



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

May
2022

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 136

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PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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MAY



Flowers

<p>Sunday 1st May 2022 Val Nuttall In Memory of Mum & Dad (Irene & Brian Nuttall)</p>
<p>Sunday 8th May 2022 Lynn Holland In Memory of my lovely Auntie Gladys</p>
<p>Sunday 15th May 2022 Margaret Salt In Memory of her Family</p>
<p>Sunday 22nd May 2022 Flower Donation Vacancy</p>
<p>Sunday 29th May 2022 Flower Donation Vacancy</p>
<p>Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Shore, Dorothy Jones and Margaret Shore</p>

100 Club Winners Jan—Apr 2022

January 48 - Diane Bennett, 06 - Adele Henson, 67 - Martin Whyment

February 22 - Anne Dawson, 85 - Roger & Cath Shore, 16 - Jackie White

March 28—Helen Illingworth, 61 Lynn Holland, 62 Ron Wilkinson

April 73 Michael Salt, 95 Elaine Schofield, 84 Edna Wood



A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE



God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide
their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at
risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



JOYCE'S KITCHEN

RECIPE OF THE MONTH – SPICED APPLE CAKE

This is taken from a novel I have been reading, which makes quite a lot of mention of food – looks simple to make and apparently works well served warm with custard, or cold with a cup of tea. I've not tested it yet!

3 apples, peeled, cored and sliced
2 tsp golden syrup
1 tbsp butter
1 tsp ground cinnamon

Sponge mix:

4 oz butter
2 tbsp golden syrup
4 oz caster sugar
2 eggs
4 oz SR flour
1 tbsp milk



Simmer apples with syrup, butter and cinnamon till tender but not mushy

To prepare the sponge, soften butter and syrup in a bowl over a basin of hot water.

Remove from heat and beat in sugar and eggs

Fold in flour, adding milk to give consistency of lightly whipped cream.

Place apple chunks in a greased tin or ovenproof dish and pour over the sponge mix.

Bake 25-30 minutes in moderate oven 180C or Gas mark 4



MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Whether it's Beltane or May Day we celebrate, the beginning of this month marks the peak of Spring. As I write, we've just enjoyed a run of beautiful sunny spring days and what a joy they've been. All that was tentative has been brought into the fullness of life. The frog spawn of April is now a school of fairly mature tadpoles, perhaps not ready to graduate to high school just yet, but they're growing fast. The cherry tree is smothered in delicate blossom and the lawn mower is now in full use.



If that weren't enough, should we believe the saying 'Ash before the Oak, and there'll be a soak. Oak before the Ash, and there'll be a splash', then I predict (courtesy of Geoff's bonsai collection) that we are set for just a splash of rain in the coming months....a prediction that has no guarantee I hasten to add, the minister isn't always right!



Whatever the meteorological outcome, there is much to celebrate this month. I especially look forward to marking our anniversary on the 15th, a time to honour our origins at Blackwater Street and look forward to what the future might hold here at Clover Street.

With every blessing to you all, love Abi xx

ST GEORGE'S DAY FLAG RAISING

On Saturday 23rd April, Joyce and Helen were our representatives at No 1 Riverside at the Flag Raising ceremony to mark St George's Day, followed by a minute's silence for the victims of the conflict in Ukraine.



RUC NEWS AND EVENTS



Flower Month
Margaret Shore, Dorothy Jones and Margaret Shore

MAY

Sun	01	10.30	Sunday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough
Sun	08	10.30	Sunday Service led by Karyl Cross
Mon	09	19.00	NELUM AGM at Bury
Sat	14	14.00	Bolton Bank St Closure Service
Sun	15	10.30	Anniversary Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie. This Service will be followed by Coffee & Cake.
Mon	16	19.30	Book circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sat	21	15.00	Jubilee Afternoon Tea followed by entertainment by Velody.
Sun	22	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Helen Mills
Fri	27	13.00	Lunch time concert at Cross St Chapel feat Patrick Hemmerle on piano
Sun	29	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	30	19.30	General Council meeting via Zoom

Bequests

Following the sad occasions of the funerals of Susan Taylor (Shotton) and Pat Chippendale, bequests to the total of £600 have been received.

There is a designated fund within our church accounts so these monies are spent appropriately. Currently, the fund stands at £2,207 so should anyone have good suggestions as to how to best use these precious gifts, Church Council will consider them further. (follows on opposite page ...>)

DEC Ukraine Appeal

Following our retiring collections during March and including the Film Club & Raffle last week, a magnificent total of **£516.50** has been raised for the Disasters Emergency Committee - Ukraine Appeal. This is a wonderful total from our small congregation, so thank you one and all. I am sure that all support is much appreciated in these very difficult times for the Ukraine nation, please remember them and especially the displaced families in your prayers.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

It is with much sadness that we record the untimely death of **Darryl Latham**, who over the past 18 months had bravely endured bone cancer. Along with the Latham family, Darryl spent time in Church and Sunday School into teenage years and enjoyed YPL activities at the Nightingale Centre in Gt Hucklow. More recently he was a valued member of the Church Billiard Team, taking part in Billiard's League matches. To Hilary and all of Darryl's family members we offer our love and sympathy at this very sad time for them.

