

Unitarians in Edinburgh

Celebrating 2019 (and 2020 so far)

*by Rev Peter Fairbrother
for St Mark's AGM
6 September 2020*

A new editorial team for Waymark began work...



Thank you Kris & Christina

And we grew our web and social media:

Our website - refreshed

Over 550 followers on Facebook

We began tweeting

And opened our own YouTube channel



Thank you Annabel, Jane & Kate!

We maintained our beautiful home

'I'm proud that we shared our lovely building with St Mark's wider community of religious groups, societies, performing artistes and music-makers of all kinds, and with their members and audiences.'

Ann

Our thanks to Euan, our caretaker, Kay, who cleans for us, Ann, and all involved in caring for our building.



Our well loved groups continued:

Bereavement and Support Group

Poetry and Prose for Pleasure Group



And the Pastoral Care Team continued to reach out

'It is a great joy to belong to a thriving community and pastoral care team, supporting those who need our help.' Jane

mindfulness@lunchtime

'We've continued to offer our midweek lunchtimes of mindfulness every Tuesday. I'm proud that we've been open to share this period of peace, silence and mindfulness with many local folk.

Alongside, the Edinburgh Wild Geese Sangha met every Thursday evening and feel happy to have their home at St. Mark's.' Jon



Earth-based Paths Exploration Group

'I'm proud of the work Kim and I have done to create and maintain a group that focuses on nature and Earth-based spiritual paths. I'm especially proud of how flexible we are and how we choose topics to discuss based on members' interests.' Eli



Children's Programme – going strong Thank you Sara (2019) and Rachael (2020)

'I'm proud of the way in which families and children have shared their joys, concerns and creative endeavours with each other, during our weekly online sessions. The children adapted so well to meeting online and proved themselves to be kind, funny and caring. What an absolute joy to hear of their wee successes and adventures during lockdown, often completed within a few yards of their homes.' Rachael

*We had many get togethers and social events
last year...*



GA, April 2019



a Taste of Faith

COMMUNITY MEAL

St Mark's Unitarian Church
April 1 2019 at 6:30PM



We took part in the EIFA peace walk, May 2019



and Edinburgh Pride, June 2019



**There were lots of 'firsts':
we enjoyed 'Soup and Social' last
autumn and winter**





and met in Heart Circles.

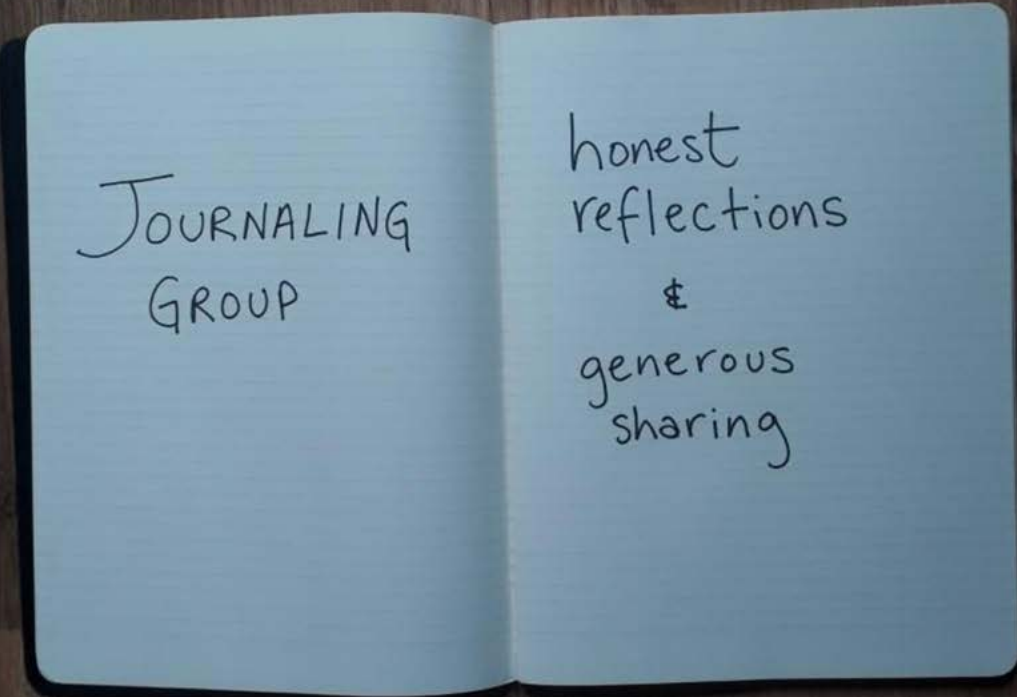
We held our first Death Cafe, October 2019



