



The Monthly Messenger for

August 2025

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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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 SECRETARIES

Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

PULPIT AND LETTINGS

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Helen Illingworth
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SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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August Flowers



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

3rd Val Nuttall
In Memory of Mum and Dad
10 th Rev Celia Cartwright
In Memory of Mum and Dad
17th Margaret Shore
In Memory of her Family
24th Helen Illingworth
In Memory of her Brother
31st Margaret Salt
In Memory of her Family
Flowers lovingly arranged by
Helen Illingworth (3rd), Margaret Shore (10th),
Joyce Ashworth (17th), Anne Dawson (24th),
Dorothy Jones (31st)

100 CLUB WINNERS

JULY 2025

(drawn by George Scaife)

1st	51	Arlene Hind
2nd	67	Martin Whyment
3rd	30	Richard Jones

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to August's Messenger Newsletter! This month, we open with a very positive story (below) on welcoming our newest members to the congregation. It was indeed a wonderful sight to behold, with some heartfelt speeches delivered during the service.



As we were going to print, we received a message from Anne Mills of NELUM, which I promised to include in this edition: "I would be collecting teddy bears to send on to Old Chapel, Great Hucklow, so that the teddies can be given to the needy children who use The Nightingale Centre; this is a very worthy cause, so please consider supporting it; if each of our 13 chapels could contribute at least one teddy each, that would be very much appreciated; thank you."

New Members



It was very encouraging that Abi lead the welcome to four new members, at our anniversary service on the 6th July. It's with joy and gratitude that we welcome John & Beryl Allerton and George and Di Scaife, into our spiritual community. Joining an organization is more than just signing up for membership - it's about becoming part of something larger than yourself. It's about finding people who share your values, your goals, and your vision for the future. George & Di, John & Beryl, welcome to our Clover Street Unitarian family.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

If you've not heard already, Geoff and I became grandparents for the second time last month. Lewis and Andra (in Estonia) welcomed baby Agnes into the family.



She and Mum are doing well and Dad and brother Olev well, they look to be a mixture of proud and besotted!

We couldn't be happier for them but it's these special moments when we feel the distance between us. Not being there to hug and hold them, to care for them within all the disarray and tiredness that is part of a new arrival, it isn't easy, but we look forward to that opportunity in October.

Families are special, they can also be complex and complicated. They can be testing and loving, they can also be demanding and deeply caring. Yet in them (sometimes despite them), we learn and we grow. Of course, family may mean different things to different people, but wherever we're accepted for who we are, loved just as we are and cared for without expectation, there I think we can say we are part of a 'family'.

Wasn't it a joy for us to welcome new members into our church family last month! I hope that each of you feels at home here, for as long as you want it to be your home. And in the months and years to come, may we continue to learn from each other and care for one another. May this family be where we are encouraged towards self-knowledge and growth,

Happy August everyone, enjoy your families!

With my love
Rev Abi xx

AUGUST NEWS AND EVENTS

Flowers lovingly arranged by
Helen Illingworth (3rd), Margaret Shore (10th),
Joyce Ashworth (17th), Anne Dawson (24th),
Dorothy Jones (31st)

Sun	03	10.30	S unday Service—led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Thur	06	17.00	Monthly Tea — Hostess: Edna Wood
		18.00	WL Main Meeting (see below)
Sun	10	10.30	S unday Service—led by Rev Beryl Allerton
Mon	11	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	17	10.30	S unday Service—led by Rev Beryl Allerton
Sun	24	10.30	S unday Service—led by Graeme Pilbrough
Tue	26	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	31	10.30	S unday Service—led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

Thursday 7 August 2025

At our meeting on 3 July, we were treated to the viewing of glorious images of Chelsea Flower Show.

Beryl explained the meaning of each of the show gardens and we learned many interesting facts. Such an informative and enjoyable evening.

Thursday 6 September

Tea 5.00 pm

Meeting 6.30 pm

Speaker: Anne Dawson

'All That Jazz'



ABOUT PEOPLE

John and Helen Illingworth met up with **Kathryn and Peter Harforth** on a recent holiday to Grange over Sands. They are both very well and send their regards. Tom is working at an hotel on Vancouver Island until the New Year.



Another enjoyable 'get together' with Tracy and Geoff in Spain. You may also recognise **Dorothy Jones'** sister-in-law, Joan, and her brother, Allan.

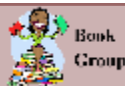


WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2025

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

BOOK CIRCLE



Our August read is appropriately a holiday read entitled *A Wedding in the Olive Garden* by Leah Fleming. Sara Loveday flees home and crisis for the beautiful Greek island of Santaniki. Here amid the olive groves where dark cypress trees step down to a cobalt-blue sea, Sara vows to change her life. Spotting a gap in the local tourist market, she sets up a wedding planning business, specialising in 'second time around' couples.



It sounds just the job for a holiday read, not too taxing but hopefully there will be enough content for us to discuss it at our 11th August meeting.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM SPRINGHILL HOSPICE

On Thursday 10th July, Enda, her daughter Sue and I presented a cheque for £3000 to the hospice. They were delighted to receive this fabulous contribution to their work.

A great effort by everyone who attended Film Nights, Music Nights, bought raffle tickets and ate food! Please pass on our thanks to everyone you've brought to these events, we couldn't have done it without their support.
Thank you Rev Abi xx



WHAT'S ON



RIVINGTON PILGRIMAGE



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.

FRIDAY MUSIC NIGHT – ROSSENDALE MALE VOICE CHOIR



Our next Friday Music Night is fast approaching on 10th October. It will be here before we know it! This is probably the most ambitious one we will have held as Rossendale Male Voice Choir has performed in various national competitions and won awards. Their concerts always have a varied repertoire and are full of fun.

We are excited to be hosting their concert and hope to be able to attract a good audience.

Please make a note in your diary and ask your friends and relatives to join us.

REMINDER

Supporting the work of our neighbouring Hostel

A few months ago, Joyce and I met with our neighbours at the hostel (the Revive Hub) to get to know them and better understand the work they do. They're a not for profit community initiative company, offering men who are living on the streets (or those at risk of ending up on the streets), a safe place to stay. As the company owners, Fez and his wife (a homelessness officer for 20 years) have had to deal with some financial challenges but were optimistic that this would soon be resolved. The hostel provide shelter, a bed to sleep in, communal spaces to socialise in, along with basic kitchen and bathroom facilities, with a number of places across town offer food. In talking to Fez, he explained that what the men are most grateful for when they first arrive is the opportunity to get clean. The dignity in being clean is easily taken for granted. Water helps, but think of the products we use in our daily routines! If being properly clean goes even a small way to restoring someone's dignity and self-worth, then let's show them that we care.

Could you contribute any of the following items - supermarket own brands are fine, they're often cruelty free too!

Shower gel	Shaving foam
Shampoo	Disposable Razors
Spray Deodorant	Face cloths (<i>could be made from towels no longer needed</i>)
Toothpaste	Toothbrushes

Please drop any items in the collection box and we'll pass them on to the hostel.

Thank you.



PADIHAM UNITARIAN CHAPEL
BB12 8JH

2nd ROSSENDALE SCOUT GROUP BAND

**A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL LOCAL
BRASS BAND doing Last night of the proms**

6th September 7.30

Admission £10

**For NW Air Ambulance,
Children's Heart Surgery Fund & the Chapel**

INFORMATION
01282 773336 or barryrbrown@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER CARTOON

Parish Pump ©



"We've had a tip-off that the sermon is going to over-run again."

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/>



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