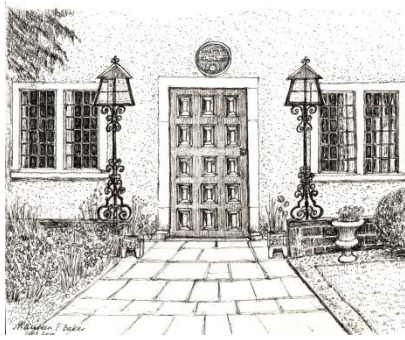


Founded 1662



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 September/October 2024

Welcome to our Newsletter

Although we have had mixed weather this summer, it is hard to contemplate Autumn and Winter just around the corner. In time, the jumpers and coats come out of the cupboard for regular use and switching on the central heating becomes more a necessity rather than an option.

Traditional harvest time is a celebration of the harvesting of crops and a time to give thanks for the food we have to eat; a time to also consider the food inequality in our world.

In September the Chapel welcomes visitors as part of the National Heritage Open Day scheme. Some visitors ask about Unitarian beliefs and core values and we have leaflets that provide a basic explanation. The Unitarian faith:

- is not evangelical
- does not have a specified list of things to believe
- is sceptical about any one tradition or person possessing the whole truth
- supports freedom of religious thought, with individuals forming their own religious principles from conscience, thinking and life's experience. Unitarians tolerate a wide range of religious ideas, including humanism
- believes in gender equality. Elder Yard Chapel undertakes same sex marriage ceremonies.

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 September to October 2024

8th September - Rev. Maria Pap

13th October - Rev. Maria Pap

Dates November to December 2024

10th November – Peter Rowson

15th Dec - Rev. Maria Pap. Xmas Service

Maintenance update



The re-decoration of the entrance hall, lobby and kitchen is complete and the vestry has had the ceiling done after water damage. Huge thanks to local decorator Ryan Farrell who did the work. The next project is the loo and cloakroom area! Andrew has spent time in August painting all the entrance steps with white edges, including the car-park steps.

Saturday Lunchtime Concerts



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

- September 28th Chamber Music with Muskoka Wind Quintet from Sheffield
- October 19th Choral Music with Farnaby & Co. from Nottingham
- November 16th Choral Music with Wyns 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.

Coffee Mornings



We held the last of the Spring/Summer coffee mornings on Saturday 24th of August, and we welcomed Andrew's family, friends and associates in particular. In a previous coffee morning, Janet had invited her friends and colleagues from the Oxfam Charity shop and we were very busy thanks to this. All donations will go to chapel funds.

We have yet to decide on the arrangements for coffee mornings next year.

Christmas Coffee Morning and Re-Gifting Stall



There will also be a Christmas coffee morning and re-gifting stall on Saturday 7th 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. Unsold items were taken to the Oxfam Shop to be sold there.

Any baking left over from the Saturday re-gifting stall will be used at the Christmas Chapel Service on Sunday 8 December.

Janet, Ann and Sarah regularly help out, but if you would like to get involved you would be very welcome. Any donations of mince pies, 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

Elder Yard Trustee Meeting

The latest Meeting was held on Wednesday 7th August at 2pm.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

This meeting was chaired by Alan Shutt and notes were taken by Ann Shutt.

- Coffee Mornings. Attendance has been unpredictable, but the last one was well attended.
- Safeguarding. Sarah to identify suitable safeguarding training. Sarah to draw up an Aid Memoire re Safeguarding processes and safe storage of information. Policy doc to be ratified at the next meeting.
- Talked about the Fellowship Service at Mansfield Chapel held in May and our intention to reciprocate in some form next year.
- Service Leaders. Ann will make arrangements for the future.
- Correspondence. Only correspondence related to an invitation to attend the launch of the Heritage Weekend at Sheffield.
- Maintenance. The painting inside and outside of the chapel has had a positive impact (see Maintenance Update). The work is to a good standard at a reasonable price. There is more that needs doing. The upstairs boiler has been serviced. More rendering needs doing this summer. Andrew will organise PAT testing of certain electric equipment.
- Treasurer report. Martin gave a brief summary of the finances and he will send out latest bank account info' to trustees when the minutes of this meeting are issued.
- Weddings. So far, there are two booked – one on 10/8/24 and one on 17/9/25. There have been some recent enquiries about possible future weddings at the chapel.
- Baptisms. None planned.
- Any other business. There is a district service on 25/8/24 in Sheffield. South Yorkshire District are proposing an Annual District Service each year to coincide with the presidential visit. Proposed that Chesterfield will hold this in 2027.
- Heritage Open Days. Andrew has organised features in local publications and the Chesterfield and District Civic Society has agreed to put details on their website. Ann will type up and issue the volunteer “staffing” rota for the event.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 15th 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

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.

