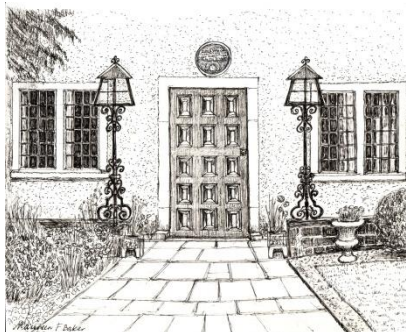


Founded 1662 Building 1694



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 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter

“May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope.”

Emily Bronte (English novelist and poet, 1818 - 1848).

“It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside.” (Maud Hart Lovelace, 1892 – 1980. American Writer).

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 May to August 2024

12th May - Rev. Maria Pap
16th June - Rev. Maria Pap
14th July – NO SERVICE
11th August - Rev. Maria Pap

Dates September to December 2024

8th September - Rev. Maria Pap
13th October - Rev. Maria Pap
10th November – Peter Rowson
15th Dec - Rev. Maria Pap. Xmas Service

Update from Elder Yard Trustees

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

The following agenda items were discussed:

- The January minutes were approved.
- Ann summarised the success of the coffee mornings and re-gifting stall. Unsold items from the re-gifting stall were taken across to the Oxfam Shop. We will now hold the coffee mornings on a monthly basis. Most dates are the last Saturday of the month, but this is not always feasible. Andrew has had an excellent banner for the coffee mornings printed, and it will be put up outside when they are taking place. See the “Coffee mornings” section of this newsletter for the dates.

- The noticeboard outside has been mended and is looking good.
- The chapel Spring Clean went well. Thank you to those who were able to help.
- Sarah prepared a draft safeguarding policy document. Martin reviewed it and made changes he felt were helpful. Sarah will inform trustees of any local safeguarding training and they can book on independently as they see fit.
- Sarah passed on information to trustees about free one-off training events for Chesterfield area community group members, being run by Chesterfield Borough Council. This includes, recruiting and training volunteers, health and safety, marketing and fund raising and grants. Two trustees, so far, have booked on to the volunteers, marketing and funding training sessions.
- Finance was discussed and the accounts were thoroughly reviewed. The chapel has spent several thousands of pounds on vital internal upgrading and maintenance and on maintenance outside. 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. The heating for the chapel costs more than ideal, but this is a reflection of the general rise in the cost of utilities.
- Finance – the Chapel has been awarded another generous donation from the Unity Trust and this will help with the cost of the redecoration of areas of building.
- Ann explained correspondence she has dealt with.
- Ann has been unable to arrange a leader for the July service and so there will not be a service in that month.
- The Heritage Open Days will be on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th of September when the chapel will be open from 10 am to 4 pm for members of the public, and refreshments will be served. The chapel will be open for the Sunday service on 8th September at 3 pm.
- Mansfield Unitarian Chapel has invited Edler Yard congregation members to attend their service and programme of events on Sunday 19th May. See the relevant section in the newsletter.
- The next trustee meeting will be held on Weds 24th July at 2 pm

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 refurbished noticeboard is up and looks great. The two new Yew Trees are ready to plant thanks to Janet and Sarah. Martin has treated and jet-washed the paths outside – many thanks to him. We are collecting quotes for the redecoration of the downstairs rooms and I hope this work will happen by the end of June. There are plenty of little painting and garden jobs to be done which I will tackle as the weather improves. If you want to help just tell me! (Andrew)



Saturday Lunchtime Concerts

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

May 18 th Vocal music (Cantiamo)

June 8 th Song recital (Will Burn)

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

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 10 am to 12 pm:

May 25th

June 29th

July 27th

August 24th

There will also be a Christmas coffee morning and re-gifting stall on Saturday 7th December.

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

An invitation to Mansfield Unitarian Church Friendship Service

A reminder of the invitation from Rev Maria Pap for anyone from Elder Yard to attend the Friendship Service at the Mansfield Chapel on Sunday 19th May from 10 am with the service starting at 11 am. There is food and various programmes afterwards. If you wish to attend 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.

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.

