



Great Meeting Chapel Leicester

Newsletter for November 2010



Chancel window stained glass
'Hope'

300 years of freedom, reason and tolerance

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SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

Sunday	7th	11am	The Minister
Sunday	14th	11am	<u>Remembrance Sunday</u> The Minister
Sunday	21st	3pm	The Minister
Sunday	28th	11am	The Minister

DIARY FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday	7th	1pm	<u>Congregational Lunch</u> at The White Swan, Sibley.
Friday	19th	8pm	<u>'Friday Group'</u> meets in the Garden Room - subject - World Religions
Sunday	28th	12.30pm	<u>Chapel Vestry Meeting</u>

The Coffee Shop is open every
Saturday morning 10.30am-12.30pm.

*All contributions intended for inclusion in the December/January edition of the Newsletter should be handed to the Minister by **Sunday 21st November** please.*

*Our thanks to **Tony Fletcher** for many of the photographs included in this edition of the newsletter.*

From The Minister.....

Dear Friends,

This is an interim edition of the chapel newsletter bridging the gap between our autumn and winter issue. The break in publication, as many of you will know, was occasioned by the death of Annie's father, Crichton, on 20th October, at the age of 84 years. Annie, her mother Ruth and brother Chris, would like to record their gratitude for all the kind messages of support and sympathy they have received from the congregation. Many of you will have met Crichton on his visits from Warwickshire, and I know that, although a committed Anglican, he always took a lively interest in what was happening here at Great Meeting.

It goes without saying that his loss leaves a great gap in our family life. His widow, Ruth, a life-long Unitarian from Mossley in Lancashire where the couple were married 60 years ago, knows I am sure that there will always be a warm welcome for her here on her visits to Leicestershire.

It is also a cause for sadness that we bid farewell to Marjorie Evans, as in September last Marjorie moved from Leicester to Macclesfield to be near her family. So ends a long association with the city and Chapel which began back in 1973 when Leslie, her husband, first arrived to be our minister here. We wish Marjorie a happy and peaceful time in her new home.

Arthur

“In this season of remembrance
we recall - each of us -
those we loved and still love....

In the silence
let us name them in our hearts
and bring their faces to our mind's eye”

Laurence Binyon.....

Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) is one of the lesser known war poets. Although too old to enlist in the First World War, he went to the Western Front in 1916 to work for the Red Cross as a medical orderly with an Ambulance Unit. He wrote about his experiences in *For Dauntless France* (1918).



The oldest of the Great War poets (he was 45 when the war began), Laurence Binyon was an expert on Oriental art at the British Museum, and an established scholar and poet.

Binyon worked at the British Museum before WWI and it was there he returned after the war. In 1933, he was appointed Norton Professor of Poetry at Harvard. In 1934 he retired from the British Museum, having risen to be the Keeper of the Prints and Drawings Department, and went to live in the country at Westridge Green, near Streatley.

The son of Quakers, Binyon was educated at St Paul's School and Trinity College, Oxford. He was already writing poetry by 1891, and won the Newdigate Prize for one poem whilst still at Oxford.

Binyon is best known for 'For the Fallen', originally published in *The Times* on 21 September 1914.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.*

It is still quoted at RAF funerals. William Brodick uses 'The Burning of the Leaves' to great effect in his debut novel *The Sixth Lamentation*.

Binyon is among the sixteen Great War poets commemorated on a slate stone in Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey in London. The inscription on the stone was written by a fellow Great War poet, Wilfred Owen. It reads: "My subject is War, and the pity of War. The Poetry is in the pity."

'The Burning of the Leaves'

Now is the time for the burning of the leaves,
They go to the fire; the nostrils prick with smoke
 Wandering slowly into the weeping mist.
Brittle and blotched, ragged and rotten sheaves!
A flame seizes the smouldering ruin, and bites
On stubborn stalks that crackle as they resist.
 The last hollyhock's fallen tower is dust:
 All the spices of June are a bitter reek,
 All the extravagant riches spent and mean.
 All burns! the reddest rose is a ghost.
Sparks whirl up, to expire in the mist: the wild
 Fingers of fire are making corruption clean.
Now is the time for stripping the spirit bare,
Time for the burning of days ended and done,
 Idle solace of things that have gone before,
 Rootless hope and fruitless desire are there:
Let them go to the fire with never a look behind.
That world that was ours is a world that is ours no more.
They will come again, the leaf and the flower, to arise
From squalor of rottenness into the old splendour,
And magical scents to a wondering memory bring;
The same glory, to shine upon different eyes.
Earth cares for her own ruins, naught for ours.
 Nothing is certain, only the certain spring.

