



The Monthly Messenger for November 2019

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 134

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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
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CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461

November Flowers

***	Sunday 3rd November 2019	***
***	Helen Illingworth	***
***	In memory of Hilda Wallis	***
***	Sunday 10th November 2019	***
***	Diane Bennett	***
***	In memory of Family & Friends	***
***	Sunday 17th November 2019	***
***	Flower Donation Vacancy	***
***	Sunday 24th November 2019	***
***	Flower Donation Vacancy	***
***	Flowers lovingly arranged by	***
***	Margaret Salt and Dorothy Jones	***

100 CLUB WINNERS

SEPT 2019

1st	48	Diane Bennett
2nd	20	Joyce Ashworth
3rd	85	Roger & Cath Shore

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Interested in learning more?

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

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

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

COMMUNITY PAYBACK

In case you hadn't noticed, the terraced area to the front of Church is being cleared and our well established and overgrown laurel bushes which have for some time obscured both the building and our signage have been pruned back.

We have also taken the opportunity to prune the bushes and clear the area to the Holland Street frontage as it turns the corner towards Spotland Road. The ownership of this land is a little unclear but the original plans for our present building suggest that the area to the front and side of Church is leased from Rochdale Council on a 999 year term, which commenced in 1818.

Paul Hubbard, on our behalf has arranged for the Community Payback team to attend to our requests and as this edition goes to press, teams averaging 5 people have spent 2 full days cutting back and clearing away. They have still another day's work left in which to finish off and tidy away.

For those who are not aware people can be sentenced to do unpaid work that benefits the community.

Magistrates or judges can sentence offenders to carry out anything from 40 to 300 hours of unpaid work as part of their order. Community Payback must include a minimum of a day's work – lasting at least seven hours – once a week.

People can also be sentenced to intensive Community Payback orders, which mean they must complete 28 hours of work every week.

Across Cheshire and Greater Manchester, people on probation complete roughly half a million hours of Community Payback every year. All projects combine hard work and the chance for the participant to develop skills. It is also a punishment as the individual is giving up their time to carry out the work.

Community Payback projects vary from maintaining the grounds of parks; churches; cemeteries; local football; cricket and sports clubs; schools and parks through to helping to run clubs for the elderly and vulnerable adults with learning difficulties. In addition, offenders who have been rigorously risk assessed can also be placed directly with charities and community groups, such as helping to run charity shops.

Community Rehabilitation Companies were launched following the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation reforms that came into effect in 2015. The reform created 21 CRCs to supervise offenders assessed as posing either a low or medium risk of committing a serious crime.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sincere apology to everyone but after agreeing to include a statement about Abi and her future Ministry Training it got missed from last month's circulation. (see 'About People' page 8)



GENERAL COUNCIL

Harvest Service

What a wonderful celebration of Harvest this was with its theme "Sharing". A big thanks to Abi for a lovely service and Helen, Margaret and Joyce for once more organising the fascinating display and for making up and distributing the harvest boxes, which brought many appreciative comments.

Christmas Donations and Retiring Collections

The charity recipients haven't been finally decided on by Council as yet but we will be looking to donate various gifts and collections in the run-up to Christmas, as is our usual custom.

Retiring collections will be held at the end of the 'Toy & Gift' and Carol Services. Our Christmas Card scheme will also be run in support of a worthy cause. (See our next issue for details).

Dates for your diaries

- ♦ Toy and Gift Service 1st December, led by Graeme Pilbrough.
- ♦ Carol Service 15th December, led by Marta Pacini.

Joyce and Greta would both like to thank church for the lovely harvest box received from this thought-provoking Thanksgiving Service with its seasonal tasteful display as always. Thanks to everyone involved.

