



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

August
2024

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 138

Issue 1655



PASTORAL TEAM

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

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

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FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

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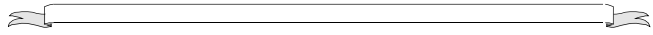


Flowers

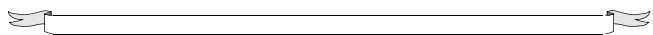
* * * * *	Sunday 4th	* * * * *
* * * * *	Val Nuttall	* * * * *
* * * * *	In memory of Mum & Dad	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 11th	* * * * *
* * * * *	Vacant	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 18th	* * * * *
* * * * *	Margaret Shore	* * * * *
* * * * *	In memory of her family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 25th	* * * * *
* * * * *	In memory of her family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce	* * * * *
* * * * *	Ashworth, Anne Dawson, Dorothy Jones	* * * * *
* * * * *	and Helen Illingworth	* * * * *



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



"We receive more than we can ever give; we receive it from the past on which we draw with every breath, but also – and this is a point of faith – from the source of the mystery itself..." – Edwin Muir



100 CLUB WINNERS

JULY 2024
(drawn by John I & Graeme P)

1st	6	Adele Henson
2nd	72	Judith Lord
3rd	62	Ron Wilkinson

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome Dear Readers to a very special edition of The Monthly Messenger Newsletter.

On July 6th & 7th, we celebrated 50 years in our current building on Clover Street. It was a fabulous occasion all round, and we are so thankful to all the people behind the scenes who worked hard to make it happen as well as to those members and friends who were able to share that weekend with us — happy memories!

There is a special two-page spread on pgs 10-11 with some choice pics from the occasion for you to enjoy. This as well as our calendar centrefold, with all the latest news from your church friends and upcoming dates for the diary. — Ed



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

The lead into summer has felt long and slow, with only a few tantalizing days of sunshine to interrupt its rather cold and wet beginnings. The background canvas of vibrant greens has been waiting patiently for the artist to begin. With the stroke of a brush and a dab of colour, the picture has steadily begun to come alive in gardens and countryside alike. At last, summer is here.



Did you notice its arrival in the newly seeded banking? From rather waterlogged seeds, an uninviting and much littered piece of land, has become a beautifully meadowed piece of ground. Something that we and many buzzing insects can enjoy. I also hope that it will be appreciated by others, and that the winds will carry the seeds further still.



In reflecting on last month's anniversary celebrations, it also felt to have a long slow build up ... and then it was here! A vibrant celebration of all that we're about, and a picture of connection and community, faith and hope, love and warmth. What a wonderful gift to ourselves and to all who shared it with us.



May the essence of our intention linger long, inspire us and spread among us, as we turn boldly towards a future that is ours to create.



With my love
Abi xx

IN OUR PRAYERS

We were saddened by the news that Ann Shepherd passed away at home on Sunday evening, 14th July.

We remember Ann with much affection, for her cheerful presence and her determination to simply get on with life.



We also remember her family, especially Debbie, Angela, Susie & Donna who cared for her at home during her final weeks.

Ann's funeral is to be at Rochdale Crematorium on Monday 19th August at 12.40pm.



The family invite you to join them afterwards for refreshments at the Newtown Club, Nixon Street. Castleton OL11 3JN.

We send our love and deepest sympathies to them at this time. —
Rev Abi Elliott McGuffie



NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD

AUGUST



Thur	01	17.00	Women's League monthly tea. Hostess — Diane Bennett
		18.30	Main Meeting & Quiz Night — all welcome
Sun	04	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	11	10.30	S unday Service — led by TBA
Mon	12	19.30	Book Circle at 1 Stanney Close, Milnrow
Sun	18	10.30	S unday Service — led by TBA
Sun	25	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

"I'm sorry we're late, we misread the timetables. But there – nobody's infallible." – *Geoffrey Fisher to Pope John XXIII*, Dec 1960, at the first meeting for 500 years between a Pope and an Archbishop of Canterbury.

Holiday: Something you take when you can't take what you've been taking.

