

**BROOK STREET CHAPEL
NEWSLETTER
MARCH/APRIL 2023**



**THIS CHAPEL WARMLY WELCOMES YOU,
WHETHER YOU BE AN OLD FRIEND,
A NEWCOMER, OR A SEEKER!**

SPRING CONCERT IN THE CHAPEL

Friday March 18th 7.30pm

Alteri Choir + Aya (Organ)

**Tickets £12 available from ticketsource.co.uk
or from Chapel Members**

Please come and support and bring along your friends!!

From our Student Minister - Francis Elliott-Wright

It's so exciting to be beginning my placement and I'm looking forward to every minute of it. There's lots for me to learn but I've had a wonderful welcome, so thank you to everyone.

My first priority is to get to know you better, so over the next few weeks and months I'll be getting in touch to arrange a one to one chat. I'll be visiting folk in their own homes, if possible, or at chapel, or in a cafe. I'll be around from Friday to Tuesday surrounding the first and third Sunday of the month and occasionally at other times. This means it will take a while to meet with everyone but it's definitely worth spending this time getting to know each other. I'm also going to meet with everyone who does a job for the congregation so I can learn what they do and how things work.

On Sunday 19th February I spoke about how we all have a calling but sometimes it takes a while to be sure about this. Lent is the time to clarify our calling and think about what sort of mission God might have for us. It doesn't have to be spectacular, it just needs to accord with the drive and the talent that we've been given. We all have God given gifts and these are a clue to the sort of calling we might discern. There's no better feeling than knowing that you are fulfilling your calling. Many of us are doing this already, but as I said on that Sunday, perhaps there's another level or a new angle or direction for us to discover over Lent.

It's going to take a little while for me to find my feet. Churches are wonderful but complex organisms and no one can find the right approach to every different issue and task right away. I'll make mistakes but I promise you I'll learn from them. Everyone's been so kind and so friendly and I want you to know how much it is appreciated, and what a difference it makes.

Letter from Jean & Alex in Wales

Alex and I feel really grateful for the beauty in our part of the world. Simply by looking out of our windows, we see a beautiful hill with changes in colour each day according to the weather conditions.

When we lived in Knutsford, Llandudno and Rhos-on-Sea were two favourite destinations for a day out with Gyp. But living here in Mid Wales has meant that we are now nearer to the sea, so going off to see the sea for an afternoon is an easy option.

A few days ago, our beloved Gyp became ill and we had only a short time to be with him. We returned to 'his' favourite doggy beach and enjoyed some time in the beauty of nature, feeling the warmth of the sun, hearing the lapping of the waves and seeing the beautiful hills around us. We have said our goodbyes to our lovely Gyp that we know so many of you will remember, but through our sadness, we remember the beauty of our world and give thanks to God.

And in our remembering, we remember all our dear friends from Brook Street Chapel and hold you all in our love. We continue to think of you all and look forward over time to seeing you if you ever want to visit us and enjoy this beautiful part of Wales.

Our love and best wishes, Jean and Alex

WEDNESDAY FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Every 3rd Wednesday in the Chapel Hall 2.00-4.00 pm

On **18th January** Maureen Fraser treated us to an afternoon of “Beetle Drive” which was great fun and enjoyed by all.

Vanessa McCluney was the star entertainer on **February 15th** as she gave a master class on making sculptures out of foil. She had previously painted a beautiful backdrop of snow covered mountains and inspired us by playing the theme music from “Ski Sunday”. Then, amidst much laughter, and under Vanessa’s expert guidance, we proceeded to make our sculptures of skiers, the results of some of which can be seen in the photo.



The next meeting on **March 15th** should prove very informative as Jenny Lloyd, who works for Healthwatch, will be talking about getting the best out of the health and care services for the people of Cheshire. She will be hoping for much feedback, which could be implemented to further the cause.

Ann Clayton

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU IF YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS AFTER CHAPEL

We need two people to do this easy and much appreciated task.

