

Spring 2024

# The Fulwood Messenger

The Magazine of Fulwood Old Chapel  
(Unitarian)

Whiteley Lane, Sheffield S10 4GL





# Message from the Chair



Hi all,

I can't believe that by the time this is published spring might be just around the corner although I fear a lot of cold weather is to be had before that. At the time of writing we are in the middle of a cold snap, but no doubt we will be back in to wild and wet weather before long. I have been on the golf course today, it was very cold ,barely above 0 degrees, however the sky was blue, the ball was running along because the ground as so hard, so on the whole a lovely day out.

Christmas is a way behind us now, it all goes by very quickly. I was fortunate to be surrounded by family and very young children, Christmas seems to be for the children really.

January is here but already the days are lengthening very slowly, the new year brings the possibility of a new start, a period perhaps with not so much excess. The historic lean days of lent will soon be upon us, although we do not suffer from any lack of resources these days. In fact our shops and supermarkets are groaning with food, from all around the world. We have to be self disciplined not to over buy and over eat.

I am including a poem by William Wordsworth about snowdrops. There are in fact many poems about snowdrops but this one is one of my favourites. My grandmother was born on the 21st of February and my Mother always mentioned that it was usually peak snowdrop time. When my granddaughter was here at Christmas , we uncovered the the shoots of our snowdrops from all the Autumn leaves. A sign of hope indeed.

Best wishes go out to all our friends and families. Attendance at the chapel is very healthy at the moment, long may that continue. The variety of church leaders we have makes for very interesting services. I hope the Winter bugs do not linger too long and we can look forward to lighter times.

*Jane*

# Poem for Spring

## *To a Snowdrop*

*by William Wordsworth*

Lone Flower, hemmed in with snows and white as they  
But hardier far, once more I see thee bend  
Thy forehead, as if fearful to offend,  
Like an unbidden guest. Though day by day,  
Storms, sallying from the mountain-tops, waylay  
The rising sun, and on the plains descend;  
Yet art thou welcome, welcome as a friend  
Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed May  
Shall soon behold this border thickly set  
With bright jonquils, their odours lavishing  
On the soft west-wind and his frolic peers;  
Nor will I then thy modest grace forget,  
Chaste Snowdrop, venturous harbinger of Spring,  
And pensive monitor of fleeting years!



# “In February there is everything to hope for and nothing to regret.”

**Welcome to the Early Spring edition of The Messenger. At time of writing it's a miserable day, but we've seen a bit of sunshine, and hopefully we'll see some more.**

February brings the rain, Thaws the frozen lake again.  
March brings breezes loud and shrill, stirs the dancing daffodil.  
April brings the primrose sweet, Scatters daises at our feet.  
May brings flocks of pretty lambs, Skipping by their fleecy dams.

*“Though February is short, it is filled with lots of love and sweet surprises.”*

*“February, a form pale-vestured, wildly fair.  
One of the North Wind's daughters with icicles in her”*

## Do it Anyway

**People** are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centred. Forgive them anyway.

**If you** are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

**If you** are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

**If you** are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

**What** you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

**If you** find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

**The good** you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

**Give** the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

**In the final analysis**, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.



*This poem was found written on the wall in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta.*

*Thanks to Philippa Woolven for sending this. Friends will be glad to know that she is making a slow, but steady improvement from her recent health problems. We look forward to seeing her before the year is out.*

# History of Fullwood\* Hall

I've recently had contact with Alan Cruch, who had been sent a copy of the 'Plimsoll Line' article which appeared in 'The Messenger' some time ago. He found it helpful in preparing a history of Fullwood Hall recently, for the recently formed Fulwood History Group.

