

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



Nov 2018 - Jan 2019

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

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

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

It's been a busy time in and around Chapel this summer. Mostly there have been great and positive events but the unavoidable story has to be the terrible moorland fires that we have endured. Starting by Scout Road in Belmont they swept westwards across open moorland on Noon Hill, narrowly missing the North West's prime communications mast. This devastating inferno was only halted due to the heroic efforts of the Fire Brigade and volunteers and using vast quantities of water from the Yarrow reservoirs scooped up by the United Utilities helicopter. But for this the restoration work in Rivington's Terrace gardens would have obliterated.

In light of all this our Unitarian Earth Spirit network, headed by Rev. Tony McNeile, were keen to mark the events and it was proposed that they held, in our Chapel, a service of thanksgiving and of appreciation of the land's regeneration. The service went ahead on 28 July, exactly a month to the day after it had all started. As Leading Fireman Malcolm Dewhurst, the fire brigade representative, was recounting the full details, he commented that it was uncannily the exact time, 3.15pm, when they had first received a report of the fire – incidentally a report of a second fire nearby came in even as they were on their way. It was a moving service, with representatives of all who had worked so hard to contain the fires present; £70 was raised to reward them with a celebratory party.

The repercussions are immense; it is said by ecologists that full recovery of this moorland habitat is likely to take 10 years. Chorley Council is being pro-active in this matter and John Hill, the community engagement officer, contacted the Chapel along with other local faith and community groups with an invitation to attend the inaugu-

ral meeting of the Winter Hill Fire Community Recovery Steering Group. This was held at the end of August and was well attended by representatives from our congregation. The group met again in early October.

Still on the subject of nature, we have received a very generous donation from Isobel Peabody and her brother Richard Price for the re-planting of the Physic Garden and care of the Garden of Remembrance. Diane and Paul Fairclough have worked so hard on the Physic Garden that it is very encouraging their labours will be thus enhanced. (Isobel and Richard's father, Eric Shirvell Price, was minister at the Chapel from 1965 to 1973 - Ed.)

Regarding labours being rewarded, it looks like the 2019 calendar, with photos of Rivington, so enthusiastically driven by trustees Michael Hough and Chris Martin, is going to turn out to be something of a success, as stocks have been taken by The Tea Room, Adlington Post Office and Spring Cottage to name but a few. You should get your copies while you can; everybody I show them to has to have one.

Also, haven't the trustees done well, with Paul, Richard Horrocks and Michael addressing the issues of damp both inside and outside the Chapel walls, not to mention the new guttering that Michael has organised. It's quite a relief not to have a sheet of water coming down over the main entrance in heavy rain with a radiant bride coming up the steps!

In August the three West Gallery Choirs met at Chapel and were able to christen our new hot water urn. This went down well as they had brought their own refreshments to see them through the day, and they made a very kind donation of £90 to Chapel funds. They were also the first to benefit from the lovely new sets of curtains in the

kitchen and vestry that Diane has made such an amazing job of. They make the place feel so light and loved.

Picnics at Chapel seem to be a bit of a thing because, also in August, NELUM (North East Lancashire Unitarian Ministry) held their AGM here. They also put the new urn to good use to go with the food they brought. These kind folk also made a donation to Chapel funds, of £60, which was also gratefully received.

And, while on the subject of food, you should check out the pictures of the 'Coffee and Cake' event on our Facebook page. This was held jointly with Eunice Hawkins and friends from Rivington Parish Church on 27 September in Chapel. The proceeds, £182, have been split evenly between our respective charities and our chairman, Alison, has already sent our share to Coffee4Craig.

Our Late Summer Fair and Heritage Open Day on 15 September was simply wonderful. A special day with special people is the best way to put it. Again, there was great fellowship and a general buzz of industry, with laughter everywhere. We had two new stalls, one dedicated purely to cake run by Mary Horrocks and a children's stall by Susan Walton. We couldn't fail and we didn't. We even made a little money, £376.51, for Chapel funds.

All this is not possible without the enthusiasm of our Chapel goers and it goes to show what is achieved where everyone is vital and valued. Onwards and upwards as Eric Robson is wont to say on GQT (Gardeners' Question Time), next stop Christmas!! I hope yours is happy and all you want it to be.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

Sunday 11 November

As Vince mentioned in the last newsletter, Bernard Taylor at Rivington Parish Church is organising their events to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War 1. Chapel members are invited to attend the service which starts at 10:45 am and to participate in the remembrance ceremony. More details nearer the time.

