



The
Monthly
Messenger
for
September
2024

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 138

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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

Website Manager

Diane Bennett

CONTACT DETAILS

Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Email: reverendabi@gmail.com 07718 534 250

Paul Hubbard Tel 07884 123 169

Email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

Joyce Ashworth Tel: 01706 659294

Email: joyce.ashworth9@gmail.com

Diane Bennett Tel: 01706 371518

Email: diane119@hotmail.com

Helen & John Illingworth Tel: 01706 649015

Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk

Email: john@illingworth.org.uk

Margaret Shore Tel: 01706 360883

Edna Wood Tel 01706 645252

CHURCH VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461

1st
Helen Illingworth in memory of her brother
8th
Vacant
15th
Sheila and Irene in memory of Jessie and Tom
22nd
Vacant
29th
Diane Bennett in memory of family and friends
Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Salt, Margaret Shore, Joyce Ashworth, Anne Dawson 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



100 CLUB WINNERS

AUGUST 2024

(drawn by Lizzy)

1st	67	Martin Whyment
2nd	12	Jackie White
3rd	55	Helen Wilkinson

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to September's edition of the Messenger!

There's lots going on this month, so remember to check the centre-fold, pg 8 and the back page Events List for all the important dates and details.



Another advance notice is that the Administrator and Messenger Editor (yours truly) will be on leave between 21st to 28th September. Emails and the answerphone will still be monitored. However, would everyone who has submissions for the October Messenger please submit them by **Friday 13th September**, if you want them included.

That's all for this month! —Ed

ADVANCE NOTICE

SPECIAL EVENTS MEETING – THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER AT 4.00 PM

This meeting will be held at Church prior to the Monthly Tea to discuss arrangements for the final Music Night this year on Friday 11th October when Simeon Wood will be entertaining us. It will broadly follow the pattern of previous Music Nights but we are looking for suggestions for publicity, room layout and catering. Please attend if you are available.

Important
DATE!



HARVEST FESTIVAL – SUNDAY 6TH OCTOBER

Due to the Women's League Project Lunch being held on the last Saturday in September, it has been decided to move the date of the Harvest Festival to the first Sunday in October. Following the service there will be a soup and apple pie lunch and the opportunity to view the displays which were put up for the 50th Anniversary weekend. The scrap books will be on view together with the Dramatic Society albums which Kathryn Harforth nee Jackson gave to Church some years ago. If you would like to stay for lunch please add your name to the list on the notice board for catering purposes.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Time is what we most want, but what we use worst' ~ William Penn

Dear friends,

In the supermarket the other day, among other things we needed some herbs - basil, oregano, parsley and thyme. Nothing particularly unusual there and so each was selected and put in the trolley, except for thyme - there was no thyme! Thyme had run out, or maybe a glitch in stock control meant sufficient wasn't ordered, or perhaps there's a shortage due to differences in seasonal weather conditions. Whatever the reason, we weren't able to purchase any.

And I discovered just how interesting it was to ponder the concept of there being 'no time' (sounds like a theme for a service!). What do we do without a concept by which we have become so used to measuring our lives, with all its successes and failures, or without a structure on which to pin events.



For example, many people will have taken the opportunity during the past summer months, to step back from the demands of time and engage with more enriching experiences. If that was you, then I hope it was a refreshing and restorative time for you. For the time which is ahead though, I wonder how our engagement with it might alter if we approached time from the perception of experience rather than a measurement of experience - the Kairos rather than Chronos description of time. The daily practice of meditation is something that helps to remind me of the more qualitative aspect of time. The simple awareness of being here now (as you are, reading these words), with one moment simply becoming another, each rich with details that might otherwise go unnoticed. If we were to read these words again having first brought awareness to how we were feeling (whether content, sad, frustrated, happy or indifferent) would we experience the words any differently? I'll leave you to explore, if you want to ☺

With my love
Abi xx

SEPTEMBER NEWS AND EVENTS



Margaret Salt, Margaret Shore, Joyce Ashworth, Anne Dawson and Helen Illingworth

Sun	01	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Thur	05	16.00	Special Events Meeting
		17.00	Monthly Tea — hostess: Greta Henson
		18.30	WL Games Evening
Sun	08	10.30	S unday service led by Graeme Pilbrough
Sun	15	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	16	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close (3rd Monday this month!)
Thur	19	10.45	WL Town Hall Tour (see below)
Sun	22	10.30	S unday Service led by Tom Grimshaw
Tue	24	19.30	General Council meeting via Zoom
Sat	28	11.45	WL Project Lunch
Sun	29	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

WL TOUR OF TOWN HALL

**ON THURSDAY 19TH SEPT
AT 11.00AM**

(MEET OUTSIDE AT 10.45AM)



“ABOUT PEOPLE”

We have just heard the sad news of the death of **John Wood**, on Sunday 25th August. John had been receiving end of life care at Springhill Hospice, for which he and the family were very grateful.



