

# The Monthly Messenger for

July 2025

A Journal of the Unitarian Church Clover Street Rochdale

Volume 139

Issue 1666



### **PASTORAL TEAM**

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie,
Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones & Helen Illingworth

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Chairperson** – Diane Bennett **Treasurer** – John Illingworth

Church Admin Assistant - Paul Hubbard

Council Members -Joyce Ashworth, Helen Illingworth, Dorothy Jones, Edna Wood, Helen Wilkinson, Anne Dawson

# **ENVELOPE SECRETARY**

John Illingworth

# **PULPIT AND LETTINGS**

Paul Hubbard

# FLOWER FUND SECRETARY

Helen Illingworth 5 Bagnall Close, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 7SH

### SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Co-ordinator - Helen Illingworth Member - Abi Elliott-McGuffie

# **Messenger Notices**

Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

# **Messenger Publication and Distribution**

Paul Hubbard

**Website Manager** 

Diane Bennett

# **CONTACT DETAILS**

# **Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie**

Email: reverendabi@cloverstreetunitarians.org.uk 07718 534 250

Paul Hubbard Tel 07884 123 169 Email: administrator@cloverstreetunitarians.org.uk

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

**Diane Bennett** Tel: 01706 371518 Email: chairperson@cloverstreetunitarians.org.uk

Helen & John Illingworth Tel: 01706 649015 Email: illingworthhelen2@gmail.com Email: treasurer@cloverstreetunitarians.org.uk

**CHURCH VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461** 



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

米	*****	米
***	6th Val Nuttall In memory of Mum & Dad's Anniversary	***
***	13th Joyce Ashworth In memory of Harold	米米
***	20th Di and George Scaife	***
***	27th Vacant	/**
***	Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce Ashworth (6th), Anne Dawson (13th), Dorothy Jones (20th), Helen Illingworth (27th)	***
*	*****	*

# JaJaJaJaJaJaJaJaJa

# **100 CLUB WINNERS**

### **JUNE 2025**

(drawn by Graeme Pilbrough)

1st 77 Andrew Mason

2nd 26 Graeme Pilbrough

3rd 67 Martin Whyment

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5



# **JULY NEWS AND EVENTS**



Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce Ashworth (6th), Anne Dawson (13th), Dorothy Jones (20th), Helen Illingworth (27th)



Thur	03	17:00	Monthly Tea — Hostess: Margaret Shore
		18.30	WL Main Meeting (see below)
Sun	06	10.30	Church Anniversary Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie (to be followed by Congregational AGM)
Sun	13	10.30	Sunday Service joining Chorlton Unitarians via Zoom (service is at Rochdale)
Mon	14	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	20	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Tony McNeil
Sun	27	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott- McGuffie

# **WOMEN'S LEAGUE THURSDAY 3 JULY**

Tea at 5 pm

Women's League Meeting 6.30 pm

Speaker: Beryl Allerton

'A Look Around Chelsea Flower Show'



# 33

# **ABOUT PEOPLE**



We are delighted to announce the happy news that **Richard Jones** and **Sue Evans** recently became engaged. We offer them our warmest congratulations and our very good wishes for their future together.

# Dear Friends

Many thanks for the beautiful acer I received on the occasion of my 70th birthday. It was a complete surprise and will make a very welcome addition to our garden.

Yours Helen

# **Book Circle**

Our discussion for July is based on Nightingale Point by Luan Goldie which pays tribute to the victims of tragedies like Grenfell Tower or Biljmer in Amsterdam when a cargo plane crashed into two blocks of flats killing more than 40 residents. On an ordinary Saturday morning in 1996, the residents of



Nightingale Point, a residential tower block, wake up to their normal lives and worries. It's a day like any other, until something extraordinary happens. When the sun sets, Nightingale Point is irrevocably changed and somehow, through the darkness, the residents must find a way back to lightness, and back to each other. — Helen I

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2025											
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	05	09	16	20	25	29	03	07	12	16	21
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	12	16	23	27	01	06	10	14	19	23	25
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	19	23	30	04	08	13	17	21	26	30	28
	Jan	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	26 Jan	02 Mar	06 Apl	11 May	15 Jun	20 Jul	24 Aug	28 Sep	02 Nov	07 Dec	
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	02 Feb	09 Mar	13 Apl	18 May	22 Jun	27 Jul	31 Aug	05 Oct	09 Nov	14 Dec	

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

# Dear friends, A year on from the 50th anniversary of our building, this month will undoubtedly be less busy than it was last year – but wasn't it worth it! This year we have space to reflect upon the

There are many things

life of this community.

that continued as they've done for some time, and along with looking after the functioning of the building you enthusiastically supported other events. I'm mindful of the commitment and energy that all we do demands. For a small congregation we're very active and it's wonderful, for us and for those who join with us.