A close-up photograph of a hand with fingers slightly spread, set against a warm, golden background. A vibrant rainbow light effect is superimposed over the palm and fingers, creating a soft, ethereal glow.

*our first complementary therapies fayre,
November 2019*

and began a journaling group (thank you Julia)

An open notebook with two pages visible, resting on a dark wooden surface. The pages are light blue and contain handwritten text in black ink. The left page has the words 'JOURNALING GROUP' and the right page has 'honest reflections & generous sharing'.

JOURNALING
GROUP

honest
reflections
&
generous
sharing

Our Sunday services continued to be as diverse as we are



We had a special service to celebrate Peter's appointment as our permanent minister, September 2019.
Thank you Lesley and the Ministry Team.



and we continued to cater to a wide variety of musical tastes!

'I'm proud of all the new music I've learned that the service leaders and members have suggested for me. Lots of it is music I wouldn't have found on my own and have really enjoyed performing!' Our pianist, Ailsa.

*We held some
themed groups
of services*

Blue Christmas

at St. Mark's Unitarian Church,
7 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh. Welcoming all.

Loved ones missing from the table, pressure to live up to expectations, economic challenges... There are many reasons why we may feel more blue than festive as Christmas approaches. Come, share sacred space with us as we acknowledge the challenges of the season.

Heart Circle - Wednesday 11 December at 6.30pm

Give yourself an early Christmas gift of a little spaciousness. Join us as we sit by candlelight for an hour and honour what arises.

Blue Christmas - Sunday 15 December at 11am

A gentle service for those who find Christmas a tough time.

Celebrating the Winter Solstice - Sunday 22 December at 11am

Join us on the darkest day as we look forward to the return of the light.

Carols and Readings for Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24 December at 4pm

Time for Rest - Sunday 29 December at 11am

An hour of warming words, gentle music, and meditation to recharge the batteries.

tel. 0131 659 7600 www.edinburgh-unitarians.org.uk

CLIMATE CRISIS - our response?

**Join us during February and March
as we explore the spiritual & ecological challenges
of living with and addressing climate change.**

St. Mark's Unitarian Church, Edinburgh

Meeting Sundays, 11am www.edinburgh-unitarians.org.uk

And we took to the airwaves to promote ourselves!



We became a greener church



 **recycle here**



and continued our community giving

Our congregational financial support **helped 7 charities in 2019**; a total of **£3,134.90**. Due to the current pandemic £100 has been sent to each of the charities we would have supported through retiring collections in 2020 if the Church had been open.

Join us **online** this Sunday, 11am



for time together in community

We were among the first UK churches to **Zoom** our Sunday services during lockdown. We began 21st March.

Who do you think you are?

Identity Day

This Sunday 7th June, 11am, on Zoom

Come as you'd prefer...



