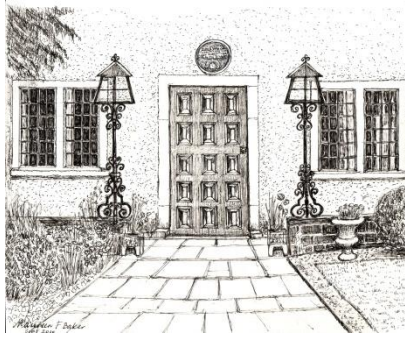


**Founded 1662**



**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](http://www.chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk)

General email: [info@chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk](mailto: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 November/December 2024***

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## **Welcome to our Newsletter**

Welcome to the last newsletter of 2024. The time seems to fly by. We hope that you have opportunity to relax with family and friends over the traditional Christmas holiday period, but we remember those who might feel lonely and those who might struggle to make Christmas what they would like it to be for their children.

Happy Christmas to you all and a peaceful New Year.

### **Details of services and leaders**

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

**10 November – Peter Rowson**

**8 December – Rev. Maria Papp**

The **Christmas Service** will include some festive a cappella singing by local ladies choir: Aurora. The choir is a firm favourite and we encourage you to invite family members and friends, so they don't miss out on this festive musical treat.



The January 2025 service is on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm.**



### **Saturday Lunchtime Concerts**

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

- November 16th Choral Music with Wyncs Tor Singers from Winster
- December 21st Christmas Piano Duets David Mayo-Braiden & Andrew Marples

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



## **Christmas Coffee Morning and Re-Gifting Stall**

There will be a Christmas coffee morning and re-gifting stall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, from 10am to 1pm. Please let Sarah or Ann have any new, or nearly new items for the stall. Last year's stall was successful with all sorts of donations, for example, books, toiletries, picture frames, car accessories etc.

Any baking left over from the Saturday coffee morning will be used at the Christmas Chapel Service the following day.



## **Coffee Mornings**

We intend to run coffee mornings again next Spring and Summer, and we will promote the dates and details once these have been agreed amongst the trustees.



## **Maintenance update**

Various electrical testing and works have taken place and the gas boilers have been serviced recently. The loo area will be repainted and tidied next as well as various masonry jobs outside. The chapel is looking neat and well-looked after - ready for our busy Winter events.

## **Elder Yard Trustee Meeting**

The last Meeting was held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August and the next one was to be held on Wednesday 15 November. However, this meeting has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, and the next meeting will take place in January 2025.

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](mailto:tillypretoria2@btinternet.com)

## **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.

### ***CIO work continues***

The work to move the General Assembly towards a change in charitable status to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation is progressing. Feedback is now with the solicitors to make amendments.

***Saving lives in Gaza and Lebanon: honouring GA resolutions.*** In April, the Unitarian membership passed a resolution to say that our movement "grieves and deplores the recent events in Israel and Gaza, including the actions of Hamas on the 7th October 2023 and the subsequent response by the Government of Israel, and called upon Unitarians to urge political leaders to pursue an immediate halt to the current conflict."

The resolution also called for the Unitarian movement to support humanitarian relief efforts in the region through recognised charities.

The UK government is currently matching pound-for-pound donations made to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) which goes directly to 15 member charities, including the Red Cross and Christian Aid which Unitarians have long supported. We encourage individuals and congregations to give generously: [DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal](#)  
***The Congregational Support Toolkit*** is now live! It is full of many of the tools that congregations need, from safeguarding advice to sample hall rental agreements, to branded poster templates.

### **Heritage Weekend – 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

Another year and a wonderful and very busy few days everyone had on the opening of our beautiful Chapel for the Heritage Weekend.

I would just like to thank, the Cleaners, the Florists, the Bakers, the Washer-upers, and the talkers for all their help and hard work because with you, the volunteers, the open day was a great success.

Thanks too should go to Andrew for ensuring that the outside and gardens were looking beautiful as well as the inside.

