



# Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Founded 1662

Built 1703

*"Here let no man a stranger be"*



Aug - Oct 2015

[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington)

[www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk)

## **Chairman's Letter**

At Rivington we are blessed with a kindly and generous congregation and we have the bonus of worshipping in what must be one of the most picturesque of Unitarian Chapels, which is idyllic (apart from the traffic which any fine weather never fails to bring to us).

Generosity, as we know, takes different guises and we often give to good causes. After the recent disastrous earthquake in Nepal we simply donated the entire collection taken that day, £72.50, to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal. This spontaneity is not unusual for us though, as last year, when Coffee4Craig's Fie and Risha visited us we gave them the day's collection and there were a number of additional personal donations to their worthy cause.

Perhaps the greatest generosity we show, as a community engaged in worshipping God, is the generosity that doesn't involve money but is of the spirit. I say this because all visitors to the Chapel are sincerely greeted with kindness and equanimity. Before and after services we often see heads bobbing around the door, a result of people's pure curiosity, which is responded to with pure warmth from any member of the congregation who happens to be on hand. After all, if our Chapel is not there to serve people and to be shared with them (in whatever reasonable way possible) what is it there for? It brings it home to you when you hear of things like Rev Danny Crosby mentioned during his sermon at the service on 21<sup>st</sup> June when he said that he had been to services and seen strangers where there were only 5 or 6 people present.

The upkeep of the Chapel and its grounds is of paramount importance to enable its true purpose of serving the community. This

is also down to generosity; that of our Congregation and Trustees. On 6<sup>th</sup> June a work party comprising Michael Hough, David Worsley, Paul Fairclough and myself dug a long drainage trench at the top of the Garden of Remembrance. A bit like C4's Time Team, we dug up various 'artefacts' and amazingly Paul found a spot where a spring had sprung underneath the paving slabs – no wonder they tended to dip after being set. Later on the demolition mob (David and Kamil) got to work, making an access to the rear of the end wall. Thanks to everyone who could take part, as this was indeed jolly hard, muddy, work.

I was sad to miss the Anniversary Service on 17th May but have seen Rev Nicky Jenkins since, at the MDA. Nicky said she felt honoured to have taken the service and thanked us for the enjoyable social meal at the Yew Tree Restaurant afterwards.

Our Strawberry Tea on 7<sup>th</sup> June, when the service was beautifully conducted by Rev Alex Bradley, was a joyous celebration of strawberries - I mean Summer. The weather was fine and all was good with the world. Once again we are indebted to Roy and Jimmy for donating the scones, cream and 'best ever' strawberries. The service was enjoyed by 32 people (including 2 babes in arms and 1 dog).

The 12<sup>th</sup> September is our next big event; the Late Summer Fair/ Heritage Open Day. There will be all of our trusty stalls, Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Crafts, Home Produce, Books and Green Produce. If you can donate items for any of the above stalls it will be appreciated. Everything is considered to be a valued contribution. Or perhaps you wish to spend the day or part of the day with us, which is even better as the fellowship is so enjoyable. Being linked in with the Heritage

Open Day is also a bonus and we get to welcome lots of people who have not visited us before.

Amen & God bless, *Vince*  
Chairman  
Lay Person in Charge

### **From the Committee**

As reported in the last issue, the post of Chapel Secretary is vacant. The Congregational Committee hope to appoint a new Secretary as soon as possible. Listed below are the various duties that the post involves.

#### **Duties of Chapel Secretary**

1. Print and distribute the agenda for Congregational Committee meetings and Congregational AGM.
2. Take the minutes at Congregational Committee meetings and the Congregational AGM.
3. Type up and circulate the minutes before next meeting.
4. Send and receive correspondence.
5. Act as contact for Rivington Pilgrimage.
6. Keep the Chapel Notice Board up to date.

If you feel that you would be able to support the Chapel by taking on this role, the Committee would like to hear from you. Contact details can be found on the back cover of the newsletter.

#### **Flower Rota**

There is an up-to-date version of the Flower Rota on the Chapel notice board, based on the previous list compiled by Joan Thursby. If anyone who is on the list would like to make any changes, or wishes

their name to be removed, please let Alison Whitaker know. Alison would also like to hear from anyone who would like to be added to the list of flower donors. If you wish to continue to provide flowers, but are unable to attend the service when it is your turn, please let Alison know so that she can arrange for flowers to be put in Chapel on your behalf.

### **Trustees Matters**

As Vince has mentioned in his letter, a working party did some sterling work to put in a new land drain in the Garden of Remembrance. Many thanks to Michael Hough and David Worsley for organising this, and of course to all those who provided the manual labour. There is now a very satisfying steady trickle of water emerging from the end of the pipe where it comes out into Sheephouse Lane. Hopefully, the ground will now dry out over the summer.

Thanks to Olive Fisher for recommending a new gardener following my appeal in the last newsletter. Michael has now engaged his services. Michael has also been very busy with his two publications and the chapel postcards, details of which can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Peter Bearon**  
**Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees**

**Winstanley's Wisdom** - in memory of Jimmy

You should play the violin while you are depressed - it will help you keep your chin up!

Time is like an extra cupboard - you can always find something to fill it.

Truth never damaged a cause that is just.

## **James (Jimmy) Winstanley 28th February 1922 - 5th May 2015**

Jimmy's funeral service took place at the Chapel on Wednesday 20 May at 2.00pm. It was led by Judith Crompton and the organist was Keith Bateson from Bank St.

