



The Monthly Messenger for

March 2021

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

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MARCH Flowers

Daffodil



**March
BIRTH FLOWER**



No flower embodies spring quite like the daffodil, so it's quite appropriate that March's birth flower is the narcissus. These cheerful yellow flowers are named after the character in Greek mythology who was so in love with himself he drowned in a pool of water whilst admiring his own reflection.

Narcissi aren't just a symbol of vanity though; they are said to symbolise new beginnings, rebirth and rejuvenation. They also represent faithfulness due to their ability to bloom year after year.

For different cultures around the world, daffodils represent different things. In China they are seen as a sign of good luck and prosperity because they bloom around the time of Chinese New Year. In Wales they are claimed as the national flower. The daffodil is also a symbol for the cancer care charity Marie Curie.

100 CLUB WINNERS

JANUARY 2021

1st	90	Corinna Whymant
2nd	63	Bill Hutton
3rd	50	Greta Henson

100 CLUB WINNERS

2021

1st	100	Diane Bennett
2nd	53	Lynne Hutton
3rd	12	Jackie White

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Editor's Letter

Well, what a difference a month makes! Will the successful roll-out of the vaccine continuing, it is to be hoped we are ever closer to being able to resume our lives at home, church and the community.



I am very pleased to announce that from Easter Sunday 4th April, we are aiming to have our first service of worship back in church since the New Year!

We have also begun to plan the calendar of services and events for the coming year, which is now restored to its former glory on the back page.

Please note that these are *planned* dates, and may be subject to change. Finally, Spring is in the air — prepare for new life and hope this season!

RECIPE CORNER

Mary Berry says: **Fish** is a lovely light option for a meal and usually requires little preparation. This is her recipe for

SMOKED HADDOCK AND CAULIFLOWER GRATIN:

Serves 6 Cook Time 30-35 mins

Ingredients:

Butter for greasing
350g (12 oz) potatoes cut into cubes
1 medium cauliflower, broken into small florets
1 heaped tbsp cornflour
300ml (10 fl oz) pouring double cream
100g (4 oz) Gruyere cheese, coarsely grated
2 tbsps chopped parsley
2 tbsps snipped chives
500g (1 lb 2 oz) undyed smoked haddock fillets, skinned
Paprika for dusting
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Put potato cubes into a large saucepan, cover with water, add a little salt and bring to boil. Boil for around 4 mins then add the cauliflower florets and boil for a further 4 mins. Drain well.

Tip drained potatoes & cauliflower into prepared dish and season with salt & pepper. Measure cornflour into a bowl, pour in the cream, add salt & pepper and stir to combine.

Scatter half the cheese over potatoes & cauliflower in the dish, sprinkle over the herbs, then cut haddock into large pieces and cover vegetables to form an even layer. Pour cream mixture over the top and in between the cracks. Scatter with remaining cheese and dust with a little paprika.

Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden and bubbling. Enjoy your meal !

A SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Over the past year, whilst we have been either in lockdown or tiered restrictions, countless instances of both adults and children taking on challenges in order to improve the lot of those suffering most during the pandemic.

In a news flash, following the death of Captain Tom, the comment was made that during the pandemic 73 thousand volunteers had come forward to offer help to those in need. That certainly has to be cheering news.

Writing in a book entitled *Handbook for the Soul*, there appears this quote at the start of a chapter by Stephen R Covey - "I think that the most significant work we ever do in our whole life - in our whole world - is done within the four walls of the home. All mothers and fathers, whatever their station in life, can make the most significant of contributions by imprinting the spirit of service on the souls of their children, so that those children grow up committed to making a difference."



SUNRISE OVER NORDEN VIEW - 7.00 am, Tuesday, 23 February



Snow-drops from Joyce's garden! New life, new hope.

CLOVER STREET NEWS & EVENTS

A Re-opening Service for Easter!

We are pleased to announce that the first service of worship back in our building on Clover Street is scheduled to take place on Easter Sunday 4th April.

If the Government's roadmap for easing of lockdown restrictions continues, then we plan to hold services in the building once per month, increasing to once a fortnight from the beginning of May. Hopefully, from the end of August onwards we will be able to hold services at church on a weekly basis once more.

Of course, this is subject to the circumstances and restrictions in place as 2021 unfolds, but there is light at the end of the tunnel!

Future events and dates will be published in the Messenger and our bi-weekly newsletter, so watch this space.

*Important
DATE!*



Congregational AGM

This will be held on Sunday 13th of June, which we be preceded by a shortened service of worship led by Diane Bennett.

Church Charity 2021

Please note that for the year 2021, Rochdale Unitarian Church will keep SACH (Send A Child to Hucklow) as its charity. This organisation makes such a difference to the lives of children who otherwise would not be able to enjoy a break with friends or, as in some cases, the experience of regular wholesome meals and heating!

We have done amazing work last year, considering the pandemic, with £200 to be donated to the charity from 2020. Thank you so much for your generosity — please keep it up!

