



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

February
2023

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 137

Issue 1637



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

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Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

PULPIT AND LETTINGS

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 VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

I'm sure we'll all have our own memorable moments from last month, some of them may not have been so welcome and others especially welcome. Amongst such moments, the most ordinary and yet the most glorious for me were the sunrises that I awoke to. Skies of the most dazzling palettes of oranges and pinks, and the sun itself, a fireball of energy sharing its warmth with such generosity. There were several mornings where I was simply transfixed, where everything else seemed less important than this one moment. How precious these moments are, spaces that allow something else to break through.

As we look forward to the breaking through of spring, February feels very much like a month of anticipation. The delicate flowers of snowdrops and crocuses are sure to be the beginnings of spring's emergence. And as we host the first in our series of music nights this month, I hope these prove to be significant in our emergence from a quietness that has allowed us the space we needed. In a world that at times can seem so very busy and noisy, there is much value in finding space to let things emerge as they naturally will do.

May the blessings of Imbolc, Candlemas and the coming of spring be with you all. With my love Abi xx

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."

RUC NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome to February's newsletter — I bet you wonder where January went? Well there's no time for that because this month we have a special series of events starting! On Friday 24th February, we welcome Accordionist Thom Hardaker to entertain us in the first of our brand-new series of Music Nights. Further details are on pg 6. But book early and tell all your friends — this is an excellent-value night not to be missed!



FEBRUARY

Thur	02	17.00	Monthly Afternoon Tea. Hostess— Greta Henson
		18.30	Women's League Meeting
Sun	05	10.30	S unday Service led by Chris Newsam
Mon	06	19.30	Special Events Meeting
Sun	12	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	13	19.30	Book Circle at Stanney Close
Sun	19	10.30	S unday Service led by GA President, Rev Sue Woolley
Mon	20	19.30	General Council Meeting
Fri	24	19.30	Music Night featuring accordionist Thom Hardaker
Sun	26	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

“ABOUT PEOPLE”

Sorry to learn, as we go to press, that **Eunice Smith** has been admitted to Fairfield Hospital with a leg infection and respiratory problems. Our good wishes for a speedy recovery Eunice.

It is wonderful to see **John & Edna Wood** back in church following John's recent stay in hospital. Keep up the good work John!

Our hearty congratulations to **Jackie & Terry White**, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in January - Jackie, reminiscing on happy memories of their wedding in our Blackwater Street Church. We wish you many more happy years together.

Huge congratulations to **Peter and Becky Illingworth** on the birth of their second daughter, who was born on 22nd January weighing 8lb 6oz. Nola and Reuben are thrilled to have a little sister and John and Helen are proud grandparents once again.

A Thank You from the Food Bank

Thank you to everyone who donated food and toiletry items in our advent collection. The food bank were especially pleased to receive them in January, as supplies were rather lean after Christmas. Our small contribution was not insignificant and it was received with great enthusiasm. Maybe this could become a new tradition for us?

Thank you for your kindness.

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2023

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth		22 Jan	26 Feb	02 Apr	07 May	11 Jun	16 Jul	20 Aug	24 Sep	29 Oct	03 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth		29 Jan	05 Mar	09 Apr	14 May	18 Jun	23 Jul	27 Aug	01 Oct	05 Nov	10 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	01 Jan	05 Feb	12 Mar	16 Apr	21 May	25 Jun	30 Jul	03 Sep	08 Oct	12 Nov	17 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	08 Jan	12 Feb	19 Mar	23 Apr	28 May	02 Jul	06 Aug	10 Sep	15 Oct	19 Nov	25 Dec
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	15 Jan	19 Feb	26 Mar	30 Apr	04 Jun	09 Jul	13 Aug	17 Sep	22 Oct	26 Nov	31 Dec 2

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



Flowers

Sunday 5th February 2023
Jackie White
In Memory of Josephine Arnold

Sunday 12th February 2023
Joyce and Greta
In Memory of Mum & Dad and Raymond

Sunday 19th February 2023
Flower Donation Vacancy

Sunday 26^h February
Diane Williams & David Ogden
In Memory of Bob & Deanna

Flowers lovingly arranged by Helen & Joyce

WHAT'S ON?

Friday Music Night @ Clover Street Unitarians

An evening with accordionist

Thom Hardaker

Friday 24 February at 7.30pm

Tickets £8 (incl refreshments)

www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

tel. 01706 649015 or on the door



Scan for tickets

Venue:

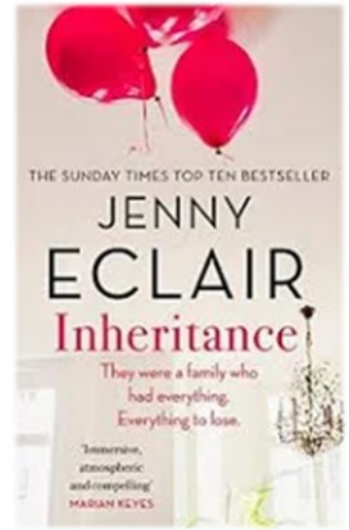
**Clover Street
Rochdale OL12 6TP**



BOOK CIRCLE



Members enjoyed their delayed Christmas Italian meal at their meeting in January. A flurry of snow was a slight worry earlier in the day for the M&S shopping but fortunately didn't amount to much. The book of the month *If I Could Tell You* by Hannah Beckerman was discussed briefly, everyone having enjoyed it. The venue



for the next meeting on 13th February will be 1 Stanney Close, Milnrow when members will discuss *Inheritance* by Jenny Éclair, writer, actress and presenter on *Loose Women*. In deepest Cornwall, the mansion Kittiwake has seen many pass through its doors since it was bought by American heiress Peggy Carmichael 70 years ago. Over the decades, the keys have been handed down through the family, and now it belongs to Bel's adoptive brother, Lance. It's where he'll be celebrating his 50th birthday, and Bel is invited. But in going back to Kittiwake, Bel will be returning to the place where it all began – where, following the death of a child, a sequence of events was set in motion years ago, the consequences of which are still rippling down through the generations.

VISIT TO ROCHDALE BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT – SUNDAY, 19 FEBRUARY

Important DATE!



Do note in your diary that GA President, Rev Sue Woolley, will be leading our Worship on 19th February. We hope that a goodly number of us will gather to give her a warm welcome to Rochdale Church.

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
	■ 4.30-6.00pm Carers' Choir—Main Hall
	■ 7.00-9.00pm Central Bridge—Blue Room
	■ 7.30-9.30pm Philatelic Group—Green Room
Wed ■	7.30-9.30pm Photographic—Blue Room
Thur ■	11.00am-12.00pm YT Zumba—Main Hall
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



“He moved here after the PCC voted to lower the church heating bill. He says it is warmer out here.”



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

MARCH 2023 EDITION
 COPY DEADLINE - 19 FEB
 ISSUE DATE - 26 FEB