

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



May - Jul 2019

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Facebook: Rivington Unitarian Chapel

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

So, Summer comes to Rivington and with it a whole host of activities. We have our customary 'in-house' events such as services, weddings and naming ceremonies, along with our Anniversary Service, Strawberry Tea, Rivington Spring Festival and the Heritage Open Days linked with the Late Summer Fair.

All this is heart-warming and wonderful, but we should always be on the look-out to see how we can grow not only individually as a Chapel but collectively as a Unitarian Church.

We have just such an opportunity, or more accurately opportunities, this year because in addition, there will be the Walt Whitman Bicentenary service, a concert by 'One Accord' and the Triennial Pilgrimage. We all work so hard on these events, making them happy and welcoming. It is a credit to you.

Recently I had to write a brief introduction to 'Rivington' for the Parish website, it goes as follows: (ahem)

"Rivington, nestling in the lee of Winter Hill is a much-loved place of simple beauty. Within easy travelling distance of all the major towns and cities in the North West, Rivington is a welcoming place of character and pleasant surprises; there is something for everyone here. Whether it is a gentle walk along tree lined lanes or a hike across the moors, whether a well-deserved relaxing cuppa in one of our delightful tea rooms or an afternoon of adventure on the water, in the trees, on the moors or among the mysterious terraced gardens. So, what are you waiting for?"

It's hard to know what to write, to show Rivington at its best. Though it does bring it home to you how lucky and blessed we all are, to be in

this peaceful and beautiful place and how it is a privilege to be able to share it with others.

Coupled with acting as a hub for the Village Spring Festival, which is gaining momentum, our simple Chapel is, I feel, doing what its founders aimed for all those centuries ago, where ordinary folk can play a meaningful role in all aspects of life, not least in exploring their own spirituality without remote (in all senses of the word) edicts from the likes of Canterbury or Rome.

I wish everyone a happy and fulfilling Summer.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

2019 Calendar

Sat 11 May	Rivington Village Festival
Sun 19 May	Anniversary Sermons and Chapel Meal
Sun 2 Jun	Walt Whitman Bicentenary Celebration
Sun 16 Jun	Strawberry Tea
Fri 5 July	Concert with One Accord
Sat 14 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sat 28 Sept	Rivington Triennial Pilgrimage
Sun 20 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 15 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Chairman's Letter

The Rivington Spring Festival on Saturday 12 May will have stalls on the Village Green, although in the case of inclement weather these will be moved to the Parish Hall. We welcome donations of preserves, cakes and any other produce to sell to raise funds for the Chapel. If anyone would like to run a stall, please let the Committee know in plenty of time so that space can be allocated.

The annual Congregational meal will be on Sunday 19 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.

Due to the number of people likely to attend the Walt Whitman Bicentenary Service, the date for the Strawberry Tea has been changed. It will now take place on Sunday 16 June.

We shall be arranging some working parties to start replanting the Physic Garden. If you are interested, please look out for the dates on the notice board. The first of these is likely to be during the week after Easter.

There is a vacant date on the flower rota, Sunday 18 August. If anyone would like to provide the flowers on that day, please let me know.

I am pleased to announce that at the Committee Meeting on Sunday 7 April, Janet Lythgoe was co-opted on to the Committee. This brings the number of members up to six., leaving one place vacant.

After several years of representing the Chapel at Manchester District Association meetings, Vince has recently become the MDA's Treasurer. This means that we should appoint another representative from Rivington Chapel to prevent any conflict of interest in matters of funding. If there is any member of the Congregation who would be willing to be our MDA representative, please speak to Vince to find out more about what it would entail.

We would also like to appoint another authorised person for weddings to provide back up for Frank Ascroft in case he is ever unavailable. Please speak to Frank to find out more about what is involved.

Congregational AGM

At the AGM, held this year on Sunday 17 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 continue to be carried out by members of the Committee as necessary, with Vince as correspondence secretary. There were five people nominated for the seven places on the Committee, so all were elected.

A presentation was made to Dennis Crompton who had decided to retire from the Committee. However, he will continue as the Chapel's Publicity Officer. We were pleased to welcome Marilyn Buckley as a new Committee member.

A full version of the minutes is available to read on the notice board in Chapel, and you can also find it on the Chapel website. If you would like a paper copy, please let me know.

