



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

April
2022

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 136

Issue 1627



PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson – Diane Bennett

Treasurer – John Illingworth

Church Admin Assistant – Paul Hubbard

Council Members -

Joyce Ashworth, Helen Illingworth, Dorothy Jones, John & Edna Wood

ENVELOPE SECRETARIES

Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

PULPIT & LETTINGS' SECRETARY

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Edna & John Wood
53 Links View, Rochdale OL11 4DD

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Co-ordinator - Joyce Ashworth
Member - Helen Illingworth

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

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 Salt Tel: 01706 852575

Margaret Shore Tel: 01706 360883

John & Edna Wood Tel 01706 645252

Email: jonwud@tiscali.co.uk

CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461



APRIL



Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 3rd April 2022 Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 10th April 2022 Elaine Schofield In Memory of Fred, Mum and Dad	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 17th April Dorothy Jones In Memory of her Family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 24th April 2022 Anne and Ian Dawson	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth, Margaret Salt and Margaret Shore	* * * * *

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



Safeguarding Policy Statement

Rochdale Unitarian Church recognises its responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, 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 all our policies and procedures reflect this, including in any such appointment and selection of persons who work on the Church's behalf.

Rochdale Unitarian Church 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.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

I don't know what it will be like when you are reading this, but it's really quite Spring-like outside at the moment. So my advice to you (if you'd ever consider taking advice from your editor) is to get out there and enjoy it whilst you can — as you can be sure it won't last!

However, when the weather does take its inevitable turn for the worst in time-honoured Lancashire fashion, you can be sure of having the latest issue of your favourite periodical (this one, of course) ready to keep you entertained, or to use as a cheap fire-lighter, whichever you'd prefer.

We have important dates to announce this month so please check the centrefold on pgs 6-7. Also don't miss the reflection prepared by our very-own Abi on the opposite page. Which unlike this letter is more than worth your time. See you next month! —Ed

JOYCE'S KITCHEN

ONE-POT CHICKEN CHASSEUR

(Make this French bistro classic to serve with creamy mash or crusty bread)

Serves 4 Prep 20 mins Cook 1 hr 30 mins

1 tsp olive oil
25g butter
4 chicken legs
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
200g small button or chestnut mushrooms
225ml red wine
2 tbsp tomato puree
2 thyme sprigs
500ml chicken stock



Heat oil with half the butter in large lidded flameproof casserole dish.

Fry seasoned chicken legs for 5 mins each side until browned.

Remove and set chicken aside, then melt remainder of butter in the casserole dish and fry the onion 5 mins until soft.

Add garlic and cook 1 min, then add mushrooms and cook for 2 mins. Pour in wine and stir in tomato puree.

Bubble and reduce 5 mins, stir in the thyme and pour over the stock.

Return chicken to casserole, cover and simmer over low heat for about 1 hr until chicken is tender.

Remove chicken from pan and keep warm.

Rapidly boil sauce for 10 mins until syrupy and concentrated in flavour.

Return chicken legs to sauce and serve.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



In amongst the chaos and all that doesn't make sense in the world at the moment, sometimes it's the little things that make us stop and marvel and count each small blessing. Last month, that thing for me was actually a rather big thing, it was the glorious amber full moon, sitting low in the night sky. It was of this world and yet so striking that it appeared other worldly ... it was stunning and that moment for me was a moment of deep appreciation for life, for simply being and I whispered my thank you for it being there to remind me.



This month begins with a new moon on the 1st and ends with another on 30th, with the full moon falling on the Saturday before Easter Sunday.

I find it interesting that whether we're talking

about gales or moons, everything seems to have a name these days.

Apparently this full moon is the Pink Moon (sorry to disappoint, it may glow but it doesn't really turn pink!) and depending on where you are in the world it might also be known as the Budding Moon, Melting Moon, Fish Moon, Egg Moon or Frog Moon. All these names make sense from the culture in which they're named, they tell you what's significant in this place and at this time; budding plants, full thawing of rivers and streams, fish heading upstream to breed, laying of eggs. The last is definitely the one I'll remember though...the Frog Moon isn't what you think, I know I'll not look at frog spawn without a smile now I know this. In Native America, the Cherokees perform a ritual to honour the spirit of flowing water, it's a dance based on the movements of the frog called the Knee Deep Dance....knee deep, knee deep (say it quickly, you'll get the drift).



