

# Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

*"Here let no man a stranger be"*



May - July 2018

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## **Lay Person in Charge's Letter**

I think everyone right now is wondering if this winter will ever end, but at least we have our Chapel days to bring light to the horizon.

Perhaps it's a lull before the storm; I know that April and May will be full of new experiences. Though I have heard a lot about the GA (General Assembly) Annual Meetings, it always seemed to be quite a distant affair. Alison went last year and gained a lot from the experience. I hope to glean much useful material and contacts from it too. Later in April I will be attending the Hibbert Trust's Lay seminar at the Quaker Meeting House at Woodbrooke in Birmingham. This seminar was very busy last year; hopefully we will make some meaningful progress.

Our Congregational AGM was well attended, and the subject of a less cumbersome title for a 'lay worship leader' in our Chapel community was thoroughly discussed. While 'Lay Person in Charge' stays in place for all official Unitarian and formal purposes, 'Minister' can be used in informal situations. This is helpful when dealing with day to day matters and where an in-depth description of one's role is not being sought. It could also be an aid further down the line to other 'lay worship leaders' too, especially as funding a full time minister is looking a bit distant. Naturally it is incumbent upon myself and others to continue with religious studies from within and without our Unitarian fold, in order to better serve this Congregation and the wider community. It is sobering to think that even the larger edifices within the Unitarian church, such as the MDA (Manchester District Association) and the GA do not have unlimited means with which to fund full time Ministers (who are unfortunately becoming thinner on the ground) so it is prudent for us to have addressed this matter.

Thank goodness Chapel is not all about semantics and protocols; just take a look at our Spring-time activities. We have two lovely couples getting married here in May; Laura and Paul on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Caroline and Ian on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There's the Naming Ceremony of Amelie Rose Taylor on 8 April and then it's the Rivington Spring Festival on 12 May.

Rivington Spring Festival has been going a few years now and the Chapel has always been an enthusiastic supporter of it. The format this year is a little different and is being arranged by the Parish Councillors. It is hoped it will bring together as many parts of the community as possible, though as nothing is set in stone it should prove to be an interesting learning curve. Hopefully if enough folk engage with it, it will be a success.

In Chapel we will have books and produce on sale, and the Bennett Ladies Choir will be doing a performance during the day. Hannah Carolan has also offered to do a turn with her Rosemere Quartet. In the evening we are planning a short theatrical experience courtesy of Chris Martin's inspired writings and there will be some light refreshments.

It was lovely seeing Frank Ascroft being rewarded for his many years' service to the Chapel as a Committee Member, Chapel Keeper, and Treasurer and he was presented with gifts and a card by our Chairman Alison Whitaker. Some things there, we hope, will prove handy when he's off on his cruise.

We now have two organists, with Tanya Smalley, who has been with us for fifteen months now, playing on the third Sundays and Hannah Carolan playing on the first Sundays. Thanks to Martin Brownlow for helping us out as much as he did, it was appreciated.

Debs and Michael Williamson have now departed our shores and are

settling down in Portugal. They were only with us a short time but quickly became a big part of our community. Thoughtfully they left a little kitty for Easter eggs and decorations on Easter Sunday. A quick look at our face book page will show that they were very well received and much appreciated. Thanks and bon voyage Debs and Michael.

Yes, we're going to be a bit busy. Let's hope we get some of that fine Lancashire weather we all remember so fondly.

God Bless,

*Vince*

Lay Person In Charge

### **2018 Calendar**

Sat 12 May	Rivington Spring Festival
Sun 20 May	Anniversary Sermons and Meal
Sun 3 June	Strawberry Tea
Sat 15 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 21 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 16 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

## **Chairman's Letter**

Debs and Michael Williams, who were married here last summer, have recently moved to Portugal. They have kindly left a donation to be used for decorating the Chapel on special occasions. Some of the money has been used to buy some painted eggs which made a seasonal display on the wooden chest by the organ. There were also some chocolate ones for people to take home.

It was a great pleasure at the AGM to make a presentation to Frank Ascroft to mark twenty years of service on the Congregational Committee. Our gift to Frank was a Maritime Pocket Sundial Compass plus some cash to spend on holiday treats.

The running of the Rivington Spring Festival has been taken over by the Rivington Parish Council who will be organising events on the Village Green on Saturday 12 May. The Chapel will be open on that day, when we will be running our usual range of stalls. We welcome donations of preserves, cakes and any other produce to sell to raise funds for the Chapel.

The annual Congregational meal will be on Sunday 20 May following our Anniversary Service. The venue has yet to be fixed, so look out for further information on the notice board in Chapel.

The Chapel will again be open for visitors before services over the summer months. If you can spare a couple of hours on one or more of those Sundays, please add your name to the rota on the notice board. The Chapel will also be open for visitors on 15 July which is the day of the Ironman event. As there are 5 Sundays in July, we will be having a service on Sunday 22 July instead of the 15th.

The only date on the flower rota which is still vacant is Sunday 5 Au-

gust. If anyone would like to provide the flowers on that day, please let me know.

### **Congregational AGM**

At the AGM, held this year on Sunday 18 March, there was only one nomination for each of the posts of Chairman and Treasurer, so Alison Whitaker and Frank Ascroft remain in post. There were no nominations for the post of Secretary, so the various duties will be carried out by members of the Committee as necessary, with Vince as correspondence secretary. Dennis Crompton stood down as minutes secretary, so the Committee needs to appoint a replacement. There were five people nominated for the seven places on the Committee, so all were elected.