John has had a long connection with the church, and was involved in many aspects of church life. He will be very much missed, but most of all we'll miss his joyful and welcoming presence among us.

Our hearts go out to Edna, Andrew, Carolyn and Sue and all the family, and we hold them in our thoughts and prayers in their time of grief.

Hearty congratulations to **Revs Beryl and John Allerton** on their recent Ruby Wedding Anniversary. They generously included us in their celebrations for the day by donating church flowers, supplying "posh" biscuits for coffee and John leading our worship. Most enjoyable, many thanks.

Sincere congratulations also to **Katherine (Schofield) and Ben** on the safe arrival of their second grandchild born on 1st August to daughter **Alice & Mark Swards**. He weighed in at a healthy 9 lbs 7 oz and will be named Arthur Jude Swards (baby pics over-leaf!). In the recent general election father **Mark** was elected as Labour MP for Leeds South West and Morley, where they now reside. We wish the family well with all their new responsibilities.

Warm congratulations to **Geoff Elliott-McGuffie** on his recent big "0" birthday. It was wonderful that he and **Abi** were able to suitably celebrate this occasion along with family in Estonia.

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.

SATURDAY LUNCH



Women's League & Project Lunch

Unitarian College

Growing our faith from the inside



Saturday 28th Sept

@ 11:45am

3 Courses - £12

CONTACT PERSONS

Dorothy Jones - 01706 659877

Helen Illingworth - 01706 649015

For online tickets just scan QR code



NEW ARRIVAL!



Congratulations once more to Katherine Schofield and Ben on the safe arrival of their second grandchild Arthur Jude Swards!

MUSIC NIGHT



Claver Street UNITARIANS

Friday Music Night 11 Oct 2024

Welcomes - Simeon Wood

Musician, Performer and Composer



Simeon's performance is an uplifting and entertaining show filled with inspiration and great music. A real mixture of styles to suit all tastes. Anecdotes and yarns weave their way through this relaxed and informal evening packed with imaginative and beautiful arrangements, stunning musicianship and the odd surprise.



CARTOON FOR AUGUST
© ParishPump

HARVEST FESTIVAL



...I take it our local supermarket has a rather good offer on tinned peas at the moment!

**Remember, remember the 6th of October!
Harvest Festival at church from 10.30am.**

Those Church Notices that didn't quite make it!



A talk on drugs will be given at the next Mothers' Union meeting. This will be followed by a Bring and Buy Sale.

A sudden gust of wind took all who were at the ceremony by surprise. Hats were blown off and copies of the preacher's speech and other rubbish were scattered over the site.

The Rector is on holiday this month. Local clergy will be celebrating with us all the Sundays that he is away.

Don't allow anxiety to kill you. Let the church help.

Don't miss the Young Wives' Victorian evening next month. It will be a fun night and some of the women will wear clothes.



the unitarians

From Uni-News in brief...

Congregational Support Toolkit
Join Liz Slade, Simon Bland, and Aleks Zglinksa as they showcase the new Congregational Support Toolkit on Monday 9th September at 7.30pm. The event is hosted by Lizzie Kingston-Harrison. Email ekingston@unitarian.org.uk for more information.

Faith in Our Future II - Unitarians 4 Climate Justice Manchester meet-up
14th September 2024 at Cross Street Chapel
GA President Geoff Levermore will be speaking, with a full line-up to follow. More information and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-in-our-future-ii-tickets-904706139417>

National Unitarian Fellowship (NUF) Annual Conference
Saturday 28th September 2024 10am - 4pm
See info above.



Together in Meditation (Thursdays, 7.15-8.45pm) -
Open to everyone, both Unitarians and non-Unitarians, those with no experience of meditation are invited to join alongside those with an established practice. We aim to create an open, loving, and inclusive space for all to find tranquillity and insight through meditation. With Richard Bober, Rev. Sheena Gabriel, Rob Oulton, and Lizzie Kingston Harrison. Email: ekingston@unitarian.org.uk for the link.

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/>



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

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