

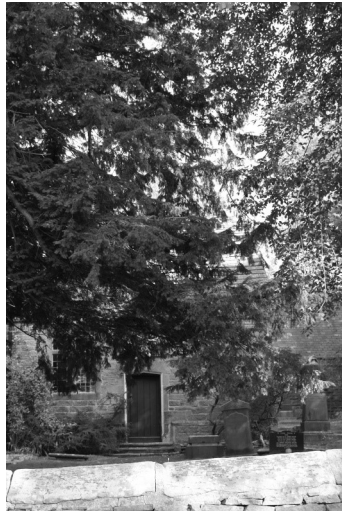
Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



Feb - Apr 2018

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

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

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

This Chapel is our much-loved place of simple beauty. We, its congregation, drink deeply of its peacefulness and tranquillity and are always eager to share what it gives with all members of the community. It is strange when you think sometimes about a person you have known who has been to Chapel as a visitor or regular worshipper and who has now passed away. They heard, saw and felt the same things as we do and now they do not. The Chapel, however, remains with their memories, and does so apparently unchanged.

Until recently (I write this at the beginning of January 2018) I had only conducted one funeral since my first service here in 2001. Soon I will have conducted three funerals within seven weeks. All three people knew this Chapel in varying degrees.

In November we held the funeral of David Robb Johnstone, a noted and much respected academic, whom I married here to Hazel Devereaux on 2nd January 2016. He was a man who but for his prolonged struggle with cancer had fully intended to play an active part in our community's activities.

In December it was our old friend Leighton Jones who passed away, again after a long fight against cancer. Leighton and Muriel, his wife, were energetic and committed Committee members for several years and he was ever handy with his drawing board and tool box. He drew up plans for our literature stand, which miraculously withstood design by committee, constructed our all-important pew top donation box and invented the brass collars for the pulpit candles - to catch the wax. We miss Leighton, and also Muriel, who can no longer make it to Chapel. Our hearts and prayers go out to Muriel and family for their very sad loss. I have written a tribute to Leighton

which is included in this newsletter.

This month we have the funeral of Hilda Denmet who, though not a member of our congregation, so loved Rivington in all its beauty, both obvious and hidden, that her family wished her funeral service to be held here in this simple Chapel.

The words in our trust deed about 'Rivington Chapel or Oratory', that it 'be a place of worship and piety' are often in my mind. And whatever else our activities are, whether in fund raising, renovations or day-to-day tasks, it behoves us to remember, always, that our very lives are in effect an act of worship. Do we not sing in our vesper:

Not on this day, O God alone
Would we Thy presence seek
But fain its hallowing power would own
Through all the coming week.

I don't think these are empty words, for while we are ourselves a charity we manage to find ways to help others wherever possible. Also it is accepted by those who know us in the wider community that we are there for them, ready to step up, unconditionally, when called for, in whatever act of worship they need; this could be a Naming Ceremony, Wedding, Relationship Blessing, or Funeral. But the active word in all this is always 'unconditional'.

Over Christmas we were so lucky to enjoy a truly heart-warming and festive carol service. Tanya Smalley rose to the challenge of playing our many carols on the organ, not to mention Jingle Bells as Father Christmas sauntered his way amongst us handing out selection boxes and cheery greetings with gay abandon as he did so. The theme this year was Homelessness, where we explored The Nativity through the perspective of the homeless. Was Jesus not born out doors in a sta-

ble? And were they not refugees in Egypt for a time in their flight from Herod?

We were, thankfully, able to make meaningful contributions to the efforts of 'Coffee4Craig', a charity for the homeless. After our Harvest Festival, in October, the mountain of fresh produce and dry goods that I took down to their base at Centre Point on Oldham Street in Manchester had my car down on its axles. How was I going to unload it all? I needn't have worried, as a small army of helpers appeared and all was carefully unloaded and made ready for immediate use in the kitchen or dispersal in their out-reach efforts.

