



The Monthly Messenger for

November 2021

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 136

Issue 1622



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, dear readers, the nights are drawing in, the temperatures are dropping, the clocks are going back ... it's all too much! So thank goodness for the timely publication of your favourite periodical to keep the Autumn blues at bay. We've got recipes to warm your hearts, poetry to ponder and lots of important dates for your diaries (especially regarding Christmas events). A reminder also that renewal letters for the 100 club 2022 are due out later this month.



Finishing on a high note, there is a wonderful piece of good news in the "About People" section on pg 8 — congratulations to Catherine and Ben!

WINTER WARMER!



Make the most of delicious autumnal fruits with this Recipe:

PLUM SQUARES (Serves 12-16)

- 300g self-raising flour
- 300g light brown sugar
- 150g butter

For topping:

- 300g sour cream
- 2 eggs
- 150g plums roughly chopped



- 1) Preheat oven to 160C (140C fan, 325F, gas 3) and line a 30cm x 20cm deep-side baking tray.
- 2) Mix flour and sugar, and rub in butter to a sandy texture.
- 3) Spread half mixture in the lined tray, pressing down with spatula for an even layer.
- 4) Add sour cream and eggs to remaining flour mix and just stir to combine with only a few lumps remaining.
- 5) Pour over the base mixture and spread evenly.
- 6) Top with chopped plums, arranging them evenly over the surface.
- 7) Bake for 35-40 mins until golden and set.
- 8) Allow bake to cool completely before cutting. Serve with double cream.

S EASONAL REFLECTION...

AUTUMN SPEAKS

by Robert T Weston

Out of doors

The colours of bright
autumn and the bright sun
Tell of the beauty of that
which dies
But always comes again.



They speak directly to the heart
Of the eternal which outlives all moments
And yet lives only in them -
Outlives all forms, yet comes again in them as in
ourselves.

It is said that there is nothing new in the world,
No thoughts, even, which others have not thought
Yet every thought is new to him who for himself
Thinks it for the first time.

Each miracle of life is also rebirth, life born again,
Though every individual be new,
Existing at his birth for his first time.
Life in each one, as in the leaf and flower,
Accepts and yet cheats death.

There is sadness in the autumn leaf: I feel a sorrow
that its beauty dies
And feel its message for the lives of those,
As of myself, whom I have known and loved.
The leaf comes not again, though other leaves
And flowers will bloom, and other lives,
Richer than we have been, shall take our place.

Perhaps the autumn teaches us a wiser grace
Through which we live, by learning to let go.



RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month
Margaret Salt & Dorothy Jones

NOVEMBER

Mon	01	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	07	10.30	Sunday Service led by Paul Hubbard
Mon	08	19.30	Book Circle in Blue Room
Sun	14	14.00	Remembrance Service led by Jean Longworth (please note start time)
Mon	15	19.15	NELUM meeting at Chowbent
Sun	21	10.30	Sunday Service led by Arek Malecki
Sun	28	10.30	Sunday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough

DECEMBER

Thur	02	11.30-16.00	Discussion Meeting on "Future of Women's League" — Cross St
Sat	04	19.00	Film Night — "Little Women"
Sun	05	10.30	Toy & Gift Service led by Rev Celia Cartwright
Mon	06	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom

ROTA

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2021				
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth		26 Sep	31 Oct	05 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	29 Aug	03 Oct	07 Nov	12 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	05 Sep	10 Oct	14 Nov	19 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	12 Sep	17 Oct	21 Nov	25 Dec
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	19 Sep	24 Oct	28 Nov	
Important - should you be unable to attend please arrange for a stand-in, it is difficult for one person to cover both functions.				

Main Hall Roof Works *John Illingworth*

You may have noticed that the scaffolding we have had for some time around the main hall roof has been taken down. Quite correctly you might have guessed that this means the hall roofing overworks are now complete. We have also taken the opportunity whilst up there to renew a length of fascia board which was in a poor state of repair, on the elevation overlooking our neighbours on Clover Street. The Architect inspected the works on the 11 October and found everything was satisfactory and so the instruction was issued to drop the scaffold. We still have one or two jobs to do in connection with the roof, one being to fit a security cover over the rainwater pipe running down the corner of the building on Holland Street, the rainwater pipe was renewed when we did the blue and green room roof but for some inexplicable reason the pipe has been vandalised! We will also be examining the internal rainwater pipe in the main corridor which seems to have a slight leak from time to time.



