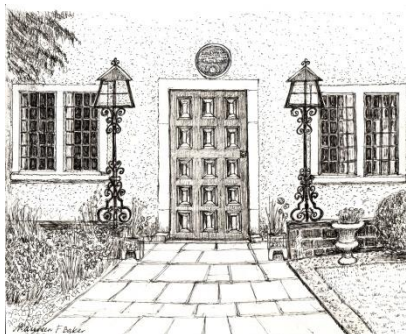


Founded 1662 Building 1694



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 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter!

Happy New Year to all.

The festivities have been and gone and each year Christmas brings a mixture of emotions, but hopefully the heartwarming moments have outweighed any negative ones.

Now we look forward to a new year ahead, hopefully with good health and peace of minds and promising times for Elder Yard.

Details of services and leaders for 2024

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

Dates January to June 2024

14th January – Peter Rowson
11th February – Peter Rowson
10th March – Rev. Maria Pap of Mansfield
14th April – Peter Rowson
12th May - Rev. Maria Pap
16th June - Rev. Maria Pap

Dates July to December 2024

14th July - TBC
11th August - Rev. Maria Pap
8th September - Rev. Maria Pap
13th October - Rev. Maria Pap
10th November – Peter Rowson
15th Dec - Rev. Maria Pap. Christmas Service

Maintenance update

The big job recently was the first ever pruning of the large London Plane Tree in the graveyard. It has been reduced to avoid any stress or risk of breakages and to increase light in the graveyard. Sheffield Tree Care did a magnificent job as usual, and this completes our tree work for 2023 (and hopefully for a few more years to come). £5000 has been spent on our trees this year. The only task left is to plant one (or possibly two) Yew tree saplings by the wall to replace the Ash tree that was felled almost a year ago. If anyone would like to sponsor one of these saplings, please see Andrew.

The Christmas Coffee Morning and Re-gifting Stall.

We held our final Coffee Morning for 2023 on Saturday 9th December. Janet, Lynn, Ann, and Sarah helped on the day and provided some lovely cakes and pastries. Tracey also kindly provided the delicious fruit scones. In particular, many of Janet's friends from her voluntary work attended and enjoyed the refreshments and browsing the re-gifting stall.

Congregation members donated new and barely used items they did not have a use for, to be sold in order to raise money for the chapel. This was an eclectic range of goods including car accessories, books, toiletries, bedding set, scented candles, picture frames, garden twine and lots more. About one third of the items were bought and so the remaining items will be saved for the next opportunity to run the re-gifting stall (a date for this has not been set as yet).

Please note that the 2024 Coffee Mornings will commence on Thursday 4th April, 10 am to 12 pm, and every fortnight after that.

The Elder Yard Christmas Service on Sunday 10th December

The chapel had been beautifully decorated by Ann Shutt and Andrew Marple and glistened with festive promise. The service was led by Rev. Maria Pap with the Aurora choir sweeping us along with acapella versions of traditional Christmas songs.

Ann uplifted us with two beautiful solo songs. Rev. Maria included four thought-provoking wide-ranging seasonal readings.... from the bible to Dr Seuss.

As always, Andrew provided wonderful musical accompaniment

on the organ and piano. Rev. Maria led us to reflect on Christmas in the context of what is happening in the world at the moment and how it is understandable if we feel almost guilty about enjoying the festivities when others in the world are suffering. She encouraged us to enjoy the moment. She explored the complexities of getting the right gift for others, and suggested that, in reality, we each are a gift. It was a delightful service, and many stayed afterwards to enjoy traditional refreshments.



A Special Christmas Card for the Congregation

It was lovely to receive a Christmas Card electronically from Mary Broadhead, a long-standing member of the congregation. It is addressed to us all but unfortunately, I can't include the card in the newsletter as the definition would be too hazy. However, the email wording is below, and Mary has given permission for this to be included in this newsletter and she hopes to be able to attend the Chapel in the future if possible.

All best wishes to you Mary and thank you for the card.

Email received on 22 December

“Dear Sarah,

Wishing everyone a Very Happy Christmas and may peace and joy be your blessing all year through.

Happy Christmas,

Mary”

Update from Elder Yard Trustees

The most recent trustee meeting was held on 25th October and details of it were included in the November/December newsletter. The next one is on 24th January and so an update of that meeting will be provided in the March/April newsletter.

If you have anything you wish to raise with the trustees for possible discussion at the next meeting, please let Ann Shutt know.

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

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.”

The national website address is <https://unitarian.org.uk> and most of the information below can be found there.

