

BUF NEWS

August 2022



Next Meeting

28 August
Barrow Castle

10.45 Coffee,
11.15 Worship

Theme:
*Recreation or
Re-creation?*
Led by Kay

“Surely the earth is heavy with this rhythm, the stretch and pull of bread.” Rev Lynn Ungar

Reflection

Lammas is a festival celebrated at the beginning of August, and is a Christianised version of Lughnasa, the ancient Celtic feast of the first fruits of the harvest. If one had been living on bread made from mouldy wheat for months, no doubt this was indeed a cause of celebration. Needless to say, the Celtic celebrations (which included dancing and pairing off into couples) was more “recreational” than the Christian version.

It is easy to forget in our world of constant food availability that it was not always so, and to trivialise the humble loaf. But bread was a staple for our forebears, and a poor harvest meant not only high prices but potential starvation. For many in today’s world, bread still is a staple that stands between health and malnutrition or worse. That is why it is important that grain ships are finally able to leave Odesa, thanks to a deal brokered by the United Nations, to carry essential supplies to countries facing famine, where the population is suffering indirectly but severely from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Closer to home, our “constant food availability” is threatened by the cost-of-living crisis. Food banks are struggling not only because of increased need, but also because of falling donations as many shoppers have to cut back. Perhaps this year Lammas is a time to recall that food should not be taken for granted.

Kay

The Pond

August of another summer, and once again
I am drinking the sun
And the lilies again are spread across the water.
I know now what they want is to touch each other.
I have not been here for many years
During which time I kept living my life.
Like the heron, who can only croak, who wishes he could sing,
I wish I could sing.
A little thanks from every throat would be appropriate.
This is how it has been, and this is how it is:
All my life I have been able to feel happiness,
Except whatever was not happiness,
Which I also remember.
Each of us wears a shadow.
But just now it is summer again
And I am watching the lilies bow to each other,
Then slide on the wind and the tug of desire,
Close, close to one another.
Soon now I'll turn and start for home.
And who knows, maybe I'll be singing.

Mary Oliver

The Heat Is On

A Christian Universalist minister in the US, who I've known for many years, sent me his email newsletter recently. He's a lover of long days and warm sunshine but already mentally girding up his loins for the inevitable ordeal of the coming winter, "even when the weather is too warm I know to count my blessings: I would rather it be late and lit and a bit too warm than cold, windy and dark".

Receiving it just after temperatures had reached 40 degrees in Lincolnshire, I couldn't say I felt the same. Certainly I also like the light and warmth of summer. But in Britain it used to be that even on the hot days, which weren't all that common, we'd always think about taking that extra layer and packing an umbrella. The summer heatwaves that we are experiencing increasingly frequently and for which our buildings are not designed and our infrastructure is so ill-equipped, now have an apocalyptic side to them. They bring not a feeling of pleasant (or indeed unpleasant) surprise but rather a sense of growing peril as the planet inexorably warms.

One might have supposed that, allowing for a period of adaptation, major climatic change would bring some advantages to humanity as well as disadvantages; that on the one hand x would be worse but on the other, y would be better. This isn't the case with global warming. It's not quite unmitigated gloom but there are many clouds and virtually no silver linings.

Tim



Hucklow Summer School 2022 - Online

Right Relationship

Practising Love, Peace, and Justice in Everyday Life

We are once again presenting an online series of events during the August week when Hucklow Summer School would usually take place. There will be five daily theme talks on Zoom at 7pm from Monday 22 to Friday 26 August. This year, in keeping with our relational theme, each talk will be given by a pair of theme speakers exploring an aspect of 'Right Relationship' together:

- Monday 22 August: Rev. Sarah Tinker and Rev. Dr. Jane Blackall
- Tuesday 23 August: Nicola Temple and Dr. Lizzie Kingston-Harrison
- Wednesday 24 August: Rev. Laura Dobson and Arek Malecki
- Thursday 25 August: Torry Glinwell and Alex Brianson
- Friday 26 August: Rev. Cody Coyne and Rev. Winnie Gordon

During these talks we will be reflecting on the idea of 'right relationship' with self, others, and God. How might we cultivate practices of 'right relationship' in our everyday lives? Over the course of the week our speakers will consider what living in 'right relationship' might require of each of us in our closest connections with friends and family; in our congregations and wider communities (local and online); with people near and far who we don't come into direct contact with, and whose life experiences are very different from our own, but with whom our existence is interdependent; and with the Earth itself.

Sign up on the summer school website to receive the Zoom links a few days before the event (if you are already on the mailing list from last year you will receive the link automatically).

[Programme – Hucklow Summer School](#)

Last Words

This is the greatest skill of all,
To take the bitter with the sweet and make it beautiful,
To take the whole of life in all its moods,
Its strengths and weaknesses,
And of the whole make one great and celestial harmony.

Robert T Weston



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Contributions to kay.millard@btinternet.com by the first Sunday of each month, please.