1. Milk and a packet of biscuits need to be bought, money will be refunded.
2. Switch the water heater on in the kitchen before going into the Chapel service.
3. Leave just before the service ends and get cups out and make drinks.
4. Wash up afterwards.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE A DOOR STEWARD

Simply be at the Chapel door to welcome everyone. If a new person arrives, show them into the Chapel. Your face will be the first a stranger sees; your welcome may encourage someone to come to Chapel again. Please also help with taking the Collection at the Service.

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MARCH

Sunday services start at 11.00am

Sunday 5th March – FAMILY Service conducted by Francis Elliot-Wright
Organist Jonathan Rimmer

Flowers donated by Pam Griffiths in memory of her Mum and Dad

Refreshments – Pat and Clive Heath

Door Stewards – Pat and Clive Heath

Sunday 12th March – Service conducted by Vince McCully
Organist Jonathan Rimmer

Flowers donated by Sheila Curtis

Refreshments – Beulah Cornes and Adrian Rees

Door Stewards – Beulah Cornes and Adrian Rees

Sunday 19th March – MOTHERING SUNDAY Service conducted by
Francis Elliot-Wright

Organist Jonathan Rimmer

Flowers donated in memory of Kate Whelan

Refreshments – Chris Flavell and Jenny Whelan

Door Stewards – Chris Flavell and Jenny Whelan

Sunday 26th March – Service conducted by Len Elias
Organist Aya Pitcher

Flowers donated by Jean Littler

Refreshments – Joan Eastwood and Beulah Cornes

Door Stewards – Joan Eastwood and Beulah Cornes

Flower Rota – Joan Eastwood (01565 634992)

Refreshment Rota – Maureen Fraser (01565 634328)

Door Steward Rota – Denise Birks (01606 558424)

NEXT NEWSLETTER

The May/June Newsletter will be made available for Sunday 30th April.

Please can I have all contributions by 23rd April.

Interesting words of humour or wisdom also welcomed.

Send to email: clive.heath@virgin.net thanks..Clive

APRIL

Sunday services start at 11.00am

Sunday 2nd April – PALM SUNDAY FAMILY Service conducted by
Francis Elliot-Wright

Organist Jonathan Rimmer

Flowers donated by Jane Butler

Refreshments – Joan Eastwood and

Door Stewards – Joan Eastwood and

Friday 7th April – GOOD FRIDAY Service conducted by
Francis Elliot-Wright

Organist Aya Pitcher

Flowers donated by

Refreshments –

Door Stewards –

Sunday 9th April – EASTER SUNDAY Service conducted by
Francis Elliot-Wright

Organist Jonathan Rimmer

Flowers donated by Maureen Fraser

Refreshments – Ann Clayton and Jenny Whelan

Door Stewards – Ann Clayton and Jenny Whelan

Sunday 16th April – Service conducted by

Organist Aya Pitcher

Flowers donated by Mel and Tara in celebration of their nephews

Refreshments – Paula Martin and Dave Thomas

Door Stewards – Paula Martin and Dave Thomas

Sunday 23rd April – Service conducted by

Organist Aya Pitcher

Flowers donated by Sarah and Tren in memory of Edward

Refreshments – Maureen Fraser and Lyn Rankin

Door Stewards – Maureen Fraser and Lyn Rankin

Sunday 30th April – Service conducted by Laura Dobson

Organist Jonathan Rimmer

Flowers donated by Graham and Denise

Refreshments – Ann Clayton and Hattie McDougall

Door Stewards – Ann Clayton and Hattie McDougall

JACOB'S BISCOFF CAKE



We have a new volunteer at the chapel, at least for the next few months. Jacob Eastwood (13), elder grandson of Joan and Alan, is helping us as part of his Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award scheme.

Depending upon his football schedule on a Sunday, he will either be helping lay out the hall and kitchen before the service and hand out hymn books at the door or, if he has an early kick-off, he will join us after the service to serve teas and coffees and put away the tables and chairs afterwards.

As well as the above activities which contribute to his community/charity work within the award scheme, Jacob is also providing us with lovely cakes as part of his cookery module. His Biscoff cake has been so well received that we thought we should include the recipe here:

1 jar of Biscoff smooth spread (or Aldi version)

3 eggs

2 teaspoons baking powder

Empty jar into large bowl, mix in eggs and baking powder until combined.

