Rivington
Unitarian and Free Christian
Chapel

Founded 1662 Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"

Aug - Oct 2017

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/rivington

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

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

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

The open day on 13th May was weird - it started off . . . no one! Thought we'd be lucky to make £60. Then, a steady stream of friends and general visitors, and suddenly we had a whole trestle top just of cake!! Told you it was weird.

Nothing else was happening on the green that afternoon. Also our friends from Art in Adlington were tied up at Astley Hall all month, so no assistance there; we were on our own. However, we still raised the princely sum of £247.74 which just goes to show the enormous commitment and effort of our Chapel community and the growing awareness people have of us. Well done everybody, you were brilliant.

Sunday 4th June and it was our 'Strawberry Tea', a celebration of Summer with the service taken by Rev Bob Janis-Dillon. This year we incorporated a 'Flower Communion' which was introduced and explained by Judith Crompton, whose idea it was. Here is a brief explanation. It is a celebration of the Fellowship of men! In 1923 the tradition of Flower Communion started in the Prague Unitarian Church, which was at that time becoming the largest Unitarian congregation in the world. The founder of the Church and the Flower Communion was Norbert Fabian Čapek (1870-1942). We all had to bring a flower, because we would be taking a flower away with us. Čapek offered his own explanation: "We have chosen flowers, nature's most tender, common and beautiful gift, as our symbol and sacrament. A flower is divine. You cannot create it whatever effort you make. You can create only a dead forgery without fragrance and life, nothing more". The service began with a fond remembrance of our organist Roy Shepherd, for whom flowers held a special meaning, as for many years he and Jimmy worked in the floristry trade. Jimmy was unable to be with us as he was on holiday, the one they had to cancel last September.

In April I attended a Conference for Lay Preachers and Worship leaders at Luther King House. It was being run by the centre and the theme was 'Exploring Wisdom'. There were about 24 people, the majority being Methodists, with a handful from the United Reformed Church, a Moravian and a Unitarian (me). We were very capably instructed by such tutors as Noel Irwin, Graham Adams, John Hull, Rosalind Selby, Nathan Eddy, Tim Mountain and Jan Berry (whose book, 'Naming God', I bought).

I made some new friends and learnt much from their experiences of leading worship but I suppose the conference really gave me a contemporary insight into another denomination's general approach to worship. At the time I was struck by frequent references to "All-Age Worship". Thinking this was something new, I paid rapt attention, only to discover that it is what we always do. Whereas our services always include everybody, theirs are often just for the older people or just for the young, or partly so. I was able to relate our enjoyment of the "Children's Story" with sometimes ad hoc acting roles, and the early placement of them within the service. Many found this useful. Another thing I learnt was the usefulness of the Harper Collins 'Study Bible' (ISBN 978-0-6-0786830.) Having had some time to study my notes and ingest the material, I realised how little of the Old Testament we tend to use compared to the almost entire use of it at this conference. . . is this good or bad? I suppose when you take Jesus as your guiding light and litmus test in the attempt to do good, it is bound to reflect in one's approach to worship. Suffice it to say I am fully getting to grips with excerpts from Proverbs, Wisdom, Psalms, Songs and Job. In fact during one creative exercise I wrote the following Haiku: "Songs, Proverbs, Wisdom and Psalms. Wisdom from the old books turned on its head in 1 Cor 1." (I know, . . don't give up

the day job, yet it seemed so good at the time.) Thank you, Chapel, for paying for my attendance at this Conference.

On the 3rd and 4th July I was invited to attend the Hibbert Trust sponsored 'Lay Ministry Consultation' being held at The Nightingale Centre at Hucklow, Derbyshire. We lit our chalice candle to the words of Cliff Reed's 'Carnival of the Lamps' and a passage from the writings of our friend Rev Stephen Lingwood; "Ministry is everything we do together, all are ministers, priests . . ." And the scene was set for, hopefully, a constructive couple of days' discussion about 'Lay Ministry'. We were told that this gathering had been many years in the planning and was seen as vital for the future.

There were 22 people present, 15 Lay Worship Leaders, 1 Lay Pastor, 1 District Administrator (Shrewsbury) and 5 facilitators. The collective depth of experience gained from ministering to congregations over many years soon became apparent. For example Jean Clements from Denton conducted 87 funerals in 2016 and has conducted 58 so far this year. Laura Dobson from Chorlton and David Buckley from Gatacre, past visitors to our Chapel, were also there. Everybody was able to contribute, in a meaningful way, to proceedings and some conclusions of a profound nature, concerning the future of our denomination, seemed to be arrived at.

