

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 9 16 August 2020

Following the relaxation of Government COVID-19 restrictions on the opening of places of worship, Rivington Chapel is now open for private prayer and contemplation on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7 to 8 p.m.

We are still hoping to hold a service in the Chapel on Sunday 20 September.

Here is the ninth of the news sheets that we will continue to produce to coincide with our usual service dates.

Our on-line services

The service on Sunday 2 August was led by Rev Jean Bradley of Brook Street Chapel in Knutsford. She talked about Noah's dispute with his son Ham and told a Native American story about the two wolves that exist within us and how important it is to feed the right one.

On Sunday 9 August, the theme of our collaborative meeting was humility, which followed on from Lynne Readett's service about pride. Contributions included ideas written by Himalayan monk Om Swami on the difference between politeness and humility, a story from Bill Darlison about learning to quarrel, thoughts about prayer by Rev Jim Corrigan, Michael Rosen's poem 'Chocolate Cake' and an amusing account of a disappearing exam paper. We're pleased that Frank Williams has been able to join us at the last two meetings, having managed to sort out the technology.

Rev Danny Crosby from Altrincham and Urmston Chapels will be taking the service on Sunday 16 August. The following week, 23 August, we'll have another collaborative 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!

A reminder that if you want to access the 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

Thoughts from Vince about humility

Humility sounds easy enough to talk and pray about, doesn't it. Surely it's just the opposite of pride. And what is pride? Pride is where we assume, or presume that we are the best thing since sliced bread and on one level the image of someone preening themselves with their nose in the air

springs to mind. On another level it is where we have done something good, undeniably good perhaps, indeed so good we'd **better tell everyone all about it**, whilst ignoring tell-tale signs of their eyes glazing over.

Jesus and the other prophets knew about this and were at pains to point out our folly. A while back I tried (in vain) to paraphrase a sermon by Wesley. In it he was kind enough to spell out how, in doing good works, our lack of humility presents us with a problem. To me pride is far easier to describe than humility but the lines in St Francis Xavier's prayer, 'To give and not to count the cost' (i.e. to value the cost) and 'To labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing I do Your will', put all possible credit from any good deeds firmly where they belong, with God.

We also shudder at the idea of Uriah Heap's litany of humility, don't we, and rightly so. One of the most poignant examples of humility involves one very unassuming gentleman by the name of Nicholas Winton. You may remember the TV programme 'That's Life', presented by Esther Rantzen.

In 1988, one episode of the programme was a cover and turned out to be all about the Kindertransport, the rescue of children, largely Jewish, from the hands of the Nazis before the last world war. In the audience sat Nicholas Winton and Esther asked him to stand up and be acknowledged for his role and then told everyone how he had rescued an amazingly high number of children – 669 in fact. He was non-plussed and completely taken by surprise. Then she asked everyone in the audience who was alive today because of his tireless effort to stand up. The whole audience stood up, including those sitting right next to him. For fifty years this great deed of compassion and kindness had gone unacknowledged. Such was his humility that he still showed nothing but surprise at this acknowledgement; humility indeed, and a lesson to us all. Nicholas Winton lived to the ripe old age of 106 (1909-2015) and was knighted in 2003 (a mere 15 years after the TV programme).

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.

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