

Christward

The magazine of



July 1st–August 26th
2018

~ Hottest Church Weekend on Record! ~



Union Chapel Fallowfield (don't forget the brackets Baptist) recently spent a weekend at Rydal Hall in Ambleside discussing the theme of Sacred Spaces. The topic was tackled by young filmmakers Howes, Earnshaw and Gowers. This was the second, long awaited short from this group of filmographers who have been praised for their creative risk taking in not being afraid to mix genres- who before has mixed comedy, horror and philosophy with such striking results? It has proved so popular that more viewings have been arranged coming to a church near you soon...

Sessions were also presented by Geoff Walker on sacred music, Alan Redhouse on the use of art in sacred spaces and Margaret and David Garner with Louise Smail taking us on a journey through buildings which are sacred spaces and sacred spaces in the great outdoors.

As ever Union Chapel engaged deeply with the subject matter- what do we mean by sacred? What do we mean by space? Perhaps everything is sacred? Perhaps nothing is sacred? Who are we? Where are we? And, most importantly, what time is dinner?

Who knows if we found any answers- but the food was absolutely top notch- the writer's particular favourites- a deliciously moist and dense chocolate pudding drenched in a rich, sweet chocolate sauce and a very pineapple heavy fruit salad with- as 'The Famous Five' would have it "lashings of" cream.

We spent time discussing sacred spaces but many people also spent time exploring sacred spaces in the great outdoors. An eminently sensible group set off for a walk around Rydal water (although this was counterbalanced by a splinter group taking advantage of playing on a rickety swing that swung out over the water...) and then another group- let's call them "optimistic" set off to tackle Fairfield- just a brisk walk after lunch. The steep ascent was rewarded by stunning views looking out over the sparkling, sapphire blue lakes of Rydal Water and Windermere. And the "optimistic" group were only 30 minutes late for dinner! (Rumour has it they were actually running to time- but not wanting to disappoint all those who were expecting a late arrival they gallantly hid out in the bar and supported the local economy by investing in locally brewed produce). While others took part in bike rides which were slightly too adventurous- and some went and had adventures in the woods behind Rydal Hall.

The younger contingent- no doubt inspired by England's performance thus far in the World Cup- spent time practising their goal scoring and goal keeping skills- and also blowing vast quantities of giant bubbles.

Saturday evening's entertainment was composed of brilliant sketches showcasing the writing talents of Union Chapel. Alan Redhouse's work providing us with an insight into Paul's relationship with his publisher and David Garner providing us with the backstory for the famous heroine Charlotte Webb- perhaps her intentions with Wilbur were not entirely benign...

This writer certainly had a lot of fun- and I am sure I am joined by many people in wishing to give thanks to those who worked so hard in the lead up to and on the weekend itself.

Here's to next year...

Rachel Garner

~ Ministerial Musings for July~

‘Come to the Edge’

*“Nobody understands how the world will change.
The only way you can plan for the future is to have
scenarios. You have to have the courage to take a
leap of faith on one of them.”*

Anand Mahindra

In the last edition of Christward, I reflected on how being in a state of chaos can produce great creativity, if we live with the chaos for a while and allow something to emerge, rather than seeking to control. And when we emerge from chaos, we may see possibilities, yet the creativity may have led us to a difficult place – we may feel we are ‘on the edge’. But on the edge of what? A precipice? A boundary of some kind? Or perhaps a chasm where in the distance we can see a vision of something bright, but it will take a leap of faith to get there?

This week I came across a poem by Christopher Logue entitled ‘Come to the Edge’. Sadly I don’t have permission to reprint it here and it is only short so it’s difficult to quote from. I encourage you to look it up. My interpretation of the poem is that God sometimes calls us to the edge of something – that potentially dangerous place where one step might result in a fall; a place where we want to step back because we’re afraid and we don’t have confidence that we can succeed. But God encourages us to come to the edge, and then gives us a push of encouragement ... and instead of falling, we find ourselves flying. Not only can we now reach the bright vision on the other side of the precipice, but we also suddenly realise that actually we had the ability in ourselves all along to achieve it. We now fly with confidence.