These conclusions, as I perceived them, included the following;

- The need for a clearer title, as 'Lay Person In Charge' was thought to be clumsy, nebulous at best and misleading/de-edifying at worst. It was felt to be unfair to expect the general public to decipher the niceties of Unitarian internal mechanisms.
- The need for Continual Professional Development (CPD),

whereby Lay Ministers are able to continue their education in order to maintain a high standard of ministry within the congregation and keep abreast of all available information.

- The need for spiritual development, training and mentoring.

Some other topics were: Chapels registering as data controllers, Ministers joining the Unite union, Conflict Management, pastoral care training, governance from Essex Hall/GA, independence of congregations, safeguarding, Permanent Diaconate within the Roman Catholic Church, MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses) and more.

Numbers make uncomfortable reading; the 2016 Handbook shows that we have 79 Congregations within our 'Denomination', 43 Full Ministers, 1 Lay Pastor and 3 probationary Ministers. And of course, 16 Lay People in Charge.

All things considered, and by that I mean taking as given such essentials as CPD, good governance and safeguarding, can we afford to 'ruffle the feathers' of Ministers on the one hand and marginalise Lay Minsters on the other? This explains the importance of this and further consultations against the backdrop of diminishing congregations and an increasingly secularised society.

In fact we are going to be looking at the matter of a workable title in our Chapel and this was discussed at our last committee meeting. It is easy enough if one is a Minister as 'inducted' into the confines of Unitarianism and on the roll of the GA. However for myself, the other 15 Lay People in Charge and the congregations involved it is a moot point. What I would say is this; it is my intention to continue with all available Unitarian training – though I and others already have degrees in Theology, we acknowledge the need to do so. Also our freedom of worship and the liberal Christian ethos we all enjoy

as Unitarians means that our movement and its ability to prosper must be utmost in our minds.

In June we won £250.00 funding from Chorley Council, under the Rural Community Grant Scheme. Grants were being offered to groups wanting to hold a social event in their community. As we are a group and have been doing this for many years and intend to continue to do so, we applied for funding. In order to win the funding we had to provide specifics vis-a-vis what it would be spent on. On the last Friday of November this year we will be holding an evening of musical entertainment in partnership with Chorley Lions (the 3rd of these events) and proceeds will be split 50/50. With this in mind we proposed to buy some effective external festoon lighting (candles don't quite measure up when it's pitch black and there's driving rain and high winds) which will cover the path from the gate to the Chapel and then onwards towards the toilets. The proposal was accepted - a great result and hopefully one which will enhance further grant applications.

Other news - my daughter Isobel, a previous editor of this newsletter and member of our congregation, began a 6-month journey of discovery on 6th July, taking in Poland, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Cambodia, Thailand, Borneo, Malaysia and the Philippines. We would very much appreciate your prayers for her to have an inspiring and trouble free trip.

Wishing everyone a warm and happy Summer.

God Bless,

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

Chairman's Letter

The toilets that we share with the Village Green Tea Room have recently been fitted with keypads. The codes for these are displayed on the noticeboard in Chapel.

This edition of the newsletter includes some advertising for local businesses which have a connection with the Chapel, and we are grateful for their support. The money raised will help towards the cost of the new heating system.

A new date has been arranged for the information session on Dementia Friends (see below). It will now take place on Sunday 1 October after the service.

Alison Whitaker
Chairman, Congregational Committee

PS The cover photograph this time is of the white rowan tree that was planted in memory of Joan Holding.

Dementia Friends
An Alzheimer's Society initiative

Sunday 1 October
After the service

An information session presented by Marge Bradshaw

Marge is a Volunteer Dementia Friends Champion, trained and supported by the Alzheimer's Society. The information session will be informal and will explain about dementia and how you can help to create friendly communities at home and at work.

Find out more about Dementia Friends at
https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/

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.

Outdoor seating available.

Catering and special events throughout the year.

Contact Jayne on 07783 509163

www.rivingtonvillagegreentearoom.com

Sponsor of Rivington Village Green

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Email : info@adlingtonelectrical.com

Contractor for supply and fitting of Chapel heating system and security lights and all statutory certification.

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Function rooms accommodating up to 160 guests catering for all occasions - parties, weddings, funerals and conferences. Afternoon tea, hot and cold buffets, sit down meals.

