

Unitarian and Free Christian



Cairo Street Unitarian Chapel, Warrington Newsletter for November & December 2023

The Oxen

Christmas Eve, and twelve of the clock.
“Now they are all on their knees,”
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.

We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen,
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy few would weave
In these years! Yet, I feel,
If someone said on Christmas Eve,
“Come; see the oxen kneel,

“In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know,”
I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.

Thomas Hardy

Chair's Report

The time has come again for our newsletter to keep you all informed what is happening in our Chapel. We are continuing with our services on the first and third Sunday of the month, led by Ray, Lesley and Gary and are always looking forward to meet up and enjoy the very thoughtful and inspiring sermons held by them.

For our Harvest Day service we decided to donate all the items which were received to the Women's Refuge, and it was much appreciated.

It is now a long-standing tradition to hold our annual Academy Service about previous members or people who have been closely connected to our chapel. This year we welcomed minister Phil Waldron from Ullet Road in Liverpool to give a lecture on William Roscoe, a very prominent Liverpool historian, writer and committed abolitionist, who was also connected to our chapel. We all enjoyed it very much and of course learned a great deal from his fabulous lecture.

Our gardens have been lovingly put to sleep by Ray and Peter and can now rest till next spring, including the fabulous dahlias which brought so much joy to everybody.

The Remembrance Service is to be held on 5th November with contributions by the congregation and in remembrance of the men who were members of our chapel and died in the war. It is especially significant this year since once again. it is horrific to see how much suffering and violence has been inflicted on innocent people and yet, there is no end to be seen and we can only stand by helplessly. All we can do is pray that soon there will be an end to it all.

Time really does march ahead very fast and once again Christmas is approaching in the not too distant future. Let's hope and pray that we can look forward to a more peaceful time and appreciate the simple things in life, a walk in nature, a smile from a stranger and a beautiful sunset.

With all my very best wishes and the hope for a wonderful Christmas time to everybody.

With best wishes to everyone,
Friede

Remembrance Service
5th November 2023 10.30am



Our annual Remembrance Service will be led this year by Ray Beecham with many contributions from our congregation.

Poignant and emotional music will add to the occasion as we honour those who fell in the war to end all wars. How we all wish that those sentiments had turned out to be true.

Moravian Christingle Service

Sunday 3rd December 2023 10.30am

Ray Beecham will be introducing us to the traditional Moravian Christingle Service. The history of the Christingle can be traced back to Johannes de Watteville a Moravian Bishop who started the tradition in Germany in 1847. The name Christingle come from the german 'Christkindl' meaning Christ Child. The word 'Christingle' means 'Christ-Light'.

During the Service, Ray and Tony will show how a Christingle Candle is made and explain the importance of each of the various elements.



Our traditional Christmas trees and Christmas Crib will also be in place for this Service.

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday 17th December 2023 4.00pm

Lesley Lewis will lead our Carol Service this year ... with lots of Carols to celebrate the festive season.



A Report on the Academy Service 2023

The lecture this year on the life and achievements of William Roscoe was given by Revd. Phillip Waldron, Minister of the Unitarian church in Ullet Road, Liverpool.

Phil has spent a great deal of his time learning about the life of William Roscoe and this was evident in the breadth and depth of his lecture. Speaking of Roscoe's campaigns against slavery, he stated that William Roscoe put anti slavery and Unitarianism as one.



Describing Liverpool as a City of Culture, he informed the congregation that it was Roscoe who first propounded this. Roscoe established his own art collection originally of Primitive Italian paintings. These with many others were purchased by George Walker and became the foundation of the Walker Art Gallery's collection.

A man of letters, art, botany, theology and science Phil considered him very much the architect of modern Liverpool. His links with Cairo Street are through his great friendship with the Revd. Enfield who had formerly been his Minister and friend in Liverpool.

End Bytes

A Committee Meeting will be held after the Remembrance Service on 5th November. No fireworks are expected!

The gardens are preparing themselves for another winter ... but the leaves are only just beginning to fall, particularly from the wonderful London Plane tree. Lots of work envisaged when they do .. to save the lawns below.

All of the Dalhia plants are now in their winter home in the Chapel to avoid any frost.

Maintenance at the Chapel will continue throughout the winter, including giving the Chapel Gates a new lick of paint to freshen up their appearance since their current colours were applied in 2015.



May we all at Cairo Street be the first to wish all our readers a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year

Chapel Flowers

5th November	in memory of Marjorie Massey
12th November	Flower Fund
19th November	provided by Joan Leslie
26th November	Flower Fund
3rd December	in memory of Stewart Garmston
10th December	in memory of Adrian Martin
17th December	in memory of Janice Mellor
24th December	Flower Fund
31st December	Flower Fund

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

5th November Ray Beecham 10.30am

Remembrance Service

19th November Lesley Lewis 10.30am

3rd December Ray Beecham 10.30am

Moravian Christingle Service

15th December Lesley Lewis **Carol Service** 4.00pm

7th January 2024 **No Service**

21st January Ray Beecham 10.30am

Chapel Committee (2022 - 2023)

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