

CHORLEY UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Park Street, Chorley PR7 1ER

FOUNDED 1725

Newsletter and Calendar of Events



October - November 2018

THIS FAITH COMMUNITY RECOGNISES THE WORTH
AND DIGNITY OF ALL PEOPLE AND THEIR FREEDOM
TO BELIEVE AS THEIR CONSCIENCES DICTATE.

LET NO ONE BE A STRANGER HERE.

www.ukunitarians.org.uk/chorley

From The Chair

John Hewerdine

Exciting Possibilities of playing the “Unitarian” Card

Further to questions about the future of our congregation here in Chorley (my last “From the Chair” letter to you), you will have received an individual communication from me with a number of questions to answer. This is not just a fact-finding exercise but a chance for you to think about what it means to be a member of our chapel and what you have to offer those around you in these days of political uncertainty, for not just the UK but most of the world..

One of our strongest characteristics as Unitarians is our desire to be inclusive. The idea that anyone, whatever their background, ethnic, religious or sexual, will not only be listened to but welcomed, for offering a viewpoint which may well be different to the mainstream. This approach has a lot of merit. It might not be something which you are immediately at ease with but it is certainly something which we need to learn to celebrate if we are to enjoy the prospect of a healthy future. Less tolerant churches are working on it as a matter of urgency and we have been in the business of making our faith live for far longer than many of them.

In the last newsletter, I talked about the idea of opening our doors and putting on the kettle. Clearly, tucked away (as we are at the end of Park Street) the idea of this might seem absurd. Also, we lack the charisma of some of the evangelical churches which have established something of a persona of smiling faces, celebrating the gospel, and often feeding the hungry. Nothing happens overnight and things like this are what we will be talking about in our meeting at the end of October.

Think about what this place means to you. Not what it used to be. That’s fine, sweet memories are to be cherished, but think about what it could be. Think about whether you have a part to play in this, however small. Feel free to dream. Dreaming is for all.....

The information, which Dot and I have circulated to you personally, is just a starting point to help you to review your own feelings about our Chapel here in Chorley and what it could be in the future. It is not pie-in-the-sky thinking but well grounded common sense. We have something priceless.. Freedom to hold ideas which might be different to the majority of the society around us is precious. It is something of considerable value. In many parts of the world where citizens are denied the freedom to form their own ideas about faith and spirituality. As Unitarians we should exercise this freedom which is our inheritance.

Think about the questions we have asked you. Jot some ideas down on paper and maybe change them as you think through the implications. Enjoy doing it and send your thoughts to me. Your name doesn't need to be included but include it if you wish. Enjoy thinking about our future and come to the meeting on October the 28th, after Anne's service.

NEWS

Daphne Roberts seems to have settled in the Care Home and sends her best wishes to everyone.

The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry have a new minister – Shannon Ledbetter and we look forward to seeing here at Chorley very soon.



October 2018

SUN. 7TH HARVEST SERVICE at 11 am
Conducted by: Jean Clements

TUE. 9TH NO MEMBERS MEETING

SUN. 21ST SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 11 am
Conducted by: Rev. J. Corrigan

SUN. 28TH QUIET SERVICE at 11 am
Conducted By: Anne Mills
Followed by meeting re 'Future of
our Chapel.'



AT A WAR GRAVE by John Jarman

No grave is rich, the dust that herein lies
Beneath this white cross, mixing with the sand
Was vital once, with skill of eye and hand
And speed of brain. These will not re-rise
These riches, nor will they be replaced;
They are lost and nothing now, and here is left
Only a worthless corpse of sense bereft,

November 2018

SUN. 4TH REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Conducted by: Sylvia Merrick

TUE. 13TH MEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

-in the Hall at 2 pm.

SUN. 18TH SERVICE OF WORSHIP at 11 am

Conducted by: Rev. J. Corrigan

SUN. 25TH QUIET SERVICE at 11 am

Conducted by: Sylvia Merrick



NO ONE CARES LESS THAN I by E. Thomas

‘No one cares less than I,
Nobody knows but God,
Whether I am destined to lie
Under a foreign clod,’
Were the words I made to the bugle in the morning.
But laughing, storming, scorning,
Only the bugles know
What the bugles say in the morning,
And they do not care, when they blow

FLOWERS

Nov. 4th Sylvia Merrick

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 26th Ken Ratcliffe

27th Wilma Davidson

Nov. 7th Norman & Sylvia Merrick (59)

28th Susan Cook

Congratulations! Hope you have a 'special' day.

QUAKER MEETING in the Hall at 10.30 am on
Sunday, 14th & 28th October and Sunday, 11th & 25th
November 2018.



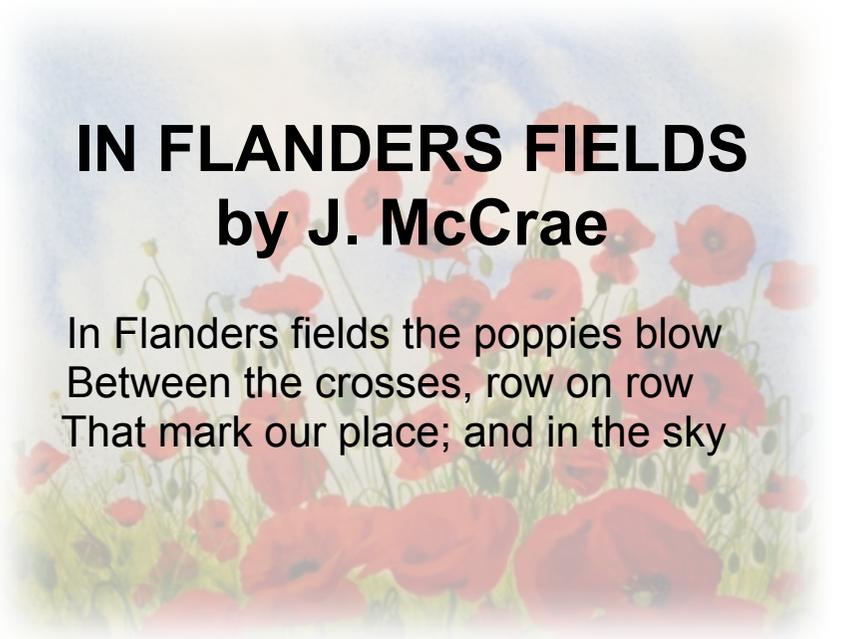
DIARY DATES

Sunday, 7th October 2018 – once again the HARVEST will be for Derian House Children's Hospice.

Sunday, 28th October 2018, after the Quiet Service, we will be having a meeting re 'The Future of our Chapel.' This will be led by Anne Mills.

Please try to be at this meeting to give your views – it is important.

Sunday, 4th November 2018 – 'Remembrance Service', this year will be about John McCrae.



IN FLANDERS FIELDS **by J. McCrae**

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky

Need a Hall in Central Chorley?

Groups wishing to meet in Central Chorley will be pleased to hear that our premises are available to use. The hall is a good size and is currently being used by other religious groups as well as for yoga, musical activities, mindfulness and pre-school education. Other groups will be welcome. There is free on-street parking in Park Street, by the hall, and other nearby roads.

The premises can be booked by the hour in daytime or evenings and in addition to our good sized hall there is an attractive kitchen (included in fees) and modern handicapped-friendly toilet facilities.

Our attractive Chapel is also available and can be utilised by Choir Groups or for Gatherings of an academic nature where the setting is ideal for presentations or other ceremonies.

Please ask for further details:

John Hewerdine
(Chair of Congregation)
01257 269502