

OLD CHAPEL  
Dukinfield  
a Unitarian congregation  
Here let no one be a stranger



December 2020 January 2021

Dear Friends

By the time you read this we will once again be at the start of Advent and the final countdown to Christmas. Usually, December is such a busy month for us, in the shops, on the roads, at chapel and in our lives as we try to fit in all the extra things we do to celebrate the Christmas season. This year however, things are likely to be rather different.



Christmas is a time which most people look forward to with joyful expectation. For those of us involved in a church or chapel it is a time when we find ourselves drawn once again to the story of the child in the manger and our carol service is always one of the highlights of the year. It is a happy time of family gatherings and celebrations with friends.

As I write this, there are some hints that we may be allowed to have family gatherings, let's hope so, but it seems most unlikely that we will be singing any carols in chapel this year. Yet whatever adjustments we have to make to our Christmas routine this year it can still be a special time for us. Even if the days are short, the weather either wet or very chilly and many of our usual Christmas activities are unable to take place let us cherish this special time of year. Remember especially all the links of family and friendship that support us and let us make this Christmas like every other year, a time of happiness, of joy, of memory and of hope.

Every blessing,

Andrew

**Minister Rev Andrew Parker 0161 366 7989**  
**Chapel Warden Bronwyn Lowe**

For general inquiries contact Dawn Buckle 0161 303 8014  
Baptisms and Wedding inquiries contact Jennifer Moody 0161 304 8632

Registered Charity Number 1046857

**Chapel service (normally) 2.00pm**  
**Sunday School (normally) 2.00pm**

**Funding raised by**  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Council is grateful for financial support from the East Cheshire Union  
of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

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

## **FUND RAISING**

My daughter Stella has knitted replica  
Hats and Scarves of a popular School of  
Magic.

They are really beautiful and would  
make nice birthday or Christmas  
present. We have 4 of the main  
character and 2 of the other two and  
one blue one. We have priced them at  
£12.00 for a hat and scarf, but if only  
one item is required we can work the price out. They are mainly for the  
young but she made one for another member of the family who is 13 years  
old so they would be for about 5 to 14 years. If you are interested please  
telephone Janet on 330 5860



Crafty Nattering

## FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER 2019

- |    |                                       |  |
|----|---------------------------------------|--|
| 6  | Mr John Bradbury                      | In loving memory of mum Janet, dad William, sister Doreen and brother Norman |
| 13 | Christine & Philip Cheetham           | In remembrance: Mrs Phillips and Mrs Bertha Norton                           |
| 20 | Christine Hayhurst<br>(nee Peatfield) | Birthday memories of Renée Johnson<br>(Auntie Renée)                         |
|    | Pat Cheetham & Family                 | In loving memory of Philip, a loving husband, devoted father and grandad     |

In remembrance of Mr R Tym and Mr & Mrs H Tym  
of Cornwall, formerly of Dukinfield

- |    |                        |   |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 25 | Ian & Simon Peace      | In remembrance: Mr D West   |
|    | Sheila & Allan Kershaw | In loving memory of our dear parents<br>and son Neil sadly missed |

## FLOWERS FOR JANUARY 2021

- |    |                      |  |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 3  | Ian Peace            | In remembrance of Mr & Mr Richard Lees                           |
| 10 | Mr & Mrs B Gaskell   | In loving memory of a dear brother and sister                    |
| 17 | Mr John Bradbury     | In loving memory of my dear wife, Mollie, a mother & grandmother |
| 24 | Mrs Muriel Graham    | Loving anniversary memories of a dear husband                    |
| 31 | Bronwyn & Kevin Lowe | Happy memories of Frank and Lorna Thomas                         |

## WARDENS WORDS

To say that this year has been unusual is being kind, I think! We have never had a year like it – isolation, lockdown, test and trace, swabs, social distancing, and a complete lack of hugs! Someone said that their hands had consumed more alcohol than their mouth had done over the year. So, I think it's fair to say that most of us won't be sorry to see the end of 2020. The downside however is that 2021 will not feel much different for quite some time, I fear. What 2020 did teach us all was that we can still remain a community even if we are apart. Our thanks must go to our Minister Andrew, who has produced a service sheet for us each week throughout this pandemic and allowed us to feel together whilst being apart. We have missed much of our Chapel social life, and events like our Autumn Fair, coffee evenings and our special services just didn't happen. Some of them will no doubt be revived as soon as we can get together once more, but it does give us an opportunity to rethink the way we do things. Let's make something positive out of a terrible year and take the time to see if we might do our fund raising in a different way perhaps. We still need our regular contact with each other, but it may be that our coffee evenings could evolve into something a little different. Get your thinking caps on and let's see what we can come up with for 2021.