You may also notice slight changes around the building over the next few weeks as further improvement works are undertaken. These consist of gradually replacing the fluorescent tubes and fittings of the main hall with LED panel lights, these should give out a better light and be considerably cheaper to run. To start with we are changing the first two rows of fittings at the Church end of the hall where we have an unidentified fault which trips the power supply from time to time, this will give us the opportunity to physically see the difference with these new fittings and to ensure we are happy before changing the remainder of the hall lights. We are also going to change the apse lighting to LED but the bulbs for this are proving difficult to obtain. We have had an electrical socket installed in the pulpit area so that any service leader or minister can have power on-hand for a laptop or tablet, should they wish.

Following the recommendations of our Fire & Safety Inspection Report last year we are undertaking several improvements. The vestry and cloakroom doors are fire doors, as originally fitted but no longer comply with modern standards and so they are having smoke seals and intumescent strips fitted to bring them to standard. We are also going fit edging strips to the main entrance steps so that people with limited vision are more able to differentiate the step edges thus making their access and egress from our building much safer. There are also running repairs around the building like replacement of worn-out hinges and door closers replacement battery packs for some of our illuminated fire exit signs and the fitting of a handrail to the cellar steps. Hopefully we will be able to keep any disruption to a minimum.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

We were pleased to see **Elaine Schofield** after having had a small operation on her face. We hope she is feeling and looking more like herself now!

Congratulations to **Katherine** and **Ben** whose daughter **Alice** has had a little boy **Oscar Theodore** weighing 8 lbs 10 oz. Oscar is their first grandchild and Elaine's first great grandchild. We send our best wishes to all the family.



ZOOM SERVICE WITH REV ASHLEY HILLS

It was lovely last month to attend Ashley's service on Zoom from London. Ashley's ministry at Rochdale was over 55 years ago between 1965 and 1967 but his voice is as strong as ever and he remembered everyone who went to speak to him after the service. He trained at UCM with Rev John Allerton who attended the service which he very much enjoyed.

It was our first Zoom service and therefore a learning curve. For next time we need another camera so that the worship leader can see the congregation and a microphone for the piano and the reading desk. Thank you to Anne and Ian for watching on Zoom and giving their feedback.

100 CLUB 2022—NOVEMBER REMINDER

Renewals open for our 2021 series!

Later this month, we will be sending letters out to all our 100 Club subscribers reminding them to renew for 2022. This long-running and popular scheme is a fun way to raise money for church upkeep, as well as being in with a chance to win some cash too! Three numbers from 1-100 are drawn a month at random, with prizes £30, £15 or £5 for 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Each number costs £12 to register for the year, and you can win as many times as your number is drawn.

Unclaimed numbers will be posted on the church noticeboard. The more you adopt, the bigger your chances of a win!



On Sunday 14th November, at 2pm Rochdale Unitarian church are holding our Remembrance service led by Jean Longworth. For those who wish to attend a morning service, we have received the following from Ainsworth:

Ainsworth Service of Remembrance: 10.30am Sunday 7th November

Leader: Shirley Horrocks, Accom: Barry Scanlon

Our 'Service of Remembrance' will take place as above and we warmly invite you to attend and join in our service of commemoration and reflection. Following last year's success, we are delighted that our Organist, Barry, will again be playing his Yamaha Keyboard.

All the downstairs box pews will be open and you are asked to sit wherever you feel comfortable. We recommend that you wear masks (unless exempt) and also allow 1 metre distancing with others, unless in the same bubble.

Please note that our afternoon 'Christmas Service' will be at: **3.00pm Sunday 5th December** when we will welcome Rev Lynne Readett to take the service.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



Film Night – Saturday 4th December, 7.00pm

Following numerous requests, Church Council have agreed to restart the Film Nights which were so popular before the Pandemic. As with Church services seating will be safe distanced and supper will be served in the Blue Room with tables for no more than 4 people. For the time being, due to our loss in income over the last 18 months, any profit will go to Church funds.

The first Film Night will be on Saturday 4th December at 7.30 pm when we will be showing Little Women. Ice creams will be served at the interval and supper comprising pie and peas and homemade cake (at £7.00) will be served after the film.

If you haven't been to a Film Night in the past, please come and join us. We look forward to seeing family members and friends who have supported us in the past. It will be great to 'go out' again on a Saturday night!

