

Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

"Here let no man a stranger be"



May - Jul 2022

www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Facebook: Rivington Unitarian Chapel

Lay Person in Charge's Letter

Two years ago, we knew the world had become a more dangerous place with the onset of COVID-19. We were warned it would be bad, but we had no idea really, did we?

To date COVID has claimed the lives of 166,000 people in the UK and, worryingly, between 26 March and 1 April there were 1,116 deaths within 28 days of a positive test - it is true not every death is due solely to COVID, as a result in no small part to vaccinations, but these numbers are still a cause for concern. It has not gone away and we must remain wary and look out for one another; this is why experts are asking for return of free tests, and simple precautions.

Just a month ago we realised, though this time without being told by a press conference, that the world had become a much more dangerous place; as Putin marched a vast army into Ukraine, in an unprovoked, brutal act of war. The Russian army have proceeded since, to lay about themselves with indiscriminate, visceral and heartless barbarity against the civilian population.

Experts on Putin know that he will not let anyone or anything stand in his way and to ensure he wins, he is capable of anything; nothing is off the table. We are definitely all in a precarious situation. This was made clear to me in early March, when I was present at a Finance meeting of our GA (General Assembly) and the fund manager's moderate financial forecast was for no nuclear action; . . . only moderate, that is, so not brilliant. I'm sure you'll agree, an uncomfortable new reality for our troubled world.

And why is all this happening? It seems to be down to one man and his hawks who for some reason can't abide a neighbour seeking greater independence and self-determination. Something we Unitari-

ans have ever been at pains to assert in terms of worship and belief.

The world is now, in earnest, beginning to work together to bring peace or at least alleviate the suffering of Ukraine's innocent people. As Biden pointed out, it has united Europe. The last time I looked there were over 150,000 people in the UK willing to take in refugees from Ukraine. We are all making contributions of one kind or another and it's all over the TV and social media. At our first service in March we collected £136.45 for the Unitarian relief fund for Ukraine; which Frank will forward to the British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

All of this overshadows somewhat our daily lives, including events we have plans for such as the Rivington Spring Festival on 7th May where our Chapel is acting as a hub for the day's events. The Bennett Choir will be in Chapel at 2pm, and stalls will open on the green at 11am. These stalls are either entirely for charity or they are small local enterprises willing to donate a part of their takings to charity. Parish Councillor Trevor will be running the famous BBQ and the village hall is booked in the event of inclement weather. At 6pm, in The Village Tea Room, we have another performance of a murder mystery play written by our very own Chris Martin, called 'Shot In The Rockies'. It is all set to be a fun event, yeeha! . . . ahem, with yours truly playing the well-known desperado 'One Eyed Jack'. Refreshments will be provided. All this fun and 'vittles' too for only £10.

We are so fortunate this year to be able to resume our usual social calendar with events such as our Anniversary service and meal on Sunday 15 May, Strawberry Tea on Sunday 19 June and Heritage Open Day and Late Summer Fair in September, all great occasions of fellowship and community.

We can do so much more when we work together; for our families, for our friends and for our communities and of course for the besieged people of Ukraine. At every opportunity let us send our thoughts and prayers to the innocent folk of Ukraine.

Stay safe and God bless

Vince

Lay Person In Charge

2022 Calendar

Sat 7 May	Rivington Village Festival
Sun 15 May	Anniversary Sermons
Sun 19 June	Strawberry Tea (NB change of date)
Sat 10 Sept (tbc)	Heritage Open Day and Late Summer Fair
Sun 16 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 18 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

Chairman's Letter

Vince has already mentioned some of the things that will be happening at Rivington Spring Festival. The Chapel will also be having some stalls on the green, selling bric-a-brac, books and home-made produce. We are looking for volunteers to help out with running the stalls, so if you are able to spare a couple of hours, please let me know.

The Chapel meal on Sunday 15 May will be at 4:00 pm at the Bay Horse, Babylon Lane, Heath Charnock. We will need to make our food choices in advance, so look out for the menu on the notice board or contact Vince to find out what is on offer.

Please note that we have changed the date of the Strawberry Tea. It will now be on Sunday 19 June, to avoid any clash with other events that might be going on during the Bank Holiday weekend at the beginning of the month.

