

BUF NEWS

October 2023



“Autumn is a second spring, where every leaf is a flower.”

Albert Camus

Next Meeting at Barrow Castle

Sunday 29 October

10.45 Coffee, 11.15 Worship

Theme: Peace-Making

Led by Tim

Reflection

Right now I feel as though I am living in a dual world. One world has media pictures and reports about a terrible war between Israel and Hamas, which is full of unbearable atrocities and destruction. The other is my own everyday existence, secure and humdrum, full of daily chores, meeting people, and trying to reduce a to-do list. This is not the dualism of some religions, where good and evil battle it out until one ultimately wins, and the task for people of faith is to try to ensure the victory of good; rather it is a dualism of consciousness that dreadful things are happening but beyond those things it is “business as usual.”

Part of the disconnect arises because there is nothing I can do, except pray. Until there is a humanitarian corridor into Gaza, which I could support with a donation, this is a situation totally beyond my – or almost anyone else’s – control. I’m not good at feeling helpless, so I pray, but whether it only improves my own psyche or has some effect (given that many others around the world are also praying) I cannot know.

Life goes on. I take my car to the repair shop to rectify damage. I attend a committee meeting of the Active (sic) Retirement Club where Janet is commissioned to write a quiz (omitting asking the name of the current Prime Minister, as this may be confusing) and I am asked to do a presentation on Wilkie Collins. I order something from Amazon, set a date to meet a friend for coffee, and arrange my seasonal flu jab. I catch up with David Olusoga’s new BBC series, *Union* – brilliant. It’s very much “business as usual” – life lived in relative ease and comfort.

Meanwhile in Israel and Gaza all Hell is being let loose. I am grateful for my safety, and desperate for theirs.

Kay

I should have guessed, but only just received an e-mail. The Red Cross is already on the ground in Israel and Gaza, working alongside the Red Crescent, without waiting for safe passage.

For anyone who wants to donate to their Israel/Gaza Crisis Appeal, the link is:

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/occupied-palestinian-territories-and-israel-crisis-appeal>

Poem of the Month

Lyric night of the lingering Indian summer,
Shadowy fields that are scentless but full of singing,
Never a bird, but the passionless chant of insects,
Ceaseless, insistent.
The grasshopper's horn, and far-off, high in the maples,
The wheel of a locust leisurely grinding the silence
Under a moon waning and worn, broken,
Tired with summer.
Let me remember you, voices of little insects,
Weeds in the moonlight, fields that are tangled with asters,
Let me remember, soon will the winter be on us,
Snow-hushed and heavy.
Over my soul murmur your mute benediction,
While I gaze, O fields that rest after harvest,
As those who part look long in the eyes they lean to,
Lest they forget them.

Sara Teasdale (1884-1933)

Bath Interfaith Events

OCTOBER

Wednesday 18 October, B&NES National Hate Crime Awareness Week event, 2-4pm in The Guildhall, High St, Bath. Our Chair, David Musgrave, is speaking on faith-related hate crime at this event. Please see attached flier and programme for details and to book a place. David would like to include some local illustration if possible, **so please let him know** (davidmusgrave@hotmail.co.uk) if you have any examples that might come under this heading.

Sunday 22 October, to mark the week of Prayers for World Peace, 3-5pm. A multi-faith service to pray for peace across all peoples and nations in the Chapel of St Michael's Within, St John's Foundation Courtyard, Bath. We hope to include songs from the Dove Choir; please bring a reading, prayer, poem etc on the theme of World Peace to share. Followed by refreshments

NOVEMBER

Sunday 12 November, 3-6pm. Facing our Collective Shadow; An Interfaith Conversation for Positive Change with Vicki Burke. In the Beech Room, Weston Hub, Penn Hill Road, Weston, Bath BA1 4EH. With live music from Vicki, followed by refreshments. Limited parking in the car park, try adjacent streets.

Also in October

Social at Buckfast Abbey organised by Gavin Howell

The meetup will take place on Sunday 22nd October at 1:30pm. We'll meet by the abbey gift shop. It's located near the entrance and is well sheltered from the elements. We can then head over to The Grange for lunch. At 3pm, folk are welcome to head to the main sanctuary space for Vespers. Last time, this was a real hit with the choir being a major highlight. Of course, if Vespers isn't for you folk can always remain in the restaurant area and enjoy a leisurely coffee. At 4pm, we'll say our goodbyes and head home. There's no need to book your place as the venue doesn't take reservations. Simply turn up outside the giftshop (in good time) and together we'll head over to The Grange at 1:30pm. You will need to organise your own transportation to and from the Abbey. If you'd like more information on the venue check out their website: <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/>

Back to Greenwich Mean Time

Clocks go back by one hour on 29 October. Please remember so that you don't turn up at Barrow Castle an hour early for our meeting! I'm sure Judy would make you welcome, as she always does, but . . .

As Each Day Ends

As each day ends, may I have lived
That I can truly say:
I did no harm to humankind,
From truth I did not stray:
I did no wrong with knowing mind,
From evil I did keep:
I turned no hungry soul away,
I caused no one to weep.

Ancient Egyptian



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is published by the Bath Unitarian Fellowship, c/o 26 Fountain Court, Westbury BA13 3JY.
Contributions to kay.millard@btinternet.com by the first Sunday of each month, please.