



# The Monthly Messenger for

June  
2020

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

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*Issue 1605*



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# June Flowers

June Birth Flower

**'The Rose'**

*Love*

*Beauty*

*Honour*

June birthdays belong to one of the most popular flowers of all time—the rose.

Roses have been cherished for their classic beauty and fine fragrance for centuries.

The Ancient Greeks and Romans identified roses with love and passion, beginning with their association with the goddesses Aphrodite, Isis and Venus.

The meaning of the rose depends on its colour, though generally roses are said to represent love, beauty and honour. You can also use roses to communicate different feelings depending on the number you choose to give. A single red rose, for example, means new love or love at first sight. Whereas a dozen red roses carries the message of 'I love you'.



## 100 CLUB WINNERS

### MAY 2020

1st	8	Jane Glennon
2nd	41	Dorothy Jones
3rd	19	John Wood

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Welcome to the June edition of the Rochdale Monthly Messenger! The Editor's letter has to get shorter each issue because there is so much to pack-in (and when lockdown started in March, we wondered how we'd fill our pages!). I hope you enjoy another jam-packed edition, and remember to keep sending in material; we love hearing from you all. Stay safe out there! — The Editor



## A Big "THANK YOU" from Sightsavers!

We received the following letter from Sightsavers (our charity from 2018-2020) giving thanks for the amazing total of **£2020** we raised. Thank you everyone for all your hard work and generosity!!

Dear Mr Illingworth

Thank you for the recent kind gift of £2020 that you sent to Sightsavers on behalf of the members of Rochdale Unitarian Church, and which we are delighted to have received! We would also like to extend our thanks to the congregation of Rochdale Unitarian Church for choosing Sightsavers as its nominated charity over the last 2 years.

I am very pleased to confirm that we can direct your donation towards our work to eliminate Trachoma as requested.

It's incredible to think that for some people, the difference between sight and blindness could be a treatment that costs as little as 15p. Imagine being able to provide that for someone — it would be the best 15p you'd ever spent.

Your support is greatly appreciated by all of us at Sightsavers and, more importantly, by those people whose lives will be transformed as a result of your kindness.

Our vision is a world where no one is blind from avoidable causes and where visually impaired people can participate equally in society. With the help of supporters like you, we distributed over 113 million treatments for Neglected Tropical Diseases such as trachoma and river blindness in 2018.

We want to say an enormous, heartfelt thank you to all of the members of Rochdale Unitarian Church — we couldn't do it without people like you!

With warm wishes,  
Siobhan Hogan, Supporter Care Executive

## New Book from North West Provincial Assembly

The Assembly has produced a lovely book of poems and reflections, *Grains of Sand, Rays of Light* this is for sale at £5 which includes postage. Payment can be made either by bank transfer or postal cheque. Please let people know about the production of this book, which was put together at a writing retreat last year and made possible by a generous donation from the Trustees of Horwich Church.



In friendship  
Rev Lynne Readett

Lloyds Bank Account No. 71575960  
Sort Code 30 90 91

Cheques payable to "North West Provincial Assembly". Please send to:

Rev Lynne Readett  
57 Douglas Street  
Atherton  
Manchester M46 9EB

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## Message from Joyce Ashworth, President of The National Unitarian Women's League

Our own Joyce Ashworth is, as many of you are no-doubt aware, the current president of the National Women's League.



Due to lack of space in this issue, the full text of Joyce's address to the members of the League can be found at the following web page:

[www.unitarians.org.uk/womensleague/wompresident1.html](http://www.unitarians.org.uk/womensleague/wompresident1.html)

We wish Joyce and the ladies of The National Women's League all the best for 2020-21 and beyond!

# REFLECTIONS CENTRE-FOLD

Welsh Poet and Singer, Max Boyce MBE, has written a beautiful poem, in his own inimitable way, about these troubled times (sung to the tune of 'Hymns and Arias') which he has dedicated to all the people in the NHS. We hope it brings a smile to your face.

## When Just the Tide Went Out

Last night as I lay sleeping  
When dreams came fast to me  
I dreamt I saw JERUSALEM  
Beside a tideless sea  
And one dream I'll remember  
As the stars began to fall  
Was Banksy painting Alun Wyn  
On my neighbour's garage wall  
And dreams like that sustain me  
Till these darkest times have past  
And chase away the shadows  
No caring night should cast  
But times like this can shine a light  
As hardship often can  
To see the best in people  
And the good there is in man  
And I remember Swansea with nobody about  
When the shops were closed like Sunday  
And just the tide went out

And I remember Mumbles with the harbour in its keep  
And the fishing boats at anchor that trawl the waters deep  
And I heard the seabirds calling  
As the gulls all wheeled about  
But all the town was sleeping now  
And just the tide went out

And when these days are over  
And memories remain  
Of children painting Rainbows  
When the sun shone through the rain  
And I thought of all the nurses who stretchered all the pain  
And I hope they never get to see a time like this again  
And I prayed last week for Boris  
Who knocked on Heavens door  
And I thought of voting Tory, which I've never done before  
And though the sun is shining now I've no immediate plans  
So I'll write a book on 'Staying In' and 'Ways To Wash Your Hands'  
And I'll remember mornings with nobody about  
When the shops were closed like Sunday  
And just the tide went out.