We've been looking at the possibilities for a canal boat trip. The best option seems to be hiring a boat from Ellerbeck Narrowboats at the boatyard by Rawlinson Lane, Heath Charnock. The trip is likely to be on a weekday as there is no weekend availability until at least September. Each boat can take up to 10 people, and costs £120 for a day's hire. Before arranging anything, however, we need to know how many people are definitely interested, as a 50% deposit is required when booking. There'll be a sheet on the notice board for people to sign up, or you can let me know directly (contact details on back page). You can find out more on the Ellerbeck Narrowboats website www.BoatsToHire.co.uk

This issue's cover picture shows the Chapel gates bedecked with ribbons in the colours of the Ukrainian flag. Thanks to Iris Wharton for doing this. Vince mentioned that we are sending a donation on behalf of the Congregation to The British Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. If you wish to make an individual donation, you can do so online at www.redcross.org.uk/Ukraine or by sending a cheque to British Red Cross, 44 Moorfields, London EC2Y 9AL.

We are looking forward to welcoming Jayne and Elena to the Chapel

on Saturday 21 May for their wedding ceremony. This will be the first same-sex marriage to be conducted here following the change to our licence in 2021.

Alison Whitaker

AGM Report

Once again, 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 and Paul Fairclough. Vince McCully will continue to act as our contact for correspondence and Jacqui Kershaw is our Publicity Officer. Vince was re-elected as our Lay Person in Charge.

We made a presentation to Mary Horrocks, who has decided to retire from the committee, as a thank you for all she has done over the past six years.

Alison will be the Chapel's delegate at the GA Annual Meetings which are taking place during the week after Easter (19-21 April).

Other things discussed were upcoming events, the possibility of having a defibrillator and refurbishing the notice board.

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

Trust Matters

As outlined in my last report, our architect, working with Paul Fairclough, undertook the recent Quinquennial Review inspection with the addition of a drone inspection of the roofs of both the Chapel and Tea Room. The current report drafts sent to the Trustees show that while further items requiring attention were identified, they are highly complimentary with regard to the present condition of both Chapel and Tea Room. They acknowledged that the Trustees have addressed the major issues identified in 2016, which has involved the expenditure of £35,828 since then. A draft of our plan to address the issues identified has been produced and sent together with the review documents to the Hibbert Trust as a consequence of which we have received a grant of £600 towards the overall costs.

The highest priority item identified is the state of the Tea Room gutters, which need replacing as they cannot cope with the heavy rainfall of the last few years and that expected as a consequence of climate change in the future. The architect has recommended cast iron ones to match those previously installed on the Chapel. These would cost £4,570 incl. VAT plus £630 excl. VAT labour. As the Tea Room is on a full maintenance lease, we have proposed that the tenant pays on a 'like for like' basis, i.e. the cost of replacement with plastic guttering. We are currently negotiating a payment based on this plus a 50/50 split of the labour costs.

The Trustees have also agreed to arrange for a semi-permeable surface to be laid on the car park area in front of the Chapel. The quoted cost is £5,530 plus VAT and the Parish Council has offered £1,000 towards the work. It was agreed to go ahead on the basis of this offer, a suitable donation from the Tea Room tenant and the residue split

50/50 with the Congregational Committee.

During the recent fine weather, the toilet drains have now been repaired at a cost of £3,480 including VAT, which has involved re-routing the drains around the toilet block rather than simply replacing them and so avoid future tree root problems. A grant of £700 was received last year from the Hibbert Trust as a contribution towards the total cost of this work.

The previously planned work to apply a second coat of lime wash to supplement that applied to the Chapel interior walls last winter (2020) is still in hand and is planned to take place during spring.

Finally, following the resignation of Carol Worsley from the Trustees after many years' valuable service, it was decided to present her with a white lilac tree in recognition of this.

Richard Horrocks
Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees

A thought

Our world has become so interdependent that violent conflict between two countries inevitably impacts on the rest of the world. War is outdated - non-violence is the only way. We need to develop a sense of the oneness of humanity by considering other human beings as brothers and sisters. This is how we will build a more peaceful world.

The Dalai Lama

By Loch Ossian

(a poem by Edith Astle, whose funeral took place in the Chapel in January)

There's a lonely and wild Scottish hillside
Where the peregrines circle and cry
And a boulder stands back from the rough stony track
Where together we walked, he and I.

Many times have we wandered the mountains
By lochside and forest and stream
But we always come back on the rough stony track
To our stone by the bright water's gleam.

To rest there awhile in the sunshine
Contented, absorbing the view
Of some far distant track where a little while back
We had toiled on together, we two.

When storms bent the trees in their fury
And mountains grey merged with the sky
We trudged our way back on the waterlogged track
My lifelong companion and I.

I've laid him to rest on the hillside
Where the peregrines circle and cry
And the boulder stands back from the rough stony track
That together we trod, he and I.

When darkness at last overtakes me
And sunset has fled from the sky
Where our boulder stands back from the rough stony track
There forever we'll rest, he and I.

