



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

March
2022

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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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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MARCH



Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 6th March 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Elaine Whyment	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Mum & Dad	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 13th March 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Edna & John Wood	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of June & Vernon	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 20th March 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Kathryn, Peter & Tom Harforth	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Margaret & Geoffrey Jackson	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 27th March 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Helen & John Illingworth	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Joyce, Douglas & Brenda	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by	* * * * *
* * * * *	Joyce Ashworth	* * * * *
* * * * *	and	* * * * *
* * * * *	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



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.

JOYCE'S KITCHEN



I am heavily into parsnips at present and Diane Bennett shared this delicious recipe with me recently Give it a go! Sorry for the somewhat strange way of describing ingredients and method!!!

CREAMY PARSNIP, LEEK AND WHITE BEAN CRUMBLE

Ingredients (Serves 4)

6 medium leeks (approx 1.5 lbs), trimmed, washed, and cut into 0.75 inch lengths
4 medium parsnips (approx 1.5 lbs) – 2 roughly chopped into 0.75 inch lengths and 2 coarsely grated
3 tbsps olive oil
Small bunch of thyme - leaves only
1 cup (200 ml) crème fraiche
2 cloves garlic, peeled and finely chopped
Zest of a lemon – unwaxed
1 tsp cider vinegar
Half cup (125 ml) vegetable stock
1 x 15 oz can “navy” beans/ any white beans, drained and rinsed

For crumble topping:

0.75 cup / 75g jumbo rolled oats
3 tbsps / 40g cold butter – cubed, or olive oil
0.5 cup / 60g all-purpose flour
2 tbsps / 30g pumpkin seeds
0.25 / Parmesan cheese, finely grated

To serve:

Crusty bread and lemon-dressed salad or greens

Method:

Heat oven to 200C.
Toss leeks, chopped parsnips in the olive oil in a casserole or roasting pan.
Sprinkle over, half the thyme leaves and season well.
Roast for 35 mins or until leeks are soft and buttery and parsnips soft all through.
Meanwhile mix all but 50g of the grated parsnips in a bowl with crème fraiche, garlic, lemon zest, cider vinegar, stock and beans.
Adjust seasoning if necessary.
Make crumble topping in separate bowl.
Rub oats, butter/oil, flour and pumpkin seeds together with remaining grated parsnips and thyme leaves until resembles chunky breadcrumbs.
Chill in fridge until needed.
Once leeks/parsnips are softened, remove from oven, toss through the bean and crème fraiche mixture, then tip back in pan.
Remove crumble topping from fridge, sprinkle it over the filling, sprinkle with the cheese and return to oven for 30 mins.

TIP: you can make the crumble ahead and chill for up to 24 hrs before baking.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Spring is just around the corner and in celebration I offer this poem from my heart...

Like the crocus bulb
pushing on through
Lent in truth is life

Awakening to the promise
beyond the darkest cold
A stirring in the ground
of being

Reaching towards
the warmth of sun
Life is begun
from the hostile
and the harsh

Cups of royal colours
and trumpeters of gold
Welcome your spring
of birth

Give up, refrain
but don't lose heart
For lent is life
Is the truth.

As we bid farewell to snowdrops, daffodils and croci take their place announcing the arrival of Spring, and what a welcome sight they will be. March sees the shift in the energies of earth, bringing forth hope and life for the coming seasons.

The Christian calendar will also observe Lent this month. Perhaps as well as its tradition for giving up something, we could also see the month leading to Easter as an invitation to nurture all that is alive in us.

With my love Abi xx



RUC NEWS AND EVENTS



Flower Month
Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

MARCH

Sun	06	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Charles VanDenBroeder
Mon	07	19.15	NELUM meeting at Stand Chapel
Sun	13	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	14	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	20	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Sat	26	24.00	CLOCKS FORWARD 1 HOUR
Sun	27	10.30	M othering Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	28	19.30	General Council Meeting (Zoom)

APRIL

Sun	03	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Celia Cartwright
Sun	10	10.30	S unday Service led by Karyl Cross from Walmsley Chapel



“ABOUT PEOPLE”

Greta Henson has a provisional move date of 3 March. We're all delighted that you are moving to sheltered accommodation in Moss Row, Norden Greta and hope you will settle quickly and be very happy in your new surroundings: Flat 16, Moss Row, Raven Street, Norden, Rochdale OL11 5TS. Greta will be delighted to receive visitors once she settled. Coincidentally, her flat is immediately above the flat Margaret Greenwood occupied.

