



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

January
2021

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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JANUARY Flowers

Carnation

January BIRTH FLOWER

Devotion Loyalty Love

Loved for its ruffled petals, wide array of colours and long vase life, the carnation is the birth flower for January. It's an incredibly fitting choice too, as carnations are one of the few flowers that can thrive in the cold weather.

Despite being seen, somewhat undeservedly, as a filler flower in modern times, the carnation had grandiose beginnings. Indeed its scientific name, *Dianthus*, means 'flower of the gods' in Greek and its common name is believed to be derived from the word 'coronation'.

With a history dating back thousands of years, January's birth flower is steeped in religious symbolism too. In Christianity it is believed that the first carnation bloomed when Mary's tears hit the earth as she wept for her son Jesus. It's no surprise then that today the flower has become a universal symbol of motherly love, making it a popular choice for both Mother's Day and International Women's Day.

The meaning of carnations varies from colour to colour, but is generally accepted as 'devotion'. Because of this it is said those born in January make loyal and dependable friends.

100 CLUB WINNERS

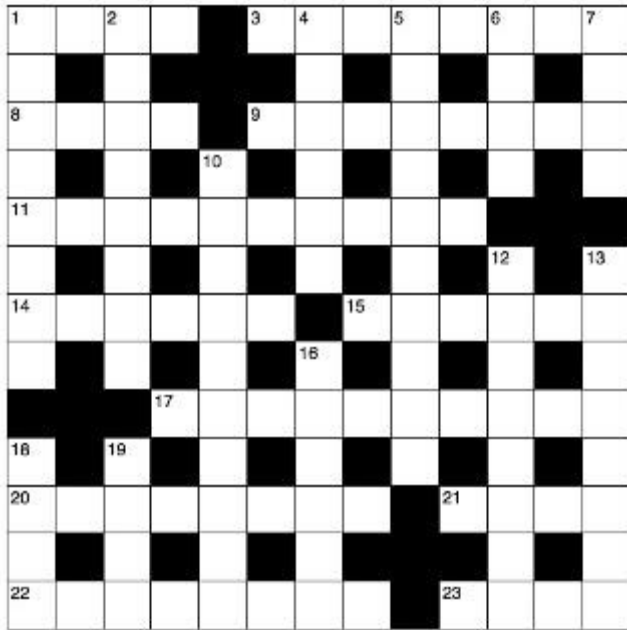
DECEMBER 2020

1st	50	Greta Henson
2nd	11	Jane Glennon
3rd	98	Elaine Schofield

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

NEW YEAR'S CROSSWORD!



Crossword clues - Jan21

Across

- 1 'Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a — began to crow' (John 18:27) (4)
 3 Fetters (Job 33:11) (8)
 8 Perform on a musical instrument (1 Samuel 16:23) (4)
 9 Paul describes it as 'the third heaven' (2 Corinthians 12:2-4) (8)
 11 Loyally (Deuteronomy 11:13) (10)
 14 Hens? Me? (anag.) (6)
 15 Not visible (Matthew 6:6) (6)
 17 Predicted site of the final great battle (Revelation 16:16) (10)
 20 Jacob's youngest son (Genesis 35:18) (8)
 21 One of Zophar's eleven sons (1 Chronicles 7:36) (4)
 22 For example, London, Paris, Rome (8)
 23 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (1,1,1,1)

Down

- 1 Favourite church activity: Fellowship round a — — (3,2,3)
 2 Divinely bestowed powers or talents (8)
 4 Pile together (1 Thessalonians 2:16) (4,2)
 5 Commanded to justify (John 8:13) (10)
 6 Timothy's grandmother (2 Timothy 1:5) (4)
 7 Killed (Psalm 78:34) (4)
 10 One of Graham Kendrick's best-known songs, — — King (3,7)
 12 Indecency (Mark 7:22) (8)
 13 Unceasing (Jeremiah 15:18) (8)
 16 He prophesied 'the abomination that causes desolation' (Matthew 24:15) (6)
 18 British Board of Film Classification (1,1,1,1)
 19 Pans (anag.) (4)

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.

DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness.

THE ROBY MILL NEW YEAR SONG

Come welcome the New Year
 with anthems of joy
 In hymns of thanksgiving our voices employ
 And mingle our tribute of gratitude here
 To him who has bless'd us with a
 Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you
 Happy New Year to you
 Dear friend and companions
 Happy New Year to you
 With voices of gladness
 And hearts full of cheer
 We wish you, we wish you
 A Happy New Year

At each year's returning, may joy be thy guest
 Till life's fading sunshine shall sleep in the west
 And when at the threshold we all shall appear
 Oh then we may greet you with a
 Happy New Year

Happy New Year to you
 Happy New Year to you
 Dear friend and companions
 Happy New Year to you
 With voices of gladness
 And hearts full of cheer
 We wish you, we wish you
 A Happy New Year

Having attended the Upper Chapel and Fullwood Carol Service just before Christmas when we were singing Sheffield carols, it reminded me of the Christmas at Hucklow weekend ten years ago when we sang this carol with the folk group One Accord. If you are reading an e-mailed copy of this Messenger, click on this link to listen to the tune: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD_YCLmowwQ

SEASONS OF THE SOUL By ROBERT T. WESTON

A Year Begins Today
 A year is gone.
 It matters not when it began
 For it has ended now.
 There were other years,
 And some began with a
 birthday
 And some with a death;
 Some with one day of the
 month and some with
 another.

