

Message from the Chair

Hello everyone from the Chair,

Another Spring has finally arrived, but this is tinged with sadness. We have just had the anniversaries of Susie, Beryl and Roger Webster and now we have lost another dear member, Roger Newton. I felt I got to know him quite well and I will always remember him being very smartly turned out and wearing those wonderful colourful socks! He was



a kind, helpful, self deprecating and considerate soul, we will all miss him here in the chapel.

However the chapel work goes on, we, who are still here, carry on and hope that neither illness nor age will not hinder us. Sarah Tinker has been running a couple of workshops on how to do a service and these have been very well attended. Hopefully other people will feel emboldened to do one. We are always in need of service leaders.

I have had some good news, our daughter got married in the chapel at Easter and it was a relaxed, fun affair. The chapel is beautiful for a wedding, simple, charming and classy. Katy and Matt were more than happy to get married here. With great thanks to Sue for the wonderful flowers, Peter for the service, Marie for the music and Janet for all her help on the day. Thank you also to Anne Rayner for her help with the wedding arrangements. We were blessed with a sunny if fresh Easter Day.

The summer comes and with it some warmer weather, a welcome break we hope from the rain and cold. The nights are getting lovely and light, how we appreciate them more as we get older!

The Fulwood Fete is on the 9th June and hopefully we shall get plenty of volunteers to serve refreshments and generally help out. Last year everyone was splendid and we raised lots of money for charity and the chapel.

I wish everyone a super summer, whether that involves going away or not and fingers crossed the rain disappears for a little while.

Jane

This Poem is for Roger

Successby Ralph Waldo Emerson

To laugh often and love much;

to win the respect of intelligent persons
and the affection of children;
to earn the approbation of honest critics
and to endure the betrayal of false friends;
to appreciate beauty;
to find the best in others;
to give of oneself;
to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child,
a garden patch or redeemed social condition;
to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation;
to know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived—
this is to have succeeded.



Once again, very sad, and unexpected, news. Our good friend and FOC member, Roger Newton has died. Roger often sent me pieces for *The Messenger*, and in our last issue he gave us an account of his visits to the Northern General Hospital. Yet he seemed fit and vigorous and was fully involved in chapel life.

Roger Newton

From Peter Rowson

I am sure Roger would give me a stern dressing down if he thought I was writing a tribute to him, so this is not a tribute, it's just some personal memories tinged with sadness and gratitude.

Roger had such an impact on Chapel life that it seems as if he had been coming for years, but he hadn't. He started attending regularly a year or two before his wife Linda died in 2017. Since then he seems to have thrown himself into everything, always willing to help in any way that he could, and this was characteristic of him in all aspects of his life. He was a Trustee and committee member at Great Hucklow Chapel as well as at Fulwood.

After taking part in a bereavement group after Linda's death he ended up leading the group and it was still meeting when he himself passed loyalty he showed on. The was matched by the loyalty he inspired in others and when Janet and I visited him in Chesterfield Royal Hospital shortly before his death we met two members of the group on a similar mission. Roger was a natural when it came to making friends and he oozed humour from every pore. He even knew how to dress himself with humour and his non-matching socks were a tradition in themselves! Roger was widely read and had a wide range of artistic interests.

He played the flute and was learning the guitar. He was a writer and a painter. At his home in Dronfield he created a wonderful mural on his neighbour's wall depicting a beachside scene complete with deck chairs with wide enough arms to support one of his favourite beers. He was also a keen supporter of the Sheffield Tigers RUFC and he had played for them in the past. A Saturday afternoon watching rugby accompanied by his friend Steve, a beer or two and a sausage sandwich was about as good as it got for Roger. In fact as I'm writing

this I don't know where he got all his energy from. He didn't give the impression of being a human dynamo, but in a way, in his own unassuming and modest way, I think he was. It was an honour to have known him.

And from the Old Chapel, Great Hucklow...

Sad News

It is with huge regret and much sadness that we report the passing of Roger Newton (14th May 1946-28th April 2024).

