



# The Monthly Messenger for

## February 2019

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

*Volume 133*

*Issue 1589*



## PASTORAL TEAM

Initial Contact & Co-ordinator -  
Joyce Ashworth  
Members -

Abi Elliott-McGuffie, 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  
53 Links View, Rochdale OL11 4DD

## SAFEGUARDING TEAM

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Member - Helen Illingworth

## PUBLICITY TEAM

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### Website Manager

Diane Bennett

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**John & Edna Wood** Tel 01706 645252  
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**CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461**

# February Flowers



***	Sunday 3rd February 2019 Sylvia Palmer	***
***	In memory of Duncan, Walter and Ted	***
***	Sunday 10th February 2019 Jackie White	***
***	In memory of Josephine Arnold, who passed away 11th February 2017	***
***	Sunday 17th February 2019 Joyce and Greta	***
***	In memory of Mum, Dad and Raymond	***
***	Sunday 24th February 2019 Deanna Ogden and Family	***
***	In memory of Bob	***
***	Flowers lovingly arranged by Joyce and Helen	***

## Messenger by Email?

Reduce your carbon footprint and get your copy in  
colour by subscribing to our email service, its free -  
john@illingworth.org.uk

## Interested in learning more?



<http://www.rochdaleonline.co.uk/sites/rochdale-unitarian-church>

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

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

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the February edition of your favourite periodical, The Messenger!

It may still feel like we're in the middle of the bleak mid-winter at the time of going to press, but there's still lots going on at Clover Street to keep you all entertained and warm (our aging heating system, permitting).

The main event this month is of course our Charity Lunch on the 9th (more info below); the first in our series of special events for 2019.

We also welcome to the pulpit this month favourites Abi Elliot-McGuffie, Graeme Pilborough, and John Allerton — not to be missed!



## ADVANCE NOTICE

### Peterloo, Thursday, March 14th, 2pm

John Alker will be giving an illustrated talk on Peterloo Massacre which took place in St Petersfield (now St Peter's Square) in Manchester. This resulted in 15 deaths and hundreds of non-fatal injuries when cavalry charged on the huge crowd gathered demanding reform of parliamentary representation.

14th March at 2pm

The  
Peterloo  
Massacre

By John Alker

Relive this epic day step by step. Go back in time on the very streets of this most Mancunian of outrages. Start with the politics, the characters and the day's events; the charge, the victims and the blood-stained streets then finish with the legacy 200 years since the event

Rochdale Unitarians, Clover Street OL12 6TP  
Tickets £5 inc light refreshments 01706 659294 or 649015  
Email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

## CHARITY NEWS — UPDATE!

### Send a Child to Hucklow

The Christmas Card scheme raised £100 for Send a Child to Hucklow.



The Toy and Gift Service raised £75 for Toilet Twinning and so we now have our first twinned toilet in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



We sent 19 shoe boxes to children as part of the Operation Christmas Child scheme.



A good number of toys were taken to Petrus who, working with Rochdale Social Services, received over 450 gifts for children who were unlikely to receive a Christmas gift.



The Film Night on 19th January raised £138 for Sightsavers – Trachoma.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity which I am sure is very much appreciated



## RUC CALENDAR



## FEBRUARY

Sat	02	12.00	Women's League AGM at Bury Church
Sat	02	13.00	Walking Group (see pg 9 for details)
Sun	03	10.30	Sunday Service led by Graeme Pilborough
Mon	04	19.30	Book Circle meeting at 5 Bagnall Close
Wed	06	17.00	Afternoon Tea: Hostess – Madge Rimmer
Wed	06	18.45	Women's League Meeting: Talk "The History of Ellen Smith Holidays"
Sat	09	11.45	Charity Lunch (see pg 8 for details)
Sun	10	10.30	Sunday Service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Sun	17	10.30	Sunday Service led by John Allerton
Sun	24	10.30	Sunday Service led by Paul Hubbard

## MARCH

Sun	03	10.30	Sunday Service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie
Wed	06	17.00	Afternoon Tea: Hostess – Dorothy Jones
Wed	06	18.45	Women's League Meeting
Sun	10	10.30	Sunday Service led by Beryl Allerton

**March Film Night —  
Change of Date!**

Please note that the Film Night in March will now be taking place on **Saturday March 30th!**

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## REGULARS

Please ring - to confirm

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

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

**Keep Fit Group** - most Mondays at 10:00 am  
Contact Person: Margaret Salt - 01706 852575

**Badminton** - most Thursdays at 8:00 pm  
Contact Person: Margaret Salt - 01706 852575

**Choir Practice** - most Fridays at 7:15  
Contact Person: Helen Illingworth 01706 649015

## ROTAS

<b>WARDENS</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>COFFEE</b>
John Illingworth and Fred Schofield	03	Diane Bennett and Dorothy Jones
Margaret Salt and Diane Bennett	10	John and Edna Wood
Helen and John Illingworth	17	Margaret Shore and Madge Rimmer
Dorothy Jones and Margaret Shore	24	Helen Illingworth and Margaret Salt

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



That old tea urn had served the  
church well



## "ABOUT PEOPLE"

We wish **John and Edna Wood** bon voyage as they visit relations in Adelaide once again and our very good wishes to members of their family.

Congratulations to **Pat Chippendale** who will celebrate a big "0" birthday this month.

## CHARITY LUNCH



### Saturday 9th February, 11.45am

Rochdale Unitarian Church is hosting the first of its popular special event lunches on Saturday 9th February.

This is our Charity Lunch in support of the current church charity, **Sightsavers**, and the newly-formed **Unitarian College**.

As well as an excellent three-course meal, attendees will be able to purchase gifts from the stalls, and try their luck on the Raffle and Tombola.

