



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for

May  
2021

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

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### PASTORAL TEAM

Initial Contact & Co-ordinator -  
Joyce Ashworth  
Members -

Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth  
& Margaret Salt

### CHURCH COUNCIL

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**Treasurer** – John Illingworth

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

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Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

### PULPIT & LETTINGS' SECRETARY

Paul Hubbard

### FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Edna & John Wood  
53 Links View, Rochdale OL11 4DD

### SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Co-ordinator - Joyce Ashworth  
Member - Helen Illingworth

### PUBLICITY TEAM

#### Messenger Notices

Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

#### Messenger Publication and Distribution

Paul Hubbard

#### Website Manager

Diane Bennett

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Paul Hubbard** Tel 07884 123 169  
Email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

**Joyce Ashworth** Tel: 01706 659294  
Email: joyce.ashworth9@gmail.com

**Diane Bennett** Tel: 01706 371518  
Email: diane119@hotmail.com

**Helen & John Illingworth** Tel: 01706 649015  
Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk  
Email: john@illingworth.org.uk

**Margaret Salt** Tel: 01706 852575

**Margaret Shore** Tel: 01706 360883

**John & Edna Wood** Tel 01706 645252  
Email: jonwud@tiscali.co.uk

**CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461**

# MAY Flowers

### FLOWER FUND

We realise there has been a disruption to the normal calendar for donations to the 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.

We hope to resume weekly services 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.

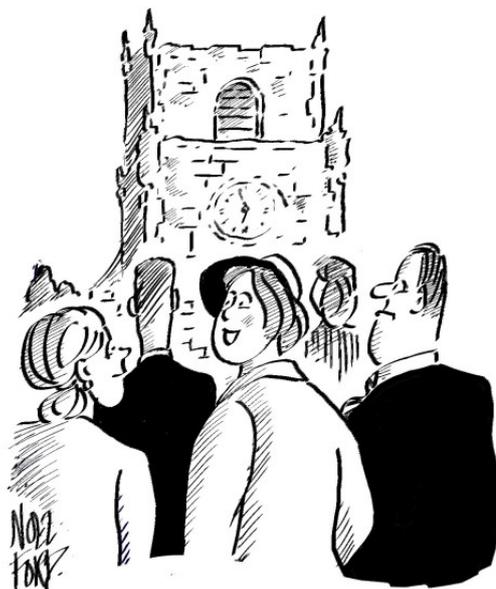
For the two services in May the flowers have been donated by:

**Margaret Salt**

And

**Arlene Hind**

Many thanks for your generosity



"After a year of working from home, Anthony will seize any opportunity to put on a suit!"

# CLOVER STREET NEWS & EVENTS

## ANNIVERSARY SERVICE 10.30.AM 16TH MAY

Rochdale Unitarian Church is delighted to host GA President Anne Mills to lead our church's 359th Anniversary Service!



Anne is no stranger to Rochdale's pulpit, being a long-time member of our sister church in Bury and supporter of our own congregation. We offer a warm welcome to Anne and wish her all the best in her role as GA President for 2021.

If you wish to attend this special service, please contact us in advance (see pg 2) so that we may plan for social distancing measures. We look forward to welcoming all who are able to celebrate with us on 16th May. Please see the back cover for further up-coming service dates.



## NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE AGM

I hope Women's Leaguers have got the date firmly in their diaries - 28/29 June when, all being well, we should be "fully liberated" from restrictions and it will be good to be doing something together.

The event will take place at Gt Hucklow with an overnight stay:

**Monday, 28 June**—Arriving for **Lunch** followed by:  
**Service of Worship—AGM—Dinner—Evening Speaker and Epilogue.**

**Tuesday, 29 June**—after **Breakfast—Country House Visit (NT - Kedleston Hall, Nr Derby).**

Costings and final arrangements pending - LOOK OUT FOR BOOKING FORMS - available shortly.

## 100 CLUB WINNERS

### APRIL 2021

1st	44	Ann Shepherd
2nd	63	Bill Hutton
3rd	26	Katherine Schofield

Having been in the Women's Royal Naval Service in the 1970's I am part of a Facebook group called 'Dauntless Divisional Photos.'

Two ex Wrens are trying to collate a full database of photos over the years and hopefully put ladies back in touch with old friends they joined up with.

If it could be spread further afield than Rochdale, that would be such a help too, as everyone is trying to do their bit to reach out to these 'missing' ladies.

Many thanks in anticipation. **Jackie White**

## TWO SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS!

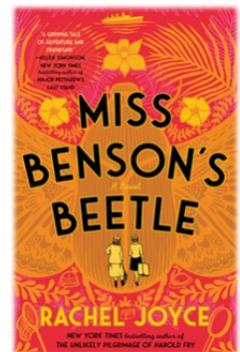
Two ninetieth birthdays being celebrated this month - **Ann Beasley** and **Jean Shore** - hearty congratulations from all of us. We hope you will both be able to thoroughly enjoy celebrating with family..



## BOOK CIRCLE by Helen Illingworth

For our May meeting we have chosen Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce.

It is 1950. In a devastating moment of clarity, Margery Benson abandons her dead-end job and advertises for an assistant to accompany her on an expedition. She is going to travel to the other side of the world to search for a beetle that may or may not exist. Enid Pretty, in her unlikely pink travel suit, is not the companion Margery had in mind. And yet together they will be drawn into an adventure that will exceed every expectation. They will risk everything, break all the rules, and at the top of a red mountain, discover their best selves.



