

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



Aug - Oct 2018

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

www.facebook.com/Rivington-Unitarian-Chapel-1724516264491069

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

Since last year's August newsletter we have had some big events happening around us. Remember I wrote then, about our Spring open day, '... Thought we'd be lucky to make £60.' This year it was a completely different story.

In a nutshell, last year's Rivington Spring Festival did not happen. I offered, as a Parish Councillor at a later Council meeting, to help to get it running again, hopefully with the traditional maypole. It was to be a 'charity based' affair and so long as a stall was not entirely commercial and could lend weight to a charity then you were in. We had 12 stalls on the green, ranging from 'Pin the Tail to the Donkey' and Chorley Lions to Bolton Hospice and the RLNI. The Parish Church was open to visitors and served cups of tea.

Sadly, there was no maypole. However, in Chapel we hosted the Bennet Ladies Choir and later The New Rosemere Singers, both of which gave a welcome musical dimension to the day. Then in the evening, thanks to Chapel member Chris Martin's accomplished writing skills and his friends, we were able to cobble together a cast for a 'Who Dunnit'. We are indebted to the Velma and The Chorley Lions who brought many guests to the performance and helped with the refreshments, which comprised summer cup and homemade cake. A perfect end to a perfect day.

Thanks to the unstinting efforts and whole hearted participation of our congregation the festival happened and was something of a success for all, not only for the charities, but for the local community, the tea rooms and also us. I believe we raised £497.00 for the Chapel across all activities. Of course we enjoyed unprecedented fine weather, though to avoid complacency the Parish Hall has already been booked for the second Saturday in May for the next 4 years, purely as a back-up. With the right approach and enthusiasm this is a meaningful event for the community which can only grow and be even more fun.

But before all that, in April I was able to attend the General Assembly Annual Meetings (GA) as our Chapel delegate. To sum this up in one word I would have to say 'Wow!' The last time I felt the same effect was earlier in my Unitarian life, when I was similarly bowled over in our own Chapel at one of our Triennial Pilgrimages. I had never seen so many Unitarians in one place and all lifting the roof off with hymns. And so, at the GA it was truly heartening to again experience at first hand the energy, capability, enthusiasm and all round good nature of our denomination.

The programme of events, talks and lectures is full to brimming, so much so that you are often spoilt for choice when a particular speaker clashes with another you just can't miss. The calibre of the speakers is second to none, for example the John Rely Beard Lecture given by Matt Carmichael entitled "Rekindling the Spirit of Community", which began as follows,

'... this is done through the spheres of soil, soul and society, not through social media and the marketing gurus; but through social activism, from first nations as at Standing Rock to the Suffragettes.'

The Keynote speaker was Rev Dr Paul Rasor and 'Faith Without Certainty in Uncertain Times' was the title for his presentation. Briefly Paul stated that crises such as global warming and rising economic inequality are aggravated by powerful ideologies, which are Neo Liberalism, Nationalism and Post Modernism. He also said that the crises of our time are mainly Climate Change, Refugees from Poverty and Conflict, Economic (eg Sub-prime), and Post Faith Age. Paul then fully explained each and all of these headings.

An especially brilliant talk was given by Rev Dr David Stears who told us all about the Edict of Torda 1568. Clearly there is not room here for a detailed account but in brief he spoke about the declaration of religious toleration was made by King John II of Transylvania - the only Unitarian King in history - which can be summed up with the words, "No one shall be reviled for their religion by anyone, for faith is a gift of God."

The act basically applied to The Reformed Church, Unitarians, Lutherans and Catholics.

My overall feeling is that more of our congregation must attend this event, if only to feel the fellowship of Unitarians beyond our sunny enclave.

