

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 15 7 February 2021

Following the reintroduction of national lockdown restrictions, Rivington Chapel is once again closed for services.

We will continue to hold Zoom services on the first and third Sundays of the month until the Chapel reopens.

As we are likely to remain under restrictions for some time, we will continue to produce monthly news sheets for the first part of 2021.

Our services in January

We were back on Zoom again throughout January, first of all due to a problem with the heating system. This now appears to be fixed, so the building will feel warmer once we resume services there.

Vince's service on Sunday 3 January gave us a last chance to sing some Christmas Carols this season and concluded with a New Year blessing (see January's news sheet).

By Sunday 17 January we were back in National Lockdown and we took the difficult decision to stop holding services in the Chapel for the time being. Fortunately, Hannah Stevenson from Southport was still able to lead the service. We had a story about facing our fears, and some interesting readings from the writing of Rob Tanner, Matt Haig and Neil Gaiman. We also found out about the Japanese art of Kintsugi, a method of repairing broken pottery with a mixture of lacquer and powdered gold.

We had a collaborative Zoom meeting on Sunday 31 January when the theme was 'Looking Forward'. Readings were from some personal reminiscences of Rev Ant Howe, 'A Shepherd's Life' by James Rebanks and 'Anne of Green Gables' by L.M. Montgomery. Linda led us in the singing of the final hymn, 'We Shall Overcome', with accordion accompaniment. Among the things we are most looking forward to are being able to celebrate with our families, playing music and singing in the same room as other people, going on holiday to the places we have missed out on over the last year and the arrival of spring flowers.

February Services

Chrissie Wilkie from Dean Row Chapel will be taking the service on Sunday 7 February, and we are hoping that Jean Clements from Denton Chapel will be able to take the service on Sunday 21 February.

The joining details for the Zoom services are: **Meeting ID – 768 122 9647: Password – 322865** You can also join by clicking on the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7681229647?pwd=NkFMTVFWQUFmREtGdmppOFpSaWVBZz09>

Registration for Same-sex Marriages

We heard recently from the General Register Office that the Chapel is now registered for 'Solemnisation of Marriages for opposite sex marriage and marriage of same sex'. We are currently

waiting for the Superintendent Registrar at Lancashire Register office to forward the official documentation.

Congregational AGM

We are intending to hold the AGM as planned after the service on Sunday 21 March, though it will probably be necessary to hold the meeting on Zoom. If that is the case, we will make sure that there is more than one way of voting available.

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Congregation of Rivington Chapel will be held after the service on

Sunday 21 March 2021

If you wish to make nominations for the posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee members, please let the Chairman know as soon as possible. Before making any nominations, please make sure that the proposed candidate is willing to stand.

The closing date for nominations will be Sunday 7 March 2021

Rivington Chapel Website

We are in the process of producing a new up-to-date version of the Chapel website. It should be up and running by the time the next news sheet comes out, when we will be able to give you some more details. There is also a new version of the national Unitarian website, www.unitarian.org.uk This means that at some point in the near future, the ukunitarians.org.uk site will be taken down, and so the link to this on our current website (via 'Other Chapel Information') will no longer work.

The Delights of Anticipation

'Looking forward to things is half the pleasure of them. You mayn't get the things themselves; but nothing can prevent you from having the fun of looking forward to them.'

from 'Anne of Green Gables' by L M Montgomery

While the Chapel is closed, if you wish to contribute what you would have put in the collection you can still do so via CAFDonate. 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 if you cannot attend in person, or prefer not to use cash.

Contact details

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