

## Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford

'The Temple of the Free Spirit'

'God is a spirit and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth'  
We believe that Christianity is a way of life rather than a creed or a system of doctrine. We believe that there are many different ways to God.

We believe in civil and religious freedom on principle for everyone. 'Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom'. We have our origins in a group of Dissenters who were ejected from the State Church in 1662. Our beautiful chapel was completed and licensed for worship c. 1694, shortly after the date of the Act of Toleration.

Our congregation is run by our members, believing that 'where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them'.

'In the love of truth and the spirit of Christ we unite for the worship of God and the service of man. We invite you to worship with us'.

### Chapel Committee

Minister:	Rev Alex Bradley	(01565) 754465
Chairman:	Mr Graham Birks	(01606) 558424
Secretary:	Mrs Susan Hutcheson	(01565) 650232
Treasurer:	Mr Alan Eastwood	(01565) 634992
Heritage:	Beulah Cornes	(01565) 632673

### Sunday services begin at 11 am

Brook Street Chapel is a Registered Charity Number 1167088

E-Mail: [brookstreetchapelknutsford@gmail.com](mailto:brookstreetchapelknutsford@gmail.com)

[www.unitariansmda.org.uk](http://www.unitariansmda.org.uk)

Chapel Heritage Web site: [www.brookstreetchapel.org](http://www.brookstreetchapel.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/brookstknuts>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BrookStreetKnutsford>

The Heritage Centre will be open Tuesday 10—12 and Sunday 12—1.  
Other times by appointment please.

Newsletter Editor: [john.hutcheson5@btinternet.com](mailto:john.hutcheson5@btinternet.com)

Please submit any articles via e-mail or hard copy. If you would like to receive the calendar by e-mail please supply your e-mail address.

**Please provide material for the September/October Newsletter by Saturday 17th August or earlier if possible. PLEASE NOTE the earlier date.**

Contributions from **anyone** on **any topic** are welcomed.

It is your Newsletter so as much as possible will be fitted in. **E and O E.**



# Brook Street Unitarian Chapel



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\* July — August 2019 \*  
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Dear Chapel Members and Friends,

### *Words from our Minister*

Our purpose as a chapel is two-fold. Firstly, it is the worship of God in the spirit of Jesus, and secondly, it is a wish to express our faith by helping others and playing our part in making this world a better place. This second part of our purpose was well expressed in the wonderful music recital given in our chapel by a virtuoso violinist who is a Chernobyl survivor, Mischa Lindan, in aid of the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Charity. We had a veritable feast of violin music, including pieces by Paganini, Elgar, Massenet, Bach as well as more modern music, including tunes by the Beatles. The highlight of a marvellous evening was when Mischa played the Chaconne by J.S. Bach, a piece that is over 14 minutes long, and rarely played live. We raised £400 from ticket sales for the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline (our chapel gave the use of the hall rent free). In addition, donations given for refreshments during the interval came to £135 which will go to two local charities, the Toft Luncheon Club and the Knutsford Mayday. The event was a full house with tickets sold out several days before: several people had to be told that there were no more seats. All of us who were lucky and privileged enough to be present not only had a lovely and unforgettable experience of hearing live music from a top-ranking musician but we participated in helping the wider community as well. All this for £5 per ticket!

Before Mischa played for us, we had a very interesting 15-minute video presentation by Mike Hewitt who, together with his wife, offered Mischa a permanent home while he studied at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester. We saw a recording of Mischa playing the violin aged 11: he played very well even then(!): we heard about how he came to be in England and the generous support of Sir Paul McCartney who gave £10,000 towards his fees. As well as this, Mike's video showed a recording made in 2000, showing some of the evacuated areas in Belarus and some of the people he met there, including some footage from a children's hospital for children particularly badly affected by the nuclear fallout – this section was truly heart-rending. The Director in charge, a truly remarkable woman, was paid just £35 per month, according to Mike. His short video presentation also showed us maps of Belarus and the Ukraine, alongside a map of the UK, to illustrate what a huge area was devastated by the explosion: a similar area here would extend from Cumbria to Birmingham. Listening to stories such as these puts our own lives into perspective, when we realise the struggles and difficulties that other people face.

The fact that such a huge area could be affected (and of course the prevailing winds spread the nuclear fallout a great deal further afield) reminds us (perhaps more emphatically than ever before in history) that our earth, and we as a human race, are one and that what affects one affects us all.

