



Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



Aug - Oct 2016

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

www.facebook.com/Rivington-Unitarian-Chapel-1724516264491069

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

At the beginning of this quarter we were looking forward to treating the celebrant at our Anniversary service, the Rev Cody Coyne from Cross Street Chapel, and his wife Catherine to a meal at the Yew Tree. However, this was not to be. While Cody's service was enjoyed by all and was a wonderful tribute to the longevity of our Chapel and our congregation, unfortunately, just days beforehand, the Yew Tree had to shut due to a fire in the kitchen. As a result of this, the pub suffered significant damage and is still undergoing repairs two month later.

We have been working hard to raise funds and our open day during the in Rivington Spring Festival yielded £135. Although it was really quite rainy we had a lot of visitors. Special thanks to Carol Worsley, Olive Fisher and Iris Wharton.

From 28-30 May I was on retreat at Luther King House. It was to do with ministerial awareness. The course was led by Reverends Nicky Jenkins, John Midgley, Lizzy Birtles and Lynne Readett. The pace of the retreat was deceptive; there was a great deal of talking and indeed soul searching. We were encouraged to explore our understanding of, place within and meaning to our movement. I would heartily encourage anyone to go on similar events. The chance to step out of the flow of mainstream concerns for a few days was entirely beneficial. While at times the discussions could be pretty intense and full-on, the honesty and good nature of the group (there were 14 of us) meant that they were positive and constructive. I certainly came away stronger mentally and spiritually and with a clearer view of my future in Unitarianism. As well as unearthing all kinds of resources I made a lot of Unitarian friends there and hope to introduce some of them to our Rivington community at some point in

the future. Also I am attending a Unitarian enquiry day in Leicester on 29 July.

At the beginning of June, we had our strawberry tea and it was a great success. What a super way to celebrate the simple joys of Summer; strawberries aren't just for Wimbledon you know. Thanks so much to Roy and Jimmy for making this possible.

Closer to home we have been making further headway into the modern way of doing things. We have been putting our new Facebook presence to good use. By announcing and showing details of our Remembrance services the local and wider community are able to see the sort of things we do.

For instance, Michael Hough and Paul and Diane Fairclough have been doing a great deal of work in the grounds here at Chapel and while working on the gravestones they uncovered details about soldiers who had died as a result of action in WWI. On 1 July the Battle of the Somme was being commemorated in many places and Michael pointed out that Cpl Eric William Peirce had died there. Eric was only 21 years old and is mentioned on his Grandfather Rev Samuel Thompson's gravestone. We held a wreath-laying ceremony there at 11am on 1 July. This was to pay tribute not only to Eric but to all the local lads and lassies who have suffered in the course of their patriotic duties. You can see some pictures on our Facebook page (Rivington Unitarian Chapel); don't forget to "like" us. The following Sunday we held a full service and here is an excerpt from Facebook.

"Today we held a remembrance service. The atmosphere was amazing. The local history display by Janette and Blythe really set the scene and members of the congregation brought heirlooms too.

During the service Bernard Taylor gave an enlightening and inspiring talk about 'Un-adopted War Cemeteries'. Peter and Alison played the tune 'The Battle of the Somme'; touching, you could hear a pin drop at the end, everyone was so drawn in. Rev Frank Williams read Wilfred Owen's 'Exposure' and Siegfried Sassoon's 'The Redeemer' with such feeling. It almost seemed as though the young soldiers in the display were leaning forward with interest. Mary and Tom lightened the mood with the children's story and Hannah's hymn choice was impeccable. Afterwards it was tea and 'bickies' while everyone chatted and checked out the display boards. An amazing day and a fitting tribute and prayers to the fallen and wounded."

As you know we are blessed with a wonderful group of visiting preachers and one who stands out amongst them is Rev Nicky Jenkins. Nicky has recently taken up a post with the York Unitarians. I'm sure we all wish her well in her new job.

Here is a little progress report regarding Rites of Passage at the Chapel. So far this year we have had four Naming Ceremonies with one more to come in September along with a Wedding. Next year we have three Weddings booked with a further one to be confirmed, and I expect we will have more Naming Ceremonies booked in nearer the time.

Your hard working committee are beavering away organising the 'Rivington Pilgrimage' (see pages 6 - 9 for details and information). This is a great occasion and certainly not to be missed. There is nothing like it in the North and it is a chance to meet and sing along with other Unitarians in the cause of "Civil and Religious Liberties". At the first Pilgrimage I attended, I was struck by the number of people there; I should have twigged there are, in fact, quite a lot of Unitari-

ans around. Also, they really raised the roof with their singing, the energy around the Chapel was truly amazing and memorable. Give your spirit a treat, don't miss it.

