

DUNHAM ROAD UNITARIAN CHAPEL ALTRINCHAM



Founded 1814

Built 1872

August 2020



Minister: Rev Danny Crosby

43 Roebuck Lane

Sale

Cheshire

M33 7SZ

Mob: 07908 894049

Chapel Vestry 0161 302 7303

Email: dannydcrosby@hotmail.com

Sunday Worship at 11.30 am

Web: www.ukunitarians.org.uk/altrincham

Charity Number 230482

FROM THE MINISTER

How are we doing? It has been a tough few months, we are living through unprecedented times. Things are much calmer than they have been and we are beginning to tentatively return to a sense of normality and some of our usual activities. We are even beginning to offer communal worship at Dunham Road, although not yet at Queens Road, where we are hoping to open in September. We will continue to offer our Zoom activities including the Sunday service as well as by email and post. Thank you for all your supportive messages these last few months and thanks for taking care of one another pastorally. My heart and my prayers are with you all.

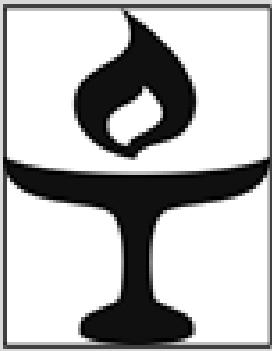


How do we all feel? No doubt a mixture of emotions. So many of us have missed that feeling of congregating together in time and space. It has been a tough time. Let's not think it is over, if is not, we are just starting to come out of our shelters and attempting to be together once again, in a variety of ways. Things are not the same, things will never be exactly the same, but then remember as Heraclitus so famously said "No one steps in the same river twice, because the river is not the same and neither is the person stepping into it." I suspect that over these last few months, to some extent, we have all changed and even as we return to the old familiar, we will find that they are not quite the same either. We need not fear this, although change can feel uncomfortable at times. My life has certainly changed in so many ways these last few months as I have adjusted to a variety of changes in my life, personally and professionally. So, I know that I am not returning to the same places in my life in exactly the same way.

Now please do not die of shock, but I have something I need to tell you. I have served as minister to you good folk in Urmston and Altrincham for ten years. Hard to believe I know, but nevertheless it is true. My ministry began on 1st August 2010, on Yorkshire Day as you are no doubt aware (Joke!). So much has changed in this time, although nothing in comparison to the last few months, we are living through unprecedented times.

Living of course is what we must do, perhaps differently, but living still the same. We journey on together if in different ways. I am certain that as we pass through these challenging times that change will come; a change that will not be merely transitional or even developmental, more transformational, if we allow ourselves to flow with the river and not anchor ourselves too much.

(Continued on page 3)

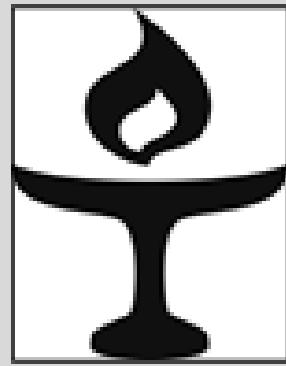


DUNHAM ROAD

UNITARIAN

CHAPEL

August 2020



Why belong to any church at all? Can't I be a "Unitarian" without belonging? Not really. Most of us are not resolute or gifted enough to achieve our full potential living as hermits. Good company helps.

Anon

Life is a journey and a beautiful one at that. One in which we are constantly turning and returning again and again and again. It is not easy, there are always troubles and difficulties. There will even be times when we will not be recognised and may not even recognise ourselves; there will even be times when we will feel completely lost and won't know where to turn for sanctuary; there will even be times of darkness too, but we all must journey on, not knowing which direction we are heading. In the end of course we return from where we came, somehow different but with something to offer our shared world.

So, let's keep on journeying on together, in our fellowship of love. Let us always remember that we do not sail this ship alone, even when we are physical apart, we are never alone in heart, mind, spirit and soul.

Love and respect Rev Danny

THE MINISTER'S REST DAY IS FRIDAY

Please remember that Rev Danny Crosby has a day off every week and that day is Friday. Members of the congregation are asked to respect this; everyone is entitled to a period of rest away from the daily chores of a job. So unless it is absolutely necessary, the congregation is asked not to contact him on his day off.

ZOOM AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN AUGUST 2020

Below are listed all the ZOOM ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

All activities can be accessed by **Zoom ID 84190828195**

Wednesday 12th August at 7pm “Living the Questions: Respair Giving birth to a new Hope, in a time of Despair”

Thursday 13th August at 7pm “Consolation, Sorrow and Joy” An evening of sharing poetry and verse.

Saturday 15th August at 3pm “The Colours of Grief: Our Shared Experience of Love and Loss” A grief support group.

