



# The Monthly Messenger for

## August 2020

A Journal of the  
Unitarian Church  
Clover Street  
Rochdale

*Volume 134*

*Issue 1607*



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# AUGUST Flowers



## August Birth Flower

### GLADIOLUS

Strength

Generosity

Integrity



The August birth flower is the gladiolus. This striking bloom is characterised by pointed tips and dramatic stalks of flowers. It's an incredibly popular late-summer flower and is available in a wide range of colours.

August's birth flower gets its name from the Latin 'gladius', meaning 'sword', which is why you may have heard it called the 'sword-lily'. The name in fact is a reference to the sword-swinging gladiators of ancient Rome. Back then, when gladiators literally fought to the death in the arena, the victor was showered in gladioli. It is for this reason that gladioli are said to embody strength, generosity and moral integrity.

A bouquet of gorgeous gladioli makes a wonderful tribute to a loved one celebrating a high-summer birthday.

## 100 CLUB WINNERS

### JUN 2020

1st	32	Freda Ashworth
2nd	24	Ian Dawson
3rd	33	Susan Powell

### JUL 2020

1st	40	Reuben Illingworth
2nd	11	Jane Glennon
3rd	67	Martin Whyment

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Everyone, and welcome to the August edition of The Monthly Messenger newsletter!

We have some important news this month regarding the re-opening of church (see opposing page). There are also some questions we'd like you to consider about our plans to re-open, so please let us know your thoughts (see pg 7).

Sadly, we have lost beloved friends during the past few months. Our "About People" section is dedicated to them, and contains letters we have received from family members, including a eulogy to Ean Burgon, written by member of the Curtain Theatre, Peter Fitton.

It is true that recent times have been very hard for many of us. So we ask you to keep all your friends at church in your thoughts and prayers, and look forward to the time when we are able to meet again face-to-face as fellow seekers of the spirit.



### Reminder —: Donation Envelopes!

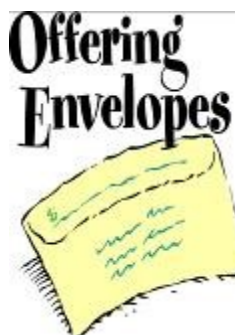
A reminder from our Treasurer, John Illingworth, that if any of you have donations at home that you would have given during the offertory or in the collection box at church, could you please contact either John, Helen or myself, using the details below, and we will arrange to safely collect your donation.

Many thanks!

**Helen & John Illingworth** Tel: 01706 649015  
Email: [helen@illingworth.org.uk](mailto:helen@illingworth.org.uk)  
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## RE-OPENING OF CHURCH

### When can we go back to Church?

You will have heard that some of the rules about places of worship being open have changed. From 4<sup>th</sup> July it has been possible to open places of worship for services. Members of Church General Council have been discussing what would need to be put in place in order for us to re-open in a safe manner and in line with Government guidance. For example, the following is just a summary of what has been put in place:

- An initial clean of the whole building;
- A risk assessment in line with 'Covid Secure' guidelines;
- Consideration of social distancing during any service/meeting that might take place including installation of a one-way system with footprints and signage;
- A queueing system for use of the toilets limited to one person at a time;
- Provision of hand sanitisers on entry to church and before entering the toilets;
- Use of the kitchen and cloakroom are temporarily restricted.

To help you to decide whether you feel comfortable coming to Church from say the beginning of September, you need to be aware that currently the Government requires us to make the following changes:

- On arrival follow the floor markings, use the hand sanitiser provided and enter church by the choir door (hymn books will not be issued);
- Seating will be arranged in pairs to accommodate household groups spaced at 2 metre intervals;
- On your chair you will have a consent form for NHS Test and Trace purposes. Please complete your name, telephone number and signature with the pencil provided and leave both on your seat;
- Please remain seated at all times;
- The hymn text will be shown on the screen but singing is not allowed;
- There will be no refreshments after the service and people will be asked to leave via the double doors as promptly as possible.
- Please leave your offertory in the box provided by the visitor book
- If the need arises, toilets will be available
- Please do not congregate inside church – speak to your friends outside at a safe distance.

