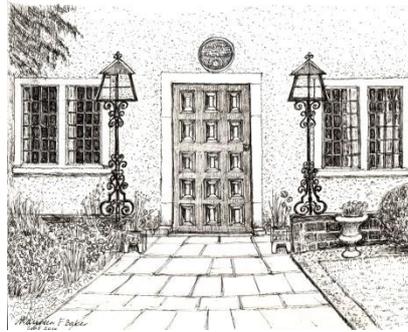


Founded 1662



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)  
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*Registered charity No.220091*

*In the light of truth and the warmth of love, we gather to seek, to sustain, to share.*

**Newsletter January/February 2026**

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## Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of this year, albeit a little delayed.

### Details of Services and Leaders for 2026

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

Date	Leader	Date	Leader
January 11th	Rev. Marie Pap	February 8th	Rev. Marie Pap
March 8th	Rev. Marie Pap	April 12th	Rev. Marie Pap
May 10th	Rev. Marie Pap	June 14th	Rev. Marie Pap
July 12th	To be confirmed	August 9th	Rev. Marie Pap
September 13th	Rev. Marie Pap	October 11th	Rev. Marie Pap
November 8th	Rev. Marie Pap	December 13th	Rev. Marie Pap

The service planned for Sunday 11th January was cancelled a few days before because of anticipated snowfall.

## Christmas Carol Service

Rev Maria Pap led a wonderful Christmas Service with readings from Alan, Janet and Sarah. Glorious carols with the music played by Andrew and thought-provoking Christmas messages amidst the beautifully decorated Chapel (thanks to Ann). If ever there was a spiritual need for us to come together and reflect and celebrate, that time is now.

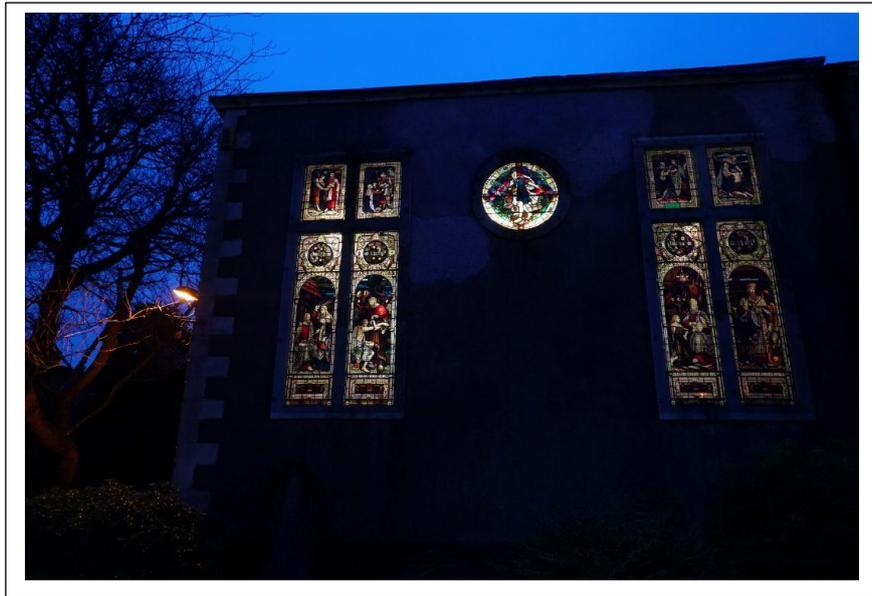
The music this year was provided at short notice by Cantiamo (which means 'we sing' in Italian). They performed two slots of three songs plus a final piece. Highlights were Carol of the Bells and Jingle Bells! Cantiamo are a flexible three-voice ensemble accompanied by piano who perform solos, duos and trios covering many styles of music: light Opera, Madrigals, Musicals/Disney, Sacred songs and much more. The group was created by Andrew Marples in January 2018 and they have quickly become a very popular ensemble with audiences. They rehearse regularly at Elder Yard. Their next event is this Valentine's concert in Holymoorside:



**It Must Be LOVE, LOVE, LOVE**  
**Sunday 15th February 2.30pm**  
**HOLYMOORSIDE VILLAGE HALL, S42 7DX**  
Music of romance from Opera, Song & Musicals  
**TICKETS £10 inc refreshments T: 07768 756999**  
**E: [info@holymoorsidearts.co.uk](mailto:info@holymoorsidearts.co.uk)**  
HOLMOORSIDE AND WALTON ARTS FESTIVAL SOCIETY



Cantiamo



This photograph was taken by Philip on the day of the Christmas service

### **Lunchtime concerts in the Chapel**

The popular Chapel Saturday lunchtime concerts take a break for the Winter, returning on Saturday March 15<sup>th</sup> with a concert of sacred choral music performed by MusicWork Vocal Ensemble. Over 2025 the 9 concerts averaged 55 people!