At the end of April I was again invited to attend the Hibbert Trust Lay Consultation which was held at Woodbrooke, the Quaker residential study centre in Solihull. This was again chaired by Dot Hewerdine and meant a full programme of intense and highly focused discussions. Everybody was able to contribute and there were inputs from speakers giving the European and Canadian approaches. The general consensus was that Lay Worship Leaders have a central and dynamic role in our organisation due to a number of factors, not least being manpower and training. Also the need for ongoing training and personal development could not be stressed enough. Overall hard but vital work. Maybe it would put this into perspective a little if I mention that apart from the services I take here in Rivington there was a four week period during May and June this year when I conducted services at Rochdale, Oldham, Denton and Unity Chapels, in addition to others at Bank Street, and Park Lane. I received a warm welcome and was able to pass on your cordial greetings.

On the 3rd June it was our Strawberry Tea, a celebration of summer with the service taken by Chrissie Wilkie. After the service we were treated to an account by Dr Paul Salveson Chair of The Walt Whitman Society. As I posted on Facebook at the time,

‘Chrissie spoke about the courage to be true to ourselves.

Paul spoke about The Eagle Street College, Mr Wallace, Rev Johnson & Mr Sixsmith and the spirituality of socialism.

The strawberries . . . they spoke for themselves . . .’

In May I went back onto the Executive Committee of the MDA (Manchester District Association, of which I am also a director of the incorporated body) and as a council member during the June meeting I was happily able to propose that Natasha Stanley be kept

in her post as district development officer. These past six months Natasha has been an untiring and insightful worker for our district in particular and will be an asset to our movement in general in due course, of this I am sure. At the AGM of the MDA earlier in the year I sought inclusion and was voted onto the board of the Manchester District Mission. This will mean that Rivington Chapel will have a direct voice in the MDA's actions in our nearest large city. This is in addition to our help for Coffee4Craig.

We have been approached by Bernard Taylor from Rivington Parish Church to work with them this Remembrance Sunday to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice.

Some may remember Bernard from 2014 when he gave us an enlightening talk about 'Unadopted War Cemeteries' during a Remembrance service that we held. Discussions are at an early stage but there is talk of banners being unfurled around the green and folk bringing in personal artefacts from their own families' war veterans. A fitting tribute to the harrowing ordeals suffered and superhuman sacrifices made on our behalf.

I have to mention the lovely weddings we have had since our last newsletter. We had the marriage of Laura Cubbin to Paul Christie early in May and Caroline Palin to Ian Moss later that month. They were so lovely and blessed with fine weather. And of course, our very own Jacqui and Tim Kershaw were married in June.

Wishing everyone a warm and happy summer.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

2018 Calendar

Sat 15 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 21 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 16 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Chairman's Letter

Like many organisations, we have had to consider the implications of the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulation earlier this year. As a religious not for profit body, we can hold a list of members' names without having to ask for specific consent. We have, however, overhauled the newsletter address list so that it contains only the details of people who have consented to be included.

The Committee has put together a Safeguarding Policy for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. The policy folder is kept on the bookcase below the visitors' book, and there is also a poster on the notice board which displays the names of the Safeguarding Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator (Vince McCully and Judith Crompton respectively).

In May, we were contacted by Eunice Hawkins, who is training to be an Authorised Lay Minister for Pastoral Care at Rivington Parish Church. She has been running fellowship lunches in the Parish Hall for some of the older members of their congregation. As the availability of the Parish Hall is limited to school holidays, she has asked if the Chapel would

be interested in being involved in some joint activities. Using the Chapel would allow people to meet more frequently and take part in a wider range of activities, such as crafts or games. A few of us went along to the lunch on Friday 8 June to meet Eunice and discuss possibilities. The fellowship lunches are taking a break over the summer as the Parish Hall kitchen is being refurbished, but we will be in touch with Eunice to make plans for the autumn. Look out for details on the Chapel notice board.

Vince has written about our very successful open day for the Rivington Spring Festival. It's already time to start thinking about our next event, which will be the Late Summer Fair on Saturday 15 September as part of Heritage Open Days. Any contributions of preserves, cakes, craft items and other produce will be very welcome.

Finally, a date for next year's diary – although it might seem a long way off, we have just fixed the date for the next Rivington Triennial Pilgrimage for Saturday 28 September 2019.