The meeting was an opportunity for members to give their opinions regarding Vince's request that the Congregation should consider an alternative title to 'Lay Person in Charge'. Following discussion of the pros and cons of the various options, it was proposed that we should maintain the status quo, keeping the title 'Lay Person in Charge' for all the formal aspects of Vince's role, but that the term 'Minister' could be used in informal situations. Vince was assured that the Congregation would fully support him in any further study and training that he wished to undertake.

A full version of the minutes is available to read on the notice board in Chapel.

**Alison Whitaker**  
**Chairman, Congregational Committee**

Rivington Chapel Presents

# St Bernard's goes to the Dogs

A Whodunit?

by Chris Martin

Saturday 12 May at 7:00pm

Tickets £8/£6 concessions

Light refreshments included

Contact **Vince McCully** on **01257 483733** for further details

## Global Chalice Lighting

(Words used at an International Council of Unitarians and Universalists meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, by Rev Lawrence Sudbury in honour of the Comunione Unitariana Italiana being granted full ICUU membership.)

What we are lighting up today is just a small flame but even a small flame can bring light into the dark and can start a great fire.

May the flame of our chalice, rising towards the Infinite, be the symbol of our inexhaustible hope of being light that dissolves the darkness of hatred, injustice and intolerance, of being the beginning of a great fire that brings the warmth of peace, brotherhood and universal love to anyone in the world.



## **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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Catering and special events throughout the year.

**Contact Jayne on 07783 509163**

**[www.rivingtonvillagegreentearoom.com](http://www.rivingtonvillagegreentearoom.com)**

Sponsor of Rivington Village Green

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

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## **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.

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## **IWA Architects Ltd**

Unit 3, Waterloo Mill, Clitheroe, BB7 1LR

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**Contact Ivan on 01200 423487**

**Email : [ivan@iarchitects.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:epspaperltd@yahoo.co.uk)**

## **Trustees Matters**

In spite of the winter months and inclement weather, the last quarter has witnessed a number of minor but significant changes to the interior of the Chapel. These have all been undertaken on a DIY basis with considerable cost-savings as a consequence. The first is the recent replacement of all the top moulding trims on the box pews, which have been fitted and stained by Paul Fairclough, Michael Hough and David Worsley. They have certainly have improved the overall appearance of the interior; many thanks to the three of you.

The second task completed by Paul and Diane Fairclough was the fitting of a grab rail and step from the vestry into the Chapel – this has been already commented upon and much appreciated by some congregational members.

As stated in the last Newsletter, we started to monitor the indoor Chapel temperature in order to ensure that the storage heater programme is maintaining a minimum value required to ensure the Chapel fabric is conserved. This process has continued throughout the first 3 months of 2018 and even during the very cold periods, interior temperatures rarely dipped below 6°C, except during early March when the external temperature reached -2°C, and 4°C was the lowest interior recorded value. Part of the problem of maintaining the internal fabric of the building is the rise in relative humidity and dampness as the temperature falls. To alleviate this, and this is the third DIY job, two dehumidifiers have been installed by Paul and Michael with the expectation that the power they consume will be less than if we raised the internal temperature by altering the storage heater programme. Judging by the amount of water that they remove from the Chapel atmosphere over relatively short periods of

time, they are certainly working toward this end.

Plans for further remedial work on the Chapel fabric and estate have been identified which include the replacement of the Chapel guttering as identified in the Quinquennial Report by the architect and refurbishment of the paths in the Garden of Remembrance and outside the main gate between the wall and the Village Green. The first of these is eligible for a grant application to the Hibbert/Gregson Trust and this will be prepared during the coming months for submission during May.

**Richard Horrocks**  
**Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees**

### **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 reg-

ular 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 now 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**

### **Some thoughts**

Want what you have.

Do what you can

Be who you are

**Rev Dr Forrest Church**

Do a little at a time, that you may do more.

**John Wesley**

## **The INQUIRER**

Google tells us that 'The Inquirer' is the longest-surviving non-conformist magazine. Indeed, it was first published in 1842, (the year Queen Victoria first travelled by train) and has continued every fortnight to feature matters of faith, congregational news and articles by distinguished writers on world-wide concerns. It is something the Chapel pays for, yet few read.

Not every article would set the world on fire but there is usually at least one that is of interest and it would be a pity not to support this professionally produced publication. Copies are free for you to take from the desk in Chapel or from the place set aside in the Tea Rooms.

**Dennis Crompton**

## **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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

6 May	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
20 May	Anniversary Sermons Rev Alex Bradley - Styal Chapel
3 June	Chrissie Wilkie - Dean Row Chapel
17 June	Peter Sampson - Lancaster Chapel
1 July	Mark Hutchinson - Ministry Student
22 July	Jean Clements - Denton Chapel
5 August	Prof Geoff Levermore - Styal Chapel

### Flower Donors

6 May	Mary Horrocks
20 May	Jacqueline Dagnall
3 June	Judith Crompton
17 June	Jacquie and Tim Kershaw
1 July	Frank Ascroft
22 July	Tim and Jacquie Kershaw
5 August	tba

## Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 6 May 12:30 pm	Wedding - Laura Cubbin and Paul Christie Conducted by Vince McCully
Sat 12 May 11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Chapel open for Rivington Spring Festival
Sat 19 May 12:30 pm	Wedding - Caroline Palin and Ian Moss Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 20 May After Service	Chapel Anniversary Meal Venue tbc
Sun 3 June After Service	Strawberry Tea

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If you would like to arrange a ceremony at Rivington  
Chapel, please contact  
Mary Horrocks tel: 01204 493757

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**Issue date: 22 Jul 2018**

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BL5 3RS

telephone: 01942 816569

email: [newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk](mailto: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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