

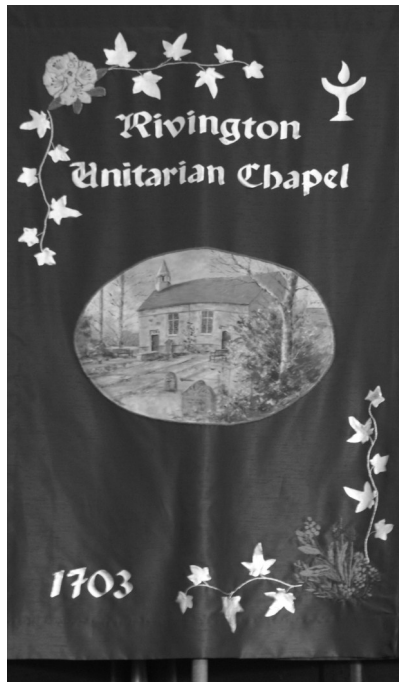
# Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

*"Here let no man a stranger be"*



January to March 2012

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

## Chairman's Letter

We have made a tremendous amount of progress, this past quarter, in many different spheres of activity, the details of which I give you below.

This year's 'Late Summer Fayre'/Heritage Open Day combination was a great success. We had lots of help with the stalls and generous contributions of crafts, produce, books and tombola goods. It was, in short, a great team effort and we were able to raise a substantial £318.77. We also had a busy time showing-off our lovely chapel to many interested 'Heritage' visitors. So here's a hearty "well done" to everyone who helped in any way at all.

Your generosity at the Fayre was only matched by your very kind offerings at the Harvest Festival. We were able to give a big heavy box of groceries (non-perishables) each to Help the Homeless in Chorley and the Central Methodist Mission in Manchester; the Rev Jane Barraclough helped us to liaise with the latter. These provisions will go a long way in alleviating the hardships of others less fortunate. Both concerns send you their heartfelt thanks.

We must also thank Dougie, the master baker at Upper Crust bakery on Eaves Lane, who very kindly made a magnificent wheatsheaf for us this year and would not take a penny in payment. Thank you, Dougie.

The Tea Room toilets have been thoroughly and tastefully refurbished, within the limitations that space and finance will allow. We must thank John Patefield for this welcome improvement. John has also been very busy on our behalf organising repair work to be done following an attempted theft of lead from the Chapel roof and investigating the introduction of 'Smart Water' and other security measures for the benefit of the Chapel. Thank you, John.

Actions are in motion regarding the magnificent Chestnut tree at the front of the Chapel grounds. Unfortunately it is showing signs of disease which has been investigated by two independent arborialists. Progress to date is that a report has been submitted, with supporting

photographic evidence, to Chorley Borough Council. We will be keeping everyone informed regarding this sad development. What we cannot do is ignore anything that poses a threat in any way to the visiting and passing public. There is also a question mark over the safety of one the hornbeams.

On a lighter note, last minute preparations are under way for this year's carol service, which will have as its theme 'A Festival of Carols'. While we all love the romance of snow at Christmas, hopefully, if we do have some, it will not be to the detriment of our much anticipated proceedings.

Nothing now remains but to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

*Vince*

### **Dates for your Diary in 2012**

Sun 18 March	Congregational AGM
Sat 5 May	Spring Festival
Sun 20th May	Anniversary Sermons
Sun 15th July	Strawberry Tea
Sat 8th Sept	Heritage Open Day
Sat 8th Sept	Late Summer Fayre
Sun 16th Dec	Carol Service

## **Winstanley's Wisdom**

Truth never damaged a cause that is just.

It is a great misery not to have enough wit to speak well, not enough judgement to keep quiet!

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

Bargain: anything that is overpriced less than it should be.

## **Trustees Matters**

As reported in the July to September newsletter, work on the revision of the Rivington Chapel Registers booklet has been completed. The cost of printing the booklets is currently being investigated and it is hoped that copies will be available next year at a cost of £5.00. In the meantime, copies are available electronically in pdf format. If you would like a copy, please e-mail [registers@oneaccord.eu](mailto:registers@oneaccord.eu) . Donations for this can be made via the BT MyDonate webpage at: <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/rivingtonchapel> . Donations should soon be eligible for Gift Aid.

Chris Houghton is in the process of setting up a website for the Chapel. The Trustees will pay for the website and create a front page. There will be a sub-page for the registers, linked to the MyDonate website. Other sub-pages could then be created by the Congregational Committee, and the Chapel Newsletter could also be available online.

An arborist has inspected all the trees in the churchyard and has recommended that three need attention. One of the Hornbeams is damaged, and the Yew alongside the path up to the chapel needs cutting back. However, it is the Chestnut near the front gate that is

causing the most concern, as it may be diseased. As the trees are in a conservation area, permission from Chorley Borough Council is needed before any work can be undertaken and we are currently awaiting a response from them.

Work to upgrade the toilets has been completed apart from painting, which will hopefully be carried out next spring.

**Peter Bearon, Chairman and Secretary of the Trustees**

### **Snippets from the past**

Extract from the **Preston Chronicle**, 21st March 1835

#### **Setting Fire to a Church**

John Simm, 33, was indicted for arson, he having on the night of the 1st December last set fire to the Parish Church of Rivington, near Chorley. The particulars of the case were stated in the Chronicle at the time. The prisoner was not found or seen near the Church, but when it was burning, he was heard to say, "What a fine blaze it makes." He afterwards acknowledged that he had set it on fire, and in his possession were found a box of Lucifer matches, and a printed account of the burning of the houses of Parliament, but from several circumstances, there appeared no doubt of his insanity. The Jury acquitted him on that ground, so that he will either be confined for life, or set at liberty should he sufficiently recover his intellect to go at large without danger to society.

This article was provided by **Joan Holding**, who asks "Does anyone know of anyone of the name 'Simm' In the locality; or any who could be related? If so, they will probably prefer to keep quiet!"

## Dates for your Diary

### Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

1 January	Vince Mc Cully - Rivington Chapel
15 January	Gordon and Veronica Walker - Bank Street Chapel
5 February	Vince Mc Cully - Rivington Chapel
19 February	Irving Delamore - Rivington Church
4 March	Vince Mc Cully - Rivington Chapel
18 March	Gordon and Veronica Walker - Bank Street Chapel
1 April	tbc

### Flower Donors

1 January	Elsie Kent
15 January	Lynne Haighton
5 February	Alison Whitaker and Peter Bearon
19 February	Iris Wharton
4 March	Joan Holding
18 March	Joan Thursby
1 April	Olive Mayer

### Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 5 February	Congregational Committee Meeting
After the service	
Wed 14 March	Chapel Trustees AGM
19:30	
Sun 18 March	Congregational AGM
After the service	

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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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