Alison Whitaker
Chairman, Congregational Committee

Some thoughts

We cannot eliminate hunger, but we can feed each other.

We cannot eliminate loneliness, but we can hold each other.

We cannot eliminate pain, but we can live a life of compassion.

An extract from **Accepting This**, by Mark Nepo

Village Green Tea Room

Sheephouse Lane, Rivington BL6 7SD

We are open daily, 10 am - 4 pm, for homemade snacks and meals, hot drinks and cakes. All day breakfasts served.

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www.rivingtonvillagegreentearoom.com

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The Bay Horse

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A traditional country pub with log fires and real beams serving cask ales and home cooked food.

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Conservation Architect to Rivington Chapel Trustees

Your advert could appear here

Please contact Michael Hough on

0113 267 7298

Email: epspaperltd@yahoo.co.uk

Trust Matters

In my previous article in the Spring newsletter, we were just recovering from the wettest and coldest winter for some time with some cold spells which saw the inside of the Chapel fall well below the minimal requirement of 8°C for maintaining acceptable building “health”. However, in spite of several bouts of sub-zero temperatures outside the Chapel, the internal value only dipped below 5°C once during the first days of March, as stated in the previous newsletter.

Now, as I write, we have experienced over 2 months of very dry weather with flames currently engulfing significant areas on Winter Hill. Luckily, these fires appear to be almost under control with smoke being sensed in the air during the chapel service on 1st July. However, notwithstanding this period of exceptional dryness, the Trustees continue to be concerned about ensuring that the Chapel remains weather-resistant during the forthcoming winter months. The need to replace the guttering was identified in the 2016 Quinquennial Review as a high priority. Following a successful bid to the Gregson Trust and an award of £1000 towards the cost, Michael Hough will be working with the suppliers and a contractor to fit new cast iron gutters during the summer months. The instalment of CCTV equipment and restoration and refurbishment of the paths in the Garden of Remembrance and outside the Chapel gates are also now being given serious consideration.

Finally, recent visitors to the Chapel may have seen new gravel placed on some of the graves. This has significantly improved the overall appearance of the graveyard area and thanks once again are due to Michael and his working party.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

Memories of Rivington by Tracy Riley

(Tracy, born Teresa Southworth, grew up in Rivington. Following a recent conversation with Michael Hough during a visit to the Churchyard, she has kindly sent us some of her poems and reminiscences . - Ed)

The Willow Beds

Through the little iron gate, beyond the village green,
walk along the narrow path and there you'll find a stream.
A silver strip of beauty reflecting skies of blue,
a mirror for the flowers...perhaps the flower fairies too!
Look a little closer and there you're sure to find
tiny blue forget-me-nots, of the water kind.
Stay awhile, just linger, in this perfect little spot
count your many blessings. Thank God for what you've got.
Listen to the silence, reach out and touch the leaves
or the petals of a daisy, in these fresh and lovely fields.
Look up the shaded hillsides, sheltered valleys down below
Let this perfect peace enfold you, peace that only England knows.

Family and Friends

My parents, Thomas and Lily Beatrice Southworth, moved into Mill Hill Cottage (now called Twig End) on their wedding day immediately following the end of The First World War. I was raised there with my parents and five older brothers and sisters – Peter, Oswald ('Ossie'), Beatrice, Margaret and Mary. I enjoyed the happiest childhood in this idyllic setting.

Mr & Mrs Heaton, with their sons Harry and Alan, lived next door in the house attached to our four bed-room cottage. It is hard now to

imagine how eight of us seemed to fit comfortably into such a relatively small space, with its low ceilings, nooks and crannies, and an outside loo! No fun going there in winter time! Mr & Mrs Hesketh lived in Fisher House with sons Martin and Richard. Mr & Mrs Berry, with sons Harold and Freddy along with 'Grandpa' Berry, had the Post Office, while next door to them were the Ratcliffes. The Headmaster of Rivington School (..and how pleasing to see it still flourishing) was Mr Whitehead. He lived with his wife and daughter Margaret in the impressive School House.