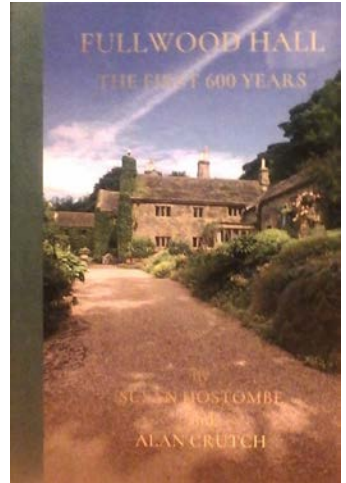
He went on to say:

*'I have also done some research on your chapel in connection with a book on Fullwood Hall that I have recently co-written. I imagine you will already have the information about the Minister's House, but I am sending my transcription of a petition sent*

*on behalf of the chapel in 1793. I love the descriptions it gives of the area, the people, and the minister as well as the information on how the Minister's house was funded. Please feel free to use it in whole or part, and congratulations on your publication which I enjoyed reading.'*

He later told me:

'We had a meeting on Thursday and I learned something about the chapel that I did not know. It seems that the Rhodes sisters ran a small residential school from the premises. One of our members' great grandparents went there.' Fulwood History Group is unusual in that it consists of a small number of people actively involved in research into various aspects of the history of Fulwood. We meet at 7 o'clock on the third Thursday of the month to discuss what we have discovered and share sources of information. We hope to develop a wider community of interest and if you have stories, information or old photographs relating to Fulwood, or you're simply curious about your local area you are welcome to join us! To get in touch, you can email [members@fulwoodhistory.uk](mailto:members@fulwoodhistory.uk) or leave a message on our website: <https://www.fulwoodhistory.uk/>



***The transcription of the Petition is shown on the following page.***

\* archaic

## Fullwood Yorkshire August 13 1753

We whose names are subscribed beg leave to represent (to such Worthy Persons as may be disposed to encourage the general Interest of Religion and particularly that of the Protestant Dissenters of the case of the Congregation of Fullwood and their present Minister the Reverend Mr Jeremiah Gill. That Society was first Gathered and its Minister endowed by a Benefaction of £400 from one Mr Ronksley in a Wild but populous Country on the Edge of the Derbyshire Moors where it appears of great Importance that the Means of Knowledge of Goodness should be encouraged.

There is a Commodious Place of Worship & about one Eight part of an Acre of Land adjoining to it but no Tolerable Convenience for the Habitation or Lodging of a Minister any where near the Place or within Three Miles of it and the accidents of very bad Roads & bad Weather do often prevent the Ministers Attendances more especially during the Life of their present Minister whose Lameness and Infirmities in Consequence of a Severe and tedious Illness render him Unfit to travel though not to Preach. The People also have not been nor are capable of contributing to the Support of the Minister much less towards any Building except in a little Carriage & labour. Under these United Circumstances We are persuaded that as there is a sufficient Compass of Land for a Small House & Garden it would be very Wise and Usefull Charity to Contribute towards the Erection of Three or Four Rooms to Accommodate the present and future Ministers in a Country where such Convenience cannot otherwise be obtained and this the Rather as the Salary is small, and as the want of such Provision may in future time discourage any Minister from accepting an Invitation to settle among them , Especially as there is good Reason to believe That his Residence upon the Spot might render all his other Endeavours More Extensively Usefull.

We Hope therefore We shall need no further Apology for Recommending the Case (as we Heartily do) to Whomsoever these Presents shall come & in whose Power Divine and Providence shall put it to do Good and to communicate.

Continued on next page

*Minister of the Upper Meeting of Sheffield*  
*Assistant “ “ “ “ “ “*

*Thomas Haynss (sgd)*  
*Field Sylvester Wadsworth (sgd)*  
*Saml Smith (sgd)*  
*Daniel Lowe (sgd)*  
*Jam Moulton (sgd)*  
*John Pye*

*Minister of Rotherham*  
*Minister of Lower Meet of Sheffield*

*To*  
*Mr Timy, Hollis Merch't*  
*Near St Maryy Axe*  
*London*

*From*  
*The Red Mr Jer'b Gill*  
*Fullwood Aug 13th 1753*

St Mary Axe was a medieval parish in central London . It survives as the name of a current day street that passes through the old parish. It is the former address of the Gherkin.

