



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

October
2023

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 138

Issue 1645



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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Council Members -

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Flowers

<p>Sunday 1st October 2023 Diane Bennett In Memory of Family & Friends</p>
<p>Sunday 8th October 2023 Vacant</p>
<p>Sunday 15th October 2023 Di & George Scaife To Celebrate their Wedding Anniversary</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd October 2023 Vacant</p>
<p>Sunday 29th October 2023 Vacant</p>
<p>Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth</p>

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

SEPT 2023

1st	18	Lynn Holland
2nd	98	Elaine Schofield
3rd	77	Diane Bennett

Congratulations
Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to the October Edition of The Messenger Newsletter. Firstly, we are sad to bring you the news of the death of Eunice Smith, who was such an established and respected member of our church community for so many years. You can read more about Eunice's life in our centrefold, together with details of her funeral for those who wish to attend. She will be very-much missed. Looking ahead, we have our next Music Night on 17th, when The Earthquakers will be performing for us. For all the details of our up-coming monthly events, including book circle and the film night, please see the calendar. That's all for now — Ed



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends

It really is good to be back with you again.

As you know, Geoff and I have been away for a couple of weeks, the first of which was spent in



Dumfries and Galloway, staying in a bothy (cabin) on the edge of Loch Ken. It was mostly a time to step back from 'ordinary' life and to make space for the life that goes on around about, while we are so busy with all that we do. I read, probably only a little more than I do normally, but I read slower and with more attention. I watched. I watched water (I swam in it too!). I watched clouds form and disperse. I watched birds - so many birds, including magnificent Red Kites. I found space to be present to the day as it began, be that in mist laden hues of autumn, moody grey clouds or the inviting warmth of a sun who's energy lifts the dark of night as it beacons its return at the day's end. It really was a time for immersion in all that brings me closer to 'real' life; life with its never ending cycles of coming and going, of fullness and shedding and of letting go into another incarnation of the essence of life itself.

We are part of that same cycle too, and the wonder and mystery of it all, when we fully embrace it will bring us our deepest joys as well as our deepest sorrows.

As I reflect on this connection I remember Eunice Smith and give thanks for a life lived well and lived long.

Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with her family.

With my love
Abi xx



FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC Clover Street Unitarians

The Earthquakers

Friday 17th November 7.30pm



This great band combine the soul and grit of English traditional music with the passion of the protest song and the deep feeling of country and blues. For many years The Earthquakers have been making audiences smile, think and move their feet...

All this and good food too. Please bring your own bottle (or two?).



£10 (inc. refreshments)
Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door

Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

Come along and support our final Music Night of the year when folk group The Earthquakers will be entertaining us. There will be a potato pie/cheese and onion pie and pea supper and tea and coffee. Remember to bring a bottle and invite a friend or two!



NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD

Flowers lovingly arranged by
Joyce Ashworth & Helen Ilingworth

OCTOBER

Sun	01	10.30	H ARVEST SERVICE conducted by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Thur	05		MONTHLY TEA and WOMEN'S LEAGUE MEETING CANCELLED
Sun	08	10.30	S unday Service conducted by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	15	10.30	S unday Service conducted by Graeme Pilbrough
		11.00	GA President conducting worship at Chorley Unitarian Chapel
Mon	16	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	22	10.30	S unday Service conducted by TBA
Wed	25	11.00	Move and Munch session
Sun	29	10.30	S unday Service conducted by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	30	19.15	Nelum meeting at Stand Chapel

REV. PENNY JOHNSON

We are sorry to announce the death of the **Reverend Penny Johnson**. Penny served as minister to the West Midland Group (1976-81) and then to Dean Row and Hale Barns chapels (1981-98). The cremation will take place at Macclesfield Crematorium on Friday 6th October at 1.15pm. It will be followed at 2.30pm by a service to celebrate her life at Dean Row Chapel, Wilmslow. Following that there will be tea in the Hall. If the chapel car park is full, attendees may park at the Unicorn Inn, in Dean Row, which is a short walk from the chapel.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"



It is with sadness that we record the recent death of **Eunice Smith**. She was such an established and respected member of our church community, performing numerous important and responsible roles during her lifetime, including that of Church Trustee. Much of her contribution centred around the Women's League, both locally and nationally. She served as Rochdale Branch President, Manchester District President and Treasurer, national President and Project Treasurer. Eunice also had a keen interest in Bridge, organising and catering for many Bridge Drives at church. Something she will long be remembered for is the way in which kept in regular contact with so many people she met and worked with during her life.

Although she struggled with several health issues over the past year or so, she undoubtedly led a long, active and very fulfilled life. We will miss her presence greatly and extend our love and sincere condolences to Stuart, Trevor and their families at this difficult time.

Eunice's funeral will be at Rochdale Crematorium on Thursday 5th October at 3.20 pm. Stuart, Trevor and their families will be pleased to see you there but if you are unable to attend please see the link below to the webcast. You will be able to watch the service live or following editing three days later, please visit <https://watch.obitus.com/su5dQR>

Username: zagu2669 Password: 440417

If you need any more information, please contact Helen Ilingworth.

We are pleased to report that although **Dorothy Jones** is still housebound following her hip replacement, she is now progressing well and we really look forward to having her back amongst us. She will be pleased to pass the time with visitors but do ring prior to visiting as she is receiving physiotherapy and other treatments at present.

