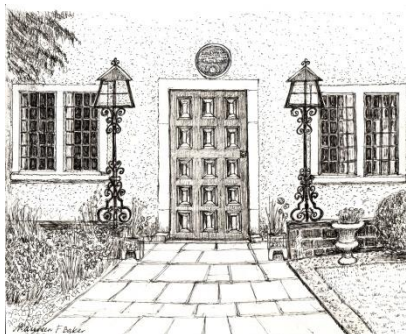


Founded 1662 Building 1694



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 March/April 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter!

“Daffodils,
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty”
William Shakespeare (The Winter’s Tale)

We hope you enjoy this first Spring newsletter and find it useful. It is for anyone who uses the chapel, but hopefully others in the wider community will see it and be curious or interested in what the Unitarian faith and the Chapel has to offer. All of us who attend the Chapel have varying reasons for doing so, and each walk away with an individual, personal response to it. There is no one doctrine to follow and so if this freedom of thought sounds interesting, please pop into the Chapel, enjoy the beautiful historical building, the friendly welcome and join us for the monthly service if you feel inclined. You can find out more at our Elder Yard Chapel website <https://chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk>

Details of services and leaders for 2024

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

Dates March to July 2024

10th March – Rev. Maria Pap of Mansfield
14th April – Rev. Maria Pap
12th May - Rev. Maria Pap
16th June - Rev. Maria Pap
14th July - TBC

Dates August to December 2024

11th August - Rev. Maria Pap
8th September - Rev. Maria Pap
13th October - Rev. Maria Pap
10th November – Peter Rowson
15th Dec - Rev. Maria Pap (Carol Service)

Update from Elder Yard Trustees

The most recent trustee meeting was held on 24th January 2024.

The following key agenda items were discussed:

- The October minutes were approved.
- Re-gifting stall and coffee morning update. Agreed a date for another stall and future fortnightly coffee mornings. Andrew will organise a new banner regarding the coffee mornings.
- Agreed the repair of the outdoor noticeboard. It is a key means of promoting the chapel.
- Discussed safeguarding review draft document and Martin and Alan will give feedback to Sarah.
- Discussed a stand-in organ player for Andrew at the April service as he will not be able to attend. Andrew has arranged for Frank Holmes to step into his place. Also discussed a leader for the July service.
- Finance was reviewed. Although we have money in reserve, we ideally need to increase income to the chapel, so that we can continue maintaining the building and meeting the running costs. There is only one wedding booked so far for this year, and these can be a useful source of income.
- The teething problems with the newly installed boiler are now resolved.
- A chapel Spring Clean was agreed for Thursday 11 April from 10am – any volunteers are welcome. Drinks and biscuits will be provided, but people will need to bring their own lunch.
- The next meeting will be held on Weds 24th April at 2pm

If you have anything you wish to raise with the trustees for possible discussion at the next meeting, please let Ann Shutt know by emailing tillypretoria2@btinternet.com

Maintenance update

The noticeboard that has fallen apart is off for repair and restoration as I write and Richmond Builders will be working at the Chapel in the coming months sorting out further vital repairs. The garden is due to be done soon and thank you to Sarah and Janet who have kindly agreed to sponsor the two new Yew trees which will go in once the weather warms up a little! Please help on Thursday April 11th for our annual Spring Clean. 9.30am start for those that can and we will aim to finish by 4pm. (Andrew Marples)



Saturday Lunchtime Concerts

The new series of Saturday lunchtime concert begins in the Chapel on Saturday March 9th when there will be a recital of music for Violin and Cello duo performed by Lucy Phillips and Jonny Ingall. The concerts run 11.45am to 12.30pm and admission is free!

Re-gifting Stall on Saturday 23 March

Please come along to the re-gifting stall on Saturday 23rd March from 10am to 1 pm. We hope to sell the remaining items left-over from the Christmas stall. Any items not sold will be offered to a charity shop. Refreshments will be served, so if you would like to donate any baked items and/or help on the morning, please let Sarah or Ann know. If the weather is fine, we might be able to enjoy a cuppa outside.

Coffee Mornings

Please note that the 2024 Coffee Mornings will commence on Thursday 4th April, 10am to 12 noon, and every fortnight after that. Please spread the word about them, and come along if you are free. Janet, Ann and Sarah regularly help out, but if you would like to get involved you would be very welcome. Any donations of cakes, buns, tarts, scones etc (whether personally baked or bought) will be gratefully received. Contact Sarah if you want to know more, on sarah.sheila18@gmail.com

Room Bookings

We will welcome two organisations this month and next in the upstairs room for four days of hire. This is valuable income and we would love to have other bookings, so please spread the word!