*Many thanks to Alan for all of this. I seem to be the only member of the congregation now who can remember seeing a photo of the chapel furnished with the bentwood chairs, grouped around a pot-bellied stove. I have no idea who had the photo or where it went. I'm sure I'm not the only one who can remember the little wooden 'Sunday School' chairs which in my time were used to display vegetables in the harvest festival display. I can't imagine that they were in use during the school classes mentioned above, but who knows? There were also some wooden benches.*

*'An individual influences the whole cosmos with every thought, word and action. Therefore someone with peace in their heart naturally radiates peace and harmony and influences the whole Universe.'*

*Maharishi Mahesh Yogi*



## The Sheffield 1000 Charity

Launched in the summer of 2022 by Dan Walker, the concept of this charity is simple and innovative. Essentially, if 1,000 people each donate £1 per week, £1,000 can be used each week to support a local charity. Charities already supported include Gleadless Valley Foodbank, The Archer Project, Solving Kids Cancer, Sheffield Young Carers, Bluebell Wood, SYEDA, S6 Foodbank and Work Ltd. It is registered with the Charities Commission and full details can be seen on their website **thesheffield1000.org** This includes all the charities which have been supported so far.

***Nigel Hopkins***

If you might be interested in joining this group, or would like to know more about it, just visit their website (above)

### RETIRING COLLECTION & CHARITY DONATIONS

This month's (I think this refers to February) charity collection is for the Red Cross Middle East Appeal. £250 was raised for HARC in December.

Donations for both Chapel and charities can be given:

- In Chapel: by cash in the collection boxes - for the Chapel [by the door] and for the month's charity [on the servery counter] - or by card [please ask]
  - Set up a standing order (preferable)
- Make a BACS transfer to the Chapel account (Sort code: 40-52-40; acc. No. 00060013) ref. Chapel (or the name of the charity).

### From Caroline Thorpe

I was doing some clearing the other day and came across this old chapel anniversary photo **(see the next page)**.

Prize for recognising the most people or for identifying all the ones who still attend.

*(My guess – and that's all it is – is 2000. If I'd been there I might have recognised what I was wearing, but I wasn't, so no clues there for me!)* **Editor.**



## Arek Mareki

In November, some of us went to Leicester Great Meeting for Arek Mareki's official induction and welcome to the Ministry. The Reverend Arek was still the young man who found his way into our hearts during his first visits to Fulwood as a lay preacher then as a student, attached to Rev. Maud.

We were made very welcome in Leicester and it was a memorable occasion. We wish Arek well in his Ministry.

Photos: Arek with the local VIPs, and on the following page, Arek in a more relaxed mood after the ceremony.





## From Anne Rayner

This photo was on 16th November at Fulwood Co-op to celebrate the Chapel receiving a grant to purchase a new oven. This is now installed and being used, especially by Chefs Counters to produce 6 course meals being held regularly in the Old Schoolroom on Saturday evenings.

We thank the Co-op and particularly Rachel Reeson, the Member Pioneer, for their support over several years. We have used grants to improve our facilities which are used by numerous groups in the community.



Rachel has always been positive and enthusiastic and has encouraged networking among her local community causes, resulting for example, our Light up the Night event with Cruse in December 2022.

Although not a Co-op cause this year, we hope to retain close links with them and particularly one of their current causes, Friends of the Porter Valley. They have expressed thanks for use of the Chapel before Christmas for wreathmaking and a Christmas Bazaar. In total, for all the Christmas events, held at the Chapel and Forge Dam, they raised a fantastic £6,000 for improvements to the children's playground at Forge Dam.



And speaking of the 'Chefs Counters', here is a picture of some of the congregation enjoying a Christmas lunch, catered by them.

## Remembering John Norton



We were saddened to hear that our friend John Norton died in hospital on Sunday January 21st. He leaves his dear wife Joan and two grown up children James and Beth. Beth is to be married in February and they will all be saddened that her Dad isn't able to walk her down the aisle.

Joan's father was Eric Timmons, our organist and good friend for many years, and she, John and the whole family were active members at Fulwood until they moved to Upper Chapel, where John was the much valued resident Chapel Keeper until his retirement, when they moved to the Firth Homes at Nethergreen.

This photo was taken there in December, when they celebrated their Golden Wedding with a wonderful breakfast for them and their neighbours, provided by the Wardens, who knew that it was John's favourite meal of the day!

Sincere sympathies to Joan, Beth and James, and their wider family.

# Winter – Time

Late lies the wintry sun a-bed,  
A frosty, fiery sleepy-head;  
Blinks but an hour or two; and then,  
A blood-red orange, sets again.

Before the stars have left the skies,  
At morning in the dark I rise;  
And shivering in my nakedness,  
By the cold candle, bathe and dress.

Close by the jolly fire I sit  
To warm my frozen bones a bit;  
Or with a reindeer-sled, explore  
The colder countries round the door.

