

ALTON CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALIST CHURCH
SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Dear Friends,

Times do seem to be moving very fast at the moment, with so many constant changes. Sometimes I just need to get away from the news, as too often only bad news seems to make the headlines.

As the world struggles to hold the pandemic at bay we do see so many doing all they can to help others. We do see the community spirit coming back where so many are helping their neighbours, again, in a way we have not seen for a long time.

It was a difficult decision to close the church temporarily and just as difficult to choose a time to open again. At the moment we cannot open as the Church hall is used by many different groups and the regulations on what has to be done to use the hall, would be hard to work too. The regulations do seem to change almost every week, and we review them all the time.

As you are probably aware, we have stepped into Zoom Services! Never thought this would ever happen but needs must. We only started a few weeks ago with five of us to test it, but within 6 weeks we have over 30 within the Zoom congregation. We send links regularly to all those who would like to join our Sunday service at 6.30pm.

The response has been amazing. I have had so many phone calls and emails saying how much the service is enjoyed and how lovely to see everyone again. The Service is evolving as I am slowly adding more ideas. New people are joining our service regularly. Some are those who used to come to our church, but have moved away from the area; many are persons who have come to me for a reading and would like to join with us in our service. I am trying to involve as many as possible in the service as we are one big family and it is great to see new faces taking part in the service. Let me know if you would like to help? It does feel with the zoom, our Sunday services have come back to life. Who knows what is next?

I pray you all can take in the beauty of the summer flowers, and enjoy the sunshine.

Rob Harvey, President

“MEDIUMSHIP”

Most Sundays we have a visiting medium serving our church. We hear their prayers, their address and their clairvoyance and so often go home disappointed at the apparent lack of ability, lack of understanding and lack of spirituality.

When we consider that in the past, we have heard such mediums as Rev Harold Cox, Joyce Gobbett and my own darling Betty Redwood, to name but a few, and been both inspired, uplifted and educated into the philosophy of Spiritualism.

Why should this total ‘about face’ be the new norm?

The Answer can only be a total lack of ‘Education’, lack of ‘Spirituality’ and lack of ‘Understanding’; in other words, a lack of proper training.

As Christian Spiritualists we are guided by the works of Zodiac through Miss Winifred Moyes, by the Holy Bible, prayer, study and meditation.

It is not good enough to just read ‘The Messages of Zodiac’, or ‘The Green Leaves of the Spirit’ as one would a newspaper or novel, it has to be studied, analysed and understood before moving on to the next chapter. It is only by this method that one comes to an understanding of Zodiac. Similarly study the Philosophy of Spiritualism, find out about other guides and their mentors e.g. Silver Birch the inspirer of Maurice Barbanell, White Eagle who inspired Grace Cook, or Red Cloud who worked through Estelle Roberts. These are but a few names of well-known Mediums that, over the years have worked with and for Spirit. It is by an understanding of these mediums of ‘yesteryear’ that some knowledge of our movement is accumulated.

When one examines some of our more recent accomplished and able mediums one must also take a look at their background and training; e.g. Harold Cox spent twelve years in Circle before stepping onto a platform; Joyce Gobbett spent five years, as did my Betty before standing in front of a congregation. All three had spent their time, in different circles, whilst prayerfully studying their Bibles and reading avidly about the philosophy of Spiritualism. That is not to say that a budding medium must have an encyclopaedic knowledge, but at least some background would help their understanding.

We then look at what must be the most important missing item in so many circuit mediums, ‘SPIRITUALITY’. To a Christian Spiritualist it can be summarised as one’s active connection with God through Jesus Christ. This can be sought through prayerful meditation, either alone, or more preferably, with a group of like-minded souls.

Meditation often involves being physically still, but the English word ‘meditation’ is derived from the Latin meditatio, meaning “to think, contemplate, devise and ponder”.

It is during this passive state that we can take time to be still, when we become more aware of the presence of God and therefore more active in listening to Him.

This meditation is so very important to ALL spiritualists and is about emptying our mind of conscious thought but being more aware of who God is, His work in people’s lives, and in the wider world.

In summary, it does appear that so many of our visiting ‘speakers’ lack a proper education in their ability to expound the wonderful eternal message of the “Continuity of Life”.

But one hopes that in our little church we are able to overcome this lack, due to so much

'better knowledge and understanding'.
In God's love
Brian

An extract of an address given by Zodiac on the 10th September 1927. Chosen by Stephn Lidgett

THE DUALITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOUL

The hours of the day are there not to be "got through", but to be put to that use that the Spirit within demands; and thus it is that you look to your equipment. Two things are essential; the water and the bread of life.

Oh! Think you as to this: How few there are on earth who are content with the necessities of daily life! Many gather to themselves this and that, and when night falls, they are wearied by all that unnecessary furniture with which they have laden themselves. Dissatisfied, out of harmony with the world in general, they exclaim that life is a burden, and it holds little recompense.