An unexpected addition this year was an extremely generous donation from a resident of Rivington Village (who wishes to remain anonymous) who donated a PS3 with games and all accessories, mobile phones with chargers, boots, coats and clothing; in previous years they have asked me to pass on sums of money to them. We also gave them the surplus mince pies from our carol service and more groceries that Judith Crompton donated. Chorley Lions had given us a box of new toys to sell for them at our Christmas Craft Fair at the Bay Horse (we collected £22 on their behalf); those that weren't sold we gave to Coffee4Craig. Risha from C4C told me that the PS3, food and the toys were given to a family whom they had been able to house but that had no money for presents or even food as their 'Universal Credit' hadn't arrived in time. The bags of chocolates that weren't needed for the 15 children at our carol service were taken by Judith directly to the children at Derian House.

I mentioned the Craft Fair at the Bay Horse. Karl and Fiona very kindly donated a stall for our use completely free of charge, for which we thank them profusely. This is the third year they have invited us there and we raised £205 despite the rotten weather – we sold 4 to-

boggans! So we're expecting snow sometime soon, please. I must mention that in September, Fiona gave birth to a beautiful girl, Elsie Anne Eccles. Congratulations from all your friends at Rivington Chapel.

We have had a busy last quarter in 2017 and it looks like 2018 is going to be eventful too. One project, which will be discussed at the next Congregational Committee meeting, is the idea of producing a calendar, so over the coming months we are asking everyone to collect favourite photos, articles and pieces to do with Rivington Chapel and its surroundings so that we will have something ready for 2019 and hopefully following years.

Heaven knows, we have to get weaving with regards to funds for Chapel upkeep and maintenance, especially in light of our new heating system, which is improving the worship experience here, not to mention the fabric of the building. We have to say a huge THANK YOU to Michael Hough, Richard Horrocks, Paul and Diane Fairclough and other friends and Trustees who have worked so tirelessly throughout 2017 on our beloved Chapel.

Some of you may not be aware of that I am a Parish Councillor for Rivington and as such I am joined by the other councillors in working on resurrecting the 'Rivington Spring Festival' on the weekend of the 12th May. Unfortunately, the Festival did not materialise in 2017, which is such a shame as Rosemary Delamore, who sadly died at the beginning of 2017, and her colleagues worked so hard on getting it established. It's still early days yet but with the right contacts we are hoping to bring back the Maypole and the various stalls and activities on the green that we all enjoyed so much in the past. One councillor, Trevor, is a dab hand with a barbeque, so who knows? Of course, Chapel has always enthusiastically supported this event by opening

its doors to visitors and having modest amounts of crafts and produce and a less modest quantity of . . . fine books available. A less well known fact that I recently discovered is that in the early 1900s the Reverend Samuel Thompson, a minister at this Chapel, was also a Parish Councillor of Rivington - fancy that!

I apologise for this rather long missive but it would be neglectful of me if I failed to mention things which I am aware of and which are a culmination of the efforts and effects of Chapel life. I wish everyone a happy, fulfilled, enlightening and peaceful 2018.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

2018 Calendar

Sun 18 March	Congregational AGM
Sat 12 May	Rivington Spring Festival
Sun 20 May	Anniversary Sermons
Sun 3 June	Strawberry Tea
Sat 14 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 21 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 16 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Chairman's Letter

Back in November some of us spent a morning clearing out and re-organising the walk-in cupboard in the kitchen so that its contents are more easily accessible. We'd like to try and keep it that way, so please bear this in mind if you need to store anything in there.

The flower donor rota for 2018 is now on the notice board in Chapel. For various reasons there are several gaps that need filling, so if you would like to provide the flowers on one of the vacant dates, please let me know. Please remember that if you are unable to attend on your chosen date, you can make a donation and flowers will be provided on your behalf.

The Bennett Ladies Choir visited once again to take part in the service on Sunday 7 January, when they performed three Christmas songs.

Our warmest congratulations to Chris (one of the Chapel Trustees) and Julie Oldham who were married on December 29. Our grateful thanks go to them for their generous donation to Chapel funds.

Please note the AGM notice on the following page and look out for the Nomination Form for various posts on the Congregational Committee which will be displayed on the notice board in Chapel. The post of Chapel Secretary is still vacant, and details of the duties of Secretary will also be displayed.

