



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

June
2024

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 138

Issue 1653



PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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Flowers

Sunday 2nd June
Anne Shepherd
In Memory of the Stott Family
Sunday 9th June
Sheila Goodwin and Family
In Memory of Norman
Sunday 16th June
Arlene Hind
In Memory of Peter Hind and John & Elsie Mills
Sunday 23rd June
John and Helen Illingworth
In Memory of Mum and Dad
Sunday 30th June
Vacant
Flowers lovingly arranged by:
2nd Helen Illingworth; 9th Margaret Salt;
16th Margaret Shore (Father's Day); 23rd
Joyce Ashworth
and 30th Anne Dawson



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

100 CLUB WINNERS

MAY 2024

1st	79	Ann & Ian Dawson
2nd	62	Ron Wilkinson
3rd	33	Susan Powell

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Hello Dear Readers, welcome to the June edition of The Messenger.

The Summer months are always a busy time at Clover Street, and this June is no exception.



Please make a note in your diaries of the Summer Lunch on Sat 8th June and the Congregational AGM on Sun 23rd June (after service).

A reminder also that invites for the 50th Anniversary of our Clover Street building have now gone out, we would appreciate RSVPs by 14th June, please, to allow us to plan for catering. See you in July! — Ed

LETTERS & EMAILS



Hello

We have just completed our first year with our FoodGiftBoxes, and we are very pleased with the way they have been enthusiastically taken on by organisations across the town like yourselves.

We now have over 60 of these FoodGiftBoxes out there, and, more importantly, you have together managed to collect a staggering 11,500 kgs of food during the year. That is an outstanding contribution to our overall food stocks - representing about 13% of all the food we have needed during the year to meet the demand.

Thank you isn't enough, but thank you anyway!

Can we ask you for some extra help please? At this time of year, food donations take a dip (until September usually), but demand has not lessened.

We are working hard to reduce the demand on our services by offering as much extra help and financial advice as we can to our clients, but these things take time, and we still have well over 100 families every week needing emergency food support from us.

Can you ask your colleagues and friends to bring in an extra tin or packet each week for the next few weeks to help build our stocks?

Every blessing

Iain Wight
on behalf of Rochdale Foodbank

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Earlier this year, poet laureate Simon Armitage published a book titled Blossomise, in collaboration with the National Trust. It's a celebration of the exuberant arrival of spring blossom, it also acknowledges its wistful disappearance.

The summer months may be with us and the fullness of these blossoms now retreating, but they make way for a more vibrant colour palette, one that sings of the glories of summer and all that we're perhaps looking forward to. Sunshine and day trips, alfresco dining or simply a cup of tea while listening to birdsong, time spent with family as they take a break from busy work lives. These are precious times, all of them, and may they be a source of much joy and happiness for you all.

In reading Simon's work, I came across these words:

"Blossom was a pavement artist. Painted the trees in concrete estates and sad precincts. Painted the streets"



And I have to say, they immediately took my thoughts to our newly painted mural. It most certainly sings in brighter notes than those of delicate blossoms, it has painted the street with joy and vibrancy. Perhaps it has also painted it with hope too, that even when greyness and darkness reappears, it will be a reminder that something always sings.

Simon's words go on to say, "Blossom was a dictionary. Knew how to spell resurrection and the true meaning of revelation."



Where blossom speaks the words of promise, vibrancy boldly proclaims that 'It is so', life keeps going. It keeps going through all that we might meet, and it will meet us where we need, for which we can be eternally grateful.

Wishing you every blessing this coming month.
With my love
Abi xx

NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD

JUNE

Sun	02	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Celia Cartwright
Thur	06	17.00	Monthly Afternoon Tea—Hostess: Dorothy Jones
		18.30	WL Meeting — speaker: Mrs Diane Marsh 'Making Jewellery'
Sat	08	11.45	Summer Lunch (see opposite)
Sun	09	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	10	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close (see pg 8)
Tue	11	19.30	GC meeting via Zoom
Thur	13	19.00	Trustees' Meeting
Sun	16	10.30	S unday Service by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	23	10.30	S unday Service led by Pamela Hopcroft. Note This Service will be followed by the Congregational AGM (see pg 9)
Sun	30	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Helen Mills

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

Warm congratulations to **Lizzie & her partner** on the birth of baby Noah. We send our love and wish you and your family much delight and happiness together.

As we go to press **Ann Shepherd** is in Fairfield Hospital and experiencing a good deal of pain. We send our love and best wishes Ann and hope you will be able to be at home again soon.