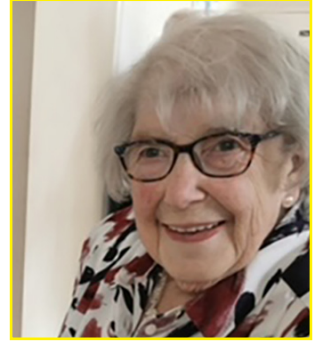
When to go out, my nurse doth wrap  
Me in my comforter and cap;  
The cold wind burns my face, and blows  
Its frosty pepper up my nose.

Black are my steps on silver sod;  
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;  
And tree and house, and hill and lake,  
Are frosted like a wedding cake.

***Robert Louis Stevenson***



## Remembrance



Last April was a very sad time for friends at Fulwood Old Chapel. On the 30th March, we were shocked to hear that Susie Ince had died very unexpectedly, at home. Shortly afterwards, on April 11th, Roger Weston passed away in hospital, and then on April 24th, Beryl Ramage also died in hospital, less than three weeks after her 90th birthday, which we had celebrated in chapel.

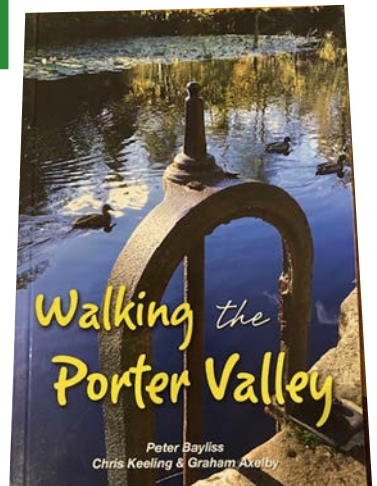
They are all missed (and this past year we've been discovering just how much Susie did do in terms of publicity, The Messenger, chapel noticeboard etc etc!). On the other hand we still see Penny Weston, and now their son Michael accompanies her, and Beryl? Well, we won't forget Beryl. Tiny but mighty.

### *Walking in The Porter Valley*

Another book about our immediate locality, One of the authors, Graham Axelby, is a member of the Upper Chapel congregation.

The book is on sale (£5 I think) at Forge Dam Café, or from Friends of Porter Valley.

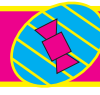
[www.fopv.org.uk](http://www.fopv.org.uk)







# Easter



Easter is early again this year, so a good chance of poor weather.

Bets on a White Easter, anyone?

Easter is probably the time when the Unitarian theology is most noticeably diverse from other Christian religions.

For many Unitarian Universalists, the resurrection narrative is often more metaphorical than literal. Many kinds of resurrection can be emphasized: rebirth of nature; resurrecting dreams and hopes; resurrecting dead relationships. In a general sense, the ultimate triumph of life over death.

Because we are Unitarians there may be a range of different opinions, of course, but the 'metaphorical' point of view above is one which is quite widely held.

For people of other faiths, here Jewish, April is the month for celebrating new beginnings. On the biblical Hebrew calendar, in the months of Nisan and Iyar, we celebrate the children of Israel being released from bondage to the Egyptians. This celebration is included in the spring festivals of Passover, Unleavened Bread, and Feast of First Fruits.

Let us be thankful, Lord, for little things -  
The song of birds, the rapture of the rose;  
Cloud-dappled skies, the laugh of limpid springs,  
Drowned sunbeams and the perfume April blows;  
Bronze wheat a-shimmer, purple shade of trees -  
Let us be thankful, Lord of Life, for these!

**A poem by  
Robert William Service**

Let us be praiseful, Sire, for simple sights; -  
The blue smoke curling from a fire of peat;  
Keen stars a-frolicking on frosty nights,  
Prismatic pigeons strutting in a street;  
Daisies dew-diamonded in smiling sward -  
For simple sights let us be praiseful, Lord!

Let us be grateful, God, for health serene,  
The hope to do a kindly deed each day;  
The faith of fellowship, a conscience clean,  
The will to worship and the gift to pray;  
For all of worth in us, of You a part,  
Let us be grateful, God, with humble heart.



