



The Monthly Messenger for

June
2018

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 132

Issue 1581



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& Margaret Salt

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

Church Admin Assistant – Paul Hubbard

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John & Edna Wood

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JUNE Flowers

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| * * * * * | Sunday 4th June 2018 | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Olive Backhouse | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | In memory of Ronnie | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Sunday 10th June 2018 | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Anne Shepherd | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | In memory of the Stott Family | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Sunday 17th June 2018 | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Sheila and Family | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | In loving memory of Norman | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Sunday 24th June 2018 | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Arlene Hind | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | In memory of Peter Hind | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Flowers lovingly arranged by | * * * * * |
| * * * * * | Dorothy Jones | * * * * * |

100 CLUB WINNERS

APRIL 2018

| | | |
|-----|----|------------------|
| 1st | 62 | Ron Wilkinson |
| 2nd | 32 | Freda Ashworth |
| 3rd | 88 | Michael Ashworth |

MAY 2018

| | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------|
| 1st | 2 | Alistair Bennett |
| 2nd | 40 | Helen & John Illingworth |
| 3rd | 70 | Irene Robinson |

CONGRATULATIONS!

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Well, this month has certainly been a busy one — both for myself and for the hard-working members of Church Council and the Congregation!

We have lots going on at church during June, so make sure to note the important dates in your diaries! Most notably, we have both the Trustees' and Congregational AGMs this month. The Congregational meeting is especially important, as a vote will be taken on which charity to adopt as our official church charity for the next two years.

Also, at the end of June, we have the next in the series of our successful, and very tasty, Saturday Lunches (see below for details). These are always well-attended, and the proceeds will help us raise much needed funds to help with the upkeep of our building (much like our members, the roof isn't getting any younger).

There is also a detailed report from this year's General Assembly, and I will supply details for those interested in further information on how to turn the resolutions we voted for into action.

But remember, The Messenger is YOUR publication, and I as editor am merely your humble servant... So what do you as readers wish to see more / less of in future editions? Let me or one of the Church Council members know (contact details on page 2).



FILM NIGHTS



Why not come along to join us on one of these evenings everyone is welcome, if you are interested in the film or in a good value nights entertainment, then we'd urge you to come along.

We start at 7pm have a 10-minute comfort and ice cream break at around 8pm followed by pie and pea supper at around 9:15pm. All for the suggested donation of £6.50. All we ask you to do is to let us know in advance if you intend to come so that there is supper for everyone.

We doubt you'd get better value for money anywhere!



Date - 22 September

Film - Darkest Hour

A thrilling and inspiring true story begins at the precipice of World War II as, within days of becoming Prime Minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill (Academy Award nominee Gary Oldman) must face one of his most turbulent and defining trials: exploring a negotiated peace treaty with Nazi Germany, or standing firm to fight for the ideals, liberty and freedom of a nation. As the unstoppable Nazi forces roll across Western Europe and the threat of invasion is imminent, and with an unprepared public, a sceptical King, and his own party plotting against him, Churchill must withstand his darkest hour, rally a nation, and attempt to change the course of world history.

SATURDAY LUNCH

ROCHDALE UNITARIAN CHURCH

SUMMER LUNCH

SATURDAY 30TH JUNE 2018
AT 11:45 AM - TICKETS £10

CONTACT PERSONS
HELEN 01706 649015
JOYCE 01706 659294 -
MARGARET 01706 852575

CLOVER STREET, ROCHDALE OL12 6TP

A decorative illustration at the bottom of the poster featuring a small brown bird on a green hill, surrounded by various colorful flowers (yellow, pink, purple) and a large yellow sun in the background.

RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month
Dorothy Jones

JUNE

| | | | |
|------|----|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 03 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Vince McCully from Rivington |
| Wed | 06 | 17.00 | Afternoon Tea - Hostesses: Joyce Ashworth and Greta Henson |
| Wed | 06 | 18.30 | Women's League Meeting – Speaker: Ed Whitaker from Photographic Society on his trip to Lapland |
| Sat | 09 | 11.30-16.00 | Padiham Church Poetry Day: Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath |
| Sun | 10 | 10.30 | S unday service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie |
| Mon | 11 | 19.30 | Book Circle: "Invitation to the Waltz" by Rosamond Lehmann. |
| Tues | 12 | 17.00 | End of Session Proceedings at Unitarian College Manchester |
| Tues | 12 | 19.00 | Valedictory Service for Mark Hutchinson at Unitarian College |
| Sat | 16 | 13.00 | Walking Group: Village Links trail from Park Farm, Ramsbottom to Falshawes Ice Cream Parlour at Walmersley. Meet at Norden Terminus at 1.00 pm |
| Sun | 17 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Jean Clements from Denton |
| Mon | 18 | 19.30 | Trustees' AGM |
| Wed | 20 | 19.45 | Church Council meeting |
| Sat | 23 | 11.00 | Manchester District Women's League Meeting at Stand Chapel |
| Sun | 24 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Graeme Pilbrough (GA Sunday) |
| Wed | 27 | 19.30 | Congregational AGM |
| Sat | 30 | 11.45 | Summer Lunch |