Some began with a song and others with a lament,
 But today I start another year, whatever the month or
 season;

It is what lies before me that concerns me now.
 There will be decisions and tasks;
 There will be drudgery, achievement and defeat,
 There will be joy and grief,
 All the raw stuff of experience
 Waiting for me to shape, to fashion as I will,
 And it will never become just what I planned.
 However it may appear to others
 I can turn it to knowledge and wisdom
 Or folly.

If it be hard, I can make of it strength:
 It may become bone, sinew and steel
 Or ashes and waste.
 Some one might say, "It all depends on what the year
 may bring,"
 But what I make of it depends on me.



ABOUT PEOPLE

Many thanks to those responsible for the Christmas Box we have just received. It contains so many lovely seasonal gifts and we sincerely appreciate the kind thoughts and love that it represents.

A lovely gesture bringing a little ray of sunshine at the darkest time of the year!

With our love and best wishes to you all for Christmas and especially for the New Year.

Edna and John

100 CLUB — FINAL REMINDER!



This is a final reminder to renew for the 2021 100 Club subscription.

I'm hoping to persuade you to help boost our income and to take further subscriptions for our 100 Club. If we can fill the 100 Club and have all numbers allocated we gain on our income without increasing our expenditure.

For those investing it comes with a potential bonus of £50 in prize money every month so by helping us, you get a chance of winning £30, £15 or £5 every draw!

So please dig deep and buy new numbers and together let us make this a worthwhile and fun fundraising element of our church life. You can ring **01706 649015**, text **07955 785770** or email john@illingworth.org.uk.

Our current 'orphaned numbers' are:

5, 6, 9, 20, 23, 26, 39, 42, 46, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57, 59, 63, 78, 87, 91, 92, 94.

It costs just £12 per number to enter, with a draw taking place once a month. If you are lucky enough to be a winner, your numbers go back in for the following draw, so you can win as many times as your chosen numbers come out of the bag.

Good luck!

LETTINGS' REPORT

Despite the lockdowns of 2020, Clover Street was able to open for restricted lettings during the third and fourth quarters of last year.

A big thank you to the Prima Dance group and the Carers; Choir, who held limited private sessions in the building, allowing those who had booked previously to have a safe respite from isolation.

Thank you also to our caretaker Tom Walsh, who kept our building clean between lettings, and to John Illingworth who, as Building Manager, as organised the redecoration and refurbishment of the building whilst it has not been in regular use by the public.

Finally, a great big thank you to Rochdale Photographic Society, who gifted us a generous donation of £50 to show their continued support for our cause — we look forward to welcoming you back as soon as we are able!

BOOK CIRCLE



At our last Zoom meeting before Christmas we discussed *One August Night* by Victoria Hislop, sequel to *The Island*, her first novel. Everyone enjoyed the novel but as it was 15 years since *The Island* was published it would have been better to have had a quick recap of the story of the leper colony on Spinalonga. However, it brought back into focus that leprosy has not been eradicated and is still a major disease in India, Brazil, Indonesia and Nigeria.



Our first book of the New Year is *A Song for Summer* by Eva Ibbotson. 'When Ellen Carr abandons grey, dreary London to become housekeeper at an experimental school in Austria, she soon knows she's found her calling. Swept into an idyllic world of mountains, music, eccentric teachers and wayward children, Ellen brings order and joy to all around her. But it's the handsome, mysterious gardener, Marek, who intrigues her — Marek, who has a dangerous secret. As Hitler's troops march across Europe, Ellen finds she has promises to keep, even if it means sacrificing her future happiness.' It's the first book we've read by Eva Ibbotson who is known for her award-winning children's books, eg *Journey to the River Sea*. The reviews are very good but we've trusted reviews before and found them wanting!

EVENT DATES 2021

Date	EVENT
31 JAN	10.30am Sunday Worship—details TBA
28 FEB	10.30am Sunday Worship— STC

PLEASE NOTE:

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, special events services at church are postponed.

Updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page and in our bi-weekly newsletter

Reminder —: Donation Envelopes!

A reminder from our Treasurer, John Illingworth, that if any of you have donations at home that you would have given during the offertory or in the collection box at church, could you please contact either John, Helen or myself, using the details below, and we will arrange to safely collect your donation. Many thanks!

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Messenger by Email?

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