- ***Ministry & Leadership Development Officer at the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.*** Starting on 1st January 2024, this new role will see Dr. Rory Castle Jones supporting ministry and leadership in the Unitarian movement. In particular, working with 50 ministers.
- ***Three new Ministerial Trainees.*** The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches is delighted to announce the following candidates have been offered Ministerial Training following recent interviews: Peter Flower, Christina Smith and Lizzie Kingston Harrison.
- ***Unitarian Chief Officer Liz Slade signs Climate Change Letter.*** The Chief Officer signed the letter alongside former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, scientists Sir David King and Prof. James Hansen, and many others. Leading figures in science, academia, culture and faith have signed a letter condemning the “collective act of madness” that is driving “the destruction of life on Earth”.
- ***Blessed, Bold & Human.*** An online LGBTQ plus youth group for 11-18 year olds “to explore our own definition of faith” For more information email ghowell@unitarian.org.uk
- ***Blogs for inspiration and spiritual nourishment.*** For inspiration and spiritual nourishment there are blogs written by various Unitarians if you click on the following link <https://www.unitarian.org.uk/blogs/>

- **On Line Church Services.** There are over 40 on line Unitarian church services available to join. To check this out go to the “What’s Happening” section of the national website <https://unitarian.org.uk>

Friends of Rose Hill

We were happy to offer the chapel building for the Friends of Rose Hill (associated with the former United Reformed Church on Rose Hill) to hold their “Celebration of Readings and Carols for Christmas” on 17th December. The celebration included prayers, readings, drama, and carols, followed by refreshments. Their collection was very kindly donated to our Chapel funds.

Generous Donation from The United Reformed Church, Rose Hill

The United Reformed Church has generously given Elder Yard Chapel three large beautiful tables. We are grateful for this donation and two tables have been placed in our reception area and the other is in the main chapel.



Saturday Lunchtime Concerts

The Saturday lunchtime concert series came to a close on December 23rd when a full house enjoyed Cantiamo’s Christmas concert. The concerts now take a break until March 9th 2024 when there will be a recital of music for Violin and Cello duo. The new series at Chesterfield Library begins on January 20th 2024 with a concert of New Year Piano Duets performed by Andrew Marples and David Mayo-Braiden. 11.45 to 12.30 pm and admission is free.

Did you know?

January

1834, January 20th. Meeting of prominent townspeople held at the Independent Chapel to seek the removal of the restrictions on Nonconformists. If you run “Independent Chapel, Chesterfield” through a search engine, Elder Yard does pop-up, alongside one or two other premises. The meeting may well have been held at Elder Yard.

1818, January. A vestry meeting was held at St Mary’s Church (the Crooked Spire) for the purposes of deciding if the spire should be taken down. Some residents were opposed and another inspection of the spire was ordered. Only minor repairs were recommended and so thankfully we still have our famous crooked spire.

February

2006, February. The first international gluten free beer festival was held in Chesterfield, organised by the Campaign for Real Ale.

Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

January

- Saturday 13th January 2024. Mid-winter Ceilidh at Loundsley Green Community centre at 7pm. To book tickets click on this link <https://list.co.uk/whats-on/117151/mid-winter-ceilidh>
- Saturday 20th January 2024. Derbyshire Archaeology Day at the Winding Wheel 9.15 to 16:20. A series of talks. Tel: 01246 345222
- Saturday 27th January 2024. Guided Family Ponds Walk at Hardwick Hall. 14:30 to 16:00

February

- Sunday 4th February 2024. Chesterfield Vegan Market
- Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th February 2024. “Shark in the Park” at the Winding Wheel PM. Phone 01246 345222.

A Pause for Thought

“Of all evils of war the greatest is the purely spiritual evil: the hatred, the injustice, the repudiation of truth, the artificial conflict.” Bertrand Russell

“War may sometimes be a necessary evil. But no matter how necessary, it is always an evil, never a good. We will not learn how to live together in peace by killing each other’s children.” Jimmy Carter

“Resiliency is something you do, more than something you have...You become highly resilient by continuously learning your best way of being yourself in your circumstances.” Al Siebert.

“Relax. No one else knows what they’re doing either.” Ricky Jervais

Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Community Services that can help in time of need.

- Fibromyalgia. Chesterfield Fibromyalgia Support Group. A peer support group for this painful condition. Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Chesterfieldfibromyalgia/>
Or email chesterfieldfibro.group@gmail.com
- Autism. Derbyshire Autism Services. Support for children, young adults, adults and their families (diagnosed and undiagnosed) and for professionals. For information click on this link: <https://www.derbyshireautismservices.org/>
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If you would like to suggest a Community Service for inclusion in a future newsletter, please let Sarah know on sarah.sheila18@gmail.com

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: sarah.sheila18@gmail.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