Toy & Gift Service 2021

We are delighted to welcome Rev Celia Cartwright to lead our Toy and Gift Service this year. Toys collected during the service will be donated to the local charity 'Giving Back' which is run by Council staff in support of families who would otherwise struggle to provide gifts for their children at Christmas. The monetary collection for the service will be donated to the Send a Child to Hucklow scheme (SACH) which is our Church Charity this year.

Carol Service – Sunday 19th December, 6.00 pm

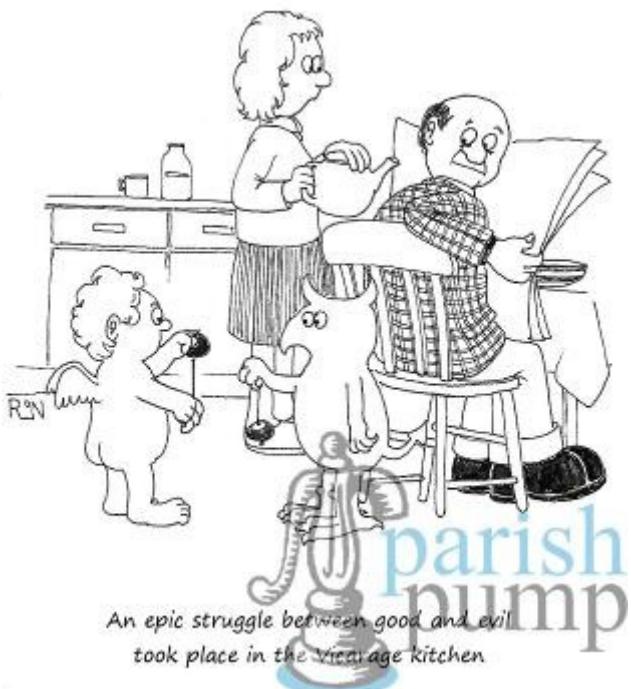
We look forward to Chrissie Wilkie returning to lead our evening Carol Service. I'm sure Chrissie will be looking for volunteer readers and an item from the Choir. Donations from the retiring collection will be Emmaus, the National Women's League's current charity project. Come and join us in singing your favourite carols and enjoy hot drinks, fruit cake, and mince pies served after the service.

Church Charity The collection this year will go to Send a Child to Hucklow (SACH).

Christmas Card Scheme The donations from this year's Scheme will be donated to the Toilet Twinning charity. We have already funded one toilet in the DR Congo and have £30 towards a second one. Let's try hard to twin our second toilet this year.

NOVEMBER CARTOON

© parishpump.co.uk



If you still wish to renew your Messenger or Inquirer subscriptions then fear not! You can cut-out and complete the form below and send it in to church together with your payment. What are you waiting for? Get snipping!

MESSENGER & INQUIRER ORDER FORM

It is essential that this form is included with your subscription. Please fill in the details and hand or post to:

Rochdale Unitarian Church, Clover Street, Rochdale
OL12 6TP

**Cheques payable to 'Rochdale Unitarian Church'
Or send via Bacs — S/C: 40-52-40, A/C 0006-0040**

Messenger (volume 136-7) - Jan to Dec 2022 £6.00

Postage if required 12 issues @ 66p £7.92

Inquirer - (delivered to church) Jan to Dec 2022 £25.00

Please deliver to me each month

copies of the Messenger £

copies of the Inquirer £

Postage if required £

Total £

Please write your name and address clearly below

Name _____

Address _____

EVENT DATES 2021

Date	EVENT
7 NOV	10.30am Sunday Worship — Paul Hubbard
14 NOV	2.00pm Remembrance — Jean Longworth
21 NOV	10.30am Sunday Worship — Arek Malecki
28 NOV	10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough
4 DEC	7.00pm Film Night — Little Women
5 DEC	10.30am Toy & Gift Service — Rev Celia Cartwright
12 DEC	10.30am Sunday Worship — Robert Foreman
19 DEC	18.00 Carol Service — Chrissie Wilkie
25 DEC	Saturday 11.00am Christmas Morning Service — TBA

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?



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

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



Rochdale Unitarian Church
Clover Street
ROCHDALE OL12 6TP
 01706 648461

DECEMBER 2021 EDITION
COPY DEADLINE - 21 NOV
ISSUE DATE - 28 NOV