



The Monthly Messenger for

January 2019

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 133

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PASTORAL TEAM

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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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John & Edna Wood Tel 01706 645252
Email: jonwud@tiscali.co.uk

CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461

JANUARY Flowers



* * * * *	Sunday 6th January 2019	* * * * *
* * * * *	Elaine Whymant	* * * * *
* * * * *	In memory of the Howarth family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 13th January 2019	* * * * *
* * * * *	Madge Rimmer	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 20th January 2019	* * * * *
* * * * *	Dorothy Jones & family	* * * * *
* * * * *	In memory of Trevor	* * * * *
* * * * *	Sunday 27th January 2019	* * * * *
* * * * *	Margaret Shore	* * * * *
* * * * *	In memory of her family	* * * * *
* * * * *	Flowers lovingly arranged by	* * * * *
* * * * *	Margaret Salt	* * * * *

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

DECEMBER 2018

1st	Nr 64	Madge Rimmer
2nd	Nr 79	Anne Dawson
3rd	Nr 20	Joyce Ashworth

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A big welcome from your Editor to the January 2019 edition of The Messenger.

January 2019 — can you believe it? I can't, I was still getting used to it being 2018! Never mind, "time waits for no man," as the old saying goes, and this is certainly true for all of us here at Clover Street.



As well as our regulars, the monthly Book Circle, Walking Group, Afternoon Tea and Women's League (AGM), we are also welcoming back to our pulpit this month firm favourites, Hilary Bichovsky and Jean Clements, as well as none other than Clover Street's very own Joyce Ashworth and Paul Hubbard to bookend the month, giving services on 6th January and 27th, respectively. Hurrah! ... Now roll on February.

UPDATE: CHRISTMAS FUND-RASING

Just as this edition of The Messenger was going to press, your Editor received the news that the congregation have raised an amazing **£75** for the Toilet Twinning charity during our Christmas Toy and Gift Service. This means that we can now twin our first toilet at Church, helping to fund the work of the Toilet Twinning Charity to bring clean water and crucial sanitation facilities to some of the most deprived communities in the Developing World. So well done to you all!



In addition to this, I have also been told that the toys for the Petrus Christmas Appeal were very well-received. Your generosity makes such a difference in the lives of those who struggle, particularly at Christmas, to provide their families with what the more fortunate of us can often take for granted.

Thank you!

JOYCE'S BIG DAY

On December 9th, Joyce Ashworth celebrated her 80th birthday together with the congregation, family and well-wishers in a special lunch event at Clover Street.



It was a very enjoyable and memorable occasion. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in making the afternoon the successful and smooth-running event that it was — your hard work is much appreciated!

Joyce has asked me to let you all know that the amount she raised on the day for the church re-roofing fund was a whopping **£300!**

So once again, thank you everyone for your generosity.



2 Daffodil Close, Shawclough

Just a sincere word of thanks for the really beautiful birthday cards and good wishes, gifts/donations, but most of all to everyone for sharing the day with me and helping to make it truly memorable.

Lots of Love

Joyce

RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month
Margaret Salt

JANUARY

Sun	06	10.30	S unday Service led by Joyce Ashworth
Mon	07	19.30	Book Circle meeting at 1 Stanney Close, Milnrow, OL16 4BF
Wed	09	17.00	Afternoon Tea — hostess: Diane Bennett
Wed	09	18.45	Women's League AGM
Wed	26	13.00	Walking Group
Sun	13	10.30	S unday Service led by Jean Clements
Sat	19	19.00	Film Night — Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again
Sun	20	10.30	S unday Service led by Hilary Bichovsky
Sun	27	10.30	S unday Service led by Paul Hubbard
Mon	28	19.45	General Council Meeting

FEBRUARY

Sat	02	12.00	Manchester District Women's League Annual General Meeting at Bury Church
Sun	03	10.30	S unday Service led by Graeme Pilborough
Mon	04	19.30	Book Circle at 5 Bagnall Close
Wed	06	17.00	Afternoon Tea — hostess: Madge Rimmer
Wed	06	18.45	Women's League Meeting
Sat	09	11.45	Charity Lunch
Sun	10	10.30	S unday Service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie

NELUM DINNER

At a recent District meeting the idea of holding a Nelum Dinner probably at Rawtenstall Church around May, when the weather should be better and the nights longer, was suggested. Please let our Nelum delegates, Helen or Joyce, know whether you would wish to support such an event so that planning can go ahead.

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

JAN
2019

COFFEE

Margaret Salt &
Diane Bennett

6th

John & Edna Wood

Helen & John
Illingworth

13th

Margaret Shore &
Madge Rimmer

Dorothy Jones &
Margaret Shore

20th

Helen Illingworth &
Margaret Salt

Edna & John Wood

27th

Joyce Ashworth

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

CARETAKER ON HOLIDAY:

**Thurs 17 – Sat 26
January**

Please note the above dates for your diary, as our hard-working caretaker, Tom Walsh, will be taking a holiday during this period.

If you need to report a building or maintenance issue during this period, then please refer to pg 2 where you will find contact details for Church Council members.

