



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

January
2023

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

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PULPIT AND LETTINGS

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Edna & John Wood
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Flowers

Sunday 1st January Elaine Whyment In memory of the Howarth family
Sunday 8th January Flower Donation Vacancy
Sunday 15th January Dorothy Jones & Family In memory of Trevor
Sunday 22nd January Margaret Shore In memory of her family
Sunday 29th January Sylvia Palmer In memory of Walter & Duncan
Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Salt, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth and Joyce Ashworth

A Reminder

To all of you loyal 100 Club subscribers — don't forget your renewals! The combined Jan+Feb draw will be on 29th January. It costs just £12 per number to enter, with a draw normally taking place once a month. If you are lucky enough to be a winner one month, your numbers go back in for the following draw, so you can be a winner as many times as your chosen numbers come out of the bag. It's a great way to support your church too.

100 CLUB WINNERS

DEC 2022

1st	81	Jeff Whyment
2nd	35	Peter Illingworth
3rd	45	Sylvia Palmer

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

A Happy New Year to all of you dear readers! It never stops at Clover Street, so make sure you get those important dates for the diary from our centre-fold.



An important date to note this month is the congregational meeting on 15th of January to discuss potential wording for a new mural on the side of the church.

All the best for January and the rest of 2023! —Ed

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



We are looking into producing **with your help** a word art mural for the side of our church building.

Please bring to the congregational meeting after service on 15th January words that describe what the word “church” means for you. If you can't attend, please send them to John Illingworth, Helen Wilkinson or Rev Abi. These will then be used to produce the art work.

The image below is an example of a word art mural:



Observations for a New Year...

God loves us; not because we are loveable but because He is love; not because he needs to receive but because He delights to give. – *CS Lewis*

God gives wherever He finds empty hands.
– *Augustine*

A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle. – *Anon*

Peace is not the absence of conflict from life, but the ability to cope with it. – *Anon*

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends

Another year has begun, did you celebrate its arrival or did you greet it quietly as you drew back the curtains? Either way, it happened whether we were ready or not.

Expectation can weigh heavy on the shoulders of a new beginning, whether that's a new venture, a new resolve or a new year. As we enter this year together, I offer a poem that I've often come back to when I've not felt ready to begin. I hope it offers you as much encouragement as it does me.

You Reading This, Be Ready by William Stafford

Starting here, what do you want to remember?

How sunlight creeps along a shining floor?
What scent of old wood hovers, what softened
sound from outside fills the air?

Will you ever bring a better gift for the world
than the breathing respect that you carry
wherever you go right now? Are you waiting
for time to show you some better thoughts?

When you turn around, starting here, lift this
new glimpse that you found; carry into evening
all that you want from this day. This interval you
spent

reading or hearing this, keep it for life –

What can anyone give you greater than now,
starting here, right in this room, when you turn
around?

Welcome to another year! And may the sunlight that encourages you from the night into each day, remind you also, that every day is a new beginning. With my love Abi xx



RUC NEWS AND EVENTS



Flower Month
Margaret Salt, Dorothy Jones, Helen
Illingworth and Joyce Ashworth

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



JANUARY

Sun	01	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Thur	05	17.00	Monthly Afternoon Tea
		18.30	Women's League AGM
Sun	08	10.30	S unday Service led by Geoff Levermore
Sun	15	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	16	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	22	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Allerton
Mon	23	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	29	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

SMILE LINES

When church bulletins don't get it quite right!

During the absence of our minister, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

We were all so very saddened to learn of the recent death of Helen Illingworth's brother, **John Greenwood**. John, of course, grew up in Rochdale and spent his childhood and youthful years amongst us at Clover Street. He frequently visited us and indeed attended our Christmas lunch just a few days before his passing. To Helen, John and the wider family we offer our very sincere condolences and assure them of our love and support.

Soon after his successful colostomy surgery, John **Wood** suffered an inner ear infection which has proved quite persistent. At the time of going to press John seems to be improving and we do hope this will continue coming up to Christmas.

