

The Monthly Messenger for

December 2018

A Journal of the Unitarian Church Clover Street Rochdale

Volume 133

Issue 1587



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

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Margaret Shore & John Illingworth

PULPIT & LETTINGS' SECRETARY

Paul Hubbard

FLOWER FUND SECRETARIES

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CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461

DECEMBER Flowers

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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

100 CLUB WINNERS

NOVEMBER 2018

1st Nr 88 Michael Ashworth
2nd Nr 60 John Illingworth

3rd Nr 83 Eunice Smith

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

ETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, the Festive Season has finally arrived. All that mad dashing around, trying to find that last-minute bargain; Slade playing in the shops since the embers died-down on Bonfire night; and the sprouts have been on the boil since the beginning of November (to paraphrase the much-missed Victoria Wood).

The Messenger and its Editor is well and truly in the festive spirit — and I'm not just referring to the Baileys. Just take a look at our calendar on the centre pages: we've got our Christmas Lunch on 1st December; the Toy & Gift Service on the 2nd; our Carol Service on the 16th; a Congregational Lunch on the 23rd; and -- for those who are still not Christmas'd out — we have a Christmas Morning Service on the 25th! Check pages 8 and 9 for a special 2-page spread on these events.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Church Council, the Trustees, Wardens, Volunteers, visiting worship leaders (especially the marvellous Abi Elliott-McGuffie), and indeed all those who have worked so hard this year to keep Rochdale Unitarian Church thriving. Merry Christmas to you, one and all!

The Work of Christmas

The work of Christmas begins ... When the song of the angels is stilled,

When the star in the sky has gone,

When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flocks,

Then the work of Christmas

Then the work of Christmas begins ...

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart.

By Howard Thurman

9 Axeview Road Seaton Devon EX12 2JS

December 2019

Dear Friends

Once again, Christmas has come around all too quickly, although I am sure my grandchildren do not agree with me!

For some years, we have been thinking about replacing Christmas cards with a donation to a charitable cause of our choice but have put off doing so for fear of offending and not hearing from people we hold dear to us. This year we are being brave and sticking our heads above the parapet, hence our letter to the Messenger.

This year has been a difficult time for Stephen health wise, having spent a couple of weeks in hospital, and I have come to realise how long and stressful the journey takes to our nearest hospital in Exeter, especially on a day to day basis. Thankfully, he is making a steady recovery but this is why we have decided to donate the money we spend on cards and postage to Devon Air Ambulance. They have recently increased their operating hours to include night time, which is a bonus to the small villages and communities around Devon, but obviously they depend on fund raising events and personal donations to survive.

We would still love to keep in touch with friends and hear your news, and we love to receive the Messenger every month, but hope you understand the reasons behind our decision.

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year in 2019 for you and your families.

With much love

Judith and Stephen Lord

RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month Margaret Shore

DECEMBER

Sat	01	11.45	Christmas Lunch
Sun	02	10.30	Toy Service led by Jim Stearn (see pg 8)
Mon	03	19.30	Christmas Book Circle meeting at 5 Bagnall Close
Wed	05	17.00	Christmas Afternoon Tea — hostess: Edna Wood
Wed	05	18.45	Women's League meeting — Christmas meeting. Reading and games.
Sun	09	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev Beryl Allerton, followed by celebratory lunch (see pg 9)
Sun	16	18.00	Carol Service led by Abi Elliott- McGuffie. Collection to church charity Sightsavers.
Sun	23	10.30	Sunday Service led by Rev John Allerton. Followed by Congregational Lunch at Madisons.
Tues	25	11.00	Christmas morning Worship led by Rev Beryl Allerton
Sun	30	10.30	Sunday Service led by Prof Geoff Levermore from Styal Chapel

JANUARY

Wed	02	17.00	Afternoon Tea — hostess: Diane Bennett
Wed	C. Heaven	355482.0032	Women's League AGM
Sun	06	10.30	S unday Service led by

REGULARS

Please ring - to confirm

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

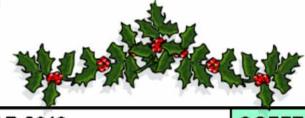
Badminton - most Thursdays at 8:00 pm Contact Person: Margaret Salt - 01706 852575

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

ROTAS

WARDENS		COFFEE
Margaret Salt Diane Bennett	02	John & Edna Wood
Helen & John Illingworth	09	Margaret Shore & Madge Rimmer
Dorothy Jones & Margaret Shore	16	Helen Illingworth & Margaret Salt
Edna & John Wood	23	Joyce Ashworth
John Illingworth & Fred Schofield	30	Diane Bennett & Dorothy Jones

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



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WARDEN		ROTA YEAR 2019								COFFEE		
Margaret Salt	06	10	17	21	26	30	04	08	13	17	22	John & Edna
Diane Bennett	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Wood
Helen & John	13	17	24	28	02	07	11	15	20	24	29	Margaret Shore
Illingworth	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Madge Rimmer
Dorothy Jones	20	24	31	05	09	14	18	22	27	01		Helen Illingworth
Margaret Shore	Jan	Feb	Mar	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Dec		Margaret Salt
Edna & John Wood	27 Jan	03 Mar	07 Apr	12 May	16 Jun	21 Jul	25 Aug	29 Sep	03 Nov	08 Dec		Joyce Ashworth
John Illingworth	03	10	14	19	23	28	01	06	10	15		Diane Bennett
Fred Schofield	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Dorothy Jone

C HRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 1st December

The Christmas Lunch will be held on Saturday 1st December at 11.45 am price £10.00. This is our most popular lunch when the main hall will be decorated for Christmas and the fare is suitably festive. Card and craft stalls will selling seasonal bargains too. So stalls will selling seasonal bargains too. So come along and join us!



