



The Monthly Messenger for December 2020

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DECEMBER Flowers

Holly



**DECEMBER
BIRTH
FLOWER**



**Fertility
Good Fortune
Merriment**

A real symbol of the season, it's no surprise that the holly is the birth flower for December. Though technically a foliage and not a flower, the glossy green leaves and bright red berries of the holly are synonymous with Christmas spirit and so an apt choice for celebrating a December birthday.

In terms of symbolism, the holly has always had powerful connotations. In pagan times it was seen as not only a symbol of fertility but as an effective charm to ward off witches and ill fortune. For Christians the thorny foliage and blood-red berries make the holly a symbol of the suffering of Jesus.

100 CLUB WINNERS

NOVEMBER 2020

1st	86	Colin Westerman
2nd	68	Gillian Peel
3rd	51	Jean Westerman

Congratulations

Prizes- 1st £30 - 2nd £15 - 3rd £5

Adopt an Orphaned 100 Club number and win:

6, 26, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 53, 54, 57, 59, 63, 72, 76, 77, 78, 80, 90, 92, 93, 94

It costs just £12 per number to enter, with a draw taking place once a month. If you are lucky enough to be a winner, your numbers go back in for the following draw, so you can win as many times as your chosen numbers come out of the bag!

FROM THE EDITOR

We may not be spending the Festive Season quite how we hoped this time last year, but I am sure we will all endeavour to do our best and keep in touch with friends and family, if we are not able to visit them in-person. More than ever this Christmas, we look forward to the coming year with hope and remember the many demonstrations of kindness and goodwill of the human spirit that have been shown over the past few months. Merry Christmas to you all!

CHRISTMAS KITCHEN



Naiya Hussain's quick and easy dessert for over Christmas:

CHOCOLATE HAZELNUT MOUSSE

(Makes 1 large dish or 8 small ramekins)

- 200g/7oz chocolate hazelnut spread
- 50 ml/2fl oz full-fat milk
- 600ml/20floz double cream
- 1 tbsp cornflour
- 3 tbsp icing sugar
- 100g/3.5oz roasted chopped hazelnuts
- whipped cream to serve (optional)
- cocoa powder, for dusting

1) Pop chocolate hazelnut spread into a bowl with the milk and heat in microwave in 10-second bursts until mixture is runny and viscous, but not steaming hot - should take no more than 20 seconds. Set aside to cool.

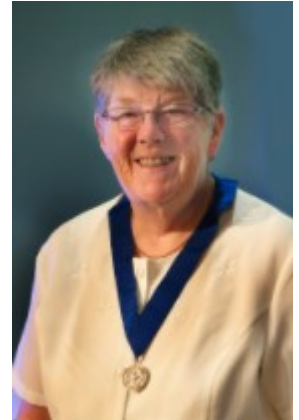
2) Put cream into large bowl with cornflour and icing sugar and begin whipping. As soon as mixture begins to thicken, pour in chocolate hazelnut spread and keep whipping until stiff peaks are formed when whisk is removed from bowl.

3) Fold through the hazelnuts (keeping a tablespoon back for decorating), then spoon into serving dish(s).

4) Serve with whipped cream if desired with an extra sprinkling of hazelnuts on top and a dusting of cocoa powder.

INVITATION TO A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE:

I am delighted to invite the members of your congregation to a special Christmas Service, to be held, by Zoom, on **Saturday, December 19th, 2020, at 4.30 p.m.** We will be inviting several congregations to join



us, especially those in North Lancashire, and we sincerely hope that you will be able to join us. It would be wonderful to be able to celebrate the approach of Christmas and to know that we are all amongst friends who wish each other well.

I shall be present in my capacity as the LCM's Secretary, but also as The General Assembly Vice-President; I feel that it is important for all of us, at the end of a difficult year, to come together as one community of friends and fellow-Unitarians.

I will send further details of the service soon. And in the meantime, I send you my warmest wishes, and will look forward to "seeing" you all.

I hope everybody is staying safe and well. **Anne.**



CLOVER ST CENTREFOLD

Remembering Freda Ashworth

It was with sadness that we learned of the recent passing of Freda Ashworth. Freda had reached the age of 96 and until relatively recently had led a full and active life. For the last year or so she had been resident at The Willows on Broad Lane, where she passed away peacefully in her sleep. We offer Michael, Susan and the extended family our love and support at this sad time. The order of service from her funeral is reproduced on the opposite page.

Words of Howard Thurman

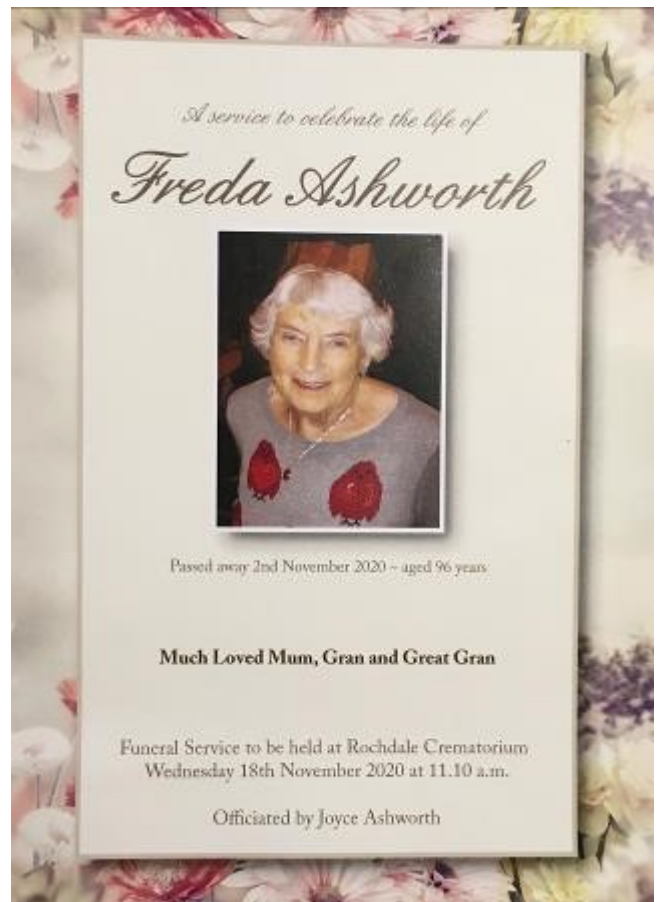
(American writer and civil rights activist)