Michael Hough, with the assistance of Janette Cordwell, a local family history researcher, is in the process of gathering information on those with a connection to Rivington and the surrounding area who served in World War 1 and hopes to put on a display in Chapel. If anyone would like to contribute any information or memorabilia, please let Michael know.

2018-9 Calendar

Sun 16 Dec	Christmas Carol Service
2019	
Sun 17 Mar	Congregational AGM
Sat 11 May	Rivington Village Festival
Sun 19 May	Anniversary Sermons
Sun 2 Jun	Strawberry Tea and Walt Whitman bicentenary celebration
Sat 14 Sept (tbc)	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

Due to the road closures because of the fires on Winter Hill, the cycling section of the Ironman event was re-routed away from Rivington Village, so the Chapel was not open for visitors as in past years. The Ironman event in 2019 is scheduled to take place on Sunday 14 August. As this is a second Sunday in the month, as long as there is no change, we shall be able to have two services in July next year.

As well as the smart new curtains in the kitchen and upper vestry, we now have a new curtain and pole to cover the alcove between the Chapel and the kitchen. Thanks to Mary and Richard Horrocks for organising this.

Thanks also to Diane Fairclough who has been organising the after-service refreshments that we have been enjoying over the last couple of months. If you would like to make any contributions to the stock of biscuits, they would be very welcome.

As Vince has already mentioned, the joint 'coffee and cake event' with Rivington Church was very successful. We look forward to being able to join in further events now that the refurbishment of the kitchen in the Parish Hall has been completed. I know that Eunice Hawkins is keen to resume the fellowship lunches and we will let people know any dates in due course.

Alison Whitaker
Chairman, Congregational Committee

A thought

Better by far that you should forget and smile than that you should remember and be sad.

Christina Rossetti

Encounters with Three Controversial Historical Figures

For almost three years, I have had a partnership with Dean Taylor, actor-producer who performs one-man shows. I have written three scripts for him. The first was 'Richard III' whose reputation has long suffered from the way he has been vilified by the Tudors and of course by Shakespeare. My alternative view proved topical and the show won Top Award at the Garstang Festival in 2016.

A year later, 'Oliver Cromwell' was premiered at Astley Hall where the Great Protector had stayed on his way to fight at the battle of Preston and visitors today may see in the Hall what are allegedly his second-best pair of boots. Returning them to him has its problems! This year it was the turn of Lord Byron ('Mad Bad and Dangerous to Know'), recently premiered at Garstang Festival.

We plan eventually to take Richard to his historic homes in York and Leicester, to take Oliver to London and Ely, and to take Byron where anyone will have him, though he is buried less splendidly in Nottinghamshire. Meanwhile, each of the trio is ready to appear at local venues.

Dean's performances, which run for approximately 100 minutes each, are wonderfully entertaining and well worth seeing and, when the current programmes are announced, anyone interested can book with (the delightful) Katherine by phoning 01772 466 256.

Dennis Crompton

PS: Oliver Cromwell will be performed on Saturday 3rd November at Turton Tower. (On this occasion the booking will be through the Friends of Turton Tower.)

Trust Matters

In my previous article in the summer newsletter the fires on Winter Hill were still burning. However, since then, the rain in August and September has been more than necessary to fully extinguish them and, hopefully, start to replenish the local reservoirs. Notwithstanding the showery weather, several significant outdoor initiatives have been completed. Principally, the Chapel guttering has been fully replaced and we have requested from the Gregson Trust the payment of their award of £1000 towards the cost.

In addition, as stated in the previous newsletter, Michael Hough and Paul Fairclough have continued to spend many hours and much energy in completing their placing of fresh gravel on the graves, thereby significantly improving the appearance of the Chapel grounds.

In the Garden of Remembrance to assist with its maintenance, an outdoor tap has been installed close by and two of the benches which have rotten arms are in the process of being replaced. Finally, the purchase and fitting of CCTV equipment will be taking place in the near future to improve the overall security in these uncertain times.