OY & GIFT SERVICE



Sunday 2nd December

Please remember that the first Sunday Service in December will be our Toy and Gift Service. This will be led by Jim Stearn from Lincolnshire.

Toys donated at the service will be taken to Petrus, who work with Social Services to ensure that families who can't afford to buy Christmas presents will be able to give their children some gifts from the Petrus appeal.

Any additional financial donations collected at this service, will be donated to the Toilet Twinning Charity, as voted on by the congregation at this year's AGM. The charity works with communities in the developing world, aiming to "help people access a decent toilet and clean water."

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HRISTMAS CARDS

The donations from this year's Christmas Card Scheme will be going to the Send a Child to Hucklow charity (SACH).

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SACH offers weekly holidays for groups of children, aged between 8 and 15 years, at the Nightingale Centre in Great Hucklow, Derbyshire. The children are selected from various agencies such as the Family Service Units, Women's Refuges, Social Service Departments, Schools, Community Associations, Congregations.

The only condition is that the children selected would not otherwise have a holiday.

SACH info and picture supplied by: www.sendachildtohucklow.org.uk



CELEBRATORY LUNCH - Sunday, 9 December

Joyce is delighted so many will be present for her "special birthday" celebration.

This is the planned schedule:

10.30 - 11.30 am — Worship (optional)11.45 - 12.15 — Drinks reception 12.30 - 2.30 - Lunch in Blue Room

Joyce requests no gifts - donations to church roof fund in lieu if desired, cheques payable to Rochdale Unitarian Church.

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"ABOUT PEOPLE"

We were all upset to learn that **Pat Chippendale's** twin brother died very recently. He had been in care and gradually deteriorating since the Spring, which had been distressing for Pat to witness. We offer our support and our sympathy to all the family.

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Terry Shore**. Terry had been a member of church and served as Church Treasurer for a number of years. He and his wife Jean were instigators of indoor bowling at the Friday night gatherings we all enjoyed for several years. To Jean and the family we offer our sincere condolences.

Recently **Joyce** and **Greta** visited **Irene and Brian Nuttall** with church flowers and by chance **Jean and Colin Westerman** along with their
daughter **Anne**, whom they have remained firm
friends with, were paying them a visit. We had a
lovely chat with lots of reminiscing and they wished
to be remembered to all those who knew them.

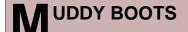
Many Happy Returns to **Joyce** as she celebrates her 80th Birthday and thank you so much for inviting us all to share her celebratory lunch after Church on 9th December. We hope she has a wonderful day and enjoys a super holiday in Krakow to round off the celebrations.

STROKE CLUB

John Wood

We are sorry to see the Stroke Club winding up in the face of declining numbers. They found a home with us for their meetings after Rev Ann Latham encouraged them to do so over 40 years ago. We will certainly miss seeing them around the building and treasure memories of the Stroke Club Outings Unit 33 arranged, the annual concert to swell funds and the jolly Christmas parties they held each year.









Members enjoyed a lovely walk at the beginning of November along the canal at Slattocks through lanes to Tandle Hill. The autumn colours were at their best and the views from the war memorial at the top of Tandle Hill were wonderful.

December is a busy month for everyone but hopefully we'll get a walk in between Christmas and New Year. A date will be fixed by the time the January Messenger comes out just before Christmas.

BOOK CIRCLE



December's meeting is our Christmas party when we have a lovely meal curtesy of the Dolca Vita and a chat. There is a book of the month which is Rabbit Proof Fence by Doris Pilkington which is a remarkable true story of three young girls who cross the harsh Australian desert on foot to return to their home. I hope we will have time to go through the set questions as I am sure the book deserves a full discussion.

Following an Australian government edict in 1931, black aboriginal children and children of mixed marriages were gathered up by whites and taken to settlements to be assimilated. Rabbit-Proof Fence traces the captivating story of three young girls uprooted from their community in Southwestern Australia and taken to the Moore River Native Settlement. At the settlement the girls were forbidden to speak their native language, forced to abandon their aboriginal heritage and taught to be culturally white. After regular stays in solitary confinement, the three girls scared and homesick planned and executed a daring escape from the grim camp, with its harsh life of padlocks, barred windows, and hard cold beds.

The girls headed for the nearby rabbit-proof fence that stretched over 1,000 miles through the desert toward their home. Their journey lasted over a month, and they survived on everything from emus to feral cats, while narrowly avoiding the police, professional trackers, and hostile white settlers. Their story is a truly moving tale of defiance and resilience.

EVENT DATES 2018/19

Date	EVENT
01 Dec	Christmas Lunch
02 Dec	Toy and Gift Service
16 Dec	Carole Service
19 Jan	Film Night — Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again
9 Feb	Charity Lunch
14 Mar	Talk on Peterloo by John Alker
23 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

JANUARY 2019 EDITION COPY DEADLINE - 23 DEC ISSUE DATE - 30 DEC