



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

July
2023

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Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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PASTORAL TEAM

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Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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JULY



Flowers

Sunday 2nd July 2023
Joyce Ashworth
In Memory of Harold
Sunday 9th July 2023
Val Nuttall
In Memory of Mum & Dad's Wedding Anniversary
Sunday 16th July 2023
Flower Donation Vacancy
Sunday 23rd July 2023
Maude Elgey
In Memory of Phillip
Sunday 30th July 2023
Flower Donation Vacancy

100 CLUB WINNERS		
MAY 2023		
1st	66	Margaret Shore
2nd	1	Joyce Ashworth
3rd	36	Nola Illingworth
Congratulations		
Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5		

100 CLUB WINNERS		
JUNE 2023		
1st	84	Edna Wood
2nd	16	Jackie White
3rd	51	Colin Westerman
Congratulations		
Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5		

Hello Dear Reader, welcome to July's edition of the Messenger!

The sun is actually shining as I type this (I know, unusual for Lancashire summer) so let's hope it continues.



Don't forget that new Move & Munch sessions are continuing at church this month on Wednesday 26th from 11am in the hall. It's a great way to keep active without over-exerting yourselves (and there's a light lunch to follow too). The other big event this month is the Congregational AGM on Sunday 9th after worship. Put it in your diaries! See you in Aug –Ed

ROCHDALE FOOD BANK



As mentioned in last month's Messenger, alongside Springhill Hospice, our main charity for the next two years, we are collecting donations for the Rochdale Foodbank. A box has been put in the porch for your donations which will be taken to the Foodbank on a regular basis. The following items are needed:

Tinned and packet foods, milk (UHT and powdered), tea and coffee, baby foods and nappies, hygiene products, toiletries and household cleaning items. The Foodbank is also desperate for shopping bags. Thank you for your generosity.



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

Just as I sat down to write, thunder rumbled overhead and the first signs of a downpour splattered against the window pane. The air that was so heavy a few minutes ago became a little lighter, and oh how grateful I was for that. I often wonder at times like this; does the ground also breathe a sigh of relief as it welcomes the softening rain into its depths? I can only imagine what a relief it must be, especially having been baked hard by so much sunshine, and I am reminded that "Thunderstorms are as much our friends as the sunshine."

And between the busyness of our Summer Lunch, Move and Munch Workshop and Friday Music Night last month, the sun wasn't the only thing that had been busy baking! So to all those who catered and for all those who enjoyed their efforts, thank you for your support.

Whatever the event might be, behind all of them is the hope that we might benefit the wider community. So if you can't come yourself but know someone who might enjoy something that's on offer, please let them know - you know they'll always get a warm welcome with us.

That said, July looks to be a quieter month and I'm sure that will be of benefit too. I hope you enjoy some restful summer days, even if they are getting a little shorter now. And if your thoughts are turning to holidays or time with family, I wish you much enjoyment and fun.

I'm certainly looking forward to our niece staying for her first holiday with us, not that I need an excuse to find creative things to do and go messing about in water!

Wishing you all every blessing.

With my love

Abi

NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



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

JULY

Sun	02	10.30	Sunday Service led by Helen Longworth
Thur	06	17.00	Afternoon Tea — hostess: Diane Bennett
		18.30	Speaker - Rev John Allerton 'Kitchen Knives'
Sun	09	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie. Followed by Congregational AGM
Mon	10	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	16	10.30	Sunday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough
Tue	18	19.30	General Council Meeting via zoom
Sun	23	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Wed	26	11.00	Move & Munch session
Sun	30	10.30	Sunday Service led by Paul Hubbard

CONGREGATIONAL AGM - SUNDAY, 9 JULY

Do note the date for our Annual General Meeting this year. It will follow the Sunday Service and it would be encouraging to see a good attendance. This is your opportunity to participate and have your day.

Important DATE!

“ABOUT PEOPLE”

We were delighted to hear that **Ruth (Molyneux)** and **Sean Doran's** daughter, **Florence Anya**, arrived safely on 20 April 2023, checking in at 6 lbs 3 oz. Our warm congratulations to both families. May you all experience the greatest joy in her blossoming.



Hearty congratulations to **Eunice Smith** who celebrated her 95th birthday in June. We are pleased Eunice was home for the occasion and hope her health will take an upturn very soon.

We send our best wishes to **Dorothy Jones** following her recent knee operation and hope she has a swift recovery.

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



Our novel for discussion this month is *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller. On a perfect August morning, Elle Bishop heads out for a swim in the pond below 'The Paper Palace' - her family's holiday home in Cape Cod. As she dives beneath the water, she relives the passionate encounter she had the night before while her husband and mother chatted to their guests inside. So begins a story that unfolds over twenty-four hours and fifty years, as Elle's shocking betrayal leads her to a life-changing decision.



There are spare copies of the book if you're interested. We meet on Monday 10th July at 7.30 pm at 5 Bagnall Close.

Drinking from My Saucer by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.