Of the many relations and friends who attended, most would have been familiar with his career as a welder and as a flight engineer with Coastal Command in WWII, and of course his long association with the Chapel. Yet there are a few details with which some may not be familiar: many generations of his family are buried in the chapel grounds; Jimmy's mother died when he was only eleven; he worked on a number of bridges on the motorways and, strangest of all, in 1945 a German U-Boat surrendered to his aircraft. (I'm not sure what he could have done with such a prize in Adlington).

During the moving service, poetry about service life was a special feature. Judith spoke of Jimmy's loyal service to the country and to the Chapel, and of the help she had received from the practical abilities of Jimmy and Alice.

She recalled his sometimes bizarre contributions at the Trustees Meetings but in particular a summer trip on a barge when Alice said that it was the best outing she'd had for ages. And why was that, she was asked. "Well I was at t'front o't'boat and he were at t'other end and we never saw each other all day." He seems to have generated many such anecdotes.

As his daughter Kathleen wrote in her tribute, Jimmy was proud of granddaughters Catherine and Gillian and great-grandchildren Rebecca, Emma and Rachel and loved to hear their latest news. The blessing included the words, "In our beginnings are the seeds of our

endings; in our endings are the memories of our beginnings; in the growth between are the fruits of our living.”

One final quotation: Jimmy contributed regularly to this newsletter with a section called ‘Winstanley’s Wisdom’ Here is an example: “Opinion polls are rather like children in a garden, digging things up all the time to see how they’re growing.” You can’t say that he was ever behind the times.

**Dennis Crompton**

### **Tree Planting Ceremony**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, a white rowan tree was planted to the rear of the Chapel in memory of the life and works of Joan Holding. She had been one of the most popular and long-serving characters of the Chapel: a one-time chairman and occasional organist who organised walking in Lancashire and musical evenings. She had a warm sense of humour which informed her work as an archivist; she even suggested that there may have been highway robbers in her family history. She would have been delighted that her post horn still featured in the chapel and would have loved the white blossoms of the rowan tree which was chosen by Carol Worsley and planted by David Worsley.

Judith spoke words in recollection and Vince led a short service which included the prayer “May this tree dig deep roots and grow wide branches to bear witness to your love and grace made known in our sister Joan”

**Dennis Crompton**

(The photo on the cover of this issue shows the rowan tree. The post horn, which usually hangs in the Willoughby pew, was sounded by John Green during the tree planting ceremony – Ed.)

## **Booklets and Postcards**

On sale in the Chapel and the Village Tearooms are two booklets produced by Michael Hough, 'Rivington Chapel Memorial Inscriptions' and 'Rivington Chapel Trustees Minutes, August 1859 to March 1955'.

Also available is a pack of postcards featuring old photographs of the Chapel.

Prices are as follows:	Rivington Chapel Memorial Inscriptions	£2.50
	Rivington Chapel Trustees Minutes	£3.00
	Postcards (set of 8)	£1.50

If you would like to buy any of these items, but are unable to visit the Chapel, they are available directly from Michael (plus the cost of postage and packing). Please contact him on 0113 267 7298.

## **Coffee4Craig**

We are continuing to support Coffee4Craig, a not-for-profit organisation which was set up to support and work with homeless people in Manchester and South Wales.

In Manchester, Coffee4Craig operates three static street kitchens and a weekly welfare walk, supported by over 25 volunteers. They also support other projects, charities and statutory services, and are available 24 hours a day to deal with emergencies. They have been able to help a broad range of vulnerable people, some of whom have in turn become volunteers.

More information about the work of Coffee4Craig can be found on their website, [www.coffee4craig.co.uk](http://www.coffee4craig.co.uk) . Please contact me if you have any items you would like to donate.

**Alison**



## **2015 Calendar**

Sat 12 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 18 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 20 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

### **A Note from the Editor**

Don't forget that if you would like to help us reduce the cost of printing and posting the newsletter, you can opt to have an e-mail version rather than a paper copy. You can, of course, read this and past issues online at [www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk). If you are happy to do so, please contact me on [newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk) , so that the mailing list can be amended. Chris and Lynne Haighton, who distribute the newsletters, would also be grateful to be kept informed if there are any other amendments that need to be made to the list. Their contact details can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

Chris and Lynne, our newsletter distributors, have been enjoying a family holiday on the West Coast of the USA. They will be away until 31 July, so will not be posting out the newsletters until the following week.

**Alison**

## Dates for your Diary

### Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

2 August	Rev Stephen Lingwood - Bank Street Chapel
16 August	Rev Cody Coyne - Cross Street Chapel
6 September	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
20 September	Veronica & Gordon Walker - Bank Street Chapel
4 October	Chrissie Wilkie - Dean Row Chapel
18 October	Harvest Festival Graham Pilborough - Padiham Chapel
1 November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel

### Flower Donors

2 August	Olive Fisher
16 August	Miss E. Curwen
6 September	Joan Thursby
20 September	Elsie Kent
4 October	Vince and Isobel McCully
18 October	Muriel Jones
1 November	Roy Shepherd

## Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 2 Aug After service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sat 5 Sept 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	West Gallery Music Singing Day
Sat 12 Sept 11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Fri 2 Oct 1:00 pm	Wedding - Jemma May Ward and Paul Henshaw Conducted by Vince McCully

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If you would like to arrange a ceremony at Rivington  
Chapel, please contact  
Mary Horrocks tel: 01204 493757

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Please send your contributions electronically if possible to the email address above. For those without access to the internet I am still happy to receive handwritten copy,

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