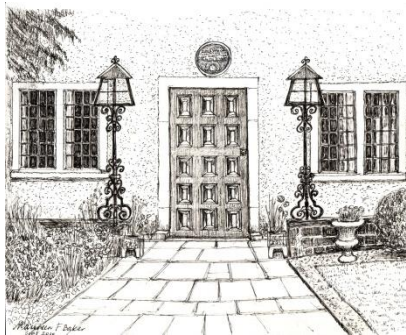


Founded 1662 Building 1694



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 July/August 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter

“Summer was our best season: it was sleeping on the back screened porch in cots, or trying to sleep in the tree house; summer was everything good to eat; it was a thousand colours in a parched landscape; but most of all, summer was Dill.”

Harper Lee, American Novelist 1926 to 2016. From “To Kill a Mockingbird”

"We thread our way through a moving forest of ice-cream cones and crimson thighs."

Jean-Dominique Bauby, French Journalist and Author, 1952 to 1997,
from “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly”

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 July to September 2024

14th July – NO SERVICE

11th August - Rev. Maria Pap

8th September - Rev. Maria Pap

Dates October to December 2024

13th October - Rev. Maria Pap

10th November – Peter Rowson

15th Dec - Rev. Maria Pap. Xmas Service

Update from the Elder Yard Trustees Meetings

The most recent trustee meeting was held on 24th April 2024

The next trustee meeting will be held on Weds 24th July 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 two new yew trees have taken really well and the garden looks good. Quotes for the downstairs decoration are almost all in – it has been slow going! We are very grateful for a grant from Unity which will go a long way to covering the cost of this. Thanks to Martin for your invaluable help with this funding request. Other works are planned including re-sealing around the window to the left of the altar after water ingress, chopping off and rendering the lower front wall of the chapel by the big door, masonry repairs around the main door and hopefully new stone chippings on the car park.



Saturday Lunchtime Concerts

The monthly series of Saturday lunchtime concerts continue in the Chapel:

July 6th Piano duets (David Mayo-Braiden & Andrew Marples)

No recital in August

September 28th Muskoka Wind Quintet

The concerts run 11.45am to 12.30pm and admission is free! Doors open at 11.15am.



Coffee Mornings

The coffee mornings will be held on the following Saturdays from 10am to 12 pm:

July 27th

August 24th

There will also be a Christmas coffee morning and re-gifting stall on Saturday 7th December. Attendance at the coffee mornings this year has not been very good and so we are discussing whether to hold them on Thursdays next year, as the town centre is usually busier because of the flea market.

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

Free “Fundamentals” Community Group Training

In June, Sarah attended two free training events organized by Chesterfield Borough Council and LINKS CVS. The training is designed to enable grass roots organizations to continue in their work and develop additional projects if they choose to. Sarah attended the Fund Raising and Marketing training sessions and thought that both were excellent. She will feedback to the trustees at the next trustee meeting. These sessions are being repeated before October and there are two others focus areas available – Health and Safety and Volunteering.

The Friendship Service at The Old Meeting House, Mansfield Unitarian Chapel

Ann, Alan, Andrew, Janet and Sarah attended the Friendship Service at the Old Meeting House on Sunday 19th May. It was such an enjoyable event, designed to provide something for everyone.

There were welcome refreshments, and a thought-provoking service at 11 am led by Rev Maria where Ann sang, accompanied by Andrew (who played the organ for the hymns).

There was a very interesting tour of the chapel, highlighting the history (it was built just a few years after Elder Yard Chapel) with the stunning tiled floor, the three Burne-Jones windows made by William Morris & Company and the unique roof.

After the lovely buffet lunch, we could choose whether to go on a walking heritage tour in the town centre, or to try our hand at origami. Those who went on the walk came back full of praise and those who tried the patience of the origami tutor were in awe of the precision required and the beauty of the finished items.

The Elder Yard trustees would like to thank everyone at Mansfield Chapel for organizing the event and making us feel so welcome. It was an opportunity to cement our local friendship in your beautiful and loved spiritual home.

A Summer Serenade

A warm welcome was given again to both Andrew and Ann as they gave a lunchtime recital on the 22nd June at The Old Meeting House in Mansfield. It was a beautiful and varied programme played on both the organ and piano, music of which included, CS Lang, Bach, Handel and many others. Everyone enjoyed the recital and thanked Andrew and Ann for a delightful, relaxing lunchtime of wonderful music.



Martin and Sheila's Summer Travels

Martin has kindly submitted two items about his summer holiday with his wife Sheila. It sounds like a relaxing getaway.

“This summer, Sheila and I holidayed in Barbados, our first visit and chance to tour the tropical island, well known for the glorious palm tree lined beaches. The island history follows the wide scale involuntary shipment of slaves from Africa to fuel the labour requirements of the new Tobacco and Sugar plantations either financed by, or owned, by wealthy British institutions. The plantations often owned by absentee landlords and run by local managers. Readers of THE RECORD may well remember the story of African slavery depicted so well many years ago on television titled “ROOTS”. Fortunately, slavery was abolished on the island in the 1830's and former slaves were given the right to buy parcels of land but many moved on to South Carolina. The island tour also gave us a glimpse of the strong religious culture, mainly Christian, that had grown with the country's development. As we toured the island each small hamlet had a church no bigger than an ordinary house, probably accommodating a congregation of up to twenty people. My continuing reflection of the Caribbean is an area of the world where England, in particular, profited from this terrible trade and we must continue to be ashamed. The lovely Barbadians are proud of their country and spoke of the change that has taken place since it became independent of the British Government. The Barbados economy is once again led by the needs of others (tourists) outside their country and offers a warm welcome to all visitors.”