If we are to survive the challenges of environmental degradation and climate change, let alone disasters like Chernobyl, we should concentrate on what unites us. One such unifying force might be music, which can be enjoyed and appreciated by all. In the last of the Psalms, Psalm 150, we hear the stirring call to worship: "Praise God with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance: praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

Our music recital was not a service of worship but in our intent to be of service to humankind, I believe that we offered praise to the Divine by way of music.

Every blessing, Rev Alex

Dear friends,

I want to use these notes to bring you up to date on two important matters relating to recent actions of the committee.

Firstly, the ongoing work at the vestry end of the chapel. The work was commissioned in April, and was started the same month. It was due to be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. Clearly, it is long over its expected completion time. The reason for that is partly due to some unexpected additions to the work, particularly the pointing of the brickwork of the whole gable end. It took some time for the architect to agree on the correct mixture of the mortar, wanting to reach the best possible colour and texture, in keeping with elsewhere on the chapel. The extra time taken on this, requiring the scaffolding to remain in place, has then caused a delay on the further ground work still left to be done. At the time of writing, the pointing is nearing completion, and the scaffolding should soon be down. Hopefully work will soon be moving forward on the rest of the area, and we should begin to see the benefits of the work. Extra work has also been undertaken relating to some of the electrical wiring, including the outside security lights and floodlighting.

Secondly, you will recall that at our AGM in April, the members voted to ask the committee to apply to the Charity Commission, through our solicitor, for permission to interpret the legacy of Mary Glass for "maintenance of the chapel" to mean in all respects of maintaining an operational chapel, and not just be restricted to structural maintenance. Our solicitor has received a favourable response from the CC, and we expect them to soon issue a document to us, which will show our right to do this. As I sought to make clear at the AGM, the committee will always have as our priority, the anticipated maintenance costs over the forthcoming years, as well as the unexpected. The fund will be operated with good governance, and is there to ensure our ability to function as a chapel, in all respects. Once the document has been received, the committee will discuss how we manage the fund, and the membership will be kept informed of our recommendations.

Best wishes  
Graham Birks.

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The photo on the opposite page is of Mischa Lindan during the concert described in Rev Alex's column on Page 2. For more information take a look at Mischa's website [www.mischalindan.org.uk](http://www.mischalindan.org.uk).

## Committee Meetings

The next committee meetings planned are:  
July 18th and August 16th.

If there is anything you would like to raise for discussion at these meetings please let any of the committee members know.

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### **'The Ten Recommendations for human relations'**

The Hebrew Scripture (the 'Old Testament') has the wonderful set of guidelines for human life called 'the Ten Commandments'. Here by way of comparison and reflection, is a set of 'ten recommendations for human relations' by an unknown author.

1. Speak to people. There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. Smile at people. It takes seventy-two muscles to frown-only fourteen to smile.
3. Call people by name. The sweetest music to anyone's ear is the sound of their own name.
4. Be friendly. If you would have friends, be friendly.
5. Be cordial. Speak and act as if everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. You can like everybody if you try.
7. Be generous with praise- cautious with criticism.
8. Be considerate of the feelings of others. It will be appreciated.
9. Be thoughtful of the opinions of others. There are three sides to a controversy- yours, the other fellow's, and the right one.
10. Be alert to help and give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

Rev A Bradley

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## The Unknown Church

I think that I shall never see  
A church that's all it ought to be,  
A church whose members never stray  
Beyond the straight and narrow way.  
A church that has no empty pews,  
Whose pastor never has the blues;  
Where all are meek and none is proud,  
Whose choir sings well, but not too loud,  
Such perfect churches there may be,  
But none of them are known to me!  
But still we'll pray and work and plan  
To make our church the best we can.

Author unknown  
(with apologies to the song—and poem—  
"Trees" by Sgt Joyee Kilmer)



## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

On Wednesday 15th May, a small gathering of members met for a talk on The Harem (see below) and the art of belly dancing. Minister Jean began by talking about the history of the harem, then Vanessa brought some very interesting 'belly dancing' items that she had bought when living in Kuwait to show. There was quite a lot of discussion on the type of clothing and jewellery the dancers would wear. Later Minister Jean demonstrated the pelvic movements, the use of the veil and arm movements, eventually all the ladies took part in dancing to authentic belly dancing music. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and there was much laughter.

For the meeting in June seventeen members and friends gathered at 'Goostrey Home and Leisure' for an afternoon tea. This was their second visit as they enjoyed it so much last year, it was agreed to return as the afternoon tea was very reasonable priced and the food was of an excellent standard. At the end of the tea, some people requested plastic food containers as they weren't able to eat all the food so it was taken home and enjoyed for supper!

