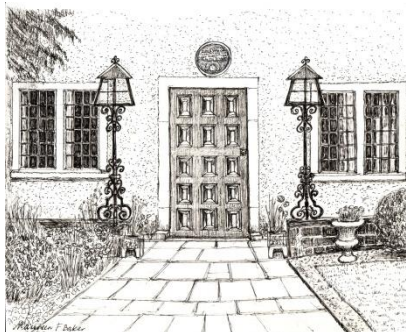


Founded 1662 Building 1694



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 May/June 2023

Welcome to our Newsletter!

I hope you enjoy this May/June newsletter. Please get in touch with me if you would like to make any suggestions about items which could be included in the future, and this can be considered by trustees.

Details visiting ministers/lay people for 2023

We have a monthly chapel service on the second Sunday of each month at 3 pm. All are welcome.

14th May Francis Elliot-Wright

11th June Rev. Maria Pap Mansfield

9th July Rowan Beton Belper

13th August Francis Elliot-Wright

10th September Francis Elliot-Wright

8th October Peter Rowson Fulwood

12th November Rev Maria Pap Mansfield

10th December Rev Maria Pap Mansfield

Chapel building & grounds update

Quite a bit of work has been undertaken recently - all following up on the latest surveyor's report. The chapel roof has been repaired and cleared of debris. The gutters and downpipes have been cleared and checked. The entrance lobby just inside the big door has had a partial new ceiling and woodworm treatment. Woodworm is also being treated in the old staircase and in 16 of our new(ish) chairs. Plaster has been repaired just inside the big door too. The most noticeable change however is the new LED lighting inside the chapel - completed by

Nick from NTL with scaffolding and manpower from Richmond Builders. It was a difficult and messy operation but the end result is excellent. More work is planned along with some redecoration in the coming months.

Finally, huge thanks to Martin for treating and jet-washing all the paths - they are so much better now!

DATES – Musical Events

The next concert is on May 13 at 11.45am performed by Music Work Vocal Ensemble. Then on June 3rd we have a solo recital by Tom Pickles (cello). Audiences are back to good numbers now - please come along and enjoy the free music!

The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches – National News and Views

A new regular feature of the newsletter.

The General Assembly explains “Our congregations are autonomous democratic organisations, led by the members. Each elects its own leadership annually and decide their own vision and plans. The culture and ethos of each congregation is unique, while belonging to our larger family.”

- This year’s national Annual Meetings were held on 4-6 April 2023. Andrew Marples attended on behalf of Elder Yard trustees.
- Vince McCully is this year’s President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.
- The new LGBT+ Unitarian Voices exhibition was launched at the Annual Meetings “telling the story of our queer history with an online exhibition and a pop-up exhibition, which will travel the country”. (The national website should have more information).
- Sheffield Unitarians invite you to their Climate Day! How might we respond effectively to Climate Change, not just as individuals but as groups and institutions? On 20 May 2023 at Upper Chapel.
- At the Annual Meetings it was voted to oppose the UK government’s Migration Bill and called on the government instead to establish safe and accessible routes for all asylum seekers.
- A new page on the national website tells “the story of the flaming chalice and how it became a symbol for Unitarians”. There is a request, “Please send us your stories, information - and above all photos of the flaming chalice symbol in your congregations, in the past and the present. We'd love to show as many different flaming chalices as possible!”

(The fairly recent change in the design of the chalice generated by the national office has caused some consternation amongst some congregations, some of which have expressed the lack of what they see as adequate consultation about it. It is unclear if the request in the last bullet point above has any connection with this concern.)

Update from Elder Yard Trustees – a new regular feature of the newsletter.

The most recent trustee meeting was held in April.

- Regular discussion about finances. The reserves are invested and making a reasonable return, but we ideally need to increase income to the current account. Weddings provide a useful income.

(Since the trustee meeting in April, Martin has been successful with an application to the Unity Church Charity and the £3,500 will enable our current list of building works to proceed - our thanks to Martin).

- Discussed the possibility of hosting a small wedding fayre at the chapel later in the year. To be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.
- Discussed ways in which the chapel can link in with the community more and bring more people into the chapel:
 1. *It was proposed to hold fortnightly Coffee Mornings on a weekday during the summer months. If anyone is interested in helping with these please let Ann or Sarah know.*
 2. *Weekly Craft and Natter meetings, with the focus very much being on the social and inclusive side of things. It is likely that if this goes ahead it will start Spring 2024. Is anyone interested in this idea?*
- The new website is up and running and the newsletters are uploaded to it.
- Discussed the building works that are planned. The work on the ceiling of the entrance hall will create quite a lot of dirt and dust.
- Discussed the Heritage days to be held at the chapel on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September, where the chapel is open to the public. *If people would like to volunteer and help for this, between the hours of 10 – 1.00 or 1.00 – 4.00 on either of those days could they let Ann know please.*
- Discussed additional regular content for the newsletter – including a national update and a summary of our most recent trustee meeting.
- Next meeting in July.

Reflection and Inspiration

“There’s a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure the truth.”

Maya Angelou

“People often claim to hunger for the truth, but seldom like the taste when it served up.”

George R. R. Martin

“A critical, independent and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy. The press must be free from state interference. It must have the economic strength to stand up to the blandishments of government officials. It must have sufficient independence from vested interests to be bold and inquiring without fear or favour. It must enjoy the protection of the constitution, so that it can protect our rights as citizens.”

Nelson Mandela

Did you know?

In May

15 May 1266 – Battle of Chesterfield. The battle was to put an end to any remaining baronial opposition to Henry III, after the Battle of Evesham. The fighting took place in and around the town.

10 May 1938 – an explosion of gas at the coal face of the Markham No 1 Blackshale pit owned by Staveley Iron and Coal Company Ltd. Coal Tubs smashed into an electric joint box causing sparks which ignited the coal dust. 79 men were killed and 38 injured. The funerals of the 79 all took place on 14 May at various locations, “From midday onwards there was a constant procession of hearses, mourning carriages and mourners on foot”.

In June

4 June 1777 – the first boat arrived in Chesterfield after travelling along the newly completed Chesterfield Canal from the tidal River Trent.

Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

- Chesterfield area Walking Festival from 13 to 20 May. (Tel 01246 345777 to find out more and to reserve tickets).
- Chesterfield Record Fair on 14 May at the Market Place.
- Chesterfield Canal Festival 24 and 25 June at Staveley Town Basin (www.chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk)

Community Support Services

Fairplay – supports children and young people with disabilities and additional needs, and their families across North Derbyshire.

<https://fair-play.co.uk/> Alexandra Road West, Chesterfield S40 1NP. Tel: 01246 203963

Carers in Derbyshire – a website for carers to find help, advice and support services in Derbyshire. A “starting point” of up-to-date good quality information.

<https://www.carersinderbyshire.org.uk>

Thought for Today

Life is a challenge and each day is a new adventure!

Who knows what lies around the corner?

Step out bravely and catch the sunshine on the way.

Never look back – except in forgiving.

Always look forward – life is for living.

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

