



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for

June  
2023

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

*Volume 137*

*Issue 1641*



**PASTORAL TEAM**

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

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**Treasurer** – John Illingworth

**Church Admin Assistant** – Paul Hubbard

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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  
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Member - Helen Illingworth

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**CHURCH VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461**



# Flowers

* * * * *
* Sunday 4th June 2023 *
* Anne Shepherd *
* In Memory of the Stott Family *
* * * * *
* Sunday 11th June 2023 *
* Sheila Goodwin & Family *
* In Memory of Norman *
* * * * *
* Sunday 18th June 2023 *
* Arlene Hine *
* In Memory of Peter and John & Elsie Mills *
* * * * *
* Sunday 25th June 2023 *
* Helen & John Illingworth *
* In Memory of Mum & Dad *
* * * * *
* Flowers lovingly arranged by Helen, Joyce, *
* Margaret Shore and Margaret Salt *
* * * * *



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



* * * * *
* Donations in Retrospect: *
* * * * *
* Sunday 2nd April 2023 *
* Rev Abi Elliott- McGuffie. *
* In Memory of her Father *
* * * * *
* Sunday 21st May 2023 Di Scaife. *
* To Celebrate George's Birthday on *
* 20th May 2023 *
* * * * *
* Sunday 28th May 2023 *
* Rev. Abi Elliott- McGuffie. *
* To Celebrate her Wedding Anniversary *
* * * * *

Welcome to the June edition of our beloved church newsletter. I hope that the warm sunny weather we are currently enjoying as I type this continues into June (though I'm not holding my breath),



In the unlikely event of unexpected down-pours, you can read all about the fantastic indoor events on at church this month, including our new Move and Munch sessions, Summer Lunch and our next Music Night extravaganza. See you in July—Ed

**CLOVER STREET UNITARIANS**

# MOVE & MUNCH WORKSHOPS

MOVEMENT and WELLBEING with professional teachers.

From gentle movement to dancing and games, followed by a light lunch - £2.00pp.

**EVERY 4TH WEDNESDAY IN MONTH  
11AM TO 1PM  
BEGINNING 24TH MAY 2023**

All Abilities Welcome  
Contact Details - E: gibbonsprimadance@gmail.com  
T: Neil 07817 695918, Alison 07564 588724  
Unitarian Church, Clover Street, OL12 6TP

Funded by Your Trust & Action Together

## MUNCH AND MOVE

A reminder that this initiative to get people moving again following Covid is now up and running (no pun intended). The sessions are based on simple and easy movements, including chair exercises, followed by a soup and roll lunch. We have secured a grant funded by Your Trust and Action Together to allow us to run these sessions. Members of the Congregation are very welcome to help run these monthly events and also to take part. Please see Council members for more information.

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

As I write we seem to be peeping through the window of spring into summer, blessed with a few days of late spring warmth and sunshine. What a treat these days are!



A welcome invitation to take a break from productivity, and to relax into an ease.

And these days for me have been very much about enjoying meadow landscapes, as I familiarise myself within our new surroundings. I've most especially appreciated them in early evening, the tall grasses conducting a slower tempo, while colour and sound drift in and out, perfectly placed just where they are ... and they nurture, and calm and soothe, just by being there.

A meadow is so much more than just a meadow, as this poem by Mary Makofske suggests. It's a space for dreams, for allowing and for flourishing. Perhaps this poem is not just a poem, perhaps a blessing and a prayer also!

I leave the formal garden of schedules where hours hedge me, clip the errant sprigs of thought, and day after day, a boxwood topiary hunt chases a green fox never caught. No voice calls me to order as I enter a dream of meadow, kneel to earth and, moving east to west, second the motion only of the sun. I plant frail seedlings in the unploughed field, trusting the wilderness hidden in their hearts. Spring light sprawls across false indigo and hyssop, daisies, flax. Clouds form, dissolve, withhold or promise rain. In time, outside of time, the unkempt afternoon fills up with flowers.

May all our dreams and planting, blossom in the months to come.

With my love

*Abi*

# NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



Helen, Joyce,  
Margaret Shore &  
Margaret Salt

## JUNE

Thur	01	17.00	Monthly Tea – Hostess: Yvonne Warburton
		18.30	WL Meeting - Speaker: Rev Helen Mills “My RAF Experience”
Sun	04	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Sun	11	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott McGuffie
Mon	12	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Thur	15	19.30	Church Trustees meeting
Sat	17	11.00	Summer Lunch—see pg 8
Sun	18	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Mon	19	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	25	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott McGuffie
Thur	28	11.00	Move and Munch — see pg 4
Fri	30	19.30	Music Night, featuring “Voice” Choir — see opposite pg

## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

Our hearty congratulations go to Maud Elgey who will reach her 100th Birthday at the beginning of this month. What a wonderful achievement Maud. Warm wishes from all those at Clover Street who remember you. We hope you will thoroughly enjoy a well-deserved celebration of some kind.

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

Important DATE!

