

# Rivington Unitarian and Free Christian Chapel



Founded 1662

Built 1703

*"Here let no one a stranger be"*



Nov 2022– Jan 2023

[www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk)

Facebook: Rivington Unitarian Chapel

## Lay Person in Charge's Letter

This newsletter is destined for your eyes before Christmas 2022 and the New Year of 2023; let's hope the madness and barbarity of Putin's Ukraine war has subsided (and him along with it) by then. The whole world can then breathe more easily and food security, especially for the third world, be put on a more even keel.

We've had a busy summer in Chapel, taking in a canal adventure at the end of August, a Heritage Open Day and Fair in September, Chris Martin's first Chapel Talk and lastly our Triennial Pilgrimage at the beginning of October.

We were planning a musical night on the last Friday in November, but we need the second coat of lime wash to be applied in Chapel and that was the only time available, so, music next year, hopefully.

The Pilgrimage was an unqualified success and a credit to our Chapel team and all the Unitarians who attended. It wasn't all plain sailing, as you will learn, because at the beginning of September the caterers had to pull out due to the current economic upheaval - Yikes! Not being ones to let a small thing like this put us off we put our heads together and polled those who had already booked on the idea of making it a picnic, with everything else being kept in place. Unanimously, everyone thought it a great solution. We provided hot and cold drinks, cups, plates and cutlery. Everything went to plan with a fine speech from the current President of the General Assembly, Rev Sue Woolley, to toast 'Religious and Civil Liberties the world over'. This was followed by an exceptional service in Chapel conducted by Rev Philip Waldron of Ullet Road, who also sang Simon and Garfunkel's "Sound of Silence" while playing the guitar. It was fine having the Chapel so full and we rattled the rafters with some well-chosen hymns. The fellowship we experienced was palpable and we have

shared some great pictures of the event on our Facebook page. Special mention has to go to our Chairman, Alison Whitaker, whose unflinching efforts meant the whole day ran so smoothly.

My 'Intermediate Worship Leader' training meant attending a residential course in July which was very informative and helpful. As it comes to a close the 'Advanced' training is due to start in April 2023. I have been invited to attend this further training; it also involves residential elements and a good deal more study, all of which can only enhance the service I can offer our Chapel in particular and Unitarians in general.

Let's hope the new year is blessed with peace and prosperity.

Stay safe and God bless

*Vince*

Lay Person In Charge

*Vince has suggested that people might find it useful to look at 'The Heating Hub' website: <https://www.theheatinghub.co.uk> which has advice on making the most economical use of heating systems.*

### **Thoughts of Rabbi Lionel Blue**

My greatest spiritual teacher has been Life itself. Not exotic life in a monastery high up in the Himalayas, but ordinary life in London today.

Some of life's lessons have been painful ... I have pondered these on the tops of buses, in railway stations, at parties and when sitting silently in empty chapels, churches and synagogues.

Religion can make you very nice or very nasty. I think it's made me nicer than I would have been without it.

## **2022-2023 Calendar**

Sun 6 Nov	Send a Child to Hucklow Service
Sat 12 Nov	Craft Market in the Chapel & Tea Rooms
Sat 19 Nov	Craft Market in the Chapel & Tea Rooms
Sun 18 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

### **2023**

Sun 19 Mar	Congregational AGM
Sat 13 May (tbc)	Rivington Village Festival
Sun 21 May	Anniversary Sermons
Sun 4 Jun (tbc)	Strawberry Tea
Sat 9 Sept (tbc)	Heritage Open Day and Late Summer Fair
Sun 15 Oct	Harvest Festival
Sun 17 Dec	Christmas Carol Service

### **Chairman's Letter**

The canal boat trip at the end of August was very enjoyable and you can read more about it later in this issue in Mary's account of the day.

The Heritage Open Day and Late Summer Fair raised just over £185. Thanks to everyone who came along to help, and a special thank you to Kamil for the amazing cakes.

