

OLD CHAPEL  
Dukinfield  
a Unitarian congregation  
Here let no one be a stranger



May 2024

Dear Friends

Occasionally, my mobile phone retrieves pictures from somewhere (I don't know where) that I took years ago and sends them to me on the anniversary of taking them. I'm not sure whether I like this or not. Sometimes they bring back a pleasant memory but more often than not they don't bring anything special to my day and I'm not one for dwelling on anniversaries, I'd rather get on with today.



This week however was one of the times a special memory was revived. It was from one of my visits to Rome to plan the itinerary for taking a group later in the year. On this particular day I travelled by train through the Lazio countryside to Tivoli, a town about 20 miles northeast of Rome where I particularly wanted to visit the Villa d'Este. Its chief claim to fame is its terraced gardens where hundreds of fountains cover the terraced slopes and one particularly magnificent example, the Fontana dell'Organo was a water powered organ in which the force of the water pumped the air through the pipes. Sadly, it has long been silent.

I had the gardens almost to myself that day, there were very few others who had made the journey so early in the season and it was a very tranquil and peaceful place to spend an afternoon. The following day I was back in Rome amongst all the hustle and bustle of the city which was quite a contrast. Not an unpleasant contrast though, I enjoyed being in the city just as much as I had enjoyed the countryside. We are all familiar with such contrasts, life is made up of busy times and quiet times, and they are of equal value to us. Without the quiet times we would not have the energy to face the busy times and without the busy times we would not be able to really appreciate the quiet times. It isn't always easy to see that, but it is important that we

**Minister Rev Andrew Parker 0161 366 7989**

**Chapel Warden Kevin Lowe**

For general inquiries contact Bronwyn Lowe 0161 338 3800

Baptisms and Wedding inquiries contact Jennifer Moody 0161 304 8632

Registered Charity Number 1046857

**Chapel service (normally) 2.00pm**

**Sunday School (normally) 2.00pm**



Council is grateful for financial support from the East Cheshire Union  
of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

**[www.ukunitarians.org.uk/dukinfield](http://www.ukunitarians.org.uk/dukinfield)**

## **FLOWERS FOR MAY**

- |    |                                 |   |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| 5  | Mr & Mrs S Taylor<br>and family | Loving birthday memories of a dear mum,<br>dad, gran & granddad, Jim & Winnie Willocks. |
|    | The Peatfield family            | in memory of a dear mum and dad,<br>May and Len   |
| 12 | Jennifer Moody<br>and family    | loving birthday memories of a dear husband<br>Charles, (Chuck), dad and granddad.       |
|    | Barry Shaw                      | in memory of Rev. Patricia Shaw and Clara<br>and John Bancroft.                         |
| 19 | Steven Wilde                    | in memory of mum, dad, and a dear brother.  |
| 26 | Verena Burrows                  | In loving memory of a dear friend<br>Joyce Archer                                       |

learn to appreciate all of life's experiences because everything that happens in our lives has some value for us. Sometimes that value may seem rather obscure but there is always something to be learned from whatever life presents us with.

Every blessing.

Andrew.

## **WARDENS WORDS**

Community is important to us, and here at Old Chapel we try to get involved as best we can. This month we are involved not just in our own North Cheshire Unitarian Sunday School Union with our Arts and Crafts, but with our wider Dukinfield community with our Whitsuntide celebrations. On May 11 we are holding the annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition here, and it's always a time for friendly rivalries between congregations (and sometimes even within congregations!) I have a feeling the sausage roll debate will roll on for some time, even after the day! We have entered quite a few sections again this year, and although we try our best there are no guarantees that we will win anything – but taking part is the main thing. On Sunday 19 May we are joining the other Dukinfield congregations to hold our annual Whit service here in our Chapel grounds (weather permitting it will be outside). This is a time when our town community can come together, and although we can't walk in our wonderful processions as we used to, we can still meet together to show witness to our faith and our strength as a worshipping community. Please come and join us if you are able – if the weather is bad, we will have the service in Chapel. Our Scouting community need our support too with their endeavours in the Chapel yard. They have applied for a further grant to continue the work in the dell and around the Garden of Remembrance, and they have got through to the final round once again (Tuesday 14 May 6.30pm). They will need our support in their efforts, and we need to have a little patience while they juggle full time working jobs alongside volunteering – I'm sure the finished results will be worth it.



Kevin

## FUND RAISING

In April we were treated to the first of Andrew's talks – and he didn't disappoint us. It was really good, and we were joined by quite a few of our friends from our other East Cheshire Union congregations. It made for a really good night with plenty of chatting afterwards.

This month we are to host a **Whitsuntide past and present evening on Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm**. We hope to look at some old film footage of past Whitsuntide walks and reminisce looking through old photos. It should be a great evening with good food too, so book it in your diary now.

I have taken an executive decision (you can shout at me afterwards!) as we had not made a date for our next **Fund Raising meeting**. So, on **Tuesday 7 May** please come along to our meeting at **7.30pm** in the Extension, when we will try to arrange our events for the next 6 months. Bring your ideas and we'll see what we can do.

Can I take this opportunity too, to thank all those who have donated food for our efforts over the past 6 month – we have had some wonderful spreads, and it lightens the load for our organisation of events – thank you.

