

Unitarian and Free Christian



Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel, Warrington Newsletter for March & April 2026



Chair's Report

Unfortunately we were not able to send our newsletter out to you for the past 2 months due to ill health of some members. So here is all that happened in our chapel since we posted you the last one.

It has been a very eventful time at the chapel. for us. Robert Foreman, our new minister, had his inauguration in Padiham, his original chapel where he started his training. It was a very touching and dignified event with the ceremony celebrating his achievement for 3 years of intense studies at the university. We are very fortunate to have Rob as our fully qualified minister, the 39th from the beginning of our chapel. He is following many very distinguished Ministers who forewarded the development of the Chapel and our denomination. Our congregation is very much looking forward to have Rob as the solid foundation for the chapel and as our spiritual leader. His services are always a time we very much look forward to and of course, his beautiful voice to guide us.

As part of our commitment to assist to the community, we donated food collections to the food bank and we contributed to an orphanage in Uganda to help the students there to be educated. A member in our chapel is actively involved there and you can read in further detail about it.

The world around us is in great turmoil at the moment, it is very hard to watch people suffer in wars and be helpless bystanders. All we can do is live our lives with hope and love in our hearts. Ray's review of the life and works of Joseph Priestley illustrate how we as Unitarians believe that Government is for the people, by the people, not for political leaders who strive to use it for their own power and vested interest.

With best wishes
Friede

Minister's Reflection

A Season of Care and Renewal

As we move through the early weeks of spring, the church calendar gently invites us into a season of reflection and renewal. Mothering Sunday reminds us that care and nurture are among the deepest expressions of love — whether we give or receive them through parents, families, friendships, or the wider community that gathers around us.

At Cairo Street Chapel, we are reminded that a congregation can also be a kind of family. In times of joy and difficulty, we hold one another in kindness, conversation, and shared presence. The simple act of gathering, to worship, to listen, to sing, or simply to sit together, becomes a way of nurturing the life of the spirit.

As we look toward Easter, a festival of hope and new life, we are reminded that renewal often begins quietly. Like the first shoots of spring appearing after winter, hope can begin in small ways: a word of encouragement, a moment of compassion, a willingness to begin again.

May this season invite each of us to notice those signs of new life around us, and to take part in nurturing them within our chapel and our community.

Rev. Robert Foreman



An update on Nazareth Orphanage in Uganda.

The manager Andrew Nabasumba sent this message

"We send New Years greetings to YOU, UNCLE ANDREW, TOM AND OUR DEAR LOVELY DONORS, SPONSORS AND FRIENDS OF NAZARETH CHILDRENS HOME,

may the good God guide you all.

We're so grateful for this year that we're ending and we know its been full of challenges compared to other years but God has enabled us to complete it well.

Your kindness has been able to help with education, food and also medication when needed .

We thank God for your endless love and support, I have been busying you but you never let us down, what a blessing that God gave us to be loved by you!

We aim to give parental love to our children and you empower us and it gives us big courage

God bless you always.





