

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 6 5 July 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 sixth of the news sheets that we are producing to coincide with our usual service dates.

I would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and understanding following the death of my father. There has been a lot to do over the last few weeks, but I'm pleased to be able to resume production of the news sheet.

Alison

Our on-line services

The service on Sunday 7 June was taken by Laura Dobson from Chorlton Unitarians. Her theme was 'Patience' and it included a reading from Ecclesiastes (ch 7 v 8-14) and the poem 'Letting Dark be Dark' by Grace Blindell. As it should have been our Strawberry Tea, some of us had our strawberries and cream after the service, while others were planning to have them later.

'Kindness' was the theme for our collaborative meeting on Sunday 14 June. There was a musical interlude from Alison, Peter, John and Linda. John and Linda had recorded themselves at home singing their parts for the hymn 'Sow in the Morn thy Seed' (one of One Accord's greatest hits), then Alison and Peter recorded themselves while listening to John and Linda through earphones. Peter then put the two together and created a video which could be shared on Zoom.

Marta Pacini from Rawtenstall led the service on Sunday 21 June which marked the summer solstice.

On Sunday 28 June we had another collaborative meeting on the theme of 'Hope'. The theme was inspired by Linda singing the song 'There's a Land of Begin Again' which was made popular by Vera Lynn in 1941. Among the readings were the story of 'Pandora's Box' and one of last week's Radio 4 Thoughts for the Day about hopes for a post-Covid 19 world.

Vince will be taking the service on Sunday 5 July, and then we'll have another collaborative meeting on Sunday 12 July. If you have any suggestions for themes or contributions, please let us know. As always, if you have an idea, 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 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

Relaxation of lockdown restrictions

As you are no doubt aware, the government has relaxed the restrictions on the opening of places of worship. The first stage was to allow opening for individual private prayer only. At the end of the Zoom meeting following this announcement, we discussed how this might work at Rivington Chapel. The consensus was that we should try opening for an hour on a Wednesday evening for private prayer and contemplation. First of all, a risk assessment was done to identify what measures would need to be put in place to minimise the risk of spreading Covid 19. The main precautions are as follows:

- a one-way system for entering and exiting the Chapel
- hand sanitiser available by both the entrance and exit doors
- wiping down of surfaces
- restricting the number of pews used to ensure adequate distancing

For the time being, the Chapel will be open on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm.

We are now looking at the guidance that has just come out about the reopening of places of worship for services before making a decision about what to do at Rivington Chapel.

A blessing written by Vince

During lockdown, Vince has written some prayers and blessings which have been used at our on-line meetings. Here is one of them.

Loving God, let us open our minds, hearts and souls to the miracle of our lives here on earth.

We see and hear the vast power you have given to nature, in the blinding flash of lightning, the air splitting crack of thunder, the shocking force of summer torrents.

Awaken in us this force of nature that we may strive with confidence in an uncertain world; with the certainty of the confidence you have in us to always say, think and do the right thing.

Amen

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.

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