READERS' LETTERS

5 Bagnall Close
Norden

19th December 2022

Dear Friends

I would like to thank you all for your condolences on the death of my brother John last month. Most of you saw John at the Christmas Lunch which he enjoyed and was determined to come to. His times at Clover Street were important to him from his childhood and teenage years in the UYPL, acting in the Dramatic Society and taking the occasional service in later years.

With love

Helen and John

39 Pegasus Court
Bury Road
Rochdale OL11 4EA

26th December 2022

Dear Helen

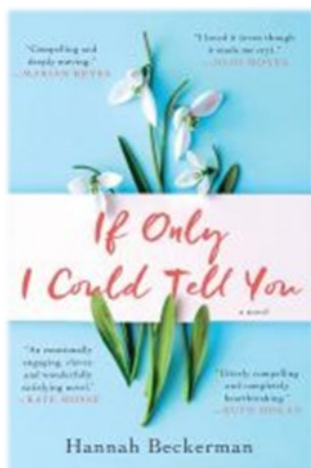
I am writing to say thank you for the box of goodies from Church. It was a lovely selection and very thoughtful — thank you so much.

Yours sincerely
Eunice

BOOK CIRCLE



Due to the very cold weather in mid-December members of the Book Circle decided to postpone their Christmas meeting to the New Year. Please note that our meeting on 16th January will be a week later than our usual date. If there's time between eating Italian fare, we will be discussing *If Only I Could Tell You* by Hannah Beckerman.



The novel details the trials and tribulations of Audrey and her family; estranged and divided by a bitter, long-held secret and a life-changing choice made thirty years previously. Audrey's family has fallen apart. Her two grown-up daughters, Jess and Lily, are estranged, and her two teenage granddaughters have never been allowed to meet. A secret that echoes back thirty years has splintered the family in two but is also the one thing keeping them connected. As tensions reach breaking point, the irrevocable choice that one of them made all those years ago is about to surface. After years of secrets and silence, how can one broken family find their way back to each other?

Christmas Donations

Thank you to everyone for your generous donation of toys to the Council's 'Giving Back' toy appeal. I took some lovely gifts to Norden Library, one of the collection points and I'm sure the families who receive them will appreciate your kindness.

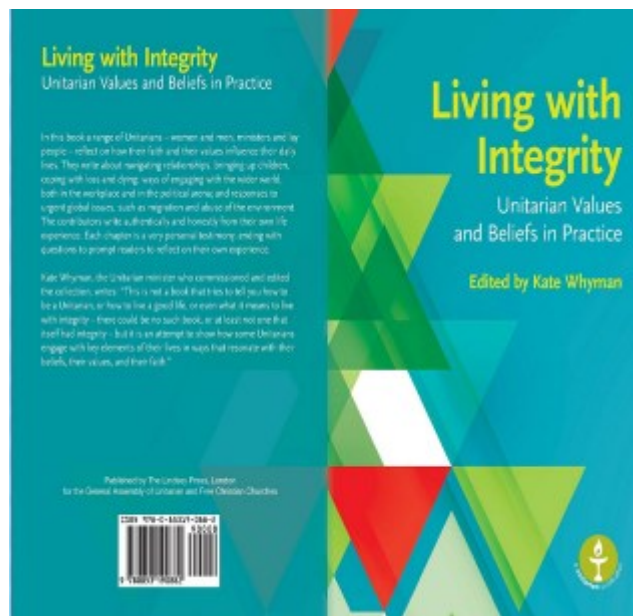
Thanks also for the monetary collections for Send a Child to Hucklow, Toilet Twinning and the Red Cross Ukrainian Crisis Appeal.

BIG THANK YOU !

I'm sure I speak for all recipients when I say a massive and very sincere thank you for the thoughtful and very useful Christmas Boxes distributed to the senior members of the congregation following the Carol Service.

Similarly, many thanks to the team who oversaw the arrangements for the Carol Service itself. It was a thoroughly enjoyable Service and your efforts to make it so are greatly appreciated. It was good to have so many attending considering the treacherous icy conditions underfoot.

