



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for

November  
2023

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

*Volume 138*

*Issue 1646*



## 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

## 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

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

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Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

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Paul Hubbard

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**CHURCH VOICEMAIL - 01706 648461**



# Flowers

* * * * *	Sunday 5th November 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Helen Illingworth	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Hilda Wallis	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 12th November 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Jackie White	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of her Father, Rupert Arnold	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 19th November 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	George & Di Scaife	* * * * *
* * * * *	To Memory of Beryl Espley	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 26th November 2023	* * * * *
* * * * *	Diane Bennett	* * * * *
* * * * *	In Memory of Family & Friends	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by	* * * * *
* * * * *	Margaret Salt, Helen & Joyce	* * * * *

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



## Ethos for Rochdale Unitarian Church:

- ◆ "We aim to be a faith community which supports individuals in taking ownership of and responsibility for personal beliefs and actions.
- ◆ We offer a supporting environment in which to embrace life and its challenging questions."

## 100 CLUB WINNERS

### OCTOBER 2023

1st	85	Roger & Cath Shore
2nd	69	Glynn Whyment
3rd	17	Kate Salt

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to November's edition of the Messenger! Our big event this month is the Music Night performance by "The Earthquakers" (see below), so don't forget to tell your friends and book your tickets.



There is a change to the service time on Remembrance Sunday 12th November to 10.45am. Finally, if you wish to resubscribe to this excellent newsletter (or the Inquirer), please fill out and return the form on the pg 11. Renewal letters for the 100 Club for 2024 will be going out this month too, so keep an eye on your letterboxes! See you in December — Ed



## FRIDAY NIGHT MUSIC Clover Street Unitarians

### The Earthquakers Friday 17th November 7.30pm



This great band combine the soul and grit of English traditional music with the passion of the protest song and the deep feeling of country and blues. For many years The Earthquakers have been making audiences smile, think and move their feet...

All this and good food too. Please bring your own bottle (or two?).



**£10 (inc. refreshments)**  
Tel. 01706 649015 or on the door

Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP  
[www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk](http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk)

Come along and support our final Music Night of the year when folk group The Earthquakers will be entertaining us. There will be a potato pie/cheese and onion pie and pea supper and tea and coffee. Remember to bring a bottle and invite a friend or two!

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

Since moving into our new home in the spring, the oak tree across the road has been a source of great pleasure, never more so than the past month though. Its abundant harvest of acorns seems to have attracted every squirrel in the neighbourhood to its branches. They've had a ball too, chasing each other through its branches, and around and around the trunk, stuffing acorns into hastily dug holes, running along fences and generally frolicking about. They've had so much fun, bursting with the enthusiasm of life and they've been a delight to watch.

Coming back from a walk one morning, I noticed a discarded acorn cup. Not unusual in itself, the road is littered with them, but this one was sitting in a conifer tree. How odd it looked, though I don't doubt that the squirrels had something to do with it! When things are out of place, not how we expect them or perhaps even want them to be, how do we respond? This out of place acorn cup reminded me to respond with curiosity. We might react to the obvious, but by looking with curiosity beyond the immediate situation, we might receive something far more life enhancing.

May we all find blessing in the unexpected and the out of place.

With my love  
Abi xx

# NEWS AND EVENTS CENTREFOLD

Flowers lovingly arranged by  
Margaret Salt, Helen & Joyce

## NOVEMBER

Thur	02	17.00	Monthly Tea
		18.30	Women's League Meeting— Speaker: Rev Beryl Allerton
Sun	05	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service conducted by Graeme Pilbrough
Wed	08	19.30	General Council Meeting via Zoom
Sun	12	<b>10.45</b>	<b>R</b> emembrance Service conducted by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie (please note change of time!)
Mon	13	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Fri	17	19.30	Music Night featuring "The Earthquakers"
Sun	19	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service conducted by TBA
Sun	26	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service conducted by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

### THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER

Afternoon at Tea 5.00 pm, followed by our Meeting  
6.30pm.

This month's speaker will be Beryl Allerton, who will be  
discussing 'Marriage Customs'.

All Welcome.

## ABOUT PEOPLE

As we went to press, we learnt that **Maud Elgey**, who turned 100 in June, sadly passed away on Tuesday 24th October. Maud was a long-time member of our church and also our sister chapel in Padiham. We offer our sincerest sympathies to her daughter Pamela at this time. Maud's funeral will be held at Burnley Crematorium on Friday 10th November at 11.30am.

We're delighted to report that **Dorothy Jones** is progressing well and now able to move around the house without crutches. We're all looking forward to having her joining in with church activities before too long. Dorothy would like to express her thanks for all the kind wishes she has received following her fall.



## CARTOON FOR NOVEMBER



The treasurer still had a trick up his sleeve



## 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

## LETTERS & EMAILS



### EUNICE SMITH

The family of Eunice would like to express their most sincere thanks and appreciation for the words of comfort and support received at this time. Thanks also go to Abi for her care and consideration, and who I know was disappointed she could not deliver the funeral service herself due to illness. We greatly appreciated the Rev Helen Mills being able to take over this role. We know Eunice will be missed by many in the Unitarian movement judging by the six pages of phone numbers in her diary! She always liked to keep in touch even when she was unable to attend meetings.



## CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2ND DECEMBER



Our Church Christmas Lunch will be held this year on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. As we are limiting this lunch to 50 diners, tickets are already on sale and can be obtained from Helen Illingworth. Please book early to avoid disappointment on 01706 649015.



## CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH 10TH DEC



Following the success of last year's Christmas lunch a reservation has been made again at Park Farm, Ramsbottom, at 12.45pm after morning service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Order forms are available in church for your menu choices. Please could you let Helen Illingworth know of your choices by Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November, together with a deposit of £5.



Email from Jean & Colin Westerman's daughter Ann (17th October 2023)

I'm writing to inform you that since mum's death in March dad has coped very well but unfortunately about 8 weeks ago he had a bad chest infection. He was in hospital for 4 weeks and had quite a rapid decline, the outcome was that he was not fit to go back to his own home so he is now in a care home. He's doing ok but is bed ridden and sadly unable to do much for himself.

I know they were very active members of the church and I have just this week found photographs of when I was a May Queen attendant back in the 1960's.

Kindest regards  
Ann Barrett (Westerman)  
e: [ann.barrett@cctbenz.co.uk](mailto:ann.barrett@cctbenz.co.uk)

### As we remember All Saints Day:

The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because they are generally the same people. – *GK Chesterton*

### With Remembrance in mind...

Let men who delight in the cruelties of war remember that their day is coming. – *Louis Mumford*

### A wise observation on life...

It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives. – *Samuel Johnson*



Next meeting for District representatives: 6.30pm, Tuesday 5th December on Zoom. We hope to have one or two people from each District Association in attendance.

Liz Slade and Lizzie Kingston Harrison have now hosted two Zoom gatherings for District Connections. These fill an important gap in our communication – other than the annual meetings, it’s been many years since there were spaces for representatives of District Associations to meet with each other and the GA.

At the first gathering earlier this summer we heard from Districts about their current challenges and needs, and in our September gathering we reflected on the themes arising in the survey we sent out to District leaders about their wishes for communication between Districts and the GA. The main theme arising was that there is an appetite for more dialogue and collaboration, and we spent time exploring this.

We know that the past approach of having an EC link person attending the meetings of each District Association isn’t always practical, and so we are keen to understand the communication needs.

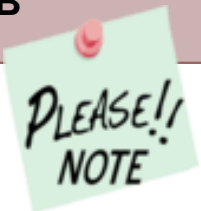
We still welcome responses to the survey, which you can access at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sDDH8kXALjXI41X8SKpo6DLLeKYzyWINKih8gEYvUJzc/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1sDDH8kXALjXI41X8SKpo6DLLeKYzyWINKih8gEYvUJzc/viewform?edit_requested=true)

**ONE HUNDRED CLUB**

**A Reminder**

To all of you loyal 100 Club subscribers! Renewal letters will be going out over the next week. The 100 Club is another great Clover Street tradition, and well worth supporting. As well as giving yourself the chance to grab some prize money (1st £30, 2nd £15 and 3rd £5), you are also supporting your church financially by taking part.

It costs just £12 per number to enter, with a draw taking place (usually) once a month. And if you are lucky enough to be a winner one month, your numbers go back in for the following draw, so you can be a winner as many times as your chosen numbers come out of the bag.



**Inquirer & Messenger Subscriptions:**

If you wish to continue your subscription to The Messenger or The Inquirer next year, please cut out, fill-in and return the renewal slips opposite to: **Paul Hubbard, Rochdale Unitarian Church, Clover Street, Rochdale, OL12 6TP.**

Please also enclose payment (cheques must be payable to ‘Rochdale Unitarian Church’, otherwise the bank will not accept them).

If you need replacement slips, or any further info, please email: [rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com](mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com) or phone **01706 648461**. Many thanks — Ed.

**The INQUIRER**



**The Monthly Messenger**

<b>MESSANGER &amp; INQUIRER ORDER FORM</b>	
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_____ Total	£
Please write you name and address clearly below	
Name	_____
Address	_____
	_____

**Interested in learning more?**



<http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk>

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

## REGULAR BOOKINGS

Day	EVENT
Mon	■ 09.30-2.30pm Early Years — Blue Room
	■ 09.30-2.30pm Maths & English Green Room
	■ 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—Blue Room
	■ 7.00-9.00pm Central Bridge—Blue Room
	■ 7.30-9.30pm Philatelic Group—Green Room
Wed	■ 7.30-9.30pm Photographic—Blue Room
	■ 11.00am 12.00pm Move & Munch-Main Hall
Thur	■ 11.00am 12.00pm YT Zumba—Main Hall
	■ 08.00pm Badminton — Main Hall
Sun	■ 10.30am 12.00pm Sunday Worship in Hall
For full booking details please contact <a href="mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com">rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com</a> 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.

### Messenger by Email?

Reduce your carbon footprint and get your copy in colour by subscribing to our email service, its free - [rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com](mailto:rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com)



**Rochdale Unitarian Church**  
**Clover Street**  
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