

APRIL - MAY 2025



Blossom

Blossom—apple, pear, cherry, plum, almond blossom In the sun.

Up in the Dales when I was a child. In Picardy among the ruins of war. Afterwards at Cambridge and among the Chilterns, where I would read my publishers' manuscripts and review copies in their delicate shade. At the bottom of the canyons, at Bright Angel and Oak Creek in Arizona. Here in our garden in the Isle of Wight. So many places, so much time; and yet after fifty years this delight in the foaming branches is unchanged. I believe that if I lived to be a thousand and were left with some glimmer of eyesight, this delight would remain. If only we could clean off the world from this Earth. But at least once every spring on a fine morning that is what we seem to do, as we stare at the blossom and are back in Eden. We complain and complain, but we have lived and have seen the blossom—apple, pear, cherry, plum, almond blossom in the sun; and the best of us cannot pretend they deserve—or could contrive—anything better.

from *Delight* by J.B Priestley.

Russell Street, Bradford, BD5 0JB
www.bradfordunitarians.org.uk

From the Chapel Secretary

Kathy Packer

Members and friends of the congregation will be sorry to learn that Kathy Packer died in the early hours of Wednesday 12 March 2025, peacefully at home with Brian caring for her. She had a long association with Bradford Unitarians. Her parents had been members of the Chapel Lane congregation when it was compulsorily purchased. Her father Robert Bolton was involved with organising our building in Russell Street. Kathy moved to Doncaster with her first husband, Peter Timiney. When he died, leaving her a widow with three children, she continued to be an active member of the Doncaster church. Rev. Brian Packer became minister there and friendship developed into marriage. They moved down to Devon and Kathy trained for the Unitarian ministry at Manchester College Oxford. She had ministries in Bridgwater, Cullompton, Crewkerne and the South Devon Area.



It was when she developed early onset dementia that they moved back to Yorkshire, close to Kathy's sister and two brothers. She became a member at Bradford and we were always pleased to see her with Brian in church. As her dementia worsened, she was lovingly cared for at home by Brian. We send him our condolences. There will be a memorial service for her in due course. She will be greatly missed.



A woodland burial service for Kathy was held at Brocklands Woodland Burial Site, Rathmell, Settle, North Yorkshire on Thursday 27th March 2025. Conducted by Brian, the service was attended by a small gathering of family, friends and fellow members of Bradford Unitarians, Jimmy and Shirley Timiney, as well as fellow ministers Celia and John Midgley. Kathy was laid to rest, in Spring sunshine and a gentle breeze, in this beautiful hilltop burial ground, with mourners scattering leaves and sharing memories and reflections. A memorial service will be held at Bradford Unitarian Church on a date to be decided.

IN PROSPECT

We shall be holding the **anniversary service for the congregation on Sunday 6th April**. This will be followed by a bring and share lunch then the **Annual General Meeting**. This will be a critical meeting, please come and be part of it. The annual report and accounts are now available.

Over the weekend of April 12th to 14th five of our members will be attending the **Annual Meetings of the Unitarian General Assembly**. Isabel Arnold will be our delegate. There will not be a service at Russell Street on Sunday 13th April.

On Saturday 26th of April the **Yorkshire Unitarian Union** will be holding their Spring Gathering at Scarborough. All are welcome to attend.

The **Foy Society** hold their conference '*Artificial Intelligence – AI... all you need to know*'. at The Nightingale Centre May 2nd to 5th.

The booking forms are now available for the **Unitarian Music Society conference**, 8th—12th August, also at The Nightingale Centre: *Folk Songs Forever!* (see UMS Facebook page) and the **Unitarian Women's Group** conference there September 5th to 7th. Theme: *Using Your Purse to Save the World*.

IN RETROSPECT

Our thanks go to **Jimmy and Shirley Timiney** for organising a 'Folky Do', a gathering of folksong lovers for an afternoon of music, songs, poems and stories. This event, held on Saturday 22nd March, was in aid of the Red Cross Appeal and raised a very welcome £50.

Alan Dawson, son of Christine (and David), was recently selected to play for the Falkland Islands cricket team, in an international match held in Costa Rica.

Parcevall Hall

by Jenny Bolt

If you fancy a few days away from it all, may I recommend Parcevall Hall in Wharfedale. I find it just the place to go and unwind with friendly people, good food. The staff are lovely and helpful.