## Kindness

To recap what we now know: it did not begin in a laboratory in Wuhan, nor with a pangolin or bat, but it already lay dormant within us, like a seed in need of certain conditions to grow;

its symptoms are many and various, and may include some, or all, of the following: tear drops, sudden laughter, a feeling of warmth, and a peculiar uplifting of the heart;

it leaves its traces everywhere: from boxes left on doorsteps to conversations over fences; it can be transmitted over vast distances, through a phone call, or from a smile across a street,

or a certain softness of tone spoken beside a hospital bed; it affects young and old equally; there is no race or gender immune from it; it has the power to topple bad governments;

if one person were to pass it on to just three others and they, in turn, were to pass it on to three more, in no time at all, the world would be full of it, and where, might we ask ourselves, would we be then.

Brian Bilston

## CHURCH LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN?



"The organist isn't too sure about it, he says he can't play that fast."



## Remembering Fred Schofield

You will all have received, with much sadness, the news of the recent sudden passing of **Fred Schofield**. Fred was a life-long Unitarian and took a full part in church life including regular attendance at worship and taking his turn to act as church warden. He was admitted to Fairfield Hospital with pneumonia and developed mild covid-19 symptoms but suddenly deteriorated and required oxygen before dying during the past week. Fred was a loveable rogue with a unique sense of humour and he will be so missed by everyone at church. To Elaine, Katherine and the wider family we offer our heartfelt condolences.



Fred's family cremation Service will take place in the morning of 2 June. There are a limited number of people allowed to attend Fred's funeral (only 10, plus Abi and Joyce who are officiating). The funeral cortege will be passing Church and the cricket ground before arriving at the Crematorium. To show our support to Elaine, Katherine and Ben, members of the congregation, including John and Helen Illingworth and Anne and Ian Dawson, are going to stand at Church - socially distanced - to watch as the cortege goes past and then drive up to the Crematorium where they will stand at the approach to the entrance and listen to the service on the outside loud speaker. For those who feel able to join us we will be waiting at Church at 10 am and intend to arrive at the Crematorium by 10.20 am. If the weather is inclement we will wait in our cars until the cortege arrives.

**A webcasting service by a website called Obitus will be streaming the service live on the Internet from 10.25 am on the day** and this can be accessed with a user name and password. **Following the live webcast the service will be available after three days for a period of 28 days on Watch Again on the Obitus website.**

Obitus recommend that people have a test connection before the day. *After accessing the website [www.obitus.com](http://www.obitus.com) you will need to enter the username Dave2186 and the password 148422.*

When lockdown has been relaxed Elaine and Katherine are going to arrange a Memorial Service at Church when we will be able to celebrate Fred's life and a charity will be announced for donations.

## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

It is with the greatest sadness that we record the death of **David Dawson**, who lived in Ilkley and attended Bradford Unitarians. His death is an enormous loss to the Unitarian movement as a whole. He had been a past GA President and contributed freely of his musical talent, having composed/arranged many of the tunes for our favourite hymns in the purple book such as "Flying Free".

Happy recent Birthday to **Ann Beasley**, who celebrated this year by meeting up with family (at a distance) in Broadfield Park to enjoy cake "together". Could you ever have imagined such a situation just a year ago !!!!

At the time of going to print **Irene Nuttall** is in Fairfield Hospital, having been admitted on account of low oxygen levels. The family are missing being able to visit but hope that she will very soon be home again as we do.

Hearty congratulations to **John and Edna Wood** on the arrival of their first great-granddaughter, Mila (pronounced "Meela". Born to Amy (Susan's daughter) and Matthew, she weighed in at 6 lb 4 oz - mother and baby doing well. Naturally John said she is a bonny baby (photo only seen at this stage).

St Albans Street, Rochdale

I want to convey my thanks for the lovely birthday plant I received. It is such a pleasure to look at now that I am spending so much time indoors. Actually I am lucky we have a dog, which gives a reason/excuse for going in the park fairly frequently. Whilst Genie, the dog, is sniffing around the bushes it gives me time to look at the wild flowers. There are some Fritillary - I had to look up the name - and find that "this is our most exotic wild flower, its chequered bells suggestive of the lanterns in a Bedouin tent". My knowledge of Bedouin tents is very limited so I read on: "they look like stained glass when the sun shines through them". That I can understand.

Whilst in the park, I look at the hills all around us. One of the reasons for moving to Rochdale was to be amongst the Pennines, to be able to look at them when we can't be up them !

