



The
Monthly
Messenger
for

March
2024

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 138

Issue 1650



PASTORAL TEAM

Interfaith Minister Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Joyce Ashworth, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

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Flowers

| |
|---|
| Sunday 3rd March 2024 Elaine Whyment In Memory of Mum & Dad |
| Sunday 10th March 2024 Edna & John Wood In Memory of June & Vernon |
| Sunday 17th March 2024 Kathryn, Peter & Tom Harforth In Memory of Mum & Dad (Margaret & Geoffrey Jackson) |
| Sunday 24th March 2024 Helen & John Illingworth In Memory of Joyce, Douglas & Brenda |
| Sunday 31st March 2024 Di Scaife |
| Flowers lovingly arranged by:- 3rd Dorothy Jones; 10th Helen Illingworth; 17th Margaret Salt; 24th Margaret Shore; 31st Joyce Ashworth |

100 CLUB WINNERS

JANUARY 2024

| | | |
|-----|----|-------------------|
| 1st | 4 | Jackie White |
| 2nd | 31 | Jose Whyment |
| 3rd | 37 | Becky Illingworth |

FEBRUARY 2024

| | | |
|-----|----|---------------|
| 1st | 50 | Greta Henson |
| 2nd | 25 | Sura Yilmaz |
| 3rd | 21 | Glynn Whyment |

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Hello Dear Readers, welcome to March's edition of the Messenger newsletter! Notices for this month:



On Sunday 10th there is no service at Rochdale, as we are visiting Bury for 11.00 to celebrate 50 years at their current building (a milestone Clover Street is also celebrating this year). Names on the noticeboard please if need transport.

On Saturday 16th at 11.45 it's Spring Lunch.

On Saturday 23rd at 11.00 we are hosting a special worship service for member churches in our district, so please do come along if you are able (see pg 10). See you in April — Ed

REFLECTION

We were saddened to hear last month of the sudden death of **Madge Rimmer**, who died peacefully in her sleep at Half Acre House.



Madge was a life long member of Rochdale Unitarian Church, attending the church at Blackwater Street with her family and then at Clover Street, until she moved to Half Acre House - though she still enjoyed visiting us for special events.

Madge contributed to and enjoyed many of the social gatherings, from lunches to dances. She was also very appreciated for her skills in needlework, both creating and fixing, something that many of us benefited from. Her interests beyond the church extended to ballet, theatre and of course travelling, a passion that she shared with her dearly loved brother Alan.

As well as her adventurous spirit, Madge will always be remembered for her sense of fun, and the warmth of her greeting - with a smile that would brighten any day.

Madge, we remember you with much affection.

We remember too, with love and our sincere condolences at this time, Madge's nephew Martin who she thought the world of, her sister-in-law Erika and the staff at Half Acre House.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

I don't know about you, but to me, it feels like winter has been with us for such a long time, maybe it's had something to do with the persistent rain these past months? Thank goodness though, that the last week or so has felt more hopeful for Spring's arrival. The days have been noticeably longer, crocus and daffodils are revealing their much anticipated colour, and the birds have been warming their voices in readiness for nature's concert. I even heard the cockerel that lives some distance away, letting out a few croaky crows the other day, it sounds like he'll need to put in a bit more practice though!

How we look forward to spring, the getting ready-ness of this early month, before we move into the fuller, brighter and more joyful months ahead.

There is an energy rising, out of the stillness of winter and into all that this year might hold. Possibilities that may arise within our own congregation, or from between all those we connect with. So let's reach out and greet every opportunity with an open heart.



On Sunday 10th (Mothering Sunday) we'll be joining the congregation at Bury, to celebrate their building's 50th Anniversary, and I can't help but feel the significance of our congregations sharing the same anniversary this year. Of course there'll be our Spring lunch on 16th to look forward to, a lovely occasion to come together with friends and family members.

This month we're also offering a Worship Service on Saturday 23rd to all the congregations in the district, a rare opportunity to worship together with unitarian friends beyond our own congregations. As we well know, our expression of Unitarianism varies both within and across congregations, and yet our core beliefs and values hold us together. In our differences, I hope that we can nurture a strong sense of togetherness, and that this service might be an uplifting time for everyone who attends. I hope you can be part of it.

It looks like it's going to be a busy month, I also hope it'll be a month that brings many blessings to you all.

With my love Abi xx



NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD

Flowers by
Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth, Margaret
Salt, Margaret Shore & Joyce Ashworth

MARCH

| | | | |
|---|----|-------|--|
| Sun | 03 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie |
| Thur | 07 | 17.00 | Monthly Afternoon Tea — Hostess: Margaret Salt |
| | | 18.30 | WL Meeting — Speaker: George Scaife "Mason-Dixson Line" |
| Note: Bookings for GA Meetings close today | | | |
| Sun | 10 | 11.15 | NO SERVICE AT ROCHDALE CHURCH - joint worship at Bury to celebrate 50 years of their building. |
| Mon | 11 | 19.30 | Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close |
| Tues | 12 | 19.30 | General Council Meeting via zoom |
| Sat | 16 | 11.45 | Church Spring Lunch |
| Sun | 17 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie |
| Sat | 23 | 11.00 | Unitarian District Service |
| Sun | 24 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough |
| Mon | 25 | 19.15 | NELUM Meeting at Chowbent Chapel |
| Sun | 31 | 10.30 | E aster Sunday Service led by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie |

Note: clocks go forward 1 hour

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

As we go to press good news that **Stuart Watson** is now home, able to eat soft foods and getting used to the "new normal" with regard to talking, which can be tiring especially towards the end of the day! As usual his particular brand of humour is carrying him along splendidly. Stuart has expressed his appreciation for the card and all our good wishes. He still awaits the result of his biopsy to determine how successful the surgery has been and we trust he will make a speedy and very full recovery.

