

# The Monthly Messenger for

January 2025

A Journal of the Unitarian Church Clover Street Rochdale

Volume 139

Issue 1660



### **PASTORAL TEAM**

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie,

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones & Helen Illingworth

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chairperson - Diane Bennett

Treasurer – John Illingworth

Church Admin Assistant - Paul Hubbard

Council Members -Joyce Ashworth, Helen Illingworth, Dorothy Jones, Edna Wood, Helen Wilkinson, Anne Dawson

#### **ENVELOPE SECRETARIES**

Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

#### **PULPIT AND LETTINGS**

Paul Hubbard

#### **FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES**

Helen Illingworth 5 Bagnall Close, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 7SH

#### SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Co-ordinator - Helen Illingworth Member - Abi Elliott-McGuffie

#### **Messenger Notices**

Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

### **Messenger Publication and Distribution**

Paul Hubbard

## Website Manager

Diane Bennett

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**Margaret Shore** Tel: 01706 360883

Edna Wood Tel 01706 645252

**CHURCH VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461** 



Should you know of someone for whom Church flowers would be a source of comfort and solace please have a word with Helen or Joyce

米	*	*****	米
***	5th	Elaine Whyment In Memory of the Howarth Family	***
***	12th	Dorothy Jones In Memory of Trevor	米米米
***	19th	Lynn Holland In Memory of Aunty Gladys	不米米水
***	26th	Margaret Shore In Memory of her Family	***
****	-	Flowers lovingly arranged by: e Ashworth (5th), Margaret Shore (12th), e Dawson (19th), Helen Illingworth (26th)	****
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## JAJAJAJAJAJAJAJA

# 100 CLUB WINNERS

(Drawn by Rev Beryl Allerton)

### **DEC 2024**

1st 88 Michael Ashworth

2nd 24 Ian Dawson

3rd 67 Martin Whymen

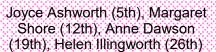
Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

# **JANUARY NEWS AND EVENTS**



## Flowers lovingly arranged by:



Sun	05	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi
Thur	09	17.00	Monthly Tea — Hostess: Edna Wood
		18.30	Women's League Annual General Meeting
Sun	12	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Allerton
Sun	19	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev
Mon	20	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Tues	21	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	26	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Tony McNeil



# THANKS AND VOLUNTEER NEEDED!!

Margaret Salt has indicated her wish to retire from the Flower Arrangers' rota, so she will not be included in the 2025 schedule. We thank Margaret most sincerely for her service in this capacity and express our appreciation for undertaking this task, which can sometimes be taken for granted, but which plays a vital part in creating the atmosphere we aim to provide for worshippers and other users of our building.

This now leaves an **opportunity** for someone with a creative flair to join the team of flower arrangers. This duty would fall approximately once every 6 weeks If the date proved inconvenient, it is normally possible to exchange dates with another member of the team. Speak with Joyce if you would like to give it a try!!

# REMINDER – 100 CLUB RENEWALS

John would be delighted to receive renewals for the 100 Club



subscriptions. The combined January & February draw will take place on Sunday, 9 February 2025.

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2025											
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	05	09	16	20	25	29	03	07	12	16	21
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	12	16	23	27	01	06	10	14	19	23	25
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	19	23	30	04	08	13	17	21	26	30	28
	Jan	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	26 Jan	02 Mar	06 Apl	11 May	15 Jun	20 Jul	24 Aug	28 Sep	02 Nov	07 Dec	
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	02 Feb	09 Mar	13 Apl	18 May	22 Jun	27 Jul	31 Aug	05 Oct	09 Nov	14 Dec	

**Important** - should you be unable to attend please arrange for a stand-in, it is difficult for one person to cover both functions.

# Dear friends. Happy New Year to you

all 🚜 🚱

And here we are again at the gate of another year ... we've arrived! We may have arrived a little breathless from all the



Christmas festivities (a little weightier too perhaps!), or we may have arrived quietly, opening the curtains on another morning, of another day, of another year.

**INISTER'S MESSAGE** 

As I sit writing this on the eve of the winter solstice, I'm profoundly aware of our movement across boundaries. Those of the turning point in our planet's journey around the sun, and the shift in daylight hours, and the crossing point between one year and the next. Whether boundaries or gates though, both offer the invitation to connect with the journey ahead and how we might engage with it.

The journey of another year holds every possibility, of the highs and the lows of life and everything in between. And what a wonderful source of comfort and strength it is, to know that as surely as we know we've crossed the threshold of this year, we'll also be there for one another through whatever it brings.

So as we begin again, let us begin again in love and in faith, and rather than be too concerned about the passage of time, let us embrace this moment, this minute, where we are right now.

And in the words of E. E. Cummings, let us thank God ... for this amazing life and for this community.

i thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any—lifted from the no of all nothing-human merely being doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

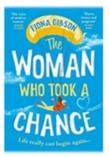
With my love, Abi xx



# **OOK CIRCLE**



Following a very enjoyable Italian takeaway supper in December we are back to our usual meetings but please note we have changed the day this month to Monday 20th January. We will be



discussing The Woman who Took a Chance by Fiona Gibson which is a light read for Christmas and described as a heart-warming and hilarious novel that proves age is just a number and it's never too late for a second chance.



### **Christmas Donations**

Thank you to everyone for your generous donation of toys to the Council's 'Giving Back' toy appeal. It was a lovely surprise to see this thank you note on Facebook just before Christmas.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated to the Christmas Toy Appeal. Additionally, we would like to thank the Congregation of the Unitarian Church on Spotland Road for their donations to Norden Library (pictured, bottom).



Thanks also for the monetary collections for the Moorland Children's Home, Springhill Hospice and the Red Cross.

#### **Carol Service**

I am sure all those who attended enjoyed the Carol Service. Thanks to the Choir and the readers and a big thank you to Abi for putting such a lovely, thoughtful service together. It was a joy to welcome Yvonne Warburton and her family to the service which they thoroughly enjoyed and joined us for refreshments afterwards.

# **EVENT DATES 2025**

Date	EVENT
08 Feb	Film Club 7pm, Admission includes pie & pea supper and an ice cream interval
08 Mar	Spring Lunch 11:45am
04 Apr	Friday Music Night 7:30pm back by popular demand - Stacksteads Brass Band
10 May	Film Club 7pm, Admission includes pie & pea supper and an ice cream interval
07 Jun	Summer Lunch 11:45am
20 Sep	Autumn Lunch 11:45
10 Oct	Friday Music Night 7:30pm with the award winning Rossendale Male Voice Choir
15 Nov	Film Club 7pm, Admission includes pie & pea supper and an ice cream interval
06 Dec	Christmas Lunch 11:45am

### Clover Street Unitarian Fellowship Safeguarding

Safeguarding Team

- 1. Mrs. Helen Illingworth (co-ordinator)
- 2. Rev. Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Clover Street Unitarian Fellowship (also known as Rochdale Unitarian Church)

recognises its responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, online, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and children. Our church believes in the upholding and support of the rights and personal dignity of every adult and child, and will work to ensure that our policies and procedures reflect this, including in any such appointment and selection of persons who work on the Church's behalf. Clover Street Unitarian Fellowship is committed to ensure that every adult and child feels valued, safe and happy and will work to make sure that all feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm. We will report any abuse we discover or suspect.

## Interested in learning more?



http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

http://www.unitarian.org.uk/



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