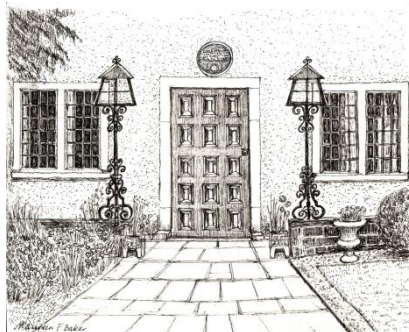


Founded 1662



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 2025

Welcome to our Newsletter

Details of services and leaders for 2025

Services are held on the second Sunday of each month and start at 3pm. All are welcome.

13 July	Katherine & Peter Faulkner	12 Oct	Rev. Maria Pap
10 Aug	Rev. Maria Pap	9 Nov	Rev. Maria Pap
14 Sept	Rev. Maria Pap	14 Dec	Rev. Maria Pap

Flower Communion Service

In September we will hold a Flower Communion Service at Elder Yard for the very first time and below is a short introduction about this service.

The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek (1870-1942), who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together. The format had to be one that would not alienate any who had forsaken other religious traditions.

The traditional Christian communion service with bread and wine was unacceptable to the members of his congregation because of their strong reaction against the Catholic faith. So, he turned to the native beauty of their countryside for elements of a

communion which would be genuine to them and the Flower Communion service was the result. It was such a success that it spread to many Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregation around the world.

People were asked to bring a flower of their choice, either from their own gardens. or from the field or roadside. When they arrived at church a large vase stood waiting in the vestibule, each person was asked to place their own flower in the vase. This signified that it was by their own free will they joined with the others. The vase that contained all the flowers was a symbol of the united church fellowship and was placed at the front at the beginning of the service.

After the service, as people left the church, they went to the vase and each took a flower from the vase other than the one that they had brought.

The significance of the flower communion is that as no two flowers are alike, so no two people are alike, yet each has a contribution to make. Together the different flowers form a beautiful bouquet. Our common bouquet would not be the same without the unique addition of each individual flower, and thus it is with the community at Elder Yard, it would not be the same without each and every one of us. Thus, this service is a statement of our community. By exchanging flowers, we show our willingness to walk together in our Search for truth, disregarding all that might divide us. Each person takes home a flower brought by someone else - thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community.

So, bring a flower on the 14th of September and let us celebrate together!

Maria



Lunchtime concerts in the Chapel

The popular Chapel Saturday lunchtime concerts continue on July 12th when there will be a concert of piano duets performed by David Mayo-Braiden and Andrew Marples. The concerts then take a summer break until September. The concerts run 11.45am to 12.30pm admission is free, with a retiring collection.

Elder Yard Trustee Meeting

The last trustee meeting was held on Weds 19 March 2025.

The next meeting was planned for 9 June but due to unforeseen family health issues it has been postponed to Sunday 13 July after the July monthly chapel service.

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



Coffee Mornings

Our most recent coffee morning was on Thursday 26th June, and there was a steady flow of visitors. One couple from Mansfield, Denise and Rob, explained a former link to Elder Yard. Rob explained that he had worked for more than twenty years at the old K and M factory on Whittington Moor alongside George Buttery. George was the husband of Elaine and he was a lifetime member of the chapel, devoting a lot of time and effort to maintaining it. Apparently George asked if Rob and a work friend could paint the stone window sills on the outside of the Chapel, and Rob can remember doing the job. As Andrew is George's nephew he was able to chat with them, and gave them a booklet about The Old Meeting House in Mansfield.

At the coffee morning we promoted the National Heritage Open Days scheme for people to pop in and have a look around the old quaint building (the Chapel) that they have often walked past on their way to work or to shop in Chesterfield.

The future dates for the coffee mornings are 10 am to 12 pm on:

Thursday 24th July

Thursday 21st August

Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September (Heritage Open Days)

11th December (Christmas).

It would be lovely to see you there. Any donations of baked or bought goods would be very welcome. Please contact Sarah on sarah.sheila18@gmail.com if you wish to donate or have any questions.

Heritage Open Days at Elder Yard

The Chapel will be open to visitors on Friday 12th September and Saturday 13th September from 10am to 4pm as part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme. The theme this year is Architecture, and so, with our beautiful building and gardens, we should be able to meet that focus. Refreshments will be served, and any leftover will be served at our monthly service on the day afterwards – 14th September at 3pm. Please volunteer to help!