Thank you card from Irene Robinson.
To: Rochdale Unitarian Church. 'It's much appreciated', your gift of fruit and flowers.
Thank you very much.
Irene

RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month
Margaret Salt and Dorothy Jones

NOVEMBER

Sun	03	10.30	S unday Service led by Val Chamberlain from Bury
Mon	04	19.45	General Council Meeting
Wed	06	17.00	Afternoon Tea: Hostess — Kate Salt
Wed	06	18.45	Women's League Mtg — Rev John Allerton "Knots"
Sat	09	12.00	Walking Group - see Page 9
Sun	10	14.00	R emembrance Service led by Rev Beryl Allerton
Mon	11	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Sat	16	19.00	Film Night — The Greatest Showman
Sun	17	10.30	S unday Service led by Geoff Levermore
Sun	24	10.30	S unday Service led by George Scaife from Bury
Sat	30	10.30	Christmas Lunch at Hucklow

DECEMBER

Sun	01	10.30	T oy Service led by Graeme Pilbrough from Padiham
Mon	02	19.45	General Council Meeting
Wed	04	17.00	Women's League Xmas Tea: Hostess — Edna Wood
Wed	04	18.45	Women's League Xmas Meeting
Sat	07	11.45	Xmas Lunch
Sun	08	10.30	S unday Service led by Tom Grimshaw from Chorlton



Autumn Lunch

Thanks to everyone who helped with the shopping, preparation, serving and clearing away. To those who prepared desserts, gave raffle prizes and ran the Tombola. We might not say every time but your efforts are very much appreciated.

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

NOV

COFFEE

Edna & John Wood	03	Joyce Ashworth
John Illingworth & Fred Schofield	10	Diane Bennett & Dorothy Jones
Margaret Salt & Diane Bennett	17	John & Edna Wood
Helen & John Illingworth	24	Margaret Shore & Madge Rimmer

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

MEETING REPORTS

Our annual planning meeting took place on 14th October at which the dates for all of our 2020 lunches and film nights were agreed, see rear cover to fill in your diary dates. We have one or two ideas for other interesting events through the year, so watch this space!

On 21st October a small number met to discuss the redecoration of our two downstairs rooms. It was decided in an effort to get them carpeted and furnished, that the Special Events monies which has been on investment with our Trustees (£3,327) should be withdrawn and transferred into our redecoration fund. With this and Trustee funded building repairs and renewals it was hoped we could get the rooms, now renamed 'Gold' and 'Silver', into lettable spaces as quickly as possible.

“ABOUT PEOPLE”

We are pleased to report that **Eunice Smith** has made a good recovery from her most recent surgery and she is now in Wolstenholme Ward at Rochdale Infirmary for a period of rehabilitation. The good news today, 29th October, is that she is now back at home.

We were all sorry to learn about **Jean Shore's** recent fall which resulted in a badly broken arm. She has been convalescing with her son Andrew but she is now home and we hope she will soon be feeling fully recovered.

Part way through preparing this issue, Paul our administrator fell ill, took to his bed and was not able to continue. Paul we all wish you a speedy recovery, none more so than John, who's had to fall back into his old role to complete this issue.



TRAINING FOR INTERFAITH MINISTRY

Abi will shortly be starting out on a course of training which will qualify her as an Interfaith Minister. Naturally, during this time she will wish to focus her attention fully on the training and all its practical aspects.

We wish her well in this endeavour and would like to take this opportunity to thank her most sincerely for the excellent work, both in regular leading of worship and in the pastoral work, she has undertaken in the past couple of years. We will sorely miss her involvement at Rochdale, but hope she will be able to join us as a congregational member when time permits.

Good luck, Abi, and enjoy your course of study.

Congratulations to **Peter** (Illingworth) and **Becky** on their recent engagement. We're delighted for you both.



M UDDY BOOTS



Walking
Group

Six of us very much enjoyed the circular walk from Edenfield Church along the Irwell Valley to the Groundwork Trust garden at New Hall Hey and then a climb up the hill to Balladen. There was plenty of interest – trying to feed some alpacas, watching



visiting steam engines go past on the East Lancs Railway and a scrumptious afternoon tea at the home of Lewis, Rita and Francesca Stuttard. Another bonus was a lovely sunny afternoon and some wonderful views over the valley from the summit of our walk on the return to Edenfield.

