



Newcastle upon Tyne Unitarians
(Church of the Divine Unity)
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Hello

Updates on what's happening at Newcastle upon Tyne Unitarians – from April

Here's the service summary letter from Newcastle upon Tyne Unitarians for April 2022! Spring is here, and we're back in our building, having 'hybrid' worship in person in the Turner Hall, with the option to join the service via Zoom as well.

We are asking anyone who comes to the building to do the following:

- If you have any symptoms of Covid-19 or have had a positive test, do not attend events at the building. Please follow government guidance to stay at home, self-isolate and arrange a test (more details here: <https://tinyurl.com/3vtnzbyj>).
- If you test positive for Covid-19 during the week after attending an event here, please call us on: 07506 255 731 and inform us so that we can let others know, and also provide you with any support you may need from us. We promise that we will not pass on your identity to anyone we contact – we will only say that there has been a confirmed positive case among people who attended the event.
- Please keep your hands sanitised.

You can find out more about this here:

<https://newcastleunitarians.org.uk/covid-19-update/>

Report on Newcastle upon Tyne Unitarians AGM 2022

This took place on 24 April 2022. On 24th April 2022, we held our Annual General Meeting of Newcastle upon Tyne Unitarians in the Turner Hall and online. The Management Committee report and accounts were presented, committee members appointed, and we discussed how we might reach out to local LGBTQI+ communities to let them know we want to be a welcoming spiritual community for them. We looked at feedback from members of the congregation about the past 12 months. Many felt things had gone well, that it was unfortunate that we had not been able to meet in person for some time,

but that people were happy that we can now do this, and that we need to move forwards. Thanks to everyone who has worked hard to keep things going for the past 12 months and before - here's to the future!

Report on the UK Unitarian General Assembly 2022

The Unitarian and Free Christian General Assembly took place over 19-21st April 2022, with Louise Reeve going as our delegate. All motions (on keeping the NHS free at the point of use; transgender rights; branding and national consultation, and civilian involvement in international decision-making) were passed and are now resolutions. You can see Louise Reeve's full report on this online here: [and it will be in the next Calendar.](#)

This is the last of these letters summarising what's happening with services, as we are now meeting in person for worship once more. We'll continue to keep everyone updated through emails, our website, and the church Calendar.

If you want to get in touch, please call on: 07506 255 731 or email: info@newcastleunitarians.org.uk, I'm happy to discuss things anytime.

In fellowship,

Louise Reeve
Chairperson, Newcastle upon Tyne Unitarians

April 2022 Service Highlights

10th April 2022 – 'Fragments' by Joan Cook

Joan Cook led this service based upon 'Fragments', from 'The Waste Land' by T.S. Elliot. Here is the chalice lighting from this service

Prayer - "We Come Together Without Creed" by Maureen Killoran

"In this free church, we come together without creed, focusing instead on the core values of justice, equity and compassion...

Of mutual acceptance of our diverse ways of being, as we seek to connect ourselves more fully with the unfolding truths of life and of our world.

We come together in shared conviction that all people deserve a voice in matters that concern them, and that it is up to each of us to protect the rights of all—particularly those who, for whatever reason, have long been held in silence.

We come together in the stubborn belief that community is possible and that peace is more than a dream.

We commit together to affirm in our actions as well as our words, the inherent worth and dignity of every human being.

We come together in awareness of our interdependence with all humanity, and with the wider web of existence, for that too is part of what is meant by "we."

In this free church, we come together without creed, believing that the way we live in the world bears testament to the value of our beliefs.

We light this chalice as a beacon of hope for who have gathered here this day. For all who have ever walked through our doors, for those who may yet find this spiritual home, and for those whose paths will never come our way.

For all this, and for all those things we dare to hope and dream, we kindle our chalice flame this day."

17th April 2022 – Diana Bebb, 'Easter and Cake Miscellany'

Diana Bebb led our miscellany service on Easter and Cake, featuring readings from the congregation, and an excellent song from David Venus! Here's the opening prayer, "Hope Is Risen" by UUA author Elena Westbrook.

"Hallelujah!

As the spring sun coaxes lilies and bluebonnets from the soil,

Let us celebrate that even after murderous betrayal,

After days and nights suspended in torture,

When all the world has gone dark and we cried out,

"Why have You forsaken me?"—even then,

there is a sunrise.

Even then, there is a resurrection, if we will climb the hill to look for it.

If we will roll away the stone

And recognise the different shapes that Hope can take

To walk among us in the returning light.

Amen."