A lot of my neighbours continue to give me things to pass onto Coffee4Craig which I have been taking to Project 34 in Salford. The girls are so busy it's hard to know how they find time for themselves. If you have anything for them, please let either myself or Alison know and we'll do the rest.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

Chairman's Letter

Chris Martin has now set up the Chapel Facebook page and you will find the link on the front cover. So far it has featured some excellent photographs, including pictures of the very enjoyable strawberry tea on Sunday 5 June. Many thanks to Roy and Jimmy for organising the strawberries and scones.

The new visitors' book has been in use since the end of April and the first ten pages are already full. We are very grateful to Paul and Diane Fairclough for donating the book, which is dedicated to Paul's father, Lawrence Nuttall Fairclough.

I am pleased to report that the vacant date in January for providing flowers has now been filled. If you are unable to attend the service when it is your turn, please let me know so that I can arrange for flowers to be put in Chapel on your behalf.

Our Late Summer Fair will, as usual, coincide with the Heritage Open Days Festival. This year we have decided to open on the Sunday of that weekend, 11 September, to take advantage of the large number of visitors who come to the Rivington area on a Sunday. We hope to run our usual stalls: Tombola, Bric-a-Brac, Crafts, Home Produce, Books, Green Produce. If you can contribute to the day in any way, either by donating items for any of the stalls, or by helping out on the day, it will be greatly appreciated.

**Alison Whitaker
Chairman**

From the Committee

The post of Chapel Secretary remains vacant, and the Committee would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to take on the role. Details of the duties of Secretary are available from the Chairman.

As Rivington Church Hall does not have a stock of crockery and cutlery, we are currently considering options for topping up the Chapel's own collection of plates, cups and saucers for use at the Pilgrimage meal. One possibility would be to ask people to loan items for the day, but if anyone has any other suggestions, please let us know.

Rivington Pilgrimage

The Rivington Pilgrimage has been an important part of the life of the Chapel for over fifty years. The first one took place in 1962 to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the ejection of 1662, which resulted in many ministers having to leave their posts in the Church of England. The Pilgrimage was suggested by John W. R.

Crompton of Rivington Hall, the then Chairman of Trustees, and Reverend Eric Shirvell Price, who was minister of Bank Street Unitarian Chapel, Bolton, at the time. The idea was to give Unitarians from all parts of the country the opportunity to meet together to mark this important anniversary.

About 360 people made the first Pilgrimage. A dinner in the Rivington Tithe Barn was followed by a walk to Chapel for a service, with many having to sit outside. By popular vote, it was proposed that the Pilgrimage should become an annual event. However, by the 1980s it was decided that it should be held once every three years, on a Saturday in September.

The format of the Pilgrimage has remained much the same over the years. After the meal, a guest speaker proposes a toast to 'Civil and Religious Liberties the World over'. Everyone then makes their way to the Chapel. Some chapels bring along their banners. Although the number of people attending is much less than in 1962, there are enough to fill the Chapel for the service which is usually led by a guest minister.

For this year's Pilgrimage, we are moving to a new venue for the meal, Rivington Church Hall, full details of which can be found on the following pages. We are very pleased to have as our guest speaker Dot Hewerdine from Chorley Unitarian Chapel, who is the current President of the General Assembly. The situation of the Hall means that it would not be possible to process along the road to the Chapel, but a way round using paths is being looked at. Whatever the route, we shall all cross the village green for the service which will be conducted by Reverend Bob Janis-Dillon, Minister of Warrington, Bryn and Chester Chapels.

Rivington Unitarian Chapel

Triennial Pilgrimage

Saturday 24 September 2016

Lancashire Lunch at Rivington Church Hall

Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Lancashire, BL6 7SE

Guest Speaker: Dot Hewerdine

President of the General Assembly

Please bring banners to display in the Hall

Service in Rivington Chapel

Conducted by: Rev Bob Janis-Dillon

Minister at Warrington, Bryn and Chester Chapels

Times

12:30pm Meet at Hall

1:00pm Lunch

3:15pm Service

Tickets for Lunch

(booking essential)

£12.50 Adult

£8.00 Child

Booking for Rivington Pilgrimage 2016

If you would like to book tickets for the Pilgrimage, please send a cheque made payable to **Rivington Chapel** to:

Alison Whitaker, 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3RS

Please indicate the number of adult and/or child tickets that you require, and any dietary requirements.

We would be grateful if you would include a stamped addressed envelope.

The closing date for bookings is **Friday 2 September 2016**. Tickets will be sent out during the week beginning 12 September.

