



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

June
2021

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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JUNE



Flowers

FLOWER FUND

We are grateful for the donations we have received which are used for the flowers displayed on those occasions when we are able to hold a service.


Weekly services are to resume from mid-August but, in the meantime, if you would like to contribute to the Flower Fund, your donation would be very much appreciated! Until weekly services recommence it won't be possible to designate a particular Sunday, but John and Edna would be delighted to receive donations and can allocate the month of your choice.

For the two services in June the flowers have been donated by:

13th June - Sheila Goodwin
In Loving Memory of Norman

27th June - Helen & John Illingworth
In Memory of Mum & Dad

Many thanks for your generosity.



100 CLUB WINNERS MAY

2021

1st	3	Diane Bennett
2nd	65	Diane Bennett
3rd	80	Judith Lord

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Hello, Dear Reader, and welcome to the June issue of The Monthly Messenger. It looks like the end of lock-down might *finally* be in sight, and if we are really fortunate, we might even be able to enjoy some warmer weather, with other people, indoors and not separated by flat screens and spotty internet connections! Of course, as I write this all the above has yet to happen, so I don't want to jynx anything, but I'm sure you are looking forward to getting out and enjoying the sunshine as much as I am.



Whilst we wait The Monthly Messenger team are on -hand to keep you entertained and informed, as are many of our sister churches, who have kept outreach and events going online, even if their doors have had to be closed temporarily (see Joyce's review below of a recent LCM event). Lastly, please note that the Congregational AGM is now moved to 11th July at 10.30am. That's all for this month — see you in July!

LCM SPRING JAMBOREE SERVICE - 1 MAY

After the initial technical hitch, where at least half the participants had used the zoom access details for the original service planned for 17 April but postponed because of Prince Phillip's funeral, the event was a little late getting underway which resulted in a somewhat late finish.

It turned out to be a very enjoyable and heartening coming together with a genuine celebratory feel to it, featuring a medley of music, readings, stories and hymns with contributors explaining the significance to them of their suggested choices. Just one of those choices was this poem for summer-day reminiscences: "The Things Divine" by Jean Brooks Burt.

These are the things I hold divine:
A trusting child's hand laid in mine,
Rich brown earth and wind-tossed trees,
The taste of grapes and the drone of bees,
A rhythmic gallop - long June days,
A rose-hedged lane and lovers' lays,
The welcome smile on neighbour's faces,
Cool wide hills and open places,
Breeze-blown fields of silver rye,
The wild sweet note of the plover's cry,
Fresh spring showers and scent of box,
The soft, pale tint of the garden phlox,
Lilacs blooming - a drowsy noon,
A flight of geese and an autumn moon,
Rolling meadows and storm-washed heights,
A fountain murmur on summer nights,
A dappled fawn in the forest hush,
Simple words and the song of a thrush,
Rose-red dawns, and a mate to share
With comrade soul, my gypsy fare,
A waiting fire, when the twilight ends,
A gallant heart and the voice of friends.

JOYCE'S KITCHEN

RECIPE

Last month I was certainly over-optimistic in suggesting food for eating outside - what a joke - the weather certainly "turned the tables" on that !!! So in hopes of the reverse effect, here is this month's "hot" tip taken from Prue Leith's Vegetarian Kitchen - a vegan recipe from her Hearty and Homely chapter:



BUTTER BEAN & SWEET POTATO STEW (serves 4)

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 garlic cloves - finely chopped
- 1 red chilli, finely chopped (optional)
- 400g sweet potato, peeled and cut in bite-sized chunks
- 1 ltr vegetable stock
- 2 x 400g tins butter beans, drained
- 240g spinach, washed
- salt & pepper to season
- crusty bread to serve

Heat oil in large saucepan over medium heat.

Add onion, garlic & chilli and cook 3-4 mins until soft and translucent.

Add sweet potato and fry for a few further mins, then add stock.

Bring to boil and add butter beans.

Season and reduce heat - simmer 15-18 mins until sweet potato is cooked, then stir in spinach and simmer until it is completely wilted.

Spoon into bowls and serve with crusty bread. ENJOY !

* dedicated meat-lovers may like to add sliced sausage or chorizo

CLOVER STREET NEWS & EVENTS

ADVANCED NOTICE

CONGREGATIONAL AGM — 11th July

For a number of reasons it has been necessary for Church Council to change the date and time of the AGM from previously announced 13 June in the afternoon. Please **note the new arrangements**: Shorter than usual Service of Worship at **10.30 am** on **11th July** followed immediately by Congregational AGM after which we will be having a Jacob's Join lunch.



AINSWORTH CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

A number of us have been in the habit of supporting Ainsworth congregation for special events. This year they will celebrate their 306th Anniversary on Sunday 4 July. The Service will take place at 3 pm and will be led by Joyce. The intention is to serve drinks with light refreshment in the schoolroom following the Service.



“ABOUT PEOPLE”

We were concerned to learn from **Diane Bennett** that, following a recent mammogram, she has been diagnosed with early breast cancer. Overall prognosis is positive, but she still needs to have further tests and consultations over the next few weeks, and then surgery, possibly followed by radiotherapy; much of that yet to be determined.