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



Flowers lovingly arranged by
 Helen Illingworth; Margaret Salt; Margaret Shore; Joyce Ashworth; Anne Dawson



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	

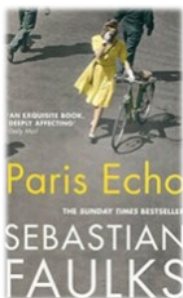
Important - should you be unable to attend please arrange for a stand-in, it is difficult for one person to cover both functions.

BOOK CIRCLE



10th June at 7.30 pm

For our June meeting we will be discussing Paris Echo by Sebastian Faulks. Paris Echo is Paris as you've never seen it before, through the eyes of researcher Hannah seeking to study the lives of women during the Nazi occupation of Paris and runaway Moroccan teenager Tariq as Faulks explores questions of the Empire and identity. The third character is Paris which holds untold secrets and answers for Hannah and Tariq. The wonders of Paris seen through Tariq's eyes are spellbinding showing both its glorious and dark sides.



Perhaps a more serious read than we have had recently which should lead to a good discussion.

Helen

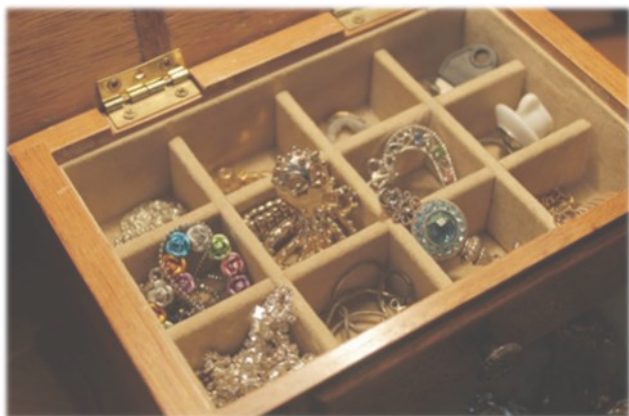


WOMEN'S LEAGUE

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE

Note: the talk by Mrs Diane Marsh was scheduled (and advertised in the Messenger) for last month's WL. It will now go ahead for the June meeting.

- Afternoon Tea at 5.00 pm in Green Room
- Women's League 6.30 pm, with speaker Mrs Diane Marsh
'Making Jewellery'



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - 6TH & 7TH JULY

Important DATE!

Only a month to go to our big weekend!

Invitations to the High Tea on Saturday 6th July have been sent out to the congregation, supporters and trustees. If you haven't already done so, please let Helen know whether you are able to attend. It is hoped that everyone will stay for the Undercover 2 Concert in the evening to which you may invite friends and relatives. We are issuing tickets so that we can keep a track of numbers but the concert is free of charge. Nibbles, tea and coffee and soft drinks will be provided but we would ask people to bring their own wine/beer etc.

Invitations to the Anniversary Service and Afternoon Tea on the Sunday are due to go out this week. These include past members and supporters, past ministers, other Unitarian and local churches and representatives of the Co-op and lettings.

We are planning an exhibition covering our activities during the last 10 years when the scrapbooks will also be on display for those who would like to reminisce.

Let's make this a wonderful weekend to remember and be proud of.

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE— AFTER SERVICE!

PLEASE!! NOTE

Please make a note of the upcoming Congregational AGM in your diaries. This is your opportunity to hear from and vote for representatives on Church General Council and be part of the decision-making process which will guide the future of our fellowship at Clover Street.

Topics on this year's agenda include:

- Wayside Noticeboard – updates on progress
- Clover St 50th Anniversary Celebration Plans
- Charity funds raised to-date
- Costs of producing and distributing the Messenger and Inquirer newsletters
- Review of Congregational Membership fees

DID YOU KNOW?



HERE IS OUR BEAUTIFUL MURAL

To us, it tells a story but we trust it will also speak to the hearts of those who see it. We wanted to share something of who we are, to offer something beautiful and inspirational to our community.

We hope that it will help us make connections and perhaps have conversations we've not yet had. People have stopped to admire it and ask questions, people who didn't know who we were or anything about Unitarians. May the conversations continue.

A massive thank you to the artists for their outstanding work, for the way they also made time to be part of a bigger conversation, and who got behind our vision and created something that will outlive us all ... their talent is breath-taking.

Come and see it in person; it's even better in reality!

SMILE LINES

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Park



A journey of a thousand miles begins with trying to find a place to park your car near the church.

Keep it short

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion...."

Mother-in-law

Young man asked to describe his mother-in-law: "Generally speaking, she's generally speaking."



CARTOON FOR JUNE

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Shirley caught the flower ladies red-handed, dealing trugs

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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July 2024 EDITION

COPY DEADLINE - 20 JUNE

ISSUE DATE - 30 JUNE