



# Glasgow Unitarians

September 2025

## News & Views

*We, the readers of News & Views, join together in wishing for the good health and happiness of our beloved Editor. Lyanne is on sabbatical from church duties this month, but shares this poem with us.*

### CHEMO SONG

Time slows down  
While chemo fighters do their work.  
They flood my system  
Through my 'life line'  
Cleaning up for surgery.

I feel invaded.  
Slow motion rules, exhaustion too.  
To be expected.  
I was warned.  
Sound advice helps me to cope.

Strange to tell...  
Surprising gifts to be enjoyed  
Quiet reflection  
Awareness growing  
of Nature's details all around.

Island birds.  
Blackbirds feed hungry chick on our window sill.  
Sea gull parents  
Return to guard  
Their teenage chick down on the shore.

Best of all.  
Beloved family - faithful friends  
Sending loving caring thoughts  
Hearts to heart  
Boosting healing / living energy!

**Lyanne Mitchell**

**Glasgow Unitarian Church (SCIO)**  
Unitarian House, 72 Berkeley Street Glasgow G3 7DS

# PROGRAMME and NOTICES

Welcome back after the August holiday

## August Services

**Sunday 31st August at 11am in Church and on zoom** - Special guests Reverends Jean and Alex Bradley will be appearing in person in Unitarian House while they are visiting the area. If you can come along we would love to see you. **Tris** will be playing the organ and piano for us.

### A message from Alex:

"Jean and I are looking forward to seeing both old friends and new at Glasgow Unitarians on the 31st."

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## September Services

**September 7th at 11am** - We will be streaming the service from Edinburgh. The Church will be open as normal to allow our community time at coffee.

**September 7th at 7pm (zoom only)** - **Roddy Macpherson**. 'The Age of Reason.'

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**September 14th at 11am in Church and on zoom-** **Kerr Jamieson with Margaret Macintyre McClymont** First in our new series : 'How can I keep from Singing'. **Kerr** will be playing the organ for us.

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**September 21st at 11am in Church and on Zoom-** we welcome **Margery MacKay** from the Edinburgh Congregation 'The Truth We Seek' with personal reflections on the Arts, Truth and Unitarianism. **Tris** will be playing the organ and piano for us.

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**September 28th at 11am in Church and on Zoom. Reflections on a Life :** **Neil Spurway** in conversation with **Alison Spurway**. **Tris** will be playing the organ and piano for us.

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**02 November 2025 - Celebrating 'Day of the Dead'**  
- **Ali Briggs** will be leading the service. She is looking for volunteers to contribute some simple memories or anecdotes that make you smile.



## Celebrating the Life of Helen Craig 1938-2025

Helen was a “silver bell” . That was how a church member in a recent email to me described the late Helen Craig , wife of Malcolm for 63 years, mother of Shona and Leanne. Helen was also a mother-in-law, a grandmother and great-grandmother.

Helen along with Malcolm was welcomed into the membership of the Unitarian Church here in Berkeley Street not long after the congregation moved from St Vincent Street- around 1988 so Malcolm told me. Helen had a lovely patient nature and was always smiling. She threw herself into the work of the church giving support to Malcolm when he became the Chairperson of the Management Committee and helping with the Wednesday meeting at which Malcolm would be playing his guitar.



Helen 2010

Perhaps Helen will be remembered more for the hours she spent in the church library. A librarian herself with a degree in pure Mathematics, Helen catalogued all the many books the church held some very old indeed. She created a card system for borrowers. Some of the cards are still around today!

So many years have passed since Helen was able to attend any event in Glasgow Unitarian Church due to ill health but her interest in the church remained firm. Rev John Clifford, Minister Emeritus of GUC, conducted Helen’s funeral, a celebration of her life, on 11 July 2025 at South Lanarkshire Crematorium at 11am.

**Margaret Paxton**

# Recent Services in Unitarian House

Thanks to the PSWG, Margaret Macintyre McClymont & Alison Spurway, for the excellent and varied services we've enjoyed recently. Apologies to the service leaders who have not been included in the picture gallery. No one took a decent picture of you!