JULY

| | | | |
|-----|----|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sun | 01 | 10.30 | S unday Service led by Abi Elliott-McGuffie |
| Wed | 06 | 17.00 | Afternoon Tea — Hostesses: Margaret Greenwood and Helen Illingworth |
| Wed | 06 | 17.45 | Women's League Meeting |

REGULARS

Please ring - to confirm

Administrator in Church - most Mondays 10am till 1pm
Contact Paul Hubbard - 01706 648461 / 07884 123 169

Keep Fit Group - most Mondays at 10am
Contact Person: Margaret Salt - 01706 852575

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

Choir Practice - most Fridays at 7.15pm
Contact Person: Helen Illingworth 01706 649015

ROTAS

WARDENS

COFFEE

John Illingworth
Fred Schofield

03
Jun

Diane Bennett
Dorothy Jones

Margaret Salt
Diane Bennett

10
Jun

John & Edna Wood

Helen & John
Illingworth

17
Jun

Margaret Shore
Madge Rimmer

Dorothy Jones
Margaret Shore

24
Jun

Helen Illingworth
Margaret Salt

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

TRUSTEES

*Important
DATE!*

Wednesday 18th of June at 7.30pm

This year's Trustees Annual General Meeting will be held in Church. It is important that as many members as possible try to attend this meeting.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, 27 June at 7.30 pm

This is an important meeting for all those interested in the future of our Church community. Remember that members are to vote on which of the 3 charities, as presented in the Whitsun Service, is to be our official church charity for the next 2 years. For help in coming to a decision, see the noticeboard on display in church.

"ABOUT PEOPLE"

Congratulations to proud grandparents **John & Helen Illingworth** and of course to **Peter & Becky** on the birth of their son, Reuben James -- a welcome brother for Nola.

Congratulations also to **Ian Dawson** as he celebrates a Big "O" Birthday. We hope you enjoy the occasion to the utmost Ian.

Hearty congratulations to **Eunice Smith** who celebrates her 90th birthday this month. We celebrate this achievement with you Eunice and hope you thoroughly enjoy your celebrations.

We were concerned to learn that **Ewa's** husband **Jules** recently underwent a quite serious back operation in hospital in Salford. We all send our very good wishes or a very speedy return to good health Jules.

Freda Ashworth has recently moved from Shawclough to Bamford to be closer to her son, Michael. We trust that you will very soon settle in your new surroundings Freda.

It was with sadness that we learned of the death of **Tracy Holden's** mother. We offer our sincere condolences to Tracy and Geoff and the wider family.

We are sorry to hear about **Greta Henson's** recent nasty fall which resulted in facial bruising and a fracture to her right arm. We wish her a very speedy recovery

This is your space to share news of every kind, so please keep us informed.

LETTER FROM GRETTA

66 Town Mill Brow, Rochdale

Dear friends

I just wanted to thank you for the lovely flowers from church and for all the good wishes I received following my recent fall. I hope to be back with you all very soon.

Love

Greta

ADVANCE NOTICE



'NINE-TEA' CELEBRATION – SATURDAY 4TH AUGUST 2018

Council members are planning to hold a special tea in celebration of our nonagenarians. Four members of the congregation will reach this very special milestone during the year and we are also celebrating those members who have already reached their nineties.

More details will be published in the next few months but for the moment please put the date in your diaries.

ENGAGEMENT GROUPS



For our May walk we had beautiful blue skies and bright sunshine, it was such a change from our usual weather. The chosen walk encompassed two wooded valleys which were indeed a feast to the eyes, with dappled light filtering down amongst trees and branches onto the



green valley floor. At one point on our journey as we turned the corner of a valley not only were we greeted with the sight of myriads of bluebells but the fragrance of them too, just wonderful!