Unitarians in Edinburgh

ourSpace@Zoom

ourFringe
ourWay



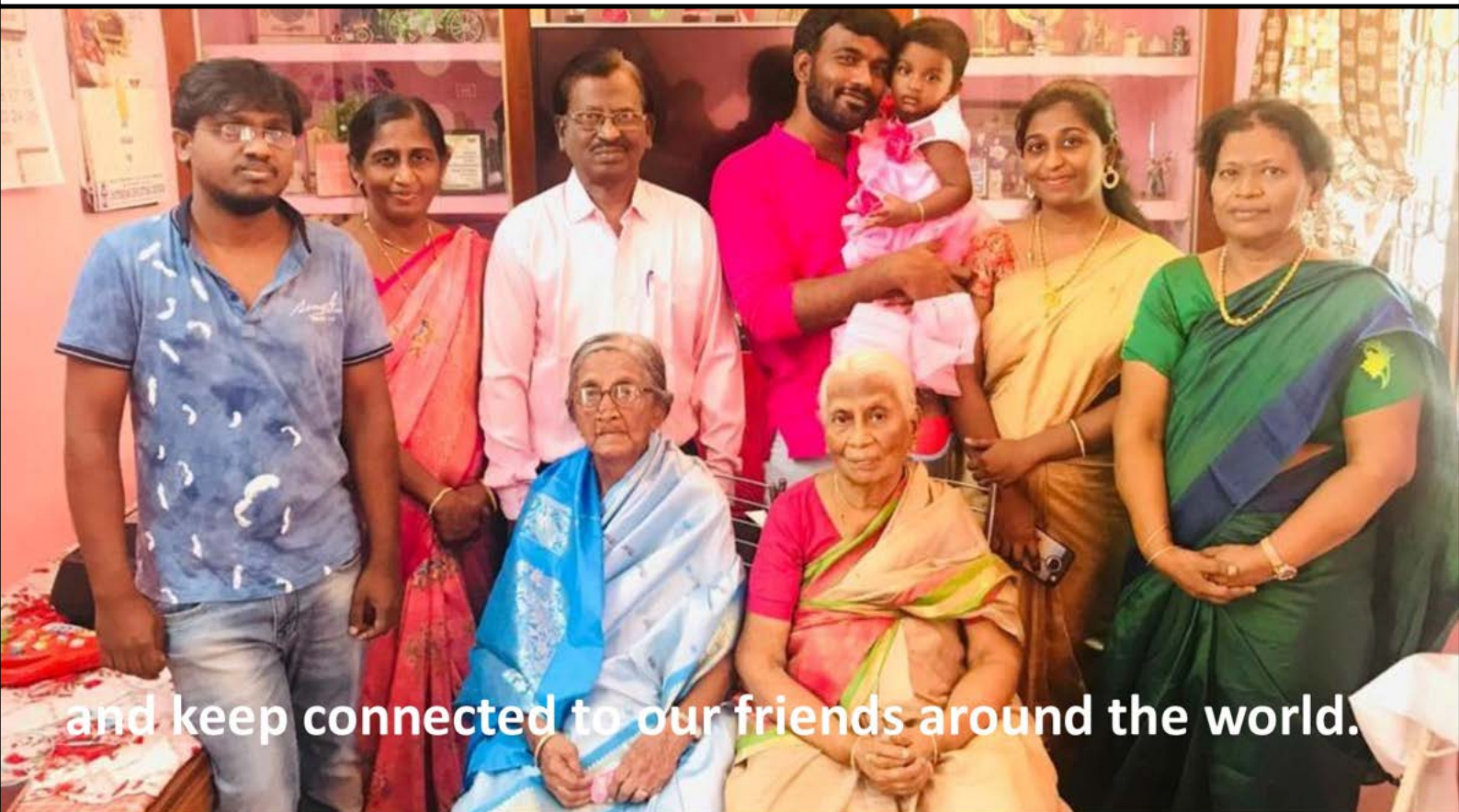
Sunday 2nd & 23rd August, 11am – <https://zoom.us/j/459569403>



QUIZ NIGHT



In difficult times we found new ways to be together...



and keep connected to our friends around the world.