Alison Whitaker
Chairman, Congregational Committee

Trust Matters

During the last few months, there have been no new initiatives undertaken by the Trustees and so I can present updates of previously mentioned projects and issues. First of these is to report that the installation of CCTV has been completed and it is now “up and running”. Signs to the effect that it is present around the Chapel are in the process of being acquired and displayed.

Michael Hough and Paul Fairclough are continuing their tidying up of the graves and putting down loose chippings. Their work has attracted several positive comments from members of the public.

With regard to the wind damage and destruction caused by the gales in November to the large gable-end window in the Tea Room, we eventually received the disturbing news from our insurers that, because winds on that date were not 45 mph or greater (the normal condition for a storm or gale) and also there were signs of rot in the frame, we cannot claim the costs of its replacement. Because the Tearoom is within the curtilage of the Chapel, which is Class II* listed, repairs and replacements in the Tea Room must be treated as if it too were a classified building. The cost of its exact replacement is considerable and the Trustees are currently challenged with how this might be undertaken during the foreseeable future. However, our tenant is happy to continue her business with the temporary repair in place for some time.

We have at last received formal notice that the Garden of Remembrance is now registered in our name with the Land Registry. However, we are still awaiting a reply from United Utilities regarding our request for a possible renewal of the previous licence for the land outside the immediate area that has been transferred to us.

Of interest to the Village Green and our immediate surroundings is the development of a 3-year plan by Rivington Parish Council and we are looking forward to working with them to achieve this in conjunction with our own plans for enhancing the character of the Chapel estate. As part of these, during 2019 we hope to be able to resurface and extend the car parking area outside the Chapel gate.

Finally, the lease for the Tearoom is coming up for renewal and we are consulting with our tenant during the process and taking professional advice regarding an advisable rent to be charged under the proposed renewal terms.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

Trustees – Treasurer Required

In the November 2013 newsletter, the Trustees advertised for a new treasurer as Chris Haighton had to give up the role due to family and work commitments. As a response to that advert, we were very fortunate that Michael Hough offered his services and took over the role in March 2014. In addition to looking after the finances, he has done sterling work on the conservation of the fabric of the Chapel, arranging for a quinquennial review and then taking a lead in liaising with our conservation architect.

Michael lives in Leeds but does come over to Horwich regularly to see his mother, a long-standing member of the congregation herself before she became too ill to attend. However, Michael now feels that the time has come for him to be stepping back from the role of treasurer, maybe not in the very short term, but definitely in the medium term.

None of the current Trustees who have the time feel they are qualified to take on the role and so we are asking if anyone would like to join the Trustees and become the treasurer. As Michael will not be stepping down immediately, any prospective new treasurer will be able to work alongside him before taking on the role. Chris Highton is also a trustee and could advise if necessary.

If anyone is interested in taking on the role of treasurer, please contact me on 01204 493757 or talk to me at a service.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman to the Trustees
arichardhorrocks@hotmail.com

Rivington Chapel Calendar

Following the success of the 2019 'Scenic Rivington' calendar, the Trustees have decided to produce another one for 2020. Everyone is invited to submit for consideration photographs of views of Rivington taken at any time of year. The deadline for submissions is 1 August, so that the calendar can be available in time for the Late Summer Fair in September.

If you have any photographs that you would like to be considered, please send them to Chris Martin, email: chris_and_june@hotmail.com. Chris points out that the photographs need to be high resolution (the more pixels the better) and that pictures taken on mobile phones may not always be suitable.

Memories of Rivington part two

During the war, one thing the government asked everyone to do was to 'Dig for Victory' and I remember Mr Whitehead (the headteacher) telling us that he had dug up his lawn and planted vegetables. We also had a garden in the school grounds where I remember growing potatoes and other vegetables. When we harvested them we weighed them and calculated their value in pounds, shillings and pence. All very good for one's arithmetic!

In addition, we were asked to collect as much paper as we could and were awarded with badges of sergeant or captain according to the weight we collected. Someone from the Chapel told Mr Whitehead that there were a lot of books in the Chapel that we could have so several of us came up to the Chapel schoolroom to collect them. As a lover of old books now I hate to think of the ones from the Chapel that were lost to help the war effort.

During the war there were constant worries about German parachutists dropping on the moors near Rivington. Consequently all the road signs were removed and the words on the stone indicating the boundary between Anderton and Rivington were obliterated.

Related to this is the memory of my cousin, who also lived in Major Bottoms, coming home from Church and complaining that some stupid young men in the Home Guard, whom she had known from childhood, had stopped her at a barrier on the road entering Rivington and would not let her pass until she had shown her Identification Card.

