



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

January
2025

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 139

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JANUARY



Flowers

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

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Diane Bennett

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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

5th	Elaine Whyment In Memory of the Howarth Family
12th	Dorothy Jones In Memory of Trevor
19th	Lynn Holland In Memory of Aunty Gladys
26th	Margaret Shore In Memory of her Family

Flowers lovingly arranged by:
Joyce Ashworth (5th), Margaret Shore (12th),
Anne Dawson (19th), Helen Illingworth (26th)



100 CLUB WINNERS
(Drawn by Rev Beryl Allerton)

DEC 2024

1st	88	Michael Ashworth
2nd	24	Ian Dawson
3rd	67	Martin Whyment

Congratulations
Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

JANUARY NEWS AND EVENTS



Flowers lovingly arranged by:



Joyce Ashworth (5th), Margaret Shore (12th), Anne Dawson (19th), Helen Illingworth (26th)

Sun	05	10.30	S unday 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	S unday Service led by Rev Allerton
Sun	19	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi
Mon	20	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Tues	21	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	26	10.30	S unday 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 Jan	09 Feb	16 Mar	20 Apr	25 May	29 Jun	03 Aug	07 Sep	12 Oct	16 Nov	21 Dec
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	12 Jan	16 Feb	23 Mar	27 Apr	01 Jun	06 Jul	10 Aug	14 Sep	19 Oct	23 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	19 Jan	23 Feb	30 Mar	04 May	08 Jun	13 Jul	17 Aug	21 Sep	26 Oct	30 Nov	28 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	26 Jan	02 Mar	06 Apr	11 May	15 Jun	20 Jul	24 Aug	28 Sep	02 Nov	07 Dec	
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	02 Feb	09 Mar	13 Apr	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.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



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.

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 unimagineable You?

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

With my love,
Abi xx



BOOK 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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