

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 13 6 December 2020

Rivington Chapel will be open for a service on the first Sunday of December.

On the third Sunday, it will be closed, and the Christmas Carol Service will be online only (see below for more details).

As we are likely to be under COVID-19 restrictions for some time, we will continue to produce monthly news sheets for the first part of 2021.

Our on-line services

The service on Sunday 1 November for All Hallows/Samhain was taken by Vince McCully. The service included a pre-recorded musical interlude by Linda, Peter and Alison. This was a version of the poem 'Crossing the Bar' by Alfred Tennyson set to a tune by Rani Arbo. Although the phone signal in the Chapel proved somewhat intermittent, a few people persevered and joined us on Zoom.

As the second national lockdown restrictions had been introduced on 5 November, the service on Sunday 15 November had to be moved online. Rev Lynne Readett stepped in to take the service instead of Graeme Pilbrough. The theme was Babylon and the Rastafarians, and featured a track from 'special guest' Bob Marley.

We had an extra Zoom service on Sunday 29 November, when the theme was Advent. Contributions included readings about candles and light, the songs 'Drive the Cold Winter Away' and 'The Boar's Head Carol' and information about some calendar customs that take place in December. These included Boar's Head ceremonies in London and at Queens College Oxford, the Aldermaston Candle Auction, and the custom of electing a Boy Bishop. We also heard the words of an Advent hymn by Rev John Midgley and some words from John Henry Newman.

Now that we have come out of the national lockdown, we are able to have a service in Chapel on Sunday 6 December. This will be taken by Rev Alex Bradley from Knutsford Chapel. However, Tier 3 restrictions on meeting and socialising still apply, so if you are coming to the service, please make sure that you observe the measures we have put in place to keep everyone safe. Internet connection permitting, the service will be on Zoom.

As was announced in the November news sheet, the Christmas Carol service on Sunday 20 December will be on Zoom rather than in the Chapel. We hope as many people as possible will be able to join in and sing along to the carols (muted, of course) at home. If you haven't done so already, there's still a chance to vote for a favourite carol (see list below). We are still waiting to hear whether Father Christmas will be able to join us on Zoom.

The joining details for the Zoom services are: **Meeting ID – 768 122 9647: Password – 322865** (These details replace the codes we used during the first lockdown). You can also join by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7681229647?pwd=NkFMTVFWQUFmREtGdmppOFpSaWVhZz09>

List of Carols - please contact Vince with your choice

- While Shepherds Watched
- O Little Town of Bethlehem
- In the Bleak Midwinter
- Silent Night
- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
- The First Nowell
- Ding Dong! Merrily on High
- O Come, Ye Faithful
- Joy to the World
- The Holly and the Ivy

'Scenic Rivington' Calendar

You can still buy a 'Scenic Rivington' Calendar for 2021, and they will be available in Chapel on Sunday. However, some of the places where it has been on sale may still be closed under Tier 3 regulations, including Rivington Tearooms, the Lower Barn and Rivington Club. You can still go to Adlington Post Office and Wright Reads Bookshop in Horwich, or contact Chris Martin directly (01257 483702; email: chris_and_june@hotmail.com) The price is £6 (including free envelope).

Chalice Lighting Words used on 29 November - Advent Sunday

We light our chalice at the beginning of this season of wonder

Wonder at the brightness of a star

Wonder at the season's turning towards light

Wonder at the promise of a birth

Wonder at the kindness of those who truly give.

Word from Rev June Pettit (adapted)

Although the Chapel is now open for services, not everyone will wish or be able to attend which will still affect our income. If you wish to contribute what you would have put in the collection you can still do so via CAFDonate. There is a 'Donate' button on the front page of our website www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk or you can go directly to <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/12556>

We would be very grateful if you would consider supporting the Chapel in this way if you cannot attend in person, or prefer not to use cash.

Contact details

Lay Person in Charge: Vince McCully

email: vinmccul@hotmail.co.uk

tel: 01257 483733

Chairman of the Congregation: Alison Whitaker

email: newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk

tel: 01942 816569

Please get in touch if there is anything you need to discuss or would like some help with.