Andrew registers the Chapel each year on the national website for the scheme, and if you click on the link below you will be able to see our information

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/submission-event/elder-yard-unitarian-chapel-1-2025.html>

Last year Andrew arranged some very useful features/promotion of the Chapel. If you any suggestions about how we could promote the Heritage Days this year, please get in touch with Andrew by email on marples21@hotmail.com

With Our Best Wishes

Elaine Buttery is now convalescing after being discharged from hospital and thankfully is her usual chatty and smiley self.

We also extend our very best wishes to our friend Peter Rowson.

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 the information below, and much more, can be found there and from their regular electronic newsletter.

Terminally Ill End of Life Bill

On 25th June 2025 the Bill was passed in the House of Commons and will now proceed to the House of Lords. The General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches welcomed this development, having consulted with congregations in 2013 to find out if there was a consensus about this.

Summer School in August

“Finding our religion: Being Unitarian in the 21st Century”. This will take place locally at the Nightingale Centre and is the 30th anniversary of the summer school. Go to <https://unitarian.org.uk> to book a place and for more information.

LGBT+ Unitarian Voices

This Unitarian website <https://unitarian.org.uk> includes a very interesting timeline of Unitarian LGBT+ debate, action and key activists, in the context of social and political change.

Did you know?

In July

1913, Eastwood Park at Hasland was opened by Alderman George Eastwood's niece. He had donated Hasland House and the adjoining land to the local community. From 2006 to 2012 local activism and funding applications for Lottery funding enabled the park to be restored and improved.

In August,

1662, 24 August (St Bartholomew's Day) -The Act of Uniformity 1662 stated that any minister who refused to conform to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer by St Bartholomew's day should be ejected from the Church of England. This resulted in some Anglican ministers being ejected from their roles and it became known as the Great Ejection. These dissenting ministers lost their homes and livelihoods but many went on to establish dissenting congregations, including in Chesterfield. (This has been covered in previous summer newsletters, but such is the significance of it... perhaps it should be included annually?)

1857, Spital Cemetery was opened. This was due to the general demand for burial spaces and to provide burial space for non-conformists who did not wish

to be buried in accordance with the rights of the Church of England. In 1859 an area of the cemetery was consecrated for Catholic burials.

Community Support in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Community

Services that can help.

Kinship Chesterfield

- Providing support, information and advice for kinship carers in Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. A safe friendly space to share experiences. The group is led by volunteers who are kinship carers. The group meets on the last Thursday of each month, with a day time and evening group at The HUB at Chesterfield Football Stadium on Sheffield Road, S41 8NZ. Go to www.kinship.org.uk or email kinship.chesterfield@gmail.com

Chinese Big Society

- To provide advice, information, advocacy, signposting, befriending for Chinese people in the area and those of Chinese heritage in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and surrounding areas. For more information email cbsuk12@yahoo.co.uk

To suggest a Community Service for inclusion contact: sarah.sheila18@gmail.com

Events Coming up in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire

In July

Friday 4 – Sunday 13th July 1 pm till 9 pm.

Chesterfield Cycle Festival – enjoy rides highlighting Chesterfield's cycling infrastructure, free club led rides for all abilities, a chance to meet local cycling groups and explore new routes. Look on the internet at CYCLECHESTERFIELD.ORG/FESTIVAL25

Saturday 19th July 2025 at Stand Road Park S41 8SW

“The region's biggest LGBTQ + celebration” (tenth year)

Buy tickets in advance via the chesterfieldpride.co.uk website.

In August.

Sunday 31 August 2025 10 am to 4 pm at Queen's Park Sports Centre.

Chesterfield Brick Festival. A LEGO fan event “dedicated to all things brick!”

For families, collectors, adult builders etc. Including speed building, large scale displays, traders selling loose bricks etc.

Go to eventbrite.co.uk to book tickets. Tickets can be bought on the day, but only if there are any left.

Reflection and Inspirational Thoughts

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. Just. Keep. Going."

"Optimism is not fluff – it's fuel. It's the lifeblood of resilience, the pulse of courage, and the soul of survival."

Both of the above quotations are by John Dabell (Education Consultant (Maths), Incurable Optimist living with incurable cancer).

"If you've ever felt stuck, overwhelmed, or frustrated with where you are, the problem isn't you. The problem is the power you give to other people. Two simple words – Let Them – will set you free. Free from the opinions, drama and judgements of others. Free from the exhausting cycle of trying to manage everything and everyone around you." From "The Let Them Theory" by lawyer and author Mel Robbins.

Any contributions for the newsletter may be sent by email to: 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

General email: info@chesterfield-unitarians.org.uk

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.

