



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

July
2021

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 135

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JULY Flowers

FLOWER FUND

We are grateful for the donations we have received which are used for the flowers displayed on those occasions when we are able to hold a service.

Weekly services are to resume from mid-August but, in the meantime, if you would like to contribute to the Flower Fund, your donation would be very much appreciated! Until weekly services recommence it won't be possible to designate a particular Sunday, but John and Edna would be delighted to receive donations and can allocate the month of your choice.

For the two services in July the flowers have been donated by:

11th June - Joyce Ashworth

In Memory of Harold

25th June - Anne & Ian Dawson

In Memory of Family and Friends

Many thanks for your generosity.



100 CLUB WINNERS JUNE

2021

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------|
| 1st | 41 | Dorothy Jones |
| 2nd | 60 | John Illingworth |
| 3rd | 73 | Michael Salt |

Congratulations

Prizes - 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Hello and welcome to July's edition of the Messenger.

True to form, on the first official day of British Summer Time, the temperatures plummeted and the rain has now arrived (at least it will be "good for the garden", as they say!).

We hope you enjoy this issue, which contains some more delicious recipes from Joyce, some thoughtful reflections and poems, as well as a fascinating article submitted by John Illingworth on Heywood Unitarians' claim to 'Hollywood Fame'! All this in addition to the latest news about church friends and readers' letters.

So what are you waiting for? Get stuck in until the rains wears off. See you in August — Ed



FROM THE KITCHEN...

Mary Berry's GINGER & MANGO SPICED MUFFINS (makes 12)

(Prep time 20 Mins - Cook time 25 Mins)



Joyce Ashworth Reports On The Unitarian Societies Day

The opening session for the Unitarian Zoom Societies Day on Thursday, 17 June was for the National Unitarian Fellowship, when the guest speaker was Rev Bob Janis-Dillon, recently appointed by GA as Congregational Connections Lead. Not surprisingly his topic was "*Sustaining Connections*", something we have all been desperately trying to do over the period of the pandemic.

His opening words were those of Starhawk, the American writer, teacher and activist:

COMMUNITY MEANS STRENGTH

We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been – a place half-remembered and half envisioned,

we can only catch glimpses of from time to time.

Community.

Somewhere, there are people we can speak with passion without having the words catch in our throats.

Somewhere a circle of hands

will open to receive us, eyes will light up as we enter, voices will celebrate with us whenever we come into our own power.

Community means strength

that joins our strength to do the work that needs to be done.

Arms to hold us when we falter.

A circle of healing.

A circle of friends.

Some place where we can be free.

- 150g (5oz) light muscovado sugar
- 225g (8oz) SR flour
- 50g (2oz) rolled oats, plus extra for sprinkling
- 2 tsp mixed spice powder
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 100g (4oz) dried mango, finely chopped
- 2 balls stem ginger, rinsed and finely chopped (could use crystallised ginger)
- 1 egg
- 100ml (3.5 fl oz) vegetable oil
- 175 ml (6 fl oz) milk

You will need a 12-hole muffin tin - line with paper cases. Preheat oven to 200C / 180 Fan / Gas 6

Place sugar, flour, oats, spice & baking powder in large bowl. Add mango and ginger, then stir to combine.

Break egg into separate bowl and beat with a fork. Add oil and milk to egg and mix to combine.

Add wet mixture to dry ingredients and beat lightly with wooden spoon (over-beating will make muffins tough).

Divide mixture evenly between paper cases and sprinkle with a few extra oats.

Bake in preheated oven for about 25 mins or until golden, well risen and springy.

Allow muffins to cool a few minutes in tins before transferring to wire rack to finish cooling.

CLOVER STREET NEWS & EVENTS

“ABOUT PEOPLE”

We are delighted to hear that **Ann Shepherd** is now home from hospital and sounding bright and chirpy. Take care for a time Ann.

We have learned that **Diane Bennett** has been scheduled for her surgery on 5th July. Diane, we trust that this will go ahead and all will be well. We'll be thinking of you and send our love and best wishes. Can't wait to have you back amongst us looking fit and well.

We were concerned to hear that **John Greenwood** has recently been in hospital to have a kidney removed. Fortunately, his remaining kidney is doing well and John is not expected to need dialysis. He is recovering at home in Wirksworth and looking forward to getting out and about soon. We send him our best wishes and hope to see him at Church before too long.

Because of social distancing for so long, it has been difficult to properly get to know relatively new attenders at church. Hopefully, some of you will have become acquainted with Lynne & Bill Hutton. **Lynne** will also be undergoing a quite serious back operation on 29 June. Our thoughts will be both with you Lynne and also with Bill. Our very best wishes for a successful outcome and a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to **Kate Salt** who celebrated a special birthday towards the end of June. You'll be surprised to read she's looking forward to receiving her bus pass! We hope you had a lovely day Kate and look forward to seeing you when circumstances allow.

