

# Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

*Here let no man a stranger be "*



News sheet 7      19 July 2020

Following the relaxation of Government COVID-19 restrictions on the opening of places of worship, Rivington Chapel is now open for private prayer and contemplation on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m.

We are considering the guidance on the reopening of places of worship for services before making a decision about what to do at Rivington Chapel.

Here is the seventh of the news sheets that we will continue to produce to coincide with our usual service dates.

## **Our on-line services**

Vince took the service on Sunday 5 July, following the previous week's theme of 'Hope' with 'Faith'. There were tributes to Renaissance theologians, Michael Servetus (Miguel Servet) from Spain and Faustus Socinus (Fausto Sozzini) from Italy. Readings included a piece by Arthur Stewart on the importance of hymns as an expression of faith, and the thoughts of Kahlil Gibran on Religion. John Readett played us a recording of Turnpike Band singing 'The World Turned Upside Down', a song by Leon Rosselson about the 17<sup>th</sup> century Diggers movement.

The collaborative meeting on Sunday 12 July featured contributions on the subject of 'Charity', thus completing the often associated threesome. There was an article from the Inquirer by Bob Janis-Dillon entitled 'What have you done for your neighbour?' and a poem called 'Earth's Charm' which Tina Booth had written and sent in. John Readett sang Pete Seeger's version of 'Turn, Turn, Turn', and Paul played the tune 'Smile' which was written by Charlie Chaplin.

Lynne Readett will be leading the service on Sunday 19 July and we will have another collaborative meeting on Sunday 26 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](https://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. If in doubt ask Alison or Vince.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 692 966 413

Password: 080216

## **A prayer by Vince**

God, we have gathered here and now, as a congregation, seeking in piety to worship you. We do this as our forebears once had to, outside the walls of a chapel building.

We hope to give, fully and without reserve, of ourselves to you in our worship today.

Please show us your favour by bringing us closer to you and to each other as a community and if our prayers are in our own and others' best interests please let them come to fruition. Amen.

### **Earth's Charm**

I have in mind an arbour green,  
Safe haven for a Nature Queen  
I know that it exists somewhere  
Melodic birdsong filled the air  
When I chanced upon it, unaware.

Fragrant cow parsley, like fine spun lace,  
Led me up to this enchanting place  
A mound of buttercups reflect the sun  
Green glade, between tall trees did run.  
Bees in the flowers make a gentle hum.

Homely abode, on grass plateau, nestling there  
Sowing a vegetable patch to attend and care.  
With company of wildlife creatures  
This idyllic place I'd share.  
Hedgehog, mouse, shrew,  
We dwell simply, and renew.  
Live at a calmer pace  
I've found myself a breathing space.

**Tina Booth**

Tina composed this poem for a friend, following a visit to his allotment and wooden chalet which is on a hillside.

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 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**

Lay Person in Charge: Vince McCully

email: [vinmccul@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vinmccul@hotmail.co.uk)

tel: 01257 483733

Chairman of the Congregation: Alison Whitaker

email: [newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk](mailto: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.