The Visitors who came through the doors were very impressed with the friendly, relaxed welcome and the beauty of our Chapel. I know it is hard work getting it ready and manning the two days, but I think it is still well worth it to see the smiles on the faces of the many people who passed through the Chapel door that weekend.

In total we had 156 visitors many of whom enjoyed having a chat and refreshments with us, plus, donations totalling £200.27 (including in this total was the sum of £10 for two of our History Booklets).

Thank you to everyone for all your help in making this yet another successful Heritage Weekend. *Ann Shutt*

### **Did you know?**

#### ***In November***

*1910, November 9<sup>th</sup>*. Chesterfield Borough was extended so that it now included parts of the urban districts of Brampton, Walton, Newbold, Dunston, and parts of the townships of Calow and Hasland.

#### ***In December***

*1566*. In 1232 burgesses were appointed in Chesterfield but had limited powers. However, in 1566 the Chancery issued patents to the burgesses, one confirming renewal of the 1232 Charter. In this renewal the burgesses are now described as “free burgesses of the town”. This is an important upgrade as they had previously been known as “men of the town of Chesterfield”. They had increased powers.

*1911, December 27* - A fire at The Palace Theatre sadly resulted in the death of five girls. The Palace Theatre opened in 1910 and showed films and a mix of variety acts performed between the screenings. It was situated at the junction of Burlington Street and Church Street in what had previously been the premises of the Derbyshire Courier.

## **Oranges and Angels** (Rev. Maria Papp)

In my childhood the month of December meant two extraordinary events: the coming of angels, who brought our Christmas gifts and, if we were lucky, the oranges or an orange to be had for Christmas Eve.

Let me start with the orange – an exotic fruit in Transylvania not really seen on the shelves of the shops except around Christmas and not free for all – you could buy just a couple and as time went on and the rationing went mad you were allowed just one. So you treasured it and kept it for Christmas Eve, when you peeled it with awe and its rich fragrance lingered in the room for a while. Even after all these decades and even now when I can have all the oranges I wish for on and off season, the orange remains for me associated to Christmas.

The angels, like the oranges, have not gone away either, though their fascination had their ebb and flow in my life. It was a sad day when I learned that the angels of my imagination – cherubic faces with human body and wings dispensing gifts right and left and not holding account of one`s wrongdoings - wore the body of “mere mortals”- my parents and family. While the love and craving for oranges did not change, my relationship with the angels did: after feeling deceived and cheated, I put them away from my life until they came back with the Bible studies at Seminary. They came in hosts – both in the Old and the New Testament; they had names and individuality, they took sides and fought battles; kept scores of rights and wrongs; brought good news and bad and generally made a nuisance of themselves. They came back with a vengeance as I came to understand what most of us do – that angels are symbols of forces that operate within every one of us.; they are metaphors for some of our most basic drives: love, hate, greed, compassion, generosity, fear, despair, hope.

In a way the “mere mortal” face of the angels is highly appropriate as according to the Jewish tradition, we are creating our own angels through our choices, through our deeds. The Christmas story is full of angels, some specifically mentioned as angels – coming individually or as a heavenly choir – others under different names, yet angels none the less. Am I confusing you now? We have the angels and then we have the rest of the characters in the Christmas story, like the shepherds or the wise men, or Herod. They are not angels, or are they?

The Hebrew word for angel is “malakh”- meaning “messenger” and everyone in the nativity story is a messenger, whether his/her message is articulated in words or in deeds or in character. The message they convey remains powerful until this day because we recognize ourselves, our situation, our dreams, hopes, our troubles in them all.

This December, I will eat oranges and hold on to my angels: those that I create and those that we create together for each other and for the world. I will try to the best of my abilities to create guardian angels and I invite you to do likewise.

We – and the whole world – are sorely in need of them.

Merry Christmas.

## **Reflecting on life in my childhood** (Martin Barrett)

Born fifteen months after the end of the war I was one of the many “baby boomers”.

Sheffield was THE steel city and on the move. There was a job for every youngster leaving school unlike the changing world in Sheffield thirty years later when economic conditions changed matters dramatically.