- **There are a whole range of “key messages” from the last executive meeting and annual meetings in April. These points are a flavour, in brief:**
- Audio Recordings from the Annual Meetings. The Assembly states, “We are very pleased to have several audio recordings from the meetings, Chief Officer Liz Slade's introduction at the first plenary, the Keynote Speaker Roman Krznaric on 'How we become good ancestors', and the full Anniversary Service, led by Rory Castle Jones with Ant Howe as our Anniversary Preacher. (Please note that we have used the People So Bold podcast space to publish these recordings, but they are not directly related to the podcast.)
- ***Special Event: ‘Meet the Honorary Treasurer’***
On Wednesday 15 May at 12.30 pm
John Bates has been appointed as the General Assembly's new Honorary Treasurer, as of our April annual meetings. For those of you who weren't there, or who haven't yet had a chance to get to know him, we invite you to join an open Zoom meeting to hear more about the role of Honorary Treasurer, and John's perspective on the GA's financial picture as he takes on this role.
Zoom details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83702812383?pwd=eU10TjIqYTVaa3E0Y1owTlV6NkhVQT09>
Meeting ID: 837 0281 2383
Passcode: 890931

- *The Unitarian Historical Society* is for everyone with an interest in our history, locally, nationally and internationally. This includes people, buildings and places. The newly created website is <https://unitarianhistory.org.uk>
- *Hucklow Summer School, Sustainable Living*. Monday 19th August to Monday 26th. A residential experience at the Nightingale Centre, now open for on line applications.

A Stunning Change in Use

Martin's son has sent in a photograph of how he has used some old slates from the roof of the Chapel, rather than they remain unused. They look stunning, and this photo highlights the size of the slates.



Did you know?

In May

1887, May. The very large Firth's Works at Whittington closed. Established in 1856, they had made puddled steel and various rolled products. Their products included telegraph poles and some were sold internationally, including steel railway carriages for use in India.

In June

1777, June. The Chesterfield Canal was completed and the first vessel was brought to the town.

1914, 11 June. Chesterfield Parish Church was closed to visitors because of violent protests by suffragettes burning churches in the country.

Elder Yard Chapel had our own suffragist (non-violent), Emma Miller (nee Holmes), born 26 June 1839, daughter of Daniel Holmes (Unitarian cordwainer) and his wife Martha Hollingworth. Following in the political activism of her father, Emma eventually moved to Australia and is well known there as a pioneer trades union activist, women's rights campaigner and is viewed by many as the founder of the Queensland Labour Party. She died in 1917.

Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

May

On Tuesday 14 May, from 2 till 3pm.

- *The Pill Box Maker, the Cork Inserter and the Money Printer*

A guided tour of Spital Cemetery to find out more about the industrialists, inventors and entrepreneurs who are buried there. The cemetery is on a steep hillside. Dogs can be taken, but they must be on a lead.

This is part of the Chesterfield Area Walking Festival. Booking is essential.

<https://www.visitchesterfield.info/whats-on>

Phone 01246 345777

June

On Saturday 8 June from 10 am to 4pm.

- *George Stephenson Day* at Holy Trinity Church 31 Newbold Road, Chesterfield S41 7PG.

Free Entry, though donations to two local charities would be welcome. At 11am Learn about the life of George Stephenson and at 2.30pm Discover George's links with Chesterfield.

Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Community Services that can help in time of need.

- Garden Assistance Schemes for council tenants who are elderly or disabled.

Chesterfield Borough Council provide a garden service for small fees (depending on what needs doing). Phone 01246 345354 or email garden.assistance@chesterfield.gov.uk

Click on this link for more information <https://www.chesterfield.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants/services-for-tenants/garden-assistance-scheme.aspx>

North East Derbyshire Council provide a similar service. Click on this link for more information.

<https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/environmental-health/services-and-provisions/grass-cutting-verges-tree-pruning-and-hedge-cutting#Assist>

Telephone 01246 217610 or email groundsmaintenance@ne-derbyshire.gov.uk

- The Cinnamon Trust

This national charity provides peace of mind and practical support to dog owners who are elderly or terminally ill, so that they can take on a new dog or maintain their care of their existing dog. The special relationship between owner and pet adds incalculably to the quality of life for both. For example, if necessary, a volunteer can regularly walk a dog, and provision can be made for the continuing care and love of the dog when the owner passes away. For more information see their website <https://cinnamon.org.uk> or telephone 01736 757900.

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

“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate:
Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May,
And summer’s lease hath all too short a date:”

(Extract from Sonnet 18 by William Shakespeare, 1564 –1616. English playwright & poet)

“June is the best month to remind yourself that you are enough. The sun shines for you, birds sing for you, and flowers bloom for you. So don’t forget to smile for you.” (Our MindfulLife.com)

“Life is mainly froth and bubble
Two things stand like stone.
Kindness in another’s trouble,
Courage in your own.”
(Adam Lindsay Gordon. Australian poet and politician, 1833 -1870).

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

