



Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



Nov 2015 - Jan 2016

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Chairman's Letter

It's not so much the sound of music (though I will come to that later) as the sound of laughter that was heard in Rivington on 12th September at our Late Summer Fair and Heritage open day. Yes, there was a lot of laughter, which is not surprising as so many people (over 30) gave to the event, either in time or as contributions or both. We had Paul and Diane Fairclough making a sterling effort on the Tombola and Carol Worsley with her green produce stall and superb hand built bird boxes. June Martin donated some exquisite hand crafts, Elaine and Kevin who are to be married in October donated a fruit basket for a raffle which Mary Horrocks organised so wonderfully. Adlington Arts and Crafts group did us proud. Frank had a cornucopia of bric-a-brac on his stall and the produce stall groaned under the weight of delicious jars of home-made preserves, biscuits and cakes. Rachel and Lynn made some fantastic cakes for us to sell as did Mrs Hough and the Village Tea Rooms. All this made diets difficult, but it was in a very good cause. We made £480.00 - Wow!!!

So, a huge THANKS to everyone who helped. None of it is possible without you.

On the subject of charities we have three more projects this year. We will be donating all of the produce from the Harvest Festival to Coffee4Craig and their associates, which is a great way to make a big impact and to make it immediately.

Secondly, we have been approached by Chorley Lions to see if we can do another music night like last time (2013) and it looks like it will be on Friday 4th December. It will follow the same format, incor-

porating a small raffle. We were much indebted to the efforts of Craig Porch then as we will be now, as he has agreed to co-ordinate the acts again. If you can spare a little time to help with the setting up, refreshments, raffle and collection, it would be a big help.

Thirdly, Fie and Karl (who were married at our Chapel in June) have offered us a FREE stand at the Bay Horse, Heath Charnock's first Farmer's market on Saturday 5th December at 12 noon (I know, the very next day!!!). This is a very kind gesture as it will be a popular event. Any produce and crafts you can spare, or time, would be much appreciated.

It's nearly Christmas again and we will be decking the halls as usual and hoping to see Father Christmas. It will be lovely to see everyone at this special occasion when the theme will be the "Feast of Christmas".

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

Backbones - a Lesson in Anatomy

The body is structured with four kinds of bones. There are the wish-bones who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the jaw bones, who do a lot of talking, but little else. There are the knuckle bones, who criticise everything others try to do. But there are backbones, who carry the load and do the work.

From 'It Crossed my Mind' by William Leary

From the Committee

The post of Chapel Secretary is currently 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 primary contact for Rivington Pilgrimage.
6. Act as primary contact for MDA (Manchester District Association) and GA (General Assembly)
7. 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

Thank you to those who have already given notification of changes to the Flower Rota. If anyone else 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. There are now vacancies for the 3rd Sunday in May and the 3rd Sunday in October. 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

The Trustees held a meeting in September. We have been fortunate that we have gained four new Trustees, and we will be arranging for a new trust deed to be drawn up shortly.

The main item that was discussed was the problem of heating the Chapel. There is always going to be a problem with heating a building such as ours, especially when it is usually used only twice a month. The doors do not fit well, and the storage heaters seem to be very inefficient. However, we hope that we can improve on the current situation.

Michael Hough has arranged for the switch for the storage heaters to be moved so that they can be switched on more easily. The timer is also being removed as it was unclear what it was actually set to do. This should mean that when Frank turns on the heaters the day before a service, they should have warmed up by the time the service starts. The Congregational Committee are arranging for some of the broken portable heaters to be replaced. Hopefully these measures should improve matters in the short term.

For the longer term, I have approached Historic England (they took over the role of English Heritage earlier this year) to ask if they can give advice on repairing/replacing the doors and also on suitable ways of heating the Chapel. I am currently waiting to hear back from them.

Other items that were discussed included the internal decoration of the Chapel, the drainage to the rear, and land ownership issues. Altogether it was a long, but hopefully very fruitful meeting.

Peter Bearon
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

Standing Orders and Gift Aid Donations

Some years ago, members and friends of Rivington Chapel were invited to make regular donations through Standing Order to support the work of the Chapel. We are very grateful to all who have made or still make such contributions. However, there may be some Chapel members and friends, particularly those who have joined us more recently, who are not aware that they can support the chapel in this way.

The 'simple beauty' of the Chapel building and its surroundings makes it a lovely setting for weddings and other ceremonies. However, earnings from Rites of Passage bookings are subject to fluctuation from year to year, and cannot be relied on to cover all the cost of utility bills and expenses such as fees for visiting ministers.

Being able to depend on a regular source of income is important for keeping the finances stable and ensuring that the Chapel remains open for visitors and for worship. Another advantage is that the regular donations are eligible for Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer. This enables the Chapel to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

If you would like to set up a Standing Order to make regular payments to the Chapel, please contact me. My contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

Frank Ascroft, Treasurer

Some 18th Century Proverbs

Redeem the time, catch the golden moments as they fly.

An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge.

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 . Please contact me if you have any items you would like to donate.

Alison

2016 Calendar (dates to be confirmed)

Sat 7 May	Open Day in support of Rivington Spring Festival
Sun 15 May	Anniversary Service
Sun 5 June	Strawberry Tea
Sat 12 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sat 24 Sept	Rivington Pilgrimage
Sun 16 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 18 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. 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

1 November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
15 November	Rev Ann Peart - Cross Street Chapel
6 December	Rev Penny Johnson - Dean Row Chapel
20 December	Christmas Carol Service
3 January	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
17 January	Vincent Bradley - Chowbent Chapel
7 February	tba

Flower Donors

1 November	Roy Shepherd
15 November	John Patefield
6 December	Carol Worsley
20 December	Christmas Decorations
3 January	Elsie Kent
17 January	Lynne Haighton
7 February	Alison Whitaker and Peter Bearon

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 1 November After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sun 15 November 12.30 pm	Naming Ceremony - Maisie Leigh Hitchen Conducted by Vince McCully
Fri 4 December 7.30 pm	Charity Music Night with Chorley Lions £5.00 including mulled cider and mince pies
Sat 5 December 12.00 - 4.00 pm	Craft and Produce Stall at Bay Horse Farmer's Market, Heath Charnock

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

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send to: Alison Whitaker, 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton,
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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,

<i>Your Committee</i>	
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