



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

November
2024

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 139

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PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie,
Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones & Helen Illingworth

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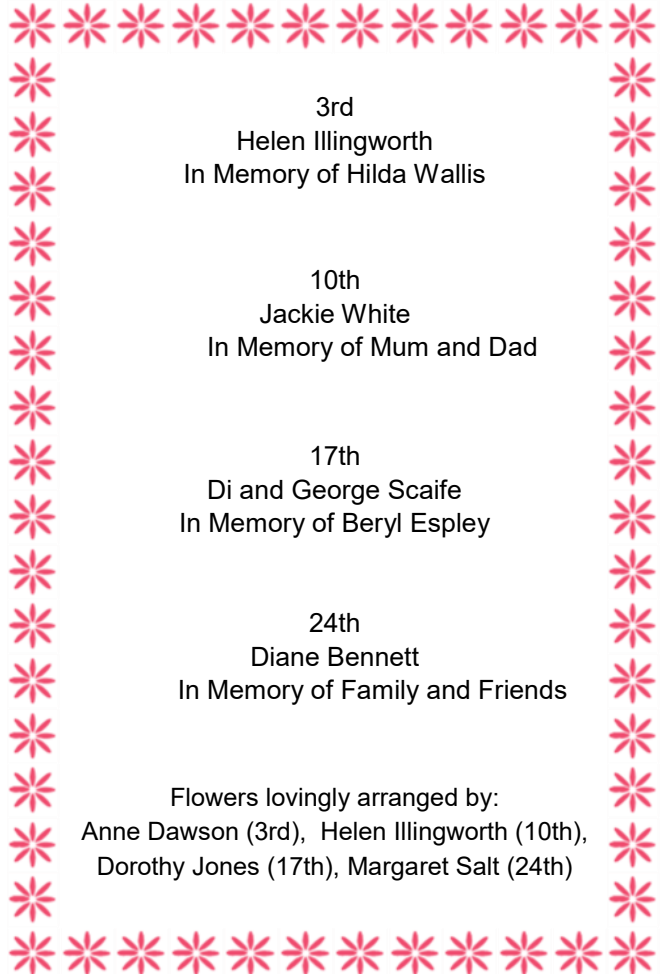
Edna Wood Tel 01706 645252

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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



3rd

Helen Illingworth
In Memory of Hilda Wallis

10th

Jackie White
In Memory of Mum and Dad

17th

Di and George Scaife
In Memory of Beryl Espley

24th

Diane Bennett
In Memory of Family and Friends

Flowers lovingly arranged by:

Anne Dawson (3rd), Helen Illingworth (10th),
Dorothy Jones (17th), Margaret Salt (24th)

100 CLUB WINNERS

OCTOBER 2024

(drawn by Joyce)

1st	28	Helen Illingworth
2nd	32	Joyce Ashworth
3rd	88	Michael Ashworth

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5



Welcome to November's newsletter! A packed issue this month. Don't forget to check our calendar centre-fold as well as the back page and our events news on pgs 8-9. Just time to say a big thank you to Simeon Wood and all the volunteers who helped to make our recent Music Night so memorable. I bet you've never seen a man play a walking stick before!



**PRE - CHRISTMAS £1 SALE,
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
FROM 10AM TO 1PM**



The aim of this sale is to offer something that could help those in our local community who might be facing a bit of an uphill struggle in the lead up to Christmas.

Do you have any household items or items that could be given as gifts (no electrical goods or clothes please) that are surplus to your needs? Perhaps you've got items you thought you needed but have never used, or items you've used but no longer have need of? If they're in good clean condition and you're happy to give them, I'm sure someone will be grateful for them. The £1 that people will be charged per item is not intended to be a reflection of their worth but simply an exchange that offers some dignity, all items big or small will be collected throughout November.

Please let me know if you want me to collect anything from you, alternatively you can leave items on or under the small table in the vestry.

Thank you Abi

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

This season of Autumn speaks with the voice of change more clearly than any other, with the vibrancy of leaves that once clothed stately figures, now fallen at our feet. The cooling air, the brisk winds and the inevitable rains tempting us into the warmth and comfort of our homes. Yet all are tones within the language of change, tones that are in harmony and which will bring another season into awareness. We might be able to understand them at the meteorological level, the cellular level even but we have no control over them, they are part of the greater mystery.



From autumn, to winter, spring and into summer each season holds its own harmonies and together they are the masterpiece of life. We might be drawn to one tone over another, but only when we open to them all can we know the full depth and beauty of the full symphony.



Last month I spent a few days in Derbyshire with Geoff, and among the sightseeing we visited two stone circles, one was the Neolithic site

of 'Abor Low' at Monkash, the other a Bronze Age site on Stanton Moor. Ceremonial and sacred circles from different times, which we happened to visit in very different weather conditions. What struck me was how both they and our visits to them were connected, by the only thing we can be certain of, Change!