### **Happy Monday concert**

Each January, a certain Monday carries a reputation for being the year's most emotionally difficult day. Known as **Blue Monday**, it's often linked with low moods, depleted motivation, and a post-holiday slump. While the idea started as a publicity stunt, it has since become an annual reminder of something real and important: mental health matters – especially when days are short and emotions feel heavy. In 2026, Blue Monday fell on January 19 and is often described as the “saddest day of the year.” The label may be more symbolic than scientific, but the feelings it points to are common. After the holidays, many people experience a dip – financially, emotionally, and physically. Cold weather, shorter daylight hours, and pressure to stick to resolutions can all contribute.

To counterbalance this and cheer folks up a group of local musicians mounted the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ‘Happy Monday’ concert in the Chapel on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. Music for Violin, Piano and Piano duet was performed - all of it in a happy, bright mood. Exactly 50 people filled the chapel and enjoyed an hour of quality music followed by refreshments – also happy themed! The event was free with a retiring collection and the audience really enjoyed the event and left with smiles into the wet, dark evening.

## **Maintenance Update**

The big news is the new surfacing in the nursery car park! It has taken a long time, but at last the huge puddles, mud and junk are all gone. In the Spring we will be improving the paving near our gates to ease opening/shutting and prevent flooding here.

The gardener will be coming along at some point to remove the leaves and trim everything, as usual.

## **Elder Yard Trustee Meeting**

The last Elder Yard trustee meeting was held during w/c 17/11/25.

The following agenda items were discussed:

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising

Apology noted from Sarah who was unable to attend.

Building maintenance and Repairs/Health and Safety

Safeguarding – Sarah submitted a brief written summary. There have not been any safeguarding incidents since the last meeting.

Finance

Mail, and approaches through the website

Wedding Bookings

Appointment of a new Trustee.

Any Other Business

The next meeting is on Weds 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm at the Chapel

If you wish to request an item for inclusion at the next meeting, please contact Ann on [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 the information in their regular electronic newsletter. These snippets are a small selection of the current content.

### *Annual General Meetings*

This year the meetings will be held in Derbyshire at the Hayes Conference Centre

Organisers say that they’ve listened to feedback from previous gatherings, both about finding a venue that feels right and about the pace of the programme itself. In response they have reshaped things: the keynote John Rely Beard lecture moves to the afternoon, which means there is opportunity to have a proper, relaxed social evening together on Friday night.

Registration opens at 11am on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March, with the Opening Ceremony at 2pm. Finish on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March with lunch at 1pm. You need to book for attendance at the Weekend.

### *New Unitarian Ministers*

“The General Assembly and Unitarian College are pleased to announce that four new ministers have been welcomed into the Unitarian roll.

Tina Gandhi, Kieren Mardle-Moss, Robert Foreman and Janine Sim have all successfully passed their viva assessments by the GA’s Interview Panel on completion of their studies in the last six months and are now on the General Assembly Roll of Unitarian and Free Christian

Ministers. They bring vitality, energy and hope to our movement, and we are excited to have them on board.”

### Climate Crisis

Unitarians for Climate Justice (U4CJ) has created a resource pack with worship and workshop materials to help devise a bespoke day of activities to suit individual Unitarian Chapels. “Alongside opportunities for inspiring worship, they are also putting together creative and informative sessions to connect more deeply to nature and the environment.”

Contact [Rob Oulton](#) or [Ann Howell](#) for more information.

### **Did you know?**

#### ***In February***

**Feb 26, 1797:** The Bank of England issued the first-ever one-pound note.

**Feb 14, 1984:** The halfpenny coin ceased to be legal tender

**Feb 26, 1848:** The Communist Manifesto was published.

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

Services that can help you and the community.

#### ***Bereavement support***

**Cruse (Chesterfield & North Derbyshire):** Offers confidential, free support for adults and children via telephone, video call, or limited face-to-face appointments (8 Rose Hill, S40 1LW). Contact: 0300 777 44 88 or [chesterfield@cruse.org.uk](mailto:chesterfield@cruse.org.uk).

**National Cruse Helpline:** 0808 808 1677.

**Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS):** Support for those bereaved by suicide (0300 111 5065)

To suggest a Community Service for inclusion contact: [sarah.sheila18@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.sheila18@gmail.com)

### **Events Coming up in Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire**

#### ***In February***

**Festivity - Derbyshire Artists Showcase** (Saturday 21 Feb 2026): A showcase highlighting local artistic talent at the Winding Wheel, commences 10 am and is suitable for children from 5 years old.

**Worksop Street Lock Winter Open Day** (Feb 21, 2026): Located at Sandy Ln, Worksop (S80 1TJ), this event offers a behind-the-scenes look at canal maintenance, new lock gate installations and volunteering opportunities. Look on line at Chesterfield Canal Trust

**Valentine's Day Canal Cruises** (Saturday Feb 14, 2026): 40-minute trips on the John Varley narrowboat departing from Tupton Lock Visitor Centre (S41 7JB) at 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, and 15:00. Booking in advance is recommended.

## Reflection and Inspirational Thoughts

### *Quotes from Ann Frank*

“In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can't build my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness, I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too, I can feel the sufferings of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquillity will return again.”

“Whoever is happy will make others happy”

“In the long run, the sharpest weapon of all is a kind and gentle spirit”

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

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.

