



# The Monthly Messenger for December 2018

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

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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  
53 Links View, Rochdale OL11 4DD

## SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Co-ordinator - Joyce Ashworth  
Member - Helen Illingworth

## PUBLICITY TEAM

### Messenger Notices

Joyce Ashworth & Helen Illingworth

### Messenger Publication and Distribution

Paul Hubbard

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Diane Bennett

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**CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461**

# DECEMBER Flowers



* * * * *	Sunday 2nd December 2018 Eunice & Donald Smith	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 9th December 2018 Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 16th December 2018 Flower Donation Vacancy	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 23rd December 2018 Sheila Goodwin In memory of Jessie & Tom Reid	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 30th December 2018 Edna & John Wood In memory of their Families	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Shore	* * * * *

## 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

## LETTER 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 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	<b>T</b> oy 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	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev Beryl Allerton, followed by celebratory lunch (see pg 9)
Sun	16	<b>18.00</b>	<b>C</b> arol Service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie. Collection to church charity <i>Sightsavers</i> .
Sun	23	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Rev John Allerton. Followed by Congregational Lunch at Madisons.
Tues	25	<b>11.00</b>	<b>C</b> hristmas morning Worship led by Rev Beryl Allerton
Sun	30	10.30	<b>S</b> unday Service led by Prof Geoff Levermore from Styal Chapel

## JANUARY

Wed	02	17.00	Afternoon Tea — hostess: Diane Bennett
Wed	02	18.45	Women's League AGM
Sun	06	10.30	<b>S</b> 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



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



## CHRISTMAS 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 be selling seasonal bargains too. So come along and join us!



## TOY & 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."

## CHRISTMAS CARDS



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

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](http://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.

## “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 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday and thank you so much for inviting us all to share her celebratory lunch after Church on 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Stroke**  
association

## M UDDY BOOTS



Walking  
Group

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.

## B OOK CIRCLE



Book  
Circle

December's meeting is our Christmas party when we have a lovely meal courtesy 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



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