Over the last few weeks, I have felt that we have been emerging from the chaos of the last few years, and creative ideas are beginning to emerge. And we find ourselves ‘on the edge’. God has beckoned us, called us, to ‘Come to the edge’. We are beginning to glimpse a vision of something bright in the distance. Have we got the courage to step off into the unknown? ... to take the leap of faith? I think so. And I

think God is there to give us the gentle push that will give us the confidence to fly.

We are experiencing exciting times for the future of Union Chapel. Let's come to the edge together, peer into the vision of the future, hold hands and take a leap of faith.

Jane Henderson

~ Two Great Hearts ~

Irene Roberts & Eileen Land, two much loved and long standing members of our church family, died recently. Irene on Thursday 17th May aged 92 and Eileen on Tuesday 5th June aged 79. At services held on the days of their funerals tributes were paid. Below are the ones relating to their life within Union Chapel.



IRENE ROBERTS

I knew Irene for something over 20 years, but there are Union Chapel members and friends, past and present, who knew her for much longer and I am greatly indebted to them for their memories and contributions to what I am going to say.

One thing that several people mentioned - and which I certainly noticed from my earliest awareness of Irene, was how good she always looked

- how she loved her clothes and colour combinations and how everything always matched or made a good contrast. She always looked right without being fussy.

Her links with Union Chapel began about 50 years ago, arising from her friendship with Alan and Margaret Redhouse and their children, who saw her as an honorary aunt, with the advantage of a good television set ! At first she went to occasional meetings with them, but when her own Presbyterian church closed and she didn't settle elsewhere, she began to attend services regularly with them and became a valued member of the congregation. She is remembered cycling to help with Playgroup and becoming involved with working parties and study groups, as well as attending church weekends.

She made friends at church, especially Connie West, and they used to meet on Saturdays to do the Telegraph crossword or join the minister's wife, Brenda Bray, for a game of Scrabble. Irene's husband, Jim. was involved with Don West and the Redhouses in running a Junior Club. Sadly, Irene was widowed young, but her faith sustained her and she eventually became a member at Union Chapel. Her friendships remained and strengthened and she enjoyed many holidays with Connie West or in a larger group. She retained vivid memories of many of those holidays and recently, at Downing, looking through her photo albums with a visitor she was able to recount, with great delight, what had happened on particular visits.

Although Irene never wanted any major church responsibility, when she retired from CAB she volunteered for a morning a week at ASSIST, the local Neighbourhood Care group set up to visit elderly people. help with transport for hospital visits and listen to general queries. Margaret Redhouse reports, "She dealt sensitively with a variety of problems, often making everyone laugh and making sure we kept our feet on the ground."

This is something I also remember about Irene, She was a good listener and her advice was well worth taking

While at ASSIST she met Charlotte, a keen gardener, who became another friend who helped Irene with her very much loved and well-kept garden. Carole, from church, recalls taking Irene on many visits to garden centres and coming home with more additions to the borders.

Irene wasn't an upfront 'jolly' person, but she had a smile and a word of welcome for everyone. She appeared rather quiet and reserved until you got to know her and then her dry and quirky sense of humour made time spent with her a real joy. She could tell a good story. She was generous with her time and energy, opening her home for meetings and making people feel valued and wanted. Hannah (nee Kidd), who was a young member of the congregation for a while, remembers how Irene always worked to build people up - supporting the music group Hannah was starting at church, and how kind she was to offer space in her home to store furniture and possessions while Hannah was in process of moving house.

All of this was underpinned by her faith - not something she made a lot of noise about. but it was there as the guide for her life and the basis for her understanding of right and wrong and of what was valuable in life.

All of us who knew Irene were blessed by our relationship with her and by our awareness of her quiet faith and trust in God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gwen Mattock

Eileen Land



In a statement of her wishes for her funeral, Eileen wrote, "I would like the hymn, 'All are welcome,' to be sung. The rousing chorus, "All are

welcome in this place,"reflects how I feel about Chapel and particularly our work through Opportunities and Activities."

So we decided to use this as our theme to frame some of our many thoughts about and memories of Eileen as we saw her at Union Chapel. We are including contributions from others in the church, past and present.

We suggest you have the service sheet open at that hymn, while we are talking.

