

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



August



September

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

*The Black Country Group  
Of  
Unitarian Churches*

*Meeting at the*

*Unitarian Old Meeting House*

*Wolverhampton Street  
Dudley*

*Contact 01902 650168*

On 16<sup>th</sup> May I led the Service for W'ton All Souls'@ Dudley, and was so pleased when we were joined by Oldbury and Dudley because I wanted to tell them a wicked tale, which I did.

On 6<sup>th</sup> June Phil Niblock came from Shrewsbury to take our Service. The theme of his address was 'Encouragement'

Perhaps, Phil said, we sometimes found our daily lives could be a bit discouraging and we really should be grateful for people and events that could lift our spirits. Look for the good news so often hidden in newspapers, not just the headlines that shout the bad news.

Phil speaks of his beliefs with real sincerity, and we always welcome his lively services. Thank you, Phil.



The 20<sup>th</sup> June was 'Fathers' Day' and we were delighted to have Sue Woolley, our District Facilitator, join us to lead this special Service.

Sue is a great one for getting us involved in the Service and she asked if we had any special memories of our fathers. Most of the congregation said yes, they had indeed good memories of their dads.

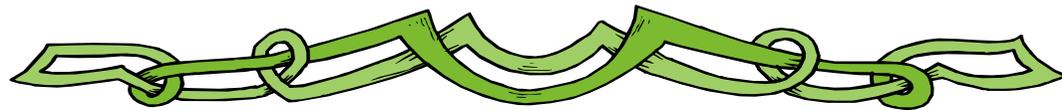
I certainly remember mine, although it is more that fifty years since he died. He was true Anglican, and I am not sure he would be best pleased with my change of faith.

Sue spoke lovingly of her own father, how he had helped and encouraged her throughout her life, and as her dad is Sandy Ellis, the well respected Treasurer of the MUA, we could appreciate the benefits she enjoyed.

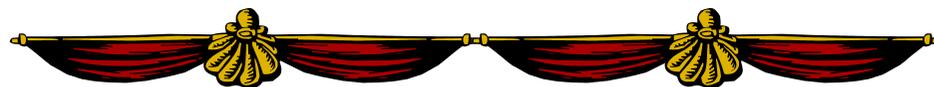
She said she is saddened to hear nowadays of so many fathers not able to have contact their own children, as she was convinced that a stable and loving childhood was the best thing any child could have. And no-one would argue with that!

Sue had chosen hymns which reflected the Fatherhood of God; we had to sing some of them to tunes different from the usual –David Mearman(Stourbridge)our organist was away –but with the help of tapes we coped.

Thank you, Sue, for reminding us of our dads, and of our own childhood.



The next Service here will, DV, be the Oldbury Rose Service, with hymns and readings that reflect the joys of summer and I expect there will be tea and cakes to follow, just as there was for three services mentioned here. So, Audrey, Pam, Irene and Evelyn-Thanks!



A New Day by E. Cowley

A new day is dawning, and the sky above is so blue;  
The church bells are ringing a welcome for me and you  
The choir is singing sweet hymns, they sound like angels on high;  
The birds join in the chorus as they fly overhead through the sky  
What more could anyone ask for, to make the day  
happy and bright?

With such a scene around us, a scene of sheer delight.  
So make the most of the present, enjoy it while you may;  
For we always have to remember.-tomorrow's another day.

Evelyn is not only our octogenarian poet, she is also 'the fastest wiper-upper in the Church!'