**A Quaker's Perspective 29 June 2025**  
Professor Helen Minnis sings beautifully

**Flower communion 13 July 2025**  
Ruth's first service as leader. The first of many!



**Ruth Paxton Wright**



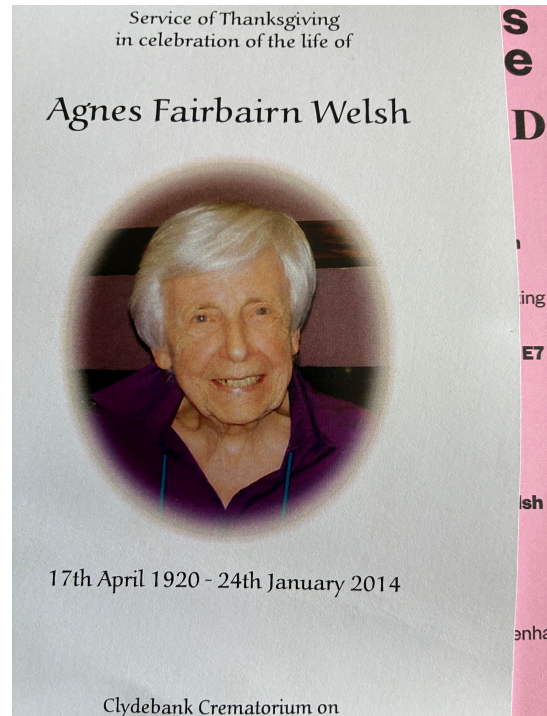
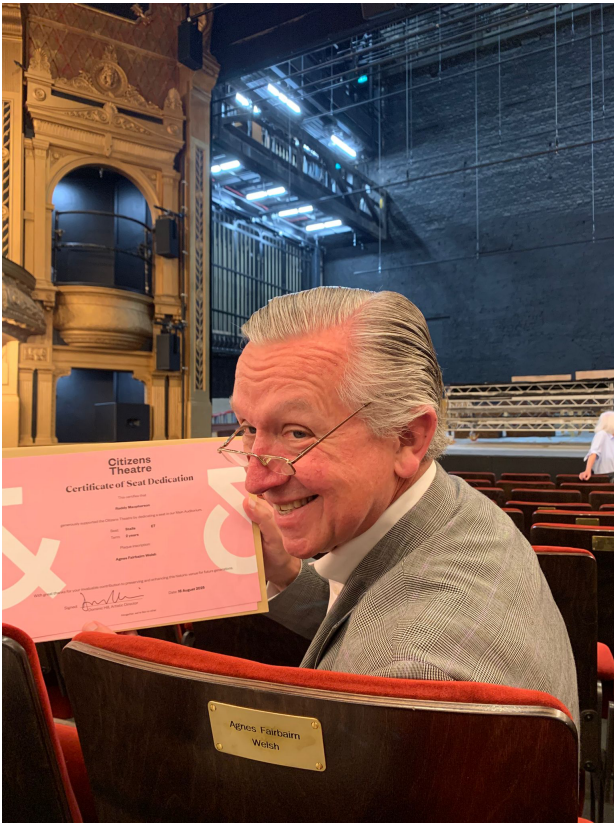
**Ruth & her able assistant,  
Granny Mac!**

**Gathering the Flowers**



**Jim Millar**  
**A tribute to Allan Glen, Captain of Industry, humanitarian & Unitarian**  
**27 July 2025**

# Remembering Nan Welsh



Nan Welsh died over eleven years ago.

I had told the congregation at her funeral that I felt sure I'd always be able to hear in my head her speaking out this *trinitarian* creed: "Culture, culture, culture!"

I gave a little donation to the Citizens' Theatre in her memory.

Long ago, therefore, her name was put on a polished little brass plate on a seat in the stalls. I assumed it had worn-out long since.

