

# THE OLD CHAPEL (UNITARIAN) GREAT HUCKLOW

October/November 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.

**Minister**      Rev Michael Dadson (Until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)  
Tel: 01663 611444  
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## **Officers of the Congregation**

**Secretary**      Liz Shaw  
Old Chapel, Dyrte Lane, Great Hucklow,  
Derbyshire, SK17 8RG

**Treasurer**      Janet Ashworth  
Old Chapel, Dyrte Lane, Great Hucklow,  
Derbyshire, SK17 8RG

**Website**              [www.hucklow-old-chapel.org.uk](http://www.hucklow-old-chapel.org.uk)

## **December/January Newsletter**

Do you have anything that you wish to share through this newsletter? Please let Liz Shaw know by sending any items to the above address no later than 9<sup>th</sup> November for the December/January edition.

## Let's see now ....

... what the future might bring. Because you never know, do you? I mean, you can't know, can you?

Certainly *we* never knew, when we began our journey together as congregation and Minister that we would only be together for this comparatively short time – 18 months in all.

While of course Julie and I are excited about the choice we have become able to make – to move down to Devon and embark upon a new life for the two of us, without any dependants – we do also feel genuine and deep regret about bringing an end to our connections with Great Hucklow.

For Julie the village has been a special place for some 14 years now, since she first moved up here from Worcestershire to be the Manager at the Nightingale Centre, and for me the village has become a special place since I have had the opportunity of being involved with the people of Great Hucklow as Minister at Old Chapel.

And of course the Chapel itself, and you the congregation, will always hold a unique and unforgettable place in my heart. From the very first you have given a warm and affectionate welcome, and you demonstrated yet deeper affection in the way you showed understanding and patience, first through my father's illness and death, and then through my self-inflicted injury on Boxing Day; just when I was getting on my feet metaphorically, I threw myself off them physically!

Yes, you have been gentle, and kind, and appreciative of what I have been able to offer, in between the clouds. And I want you to know that everything that Liz and David told me before becoming your Minister was true:

there *is* something magical about being in and around Old Chapel, and Great Hucklow, in a ministerial capacity.

Something about the welcome and honesty of the people, yes. Something – of course! – about the beauty of the setting and the surroundings too. But something a little bit sacred as well, about being based . . . rooted . . . in that Chapel building.

I had visited it many times over the past 20 years or so, as have many active Unitarians, but I had never felt the depth of its peace and strength – yes, strength – until it was the Chapel and the congregation that I was there for, rather than a conference at the Centre.

It has done me the power of good, through some trying and emotional times these past months, to have the privilege of spending time in and around the Chapel. I thank it, and I thank you . . . and I ask you to take good care of it, and one another.

The other day I was talking to a colleague about my sadness at leaving Great Hucklow, and particularly Old Chapel, and he pointed me towards a moment in *Brideshead Revisited*, which feels appropriate here:-

*"Just the place to bury a crock of gold," said Sebastian.  
"I should like to bury something precious in every place where I've been happy and then, when I was old and ugly and miserable, I could come back and dig it up and remember."*

Personally I would like to skip the 'old and ugly and miserable' bit, but I shall definitely take with me some golden memories, and I . . . we . . . hope to come back and do a bit of delighted digging on occasion.

With our thanks, and our love,

*Michael and Julie*

## Services for October

*Services at 10.30am*

8<sup>th</sup> October

Conducted by Dawn Buckle

*Flowers: In memory of Irene Barlow*

22<sup>nd</sup> October

Conducted by Bronwen Taylor

*Flowers: In memory of Dora Revell*

*Visitors: Unitarian Women's Group*

We have two returning Preachers in October whilst our Minister Michael is on holiday. On 8<sup>th</sup> October we will be delighted to welcome back Dawn Buckle who is no stranger to Old Chapel and one of its Trustees, and on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, we will look forward to catching up with Bronwen Taylor as she leads worship for the local congregation and the Unitarian Women's Group who will be staying over at the Nightingale Centre.