I wonder what it might feel like to bring awareness to the 'circle' of stones that surround us as we gather each Sunday?

May our faith in life's continual unfolding move us forward in our own lives and in our life as a community, whatever that may bring. And in the word's of Mary Oliver "Let me keep company always with those who say "Look!" and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads" ... and may we be those people.

With my love
Abi xx

NOVEMBER NEWS AND EVENTS



Flowers lovingly arranged by
**Anne Dawson (3rd),
 Helen Illingworth (10th), Dorothy
 Jones (17th), Margaret Salt (24th)**



“ABOUT PEOPLE”

It is with the greatest sadness that we record the sudden death of Sylvia Palmer, who attended worship regularly and supported many of our activities over a long period of time, prior to taking up residence in Springfield Park Care Home. We extend our sincere condolences to Sylvia's wider family.

An 100 Club Reminder

To all of you loyal 100 Club subscribers! Renewal letters will be going out over the next few weeks. The 100 Club is another great Clover Street tradition, and well worth supporting. As well as giving yourself the chance to grab some prize money (1st £30, 2nd £15 and 3rd £5), you are also supporting your church financially by taking part.



It costs just £12 per number to enter, with a draw taking place usually once a month. Finally, if you are lucky enough to be a winner, your numbers go back in for the following month's draw, so you can be a winner as many times as your chosen numbers come out of the bag!



NOVEMBER WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday Tea 7th
 November 5.00pm, with
 the Main Meeting to follow
 at 6.30pm.

This month's speaker will be Mr Colin Hubbard, who will be giving an talk and multi-media presentation on his bicycle trip around India — not to be missed.



Sun	03	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Dr Shannon Ledbetter - Minister for Lancs Collaborative Ministry
Thur	07	17.00	Monthly Tea – Hostess Kate Salt
		18.30	Main Meeting (see box-out, right)
Sun	10	10.45	R emembrance Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie (Note start time)
Mon	11	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Tues	12	19.30	Visit to the Museum of the Moon event at Blackburn Cathedral
Sat	16	19.00	Film Night – The Great Escaper
Sun	17	10.30	S unday Service led by Vince McCully from Rivington Chapel
Tue	19	17.30	General Council via Zoom
Sun	24	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott- McGuffie
Sat	30	10.00 - 14.00	£1 Household Sale

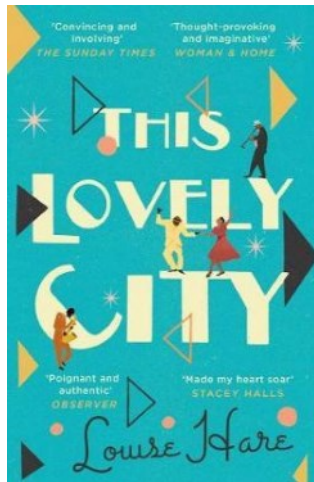
WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2024

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	07 Jan	11 Feb	17 Mar	21 Apl	26 May	30 Jun	4 Aug	8 Sep	13 Oct	17 Nov	22 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	14 Jan	18 Feb	24 Mar	28 Apl	2 Jun	7 Jul	11 Aug	15 Sep	20 Oct	24 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	21 Jan	25 Feb	31 Mar	5 May	9 Jun	14 Jul	18 Aug	22 Sep	27 Oct	1 Dec	29 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	28 Jan	3 Mar	7 Apl	12 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	25 Aug	29 Sep	3 Nov	8 Dec	
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	4 Feb	10 Mar	14 Apl	19 May	23 Jun	28 Jul	1 Sep	6 Oct	10 Nov	15 Dec	

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

BOOK CIRCLE – 11TH NOVEMBER

For our November meeting we will be discussing *This Lovely City* by Louise Hare. Good Reads reports, 'An atmospheric and utterly compelling debut novel about a Jamaican immigrant living in postwar London, *This Lovely City* shows that new arrivals have always been the prime suspects — but that even in the face of anger and fear, there is always hope.'

