



The Monthly Messenger for

January 2020

A Journal of the
Unitarian Church
Clover Street
Rochdale

Volume 134

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PASTORAL TEAM

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Members -

Abi Elliott-McGuffie, Dorothy Jones, Helen Illingworth
& Margaret Salt

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Treasurer – John Illingworth

Church Admin Assistant – Paul Hubbard

Council Members -
Joyce Ashworth, Helen Illingworth, Dorothy Jones,
John & Edna Wood

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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 5th January 2020 Elaine Whyment In memory of the Howarth Family	***
***	Sunday 12th January 2020 Madge Rimmer	***
***	Sunday 19th January 2020 Dorothy Jones & Family In memory of Trevor	***
***	Sunday 26th January 2020 Margaret Shore In memory of her family	***
***	Flowers lovingly arranged by Margaret Salt	***

Safeguarding Policy Statement

Rochdale Unitarian Church recognises its responsibility to help prevent the physical, sexual, psychological, financial and discriminatory abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults and children. Our Church believes in the upholding and support of the rights and personal dignity of every adult and child, and will work to ensure that all our policies and procedures reflect this, including in any such appointment and selection of persons who work on the Church's behalf.

Rochdale Unitarian Church is committed to ensure that every adult and child feels valued, safe and happy and will work to make sure that all feel empowered to tell us if they are suffering harm. We will report any abuse we discover or suspect.

Interested in learning more?



<http://www.rochdaleunitarians.org.uk>

<http://www.unitarian.org.uk/>

<http://www.nufonline.org.uk>

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Happy New Year 2020 to you all from Clover Street Unitarian Church!

I hope you all had a great Christmas and managed to spend quality time with friends and family. (If, however, you spent December with the Christmas lurgy, got nothing but socks as prezzies and spent all your time arguing with the in-laws, then at least it's all over for another year.)

January can sometimes be a quiet month at church, but this Messenger edition has plenty of dates for your diary, so remember to check the centre-fold.

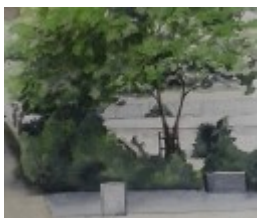
A reminder (see pg 7) to all 100 Club subscribers to please send their renewal slips to me at church by 31st Jan — I wouldn't want any of you to miss-out!

A big thank you to all our volunteers and congregation members who have continued to work hard over the past year to make our church such a special place. So let's rise a glass: To Clover Street!



RAWTENSTALL TRIPTYCH

Created by Blackburn-based artist, Joyce Wicks, this work of art will be celebrated and unveiled at a special service at 3 pm on Sunday, 5 January 2020. The Service will be followed by afternoon tea and a question and answer session with the artist. Everyone will be most welcome - add your name to the list on the noticeboard please.



SPECIAL REPORT

Charity Totals for 2019:

Christmas Card Scheme will be donating **£110** to the *Rochdale Soup Kitchen*.

20 shoe boxes were sent to the *Operation Christmas* scheme.

The Carol Service retiring collection for the Greater Manchester Mayor's charity *A Bed Every Night* raised £79.10 which has been topped up to **£80.00**.

£88.00 was collected in the little stockings at the **Toy and Gift Service** for *SACH (Send a Child to Hucklow)*.

£79.50 was raised from the **GA Sunday Collections** in aid of the *GA (General Assembly)*.

We have collected to-date **£1,458.50** for **Sightsavers Trachoma**. There are still six months to go before the two-year appeal closes.

The final balance for **Joyce and Abi's zip wire challenge** was **£4,140** (figure includes £322.50 of Gift Aid) with donations to *Grace's Place*.

Thank you all so much for your generosity!!