Roger was a Trustee of The Old Chapel, our Treasurer, an active member of Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield and amongst other groups he was involved with he was a volunteer at The Monkey Park centre in Chesterfield. He had a warm sense of humour, an incredibly gentle and inclusive nature and had a constant curiosity for nature and admiration for the natural world. He would attend the General Assembly of Unitarians and Free Churches and often wrote articles for many Unitarian Chapel newsletters with his observations, thoughts and musings.

Judith Short, Chair of Trustees, said: "We all share great sadness in hearing that Roger, our erstwhile Treasurer and fine friend, died this week in hospital. We will remember him with fondness, and with gratitude for the huge contribution he had made to Hucklow Old Chapel."

And here are those famous socks on a pair of elegant legs. Roger posed for me one Sunday after service to be the first of what I'd intended to be an occasional series of 'whose legs are these? I don't think I could follow this, however.



Roger's funeral was held on Thursday May 23rd at Hutcliffe Wood Crematorium. The Service was taken by Peter Rowson.



FULWOOD FETE

Supporting:

Caring Crosspool and Sayit charities

Come and join us for a fun-filled afternoon at Fulwood Old Chapel and in the field opposite

Sunday 9th June @ 1.30 - 5.30



Cakes and crafts
Food and drink
Tombola
Face painting

Entertainment
Bouncy Castle
Alpacas
Stalls galore...

With thanks to our generous sponsors:







Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving seems asleep,

Too full for sound and foam,

When that which drew from out the boundless deep

Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

Alfred Lord Tennyson



At the recent GA meetings, the Rev. Peter Godfrey, once minister of Upper Chapel, brought me a bag full of papers which had been kept by his late wife, Sheila, National President of the Women's League in 1993. I was very grateful, not least because this is my own Presidential year and there's such a lot I don't know! I shall be including much of what that bag contains in the League Letter, which I also edit, but I also found a slip of paper, obviously cut from another document. It was written in Cape Town, in June 1993, but I don't know by whom. I thought it was well worth reproducing here, particularly as an unknown hand had marked as important the little story it contains.

... as I was drafting this, a paper 'accidentally' fell out of a file I shifted on my desk. It was a copy of Hugo and Maude Oosterwijk's regular Theosophical newsletter, and the item that caught my eye was this:

'In a dream, I entered into a shop. Behind the counter was an angel. I asked: What are you selling here? Anything you want, said the angel. Oh, I said. Is that really true? Then I would like peace on earth. No more suppression, no more hunger, a home for all the refugees ... "Wait a moment", said the Angel, you misunderstood me. We do not sell fruits here, only seeds'.





In the last edition of The Messenger I had to report on the sad death of John Norton, but now I can feature the happy news of his and Joan's daughter, Beth (or Elizabeth, for those of us who have known her for most of her life!) whose wedding to Andrew Grayson took place on April 20th, a lovely, sunny day. Robert Ince conducted the service at Fulwood Old Chapel, where

Beth's granddad, Eric Timmons, had been organist for so many years, and where Beth herself had been a Sunday School Queen. Younger brother James proudly gave Beth away and her mother, Joan, told me what a very happy day it had been. Guests included both of Joan's brothers, who we used to see bringing Eric to chapel during his later years. It's good to know that Beth chose Fulwood to celebrate this very happy day.



Beth and her new husband Andrew Grayson.



Beth, Andrew and brother James Norton.



Joan with son James, so proud to be giving his big sister away.

Post script: I'm glad to say that Joan is holding up well after losing her husband and constant companion, John, earlier this year. I recently went round to have the afternoon with her in her flat at Nethergreen. In the way of Sheffield-the-village, Joan had discovered that one of her neighbours is a very old friend of mine, and she was also invited. We had a lovely afternoon which included something delicious to eat. I'm not going to tell you what – it's shameful: suffice it to say that it involved chocolate bars, croissant pastry and an air-fryer.

May ours be a religion, which, like the sunshine, goes everywhere. Its temple all space, its shrine the good heart; its creed all truth, its ritual, works of love; its profession of faith, divine living; May this be our religion.

Theodore Parker

Katy and Matt are married in the Chapel. 30.04.2024





Katy's mum, Jane, with grandchild.

Congratulations!