## Dates for your Diary - October

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

**The W.I. 7.45pm**

Speakers: Paul & Nickie Bianchi of the Macclesfield Furniture Store

Teas: P Oxley & R Critchlow

Competition: Favourite Cushion

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

**NO COFFEE MORNING**

**Old Chapel Trustees Meeting at 11.00am in the Schoolroom**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup>

**Community Spirit 8.00pm**

Mon 16<sup>th</sup>, Tues 17<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>, Fri 20<sup>th</sup>

**Embroidery Classes 10.00am to**

**3.00pm** organised by Nicola Hilton

## **Services for November**

*Services at 10.30am*

12<sup>th</sup> November                Conducted by Rev Michael Dadson  
**Remembrance Sunday**  
***Flowers: Phyllis Walton***

26<sup>th</sup> November                Led by Rev David Shaw  
  ‘Dressing the Tree’  
*Visitors: Unitarian Association for Lay*  
*Ministry*  
***Flowers: Margaret & Roy Wain***

As you will have read earlier, Michael will be leaving Old Chapel on 31<sup>st</sup> October, and as a result of taking holidays during October he will not be with us on our usual two Sundays for worship.

However, Michael has offered to come along on 12<sup>th</sup> November and lead the Remembrance Sunday Service. Following the service there will be a shared lunch, and this will give us the opportunity to say goodbye to both him and Julie as they head down to Devon to live.

David Shaw has kindly offered to lead and co-ordinate our annual ‘Dressing The Tree’ service on 26<sup>th</sup> November when we will welcome members of the Unitarian Association for Lay Ministry.

On 21<sup>st</sup> November, Liz, David and Janet will be at Old Chapel to decorate the Chapel in readiness for Advent. Let them know if you are interested in coming along to help. Many hands make light work with this ‘fun’ job!

## Dates for your Diary - November

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

### **The W.I. 7.45pm Annual General Meeting**

Speaker: Mr Peter Buchan  
'Travellers Tales'

Teas: P Furness & A Whatley

Competition: An old map

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

### **Community Spirit 8.00pm**

Mon 20<sup>th</sup>, Tues 21<sup>st</sup>

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fri 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Embroidery Classes 10.00am to**

**3.00pm** organised by Nicola Hilton

## **CHAPEL**

## **NEWS**



### **Monthly Coffee Mornings**

On 9<sup>th</sup> September Phyllis and Brenda hosted the monthly coffee morning for which we are very grateful. We were very upset to hear that on the way home after the coffee morning, Phyllis was involved in a car accident, and although very shook up, Phyllis was not physically injured, although the same cannot be said of her car.

A few of us have been in touch with her to check how she is doing, and we understand that at the moment Phyllis has a courtesy car while her Insurance Company decide what will happen to her car. We are really sorry Phyllis that after doing a favour to Old Chapel by driving over from your home in Staffordshire to run a coffee morning for us, that your journey home was difficult to say the

least. We send our love to you as you deal with the ongoing problems arising from this accident.

The coffee morning at Old Chapel on 14<sup>th</sup> October has been cancelled and there will be no further coffee mornings. We have taken this decision as it is very difficult to find people who wish to run them, and as attendance can be down to just one or two people, it was felt appropriate to cease holding them.

Following Michael's decision to leave his ministry at Old Chapel, the Trustees have decided to hold a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October to think and talk about the future of the Chapel. There are only two or three locals that attend services at Old Chapel, and as the two 'officers' of the Congregation live some considerable distance away now, we are in a position where the Trustees and the Congregation will need to think about the long term future of holding services, dealing with the day to day jobs that need doing, as well as thinking about 'a future ministry'.

We knew that this day would come, as many members have now moved away to be nearer family and the number of Unitarian groups joining us for worship from the Nightingale Centre is now very low, and with no-one living locally to co-ordinate visiting preachers and groups attending Old Chapel, our thoughts must be widened to determine what is best for this lovely old building and its diminishing congregation.

We will continue with our usual services through to 10<sup>th</sup> December, but unfortunately we will not have anyone to undertake visiting in and around our Old Chapel community after 31<sup>st</sup> October. We will keep you all posted about the future of Old Chapel and what will happen from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, in our December newsletter.