It's good to know that **Daryl Latham** is now home again following a short stay in the Hospice in order to monitor his medication. He is still in some pain and not well enough at present to undergo further chemotherapy. Our good wishes go to both him and to Hilary.

Sadly **Pat Chippendale** is to remain in Belvoir House, Halifax Rd permanently as she is suffering acute dementia. It is clearly the best place for her where she can be monitored and cared for. Anyone wishing to visit must do a lateral flow test and report the result to the NHS Covid line so the result can be shown prior to entering the Home. It is also necessary to make an appointment before visiting – Tel No 377925. To leave the Home, the last 4 digits of the Tel No should be used on the keypad by the door. Do please ensure the door locks after exit.

We are pleased to learn that **Ann Shepherd** is now home from a short stay in hospital with a digestive problem. She is now being treated for a few connected symptoms. Hope you are soon back amongst us Ann, like the trusty warrior you are!

Lovely to see **Madge Rimmer** in church recently. Hopefully as restrictions of all kinds are shortly to be lifted we will see much more of her. Madge do give one of us in the Norden/Bamford area a ring if you need a lift to church.

Diane Williamson noticed a vacancy in the Flower Rota for the 27th February 2022. This being the 10th Anniversary of the death of her Father, Bob Ogden, she and her brother David have adopted this date for their Flower Donation, "in Memory of Deanna and Bob"

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2022

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	02 Jan	06 Feb	13 Mar	17 Apr	22 May	26 Jun	31 Jul	04 Sep	09 Oct	13 Nov	18 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	09 Jan	13 Feb	20 Mar	24 Apr	29 May	03 Jul	07 Aug	11 Sep	16 Oct	20 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	16 Jan	20 Feb	27 Mar	01 May	05 Jun	10 Jul	14 Aug	18 Sep	23 Oct	27 Nov	
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	23 Jan	27 Feb	03 Apr	08 May	12 Jun	17 Jul	21 Aug	25 Sep	30 Oct	04 Dec	
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	30 Jan	06 Mar	10 Apr	15 May	19 Jun	24 Jul	28 Aug	02 Oct	06 Nov	11 Dec	

BOOK CIRCLE

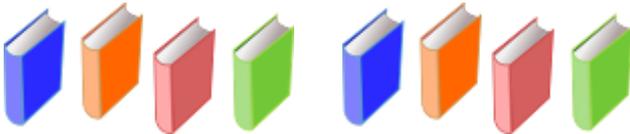


As restrictions have relaxed in recent weeks members have decided to meet at 5 Bagnall Close once again. It will be good to get back to normal although we are a little limited for space so can't at the moment invite new members.

We are reading *The Garden of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng for our March meeting. Self-exiled from imperial Japan after a dispute with his employer Emperor Hirohito, Aritomo settles in the hilltops of Malaya and begins to build Yugiri, a "garden of evening mists". Into his life comes independent Yun Ling, daughter of a prosperous Chinese Malaysian family, and the sole survivor of a prisoner-of-war camp. It is 1951, and she is a prosecutor of war criminals and a hater of all things Japanese – except one. Her request to Aritomo is simple: build a garden for her sister who perished in the camp, and who loved the gardens of Kyoto. The taciturn Aritomo is not in the habit of pleasing anyone or apologising for his country's crimes. Instead he offers to teach Yun Ling the art of Japanese gardening, for two years.



Helen I



March 26th

Please note that the previously advertised Spring Lunch has unfortunately been cancelled.



Council are currently looking at a possible alternative event around May.

Retiring Collection



As the pandemic measures draw to an end, we have opted to retain the collection boxes at the back of church for those who do not make regular donations by standing order.

We will review this arrangement in the months to come. But for now, there will be no offertory collected during the main service.

