



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

February
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

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

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Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 6th February 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Jackie White	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Josephine Arnold	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 13th February 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Joyce & Greta	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Mum, Dad & Raymond	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 20th February 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 27th February 2022	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by	* * * * *
* * * * *	Joyce Ashworth and Helen Illingworth	* * * * *
* * * * *		* * * * *

The flowers either side of our communion table 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

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.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello and welcome to February's issue of the Rochdale Unitarian Messenger newsletter!



This month, Abi shares a contemplative poem in recognition of the passing of Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn; Joyce brings us another delicious recipe from the store cupboard; Helen gives us an update from this month's read from Book Circle (no spoilers please!).

Our centrefold has all the important dates for your diaries, together with news and updates from church friends and family far and wide.

All that remains is for me to wish you all the best for February, and I will see you next month. Roll on Spring! — Ed

JOYCE'S KITCHEN



MRS ROBINS' FRUIT CAKE

(This is the easiest possible fruit cake to make and exceptionally tasty)

- 6 oz Sugar
- 4 oz butter or marg
- 1 lb mixed dried fruit
- 1 heaped teasp mixed spice
- half teasp ground ginger
- half teasp nutmeg
- Cup of Water



1. Put all ingredients in a large saucepan and heat on hob stirring till sugar dissolves.
2. Add half teasp bicarb of soda and give a good stir, then remove from hob and cool the mixture.
3. Add 4 oz plain flour and 4 oz SR flour plus 2 beaten eggs and fold into cooled mixture.
4. You can add chopped nuts, pieces of apple or a heaped tablesp of marmalade if desired.
5. Cook in 8" square tin for around 1.25 hours at 180C or Mark 4 gas.

Enjoy !!! It won't last long !



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



The Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hahn died on 22nd January 2022. His teachings on mindfulness have been embraced across the globe, bringing in to connection people from many cultures and backgrounds.

It therefore seems appropriate to bring this poem to you this month, and whether you take it on a meditative walk or contemplate it in stillness, may you know yourself as part of the fabric of life in the coming days and weeks. With my love Abi xx

Take my hand.

We will walk.

We will only walk.

We will enjoy our walk

without thinking of arriving anywhere.

Walk peacefully.

Walk happily.

Our walk is a peace walk.

Our walk is a happiness walk.

Then we learn

that there is no peace walk;

that peace is the walk;

that there is no happiness walk;

that happiness is the walk.

We walk for ourselves.

We walk for everyone

always hand in hand.

Walk and touch peace every moment.

Walk and touch happiness every moment.

Each step brings a fresh breeze.

Each step makes a flower bloom under our feet.

Kiss the Earth with your feet.

Print on Earth your love and happiness.

Earth will be safe

when we feel in us enough safety.

(from "Call me by My True Names – The Collected Poems of Thich Nhat Hanh", Parallax Press, 2005.)



RUC NEWS AND EVENTS



Flower Month
Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

FEBRUARY

Sun	06	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Sun	13	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	14	19.30	Book Circle in Green Room
Sun	20	10.30	Sunday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough
Sun	27	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	28	19.30	General Council Meeting (Zoom)

MARCH

Sun	06	10.30	Sunday Service leader TBA
Sun	13	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	20	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Sun	27	10.30	Mothering Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie



“ABOUT PEOPLE”

Last month we were delighted to welcome **Abi** as our new part-time Minister with an excellent attendance for her first Service. We look forward with much anticipation to working alongside her.

Warmest congratulations to **Anne and Ian Dawson** on the birth of their great granddaughter **Maeva Alice**, daughter to Rachel and Dan and granddaughter to Lisa and Mark. What a beautiful and much loved addition to the family!



Hearty congratulations to **John Illingworth** on his big '0' birthday early this month. Hope the celebration is good John!

Also our very warm congratulations to **Becky & Peter Illingworth** who 'tie the knot' at the Tithe Barn, Bolton Abbey this month. We wish you a long and very happy life together.

As we go to print **Pat Chippendale** remains in Belvoir Residential Home on Halifax Road. Her brother informs us that she contracted Covid after being admitted to the Home and she was unable to have visitors, even family over Christmas/New Year, however her Christmas Box from church was delivered to the home a couple of weeks ago so she would know we were thinking of her. She is expected to shortly have an assessment to decide whether she should stay at Belvoir permanently. Current restrictions to visiting Care Homes will be lifted from Monday, 31 January unless a Covid outbreak occurs, when the Home will be closed to visitors for 2 weeks.

