

# Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

*Here let no man a stranger be "*



News sheet 1      5 April 2020

Rivington Chapel is temporarily closed due to Government COVID-19 restrictions.

During the closure we want to keep in touch with as many of you as possible.

This is the first of our news sheets. We intend to produce further issues to coincide with our usual service dates.

## **Congregational AGM**

We were able to hold our Congregational AGM just before the Government's restrictions on social gatherings were introduced.

Apart from the usual AGM business the main item on the agenda was to consider the possibility of registering the Chapel for the solemnisation of marriages of same sex couples. Following some interesting and constructive discussion, it was clear that the majority of members was in favour of registering the Chapel. The application will shortly be submitted to Chorley Registration Office.

There was only one nomination for each of the posts of Chairman and Treasurer, so Alison Whitaker and Frank Ascroft were re-elected. There were four nominations for the seven places on the Committee, so all were elected. We are still looking for someone to take on the role of Secretary.

As we will not be receiving income from collections while the Chapel is closed, we have set up a separate donation page on CAFDonate so that anyone who wishes to do so can contribute what they would have put in the collection. There is a 'Donate' button on the front page of our website [www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk) or you can search directly on <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12556> We would be very grateful if you would consider supporting the Chapel in this way.

## **Services broadcast on-line**

Quite a lot of Unitarian Chapels have started to broadcast services online. Last week we found out about Stand Chapel in Whitefield, who are using Facebook to live stream services at 7:00 pm on Wednesday and 10:45 am on Sunday. The Stand Facebook page can be found at Stand Unitarian Chapel Whitefield. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can watch the service by going to their website [www.ukunitarians.org.uk/stand/](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/stand/) and clicking on the 'Find us on Facebook' link. The services remain available to view at other times.

A lot of use is being made of Zoom technology. This enables you to actually take part in a service. Last Sunday, a few Rivington members joined the service from Chorlton Unitarian Chapel. Inspired by this, we have decided that Rivington should have a go, and Vince has been busy setting up a service, details of which will also be put on the Chapel website [www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk) and Facebook page (Rivington Unitarian Chapel)

To access the service you will need to have a Zoom account on your computer, tablet or mobile phone. This is free to set up at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). Vince explains how to join the service in his message below.

## **A message from Vince**

Dear friends

Please join us if you can for the Rivington Chapel on-line service on Sunday 5th April. Details of the Zoom meeting can be found below - please click on the link below to join. We will gather at 2pm for 2:15pm

The order of service will be available shortly so that you can follow it during the meeting or, if you are not able to join us via Zoom, read it at your leisure.

Hints and tips if you have not used Zoom before (thanks to Laura Dobson from Chorlton Unitarians for providing the following):

Have a practice sign-in to Zoom ahead of time if you can to make sure you know what you're doing.

If you can, go into settings -> video -> 'display up to 49 participants in gallery view' (then select 'gallery view' when you join the meeting).

Work out how to mute and unmute yourself so that you're familiar with this process. I think this is either by clicking/unclicking the little microphone OR the keyboard shortcut Alt-A (on Windows).

Sign in (with video) ASAP after 2pm so that you have a bit of time to sort yourself out and settle for the service to start at 2:15pm. Treat this as a time to calm yourself as you might before a real-world service.

During the meeting please stay on mute by default until the end of the service so we don't all hear each other coughing, etc.

If you drop your connection, feel free to re-join and make sure you're on mute so that you 'come into the room quietly' just as you would if it were a real-world gathering.

If you have a chalice or candle, please have that with you to light during the chalice lighting part of the service.

After the service finishes we'll keep the online meeting open for another 30 minutes or so for general chat so at that point you're free to come and go, get a cuppa and a biscuit and come back, as sadly we can't provide those via Zoom just yet!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/692966413>

Meeting ID: 692 966 413

Password: 080216

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday

Stay well and God Bless

Vince

## **Contact details**

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