

Warwick Unitarians

Newsletter

August 2020



It is with great pleasure that we re-opened the Chapel for services on Sunday 26th July.

Gavin Lloyd came to lead our worship with a fine service on the theme of the Fruits of the Spirit. Given the Government's current guidance on Church services, we had no hymn-singing, but Peter Flower came to play for us and provided some lovely short musical interludes on the piano in place of the hymns.

We had prepared the Chapel for a well-spaced maximum of 16, but in the event, with three couples each able to sit together and one family 'bubble' of three we fitted in 17 without danger of cross contamination. Although invited to wear masks in the 'enclosed space' if we felt uncomfortable with the room, the Chapel is large enough for everyone to have felt confident enough to do without. We did take precautions, with hand sanitisers at the doors, and temperatures being taken on entry, and we have kept a record of all who attended in case of illness. Sadly, we were unable to allow refreshments to be served as that would have involved use of common facilities in the kitchen, but we dispersed via the garden where people were able to gather, observing social distancing rules, and chat again after so many months of isolation.

In view of the success of this first meeting we intend to continue gathering at our regular Sunday time of 4.30 for the month of August, though we will not be holding our usual Friday lunchtime services during the summer.

The Diary for August now reads as follows:

August 2	Diane Rutter
August 9	Gavin Lloyd
August 16	Rev Sue Woolley
August 23	Diane Rutter
August 30	Rev Jeffrey Bowes

We thank Elaine compiling a Pulpit Rota, calling as always on the good nature of our friends who are prepared to give up their Sunday afternoons for us. We are very grateful to them all for joining us.

When I wrote in June about the Chapel, I said that it was waiting with calm, patient peacefulness for our return. But I said that we should use the opportunity of our enforced absence to reflect now on what we want from our meetings, why we attend, what we contribute, how we want to reshape things to fit in with the “new normality” that is facing us as panic subsides but the reality of the ongoing existence of the Covid19 virus in our society becomes clear. I invited you to consider whether the online services that Sue Woolley and others were providing in the interim could provide for all our spiritual needs. I suggested we should ask ourselves what more we are looking for as we walk in through the front door of the Chapel on a Friday or a Sunday afternoon? And should we ask what it is that we have found here as we leave again ninety minutes later.

I proposed a variety of possible answers, but wanted you to think for yourself what you want from the Chapel – with the implication that we all need to think more about our faith and our doubts and about how we can contribute to making the most of the all too brief services we celebrate there.

The question is still valid and needs addressing.

I quoted Feargus O'Connor saying "We need to be together to feel less alone in our contemplation of life's ultimate questions". Gavin put in more starkly on Sunday when he said simply "We need each other".

How are we to achieve this sense of spiritual togetherness in the best of ways? I trust we will return to this question many times in the future as we reconvene after the dreadful experience of the CoronaVirus.

Finally, I invite you to hold Alfonso in your thoughts as he undergoes an operation in Coventry on the 4th of August. We look forward to seeing him back again soon in our Warwick Unitarian Chapel community.

In the meantime, do not lower your guard against Covid19. It is still with us and is unlikely to be banished from our lives for some time to come.

Stay safe.

THE CHAPEL TEAM

Chair: Malcolm Burns 01926 831559 **Secretary:** Elaine Nomura 01926 611964
Treasurer: Cherry Dodd 01926 491311 **Committee members:** Adam Makinson and Christine Thompson
Music: Peter Flower 07508 042 694 **Lettings Secretary:** Angela Jefferies, 07976 555 979 .