From Norden village we headed down towards Carr Wood by the side of Naden Brook, crossing the brook before we got into the wood we headed out of the valley and crossed close by the site of the former Egerton Arms Restaurant, now two private homes. Crossing the fields by 'Black Dad' we descended into Cheesden Valley and for a time followed Cheesden Brook before coming back out of the valley and through the village of Ashworth. We

BOOK GROUP



Members met on Monday 21st May, to discuss "The Pieces We Keep" by Kristina McMorris. I have nearly finished it and can recommend it as a good read. It is interesting to read of Americans' perspective of the Second World War. Our next meeting will be on Monday 11th June. The name of the book for the June meeting - it's "Invitation to the Waltz" by Rosamond Lehmann.

General Assembly Meetings – April 2018 – highlights

Thank you for the opportunity to once again attend the Annual Meetings. It's good to see new faces and have different people taking an active part in the wider movement, as well as encountering people I sometimes only see once a year.

The highlight for me was definitely the opening ceremony. It had a *Star Wars* theme. If you've ever seen the films, you will no doubt remember the opening sequence, with the narrated words disappearing into the distance. BUYAN (the British and Irish Unitarian Young Adult Network) changed the words to reflect their history, to great effect. They demonstrated the admirable work of the Youth Programme overall, and acknowledged that the only way to keep BUYAN going was for the 18-35 year-olds to stand up and take responsibility for the group. Let's hope it goes from strength to strength. The ceremony set a wonderfully positive tone for the whole meetings, in which it was good to see other young people being given permission to take an active part. We need to hear voice of the younger people in our movement – they are the future; their ideas may sometimes seem 'out there' and a bit wacky, but should we not be looking to what those coming up want and listening to their ideas?

And of course I thoroughly enjoyed dancing to an ABBA tribute band at the social evening!

Speaking of stepping forward and taking responsibility, Marion Baker – convenor of the Executive Committee (EC) – encouraged people to consider standing for the EC at the next elections. It would be great to have the need for an election, with more nominees than required. Various members of the EC spoke about why they volunteered for the EC.

There were a number of questions following the presentation of the EC, MSG and financial reports.

Marion took note of suggestions that each group presents what they want to do in the forthcoming year, and the following year reports back on what they have achieved and what they haven't, explaining why it hasn't been possible to complete certain actions. This should help everyone to be clearer about the work that is going on.

Delegates were assured that an ethical investment policy was being developed, and that in the meantime the portfolio of investments has an ethical policy embedded.

There were concerns that reduction of our carbon footprint is not being taken into consideration when

identifying venues for the conference. Derek McAuley (Chair of the Annual Meetings Panel) reassured delegates that this was a relevant if challenging issue for the venue selection process, but cannot be top of the list of criteria. However, recent venues are part of larger companies, all of which have their own environmental approaches as part of their corporate responsibility.

Asked about progress to develop a comprehensive response to explain our identity, and an associated communication strategy, Marion reported that this was in progress. Given the size of the organisation, with only a small number of staff and volunteers, work has to be prioritised. The priority for the previous year was leadership and training. But a Communications Officer is to be appointed, and Derek has been charged with putting a paper to May meeting of the EC for May meeting to discuss how we take forward the identity project.

The EC will also be considering how lay leaders can be supported. The Training and Education Development project will also address this.

It was also suggested that some of the Strategy Groups could use the meetings to share best practice. In the meantime, volunteers for the Visibility Strategy Group (VSG) – currently in abeyance – were invited!

The significant contribution made by John Harley, as Youth Officer, was celebrated, and a tribute made by the Youth Panel. The new Youth Officer, Gavin Howell from Norwich, was welcomed 'on board'. The work done by Essex Hall staff, and by the many volunteers who serve our movement, was acknowledged, with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Simon Bland gave a useful presentation about the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which is effective from 25 May this year. Whilst small organisations are not expected to have the same depth of systems as large companies, there are key principles that we all need to bear in mind. It aims to ensure appropriate collection, storage and use of our 'personal data'. Members of Council will be addressing this.

This year's keynote speaker was Paul Rasor, who gave a thought-provoking talk entitled "Faith without certainty in uncertain times". You can read more about this in *The Inquirer*. A set of the *GA Zette* is also available in the document wallet on the main noticeboard.

The Women's League presented a cheque for £9,400 to support prostate cancer research. This year's charity is the UK Sepsis Trust, and our fundraising lunch will take place on 1 September.

