Rivington
Unitarian and Free Christian
Chapel

Founded 1662 Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"

Nov 2014 - Jan 2015

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Chairman's Letter

Rivington Chapel must be developing magnetic qualities. Why? Because not only have Paul and Diane Fairclough moved to Adlington and are therefore a lot nearer to the Chapel, but Judith and Dennis have just successfully moved to Chorley, again a lot closer to Chapel. We wish them all every happiness in their new homes which we hope are everything they wished for.

Since our last newsletter our activities have included the following:

In August the West Gallery Music Singing Day was held in Chapel, when Peter and Alison kindly looked after the needs of our visitors. This raised the significant sum of £160. A round of applause there for Peter and Alison.

Our late Summer Fair on 13th September brought everyone together for a brilliant team effort. In addition to our usual stalls (Iris on the Tombola, Frank on Bric-a-brac, Joan and Carol on Crafts and Green Produce, myself on Produce and Olive with the Books), Jo Clark did face painting and June Martin brought some of her vintage crafts. Diane and Paul were circulating and always lending a hand where needed. Others who couldn't be with us kindly donated items and produce, especially John and Olive's ever popular biscuits, Judith and Dennis' marmalade and jams and Alison's quince cheese and pickled blackberries. Adlington Arts and Crafts also joined us on the day and Lynn, Malcolm and Tony were able to make a contribution. And what did we raise? We raised the princely sum of £450.

The weather was lovely for our Fair and we also had quite a few visitors who were doing the rounds for Heritage Open Day. It was nice for them to enjoy our historic building in full flow and maybe take home a memento or two.

On Sunday 28th September we had special guests in the Chapel as the children and parents from Horwich Moor Methodist Church Sunday School visited us. Cathy Denton had organised this with us months ago and it was lovely to have such an enthusiastic gang visiting us. We lit our Chalice flame, discussed the Chapel's history as a dissenting congregation formed way back in 1662 and then we held a short service with "Good Deeds" as the theme. Geoff Newey's Chapel Quiz was put to good use as a competition developed between the children on the one hand and the parents on the other. It was close but the children just pipped the parents at the post. It was indeed a special visit which we hope they enjoyed as much as we did.

It was good to have One Accord in Chapel again, when they conducted a delightful and enchanting service on 5th October. The theme for the service was "Diversity". Linda and John, Peter and Alison were superb; they instructed and entertained, sang and got us singing too. It was a wonderful service and those of us lucky enough to attend applauded them appreciatively at the end.

The Trustees are having a grounds tidying day on Saturday 22nd November, after most of the leaves have fallen, so all who wish for some good old fashioned out-door fun, please feel free to join us between 10am and 2pm on that day.

Speaking of old fashioned fun, be sure to join us for our Christmas Carol Service on 21st December, when the congregation put on the service which is something of a carol fest. With luck we might get a visit from a certain gentleman from Lapland; for the children you understand . . . of course.

We have had a busy and varied year so far and to some extent everyone has taken a part in at least one of our activities. So, you could

say we have all been productive as far as benefitting the Chapel goes. Though it does occur to me that fund raising, whilst being vital to the material wellbeing of the Chapel, is only part of the story. Our real, true wealth lies in the energy, enthusiasm, fellowship and happiness of our congregation.

God bless, *Vince*

Chairman
Lay Person in Charge

Diversity and Music from "One Accord"- an experience not to be missed

Not all services, however well-intentioned, are uplifting. The service led by One Accord on Sunday 5 October was certainly that. They drew on views from richly diverse sources: the Buddhist, the Shinto, the Taoist, the Jewish (both Orthodox and Liberal), the Persian, the Hindu and the Christian. What was so striking was that the prophets and sages were unanimous: respect the differences as part of God's beneficence and then we may find that universal peace.

From one of the meditations came this paradox: "The more we let each voice sound forth with its own tone, the more diverse will be the chant in unison."

Indeed, the music that interspersed these readings orchestrated the theme wonderfully and provided opportunities for the congregation to join in singing the shorter pieces as rounds. Yes, it was both thought-provoking and entertaining. We hope that there will be another occasion when even more people can have the chance to share this worship experience.

