



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for

December  
2021

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

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## PASTORAL TEAM

Initial Contact & Co-ordinator -  
Joyce Ashworth  
Members -

Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth  
& Margaret Salt

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John & Edna Wood

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Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

## PULPIT & LETTINGS' SECRETARY

Paul Hubbard

## FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Edna & John Wood  
53 Links View, Rochdale OL11 4DD

## SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Co-ordinator - Joyce Ashworth  
Member - Helen Illingworth

## PUBLICITY TEAM

### Messenger Notices

Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

### Messenger Publication and Distribution

Paul Hubbard

### Website Manager

Diane Bennett

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Paul Hubbard** Tel 07884 123 169  
Email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

**Joyce Ashworth** Tel: 01706 659294  
Email: joyce.ashworth9@gmail.com

**Diane Bennett** Tel: 01706 371518  
Email: diane119@hotmail.com

**Helen & John Illingworth** Tel: 01706 649015  
Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk  
Email: john@illingworth.org.uk

**Margaret Salt** Tel: 01706 852575

**Margaret Shore** Tel: 01706 360883

**John & Edna Wood** Tel 01706 645252  
Email: jonwud@tiscali.co.uk

**CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461**

# DECEMBER Flowers

Sunday 5th December 2021 Eunice Smith
Sunday 12th December 2021 Flower donation Vacancy
Sunday 19th December 2021 Sheila Goodwin In Memory of Jesse & Tom Reid
Sunday 26th December 2021 Edna & John Wood In Memory of their Family
Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Shore

The flowers either side of our communion table - so generously donated, beautifully arranged and very much appreciated are taken to our members and friends who are unable to be with us for many reasons.

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



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the fabulous December 2021 Messenger! We have plenty to keep you entertained over the festive period. Our calendar on pgs 6-7 has all the important dates for your diaries, whilst the double-spread feature on pgs 10-11 gives you all the details about what's on over Christmas and the New Year (don't miss it!). Finally, it brings me great pleasure to include a special message on the opposite page from our new Minister, The Rev'd Abi Elliott-McGuffie!

Merry Christmas & see you all in January -Ed



## CHRISTMAS FILLER!



A warming soup with an optional sage drizzle to give it a seasonal touch:

### PARSNIP & APPLE SOUP (serves 6)

30 ml vegetable oil  
200g chopped onion  
2 cloves of garlic, minced  
1 tsp ground nutmeg  
800g parsnips, peeled and chopped  
300g apples, peeled, cored and sliced  
1 litre vegetable stock  
Salt & pepper

For drizzle:

80ml rapeseed oil  
10g fresh sage, finely chopped

Heat vegetable oil in large pan  
Add onion, garlic and nutmeg and sweat for 5-10 m  
Add parsnips, apples and saute for another 5-10 m  
Add vegetable stock. Cover and bring to boil.  
Add enough extra water to cover vegetables and bring back to boil.  
Simmer gently, 10m, until parsnips & apples are soft  
Leave to cool and then blend until smooth.  
Season to taste with salt and pepper.

For drizzle:

Place rapeseed oil and sage in a saucepan over medium heat and continue to warm through until sage begins to sizzle.  
Remove from heat and leave to cool.  
Drizzle the oil over the soup when you serve.

## FROM THE MINISTER

Dear friends and readers,

Since John Illingworth's article in the October messenger about future ministry at Rochdale Unitarian Church, I have had the opportunity to speak with most of you. For those I haven't, and for those of you who are part of the extended community of the church, I wish to express my delight upon receiving the invitation to take up the position as your minister.

Over the past months, general council and I have been working towards an agreement that should suit us all. This interim position will help us establish how ministry will work in practice, and I'm grateful for the understanding and openness on all sides throughout these discussions.

It feels both appropriate and significant to be beginning this new phase in our relationship as we begin a new year. Perhaps also, I'm not the only one who's holding an eagerness and excitement, similar to that of a child's anticipation of Christmas and something new!