Understandably, Diane will not be involved as much with church matters over the next few months, but members of Council will be rallying round and giving all the support they can to help her through this anxious time, as we know many of you will also do in a variety of ways. Our love and good wishes go with you Diane.

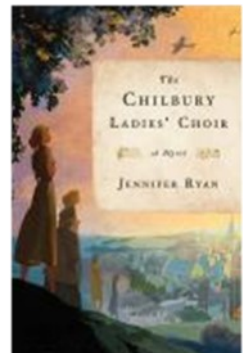
As we go to press we have just heard that **Stephen Bamford** will shortly be moving to a bungalow at Fieldway, off Broad Lane. We wish him well and hope he will soon settle and be very happy in his new home.

BOOK CIRCLE



Hopefully 14th June will be our final meeting on Zoom as we plan to meet at Church in the Blue Room from 12th July. It will be lovely to welcome back those we haven't seen since the beginning of the pandemic.

For our June meeting we are reading *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* by Jennifer Ryan.



Set in Kent in 1940, in the idyllic village of Chilbury change is afoot. Hearts are breaking as sons and husbands leave to fight, and when the Vicar decides to close the choir until the men return, all seems lost.

But coming together in song is just what the women of Chilbury need in these dark hours, and they are ready to sing. With a little fighting spirit and the arrival of a new musical resident, the charismatic Miss Primrose Trent, the choir is reborn.

Some see the choir as a chance to forget their troubles, others the chance to shine. Though for one villager, the choir is the perfect cover to destroy Chilbury's new-found harmony.

Uplifting and profoundly moving, *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* explores how a village can endure the onslaught of war, how monumental history affects small lives and how survival is as much about friendship as it is about courage. *Helen I*

Judith Lord writes in:

“Here is a puzzle keep your brain working, what do these 7 words have in common?”

Banana
Dresser
Grammar
Potato
Revive
Uneven
Assess



(And ‘no’ it is not that they have at least two double letters!.)”

ANSWER:
If you take the first letter, place it at the end of the word and then spell the word backwards, it will be the same word!

VIRTUAL GA BUSINESS MEETINGS

On Saturday 24 April, along with many other Unitarians, I participated virtually in the online AGM. This was a new way of conducting the annual business meetings and had taken a lot of planning and testing of systems to make it happen. On the Friday evening many Unitarians joined in an online anniversary service, and on the Saturday evening there was a Zoom social.

Delegates and observers came together on Zoom on Saturday morning for the business meetings. Each business meeting was preceded by a short act of worship, each led by a different person. During the business meeting delegates also had access to an online voting system.

The meeting was chaired ably and efficiently by Rev Celia Cartwright, who had by then served for two years as GA President, from her home in Kendal. She was supported by a small team of staff from Essex Hall and volunteers, who provided advice on the running of the meetings and technical support. As often happens during the face-to-face meetings, there were occasional procedural queries and challenges, and this time unforeseen technical hitches when it looked – for a little while – like we were going to have to postpone the final vote because of a gremlin in the online voting system (but it was soon sorted out and the voting proceeded). Despite several people being just as keen to speak for or against the motions, or simply to pass comment, we actually kept to time. There were regular breaks during the day, so we weren't too "Zoomed out" by the end of the afternoon session.

The procedural motions were all passed unanimously, including conveying thanks to Peter Hanley for his service as Treasurer. Peter has now stepped down and the search for a new Treasurer is underway (volunteers?).

Before debate could start, we had to decide which four of the six motions submitted would be discussed. The outcome of the vote is summarised below.

Summary		
1	Misuse of alcohol (Kendal)	50
2	Divestment from fossil fuel companies	98
3	Youth programme (Stockton)	93
4	Gender identity/transgender rights (FOY Society)	65
5	Code of Ethics (Findhorn Unitarian Network)	71
6	Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal (LDPA/The Peace Fellowship)	67

The following four motions were discussed and carried:

Code of Ethics

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches requests the Executive Committee (EC) to prepare and present a Code of Ethics for consideration by the 2022 Annual Meetings. This Code would be applicable to all who are recognised on the Roll of Ministers and Lay Pastors; to the GA Roll of Lay Leaders; and to those employed by the General Assembly. Once the code is adopted, the EC is further asked to consider recommending adoption of the Code by all Congregations, Affiliated Societies and Districts. To enable this outcome, the EC is asked to:

- appoint an ad hoc committee to prepare a Code of Ethics;

- call for submissions from member congregations, affiliated societies, districts, Ministers, Lay Leaders and others employed or engaged in the Unitarian movement to support this work; and

- ensure the Code contains appropriate mechanisms for addressing complaints, grievances and disciplinary matters.

Further, as the adoption and implementation of a Code of Ethics with a disciplinary mechanism will need to be consistent with established employment practices, the EC is asked to obtain a legal review to this end before presenting the Code of Ethics for adoption by the General Assembly.

