

**Founded
1662**



**Building
1694**

Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel

Elder Way, Chesterfield S40 1UR

01246 559407

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chesterfield

Registered charity No.220091

Newsletter Jan-Feb 2018



Aurora Ladies Acapella singing for us

***...In the light of truth and the warmth of love,
we gather to seek, to sustain, to share...***

Happy New Year and welcome to the Jan-Feb 2018 edition of our newsletter.

Reminiscing on last year we were honoured that Aurora a capella braved the snow to perform at our carol service. The collection was £140.20 and this will be sent, to the charity we have supported in 2017: "Send a child to Hucklow". We were all so sorry that David Shaw was not able to travel from his home in Cheshire due to snow difficulties. Many thanks to Ed Fordham for taking over at the last minute and leading a wonderful service. David has promised to join us in January (weather permitting!!) when we hope to recognise his contribution to chapel life over the last ten years. We will miss his excellent services and wish both him and Liz a very happy retirement in his new home.

Welcome to Shammy Webster who will be taking our Sunday services in January, February and March, also christenings in January and February. Shammy was born and raised in South East London. Her working life has been varied, including retail, the financial sector and mobile phones.

Shammy moved to Manchester in 2002 to be nearer to her now wife, Pat. They live in Healey, Rochdale with their Dog Harry and Cats Veronica, Joshua and Matthew.

Shammy trained for Ministry at Unitarian College Manchester (UCM) and qualified in 2014, having been leading worship in the Manchester area since 2006.

A big thank you also goes to Peter Rowson from Fulwood Old Chapel who, while we have no regular minister, has very kindly offered to help us out with Weddings and other ceremonies. Thanks also to his wife Janet who always accompanies him.

This newsletter informs us of some exciting new year developments in the maintenance and use of our historic building. Read on to find out more....

Looking further into 2018, the Heritage Open Weekend national event (HOD) is expanding to run over 2 weekends: 6th-9th and 13th-16th September. We will need to decide which days/weekend we open. This year's theme is 'Extraordinary Women', in recognition of the centenary of the Universal Suffrage Act, when (some) women finally gained the right to vote. Alongside the unique achievements of the suffragists, HOD wants us to tell the stories of the many other women who have changed lives, in both large and small ways over time. HOD are asking us to think about women in our community that deserve to be recognised and celebrated. Women who have achieved greatness in their field – or simply been a wonderful and supportive neighbour. Women whose stories have never been told – until now.

Amanda Higginbotham plus contributions from Martin Barrett and Ann Shutt

Perspective.....

It is human nature to complain about life's irritations rather than to count blessings.....

Therefore, "I am thankful:

- For the wife who says it's Hot dogs tonight, because she is home with me, and not out with someone else.
- For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato, because he is home with me and not at the pub.
- For the clothes that fit a little too snug because it means I have enough to eat.
- For the shadow that watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- For all the complaining I hear about the government because it means I have freedom of speech.
- For the parking space at the far end of the car park, because it means I am capable of walking and have been blessed with my own transport.
- For my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- For the lady behind me in church that sings off key because it means I can hear.
- For the pile of laundry and ironing because it means I have clothes to wear.
- For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I am capable of working hard.
- For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours because it means that I am alive.

Thank you to Carol Morris for providing these musings from St Bartholomew's and St Barnabus' Parish News

The Christian Tradition

Most of us will, no doubt, have had some exposure to Christian teachings in our early years. My parents were Unitarian although mum never forgot her early Anglican roots. My original and picture bible, circa 1950!! still have special places on my bookshelves.

As children we took the Christian story as truth: learning about the nativity, Jesus' miracles, his entry in to Jerusalem, subsequent horrendous death and resurrection. Jesus was acclaimed as Messiah, as prophesied by the ancient Jews, and labelled "Son of God" although he never accepted this term for himself.

Some ten years ago I felt the need to try and establish in my own mind the historical Jesus of Nazareth. We know very little about his family, his time in Ministry and how he fitted in to the Jewish Rabbi network.

In concluding this short introduction as a Unitarian with a more adult perspective, outside the Catholic Church, I have found it useful to identify the myths and facts (as best we can find them!) some 2000 years ago which now have such global influence.

If any members of the congregation would like to have sight of my intriguing reading I plan to bring these along to services in February and March when they can be borrowed.

Martin Barrett

Chapel News

Roof repairs:

A meeting was held shortly before Christmas with the local Conservation Officer to discuss our “problem roof” over the staircase to the upper room. We are now more confident that a solution to roof design will be accepted by Historic England and hope to advance an application in early Spring.

Votes for Women:

February 6th marks the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Representation of the People Act which enabled married women over 30 and all men over 21 to vote in parliamentary elections. Sarah Hartley has compiled 5 display boards with local information about this historic national event. If you have not already, please take time to read Sarah’s research.

Tuneless Choir:

Elder Yard Chapel is proud to be the venue of the Chesterfield branch of this national movement. Tuneless ‘choirs’ are for people who love singing but lack the ability, practice or confidence to do so. Their ethos is ‘tunelessness’, ‘upliftedness’ and ‘togetherness’. The launch event is on 31st Jan 2018: tickets are selling out fast. If you can’t get to the launch meeting then the ‘choir’ is running Wednesday evenings in Derbyshire term times 7.45-9.15. Please see www.tunelesschoir.com for full details.

District news

It is with regret that we announce the suspension of weekly services at Hucklow Old Chapel, due to a diminishing congregation and few local people.

Hucklow is part of the Sheffield District of Unitarian churches and Unitarians around the District will have many happy memories of services at Hucklow and the associated Nightingale Centre. The chapel will continue to hold services on an ad-hoc basis working in conjunction with the Nightingale Centre. David and Liz Shaw will keep us informed of future services at Hucklow should members of Elder Yard wish to attend.

Fulwood and Stannington chapels are currently without a paid Minister and they are considering a joint appointment to take effect from the New Year.

Reverend Andy Phillips has been appointed to a full time post at Upper Chapel, Sheffield, with his inauguration service having taken place on the 18th November. 2017.

Martin Barrett

Elder Yard Website: www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chesterfield



Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel
@ElderYard

Our services are held on the second Sunday of the month at 3.00pm. Weddings and baptisms are held throughout the year and other special services and ceremonies as required.

Please direct any enquiries to Ann Shutt

01433 554506 tillypretoria2@btinternet.com

Continued thanks to our chapel officers:

Chairman:Alan Shutt 01246 554506

Secretary:Ann Shutt 01246 554506

Treasurer:.....Martin Barrett 01246
567674

Organist & Building Manager:...
.....Andrew Marples 01246 211655

Please see any of the above if you need help, have news or require information about the Chapel.

Newsletter

The success of the newsletter is dependant on your contributions... please send them to

amandahigginbotham3@gmail.com

(Print deadline for March / April newsletter is Tue 6th March 6pm)

(Print deadline for May / June newsletter is Tue 8th May 2018 6pm)

Future Services (3pm): 14 Jan, 11

Holy and beautiful is the custom which brings us together in the presence of the most high; to face our ideals; to remember our loved ones; to give thanks; to confess and forgive; to be enlightened and to be strengthened.

