



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

April
2023

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 137

Issue 1639



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

Church Admin Assistant – Paul Hubbard

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

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Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

PULPIT AND LETTINGS

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

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April Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 2nd April 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 9th April 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Elaine Schofield	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory Fred	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 16th April 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dorothy Jones	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of her Family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 23rd April 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Anne & Ian Dawson	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 30th April 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Val Nuttall	* * * * *
* * * * *	Memory of Irene & Brian (Mum & Dad)	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce	* * * * *
* * * * *	Ashworth, Helen Illingworth,	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dorothy Jones and Margaret Shore	* * * * *

Should you know of someone for whom Church flowers would be a source of comfort and solace please have a word with Helen Illingworth or Joyce Ashworth



WISE WORDS

When we take least notice of our good deeds ourselves, God takes most notice of them. – Matthew Henry

The hurrier I go, the behinder I get! – Anon

Rush is destructive of rest, and pace of peace. – Thomas Adams

Christianity: the revelation of God, or the research of man?

Hello Dear Reader, welcome to April's edition of the Messenger.



A couple of highlights this month: firstly, we are delighted to announce the completion of the refurbishment of our historic Burn-Jones stained-glass windows (see some of the pictures in Abi's article opposite). Secondly, we are excited to host the next in our new series of Music Evenings on 21st April with Undercover2 — tattie supper included — so don't miss out. Finally, let me wish you a Happy Easter, and don't eat too many eggs!

Pear & Gingerbread Cake (thanks to Jamie Oliver)

4 large eggs
200ml olive oil
200g dark brown sugar
200g self raising flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
200g ground almonds
100g 70% dark chocolate
100g stem ginger in syrup
410g tin pear halves in juice



Preheat oven to 180C. Prepare a 20x30cm roasting tin, grease with olive oil, line with a sheet of damp greaseproof paper.

Crack the eggs into a large bowl, whisk with the sugar and olive oil, fold in the flour, baking powder and ground almonds. Finely chop half the chocolate and all the ginger and fold through the batter. Pour into the tray. Drain the pears reserving half the juice, slice lengthways and arrange on top, poking them into the batter.

Bake for 35mins or until an inserted skewer comes out clean. Leave to cool in the tin for 5mins, transfer to wire rack, carefully removing the paper.

Bring to the boil the reserved pear juice, a drizzle of ginger syrup, turn the heat off and break in the remaining chocolate and stir to make a simple chocolate sauce.

Drizzle over the cake and serve.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



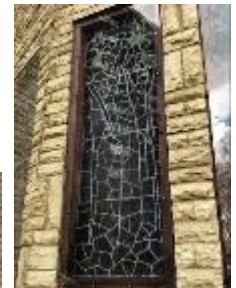
Dear friends,

"Let us spring forward" ... and so we did!

It really is a joy to take this opportunity in amongst the busyness, to reflect on what has gone before. I hope that alongside my ramblings here, you too take time to reflect and let all that we've achieved, engaged with and made preparation for, sink in. Not in a box ticking way, but in a more appreciative and gentle way, of recognising that we do have resources and capacity beyond any of our hesitations or fears.

So thank you to everyone, for all your efforts that resulted in another splendid Saturday lunch, an event that is much appreciated by our wider community. Thank you too for all who come together to plan and put everything in place, for every activity or event that we undertake. However ordinary our tasks may be, each one is supporting our vision to be a church that serves our community.

And for anyone who hasn't had opportunity to appreciate some of the work of last month, here are a few pictures of our windows. How good it feels to be sharing something we treasure with everyone else, and they make the building more noticeable too. I almost can't wait to see them in winter with the lights shining through them from inside!



For now though, let us enjoy the days as they get longer and warmer, and let us watch as life blossoms through this coming month.

And if you want to join us for our Music Night on Friday 21st April, I think that would be a great time for all of us to come together and celebrate life. If you love life, come and join us – trust me, it'll be a great evening!

Wishing you all a blessed Easter time.

With my love

Abi xx



NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



Flower Month

Joyce, Helen I, Dorothy & Margaret Shore

APRIL

Sun	02	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Allerton
Mon	03	19.00	NELUM meeting at Ainsworth
Tues	4th-6th		GA Meetings 2023 at Staverton
Thur 04		17.00	WL Afternoon Tea — Hostess: Anne Shepherd
		18.30	WL Meeting
Sun	09	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	10	19.30	Book circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Tues	11	19.30	Special Events Meeting
Sun	16	10.30	Sunday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough
Fri	21	19.30	Music night, featuring Undercover2
Sun	23	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Mon	24	19.30	General Council meeting via Zoom
Sun	30	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

“ABOUT PEOPLE”



It was with sadness that we received news that **Granville Leather** has passed away. Despite now living in Blackpool, Granville and his wife Christine supported both Bolton Bank Street and Ainsworth Chapels. Granville was an active lay preacher over quite a period of time and also served as Chair of Nelum District. He will be missed within the denomination and our condolences go to Christine and the family.

We wish **Tom Harforth** well for his new job at an hotel in Banff, Canada. He is at the moment working at the Torridon, a luxury hotel in Wester Ross, Scotland. I'm sure Banff will be a regular holiday destination for Kathryn and Peter.

Many congratulations to **Elaine Whyment** who celebrated a special 0 birthday at the end of March. We hope you celebrated in style Elaine.

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

“All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.” – James Allan Francis

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 Jul	06 Aug	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



For our April meeting we will be discussing Home Going by Yaa Gyasi which I'm sure will prove be an emotional and memorable read.



Homegoing is a multi-generational saga that follows the descendants of two half sisters, Effia and Esi, across three centuries, beginning in eighteenth-century Ghana and arriving at the present day. The sisters grow up knowing nothing of the other, one to the Asante tribe and the other to the Fante tribe on the Gold Coast. Both are given a black stone necklace, to be passed down to the next generation.