## Here is an account by Roger Newton of his winter visit to the Northern General Hospital

The well known Christmas Carol written by Christina Rossetti opens with the line, "In the bleak midwinter..." there are times in a person's life where just the journey through one day into the next can take on the same bleakness.

The morning of Tuesday 16th January had started brightly enough. A clear blue sky greeted me as I opened the blinds in my bedroom. I had already made up my mind to devote the entire day to packing my belongings into boxes in readiness for moving house sometime in February this year. Three years of trying to make a sale had taken its toll, so I was disinclined to get too excited.

By lunch time I had made what I considered to be spectacular progress. Then I received a phone call. "It's Jane at the Cardiac Outpatients, Roger, we were expecting you this morning. Is everything ok?"

It would take far too long to explain the background resulting in this call at the moment and the reason why they were expecting me. I apologised profoundly for not turning up at the right time and suggested that I jump in my car and head towards the Northern General Hospital within minutes of breaking the connection with Jane. The offer was accepted.

I had reported several weeks earlier an area in my left breast where my defibrillator (ICD) is sited, which gave the suggestion that there might be an infection present, although after an earlier thorough examination in the form of a PET scan, no evidence could be found. The site in my chest was photographed for the third time in as many weeks and a registrar took some blood for tests.

Shortly thereafter, I was visited by one of the Cardiac Doctors who explained that they would like to keep me in hospital for further tests. The conversation expanded into an explanation of the difficulties in pinpointing the source of infection if indeed there was one. Whilst I was not alarmed by any of this news, being more concerned that I had come as an outpatient and had driven myself

to the hospital, I was curious to learn that the new ICD was to be removed along with its wiring connections to my heart due mainly to the possible existence of an infection. Even more curious was the indication that they would not relocate the device and wiring immediately. This decision seems to have been made following an ultrasound scan on Wednesday 17th January. The same doctor explained to me that he was amazed that, when compared to an earlier scan taken in August 2015, at the time the original device was fitted, it was extremely difficult to see any changes from one scan to the other. I have a problem with that because I didn't ask what he expected to see, but after careful consideration myself, I drew the conclusion that I am still here after a further eight years life and still fit and healthy so *Why Worry, Be Happy*.

Then things went pear-shaped. Two men had been admitted to the ward with infections which seemingly were causing their bodies to try to fight the devices. Quite what this meant in reality was not explained. My operation to have the new ICD and wires extracted, was postponed due to their higher priority. I now have a revised appointment in February.

I think from my point of view the worst part of this event was that I felt fine, health wise. My blood pressure is exemplary, heart rate fine, etc. I felt like a bedblocking charlatan all the time I was in the hospital.

I was relieved when I was eventually discharged and found my car unassailed by wheel clamps or threats of a fine stuck to my windscreen and shall, no doubt be far more prepared to face another short spell in hospital, having had prior warning.

The staff at the Cardiac wards of the Northern General Hospital were thorough, efficient, always smiling and ready to answer all but the most technical of questions, but perhaps the most endearing of their attributes was that they, like me, wanted a happy conclusion to my treatment.

*Roger Newton*



# Rinchen Zangpo Society For Spiti Development

Educational Newsletter No. 30 Issue: Winter 2023/24

## New Branch School in Chango, Upper Kinnaur



An apple a day keeps the doctor away! The students at our new school in Chango now receive a high-quality education, and might even themselves become the future physicians of their community

The New Nalanda Pre & Primary School is the latest addition to the Rinchen Zangpo Society for Spiti Development's educational programme. The new school is in the village of Chango, Upper Kinnaur, about four hours' drive down the valley from Munsel-ling School and Kaza. It is by the Spiti river, not so far from where our river joins the Sutlej south flowing into India from Mount Kailash in Tibet. Here grow the finest apples, as our students and the greater community regularly enjoy.



