



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

APRIL
2024

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 138

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PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson – Diane Bennett

Treasurer – John Illingworth

Church Admin Assistant – Paul Hubbard

Council Members -

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

ENVELOPE SECRETARIES

Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

PULPIT AND LETTINGS

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

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

SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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Member - Abi Elliott-McGuffie

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Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 7th April 2024 Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie In Memory of her Father	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 14th April 2024 Elaine Schofield In Memory of Fred	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 21st April 2024 Dorothy Jones In Memory of her Family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 28th April 2024 Anne & Ian Dawson	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by:- 7th Anne Dawson; 14th Helen Illingworth; 21st Dorothy Jones; 28th Margaret Salt	* * * * *



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



100 CLUB WINNERS

MARCH 2024

1st	17	Kate Salt
2nd	73	Michael Salt
3rd	66	Margaret Shore

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD



Flowers by
Anne Dawson; Helen Illingworth;
Dorothy Jones; Margaret Salt

APRIL

Thur	04	17.00	Monthly Afternoon Tea — Hostess: Margaret Shore
		18.30	Women's League Meeting — Speaker: Rev Beryl Allerton — "Almost an Island"
Thur—Sat	04-06		General Assembly Meetings in Daventry
Sun	07	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Beryl Allerton
Mon	08	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sun	14	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott -McGuffie
Sun	21	10.30	S unday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough
Tues	23	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Fri	26	19.30	Music Night featuring Stacksteads Band (see pg 7)
Sun	28	10.30	S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

"Nothing is more stimulating than friends who speak the truth in love." – Os Guinness.



"ABOUT PEOPLE"

Sylvia Palmer is now a resident at Springfield Park Care Home and is happy to welcome visitors.

Joyce Ashworth is delighted to have completed her radiotherapy and is pleased to get back to "normality. She thanks everyone for their cards, flowers and good wishes.

We are extremely pleased to record that **Stuart Watson** has now received the "all clear" on his biopsy results and we wish him a very speedy recovery.

50th Anniversary Celebrations



The Working Party are busy making preparations for the various events being held over the weekend. We are pleased to report that the Mayor and his Consort have accepted our invitation to the 50th Anniversary Service and Afternoon Tea. Invitations will soon be sent out to past members and supporters, local Churches and Unitarian Churches in the District. We hope representatives from the Co-op and our Lettings will join us too.

Don't forget to make a note in your diary – 6th and 7th July.

WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2024

Margaret Salt & Joyce Ashworth	07 Jan	11 Feb	17 Mar	21 Apr	26 May	30 Jun	4 Aug	8 Sep	13 Oct	17 Nov	22 Dec
John & Helen Illingworth	14 Jan	18 Feb	24 Mar	28 Apr	2 Jun	7 Jul	11 Aug	15 Sep	20 Oct	24 Nov	25 Dec
Margaret Shore & Dorothy Jones	21 Jan	25 Feb	31 Mar	5 May	9 Jun	14 Jul	18 Aug	22 Sep	27 Oct	1 Dec	29 Dec
Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt	28 Jan	3 Mar	7 Apr	12 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	25 Aug	29 Sep	3 Nov	8 Dec	
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	4 Feb	10 Mar	14 Apr	19 May	23 Jun	28 Jul	1 Sep	6 Oct	10 Nov	15 Dec	

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

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

Was it me, or did the ebb and flow of life reach quite a swell last month?

A month that felt quite busy, with the spring lunch and special services – thank you to everyone who helped make those happen and to everyone who joined us in support.



By the time you read this we'll have welcomed the spring equinox, hosted the service for the district congregations and Easter will have been and gone, and the passing of all these significant dates certainly felt to increase the pace at which we moved through last month.

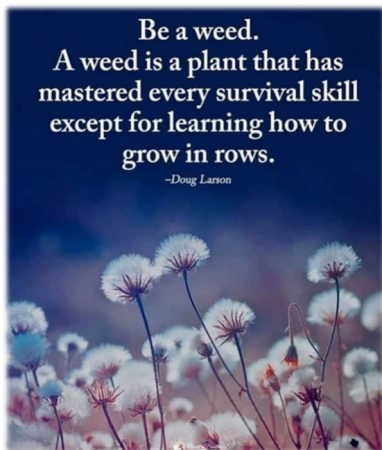
I hope that swell of energy is able to carry us through whatever this month brings ... and if anything feels a bit daunting, just imagine (there are no limits to imagination!) that you're riding a wave on a surfboard and soon enough you'll be back on firm ground. But if something more serene fits better, then I hope these words carry you forward equally well.

An extract from *Craving for Spring* by D. H. Lawrence...

*The gush of spring is strong enough
to play with the globe of earth like a ball on a fountain;
At the same time it opens the tiny hands of the hazel
with such infinite patience.
The power of the rising, golden, all-creative sap could take
the earth
and heave it off among the stars, into the invisible;
the same sets the throstle at sunset on a bough
singing against the blackbird;
comes out in the hesitating tremor of the primrose,
and betrays its candour in the round white strawberry
flower,
is dignified in the foxglove, like a Red-Indian brave.*

*Ah come, come quickly, spring!
come and lift us towards our culmination, we myriads;
we who have never flowered, like patient cactuses.
Come and lift us to our end, to blossom, bring us to our
summer
we who are winter-weary in the winter of the world.*

... And if you're looking forward to enjoying your garden just remember, weeds aren't all bad, in fact you could say they're quite nonconformist!



With my love
Abi xx

BOOK CIRCLE



Book Circle - 8th April at 5 Bagnall Close

Our book choice for April is *The Tenth Muse* by Catherine Chung. It chronicles the life story of Katherine, a mixed race Jewish/Chinese girl whose primary interest is mathematics. The Riemann hypothesis was the mystery that had opened her mind like a door and she has never doubted that the path to it would one day open, stark and clear before her feet. Katherine's desire to come out on top was born out of the conviction that she didn't have to be her male opponents' equal to be considered a worthy contender—she had to be better. But in her obsession with cracking the uncrackable equation, an underlying crisis emerges: young and drifting, Katherine is searching for identity, and answers to the tragedy that had ruptured her family forever.



MUSIC NIGHT



FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC Clover Street Unitarians

**STACKSTEADS
BRASS BAND** with
a concert not to be missed!



Coming **HERE**—Friday 26 April
7.30pm



£10 inc. refreshments


Scan QR code for tickets
or Tel 01706 649015
(limited tickets on the door)
Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP
www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk

EVENT DATES 2024

Date	EVENT
16 Mar	Spring Lunch
23 Mar	Unitarian District Service
26 Apr	Music Night—Stacksteads Brass Band
25 May	Film Night
8 June	Summer Lunch
6 & 7 July	Clover Street 50th Anniversary
28 Sept	Women's League Project Lunch
11 Oct	Music Night — Simeon Wood
16 Nov	Film Night
7 Dec	Christmas Lunch

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/>

	<p>Rochdale Unitarian Church Clover Street ROCHDALE OL12 6TP 01706 648461 (voicemail)</p>
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