Pour into cake tin or silicone case.

Bake at 180C (160 fan) for 25 mins.

Enjoy!

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WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

1.30 pm on Friday 3rd March at St Vincent's Catholic Church in George Street. Followed by light refreshments in the hall.

All welcome – *last year we had the largest representation of any of the local churches!*

Chapel Website and Facebook

More pictures on our website (Past Events) - www.brookstreetchapel.org.uk
and Facebook page



www.facebook.com/brookstreetchapelknutsford

Facebook page can be accessed via link at bottom of web pages

Please give any comments or suggestions to Aya

Notes from our Chairperson

Dear friends,

As we enter this period of 2023 we enter a new era for the chapel. As you will all know by now, this month we welcome Francis Elliot Wright as our Minister, on a “placement” basis from his Ministerial training at the Unitarian College. This placement will last from now until the end of the year, with an option to extend to April 2024.



As you will also know, Francis lives in Sheffield. So this placement is an ideal opportunity for ourselves and Francis to assess the practical elements of how this will work for both parties. The plan is that Francis will have temporary accommodation in Sale, travelling from Sheffield on the Friday before a scheduled leading of a service on the Sunday, and then stay in Sale until travelling back to Sheffield on the following Tuesday, probably after the coffee morning. This presents a significant period during which he can be involved in chapel life, meeting members and attendees of the chapel, getting to know the wider community and understanding the potential for outreach.

You will see from this Newsletter that he will lead services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. The other Sundays will be led by visiting speakers, many of whom we have got to know rather well in recent months. You will also see that Francis has introduced a Good Friday service and that he has moved one of his services to accommodate the delivery of the Easter Sunday service.

As I write these notes, myself and other members of the committee are making arrangements to meet with Francis to discuss the early practicalities of the start of his time with us, and introducing him to the normal routine life of the chapel. I know that he already has plans to begin introducing himself to you all on a personal level very soon. So, on your behalf, I welcome Francis and wish him well on the start of this very exciting period for us all.

On other chapel matters, you will see that we have a concert planned for the 18th March, and posters and leaflets have been distributed locally. Tickets are now available! My thanks go to Maurice, instrumental in arranging and planning of the concert, to Aya for her part in playing at the concert and the necessary planning and rehearsing for that. My thanks also to all those people who have supported Maurice and Aya in making this ambitious event possible.

At our next committee meeting we will be looking at when we might be setting a date for the AGM. Until recent years this was always in April, but the years of Covid and its aftermath, and also the switching of our accountants threw us out of sync. Last year's was in August. I would expect that this year we will be able to bring it forward, but I am not sure by how much at this stage.

Building and maintenance matters continue, and I expect we will see some significant progress as the weather hopefully starts to become more spring like!

Best wishes

Graham Birks.



Several of our Chapel members made special appearances at the Lions Senior Citizens Concert on Saturday 4 February at the Methodist Church! – with excellent musical support from Aya.

Brook Street Chapel, Knutsford – Unitarian & Free Christian

WHO ARE WE?

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.

We believe that Christianity, properly understood, is a way of life rather than a creed or a system of doctrine. We believe there are many different ways to God.

Our congregation is run by our members, believing we are all equal, that in the words from the Bible, “where two or three are gathered in my name, I (God) am in the midst of them. We are a spiritual community: in words from the Bible, 'God is spirit and those who worship, must worship in spirit and truth'. In fidelity to the truth and in the loving spirit of Jesus Christ, we unite for the worship of God and the service of humanity.

We warmly invite you to worship with us and share in our spiritual fellowship.

CONTACT DETAILS

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|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| STUDENT MINISTER | Francis Elliot-Wright | |
| CHAIR | Mr Graham Birks | 01606 558424 |
| SECRETARY | | |
| TREASURER | Mr Alan Eastwood | 01565 634992 |
| HERITAGE | Mrs Beulah Cornes | 01565 632673 |
| NEWSLETTER | Clive Heath | 01565 653103 |
| WEBSITE | Aya Pitcher | ayapitcher@gmail.com |