

*The Black Country Group of
Unitarian Churches
Chairman: Mrs P. Rose
Correspondent Mrs. BS Russell*

The Black Country Group of Unitarian churches was formed when three Midland Union churches joined together for mutual support. These churches are Dudley, Oldbury and All Souls' Wolverhampton.

The congregations meet in the Old Meeting House, Wolverhampton Street, hidden behind 'Kentucky Fried Chicken' and guarded by fearsome looking iron gates. But come through those gates on the First or Third Sunday of each month at 3.00pm, go through the porch and into the church and you will find a gem, light, airy, warm and welcoming.

Although the church dates back to 1690 and is a listed building, thoughtful refurbishment has made it a most inviting place of worship for a faith that delights in openness and free thinking, in a belief in one universal power which some of us call God, and a recognition of the worth of the teachings of Jesus and of other great men and women.

Our worship is led by lay speakers and we invite you to join in as much – or as little – as you wish.

<http://www.blackcountry-unitarians.org.uk>



October



November

*The Black Country Group
Of
Unitarian Churches*

Meeting at the

Unitarian Old Meeting House

*Wolverhampton Street
Dudley*

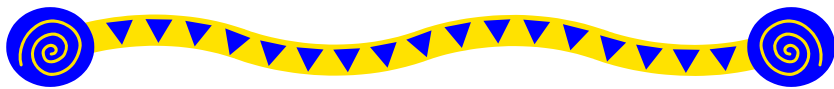
Contact 01902 650168

4th July was our Rose Service –a Celebration of Summer!

In a church filled with flowers, and a congregation wearing buttonholes presented by Pam Rose, our Chairman, we enjoyed an afternoon of singing and readings. Pam reminded many of us of our childhood by lighting the chalice Candle with the words 'God make my life a little light within the world to glow'.

There followed readings given by Evelyn Cowell (Oldbury) and Irene Hickman (Dudley), Audrey Green (Stourbridge), Gavin Lloyd and Ritchie Shaw (Oxford), then I ended with a little piece about my own garden, which, in spite of neglect, had flourished beautifully. David Mearman, also from Stourbridge, provided music for us. And, of course, we finished with tea and cakes and an exchange of news. Thanks to all who contributed.

(see also website- on cover)



Gavin was with us again on 19th August, this time to lead our service. His theme was 'Fruit of the Spirit' and he spoke of how even rules set down by the elders of a faith may not always be a true reflection of the Spirit of God. He used as an example the parable of the Good Samaritan –perhaps too close an adherence to the letter of the law rather than to the spirit that earned the priest and the Levi their reputation for thoughtlessness. This gave us something to think about –thank you Gavin.

Thanks, too, to Ritchie for his contribution.

We certainly cannot complain of lack of variety in our services at Dudley! It was good to have Sue Woolley with us on 1st August, when she spoke to us of the Buddhist faith, to which many of us can relate. Interest in other faiths, I feel, is very much part of the Unitarian concept, and this service was very much enjoyed. Thank you, Sue, for bringing something different to us.



Dorothy Haughton's Service, on 15th August, was different again –*Jesus for the Non-religious*–would you believe! Dorothy's point was that many people had been put off belief because there seemed to be so many unbelievable things in the Bible. She felt if we went back to reading the Bible, concentrating on what Jesus said, we should have a better idea both of the man and the message. Thank you Dorothy, for a most unusual service.

To Come:-

5th September Bronwen Taylor (Shrewsbury)

19th September Alison Thursfield (Cotswold Group)

3rd October Dorothy Haughton (Shrewsbury)
HARVEST

17th October Sue Woolley (MUA)

7th November Dorothy Haughton

21st November Bronwen Taylor

CAROL SERVICE 19th December - Gavin Lloyd