The Pilgrimage went ahead on Saturday 1 October despite us having to change our plans for the meal. Rising costs of food and energy bills

are affecting everyone, including the caterers, who let us know at the end of August that they would no longer be able to provide the meal at the cost which had been agreed in June 2021. Faced with the option of having to cancel the event, we decided first to ask the people who had already booked if they would still like to come, but bring their own food for an indoor picnic in the Church Hall. All the responses were very positive and encouraging, so we were able to carry on. Many thanks to everyone who helped with setting up the hall and clearing away afterwards.

A reminder that the service on Sunday 6 November will be dedicated to marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund. There will be special hymns and readings and we will be collecting to send a donation in support of the work the charity does to provide holidays for disadvantaged children.

The Chapel banner has an additional feature. A while ago, when the Walt Whitman Bicentenary was approaching, Jaqueline Dagnall suggested that it would be nice to add an appliqué of a sprig of lilac to the banner to recognise the long-standing connection between the Chapel and the Bolton Whitmanites. However, the process of obtaining the appliqué took longer than expected, then COVID-19 and its associated restrictions intervened to delay things further. I'm happy to report that the lilac sprig was eventually sewn on to the banner in time for its appearance at the Pilgrimage.

**Alison Whitaker**  
**Chairman, Congregational Committee**

## Send a Child to Hucklow

As previously mentioned, our service on Sunday 6 November is a celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Send a Child to Hucklow (SACH) fund, a charity that arranges and administers holidays at the Nightingale Unitarian Holiday Centre in Great Hucklow, Derbyshire. The holidays are for groups of disadvantaged children, having no regard to religious, political, racial and other considerations.

Although the organisation was begun formally in 1961, it was building on a tradition that started at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Rev Lawrence Scott of Manchester and Rev Charles Peach of Sheffield began to bring poor children from both cities to have a few days enjoying the quietness, cleanliness and spaciousness of the countryside.

In 1961, Rev. Peter Godfrey, then Minister at the Unitarian congregation at Altrincham, supported by Rev Glyn Puce, made an appeal in The Inquirer on 9 December. He wrote:

*'At this time of year members ..... will be asking themselves what they are going to do with their special Christmas collections. .... we would ask your readers to give their financial support to a scheme ..... to send twenty children to Great Hucklow for a few days next April. One of the great things done by our Homes ..... was to acquaint children who rarely, if ever, left cities like Manchester and Sheffield, with the beauties of the countryside. There are still children like this. The Family Service Units work amongst them and know them well. The Manchester Unit will be glad to suggest children who will benefit from such a holiday. All that is needed is the money to send them.'*

The appeal raised £61 (approx £1050 today). So, in 1962 the first of the SACH holidays was run, with the children coming from the Family Service Unit in Manchester, a social service organisation dealing with problem families no one else would touch.

Today, SACH offers Monday to Friday holiday breaks for groups of up to about 25 children within about a 4-year age-spread, and aged between 8 and 15 years, together with 4 or 5 Leaders. The children are selected from various agencies such as the Family Service Units, Women's Refuges, Social Service Departments, Schools, Community Associations and Congregations. The only condition is that the children selected would not otherwise have a holiday.

It costs around £350 for the five-day holiday, running Monday to Friday, for each child. This includes transport to and from Hucklow, some trips out within a limited radius of the Centre, and a float to pay for things such as ice creams, snacks, and entrance fees to places visited.

60 years on, in the words of Peter Godfrey, 'There are still children like this' and SACH still needs our support. The charity is hoping to raise £60,000 during its anniversary year, and Rivington Chapel will be sending a donation following the service. If you would like to make an individual donation, information on how to donate can be found on the SACH website, <https://www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk> or money can be sent to the donations treasurer, Mrs Ruth Taylor, 1 Beech Close, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8RA.

**Information taken from the SACH website**

## **Trust Matters**

Maintenance activity has been somewhat minimal during the summer, perhaps reflecting the high standard of the estate following the work undertaken since 2016.

However, issues remain. Of relatively minor importance was the gap between the worn vestry step and door leading to possible entry of vermin. Paul has reshaped the bottom of the door to fill the gap rather than replace the step which is in character with the rest of the Chapel.