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Contact Martin on 01204 696246

Email: enquiries@ridgmonthousevenue.co.uk

The Bay Horse

Babylon Lane, Heath Charnock, PR6 9ER

A traditional country pub with log fires and real beams serving cask ales and home cooked food.

Open daily from 12:00 to 23:00

Our delightfully converted barn is available to hire for functions, with seating and tables for up to 35.

Six room bed and breakfast accommodation.

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Email: enquiries@thebayhorse.co.uk

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Member of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

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Golden Charter pre-paid funeral plans can be arranged.

Phone: 01204 696311, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Email: info@liveseyfunerals.co.uk

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Skip hire for domestic, commercial and industrial use. Various sizes available.

Recycled materials including various sizes and qualities of stone, sand, soil and compost for sale.

Contact Sales on 01204 696446

Email: info@jdickinson.co.uk

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Rivington Chapel

Late Summer Fair and Heritage Open Day

Sunday 10 September 2017 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Come and lend a hand at the stalls or bring some home made produce, tombola prizes, plants, fruit & vegetables or handicrafts

Everyone welcome

Please contact the Committee if you are able to help

See back page for contact details

IWA Architects Ltd

Unit 3, Waterloo Mill, Clitheroe, BB7 1LR

A RIBA Chartered Practice with AABC accreditation, using a mix of old and new technology to offer a range of services from Historic Building conservation and repair, surveys and feasibility studies, planning and grant aid advice through to new build design. From the smallest job to a £25m project.

Contact Ivan on 01200 423487

Email : ivan@iarchitects.co.uk

Conservation Architect to Rivington Chapel Trustees

Trustees Matters

In the last newsletter, I stated that the transfer of the land incorporating the Garden of Remembrance from United Utilities was underway. Unfortunately, this appears to be a slow process as the legal contracts are still being completed. Hopefully, all will be in order by the end of summer.

On 6th June the Tearoom was broken into and the Chapel keys stored there removed. These were used to enter the Chapel and, apart from the obvious signs of searching for possible valuables, nothing was stolen – luckily Frank had emptied the donation box only a couple of days before. Other cafes in the vicinity were also broken into at the same time. We have since had the lock rebuilt since it is too old to easily replace and new keys have been cut.

Stainless steel mesh has been fitted to seal the gaps between the outer walls and the roof space around the main chapel building thereby preventing bird entry this year. We have met with the architect regarding the work required to improve the outside drainage against the eastern and southern chapel walls as well as removal of bird debris from inside the roof space and installation of insulation. We are awaiting his advice regarding the exact materials to be used and work to be undertaken, as well as the need to seek listed buildings approval.

He is also preparing a detailed list of works to be undertaken on the tearoom which we now have been advised is required to be carried in a manner suitable for a building in the vicinity of a listed building. This means that the tearoom tenants cannot go ahead with the immediate repairs required to the internal eastern wall and roof coping

stones above it until this advice has been received. With regard to replacement of the tearoom window frames and windows, we are advised that we may be eligible to apply for a grant under the general heading of "improved public amenity". With this in mind, the Trustees have approved the holding by Dean Taylor of an outdoor afternoon performance of a family event in the Garden of Remembrance at 2.00 pm on 15th August. We shall carefully monitor how this progresses and decide after the event whether it has been successful or not.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

General Assembly Annual Meetings 2017

As promised in the last newsletter, here's my report on this year's proceedings. The meetings were held at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole which is next to the NEC. The advantage of this is that everything is under one roof so it is easy to move between events. The disadvantage is that you could spend four days without seeing any daylight!

As it was my first visit, I went to the Newcomers' Welcome, at which we were given some valuable advice, such as 'try not to eat too much', 'make sure you get enough sleep' and 'try to have a break'. It did prove necessary to exercise some restraint at mealtimes!

Most of the official business took place during the Plenary sessions, held mainly during the mornings. As well as all the more mundane matters such as acceptance of reports and various appointments, four resolutions were passed. Two were as a result of emergency motions,

the first sending a message of sympathy and support to the Coptic Christian community in Egypt following the bombing of their churches. The other was submitted by members of Stockton Unitarian Church in support of Irene Clennell, a long-term resident of County Durham who was deported to Singapore earlier this year. On a happier note, Rev Cliff Reed, who retired from ministry in 2012 after 36 years at Ipswich Unitarian Meeting House, was named as an Honorary Member in recognition of his considerable contribution to the Unitarian cause. The fourth resolution was to support the consideration of changes to the length and format of future Annual Meetings. Next year's meetings will continue in the current format, but will consider proposals to enable changes to be made in the future.

