Rivington
Unitarian and Free Christian
Chapel

Founded 1662 Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"

Feb - Apr 2017

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

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

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

As I was saying in the last newsletter just after the Pilgrimage, "we won't get such a crowd as this now until we hold our Carol Service .." It proved to be true. Frank Ascroft and I did a count-up after the service and reckoned we had between 110 and 120 with us on the day, and what a day it was. The theme this year was "The Family at Christmas". All the windows were individually and beautifully decorated in ways that expressed the Congregation's personal experience.

We sang eight carols which were interspersed with readings covering such things as folk travelling to be with their family, family traditions (eg. going to carol services), the impact of Queen Victoria and Dickens on the family at Christmas, and the family at the Nativity Scene. We were once again favoured with a visit from Santa Claus (Dean Taylor) who really wowed the children, young and old alike. You can see some lovely pictures of us all having a joyous time on the Chapel Facebook page. We had many children with us this year and Thomas and Rupert treated us to splendid renditions of 'Jingle Bells' and Ho! Ho! Ho! Once again Joan Thursby made little gift boxes for the children in Chapel and at Derian House. Afterwards we enjoyed the usual tea and mince pies which everyone kindly contributed. Kamil brought some fine cakes and, along with some mince pies that were not used, these were donated to, and gratefully received by, Coffee4Craig.

Our biggest THANK YOU must go to Tanya Smalley who kindly stepped in to play the organ for us. It was her first time playing our organ to the congregation, which on this occasion was pretty much a full house. It was a big ask, but she did a wonderful job. Once again, THANK YOU Tanya.

Our dear friend and organist Roy Shepherd sadly passed away on Boxing Day, after a long illness. His partner of 50 years, Jimmy Faricy, was at his side. I have written a short tribute to Roy which you will find later in this newsletter. For the final stages of his illness Roy wanted to be at home and Jimmy also wanted him to be there, where he nursed Roy with unstinting love and devotion right until the end. Our hearts go out to Jimmy and to Roy and Jimmy's families who will be feeling, more than anyone else, an awful sense of loss at this moment. At our service on 1st January we prayed for Roy and Jimmy and lit a candle of care for them.

Rosemary Delamore, another dear friend of the Chapel, also passed away just before Christmas. Rosemary attended our Remembrance service in July with her husband Dr Irvine Delamore, who takes a service here at Chapel every year. Rosemary, who had been in nursing, was lately very active in support of Bolton Hospice. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Her funeral at Rivington Parish Church was very well attended with standing room only. At our service on 1st January we prayed for Rosemary and Irvine and lit a candle of care for them.

Other news I have to report is that on Saturday 10th December I completed the 'Rites of Passage' study course that was conducted by Rev Lynne Readette at Bank Street Chapel in Bolton. Even though I have a good deal of experience of conducting these ceremonies I was still able to pick up some valuable information and tips which have already been put to good use. Lynne is also the 'Link Person' from the GA (General Assembly) Executive to the MDA (Manchester District Association) with whom our Chapel is incorporated. You will be able to meet her as she has kindly accepted our invitation to preach here in Rivington on 18th June 2017.

Our “Wayside Pulpit” board is going to receive a long overdue facelift by way of a new series of posters. These posters are hot off the press from Essex Hall. The first is twice the size of the others and says; Unitarians * share a quest for wholeness * share a concern for social injustice * provide a caring community * provide new ways to experience spirituality. I say Amen to that and let’s hope they have their intended positive impact.

Many thanks to all who were able to support our efforts at the Bay Horse craft fair on Saturday 10th December. Alison Whitaker and I manned the stand which was inside their lovely converted barn. There is a picture on our Facebook page which shows all the fine, mostly home produced, things we had for sale. We were able to raise the princely sum of £154. Once again many thanks.

I now put away my pen and sigh sadly at our losses. Looking forward in hope at the wonder of God’s creation I wish everyone a safe, peaceful and happy 2017.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

A thought from *Birds of Heaven* by Ben Okri

We need more of the wordless in our lives. We need more stillness, more of a sense of wonder, a feeling for the mystery of life. We need more love, more silence, more deep listening, more deep giving.

Quoted in the July-August 2016 edition of The Unitarian

Chairman's Letter

Now that the installation of the new heating system has been completed, we will be sorting through various items that are in the upper vestry and the kitchen with a view to clearing out anything that is no longer required. The intention is to create more storage space and to prepare the upper vestry so that it can once again be used for meetings.

One of the things we need to make room for is the crockery and cutlery that was purchased for the Pilgrimage meal last September. If anyone is organising a function, for example, a large family party, and would like to borrow this equipment (for a donation to Chapel Funds), please let me know. We have 100 each of the following: dinner plates, bowls, glass tumblers, knives, forks and dessert spoons, plus about 60 teaspoons.