(There are some copies of the booking form on the notice board in Chapel.)

2016 Calendar

Sun 11 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sat 24 Sept	Rivington Pilgrimage
Sun 16 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 18 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Trustees Matters

In the last newsletter, I stated that the aims to have an overall plan of maintenance for the Chapel and to improve the heating were now high priorities of the Trustees. To these ends, firstly, we have now had a full professional architectural survey undertaken of both the Chapel and Tea Rooms. We expect the full report with a prioritised maintenance plan during July. Overlapping with this, and not unconnected, has been our seeking advice regarding installation of replacement storage heaters and new pew heaters. Besides the capital cost of these, there is required the necessary electrical work to install them and at the present time we have received one quotation for the whole project. It is most likely we shall seek at least a second quotation and then, following consultation with other bodies such as Historic England and the Chorley Council authorities to ensure compatibility of our plans with the requirements of a Class II* building, start (if not complete) this initiative, before next Winter.

During June the leak in the vestry chimney has been repaired together with the relocation and replacement of a number of roofing stone slates, thereby ensuring that the roof areas are now weather proof. The works were completed just before the recent and unusually heavy rain. While the builder was repairing the roof, he was able to assist not only the architect to inspect the cupola and roof areas, but also a timber inspector to survey the Chapel roof space for possible rot. He noted that original beams and trusses were still there and, apart from nesting crows and the remnants of old nesting materials on the ceiling boards, there were no particular problems evident. While there were no signs of bats, inside the Chapel he found evidence of live woodworm in a table in the upper vestry (now re-

moved) and a damp wall area in the pew beneath the hymn numbers.

Finally, we are currently registering the Chapel estate with the Land Registry and working with our solicitor to “tidy up” and clarify a number of areas where we have concerns with United Utilities.

I would like to thank our Honorary Treasurer, Michael Hough, for his considerable time and efforts in enabling the Trustees to address the above issues.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

Contact the Elderly

Contact the Elderly is the only national charity solely dedicated to tackling loneliness and social isolation among older people. Supported by a network of volunteers, the charity organises monthly Sunday afternoon tea parties for small groups of older people, aged 75 and over, who live alone.

Each older person is collected from their home by a volunteer driver and taken to a volunteer host's home for the afternoon. The group is warmly welcomed by a different host each month, but the drivers remain the same which means that over the months and years, acquaintances turn into friends and loneliness is replaced by companionship.

The tea parties are a real lifeline of friendship for those who have little or no contact with family or friends. They bring people of all ages together, develop fulfilling friendships and support networks, and give everyone involved something to look forward to each month.

If you know someone who might benefit from coming along to a tea party or would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities, speak to Marge (who is a volunteer driver) in Chapel to find out more or contact Gwen Lightfoot, NW Regional Co-ordinator directly on 01925 728969.

Marge Ainsley

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

These are also available directly from Michael (plus the cost of postage and packing). Please contact him on 0113 267 7298.

Coffee4Craig

We continue to support Coffee4Craig, a not-for-profit organisation which supports and works with homeless people in Manchester and South Wales. More information about their work can be found on their website, www.coffee4craig.co.uk.

Coffee4Craig have limited storage space at their new headquarters, so cannot take larger items. However, donations of tinned/storable foods, toiletries and some household goods can also be taken to Help the Homeless in Chorley. They are based at 45 Clifford Street, which is not far from Flat Iron car park.

Alison

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. If you are happy to do so, please contact me on 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.

Alison

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

7 August	Rev Frank Williams - Horwich/Rivington
21 August	Dr Larry Bode - Dean Row Chapel
4 September	Peter Sampson - Cross Street Chapel
18 September	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
2 October	Rev Anna Jarvis - Monton Chapel
16 October	Harvest Festival Chrissie Wilkie - Dean Row Chapel
6 November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel

Flower Donors

7 August	Olive Fisher
21 August	Miss E Curwen
4 September	Joan Thursby
18 September	Elsie Kent
2 October	Vince and Isobel McCully
16 October	Mary Horrocks
6 November	Roy Shepherd

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sat 13 August 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	West Gallery Music Singing Day
Sat 3 September 1:00 pm	Wedding of Sarah Draper and Karl Firth Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 4 September After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sun 11 Sept 11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Wed 21 September 7:30 pm	Chapel Trustees Meeting
Sat 24 Sept	Rivington Pilgrimage - see page 8 - 9 for details

If you would like to arrange a ceremony at Rivington
Chapel, please contact

Mary Horrocks tel: 01204 493757

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BL5 3RS

telephone: 01942 816569

email: newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk

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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