The other daytime sessions were taken up with workshops and meetings of various Unitarian groups, such as the Women's League and the Unitarian Association for Lay Ministry. Each slot had a choice of three or four activities, and it was often quite difficult to decide which sounded most interesting or relevant. There was always a nagging doubt that you should have chosen something different. However, this was partly compensated for by the excellent GA Zette magazine, of which five editions were produced over the four days. Anyone can contribute and there were some useful reviews of meetings I'd missed, as well as the views of individual delegates, both serious and amusing.

Of the events I did attend, three in particular stood out. The first was the meeting of the Unitarian Peace Fellowship, at which the speaker was Patricia Earle, Midlands President of the Women's Federation for Peace. She gave an inspirational account of how a small

group of women came together in Birmingham in 1993 during the Bosnian conflict to pray for peace. What started as an ecumenical Christian group soon expanded to include women from different faiths, and there are now over 150 members from 45 nationalities. They take part in a far reaching programme of projects that involve local and international issues.

The next was the Opening Ceremony on the Monday evening. This year it had been put together by Undodiaid Cymru - Unitarians Wales. The theme of the presentation was 'Cerdded Ymlaen/Walking On' which traced the history of Unitarianism in the Welsh Valleys and Ceredigion. As you might expect, there was plenty of singing in both Welsh and English. The congregations involved had obviously put a lot of work into the planning of the programme and the overriding reaction from people I spoke to afterwards was 'Follow that!'

The third event was the presentation about the activities of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists by Rev Sara Ascher, the current Executive Director. The ICUU currently has 27 member groups in all parts of the world, and Sara seems to spend most of her time travelling to visit them. Since her appointment last year she has been to Chennai and the Khasi Hills in India, Capetown, Durban, Rwanda and Kenya, and she was due to visit Germany.

The Closing Session on the final morning included the Presidential Address from Dot Hewerdine followed by the installation of the new President, Rev Charles VanDenBroeder.

I feel that attending the Annual Meetings was a valuable experience, one which I would recommend. It was good to see people that I already knew, such as Chrissie Wilkie, Lynne Readett and Joyce Ashworth, and also an opportunity to meet new people and find out

more about how things are organised in the wider Unitarian movement. If anyone would like to know more or look at some of the information I have, such as the Annual Report, then please ask. The edition of The Inquirer from 6 May is worth looking at - there are several photographs that I have only just missed being on. If you know where to look, you can see my right ear on the group photo on pages 8 and 9!

Alison Whitaker

2017 Calendar

Sun 10 Sept	Late Summer Fair/Heritage Open Day
Sun 15 Oct	Harvest Festival
Fri 24 Nov	Music Night with Chorley Lions
Sun 17 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

A Note from the Editor

Thank you to all those people who responded to the request to update their contact details. There are still some of you that we would like to hear from to check that you still want to receive the newsletter. If it is a change to the mailing list, please return the enclosed slip or 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

'Rivington Recipes' is a collection of recipes from Chapel members and friends originally published in 2003 to mark the tercentenary of Rivington Chapel. This has now been reprinted, and copies are available along with the other publications on sale in the Chapel and the Village Tearooms. There are 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

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.

Alison

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

6	August	Rev Tony McNeile
20	August	Larry Bode - Dean Row Chapel
3	September	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
17	September	Jean Clements - Denton Chapel
1	October	Joyce Ashworth - Rochdale Chapel
15	October	Rev Stephen Lingwood - Bank Street Chapel Harvest Festval
5	November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel

Flower Donors

6	August	Joan Thursby
20	August	Miss E Curwen
3	September	Joan Thursby
17	September	Elsie Kent
1	October	Vince and Isobel McCully
15	October	Mary Horrocks
5	November	Jacquie Kershaw

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Wed 16 Aug 2:00 pm	Wedding - Deborah Clarke and Michael Williamson Conducted by Vince McCully
Sat 19 Aug 1:00 pm	Naming Ceremony - Harley James Allen, son of Jennifer Almond and Philip Allen Conducted by Vince McCully
Sat 2 Sept 10:00 am - 5:00 pm	West Gallery Music Singing Day
Sun 3 Sept After Service	Congregational Committee Meeting
Wed 20 Sept 7:30 pm	Chapel Trustees Meeting
Sun 1 Oct After Service	Talk about Dementia Friends

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

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Issue date: **15 Oct 2017**

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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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