Open Garden Event.....

On Saturday 28th August our annual Open Garden Event was once again held in the beautiful surroundings of the Chapel garden.

Visitors were greeted by music from the Enderby Youth Band and the delicious aromas coming from our barbecue, this year under the industrious eye of Theresa Miller of The White Swan, Sileby.



A wide variety of stalls including the ever popular Tombola and second-hand bookstall attracted a good crowd, and although numbers were a little down on last year, we strangely managed to make an increased overall profit towards chapel funds of £533.00.

The afternoon was officially opened by our local M.P. and chairman of the congregation, Sir Peter Soulsby , and we were delighted to draw in a few visitors from the Mansfield and Lincoln congregations as well.

Now a regular fixture in our chapel calendar, we look forward to another such enjoyable event next year! Grateful thanks to all our members who contributed so much of their time, hard work and enthusiasm.

Arthur



Harvest Festival and Lunch.....

26th September saw our annual service of Harvest Thanksgiving, attended by a good congregation in good voice to sing the favourite harvest hymns. After the service the Sale of Produce in aid of charity took place in the Garden Room, followed by our Harvest Lunch.

Organised once again by our hardworking ladies, thirty of us sat down to a delicious meal of quiche, jacket potatoes and salads followed by fruit crumble, apple pie and custard.

Overall the day returned an amount of £150 after expenses had been deducted, and this is donated to the Red Cross Flood Relief Appeal.

Everyone who attended remarked on what a good occasion it had been, and favourable comparisons were made with our usual very successful Christmas Tea!



Frieda Teichart and Jenny Stewart in charge of sales!

Congregational Lunch.....

On **Sunday 7th November**, members and friends are invited to a Congregational Lunch at **The White Swan, Sileby**, following the morning service.

If you would like to join us for lunch please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Garden Room and select your choice of food from the menu.

The choice of venue is to show our appreciation to **Theresa Miller**, Landlady, who gave generously of her time and energy at our Garden Event Barbecue. The White Swan has been listed in the 'Good Pub guide 2010/11' and is described as follows -

Good Pub Guide Recommended

Exemplary town local, a boon to its chatty regulars, its good honest home cooking luring others from further afield

Packed with bric-a-brac from bizarre hats to decorative plates and lots of prints, this solidly built red-brick pub has all the touches that marked the best of between-wars estate pub design, such as its deco tiled lobby, the polychrome tiled fireplaces, the shiny red anaglypta ceiling, the comfortable layout of linked but separate areas including a small restaurant (now lined with books). It quickly draws you in with its bright and cheerful feeling of genuine welcome, and this, with its food and the can-do attitude of its helpful staff, is what sets it above the thousands of other good locals. They have well kept Fullers London Pride, Lees Ansells and Marstons Pedigree on handpump, and good value house wines. The elderly boxer dog is called Leo - and likes balloons.

Good Pub Guide Food

Very popular, homely bar food includes filled rolls (they bake their own bread), soup, parma ham, goats cheese and walnut salad, a roast and a pie of the day, a home-made vegetarian flan, sausages and onion gravy, chicken parmesan, salmon pasta, gressingham duck breast with a whisky and marmalade glaze and puddings like apple crumble and white chocolate and stem ginger cheesecake; they offer OAP

lunches, Tuesday and Wednesdays evening curries and good Sunday roasts.

Bar food times: 12-1.30, 7-8.30; not Sat lunch, Sun evening or Mon.

Theresa's website - www.whiteswansibleby.co.uk

We are all looking forward to a jolly event. Our thanks to **Nicky Drucquer** for organising it on our behalf.

Annie

The Friday Group.....

“Meeting to discuss matters of faith.”

The November meeting will be at **8pm** on the **Friday19th**. The subject for discussion will be **‘World Religions’**

All welcome.

Nocturne

Tonight I saw so many stars -
how beautiful the heavens are -
each pulsing light is so serene
and deep the night that lies between,

so deep I feel my being lost
amid the shining host,
and wrapped in silence so profound
the light is almost sound.

A.S.

G M NEWS

Warmest Congratulations.....

To proud grandparents Ruth and Phil Archer, their daughter Helen and son in law Martin on the safe arrival of Daniel James Blake Bowler in Auckland New Zealand on Wednesday 29th September 2010. A little brother for Rebecca Sophie.