Recently a note was left under the door of the Tea Rooms by someone visiting the Garden of Remembrance. They had been prevented from reaching the part of the garden where their relatives were interred because of the fallen leaves making the path slippery. As the note was unsigned, it has not been possible to reply to the writer personally.

During the autumn and winter, it is inevitable that the pathways in the churchyard and the Garden of Remembrance will be affected by falling leaves which are likely to be slippery if the weather is wet. The Chapel does not employ a full time gardener – a contractor works there once a month and apart from this we are reliant on occasional visits by volunteers from amongst the congregation and the trustees to do some tidying of the grounds. Some temporary signs have been put up to make visitors aware of the potential hazard.

Once Spring arrives the paving stones will be power washed and treated with a proprietary cleaner.

Please see below the notice for the Congregational AGM. The post of Chapel Secretary is still vacant, and details of the duties of Secretary are below. In addition to the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer there can be up to seven Committee members.

Alison Whitaker
Chairman, Congregational Committee

Duties of Chapel Secretary

1. Print and distribute the agenda for Congregational Committee meetings and Congregational AGM.
2. Take the minutes at Congregational Committee meetings and the Congregational AGM.
3. Type up and circulate the minutes before next meeting.
4. Send and receive correspondence.
5. Act as contact for Rivington Pilgrimage.
6. Keep the Chapel Notice Board up to date.

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation of Rivington Chapel will be held after the service on
Sunday 19 March 2017

A Nomination Form for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members will be displayed on the notice board in Chapel. The closing date for nominations will be Sunday 19 March.

A Short Tribute to Roy Shepherd

I first met Roy Shepherd in Chapel towards the end of 1996 when he was playing the organ. On joining the Congregational Committee I saw him again as our Treasurer. Over the years Roy has proved his true mettle with his dedication and commitment to the task of being our organist. Indeed, some years back when we had serious falls of snow and the roads were nigh on impassable, as if by magic, Roy always managed to get through. On one such occasion, when the snow was particularly deep, he said it was the best carol service he had ever been to - wow! Roy also said that he originally only came to Chapel to play at a couple of services but ended up staying for 20 years.

Roy never left the Committee and was always ready with an idea or solution. Indeed, in mid-2016, he mooted the idea of us holding a flower festival in Chapel where he and Jimmy would be able to bring their considerable experience to bear in a fund raising effort. Alas! It was not to be and his health steadily deteriorated over the coming months.

Roy will always be fondly remembered for our Strawberry Tea, a jolly affair in which we celebrate the joys and bounty of Summer, which he fine-tuned over the years, last year (5th June 2016) being no exception. Calling upon all his experience and contacts in the greengrocery trade, the strawberries and cream were the best you'd be likely to taste and the scones likewise.

More than one person has commented to me on Roy's exemplary commitment to the Chapel and how moved they were by his willingness, even until just a few short weeks ago, to play for us; this is even as he was undergoing chemotherapy and was experiencing no small amount of discomfort. Roy's words were "I don't want to let you down". Now I don't know about you, but I am truly humbled by

Roy's exemplary and selfless attitude.

Roy finally passed away on Boxing Day. He was at home with his partner of 50 years, Jimmy Faricy, at his side.

Farewell Roy and rest in peace, in the certain knowledge that you will always be remembered with fondness and love by the hearts you have touched here in Chapel.

Vince McCully

2017 Calendar

Sat 11 Mar	Fund raising concert (see advert)
Sun 19 Mar	Congregational AGM
Sat 13 May	Open Day in Support of Rivington Spring Festival
Sun 21 May	Anniversary Sermons
Sun 4 June	Strawberry Tea
Sun 10 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 15 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 17 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Standing Orders and Gift Aid Donations

Changes to HMRC regulations mean that the Chapel is eligible to claim Gift Aid on open collections as well as the regular payments made by Standing Order. However, the time period before we are able to make a claim for such donations is quite lengthy. In the meantime, I would like to encourage Chapel members and friends who have not already done so, to consider supporting the Chapel by making regular donations through Standing Order. As long as you are a UK taxpayer, the Chapel will be able to claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated.

The 'simple beauty' of the Chapel building and its surroundings makes it a lovely setting for weddings and other ceremonies. However, earnings from Rites of Passage bookings are subject to fluctuation from year to year, and cannot be relied on to cover all the cost of utility bills and expenses such as fees for visiting ministers. Being able to depend on a regular source of income is important for keeping the finances stable and ensuring that the Chapel remains open for visitors and for worship.

