



Rivington

Unitarian and Free Christian

Chapel

Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here set no man a stranger be"



July to October 2012

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Chairman's Letter

At the time of writing this letter the whole country is gearing up for an action packed summer, what with the Olympics in London, an international football tournament and of course the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Members of your congregational committee threw themselves wholeheartedly into the Jubilee celebrations, in anticipation of the service held by Rev Jane Barraclough on 3rd June. This involved festooning the entrance door and Chapel interior with Union Jacks. Refreshments were also provided, in the form of Bucks Fizz and cupcakes, for after the service. Joan Holding delivered the Loyal Toast and a good time was had by all.

Also, the Australian flag was on display, to welcome some friends of the Chapel from that country; unfortunately illness prevented their visit. We wish them a full recovery and look forward to seeing them soon.

John Patefield has acquired some 'SmartWater' for the Chapel with which we were able to fully treat all the traces of lead outside the Chapel, and also selected articles inside the building. There are several notices around the grounds warning of its presence which we hope will act as a deterrent.

Another physical change you will observe in the Chapel grounds is the space created by the removal of the chestnut tree and one of the hornbeams. It is with some regret that we see them go but, in the interests of public safety, we really had no choice. The work, which entailed attention to all the trees in the grounds, including raising the crown of the yew, removing branches from the trees close to the buildings and clearing the wood, cost the Chapel trustees the not

inconsiderable (but reasonable in the circumstances) sum of £1850.00. We thank Steve, Andy and the team from SMN Trees of Orrell for a job well done.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the driveway up to the Chapel was in great need of repair. A quote of £2,780.00 has been obtained for the necessary work and the trustees have approached the Parish Council to see if they could provide some financial support towards this. Unfortunately, at their recent meeting, they decided that they did not have the necessary resources to make a contribution. Peter Bearon will now write on behalf of both the trustees and the congregational committee to the other users of the driveway to ascertain their views on how the cost of the repairs can be met.

The Anniversary Service on 20th May was splendidly conducted by Rev Stephen Lingwood of Bank Street Chapel. It was our good fortune to hear him expound on all things Unitarian, especially on the subject of tolerance. In the evening we attended the Yew Tree Inn, Heath Charnock for our annual repast where we found the service and food well up to expectations. We can safely say that a good time was, again, had by all. I even got away with not making a Chairman's speech, . . . oops!

I have to report that the student pastorate proposed for next year will not now be happening. We had got as far as calling a meeting for 7pm on Tues 22nd May at the Chapel and everyone involved was, for once, able to attend. The meeting was arranged in order to provide the facility to discuss and finalise important details regarding 1) the remuneration of and 2) the duties to be undertaken by the student pastor, Shammy Webster. Unfortunately, at the last minute, the student pastorate position had to be withdrawn by Rev

Alex Bradley, the Principal of the Unitarian College, before we were able to iron these details out. Perhaps the subject of us hosting a student pastorate in the future would be a perfect item for the agenda at our next Chapel AGM, when all could again be present.

Our next 'big-thing' will be our Strawberry Tea on 15th July. Do please make a note in your diary to come along and enjoy this celebration of summer with us; it won't be complete without you.

Finally, whenever you are passing by Marley Court Nursing Home (on the edge of Adlington on the way out to Chorley) and you have a spare moment, why not pay a call on Jimmy Winstanley; he would love to see you, he is in room 20.

God Bless *Vince*

Late Summer Fayre

Once again it is nearly time for our Annual Late Summer Fayre (Saturday 8 September).

I would like to ask any "crafty" people if they could donate items for our craft stall (knitting, flower arranging, jewellery making, card craft - there must be lots more!) We would be most grateful.

We are also having a tombola stall, so if anyone could donate a gift for that it would be most appreciated.

You can get in touch with me on (01204) 520264 or after the Sunday Services.

Thank you very much for all the support you have shown over the last year.

Joan Thursby, Chapel Secretary

A Note from the Editor

As I wrote last time, this issue covers four months (July – October) instead of the usual three so that we can adjust the time of year the newsletter will be published. In future, the quarterly issues will cover November to January, February to April, May to July and August to October. The idea of this is to make it easier for us to include information about significant events (e.g. December Carol Service, Heritage Open Day) nearer to the time that they take place.

At the Congregational AGM in March, I was asked to provide the following information for each issue:

Period covered	Copy date	Issue date
November 2012 - January 2013	1 October 2012	21 October 2012
February 2013 - April 2013	1 January 2013	20 January 2013
May 2013 - July 2013	1 April 2013	21 April 2013
August 2013 - October 2013	1 July 2013	21 July 2013

The newsletters are now available to download from the new website www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk. It will also be possible for you to receive your copy by e-mail. If you are happy to have an e-mail version rather than a paper copy, please contact me on newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk. By doing this, we will be able to reduce printing and postage costs.

Please also use this e-mail address to send me your contributions for the newsletter.

Alison

'Sing Your Faith' or 'The Purple Book'

As we now have some copies of the new hymnbook in Chapel, I decided to borrow a copy so that I could have an in-depth look at it. Having done so, I find that I am not altogether in accord with the general acclaim which, according to a number of webpages, the book has received.