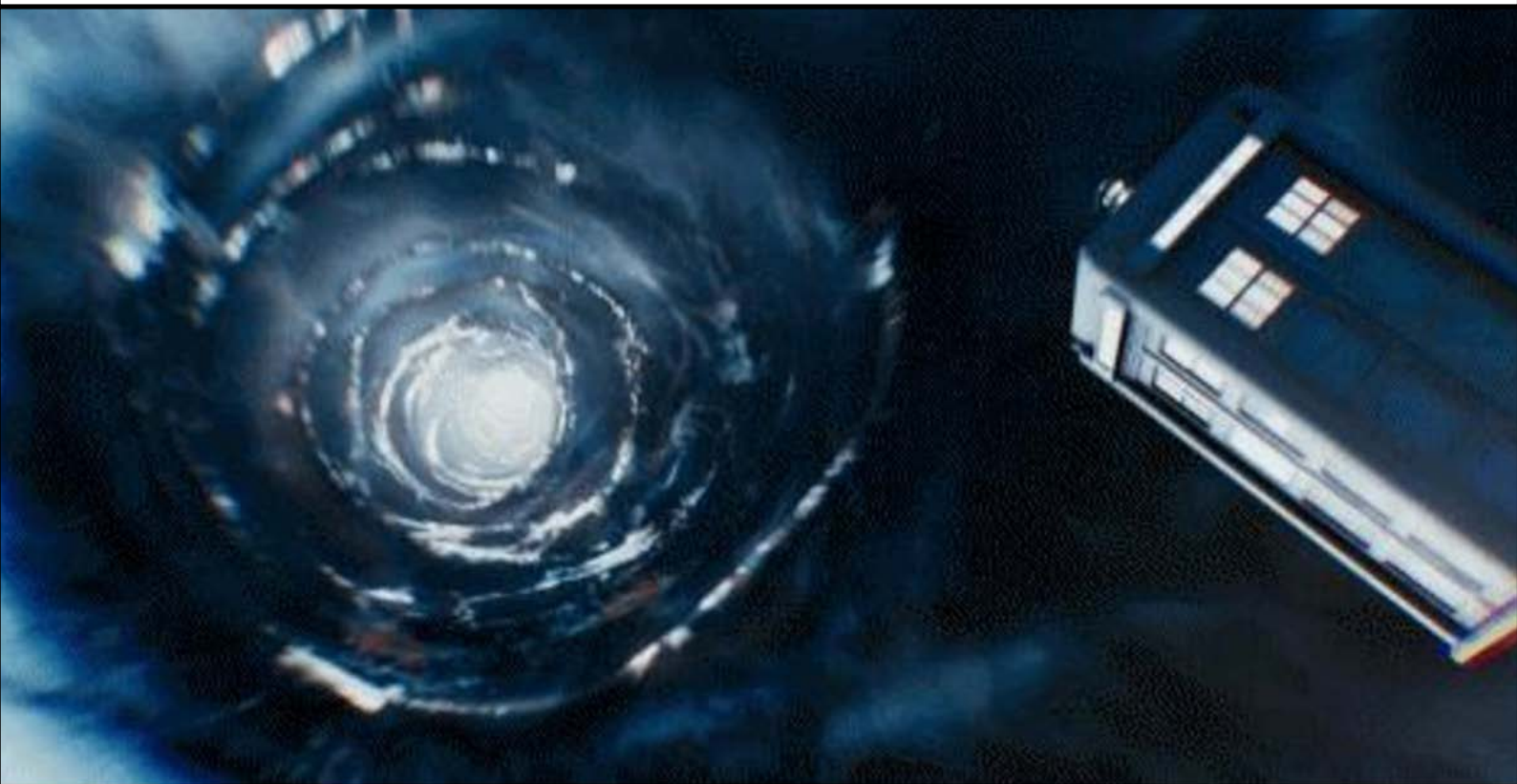
'We've been partners with the Chennai Unitarian Christian Church for around 20 years. I'm proud that we continue to contribute to the welfare & education of children in the village school of Amanabakkum.' Jon



A big *thank you*
to our trustees, members,
friends, contractors
and supporters
who make possible
all that we do.



So where next?
The choice is yours...



Unitarians in Edinburgh