*1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

*2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true.
Where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus;
All are welcome....*

*3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground,
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space,
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us;
All are welcome....*

*4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone,
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.*

*the outcast and the stranger
bears the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger;
All are welcome, all are welcome,.....*

*5 Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace.
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter;
All are welcome.....*

Marty Hughes; © GIA Publications, Inc 1994

So our choice for verse 1 is, 'built of hopes and dreams and visions
rock of faith and vault of grace,'

We turn to Gordon Neal, who says in his tribute to Eileen, "Eileen's place in the annals of Union Chapel is writ large. O&A is just one of her many achievements. Her imagination and persistence against what often seemed to me to be absolutely insuperable odds were, I think, the key factor that got O&A off the ground in the early days. I guess there aren't many like her."

Eric Bray remembers her saying to people over the years, to get on and do what they had planned- and overcome any obstacles as the arose.

Verse 2 says.... 'where prophets speak and words are strong and true,"

Prophets are not always comfortable people to be around and sometimes we need to hear things more than once.

Eileen stored a a wealth of tapes, of services and of wider sources and would listen to them again and again and gain new insights from them.

Verse 3 " ... a banquet hall, where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed.."

Eileen's whole attitude was that we should be concerned to listen and to act to support those whose voices are not always heard.

Verse 4 "...and live the Word they've known.."

Her chosen verse from John 10.10 says, "I came that they might have life and have it abundantly"

and everything she did reflected her wish to make this possible for others as well as for herself.

Joanne, writing from Canada, says,

"I have thought of her and her kindness regularly over the years. I still have a pair of wool socks that she lent, I guess gave, me on one of our hikes. Eileen was the first person to invite me for lunch on the day I landed at Union Chapel."

And there are many others with similar stories to tell.

Verse 5 We've looked at the whole verse

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.

Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

*All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*

- because church life is like that !

How can we do justice to Eileen, for all that she was and all that she meant to us ?

She was private, independent, resilient, tenacious, determined, loving, caring and she wanted and worked for the best for everybody.

This brings us full circle to her chosen verse from Jeremiah , that we should, in her words, 'care for the city where we live.'

So, we thank God for her life and work; she will be long remembered, in this place and by all who knew her.

Margaret Garner & Gwen Mattock

~ Is that really what it says in the Bible? ~

Posted: 18 Jun 2018 01:45 AM PDT appearing first on Joint Public Issues Team Blog

Last week, while defending the Trump administration's immigration policy, Jeff Sessions said:

"I would cite you to the Apostle Paul and his clear and wise command in Romans 13 to obey the laws of the government because God has ordained them for the purpose of order... Orderly and lawful processes are good in themselves and protect the weak and lawful."

This was backed up on Friday by the White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders who said:

"I can say that it is very biblical to enforce the law. That is repeated throughout the Bible."

I find it very difficult to see Christians using the bible to justify policy which harms and hurts people. These two political actors have picked out a couple of quotes from the Bible to justify a policy which rips families apart. They don't appear to have looked at the life of Jesus very closely.

While it is important to keep the law to ensure society is safe and fruitful for all, I can't agree with Jeff Sessions that all 'orderly and lawful processes are good in themselves'.

Jesus put people before rules. When someone needed healing, regardless of whether or not it was the Sabbath, Jesus cared for and healed them. Rules should not be used to impose suffering on the weak and vulnerable, rules should promote the dignity and respect for all people. His example shows us that we cannot be afraid to speak out against unjust laws and to try and reform them.

As Christians it is important not only to be citizens of our countries but to be citizens of the kingdom of God. Sometimes that means we must speak out against policies which harm the most vulnerable. It also means that we must challenge the misuse of the Bible to justify political aims which are not modelled on the life and values of Jesus.

The inspiring American Pastors in this video say that when we do so "It's our duty...to speak truth and humility and love". Watch them as they reclaim the name of Jesus:

~ Fallowfield & Withington Food Bank ~

July 20th 2018 looks to be one of the busiest days we will have ever encountered in our four year history.

Friday is of course our distribution session at Union Chapel, however on July 20th we will have our annual assessment visited carried out by The Trussell Trust. The process is almost like an OFSTED inspection we've survived 2 previously, and look forward to demonstrating just how vital our presence is within our local community.

