



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for  
September  
2023

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

*Volume 137*

*Issue 1644*



### PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

### CHURCH COUNCIL

**Chairperson** – Diane Bennett

**Treasurer** – John Illingworth

**Church Admin Assistant** – Paul Hubbard

Council Members -

Joyce Ashworth, Helen Illingworth, Dorothy Jones,  
John & Edna Wood

### ENVELOPE SECRETARIES

Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

### PULPIT AND LETTINGS

Paul Hubbard

### FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Edna & John Wood  
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Member - Helen Illingworth

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# Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 3rd September 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 10th September 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 17th September 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sheila & Irene	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Jesse & Tom	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 24th September 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by	* * * * *
* * * * *	Helen Illingworth & Dorothy Jones	* * * * *

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



### 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."

## 100 CLUB WINNERS

### AUG 2023

1st	3	Diane Bennett
2nd	55	Helen Wilkinson
3rd	69	Glynn Whyment

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Greetings Dear Reader, welcome to September's edition of The Messenger.



We have a busy month ahead at Clover Street. Highlights include: our next music night, featuring Hindle Wakes, the Women's League Project Lunch, and a very special visit to our church by Vince McCully, current President of the GA. Vince is also at Chorley in October (so you get two chances to see him). All the important details, dates and times are contained in our centre-fold calendar, so don't miss-out. All of this in addition to news from our neighbours, book circle, puzzles and more!

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Chorley Unitarian Chapel and The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, I am delighted to invite you to attend worship, at Chorley, on Sunday, October 15th, 2023, at 11 a.m. The service will be conducted by the current GA President, Vince McCully, who will also speak about his Presidential duties, during the lunch which follows. We hope you will feel able to join us, on this occasion, either as individuals, or as congregations; you may like the opportunity to organise an away-day, and transfer your service to Chorley, on that morning. We hope for a good attendance, from each of our NELUM churches, on this date, for what promises to be a very special and inspiring day.

It would help us if you could acknowledge this invitation and give us some indication about possible numbers, so that we have an idea as to what arrangements we need to make, at this stage. A reminder will be sent out, nearer the time. If you have queries, now, please contact John Hewerdine, Chair of the Chorley Congregation, by emailing him at:

[john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk](mailto:john@hewerdinefamily.co.uk)

Otherwise, please respond to

[rogermills4@yahoo.com](mailto:rogermills4@yahoo.com)

We look forward to seeing you all, in October; a warm welcome awaits you at Chorley.

Best wishes,

Anne Mills (Lancashire Collaborative Ministry Secretary).



## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

As we gradually shift into autumn months, I hope that you can look back on the passing season with an appreciation of all that it brought.

In the words of one of our well loved hymns we know that there's no sky 'without a cloud, without rain', even amidst the glory of summer, and we certainly got a taste of that this year! And that can sometimes ring true for our internal weather conditions, which can be particularly difficult to work through. Whatever the conditions are though, we can have faith that they will change, everything always changes.

If I had to choose I'd find it very difficult to say whether it's Autumn or Spring that I appreciate the most, what I can say is, it's the transitional energies of both that I really relate to. So as autumn settles in, let us be attentive to what might need to shift, or what we might have to let go of, so that we as individuals and a community might continue evolving.

And on a community note, a thank you on behalf of the Foodbank. Since reinstating the collection box, we've collected the first car boot load of supplies, which were gratefully received by them the other day. It's hoped that in the coming month their stores will see a boost in supplies from the various church harvest services. Albeit that our harvest service isn't until 1st October, we too will be sending any none perishable produce to them. In the meantime, whatever you can give will be appreciated.

After a quieter couple of months socially, we have a couple of events to look forward to this month - the next in our series of Friday music events and also the Saturday lunch, the details of which are inside. We hope to see you there, and friends are always welcome.

Happy Autumn Everyone!

With my love, Abi xx

# NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD

Flowers lovingly arranged by  
Helen Illingworth & Dorothy Jones

## SEPTEMBER

Sun	03	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	04	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Thur	07	17.00	Afternoon Tea — hostess: Anne Dawson
		18.00	WL Meeting — speaker: George Scaife 'Wellington'.
Fri	08	19.30	<b>Music Night</b> featuring Hindle Wakes — see below and opposite for details — share with your friends!
Sun	10	10.30	Sunday Service led by GA President Vince McCully
Sun	17	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Sat	23	11.45	<b>WL Project Lunch</b> , details on pg 8
Sun	24	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Wed	27	11.00	Move and Munch in the Hall with light lunch to follow.