An invitation to Mansfield Unitarian Church Friendship Service

Rev Maria Papp extends a warm welcome for anyone to attend the Friendship Service at the Mansfield Chapel on Sunday 19th May from 10am with the service starting at 11am. There is food and various programmes afterwards. If you would like to go along and would either benefit from a lift or can offer a lift to the venue, please let Ann know. The address is Mansfield Old Meeting House, Old Meeting House Yard, Mansfield, NG18 1QR.

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, and much more, can be found there.

- *The Unitarian Annual Meetings* will be held on 4-6 April. The guest speaker is Roman Krznaric, a social philosopher who writes about the power of ideas to create change.

- ***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>
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- ***Worship Words.*** If you have a poem, reading, story or prayer about Spring that you would like to share with UK Unitarians, please email them to Lizzie Kingston.
-
- ***Feedback from the Executive Committee Meeting on 19th January.*** There are a whole range of “key messages” from the last meeting. In brief:
 - Funding for locally led plans for development of congregations.
 - Ministry Resilience Fund designed to help ministers and leaders in need who do not have access to other financial support.
 - Housing costs for ministers.
 - The formation of a partnership project to work with any churches that are uncertain about their future, supporting them in their decision making, and to help them “close well” if this is the only option.
 - A new Safeguarding trustee appointed to support the GA’s Safeguarding Officer.
 - The GA is moving towards Charitable Incorporated status and have appointed solicitors to help with this.
 - The approval of a new Vice President of the GA for 24/25.
-
- ***Hucklow Summer School, Sustainable Living.*** Monday 19th August to Monday 26th. A residential experience at the Nightingale Centre, now open for on line applications.

Did you know?

In March

1963, 20th March. Ministerial approval given for completion of the new Chesterfield Boys Grammar school on Chatsworth Road.

1963, 27th March. The Chairman of British Rail, Dr Richard Beeching produces his report into the future of rail transport. In it he proposed the closure of all local stations on the line between Chesterfield to Derby, Nottingham and Sheffield.

In April

1598, April. The crown grants a Charter of Incorporation to the burgesses. Six aldermen are appointed, six brethren and twelve capital burgess – a total corporate body of 25, including the Mayor. The charter gives the corporation powers to have a council house, what is effectively a town clerk, make bylaws, hold meetings, etc. and defines how elections are to be held. Ralph Clarke is nominated the first Mayor of Chesterfield.

(Quite a lot of the information included in this “Did you know” section of the newsletter is taken from the Chesterfield and District Local History Society’s “A Chronology of Chesterfield’s History”. Their website www.cadlhs.org.uk is very interesting.

Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

March

- 4th March to 27th March 2024. Monday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm.

An exhibition called “Community and Solidarity” at the Assembly Rooms, Chesterfield Market Hall, Market Place, Chesterfield. An exhibition to mark to the 40th anniversary of the great miner’s strike.

April

- 11th April, Thursday 10am to 4pm.

Chesterfield 1940s market in the Market Square, Chesterfield.

- Various weekend dates and some midweek dates.

Chesterfield Canal Cruises from 10am. Might be best to book in advance through <https://chesterfield-canal-trust.org.uk> Click on “Trip Boats”

Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Community Services that can help in time of need.

- *Derbyshire Hard of Hearing Support Service*. Provides information, advice and guidance on all aspects of hearing impairment for individuals, their families and friends across Derbyshire. Drop-in centres across the county.

Tel: 01773 570976 E-mail: info@hearinghelpuk.uk www.hearinghelpuk.uk

- *The Derbyshire Home from Hospital Service*. The Derbyshire Home from Hospital Service provides practical support for vulnerable people leaving hospital, or those living at home but at risk of being admitted. Email: home@dhfh.org.uk

Telephone: 01283 817417 <https://www.dhfh.org.uk>

If you would like to suggest a Community Service for inclusion in a future newsletter, please let Sarah know on sarah.sheila18@gmail.com

A Pause for Thought

“The birds they sang at the break of day, “start again” I heard them say. “Don’t dwell on what has passed away or what is yet to be”

“Ring the bells that still can ring, forget your perfect offering. There is a crack, a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in”.

From Leonard Cohen’s “Anthem” song lyrics.

(Leonard Cohen, Canadian singer-songwriter, novelist and poet).

“April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year”

(Vita Sackville-West, English author and garden designer).

“Nobody can keep spring out of Harlem. I stuck my head out the window this morning and spring kissed me bang in the face. Sunshine patted me all over the head.”

Langston Hughes, American poet, author, novelist, playwright and columnist.

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

