

DIARY DATES 2018

Date	EVENT
30 Apr	Stroke Club Concert
13 May	Anniversary & Membership Service
20 May	Whit Sunday
26 May	Film Night
30 Jun	Summer Lunch
01 Sep	Women's League Project Lunch
22 Sep	Film Night
13 Oct	Autumn Lunch & Tombola
17 Nov	Film Night
01 Dec	Christmas Lunch

HEYWOOD AODS
presents
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
a comedy by ALAN AYCKBOURN



22-26 MAY 2018 @7.30pm
Rochdale Unitarian Church,
Clover Street, Rochdale OL12 6TP
Tickets: £8 (£7 Concessions)
Available from www.heywood-aods.co.uk
This amateur production of "Neighbourhood Watch (Ayckbourn)" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



Rochdale Unitarian Church
Clover Street
ROCHDALE OL12 6TP
01706 648461

JUNE EDITION
COPY DEADLINE - 20 MAY
ISSUE DATE - 27 MAY



The Monthly Messenger for

May 2018

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 132

Issue 1580



PASTORAL TEAM

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Joyce Ashworth
Members -

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 & LETTINGS' SECRETARY

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

Edna & John Wood
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Co-ordinator - Joyce Ashworth
Member - Helen Illingworth

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Estlin, Gilbert Wakefield, but most of all Joseph Cooke. Cookites in Rochdale represented an intellectual faith which found a home in Unitarianism with energetic lay preachers such as the woollen weaver John Ashworth, the shoemaker James Wilkinson and the lay preacher James Taylor. Joseph Cooke, an itinerant preacher, looked for an alternative to Wesleyan Methodism in 1805 because he believed it to be anti-intellectual and anti-social. For such views he was expelled from Methodism and so set up Providence Chapel in High Street, Rochdale, taking his old congregation with him. This chapel became the most prominent dissenting body in the town. Not surprisingly, Cooke was a Chartists and a Co-operator. The Cookites eventually found a home with the Unitarians and a chapel was set up in Blackwater Street which housed their common beliefs. In 1890 Blackwater Street and Clover Street Unitarians amalgamated but eventually Blackwater Street Church closed its doors. Clover Street Unitarians continued, however, with its lively, family-oriented congregation built around working class communities in Rochdale. From Cookite roots and building on its foundation in radical faith, Clover Street Unitarian Church became an important hub of political change in the town. That combination of social and economic responsibility which sat alongside Christian faith and hope was recognised and replicated in the novel of 1881 'Hiram Greg' by Joseph Crowther Hirst, the chapel at its centre 'Heather Street-being modelled directly on



Joseph Cooke 1775-1811

Rochdale's pioneering Clover Street Unitarians.

If you have any memories or comments about Clover Street Unitarians, I'd be delighted to hear from you and add them to a growing Rochdale archive on the subject. Please contact Gary Heywood-Everett at garyheywoodeverett@yahoo.co.uk or leave your comments by text or by recorded message at 07745201263.

Article reprinted with permission. Many thanks to Gary Heywood-Everett and the Streetwise publication.

LOOKING BACK

Article from Streetwise Bamford and Norden – March 2018 Edition
Clover Street Unitarian Church



The original Clover St Church, circa 1850

From the beginning of the 19th century Rochdale was known as a place in which nonconformist churches thrived. By 1848 there were 23 places of worship in the town with the Church of England representing only a third of them offering services. Not only working people, but mill-owners belonged to nonconformist churches, meaning that they had a great deal of power in the town. A little earlier in 1844 when the Pioneers were setting up their shop in Toad Lane at least half of their original management belonged to nonconformist chapels, six of these Co-operators having a connection to one specific church in Rochdale — Clover Street Unitarians. Nor was this Clover Street's only historical connection to radicalism. The first Workers Educational Associations (WEA) tutorial class was held in Rochdale in 1908 and many of that class were also members of the Clover Street congregation. On reflection this might not be too surprising given the tendency for the Unitarians, of all nonconformists, to feed social and political change. Certainly, it tended to be those sects separating from Methodism that carried the liberal cause of reform and in Rochdale as elsewhere, Primitive Methodists, Congregationalists, Baptists, Quakers and most of all Unitarians, rose to meet the challenge of the new politics of the early 20th century. Some have explained such a radical outlook as at Clover Street by identifying a 72 particular set of practices in Unitarianism which encourage habits of close reading, analysis and self-improvement. It meant that Clover Street in the early 20th century was one of the most prominent radical chapels to emerge but it did so from a history which included controversial figures in the town such as William Frend, Benjamin Flower, George Dyer, Dr

MAY Flowers

Sunday 6th May 2018

Irene & Brian Nuttall

Sunday 13th May 2018

Thelma Whitworth Abrahams

In memory of Hilda Wild

Sunday 20th May 2018

Margaret Greenwood

Sunday 27th May 2018

Helen & John Illingworth

Flowers lovingly arranged by

Margaret Shore

Should you know
of anyone for
whom Church
flowers would be
a source of
comfort,
please contact Helen or Joyce.