Gift Aid

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we can now claim Gift Aid on open collections. This is called the 'Gift Aid small donations scheme' (GASDS). We will be able to do this on small donations up to £20.00 in the current tax year, and will be able to claim for this in the following tax year. GASDS means that for every £10.00 put in the collection, the Chapel will be able to claim a further £2.50 from the government. However, as always there is a catch. We can only claim up to 10 times the standard Gift Aid contributions. This means that to claim GASDS, for every £1,000 in the open collection, we must also have claimed for at least £100 in standard Gift Aid.

As you can see, it would be best for as many members of the Chapel as possible to Gift Aid their donations. This will then ensure that we can make the full use of GASDS on the open collections. If you wish to Gift Aid your usual donations, or set up a Standing Order to make regular payments to the Chapel, please see Frank. His contact details are on the back of this Newsletter.

Peter Bearon
Secretary, Rivington Chapel Trustees

MyDonate

The Chapel Trust is also registered for Gift Aid separately from the congregation. This means tax can be reclaimed on any one-off donations to the Trust towards the costs of the various works being undertaken or for any other purpose. You can do this either by contacting Michael Hough (the Treasurer of the Trustees) directly, or by using the Chapel website. Donations made via the website are secure as they are handled by BT MyDonate. To donate via the website just go to <http://rivingtonchapel.org.uk/> and follow the link on the left-hand side of the web page. You will be given the option of adding Gift Aid to your donation through the website.

Peter Bearon
Secretary, Rivington Chapel Trustees

A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all those people who have let us know that they wish their details to remain on the mailing list. We particularly appreciate the donations that some of you sent towards the cost of postage. If you need to inform us of any changes in the future, please ring Mary Horrocks on 01204 493757. You can also notify us by emailing newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk.

Also, please email if you would like to help us reduce the cost of printing and posting the newsletter by opting 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.

Alison

Booklets and Postcards

Publications are on sale in the Chapel and the Village Tearooms. Currently available are: 'Rivington Chapel Bi-Centenary Souvenir' produced in 1903, a reprint of 'Rivington Recipes', the two booklets produced by Michael Hough, 'Rivington Chapel Memorial Inscriptions' and 'Rivington Chapel Trustees Minutes, August 1859 to March 1955', and 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
	Rivington Recipes	£4.00
	Rivington Chapel Bi-Centenary	£4.00

These are also available directly from Michael (plus the cost of postage and packing). Please contact him on 0113 267 7298. Details are also on the website: www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk/publications

Coffee4Craig

We continue to support Coffee4Craig, a charity which supports and works with homeless people in Manchester and South Wales. More information about their work can be found on their website, www.coffee4craig.co.uk.

Coffee4Craig have limited storage space at their new headquarters, so cannot take larger items. However, donations of tinned/storable foods, toiletries and some household goods can also be taken to Help the Homeless in Chorley. They are based at 45 Clifford Street, which is not far from Flat Iron car park.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

5 August	Prof Geoff Levermore - Styal Chapel
19 August	Rev Celia Cartwright - GA Vice President
2 September	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
16 September	Graham Pilborough - Padiham Chapel
7 October	Dr Irvine Delamore
21 October	Harvest Festival Laura Dobson - Chorlton Chapel
4 November	Rev Lynne Readett - Chow Bent Chapel

Flower Donors

5 August	Elsie Kent
19 August	Miss E Curwen
2 September	The Kershaws
16 September	Elsie Kent
7 October	Vince and Isobel McCully
21 October	Mary Horrocks
4 November	Jacquie Kershaw

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sat 4 August 10 am - 4:30 pm	West Gallery Choirs singing day
Sat 11 August	NELUM Meeting
Sun 2 September 12:30 pm	Naming Ceremony - Theo George, son of Donna and Adele Vinten Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 2 September tbc After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sat 15 September 11 am - 4 pm	Heritage Open Day and Late Summer Fair
Wed 10 October	Chapel Trustees Meeting

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,
BL5 3RS

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.

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