We understand that some members would like once again to meet on a Sunday morning for worship and fellowship. However, members need to consider their own circumstances together with these restrictions. It may be easier for some than others.

**\*\*See centrefold for more details!\*\***

## Joyce's Spiritual contributions:

In 1918 Czechoslovakia gained independence and Vaclav Havel, the first President of the Czech Republic, had this to say about the emotional havoc caused in reaching statehood and his vision for a hopeful future. Perhaps we can glean something from his statement that will be relevant for us now as we emerge from the pandemic !

"An existential revolution should provide hope of a moral reconstitution of Society, which means a radical renewal of the relationship of human beings to what I have called the human order, which no political order can replace. A new experience of being, a renewed rootedness in the universe, a newly grasped sense of higher responsibility, **a new-found inner relationship to other people and to the human community** - these factors clearly indicate the direction in which we must go. VACLAV HAVEL (1936-2011, writer, dissident, 1st President of Czech Republic)



On a similar theme, with particular relevance to the current "black lives matter" movement, a prayer by Rev Sarah Tinker, Kensington:

Open our eyes so we may recognise that of God in all those we meet. ... Open our ears to hear other people's stories and, through hearing, understand them better. ... Open our mouths to speak words of friendship and kindness to strangers. ... Open our arms to help to tear down the barriers of fear that divide one group from another. ... Open our minds to think bigger, braver thoughts and go beyond our narrow prejudices. ... Open our hearts so love may flow through us, creating this world as one community which rejoices in people's diversity and encourages the inclusion of all." Amen

## Lockdown Update (continued from pg5)

To help Church Council decide whether it is viable to re-commence, please let us know your answers to the following questions.

You can telephone a member of Church Council, email Diane ([diane119@hotmail.com](mailto:diane119@hotmail.com)) or Paul ([RochdaleUnitarian@outlook.com](mailto:RochdaleUnitarian@outlook.com)) or write us a short letter - whichever you feel most comfortable doing.

If church were to re-open would you feel able to attend:

- 1) From a personal safety point of view (eg some people will need to continue to shield)?
- 2) From a practical point of view (eg would you be able to get to church safely)?
- 3) In the short term, for your own health and safety, would you prefer to continue receiving written updates and telephone contact?

Your answers to these questions may of course change as the situation continues to develop.

We will continue to monitor the updated advice from the NHS and Public Health England and will continue to review our plans to take account of the health and safety of staff, members and visitors.



**Please could you send us your responses no later than Sunday 16th August so we can plan our services and events for the rest of the year**

## “ABOUT PEOPLE”

It is with great sadness that we record the death on 21 July of Eunice's husband **Donald Smith**. Donald had reached a good age but his health had been failing for some months. It is good, despite being bed-bound, that he was able to remain at home during this lockdown period rather than being in care and denied visitors. After so many years together, that would have been hard for both Donald and Eunice. We offer the family our sincere sympathy and support at this time.

Donald's funeral will take place at Rochdale Crematorium on Friday, 31st July at 11.50 am. To view the Service on [www.obitus.com](http://www.obitus.com) the Username is Limo2621 and the password 360576

Most of you will have heard by now that **Ean Burgon**, who you will remember from our Amateur Dramatic Society, passed away on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June following a long battle with cancer. We extend our love and sympathy to Ean's wife Lynne and daughter Elisabeth and have passed on the Congregation's condolences. (A eulogy to Ean is on pg10-11)

Ean's funeral took place on Thursday 9th July. For those who would like to watch the service there is a webcam on [www.obitus.com](http://www.obitus.com) for which you will need the following:

User name: Yehi4452

Password: 593752

From Katherine Smart, (Elaine Schofield's Daughter)

Thank you for passing on cards and messages for my Mum. There is a photo and short message about my Dad in St Paul's Cathedral online remembrance book, for people who have died of coronavirus? The link is

[www.rememberme2020.uk](http://www.rememberme2020.uk), then you click on view and you have to put in my Dad's name Fred Schofield and the year of his birth 1934. I have also attached the article about my Dad from the Rochdale Observer and Manchester Evening News [opposite] that people may like to see.