Warm congratulations to **Abi**, who will celebrate a "special" Birthday this month. We hope you will enjoy some memorable celebration Abi.

Congratulations to **Diane Bennett** who has recently undertaken the role of Chair of The Inquirer Board.

Congratulations also to **Jeff Whyment**, who celebrates a big "0" Birthday this month. Have fun Jeff.

We are grateful and appreciative of a recent legacy from the estate of **Pat Chippendale** and this will be added to other relatively recent legacies to provide further congregational facilities.

Rev Jeffrey Bowes, who attended the GA Meetings, sends his greetings to members of Rochdale Congregation, who remember his Ministry with us.

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	

2022 GA MEETINGS REPORT:

I was privileged to attend the Meetings as Rochdale's Delegate this year. It was simply wonderful to meet people I have not seen in person for so long - there were beaming smiles to be seen for the full two days. The meetings were well-attended and the most encouraging feature for me was the larger than usual presence and engagement of much younger people. I came away totally exhausted (didn't take a single session out) but wonderfully inspired and spiritually renewed.



Trinity of Presidents (from L to R) Joyce Ashworth (retiring Women's League National President), Anne Mills (GA President) and Susan Holt (newly installed Women's League National President)

Time and space do not allow me to report fully on the Meetings in this issue of the Messenger, but here are the "basics"

MOTIONS:

1 NHS - Calling for renewed commitment to a well-funded Service and the abandoning of plans/practices which further divert public resources to private healthcare companies.

At one point there was a vote to refer back to allow further discussion within congregations - this was defeated by 85 votes to 23 so progressed to the main vote: Result was 102 For, 9 Against with 3 abstentions.

2 TRANSGENDER RIGHTS - affirming transgender rights are human rights and urging adoption of self-declaration recognition.

This was undoubtedly the Motion which created the greatest heat and emotional testimony and I have to confess to being unexpectedly reduced to tears myself. Extended time was requested and granted. Again a referral was requested but the conference concluded there was already more than enough information if people wished to access it and the plea was defeated by 79 to 39 votes, therefore becoming a resolution which was carried by 84 For, 16 Against with 15 abstentions.

3 REBRANDING - lack of consultation over introduction of new chalice/website. The Proposer and Secunder of this Motion made it clear that this was not about liking/disliking the new Chalice logo, but about the fact that we are autonomous, democratic communities we all treasure and that if insufficient consultation was accepted in this matter, then we could well lose it altogether. This Motion saw the closest vote numbers and indeed was the only defeated Motion with 57 votes for reconsulting congregations/fellowships, 49 Against with 14 abstentions. **Disappointment at this result was clear to be seen on the Chief Officer's face.** It will be interesting to watch this space, as the new logo has been in use for a considerable period now and much money spent on the whole rebranding exercise!

4 WE THE PEOPLES CAMPAIGN - With the approach of the UN's 75th Anniversary, a grass-roots initiative to reform global governance with the aim of rebalancing decision-making from being top-down to becoming more connected to real peoples' needs and concerns - a culture shift aided by structural change.

This Motion was carried with 97 votes For and only 1 Against with 7 abstentions. The Conference was reminded that now this was a Resolution, the onus on each of us was to take it away and **DO** some work on it!

Enough for you to digest at the moment!! The Meetings in general will be reported widely in the Inquirer and comments can be read in the Gazette, copies of which are on the Noticeboard (please return after use so others can borrow them). I will report in the June Messenger on Workshop sessions I personally attended and found the most interesting and encouraging.

Administrative Motions 5-12 were all carried unanimously.

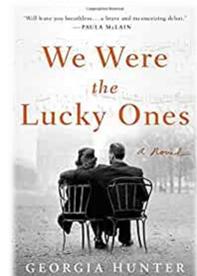
The Business Meetings were smoothly and efficiently chaired by GA President, Anne Mills, who injected much-needed humour into proceedings, which may otherwise have been somewhat routine. Her innovative session-starting short stories/true events "without beginning or end" left me intrigued and still pondering!

Motions 13 and 14 expressing gratitude to Anne Mills for her unstinting work as GA President and appointing Rev Sue Woolley as GA President for the year 2021-2022 were warmly received. By way of Sue's installation as President, Rev Celia Cartwright quoted Shakespeare in describing Sue: "Though she be little, she is fierce" - one way of describing Sue's untiring, positive attitude!

Collection at the Anniversary Service: This was in aid of The Red Cross to support the Ukrainian situation and reached the magnificent sum of £4,293 to which was added £173 from the purchase of "Inquirer lanyards" by conference attendees and with the addition of gift-aid, the estimated total is at least £5,393.