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2022

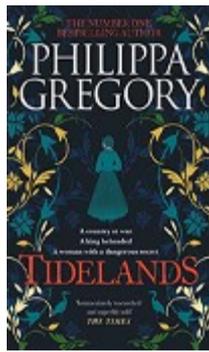
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	02 Jan	06 Feb	13 Mar	17 Apr	22 May	26 Jun	31 Jul	04 Sep	09 Oct	13 Nov	18 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	09 Jan	13 Feb	20 Mar	24 Apr	29 May	03 Jul	07 Aug	11 Sep	16 Oct	20 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	16 Jan	20 Feb	27 Mar	01 May	05 Jun	10 Jul	14 Aug	18 Sep	23 Oct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

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

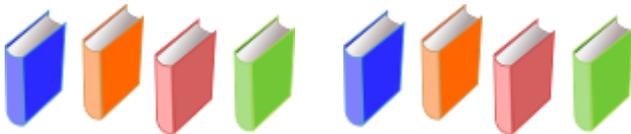


I'm looking forward to reading our next book, *Tidelands* by Philippa Gregory. The first in the Fairmile Series, it is set in the mid 1650's during the civil war following Charles I's execution when the Parliamentarians ruled the country. In the tidelands of Sussex where land and sea join together, the villagers are focused on survival and those who are different are regarded with suspicion.



Alinor, a descendant of wise women, crushed by poverty and superstition, waits in the graveyard under the full moon for a ghost who will declare her free from her abusive husband. Instead she meets James, a young man on the run, and shows him the secret ways across the treacherous marsh, not knowing that she is leading disaster into the heart of her life.

Helen I



REFLECTION

I worried

I worried a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers flow in the right direction, will the earth turn as it was taught, and if not how shall I correct it?

Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven, can I do better?

Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows can do it and I am, well, hopeless.

Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it, am I going to get rheumatism, lockjaw, dementia?

Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing. And gave it up. And took my old body and went out into the morning, and sang.

by Mary Oliver

The Rules of Marriage (from ParishPump)

Just in time for Valentine's...

Here are the real-life answers from a group of children:

How do you decide who to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. – Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. – Kirsten, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. – Freddie, age 6

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. – Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mum and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. – Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. – Lynnette, age 8

On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. – Martin, age 10

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. – Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. – Pam, age 7

Is it better to be single or married?

I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. – Theodore, age 8

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. – Anita, 9

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? – Kelvin, age 8

And the #1 Favourite is...

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a lorry. – Ricky, age 10

Congregations in the Community: Great Hucklow Unitarian Chapel, with Ed Fordham



7.30pm / 15 Feb 2022 / Online

Please join us for an update about this much-loved Unitarian chapel in the Peak District. Ed Fordham will be presenting on new ideas, lessons learnt, and the relationship between congregation, chapel, and community. There will also be time for questions, discussion and sharing ideas. This is a *Congregations in the Community* online event, hosted by Lizzie Kingston Harrison, our Congregational Connections Lead.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84882936472?pwd=M3JFZldQdGhiWk90VXBSNTIPUXVNQT09>

Meeting ID: 848 8293 6472

Passcode: 479222

FEBRUARY CARTOON

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"The knitting circle are playing their part in our heating efficiency programme."

SMILE LINES

Searching for a minister:

Sadly, the Bible provides few role models whom we would really want in our church. (Thank goodness we got Abi!) For example:

Adam: Good man but had problems with his wife. Also, we hear that he and his wife enjoyed walking nude in the woods.

Moses: Modest, but a poor communicator, and even stuttered at times. Moreover, he had a temper, and there were rumours he left an earlier church over a murder charge.

Deborah: Played the tambourine, so not at all suitable for us.

John: Said he was a Baptist, but he doesn't dress like any Baptists we know. Has slept outside, eats a weird diet, and provokes denominational leaders.

Paul: Powerful message, and people responded to him, but he had been known to preach all night. That would never do for us.

Judas: Seems to have been a steady plodder, with excellent connections. Knew how to handle money. We're inviting someone like him to preach this Sunday. Possibilities here!

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?

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

Interested in learning more?



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



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