Alison Whitaker
Chairman, Congregational Committee

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation of Rivington Chapel
will be held after the service on

Sunday 18 March 2018

A Nomination Form for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
and Committee members will be displayed on the notice board in
Chapel. The closing date for nominations will be Sunday 4 March

Gift Aid

Frank has written in previous newsletters that 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

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.

Cyclists, dog walkers and ramblers welcome.

Outdoor seating available.

Catering and special events throughout the year.

Contact Jayne on 07783 509163

www.rivingtonvillagegreentearoom.com

Sponsor of Rivington Village Green

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Contact Stuart on 07711 693168

for a free quote and advice

Email : info@adlingtonelectrical.com

Contractor for supply and fitting of Chapel heating system and security lights and all statutory certification.

Ridgmont House

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Function rooms accommodating up to 160 guests catering for all occasions - parties, weddings, funerals and conferences. Afternoon tea, hot and cold buffets, sit down meals.

Approved for Civil Weddings

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Contact Martin on 01204 696246

Email: enquiries@ridgmonthousevenue.co.uk

The Bay Horse

Babylon Lane, Heath Charnock, PR6 9ER

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

Open daily from 12:00 to 23:00

Our delightfully converted barn is available to hire for functions, with seating and tables for up to 35.

Six room bed and breakfast accommodation.

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Member of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

Services include private Chapel of Repose, worldwide repatriation, memorials and inscriptions, stationery and catering.

Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans can be arranged.

Phone: 01204 696311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Email: info@liveseyfunerals.co.uk

J. Dickinson & Sons (Horwich) Ltd

Rivington View Business Park, Station Road,
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Skip hire for domestic, commercial and industrial use.

Various sizes available.

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Contact Sales on 01204 696446

Email: info@jdickinson.co.uk

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Unit 3, Waterloo Mill, Clitheroe, BB7 1LR

A RIBA Chartered Practice with AABC accreditation, using a mix of old and new technology to offer a range of services from Historic Building conservation and repair, surveys and feasibility studies, planning and grant aid advice through to new build design. From the smallest job to a £25m project.

Contact Ivan on 01200 423487

Email : ivan@iarchitects.co.uk

Conservation Architect to Rivington Chapel Trustees

Your advert could appear here

Please contact Michael Hough on

0113 267 7298

Email: epspaperltd@yahoo.co.uk

Trustees Matters

As some of you will have noticed when attending the Chapel during December, all the drain works to the East and South walls have now been completed. The work was carried out within budget with the costs being partly offset by the Hibbert/Gregson Trust award of £3000 announced a year ago. I wish to thank our Honorary Treasurer especially for his efforts in working with the architect with regard to the works specification and for seeking tenders and then working with the contractor.

In addition, our Treasurer, together with Paul Fairclough, has overseen and assisted with the introduction of insulation into the loft area above the Chapel. This work involved the removal of a considerable amount of debris including a number of large bird nests before the wool insulation material could be laid down between the joists. Hopefully, this will ensure that the heat generated by the recently installed new storage heaters will be better contained within the Chapel. We are currently monitoring the indoor temperature of the Chapel in order to ensure that the storage heater programme is maintaining a minimum value required to ensure the Chapel fabric is conserved. This should also enable us to minimise the electricity costs required by these heaters.

With regard to the tearoom repairs, our tenants have had removed the plaster from the South wall interior, thus revealing the underlying stone, which has greatly improved the visual effect for customers. Full re-laying of the gable roof coping stones, which are considered to be the cause of the dampness, will be undertaken when the weather improves.

The state of the flags in the Garden of Remembrance continues to have the attention of the Trustees and possible options to alleviate the problem of their slipperiness in wet weather are under consideration for eventual implementation in the Spring.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

MyDonate

As you are all aware, the trustees have undertaken a lot of work on the Chapel recently. We have had new pew heaters, new storage heaters, new insulation in the loft, and most recently the drainage channel around the back of the building has been completely repaired. This work hasn't been cheap, but was undertaken following recommendations by our conservation architect. The works which have been carried out should ensure our beautiful Chapel remains in a good state of repair for many years to come.