- ***New Administrators' Network*** – monthly on-line support network on the second Friday of the month at 12.30 for about 30 mins. For church secretaries, venue managers etc. To share ideas, resources and good practice. Contact Lizzie Kingston-Harrison for the link.
- ***Congregational Support Toolkit*** – to be showcased online on Monday 9 September at 7.30pm.
- ***The 'innovation challenge' matched funding scheme***
The General Assembly is recruiting a manager to coordinate the roll-out of this funding, which will support congregations/districts in investing in local leadership, whether that is ministry, administration, communication, or a new project. This funding will be available for several years. Congregations need to have a clear idea and plan about how to use the funding for the benefit of their church and community.

- *Unitarian On Line Sunday Christian Worship at 6pm.* Led by the Unitarian Christian Association.

Wedding

We were delighted to have a Wedding at the Chapel on Saturday the 10th August between Hannah Finney and Liam Parkinson. Hannah looked beautiful in her gown, and we must not forget Liam, who wore a kilt. There were joyous hymns and laughter filling the Chapel which everyone who attended enjoyed. Our thanks go to Rev. Maria Pap who conducted such a lovely ceremony and to Andrew for playing the organ to such beautiful music. It was, may I say, a day to remember for all.

Ann Shutt

National Heritage Open Days – Elder Yard on Friday 6th & Saturday 7th September 10 am to 4 pm.

Once again, Andrew has registered the Chapel with this scheme and we are delighted to open the Chapel to the public. It is a chance for people who aren't involved with the Chapel to drop-in and take a look at the building they've probably passed many times and wondered what it looks like inside; from Elder Way, it can look like a big old house?

It is lovely to hear visitors without any knowledge of the Chapel, give positive feedback and to sometimes be pleasantly surprised by what they find. Other visitors come along because they have a family/historical connection to the Chapel, and to help them with this we can sometimes show them baptismal and wedding records, or the plan of the burial plot.

We are grateful to Chesterfield and District Civic Society for featuring our Heritage Open Days in the promotional information on their website.

You can find it at <http://www.chesterfieldcivicsociety.org.uk> and click on the Heritage Open Days section.

Please spread the invitation to the Chapel open days as widely as you can.

Those who regularly bake for the Chapel coffee mornings will be providing some tasty items for visitors and if anyone else would like to bake or donate some bought baked items, they would be gratefully received. Please let Sarah know if you can help with this sarah.sheila18@gmail.com

Elder Yard is on the Map

We're delighted that the Chapel is now included in the "Explore Chesterfield" town trail which is produced by Chesterfield and District Civic Society and published by the Chesterfield and District Local History Society.

The Civic Society also provide a 'Chesterfield's Black and White Buildings' trail, which is devised and self-published by local historian Janet Murphy. Elder Yard is a neighbour to many of these unique buildings, but perhaps we don't know much about the origin of the distinctive design and decoration?

Andrew kindly arranged our inclusion in the "Explore Chesterfield" town trail and he has printed off several copies of both of the trails, which will be available at the chapel from the Heritage Open Days onwards.

A Hidden Gem of North Yorkshire – Alan Shutt

In July Ann and I spent a week on the fringe of the North York Moors at a farm above the village of Kirkbymoorside.

On the Sunday morning I took Mollie for a walk to the nearby church of St Gregory's Minster in the hamlet of Kirkdale. Google maps indicated a 'mainly level' way which turned out to be steady downhill; no matter, the weather was dry, if overcast, and the views suitably long distance in places and there were wide green grass verges alongside the country lane. At the bottom of the hill the road forked right to a ford, over which after some heavy rains in recent days the waters of Hodge Beck were flowing fast; had we been driving I would have turned back. However, there was a short footbridge a little above the ford which though a tad slippery gave ready access. A short climb uphill brought us to the Minster, at the centre of its stone walled graveyard.