Book Circle

For our May meeting we are reading *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter. '1939. Three generations of the Kurc family strive to live normal lives despite the growing hardships they face as Jews. But as the realities of war rush to meet them, they cast to the wind and must do everything they can to find their way through a devastated continent to freedom.'



ADVANCE NOTICE

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE – 15 MAY 2022

We are very much looking forward to celebrating our Anniversary Service which will be led by our new Minister, Abi. The Choir is busy practising a new introit Enter this House of Worship for which Myrna has written a new tune St Saviourgate. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served after the service when there will be the opportunity to chat with old friends.



PLATINUM JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022

We are really looking forward to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Saturday 21st May from 2.30 pm with a special Afternoon Tea. Our entertainer Velody will be taking us on a Swingin' journey of music and dance in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In a vintage career spanning over a decade she has performed for the BBC, ITV and choreographed dance routines for Peaky Blinders. We are delighted Velody can perform for us and teach us some moves. The Jubilee Afternoon Tea is welcome to all who appreciate putting a Swing in their step, after they have partaken of tea and scones first of course! Accessible to all fitness levels, there will be a short Swing Dance taster class and room for dancers to take to the floor afterwards.

Please invite your friends and relations to come along to this special celebration. Tickets are available from Council members priced £10.

<p>Saturday 21 May 2022</p> <p>PLATINUM JUBILEE AFTERNOON TEA</p> <p>From 2.30 pm— 5.00pm</p> <p>Admission: £10</p>	 <p>Entertainment from Velody The best music and dance from the last 70 years! Includes dance taster.</p>	 <p>Raffle</p> <p>10th THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE 2022</p>
<p>Rochdale Unitarian Church Clover Street</p>		

A CELEBRATORY SERVICE - 5 JUNE 2022: (our way of marking the Platinum Jubilee & witnessing to our Faith)

The Queen's Jubilee year coincides with the 60th Anniversary of founding "Send a Child to Hucklow" - the first such holiday was in 1962.

SACH is currently our Church Charity - giving generously at this Service will ensure their vital work can continue!

AN EXCITING NEW BOOK!

The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry has produced a book, to commemorate its eighteen months of lockdown. The book, entitled 'Our Extraordinary Year', is now available for purchase, at a cost of £8.00 per copy, if collected personally, or £10.00, including postage and packing. 'Our Extraordinary Year' is a wonderful collection of sermons, written by such distinguished ministers as Rev. Jim Corrigan and Rev. Danny Crosby; by regular LCM service-leaders Rev'd. Dr. Shannon Ledbetter (who is also the book's editor), Tony Cann, Paul Hubbard, and Robert Foreman; and there are also two addresses by G.A. President, Anne Mills. As the services progressed, one of Padiham's members, David Cooke, set himself the task of writing at least one haiku, every week, to describe each service; he would read out his haikus, after the service ended. Sadly, David died, just before Christmas, last year, and the book pays tribute to his talents. Each item in the book has its author's permission for it to be used, so that copyright should not cause problems. For service-leaders, the book contains a wealth of quality material, which represents a valuable resource, from which full services could be constructed, at fairly short notice; it is, in addition, an historical document of some interest. A print-run of 100 copies has been ordered, initially, and we are hoping to sell them all; copies may be reserved by contacting Shannon Ledbetter, whose email address is:



scledbetterosprey@gmail.com

WORLD PREMIERE!

Oliver's Journey Home

Music by David Dawson
Libretto by Nick Morrice

A Light-Hearted Musical for all the family

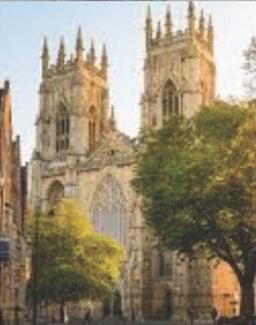
Starring Hugh Ameigh as Oliver
with members of the Unitarian Music Society
and New Horizon Orchestra
Directed by Marcie McGaughy

ONE Performance Only!
Sunday 14th August
at 5pm

The Clarke Foley
Community Centre
Cunliffe Road, Ilkely LS29 9DZ

Tickets £10
including buffet supper after the show

Apply to Nick Morrice
01904 765424


REGULAR BOOKINGS

Day	EVENT
Mon	12.30-2.30pm Prima Dance—Main Hall
	7.00-8.00pm 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—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
Thur	11.00am-12.00pm L4L Zumba—Main Hall
Sat	7.30-8.30pm Rebecca Kanku—Silver 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

**A CELEBRATORY SERVICE -
5 JUNE 2022**
(our way of marking the Platinum Jubilee & witnessing to our Faith)

*Important
DATE!*

The Queen's Jubilee year coincides with the 60th Anniversary of founding "Send a Child to Hucklow"

SACH is currently our Church Charity - giving generously at this Service will ensure their vital work can continue¹

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."



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