We are still meeting on Zoom each month but if the roadmap out of lockdown goes to plan we hope to start meeting in person, probably initially at Church where there is more space.

# FOOD FOR BODY AND MIND

Joyce Ashworth

## LOOKING FORWARD TO SOME WARM, SUNNY EATING-OUT TIME ?

Here's a quick and easy lunch/dinner suggestion :

(Serves 2)

FENNEL, BEETROOT and ORANGE SALAD with GRIDDLED PRAWNS

1 large orange

200g raw, peeled jumbo prawns (thawed, if frozen)

1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

1 large fennel bulb (about 300g)

1 tsp dijon mustard

2 tsps sherry or white wine vinegar

A large handful fresh flat leaf parsley (leaves only)

150g cooked beetroot in natural juice, cut into wedges



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Grate into bowl, zest from half the orange

Add prawns and 0.5 tsp of oil

Season & toss to coat

Slice peel off orange and cut flesh into discs - put in a large bowl squeezing over any juice from the peel.

Thinly slice fennel and add to orange slices along with remaining oil, mustard and vinegar. Season and toss together.

Heat a non-stick frying pan over medium heat. Add prawns & cook 1-2 mins each side until opaque and cooked through.

Mix parsley & beetroot into contents of large bowl and arrange on platter or separate plates and arrange on platter or separate plates.

Top with hot prawns and serve immediately.

Note: If you want a heartier meal serve with wholemeal bread or cooked brown rice.

Marianne Williamson in her foreword to the book *Handbook for the Soul* writes: "I believe the collective unconscious knows when group survival is in danger, and I can think of no other time when it has been more important to consider the needs of the human soul.

Soul is our appetite, driving us to eat from the banquet of life. People filled with the hunger of soul take food from every dish before them, whether it be sweet or bitter. We are not born with guarantees that we will have strong souls. No, we must work on our souls - enlarging and expanding them. We can only do so by experiencing all of life - the beauty and the joy as well as the grief and pain.

Attitude is probably the most important thing, but it's not easy. It's difficult to have an attitude toward life that no matter what happens, all we experience is for our inner growth. But it's the essential condition - the most important thing to have. We can't depend on external things to give what can only come from inside."

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

Richard Fletcher



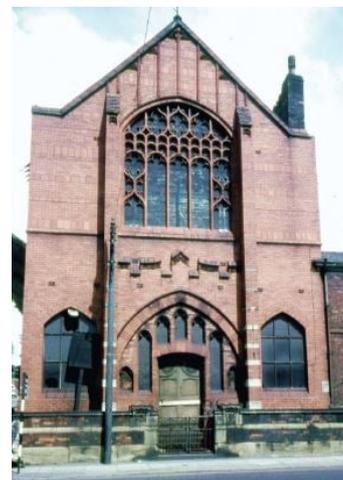
Old Road Unitarian Chapel, Middleton, Lancs.

This chapel was designed by the Manchester-based architect Edgar Wood and opened in 1893. It was the first Unitarian Chapel in Middleton, former services having been held in the town's Temperance Hall. Wood's family were Unitarians and his grandfather had played a significant part in the planning of a new Blackwater Street Chapel in Rochdale.

The exterior of the Middleton building was red engineering brick with yellow sandstone dressings, but interest was added with an elaborate entrance, an abstract group of stone mouldings and a large window with intricate modern tracery. The side elevations had smaller traceried windows at first floor level and dormers in the roof. Inside, schoolrooms occupied the ground floor, with the chapel at first floor level. The back wall of the chancel featured a large mural painting on either side of the organ pipes.

The artist was Frederick Jackson of the Staithe Group and a personal friend of Wood's, and the subject was "Seedtime and Harvest". Perhaps continuing the theme, the large stained-glass window over the entrance depicted an apple tree surrounded by birds in flight. The elaborately carved pulpit, organ screen and font were all designed by Wood. The chapel closed in 1963 and was demolished two years later in 1965.

Richard Fletcher is a member of the Facebook group Lost Church Buildings in the UK.



## EVENT DATES 2021

Date	EVENT
16 MAY	10.30am Anniversary Service — Anne Mills
30 MAY	10.30am Sunday Worship—Graeme Pilbrough
13 JUN	10.30am Service & Congregational AGM
27 JUN	10.30am Sunday Worship — Robert Forman
11 JUL	2pm Worship followed by Afternoon Tea
25 JUL	10.30am Sunday Worship — Chris Carr
8 AUG	10.30am Sunday Worship — Paul Hubbard
22 AUG	10.30am Sunday Worship — Garry Hammond
29 AUG	10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough

### 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!

**Helen & John Illingworth** Tel: 01706 649015

Email: [helen@illingworth.org.uk](mailto:helen@illingworth.org.uk)

Email: [john@illingworth.org.uk](mailto:john@illingworth.org.uk)

**Paul Hubbard** Tel 07884 123 169

Email: [rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com](mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com)

**Church Answerphone** - 01706 648461



**Rochdale Unitarian Church**

**Clover Street**

**ROCHDALE OL12 6TP**

01706 648461

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