Rivington
Unitarian and Free Christian
Chapel

Founded 1662 Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"

Aug - Oct 2014

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Chairman's Letter

The Rivington Spring Festival at the start of May was well attended and the weather was fine. On Saturday 3 May we opened our doors, with a few craft items and a little produce to add interest, and everyone was charmed by the lovely crafts which June Martin had on display. We also raised £85. Well done everyone who helped to make it such a fun day.

Our Anniversary Sermons Service on 18 May was conducted by Rev Danny Crosby from Dunham Road and Urmston. It was his first visit, and we enjoyed it so much that he is likely to be a regular visitor. The meal afterwards was at The Yew Tree. 24 of us attended and we were treated to a lovely meal and exemplary service. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed it. Thanks to the chef Tom and to Ben and his staff who made us all feel so welcome.

The service on 1 June was taken by Dr Irvine Delamore and was followed by our Strawberry Tea. It was again accompanied by fine weather and everyone appreciated the lovely strawberries and scones, so kindly donated by our organist Roy Shepherd.

The Gardening Party on the evening of Wednesday 4 June was not so fortunate in weather terms, yet the stalwarts who were able to attend made a huge difference to the Chapel grounds. Thanks to everyone for their hard work. Please rest assured it is appreciated by all the visitors to the Chapel.

Saturday 21 June saw the murder mystery play, 'Who Killed the Vicar?' performed in the Tea Rooms. Well, what a revelation this was. The nine members of the cast, Judith and Dennis Crompton, Frank Ascroft, Chris Oldham, Chris Martin, Geoff Newey, Maxine

Porch, Tanya Smalley and me worked and played hard in rehearsals. It was hard work and it was fun and it was rewarded by a fabulous night's entertainment filled with laughter and mirth. The enjoyment we had doing it was more than matched by the evident good humour and smiles of the audience of 47 people. Truly a good time was had by all. Thanks a million to Chris Martin who wrote, directed and acted in the play. Chris donated the script and his services free of charge and we simply could not have done it without him. June, his wife, distributed the worksheets and organised the audience's seating arrangements. Everything went so well. A huge thank you also to Jayne and Elsie from the tea rooms whose total co-operation in allowing access for rehearsals and providing refreshments on the night was vital to our success. We raised £300 which has been split 50/50 with the Chorley Lions. THANK YOU EVERYONE.

We had a guest speaker at our service on 6 July when Tony Ratcliffe, the Chair of the Chorley Lions, gave an informative and well received talk about their activities, including a brief history. For example, in 1978 they held an auction where among the items were Jimmy Connors' tennis shoes and Red Rum's tail. After Tony's talk Frank Ascroft, who played the parish treasurer Lincoln Green in the play, presented Tony with £150.00, this being half the proceeds of the night.

The 'Iron Man' event has impacted upon our proceedings again, and it was felt by the committee that it was perhaps too much of an imposition on folk to expect them to struggle through an uncertain road scenario to attend Chapel on 20th July. However, Chapel was open to visitors due to Alison and Peter kindly volunteering to brave the prevailing conditions.

Our next “Big Thing” is the “Late Summer Fair” on Saturday 13 September. It promises to be a great day out. Jo Clark will be doing face painting, which is a new one for us, and we’re really going to push the boat out. If you haven’t been before you really should come. There is a great air of fellowship as we bustle about the old place. We can’t emphasise enough just how important any contribution really is. Any help is valuable, whether as good ideas, a little time on the stalls, tombola items, produce (maybe a particular speciality you have), cakes, home craft work, bric-a-brac, books etc.

Candles of Sharing is a new aspect that we have brought into the services that I conduct for our congregation. It is a way to express our joys or concerns in our own personal way, within our own trusted circle. This we have now done three times here in Chapel and it is proving a gentle way to add greater meaning to our worship, as there can be times when we are moved to speak and share what is dear to us, or is perhaps playing on our minds, yet the opportunity never seems to arise. At the end I light a candle for “Our unspoken joys or concerns of the heart”.

