



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

August
2023

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 137

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PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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AUGUST Flowers

Sunday 6th August 2023 Flower Donation Vacancy
Sunday 13th August 2023 Flower Donation Vacancy
Sunday 20th August 2023 Margaret Shore In Memory of her Family
Sunday 27th August 2023 Margaret Salt In Memory of her Family
Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce Ashworth, Margaret Shore, & Helen Illingworth

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



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.”

100 CLUB WINNERS

JULY 2023

1st	72	Judith Lord
2nd	44	Ann Shepherd
3rd	71	Margaret Salt

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to August's edition of the monthly Messenger newsletter from Clover Street.



This month's important announcements include an early reminder for the next Music Night (Fri 8th Sept, pg 8 for details) where Hindle Wakes will be performing; an important NELUM meeting in Blackpool on Sat 5th Aug at 11.30am; and the next Special Events meeting at church on Tues 15th Aug.

Of course this is in addition to all the latest church news and events — so get stuck in! —Ed

MESSAGE FROM ROCHDALE FOODBANK

Thank you for taking one of our FoodGiftBoxes and joining our growing network of FoodGiftBox Holders across the borough of Rochdale.



We are almost totally reliant on the goodwill, generosity and kindness of people living or working in Rochdale to allow Rochdale Foodbank to fulfil its purpose of ensuring that anyone who finds themselves without food in a crisis, can get a substantial food parcel quickly and freely - as long as they are referred by a reputable Agency.

So what you are doing is a crucial element of the Foodbank offering.

To put it in context, we are providing Food Parcels to around 450 households every month - giving out around 6000 kg of food. If you can picture a typical bag of food shopping weighs about 5kg, that's a lot of shopping! And it's every month.

You can find a list of items to collect on our website rochdale.foodbank.org.uk, but any ambient food is welcome: cereal, milk, sugar, tea, coffee, snacks, soup, veg, beans, tinned tomatoes, tinned potatoes, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, custard, rice pudding, pot noodles, fruit juice, tinned fruit - chocolate treats are good too!

We also like some toiletries - soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, feminine hygiene products.

Try to collect smaller packages of each - bulk packs are difficult to put in to a parcel and our clients have to carry them home!

If you have any questions, please get in touch and we will do our best to help you.

We have a team of around 12 volunteer drivers who are waiting to hear that your FoodGiftBox is full.

Keep on collecting!

Susan, Iain, Cath and the team at Rochdale Foodbank

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,
After the amount of rain we had last month it's hard to believe that further south, other countries were having to cope with such extreme temperatures. Both are just weather though, but to have a balance of both would probably be good for all of us. I hope by the time you read this, there might have been some shift towards that, so that summer continues in a more manageable way for everyone.



We can't ignore calls such as these though, to be mindful of the ways we are impacting the environment. Neither can we ignore the anxiety that this and the many other issues of our time create. So we also perhaps need to live in the moment, so that we're not overwhelmed by everything. Is it really possible to do both, be mindful and live in the moment? I think so, and a good dose of humour often helps, so with this in mind I share this delightful poem with you. Even if you're not a 'dog person' I hope it brings a smile.



Golden Retrievals by Mark Doty

Fetch? Balls and sticks capture my attention seconds at a time. Catch? I don't think so. Bunny, tumbling leaf, a squirrel who's—oh joy—actually scared. Sniff the wind, then

I'm off again: muck, pond, ditch, residue of any thrillingly dead thing. And you? Either you're sunk in the past, half our walk, thinking of what you never can bring back,

or else you're off in some fog concerning—tomorrow, is that what you call it? My work: to unsnare time's warp (and woof!), retrieving, my haze-headed friend, you. This shining bark,

a Zen master's bronzy gong, calls you here, entirely, now: bow-wow, bow-wow, bow-wow.

