

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 10 6 September 2020

Rivington Chapel will be open for private prayer and contemplation on Wednesday 9 September from 7 to 8 p.m. This will be the last of these sessions.

As long as current COVID-19 guidance remains in place, we will be holding a service in the Chapel on Sunday 20 September.

Here is the tenth of our news sheets. This one will cover the whole of September.

Our on-line services

The service on Sunday 16 August was led by Rev Danny Crosby of Altrincham and Urmston Chapels. It explored the Scandinavian concept of 'Hygge', and also featured Julia Donaldson's story 'The Snail and the Whale' read by special guest 'Cap'n Dan'.

On Sunday 23 August, the theme of our collaborative meeting was honesty. This was interpreted in various ways, including the importance of being honest with yourself, a Hindu story and a poem by Hilaire Belloc which contrasted the rewards of honesty and consequences of dishonesty, the difference between politeness and honesty, and some information about the honesty plant.

Alison and Peter led the Zoom service on Sunday 30 August. This was a Flower Communion, a form of service established by Czech Unitarian minister Rev Dr Norbert Čapek in the 1920s. In normal circumstances, people attending would bring a flower and take away one that someone else had brought. Instead, people talked about the flowers they had chosen and why they were significant. We also had the story 'My Mum and the Flower' by Michael Rosen, the poem 'Song of the Flower' by Kahlil Gibran and an account of Norbert Čapek's life compiled by John Midgley. Linda sang 'Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms', which mentions a sunflower, there was another outing for the video of 'Sow in the Morn thy Seed' and Paul played us out very appropriately with 'Edelweiss'.

This month, Vince will lead the service on Sunday 6 September, and there will be collaborative meetings on Sunday 13 September on Sunday 27 September (this should be our last 'at home' Zoom meeting). If you have any suggestions for themes or contributions, please let us know. As always, if you have an idea, but would rather not do anything 'on screen' yourself, get in touch anyway – I'm sure someone else will be happy to volunteer!

Sunday 20 September will see a return to holding services in Rivington Chapel. This will be the first service there since 15 March. It will be led by Chrissie Wilkie from Dean Row Chapel. After that we are hoping that services will be able to take place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 2:15 pm as normal. We are looking into the possibility of Zooming the services so that those who feel that they are not able to attend will be able to join us virtually.

A risk assessment has been written to ensure that the Chapel remains COVID-19 secure. This will be put on our web page for anyone who wishes to see it. A summary of the measures that will be in place is included with this news sheet.

A reminder that if you want to access the Zoom services you will need to have a Zoom account on your computer, tablet or mobile phone. This is free to set up at www.zoom.us. There is information about using Zoom in News sheet 1, and the Meeting ID and password are the same as on previous Sundays. If in doubt ask Alison or Vince.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/692966413>

Meeting ID: 692 966 413

Password: 080216

'Scenic Rivington' Calendar

The 'Scenic Rivington' Calendar for 2021 is now on sale. It is already available from Rivington Tearooms and will be in other local venues shortly. The price is £6 (including free envelope). Chris Martin would like to thank all who submitted images. Those whose pictures are featured in the calendar have now been informed, but all the photographs donated have been carefully saved for possible use in the future. Chris asks that people should continue to donate images if they have anything suitable.

A blessing Vince wrote for the Flower Communion

May there always be a flower for you to share in your greatest delight or your darkest times.

A flower to remind you of God's smile that's just for you, lifting your spirit so that all you can do is smile too.

And may you never know loneliness, as God's hand reaches out to you, the gentle caress of petals that are God's touch, telling you of the profoundest love that is always there, just for you. Amen.

As we will not be receiving income from collections while the Chapel is closed, we have set up a separate donation page on CAFDonate so that anyone who wishes to do so can contribute what they would have put in the collection. There is a 'Donate' button on the front page of our website www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk or you can go directly to <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12556>

We would be very grateful if you would consider supporting the Chapel in this way. Many thanks to those who have already done so.

Contact details

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Please get in touch if there is anything you need to discuss or would like some help with.