In fact, the seat, the floor, and most things besides were all stripped out from the theatre, when its rebuilding work began in the age we call *Pre-Pandemic*.

Wonderful to say, I was invited back to the Citz on Saturday, 16th August, especially to inspect Nan's seat. It's E7 in the stalls, with a truly excellent view. Look out for what will be on the Gorbals' stage soon!

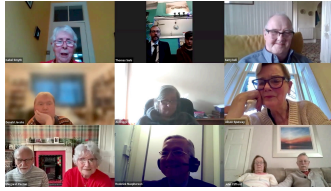
Roddy Macpherson.

Brilliantly restored by Scottish sculptor David J Mitchell as part of the redevelopment, these iconic figures are once again taking their place within the Citizen's Theatre — a powerful symbol of continuity, heritage, and transformation.



These distinctive elephant heads, with their intricate trunks and regal expressions, were originally part of the ornate interior of the neighbouring Palace Theatre, designed by Bertie Crewe. Rescued from demolition in 1977, they were later installed in the Citz foyer in 1989, quickly becoming a favourite feature for audiences and staff alike.

Their reinstatement isn't just a return — it's a reinvention. This time, the elephants will stand proudly on brand-new plinths, specially designed and built by Head of Workshop, Denis Murphy.



Having heard many opinions and been given lots of advice on the issues with Zoom services, I want to try to address some of the common issues.

Please treat Zoom participants as if they are in the room with you.

However, also remember that they are not. If you can't see yourself onscreen in Zoom when it is in 'gallery view', you can't be seen by participants either. They will also have difficulty hearing you unless you are standing near the microphone which is supplying audio to the meeting.

The two most common complaints about our Zoom services are

1. the lack of 'live' music
2. participants don't know how to control their view of the gathering.

Now for the good news: While you have been enjoying the August break, Tom Serb and I have been working on finding a solution to No. 1.

The solution to No. 2 is in your hands. (the viewer).

**Pin the video you want to see!**

## Step-by-Step Instructions to Pin a Video on Zoom

1. **Start or Join a Meeting:** Launch the Zoom desktop app and join or start a meeting.
2. **Locate the Participant:** In gallery view, move your mouse cursor over the video feed of the participant you wish to pin.
3. **Access the More Menu:** In the top-right corner of their video tile, click the three-dot icon.
4. **Select Pin Video:** From the menu that appears, click on Pin Video.
5. **(Optional) Pin Additional Videos:** To pin more videos, repeat steps 2-4 for other participants. You can pin up to nine videos if the host has enabled the function for you.

# Steps to Pin a Video on your phone/iPad/tablet

Join or Start a Zoom Meeting: Open the Zoom app and either start a new meeting or join an existing one.

1. Enter Gallery View: In a meeting with at least three participants, swipe your screen to the left to switch to Gallery View.
2. Select the Participant: Find the video tile of the participant you wish to pin.
3. Tap and Hold: Tap and hold the video tile of that participant. Choose "Pin": A pop-up menu will appear; select Pin to pin that participant's video.

## Things to note: phones/iPads/tablets

- On an iPad Three or more participants are required before you can pin a feed because you can't switch to 'Gallery View' if there are fewer than three people in the meeting.
- If you want to find other controls the meeting, tap onscreen, the menu will appear.
- You may also find options to mute/unmute your audio, start/stop your video, and access chat or other settings.

## To Remove a Pin

1. On a computer: Move your cursor over the three dots on the video feed you are watching. On a table/iPad or phone tap and hold.
2. The menu will reappear. Select "Remove Pin".

If you have any other questions about Zoom, please email [churchofficer@glasgowunitarians-scio.org.uk](mailto:churchofficer@glasgowunitarians-scio.org.uk) and I will do my best to answer them.