Outcome of Motions (Highlights)

Motion 1 – EC – length and format of annual meetings

The original motion was amended to include provision for a review of the revised format, and the motion was split in two (the first part of the motion required a majority vote, whilst the second part requires a two-thirds majority as it affects the byelaws. The first part then read (amendment in italics): That this ... [GA] accepts the changes to the length and format of the Annual Meetings [as set out in report AGM13/18]; *and that a formal review is carried out in three years' time.*

There was significant debate, with concerns being expressed about the shortened format and how packed the current three day meetings can feel. The motion was carried. There was then further debate about a proposed amendment to the second part of the motion, which introduced a change to the decision-making process about which motions would be taken forward for debate (argued as being more democratic). Ultimately this was accepted and the amended motion discussed. After much debate, including what I felt were valid concerns about the impact on time for debate if we have to take time to consider which motions are to be considered (!) the amended motion was carried with more than the two thirds majority required.

Motion 4 (small congregations)

This motion aimed to make it easier for people to participate fully in the Unitarian movement, despite the small size of some groups. This motion was **carried unanimously**.

Motion 5 – Equality

Tim Baker proposed the motion, calling it “a first step to finding a workable solution to this important and avoidable issue”, and noting Unitarian history of seeking to promote equality in all areas of society. David Warhurst seconded the motion, noting that the UK “has a high level of income inequality compared to other countries” and suggesting that we should aim to build a better, fairer society.

Following some debate, the motion was carried overwhelmingly.

Motion 6 – new forms of membership

This motion was debated extensively, with many people speaking. Those speaking included Matthew Frere-Jenkins, representing the senior group of the youth programme, who said in support of the motion, “As our online presence grows, so I would argue does our religion.” There were some – I felt – regrettable comments suggesting that the younger people should ‘bide their time’. It was pointed out by others that this motion seemed to be rolling two things into one motion. Concerns were expressed

about “one person, one vote” and the impact on congregational input. The motion was eventually ‘referred back’, ie further work will be undertaken over the coming year and the motion – or more likely more than one motion – will be put forward for the 2019 annual meetings. I think this was a wise decision and look forward to further discussion about what is undoubtedly an important subject.

Motion 7 – UWG and austerity measures

Sue McFarlane and Jo Sullivan argued that Austerity measures haven’t worked and that economists from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have recently said that the measures are doing more harm than good. Whilst the measures may appear gender neutral, the impacts are falling disproportionately on women. No one spoke against the motion, but there were several people at the ‘neutral’ microphone and many spoke for the motion. In her response, Sue said that the policies should be gender neutral, and she believes that it is an unintended consequence that they are not. She did not believe this was a political motion. The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

DIARY NOTES



END OF SESSION/VALEDICTORY SERVICE

On Tuesday, 12 June at Unitarian College, Manchester at 5 pm there will be a drinks reception and presentation to Rev Alex Bradley as he completes his term of office as Principal of the College. This will be followed at 7 pm with a Valedictory Service for Mark Hutchinson to recognise the completion of his academic training. It would be good if some members of the congregation were able to attend this event in support of Mark.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUNDAY

Officially General Assembly Sunday is on 24 June. As we are getting into the holiday period and people may be missing from worship on that particular Sunday, it

will be perfectly acceptable to put your General Assembly envelope (included in this Messenger) containing your contribution towards the GA Quota into the Offertory box on any Sunday in June. Many thanks in anticipation.



2018
Unitarian
Meetings

DIARY DATES 2018

| Date | EVENT |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| 30 Apr | Stroke Club Concert |
| 13 May | Anniversary & Membership Service |
| 20 May | Whit Sunday |
| 26 May | Film Night |
| 30 Jun | Summer Lunch |
| 01 Sep | Women's League Project Lunch |
| 22 Sep | Film Night |
| 13 Oct | Autumn Lunch & Tombola |
| 17 Nov | Film Night |
| 01 Dec | Christmas Lunch |

MISSION STATEMENT

Unitarians promote a free and inquiring religion through the worship of God and the celebration of life; the service of humanity and respect for all creation; and the upholding of the liberal Christian tradition.

We encourage and unite in fellowship bodies which uphold the religious liberty of their members, unconstrained by the imposition of creeds.

We affirm the liberal religious heritage and learn from the spiritual, cultural and intellectual insights of all humanity."

Messenger by Email?

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JULY EDITION

COPY DEADLINE - 24 JUNE
 ISSUE DATE - 1 JULY