I was pleased to find the door was open. Mollie and I had the little church to ourselves; it had the calm tranquillity of Elder Yard, but even greater antiquity. A brief history on a table as we entered revealed that a sundial on a stone slab in the porch had been inscribed at the time of Earl Tostig, a relative of the Harold who was defeated by William the Conqueror in 1066. It seems that the sundial stone is a survival of that period of a church built on the site of an even earlier Saxon church. The current church incorporates elements from succeeding centuries but the sense of a place of hallowed worship surviving over more than one thousand years was strong.

I sat quietly in a pew to absorb the peace and said a few prayers of thanks for this tranquil place and hopes for more peace in our current troubled times.

As we left the churchyard and turned for home the threatened rain began in earnest. Mollie and I began our dogged trudge home up the 'mainly level' hill in the persistent rain. Nevertheless, the beauty of the sanctuary of Kirkdale Minster was worth it. Should you be in the area and want to try a less strenuous visit there is a small car park next to the church.



Picture scanned from a pamphlet by Richard Fletcher
Views of the interior taken on my phone, July 2024



Did you know?

In September

1870, Christ Church Stonegravels was consecrated. It was erected in 1869 (as a chapel of ease to Holy Trinity Church). The architect was S. Rollinson of Chesterfield.

In October

1642, October 17th – Sir John Gell marched into Chesterfield with his regiment, and raised 240 men with the beat of a drum. Sir John was High Sheriff of Derbyshire when he was commissioned as Colonel to raise a Parliamentarian regiment during the English Civil War (1642 to 1651)

1756, October 21st – The Snelzter organ opened at the Church (St Mary's and All Saints) at a cost of £500. (The organ was seriously damaged in the fire of 1961)

Some Forthcoming Events in and around Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

September

- **The Repair Café**, 21st September 2024 from 10am to 1pm at Chesterfield Baptist Church on Cross Street, Chesterfield S41 4ST.

Run by Transition Chesterfield. Repair of small electrical items, like toasters, clothing jewellery, tools and wooden furniture. All items need to be booked in by 12.15pm. No charge, but donations are welcome. Cannot repair microwave ovens or white goods.

- **Apple Pressing**, Saturday 28th September, from 10am to pm at the Pavilion, Holmebrook Valley Park. Enjoy free tasting, a kid's apple trail, and seed swapping. Or bring your own apples and bottles to participate in the pressing.

October

- **Chesterfield Menagerie Exhibition** running from 13th September to 12th October 2024 at The Assembly Rooms, Chesterfield Market Hall. Hours of opening vary.

Organised by Chesterfield Museum.

Celebrating animals through items from Chesterfield Museum's collection.

Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

Community Services that can help in time of need.

- *African Caribbean Community Association*

Promotes the welfare of the African and Caribbean Community in Chesterfield and surrounding areas in particular, by providing opportunities for African and Caribbean people to meet socially for mutual support and/or perform in artistic and cultural activities.

Unit 2, Penmore Business Centre, Off Hasland Road, Hasland, Chesterfield S41 0SJ.

Phone 01246 208052, 07940 285534, 07940807012

Email accchesterfield@gmail.com

- *Asthma and Lung UK*

For independent, confidential advice and support contact their Respiratory Nurse and Health Care Advisors.

<https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/>

Tel 03002225800 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm)

Email helpline@asthmaandlung.org.uk

WhatsApp helpline for asthma at 07999377775

Their specialist nurses can offer support with any aspect of lung conditions.

The organisation provides groups, support and blogs.

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

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

by Iris Hessleden

When the night is dark – reach out for a star.

When the world disappoints you –
reach out for your dreams.

When sadness surrounds you – reach out for love.

And always, always, reach out for hope!

Hope is..... Only a prayer away.

A PRAYER FOR YOU

by Iris Hessleden

God bless you every moment

And keep you in His care,

God send you gifts of hope and joy

And happiness to share.

God walk with you each morning

And send His guiding light,

And may His everlasting peace

Give restful sleep at night.

God take your hand in trouble,

In turmoil and in strife,

And may the comfort of His love

Forever fill your life.

Submitted by Ann Shutt.

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