Fresh students getting off to a great start in a fresh school



## New Branch School in Chango (continued)

Children even as young as five were being sent as boarders to far-away Munsel-ling for the sake of

a worthwhile education. In 2019 a local Chango committee started a small school with guidance from the Rinchen Zangpo Society. Then came covid for a couple of years. After that, parents from Chango and surrounding villages urged Tashi Namgyal, General Secretary, to incorporate the school completely into our Society, promising that land would be available on which to build school premises. The school became fully a part of the Rinchen Zangpo Society's education programme this year and is recognized officially by the Himachal Pradesh State government. At present there are 74 students, nine teachers, two caretakers and one cook. There are classes from kindergarten to the fifth class being taught in rented accommodation. ☺



Meditation and prayer are a part of each student's daily practice

## Spiti Festival

The Spiti Festival takes place every August in Kaza, the sub-district capital of Lahaul-Spiti. It is the successor to the Ladarcha Fair, an annual agricultural exposition whose origins stretch back at least 100 years and possibly earlier. The original Ladarcha was attended by traders, shepherds and nomads from Kullu, Kinnaur, Ladakh and Tibet, and these earliest gatherings were hosted by the village

of Chicham on an alpine pastureland not far from there. After taking care of business in Ladarcha, the traders then moved onward to Kullu City and to Rampur where similar agricultural fairs were held. But in the 1960s, after the borders with Tibet were cordoned off by the Indian and Chinese armies, the Ladarcha Fair ceased in its original form, moved to Kaza and eventually became the Spiti Festival, the cultural celebration we have today.



Munsel-ling students performing at the Spiti Festival

In most years, students from our Rinchen Zangpo Society have participated in the Spiti Festival by performing traditional songs and dance in a show of devoted community pride. And this year was no different as our students certainly made their presence known with their earthy folk dances and lively songs. If you haven't yet, you should try to attend the colorful Spiti Festival which is scheduled to take place each year just before harvest time. ☺



## Completed Projects



### ON-GOING CONSTRUCTION

Several construction efforts underway at the time of our last newsletter have been successfully completed this year. Only recently has Munsel-ling School had the resources to take students all the way to the end of their secondary education. So now more senior hostel accommodation has been required. Out of the sixty students in the senior two classes, forty are girls, double the number of boys.

The new girls' hostel is finished and ready to house our students

### SENIOR GIRLS HOSTEL, MUNSEL-LING

The new senior girls hostel, incorporating solar design features, is now occupied and in use. At the inauguration on 18th July, representing the sponsors, German Aid for Tibetans (GAT), were Dr Elen and Gerd Scheurer. Great gratitude to them. Other distinguished guests present were our local Member of the Legislative Assembly, Sri Ravi Thakur, and also the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sri Rahul Jain, chief government official in Spiti.

Dr Elen and Gerd Scheurer of German Aid for Tibet were presented with gifts for their generous contributions



### BASKETBALL COURT, MUNSEL-LING

Our new basketball court at Munsel-ling was officially opened and declared ready for play this spring by Saklang Dorje our Spitian Olympic athlete (member of the Indian archery team). Many thanks here to the Urmil Trust of Bombay.

The opening ceremony for our new basketball court at Munsel-ling

## Completed Projects

### IMPROVEMENTS AT REWA SCHOOL

At Rewa Primary School, nearby to Munsel-ling, two very useful improvements: The boundary wall is now complete, keeping the children secure, and, built entirely this year, the new solar bathroom keeping them clean. The water is solar heated and, also very important, the transparent roof gives a warm inside temperature on a sunny afternoon, a very welcome feature when bathing in high altitude Spiti.

The new wall now in place at Rewa Primary School



As with most of the infrastructure and running costs of Rewa School, financial support here came from Tibethilfe Niederösterreich (Austria) with a contribution also from Tibetfreunde Schweiz (Switzerland) for the boundary wall. We were able to give our thanks in person to representatives Mr Ingomar and Mrs Brigitte Illetschko from Austria, visiting this summer, accompanied by Lama Karma

Lhundup Rinpoche.

More old friends were as kind as ever in helping to improve our schools. TRAS of Canada provided new books for our library and a new wooden floor for our examination hall. The latter project was also assisted with another generous donation from Jerome Ardissonne of France.



Translucent panelling on the roof at Rewa Primary School keeps the inside warm when the outside is freezing


## Completed Projects



### A PROPER SPACE

Students can now take their major exams in a warmer space on a comfortable wooden floor.

### EXPANDING THE LIBRARY

More books are being donated and more funds are becoming available for their purchase. 



## Support Requested



### MORE FLOORING

Also being fitted with wooden flooring are the rooms for our smart classrooms project. Patrick Woodhouse has made a generous contribution and from anywhere in the world you can contribute to an appeal for the rest of the money needed for four classrooms electronically equipped for the digital age. Please follow this link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/patrick-sutherland-1696460665045> 



## Other Events



### INDIA'S NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

Emergency preparedness is being taught to school age children, keeping them ready for any potential disasters.

### SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD

Held this year at Lari in lower Spiti, our Munsel-ling school won the prize for the best senior secondary school and our students won five trophies.



### SCIENCE EXHIBITION AT MUNSEL-LING

- S Sooper
- C Cool
- I Inventions
- E Encourage
- N New
- C Commercial
- E Enterprises

Learning by Doing: Local government officers attending and giving pep talks. །།



## Student Achievements

Last year we started medical college entrance examination coaching for our senior secondary school graduates in Spiti itself. Much cheaper than supporting students at expensive coaching establishments in the big city of Chandigarh and the like. Four out of five students, all girls, cleared the examinations with good marks. Last year those marks would have got them college places conveniently within our home state of Himachal or in neighbouring Chandigarh.

However this year the competition was more intense and the bar set higher, so to our disappointment only one girl, Tenzin Lhadon finally got the admission she wanted, at Tanda Medical School near Dharamsala. Two others got admission a long way away in states in south India with a compulsory five-year period of service there after completing studies. The unlucky three are studying for the examination again this year and they are joined by nine new candidates, five boys and four girls.

Three outstanding teachers have given our students confidence to try their hardest at the most competitive of examinations. They are Mr. Sanjeevan from Jharkand for Physics, Mr. Nitesh Thakur from Mandi for Biology and Mr. Lobzang Namgial from Spiti itself for Chemistry. Another of our top students last year was Nawang Tashi who has now commenced studying at the Mumbai India Institute of Technology, arguably the most highly rated of Indian science colleges.



Tenzin Lhadon at Tanda Medical School, Dharamsala



Nawang Tashi at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai

## Student Activities



Young students exercising their democratic right to public protest in Kaza

The Central Board of Central Education is now the examining board for our schools. We gradually improved our school infrastructure and teacher qualifications and thus were recently able to meet their criteria for affiliation. Then our students this year, for the first time, had the challenge of taking their more exacting examinations. Happily, we had a 100% pass rate, 52 students in 10th grade, (age about 16) and 12 students in 12th grade (age about 18).

With this board, students had the chance for the first time ever to test their knowledge of our native language, Bhoti, i.e. Tibetan, in an external examination. It is the language of the songs through which our traditions are passed on and the language of our spiritual culture. Unfortunately, Bhoti, as our language is called in India, is not given the status it deserves at national level so our children this year participated in a demonstration at Kaza our local administrative headquarters, calling for more official recognition for it. ☺

## Environment Day and Tree Care



Working with the Indian Army to keep the community clean (above) with students taking care of local trees (right)



## Recent Pictures of Munsel-ling School



Vikram Sharma and his sister, Neetika Sharma, who was a volunteer at the school when she was Miss Himachal Pradesh 2019, have recently made a documentary about about the children of Spiti. For an up-to-date glimpse of young people in the Spiti

Valley and the contribution that the Rinchen Zangpo Society is making to their welfare, see their creative fifteen-minute video, the Children of Spiti: Munsel-ling Home School, on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/sOYF2lmiwtU?si=kOGkeZ-4pmsNfIHn>



A bird's-eye-view of Munsel-ling campus (top) with students gathered for morning assembly (bottom)



## School Student Statistics, 2023

Munsel-ling School, Rangrik	454	mixed boarders and day students
Kaza Public School, Kaza	257	day students
Rewa Primary School, Rongtong	104	boarders
New Nalanda Pre and Primary School, Chango	74	day students

**Total 889 well-educated students!**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our education programme this year. Great apologies to anyone we have forgotten. Apart from those already mentioned above we extend special thanks to:

Zoe Maogany, France  
Jackie Bushe, Ireland  
The Reifenberg Trust, UK  
Jaqueline & friends, France

Nantwich Buddhist Group  
Upper Chapel, Sheffield, UK  
Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield, UK  
Michel & friends, France

This newsletter was prepared on behalf of the Rinchen Zangpo Society for Spiti Development by Aid for Himalayan Education with the help of Earl Stefanyshen, Canada.