And although there may be a familiarity, we are about to come together in a new and deeper way with one another. In our togetherness there will be a newness that holds possibility and potential, it may also need some patience. So with my thanks for your support (one person on their own does not make ministry), I offer you words adapted from those by Thich Nhat Hahn...

Take my hand and I will take yours.  
Let us walk and only walk.  
Let us enjoy the walk and be open  
to wherever it takes us.

I am very much looking forward to beginning that walk with you all on the 1st January. Until then, may the joy and peace of Christmas bless you and those you love.

With my love, Rev Abi x

(For the moment if you want to contact me, I can most easily be reached via email - [reverendabi@gmail.com](mailto:reverendabi@gmail.com))



# RUC CALENDAR



**Flower Month**  
Margaret Shaw

## DECEMBER

Thur	02	11.30 16.00	Discussion on future of the Women's League at Cross St Chapel. Coffee served from 11am.
Fri	03	10.00	Putting up Xmas tree and decorations
Sat	04	19.00	Film Night — "Little Women"
Sun	05	10.30	Toy & Gift Service led by Rev Celia Cartwright. See pg 10.
Mon	06	19.30	General Council meeting via Zoom
Sun	12	10.30	Sunday Service led by Robert Foreman. Congregational Lunch at Royal Toby to follow.
Mon	13	19.30	Book Circle in Blue Room
Sun	19	<b>18.00</b>	Carol Service led by Chrissie Wilkie
Sat	25	<b>11.00</b>	Christmas Day Service led by Joyce Ashworth
Sun	26		NO SUNDAY SERVICE

## JANUARY

Sun	02	10.30	Sunday Service led by Jean Longworth
Sun	09	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

### WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2021

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth		26 Sep	31 Oct	05 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	29 Aug	03 Oct	07 Nov	12 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	05 Sep	10 Oct	14 Nov	19 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	12 Sep	17 Oct	21 Nov	25 Dec
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	19 Sep	24 Oct	28 Nov	

**Important** - should you be unable to attend please arrange for a stand-in, it is difficult for one person to cover both functions.

### Renewals — Final Reminder!

The renewal date for the Messenger has been changed to coincide with the Inquirer and therefore there is still time if you haven't yet renewed for 2022. Just think back to how good our little publication has been over the last couple of years, how comforting it was during the lock-downs when it dropped on the doormat and together with our interim newsletter that was twice a month. You are kept up to date with everything that is going on in and around church and of our members and close friends. We are sure you would miss it and for just 50p per month, it's a must have!

The INQUIRER



### The Monthly Messenger

### 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!



## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

Ewa's husband, **Jules**, celebrated a big "0" birthday last month. Our congratulations Jules - hope that Celebration was thoroughly enjoyed by all your family and friends.

**Ian Dawson**, has very recently undergone a further operation on his spine. We send our love to both Ian and Anne and trust that recovery will be both speedy and effective.

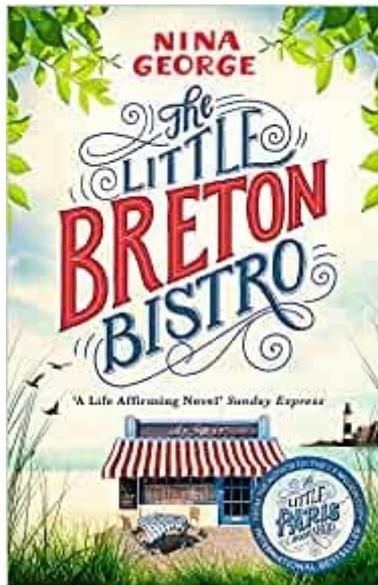
We wish **Tracy and Geoff Holden** well as they take off for warmer climes over coming winter months. Have a very good, if different Christmas this year, and come back soothed and physically renewed.

It is with sadness that we record the death of **Irene Robinson**. Irene had reached a good age and had become quite frail, having several falls which resulted in fractured bones. She had been residing in Half Acre House for some time. We extend our sincere condolences to her daughters Pamela and Linda.