Women's League



Here is Sue Toulson with flowers presented to her by members of the Fulwood / Upper Chapel Women's League, at a recent meeting, to mark Sue becoming National President of the British League of Unitarian and Other Christian Women 2024-25.

Congratulations to Sue! Among other hats, including being the Editor of the Fulwood Messenger, Sue would not have submitted these words herself so a little mouse has taken the liberty of adding these few lines. Everyone wishes you a productive and enjoyable year, Sue.

NB: It wasn't intentional at all, but in the photo above, it was spotted that Sue's father, the late Philip Cooper, can be seen sitting alongside his friend and (now retired) fellow choir member Doreen Haythorne in the framed picture hanging on the wall of the Hollis Room at Upper Chapel. Philip is looking over towards Sue and would no doubt have been very proud.

The British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women.



The President's Regalia.

There was, for many years, a branch of the Women's League (see above!) at Fulwood, as there had been at Upper, Unity Crookesmoor and, years ago, Attercliffe. I don't think that the League at Stannington was affiliated to the National league. If I'm wrong, someone will tell me! All our branches have had National Presidents taken from their ranks. Kath Woodhouse was a National President from Unity, in 1982, and had been preceded by Mrs McLachlan and Mrs F. Whitby, in 1971 and 1970, from Upper. Mrs Sheila Godfrey was President in 1994, and was followed by Mrs Judy Hague, from Fulwood, and Mrs Marion Baker.

Now the Sheffield Women's League has one branch, designated the Sheffield District Branch, meeting at Upper Chapel, and Sheffield also provides our latest National President – me! Even though I'm aware that they were getting desperate, I'm still rather pleased and honoured to have been installed. The League now isn't what it was – in 1994, only 30 years ago, there were 90 branches of the WL in the UK and now there are 15. I won't give up hope, though.

The British League of Unitarian and Other Liberal Christian Women was formed in 1908, with the Objects being:

- To quicken the religious life of our churches and to bring Unitarian and other Liberal Christian women into closer fellowship.
- To promote the formation of branches in connection with the Churches and Fellowships.
- To suggest ways and means of providing for the needs and extending the

influence of such Churches and Fellowships and to collect and spread among members, information of liberal religious interests.

A similar League was formed amongst the Unitarian Universalist communities in the USA. The New York League of Unitarian Women was formed in 1887 by women from churches in New York City, Brooklyn and Yonkers.

In the information leaflet printed about the League in 1995, it is stated that there were then nearly 100 branches, grouped in 14 districts throughout the UK. Their activities were described as serving their church communities in many interesting and varied ways such as educational talks (it's Belly Dancing this month at Upper) craft work, care of the elderly and disabled, money raising and social gatherings.

I'd say that we more or less still fit in with that description. We all try to fundraise for our National Charity. We've had some very worthwhile charities recently, mostly to do with women's causes. This year the charities commission have become a bit insistent that our donations should go to Unitarian charities to do with women, and so we're supporting the Unitarian Student Ministers' fund. (I'm sure I've got the title wrong, but we're supporting the education of new ministers in training. That fund is currently in a bad way, and the thanks of those involved in it were genuine when they heard that we were taking on their cause this year.) Certainly we're still pretty good at social gatherings: I remember years ago, when I edited the (much simpler but monthly) Messenger, I used to receive news of the Fulwood Women's League from Anne Eyre, and it became something of a running joke that it always involved food ... Their monthly event was the Coffee morning and bring and buy. The Bring and Buy table always included some of Nora Hague's justifiably famous lemon curd and Judy's jams and chutneys.

Unfortunately the membership of the Fulwood branch of the Women's League dwindled and after Anne Eyre died it was disbanded. It could be re-formed: I have a booklet, printed in 1923, telling us how to do it! I'd love to think that it could be done, but in the meantime everyone is welcome at the Sheffield District Branch meetings at Upper Chapel (easy parking in the forecourt). We gather between 11.00 and 11.30 for coffee, at 11.30 we have a very short business meeting and devotions, and our speakers entertain us between 12.00 and 1.00.