100 CLUB WINNERS

**TBA -
GOOD LUCK
EVERYONE!!**

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Stop Press!

After 20 years of preparing and editing the Messenger I am finally hanging up my keyboard for a well-deserved rest. I would like to thank all my regular and irregular contributors over these past years for their help because without you submitting newsworthy articles it wouldn't be the magazine it is.

Paul Hubbard our newly appointed Admin Assistant is taking on the editing role as one of his regular duties, please note the new contact details for sending in articles, news reports etc shown on page 2. I'm sure we all wish him well and I urge you to continue to send in news, views and reminiscences as and when they crop up.

John

Many thanks for your many years of service, John! I wish you all the best in your "retirement" from your editing duties.

Paul



REMINDERS



Congregational Outing to Bury on Sunday 6th May 2018

If you haven't already put your name down on the list for the visit to Bury and Ainsworth with lunch at Abi's in between and you would like to go would you put your name down by Sunday 29th April so that arrangements can be made for transport and catering. Thank you

NELUM AGM – Bury Unitarian Church on Monday 14th May at 7.00 pm

Would members who would like to attend this meeting please sign the list on the board as numbers are needed for catering. Thank you.

Stroke Club Concert

*The Trinity Singers
Present - Music For You
Monday 30 April 2018
at 7:30pm*

Tickets £2.00 including light refreshments

Contact Person - John Wood 01706 645252



Rochdale Unitarian Church, Clover Street.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

It is with sadness that we record the death of **Hilda Wallis** on 29th March. Hilda was 98 years of age and, sadly, outlived her cousins who were her only remaining family. Her funeral took place on 23rd April.

Congratulations to **Edna Wood** who reached a special 0 birthday on 22nd April. We hope you celebrated in style Edna.

*This is your space to share news of every kind,
so please keep us informed.*

WALKING GROUP



Walking
Group

On Saturday 19th May another attempt will be made to do the Ashworth, Cheesden and Naden Brooks walk. Hopefully the weather will be kind at last and with luck the bluebells will be out. Meet at Norden Terminus at 12 noon with a packed lunch.

WORD SEARCH

May 2018

E	R	E	O	T	M	E	S	M	A	N	D	Y	L	R
I	Y	C	R	E	P	Y	S	A	C	H	T	A	D	E
E	L	L	E	U	F	A	T	H	E	R	C	I	R	I
N	I	S	D	N	E	I	R	F	C	C	F	Y	A	O
O	M	C	A	L	L	I	N	G	N	F	G	T	P	W
I	A	E	R	S	S	E	S	S	E	N	T	I	W	S
S	F	I	L	T	D	G	V	R	I	R	U	N	F	I
N	H	T	I	A	I	N	E	R	R	Q	E	U	N	T
E	T	A	R	T	S	N	O	M	E	D	M	M	T	N
C	N	F	R	P	C	U	E	L	P	S	P	M	A	S
S	E	O	I	E	I	E	R	E	X	O	O	N	L	
A	R	R	T	A	P	X	M	E	E	O	W	C	I	T
	I	T	V	R	L	E	R	L	J	J	E	S	U	S
T	F	Y	I	L	E	C	A	L	P	K	R	O	W	I
O	S	R	A	Y	S	W	O	R	L	D	S	T	I	P

'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.' Acts 1:4(NIV)

Early Christians were called to witness in ever-increasing circles of influence. For us, this could mean family and friends, workplace and community, and the wider world. Where is God calling us to serve?

Ascension	Spirit	Demonstrate	Serve
Disciples	Empower	Difference	
Forty	Equip	Family	
Jesus	Witnesses	Friends	
Share	Jerusalem	Workplace	
Experience	Father	Community	
Wait	Early	World	
Gift	Christians	Calling	

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Following Abi's involvement in taking regular services at Rochdale she has now offered to help with pastoral support. During the next few weeks a rota will be drawn up, and to start with Abi will accompanied on visits by a member of the Pastoral Team.



WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Anne and Ian Dawson are going to give a talk on their holiday last year to Japan. As you know, they both volunteer weekly at the Food Bank and have asked if anyone would like to take some items to the meeting the following would be gratefully received:

Jam, small cartons fruit juice, small jar coffee, custard (packets or tins), rice pudding, sugar, milk (long life), tinned fruit, shower gel, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene.

BOOK GROUP



Book
Group

Members enjoyed a lively discussion at their April meeting on the thriller *Trust in Me* by Sophie McKenzie. We would recommend the book as a good read but felt that the actions of the main character weren't quite believable. However, the story really fit the title as the author explored who can you really trust? Can you trust your husband? Do you really know your best friend, your boss, your family friends, your children?