As expected, **Stephen Bamford** has now moved into his bungalow on Fieldway, Broad Lane. We trust it will very quickly feel like home for you Stephen.

AINSWORTH ANNIVERSARY POSTPONEMENT

Due to the Ironman Bolton Event and the ongoing Covid restrictions, the 306th Anniversary Service has been re-arranged for **Sunday, 1st August at 3 pm.**

Note - there will now be no Service at Ainsworth on 4th July.



2 The Hedgerows

I wish to thank members of church for their many kind thoughts and cards on my 90th birthday. I had a wonderful few days with lockdown released and able to welcome visitors a few at a time. Best Wishes to all Jean.

BOOK CIRCLE



We were hoping to meet in person at Church in July but as the Covid restrictions will still be in place and there will be more than six of us around the table we will have to be on Zoom but hopefully for the last time.

Apart from one aspect of The Chilbury Ladies' Choir by Jennifer Ryan we enjoyed last month's read. We discussed how the Second World War changed women's lives in many ways, taking up men's roles, coping with air raids, rationing and worrying about husbands or sons at the front. The forming of a ladies village choir brought the women together, forming new bonds and bringing some joy and pride in an otherwise wretched time.

For July we are reading *A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler which is about the Whitshank family of Baltimore. The novel covers several generations and different family perspectives, but the heart of the book centres on the mother, Abby Whitshank. Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. From Red's father and mother, newly-arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to Abby and Red's grandchildren carrying the family legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century, here are four generations of Whitshanks, their lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn Baltimore house that has always been their anchor.

We haven't read any of Anne Tyler's books before but have heard that she writes gentle family dramas so here's hoping for a good read.



DESIDERATA

I remember attending a service at Clover Street a few years ago based on the Desiderata and coming across it again recently thought members might appreciate reading it again. Desiderata was written by a gentleman named Max Ehrmann from Terra Haute, Indiana, about 1927. He was a lawyer, turned poet, and wrote a fair amount of other works, but the Desiderata poem is his most famous work.

Desiderata are, technically, things considered necessary or highly desirable or something lacked and wanted so the poem is a list of things desirable in life.

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.

And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

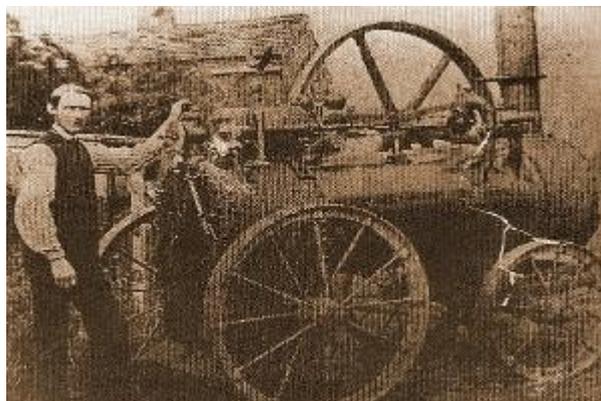
A Stained-Glass Window Through Time: From Heywood to Hollywood

Among the masterpieces at the prestigious Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino, California, not too far from Hollywood, visitors can view a magnificent stained-glass window that casts its light over a sweeping dual staircase. A closer inspection of the details will reveal it to be the 'David Healey Memorial Window' that somehow made it there all the way from a demolished church on Benfield Street, Heywood. That church was the Britain Hill Unitarian Chapel.

How did this remarkable journey happen?

Unitarianism in Heywood

The only known Unitarians in Heywood in the 1850s were the large Nuttall family of Broadfield Farm, Pilsworth, who attended church in Bury. They helped to bring missionaries into Heywood and the first Unitarian service was held in 1856 in a small, rented room on Oak Street, on what later became the Memorial Gardens. There were only eight people in the congregation, but within 12 months the congregation had grown to the point where they needed larger premises and so they moved to a building at Mossfield.



John Nuttall on his farm, 1870s

The Rev. William Gaskell conducted the first service at Mossfield. As we know all too well, his wife was Elizabeth Gaskell, the famous novelist who wrote *North and South* and *Cranford*.

A Sunday School opened there with 50 children enrolled, and the Unitarians stayed at Mossfield for three years. The growing congregation raised funds for a new chapel and bought land at Britain Hill, off what was to become Hind Hill Street. The ground was rough and required much work by church members before construction could begin. It opened 1860, and over the years some prominent local families such as the Wrigleys and the Healeys were involved with the church.