We meet on the first Monday of the month unless we move for a Bank Holiday. Do come, the Upper Chapel branch traditionally had a least one gentleman regularly attending and Bill Koncowoj is now an official and fully-paid up member. I wonder what Lady Bowring, our first National President, would have said to that in 1908?

Another Celebration!

Rod Cumming sent me the following about a naming which recently took place at Fulwood Old Chapel. He obtained permission of those involved to use the photo.



Sunday May 5th at 1 o'clock at the Chapel. The naming ceremony of Leonard Lewis, son of Robert and Hannah Dann, of Old Fulwood Road. The service was taken by Peter Rowson.

Congratulations to the family and our very best wishes for a long and happy life for Leonard. Rod was very much taken by the Piper who enlivened the occasion, particularly by his rosy cheeks, which I gather became rosier the longer he blew.

Historical Events of May, June & July in Past Years

May 6, 2023 Charles, Prince of Wales, was crowned King Charles III at Westminster Abbey. He was the 23rd Prince of Wales, not all of whom eventually were crowned, and the longest serving.

May 11, 973 Edgar the Peaceful was crowned King of All England, at Bath. Later, in Chester, eight Scottish Kings and Welsh Princes rowed him on the River Dee. (I'm sure you all knew that, but just in case...)

May 21, 1894 Queen Victoria officially opened the Manchester Ship Canal. 'The day was not bright and there was a little rain'.

May 29, 1660 Charles Stuart entered London to become King Charles 2nd and restore the monarchy.

June 1, 1946 (an excellent year) Television Licences were issued for the first time at a cost of \pounds_2 .

June 2, 1953 Queen Elizabeth ii was crowned in Westminster Abbey. Crowds lined the streets despite the pouring rain and the Queen of Tonga became famous for insisting on driving in an open carriage despite the terrible weather.

June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy.

June 22, 1814 The first cricket match was played between the MCC and Hertfordshire at Lord's Cricket Ground.

July 10, 138 The death of Roman Emperor Hadrian, who ordered the building of Hadrian's Wall across northern England to keep out the barbarian Scottish tribes.

July 13, 1923 The British Parliament passes a law forbidding the sale of alcohol to the under-18s.

July 28, 1540 A busy day for King Henry VIII who had Thomas Cromwell beheaded and went on to marry Catherine Howard.

July 30, 1966 England's football team beat Germany 4-2 in extra time winning the World Cup at Wembley.



Summertime

Summertime and the livin' is easy Fish are jumpin' and the cotton is high Oh your Daddy's rich and your mama's good lookin' So hush little baby, don't you cry

> One of these mornin's You're gonna rise up singin' Then you'll spread your wings And you'll take to the sky But till that mornin' There's a nothin' can harm you With daddy and mammy standin' by



The Chapel Music Appreciation Group

Starting on **Sunday 19th May**at **1.00pm**, there will be the new **Music Appreciation Group**This will meet every **third**Sunday of the month for an initial 6 months. The aim is to provide the opportunity to listen to music of all genres and share our favourites.



Mill House Animal Sanctuary

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The Mill House Animal Sanctuary.

I've heard from Sue Hedges that the Sanctuary has relocated to Thurlstone, and is being run by Jane's sister Pat. Jane is getting over her illness, is still living at the Mill House, and will be happy to take donations there.

The GA was held in Daventry again this year. Fulwood didn't have delegates -Roger Newton was in hospital, Janet was keeping an eye on Peter, who wasn't in good health. Robert Ince was there but not as a Fulwood delegate, and so was I, but on behalf of the Women's League. However, I determinedly took the chapel banner - I thought that we should look as if we were there, even if we weren't. I should point out here, for those who don't know, that the banners from all the churches represented at the GA are carried right round the assembly hall in procession at the first plenary session of the conference, and remain displayed around the walls of the hall until after the final session when they are taken away again. The only snag this time was that it turned out that if our banner was going to be in the parade at all, it would have to be carried by me. I'd already passed on the honour of carrying the Women's League banner to someone else, recognising that managing it with one, not very strong, arm while the other was occupied with the walking stick which hopefully prevents me from falling over, was probably not a great idea. However, now the honour of Fulwood was a stake: what could I do?