Whatever captures your attention, may the rest of your summer days be spent mindfully in the moment!
With my love

Abi

NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



Flowers lovingly arranged by
Joyce Ashworth, Margaret Shore,
& Helen Illingworth

AUGUST

Thur	03	17.00	Women's League Meeting
		18.30	Speaker: Sue Evans 'Life in the Falklands'
Sat	05	11.30	NELUM meeting at Blackpool Church
Sun	06	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	13	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Lynn Readette
Tue	15	19.30	Special Events meeting at Church
Sun	20	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	21	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Wed	23	11.00	Move & Munch Workshop
Sun	27	10.30	S unday service led by Keith Anderson

Please note the date of the above NELUM meeting in Blackpool on Saturday 5th August at 11.30am. If you wish to raise any points, please contact either Helen Illingworth or Joyce Ashworth.



"ABOUT PEOPLE"

Maud Elgey would like to thank those who sent good wishes for her 100th Birthday. She says "I never thought I would be around at such an advanced age. However, I hope I'm able to keep my mobility (slow as it is) it helps the family." I send my very best wishes to everyone, especially those who remember me.

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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

One item that was mistakenly left-off the agenda for the recent Congregational AGM, was a question as to whether our service on Remembrance Sunday (12th November in 2023) should remain at the current start time of 2pm or revert to the 10.30am start of a normal service. No decision has yet been made on this, but GC would like to hear feedback from the congregation before any changes are made in advance of Remembrance Sunday this year. You can get in touch with any member of church council or Rev Abi, using the contact details on the inside front cover, or see one of us after service on a Sunday.



Interested in learning more?



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

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

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2023

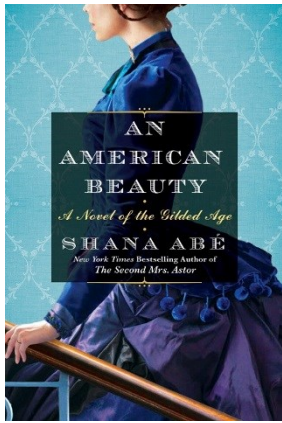
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth		22 Jan	26 Feb	02 Apr	07 May	11 Jun	16 Jul	20 Aug	24 Sep	29 Oct	03 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth		29 Jan	05 Mar	09 Apr	14 May	18 Jun	23 Jul	27 Aug	01 Oct	05 Nov	10 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	01 Jan	05 Feb	12 Mar	16 Apr	21 May	25 Jun	30 Jul	03 Sep	08 Oct	12 Nov	17 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	08 Jan	12 Feb	19 Mar	23 Apr	28 May	02 Jun	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 book of the month is *An American Beauty* by Shana Abé. Spanning New York's opulent Gilded Age and inspired by one of the most charismatic, complex and forward-thinking women of her time, this sweeping tale from best selling author of *The Second Mrs Astor* tells the astonishing story of Arabella Huntington, who defied both her origins and the constraints of the era to become the wealthiest woman in America.



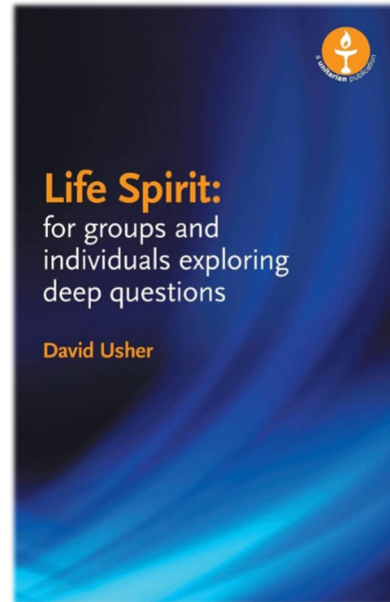
Due to holidays we are meeting a week later than usual on Monday, 21st August.

Helen

LAZEST FROM UNINEWS!

BOOK OF THE MONTH: 'LIFE SPIRIT'

For groups and individuals exploring deep questions by Rev. David Usher



What gives meaning to your life? Is there a God? Is it possible to be spiritual without any concept of God? Are there any moral absolutes? Can you be spiritual all by yourself? ... and other big questions! An opportunity for you to explore the big questions and what you believe and why. It is also about what you do with your answers and how your life can be spiritually enriched. *Life Spirit* is for use in groups as well as by Individuals. Lindsey Press (2015) ISBN 978-0-85319-085-1, 129pp, Softback, RRP £8.

