

**Founded  
1662**



**Building  
1694**

# **Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel**

Elder Way, Chesterfield S40 1UR

01246 559407

[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chesterfield](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chesterfield)

Registered charity No.220091

## ***Newsletter Sept –Oct 2017***



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

**Hi all !**

Welcome to the Sept-Oct edition of our newsletter. I write this as we are all busily arranging press releases, quizzes, history displays, live music, baking cakes, giving up spare time etc. I'm really looking forward to the Heritage Open Weekend 7th –10th Sept it has been a fantastic team effort !

If you have not already picked up a copy of the minutes of the last congregational forum then please do so. We are planning another forum after the October service. We have achieved an incredible amount since the last forum so I think there will be lots to talk about !

We are gradually changing with the times and I am pleased to announce that Ed is now an administrator for our facebook page. Already we are linked with more people as he has many more contacts and is far more media savvy than me ! Ed has also set up a twitter account: see page 6 for more details.

I have enjoyed editing the newsletter however there are some other Unitarian projects I wish to devote time to and in order to do that I need to hand over some older responsibilities. It think its also a good idea from time to time to change editors to get a fresh perspective. If anyone is interested in taking over as newsletter editor then please get in touch.

Amanda Higginbotham

## **Chesterfield Interfaith Forum August meeting**

Held in the Fire Station Community Rooms this was well attended (~20 people) and many of the faith groups across town were represented. Paul King from the Central Methodist Church led a discussion on faith responses in times of world turbulence. The new committee was elected, a date is being set for the next meeting and all groups are being encouraged to host open-door inter-faith events. I was made very welcome and will continue to attend representing Elder Yard.

Ed Fordham



**Saturday Lunchtime Concerts 11.45-12.30**  
admission free—retiring collection

**September 16th** Song Recital with Sue Morgan/  
Andrew Marples - programme based on Shakespeare  
& Love (G&S coffee morning before and after).

**October 21st** Piano Duets with David Mayo-Braiden  
& Andrew Marples - Spirit of the Dance part 2.

**Free Charity Concert**  
**Friday September 15th, 7-8pm**  
By Local flute player and teacher Katy Strudwick.  
Wine and nibbles will follow. Katie is launching her CD  
'Serenade to the Stars' recorded in the Chapel  
(Andrew on piano). Profits to Ashgate Hospice.

# Congregational Forum



A follow up forum is planned after the service on October 8th.

This will be an opportunity to share where we are and where we want to be with issues including

- ministry,
- pastoral care,
- interfaith connections,
- charity support,
- publicity,
- sharing our building with the community and
- events we wish to consider hosting / supporting

This might seem like a rather long list of subjects but many are interlinked and I personally am excited and thankful for how much we have moved forward during the year.

We will keep in mind that although we are a growing congregation we are still a small congregation so we need to take things at a pace we can manage.

Amanda Higginbotham

## **Elder Yard and Pride in Chesterfield**

This summer saw the 3rd annual LGBT+ Pride Festival here in Chesterfield. Held in Queen's Park, Pride is an all day festival of music, stall and food with LGBT+ focussed services open to the whole community. Well attended by local residents and their families, it attracts over 3,000 people. This year for the first time, the Festival was preceded by a Pride March from Chesterfield Town Hall down to the Park.

One of the most talked of developments within the LGBT+ communities in recent years has been the introduction of Same Sex Marriage for the UK (except in Northern Ireland). It is worth reminding ourselves that this campaign for marriage equality was itself actively supported by the Unitarian movement and our Chief Operating Officer Derek McAuley gave evidence to the Parliamentary Committee that considered the change in the law.

Here in Derbyshire, there are still just two religious premises registered for the conduct of Same Sex Marriage - Belper Unitarian Chapel and ourselves here in Elder Yard. It has been suggested that we should open our door more deliberately to promote this, and to ensure that everyone knows that for us it is not just Happily Every After, but also Equal Ever After.

Ed Fordham

(who lives in Chesterfield married his partner Russell Eagling at Rosslyn Hill Unitarian Chapel in 2014)

## **Elder Yard on-line**

many of you will have seen our website:

[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chesterfield](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chesterfield)

In addition we have a facebook page:

Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel

and now a newly established Twitter account:

@ElderYard

Please do share these details and have a look for yourselves - perhaps share them with friends and family and encourage them to come along to see the Chapel and meet people for themselves.

Ed Fordham

## **Future Services**

October 8th will be our **Harvest Festival** service, all donations will go to Chesterfield Foodbank—see their website <https://chesterfield.foodbank.org.uk/> for details of what the need at the moment.

David Shaw will be with us until the end of the year - his last service will be December 10th so please put the date in your diary now so we can give him a great send off !

## **Chapel News**

The chapel is now fully compliant with fire safety regulations and only some brief training sessions for key personal are yet to be arranged. There are still a few electrical issues to be sorted out. The organ was tuned over the summer.

## **The Douglas Robson memorial stone**

You may have noticed that the memorial by the nursery tree has been temporarily re-sited. We hope to find it safe and permanent home within the Chapel grounds very soon.

Andrew Marples



Best wishes to

**Anthony SHEWRY & Phillipa WOOLVEN**

who are to be married on 16th Sept

**Craig PARSONS & Susan MARRIOTT**

who are to be married on 30th Sept



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 Rev. David Shaw**  
01433 630541 davidw.shaw@btinternet.com

Continued thanks to our chapel officers:

<b>Chairman:</b> .....	Alan Shutt	01246 554506
<b>Secretary:</b> .....	Ann Shutt	01246 554506
<b>Treasurer:</b> .....	Martin Barrett	01246 567674
<b>Organist &amp; Building Manager:...</b> .....	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](mailto:amandahigginbotham3@gmail.com)

*(Print deadline for Sept / Oct newsletter is Tue 6th Sept, 6pm)*

*(Print deadline for Nov / Dec newsletter is Tue 7th Nov, 6pm)*

**Future Services (3pm):** 10th Sept, 8th Oct, 12th Nov, 10th Dec

*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.*