Parcevall Hall was saved and restored by Sir William Milner in the 1920s. It was a farm house, and Sir William renovated the house and extended it and lived there until his death in 1960, leaving the Hall to the Guardians of Our Lady of Walsingham. They turned it into an Anglican Christian retreat centre, but all are welcome.

I have been going there five times a year for over 12 years with a small group of crafters.

If you are lucky you might stay in one of the *en suite* rooms. One of these has a four-poster bed. I don't know if it is the one Sir William slept in but because he was very tall (6feet 7ins.) the bath is enormous and you almost need a stool to stand on to reach the wash basin.

The gardens are overseen by the Royal Horticultural Society and guests are free to wander in them. The view from the front terrace looks out on to Simons Seat (a prominent outcrop of millstone grit) and there are maps and guides in the Hall for people who want to walk in the area. Packed lunch can be provided and you are treated to a good dinner on your return.

The crafting group I belong to is thankful to have found Parcevall Hall and I hope that after reading this you will try a few days there. It's so peaceful, I am sure you will go home feeling refreshed and ready to face the world again.

Parcevall Hall is at Skyreholme, near Appletreewick, North Yorkshire. BD23 6DG. There are 17 rooms (with no single supplement), four of which are en-suite (including one wheelchair-friendly wet-room downstairs). FB £87.60 pppn; HB £74.40; B&B £58.80 (all inclusive of VAT, although VAT is not charged on educational or religious retreats). Child discount: under three, free; three to ten, half price. **See www.parcevallhall.co.uk**

Open for day visits: Opening times and admission prices 2025.

Opening times: 10am until 6pm daily. Last admittance 4.30pm.

Adults: £10 Senior Citizens: £9 Children under 12 years of age admitted free.

A visit to Doncaster Unitarians

by Isabel Arnold

In March I travelled to Doncaster Unitarians to lead the service. I met up with Stephanie Bisby, our former minister and I passed on our best wishes. She sends best wishes from Doncaster and is looking to late summer to come to lead a service in Bradford.



Doncaster Church is a veritable rabbit warren; lots of stairs and rooms. The door to the amazing gallery is locked to protect any wandering toddlers from the group that meets in the hall during the week. The hall had 20 chairs arranged for a small congregation of about 10.

Stephanie said it made a change for her to be part of the congregation. I appreciated her help with the CDs! They have no pianist but 2 pianos! Afterwards we sat around a table for refreshments and conversation. I talked with a woman for whom it was only her second visit. I explained it was my first time there, but I am pleased to have been invited back.

PEPPER AND GINGER June 1st 2025

Explore a corner of Shelf which is away from the main road and full of history. A fourteenth-century cattle thief, the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo, a Chartist Unitarian preacher and one of the last potteries in Calderdale were all to be found here. Good footwear is required. The walk is not suitable for wheelchairs/mobility scooters. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Meet Ben Stables at 2pm outside Pepper Hill Unitarian Chapel, off Brighouse and Denholme Gate Road, Shelf. HX3 7TH.

		CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY
Date	Time	Event
Sunday 6th April	10.45	Anniversary Service of the Congregation, followed by Shared Lunch, then the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
Friday 11th — 12th April		Ministers' pre-GA Annual Meetings conference
Saturday 12th April		General Assembly ANNUAL MEETINGS COMMENCE Birmingham
Sunday 13th April		Palm Sunday <i>No service in church, as so many members will be away.</i>
Monday 14th April		<i>General Assembly Annual Meetings end</i>
Friday 18th April		<i>Good Friday No service</i>
Sunday 20th April	10.45	Easter Sunday Service conducted by Rev. John Midgley <i>Easter for Unitarians — and others</i> 
Tuesday 22nd April	12 for 12.30	<i>Food for Thought. Bring a reading, poem, prayer or piece of music, plus your lunch!</i>
Saturday 26th April		YORKSHIRE UNITARIAN UNION SPRING GATHERING Scarborough Unitarian Church, Victoria Parade, Scarborough YO11 1TY 
Sunday 27th April	10.45	Morning worship conducted by Rev. Jo James
Sunday 4th May	10.45	Serendipity service
Sunday 11th May	10.45	Morning worship conducted by Rev. Jo James
Sunday 18th May		No Service - third Sunday <i>Nb Last date for newsletter items for June-July.</i>
Tuesday 20th May	12 for 12.30	<i>Food for Thought. Bring a reading, poem, prayer or piece of music, plus your lunch!</i>
Sunday 25th May	10.45	Morning worship leader to be announced
Sunday 1st June	10.45am	Serendipity service

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