Many thanks again for the plant which I will continue to enjoy.

Ann Beasley

*Editor: Thanks Ann for your letter with its very interesting observations.*

## M UDDY BOOTS



John and I continue to walk the lanes around Norden, enjoying finding new paths over Rooley Moor and Greenbooth, Naden and Ashworth. We are allowed to go in the car now before starting our walk but up to now haven't felt the need.

Here is a photo taken on one of our recent walks.

*Helen I*



## L ET'S GET CREATIVE!

Joyce has sent-in a suggestion for ringing the changes on Eunice's well-loved Celery Soup recipe:

### Basic Celery Soup

1 Celery ) Cut up and  
1 large Onion ) sweat in butter

Add 1 dessertspoon of cornflour and mix into the vegetables.

Add seasoning and 3/4 - 1 pint chicken stock and 1/2 pt of milk.

Simmer for half an hour then liquidise.

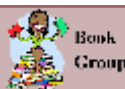
Suggestions for ringing the changes:

Add a bunch of watercress half way through the simmering stage.

Add small quantity of fennel seeds at the seasoning stage and/or to give the soup an extra tang add a baking apple half way through the simmering stage.

I'm sure you can come up with other ideas - I know Eunice on occasion adds mushrooms to the mix !

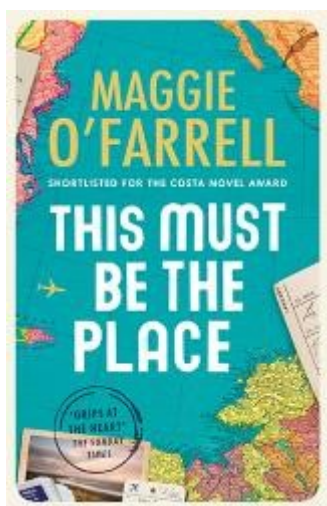
## B BOOK CIRCLE



We had a little trouble with Zoom at our May meeting which took up time to resolve but managed a short discussion on the book *The Garden of the Burning Sand* by Corban Addison which we all enjoyed and can recommend.

For our June virtual meeting we are reading *This Must be the Place* by Maggie O'Farrell, a Richard and Judy recommendation from Summer 2017. Meet Daniel Sullivan, a man with a complicated life. A New Yorker living in the wilds of Ireland, he has children he never sees in California, a father he loathes in Brooklyn and a wife, Claudette, who is a reclusive ex-film star given to shooting at anyone who ventures up their driveway. This is a story of family, secrets and forgiveness and is told in Maggie O'Farrell's wonderful, inimitable style. Our meeting is at 7.30 pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June on Zoom.

*Helen I*



### **NEW INTERESTS** (by *Helen I*)

During lockdown I've been thinking about starting a new topic in the Messenger sharing what we are all doing to pass the time while we're staying at home. I've recently joined the Family History Group in the Whitworth U3A which I joined two years ago. The group normally meets at Whitworth Library but is unable to do so at present so we are meeting fortnightly on Zoom.

When I went on holiday as a child to North Wales we would sometimes call at Uncle Cobden's who lived in Mold, Flintshire on the way home. He was related to my Mother but I never knew how he was related to us. He was a grand old Welshman born in 1874. His wife had died, I don't think I ever met her, and he lived in a bungalow on his own until his death aged 98 years. With the Library's edition of Ancestry.com at our disposal during lockdown I decided to 'find' Uncle Cobden with the help of the other members of the group. I'm delighted to say that after pouring over a number of census, birth, death and marriage registers, I did find him and found that his sister Hannah married my Great Grandfather in Mold in 1890 before they came to Milnrow where my Grandfather was born. Uncle Cobden was a mining engineer and spent 20+ years working in Canada and America from 1905 before returning to Mold to retire with his wife Annie – they had no children. So Uncle Cobden was my Great Great Uncle and I have Welsh blood in my veins! I've found the whole experience fascinating and would recommend anyone with access to the Internet and a Library card to have a go.

We would love to hear of anyone else finding new interests in future copies of the Messenger.

## EVENT DATES 2020

### PLEASE NOTE:

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions on movement in place, services and events at church have been cancelled/postponed until further notice.

Below are important calendar dates from June onwards. We hope that by this time, we will have a clearer indication of the situation and will be able to plan a revised calendar.

In the meantime, updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page and in our bi-weekly newsletter

Date	EVENT
20 Jun	Summer Lunch
22 Aug	Women's League Project Lunch
27 Sep	Harvest Service
03 Oct	Film Night
10 Oct	Autumn Lunch
08 Nov	Remembrance Service (at 2 pm)
21 Nov	Film Night
05 Dec	Christmas Lunch
06 Dec	2020 Toy & Gift Service
13 Dec	Carol Service
25 Dec	Christmas Morning Service (at 11 am)

### 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)



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