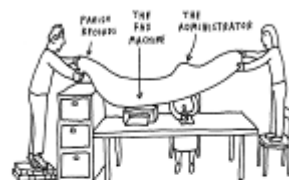
JANUARY CARTOON

© Dave Walker cartoonchurch.com

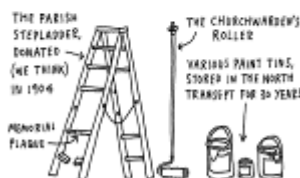
DECORATING THE VESTRY



THE VESTRY-DECORATION SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERS PREFERRED SHADES AND PATTERNS



DUST SHEETS ARE PLACED OVER THE VALUABLES



EQUIPMENT IS GATHERED, AND THE WORK COMMENCES



A FEW WEEKS LATER: THE FINISHED RESULT IS REVEALED

CartoonChurch.com

RUC CALENDAR



Flower Month Margaret Salt

JANUARY

Sun	05	10.30	S unday Service led by Jean Clements from Denton
Sun	05	15.00	Service at Rawtenstall to celebrate unveiling of 'Jerusalem' Triptych
Wed	08	17.00	Afternoon Tea: hostess — Diane Bennett
Wed	08	18.45	Women's League AGM
Sun	12	10.30	S unday Service led by Arek Malecki from Leeds
Mon	13	19.30	Book Circle at Bagnall Close
Sun	19	10.30	S unday Service led by Chris Pilkington from Wakefield
Sun	26	10.30	S unday Service led by Vince McCully from Rivington
Mon	27	19.45	General Council Meeting in Green Room

FEBRUARY

Sat	01	12.00	Manchester District Women's League AGM at Bury
Sun	02	10.30	Sunday Service led by Geoff Levermore
Wed	05	17.00	Afternoon Tea: Hostess — Madge Rimmer
Wed	05	18.45	Women's League Meeting
Sat	08	19.00	Film Night: The Lion King — includes Pie & Pea Supper!
Sun	09	10.30	Sunday Service led by GA President Rev Celia Cartwright
Sat	22	13.00	Walking Group: Irwell Vale to Helmshore

 Sightsavers

Church Charity 2018-2020

Visit www.sightsavers.org to donate and for more information

REGULARS

Please ring to confirm

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

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	JAN	COFFEE
Margaret Salt Diane Bennett	05	John & Edna Wood
Helen & John Illingworth	12	Margaret Shore Madge Rimmer
Dorothy Jones Margaret Shore	19	Helen Illingworth Margaret Salt
Edna & John Wood	26	Joyce Ashworth

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

100 CLUB—FINAL REMINDER!

Please remember to send your renewals for the 100 Club 2020 to Paul Hubbard, Admin Assistant, c/o Church, no later than **Friday 31 January**.

The cost is £12 per number for the year, and there are still numbers left in the pot! You can request additional numbers by marking them on your returned slips. Numbers will be given out on a first come, first served, basis. The unclaimed numbers are: **4, 6, 12, 15, 16, 21, 26, 31, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 53, 54, 57, 59, 63, 72, 76, 77, 78, 80, 90, 92, 93, 94**. If any numbers are released during the year, notice will be given in Church and in our Monthly Messenger newsletter.

Payment can be made in cash, cheque (made payable to "Rochdale Unitarian Church") or BACS. The Jan/Feb draw will be on Sunday 2 Feb 2020.

With many thanks for your continued support!

FILM NIGHT



Why not come along to join us on one of our upcoming film nights — everyone is welcome! If you are interested in film or just a great-value night's 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 a suggested donation of £6.50. All we ask is that you let us know in advance if you intend to come so that there is supper for everyone.



Date - 8th February 2020

Film - The Lion King (2019, PG)

After the murder of his father, a young lion prince flees his kingdom only to learn the true meaning of responsibility and bravery.

JANUARY CROSSWORD

No prizes, just for fun!



MUDDY BOOTS



Walking
Group

Please Note: Due to holidays and other commitments there won't be a walk in January. The **next walk will be on Saturday 22nd February** when we will be walking from **Irwell Vale to Helmshore**.



Map © Google / Photograph © Paul Anderson

BOOK CIRCLE



Book
Group



A full complement of the Book Circle (10 members) enjoyed our Christmas meeting sharing an Italian takeaway, salad, dessert and chocolates. As anticipated the book of the month only got a short mention as *The Hourglass Factory* by Lucy Ribchester isn't one to be recommended.

However, **at our first meeting in the New Year we will be discussing *The House We Grew Up In* by Lisa Jewell**, a Sunday Times bestseller, which promises to be a page turner.

Meet at 5 Bagnall Close on Monday 13th January.

HUCKLOW CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Nine members of the Women's League joined members from Bury on an outing to Great Hucklow for Christmas Lunch. It was a cold bright day which was perfect for the coach ride and a stroll round the village. Lunch was a very festive occasion with excellent fayre and service. Afterwards, we went over to the chapel for carols accompanied by music from Rev Kate's i-pad. Before setting off home we braved the cold to watch the Christmas lights switch on in the village and Father Christmas's arrival. We were amazed at how many trees and bushes were lit up - it was magical!



PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2019 — An Extract:

The [Nativity] story was written for groups of new, or those who might become, Christians. It was written in two ways by two authors, retelling it in images that would have been familiar to the groups they were talking to. Later church leaders decided on which parts of the two stories should become the church teaching which included Herod, the despot, who could move a nation at a whim to collect taxes, and murder a generation of boys in Bethlehem, and trick a group of 'wise-men' who were perhaps ignorant of the way of the country they travelled through. The angels, to posit God's position, in various ways, to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. The shepherds, simple people, in awe. The wealthy Wise men, who believed a prophesy, were led by a star, fooled by a King and were saved by God (unlike the children) and escaped. Jesus, who was born in poverty, and who was an exile from his own country, a refugee, travelling with his parents. I rather like the other ending, the gentle ending where after the required time Jesus is taken to be blessed in the Holy of Holies, the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem, where certain other prophesies are made.

With the distance of time and rational examination of the scriptures, Unitarians ceased celebrating this 'birth of Christ'. In later years we took the celebration back, for which I am glad; I like Christmas, with its Dickensian feel and its ability to gather us together in groups together, to review the story without doctrine and make it precious in our own eyes and hearts. I take something new every year from the story and each year hold on to the simple meaning of the rebirth of 'Hope'.

Rev Celia Cartwright, GA President 2019

CHURCH ROOF REPORT

Following on from the successful completion of our over-roofing works to both Clover and Holland Street, I thought you should be aware of how the works had been financed, so I've prepared an income and expenditure statement below, which clearly identifies the various elements involved.

Whilst undertaking the work to Holland Street, close-up access to the Main Hall roof became possible via scaffolding and unfortunately this revealed a number of areas where the existing roofing felt has significantly deteriorated and formed bubbles. These areas will seriously effect the performance of the roof and are a concerning weak point, which could easily fail and allow rainwater ingress. These defects have highlighted a need to prioritise the overlay of the Main Hall roof, bringing it up to modern-day standards with a 20 year guarantee, as we did on the adjacent flat roofs. Because we took the precaution of renewing main hall gutters and rainwater downpipes whilst undertaking the flat roof works, the approximate cost of overlay is between £35-£40,000, this is a lower cost per square metre than the flat roofs.

Council & Trustees have decided that the recent gift, by way of an additional grant from NELUM of £9,000 should be used to kick start a new fund raising exercise and we are asking Paul to start another round of searching and applying for available grants, as he did for our flat roofs.

John Illingworth, Treasurer

RE ROOFING WORKS - CLOVER & HOLLAND STREET Clover Street, works complete - 16th November 2018 Holland Street, works complete - 2nd August 2019

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
Phase 1 Costs		
Builder		£34,519.00
Architect		£6,500.00
VAT		£8,203.80
		£49,222.80
Phase 2 Costs		
Builder		£34,919.00
Architect		£1,485.00
VAT		£6,983.80
		£43,387.80
General Donations		£578.67
Specific Appeals		
Hilbert Trust Grant	£5,000.00	
Tony Cann (Bowland Trust)	£5,000.00	
Nelum (first grant)	£18,000.00	
Joyce & Abi Zipwire	£2,000.75	£30,000.75
Saturday Lunches		
Spring 2018	£637.50	
Autumn 2018	£763.05	
Spring 2019	£808.55	
Autumn 2019	£726.85	£2,935.95
Monies from Trustees		
Phase 1 costs in total	£49,222.80	
Phase 2 top-up costs	£9,872.43	£59,095.23
	£92,610.60	£92,610.60

Guarantee period 20 years valid upto 01/08/2039

EVENT DATES 2020

Date	EVENT
8 Feb	Film Night (changed from 1st Feb!)
15 Feb	Charity Lunch
5 Mar	Talk: Life with Saudi Royal Family
21 Mar	Film Night
25 Apr	Spring Lunch
16 May	Film Night
20 Jun	Summer Lunch
22 Aug	Women's League Project Lunch
03 Oct	Film Night
10 Oct	Autumn Lunch
21 Nov	Film Night
05 Dec	Christmas Lunch
06 Dec	2020 Toy & Gift Service

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?

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



Rochdale Unitarian Church
Clover Street
ROCHDALE OL12 6TP

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