Our next walk is on Saturday 9th November when we will meet at Church at 12.00 noon for a walk in the Milnrow, Newhey and Ogden area. Bring a packed lunch. - Helen I

B OOK CIRCLE



Book
Group

Chris Cleave's fourth novel **Everyone Brave is Forgiven** is described as a spellbinding novel about three unforgettable individuals thrown together by war, love, and their search for belonging in the ever-changing landscape of WWII London. When war is declared Mary defies her family to protect the children her country would rather forget. Tom refuses to sign up for a conflict he doesn't believe in. Alistair answers the call of duty but can't silence his own heart. Could you dare to fall in love while the world around you is falling apart?

We meet at 5 Bagnall Close at 7.30 pm on Monday 11th November. New members always welcome.

Helen I





The members of Bury Unitarian Church

cordially invite

Representatives of your Congregation*

to a Special Service

to celebrate their 300th Anniversary,

on Sunday, December 1st, 2019, at 2 p.m.

This will be followed by refreshments and entertainment.

Bury Unitarian Church,

1 Bank Street, Bury, BL9 0DN.

R.S.V.P: For catering-purposes, please reply by October 6th, 2019, to Anne Mills, either by email:

rogermills4@yahoo.com

or at her home address:

5 Arley Avenue, Bury, BL9 5HD.

Please join us; we look forward to seeing you.

**Initially, we are inviting four representatives from each church, but we are flexible; please let us know if more places are required.*

Christmas Lunch at Hucklow



On Saturday 30th November members of the Women's League are sharing a coach outing from Bury Unitarian Church to the Nightingale Centre for Christmas Lunch. We will be going over to Bury for about 10.30 am for morning coffee and setting off for Hucklow around 11.30 am for a three course lunch at 1.00 pm.

Afterwards there is to be a short service of readings and carols in the chapel led by members from Bury and we will stay for the Christmas light switch on in the village before making our way home in the late afternoon.

There is one spare seat so if anyone else would like to go please let me know. The price is £20.00 for lunch and £15 for the coach fare.

Helen I



forget me not children's hospice

Dear Friends

I wanted to send you my heartfelt thank you for all your incredible fundraising efforts and the very generous donation of £2,000.75 raised from the Zip wire birthday challenge, to Forget Me Not Children's Hospice.

Your donation will be placed in our transport fund, which we will use to help those families affected by the closure of our children's hospice in Bury- Grace's Place, to access the care and support they need. Most of these families have chosen to continue being cared for by Forget Me Not, which means this fund will help them travel to our Huddersfield-based hospice, Russell House.

For those families coping with the challenges of caring for a child with a complex and life-shortening health condition or who want to make the most of the precious time they have together, this support is absolutely vital. Whether it's respite care, counselling, support groups or days out and activities, we're here to help families however they need us, whatever the future holds.

Thank you for helping us continue to do that for families in Bury, Oldham and Rochdale.

Luen Thompson

Chief Executive

Rochdale Unitarians

**3 COURSE
CHRISTMAS
LUNCH**

**Come and join us on
Saturday 7th December**

at 11:45 am

Tickets £10

Contact Persons:

Joyce 01706 659294

Helen 01706 649015



www.unitarian.org.uk
many beliefs, one faith

EVENT DATES 2019/20

Date	EVENT
16 Nov	Film Night — The Greatest Showman
7 Dec	Christmas Lunch
	Event dates for 2020
01 Feb	Film Night
15 Feb	Charity Lunch
21 Mar	Film Night
25 Apr	Spring Lunch
16 May	Film Night
20 Jun	Summer Lunch
22 Aug	Women's League Project Lunch
03 Oct	Film Night
10 Oct	Autumn Lunch
21 Nov	Film Night
05 Dec	Christmas Lunch

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."

Messenger by Email?

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



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