I'm in no doubt we'll commit just as enthusiastically to whatever we do this year, but I wonder if it might also offer different encounters. Opportunities

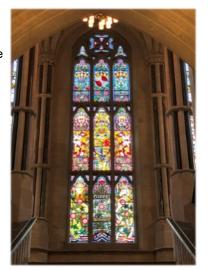
perhaps for more intimate exploration, for wider engagement and for thinking about our place in the community.

As the Greater Manchester town of culture for 2025/2026, Rochdale will be hosting many exhibitions, events and performances linked to the rich heritage of this towns' pioneering spirit, its cultural diversity and its creativity. There looks to be plenty to dip into or immerse ourselves in, whichever is preferable (as I write it's 27 degrees outside, so immersion is very much on my mind but right now it's more likely to be cold water!).

In supporting our community, we may be inspired in

unexpected ways; we might also make new connections along the way. There are good things happening in this town, I hope we can join in celebrating them and be proud of our place within it — may our separate fires help kindle a flame of regeneration.

With my love Abi xx



# THE RIVINGTON PILGRIMAGE 2025

The Rivington Pilgrimage has been an important part of the life of Rivington Chapel and the wider Unitarian community for sixty years. The first one took place in 1962 to celebrate the three hundredth anniversary of the ejection of 1662, which resulted in many ministers having to leave their posts in the Church of England.

The format of the Pilgrimage has remained much the same over the years. After a meal, a guest speaker proposes a toast to 'Civil and Religious Liberties



the World over'. Everyone then makes their way to the Chapel. Some chapels bring along their banners.

This year's Pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 27th September. If you would like to attend please see John and Helen who have booking forms which need to be in by 12th September. The cost including a two course lunch is £18 for adults and £9 for children. Depending on numbers it is hoped we can arrange car share.

# Women's League - 'Gin Made Me Do It'

After our recent meeting, we strolled to J's Cocktail Bar (formerly the Church kitchen) where we were introduced by Janet to the art of cocktail making.



The first cocktail produced was Gin Cucumber Cooler made with non-alcoholic Gin and a glass, complete with straw, was presented to Helen as it was her birthday.

We were regaled with interesting and amusing anecdotes as Janet continued her demonstrations.

Of course, these cocktails had to pass our taste tests but I think we all remained relatively sober!

One we all particularly enjoyed was 'Heavenly Days and this was accompanied by a Ferrero Rocher chocolate.

A delicious ending to the evening was enjoying a portion of a jelly containing raspberries and Vodka.

All agreed that it had been such an interesting, informative and fun evening. — Dorothy J

# **EVENT DATES 2025**

Date	EVENT
08 Feb	Film Club 7pm, Admission includes pie & pea supper and an ice cream interval
08 Mar	Spring Lunch 11:45am
04 Apr	Friday Music Night 7:30pm back by popular demand - Stacksteads Brass Band
10 May	Film Club 7pm, Admission includes pie & pea supper and an ice cream interval
07 Jun	Summer Lunch 11:45am
20 Sep	Autumn Lunch 11:45
10 Oct	Friday Music Night 7:30pm with the award winning Rossendale Male Voice Choir
15 Nov	Film Club 7pm, Admission includes pie & pea supper and an ice cream interval
06 Dec	Christmas Lunch 11:45am

# Clover Street Unitarian Fellowship Safeguarding

Safeguarding Team

- 1. Mrs. Helen Illingworth (co-ordinator)
- 2. Rev. Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Clover Street Unitarian Fellowship (also known as Rochdale Unitarian Church)

recognises its responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, online, 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 our policies and procedures reflect this, including in any such appointment and selection of persons who work on the Church's behalf. Clover Street Unitarian Fellowship 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.

# Interested in learning more?



http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

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



Rochdale Unitarian Church Clover Street ROCHDALE OL12 6TP

01706 648461 (voicemail)

August 2025 Edition
COPY DEADLINE - FRI 25 July
Issue Date - Sun 2 August