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.

REV MARGARET BARR (1899-1973)

This August marks fifty years since her death, and the legacy of her work for the people and churches of the Khasi Hills in India lives on today. Volunteers Howard Hague and John Hewerdine, with the assistance of others, have put together a worship resource and information pack about the life and work of this remarkable Unitarian. It is available <https://www.unitarian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Margaret-Barr-Worship-Resource-Pack.pdf> and it is hoped by the volunteer team that congregations and worship leaders may wish to mark this anniversary, using some of the information provided.

Important
DATE!

Important
DATE!

FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC Clover Street Unitarians

SINGING COUNTRY, BLUES & POP

HINDLE WAKES

Friday 8th September - 7.30pm



£10 inc. pie & peas
(£5 for under 12's)

Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

Important
DATE!

Important
DATE!

HALF LIFE

by Gibran Kahlil Gibran

“Do not love
half lovers.
Do not
entertain half
friends.
Do not
indulge in
works of the
half talented.
Do not live
half a life and
do not die a
half death.



If you choose silence, then be silent.
When you speak, do so until you are finished.
Do not silence yourself to say something
And do not speak to be silent.
If you accept, then express it bluntly,
Do not mask it.

If you refuse, then be clear about it
for an ambiguous refusal
is but a weak acceptance.

Do not accept half a solution.
Do not believe half truths.
Do not dream half a dream.
Do not fantasize about half hopes.

Half a drink will not quench your thirst,
Half a meal will not satiate your hunger.
Half the way will get you no where,
Half an idea will bear you no results.

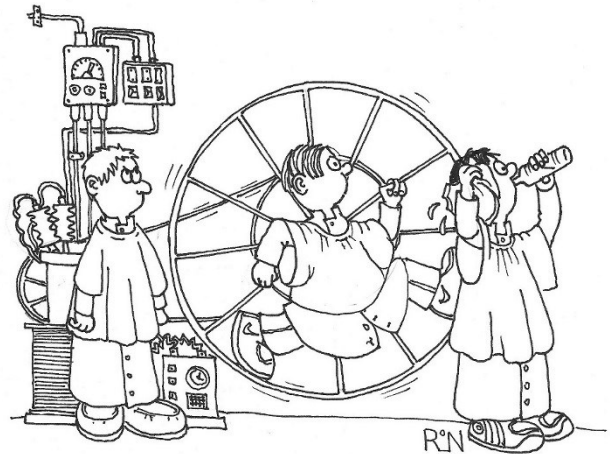
Your other half is not the one you love.
It is you in another time
yet in the same space;
It is you when you are not.

Half a life is a life you didn't live,
A word you have not said,
A smile you postponed,
A love you have not had,
A friendship you did not know.

To reach and not arrive,
Work and not work,
Attend only to be absent.
What makes you a stranger to them
closest to you and they strangers to you?

The half is a mere moment of inability
but you are able for you are not half a being.
You are a whole that exists
to live a life not half a life.”

CARTOON FOR AUGUST



When the solar panels weren't working,
there was Plan "B"

Thanks to John Illingworth for his continued efforts on our building maintenance — such workarounds are not yet necessary!

7			2	1			3
	8	3	5				
	4						
	9	1		4			
	6					2	
			8		1	5	
					6		
			3	8	7		
3			2	9			4

SMILE LINES

We live in a free country where a man can say what he thinks, as long as he isn't afraid of his wife, his neighbours, his employer, his customers or the government.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Advice to visiting preacher: “You'll 'ave to shout very loud in this 'ere church. The agnostics are somefink terrible!”

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—Blue Room
	■ 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.

Messenger by Email?

Reduce your carbon footprint and get your copy in colour by subscribing to our email service, its free - rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com



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