For further information, contact Helen Illingworth on 01706 649015.



### Church Charity 2018-2020

Visit [www.sightsavers.org](http://www.sightsavers.org) to donate and for more information

## M UDDY BOOTS



Buckley Hill Lane in days gone by ...

Disappointingly our walk between Christmas and Year had to be cut short due to poor weather so we only completed half the figure of eight at Birtle. As this edition of the Messenger was going to press we were due to walk round the edge of Kingsway Business Park from Buckley Hill Lane, Milnrow with refreshments half way round at the Spring Inn, Broad Lane. Due to various Church commitments and holidays the next walk will be on 2nd March when we will be having a local walk around the Greenbooth and Naden reservoirs.

## B BOOK CIRCLE



The next meeting of the Book Circle is on 4th February when we will be discussing *The Girl who Fell from the Sky* by Simon Mawer. We read this thriller a few years ago but all agreed it was worth reading again, particularly for the benefit of our new members. This is the Forward: The French section of the Special Operations Executive sent 39 women into the field between May 1941 and September 1944. Of these, 12 were murdered following their capture by the Germans, while one other died of meningitis during her mission. The remainder survived the war. Some of these women became well known to the public through films and books that were written about them. Others remained, and remain, obscure. They were all remarkable. The *Girl who fell from the Sky* is about a young half English, half French woman who joins the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in 1943 and, after extensive training, is parachuted into occupied France. But as she learns more about the risky operation her superiors have in mind for her, she begins to suspect that it may be a more personal connection that singled her out for this dangerous mission.

# THE DIVINE RAILWAY

*What follows is an extract from a reading given by worship leader Graeme Pilbrough. It was written by his step father Keith Rothwell, who has given permission for it to be published in the Messenger.*

The origins of the railway are lost in the mists of time, myths and legends are the only hints at its origin and age. We know that it is a worldwide network. The major lines are the Christian Line, the Buddhist Network, the Muslim Connection, all with many branch and feeder lines. There are the very ancient lines of the Aborigines, and the natives of New Guinea, or the Amazon.

All these lines have many stations. People start their life journey at a station which may be far from the terminus, or near, whichever may be appropriate to the circumstances of their birth. Some take the slow train and move only a few stations along, others take a faster train and try to get as far as possible, others go too fast, and derail themselves. Some break their journey and are afraid to go on, some find the station buffet too comfortable, and decide not to go on, and others even try to go back the way they came. Some people switch from the slow train to fast, others even switch from one line to another which suits them better.

Some passengers hog the Buffet Car, monopolising the space, and storing up huge quantities of sandwiches and drinks and so depriving their fellow passengers. They do this despite a clear warning that they can take nothing with them when they leave the train. The Company maintains a large staff on each train to assist and advise passengers. Unfortunately, most passengers fail to recognise or even see them.

The most important elements in the system are the passengers. The system exists to help the individual passengers travel as far as they are able and make the journey as comfortable as possible. Various passenger associations have been set up over the centuries to help passengers on their journey. On the Christian line, these are known as churches.

The Christian line is an offshoot from the older

Jewish line and both these have re-laid part of their track over the Ancient Egyptian and Persian lines. Soon after the Christian line was inaugurated, there emerged two Passenger Associations whose descendants are known as the Roman Catholic and the Greek Orthodox Churches. Now there are many different passenger associations, all claiming to have more contact with the Board of Management, to get advance notice of their timetable changes, or more comfortable carriages for their members.

Most of the Associations have longstanding rules, formulated during the early days of the Christian Line. Although these rules were necessary in the early days, some of them have become unrealistic, or irrelevant, as conditions and the state of the passengers' consciousness have developed. Many travellers have become disenchanted with the squabbling between the different associations, and taken responsibility for their own travel plans, either alone or in informal groups.

Now that you know you are a passenger, take responsibility for your journey. Decide the correct speed for YOU to travel at. Join a church if it will help you but do not give them control of your journey. The responsibility will always be yours. Look out of the carriage window and enjoy the changing scenery of the journey and when the train enters a dark tunnel, as it will from time to time, remember it must eventually emerge back into the daylight. If illness or adversity slow you down or force you to break your journey, accept it, rest and recuperate. Perhaps you need to try a different direction, or maybe you were going too fast.

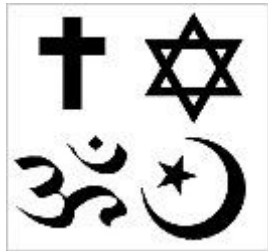
From time to time you will run into the buffers of a dead end. Do not regret or resent this, retrace your steps and re-join the main line. The experience you gain from these journeys will always prove useful and essential later on. To find the right line, it is very often necessary to first take several wrong ones.

Enjoy the company of your fellow passengers whilst they are with you. No-one can predict when their journey may end. They may have to change carriages, or get off at a station. Do not look back with regret at the stations, or the passengers you have left behind. Appreciate and acknowledge your present companions.

Bless you and have a safe journey.



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## EVENT DATES 2019

Date	EVENT
9 Feb	Charity Lunch
14 Mar	Talk on Peterloo by John Alker
30 Mar	Film Night — Finding Your Feet
16-19 Apr	GA Meetings — Birmingham
27 Apr	Spring Lunch
28 Apr	Women's League Service
11 May	Film Night — Peterloo
12 May	Church Anniversary Service
13 May	Stroke Club final Concert
15 May	Summer Lunch
24 Aug	Women's League Project Lunch
14 Sep	Film Night — Wonder
12 Oct	Autumn Lunch
16 Nov	Film Night — The Greatest Showman
7 Dec	Christmas Lunch



**Rochdale Unitarian Church**  
**Clover Street**  
**ROCHDALE OL12 6TP**  
 01706 648461

### **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."

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