

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 4 17 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 fourth of the news sheets that we are producing to coincide with our usual service dates.

Our on-line services

Vince led the service on Sunday 3 May when his theme was Beltane, the Gaelic festival to mark the beginning of summer. Then on Sunday 10 May, there was an eclectic mix of contributions from various people on the theme of flowers, including poems by Tennyson, Gerald Manley Hopkins, Pheobe Hesketh and William Henry Davies plus readings from Aesop's Fables and books by Rev Bill Darlison and Al Koran. To finish with Paul played the theme from "A Summer Place".

We'll be having more collaborative meetings on Sunday 24 May and Sunday 31 May, so please let us have any suggestions for themes or contributions. 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!

Meanwhile, on Sunday 17 May, the 317th Anniversary of Rivington Chapel, we are very pleased that Rev Bob Janis-Dillon is able to take the service. However, as he has another online appointment with his parents' church in the USA at 3:00 pm, Bob will be leading our worship between **2:00 and 2:30 pm**. If you are joining our meeting, please make sure you log in in plenty of time.

We would normally have arranged a Congregational meal to follow the Anniversary service, but that is obviously not possible this year. However, we can still raise a toast to the Chapel and to 'civil and religious liberty the world over'. So, we invite you to have a suitable beverage ready so that we can have the toast after the service. Of course, you can still do this even if you are unable to join us on Zoom.

Looking ahead, Vince has asked Laura Dobson and Marta Pacini to take our June services. According to the government's "Roadmap" for the easing of lockdown restrictions, if things go to plan, it might be possible for places of worship to open in July. Of course, we'll be waiting until much nearer the time before making any plans.

A reminder that if you want to access the services 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 as on previous Sundays.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 692 966 413

Password: 080216

The Restoration of the Chapel

Carol Worsley reminded us on Sunday that it is 30 years this May since we held a special service to mark the end of a major restoration of the Chapel. At the time, Carol had just come to the end of a term of 13 years as treasurer. Joan Holding was the Chairman and Martin Brownlow was the Secretary. Judith Crompton had been appointed Lay Leader the previous year and she was also Chairman of the Trustees.

According to minutes of various meetings from that period, restoration work included rewiring, replacement of some of the glass in the windows, woodworm treatment, redecoration of the interior, installation of outside lighting and the erection of the Register of Ministers board. The Willoughby Memorial had to be sent away for restoration to be carried out over a few years.

The Bizarre Barons of Rivington

Alison was contacted a few weeks ago by Rev Peter Hewis, Minister Emeritus of Manchester College Chapel Society. Peter Hewis was originally from Horwich and went to Rivington and Blackrod Grammar School. He has fond memories of Rivington Chapel and remembers families such as the Millers and the Milners who were associated with the Chapel in the past.

The reason he got in touch was that he had found a copy of a booklet called "The Bizarre Barons of Rivington" which he was hoping to pass on to Paul Lacey. As we have no details for Paul, Peter has sent the booklet to Alison. In due course, the booklet will be scanned so that it can be circulated to anyone who is interested in seeing it.

The booklet was published in 1965 and was written by Philip Willoughby-Higson. It deals with various aspects of the history of the Willoughby family. The Chapel gets a mention and there is a photograph of the interior taken before the installation of the organ and lamps hanging from the beams.

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 go directly to <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.