I can see you are all very busy keeping everyone informed and organising so many things. You are doing a great job!

Love Katherine XXX

## Loved and Lost (Rochdale Observer 24 June 2020)

Fred Schofield from Rochdale died on 21 May at Fairfield Hospital. He was 85 years old. He left behind his wife Elaine, daughter Katherine, son-in-law Ben and grandchildren Alice, Joe and George. Fred went to Spotland Primary School then Castlemere Secondary School. He was a painter and decorator. He did National Service in the Air Force in 1955. There he discovered Edinburgh, which became Fred and Elaine's favourite place to go on holiday. Fred was a member of Rochdale Unitarian Church. He made good friends there. He enjoyed performing in their theatre productions and was a church warden, his daughter Katherine said. Fred was a life long member of Rochdale Cricket Club. He was interested in every sport, but cricket was his passion. Fred loved jazz music and for many years was a member of New Town Jazz Club. He loved going for a pub meal and was very fond of Millcroft Tea Gardens, where he celebrated many happy events with his family. His family said he had a very good sense of humour and liked to look on the bright side of life. Fred loved visiting the theatre with his wife Elaine. They went to see lots of local productions and for many years loved to go to Edinburgh Festival. He loved cats and they loved him. His health deteriorated recently and after a short illness he caught the virus in hospital and died very quickly. He will be fondly remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends.

Diane Williamson, 57 Michel Dene Road, East Dean, Eastbourne BN20 0JY (07970 328049)

Dear Friends, Thank you for your kind cards and messages of condolence following the sudden death of mum. We received so many cards and sadly do not have all your addresses for us to respond to you all individually. We held a small family funeral on 22 June where we were able to say a quiet goodbye and share some of our memories. We know many of you were thinking of mum and us on the day and hopefully some of you have been able to see the order of service which we shared. Also, thank you to those of you who have donated to Send a Child to Hucklow. If anyone else would like to make a donation you can do so here: <https://www.cpjfield.co.uk/services/52535>  
If any of you are venturing south, once we have more freedom of movement, you are more than welcome to pop in. Take care of each other and stay safe and well. Love,  
David & Diane



## **An obituary for Ean Burgon** (written by Peter Fitton from the Curtain Theatre).

### **Ean Burgon: An Appreciation**

That accomplished actor, Ean Burgon, had been terminally ill for some three years but it still came as a shock to hear that we had lost him on Friday 26th June, a day short of his 56th birthday.

I think I first saw Ean at the Unitarian Church in the early 80s, playing Arthur Fitton (no relation) in "All In Good Time"; even then he played with expressive sensitivity rare in a young actor. He quickly became a force to be reckoned with, in leading roles for St. Clement's and subsequently 3D theatre companies. Here he was particularly adept at vulnerable, flawed heroes including both Heathcliff and Mr. Rochester in Bronte adaptations and had a real fatalistic, brooding quality as Becket in "Murder In The Cathedral", memorably played in the church on Edenfield Road.

But it wasn't all heavy-going drama; Ean displayed a wickedly funny, camp charm round the aftershow bar table and could play comedy supremely well, majoring in panicky desperation. I particularly recall directing him in "Tons Of Money" at Units in 1996, where his character was blown up and had to come crashing to earth, blackened and ragged, outside the French windows; I remember him witheringly mumbling to me afterwards "The things I do for you, Fitton!".