GA Meetings 2021

Diane Bennett was elected Rochdale delegate for the GA Meetings due to take place online on the 24th March.

We announced our exciting partnership with Link4Life last issue, and below are some quick reminders of what is on offer, with more to follow once we are able to re-open the building. Co-ordinator Sarah Shard can be contacted for further information about any of the groups or for the Zoom Links if you wish to join any of the ongoing sessions online:

Link4Life

Sarah.Shard@link4life.org
07976 498629

Walking Focus Group

Due to current government restrictions the walking programme is postponed for the time-being. It is important that we get input from individuals from the community, so we would like to set up a focus group session via Zoom. It would be approximately 30 minutes and it would be good to hear your views. If you would like to join, I can send some suggested dates.

Zumba Basic Taster Sessions

Before covid-19, Zumba Basic was extremely popular. So we are setting up taster sessions on Zoom for new people, or those who used to come to our normal classes, to prepare for when they restart.

Sing-along

This is just a bit of entertainment, so you can either watch or join in! We have two lovely volunteers who have kindly agreed to do this for us.



Tea and Chat

We deliver a fortnightly 'Tea and Chat' session via Zoom on Friday mornings. They've been going well and we have a good natter.



Quiz Night

We have been doing a regular Quiz night, and if you would like to join us, just let me know and I can send you the link for the next one.



Healthy Eating

Due to the success of our Healthy Eating taster sessions before Christmas, we are continuing these on Zoom. It may be possible to use the kitchen facilities at the church once the building is able to re-open.

Ideas

Should anyone have ideas on what other activities we could provide during this time, please let me know.



Sarah.Shard@link4life.org
07976 498629

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

This coming week **John Wood** goes for his assessment in readiness for surgery in the near future. Both you and Edna will be in our thoughts John and we trust you will make a full and speedy recovery and be back with us very soon.

We were concerned to learn that **Ewa's** husband, **Jules** recently underwent surgery to remove a "lump" and subsequently the biopsy revealed it to have been malignant. It was thought that the surgery had removed all traces but just to be sure, he is currently awaiting further treatment at Christies. We are all thinking about you both and know you will face this setback with positivity.

We are delighted to report that **Sylvia Palmer** is progressing well and now receiving physiotherapy to help her get walking again. Enjoy the "miles around your lounge" Sylvia. Think positive - getting stronger every day!

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

Half Acre
23 February 202

Dear Friends

I have settled in at Half Acre but miss seeing you all. Thank you for sending the basket of flowers which was beautiful. They were on the chest of drawers in my room so I could see them even when in bed.

If anyone would like to ring me I would love to have a chat. My mobile number is 07704 751856. I am looking forward to having visitors when it is allowed.

With kind regards to everyone
Madge

M UDDY BOOTS



Walking
Group

Having just heard the Prime Minister's roadmap out of lockdown I am hoping that we can start walking together again as from 29 March when the rule of six is back. We will have had our second vaccines by that time and the weather will be improving. I will give a Saturday date on in the April Messenger and promise the first few walks will be short local rambles.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



From Rochdale Observer 11 August 1903

With characteristic generosity, Mr R T Heape recently offered to defray the cost of redecorating the Unitarian Church in Blackwater Street and provide the installation of electric light. Both improvements were greatly needed. Partly owing to the beautifully-painted windows, the light has been so defective that gas has usually been burning even in the morning and this, of course, has had a bad effect on the atmosphere. The question of introducing electric light was discussed when the Corporation supply was first available, but the charges were then too high and the proposal was postponed. The unpretending exterior of this church gives no indication of the beauty of the interior which has been enriched of late by costly gifts of windows and carving. The reopening services last Sunday were largely attended.



BOOK CIRCLE



Members continue to meet on Zoom each month which works very well as no one has to leave the house on a cold and rainy evening. We enjoyed discussing Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens which was beautifully written and can be highly recommended.

For our March meeting we are reading Jojo Moyes' latest book. (You might remember Me Before You, After You and Still Me.) Based on a true story rooted in America's past, The Giver of Stars is about five women taking part in Eleanor Roosevelt's Travelling Library, in Kentucky in the 1930s, who travel through a large region of the mountainous state delivering books to rural residents. These women endure several challenges along the way, facing racism and sexism as well as the hardship of travelling by horseback in Appalachia.



Update on progress with the merger of UCM and Unitarian College

The Unitarian College Board met on the 11th of February and agreed the merger. This has been a long journey for both organisations, and I would like to thank all who have played a part in making this happen.

We will be holding an AGM for UCM on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 1400 to which you are most warmly invited. The meeting will take place on zoom. The link for the meeting is attached here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85825186800?pwd=T2RkWFJFSWxiWklyS3JBbGhFU2x4Zz09>

The meeting will receive the 2020 accounts and provide further updates. As this is the last AGM for UCM, all governors (including life governors) will retire at the meeting. Those governors not attending the AGM will be presumed to have retired in their absence.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all the staff and students of UCM over the years, to thank governors for their active support of the College, which has been invaluable. I see this AGM as an opportunity for a smooth transfer to the now well-established Unitarian College and am pleased that several governors have already transferred their support to the new College.