At 7pm on 20th July at Union Chapel we will hold our annual social event to which a warm invitation to everyone from Union Chapel is extended. The event is called VALUING VOLUNTEERS

CELEBRATING COMMUNITIES. We value the huge part our wonderful and dedicated volunteers play week in week out at our 4 distribution sessions. We will celebrate all those from within our local community who give food, donate money, collect food at Tesco & Sainsbury's. Please do come along if you can.

At the beginning of August we hope to have completed the move of our main warehouse from Union Chapel to Ladybarn Community Centre. We shall still use our current facilities at Union Chapel for much needed additional space.

As Christward goes to press the news of a number of our student volunteers graduating from our local universities is reaching us. Congratulations to all our volunteers who will graduate this summer.

We are currently running very short on toiletries. The current hot weather is glorious however the need for toiletries grows each week. If you are able to donate shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste or deodorant they would be a much welcomed addition to our Foodbank parcels.

Colin Marchbank Smith

~ Minutes of the Church Meeting Sunday 20th May ~

This meeting entirely consisted of a meeting with Claire Evans of 4CT with no other business being taken

**~ Minutes of the Annual General
Church Meeting
of Union Chapel Fallowfield (Baptist)
held on Sunday 17th June 2018
at 11.20am.~**

Present: *Members* – David G, Margaret G, Margaret R, Alan R, Michael W, Enid W, Carole W, Geoff W, Steve R, Gwyneth HR, Leonie E, Ted L, Andy H, Lorna R, Gwen M, Beryl D

Non-Members: Jane H, Phil P, Sue L, Kris and Rudy

Apologies: Rachel A, Brenda M, Colin MS, Nicola H

The Church Report for the year 2017-18 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This was accepted with minor amendment.

Register of Members

The Meeting heard that Tunde Martins and Sheila Pendrick sent their greetings and were willing for their names to be removed from the Register of Members.

The Safeguarding policy was read and the BU Safeguarding video was viewed.

A draft Privacy Statement is included in the Annual Report which will come to the July Church Meeting for formal approval. Thanks to Jane for her work on this.

Thanks were expressed to Jane as Minister, David as Treasurer and Gwyneth as Secretary, and to Carole and Gwyneth as outgoing Deacons. Thanks were also expressed to the numerous people who voluntarily undertake the myriad of tasks which sustain the life of the Church community.

Election of Deacons

Brenda Marston and Nicola Hamilton were duly elected to the Diaconate.

Date of next AGM: Sunday 16th June 2019

~ Hottest Church Weekend on Record! Part 2~



Deep discussion



Sumptuous food



Art in the woodland's sacred space



"Saturday evening social: Look, if the five of us can sing it properly so can the rest of you"



Ellie makes a bid for freedom on the lakeside walk whilst David auditions for the role of Tarzan in the next remake of the film,



The Fairfield 'Optimistics': How they wanted you to see them at the top
- just an afternoon stroll



How they really felt





Well at least some of the legs are in focus



Happy, clappy ending except for Chris as Lorna censors his face

~ Remember Srebrenica ~

At Khizra Mosque
425 Cheetham Hill Rd, Manchester, M8 0PF

Sunday 8th July 12.00 to 3.00 pm

Join us for a special event
to remember the victims of the Bosnian Genocide
A celebration of Bosnian Culture,
speakers and interfaith dialogue

Food & Refreshments available, Entrance Free (but donations welcome)
Book your place at www.FN4MWSTSrebrenica2018.eventbrite.co.uk

Organised by:

Faith Network 4 Manchester:

We stand together:

to celebrate our difference
against hatred and intolerance
to build a safer and stronger UK

~ Talking to Each Other ~

If you would like to comment on any of the articles in this magazine and so start a discussion or if you would care to write an article for us on a topic of your choosing such contributions would be welcome. Please send them by email to alan.redhouse@virgin.net or by post to The Editor, Christward, Union Chapel Fallowfield, 2b Wellington Road, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 6EQ.

Christward Number 493. Published 1st July 2018
The magazine of Union Chapel Fallowfield(Baptist),
2b Wellington Road, Fallowfield Manchester, M14 6EQ

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Why does this always happen? I need one more page to make the booklet.

Increase
the
font
size

Just one last picture?

Definitely the end - we're going home, honest.



Go to the website www.unionchapelbaptist.org.uk and the magazine link. The pictures look so much better in colour