

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel

Here let no man a stranger be "



News sheet 19 6 June 2021

As long as there is no change to the COVID-19 guidance, there will be a service in Rivington Chapel on Sunday 6 June.

Services will then continue on the first and third Sundays of the month.

This news sheet covers the months of June and July.

Our services in May

Vince's service on Sunday 2 May was about Beltane. The service for the 318th Anniversary of the Chapel on Sunday 16 May was taken by Larry Bode from Dean Row. He talked about rebelling against authority and included words from Buddha, Stephen Fry and Alom Sharma's book 'The Young Atheist's Handbook: Lessons for Living a Good Life without God', which traces the author's journey from Islam to Humanism. Following the service we raised a toast to the Chapel and to 'civil and religious liberty the world over'.

We had a collaborative Zoom service on Sunday 30 May, on the theme of Roots of Religion. Vince's young rabbit friend Tamerlane inspired a story about dandelions and how we should learn to live with them. There was also a story about a lotus flower, 'On Religion' from Kahlil Gibran's 'The Prophet', and an account of the brief life of poet Henry Kirke White and the development of his religious beliefs. We took some time to remember Rev Frank Williams, who died on Sunday 16 May, with a reading of Psalm 23 and a setting of Alfred Tennyson's poem 'Crossing the Bar'. We also remembered the anniversary of the birth of Walt Whitman with a reading of the preface to his book 'Leaves of Grass'.

Services in June and July

We are looking forward to opening up the Chapel and meeting in person once more. The services in June and July will be taken by: Rev Alex Bradley from Knutsford Chapel (Sunday 6 June), Jean Clements from Denton Chapel (Sunday 20 June), Vince McCully (Sunday 4 July - but see below) and Rev Lynn Readett (Sunday 18 July).

During June we will still be in Step 3 of the Government's Roadmap out of lockdown, so places of worship will remain subject to some COVID restrictions. Our risk assessment documents have been updated, and included at the end of this news sheet is a summary of the measures that will be in place so that you know what to expect if you attend a service.

If all goes to plan, by Sunday 4 July most restrictions will have been lifted. However, this date coincides with the 2021 Ironman event and the cycle race will again be passing through Rivington Village. This will result in some road closures in the area, but it should be possible to reach the Chapel from the Toll Bar roundabout in Horwich via Lever Park Avenue and Rivington Lane. The Chapel will be open, and we will hold a short service for those who manage to negotiate the diversions.

We will try to relay the services in Chapel by Zoom, but will be subject to the vagaries of the mobile phone signal in the Rivington area.

The joining details for Zoom 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>

News sheets and Newsletters

If everything goes well with the lifting of COVID restrictions, this might be the last news sheet, as we are thinking of resuming our quarterly newsletters from August onwards. I'll be contacting the people on our newsletter mailing list to find out whether, after a break of over a year, they still want to hear news from Rivington Chapel.

If we go ahead with the newsletter, the copy date will be Sunday 4 July and the issue date Sunday 18 July. It would be really good to have contributions or suggestions from lots of different people, so if you have any ideas please send them to me as soon as you can before the copy date. My contact details are below.

Alison

Dandelions (from 'The Shortest Distance: 101 Stories from the World's Spiritual Traditions' by Bill Darlison). This is the story that Vince and Tamerlane told us at our last Zoom meeting.

A certain man took great pride in his new lawn. He mowed it regularly, watered it daily, and used all kinds of substances to make it grow thicker and look greener. One day he woke up to find his precious lawn covered in dandelions! What could he do? He dashed into the shed, took out his lawnmower, and gave the grass a thorough mowing, cutting off the heads of all the dandelions in the process. "That should do it," he thought, feeling very pleased with himself.

But the next morning he discovered that the dandelions were back! Down he went to his garden, and this time he pulled out each dandelion by the roots. Surely that would be the end of it.

But he was wrong. In a few days, dandelions were there once again; their little golden heads were completely ruining his beautiful green lawn. He hurried off to the local garden centre and told one of the assistants about his problem. "What you need is some weed killer," said the young man. "Take this", he said, handing him a bottle. "It is the most powerful weed killer we have. Mix it with water, spray it on your lawn, and tomorrow all your dandelions will be gone." The man did as instructed and sure enough, the next day there were no dandelions in his lawn. Success!

But his joy was short lived. Within a week the dandelions were back. He returned to the garden centre. "What can I do about those wretched dandelions now? he asked the assistant. "I've tried mowing them, pulling them up by the roots, destroying them with weed killer, but they still keep coming back. Do you have any suggestions?"

"Yes," replied the assistant. "I suggest you learn to love them!"

Although the Chapel is now open for services, there will still be some of you who will not be able to attend or who prefer to avoid using cash. 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>

Contact details

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

Notes on Rivington Chapel COVID measures for services from 17 May 2021

A revised risk assessment has been written following the relaxation of some COVID guidance from 17 May 2021. This will be put on our web page for anyone who wishes to see it.

As you may expect, services will still not be quite the same as before whilst the COVID-19 measures are in place, however, they should hopefully feel more 'normal' than during earlier restrictions. We have listed below what you may expect if you join us in one of our services.

1. Please do not attend the service if you or a household member are showing any symptoms of COVID-19
2. On arrival or departure from the Chapel please use the sanitiser that will be provided
3. No food or drink is allowed inside the Chapel
4. Although we won't be operating a one-way system into and out of the Chapel, please follow any signage being used by the Tea Room to gain access through the grounds
5. Before the service, a member of the Chapel will remind everyone of the COVID-19 rules
6. Face coverings must still be worn at all times inside the Chapel unless you are medically exempt. The exception to this is that the person leading the service can choose not to wear one. You are permitted to remove the face covering if doing a reading or leading prayers etc.
7. Social distancing inside the Chapel will still be in place, but somewhat more relaxed than previously:
 - All pews will now be available
 - Please ensure that you at least 1 metre away from any other household if wearing a face covering. If you are not wearing a face covering, either because you are exempt or leading the service, then please maintain a distance of 2 metres from other households
 - Please do not mingle inside the Chapel in groups of more than 6 people (or 2 households)
 - Please keep the aisles and the area near the doors as clear as possible to enable others to pass safely
8. The congregation is still not permitted to sing inside the building. Professional or small amateur singing groups are permitted, but social distancing and mitigations against aerosol transmission should be used
9. It is permissible to have instrumental music
10. Any spoken responses, or communal prayers, must not be in raised voices, and face coverings must still be worn
11. There will be QR codes available for using the NHS Test and Trace app. Alternatively, for visitors, there will also be a form to record your details. The information is required for NHS Track and Trace purposes and will only be kept for 21 days in line with GDPR. We will keep a list of regular attenders whose details we already know
12. At the end of the service, it would be best if people moved outside the building where groups of up to 30 are allowed and face coverings can be removed. Whilst outside, social distancing should still be observed
13. It is permitted to sing communal hymns in the churchyard as long as households stand well apart and do not face each other to mitigate against aerosol transmission.

15 May 2021