Thursday 20th August at 7pm “Consolation, Sorrow and Joy.” An evening of sharing poetry and verse.

Thursday 27th August at 7pm “Consolation, Sorrow and Joy.” An evening of sharing poetry and verse.

Saturday 29th August at 3pm “The Colours of Grief: Our Shared Experience of Love and Loss” A grief support group.

Wednesday 2nd September at 7pm “Living the Questions: Subject. **TBA**

Thursday 3rd September at 7pm “Consolation, Sorrow and Joy.” An evening of sharing poetry and verse.

Thursday 10th September at 7pm “Consolation, Sorrow and Joy.” An evening of sharing poetry and verse.

Saturday 12th September at 3pm “The Colours of Grief: Our Shared Experience of Love and Loss” A grief support group.

Thursday 24th September at 7pm “Consolation, Sorrow and Joy.” An evening of sharing poetry and verse.

Saturday 26th September at 3pm “The Colours of Grief: Our Shared Experience of Love and Loss” A grief support group.

The Sunday service for August and September will be taken by Rev Danny Crosby, except for :

Sunday 9th August the service will be led by **Tom Grimshaw** From Chorlton Unitarian Church.

Sunday 13th September: **Men's Service**

**Happy Birthday in August 2020
to**

Margaret Williams 3rd

Margaret Matthews 7th

Robert Roper 11th

Mike Searle 13th

Jane Brophy 27th



CALENDAR

A shortened September Calendar will be distributed

in the week commencing

Monday 31st August 2020

Recent 100 Club Winners

**These monthly prizes have been
postponed until we all meet again.**

**Be assured this draw will re-
commence.**

NEWS OF PEOPLE

- This month the editor has received very little news concerning members. The funeral service of Richard Kirkwood was held at Altrincham Crematorium and was led by Rev Danny Crosby on Thursday 16h July and as per government regulations the attendance was limited but the service was streamed.
- The wedding of Rosie Arnold will take place on Sunday 23 August and this will be limited attendance.

A Glimpse at Welsh Unitarianism

“Best Foot Forward”

A delightful autobiography by
Reverend Eric Jones (2020)

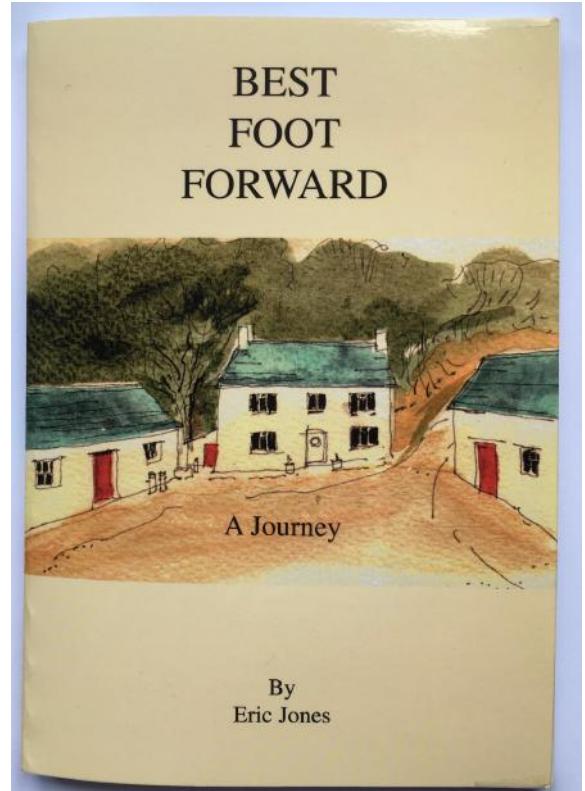
Welsh Unitarianism has a history of its own and is probably little known to the rest of the UK. Eric Jones, a Unitarian Minister, was born in the little village of Cribyn in rural Cardiganshire, now renamed Ceredigion, in mid Wales, gives a vivid account of life as Unitarian minister, commencing with a fascinating account of his early life in rural Wales in the war years. His parents were farmers and he emphasises the spirit of community, there was much self-reliance but also a spirit of co-operation in this rural farming community.

Farming, at that time, was hard work with little mechanisation and financially unrewarding. Car ownership was rare, public transport was scarce and there was much walking. His parents' families had a long history of Unitarianism and they were loyal supporters of the Unitarian Chapel in Cribyn in that area of Ceredigion/Carmarthenshire which has a large cluster of Unitarian Chapels.

Unfortunately, young Eric suffered from ill health and an attack of measles left him with defective eyesight and for some reason he did not commence formal education until he was nine years old, a situation unthinkable in today's world. However, Eric made good, rapid progress and caught up with his year group. He was able to move to Lampeter Comprehensive School with no problems but, as he remarks, he was a long way behind in social skills which was of some detriment to him in young adulthood.