But make no mistake, Mr. Burgon was a serious contender; he has a cupboard somewhere crammed with drama awards he's won over the years. If you wanted cerebral and intellectual, he excelled as Alan Turing in "Breaking The Code", in "Shadowlands" at the Lyceum, Oldham and as the dour, despairing poet T. S. Eliot in "Tom And Viv" at the Curtain Theatre. His talents were shared out amongst most of the Oldham and Rochdale theatres and, in casting Ean, you knew you'd get an utterly dependable, eminently directable and intelligent team player, faultless on his lines, sweet-tempered and inventive in interpretation. He was a treat to have aboard.

He was ubiquitous at the Curtain Theatre in the 90s and Noughties in plays as diverse as the thriller "Corpse", Wilde's comedy of manners "The Importance Of Being Earnest" and Catherine Cookson's "The Fifteen Streets" as the beleaguered Geordie father. But his real glory years and fullest flowering as an actor were at the Lyceum; over the past 10 years or more, he became a driving, creative force there, directing as well as acting. Some of his best showings there were as Norman, the title role in "The Dresser", the brave patient in "Who's Life Is It Anyway?" and storming through all the verbal tussles as George in "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?". Two

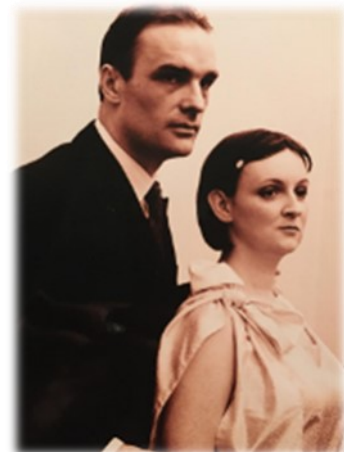
roles there demonstrated Ean's amazing versatility; the ageing, petulant tyrant Gary Essendine in Coward's witty "Present Laughter", the sort of character who had nervous meltdown every 10 minutes and then the amiably gentle, dim-witted farmhand Lenny in 2015's "Of Mice And Men" in a heart-breaking, tragic double-act with Colin Smith's George.

I was delighted to win him back for the CT in 2015 to play the irritable, literary and scientific Joseph Fenwick in "An Experiment With An Air Pump", the last role he essayed for us. He was predictably superb in a play I know he admired, originally produced for his beloved Royal Exchange Theatre, where he worked front of house and behind the scenes for many years.

Even though stricken with cancer in the past few years, he was always genial, full of fun and gossip. He endured his illness with grace and forbearance and wouldn't be dragged down by it. He struggled his way back to the Lyceum to appear in a one-act play for a single performance as Karl Marx (!!) and took his final bow in Stoppard's "The Real Inspector Hound" in 2018, exhausted by the week's run but courageous to the last.

His CV is immense and I've only managed to scratch the surface of it. Amdram colleagues always vow that a player will be missed but the Ean Burgon-shaped hole in all of our lives will be particularly profound. While he was in this life, he was mercurial, inordinate, droll and sympathetic. Personally I shall always cherish his Michael in "Dancing At Lughnasa", which I directed in 1996 at Shaw Playhouse; every night I watched the final poignant scene in which Ean narrated the fate of all his many sisters, as "It's Time To Say Goodnight" played---he brought such control and suppressed emotion to it, I couldn't help weeping each time. If you have tears, prepare to shed them now for Ean Burgon, a really remarkable talent, gone too soon.

Peter C. Fitton



## EVENT DATES 2020

Date	EVENT
10 Oct	Autumn Lunch
21 Nov	Film Night
05 Dec	Christmas Lunch
06 Dec	2020 Toy & Gift Service

### PLEASE NOTE:

Unfortunately, due to the current restrictions, events and services at church are postponed.

Above are some important calendar dates from Oct onwards. We are currently planning a revised calendar.

In the meantime, updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page and in our bi-weekly newsletter

### 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."

## 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)



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**SEPTEMBER 2020 EDITION**  
 COPY DEADLINE - 23 AUG  
 ISSUE DATE - 30 AUG