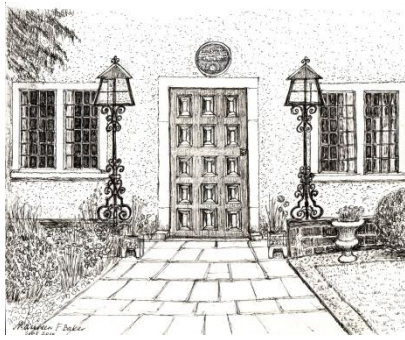


Founded 1662 Building 1694



Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel Chesterfield

Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel, Elder Way, Chesterfield S40 1UR
Tel: 01246 554506 Website: www.chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk

General email: info@chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk

Registered charity No.220091

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

Newsletter January/ February 2023

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Carol Service: December 2022

The Chapel was looking especially bright and cheerful for our Christmas service on 11th of December: a colourful Christmas tree by the altar, with flowers, holly and other evergreens, tinsel and trimmings liberally draped at chosen points it was a welcoming festive sight for all who came.

Many thanks to Andrew and Ann for their hard work on the decorations.

So it was good to see so many there, including people who had recently celebrated weddings at Elder Yard and several guests from Rose Hill United Reform Church. Carols were excellently performed by the Aurora Choir making a welcome return to the Christmas service; everyone enjoyed their delicious harmonies delivered with evident joy and gusto including old favourites Gaudete, Coventry Carol, and Silent Night. The congregation joined in too on O Little town of Bethlehem, Joy to the World and In the Bleak Midwinter, all tastefully accompanied by Andrew at the organ.

As well as the carols Rev. Maria Pap, who both planned and delivered the service, had chosen interesting and varied readings, ranging from short traditional extracts from the Bible to an amusing reflection by G K Chesterton on the giving and receiving of gifts and a meditation on Peace at Christmas by Maya Angelou which was read by Ann. Equally forceful was Maria's thoughtful address delivered with her customary quiet assurance which is always fitting in its humility and conviction.

All in all a memorable and thoroughly uplifting service: thank you, Maria.

Afterwards, most stayed for a mince pie, a cup of tea and a chat, rounding everything off nicely.

(Alan Shutt)

New Year Services

The services in January (8th) and March (12th) will be led by Peter Rowson from Fulwood Chapel. Always good to see Peter.

February's service (12th) will be led by Francis Elliot-Wright, returning to us following his very special service in July last year.

We look forward to all three.

(Alan Shutt)

Details of visiting ministers/lay people for 2023

8th January Peter Rowson Fulwood

12th February Francis Elliot-Wright

12th March Peter Rowson Fulwood

9th April Rev. Maria Pap Mansfield

14th May Francis Elliot-Wright

11th June Rev. Maria Pap Mansfield

9th July Rowan Beton Belper

13th August Francis Elliot-Wright

1st September Rev. Maria Pap WEDDING

10th September Francis Elliot-Wright

8th October Peter Rowson Fulwood

12th November Rev Maria Pap Mansfield

2nd December Rev. Maria Pap WEDDING

10th December Rev Maria Pap Mansfield

(Ann Shutt)

Chapel building & grounds update

The most visible improvement made in December was the removal, repair and re-signing of the main Chapel noticeboard on the lawn. The refurbished sign now has an up-to-date telephone contact number and web address. The repainting has been done by hand to a very high standard by signwriter extraordinaire: John Barton (who painted the original in 2009) with help from Richard at Richmond Builders (who did the removal and reinstatement with Andrew and transported it) and a joiner friend of John's who carefully spliced in a new section of wood where it had rotted. The new sign should be good for at least 10 more years! The other noticeboard needs replacing once a suitable local joiner can be found, as it is beyond repair.

Other vital jobs planned for early 2023 include: a new ceiling in the entrance lobby porch, woodworm treatment of the old staircase timbers and new wooden chairs, re-rendering and making good the front chapel wall, the felling of the Ash tree near the gate (January 22 nd) and various roof repairs and inspections. Some interior redecoration is also anticipated during the next 12 months.

(Andrew Marples)

DATES – Musical Events

The monthly lunchtime Concerts at the Chapel are on a winter break but will restart on Saturday March 18th at 11.45am with a concert by Cantiamo.

The popular Chesterfield Library Saturday lunchtime concerts begin on January 28th 2023 with a Piano duet recital by David Mayo-Braiden and Andrew Marples.
(Andrew Marples)

Reflection and Inspiration

Wonders Of The Universe

By John P. Read

Rainbows paint a picture

On a showery summer's day.

The wind is just a whisper

To blow your cares away.

The rain is heaven's tear drops,

Which make all things grow.

Our moon is an orchestra

That make the oceans ebb and flow.

The sun, God's great creation

That gives everything its life.

The stars are heaven's angels

Twinkling through the night.

The aurora borealis,

Those northern lights for all to see,

Are the greatest show on earth

Our Lord puts on for free.

The wonders of the universe,

All creatures great and small,

Were made by God with love

To amaze us one and all.

(Ann Shutt)

Did you know?

In January

1828 – the Chesterfield Gazette was first published.

1834 – the Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Banking Company was established.

1836 – the North Derbyshire Chronicle was established

1838 – a new mode of Pauper Relief was set up in Chesterfield.

18 Jan 1838 – the first marriage at Elder Yard Unitarian Chapel and first “dissenting” in Chesterfield. We can hopefully look this up in the church registers.

In February

1836 – the new Chesterfield Town Council met. This probably followed-on from the Municipal Corporations Act in 1835 that reformed local government in incorporated boroughs of England and Wales.

(Sarah Hartley)

Thought for Today

When the night is dark – reach out for a star.

*When the world disappoints you –
reach out for your dreams.*

When sadness surrounds you – reach out for love.

And always, always, reach out for hope!

Hope is...

Only a prayer away.

(Ann Shutt)

NOTE: *As we are now at the beginning of a New Year, we are taking a look at our address list. If you do not wish to receive any more e-mails e.g. Newsletters, etc from the Chapel could you please e-mail Ann Shutt at: tillypretoria2@btinternet.com. Thank you.*

Continued thanks to our chapel officers:

*Chairman: Alan Shutt Secretary: Ann Shutt Treasurer: Martin Barrett
Organist and Building Manager: Andrew Marples*

Please see any of the above if you need help, have news or require information about the Chapel.

Contact Numbers

Andrew Marples: 01246 211655

Ann & Alan Shutt: 01246 554506

Martin Barrett: 01246 567674

Website: www.chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk

General email: info@chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk

Any contributions for the newsletter may be sent by email to: tillypretoria2@btinternet.com

*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.*

the unitarians and
free christians