On leaving school he returned to work on the farm, but he found farming ungenial and this led him to train for the Unitarian Ministry at the Presbyterian College in Carmarthen, a college with a long tradition of training Welsh dissenting ministers including Unitarian students. Three years at the college was followed by Cardiff University, finishing with a year of Social Science study.

His Unitarian Ministry commenced in 1961 at two congregations amongst the



An artist's impression of Cwmllidan
(Wide Valley) Farmstead in
Cribyn ,Ceredigion



The Rev Eric Jones (far right) and a group of South East Wales Unitarians

smoke and coal mines in Aberdare in the Cynon valley. He served the English speaking congregation at Highland Place and the Welsh congregation at Hen Dy Cwrth (Old Meeting House), a meeting place dating back to the seventeenth century. Initially it was a difficult time for a young unmarried man in his first ministry far away from his friends and family in Ceredigion. Of course he was made welcome by the two congregations. However, the local non-conformist clergy were not exactly welcoming, there was no local ministerial fellowship he could join and the nearest Unitarian ministries were in Cardiff and Pontypridd which in those days seemed a million miles away.

However, he "put his best foot forward", which has always been his motto in times of difficulty and of course it worked. He became part of the landscape. He married Anne in 1970, two sons appeared followed by five grandchildren and the fact that the ministry lasted for 40 years until he retired in 2001 speaks for itself.

As time passed he accumulated more duties in addition to ministering to the two Aberdare congregations. He became active in the two Welsh Districts' administration, serving as secretary and treasurer. Later the Welsh Department, part of the General Assembly was formed and he was secretary of this until his retirement. He made his mark in the wider Denomination and he was General Assembly President in 1989 and was installed as such at the Aberdeen Meeting.

In his early years as minister, the wider Welsh community took an increasing interest in preserving and promoting the Welsh language and culture and this manifested itself in the promotion of Welsh Medium Schools (Schools where all subjects were taught through the use of the Welsh language). This became a controversial political issue with many politicians regarding this as a retrograde step which was expensive and a waste of money. Eric was very active in supporting this movement and spent a considerable amount of energy and time attending and chairing public meetings and committees. Other extra-ministerial activities included organizing Unitarian youth activities and he was in great demand as a judge at Eisteddfodau.

I have quickly passed over Eric's 40 years of Unitarian activities and community work in South Wales but this fascinating autobiography gives a detailed account of Unitarianism in the last half of the twentieth century and mentions many prominent Welsh Unitarians who have worked hard to keep the many small congregations alive and active. Eric was a popular leader and an inspiration throughout his 40 years of ministry and of course, Unitarian ministers do not really retire, they just change their way of contributing to the movement.

This is an excellent account of a long, active and successful Welsh Unitarian ministry, lavishly illustrated.

Best Foot Forward is published by the South East Wales Unitarian Society.

Available from Aled Jones (0161 445 6935). Price £10, which includes packing and postage)

THIS MONTH'S QUOTATION

Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so we may fear less.

Marie Curie 1867-1934



This month's quotation is particularly apt since facts, knowledge and the scientific discipline have been so vital since 23 March 2020. Scientific truth is not instantaneous, but it has been the basis on which to plan the anti-viral strategy of 2020 . Marie Curie working in a Paris university laboratory during the first decade of the twentieth century was well established in the world of science commenced by Newton and the Royal Society of the seventeenth century. She is renowned for fundamental work in radioactivity and was the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize

(Physics in 1903), shared by husband Pierre Curie and Henri Becquerel. Unfortunately, she is one of the few scientists whose death can be attributed directly to her early research work. She died in 1934 aged 67 due to aplastic anaemia due to the radioactive activity she was exposed to during her early career, when the toxic effects of x-rays had not been established.

She was born in Poland in 1867 as Marie Skłodowska. She moved to Paris in 1891 where sister lived and studied at the Sorbonne university. She married Pierre Curie and both worked together. Her second Nobel prize (for chemistry) was for the isolation of polonium and radium in 1911.

During the first world war she worked to bring diagnostic X-ray equipment to the front lines, so that diagnostic X-rays could be taken in the emergency hospitals, these early mobile machines were called "Petits Curies". During the war years she concentrated on raising monies for radiological facilities for the wounded soldiers and became director of radiology. After the war she returned to her research work which continued until her death.

Chapel House Refurbishment

We continue to make progress, but slowly. All the basic plans are in place. We have agreed our architect's plans; the structural engineer has submitted plans for removal of the chimney breast and the subsequent steel works and building regulation firm has been employed. We have selected a builder and accepted his estimate and building works will commence on Monday 10th August.