But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for his blessings and the mercies He's bestowed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.

But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.

So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.

I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage when the way grows steep and rough.

I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.

Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed

Poem by John Paul Moore later made into a song
Sisterhood connecting as one.

LETTER FROM SPAIN

Arrangements were made to meet up with Tracy and Geoff in Alicante whilst I was in Spain visiting my brother and sister-in-law (Allan and Joan).

We spent such a pleasant afternoon together exchanging our news and eating lunch at a cafe on the splendid Espanada de Espana.

I was able to answer Tracy's enquiries about everyone at Church and to relate our recent activities.



Tracy and Geoff enjoying their life in Spain together with their dog (Ted) now known as 'Tedauro'.



CARTOON FOR JULY



"But I said you'd be happy to lead a House Group this autumn!"

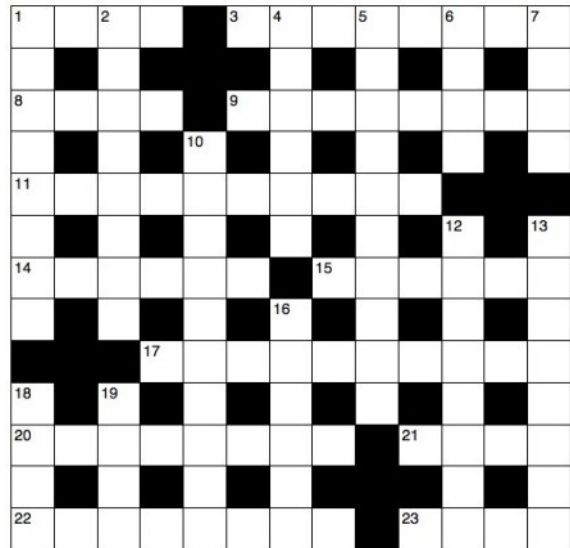
Many thanks to our tireless volunteers ... your work does not go unnoticed! — Ed

Ecumenics of a crisis

During a recent gathering of local faith leaders, the church caught fire.

The Methodists gathered in the corner and prayed.
 The Baptists cried, "Where is the water?"
 The Anglicans formed a procession and marched out.
 The Quakers silently praised God for fire's blessings
 The Lutherans declared the fire was evil.
 The Roman Catholics passed the plate for the damage.
 The Jews put signs on the door, hoping it'd pass over.
 The Congregationalists yelled, "Every man for himself!"
 The Fundamentalists said, "It's the vengeance of God!"
 The Charismatics prayed for a falling of the Holy Spirit.
 The Christian Scientists concluded there was no fire.
 The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee, to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed the fire extinguisher and put the fire out.



Answers on back page

Across

- 1 and 3 Two of the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus (Luke 9:28) (4,3,5)
 3 See 1 Across
 8 'Let us draw — to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith' (Hebrews 10:22) (4)
 9 O Simon is (anag.) (8)
 11 Form of government under the direct rule of God or his agents (10)
 14 How Jesus found his disciples when he returned to them after praying in Gethsemane (Luke 22:45) (6)
 15 In The Pilgrim's Progress, the name of the meadow into which Christian strayed, which led to Doubting Castle (2-4)
 17 Glad sin rat (anag.) (10)
 20 Spinal column (Leviticus 3:9) (8)
 21 Valley of the Balsam Tree with a reputation of being a waterless place (Psalm 84:6) (4)
 22 'The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one — — sees clearly' (Numbers 24:3) (5,3)
 23 Adam and Eve's third son (Genesis 4:25) (4)

Down

- 1 David's great friend (1 Samuel 20:17) (8)
 2 'The Lord... will bring me safely to his — kingdom' (2 Timothy 4:18) (8)
 4 'I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; — — or wine touched my lips' (Daniel 10:3) (2,4)
 5 Seeking to vindicate (Job 32:2) (10)
 6 Female servant (Isaiah 24:2) (4)
 7 'For Christ died for — once for all' (1 Peter 3:18) (4)
 10 'Offering spiritual sacrifices — to God through Jesus Christ' (1 Peter 2:5) (10)
 12 Jesus said that some people had renounced this 'because of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 19:12) (8)
 13 One of the three men thrown into the furnace for refusing to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image (Daniel 3:20) (8)
 16 'You have — of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry' (Luke 12:19) (6)
 18 'There before me was a white horse! Its rider held — —, and he was given a crown' (Revelation 6:2) (1,3)
 19 Equipment to Charity Hospitals Overseas (1,1,1,1)

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.

ACROSS: 1, John. 3, And James. 8, Near. 9, Omission. 11, Theocratic. 14, Asleep. 15, By-path. 17, Stalingrad. 20, Backbone. 21, Baca. 22, Whose eye. 23, Seth.

DOWN: 1, Jonathan. 2, Heavenly. 4, No meat. 5, Justifying. 6, Maid. 7, Sins. 10, Acceptable. 12, Marriage. 13, Shadrach. 16, Plenty. 18, A bow. 19, ECHO.



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