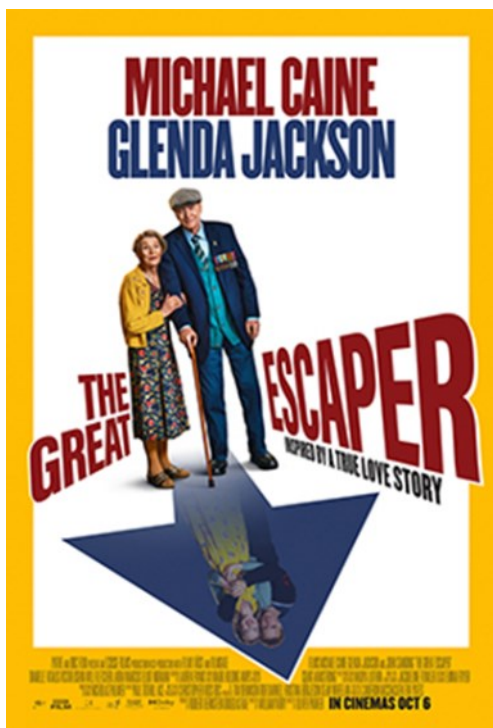


We meet at 5 Bagnall Close at 7.30 pm. New members always welcome.

FILM NIGHT – SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER AT 7.00 PM

For our final Film Night of the year we will be showing *The Great Escaper*, a 2023 biographical comedy-drama film directed by Oliver Parker, written by William Ivory, and starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. It is based on the true story of 90-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran Bernard Jordan who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary commemorations in France in June 2014.

For catering purposes, please let Helen know if you would like to attend, the cost of which is £7.00 including an interval ice cream.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

TOY AND GIFT SERVICE – 1ST DECEMBER

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Celia to our pulpit for the Toy and Gift Service. Toys collected during the service will be donated to the local charity 'Giving Back' which is run by Council Staff in support of families who would otherwise struggle to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. Please don't wrap your gifts which should be new and don't forget the teenagers. The monetary collection from the service will be donated to the Moorland Children's Home.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET LUNCH – SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER AT 11.45 AM

clover street UNITARIANS

Make a date for your diaries

Christmas Lunch

Saturday 7th December

Our very popular
Festive Lunch

Comprising starter, main, choice of
dessert, mince pie, tea and coffee
all for £13 pp

These lunches are extremely good value and
as there are only 50 places available, they will
be in high demand. Please get your tickets
early to avoid disappointment

See a Church member for more information

CONGREGATIONAL LUNCH AT STOCCO – 8TH DECEMBER AT 12.45 PM

A booking has been made at Stocco for the Congregational Christmas Lunch following Morning Service. If you have put your name down to go, please let Helen have your £10 deposit as soon as possible. Thank you.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE—SPECIAL REPORT

Our November meeting saw us delving in to the art of wine tasting. Beryl presented us with 5 bottles of wine with the labels covered. There were 2 red wines, 2 white and 1 rose'.



We were handed a quiz to complete after tasting each wine. The questions to be answered:

Where does this wine come from?

Can you say what the wine is?

What food is recommended to be served with this wine?

Each of us drank a small amount of each of the wines. Yes, we do realise this is not the way connoisseurs operate but this was purely for fun!

We then had a discussion with our quiz partner before giving our answers. Beryl then uncovered the bottles to reveal the labels. Most of our answers were wild guesses but, amazingly, sometimes correct!

Beryl asked us to consider which country produced the most expensive white wine and which country produces the most wine. To our surprise, we learned that England is the producer of the most expensive white wine but most of us guessed that California produces the most wine followed by France.

We thanked Beryl for such an enjoyable and laughter-filled event.

On 19 September Women's League members visited our newly renovated Town Hall for a guided tour.



It was a most interesting and informative morning.

Aspects of decor and structure we may not have noticed were pointed out and historical facts conveyed. In the magnificent Great Hall we paused to admire the beautiful stained glass windows and to listen to our guide's comments and explanations. We are so fortunate to have a Town Hall of this calibre.

The INQUIRER



The Monthly Messenger

Inquirer & Messenger Subscriptions:

If you wish to continue your subscription to The Messenger or The Inquirer next year, please cut out, fill-in and return the renewal slip below to:

**Paul Hubbard, Rochdale Unitarian Church,
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP.**

Please also enclose payment (cheques must be payable to 'Rochdale Unitarian Church', otherwise the bank will not accept them).

If you need replacement slips, or any further info, please email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com or phone **01706 648461**. Many thanks — Ed.

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Inquirer - (delivered to church) Jan to Dec 2025	£25.00

Please deliver to me each month

_____ copies of the Messenger	£
_____ copies of the Inquirer	£
_____ Postage if required	£
Total	£

Please write you name and address clearly below

Name _____

Address _____

EVENT DATES 2024

Date	EVENT
16-Mar	Spring Lunch
23-Mar	Unitarian District Service
26-Apr	Music Night — Stacksteads Brass Band
25-May	Film Night
8-June	Summer Lunch
6 & 7 July	Clover Street 50th Anniversary
28-Sept	Women's League Project Lunch
11-Oct	Music Night — Simeon Wood
16-Nov	Film Night
7-Dec	Christmas Lunch

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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