The book of the month for May is *The Pieces We Keep* by Kristina McMorris. A review says, "An intricately woven story with rich details and deep emotions. *The Pieces We Keep* is a haunting read that will leave you wondering about the connection between the past and the present. It is a perfect combination of historical fiction and modern mystery. Kristina McMorris shows that family bonds can withstand the tests of time, change and tragedy.

Joyce has a spare copy if you are interested in joining us on Monday 21st May at 5 Bagnall Close.

FILM NIGHTS



Why not come along to join us on one of these evenings everyone is welcome, if you are interested in the film or in a good value nights entertainment, then we'd urge you to come along.

We start at 7pm have a 10-minute comfort and ice cream break at around 8pm followed by pie and pea supper at around 9:15pm. All for the suggested donation of £6.50. All we ask you to do is to let us know in advance if you intend to come so that there is supper for everyone.

We doubt you'd get better value for money anywhere!



Date - 12 May 2018

Film - Dunkirk

In May 1940, Germany advanced into France, trapping Allied troops on the beaches of Dunkirk. Under air and ground cover from British and French forces, troops were slowly and methodically evacuated from the beach using every serviceable naval and civilian vessel that could be found. At the end of this heroic mission, 330,000 French, British, Belgian and Dutch soldiers were safely evacuated. *Dunkirk* portrays the evacuation from three perspectives: land, sea, and air.

Date - 22 September

Film - Darkest Hour

A thrilling and inspiring true story begins at the precipice of World War II as, within days of becoming Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill (Academy Award nominee Gary Oldman) must face one of his most turbulent and defining trials: exploring a negotiated peace treaty with Nazi Germany, or standing firm to fight for the ideals, liberty and freedom of a nation. As the unstoppable Nazi forces roll across Western Europe and the threat of invasion is imminent, and with an unprepared public, a sceptical King, and his own party plotting against him, Churchill must withstand his darkest hour, rally a nation, and attempt to change the course of world history.

RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month Margaret

APRIL

Mon 30 19.00 Stroke Club Concert

MAY

Wed 02 17.00 Afternoon Tea — Hostesses: Ann Shepherd

Wed 02 18.45 Anne and Ian Dawson – A tour of Japan

Sun 06 10.30 **C**ongregational visit to Bury Church

Sat 12 19.00 Film Night — Dunkirk

Sun 13 10.30 **C**hurch Anniversary Service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie

Mon 14 19.15 NELUM AGM at Bury Church

Sat 19 12.00 Walking Group — Ashworth, Cheesden and Naden Brooks

Sun 20 10.30 **W**hit Sunday Service led by General Council members

Mon 21 19.30 Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close — *'The Pieces We Keep'* by Kristina McMorris

Mon 23-26 19.30 HOADS Production — Neighbourhood Watch

Wed 23 19.45 Church Council meeting at 5 Bagnall Close

Sun 27 10.30 **S**unday Service led by Rev Tony McNeile

JUNE

Sun 03 10.30 Sunday Service led by Vince McCully

Wed 06 17.00 Afternoon Tea — Hostesses: Joyce Ashworth and Greta Henson

Wed 06 18.45 Women's League Meeting – Speaker: Ed Whitaker from Photographic Society on his trip to Lapland

Sat 09 11.30-16.00 Padiham Church Poetry Day - Ted Hughes/Sylvia Plath

CHURCH CHARITY 2016 - 2018

henshaws

beyond
expectations

REGULARS

Please ring - to confirm

Administrator in Church - most Mondays 10am till 1pm
Contact Paul Hubbard - 01706 648461

Keep Fit Group - most Mondays at 10am
Contact Person: Margaret Salt - 01706 852575

Badminton - most Thursdays at 8pm
Contact Person: Margaret Salt - 01706 852575

Choir Practice - most Fridays at 7.15pm
Contact Person: Helen Illingworth 01706 649015

ROTAS

WARDENS

COFFEE

Margaret Salt
Diane Bennett

06
May

John & Edna Wood

Helen & John
Illingworth

13
May

Margaret Shore
Madge Rimmer

Dorothy Jones
Margaret Shore

20
May

Helen Illingworth
Margaret Salt

Edna & John Wood

27
May

Joyce Ashworth
Pat Chippendale

If anyone is unable to attend when on Coffee Rota, will they please arrange cover or see Margaret Shore.- Thanks

ADVANCE NOTICE

Whitsun Service — 20th May

On Sunday 20th May, members of Church Council will be hosting the Whitsun Service.

As part of the service, we will be presenting three nominated charities to the congregation to decide which one we shall support for the coming year.

There will be information on display in church for each charity, as well as leaflets to take home and read at your leisure. We also intend to show a short video presentation as part of the service.

The final vote will be taken by the congregation at the Congregational AGM on 27th June.

The nominated charities are:

- ⇒ Petrus Rochdale
- ⇒ Sightsavers Trachoma
- ⇒ Toilet Twinning