Ali

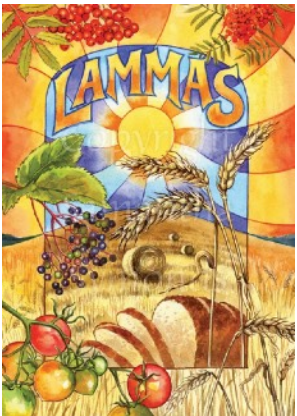


## The Unitarian Earth Spirit Network

### Lammas Greetings

Unless you have trouble with hot weather, we cannot complain about the sunshine we have enjoyed this year! The grain harvest promised to be rich and plentiful when Lammas was celebrated on the first day of August.

Traditionally the first sheaf of the harvest is hung over the fireplace until Springtime when it will be ploughed back in.



The last sheaf is for making corn dollies. The first bread from the new grain is said to have magical properties. We might never do these things now but it is good to keep the memory that we once did. August 1st was also the festival of Lugh, the sun king and god of light.



Rev Tony McNeile Unitarian Earth Spirit Network, Kate Dean (Rosslyn Chapel), Rev Laura Dobson (Chorlton Unitarians) are gathering material to put together as worship packs for congregations on Earth Spirit themes.

The Unitarian Earth Spirit Network is for those who find spirituality in nature.. Through simple creative writing exercises and discussion, they are creating and distributing worship material for each of the eight festivals of the year.

Samhain, Imbolc, Ostara (spring equinox) Beltane, Litha (summer solstice), Lammas and Mabon (the autumn equinox)

If you have a meditation, a prayer, a story, a memory, they ask that you share it with them to be included in The 'File'

**<https://unitarianearthspiritnetworkandfile.wordpress.com/>**

Usual rules apply:

1. any length will do,
2. copyrighted articles can't be used without the holder's consent.

## A thought that counts:

When Neil Armstrong stepped down on to the surface of the moon on this day over fifty years ago, did he expect to learn the mystery behind its presence? The moon is separate from us and yet tied to us. It seems lifeless yet it gives us life. It has no power of its own yet it drives the tides of the world to ebb and flow. Thus turbulent oceans then carry the heat of the sun around the world releasing storms, cyclones and weather systems.



The lifeless moon entices leaves to grow and roots to burrow. It also tugs at human emotions as it waxes and wanes on its 28 day journey around us, thirteen times in a year.

Civilisations measured time and date by the journey of the moon.

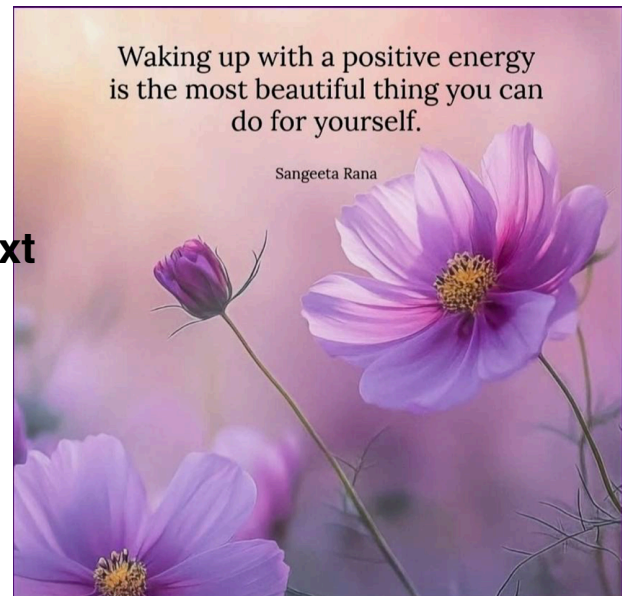
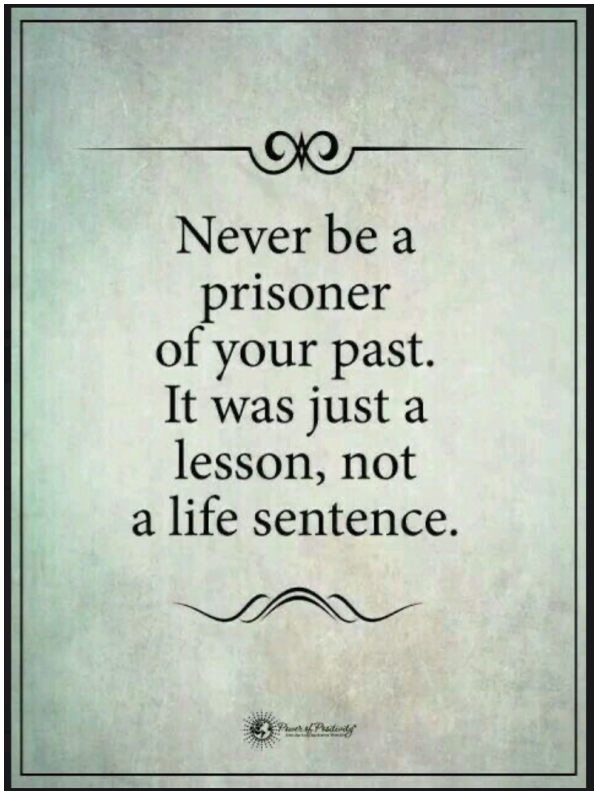
This shining satellite is part of our lives and like an engine to the world.