Rivington Unitarian Chapel
Triennial Pilgrimage

Saturday 1 October 2022

Lunch at Rivington Church Hall

Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Lancashire, BL6 7SE

Guest Speaker: Rev Sue Woolley

President of the General Assembly

Please bring banners to display in the Hall

Service in Rivington Chapel

Conducted by: Rev Philip Waldron

Minister at Ullet Road, Wirral and Southport

Times

12:30pm Meet at Hall

1:00pm Lunch

3:15pm Service

Tickets for Lunch

(booking essential)

£15.00 Adult

£8.00 Child

Menu

Starter: Leek and potato soup (v) or Chicken liver paté

Main course: Butter pie (v) or Meat and potato pie or Poached salmon, all served with potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Pudding: Fruit salad

Other dietary requirements will be catered for.

Booking for Rivington Pilgrimage 2022

If you would like to book tickets for the Pilgrimage, you can:

- send a cheque made payable to **Rivington Chapel** to:

Alison Whitaker, 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3RS

- pay by Bank Transfer (please email: contact@rivingtonchapel.org.uk with your requirements and for the bank details)

Please indicate the number of adult and/or child tickets that you require, your menu choices and any dietary requirements.

We would be grateful if you would either include a stamped addressed envelope or an email address so that tickets can be sent electronically.

The closing date for bookings is **Friday 16 September 2022** Tickets will be sent out during the week beginning 19 September.

A Poem for May

Welcome to the garden at eve of May

Spring grasses, rainbow dew drops lit your way

At dusk for little faerie folk to come and play

Within the sixteen tiny toadstools ring

To the hurdy-gurdy did you dance around a mini maypole and sing?

Then crown and clap your new May Queen and King?

Tina Booth

(Tina wrote these words last May, inspired by a toadstool ring she had noticed in her back garden.)

A thought

We should be able to enjoy the wonders of life in us and everywhere around us. The whispers of rustling pine boughs. Flowers blooming. The beautiful sky. Fluffy white clouds. The smile of a neighbour. Each of these is a small miracle of life that has the capacity to nourish and heal us. They're there for us now. The question is: are we there for them? If we're constantly running around, if our mind is caught up in endless planning and worrying, it's as if all these wonders don't even exist.

We ought to enjoy our happiness right now, today; tomorrow may be too late.

from 'Peace is Every Breath' by Thich Nhat Hahn, a Vietnamese monk and teacher who died in January at the age of 95

Publications

Please contact Chris Martin (01257 483702, email: chris_and_june@hotmail.com) if you would like to buy any of the various Rivington Chapel publications, details of which can be found on the website: www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk/publications

Chris is now collecting images for next year's calendar and will be doing so until August. Please send any you think might be suitable to the email address above for consideration. Any good 'wintry' ones would be especially welcome as he is also considering doing another Christmas Card run.

Donations

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>

A Note from the Editor

If you need to inform us of any change in your details, or if you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please contact me, either by emailing newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk or phoning 01942 816569.

Also, please email if you would like to help us reduce the cost of printing and posting the newsletter by opting to have an e-mail version rather than a paper copy. You can read this and past issues online at www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

1 May	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
15 May	Anniversary Service Rev Laura Dobson - Chorlton & Macclesfield Chapels
5 June	Graeme Pilbrough - Padiham Chapel
19 June	Karen Eckersley - Chowbent Chapel
3 July	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
17 July	Chrissie Wilkie - Dean Row Chapel
7 August	Rev Kate Brady McKenna - Bury Chapel

Flower Donors

1 May	Mary Horrocks
15 May	Jacqueline Dagnall
5 June	Judith Crompton
19 June	Jacqui & Tim Kershaw
3 July	Frank Ascroft
17 July	Jacqui & Tim Kershaw
7 August	Elsie Kent

Other Dates and Ceremonies

Sat 21 May Wedding of Jayne Partington and Elena Chovancová
1:00 pm Conducted by Vince McCully

Sun 20 June Strawberry Tea
After Service

Sun 17 July Naming Ceremony - Nathaniel, son of Leanne and Zac
1:00 pm Hackett
Conducted by Vince McCully

If you would like to arrange a ceremony at Rivington
Chapel, please contact Alison or Vince
Contact details overleaf

Copy date for next issue: 1 Jul 2022
Issue date: 17 Jul 2022

send to: Alison Whitaker, 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton,
 BL5 3RS

telephone: 01942 816569

email: newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk

Please send your contributions electronically if possible to the email
address above. For those without access to the internet I am still
happy to receive handwritten copy.

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