



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

March
2025

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 139

Issue 1662





March Flowers

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

* * * * *
* 2 Elaine Whyment *
* In Memory of Mum and Dad *
* ————— *
* 9 Edna Wood *
* In Memory of June and Vernon *
* ————— *
* 16 Kathryn, Peter and Tom Harforth *
* In Memory of Mum and Dad *
* ————— *
* 23 Vacant *
* ————— *
* 30 Helen and John Illingworth *
* In Memory of Joyce, Douglas and Brenda *
* ————— *
* Flowers lovingly arranged by *
* Joyce Ashworth (2 nd), Anne Dawson (9 th), *
* Dorothy Jones (16 th), Joyce Ashworth (23 rd), *
* Helen Illingworth (30 th) *
* * * * *

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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Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk
Email: treasurer@cloverstreetunitarians.org.uk

Margaret Shore Tel: 01706 360883

Edna Wood Tel 01706 645252

CHURCH VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461

100 CLUB WINNERS		
JAN 2025 (drawn by Anne Dawson)		
1st	8	Jane Glennon
2nd	55	Helen Wilkinson
3rd	32	Joyce Ashworth
FEB 2025 (drawn by Margaret Shaw)		
1st	8	Jane Glennon
2nd	55	Helen Wilkinson
3rd	32	Joyce Ashworth

MARCH NEWS AND EVENTS

Flowers lovingly arranged by:

Joyce Ashworth (2nd), Anne Dawson (9th),
Dorothy Jones (16th), Joyce Ashworth (23rd),
Helen Illingworth(30th)

Sun	02	10.30	S unday Service led by Sian Murray from Gateacre
Thur	06	17.00	Monthly Tea — Hostess: Dorothy Jones
		18.30	Women's League Games Night!
Sat	08	11.45	Spring Lunch (see opposite!)
Sun	09	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi
Mon	10	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Wed	12	19.30	Church General Council meeting online
Sun	16	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi
Sun	23	10.30	S unday Service led by Tom Grimshaw from Chorlton
Sun	30	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi

ABOUT PEOPLE

It is with sadness that we record the recent passing of Stephen Bamford. Since his move from Emma Street Stephen continued to attend our Saturday lunches along with his sister, Ruth and brother-in-law, Stephen. We offer our condolences, love and support to the family at this sad time.

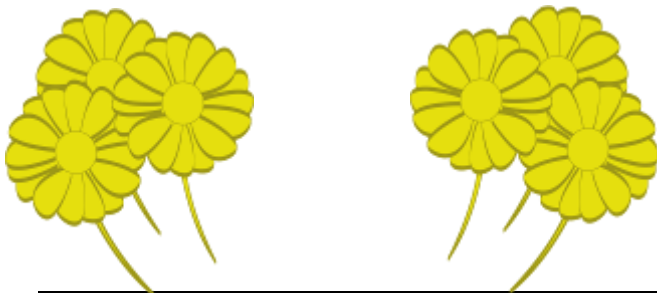
It is also with sadness that we record the death of Connie Diggle from Bolton. Despite her longevity, Connie was a regular attender, with her daughter Karen at most of NELUM'S meetings and events. Many of us remember her as a lay-preacher, where her warm personality was so infectious. To Karen and the wider family we offer our love and condolences.

PLEASE!! NOTE

Spring Lunch
Sat 8th March
11.45 am
£13

Rochdale Unitarian Church
Ilover Street, Rochdale OL12

Note: Clocks go forward today!



WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2025

Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	05 Jan	09 Feb	16 Mar	20 Apl	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 Apl	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 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.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

March is one of those months, which to me never feels quite sure of itself; is it spring or is it spring on its way? In recent weeks temperatures have certainly risen, and the nights are certainly drawing in a little later. As I reflect, I can't help but think that these changes pay little heed to what we might call them, they simply get on with what they were always going to do! Ever attentive, nature simply waits and responds to the circumstances of its existence.

We are nature too, but I wonder if our expression of nature has got a little too busy, to truly notice if we are responding or reacting. Where do our actions really come from?

Do they come from an expectation of what 'should be' or do they come from a place of quiet attention to what we are connected to, within the circumstances we find ourselves?

Sure enough, some of us might be ready to emerge as soon as we feel the first warming rays, and others might want to hold back a little, so we don't get buffeted by unexpected weather. Neither is right or wrong, it is the response of all nature to wait until the appropriate time.

So as we see our calendar filling up with things to do, places to be, may they be invitations not expectations. Each of us holds many seasons, and each comes in its own time.

From naked branches, catkins
whisper change.
Winters winds turning,
shaking, trembling they cling.
Their tails hang, trusting
their part in the great unfolding.
With my love
Abi xx

BOOK CIRCLE



Monday 10th March

For our March meeting we will be discussing *An Island* by Karen Jenkins which was longlisted for the 2021 Booker Prize. A young refugee washes up unconscious on the beach of a small island inhabited by no one but Samuel, an old lighthouse keeper. Unsettled, Samuel is soon swept up in memories of his former life on the mainland: a life that saw his country suffer, then fight for independence, only to fall to a cruel dictator; he recalls his own part in its history, spending 25 years in prison before finding the job looking after the lighthouse. Samuel's story is set over four days, switching between the present day and his past. With the arrival of the stranger, Samuel's home and place of safety, separated and distant from the mainland, is threatened.

It should lead to an interesting discussion to which new members are always welcome.



MUSIC NIGHT



Friday Music Night – Friday 4th April

For our first Music Night of the year, we have invited Stacksteads Brass Band to play for us once more. Everyone enjoyed their concert last year so we're hoping to have a good audience. Don't forget to invite your friends and relations.

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC
Clover Street Unitarians

Back by popular demand



**STACKSTEADS
BRASS BAND**

Friday 04 April @ 7.30pm





£10 inc. refreshments
Scan QR code for tickets
or Tel 01706 649015
(limited tickets on the door)
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

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/>



Rochdale Unitarian Church
Clover Street
ROCHDALE OL12 6TP
 01706 648461 (voicemail)

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