At the Congregational Committee Meeting after the service on 6 July, Jo Clarke felt that, due to work and family commitments, she would be better acting as an assistant secretary to Joan Thursby. Joan is already acting as co-ordinator of rites of passage enquiries and is our in-house Registrar, so she felt able to re-engage with the secretary’s function. However, Joan explained that she had no PC or printer. It was agreed that the committee would finance the purchase of a basic lap-top and monochrome printer to loan to Joan in order to facilitate the production of committee minutes. A budget of approximately £300 + vat was set aside for this purpose.

The Pilgrimage remains very much on the agenda and so far we have acknowledged the need for it to be on the last Saturday in September in 2016. This time enables a wider circle of Unitarians (eg. Cheshire Union) to attend. Since the inception of the Pilgrimage in 1960 the cultural landscape has changed somewhat. Owing to the present day financial constraints that Kevin Salmon and his staff have to work under, the Great House Barn is precluded as a viable venue for us, no matter the worthiness of our cause or their willingness to comply. Therefore other dining and marching arrangements are being mooted.

Lastly, the large family bible, usually located by the pulpit, has somehow managed to get wet and become covered in a blue mould. I have brought it home hoping to let it dry out in airy conditions. If anyone can help in the endeavour to preserve it please contact me.

God bless, *Vince*

Chairman
Lay Person in Charge

From the Committee

The report on changes to the Committee in the last issue did not make it clear that Joan Thursby intended to continue as a member of the Committee even though she was no longer Secretary. Apologies to Joan for this omission. However, as you will see from the Chairman's letter, Joan has taken on the role of Secretary again, with Jo Clark acting as her assistant.

Late Summer Fair and Heritage Open Day

Saturday 13 September 2014 11am to 4pm

Come and lend a hand at the stalls or bring some home made produce, tombola prizes, greengrocery, handicrafts or “bric a brac”.

All help is appreciated

Opening Chapel for Visitors

On Sunday 1 June, Alison and I opened up the Chapel at about 12:00 to allow passers-by the chance to come and look round for a couple of hours before the service at 2:15. This was the first time we had done so this year, but we did up open up early a few times last year, as did Vince. This was by far the most successful of the days that we have done. We had 15 visitors, most of whom had not seen inside the Chapel before.

A general comment that we receive from visitors is that although they have passed the Chapel many times, they have never had the chance to come inside before. One or two visitors do express an interest in what being a Unitarian means.

We feel very strongly that the Chapel should be as open as often as possible. It raises the profile of the Chapel and the Unitarian move-

ment, and may even lead to additional rites of passage ceremonies (another regular question is 'Is it possible to get married here?').

We are only a small congregation, and it would be unrealistic to open up early on every Sunday, but every little helps. If you feel you can spend an extra couple of hours on one of the summer Sundays, please sign up on the list at the back of the Chapel, or see one of the committee members.

Finally, it was particularly nice on that Sunday to welcome some members of the 'Andrews Crompton' family who have very long standing connections with Rivington Chapel. Michael Andrews Crompton, his wife and three children were on the way back from a family holiday in the Lake District to Hampshire, where they now live. They had just dropped off the motorway to have a look at Rivington village for old times' sake, and were extremely pleased to find the Chapel open for visitors.

Peter Bearon

Gardening Party

Pictures taken at the gardening party on Saturday 5 April can be found by going to the website www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk and clicking on 'Pictures'.

Dates for Your Diary in 2014

Sat 13 Sept	Late Summer Fair and Heritage Open Day
Sun 21 Dec	Carol Service

Murder Mystery Evening

On Saturday 21 June, an audience of around 50 gathered in the Village Tearooms for the Murder Mystery Play, 'Who Killed the Vicar?'. Having been issued with a list of the characters, we were instructed to watch and listen intently for the clues to correctly identify the culprit and his or her accomplice.

The cast included six members of the Rivington congregation; Frank Ascroft, Dennis Crompton, Judith Crompton, Vince McCully, Geoff Newey and Chris Oldham. They were joined by Maxine Porch and Tanya Smalley from the Sunday evening music session held at the Bay Horse, Heath Charnock. The play's author, Chris Martin, took the part of the murder victim, the Vicar of St Ignatius the Unflappable in the village of Steeply Willows. The Rev Martin Peacock met his demise as the result of a fatal stabbing with a cake knife.

It soon became apparent during the investigation led by the incompetent Detective Inspector Charlton (Dennis) assisted, fortunately, by the much more observant Lilly Hecks (Maxine), the bishop's representative, that all the other characters had a plausible motive for wanting to get rid of the vicar, who had succeeded in making himself very unpopular with everyone.