## RINCHEN ZANGPO SOCIETY FOR SPITI DEVELOPMENT

**HEAD OFFICE**  
Spiti Complex, Rakkar Rd, Sidbhari - 176057, Distt Kangra,  
H.P., India

**MUNSEL-LING SCHOOL**  
VPO Rangrik - 172114, Distt. Lahaul-Spiti,  
H.P., India

**WEBSITE**  
[www.rinchenzangpo.org](http://www.rinchenzangpo.org)

**EMAIL**  
[spitieducation1993@gmail.com](mailto:spitieducation1993@gmail.com)



# Contacts

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

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

To advertise or submit an article for the Messenger  
please contact Sue Toulson at [susantoulson@gmail.com](mailto:susantoulson@gmail.com)  
or on 07971 924 329

## Chapel Officers and Committee Members

### **Chair**

Jane Moore 07946 179 554 [janewm58@yahoo.ca](mailto:janewm58@yahoo.ca)

### **Vice Chair**

Robert Ince 07896 715 855 [robert.ince@live.co.uk](mailto:robert.ince@live.co.uk)

### **Ceremonies Booking Secretary**

Anne Rayner [anne@arayner15.plus.com](mailto:anne@arayner15.plus.com)

### **Treasurer**

Peter Rowson 0114 236 5894 [janetpeterrowson@gmail.com](mailto:janetpeterrowson@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Tim Simkins 0114 230 2656 [t.j.simkins@btinternet.com](mailto:t.j.simkins@btinternet.com)

### **General Committee Members**

Janet Rowson 0114 236 5894 [janetpeterrowson@gmail.com](mailto:janetpeterrowson@gmail.com)

Nigel Hopkins 0114 230 6662 [ncgh@btinternet.com](mailto:ncgh@btinternet.com)

Rod Cumming 0114 230 2703 [rod@irod.co.uk](mailto:rod@irod.co.uk)

Marie Fitzpatrick 0114 230 1162 [m.c.fitzpatrick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.c.fitzpatrick@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Warden**

Anne Rayner [anne@arayner15.plus.com](mailto:anne@arayner15.plus.com)

### **Housekeepers**

Janet Rowson 0114 236 5894 [janetpeterrowson@gmail.com](mailto:janetpeterrowson@gmail.com)

Elizabeth Cumming 0114 230 2703 [lizzi.cumming@gmail.com](mailto:lizzi.cumming@gmail.com)

### **Organist**

Marie Fitzpatrick 0114 230 1162 [m.c.fitzpatrick@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:m.c.fitzpatrick@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Messenger Editor**

Sue Toulson 07971 924 329 [susantoulson@gmail.com](mailto:susantoulson@gmail.com)

### **Website**

Caroline Thorpe 0114 281 8337 [carolinethorpe54@gmail.com](mailto:carolinethorpe54@gmail.com)

### **Safeguarding Officers**

Caroline Thorpe 0114 281 8337 [carolinethorpe54@gmail.com](mailto:carolinethorpe54@gmail.com)  
and Peter Rowson 0114 236 5894 [janetpeterrowson@gmail.com](mailto:janetpeterrowson@gmail.com)

## Fulwood Old Chapel opened in 1729



February 2024

# Services Sunday Mornings at 11.00am - 12noon

*Everyone is welcome to join in the fellowship of tea / coffee  
and conversation after the service.*

## February 2024

- 4th Rev. Sarah Tinker
- 11th Peter Rowson
- 18th Ed. Fordham
- 25th Rev. Maria Pap

## March

- 3rd Rev. Sarah Tinker
- 10th **Mothering Sunday** - Jane Moore
- 17th Rev. Andi Phillips
- 24th Ed. Fordham
- 31st **Easter Sunday** - Peter Rowson

## April

- 7th Robert Ince
- 14th TBA
- 21st Rev. Sarah Tinker
- 28th Ed. Fordham

## May

- 5th Peter Rowson
- 12th **No Service at Fulwood** - Joint Service at  
Underbank Chapel, Stannington S6 6AP
- 19th Rev. Patrick Timperley
- 26th Rev. Maria Pap

**Fulwood Old Chapel  
A Unitarian Meeting Place**

[info@fulwoodoldchapel.uk](mailto:info@fulwoodoldchapel.uk)  
[www.fulwoodoldchapel.uk](http://www.fulwoodoldchapel.uk)