



2008

**FULWOOD OLD CHAPEL  
(UNITARIAN) 1728**

**Minister: Rev. June Pettitt**

**Love is the doctrine of this church; the quest for truth is its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve humanity in fellowship, to the end that all souls shall grow in harmony with the Divine - thus do we covenant with each other and with God**

'The aim of religion is not to get us into Heaven, but to get Heaven into us'.

**Ulysses G.B. Pierce**

## Minister's Message

For September ..... From June



### Dear Friends

Most of you reading this month's message will be aware of the current uncertainty about my ministry at Fulwood Old Chapel. As I write this the precise outcome cannot be known: perhaps more will be known by the time this Messenger is in print.

Whatever the outcome, I think this is a good time for us all to focus upon something which we have valued at Fulwood Old Chapel over the last few years: it may have been a special event, perhaps a social event or maybe just a small 'something' which struck you at the time – even just a conversation you had, or a phrase in our worship services which stuck with you.

As always, that 'something' is likely to be different for different people. I urge you all to think about this, and compare notes with others, too.

There has been much talk about evaluating what the minister does in her work. It is of course very important to see what can be improved, but at the end of the day whilst a chapel must be businesslike, it is not a business: what is done can never be quantified. Religious and spiritual growth cannot be measured. This applies to what we all do. In our lives we both give and receive, but we will not necessarily know all the consequences of this: we may sow seeds and never know about the fruits that are gathered.

There is a phrase in one of our prayers which alerts us to 'some who passed by and never knew they had given so much'. This 'passer by' could be any one of us; this is what ministry is about. There is a sense in which we are all ministers, and we will all find it difficult to evaluate or quantify our own ministry.

Donald E. Messer wrote, 'Ministry is more than just a call to do something: it is a challenge to be someone who loves and cares'. This, I think is for all of us.

**June**

## **Message From The Editors.**

Most readers of The Messenger this month will be aware of the uncertainty of June's future at Fulwood. As editors of the newsletter, we have received a number of communications from members expressing their points of view. None of them appear in the Messenger as they were written to us as individuals, rather than for publication.

We would like to inform everyone that we remain neutral on this issue. We are friends of the chapel, not members. We are not committee members, nor do we attend committee meetings, and we certainly had no involvement in the decisions made on this issue. We have both been Unitarians for many years now, and produce the Messenger on a voluntary basis as part of our own commitment to the movement.

We are very happy to continue to do this and even to publish short letters on any subject, controversial or otherwise, but ultimately we are guided by both the minister and the committee.

Our thoughts are with June and the committee and we hope for a satisfactory resolution to the current difficulties.

**Chris and Philippa Woolven**

## **THE MESSENGER**

**If you would like to contribute to the Messenger then please feel free. We would love to hear from you. We are always looking for poems or quotes or even anecdotes that you feel will be of interest to our readers. We can even publish photos or children's art work if you wish. If you are a budding poet yourself or even a crossword compiler then please contact us, preferably by email. If you telephone then it is likely that you will need to leave a message on the voicemail and we will call you back.**

**If you do submit anything then please use Microsoft or Open office and it is best if you do not include pictures in the text file. Pictures should be sent separately as JPG files. Of course you could always post things to us. Just call if you want our address. Our phone number is 01142874380 or 07709145289/90. Email: [chriswoolven@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:chriswoolven@yahoo.co.uk).**

**Next Deadline - 18th September 6.00 pm for the October issue.**

# Connect with the Power of Song

**A Giving Voice course, with Caroline Thorpe at Fulwood Old Chapel. Fortnightly Weds evenings starting in October.**

**Free Introductory session Wednesday 1 October  
7.30 -10.00 pm**

15 October, 29 October, 19 November,  
3 December, 17 December 2008 7 January, 21 January, 4 February  
Cost : £75 (£35 concessions NFGV members)  
Booking ESSENTIAL

**Be in touch with your true self  
Feel more alive and supported  
Have *Giving Voice* as a tool you can use in your life  
Have fun and relax**

**No expertise, confidence or experience in singing is required**

In this course I would like to share my delight in engaging with song and help you to find the power and support that that I am getting from *Giving Voice*. The course is open to singers and non singers and will be fun, relaxing and often profound.