G M Members' Recent Publications.....

David Wykes with a colleague, Isabel Rivers, has edited a volume of nine essays, **Dissenting praise: Religious Dissent and the Hymn in England and Wales**, which is due to be published by Oxford University Press in March next year. Hymns have proved to be one of the most effective mediums of religious thought and feeling, second only to the Bible in terms of their influence. The role of religious dissenters, who were responsible for introducing hymns and hymn-singing into public worship in the seventeenth century, has never been properly told before. The book has the first major account in English of the history of the hymn in Wales, and there is a chapter by Alan Ruston on the development of hymns among Unitarians, both hymns by Unitarians, and hymn collections edited for use by Unitarians, which focuses on James Martineau.



*Drs Elizabeth and David Wykes
pictured here at our recent
Harvest Lunch*

Elizabeth Wykes under (under her professional name Elizabeth Clapp) also has a book coming out with Oxford University Press, **Women, Dissent and Anti-slavery in Britain and America, 1790 - 1865**, which she has edited with a colleague, Julie Roy Jeffrey. The eight essays in the volume by leading scholars examine the key role of women dissenters in the anti-slavery movement in both Britain and the United States. One of the essays in the volume focuses on Elizabeth Heyrick, the daughter of John Coltman of St Nicholas Street, a member of Great Meeting.

News

Michael Wood's Story of England.....

This is a groundbreaking series in which Michael Wood tells the story of one place throughout the whole of English history. The village is Kibworth in Leicestershire in the heart of England - a place that lived through the Black Death, the Civil War and the Industrial Revolution and was even bombed in World War Two.

David Wykes was interviewed by Michael Wood a few weeks ago at Dr Williams's Library in London for the BBC 4 programme recently shown in six episodes. If you missed it view it online with BBC iPlayer.

Leicester Half Marathon.....

On Sunday 10th October our member **Friederike Teichert** took part in the Leicester Half Marathon to raise funds in aid of the charity 'Hope Against Cancer'. Having completed the run Frieda raised just over £400 in sponsorship. Very well done and thanks to all who supported her.

Roadworks.....

The road network in the area of Great Meeting is currently being re organised. The most direct approach to chapel is now down Causeway Lane from Vaughan Way.

Chapel Flowers.....

If you wish to donate and/or arrange flowers in Chapel, in memoriam, to mark a special anniversary, or to simply to take a turn, please contact our **Flower Secretary, Morag Jones**.

Great Meeting Cookbook....

If you have favourite dish you would like to see included in the new edition, **please bring your recipes in to Chapel or email them to - anniestew@hotmail.co.uk**

Continuing Support for Asylum Seekers in Leicester.....

It will be of great benefit to genuine refugees if we at Great Meeting can continue to make contributions to provide some of the basic necessities of life. A box is available at Chapel as a collection point for donated items.

The British Red Cross (244 London Road) has an on going need for the following suggested items, plus anything else you would normally buy for yourself or your family:

Tinned goods: tomatoes/ kidney beans/ chick peas/ tuna/ mackerel/ corned beef/ tinned fruit/ tinned vegetables/ baked beans/ soup

Dried foods: rice/ maize meal/ lentils/ cous cous/ dried fruit/ noodles/ sugar/ porridge/ flour/ pasta

Long life goods: cooking oil/ cereal bars/ nuts/ cereal/ crisps/ indian savoury mix/ chocolate/ biscuits

Drinks: fruit juice/ tea/ coffee/ drinking chocolate/ dried milk/ long-life milk/ squash/ water

Toiletries: toothpaste/ toothbrushes/ soap/ toilet paper/ shampoo/ sanitary towels/ face and body creams/ shaving equipment

Baby items: nappies/ baby wipes/ oil/ baby milk/ baby food jars/ baby bath liquid

Also: tin openers/ cutlery/ crockery/ pans/ towels/ sleeping bags/ t-shirts/ supermarket and other shopping vouchers/ mobile telephone top-up vouchers/ writing paper/ envelopes/ stamps

Many thanks

For more details contact Gill on: 07716 073403 or
Leicester@cityofsanctuary.com

Great Meeting Coffee Shop

**Every Saturday
Morning**

10.30am-12.30pm

Take respite from the hustle and bustle of the shops. Come and join us for a chat or a quiet read of the newspaper.

Fairtrade ground coffee, tea, soft drinks, cake and biscuits on sale.

**Homemade preserves and
Second-hand book stall.**

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