

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

www.unitariansmda.org.uk

Chapel Heritage Web site: www.brookstreetchapel.org

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

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

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 November/December Newsletter by Wednesday 23rd October or earlier if possible.

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

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



Brook Street Unitarian Chapel



* September — October 2019 *

Dear Chapel Members and Friends,

Words from our Minister

Most of us will be back from our holidays by the time we read this newsletter. I hope you found rest and recuperation as well as new experiences! The new experiences are vital as well. The ancient Roman poet Horace wrote of some of his fellow countrymen that, 'they change their skies but not their minds'. We seek to be a spiritual community with open hearts and open minds, hence the word 'Free' in the Free Christian part of our name. Our approach to faith encapsulates a way of looking at the world and reality which is adaptable and open to change, while being grounded in our Christian devotion and spirituality.

We have a busy and stimulating couple of months ahead of us, with our Gaskell and Harvest services coming up. They are happy and special events in our own community, while we also seek to serve the wider world outside.

Our world faces huge challenges. The Amazon rain forest continues to be cut down at a truly frightening rate. I had it in mind when I chose the 'Pause for Thought' for this newsletter. Unitarians at their best were always practical in their faith. Should we not ask ourselves, 'What act can I do which will make things better, or at the very least, not make them worse? Even switching off an unnecessary light or using public transport when possible might be one small step to saving our precious world.

Every blessing, Rev Alex

Pause for Thought

"To the great tree-loving fraternity we belong. We love trees with universal and unfeigned love, and all things that do grow under them or around them - the whole leaf and root tribe."

Henry Ward Beecher (American Congregational minister)

The Secretary of the Knutsford Historical Society came along with three other of their members to our service on July 28th, when Rev Alex formally received their cheque for £485 as a gift to help promote the historic aspects of our chapel's heritage. (Their remaining funds were divided between Knutsford Heritage Centre and our chapel)



Dear friends,

I write these notes a few days after we hosted a number of visitors from a Unitarian chapel in Dukinfield at our Service on the 11th August. It was a lovely friendly service, much appreciated by regulars and visitors alike, followed by a lively atmosphere in the hall. Alex based his service on the theme of little actions making a big difference, and made a point of thanking all those involved in assisting in the extra work necessary to accommodate 26 extra attendees at chapel. I would like to endorse his words, and add my thanks. We can so easily take these things for granted and just assume that all is taken care of. I do make a point of thanking everyone involved throughout the year at our AGM, but of course not everyone can attend that. So, I take this opportunity to thank those who help in any way, however small, and acknowledge that all of these actions make an appreciable difference to chapel life. It is particularly reassuring to see our "newer attendees" (if I can put it like that) also being involved in door steward duties, and serving tea etc. Thank you one and all.

Regarding the continuing work on the vestry end of the chapel, thank you for your patience during these last few weeks when, if anything, access has been more difficult for you, instead of being improved. The committee have been disappointed at the slow progress, with at times no contractors being on site. We are continuing to push for completion, and hopefully it won't be long now. I am sure it will be worth the inconvenience in the end!

In the last notes, I informed you that we were expecting to hear from the Charity Commission regarding our application concerning the Mary Glass fund. I am pleased to be able to confirm the receipt of a certificate from them which allows us to use the fund for "maintaining the chapel", and not simply "maintaining the buildings". The committee will be deciding on our best method for managing this, giving due regard to our continuing need for being able to meet maintenance costs in the future, both anticipated and unexpected.

Best wishes
Graham Birks.

Committee Meetings

The next committee meetings planned are:
September 15th and October 14th.

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

Everyone is unique and has special skills, talents, interests. Also, sadly, no one lives for ever. Another idea for a regular, or semi regular article in our Newsletter is to have a short piece about someone who attended our Chapel, or was a close relative of someone who currently attends our Chapel. Most months some of the flowers are donated in memory of someone, if you would like to also write a short article about that loved one I will try to ensure that it is included in the news letter. It can take whatever form you would like from humorous, pictorial to straight biographical.

I was chatting to Shirley Artis about her late husband Michael and she said that he was honoured by the British Academy. I looked him up on the internet and found an extensive amount about him (follow this link to see the complete entry: thebritishacademy.ac.uk/sites/default/files/19%20Artis%201837%209_11_17.pdf) so I thought this would make an interesting first article.