As for our togetherness in December and January – well as I write there has been no news from Downing Street to give us guidelines but I'm sure that will come. If we are able we will hold our Gift service on the 6 December as planned at 2pm, the service on the 13 December will be led by Dawn Buckle and the service on the 20 December (which should have been our Candlelight service) will be led by our minister Rev Andrew Parker at 2pm. We made the decision not to hold our usual Candlelight service because of possible numbers attending and not being able to socially distance. Christmas Morning Service will be led by myself at 10.45. Chapel will be closed on December 27. These are the details as we would like them to happen, but not necessarily what will happen. So please listen out for a phone call or message to let you know what is happening. We will be in touch as soon as we know for sure what our arrangements will be.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a very peaceful New Year, and hope that we might at least see some family together over this festive period.

Bronwyn

## **WORCOM**

Well no sooner do we resume services in Chapel than we have to stop again, its been a very topsy turvy year indeed in more ways than one !!

At this moment in time Dawn, Bronwyn and Jennifer have stepped in to take the services (when we resume again ) but I have been asking around and it's good to know we do have members who are willing to fill the dates in the future as well .

I cannot see it being easy for me to fill future dates with visiting preachers until we get a more controlled basis of this covid situation .

We have lost so many services that we all hold dear to ourselves none other than the Memorial service and the Candlelight service but it is being touted that on December 2nd we maybe told we will be allowed to hold services at Christmas !! So watch this space !!

As for myself I am now back to full strength after my major operation and thanks to those who did manage to get in touch - much appreciated .

All that remains is to wish one an all a very merry Christmas and a hopefully a peaceful New Year when it arrives

Take care x Steve

## **NOTICE OF A MOVE**

From 1 December 2020, Janet (Ford) will be living in Beatrix House, Fir Tree Lane Dukinfield. If you need to get in touch with her please use her email address or her Facebook page until she is settled.

## ZOOMING

How are you getting on in these strange times? Have you taken heed of the advice coming from many directions to learn something new? I was thinking about this the other day and berating myself because I hadn't done anything of the sort when I realised I'd learned to Zoom! Yes, thanks to our grandson, Cristian putting an app on my I-pad and giving me a few simple instructions, I can 'be with' other people in various groups. Sometimes I'm even with them in bed! Well, I'm in bed but I can't be sure where they are because mostly I can only see a close up of them and a small patch of their background. But, so you don't get the wrong impression, usually I'm sitting at the desk in our office.



Zooming has brought me a lot of pleasure. I've sung hymns on a Saturday afternoon with a large group of Unitarians from across the country where I've met up with friends I haven't seen for ages. The same kind of meeting up although with a different group happens on a Tuesday evening when I join a 'Heart and Soul' group led by Helen Mason, Director of Unitarian College. I'm grateful to Janet Ford for introducing me to this group which is calm and meditative. On Friday afternoon I meet up with people who care for relations with dementia as I do, thanks to the dementia nurses at Willow Wood Hospice. Then, of course there are the more formal meetings like Chapel Council and Property Trustees and the Tameside Local History Forum. Although I must confess I haven't yet managed to catch up with this last group yet.

All these groups have extended my contacts beyond family and close friends whom I contact by phone, email, and through Facebook. In fact I'm happily zooming everywhere! Who'd have thought that at 82 I would have become so familiar with all this internet stuff!!

Dawn

## MEMBERSHIP

This is a reminder to everyone that membership is due at the end of the year. We can choose to be a member in 3 different ways here at Old Chapel

- 1) You can let Shirley Richardson know that you just wish to register your membership
- 2) You can give a donation specifically for membership, either a one-off donation or by giving monthly donations to Chapel via the Bank
- 3) You can have envelopes for your collection each week, which counts as membership

One-off donations can be given to either Shirley or the Treasurer (Bronwyn or Emma).

If you wish to set up a Direct debit into the Chapel account here are the details –

CAF Bank      Sort code   40-52-40      Account number   00083172

These methods allow membership to Old Chapel, but not necessarily membership to our Central body – The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches. Old Chapel pays a Quota each year for the number of members we have, but we can only pay for those that give more than the quota over the twelve months (£35 per member each year). This means that when we must vote on a General Assembly matter only the quota members will be allowed to vote. This does not happen very often, but occasionally a matter arises that requires a vote by all members of the GA.

So – don't forget to let Shirley know which way you want to register your membership before 31 December 2020 please.

Shirley (Membership Secretary)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCENE

We trust you are all continuing to keep safe and well. At the time of writing this we are unsure what the arrangements will be when we come out of lockdown. In an attempt to remain optimistic we hope we will be in Chapel for the Annual Gift service on Dec 6. This year Wood Street Mission's needs are greater than ever. We have been in touch with them to ascertain that they will be in a position to receive our gifts which they gratefully accept from us each year. In the event of our service not taking place we are intending making personal collections from you if you wish to donate so that we as a Chapel can continue our tradition and ensure some children benefit at Christmas.