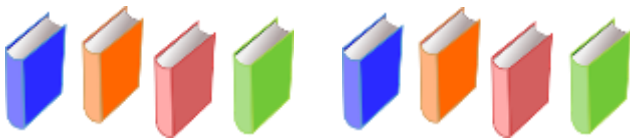
WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2023

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 Ilingworth		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 Ilingworth & 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

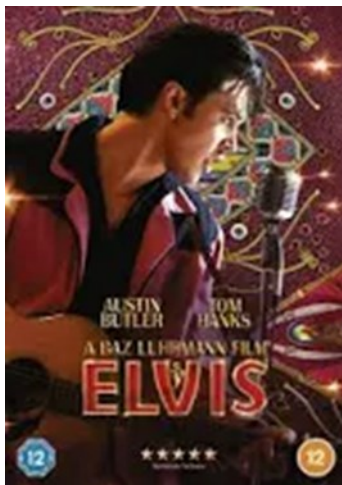
BOOK CIRCLE



Following the historical read *Tsarina (Catherine the Great)* by Ellen Alpsten we move to a contemporary novel this month, *The Last Concerto* by Sara Alexander. Beginning in 1968 and set in Sardinia and Rome, as the title suggests, the theme is about the all-consuming passion for music. The preface by Maya Angelou gives a hint of what is to come: 'Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl by back to loneliness'. I'm looking forward to what I hope will be a lighter read and will report back next month. Helen I

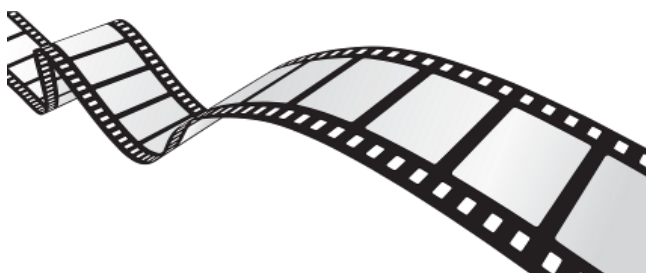


FILM NIGHT



For our next film night we will be showing *Elvis*, a 2022 epic biographical drama. The film explores the life and music of Elvis Presley seen through the prism of his complicated relationship with his enigmatic manager, Colonel Tom Parker. If you would like to attend, please put your

name on the notice board list with your menu choice – potato pie or cheese and onion. At £7 for an excellent film, interval ice cream and hot supper with good company I don't think you can beat it!



WOMEN'S LEAGUE PROJECT LUNCH

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the preparations for and consumption of the Project Lunch which raised an amazing £550 for Women's Aid. Everyone who attended seemed to enjoy the event, quite a few booking ahead for our Christmas Lunch on Saturday 2nd December. As we are limiting this lunch to 50 diners, tickets are already on sale and can be obtained from Helen.



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH 10TH DEC

Following the success of last year's Christmas lunch a reservation has been made again at Park Farm, Ramsbottom after morning service on Sunday 10th December. For now, please put the date in your diary as arrangements have yet to be finalised as to menu, price, time etc.



SMILE LINES...

What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man in front of me asked the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stands for 'What would Jesus do?', and that the idea is to get people to consider this question when making decisions.

The man pondered a moment, then replied, "I don't think He'd pay £17.99 for that hat."



ONE HUNDRED CLUB

A Reminder

To all of you loyal 100 Club subscribers! Renewal letters will be going out over the next week. The 100 Club is another great Clover Street tradition, and well worth supporting. As well as giving yourself the chance to grab some prize money (1st £30, 2nd £15 and 3rd £5), you are also supporting your church financially by taking part.

It costs just £12 per number to enter, with a draw taking place (usually) once a month. And 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.



Inquirer & Messenger Subscriptions:

If you wish to continue your subscription to The Messenger or The Inquirer next year, please cut out, fill-in and return the renewal slips opposite to:
**Paul Hubbard, Rochdale Unitarian Church,
 Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP.**

Please also enclose payment (cheques must be payable to 'Rochdale Unitarian Church', otherwise the bank will not accept them).

If you need replacement slips, or any further info, please email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com or phone **01706 648461**. Many thanks — Ed.

The INQUIRER



The Monthly Messenger

CARTOON FOR OCTOBER



The harvest produce was taken to the old people's bungalows

MESSENGER & INQUIRER ORDER FORM

It is essential that this form is included with your subscription. Please fill in the details and hand or post to:-
 Rochdale Unitarian Church, Clover Street, OL12 6TP
Cheques payable to 'Rochdale Unitarian Church'
Or send via Bacs. Sort Code: 40-52-40 A/C 0006-0040

Messenger (volume 138-9) - Jan to Dec 2024	£6.00
Postage if required 12 issues	£8.00
Inquirer - (delivered to church) Jan to Dec 2024	£25.00

Please deliver to me each month

_____ copies of the Messenger	£
_____ copies of the Inquirer	£
_____ Postage if required	£
Total	£

Please write your name and address clearly below

Name _____

Address _____

Interested in learning more?



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

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

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



Rochdale Unitarian Church
Clover Street
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 01706 648461 (voicemail)

NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION
 COPY DEADLINE - 22 OCT
 ISSUE DATE - 29 OCT