2pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Carols in the Square – 5.30 – 7pm

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Poetry Group – Theme 'Christmas' 10.30am – 12.30pm

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Quiet Reflection Saturday – 10.30am – 3.30pm

### Further information:

[www.shrewsburyunitarians.org.uk](http://www.shrewsburyunitarians.org.uk)

Facebook X Instagram

[www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk](http://www.midland-unitarian-association.org.uk)

[www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)

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

[shrewsburyunitarians@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburyunitarians@gmail.com) tel: 07487 531913

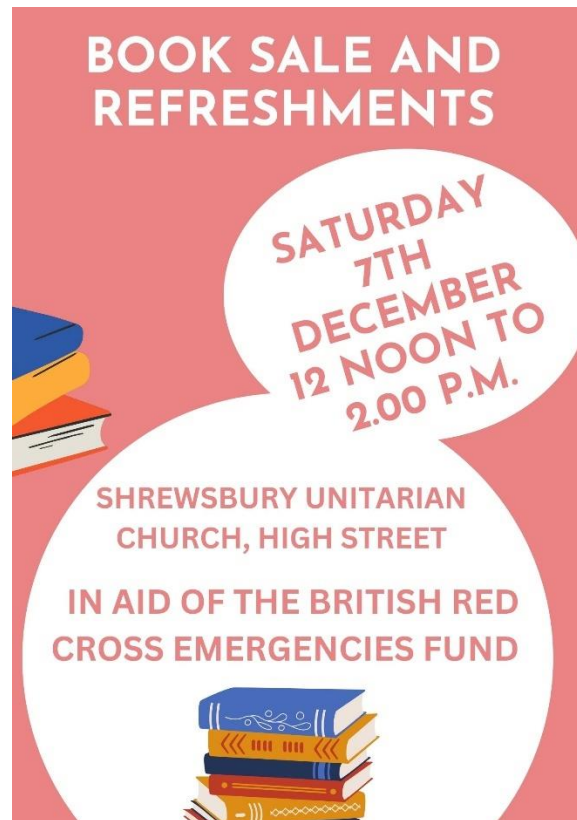
Registered Charity Number: 1140696

**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 and News from the Pews are always welcome**



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Christmas Craft Fayre, it was a lovely festive occasion and we raised £329.40 for Send a Child to Hucklow.



More information about the British Red Cross Emergencies Fund:

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



### **Carol Service Choir**

We will have our last rehearsal on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December after the service and then a run through on the day at 10.30am. Please bring your music. Thank you!



### **Congregation Meal**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025, lunchtime**

**La Piazzetta, The Square**

If anyone would like to join us for this meal please let Jenni know. I will also be collecting £10 deposit from everyone. (If you have already let me know that is ok).



## Carols in the Square

We will be open for Carols in the Square – 5.30-7pm on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. If anyone is able to come along and help steward that would be appreciated – thank you.

[Carols in the Square — Shrewsbury Town Council](#)

## Quiet Reflection Saturday

We will be open from 10.30am – 3.30pm on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December for Quiet Reflection Saturday – please let me know if you can come along and help to steward. It should be a nice festive occasion, providing peace and quiet away from the Christmas busy-ness outside.



## First Aiders

If anyone has a current first aid qualification and would be willing to be listed as a first aider in church please let Jenni know and send a copy of your certificate.

Thank you.



## Omushana crafts

Omushana crafts will be for sale in church over the Christmas period.

[Omushana, Sunshine For Children](#)



## SHREWSBURY INTERFAITH FORUM

End-of-Year Social Gathering

Tuesday 10th December 2024; 6-8pm

Venue: Shrewsbury Chapel of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Mount Pleasant Rd, Shrewsbury SY1 3HX

(Top of Mt. Pleasant Road near Ellesmere Road)

*Please bring soft drinks and herbal teas to share and finger snacks*

**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](mailto:AHowell@unitarian.org.uk)



Looking for Christmas presents?

**Good Gifts**

**Changing lives, one gift at a time**

[Good Gifts Homepage](#)



### **Trustees' Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Draft minutes of the Trustees' meeting are on the noticeboard and the Key Messages are noted below.

#### **Main items & decisions**

Clarification: At Shrewsbury Unitarian Church the Trustees are also the church committee. We tend to use both terms interchangeably and realise that not everyone will know that they are the same thing! Trustees = Committee.