## BOOK CIRCLE



Members have settled into meeting at Church for the time being in order to social distance. The book of the month for October was *The Olive Tree* by Lucinda Riley which was a very pleasant read but not in the same league as her *Seven Sisters* series. For December we will be reading *The Little Breton Bistro*



by Nina George. Described as a 'life affirming' novel it tells the story of Marianne, German lady in her sixties who on a whim embarks on a last adventure, leaving her old life behind to work in a seaside café in Southern Brittany. Our Christmas meeting won't be quite as festive as usual but mince pies will be partaken.

Helen \_\_\_\_\_ |



## THE CHRISTMAS LIFE



Bring in a tree, a young Norwegian spruce,  
Bring hyacinths that rooted in the cold,  
Bring winter jasmine as its buds unfold:  
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

Bring red and green and gold, bring things that shine,  
Bring candlesticks and music, food and wine.  
Bring in your memories of Christmas past,  
Bring in your tears for all that you have lost.

Bring in the shepherd boy, the ox and ass,  
Bring in the stillness of an icy night,  
Bring in a birth, of hope and love and light:  
Bring the Christmas life into this house.

## PRE-CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

(from *Carnival of Lamps* by Rev Cliff Reed)

### Advent: Candles and Christmas Trees

It is Advent,  
and to welcome  
the light of the world  
we light up the long winter nights  
and the gloomy winter days  
with candles and with Christmas trees.

Jesus may have seen candles,  
but he never saw a Christmas tree,  
though if he had, he would have loved it.  
He would have loved the joy  
its twinkling lights bring to children  
and to all child-like hearts.

It is Advent.  
O God, bless your forests  
and teach us to care for them.  
Bless the trees we take to bring  
beauty, light and fragrance to our homes.  
And bless all who approach Christmas  
with love in their hearts.

May the Advent candles  
light your way to Christmas.

And may the light  
of Christmas itself  
shine among you  
at the gateway of the  
year.



## FILM NIGHT, SAT 4TH DECEMBER

Don't forget that our popular series of film nights are resuming in December, with the first being a showing of "Little Women" at 7pm.

Names on the list at the back of church if you wish to attend, please; or contact Helen Illingworth



## TOY & GIFT SERVICE

**Sunday, 5th December, 10.30am**

We are delighted to welcome Rev Celia Cartwright to lead our Toy and Gift Service this year. Toys collected during the service will be donated to the local charity 'Giving Back' which is run by Council staff in support of families who would otherwise struggle to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. The monetary collection for the service will be donated to the Send a Child to Hucklow scheme (SACH) which is our Church Charity this year.



## CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday, 19th December, 6.00pm**

We look forward to Chrissie Wilkie returning to lead our evening Carol Service. I'm sure Chrissie will be looking for volunteer readers and an item from the Choir. Donations from the retiring collection will be Emmaus, the National Women's League's current charity project. Come and join us in singing your favourite carols and enjoy hot drinks, fruit cake, and mince pies served after the service.



## CHRISTMAS LUNCH



**Saturday, 12th December**

There's still time to put your name down for the Congregational meal at the Royal Toby after Church on Sunday 12th December. The Sunday Lunch menu is £15.50 for two courses and £17.50 for three courses. Coffee is an extra £2.95. Joyce is collecting money from those who would like to pay before the day.

## CHRISTMAS DAY

**Sunday, 25th December, 11.00am**

As is tradition, we will be hosting a Christmas Morning Service once more on the 25th. Please note The donations from this year's Xmas Card Scheme will be donated to the Toilet Twinning charity. We have already funded one toilet in the DR Congo and have £30 towards a second one. Let's try hard to twin our second toilet this year.

Merry Christmas!



## SERVICE DATES

Date	EVENT
5 DEC	10.30am Toy & Gift Service — Rev Celia Cartwright
12 DEC	10.30am Sunday Worship — Robert Foreman
19 DEC	18.00 Carol Service — Chrissie Wilkie
25 DEC	<b>Saturday 11.00am</b> Christmas Morning Service — Joyce Ashworth



### Messenger by Email?

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



**Rochdale Unitarian Church**  
**Clover Street**  
**ROCHDALE OL12 6TP**  
 01706 648461

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