Michael John Artis FBA was born in Croydon on 29th June 1938, the name Artis reflecting Huguenot origins. He was never one for sitting on formality, and was known universally as ‘Mike’. Early in his life his family moved to Blackpool, where Mike acquired a northern accent which was to puzzle his colleagues at the European University Institute when he moved there later in his academic career!

Mike worked at Adelaide University then Swansea at the start of his career and it was at Swansea that he met Shirley, who was to become his second wife and is member of our congregation. Mike and Shirley married after they moved to Manchester with Shirley’s children, Mark and Jacqui. (Mike had two children, Rosamond and Hilary, from his first marriage to Lilian.)

Mike and Shirley later moved to Florence where they seemed especially happy. Four years after returning to Manchester Mike became very ill, and Shirley was a strong support, as were his daughters.

Mike was what would be described as a ‘bright spark’ and had an illustrious career in economics. At Swansea he was Professor Applied Economics (1972—1976), at Manchester he was the joint editor of the Economic Journal (1986—1988) and associate editor (1988—1996), elected Fellow of the British Academy in 1988 and a Houlton-Norman Fellow at the Bank of England in 1989/90. He left Manchester to take up a Professorship at the European University Institute, Florence in 1995, before returning to Manchester in 2005 as Professorial Fellow and Director of the Regional Economics Centre.

It appears that many of the studies, reports and books he wrote had a significant effect on the City and UK monetary policy. In Florence he published many joint papers about the EMU and ERM and while it appears he would have preferred the UK to adopt a much closer European involvement he concluded in 2000 that the UK might be right to stay outside the EMU. One unusual episode of his research career happened in Florence in 1997 when one of his junior colleagues, Marco Buti (who became Director-General for Economic Affairs at the European Commission in 2017) and the mayors of two local townships had the idea of running a behavioural economics experiment to issue euro-coins and a euro ‘voucher-banknote’ in advance of the actual true euro issue in 1999, to see, for example, how the euro and lira might jointly circulate.

Although Mike was a rounded macroeconomist, it was as a monetary economist, working largely with Mervyn Lewis, that his earlier work will be best remembered. Thereafter, he did more general work on fiscal and wage equations, culminating in his 1984 textbook.

Those who worked with Mike remember him as a mentor and teacher but one of his former colleagues said simply ‘he was a first class human being’.

(I hope you like this potted biography Shirley and that I have got everything correct.)

Cover Photograph

On the front page of the Newsletter I have featured a couple of churches this year. Alan Eastwood very kindly supplied the photo for this edition and his description of the church is below. He also suggested that other members of the congregation might like to have their photographs featured which I thought was a great idea. If anyone would like to send me a photograph of their favourite church or an interesting church they have visited along with a paragraph or two about it (my e-mail on the back page) I will try to use them on the front cover in future Newsletters.

John Hutcheson

The Church (of the Saviour) on Spilled Blood (also known as the Church of the Resurrection) in Saint Petersburg is both an historical monument and a work of art. It marks the site of the assassination of Emperor Alexander II in 1881 and, in a special chapel in the western part of the building, there are railings that were stained with blood at the time of the murder. Being a Russian Orthodox church, it is very ornate inside but it doesn’t contain a single painting, the walls are almost entirely covered with mosaics.

The church was completed in 1907 after 24 years of construction. However, the church was ransacked after the revolution in 1917 and closed by the Soviet government in 1932. During the siege of Leningrad (its name at the time) in World War Two, the building was used as a morgue and, after the war, it was used as a warehouse for vegetables, giving it the nickname The Saviour on Potatoes! From 1970, it became a museum and was restored over the next 27 years. It has not yet been reconsecrated as a church.

Architecturally, the cathedral differs from Saint Petersburg's other important buildings. The city's architecture is predominantly Baroque and Neoclassical, but the Saviour on Blood harks back to medieval Russian architecture in the spirit of romantic nationalism. It intentionally resembles the 17th-century Yaroslavl churches and the celebrated St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow.

Alan Eastwood

Lost—and hopefully soon to be —Found

In putting away the tables in the hall recently it was found that we only have seven large tables for the hall in the under-stage storage space. We are supposed to have eight. If anyone can throw any light on its disappearance and help it to be returned to its rightful place please contact Alan Eastwood. Thank you.