If any individuals would like to make a one-off donation to the Chapel to help contribute towards the costs of the works this would be very gratefully received. To make a donation, for this or for any other purpose, you can do so 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.

Peter Bearon
Secretary, Rivington Chapel Trustees

Leighton Jones 1937 - 2017

You can almost hear Leighton say, “Blinkin ‘eck, in two weeks, on the 27th December, I’ll be 80”. Though it wasn’t to be, it’s not to say Leighton didn’t have a full, rich, interesting and, maybe in a quiet way, eventful life. A life shared, almost in its entirety, by Muriel. They met when they were just 14 years old, and although they went to separate schools, he to the grammar and she to the secondary, Muriel had him in her sights.

But young love was not without its ups-and-downs. Aged 17, off Leighton went to Weybridge on apprenticeship in the aero-space industry and was only allowed home in the holidays. However, they eventually married at the age of 21 at Horeb Baptist Chapel, Llandudno Junction, where Muriel had been accepted as an infant and was later baptised by full immersion. Leighton was always supportive of Muriel’s Chapel life, though it wasn’t really for him.

In 1959 they were able to set up home in Weybridge where Leighton was working for Vickers Armstrong. They lived at Little Sandhurst where their two children Leighton and Susan were born and brought up. They enjoyed caravan holidays which were mostly spent in the New Forest where the family loved to rub shoulders with the wild horses living there and Leighton’s love of wild life found full expression.

While at Weybridge Leighton worked on contract in Bristol on Concorde and later on the TSR2 which unfortunately was cancelled. Vickers Armstrong closed and in 1977 Leighton found new work at BAE Salmesbury. So the family upped sticks and moved up to Lancashire. When he finally retired aged 55 in 1992 Leighton’s job title was Electrical Inspector.

Leighton had many interests which included trains and planes mainly, but other things such as photography and computers can go on the list as well as model building and carpentry. Leighton drew up the plans for Rivington Chapel's rather fantastic literature display stand and he built a very important item of Chapel furniture . . . the "Visitors Collection Box" no less.

Leighton, you have given us all such a lot to think about - indeed a life well lived.

Vince

[This is an abridged version of Vince's tribute to Leighton. A full version will be displayed on the Chapel notice board and will also be available on the website - Ed.]

A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all those people who responded to the request to update their contact details. There are still some of you that we would like to hear from to check that you still want to receive the newsletter. If it is a change to the mailing list, 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

There's a further addition to the list of publications on sale in the Chapel and the Village Tearooms. The new booklet is a digital reproduction of the 'Rivington Chapel Bi-Centenary Souvenir' produced in 1903. As well as this you can still purchase 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

4 February	Rev Danny Crosby - Altrincham and Urmston Chapels
18 February	Jean Clements - Denton Chapel
4 March	Rev Philip Waldren - Ullet Road Chapel
18 March	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
1 April	Rev Bob Janis-Dillon - Warrington and Park Lane
15 April	Rev Kate McKenna - Bury Unitarian Church
6 May	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel

Flower Donors

4 February	Alison Whitaker and Peter Bearon
18 February	Iris Wharton
4 March	Diane Fairclough
18 March	tba
1 April	Olive Mayor
15 April	Olive Fisher
6 May	Mary Horrocks

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 4 Feb After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
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Sun 18 March After Service	Congregational AGM
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Wed 21 March 7:30 pm	Chapel Trustees AGM
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If you would like to arrange a ceremony at Rivington
Chapel, please contact
Mary Horrocks tel: 01204 493757

Copy date for next issue: 1 Apr 2018
Issue date: 15 Apr 2018

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.

Lay Person in Charge & Pulpit Supply	Vince McCully 20 Thirlmere Close, Anderton, Lancashire, PR6 9QD 01257 483733 email: vinmcul@hotmail.co.uk	
<i>Your Committee</i>		
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Secretary	Position vacant	
Treasurer & Chapel Keeper	Frank Ascroft 13a Highfield Road North, Adlington, Lancashire, PR6 9RN 01257 483635 email: ascroftf@pobroadband.co.uk	
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