Bronwyn

## GEORGE AND THE DRAGON

On 23 April the battle between George and the Dragon was re-enacted (of a sort) in our Community Hall extension. The scene was set, the coin was flipped, and the Dragons won the toss. Our Indoor Cricket had begun! The Dragons set a quick pace and piled on the points, whilst George fell behind, struggling to get the score. Pucks were flying everywhere but on the board. The score keeper hid behind her scoreboard for cover, and the 'puck picker upper' retreated to the safety of the chairs! There were some fantastic trick shots, rebounds on to the board, and stacking of pucks! There were some harsh calls – on the line, and some scary moments when the puck seemed to have a mind of its own. The first round went to the Dragons! Would history be rewritten? The second round began and George recovered his form. They declared at 200, and in the end the result was a resounding draw. History can rest easy. The result was a really good evening of fun and laughter, and a follow up eye test for one member of the George team! I think we need a bigger board!!! So if you missed it, don't worry I'm sure we'll have another one soon.

The Roving Reporter



# Can you help?



We need volunteers to help clear rubbish & weeds in the Dell area of Old Chapel.

Leaders from 2nd Dukinfield Scout group will be in the Dell (to the rear of the community hall building - follow the concrete path alongside the grave yard) on the dates below.

Please come along whenever you can and give us as much or as little time as you can spare.

Everyone is welcome, but anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult please.



Dates for Dell:  
Sun 28 April  
Sat 4 May  
Sat 25 May  
Sun 26 May  
Sun 23 June  
Sat 20 July

## **NCUSSU ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Once again Dukinfield Old Chapel will host the annual Arts and Crafts Exhibition on Saturday 11 May from 11.00am. We will be setting up the exhibition on the Friday night before from about 6.00pm so if you can offer to help it would be really appreciated.

Don't forget all 'on the day' entries such as flowers and cookery need to be in place before 10.30am to allow judging to begin.

Last year we had no refreshments available, but due to great demand this year the café will be back. However, it's unfair to expect one small group to organise this for the day. If you can volunteer some time in the café, we would be very grateful. Just let me know and I can pass on your name to Margaret.

This exhibition can only continue if you come along to support it – come and have a look, and enjoy a great day of entertainment and competition (friendly of course!)

## **WORCOM**

Our services this month will be led by –

- 5 Rev A Parker
- 12 Rev D Crosby
- 19 Rev A Parker
- 26 Rev L Dobson

## **WHIT SUNDAY**

On Sunday 19 May we will be joined by other Dukinfield congregations to hold our annual Whitsuntide Service. This will begin at 10.30am in the Chapel grounds as we did last year – weather permitting of course. Our banners will once again be on display, and Chapel will be open on Friday 17 May from 7pm to receive the banners from other churches. We will be setting up the Hall for refreshments from 4pm on the Saturday (18 May) so if you can help please come along. The service on Whit Sunday will be led by the Methodist Church this year and the music will once again be provided by Arnfield Brass. It's always a lovely day – even when its wet, so come along and join us at 10.30am.

## FOR THE RECORDS

### BAPTISMS

On Saturday April 13, 2024, the baptism of **Phoebe Willow Brooks**, daughter of Lucy & Gary Brooks was conducted by Worship Leader Bronwyn Lowe.

## NEWS

Some of our older members will be sad to hear that Jean Bown (wife of the late Bert Bown) died in January this year. We unfortunately didn't find out until quite recently, and our sympathies go to all the family.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCENE

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the annual Arts and Crafts competition. The entries have now been submitted apart from those entering on the day which is Saturday May 11.

The competition takes place at our chapel so we look forward to your support. It is a very enjoyable day out with a chance to meet up with old friends.

The following day any prizes and certificates will be distributed during the service. Do please come and join us at 2 o'clock on that day. We would love to see you.

Sunday School Team

### WELCOMERS FOR MAY

5 Christine and Ann  
12 Jennifer  
19 Whit Sunday  
26 Walter

### TEA ROTA FOR MAY

5 Sunday School  
12 Marjorie L and Susan  
19 Whit Sunday  
26 Kevin and Bronwyn

## DIARY FOR MAY

- 1 Wed Chapel Council Meeting 7.30pm  
1 Wed Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
2 Thu Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
3 Fri 2nd Dukinfield Beavers and Scouts 6.00-9.30pm  
4 Sat Unity Stage School 9.30-12.15  
5 Sun Service led by Rev A Parker - 2.00pm  
7 Tue Fund Raising Meeting 7.30pm  
8 Wed Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
9 Thu Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
10 Fri 2nd Dukinfield Beavers 6.00pm in Chapel  
11 Sat Arts and Crafts Exhibition  
12 Sun Service led by Rev D Crosby at 2.00pm  
14 Tue Whit Past and Present. 7.30pm  
14 Tue 2nd Dukinfield Cubs 6.30-8.00pm  
15 Wed Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
16 Thu Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
16 Thu Trustees Meeting 7.00pm in the Vestry  
17 Fri 2nd Dukinfield Beavers and Scouts 6.00-9.30pm  
18 Sat Unity Stage School 9.30-12.15  
19 Sun WHIT SUNDAY SERVICE at 10.30am  
21 Tue 2nd Dukinfield Cubs 6.30-8.00pm  
22 Wed Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
23 Thu Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
24 Fri 2nd Dukinfield Beavers and Scouts 6.00-9.30pm  
25 Sat Unity Stage School 9.30-12.15  
25 Sat Private Party 2 - 4pm  
26 Sun Service led by Rev L Dobson at 2.00pm  
38 Tue 2nd Dukinfield Cubs 6.30-8.00pm  
28 Tue Crafty Nattering at 7.00pm  
29 Wed Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
30 Thu Unity Stage School 6.00-9.00pm  
31 Fri 2nd Dukinfield Beavers and Scouts 6.00-9.30pm

**DEADLINE DATE FOR THE JUNE MAGAZINE  
IS THE 19 MAY**

**Send any articles for the magazine to [doc\\_mageditor@btconnect.com](mailto:doc_mageditor@btconnect.com)**