

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be "



News sheet 3 3 May 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.

Here is the third of the news sheets that we are producing to coincide with our usual service dates.

Our on-line services

Hannah Stephenson from the Southport Congregation lead our service on Sunday 19 April. Her theme was 'Stardust'. She'd hoped to have sound effects for her children's story provided by her son, but when the time came he'd found something else he'd rather be doing. I've included a poem (see below) by Danusha Laméris which was one of the readings.

The service on Sunday 26 April was a collaborative effort with readings by Jacqui, Tim, Judith, Dennis and Alison. Linda sang 'Keep on the Sunny Side' (also see below), which was popularised in the late 1920s by the Carter Family. Some of you might recognise it from the film 'O Brother, Where Art Thou?'

Vince will be leading the service this coming Sunday (3 May) as he would have been in the pulpit at Chapel anyway in more normal circumstances. The following week (10 May) we plan to have another meeting where different people make contributions. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. If you have some ideas, but would rather not do anything 'on screen' yourself, get in touch anyway – I'm sure someone else will be happy to volunteer!

A reminder that if you want 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. There is information about using Zoom in News sheet 1, and the Meeting ID and password are the same.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 692 966 413

Password: 080216

Keep on the Sunny Side

There's a dark and a troubled side of life;
There's a bright and a sunny side, too;
Tho' we meet with the darkness and strife,
The sunny side we also may view.

Chorus

Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life;
It will help us every day, it will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.

The storms and the fury broke today,
Crushing dreams that we cherish so dear,
Clouds and storms will in time roll away,
And the sun again will shine bright and clear.

Let us greet with a song of hope each day,
Tho' the morning be cloudy or clear;
Let us trust in the future always,
And journey free from sorrow and from care.

Small Kindnesses

By Danusha Laméris

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk
down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs
to let you by. Or how strangers still say "bless you"
when someone sneezes, a leftover
from the Bubonic plague. "Don't die," we are saying.
And sometimes, when you spill lemons
from your grocery bag, someone else will help you
pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other.
We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot,
and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile
at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress
to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder,
and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass.
We have so little of each other, now. So far
from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange.
What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these
fleeting temples we make together when we say, "Here,
have my seat," "Go ahead — you first," "I like your hat."

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 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. Many thanks to those who have already done so.

Contact details

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