Our family lived in Crookes, an easy walk downhill to town. Dad bought his first car, a Ford Anglia, it had to be black as colours were rare!. Unity Church was just down

the road so if pushed we could leave home 10 minutes before service started.

I must have been five years of age when King George died and I can still vividly remember standing with my mum, in silence, close to the Town Hall when cannon were fired from the Peace Gardens.

“Unity” had a healthy cubs and scouts with camp being the highlight of the summer season.

Communication was so different to the woes of today, however you want to look at it. Letter writing was the norm and telephone systems were still quite basic. We had a “party line” phone where we shared a line with neighbours, so you had to replace the receiver if they were making a call. Could today’s teenagers handle the concept of red phone boxes with button A and button B (to get your money back if no answer!) My energies were always spent with class mates, who lived round the corner, playing football or cricket on the street. It was a time of freedom for children when parents had few worries about child safety that we have today, but I do wonder how much the computer kids of today have lost out in child development, compared to my time.

I hear so much today of worried parents talking about the isolation of their children from “family life” living lives in their bedroom and the dangers we know so well from modern technology. My bedroom was for sleep and it was unthinkable to “retreat” to my room as a personal escape.

Sex before marriage was a taboo in the ‘60s and how things have now changed.

Fortunately, being gay is now an open subject and worthy of national rights.

I was lucky to be born in 1946, ready for the “swinging sixties” the best decade ever!

Happy memories

## **Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire**

### ***November***

- **Christmas Lights Switch-on** on Sunday 17 November 12 till 6 pm. Switch-on at 4.45 pm in New Square, Chesterfield Town Centre.

- ***Chesterfield Observatory Open Evening*** - from 25 Nov to 29 Nov. Various Open Times  
Email: [cas@chesterfield-observatory.co.uk](mailto:cas@chesterfield-observatory.co.uk) Phone 07517510083 Also on Facebook

### ***December***

- ***Cinderella Pantomime*** from 29 Nov to Tuesday 31 December at The Winding Wheel Theatre.

Accessible performances:

- Signed BSL performance on Sat 14 Dec at 1 pm.

- Audio Described performance Sunday 22 Dec 1pm and 5.30 pm.

- Touch Tour around the set for blind and partially sighted on Sunday 22 Dec at 4 pm.

- Relaxed performance for those with learning disabilities and other sensory and communication needs on Friday 27 Dec at 2pm.

Book tickets through <https://chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk/shows/cinderella-pantomime/>

## **Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire**

Community Services that can help in time of need.

**Community Neurodiversity Drop-in Hubs** – four hubs across Derbyshire to support children, young people, their families and their carers.

Neurodivergence includes conditions such as autism spectrum, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, foetal alcohol syndrome, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and social anxiety.

The “neuro hubs” provide early support – without the need for an assessment or diagnosis, and will support children, young people aged up to 25, their families and carers.

For Chesterfield –

Drop ins Wednesday 10am to 3pm, Friday 10am to 1pm

Monkey Park Community Hub, 128a Chester Street, Chesterfield S40 1DN

07874 941890     [neurohub@fair-play.co.uk](mailto:neurohub@fair-play.co.uk)     [www.monkeypark.org.uk](http://www.monkeypark.org.uk)

**The Asian Association of Chesterfield and North Derbyshire** – aims to promote the culture, education, health and welfare of local Asian people. Provides facilities, cultural activities, educational and recreational activities. At the moment service users include Bangladeshi, Indian, Nepali, Pakistani and British people.

Contact - 01246 297452     [info@asianassociationchesterfield.org](mailto:info@asianassociationchesterfield.org)

Penmore Business Centre, Unit 3, Saxton Close, Hasland, S41 0SJ

If you would like to suggest a Community Service for inclusion in a future newsletter, please let Sarah know on [sarah.sheila18@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk)

General email: [info@chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk](mailto:info@chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk)

*Any contributions for the newsletter may be sent by email to: [sarah.sheila18@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