This year, the Trustees have organised the design and production of a Chapel calendar for 2019 with all the photographs being kindly presented by members. The calendar is on sale in the Chapel, the Tea-room and the Visitor Centre by the Lower Barn priced individually at £4.75, two for £4.50 each and 3 or more at £4.00 each. Alternatively, copies can be ordered from Michael Hough on 07774 181822.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, 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.

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www.rivingtonvillagegreentearoom.com

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Email: enquiries@ridgmonthousevenue.co.uk

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Email : ivan@iarchitects.co.uk

Conservation Architect to Rivington Chapel Trustees

Rivington Chapel 2019 Calendar

£4.75 each

£4.50 for two

£4.00 for three or more

On sale in Chapel, The Village Green Tea Room, Rivington Information Centre or order directly from Michael Hough

07774 181822

Unitarian Pamphlets

There are pamphlets published by 'The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches' which are available in Rivington Chapel. I distribute some in my role as the contact for 'Rites of Passage', but it would also be possible to add one or two when I distribute the newsletter if they are requested.

Details and copies can be found online (www.unitarian.org.uk) but I shall give a selection of the titles here.

a faith worth thinking about: introducing the unitarians. "Everyone has the right to **seek truth** and **meaning** for themselves."

weddings and blessings - the unitarian way

funeral and memorial services: a unitarian way: a unitarian information leaflet

unitarian views of earth and nature : an introduction

your **first time** at a **unitarian service?** - what to expect

These pamphlets are available to promote thoughts and discussions, but not to dictate our own beliefs. I quote from 'a faith worth thinking about'.

- "we are all engaged on a **life-quest**, the development of the **personal value system** by which each of us lives
- Our **beliefs may change** in the light of new understanding and insight
- The final authority for your faith lies within **your own conscience.**"

Mary Horrocks
Rites of Passage and Newsletter Distribution

Memories of Rivington by Tracy Riley

(Another poem and some more reminiscences from Tracy, born Teresa Southworth, who grew up in Rivington.)

Rivington

Peaceful, gentle Rivington I love your country lanes
I stroll in fields and by the streams and I'm a child again
How often did I sit here, beneath this shady tree,
how often did I count the steps...forty-one or forty-three?
I remember crispy winters, sledging in the snow
weeks of summer sunshine, endless days of joy.
The village green is still the same,
the church and chapel too
where I played games of hide and seek near tombstones old and new.
How lovely just to sit here in this place that has no fears
I don't think that it ever rained
I don't remember tears.
Memories of childhood come flooding back to me
and I'm a little girl again, beneath this shady tree.

In the beautiful vicarage lived the incumbent, Mr Owen, with his wife and four children – John, David, Rosemary & Christine. I remember their wonderful garden parties, Rose Queen processions and with the scarcity of little girls I was several times chosen as Rose Queen. My mother made gorgeous dresses for me from simple material and I wore a crown of locally picked wild-flowers.

I often spent school holidays helping at Cornthwaites Farm. Hay-making, lots of fun, with whole families joining in to help. The children

would earn just a few pennies but we would run along happily to the Lower Barn where Mrs Cooper ran a sweet-shop. She would give us a few extra and I would stay to play with her son Derek.

Later we would visit old Mr McGavin and his 'old' daughters at Spring Cottage just off the Sandy Lane. He told us a lot about the birds, flowers and wildlife in the glorious unspoilt woods and meadows around the village. He owned a superb stamp collection and a seemingly enormous private library.

The village was always thriving and everyone joined in and helped. A real sense of community. There were dances, plays, concerts, fêtes and parties often centred around the Chapel Hall or the Church Hall.

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

4 November	Rev Lynne Readett - Chow Bent Chapel
18 November	Jean Clements - Denton Chapel
2 December	Rev Penny Johnson - Dean Row Chapel
16 December	Christmas Carol Service
6 January	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
20 January	Rev Tony McNeile
3 February	Rev Danny Crosby - Altrincham and Urmston Chapels

Flower Donors

4 November	Jacquie Kershaw
18 November	John Patefield
2 December	Carol Worsley
16 December	Christmas Decorations
6 January	Elsie Kent
20 January	Marge Bradshaw
3 February	Alison Whitaker and Peter Bearon

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 18 November
After Service

Congregational Committee Meeting

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

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Issue date: 20 Jan 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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