



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

May
2023

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

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Flowers

Sunday 7th May 2023 Lynn Holland In Memory of Auntie Gladys
Sunday 14th May 2023 Margaret Salt
Sunday 21st May 2023 Flower Donation Vacancy
Sunday 28th May 2023 Flower Donation Vacancy
Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Shore

100 CLUB WINNERS

MAR 2023

1st	85	Margaret Shore
2nd	31	Jose Whyment
3rd	26	Katherine Schofield

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

APR 2023

1st	32	Joyce Ashworth
2nd	28	Helen Illingworth
3rd	18	Lynn Holland

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to May's edition of the Messenger. This month there are more bank holidays than we know what to do with, so why not spend some of that extra time reading your favourite church newsletter? Important services this month include our Anniversary Service on the 14th and the Whit Sunday Service on the 28th, where we will be selecting our new church charity for 2023-2025. Special Events this month also include our Film Night and launch of the new "Move & Munch" event (see centrefold for more info). Enjoy the Coronation and I'll be back in June—Ed



MUSIC NIGHT

Our second Music Night held on 21st April was a great success which I am sure everyone who attended enjoyed. Undercover2 were super, both their music and their banter with the audience. If you didn't make it, you missed a treat.



Our next Music Night, when we will be entertained by Voice of Heywood, a mixed vocal group, will be on Friday 30th June. Please make a note in your diary. There are around 60 choir members who meet every week under the directorship of Gavin Mitchell. Their repertoire ranges from the 1940's to modern classics. A summer evening supper of homemade scones, strawberries and cream will be served. Helen and Kate have been members of Voice for the past 8 years and it would be good if you could come along to support them.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

I can hardly believe it's been a month since I last wrote. Much has changed for me personally, expanded even, into a new experience. I'm sure we can all appreciate something of that when we look out of our windows at brighter skies, feel the warming sunshine on our skin and as our eyes are drawn to colour and blossom. The fuller experience of spring is something of joy, something to be celebrated.

And I think that was very much the feel at our Music Evening last month, the laughter, singing and dancing was a joy to be part of. When we come together, perhaps even when we don't feel we're up to it or what's on offer isn't for us, we connect with energies that are different to our own. Whatever our personal understandings of that energy, it can have such a positive effect and help carry us forward through all kinds of change.

This month we can look forward to some significant celebrations. The coronation of King Charles III's is something that potentially will touch the lives of every person in the UK, a big occasion. We also have our anniversary service on 14th May to look forward to, and I'm sure there will be other anniversaries, including birthdays scattered through the month. So many occasions and opportunities to connect, come together and expand our individual experiences. I hope this month you encounter an energy that inspires and encourages you, in whatever way you need.

With my love

Abi xx

NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



Flower Month Margaret Shore

MAY

Thur	04	17.00	5pm Tea
		18.30	WL Meeting—Speaker: Mrs J. Hicks “The Wonder & Wisdom of Children’s Literature”
Sun	07	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Mon	08	19.30	Book Circle at 1 Stanney Close, Milnrow
Sun	14	10.30	A nniversary Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	15	19.30	General Council meeting on Zoom
Sat	20	19.00	Film Night — “Mrs Harris goes to Paris”
Sun	21	10.30	S unday Service led by Laura Dobson
Wed	24	11.00	“Munch and Move” event — see poster and pg 10 for details
Sun	28	10.30	Whit Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie, see pg 9

Whit Sunday Church Charity Presentation – Sun 28th May



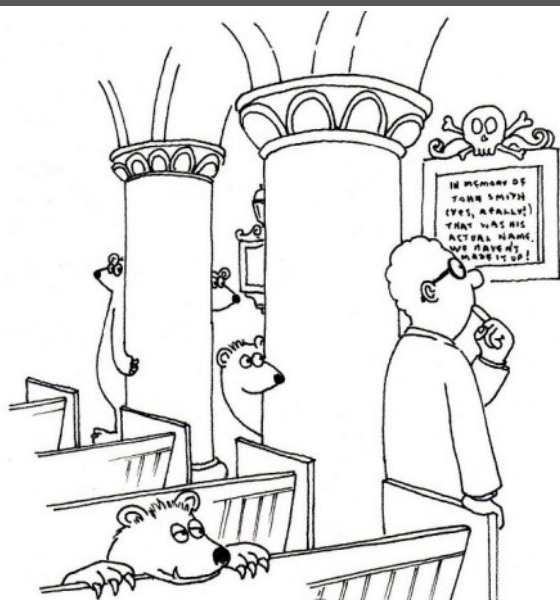
During the service, members of Church Council will give a presentation on our short-listed charity for 2023-2025: the Spring Hill Hospice. See pg 9 for more info.

“ABOUT PEOPLE”

It was with much sadness that we learned **Jean Westerman** had recently passed away. Our sincere condolences go to her husband, Colin, and daughter, Ann. For some years they have lived in Cheshire but continued a connection with Church.