Eddie Tapp

Rivington Unitarian Chapel

Triennial Pilgrimage

Saturday 28 September 2019

Lancashire Lunch at Rivington Church Hall

Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Lancashire, BL6 7SE

Guest Speaker: Rev Celia Cartwright

President of the General Assembly

Please bring banners to display in the Hall

Service in Rivington Chapel

Conducted by: Rev Danny Crosby

Minister at Altrincham and Urmston Chapels

Times

12:30pm Meet at Hall

1:00pm Lunch

3:15pm Service

Tickets for Lunch

(booking essential)

£14.50 Adult

£8.00 Child

Booking for Rivington Pilgrimage 2019

If you would like to book tickets for the Pilgrimage, please send a cheque made payable to **Rivington Chapel** to:

Alison Whitaker, 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3RS

Please indicate the number of adult and/or child tickets that you require, and any dietary requirements.

We would be grateful if you would include a stamped addressed envelope.

The closing date for bookings is **Friday 8 September 2019**. Tickets will be sent out during the week beginning 16 September.

Rivington Chapel presents

a Musical Evening featuring

ONE ACCORD

as part of their

'Glorious End' Final Tour

on Friday 5 July 2019 in Rivington Chapel

A fundraising event on behalf of

Rivington Chapel and Chorley Lions

Tickets £8.50 (incl seasonal light refreshments)

Available from Alison (tel 01942 816569) or

Vince (tel 01257 483733)

Doors open 7:00 pm

Concert starts 7:30 pm

Global Chalice Lighting

We light this chalice to motivate us to do something no matter how small or simple. We light this chalice for the joy and health that we have in our lives, for the hope in the future. We light this chalice for those who are searching for a new home. We light this chalice for all living beings dwelling this land, for those who are coming and for those who were. We light this chalice to all existent beings in this universe that are seeking meaning in community and freedom. We light this chalice for a present without unjust structures and relationships. We light this chalice for separated families, for distant friends. We light this chalice to enlighten their paths of reunion. To honour the virtuous traditions of our ancestors recent and remote, to extend the boundaries of community beyond our own physical, mental and spiritual borders, and to leave a legacy of peace, justice and commitment for future generations of Mother Earth. We light this chalice for all the world to see.

Words of the Unitarian/Universalist participants of the Latin American Encounter in Colombia, November 2018

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.

Rivington Chapel Publications

Since the last newsletter, more titles have been added to the series of reprints of 'Rivington and District' booklets by David Owen. These are: 'The Headless Cross Ghost', 'Carved and Dated Stones Book 1' 'Carved and Dated Stones Book 2' and 'Carved and Dated Stones Book 3'. (All £3.00). There is also a reprint of a booklet published in 1977: 'Rivington Chapel, A glimpse at its history' (£2:00). This was edited by Rev Austin Fitzpatrick, who was minister at Rivington from 1974 to 1980.

These booklets, together with all the publications in the collection, are on sale in the Chapel and The Village Tea Room. They are also available directly from Michael Hough (plus the cost of postage and packing). Please contact him on 0113 267 7298.

Full details of all publications are also on the website:

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk/publications

A Note from the Editor

If you need to inform us of any change in your details, or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, 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

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

5 May	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
19 May	Rev Jim Corrigall - Padiham Chapel Anniversary Sermons
2 June	Judith Crompton - Rivington Chapel Walt Whitman Bicentenary Service
16 June	Rev Danny Crosby - Altrincham and Urmston Chapels Strawberry Tea
7 July	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
21 July	Prof Geoff Levermore - Styal Chapel
4 August	The Congregation

Flower Donors

5 May	Mary Horrocks
19 May	Jaqueline Dagnall
2 June	Judith Crompton
16 June	Jacque and Tim Kershaw
7 July	Frank Ascroft
21 July	Jacque and Tim Kershaw
4 August	Elsie Kent

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sat 29 June 12:30 pm	Wedding of Emma Warren and Marcus Atty Conducted by Vince McCully
Sat 6 July	Wedding of Debra Crook and Michael Bell Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 7 July 1:00 pm	Naming Ceremony - Ariana Louise, daughter of Natalie Wilkinson Conducted by Vince McCully
Sat 20 July 2:00 pm	Wedding of Amanda Taylor and Antony Doyle Conducted by Vince McCully

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

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Issue date: 21 Jul 2019

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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