

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be



News sheet 17 4 April 2021

Although some COVID-19 restrictions are being relaxed, Rivington Chapel will remain closed for services until Sunday 6 June at the earliest.

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.

Our services in March

Vince's theme for his service on Sunday 7 March was compassion. Geoff Levermore from Norcliffe Chapel Styal took the service on Sunday 21 March. He talked about Chinese religions and the service was followed by an opportunity for discussion.

April Services

In April, the services will be taken by Rev Alex Bradley from Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford (Sunday 4 April) and Hannah Stevenson from Southport Unitarians (Sunday 18 April).

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=NkFMTVFWQUFmREtGdmppOFpSaWVhZz09>

AGM Report

Our first AGM held on Zoom was a relatively brief one. The Chairman's Report and the Statement of Accounts had been sent out by email prior to the meeting. As there were no other nominations, Alison Whitaker and Frank Ascroft remain in their current posts of Chairman and Treasurer respectively, and the other committee members are Jacqueline Dagnall, Diane Fairclough, Paul Fairclough and Mary Horrocks. Vince McCully will continue to act as Correspondence Secretary.

Mary Horrocks has decided to stand down from her role as Rites of Passage Coordinator. Until her successor is confirmed, Alison and Vince will deal with enquiries about ceremonies.

We also hope to have a new Publicity Officer in the near future. That role was just one of the many that Dennis Crompton carried out so ably over the years.

After some discussion about when people thought they would feel comfortable about attending services in the Chapel again, it was agreed that we should aim to open the Chapel for a service on Sunday 6 June. Until then services will continue online.

This year's GA Annual Meetings are being held online on Saturday 24 April. Since our AGM, Alison has registered for the meetings as the Chapel's delegate. If anyone would like to know about the proposed motions, please get in touch.

The draft minutes have been circulated by email and by post and can also be viewed on the Chapel website (www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk) At some point a copy will be displayed on the notice board in Chapel together with the statement of accounts.

Work in the Chapel Grounds

The work on the drains behind the Tea Rooms has now been completed, so access to the Garden of Rest is open again. Some new flagstones are due to be laid in front of the entrance to the Tea Rooms, so please take care if you are walking through.

Global Chalice Lighting

The light of the sun does not lift the shadows that have fallen on humanity the world over.

We re-light our chalice flame to re-ignite a spirit of radical optimism, knowing it takes us all living what matters, to dispel those who would divide us.

All manner of things will be well, if we make them well.

May our free religious communities embody the right relationships our world so desperately needs.

(Some words of Rev Steve Dick, one of the founders of the European Unitarian Universalists and a former Executive Director of the International Council of Unitarian Universalists, who died in December 2020)

Simply Staring at the Water

The Bengali poet and writer Rabindranath Tagore wrote: ‘You cannot cross an ocean by simply staring at the water’.

It is said that a journey of a thousand miles starts with the first step. And sometimes, that first step is the most difficult one to make. It helps if we have a map, or at least some idea of our destination. And the motivation to get up and walk out of the door. It can be so tempting to stay in, huddle under our blankets and choose not to change. But I believe that it is always, always worth it. If we are to live our lives to the full, we have to stop staring at the water, and dip our toes into that ocean.

Words by Rev Sue Wooley, District Minister, Midland Unitarian Association

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. You can either follow the Donations link on our website www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk or 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.