It is good to be able to report that **Eunice Smith** is now home and is slowly making progress. She is so looking forward to some warmer Spring weather and the possibility of being able to venture out a little.

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



RON

*Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears*



WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2023

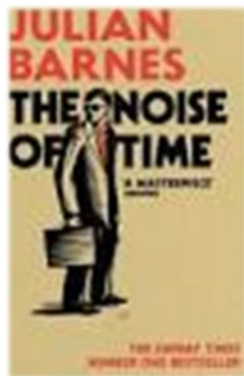
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth		22 Jan	26 Feb	02 Apr	07 May	11 Jun	16 Jul	20 Aug	24 Sep	29 Oct	03 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth		29 Jan	05 Mar	09 Apr	14 May	18 Jun	23 Jul	27 Aug	01 Oct	05 Nov	10 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	01 Jan	05 Feb	12 Mar	16 Apr	21 May	25 Jun	30 Jul	03 Sep	08 Oct	12 Nov	17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



The May meeting will be held at Lynne Hutton's home, 1 Stanney Close, Milnrow when we will be discussing *The Noise of Time* by Julian Barnes, a Sunday Times number one best seller. Here is a flavour: In May 1937 a man in his early thirties waits by the lift of a Leningrad apartment block. He waits all through the night, expecting to be taken away to the Big House. Any celebrity he has known in the previous decade is no use to him now. And few who are taken to the Big House ever return.



We are hoping it will be as good as *A Man in Moscow* by Amor Towles which is at present being filmed in Bolton! If you are interested in joining the group, please let Helen Illingworth know.

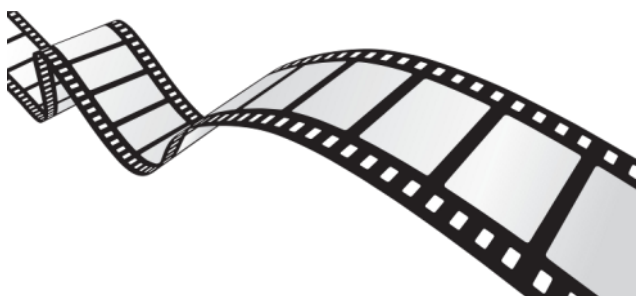


FILM NIGHT



Due to various other events, it's been a few months since we held a Film Night. If you haven't been to one yet, it's an informal evening, watching a good film followed by a tasty supper, all for £8.00. Hopefully *Mrs Harris Goes to Paris* will be entertaining with the lovely Lesley Manville playing Mrs Harris, a London house cleaner who thinks her

lonely life might turn around if she can become the owner of a Christian Dior gown. Please put your name on the list on the notice board with your choice of either meat and potato or cheese and onion pie.



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.

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.

MUNCH AND MOVE

This is a new Council backed initiative to get people moving again following Covid. The sessions are going to be 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 will be very welcome to help run these monthly events and also to take part. Please see Council members for more information.

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

Smile Lines

With the Local Elections in mind this month:

If you want to find out what's wrong with a man or woman, elect them to public office.

There are two sides to every question, and if you want to be popular, you take both.

The fact that Local Councils are no better and no worse than the county as a whole, is something to worry about.

GA 2023 - STAVERTON

GA MEETINGS HIGHLIGHTS

It seemed strange indeed to be attending Meetings where no Motions had been submitted for discussion. However, an Emergency Motion on the Illegal Migration Bill was received and discussed on the final morning. This Bill will remove rights to protection in the UK for vulnerable adults and children seeking safe haven.

The Motion asked our Chief Officer to join with other Church Leaders in publicly opposing the Bill as it stands. It also called on Unitarian congregations and individuals to raise these concerns with their MPs before the 3rd Reading of the Bill on 25 April 2023.

The Motion also called on the British Government to establish safe and accessible routes for all those seeking asylum. **The Motion was carried overwhelmingly.**

A theme running through the Meetings this year was that of Justice. The Anniversary Service preacher was Rev Winnie Gordon, Minister serving Unitarian New Meeting in central Birmingham. The singing was hearty and the central message was that we need to show up to fight for justice, because unless people like us care about this a great deal more, then nothing is going to improve.

The Penal & Social Action Panel slot continued this theme. The very convincing speaker, Chris Daw KC, a leading criminal defence barrister, who has represented clients in some of the most serious and headline-grabbing cases explained why only radical solutions could deal with our broken and failing justice system – a system at breaking point.

The beautiful and serene Quiet Room, prepared by Kingswood congregation, provided a brief haven for me in what seemed like tightly packed meetings. I was also fortunate to have a bedroom which overlooked the golf course, so a pleasant start to each morning.

Joyce



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
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.

Interested in learning more?



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

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



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