UNEXPECTED MEETING

On a recent holiday to Barbados, my wife and I booked an island tour as tourists do. Only the two of us till two more passengers climbed from another hotel. After a while conversation picked up and the man said that he was here for the T20 cricket. I naturally thought he was an ordinary supporter, but shortly afterwards he added that he was President of the Indian Cricket Federation currently playing on the island. As the guide stopped at a few places, I was amazed to see “my man” being recognised and photographed by obvious Indian supporters. He modestly enjoyed the simple recognition and at last he gave me his name and background.

He played international cricket for India, playing in the 1983 World Cup against England and took a handful of wickets. His name is Roger Binny and his full cricket history is there on Google. He was the first player of Scottish descendance to play for India and now runs a successful farm in southern India with tigers periodically appearing at his garden fence!

Next time you go on a trip you never know who you will meet!

Martin Barrett

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

- Congregational Toolkit – Safeguarding Training

The GA will provide access to 31:8's safeguarding training for trustees and other local leaders, who will also be able to join a monthly 'safeguarding clinic' for general advice about developing and implementing a safe and healthy culture in their congregation. EC members will also be taking up safeguarding training. This training for trustees will be part of the new Congregational Toolkit that provides resources and information to congregations and Districts.

- Innovation Challenge

If Congregations have ideas about how they would like to develop their church/their community, congregations can apply for Development Grants to the Executive Committee (up to £5000 for groundwork and research before a full bid is developed) and for 'early adopters' to be submitting the first full grants early in 2025. The EC are happy to be in informal conversation with any prospective grant applicants in the meantime.

- Ministry

Rory Castle Jones presented his findings to the EC from 40 one-to-one interviews with ministers. The findings will be shared with ministers, congregations, colleges and other key partners so that we can explore how we collectively take forward the recommendations to strengthen ministry.

- **Review of the General Assembly's communication function**

The EC identified three priorities:

- a) Developing key messages that will be meaningful to 'not yet Unitarian' audiences
- b) Strengthening and streamlining internal communication with the GA membership and other parts of the Unitarian ecosystem.
- c) Supporting congregations to build their capacity to get their compelling message to their local communities.

- **Faith in Our Future ii – event**

Come and join an enriching gathering of climate conscious Unitarians for discussion and workshops.

At Cross Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester.

Saturday 14 September 2024 from 10.30 to 4 pm

£10 donation or £5 concession rate. Lunch Provided.

Book by going online to www.tinyurl.com/faithfuturell

- **Unite for Justice Event organized by the Social Justice Network**

“If you are passionate about making the world a fairer place to come together and inspire each other” you are invited to this event on 5 October 11 am to 3 pm at Kensington Unitarian Chapel, London. Travel Bursaries are available. To register email ahowell@unitartion.org.uk

Did you know?

In July

1631, 21 July – Charles 1 confirmed the charters of preceding monarchs, and granted four fairs to Chesterfield: 28 February, 4 May, for two days, 4 July, and 14 September for eight days.

1662, 24 August – “The Rev. John Billingsley ejected from the living of Chesterfield, by the passing of the Bartholomew Act”. The Bartholomew Act or the Act of Uniformity in 1662 established the Book of Common Prayer as the sole legal form of worship in England. Some clergy could not accept this and this resulted in what is known as the Great Ejection, where a large number of ministers were effectively forced out of their positions in the Church of England. Rev Billingsley founded what is now the Elder Yard congregation in 1662.

In August

1776, 17 August – The Rev. John Wesley visited Chesterfield for the first time. John, and his younger brother, Charles, was the founder of the Methodist movement.

Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

July

On Sunday 21 July, starting 10am. Starting at The Red Lion 570 Sheffield Road, S41 8LX
- ***THE PARADE***. Hosted by *The Chesterfield Pride March*

On Sunday 21 July at 1pm at Stand Road Park (after THE PARADE)

- ***Chesterfield Pride***, the region's largest LGBTQ + celebration. Ticket event.

For more information about both of the above please go online to chesterfieldpride.co.uk

August

On the last Sunday of each month from 10am to 4pm, Chesterfield Town Centre

- ***The Artisan Market***, high quality, authentic goods with the emphasis on local ethical and original.

Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Community Services that can help in time of need.

- ***Derbyshire Adult Continence Service***.

For specialist support with bladder and bowel problems.

Self-refer by phoning 01773 546868 or email continence.advisoryservice@nhs.net

- ***Derbyshire All Age Carers Support Service***

Caring for someone can be rewarding for a carer but also stressful, both physically and emotionally. This service provides support with the demands of being a carer. Complete a secure online referral form at <https://derbyshirecarers.co.uk/how-do-i-access-carer-services>
Alternatively ring 01773 833833, Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

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

“If I had my way, I’d remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead.”

Roald Dahl, British Author, 1916 to 1990.

"Hot weather opens the skull of a city, exposing its white brain, and its heart of nerves, which sizzle like the wires inside a lightbulb. And there exudes a sour extra-human smell that makes the very stone seem flesh-alive, webbed and pulsing."

Truman Capote, American Novelist and Screenwriter, 1924 to 1984 from
“Summer Crossing”

“Climate change isn’t just hotter weather. Warmer temperatures also mean there’s more moisture in the air, which means more severe storms and flooding”

Greenpeace.

“So I went down my local ice-cream shop, and said “I want to buy an ice-cream”. He said “Hundreds & thousands?” I said “We’ll start with one.” Tim Vine, Comedian

“I’ve just been on a once-in-a-lifetime holiday. I’ll tell you what, never again”. Tim Vine

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