The added benefit of visiting 'Goostrey's' is the varied shopping area, ranging from clothing to handmade soaps, or wood turning. The Women's League members and friends had a very enjoyable afternoon together, many thanks to Barbara Bayley for organising the occasion.

**Harem:** The word harem has been recorded in the English language since early 17th century. It comes from the Arabic ḥarīm, which means "a sacred inviolable place", never to be broken, infringed, or dishonoured.

We have had the structure of the harem around the world for many years before the word came into our language. But a growth in the institution of the Harem was introduced in the Turkish society with adoption of Islam, under the influence of the Arab Caliphate, Under Islamic law, a man can have as many wives as he can support, with the traditional number topping out at around four. However, concubines are unlimited and many harems grew into the thousands. The harem was the ultimate symbol of power. A king, sultan or wealthy man could show the world how powerful he was, with his ownership of women, which would consist of wives, concubines and slaves, this also indicated his sexual prowess. Although interestingly, it could also be seen as a private space for women to maintain modesty, privilege, and protection other than having occasional private audiences with the Sultan or King.

Although the number of wives and concubine was a sign of greatness, the ultimate need for many wives was to ensure that the king could produce healthy male heirs.

Rev Jean Bradley

Why not pin this diary up somewhere you can see it every day.

# CHAPEL DIARY

Looking ahead—Are there any events you would like to include in the Sept/Oct diary?

	Minister	Organist	Door Stewards	Teas/Coffees	Flowers
<b>July</b>					
7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Jean Bradley, Family Service	Jonathan Rimmer	Sue and John Hutcheson	Sue and John Hutcheson	Alison Cockshott in memory of her Gran and Grandad
14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev David Westhead	Jonathan Rimmer	Jean Littler Ann Clayton	Jean Littler Ann Clayton	Audrey Brice
21 <sup>st</sup>	Rev Alex Bradley	Alan Gough		Barbara Bailey Vanessa McCluney	Dorothy Bowden in memory of Iris
28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Alex Bradley	Aya Pitcher	Lyn Rankin Maureen Fraser	Lyn Rankin Maureen Fraser	Pat Leech
<b>August</b>					
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Jean Bradley, Family Service	Jonathan Rimmer	Lisa and Max	Hattie McDougall Jean Littler	Barbara Bayley in celebration of her birthday
11 <sup>th</sup>	Rev Alex Bradley	Jonathan Rimmer	Jean Littler Ann Clayton	Lyn Rankin Maureen Fraser	Barbara Austin in memory of her father Ray Austin
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rev David Westhead	Alan Gough		Jean Littler Ann Clayton	Tara and Mel Roden-King in celebration of their wedding anniversary
25 <sup>th</sup>	Chrissie Wilkie	Aya Pitcher		Joan Eastwood Jane Butler	Vanessa McCluney in memory of Roger McCluney.

**Coffee Mornings** every Tuesday 10 am Come along and catch up with friends. Rev Alex attends these coffee mornings as often as possible for anyone that wants a chat.

### Knutsford Community First Responder Trust

Donate your unwanted goods for the benefit of the Trust - they can recycle and receive cash for the trust. **Jewellery** (*unwanted gold & silver including damaged items, costume jewellery and watches*); **Currency** (*banknotes, coins, any currency UK or foreign or any age/unchangeable currency*); **Electricals** (*mobile phones, cameras & gadgets such as sat navs, game consoles, MP3 players, laptops*); **Stamps** (*used stamps, loose/single stamps, albums, presentation packs, postcard collections*)  
Look out for the collecting box that will be in the kitchen area of the hall for leaving your donations.

### HOPE CENTRAL

Relief, Recovery, Reform

This is a Christian charity in Knutsford working to relieve poverty through the provision of emergency food support and practical help.

**Shopping List:** Milk (UHT or powdered), Tinned meat and Fish, Sugar, Fruit Juice, Soup, Pasta and Sauces, Sponge Puddings, Tinned Tomatoes, Cereals, Rice Pudding, Tea Bags, Instant Coffee, Instant mash, Rice, Tinned Fruit, Jam, Biscuits and Snack Bars, Nappies, Feminine Hygiene items  
Buy these items, donate them in the **red bin** that will appear soon in the Hall

### Saint Barnabas Monastery, Famagusta, Cyprus (Front page photograph)

The Monastery of St. Barnabas was built to commemorate the foremost saint of Cyprus, whose life was so intertwined with the spread of the Christian message in the years immediately following the death of Christ.