REFLECTION

THE VOLUNTEER ORGANIST W B Glenroy (1893)

(This Victorian parlour song was allegedly based on a real incident at a mission in New York in the late 19th century.)

The preacher in the village church one Sunday morning said:

Our organist is ill today, will someone play instead?

An anxious look crept o'er the face of every person there,

As eagerly they watched to see who'd fill the vacant chair.

A man then staggered down the aisle whose clothes were old and torn;

How strange a drunkard seemed to me, in church on Sunday morn.

But as he touched the organ keys without a single word,

The melody that followed was the sweetest ever heard.

Each eye shed tears within that church, the strongest men grew pale;

The organist in melody had told his own life's tale.

The sermon of the preacher was no lesson to compare

With that of life's example who sat in the organ chair;

And when the service ended not a soul had left a seat,

Except the poor old organist who started towards the street.

Along the aisle and out the door, he slowly walked away:

The preacher rose, and softly said, "Good brethren, let us pray."

The scene was one I'll ne'er forget as long as I may live,

And just to see it o'er again, all earthly wealth I'd give;

The congregation all amazed, the preacher old and grey,

The organ and the organist who volunteered to play.

Thank you, Ewa – we really appreciate you!!



We are delighted to announce that three candidates have been accepted for Unitarian ministerial training in 2022. Hannah Stephenson, Francis Elliot Wright and Robert Foreman will be studying at Unitarian College for their training.

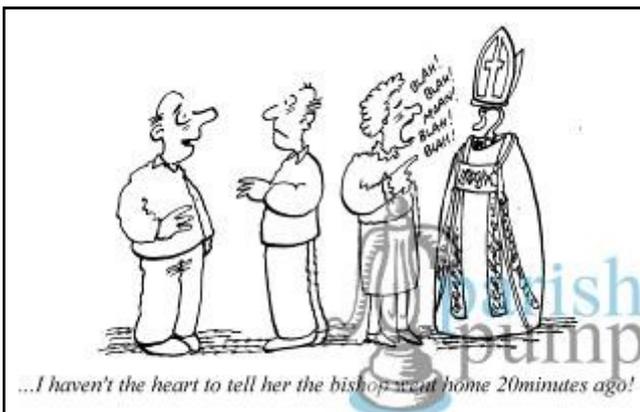
Training will consist of a blend of Unitarian College residentials, study of academic theology, congregation-based placements, online modules and other courses.

Helen Mason, Director of Unitarian College said: "Unitarian college is delighted to welcome Francis, Hannah and Rob to our student body and we look forward to walking with them as they embark on their ministry journeys."

Rev Ant Howe, Ministry Tutor of Unitarian College, who will have primary responsibility for coordinating training said: "I am excited to welcome three excellent and talented new students who will – in time – become valued colleagues. I look forward to working with all three over the next few years as Unitarian College helps them prepare for professional Ministry within the Unitarian & Free Christian Churches."

MARCH CARTOON

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Why God made mums

These were the answers given by some seven- year-olds...

Why did God make mothers?

She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.

How did God make mothers?

I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of mean.

Why did God give you to your mother, and not to some other mum?

We're related.

What kind of little girl was your mum?

I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

What did your mum need to know about your dad before she married him?

She needed to check out his bank account, to make sure he could buy her clothes.

Why did your mum marry your dad?

My grandma says that no one will ever know.

Who's the boss at your house?

Dad was, until Mum found what he had written on Facebook about Granny.

What's the difference between mums & dads?

Mums work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.

What does your mum do in her spare time?

She takes my brother to football and my sister to violin lessons.

What would it take to make your mum perfect?

On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.

If you could change one thing about your mum, what would it be?

She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.

**

And Finally...

A reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman.

"And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked.

"That's easy," she said. "No peer pressure."

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
	■ 4.00-6.00pm 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
	■ 7.00-9.00pm R'dale Ramblers-Green Room
Thur	■ 11.00am-12.00pm L4L Zumba—Main Hall
Sat	■ 7.30-8.30pm Rebecca Kanku—Blue Room
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	

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."

Messenger by Email?

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Interested in learning more?



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



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