If you feel you wish to forego the service but are still willing to provide a gift then the contact numbers are as follows:

For Dukinfield collections please contact Christine on 07810 848159

For Hyde collections contact Emma on 07545 154504

For Stalybridge and Mossley contact Ann on 0161 338 4711

These gifts will go on Monday 7 December to Wood Street Mission. Sadly there will be no mince pies and tea and coffee this year and no visit from Charles from the Mission but we are sure it will be a lovely service from our minister to be enjoyed by all who attend.

Just as we are unsure about the service we cannot yet make any decisions about returning to Sunday School. When we know more we will contact everyone involved.

All that remains for us is to wish you as happy a Christmas as possible from all the Sunday School team.

Claire, Emma, Christine, Ann

## Rita Ashton

Rita was born in Dukinfield on 6 November 1943 and sadly died in Llandudno aged 76.

She married Brian in March 1964 who she met at the UYPL (Unitarian Young Peoples League). Like all couples in those days, Sunday School was the centre of much of their social life. They had been married for 56 years.

Rita was active in Sunday School life – she became Primary school teacher from being about 10 years old and joined the chapel choir aged 16. Rita was well known for her wonderful singing voice and of course this led to her many roles in the Old Chapel Pantomimes, which she joined in from

a very early age until the family moved to Llandudno in 1970. They have two girls, Katherine and Karen, who are both married and have families of their own. For Rita family was everything, and despite her many trips to hospital over the years she remained cheerful. Although spending much of her married life away from Dukinfield, both Brian and Rita along with some of the family always made the trip back to walk with us on Whit Sunday, and for any special occasions that our Chapel has celebrated over the years. She will be sadly missed by many who remember her well, and we extend our sympathy to all the family at this time.



Rita (Left of Picture) as principle girl

## **FOR THE RECORD**

### **FUNERAL**

25th November. Derek Brough aged 83 years. Service and committal at Dukinfield Crematorium the Minister officiating.

### **IN MEMORIUM**

The following members of the Old Chapel family have died in the last few months.

Rita Ashton of Llandudno who many of you will know from taking part in the Whit Walks in her wheelchair accompanied by her husband Brian. Older members will remember her appearances in pantomimes and her beautiful clear singing voice.

Derek Brough from Dukinfield who died on November 5 2020. In recent years has been a carer for his wife Ann following her stroke and dementia and who supported chapel through generous donations from time to time.

Marjorie Rushton from Dukinfield who died on Sunday 15 November 2020. Marjorie was a member in her youth and more recently. Until a short time ago she attended chapel services regularly.

Our sympathies go to all their families at this sad time.

It was with much sadness also, that we heard of the death in November, of Father John Kershaw of St Hilda's Audenshaw. He was a lovely man and came to Chapel on a couple of occasions to take our services. Our sympathies go out to his congregation and friends.

## DIARY FOR DECEMBER 2020

- 2 Wed Council Meeting via Zoom 7.00pm
- 3 Thu CCMTT
- 5 Sat CCMTT
- 6 Sun Gift Service at 2.00pm: Rev Andrew Parker
- 10 Thu CCMTT
- 12 Sat CCMTT
- 13 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Dawn Buckle
- 17 Thu CCMTT
- 19 Sat CCMTT
- 20 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Rev Andrew Parker
- 25 Fri Christmas Day Service at 10.45am: Bronwyn Lowe
- 27 Sun Chapel closed

## DIARY FOR JANUARY 2021

- 3 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Rev Andrew Parker
- 6 Wed Council Meeting via Zoom 7.00pm
- 7 Thu CCMTT
- 9 Sat CCMTT
- 10 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Bronwyn Lowe
- 13 Wed Karate
- 14 Thu CCMTT
- 16 Sat CCMTT
- 17 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Rev Andrew Parker
- 20 Wed Karate
- 21 Thu CCMTT
- 23 Sat CCMTT
- 24 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Dawn Buckle
- 24 Sun **Deadline date for February magazine**
- 27 Wed Karate
- 28 Thu CCMTT
- 30 Sat CCMTT
- 31 Sun Service at 2.00pm: Jennifer Moody
- 31 Sun February magazine out

## February

- 3 Wed Council Meeting via Zoom 7.00pm

## A little story to lighten your day -

### ***TWO LITTLE BOYS***

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behaviour. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?' The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'



**Send any articles for the magazine to  
[doc\\_mageditor@btconnect.com](mailto:doc_mageditor@btconnect.com)**