Much love from Nazareth childrens home.. uganda-masaka-nyendo



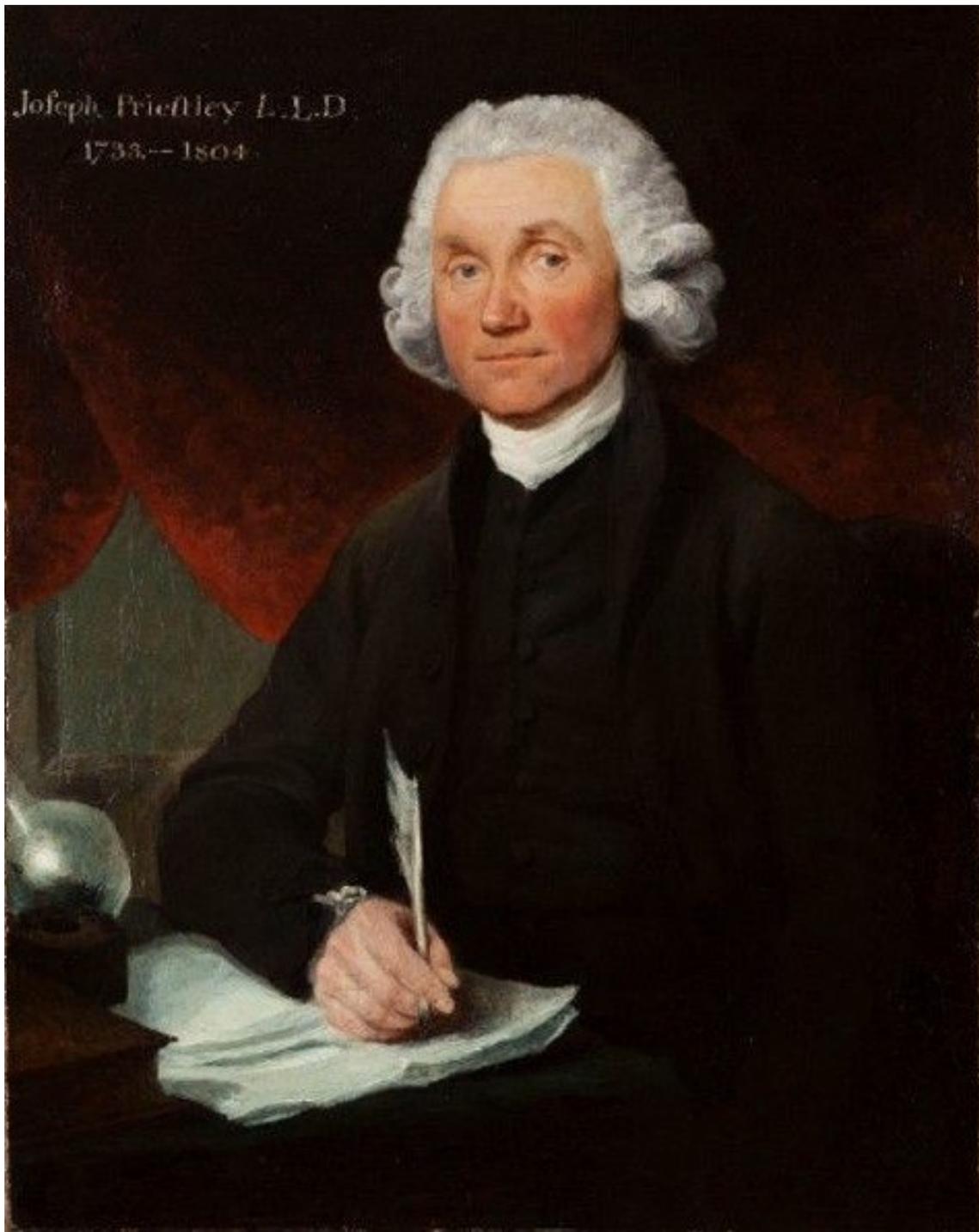
Joseph Priestley

Bill Cooke's Academy Lecture last September was titled "Joseph Priestley's Impact on the 21st Century. If you have been following the recent political situation, you will have heard that many of President Trump's opponents refer to him in a derogatory fashion as "the King" for with the Republicans in control of the Senate and the House of Representatives seemingly unwilling to use their checks and balances on the President in his use of executive orders.

The founding fathers of the American Constitution established a system of pluralism with checks and balances to ensure that government was for the people. This principle was written by Joseph Priestley while he was a tutor at Warrington Academy. This Principle of Utility, one of the most influential ethical principles became paramount in the Academy. It is the greatest happiness of the greatest number that is the measure of what is right and what is wrong.

In his essay "First Principles of Government" written in 1768, Priestley made a strong case for religious liberty and freedom from State indoctrination which led to the separation of the State and Religion. These ideas, the main planks of liberal government, influenced men like John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, both future Presidents, when drawing up the Constitution of the United States of America, ensuring that checks and balances in the system that allowed Government to be for the people.

We are witnessing today President Trump attempting to take more power to the Presidency – a complete reversal of Priestley's concept of democracy which has been enshrined in the American Constitution for over 200 years.



Joseph Priestley is regarded as one of the main conduits in introducing Unitarianism into England.

Over the next few issues of the Newsletter, Ray Beecham will be introducing you to the lives and writings of a number of our previous Ministers. Cairo Street Chapel attracted some of the most noteworthy and intellectual Ministers of their day.

Chapel Flowers: Ray Beecham 01229 586900

beechamray@yahoo.co.uk

1st	March	In memory of Edna Sanderson
8th	March	In memory of Nancy Leslie
15th	March	In memory of Elizabeth Ellison
22th	March	Flower Fund
29th	March	Flower Fund
5th	April	In memory of Audrey Mellor
12th	April	In memory of Stewart Garmston
19th	April	In memory of Elsie Tavlin
26th	April	In memory of Hilda and Bill Rooke

If you have any family members you would like to remember, contact Ray Beecham to join the Flower Fund and have them remembered in the Newsletter and in the relevant service.

Chapel Services Organist : Peter / Stefan

15th	March	Rob Foreman	10.30am
5th	April	Easter Sunday	Rob Foreman 10.30am
19th	April	Rob Foreman	10.30am
3rd	May	Rob Foreman	10.30am

Chapel Committee (2025 - 2026)

Chair: Friede Sheikh

Committee Members: Ray, Lesley, Peter, Barbara, Gary, Helen

Chapel phone number: 01925 419693

Chapel Charity Number: 235996

Website: <https://cairostreetchapel.uk/>

Editorial Note:

This Newsletter is now available as a PDF file. If you would like a regular PDF copy, please contact Peter on peter.mcguigan@yahoo.co.uk