May the Pink-Frog Moon bring you a smile also.

With my love Abi xx



RUC NEWS AND EVENTS



Flower Month

Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth,
Margaret Salt and Margaret Shore

APRIL

Sun	03	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Celia Cartwright
Sun	03	15.00	Ainsworth chapel 307th Anniversary Service led by Rev John Allerton
Sun	10	10.30	S unday Service led by Karyl Cross. Following worship there will be a short Special Events meeting at 12pm.
Mon	11	19.30	Book Circle @ Bagnall details pg8
Sun	17	10.30	E aster Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Tue-Thur 19th-21st			GA Meetings in Birmingham
Sat	23	19.00	Film Night with supper. "Suffragette" details pg 8
Sun	24	10.30	W omen's League Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	25	19.30	General Council Meeting on Zoom

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

It is with shock and great sadness that we report the death of **Pat Chippendale**. Pat attended Sunday School from a young age and became an active member of Church life. She served for many years as a Choir member and member of Women's League and fully participated in all aspects of church life. We will miss her presence amongst us and we offer our sincere sympathy to her brothers Geoff and Bob in their loss.

We were sorry to learn that **Jean Shore** was recently admitted to Fairfield Hospital for various tests. However, as we go to print there's good news that she has just returned home.

Hearty congratulations to **Jane Glennon** (Salt) on her recent big "0" Birthday. By all accounts the extended celebrations were greatly enjoyed.

16 Moss Row, Norden

Dear Friends

Many, many thanks for all the cards, letters and flowers I received following my recent house move. I was quite overwhelmed by and do so appreciate all the kindness shown to me. I am slowly beginning to feel at home in my new surroundings.

Warmest regards
Greta

ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN MAY

NELUM Meeting Mon 9th May at 7pm—Bolton Unity

Jubilee Afternoon Tea Saturday, 21 May at 3 pm – followed by entertainment. More details to follow – watch this space!

Important DATE!

Contact Details

If you have changed address in the last 12 months, would you please let John Illingworth have details. Thank you!

PLEASE!! NOTE

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2022

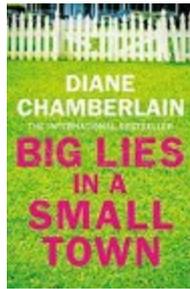
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	02 Jan	06 Feb	13 Mar	17 Apr	22 May	26 Jun	31 Jul	04 Sep	09 Oct	13 Nov	18 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	09 Jan	13 Feb	20 Mar	24 Apr	29 May	03 Jul	07 Aug	11 Sep	16 Oct	20 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	16 Jan	20 Feb	27 Mar	01 May	05 Jun	10 Jul	14 Aug	18 Sep	23 Oct	27 Nov	
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	23 Jan	27 Feb	03 Apr	08 May	12 Jun	17 Jul	21 Aug	25 Sep	30 Oct	04 Dec	
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	30 Jan	06 Mar	10 Apr	15 May	19 Jun	24 Jul	28 Aug	02 Oct	06 Nov	11 Dec	

BOOK CIRCLE



Last month it was lovely to meet again in a house setting after two years on Zoom and at Church.

April's discussion on 11th April is *Big Lies in a Small Town* by Diane Chamberlain.



North Carolina, 2018: Morgan Christopher's life has been derailed. Taking the fall for a crime she did not commit, her dream of a career in art is put on hold—until a mysterious visitor makes her an offer that will get her released from prison immediately. Her assignment: restore an old post office mural in a sleepy southern town.

North Carolina, 1940: Anna Dale, an artist from New Jersey, wins a national contest to paint a mural for the post office in Edenton, North Carolina. Alone in the world and in great need of work, she accepts. But what she doesn't expect is to find herself immersed in a town where prejudices run deep, where people are hiding secrets behind closed doors, and where the price of being different might just end in murder.

FILM NIGHT



Our next Film Night on Saturday 23rd April will show the 2015 film *Suffragette* starring Carey Mulligan, Anne-Marie Duff, Helena Bonham-Carter and Meryl Streep. In early 20th-century Britain, the growing suffragette movement forever changes the life of working wife and mother Maud Watts (Carey Mulligan). Galvanized by political activist Emmeline Pankhurst (Meryl Streep), Watts joins a diverse group of women who fight for equality and the right to vote. Faced with increasing police action, Maud and her dedicated suffragettes must play a dangerous game of cat-and-mouse, risking their jobs, homes, family and lives for a just cause.