Progress continues well for **Joyce Ashworth**, who is expecting to commence radiotherapy in early March. Only five sessions on consecutive days will be required, so hopefully over and done with, in a week! The oncologist said "we never say never" but chances of recurrence are minimal. Joyce is extremely grateful for the quite wonderful treatment she has received.

We're delighted to report that **Arnold Ashworth's** injuries following his recent fall, turned out to be not quite as complex as first thought, and he is now home again and doing well.

As we go to press **Sylvia Palmer** is expected to be moved from North Manchester Hospital to Springfield Park Care Home in the next day or so. We do hope Sylvia is able to settle and be happy to receive visitors fairly soon.

Dear All

I would like to express my sincere thanks for all the messages of support and best wishes together with the card and flowers from church following my recent tongue cancer operation. I was in hospital for just under a week and they said I could go home when they knew I could eat and drink properly. (Bless them they just did not know me – so was out in 6 days) Best Wishes, Stuart Watson

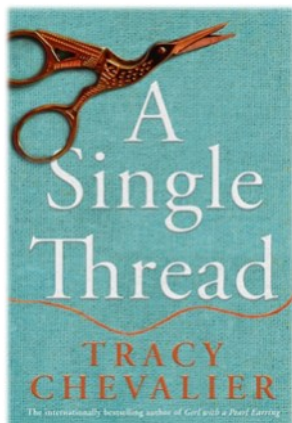
WARDEN/COFFEE ROTA FOR 2024

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 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 |

BOOK CIRCLE



This month for our meeting on Monday 11 March we are reading *A Single Thread* by Tracy Chevalier. It's 1932, and because so many young men have lost their lives in the Great War, there is a whole generation of unmarried females, unfortunately referred to as "surplus women;" Violet at age 38 is one of them. She has lost both her fiancé and brother in the war and decides to get a job in the next town to escape living with her cantankerous mother. She gets involved with a group of women who embroider cushions for the Cathedral and learns far more than just embroidery stitches through her association with these women.



It sounds like a gentle read from a bygone age and hopefully one we can recommend.

Clover Street Unitarians

SPRING LUNCH

Saturday 16th March 2024

At 11:45 am

Three course menu £12

For tickets please contact:

Helen 01706 649015

Joyce 01706 659294

CLOVER STREET
ROCHDALE OL12 6TP

MUSIC NIGHT



For our first Music Night of 2024 we are looking forward to being entertained by Stacksteads Brass Band. The band recently celebrated its 150th birthday in 2022 and is a 4th section band in the North West area.

Tickets will soon be on sale but meanwhile please make a note in your diary for **Friday 26 April - £10 including refreshments.**



CHARITY COLLECTIONS NEWS

Over the Christmas period we select charities to make donations to. I've been requested by the General Council to update everyone on the amounts raised and then donated to particular charities. We are not a big congregation but the amounts we raised are good and this is all down to your individual generosity, thank you very much.

Toy & Gift Service - Retiring collection and monetary gifts totalled £114 which was then topped up by £36 from Church funds making £150, this was donated to the Rochdale Children's Moorland Home. See the thank you letter on the corridor notice board.

Carol & Christmas Day Services - Retiring collections in these services raised a total of £121 which was topped up by £29 from Church funds to £150, this was then donated to the Red Cross for best use as they endeavour to give relief in the many crises they are currently being forced to deal with.

Christmas Card Scheme - This year we raised a magnificent £75 for our current Church charity, Springhill Hospice. This together with the proceeds from the February film night of £125, bring the total raised so far to around £765.



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CLOVER STREET BUILDING!!

Plans are forging ahead for our **50th Anniversary celebrations on 6th and 7th July**. The programme for the weekend will begin with a **catered High Tea for Church members and regular attenders** in the Blue Room **followed by a Concert by the popular Undercover2** which will be open by personal invitation to those who support us as members of the Congregation. **On Sunday afternoon there will be a special Anniversary Service conducted by Abi and Prof Geoff Levermore, GA President, followed by afternoon tea.** As with the 40th Anniversary, we plan to mount an exhibition to highlight the events of the last 50 years but will focus on the last 10 years. Let's make this a truly memorable celebration of our long heritage and Unitarian witness at Clover Street.

clover street UNITARIANS WORSHIP SERVICE

invitation to district
congregations

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024
11.00AM

Clover Street,
Rochdale
OL12 6TP

Spring is a time for celebration!

We invite you to join in worship with us, to come together in connection and affirmation of our shared values, and enjoy a catch up with friends after the service.

... and if you want to make a day out of it, why not visit the newly refurbished Rochdale Town Hall ☺

GA Meetings 2024 Motions: Discuss with the congregation!

There are four motions that will be voted on at the meetings this year. This is a great time for the congregation to discuss the issues and inform the delegates so that they know how to vote. These motions are:

1. Artificial Intelligence (AI) - calling for study and education around the subject
2. "No More Deaths" campaign - Affirming support for an inquest into deaths in custody.
3. War in Gaza - Call for a ceasefire
4. Increase the maximum number of motions considered at the GA meetings from 4 to unlimited.

You can find the full wording of the motions here:

<https://www.unitarian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Motions-2024.pdf>



"Next Sunday I think I'll do a new take on the Parable of the Virgins and the Oil."

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/>



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