MACMILLAN FUND RAISING EVENT
 Tuesday 24th September 10am until 1pm
 MORNING COFFEE AND CAKES
 LIGHT LUNCHES
 RAFFLE
 BRING AND BUY TABLE
 CAKES AND SAVOURY REFRESHMENTS TO BUY

Please encourage your friends and family to support this worthwhile charity.

HELP NEEDED

We need cakes, articles for sale, raffle prizes and helpers to work towards raising money for the MacMillan Fund Raising Event.

Please see Ann Clayton, Barbara Bayley or Maureen Fraser if you can help.

A man in Scotland calls his son in London the day before Christmas Eve and says, "I hate to ruin your day but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; forty-five years of misery is enough."

'Dad, what are you talking about?' the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer" the father says. "We're sick of each other and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Leeds and tell her."

Frantically, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like hell they're getting divorced!" she shouts, "I'll take care of this!"

She calls Scotland immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. 'Sorted! They're coming for Christmas – and they're paying their own way.'

Global Chalice Lighting

Awaking every morning
 See what you can achieve!
 Your life again is dawning.
 Just trust in your belief!
 Your dream can be your vision.
 You hold it in your hands.
 Start living your decision,
 reach out and take the chance!
 Arise as mists are fading!
 Doors are open wide.
 Your happiness is waiting,
 so step into the light!

Words offered in honour of the second gathering of European Unitarians Together
 Copied from Rivington Chapel Newsletter.

A letter earlier this year in the Daily Telegraph that you may have missed:

Same Sex marriages

SIR—In your article (telegraph.co.uk, May 14) it is mentioned that "the Scottish Episcopal Church and the United Reformed Church (URCH) are two denominations which currently allow same-sex marriages."

What was not mentioned is that many Unitarian churches and chapels are also registered to celebrate same-sex marriages. Indeed, the Unitarians campaigned both for the law change to allow equal marriage, and for the right of same-sex couples to get married in church.

There are Unitarian churches all over the country where people will find an inclusive welcome.

Rev Anthony Howe
Birmingham

I have included this letter to remind everyone that our Chapel has a welcome for everyone, irrespective of race, religion or sex (our Chapel also has a licence for same-sex marriages). We are actively trying to attract new people to our Chapel and have tried various things like leaflets, themed services, banners outside the Chapel etc. However, one of the most effective ways of getting people to 'give us a try' is by personal recommendation to your family and friends. Also rites of passage such as Christening/naming ceremonies and weddings are a good way to let people experience our Chapel and religion.

If you know anyone you think might be interested by our Unitarian approach to religion please do not hesitate to invite them along.

The many and mysterious Chapel Harmonia?

A letter received by Rev Jean from John Grassby, Guildford.

I have recently acquired a harmonium. I understand that it was at one time the property of Rev. William Ronald Strachan who was minister at the Brook Street Chapel from 1967 to 1984.

Is it possible that the harmonium was at one time installed at the Chapel?

I ask because when I got the Harmonium it was in a poor state of repair. Now I have cleaned and renovated it so that it is fully operational and looking a bit more like a new instrument.

I wanted to know all about its history. I have traced it from the wife of the Rev Strachan to date. I would be pleased if you could supply any information about it before 1984. Are there any old pictures of the chapel around that date? Is there any information about he installing of a new organ for the chapel?

Rev Jean followed up that message by contacting David Strachan, one of Rev Strachan's sons. His recollection is that his Dad acquired 2 harmoniums (harmonia?), at least one of which he was fairly certain came from a closing Unitarian church (Congleton, perhaps, or somewhere that direction). There was a smaller and a larger one, he thinks that the harmonium in question was the smaller and it might, after Rev Strachan died, have gone to a family friend (Beryl Holden's elder son). David shall ask him. The other passed to David and he did some superficial restoration but it began to get in the way and a few years ago gave it to a friend's then-girlfriend who was setting up some sort of retreat in Dumfriesshire!

David is, however, fairly sure that neither came from our chapel. He is fairly sure there a harmonium in the gallery, on the back wall near the organ.

Can anyone else shed any more light on the history of any Chapel harmonia? If so please let Rev Jean know.

Rivington Chapel—Triennial Pilgrimage Saturday 28th September

Our Chapel is organising a group to take part in this pilgrimage. If you are interested in going please let Steve Crowther know by 1st September. Booking is essential and there is a charge of £14.50 per person for the lunch.

The Guest Speaker is Rev Celia Cartwright, President of the General Assembly and the service is conducted by Rev Danny Crosby, Minister at Altrincham and Urmston Chapels.