Would it turn out to be the disgruntled housekeeper Gladys Sunday (Vince, resplendent in curly wig, pinny and colourful costume) assisted by her daughter Peach (Tanya) disguised as a rambler who had lost her way? Or the organist Roy Chimes (Geoff), desperate for funds to repair the ailing church organ? Or could it be Scout leader Lincoln Green (Frank), anxious to avoid the revelation of an illicit romance? Of course, there were plenty of red herrings, and at the end

of the evening only one detective team in the audience had come to the correct conclusion. The culprit was Brenda Buffton (Judith), Chairperson of the Parochial Church Council, furious that the vicar had relegated her cakes to second place at the Summer Fair. Her accomplice was Tobias Byrne (Chris Oldham), the curate, who felt that he was being prevented from getting his own parish by the vicar's inaction.

Prizes were awarded to the winning team, who titled themselves 'We don't agree', and to the team who thought of the most amusing comedy solution to the murder inquiry.

The Cast

During the evening Craig Porch was busy with his camera taking lots of excellent photos. You can see them by going to the website www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk and clicking on 'Pictures'.

Alison Whitaker

Midnight Memories Walk

In aid of Bolton Hospice

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sponsored me for the Midnight Walk in memory of my late husband James. The hundreds of like-minded people walking the 8.2 miles in memory of a loved one was great fun. We managed to raise over £400 between the three of us.

Bolton Hospice exists for local people and, with their loving care, to 'add life to days, when days cannot be added to life.'

How your sponsor money will help

£78 would pay for 12 hours of vital drugs to ease a patient's pain and relieve their symptoms.

£144 would pay for specialist, compassionate nursing care to cover nine hours.

£321 would cover the cost of running all of the Hospice's patient, family care and support services.

£520 would buy oxygen for the patients for one month.

When my husband James died suddenly in March, I decided to do several things in his memory. Having now done all the things I set out to do, this Midnight Memories Walk brings all the events to a close.

I know, if he is looking down on me, he would be saying, 'What, all this for me?' Yes, James, all this for **you**.

Your ever loving wife, Iris

A poem suggested by Iris Wharton

New Beginnings

How often we wish
for another chance
to make a fresh beginning,
A chance to blot out
our mistakes
and change failure
into winning -
And it does not take
a New Year
to make a brand-new start,
It only takes the deep desire
to try with all our heart
to live a little better
and to always be forgiving
and to add
a little 'Sunshine'
to the world
in which we're living -
So never give up in despair
and think
that you are through,
For there's always
a tomorrow
and a chance
to start anew.

Helen Steiner Rice

Another picture from the 'Who killed the Vicar? showing some of the cast in action.

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

3	August	Rev Penny Johnson - Dean Row Chapel
17	August	Rev Bob Pounder - Oldham Chapel
7	September	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
21	September	Graham Pilborough - Padiham Chapel
5	October	One Accord - Rivington Chapel
19	October	Veronica and Gordon Walker - Bank Street Chapel
2	November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel

Flower Donors

3	August	Olive Fisher
17	August	Miss E Curwen
7	September	Joan Thursby
21	September	Elsie Kent
5	October	Vince and Isobel McCully
19	October	Muriel Jones
2	November	Roy Shepherd

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

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sat 16 August 10:00am - 5:00pm	West Gallery Music Singing Day
Sun 17 August 1:00pm	Naming Ceremony - Daniel, son of Megan and Nicola Melpignano. Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 31 August 2:00pm	Naming Ceremony - Alfie John, son of Lisa Carroll and Ian Reid. Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 7 September After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sat 13 September 11:00am - 4:00pm	Late Summer Fair and Heritage Open Day
Wed 17 September 7:30pm	Chapel Trustees Meeting
Friday 31 October 2:00pm	Wedding - Naomi Ross and Stuart Thomas Davidson Ceremony conducted by Vince McCully

Copy date for next issue: 1 Oct 2014
Issue date: 19 Oct 2014

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 Rossett Gill, 48 Redcar Road, Smithills, Bolton, BL1 6LL 01204 841685 email: dennisfcrompton@btinternet.com
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 269481 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