



The  
Monthly  
Messenger  
for

August  
2021

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

*Volume 135*

*Issue 1619*



### 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

#### Website Manager

Diane Bennett

### CONTACT DETAILS

**Paul Hubbard** Tel 07884 123 169  
Email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

**Joyce Ashworth** Tel: 01706 659294  
Email: joyce.ashworth9@gmail.com

**Diane Bennett** Tel: 01706 371518  
Email: diane119@hotmail.com

**Helen & John Illingworth** Tel: 01706 649015  
Email: helen@illingworth.org.uk  
Email: john@illingworth.org.uk

**Margaret Salt** Tel: 01706 852575

**Margaret Shore** Tel: 01706 360883

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

**CHURCH TELEPHONE - 01706 648461**

# AUGUST Flowers

Sunday 8th August 2021 Edna & John Wood In memory of June & Vernon
Sunday 22nd August 2021 Margaret Shore In memory of her Family
Sunday 29th August 2021 Margaret Salt In memory of her Family
Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Salt & Dorothy Jones

The flowers either side  
communion table - so  
generously donated,  
beautifully arranged and  
very much appreciated  
are taken to our  
members and friends  
who are unable to be  
with us for many reasons.



Should you know of someone for whom Church  
flowers would be a source of comfort and solace  
please have a word with Helen or Joyce

## 100 CLUB WINNERS JULY

### 2021

1st	26	Katherine Schofield
2nd	76	Kate Salt
3rd	80	Judith Lord

*Congratulations*

*Prizes - 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5*

Welcome Dear Reader to the August 2021 edition of The Messenger.

We now begin the road out of lockdown. Weekly services will resume in August (see back page) and we can now sing during worship (although, I suspect many would still wish me to wear a mask if they heard my singing).

If you turn to the centrefold, you will find all the latest news about your friends and church life. We are delighted to include a piece this month by Rev Abi Elliott-McGuffie on her ordination as a One Spirit Interfaith Minister. We are so proud of you Abi!

All of this as well as recipes, Jackie White's internet finds and your favourites from Parish Pump. Whatever the weather this month, we hope you enjoy this edition!



## WISE WORDS



### Jewish tradition, author unknown:

"A rabbi asked his students, "How do you know that night has ended and the day is returning?" One student answered, "Is it when you see an animal in the distance and can tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?" "No," the rabbi replied. Another student asked, "Is it when you look at a tree in the distance and can tell whether it is a fig or an olive tree?" "No," replied the rabbi. "It is when you look on the face of any man or woman and see that he or she is your brother or sister. If you cannot do this, no matter what the time, it is still night."

### Words of author Dodinsky:

Never deny or waste an opportunity  
to be kind to others,  
even if some people have been unkind to you.  
The two are not related.

### Words of Wangari Maathai

In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other.  
That time is now!



## FROM THE KITCHEN

### SMOKED HADDOCK OMELETTE (Serves 1)

- 100 ml milk
- 3 fresh or dried thyme sprigs
- 100 g undyed smoked haddock, skinless
- 25 g butter
- 15 g plain flour
- 3 eggs
- sea salt & freshly ground black pepper



- 1) Bring milk to boil in shallow pan with the thyme, then turn down to simmer.
- 2) Add haddock to poach for 3 mins.
- 3) Remove fish and keep warm. Reserve milk.
- 4) In another pan, melt 15 g of butter, add flour and cook for 1 min.
- 5) Whisk in milk from poaching fish, to make smooth sauce.
- 6) Flake in the haddock and keep warm .
- 7) To make omelette, beat together eggs and season with salt and pepper.
- 8) Melt remaining butter in frying pan and add eggs.
- 9) Cook 1-2 mins stirring with a fork, then pour fish filling into middle of omelette on one side.
- 10) Flip other half of omelette over it and cook until just set.

Serve immediately with green side salad!



# CLOVER STREET NEWS & EVENTS

## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

**John Wood** (health update): Following an MRI scan on June 17th and subsequent meeting on 1st July with a member of the consultants' team, compared to the previous scan in March, there has been no increase in the size of the tumour or changes to the surrounding tissue. Although the cancer is still present, this is encouraging news and means that no chemotherapy is required at this stage. To monitor any further changes, a further scan will be done in September.

**Diane Bennett** is still recovering at home from her recent surgery. She will be going to Northumberland with her friend for a short break this week. We miss you Diane and wish you all the best in your recovery!

You will be pleased to learn that **Lynne Hutton** came through her back operation very successfully and after physio was home in no time at all. We hope you continue to progress well Lynne and that we may see you again before long.

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE PRESENTATION

I would like to thank members of Rochdale Women's League for the beautiful planter presented to me after worship on 4th July as a congratulatory gesture on becoming national Women's League President. It is a colourful reminder each time I step onto the patio and has already brought a great deal of pleasure.

Many, many thanks  
Joyce



## REMINDER

### Sunday Services

Services will resume a weekly pattern from Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. (Please see the calendar on the back page for details of upcoming services and events). As agreed at the Congregational AGM, chairs will continue to be set at a safe distance and we ask people to wear masks when moving around. Anyone not comfortable with singing hymns and wishing to keep their masks on throughout the service should take a seat at the back. Tea/coffee will be served after the service to people remaining in their seats.



