

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 8 2 August 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 the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 7 to 8 p.m.

Please see the information later in this news sheet about when Rivington Chapel will be reopening for services.

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

Our on-line services

Lynne Readett took the service on Sunday 19 July. Her theme was 'Pride and Pridefulness', and it featured some personal anecdotes including one about the late Rev Jane Barraclough which featured afternoon tea and champagne.

The theme for the collaborative meeting on Sunday 26 July was 'Giving a Helping Hand'. It included a version of the song 'A Lift on the Way' which Peter had put together from tracks that One Accord had recorded in 2011. 'A Lift on the Way' is a Lancashire dialect poem written by Edwin Waugh and set to music by Robert Jackson. Among other contributions were a story from 'Chicken Soup for the Soul' about a diver who was helped by a dolphin, the words of Carole King's song 'You've Got a Friend', Michael Rosen's poem 'These Are the Hands' written in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the NHS and a reflection written by Rev Anne McClelland, a past president of The Unitarian General Assembly. Vince joined us from his holiday cottage near Cockermouth, where the Wi-Fi signal was probably better than in Adlington!

The service on Sunday 2 August will be taken by Rev Jean Bradley from Knutsford, followed by a collaborative meeting on Sunday, 9 August. 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. If in doubt ask Alison or Vince.

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 692 966 413

Password: 080216

Reopening Rivington Chapel

Last week, the Congregational Committee, plus Richard Horrocks and Peter Bearon to represent the Chapel Trustees, met on Zoom (or in advance by phone) to discuss the matter of whether Rivington Chapel should reopen for services. Factors such as the age and vulnerability of some Chapel members, and the number of visitors in the Rivington area on Sunday afternoons, were taken into account. After some discussion, it was decided that we would resume our usual pattern of services from Sunday 20 September. This will, of course, be subject to the legislation and guidance regarding COVID-19 that is in place at the time.

We intend to have another meeting in mid-August to make the necessary amendments to the Risk Assessment that was done for the Wednesday evening prayer and contemplation sessions, and to decide what measures will need to be put in place to safeguard all those who wish to come to services. We will be looking into the possibility of streaming or recording the services so that people who cannot attend are still included in some way.

The service on 20 September will be taken by Chrissie Wilkie from Dean Row Chapel. Until then, we will continue with our weekly meetings on Zoom.

A blessing by Vince

May God cheer you and comfort you during the loneliness of isolation.

May God cheer your loved ones likewise.

And may the wonders of nature, so simple, yet so perfect and complete, open our eyes, our ears and our hearts to all this world loves to give us.

A perfect blue sky

The thrill of a bird in song

The joy of dappled shade

The gentle caress of Summer rain

The playful glitter of sunlit ripples.

God, bless us with complete trust in you and a true appreciation of your creation. 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.

Contact details

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