UNI-NEWS!



NEW BOOK: LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

Unitarian Values and Beliefs in Practice, edited by Rev. Kate Whyman

A range of Unitarians reflect on how their faith and their values influence their daily lives. They write about navigating relationships, ways of engaging with the wider world and response to urgent global issues. The contributors write authentically and honestly from their own life experiences. Each chapter ends with questions to prompt readers to reflect, individually or in a group, on their own experience. Lindsey Press, 2016, ISBN 978-0-85319-088-2, 102pp, Softback, RRP £8.50

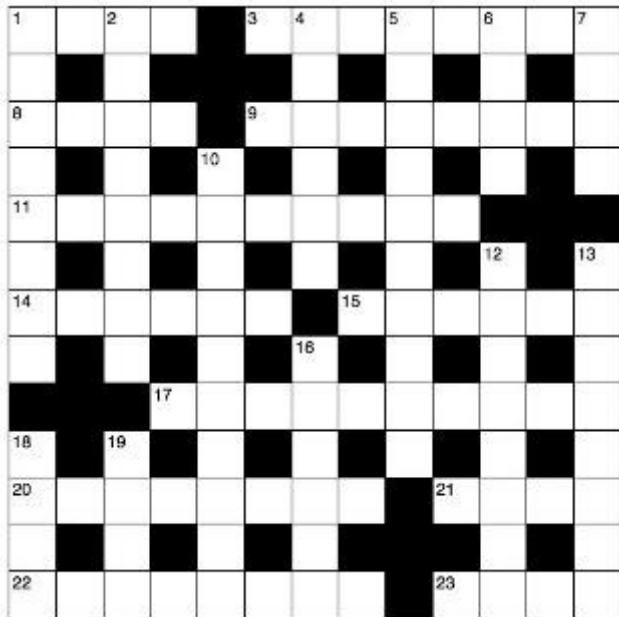
You can buy the book online from all major retailers, including Bookshop.org, Waterstones, Amazon and others.

Or, if you would prefer to make your purchase directly from Unitarian HQ, please ring +44 (020) 7240 2384.

NOMINATIONS FOR GA PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee will be pleased to receive suggestions for both the positions of President and Vice President of the General Assembly for 2023-24 from Congregations, District Associations and Affiliated Societies. The Vice President will then be nominated for the Presidency in 2024-25. Deadline 13th January.

CROSS WORD!



Crossword Clues and Answers for January 2023

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Cock; 3, Shackles; 8, Play; 9, Paradise; 11, Faithfully; 14, Emesh; 15, Unseen; 17, Armageddon; 20, Benjamin; 21, Bert; 22, Capitals; 23, USFG.
DOWN: 1, Cup of tea; 2, Charisma; 4, Heap up; 5, Challenged; 6, Lois; 7, Slew; 10, The Servant; 12, Lewdness; 13, Unending; 16, Daniel; 18, BBFC; 19, Snap.

CARTOON FOR JANUARY



Six songs of the "lukewarm church"!

Blest Be the Tie that Doesn't Cramp my Style

Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me

I Surrender ... Some

I'm Fairly Certain that My Redeemer Lives

Sit up, Sit up for Jesus

Take My Life - and Let Me Be

A dog's life

A couple had gone to their minister for counselling because their marriage was in trouble. The husband began by complaining that he led a dog's life at home. To the minister's surprise, the wife immediately agreed. "After all, he rushes into the house with muddy feet, tracks across my clean floors, barks at nothing, growls at his food and makes himself comfortable on the best furniture. Then he falls asleep and snaps at you if you disturb him."

Oops!

A father had given his daughter a young puppy for Christmas. Next day, he found her in the kitchen, looking sadly at a puddle in the centre of the floor. "Look Dad," she said, "My pup runneth over!"

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	

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.

Messenger by Email?

Reduce your carbon footprint and get your copy in colour by subscribing to our email service, its free -
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