Well, as usual, the optimist in me thought it would be fine, really ... It might have been, too, if I hadn't broken the carrying pole while attaching it, so that I only had half the length to lift it. I rested the end on my chest to take the weight which meant that the banner hung down in front of my face and I couldn't see. You'd think that anyone with half a brain would have given up at this point wouldn't you? Not me. Off I set in the line, rapidly falling behind so that I couldn't see the feet of the person in front of me. I was glad eventually to see a run of carpet indicating an aisle so off I set, with the remainder of the line trustingly following me, only to see the front half of the parade proceeding down the outer aisle while Fulwood led the way down the centre. The looks on their faces were worth it all, as we approached a certain collision at the junction of the two routes. Somehow we didn't collide, due, I'm sure, to the other bearers as I still had a face full of banner. So there we are, honour was served, and I'm sorry I broke the pole, Ernest.

Howard Hague's Book Commemorating Rev. Margaret Barr

Howard Hague is writing/has written a book to commemorate Rev Margaret Barr who died 50 years ago. Margaret was a Unitarian rebel who went out to India against the strong advice of British Unitarian Authorities. She was inspired by Mohandas Gandhi and gave the rest of her life to helping Indians in the far East of India. She lived among the Unitarians in the Khasi Hills but did not, and did not wish to, become a Church figure head. Her commitment was to the betterment of the people rather than an Institutional religion. Her ideas about Unitarianism were very modern and could be described as universalist.

The Women's League of the day gave crucial financial support to enable Margaret to do this work and this continued for the many decades that she did so. Her work included Education, Hygiene, Leadership Training and Orphan support together with helping women with their health issues. We still support the India Fund and work is ongoing in the Khasi Hills.

"The sky is the daily bread of the eyes" Ralph Waldo Emerson

If you live in the country, you probably look at the sky every day.

If you live in a city, you probably don't.

Yet, if you're forgetting to look skyward, you're missing one of the glories of the universe.

The sky is exquisitely beautiful, its changeableness infinite,

its colour breathtaking.

Give your mind a rest, and your soul some inspiration,

by looking at the sky above for a few minutes a day.



Summer

We give thanks for this season of roses and swifts, of journeys and long, slow dusks,
Of cool breezes and welcome showers.
May we hold on to these precious moments lightly, and let them go like a breath,
gently floating into pixels of light.

Caroline Blair

Summer! At least it is at the time of writing. This issue is late (again) because I've been on holiday and didn't think ahead. I'm sorry – but at least it isn't going to be months late as was the case last year. For some reason I've started getting the SAGA newsletter – and this time they've published information about bird feeding. Apparently there are right and wrong ways of going about it. I know about not feeding bread to ducks and not feeding seagulls AT ALL (I've just come back from the seaside!) but I thought that the citizens of Fulwood and around might find the following interesting/useful. It's adapted from the SAGA newsletter of May 2024, written by Rosanna Spence. **Editor.**



Six bird feeding mistakes you're probably making - according to experts. There are many ways we can attract wildlife to our outside spaces, from not mowing our lawns as much, to growing butterfly-friendly plants. But when it comes to our feathered friends, sometimes our best intentions can accidentally lead to bird-feeding mistakes – from using the wrong food to not cleaning their feeders.

1. Not keeping feeders clean. Dirty feeders cause disease to spread.

Findings from the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch reveal that a parasitic disease called trichomonosis is decimating our bird population. Bird food, feeders and drinking water in our gardens are contaminated with this disease. Birds badly affected by it, such as greenfinches and chaffinches, are in decline as a result.

Helen Moffat of the RSPB advises people to clean bird feeders once a week. "Use a mild anti-bacterial cleaner, such as washing-up liquid, and nothing as harsh as bleach-based products," she adds. "There are some purpose-made cleaners out there too. Save cleaning equipment to use just for this job and do it outside where possible – anything you can do to make the process as hygienic as possible."

The RSPB also advises that if you see sick birds where you are feeding, temporarily stop feeding for at least two weeks and leave bird baths dry.

2. Leaving too much food out.

Little and often is best. If your bird feeders are very busy, then you can fill them up more. "It's better to put food out little and often," says Helen Moffat from the RSPB. "The issue around overfilling is that food can go off, particularly in hot or wet weather. You don't



want to put out vast amounts unless you know your garden birds are going to eat it all fairly quickly.