Rochdale Unitarian Church 

**HINDLE WAKES**  
**COUNTRY, BLUES & POP**

FRIDAY 8<sup>ND</sup> SEPT 2023  
AT 7:30PM - TICKETS £10

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS

CLOVER STREET, ROCHDALE OL12 6TP

## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

Very sadly, as we go to press, we have learned of the tragic death of **Edmund Taylor**, son of the late Susan & Ian Taylor. Many of you will remember Edmund attending Sunday School. We extend our sincere sympathy to his brother Matthew.

*This is your page to share news of every kind,  
so please keep us informed.*

## FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC Clover Street Unitarians

SINGING COUNTRY, BLUES & POP  
**HINDLE WAKES**  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September - 7.30pm



**£10 inc. pie & peas**  
**(£5 for under 12's)**  
Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door  
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP  
[www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk](http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk)

## 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 Jun	06 Jul	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

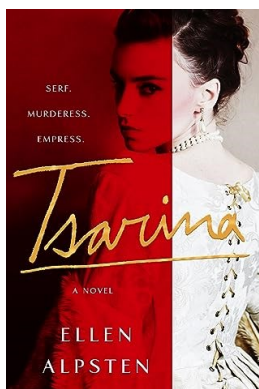
**Important** - should you be unable to attend please arrange for a stand-in, it is difficult for one person to cover both functions.



## BOOK CIRCLE



At our meeting on we will be discussing *Tsarina* by Ellen Alpsten. *Tsarina* is an epic, rags to riches tale inspired by the story of Catherine I, who was the second wife of Peter the Great and Empress of Russia from 1725 until her death. With nothing but wits, courage and formidable ambition, Marta will rise from nothing to become Catherine I of Russia but it comes at a steep price and is tied to the destiny of Russia itself.



It's quite a tome but nothing like as long as *War and Peace* so I'm hoping we'll all have read it by 11th September.

### WOMEN'S LEAGUE PROJECT LUNCH

Our next lunch to be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September is to raise money for Women's Aid which has been the National Women's League charity for the last two years. Women's Aid is a grassroots federation working together to provide life saving services in England and build a future where domestic abuse is not tolerated.

**Women's League  
& Project Lunch**

women's aid  
until women & children are safe

£12

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept  
11:45am

CONTACT PERSONS  
Dorothy Jones - 01706 659877  
Helen Illingworth - 01706 649015

Donate  
Your Plate  
for  
women's aid

## NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

Dear Members and Friends of the Chapel

1. Our next service will be: 10.30 am Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, when we welcome Mrs Anne Mills to lead the service.
2. Our Harvest Festival afternoon service will take place at:  
3.00 pm Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, led by Rev John D Allerton.  
Harvest gifts are welcome and any tins , bottles or packet food will be passed on to the local Foodbank.  
Tea, coffee and cakes will be served in the hall after this service.
3. There are some structural problems with the back wall of the Chapel. There is a bulge in the wall that needs rectifying before the whole wall can be re-pointed. Professional advice is being sought.
4. A reminder that the Ainsworth Methodist Guild will be visiting the Chapel for a 1 hour talk at 2.00 pm Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August, when you are welcome to attend.

We hope that you'll be able to join us at one or both of these services.

With good wishes to you all, especially those of you who are not too well at the moment

*Shirley*

*Shirley Horrocks  
Hon Secretary , Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel*



## HARVEST FESTIVAL

We look forward to our Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st October to be led by our Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie. When we give thanks for the crops safely gathered, our thoughts turn also to the on-going struggles of our farmers and food producers. May we never be blind to their efforts to put food on our tables.



## CARTOON FOR SEPTEMBER



"Er... vicar – does the church have a position on the donation of GM vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

## OVERHEAD...

Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence, and learning. – Anon

The Kingdom of God is simply God's power enthroned in our hearts. Faith in the Kingdom of God is what makes us light of heart and what Christian joy is all about. – *John Main*

Not only are the sins of the fathers visited upon the children, but nowadays the sins of the children are visited upon the fathers. – *Anon*

To me, old age is always 15 years older than whatever I am. – *Anon*

Folk singer: a person who sings through his nose by ear. – *Anon*

Compassion: when someone *could* tell you all about their recent operation, but doesn't. – *Anon*

## SUMMER SUDOKU

8								
7		9	5			4	8	
	2		7				5	
				1	6			
2								9
			4	5				
	3				7		2	
	1	6			9	3		5
								6

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Interested in learning more?



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

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

## 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—Blue Room
	■ 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 <a href="mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com">rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com</a> 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.

### 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 (voicemail)

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