

THE OLD CHAPEL (UNITARIAN) GREAT HUCKLOW

April/May 2017



The Old Chapel (Unitarian), Great Hucklow

William Bagshawe, who was known as ‘Apostle of the Peak’, founded the congregation in 1696.

The present Chapel was built in 1796 and the porch with its Bellcote, together with a gallery in the main part, was added in 1901 when the interior was refurbished.

In 2007 the steps at the front of the Chapel and disabled access were also added.

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June/July Newsletter

Do you have anything that you wish to share through this newsletter? Send any items to Liz Shaw, Email: lizzy.shaw50@btinternet.com no later than 17th May for the June/July edition.

Let's see now

. . . whether you think that Old Chapel is 'hyggelig'?

Reading the lovely card we recently received from Pam and Vic Mason, with their news of settling and beginning to make a house into a home, I was reminded to share with you some of the insights in a book I received for Christmas: "the book of hygge" (the Danish art of living well), by Louisa Thomsen Brits.

(The connection is, of course, Vic's great love for things Danish, and the notion of 'hygge' actually cropping up – unexpectedly – during a service a few months ago.)

The author describes *hygge* (pronounced hue-gah) thusly:-

"A quality of presence and an experience of togetherness. A feeling of being safe, warm, comforted, and sheltered. An experience of selfhood and communion – with people and with place – that anchors and affirms us, giving us courage and consolation. An invitation to intimacy and connection, to engagement and relatedness. A sense of belonging, to the moment and to one another. Hygge is a sense of abundance and contentment; about being, not having."

The aims and values of *hygge* seem to me to resonate strongly with the way we approach our life in our spiritual community, and I thought I would share a few more excerpts from the book to see whether you agree:-

"There is an element of serenity in the recognition that we cannot quite grasp the mysterious character of the world, but rather choose to let go and simply let things be as they are."

“*Hygge* involves our awareness of the scale of our existence in contrast to the immensity of life. It awakens our sense of intimacy and encounter with each other, and with the creaturely world around us.”

“*Hygge* helps us to create an environment that supports the needs of our hearts and provides room for human experience. It is particularly important to *hygge* around someone who is sad; creating a setting in which we can explore the subtlety of empathy.”

“*Hygge* is a theme that can be lived in the middle of all the other elements of an engaged life. It’s not the absence of challenge or discomfort, but a way of dealing with them. When we *hygge*, we are not ignoring difficulty but putting it down for a while. Pain and shadow still exist at the edge of our awareness; we acknowledge their presence, and prepare ourselves to address them by pausing together – with intention – in order to regain momentum and cope with life with equanimity in the future.”

“Achieving the serenity and freedom of feeling that we belong to ourselves, wherever we are, is a common concern in our (increasingly) mobile lives. *Hygge* relies on us finding a balance between self-containment and whole-hearted participation, personal liberty and awareness of the needs of others. It connotes a caring, civilised mode of behaviour that builds companionable ease and trust.”

If you do feel, like me, that we have something in common with the Danish art of *hygge*, then let me end by wishing you “*Hyg dig*” . . . or ‘*Have hygge*’!

Love, Michael

Services for April

Services at 10.30am

9th April

Conducted by Rev Michael Dadson

Flowers: Ann & Roland Butcher

23rd April

Conducted by Peter Rowson

Flowers: Angela & Gerald Binks

On 23rd April, Peter Rowson from Fulwood Old Chapel, makes a welcome return to Hucklow Old Chapel and we look forward to hearing him again.

Dates for your Diary - April

Saturday 8th

Coffee Morning

Hosts: Kath & Jack Binks

Tuesday 11th

The W.I. 7.45pm

Speaker: Mr K Vigurs

‘Mystery Shopping’

Teas: C Bradshaw & E Beresford

Competition: A Shopping Bag

Wednesday 26th

Community Spirit, 8.00pm

Services for May

Services at 10.30am

14th May

Conducted by Rev Michael Dadson

Flowers: Penny Holmes

28th May

Congregational Service

Led by Jane Smedley

Theme: *'The Times they are a changing'*.

Flowers: Janet Ashworth

The service on 28th May will be another congregational service on the theme of 'The Times they are a changing'. This service will be led by Jane Smedley, and as Jane says, *"It seems very relevant to all of us - globally, locally and personally."*

Please come along and support Jane at this service by bringing something to share with us, be it a poem or reading or even some thoughts about how change has affected your life, your community or maybe even your thoughts about religion.

Dates for your Diary - May

Tuesday 9th

The W.I. 7.45pm

Speaker: Mr J Mumford

'Legal and Financial Issues'

Teas: M Nelson & K Maltby

Competition: A coin

Saturday 13th

Coffee Morning

Hosts: Roy and Margaret Wain

Mon 15th, Tues 16th
Thurs 18th & Fri 19th

**Embroidery Classes 10.00am to
3.00pm** organised by Nicola Hilton

Monday 22nd May

Parish Council 7.30pm

CHAPEL NEWS



Monthly Coffee Mornings

At the Chapel's AGM in February, the decision was made to only hold the coffee mornings from April to October this year, and then make a decision as to whether we continue next year depending upon the support we receive. Both coffee mornings in January and February were affected by snow, so the congregation felt that it was better to have these coffee mornings when there is a chance of better weather.

Kath and Jack Binks are hosting the coffee morning on the 8th April, and Roy and Margaret Wain have been in touch to say that they would like to help out, so they will come along and run the coffee morning on the 13th May. Conversations are currently taking place and we hope to fill the remainder of the dates between June and October fairly soon.

As well as having people to run these mornings, we also need people to attend and support. There is much work that goes on in baking and buying for these events, and without your support, this work can be in vain. So please do come along each second Saturday in the month and join in some conversation and enjoy some good cakes and biscuits.



At our congregational service on 26th February, some small and big cuddly toys came to join us and told us of their importance in their owners' lives.

One of them even had his portrait done which he brought along for us all to see!

As you can see from the photograph opposite, a teddy bears picnic was set up and we left them all to it whilst the congregation shared tea and cake, and held their AGM.

We are all pleased to see that Michael's recovery from his surgery following his fall is going well. He has recently been able to play the piano at our services, and as we go to print, he has now been given the all clear to start driving again – although we do still ask him to take things steadily.

So the good news is that with spring around the corner, Michael will be able to be up at Old Chapel and be visiting with people once more, as he strolls around the village in that sunshine that we are all so used to having!

Go gently Michael, and enjoy being part of the wider community at Great Hucklow once again.