The second coat of lime wash to the interior walls of the Chapel is planned to take place in November as indicated in the previous newsletter.

Given that the car park was resurfaced earlier in the year with costs borne jointly by the Trustees & the Congregation in the main with contributions from the Parish Council and the Tea Room tenants, the Trustees were interested to learn at their September meeting that during a recent visit by the Hon. Secretary to the Lancashire Archives, he had copied the official map for the village green. This clearly showed that both the parking area and the access road are part of the village green and are therefore the responsibility of the Parish Council, which means that in the future any initiative should come from the Parish Council, not the Chapel. However, the Trustees would still expect to have to contribute to any costs involved.

At this same meeting, the Trustees received a map of the trees on the Chapel estate but were still awaiting an audit of their state; this item is quite pressing because of complaints having been received about overhanging branches.



Finally, the deteriorating state of the Tea Room windows must be mentioned since the tenants, who have a full repairing lease, have been requested to obtain quotations for their replacement, although this would have to be on a rolling programme over a number of years. Any new windows and plan for replacement must get our approval, and any works need to meet current regulations. Discussions with the tenants are ongoing.

**Richard Horrocks**  
**Chairman, Rivington Chapel Trustees**

### **Talk, Tea and Teacake**

Chris Martin has been planning a series of events in conjunction with the Tea Rooms. These will take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm, and will give visitors a chance to learn something about the history of the Chapel before repairing to the Tea Rooms for a cup of tea and a teacake. Tickets cost £5.00 (£3.00 for concessions) and are on sale at the Tea Rooms. The next talk will be on Wednesday 2 November.

### **A thought**

The honour of a nation consists not in the forced submission of other states, but in equal laws and free institutions, in cultivated fields and prosperous cities, in the development of intellectual and moral power, in the diffusion of knowledge, in magnanimity and justice, in the virtues and blessings of peace.

**William Ellery Channing**  
**19th century Unitarian Minister**

## Trip on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal

A notice was placed in Rivington Chapel asking for names to be added by those interested in a 'trip on the canal'. Luckily, the list had enough names to book the adventure!

Not '3 Men in a Boat', but '4 ladies and 6 gentlemen' in a canal boat (with lots of biscuits), on Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August from 10am to 5.30pm. (Alison, Carol, Diane and Mary; David, Frank, Paul, Peter, Richard and Vince.) What a brilliant occasion, with glowing comments at the end of the day!

The boat was small but fine for 10 travellers, with room for three standing at the back to chat and steer, with changes during the day! Mini kitchen and toilet, cupboards with crockery and pans, two gas burners and a sink, and seating inside and outside the cabin.



The trip started and finished at Bridge 71 (The Boatyard, PR7 4DE) with an outdoor lunch at Malthouse Farm, one of the popular restaurants by the water, and next to Bridge 80. There was a good choice of meals and snacks and we ate outside in comfortable chairs in groups of four with tables.

There was a decision by everyone to stop at a well-loved ice cream parlour, (no prizes for guessing which!) where a whole range of mouth-watering cold items from lollies to large cornets and tubs was available and enjoyed. One unusual item appeared to be a Malteser, caramel and peanut butter ice cream, but only one person ate that! Paul very happily held on to the rope so that the boat stayed in posi-

tion until all passengers were on-board!

Comments made about our journey were positive. The views along the canal were mainly lovely, the reflections of the overhanging trees were beautiful, and we saw ducks, and a group of relaxed cows in the water drinking! A very large dragonfly landed on a purple tee-shirt and did not want to move on! The weather was mainly sunny, and no travelling boats were seen on the canal, unless one canoe was counted.



There were boats of different sizes, and in different conditions, and some had little gardens on rooftops, or had gardens leading onto the land. There were roof tops with traditionally decorated pots, jugs and kettles. Some had up to date licences, but many were out of date and that showed in many of the older dilapidated boats. Some of the names on the boats were very attractive. 'Rosina' was small and 'Moorhen' and 'Gypsy Marie' (I think was one boat), were larger! Another boat had 'Peace of my Heart' written next to the name and that was easy to accept.