The words of the hymns are nearly all from the 20th or 21st century and I'll leave it for others to comment on their relevance to worship in a chapel such as ours. What I am very disappointed with is the selection of tunes and arrangements to accompany the words.

At the beginning of the book it says 'A hymnbook is first and foremost about words – words that speak clearly and imaginatively to a contemporary congregation. Music's role is to enhance those words and provide an accessible vehicle for group expression.' I am entirely in agreement with this sentiment, but feel that in many cases this hymnbook does not meet this aim.

In a chapel with a small congregation such as Rivington, it is essential that tunes are approachable and easy to sing. Some of the tunes in the book will, I'm sure, sound wonderful when sung by a choir, but seem inappropriate for congregational singing. These fall into two categories: tunes that are really quite difficult with strange rhythms such as number 70 ('I wish I knew how') and number 42 ('From the light of days remembered'), and tunes with unusual harmonies such as number 6 ('As we sing of hope and joy today').

Some of the tune arrangers appear to be intent on including a "clever" chord just for the sake of it, a characteristic of much modern church music which I find particularly irritating. The beautiful tune

"Sally Gardens" is one such case, as for me it is ruined by one intrusive chord in the last line. I hope that if we do sing that particular hymn at Rivington, the organist chooses a more appropriate harmony. Just because clever chords can be used, doesn't mean they should! To my mind the music should match the simplicity of the chapel.

It is not all bad news as there are some excellent tunes including some of my old favourites and ones which are new to me. If and when we do start using the purple book in services, I would request that we do not introduce more than one new tune per service to begin with. I hope that the person leading the service will consider the suitability of the tune as well as the words for a small congregation such as ours to sing. If we are struggling over the tune, it will be difficult to contemplate the meaning of the words.

Peter Bearon

It would be interesting to hear the views of other people on the new hymnbook. (Ed)

350th anniversary of the Great Ejection

The MDA will be commemorating the anniversary with an event on Saturday 14 July 2012.

This will be a pageant depicting the Great Ejection, entitled "1662 and all that". The story will be brought alive through music and drama. There will be 17th-century style refreshments to follow.

The pageant will take place at Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford and will begin at 2:00pm.

Rivington Chapel Web Sites

The Chapel has eventually reached the digital age with not just one, but two web sites. The first has been set up by Dennis and is a sub site of ukunitarians.org.uk. This gives details of the chapel services, rites of passage, contact details and history etc. The web address is www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

The second site has been set up by me on behalf of the trustees so that the registers and newsletters can be downloaded and donations made to the chapel. This can be found at www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

We have tried to make the two sites as similar as possible. Once the links are all in place, moving between them should be almost seamless.

One Accord have donated some of their spare web space to host this site, so the cost of the trustees' site has been kept to a minimum (only £10 for two years domain registration).

The new web site comes with the facility of unlimited email addresses, so if anyone from the chapel would like a yourname@rivingtonchapel.org.uk email address please let me know and I will set one up.

It is easy to set up further web pages within the trustees' site, so if the chapel committee, or anyone else would like me to expand the content, let me know. Any suggestions on how the site can be improved will also be welcomed.

Peter Bearon

trustsec@rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Snippets from the past

Extract from the **Bolton Weekly Journal and Guardian**, 12 June 1903

Bicentenary Celebrations

The prettily situated old Chapel at Rivington celebrated its bicentenary on Wednesday. The surrounding district, bathed for the greater part of the day in bright, warm sunshine, the effect of which was tempered by welcome refreshing breezes, was in all the glory of its summer garb, and large numbers came from the surrounding districts to take part in the celebrations, which commenced in the afternoon, when the Rev C J Street, MA, LLB, conducted the service.

Speaking from the text "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord", Mr Street remarked that it was such little tabernacles as the one they were in that reminded them of the men who were true to conscience and who desired to worship God after their own fashion. The founders of that place in their sagacity had made the trust deeds free, so that the religion of the people might develop and they might worship in their own way without let or hindrance. The deed merely stipulated that it should be a Protestant dissenting congregation.

Words of Wisdom (from Steven Wright, an American Comedian, courtesy of Vince)

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

The hardness of the butter is proportional to the softness of the bread.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

1 July	Vince Mc Cully - Rivington Chapel
15 July	Gordon and Veronica Walker - Bank Street Chapel
5 August	Dawn Buckle - Dukinfield Chapel
19 August	Stephen Lingwood - Bank Street Chapel
2 September	Vince Mc Cully - Rivington Chapel
16 September	Chrissie Wilkie - Dean Row
7 October	One Accord - Rivington Chapel
21 October	Harvest Festival - Graham Pilborough - Padiham Chapel

Flower Donors

1 July	Frank Ascroft
15 July	Linda Hadfield
5 August	Olive Fisher
19 August	Miss E Curwen
2 September	Joan Thursby
16 September	Elsie Kent
7 October	Vince and Isobel McCully
21 October	Linda Hadfield

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 15 July Strawberry Tea - a Summer Celebration
After the service

Sat 8 September Heritage Open Day and Late Summer Fayre

Wed 26 Chapel Trustees Meeting
September

Sun 21 October Wedding -Jennie Bell and Stephen Sherry
 Naming Ceremony of their son, Tyler Dylan John Sherry

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

Joan Thursby tel: (01204) 520264

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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,

Your Committee

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