The Manchester District association has granted the chapel £5000 towards the costs and has offered a £10,000 loan free of interest, if this required.

We have applied to the Unitarian Hibbert Charitable trust for grant aid, but the result of this application will not be known until the end of September.

I feel optimistic about the project, and the end result will be an attractive modern "cottage" which will be a desirable rental proposition. **Aled Jones**

Details of Previous Zoom services in July 2020

Sunday 5 July Rev Danny Crosby: Art and Creativity: Healing the Heart and Feeding the Soul.

Sunday 12 July Tom Grimshaw: A World of Wonder

Sunday 19 July Rev Danny Crosby: Answering the Call to Care

Sunday 26 July: Rev Danny Crosby: Liberty and Responsibility



“It Matters”

by Rev. Robert Walsh

I knew a man who had printed on his stationery this proverb: “Nothing is settled. Everything matters.” It established a certain ambience for reading his letters, as if to say: what you are about to read is to be taken seriously, but is not final. I remember him and his proverb sometimes, especially when it seems impossible to change the world or myself in any significant way.

“Sorry, Jim,” I say. “It’s not true that nothing is settled. In the past year choices have been made, losses have been suffered, there have been growth and decay, there have been commitments and betrayals. None of that can be undone. A year ago no one knew whether during this year one person would become pregnant, another would get cancer, another would take a new job, another would have an accident, but now it is settled.

“One day this year I was present just when someone needed me; another day I was busy doing something else when I was needed. One day I said something to a friend that injured our relationship; another day I said something that enabled a person to see life in a new way. The best and the worst of those days is now written. All my tears, of joy or sorrow, cannot erase it.”

If I stay with my meditation long enough, the reply comes. “Robbie,” says Jim. “You have misunderstood the proverb. It is true you cannot escape the consequences of your actions or the chances of the world. But what is not settled is how the story turns out. What is not settled is what the meaning of your life will be.”

The meaning of a life is not contained within one act, or one day, or one year. As long as you are alive the story of your life is still being told, and the meaning is still open. As long as there is life in the world, the story of the world is still being told. What is done is done, but nothing is settled. And if nothing is settled, then everything matters. Every choice, every act in the new year matters. Every word, every deed is making the meaning of your life and telling the story of the world. Everything matters in the year coming, and, more importantly, everything matters today.

As Leo Tolstoy said, “Remember that there is only one important time and it is Now. The present moment is the only time over which we have dominion. The most important person is always the person with whom you are, who is right before

you, for who knows if you will have dealings with any other person in the future. The most important pursuit is making that person, the one standing at your side, happy, for that alone is the pursuit of life."

Submitted by Aled Jones

Robert Walsh was an American Unitarian Minister who last ministry was in Massachusetts

Blackbirds by Julie Cadwallader-Staub

I am 52 years old, and have spent
truly the better part
of my life out-of-doors
but yesterday I heard a new sound above my head
a rustling, ruffling quietness in the spring air

and when I turned my face upward
I saw a flock of blackbirds
rounding a curve I didn't know was there
and the sound was simply all those wings
just feathers against air, against gravity
and such a beautiful winning
the whole flock taking a long, wide turn
as if of one body and one mind.

How do they *do* that?
Oh if we lived only in human society
with its cruelty and fear
its apathy and exhaustion
what a puny existence that would be

but instead we live and move and have our being
here, in this curving and soaring world
so that when, every now and then, mercy and tenderness triumph in our lives
and when, even more rarely, we manage to unite and move together
toward a common good,

we can think to ourselves:

ah yes, this is how it's meant to be.

Submitted by Rev Danny Croby

Officers of the Congregation

Chairperson	Gwyneth Roper	0161 941 4794
		Mob 07960 501497
Secretary and	Aled Jones	0161 445 6935
Membership Secretary	aled.jones2@ntlworld.com	
Treasurer	Asama Jabeen	0161 927 3123
	Email: asamajabeen@hotmail.co.uk	
Assistant Hon Treasurer:	Frank Drainey	0161 927 3123
Calendar Editor	Aled Jones	0161 445 6935
Publicity Officer	Vacant	-
Periodicals Sec.	Lois Smith	0161 431 8204
Lettings Secretary	Aled Jones	0161 445 6935
Letting Treasurer	Asama Jabeen	0161 927 3123
Organist	Margaret Williams	0161 437 3945
Flower Secretary	Jenny Sykes	0161 928 0731
Coffee Rota	Helen Copley	0161 928 3295
Pastoral Care	Gwyneth Roper	0161 941 4794
Co-ordinator		

Maintaining a Unitarian presence in Altrincham

Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel is open to all who
wish to worship with an open mind.

The Chapel welcomes new members - please
see the Minister or Chapel Secretary or read our
leaflet for inquirers and would-be members.