Travel: An experience that fills the mind and empties the purse.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

It is with such sadness that we record the death of **Ann Shepherd**. Ann has undoubtedly been a stalwart church attender and supporter of all our activities and her presence will be greatly missed. Her natural cheerfulness right to the end was an example to us all. To Debbie, Angela and all of Ann's family we offer our sympathy, love and support.

It was good to see **Margaret Shore** in church as usual after undergoing a lumpectomy in North Manchester Hospital during the past week. We wish her a very successful recovery.

Also good to welcome back **Lizzie** with daughter Mia and the new baby Ben, who looked healthy and content and behaved impeccably.

We were pleased to receive from **Rev Gillian Peel**, her very good wishes for our 50th Anniversary celebrations, with which she added how happy her time in Rochdale had been.

We wish **Peter** and **Becky Illingworth** and family much happiness for their move to Husbands Bosworth in South Leicestershire. We will miss seeing them at Church but look forward to hearing all about their activities and surroundings.

This is your page to share news of every kind, so please keep us informed.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 1st
August

Tea at 5 pm,
Meeting &
Quiz Night!



WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2024

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	07 Jan	11 Feb	17 Mar	21 Apr	26 May	30 Jun	4 Aug	8 Sep	13 Oct	17 Nov	22 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	14 Jan	18 Feb	24 Mar	28 Apr	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 Apr	12 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	25 Aug	29 Sep	3 Nov	8 Dec	
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	4 Feb	10 Mar	14 Apr	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



Book Circle

For our August meeting we will be discussing *Circus of Wonders* by Elizabeth Macneal, a Sunday Times top ten best seller. England 1866. When Jasper Jupiter's Circus of Wonders arrives in a coastal village, Nell soon catches the showman's eye. Shunned by her community because of the birthmarks speckling her skin, to Jasper she is a prize – she could be his very own leopard girl. But how to make her his?



We meet at 7.30 pm on Monday 12th August at Lynne's home, 2 Stanney Close, Milnrow.



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS!

A Big Thank You!

What a truly wonderful and enjoyable weekend it was in every way! Huge thanks are owed to all who helped make it such a great success. The memory of it will surely stay with us into the weeks and months ahead.

50th Anniversary Display

With all the busyness of the weekend we realise that some people didn't have chance to look properly at the display in the Blue Room which focused mainly on the last 10 years but also included photographs from the 40th Anniversary celebrations. As the display doesn't have to be dismantled just yet, it is proposed to bring it back down into the hall one Sunday in September or October. Look out for the date next month.



LETTERS & EMAILS



50th Anniversary Thank You

Dear Helen and John

Hope you are both relaxing today after all your hard work involved in all the anniversary celebrations which have been a huge success.

Peter and I thoroughly enjoyed the special, poignant service, the exhibitions and the delicious afternoon tea. It was also lovely to catch up with so many familiar faces for a chat and reminisce. The whole afternoon was very enjoyable and uplifting, a very big thank you to all involved for your hard work.

Best Wishes,

Kathryn and Peter



Above (L to R): Cllr Sahkil Ahmed (Mayor of Rochdale), Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Cllr Rachel Massey (Mayor's Consort) and Prof Geoff Levermore (GA President).

Below: Undercover2 revellers enjoy a bit of audience participation!



SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

To All

Congratulations on a wonderful celebration of 50 yrs at Clover St.

It was a great success, you must be very proud of your wonderful efforts.

Thank you for inviting us to be with you, we enjoyed every minute.

Hard work yes but definitely worth it.

With love, Beryl & John.



A wider selection of photos will be posted to our social media and website in due course for you to enjoy.

Above: a splendid Tea followed our Anniversary Service!

Below: a celebratory cake is cut in honour of the occasion.



The main address was given by 2024 GA President Prof Geoff Levermore



Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie leads the 50th Anniversary service of worship

It was lovely to see so many members and friends from down the years join us on the day — we had to put out extra chairs!



Former Minister at Rochdale, Rev Celia Cartwright was invited to give a reading



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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September 2024 EDITION
COPY DEADLINE - FRI 23 AUGUST
ISSUE DATE - SUN 22 AUGUST