



Cardiff
Unitarians
Undodiaid
Caerdydd

FEBRUARY 2024

Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to the February issue of the Cardiff Unitarians/Undodiaid Caerdydd newsletter. Whilst this short month is most commonly associated with the celebration of St Valentine's Day (this year celebrated on the same day as Ash Wednesday), February is packed with religious observances for Christians, Buddhists (Parinirvana), Muslims (Lailat al Miraj) and even Pagans. February 1st marks the festival of Imbolc; a time to acknowledge the world slowly 'waking up' from its winter slumber. This is the halfway point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox; a time to notice the small signs that brighter days are to come. Indeed, we're reminded of this light on the 2nd, when candles are lit for 'Candlemas', in honour of Mary and the presentation of Christ at the Temple in Jerusalem. Whilst in some ways this month we're reminded of the great abundance to come in Spring, the start of lent – traditionally a period of fasting – reminds us that often, before fruitfulness comes a period of hard work, reflection and sacrifice. This month, let's sow the seeds of love and care in our communities, so that we may eventually see and feel the results of our hard work.

CU News

Here for the Ride

Our January service was led by Caroline Boyce, with the topic being 'Life Is Like a Train Ride'.

As well as meditative music (and a bit of Enya for good measure!) we listened to some thought-provoking prose by John A Passaro, as well as a poem by David Whyte. Whyte's words remind us that even when we find ourselves surrounded by darkness we can grow.

Newsletter Highlights

CU NEWS: 'HERE FOR THE RIDE': THE FIRST SERVICE OF 2024

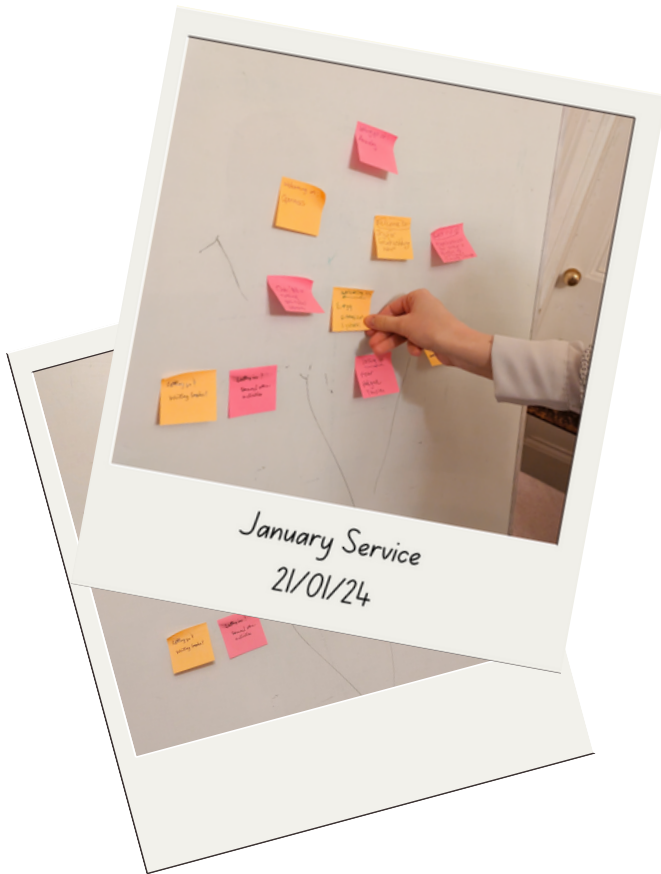
UPCOMING SERVICES/MEETINGS

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FURTHER AFIELD: OTHER UNITARIAN NEWS:

-A SURPRISING VISITOR
-GET YOUR TICKETS NOW

Have you seen part 2 of our 'Meet A Unitarian' blog series? This time we're catching up with community minister Stephen Lingwood:
<http://tinyurl.com/bdr4nady>



In addition to readings and music, Caroline led an activity in which we considered what we'd like to say goodbye to this year, and what we'd like to welcome in. From saying 'goodbye' to anxiety, all-or-nothing thinking, and even hobbies that once brought us joy but no longer serve us, we acknowledged the breadth of answers, and welcomed in love, God, and openness (to name just a few).

Thank you Caroline for a thought-provoking and engaging service.



Upcoming Services/Meetings

Sunday 18th February, 3:30pm

Cardiff Unitarians/Undodiaid Caerdydd

Hybrid service at The Quaker Meeting House

This month's service will be led by CU member and secretary Robin Attfield. You're very welcome to join us either online or in person. Please feel free to pass this information on. If joining us online please use the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/329899644> Meeting ID: 329 899 644

Advanced notice

Tuesday 5th March, 7-8:30pm

Worship Group Meeting

This will be held via Zoom. You will receive a reminder email with link closer to the date.

If you're a member of CU and are interested in joining the Worship Group, please contact Sarah Boyce or Robin Rees. We'd love to have you!

Save the Date!

To celebrate the marriage of CU member Robin (Rees) and tech assistant Jenna, you're invited to a celebration at the Quaker Meeting House on 15/09/2024.

Vegan and gluten-free food will be provided.



15/09/2024

Other Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 3rd February, 10:30am-5:30pm

Essex Church, Kensington Unitarians

'Faith in Our Future'

U4CJ/Extinction Rebellion

Free but donations welcomed:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-in-our-future-tickets-760280779277?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Saturday 10th February, 11am-12pm

Silent Vigil for Climate Justice

Barclays Bank, Working Street, Central Cardiff

Tuesday 20th February, 7pm

UNA Cardiff & District Talk: The 2023

International Climate Conference COP-28:

Failures and Successes

Join via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81195862485?pwd=YUIVU29oeTVjR2tpbnFaaGINWTMyUT09>

Further Afield: Other Unitarian News

A Surprising Visitor!

The origins of the Mari Lwyd is a subject still debated to this day; from representing the pale horses that cropped up in Celtic mythology, to symbolising a cast out Virgin Mary, looking for somewhere to rest, to this day historians and folklorists are still in debate. What we *do* know is that this is a tradition native to South Wales, and though less common than in previous years, the tradition is enjoying a revival! This year, to much delight, the Mari visited Gellionnen Chapel, as well as Aberdare Unitarians to celebrate the re-opening of Hen Dy Cwrdd.



Get Your Tickets Now!

It's official! You can now register for the Unitarian Annual Meetings, which are being held at Staverton Park in Northamptonshire from the 4th-6th April. To book your spot and find out more, visit the following link: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/gaunitarians/1093030>

Registration closes on the 7th March for adults and 15th February for children.

Want to attend but worried about costs? Please speak to a committee member as assistance is available.

The FUSE festival will also be retuning this year, with the theme of 'The Power of Story and Song'. This will be held from the 14th-16th June at The Friars, Aylesford. To find out more and book your tickets, please visit <https://www.ldpaunitarians.org/fuse2024>