If you would like to set up a Standing Order to make regular payments to the Chapel, please contact me. My contact details are on the back of this newsletter.

Frank Ascroft, Treasurer

Trustees Matters

Congregational members will be pleased to know that the installation of new storage heaters as well as pew heaters has now been completed, and apart from a few teething problems, we expect that the Chapel will offer a more comfortable environment than previously experienced. The first use of the pew heaters in late November

certainly warmed the members present to the extent that after the service informal conversations seemed to last much longer. During the Carol service on the 18th December, some members found some pews a little too warm!

Two of the old storage heaters have been reinstalled in each of the two vestry floors, which should remove the general dampness and enable the second storey to be more comfortable for meetings.

We are also pleased to announce that United Utilities have agreed to sell us the land to the East of the Chapel incorporating the Garden of Remembrance for the princely sum of £1. However, the legal fees required to transfer the land to the Trustees will be significantly more expensive. We hope the sale and transfer can be completed during early 2017.

With regard to the conservation architect's full report, the trustees have decided to focus on two immediate areas in the Chapel as well as the far (southern) wall in the tearoom, which is the responsibility of the tenants. The former includes firstly the need to improve outside drainage against the eastern and southern Chapel walls for which the John Gregson Trust has already agreed to make a £3000 contribution and, secondly, to remove bird debris from inside the roof space, seal it from further bird entry and introduce insulation. We are currently seeking a full professional architectural survey and recommendations as to how each set of works shall be undertaken, prior to seeking tenders and possible additional funding sources.

Clearly, while we have achieved much during 2016 in better understanding the state of the Chapel and improving its heating, we have more work to undertake in the coming year.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

Rivington Chapel presents a Musical Evening featuring ...

One Accord	&	Caffrey-McGurk-Madge

on Saturday 11 March 2017

at Rivington Village Green Tea Room

Sheephouse Lane, Rivington, Horwich, BL6 7SD

One Accord (John, Linda, Alison and Peter) will be performing their usual eclectic mix of music and song, and will be joined for this fundraising event by their friends Nick, Ed and Robin, a trio who perform a range of traditional and contemporary folk songs.

This event is a fundraiser for a new heating system in Rivington Chapel.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be available from the Tea Room. You may bring alcoholic drinks if you wish.

Tickets available for £8.00 each from
Alison on 01942 816569 or Mary on 01204 493757

Doors open 7.00pm Concert starts 7.30pm

Snippets from the Past

Vince recently came across some recipes in a cookery book from 1912, which he thought seemed unusual for that time. They were for 'Three Vegetarian Curries', and came with this advice: 'Curry is a delightful addition to dishes prepared from vegetables, pulses, or any farinaceous foods.' Here is one of them

Lentil Curry

Ingredients – Half a pound of lentils, three large onions, lemon juice, curry powder.

Method – Soak overnight half a pound of split lentils, boil for a quarter of an hour and drain well. Fry some onions till brown, add them to the lentils, pepper and salt, and a pint of water. Simmer all together for two hours, then add a teaspoonful of lemon juice and a dessertspoonful of curry powder. Mix thoroughly, simmer for a few minutes and serve with a border of boiled rice.

Booklets and Postcards

On sale in the Chapel and the Village Tearooms are two booklets produced by Michael Hough, 'Rivington Chapel Memorial Inscriptions' and 'Rivington Chapel Trustees Minutes, August 1859 to March 1955'. Also available is 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

These are also available directly from Michael (plus the cost of postage and packing). Please contact him on 0113 267 7298.

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.

Alison

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

5	February	Rev Chas Van Den Broeder - formerly Monton Chapel
19	February	Dr Irvine Delamore - Rivington
5	March	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
19	March	Martin Brownlow - Rivington Chapel
2	April	Rev Stephen Lingwood - Bank Street Chapel
16	April	Easter Sunday Rev Frank Williams - Rivington Chapel
7	May	Prof Geoff Levermore - Styal Chapel

Flower Donors

5	February	Alison Whitaker and Peter Bearon
19	February	Iris Wharton
5	March	Diane Fairclough
19	March	Joan Thursby
2	April	Olive Mayor
16	April	Olive Fisher
7	May	Jacqueline Dagnall

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sun 5 Feb 12:30 pm	Naming Ceremony - Arthur David and Archie David, sons of Graham and Kirsty Lane Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 5 Feb After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Sun 19 Feb 1:30 pm	10th Wedding Anniversary blessing for Win and Leighton Jones Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 19 March 1:00 pm	Naming Ceremony - Rory Elliott, son of Rachel and Christopher Fillingham Conducted by Vince McCully
Sun 19 March After Service	Congregational AGM

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

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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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