The history of Rivington Chapel building: Though the historic congregation dates from the separation in 1662 from the Parish church, the chapel was built of local stone in 1703 and has a small bell-cote. Its historical importance is recognised by English Heritage. The restored interior contains the original box pews and a stone memorial to Lord Willoughby, one of its founders. The descendants of George Brownlow, another of its founders, held a service in 17th century costume. A plaque by the yew tree indicates a link with Walt Whitman, the American poet. The chapel is often visited by historical societies as well as by schools.

Christian Aid

During a family service in May Rev Jean talked about Charity with the children. They then made book marks that they sold during tea/coffee time after the service and Rev Jean had made some cakes that they also sold. They raised £75 that was then sent off to Christian Aid towards the work they do in 40 of the world's poorest countries. Christian Aid sent a thank you letter to our children in the congregation that included some information about a project they are carrying out Luanda, Angola. They are working with partners there to set up two complementary projects to address gender—based violence. In Angola domestic violence was only outlawed in 2011 and remains endemic. Sexual violence, in homes and schools, is widespread.

The girls' project, 'Girls Building Bridges', is run by the Women's Christian Union (UCF/YWCA), while the project for boys, 'Together We'll Triumph', is run by the Angolan Congregational Church (IECA). Donations from people like our children enable these projects to work through youth mentors to promote positive behaviour and healthy relationships, and to empower young people to become catalysts for change among their wider families and communities.

Daniel Duvila Katino, a mentor working with the boys' project, says: "Through all the awareness sessions, debates and workshops that we do, the boys start to understand that looking down on women isn't right. We go into the boys' homes, chat with the parents, help them understand that reality is different to the cultural stereotypes. We're all equal, with equal rights."

Christian Aid believes that communities around the world must be self-reliant, community led and responsibly governed. They choose partners that share their values and put these into action. It is through love and support from people like our children that they are able to provide this assistance.

For everyone who has ever had an evaluation - just remember, it could have been worse. These are claimed to be actual quotes taken from employee performance evaluations.

"Since my last report, this employee has reached rock-bottom and has started to dig."

"I would not allow this employee to breed."

"This employee is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definite won't be."

"Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap."

"When he opens his mouth, it seems that it is only to change feet."

"This young lady has delusions of adequacy."

"He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."

"This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."

"This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts the better."

"Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thingy to hold it all together."

"A gross ignoramus - 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus."

"He doesn't have ulcers, but he's a carrier."

"I would like to go hunting with him sometime."

"He's been working with glue too much."

"He would argue with a signpost."

"He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room."

"When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell."

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 Nov/Dec diary?

	Minister	Organist	Door Stewards	Teas/Coffees	Flowers
Sept					
1 st	Rev Jean Bradley, Family Service	Jonathan Rimmer	Morgan Hattie	Barbara Mottershead Maureen Fraser	Barbara and Graham Mottershead in celebration of their wedding anniversary.
8 th	Rev Alex Bradley	Jonathan Rimmer	Dorothy Bowden Graham Bowden	Jean Littler Ann Clayton	Jean Littler
15 th	Rev Alex Bradley	Alan Gough	Morgan Hattie	Sue & John Hutcheson	Jean and Minister Alex Bradley
22 nd	Rev Alex Bradley Elizabeth Gaskell Service	Aya Pitcher	Ann Clayton Jean Littler	Maureen Fraser Lyn Rankin	Vanessa in memory of her husband Roger's birthday 17th September
29 th	Ken Howard	Jonathan Rimmer	Heather Chris	Joan Eastwood Jane Butler	Aya and Maurice in memory of his mother Teresa Pitcher's birthday
Oct					
6 th	Rev Jean Bradley, Family and Harvest Service	Jonathan Rimmer	Pat Leach Ann Clayton	Barbara Mottershead Maureen Fraser	Harvest display arranged by Paula Martin
13 th	Rev Alex Bradley	Jonathan Rimmer	Joan Eastwood Jane Butler	Jean Littler Hattie McDougall	Meg Such
20 th	Rev Alex Bradley	Alan Gough	Ann Clayton Jean Littler	Maureen Fraser Lyn Rankin	Denise and Graham Birks
27 th	Rev Alex Bradley	Aya Pitcher	Jane and Steve Crowther	Jane and Steve Crowther	Sue and John Hutcheson

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 kitchen area and they will be delivered to those in need.