## **Finance**

Ann reported on our financial position. We are assured by our financial advisors that dividends on investments for this year should be similar to last year's but agreed to find out more about the MUA's investments and advisors for future consideration.

SumUp – when donations are made using the Sumup device at the back of the church a small commission goes to the payment service providers. We agreed that the church would absorb this commission e.g. for book sales, so that 100% of donations go to the named charity.

## **Windows repair**

We considered quotes for repairing and protecting the windows on the upper right side of the church adjoining former House of Fraser. Although we want to progress this work it was agreed to try to keep the owners of the H of F building to what we believe was their agreement to pay for this work. Also agreed to pay Candida (buildings advisor) to assist with Listed Buildings Consent when appropriate.

## **Zoom**

We recognise that sound quality of our services on Zoom is often poor and Jenni has looked into this. The more sophisticated system requires more devices to be set up and monitored during the service. At the moment we do not have the skills and capacity to run such a system so reluctantly we decided that we continue as we are whilst also letting congregation members have links to other Unitarian Zoom services which are better set up.

## **Safeguarding**

Jenni and Debra have attended Safeguarding training and recording forms will be made available for all to access. John Pye was appointed as a third Safeguarding officer and will undertake training.



## **Zoom for Services**

The trustees have been considering the issue of Zoom for our services and how we deal with this moving forwards.

We are aware that the sound quality is not always very good currently and that it doesn't pick up the music.

This year we updated the sound system to allow other inputs into the system (Bluetooth and USB as well as the CD player) but improving the sound for Zoom is more complicated.

We have information on additions to the sound system which would connect our microphones and the music system directly to Zoom (it probably wouldn't make much difference to the organ sound). We also have some information based on other churches which are Zooming more effectively.

The more sophisticated system needs people to set up a laptop and camera and monitor the system for each service. In the churches we know that do this they have a team of people or they pay an IT person to come in.

We unfortunately don't have the know-how or capacity at the moment to operate the more Zoom friendly system so reluctantly we have decided that we have to continue as we are unless circumstances change.

A number of other Unitarian churches do Zoom their services and advertise this, details below via the link:

[Online Sunday Services - The Unitarians](#)



### **Points of view.**

Some of you may be aware that SUC has been “engaging” with various groups concerning the lack of vehicular access to drop off people outside the church for a Sunday service, ever since the traffic “trial” was implemented.

We, the trustees, have contacted various council departments, planning consultants and local councillors. We even asked members of the congregation to write to the council, councillors and/or our MPs about the matter, as it has dragged on.

One local councillor that was willing to look at our situation and help us pursue a suitable agreement with the authorities has now become Shrewsbury’s M.P, Julia Buckley. We had made her an open invitation to come along to a Sunday service to discuss the matter when she was a councillor, and we are awaiting a reply from her.

**However, this invitation does NOT mean that the SUC trustees endorse her or her political party Or ANY other political party or group for that matter.**

Within our services SUC should try to be **apolitical** as far as possible.

By all means, discuss your own views after a service, over tea, coffee or a pint but do try to be **tolerant** of other points of view and experiences, after all that is what us Unitarians espouse!

Debra Burbery

(Chairperson of the Trustees of SUC)



*Shrewsbury Theatre Singers presents . . .*

# FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

**THE MUSICAL  
BY KIMEE CLEATON**

*A fresh retelling of the  
Christmas Story*

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>  
December, 7pm**

**at Bayston Hill Methodist Church, SY3 0HZ**

*With preview performance on  
Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 4pm*  
at Yockleton Church, SY5 9PQ

**More Info or Buy Tickets:**

07751 960600

[www.kscleaton.co.uk/concerts](http://www.kscleaton.co.uk/concerts)

[shrewsburytheatresingers@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburytheatresingers@gmail.com)







*Jigsaw Sound* 

# A CHRISTMAS CONCERT

in aid of



14th December 2024  
Doors open at 7pm, concert  
starting at 7.30 PM  
£5 per ticket  
Radbrook Community Centre,  
Calverton Way  
SY3 6DZ



## MUA

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

**MU Now** – Please send contributions for the January 2025 edition to Sue Woolley – ‘New Year, New Beginnings’. We would also like articles on local activities or with a local interest. Deadline Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you.