Divestment from fossil fuel companies

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, mindful of the climate crisis, and of its object to "promote... the service of humanity and respect for all creation" requests that the Executive Committee:

- not invest General Assembly funds in companies whose total turnover is more than 10% derived from the extraction and/or supply of fossil fuels, including thermal coal, natural gas and oil;

- complete the divestment required to fulfil this decision by the time of the General Assembly Annual Meetings in 2025 at the latest;

- strongly encourage and support all Unitarian congregations and funds to do the same.

Youth Programme

This General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

- Reaffirms its strong support for an inspiring and innovative Unitarian Youth Programme for young

Unitarians in the United Kingdom.

Recognises that a thorough review of the Programme will be necessary 'post-pandemic', in full consultation with churches, districts, previous participants and other interested parties.

Commends the work the Youth Officer, Gavin Howell, is already carrying out to explore new ways of linking Young Unitarians together in the modern world.

Urges the Executive Committee to ensure that a programme of Youth events at the Nightingale Centre is put in place as soon as permitted by Covid-19 regulations, with particular emphasis on provision for 7 to 11 year olds, which has been the much-valued bedrock of the Unitarian Youth programme for over 50 years.

Interfaith Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal

That this General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches:

welcomes the foundation of the interfaith Red Cross Memorial Peace Appeal in aid of the Global Coronavirus Emergency Appeal, the Yemen Crisis Appeal and other urgent humanitarian and medical appeals in the spirit of the Charter for Compassion and relevant GA resolutions;

and, as one immediate and direct way to be a force for good in the world, urges Unitarian congregations, Districts and individuals to support this interfaith initiative and so work with the Religious Society of Friends and other faith communities in taking timely action to aid victims of this global Covid-19 pandemic and of wars, conflicts and natural disasters and to act decisively to help save human lives worldwide.

Other reports

You can see [a full list of the motions passed](#), including the procedural motions on the GA website.

Anne Mills was appointed President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2021-2022.

Rev Sue Woolley was appointed Vice-President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches for the year 2021-2022.

You can read a fuller report of the annual meetings in *The Inquirer* (15 May 2021), with a front cover photo of Anne Mills in her new chain of office. Two issues of the *Zette* were produced. Diane has PDFs (which could be printed out) if anyone would like to read them.

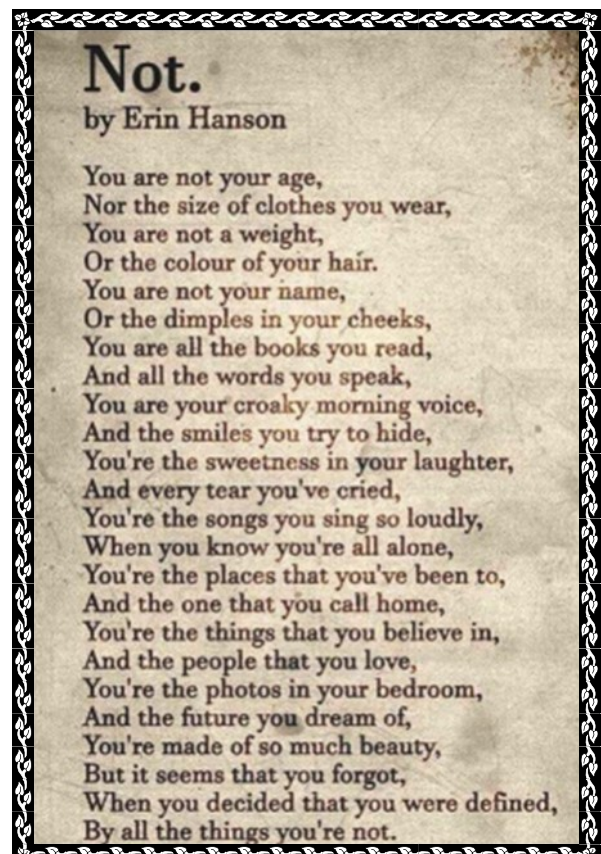
Diane Bennett, Delegate for Rochdale

CARTOON FOR JUNE

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Congratulations to those ministry students from Unitarian College who are due to complete their studies for this academic year — may all your hard work pay off!



EVENT DATES 2021

Date	EVENT
13 JUN	10.30am Sunday Worship — TBA
27 JUN	10.30am Sunday Worship — Robert Forman
11 JUL	10.30am Worship, Joyce Ashworth, followed by Congregational AGM and Jacob's Join
25 JUL	10.30am Sunday Worship — Chris Carr
8 AUG	10.30am Sunday Worship — Paul Hubbard
22 AUG	10.30am Sunday Worship — Garry Hammond
29 AUG	10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough
05 SEP	10.30am Sunday Worship — Chrissie Wilkie

PLEASE NOTE:

Unfortunately, special events and worship services at church can only go ahead subject to Covid restrictions in place at that time

Reminder —: Donation Envelopes!

A reminder from our Treasurer, John Illingworth, that if any of you have donations at home that you would have given during the offertory or in the collection box at church, could you please contact either John, Helen or myself, using the details below, and we will arrange to safely collect your donation. Many thanks!

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