There are endless theories of how the moon came to be where it is, perfectly sized and perfectly placed to keep the world in balance. It might have been created in some catastrophe like a planetary collision, or a huge eruption. It might have been a wanderer captured by earth's gravity to be held forever. And some will say, it is there by design, not accident.

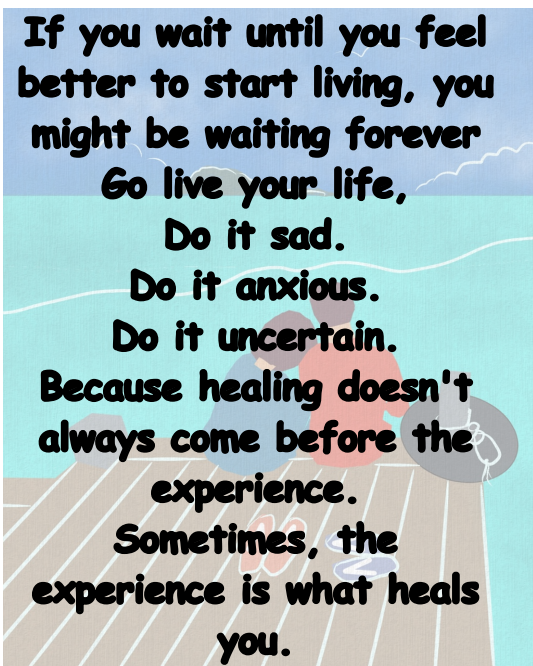
We look at its silver light and wonder if we are being held in the destiny of the divine, leaping slowly towards the truth,

Tony McNeile a Unitarian

# To Inspire



Text



# To Amuse

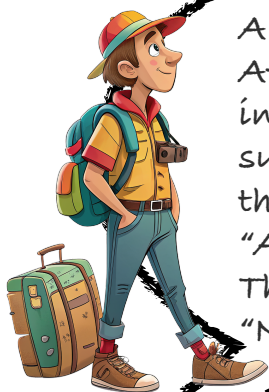
An old man picked me up.  
I told him  
"Kiss me and I'll turn into a princess."  
He stuck me in his pocket.  
I asked, "aren't you going to kiss me?"  
He said,  
"I'm 85 years old.  
I'd rather have a talking frog."



You know you're a Unitarian when you've made a tower of marshmallow, spaghetti and string!



A traveler couldn't find Unitarian Church.  
After looking in the centre of town,  
in the suburbs, and out in the  
surrounding countryside,  
the traveler asked a farmer;  
"Am I too far out for the Unitarian Church?"  
The farmer's reply:  
"Nobody is too far out for them."



A visitor to the Unitarians sat through the service with growing incredulity.

At coffee time someone asked the visitor, "So how did you like it?"

"I can't believe half the things that minister said!" sputtered the visitor in outrage.

"Oh, good - you'll fit right in!"