The canal was quiet, peaceful, and surrounded by 'nature' including plants, trees, and a kingfisher that escorted the boat for a while before diving into the shrubbery! We saw fishermen who smiled as they allowed us to pass without looking cross. The speed was slowed down as the boat passed and that was appreciated. A suggestion was made from a man on a stationary boat that we should avoid the terrapins, but not one was identified. There were ducks in

small groups along the canal, and the sensible ones moved away, but a few left it until the last minute. (No damage done!) There were a couple of very long branches at different places, but they were avoided by careful moving by the person in charge at the time!

What a lot of fun and laughter. No complaints from the passengers, and there were funny conversations, especially one about old lawnmowers, the machines not old persons! One of the



highlights of the day that was heard by walkers along the paths as well as passengers was Peter and his Melodeon. His fingers ran up and down the lines of buttons and produced lots of music! If we were near to Alison we could hear her gently singing all of the words to the songs. The people we passed in gardens or on the paths turned heads to listen to the music.

The day was enjoyable, problem free, special and lots of fun. We were lucky to have tales from many, and conversations about topics, but the best bit was the fact that everyone really valued the day, had fun and left the boat with happy memories. Judith was unable to come, and that was a shame because she inspired others to organise the trip. On the day, everyone had a role in making it successful, and perhaps it will inspire others to organise outings.

Thanks go to everyone, but particularly to Alison and her excellent organising skills! Thanks as well to those who told very funny stories. Keep it going!

**Mary Horrocks.**

## **Publications**

Please contact Chris Martin (01257 483702, email: [chris\\_and\\_june@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk/publications)

The 2023 'Scenic Rivington' calendar and Christmas cards are now available and cost £7.00 and £3.50 (pack of 6) respectively. As well as in Chapel, they are on sale in the Tea Rooms and Rivington Visitors Centre

## **Donations**

Please remember that if you are not able to attend services in person, you can donate what you would have put in the collection via CAFDonate. Gift Aid can be added if you are a UK taxpayer.

You can either follow the Donations link on our website [www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.rivingtonchapel.org.uk).

**Alison**

## Dates for your Diary

### Sunday Services at 2:15 PM

6 November	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel Send a Child to Hucklow Service
20 November	Tina Gandhi - Walmsley Chapel
4 December	Chrissie Wilkie - Dean Row Chapel
18 December	Christmas Carol Service
1 January	Vince McCully - Rivington Chapel
15 January	Rev Laura Dobson - Chorlton & Macclesfield Chapels
5 February	Graeme Pilbrough - Padiham Chapel

### Flower Donors

6 November	Jacqui & Tim Kershaw
20 November	Judith Crompton
4 December	Carol Worsley
18 December	Christmas Decorations
1 January	Christmas Decorations
15 January	Mary Horrocks
5 February	Alison Whitaker & Peter Bearon

---

---

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 Jan 2023**  
**Issue date: 15 Jan 2023**

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

telephone: 01942 816569

email: [newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk](mailto: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.

Lay Person in Charge & Pulpit Supply	Vince McCully 20 Thirlmere Close, Anderton, Lancashire, PR6 9QD 01257 483733 email: vinmcul@hotmail.co.uk
<b><i>Your Committee</i></b>	
Chairman Newsletter Editor & Flower Rota	Alison Whitaker 14 Church Street, Westhoughton, Bolton, BL5 3RS 01942 816569 email: newsletter@rivingtonchapel.org.uk
Secretary	Position vacant
Treasurer & Chapel Keeper	Frank Ascroft 13a Highfield Road North, Adlington, Lancashire, PR6 9RN 01257 483635
Other Committee Members	Jacqueline Dagnall                      01204 691833 Paul & Diane Fairclough              01257 474761
<b><i>Other Contact Details</i></b>	
Publicity Officer	Jacqui Kershaw                      email: jacqui@analpa.co.uk 01704 821854 07857 354192