We will conclude with a final act of worship let by Rev Ant Howe, UCM alumnus and Ministry Tutor at Unitarian College.

I look forward to seeing you on 25th March.
Yours in love and friendship

Rev Lynne Readett
President of Unitarian College Manchester

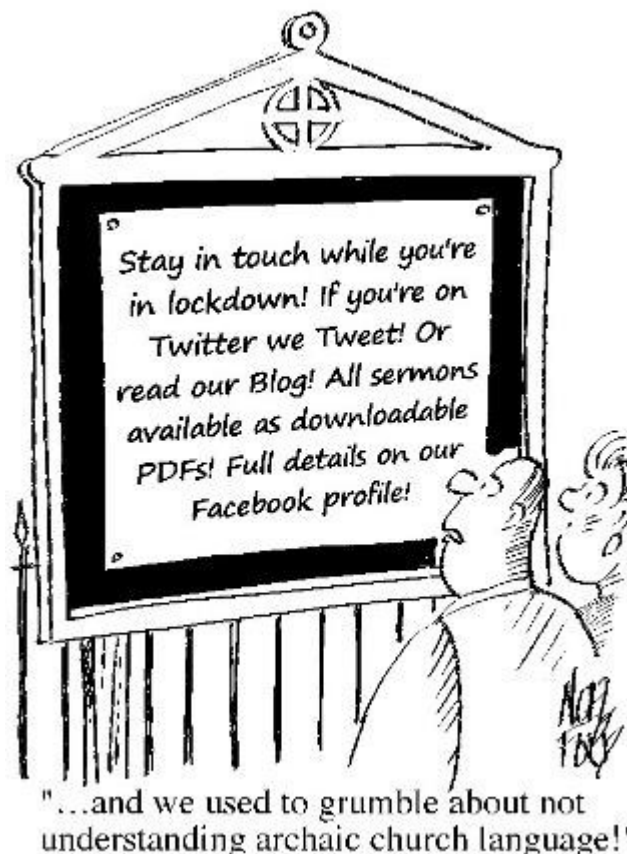
Rochdale Unitarian Church to become an Associate Member of Unitarian College

At the recent General Council meeting, held on 22nd February, it was agreed that Clover Street Church would become an associate member of the new Unitarian College.

The amount to be donated will be agreed at a future meeting, and we are proud to support this new model of training applicants for future success in ministry and our wider national movement.

The insert provides more information on the new Unitarian College and its objectives.

ALL IN THE MONTH OF MARCH



From GardenDigest.com:

"Each leaf,
each blade of grass
vies for attention.
Even weeds
carry tiny blossoms
to astonish us."

- Marianne Poloskey, Sunday in Spring

"March is a month of considerable frustration - it is so near spring and yet across a great deal of the country the weather is still so violent and changeable that outdoor activity in our yards seems light years away."

- Thalassa Cruso

"The word 'March' comes from the Roman 'Martius'. This was originally the first month of the Roman calendar and was named after Mars, the god of war. March was the beginning of our calendar year. We changed to the 'New Style' or 'Gregorian' calendar in 1752, and it is only since then when we the year began on 1st January. The Anglo-Saxons called the month Hlyd monath which means Stormy month, or Hraed monath which means Rugged month. All through Lent the traditional games played are marbles and skipping. The games were stopped on the stroke of twelve noon on Good Friday, which in some places was called Marble Day or Long Rope Day. The game of marbles has been played for hundreds of years and some historians say that it might have been started by rolling eggs. In the past, round stones, hazelnuts, round balls of baked clay and even cherry stones have been used."

EVENT DATES 2021

Date	EVENT
4 APR	10.30am Easter Service and re-opening
25 APR	10.30am Women's League Service
2 MAY	10.30am Sunday Worship — TBA
16 MAY	10.30am Anniversary Service — Ann Mills
30 MAY	10.30am Sunday Worship—Graeme Pilbrough
13 JUN	10.30am Service & Congregational AGM
27 JUN	10.30am Sunday Worship — TBA

PLEASE NOTE:

Unfortunately, special events and worship services at church can only go ahead subject to Covid restrictions in place at that time.

Updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page and in our bi-weekly newsletter.

Reminder —: Donation Envelopes!

A reminder from our Treasurer, John Illingworth, that if any of you have donations at home that you would have given during the offertory or in the collection box at church, could you please contact either John, Helen or myself, using the details below, and we will arrange to safely collect your donation. Many thanks!

Helen & John Illingworth Tel: 01706 649015

Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk

Email: john@illingworth.org.uk

Paul Hubbard Tel 07884 123 169

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Rochdale Unitarian Church

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