As usual we will be serving ice creams at the interval and a pie and pea supper afterwards with homemade cake – all for only £7 per person. The profit from the event will go to the Ukrainian appeal so please come along if you are available.



REFLECTION



Light in Darkness

It is the dark side of life
That keeps us awake
The shadows of existence
Where lives do not count
Where people are abused
Where only the rights of the strongest
Are regarded.



It is the dark side of life
That causes us to lose heart
Because all seems futile
Because everything fails again and again
Because yet again people
Act savage toward other people.

But it is the dark side of life
That attracts light bearers
Lights of love and peace
Lights of righteousness and forgiveness
Which shine in the east and in the west.
Oh, that these lights may shine through us



That these lights may glow in us
That through our efforts the
Earth may become a safer place to live.

This we pray
With all our minds
With all our hearts
With all our souls.

Meindert Boersma
(translated by Johanna Boeke)

A INSWORTH ANNIVERSARY

3.00 PM SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2022
PREACHER: REV JOHN D ALLERTON
ORGANIST: MR BARRY SCANLON



It's 15 years since John retired in 2007 from his joint Ministry here and we look forward to welcoming him back to our Chapel on Sunday 3rd April for our special afternoon 307th Chapel Anniversary Service.

All the downstairs box pews will be open and you may sit wherever you feel comfortable. Mask wearing is now optional, but please allow 1 metre distancing with others, unless in the same bubble.

We also invite you to join us for tea, coffee and cakes in the Schoolroom following the service, and a big 'thank you' to Joanne for providing the cakes.

With good wishes to you all and hope you'll be able to join us.

Shirley Horrocks



UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

I'm really pleased to advise everyone that in the 3 weeks of holding a retiring collection for Ukraine we have raised a massive £263! Which from a small congregation is absolutely fantastic, thank you all very very much.

So that funds are available to the Disasters Emergency Committee as soon as possible, we have donated our monies each week following service.



M INISTRY MATTERS

Feedback Welcome

Abi has now been with us for three months - the time has flown by!

Diane and Helen meet monthly with Abi to discuss how things are going, address any questions that may have arisen, and provide feedback to Abi.

We would all also welcome feedback from members of the congregation. This might be comments on elements of services you've enjoyed, on your experience of the pastoral care that Abi has provided, or something else. Constructive feedback, with specific examples, is always welcome and useful - whether that be something you think has gone well, or perhaps something that you think could work better, or suggestions for things that might be done differently.

Please feel free to speak to Abi, Helen, or Diane at any time. Any comments will be treated in confidence unless you give permission to share the source.

Your input is valued.

A PRIL CARTOON

© parishpump.co.uk



REGULAR BOOKINGS

Day	EVENT
Mon ■	12.30-2.30pm Prima Dance—Main Hall
Tues ■	1.00-3.00pm Prima Dance—Main Hall
	■ 1.00-3.00pm Norden Cards— Blue Room
	■ 4.00-6.00pm Carers' Choir—Main Hall
	■ 7.00-9.00pm Central Bridge—Blue Room
	■ 7.30-9.30pm Philatelic Group—Green Room
Wed ■	12.00-1.00pm New Pioneers—Main Hall
	■ 7.30-9.30pm Photographic—Blue Room
	■ 7.00-9.00pm R'dale Ramblers-Green Room
Thur ■	11.00am-12.00pm L4L Zumba—Main Hall
Sat ■	7.30-8.30pm Rebecca Kanku—Silver Room
Sun ■	10.30am-12.00pm Sunday Worship in Hall
For full booking details please contact rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com or leave a message on 01706 648461	

Ethos for Rochdale Unitarian Church:

- ◆ "We aim to be a faith community which supports individuals in taking ownership of and responsibility for personal beliefs and actions.
- ◆ We offer a supporting environment in which to embrace life and its challenging questions."

Messenger by Email?

Reduce your carbon footprint and get your copy in colour by subscribing to our email service, its free - rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

Interested in learning more?



<http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk>

<http://www.unitarian.org.uk/>



Rochdale Unitarian Church
Clover Street
ROCHDALE OL12 6TP
 01706 648461

MAY 2022 EDITION
 COPY DEADLINE - 24 APR
 ISSUE DATE - 01 MAY