The main contacts are:

John Illingworth (Buildings Management)
01706 649015 | john@illingworth.org.uk

Paul Hubbard (Administrator)
07884 123 169 | rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com



"ABOUT PEOPLE"

We wish **John** and **Edna** a wonderful holiday visiting their daughter Carolyn and her family in Adelaide. We will miss them and look forward to their safe return.

We were all extremely sorry to learn of the sudden death of **Eva's** grandmother in Poland, and we offer our sincere condolences to all the family.

It was upsetting to learn that **Freda Ashworth** fell at home recently and unfortunately suffered a broken shoulder necessitating a short stay in Leighton House at Deepdish. We trust she will soon be able to return home.

2 The Hedgerows, Whitworth

Dear Friends

Andrew, Angela, Richard and Gina, and their families join me in expressing our gratitude for your support. The cards, flowers and donations in memory of Terry were greatly appreciated. Thank you

Jean

STROKE CLUB

Following the report on the closure of the Stroke Club in the previous edition of The Messenger, we have received the following letter from Secretary Margaret Taylor:

Sadly, I have to confirm that the Stoke club has finished as of the end of 2018. On behalf of members past and present, I would like to thank you and all the members of the Unitarian Church for the help, kindness and friendship you have given the Stroke Club over the past 40 years; the concerts and trips you organised were looked forward to and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

I hope we will be able to keep in touch and support the concert on 13th May.

I wish you all every good wish for the future.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Taylor

Stroke
association

M UDDY BOOTS



Walking
Group



The Packhorse Inn, Birtle. Photograph by Michael Ely

I did mention in the December Messenger that we would try to arrange a walk between Christmas and New Year. If the weather is fine on Friday 28th December we're going to do the Birtle walk from the Pack Horse. Please meet in the pub car park at 10.30 am if you would like to come. Bring a snack as the walk will probably be a couple of hours – or we could have soup and a roll at the Pack Horse.

The January walk will be on Saturday 26th January meeting at Church at 1.00 pm. The plan is to drive to Milnrow and do what I call the Kingsway Business Park walk. Don't be put off – it's a lovely walk on some great paths which were created when the park was built. Half way round we can stop off for a drink at the Spring Inn so bring some money.

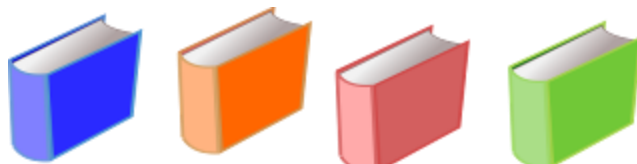
Helen Illingworth

B BOOK CIRCLE



Book
Group

The meeting on 7th January will be held at 1 Stanney Close, Milnrow when members will be discussing *The Crimson Rooms* by Katharine McMahon. The story begins in 1924 in London. As Britain comes to terms with the aftermath of war, Evelyn is still haunted by the death of her brother James in the trenches. So when Meredith arrives at her house, claiming to have been James's lover and the mother of his child, Evelyn's world is thrown into confusion. This is by the same author of *The Rose of Sebastopol* which we very much enjoyed some years ago so I'm sure this will be one to recommend.



Memories of Blackwater Street — by Helen Illingworth

I don't know if any of you are aware, but I joined the Whitworth U3A a few months ago and am enjoying two of the special interest groups – Garden Appreciation and Amblers.

Just before Christmas the Amblers had a planning meeting at the home of two of the members who live at Hallfold. I was looking out of the kitchen window and Keith, the host, said “That’s the font from Blackwater Street Unitarian Church.”

Apparently, he was passing by when the church was being demolished and spotted the font. Keith paid the demolition people £15 for it. After he took the font home, Ken then went back for the base, but unfortunately the bulldozers had crushed it!

I was so pleased to know that the font I was christened in is still in the neighbourhood and looking so pretty filled with winter pansies.



Drawing of Blackwater Street Chapel
from *Rochdale Past and Present*
© William Robertson

COMMUNITY PAYBACK



The tidy-up work in progress at the front of Clover Street Church.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK TEAM PAYS A VISIT TO CLOVER STREET

On Monday 10th December, the local community payback team came to undertake groundwork and maintenance at Clover Street.

For those readers who are unfamiliar with the scheme, Community Payback projects play an important role in restorative justice, by providing an alternative to custodial sentencing for those persons convicted of minor felonies.

So on a cold morning in December, the team turned-up in their trade-mark orange hi-vis jackets to begin work.

And I am pleased to report that the lads did great work tidying up the land at the intersection of Holland Street and Spotland Road (see picture above).

In follow-up visits the team will work on clearing-out the side path at the bottom Holland Street entrance to church, and finish off work to trim the hedges and re-paint the railings round the apse.

SMILE LINES

New Year Resolution

I always make the same resolution and I have never once broken it: every year I resolve to give something up for Lent and then when Lent comes, I give up my New Year's resolution.

Sermon

A boy was watching his father, a minister, write a sermon and asked how he knew what to say. 'Why, God tells me,' replied his father contentedly. 'Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?'

EVENT DATES 2019

Date	EVENT
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

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."

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