The narrative takes several paths from these women - the generations that follow their legacy always bringing each person home to their roots of who they are and where they came from.

SPECIAL REPORT

Vision Group

After nearly fifty years of wear and tear, work has been completed on the renovation of our beautiful windows. The new specially treated polycarbonate panels are transparent making a huge difference both inside and out.



Have you noticed the new planter underneath the vestry window? Our thanks go to Abi and Geoff for making and filling it with spring flowers. We are hoping to start the next stage of the garden makeover within the next few weeks.

MUSIC NIGHT

Important DATE!



FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC
Clover Street Unitarians

Dance to classic covers by
UNDERCOVER2
Friday 21 April - 7.30pm

£10 (inc. tattie supper)
(£5 under 12's)
Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

UNDERCOVER 2—LIVE AT CLOVER STREET! FRIDAY APRIL 21ST AT 7.30PM

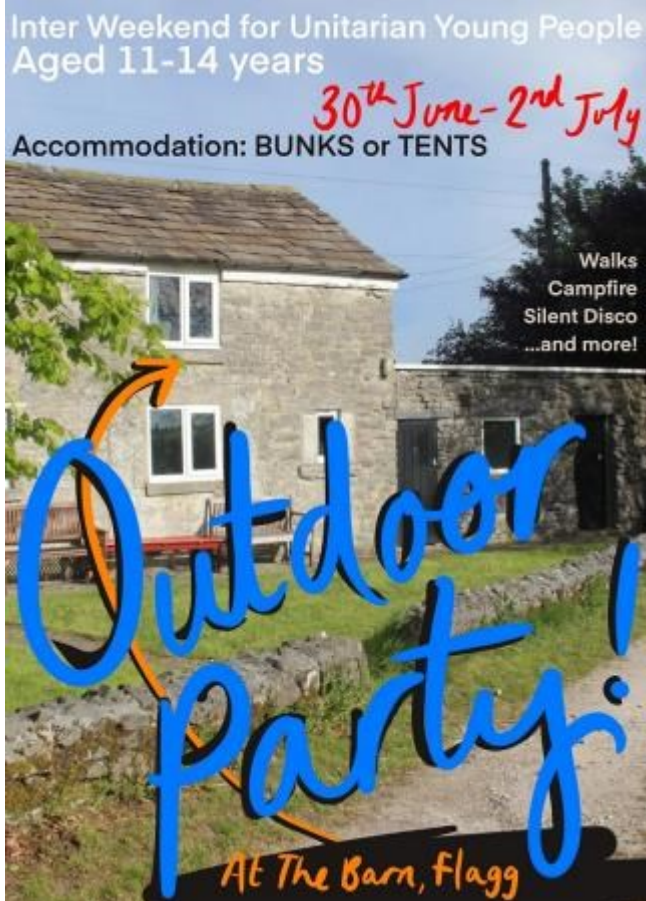
Tickets are available for our next Music Night when we welcome Undercover2, an entertaining duo who will have you singing and dancing. There will be a bar as well as a 'tattie' supper. This is a family event so invite your friends and relations and I'm sure they'll all have a great night out.

SPONSOR SUE!

A message from our President, Rev. Sue Woolley: "I have signed up to the Walk 10K Steps A Day in March challenge for Cancer Research, as a fitting conclusion to my Presidential year - partly on account of the death of a dear friend and colleague, Rev Ernest Baker - and because cancer affects so many of us." If you would like sponsor Sue, visit her fundraising page:



<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/sues-walk-all-over-cancer-giving-page-197>



Activities include walking, campfire, silent disco and much more. We will be planning and leading worship inside the Barn.

The Barn is in the small village of Flagg about 6 miles south of Buxton and 6 miles west of Bakewell. Flagg is close to the Limestone Way and at the centre of a network of paths criss-crossing this part of the Peak District. There are great opportunities for walking, cycling, visiting places of interest or just relaxing in the peaceful surroundings. The Barn at Flagg is a simple bunk barn with a large adjacent camping field having terrific views over open countryside. Set in the White Peak area of Derbyshire the barn sleeps nine people in two dorm rooms with living areas downstairs that can seat 26 people. There is a large kitchen, living area, toilets and showers. All young people will be accommodated inside the Barn (in bunks) or in tents in the field just outside.

There will be 5 staff looking after the young people, 2 of whom will provide catering for the group.

All staff have a current enhanced DBS check which has been sourced by the Unitarian College – specific to the event.

Young people will be accommodated in same-sex bunk rooms or same-sex tents.

COST: £60

To book a place on the Inter Weekend please email Helen Mason at the Unitarian College on HMason@unitarian-college.org.uk or phone her on 07494495743

COME AND JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED WEEKEND! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

CARTOON FOR APRIL

Choir on strike!



Among their demands were bourbon biscuits, double fees for weddings, and Sundays off

S MILE LINES

For MPs only

At the Pearly Gates, St Peter greeted a minister and a Member of Parliament and gave them their room keys. "Vicar, here are the keys to one of our nicest single rooms. And for you, Mr MP, the keys to our finest penthouse suite." When the vicar protested that this was unfair, St Peter explained: "Look, ministers are a ten a penny up here, but this is the first politician we've ever seen."

Dial

They have Dial-a-Prayer for atheists now. You call up, and it rings and rings but nobody answers.

Sermon

A preacher, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his address. The man returned just before the end of the service. Afterwards the preacher asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But, why didn't you do that before the service?"

Came the reply: "Because I didn't need one then."

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—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 YT Zumba—Main Hall
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	

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



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MAY 2023 EDITION
 COPY DEADLINE - 23 APRIL
 ISSUE DATE - 30 APRIL