## BOOK CIRCLE



Members are currently reading *The Foundling* by Stacey Halls. Set in Georgian London in 1754, six years after leaving her illegitimate daughter Clara at London's Foundling Hospital, Bess Bright returns to reclaim the child she has never known. Dreading the worst - that Clara has died in care - the last thing she expects to hear is that her daughter has already been reclaimed - by her. Her life is turned upside down as she tries to find out who has taken her little girl - and why.



Following the relaxation of Covid Regulations we are planning to return to face to face meetings from Monday 13th September. Book sets are on order from Whitworth Library and will be distributed after the August Zoom meeting. We will meet initially in the Blue Room at Church to allow safe distancing. We look forward to being together again and welcome new members.

## SPECIAL REPORT

### ABI'S ORDINATION

24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 marked the occasion of my ordination as a OneSpirit Interfaith Minister.

Many of you have enquired of me over the last two years as to how the training has been going (I have appreciated all of your interest), and you will have heard me say things like it's challenging, intense, deep ... and that I've loved it.

This wasn't the path into ministry that I'd anticipated being on when one Sunday morning, sitting among the congregation at Bury Unitarian Church, I answered the call of God/my heart (I don't know that the two can be separated). However, I'd say that it was the path I was meant to be on! From dipping my toes in the water through Rev's Beryl and John Allerton's worship leadership course in 2016, the exploration into Unitarian ministry training began. As it turned out that was perhaps not where I was to be, and it wasn't long before the possibility of training as an Interfaith Minister presented itself. This was something outside of my awareness and in truth, it was outside my comfort zone too...and yet here was possibility, all that was needed was my YES, and a trust that all would be well.

And what a journey it's been! From encountering many of the worlds' religions, engaging with ceremony and ritual, exploring spiritual accompaniment and the deep diving into working on myself. It has been demanding on many levels. There have been two phrases at the forefront of my experience of ministry training; the need to 'know thyself' before being able to be fully present for another, and 'we can only know God as much as we know ourselves'. It would certainly be fair to say that, from this well of self-knowledge and awareness I now feel more equipped to be of service wherever I am called to be.

Ordination as a OneSpirit Interfaith Minister feels some-what unfamiliar and yet it's significance in how I encounter life has been profound. In one sense I'm no different to who I was and yet in another I feel that ministry training has changed me. Perhaps I can best describe this as being a fuller version of myself, it's been a journey of coming home to the person I always was. To me, 'Reverend' is a reflection of the reverence I hold for all that God is within and all that is within God. It is reflective of the respect I have for all beings, all creatures and all of life, and it will remind me every day of my part in the vastness,

the beauty and the mystery that I know as God. Whatever the future holds, in the short or long term, anything is possible and all things are possible ... for now, all I plan to do, is keep my heart open and be ready to offer my next YES! In the meantime, I will be resting and reflecting, looking after the cattery and hopefully spending some time with Geoff.

With love and thanks for all your kindness.  
Reverend Abi Elliott-McGuffie



A very modern ordination via zoom, due to the pandemic.



For anyone who is interested, the ordination ceremony can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/OneSpiritOrg/posts/10158771297418717>  
It should be possible to view the livestream without a Facebook account (if an invitation to create an account pops up, viewers can just click "not now").

## INTERNET FINDS...



Jackie White sent in some more of her best internet finds. Keep sending these in, we need to keep a sense of humour!

Which reminds me: I was walking home recently past the church at the end of the street, when I heard a voice call out from behind the churchyard wall "Jesus is alive! Jesus is coming!". "I'm a Unitarian," I replied. So that's how to shut-up a group of bored kids!



## SMILE LINES

©Parishpump.co.uk

### The purpose of the font

On Sunday, the Service included two baptisms and many young children were there. In his talk, the Vicar asked the children if any of them knew what the font was for – and the answer came back: "For washing babies' hair"!



### Hobby

It seems that those who have hobbies rarely go crazy. But what about those of us who have to live with those who have hobbies?



### Good camping advice

Going camping this month? Take along a tuba or a drum and carefully place it beside your tent. It will keep the spaces on either side of your tent well and truly vacant.



## CARTOON FOR AUGUST

©Parishpump.co.uk



The Minister was running out of inspiration for weekly Zoom services...

## EVENT DATES 2021

Date	EVENT
<b>8 AUG</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Geoff Levermore
<b>22 AUG</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Keith Anderson
<b>29 AUG</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough
<b>05 SEP</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Chrissie Wilkie
<b>12 SEP</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Helen Mills
<b>19 SEP</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Garry Hammond
<b>26 SEP</b>	10.30am Harvest — GA President Anne Mills
<b>3 OCT</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Rev Celia Cartwright
<b>10 OCT</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Rev Ashley Mills (Service Online via Zoom)
<b>17 OCT</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Tom Grimshaw
<b>24 OCT</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Geoff Levermore
<b>31 OCT</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough
<b>7 NOV</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Arek Malecki
<b>14 NOV</b>	2.00pm Remembrance — Jean Longworth
<b>21 NOV</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Arek Malecki
<b>28 NOV</b>	10.30am Sunday Worship — Graeme Pilbrough

### Messenger by Email?

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



**Rochdale Unitarian Church**  
**Clover Street**  
**ROCHDALE OL12 6TP**  
 01706 648461

**SEPTEMBER 2021 EDITION**  
 COPY DEADLINE - 22 AUGUST  
 ISSUE DATE - 29 AUGUST