To you, dear children, and to a mighty host I speak, for many have been drawn in to gain that reassurance which has been absent in the past; I speak to the crowd, and I ask each one, individually, to overlook that which they have, that which will carry them through the span of the journey represented by the waking day; and I tell them that if they would travel with happy hearts, if they would look back at the end of the day, and see the hours well spent, then they should carry with them the waters of faith and the bread of service.

The story of Lynne Curtis and her realisation of Jesus Christ.

Some 40 years ago Paul and I moved into a 1906 house in Church Crookham (near Fleet) with our 3 young children. Little did we know at the time how much work needed to be done

Each night in bed I heard footsteps on the stairs, until it got to the stage where I was too scared to venture upstairs at night. After much deliberation I went along to Fleet Spiritualist Church, which happened to be just along the road to us. It turned out to be a healing evening and I hadn't a clue what was happening. On talking to someone there and glibly joking that I had spooks in the house (I cringe now when I think of it) I was given the telephone number of Betty Englefield (Betty Redwood) in Fleet.

Eventually I booked an appointment to see Betty, together with my cousin for morale support. I was absolutely terrified, fearing this was dabbling in the occult and didn't know

what to expect. After giving each of us a reading, with me being astonished at all that was revealed - even describing the curtains in our house, Betty admitted her heart had been pounding furiously, which was of course my nerves!

At a later date Betty came to our house again, where she sat on the stairs talking to all those souls who had previously lived there. Apparently by taking up our floorboards and the plaster from the walls (rising damp) we had disturbed them. They meant us no harm and were simply interested in what we were doing.

So began a long fruitful and enriching friendship. For a few years we attended Fleet Church and then we briefly lost touch as we moved away. Quite by chance we met up again and discovered that we lived around the corner to one another. Betty encouraged us to try Chawton Church as apparently young blood was needed (well we are talking over 30 years ago!)

Gradually we realised this is what had been missing from Fleet - the Godliness, Christianity combined with spiritualism, the missing piece of the jigsaw so to speak. At Fleet I felt uncomfortable at the lack of Christ, whereas at Chawton God and Jesus Christ come first.

Miss Winifred Moyes and "The Christ Mission"

Our church is graced in every service held, with a reading from 'Zodiac'. These readings are usually taken from 'The Reference Edition', or 'The Green Leaves of the Spirit' or from one of the twenty or so volumes of Zodiac messages. One doesn't have to be a genius to realise that, therefore, with some 1300 separate messages, each given in deep trance by Zodiac through Miss Winifred Moyes, and each message lasting from over half an hour to an hour and a half, that it would put an incredible strain on any medium, let alone one who was severely disabled from the age of ten years. Miss Moyes, from an early age was confined to a wheelchair and was constantly hospitalised under various medical consultants. It was recorded on innumerable occasions that she would be wheeled into a hall or church and then to be 'taken over' by Zodiac and would step out of her wheelchair, still in deep trance, and give an inspired address lasting anything up to an hour and half; then collapse back into her wheelchair. A fact that totally baffled the medical profession, especially in view of her chronic condition and disablement. Miss Moyes, however, had no doubt at all regarding this overpowering strength that she received. It lay in her implicit and unshakeable faith in the power of Jesus Christ.

Zodiac's first act on "taking control" was to place his medium under the protection of the Cross with the invocation: "Saviour Christ, into Thy Hands I commend the spirit of this Thy child".

Miss Moyes on over 400 occasions was 'taken over' by other "visiting" souls from the "other side", and all recorded for posterity. The list includes: Ernest Shackleton, General Booth, Dr David Livingstone, Leo Tolstoy, Abraham Lincoln and Florence Nightingale, to name but a few.

As with all good spiritual mediums, Miss Moyes relied on her implicit faith in Jesus Christ to carry her through her circle leadership and her addresses, to all her varied congregations; not once did she rely on notes or any other prepared script. Her total dedication to Jesus

Christ being her motivation and her inspiration.

It was that same dedication that Zodiac, through Miss Moyes, spoke so very often of the "Christ Mission". That Mission, despite human frailty and apathy, is centred on evangelising man to be spiritually healed in harmony to that Divine Love. You cannot carry out spiritual healing unless you have been spiritually healed yourself. Unfortunately, a matter that not all budding healers are aware of.

In 1986, the Reverend Harold Cox, former General Secretary of the Greater World Christian Spiritualist Movement and wonderful medium, decided to reinvigorate the Christ Mission. Harold, along with his wife Pamela, put together a small team of workers including Joyce and Don Gobbett, together with my beloved Betty and me. As a team we travelled the country visiting venues both large and small, and encountering congregations some very large and some very small, but always prayerfully preaching Jesus Christ and the messages of Zodiac.

As a team we carried on the Christ Mission over a number of years, but unfortunately it put such a strain on Harold's, already feeble physical body, that we had to bring things to a close. However, that Mission can continue, within our beautiful little church.

God bless you. Brian Redwood

Forthcoming services

As many you know we have started running Services every Sunday at 6.30pm on Zoom. To join us please send an email to Rob (info. on back page) and he will add your email address to our meeting. You will need to have Zoom on your device and then you just need to click the link we send you, just before 6.30pm.

“He is not dead this friend, not dead
But, in his path, we mortals tread.”

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