Some of you will have heard about my journey to become a Giving Voice Teacher, which was marked by a celebratory graduation event in the chapel in March. I will be running this course in Fulwood Old Chapel and would love it if some more chapel attendees would like to join me. Our chapel is a beautiful place to sing in and has such a wonderful energy, which seems to respond to our voices. Last year someone shared "I have never felt so relaxed in this chapel."

**Phone 0114 281 8337**

**[Caroline@givingvoicefoundation.org.uk](mailto:Caroline@givingvoicefoundation.org.uk)**

**[www.givingvoicefoundation.org](http://www.givingvoicefoundation.org)**

**To book send £10 (Cheque payable to NFGV) to Caroline Thorpe  
12 Rupert Road  
Sheffield  
S7 1RP**

## **Wedding**

Congratulations and our best wishes to Lynsey Helen Packham and Nathen Lee Fredrick who were married at the Chapel on 8.8.2008. Rev June Pettitt conducted the ceremony.

## **The Ministerial Fellowship Annual Conference**

June will be at the Ministerial Fellowship Annual Conference at Great Hucklow from Monday to Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. This will include a special programme called 'Living by Heart' led by Rev Dr. Laurel Hallman from the First Unitarian Church of Dallas.

## **Womens' League**

8<sup>th</sup> September – Meeting at Upper Chapel, Sheffield at 11.00 am for outing with the ladies of Upper Chapel.

10<sup>th</sup> September – Coffee morning 10.30 - 11.30 as usual everyone welcome.

18<sup>th</sup> September – Video at Margaret Sanderson's at 2.00pm.

## **From The Chair**

This is the most difficult monthly message I have had to write. I am of course aware that there are strong feelings on both sides of the argument regarding the future ministerial leadership of the Chapel. However I have been disheartened by the harshness of some of the criticisms levelled at the committee. We are governed by a constitution and the committee has done its best to proceed in accordance with that constitution.

It is inevitable that decisions will appear to be arbitrary when it is not possible for a variety of reasons to explain in full for the grounds for this decision. One thing that opponents of the decision can gain comfort from is that the committee is composed of members who elect to stand for post and are democratically elected to the post. As you know we have tried for many years to encourage a growth in membership and regular change in the composition of the committee.

The next AGM is in December and if the majority of members feel the committee has not acted in the best interests of the Chapel, it has the power to effect radical change.

I do not feel I wish to make any further comments at this point. Taking action is never easy, but the committee felt that to do nothing would be to act irresponsibly.

With best wishes

Janet

# Services in September



## Sundays at 11 am.

- |                |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
| <b>7th</b>     | Rev Robin Boyes                        | <b>Stewards:</b> <i>Margaret Sanderson and Judy Witham.</i><br><b>Flowers:</b> <i>Suzy Ince</i>             |
| <b>14th</b>    | Rev June Pettitt                       | <b>Stewards:</b> <i>Anne Eyre and Joyce Fothergill.</i><br><b>Flowers:</b> <i>Judy and Graham Hague</i>     |
| <b>21st</b>    | Congregational service. (Peter Rowson) | <b>Stewards:</b> <i>Catherine Paulson-Ellis and Linda Proctor.</i><br><b>Flowers:</b> <i>Mrs P Cottrell</i> |
| <b>28th</b>    | Rev June Pettitt                       | <b>Stewards:</b> <i>Nigel Hopkins and Caroline Thorpe.</i><br><b>Flowers:</b> <i>Sue Hedges</i>             |
| <b>5th Oct</b> | TBA                                    | <b>Stewards:</b> <i>Peter and Janet Rowson</i>  |

**Junior Chapel - Emma Taylor 0114 2308927**

**'Nothing is ever said until someone listens'**

**Paul Carnes**

# THE MESSENGER

## The Messenger

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[www.fulwood-old-chapel.org.uk](http://www.fulwood-old-chapel.org.uk)

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### MESSENGER

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If you are in need of a Minister please contact the Rev. June Pettitt on 0114 2352213

**TOLERANCE**

**REASON**

**FREEDOM**