PLEASE! NOTE

### FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC

#### Clover Street Unitarians

SINGING MODERN CLASSICS  
THE MIXED VOCAL GROUP  
**VOICE (of Heywood)**  
Friday 30 June 7.30pm

£8 (includes supper)

Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door

Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP

[www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk](http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk)

## 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

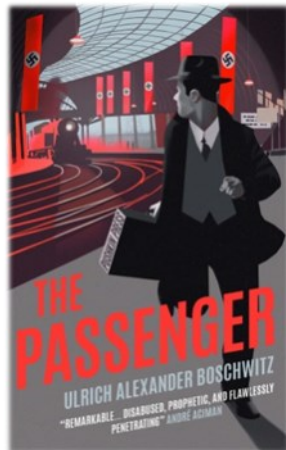
**Important** - should you be unable to attend please arrange for a stand-in, it is difficult for one person to cover both functions.



## BOOK CIRCLE



Our June read is *The Passenger* by Ulrich Alexander Boschwitz. It tells the story of Otto Silbermann, a Jewish businessman, and his panicked movements in the days immediately after Kristallnacht, the campaign of murder and mayhem unleashed upon German Jews in November 1938.



Our meeting on 12th June will be back at Bagnall Close. Thank you to Lynne Hutton for hosting the last two meetings.



Enjoy a fabulous three-course meal, with tea and coffee served afterwards. You know your family and friends don't want to miss out!

For further information, contact **Helen Illingworth** on **01706 649015**.



## CHURCH CHARITY INFORMATION

### Church charity for 2023-2025

For the last two years we have been supporting Send a Child to Hucklow. This year we need to choose a new charity to support.

Church Council discussed this at their last meeting. As many of you may know, Springhill Hospice is currently struggling with a shortfall in funding. It's a charity which has supported many people, and which we hope will be able to continue to do so for many years to come.

Our recommendation is therefore that Springhill Hospice be adopted as the next charity we support. This will be a focus of our Whitsunday Service.

We also noted the importance of the work being done by the Trussell Trust in providing food for those in need. Unfortunately the demand on the food bank is growing. We will therefore be holding a 'Tea for Trussell' as a one-off event to support this work. Details will follow.

## ANNIVERSARY, MEMBERSHIP & COVENANT SERVICE



### Celebrating our members

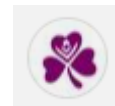


It will soon be time for the church to celebrate its anniversary. A recent tradition has been to welcome individuals who have become members of the church during the previous twelve months and to recognise all our members and the commitment demonstrated to our congregation.

We value all those who are part of our congregation. We hope that by becoming a member the sense of belonging to our community is strengthened.

It also entitles you to be heard in our decision-making processes, for example, voting at the AGM and other congregational meetings and therefore being able to influence church matters. Members are also eligible to stand as a member of the General Council (although we know this isn't for everyone!).

If you have any questions about becoming a member of the congregation, please talk to Abi, Diane, or John who will be pleased to help.



## CARTOON FOR JUNE



Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

parish  
pump

Thank you for continuing to send me the Messenger.

I have been the Treasurer of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund since shortly after I moved from Rochdale to Croydon, over 30 years ago. I read that Rochdale Unitarians will be supporting Spring Hill Hospice this year.

I would like to that you on behalf of the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund for your support over the last two years (and before that). We are providing holidays this year for 18 groups of disadvantaged children. This reflects both the generosity of our donors and the ever increasing need for the holidays we provide for these children.

Good luck with your support for Spring Hill Hospice. My dad (Bob Ogden) spent a couple of weeks there when he was unwell in 2011.

I hope you will be able to support the Send a Child to Hucklow Fund again in the future.

Best wishes, David Ogden

### Film Night—a big “Thank You!”

Thank you to everyone who helped with or attended the recent Film Night when the amusing film Mrs Harris Goes to Paris was enjoyed by an audience of 24. Our Film Nights are held to raise money for our Church Charity which for the next 12 months will be Springhill Hospice. We raised £120 from the evening which is a good start for a very worthy cause.

Helen I

### SMILE LINES... one for our new caretaker?

Our churchwarden has the courage, but not always the skills, to tackle any DIY job that needs doing around the church. For example, in the church shed are still pieces of the church lawn mower that he once tried to fix. So, the minister wasn't surprised the day he found him in the vestry, attacking the vacuum cleaner with a screwdriver. "This thing won't cooperate," he complained.

The minister thought for a moment: "Why don't you drag it out to the shed and show it what you did to the lawn mower?"



A sheepish note from the editor:

Whilst I was putting the finishing touches to this edition, I found this lovely photograph above which I recall promising to include. Unfortunately, I cannot recall or locate any further details. No-doubt one of the ladies will know, and I can include the happy information in the next edition. Many apologies!

## 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
	■ 11.00am-12.00pm Move & Munch-Main Hall
Thur	■ 11.00am-12.00pm YT Zumba—Main Hall
Sun	■ 10.30am-12.00pm Sunday Worship in Hall
For full booking details please contact <a href="mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com">rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com</a> 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.

### Interested in learning more?



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

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



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**Clover Street**  
**ROCHDALE OL12 6TP**  
 01706 648461 (voicemail)

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