"When birds need lots of energy for nest-building and then to feed broods, you might find that your feeders are emptying almost as quickly as you can fill them, in which case, fill them right up." She adds that if you are just starting to put food out, birds can take a while to find new sources, so put out smaller amounts until you find the right level that works. It's also wise not to leave food out overnight, as this can also attract rodents to your garden.

Think about birds' food shortages.

"While people often put out seed mixtures for birds in winter, food shortages can occur anytime of the year," Rob Stoneman, director of landscape recovery for The Wildlife Trusts, tells us. "Extreme weather, which caused drought and wildfires last summer, affects food sources for lots of animals – including birds."

Keeping an eye on local and regional weather conditions with this in mind will help you decide if you need to put additional sources of food out for the birds.

3. Feeding bread to birds.

Bread can lead to malnutrition. Experts say that garden birds require a protein-rich and high-calorie diet. Ideally, they should be eating a combination of insects such as mealworms, seeds such as sunflower seeds, peanuts and fat. While bread isn't directly poisonous, too much of it can act as an "empty filler". This means that over time it will leave birds suffering from conditions associated with malnutrition.

Bread also contains considerably fewer calories than birds need to survive, meaning that they may not have enough energy to stay warm during winter, sustain young chicks or evade predators. A chick with a stomach full of bread can freeze to death overnight. Don't panic, though, as much of the damage done by bread can be reversed if you change your bird-feeding habits.

4. Forgetting to provide water.

Watching birds splash about in a bird bath will bring joy to just about anyone. Bathing regularly helps birds to keep their feathers clean so they can keep flying properly. But providing fresh water is more important than you might think.

Helen Moffat from the RSPB says a big bird-feeding mistake people often make is



forgetting to put out fresh water for the birds. "Birds need to drink and bathe daily – especially in hot weather," she says. "So fresh water can literally be a lifesaver in the summer." It's important to also keep this water clean – change it every day and make sure you don't site it too near your feeders, as it could become contaminated with food. It's a good idea to give the bath itself a good scrub regularly too, especially if it receives lots of visitors.

A bird bath is important for their feathers.

5. Putting feeders in the wrong place.

Birds need protection and cover.

Place bird feeders near to shrubs, trees and bushes where they can seek cover. If space allows on your property, it's useful for birds to have a safe place to feed from (and bathe!) comfortably.

"Birds like cover," says Helen Moffat at the RSPB. "So put your feeders near to areas where birds can quickly flit back and forth." If your garden is also visited by lots of neighbourhood cats, then consider how close they can get to the birds, too.

Your lawn can help to feed birds The Wildlife Trust encourages people to let their grass grow long in spring, which will help provide habitat for insects – a vital food source for birds. Building a pond is also a brilliant way of helping wildlife at home.

6. Not using the correct feeder.

Different species have different needs

Not all birds feed in the same way, so your best efforts at nurturing your feathered friends might not be as successful as you'd hoped.

Ensure that you use the correct type of feeder for the birds in your garden, or that you want to attract to your garden. Blackbirds and robins are ground feeders, and prefer tables or lower surfaces, whereas tits and sparrows prefer to feed from hanging stations. Setting up an array of feeders will help you care for a wide range of birds.



High-calorie options, such as CJ Wildlife's peanut square cake (£2.99), fat balls or peanut butter for birds are all easy and affordable ways to make sure your garden visitors are getting plenty of calories.

A high-energy seed mix, such as CJ Wildlife's High-Energy No Mess Bird Seed (from £4.49), is an all-round favourite of many bird species, while dried mealworms are loved by robins in particular.



Contacts

For info on personalised Ceremonies please contact Janet Rowson on 0114 236 5894 or email: janetpeterrowson@gmail.com

To hire the Chapel or the Old Schoolroom (with / without kitchen) please contact Anne Rayner: **bookings@fulwoodoldchapel.uk**

To advertise or submit an article for the Messenger please contact Sue Toulson at **susantoulson@gmail.com** or on 07971 924 329

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