Dennis Crompton

Trustees Matters

Since taking over as treasurer of the Trustees from the long serving Chris Haighton, I have spent some time reading through past minutes and reports to familiarise myself with what has happened in the 60 odd years since I was baptised in the Chapel. I was pleased to find a lot of paperwork going back to my father's time as Chairman and Treasurer - his handwriting was instantly recognisable. But, crucially, some reports and records are missing which would be very useful in this modern age of standards, certificates and assessments. In particular, I am looking for two things. Firstly, a final report and photographs relating to the restoration of the Willoughby Memorial. Secondly, the record of Chapel contents, fixtures and fittings compiled by NADFAS, the specialist recorders of such items. Any information on these or other documents would be welcome. If you can help, please contact me by phone on 0113 2677298, or by email at epspaperltd@yahoo.co

Michael Hough, Treasurer to the Trustees

2015 Calendar

Sat 2nd May	Open day in support of Rivington Spring Festival
Sun 17th May	Anniversary Service
Sun 7th June	Strawberry Tea
Sat 12th Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 20th Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Snippets from the Past

Paul Fairclough came across this photograph recently. It was taken outside Rivington Chapel, probably in the early 1950s. Paul appears in the photograph as a young boy - he's the one sporting a beret and blazer just below the window. We'd be very interested to hear from anyone who can identify any of the people in the picture. It looks like it was taken on a special occasion; could it have been the 250th anniversary in 1953?

Paul also provided the photograph which appears on the cover of this issue, from 1903. The walls of the building look quite different covered in ivy.

If anyone else has old photographs of past events at Rivington Chapel that they think would be interesting to readers of the newsletter, please let me know.

Alison

Iris Wharton suggested this poem to celebrate the life of Maya Angelou, who died earlier this year.

Caged bird

A free bird leaps
On the back of the wind
And floats downstream
Till the current ends
And dips his wing
In the orange sun rays
And dares to claim the sky.

But the bird that stalks
Down his narrow cage
Can seldom see through
His bars of rage
His wings are clipped and
His feet are tied
So he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
With a fearful trill
Of things unknown
But longed for still
And his tune is heard
On the distant hill
For the caged bird
Sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
And the tradewinds soft through the sighing trees
And the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn
And he names the sky his own.

But the caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
His shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied
So he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
With a fearful trill
Of things unknown
But longed for still
And his tune is heard
On the distant hill
For the caged bird
Sings of freedom.

A Note from the Editor

Don't forget that if you would like to help us reduce the cost of printing and posting the newsletter, you can opt 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. If you are happy to do so, please contact me on newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk , so that the mailing list can be amended. Chris and Lynne Haighton, who distribute the newsletters, would also be grateful to be kept informed if there are any other amendments that need to be made to the list. Their contact details can be found on the back page of the newsletter.

Alison

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

2	November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
16	November	David Buckley - Gateacre Chapel
7	December	Rev Nicky Jenkins - Chorlton Chapel
21	December	Christmas Carol Service
4	January	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
18	January	Dr Irvine Delamore - Rivington
1	February	tbc

Flower Donors

2	November	Roy Shepherd
16	November	John Patefield
7	December	Carol Worsley
21	December	Christmas Decorations
4	January	Elsie Kent
18	January	Lynne Haighton
1	February	Alison Whitaker and Peter Bearon

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 2 November After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sat 22 November 10:00 am - 2:00 pm	Chapel grounds clearing session

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If you would like to arrange a ceremony at Rivington Chapel, please contact
Joan Thursby tel: 01204 520264

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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,

Your Committee	
Chairman & Pulpit Supply Secretary	Vince McCully (Lay Person in Charge) 20 Thirlmere Close, Anderton, Lancashire, PR6 9QD 01257 483733 email: vinmcul@hotmail.co.uk
Secretary & Flower Rota	Joan Thursby 5 Lovat Road, Bolton, BL2 6LP 01204 520264
Assistant Secretary	Jo Clark 205 Blackburn Road, Bolton, BL7 9SJ 01204 595965 email: jowcoote@hotmail.co.uk
Treasurer & Chapel Keeper	Frank Ascroft 13a Highfield Road North, Adlington, Lancashire, PR6 9RN 01257 483635 email: ascroftf@pobroadband.co.uk
Organist	Roy Shepherd MGI; MNMSCM 20 Shillingston Close, Harwood, BL2 3PD 01204 394061 email: roy.shepherd@yahoo.co.uk
Publicity Officer	Dennis Crompton 21 Woodfall, Astley Village, Chorley, PR7 1XD 01257 671869 email: crompton.df@uwclub.net
Newsletter Editor	Alison Whitaker 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3RS 01942 816569 email: newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk
Other Committee Members	Jacqueline Dagnall 01204 691833 Paul & Diane Fairclough 01257 474761 Geoff Newey 07570 876710
Other Contact Details	
Newsletter Distribution	Lynne & Chris Haighton 105 Albert Road West, Heaton, Bolton, BL1 5ED 01204 841678 email: chris.haighton@virgin.net