The window

In the 1890s David Healey, a mill owner and future mayor of Heywood whose father had been a prominent member of the church, donated a sum for the creation and installation of a chancel window. This must have been a significant sum because the window was designed by the famous Pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones and created by another famous artist designer William Morris, a major promoter of handcraftsmanship in the face of the booming Industrial Revolution. The 15-foot-high window was installed in 1898 and featured ten figures depicting the values of 'Humility, Mercy, Generosity, Charity, Justice, Liberty, Truth, Love, Faith, Courage'. These figures were later described by Los Angeles Times art critic Christopher Knight as,

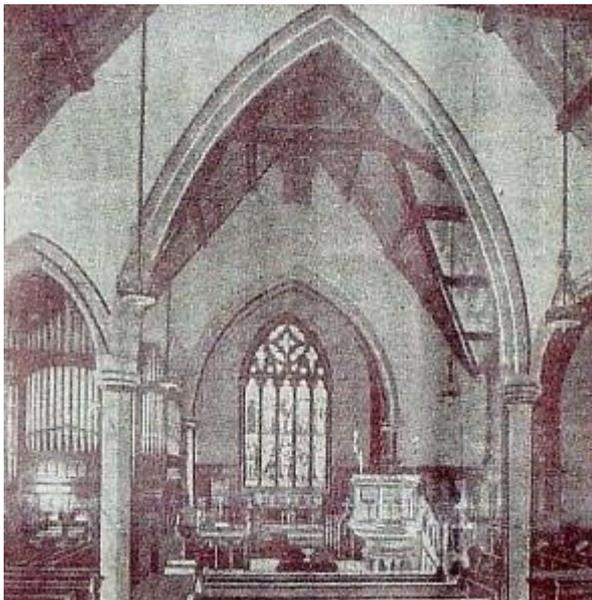
'... a strange array of Protestant personifications of virtue, cast as secular versions of traditional Catholic saints. Truth holds a candle against the darkness. Faith reaches up to grasp the hand of God. Courage is steeled in armour while

Liberty clutches a pair of crimson wings, like an earthly seraph, the highest rank of angel.' (Los Angeles Times, 25 May 2008)



The figures of 'Courage' and 'Liberty'.

The window was in place for several decades, but by the mid-1960s attendance at the chapel had fallen and the congregation amalgamated with others in Bury. Half the windows in the now-disused chapel were smashed by vandals but somehow the chancel window survived. The cash-strapped church sold off what they could in 1967, which was a lucky move in retrospect because in 1968 a



fire ripped through the building. If the window had still been in place, it might well have been destroyed. Interior of the chapel, with the window in the background.

California here we come!

The window was reportedly bought by a collector from the town of Carmel, California, and in 1999 it was acquired by the Huntington Art Gallery, Library and Botanical Gardens of San Marino, Los Angeles. The Huntington holds such masterpieces as Gainsborough's 'The Blue Boy' and Van Der Weyden's 'Madonna and Child', and landscapes by Constable and Turner. The window was bought because it was associated with the respected artists Morris and Burne-Jones.

During refurbishment in 2007 a two-story staircase was enlarged to accommodate the window, now displayed as the 'David Healey Memorial Window'. And that is how a little part of Heywood escaped fire and the bricks of vandals to end up 8,000 kilometres away in California. Given its proximity to Hollywood, the Huntington is frequently used as a location for movie shoots (such as The Muppets, Iron Man 3 and Captain America), so keep your eyes open at the cinema and maybe you'll see it the background.

References:-

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- Hannah Haynes, Heywood, Stroud, Chalford Publishing, 1997.*
- Heywood Living Memories, 'Stained-glass window mystery is solved... in LA', issue 49, Autumn 2002.*
- Heywood Living Memories, 'Britain Hill Unitarian Chapel and Heap Bridge', issue 66, Winter 2006.*
- Heywood Advertiser, 18 July 2002.*
- History, Los Angeles County, 'The David Healey Window', 2009.*
- Los Angeles Times, 'A renovated Huntington Art Gallery', 25 May 2008.*
- Wikipedia, 'Unitarianism'.*

CARTOON FOR JULY

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"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

EVENT DATES 2021

| Date | EVENT |
|--------|---|
| 11 JUL | 10.30am Worship, Joyce Ashworth, followed by Congregational AGM and Jacob's Join |
| 25 JUL | 10.30am Sunday Worship — Chris Carr |
| 8 AUG | 10.30am Sunday Worship — TBA |
| 22 AUG | 10.30am Sunday Worship — Garry Hammond |
| 29 AUG | 10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough |
| 05 SEP | 10.30am Sunday Worship — Chrissie Wilkie |
| 12 SEP | 10.30am Sunday Worship — Helen Mills |
| 19 SEP | 10.30am Sunday Worship — TBA |

PLEASE NOTE:

Unfortunately, special events and worship services at church can only go ahead subject to Covid restrictions in place at that time

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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