I will light Candles this Christmas -
Candles of joy, despite all sadness
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch
Candles of courage for fears ever-present
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens and
Candles of LOVE to INSPIRE all my days

A Little Something from Celia Cartwright via Facebook:

MARY STANDING OTTER

Advice from María Sabina, Mexican healer and poet - "Heal yourself with the light of the sun and the rays of the moon. With the sound of the river and the waterfall. With the swaying of the sea and the fluttering of birds. Heal yourself with mint, neem, and eucalyptus. Sweeten with lavender, rosemary, and chamomile. Hug yourself with the cocoa bean and a hint of cinnamon. Put love in tea instead of sugar and drink it looking at the stars. Heal yourself with the kisses that the wind gives you and the hugs of the rain. Stand strong with your bare feet on the ground and with everything that comes from it. Be smarter every day by listening to your intuition, looking at the world with your forehead. Jump, dance, sing, so that you live happier. Heal yourself, with beautiful love, and always remember ... you are the medicine. "



ABOUT PEOPLE

We are pleased to report that Irene Robinson is now back home at Pegasus Court after convalescing on Wolstenholme Ward at Rochdale Infirmary. Our good wishes Irene for a speedy return to full health.

Also good news that Tracy Holden has recently undergone a spinal operation to remove a disc. Hopefully this will have been successful in reducing the severe pain she was experiencing. She is currently undergoing intensive physiotherapy and is hoping to be home very shortly. Our love and very warmest wishes to you Tracy.

100 CLUB RENEWALS



During these unusual times with our lack of regular Sunday services, no Saturday lunches and only minimal lettings we have as you can imagine struggled to sustain our income. Should we have had to pay a stipend during this time, I shudder to think about the consequences.

As it is, we have not fared too badly although our overall expenditure has exceeded income but not to an unmanageable degree.

However, I'm hoping to persuade you to help boost our income and to take further subscriptions for our 100 Club. If we can fill the 100 Club and have all numbers allocated we gain on our income without increasing our expenditure. During 2020 we have had 71 numbers allocated with 29 spares, so if we can renew all existing and sell the remaining 29 subscriptions, we increase our income by almost £350. For those investing it comes with a potential bonus of £50 in prize money every month so by helping us, you get a chance of winning £30, £15 or £5 every draw. A win, win situation if ever I saw one!

So please dig deep and buy new numbers and together let us make this a worthwhile and fun fundraising element of our church life. You can ring **01706 649015**, text **07955 785770** or email john@illingworth.org.uk.

Paul will be sending out renewal notices to all those with existing numbers over the next few weeks, so please renew early and let's start the new year with a full 100 club draw.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY DONATIONS

Normally Christmas is a time when we donate to various charities through the Christmas Card scheme and Toy & Gift and Carol Service collections. Due to the pandemic, the Church Council was unable to showcase three charities on Whit Sunday for the Congregation to choose from for our next church charity. However, we are aware that The Nightingale Centre and Send a Child to Hucklow are in need of funds due to the Centre being closed for much of the year. If you would like to make a donation to the Centre in lieu of the usual separate charities, John will be very happy to collect donations and send on behalf of Rochdale Unitarians.

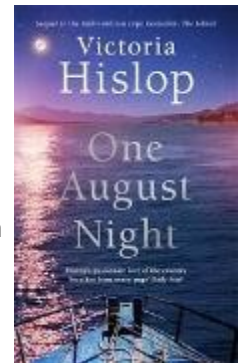
We are still planning to hold a short Christmas Day service at 11 am, taken by the Rev John Allerton, when donations will be most welcome.

Thank you
Church Council

BOOK CIRCLE



At our November Zoom meeting we discussed Richard and Judy Book Club pick *The Dressmaker's Gift* by Fiona Valpy which we all enjoyed. The novel told the story of three young dressmakers living and working in Paris during the Nazi occupation and the part they played in the Resistance. We were inspired by the girls' courage and fortitude and can thoroughly recommend this as a good read.



For December we are returning to a favourite author Victoria Hislop who has written a sequel to her much loved novel *The Island* which she wrote in 2005. This is a quote from Victoria Hislop: 'Travelling back in my imagination to revisit Spinalonga, a place where people lived in isolation with an incurable disease, seemed a very natural thing to do during lockdown -not least because the cure for the disease was found! But what has really kept my mind focussed during these past months has been to reimagine some of the characters in that period after the closure of the leper colony. These are the characters who are profoundly affected by the events that unfold as *The Island* draws to its conclusion and for all of them, it brings the need for renewal, catharsis and the beginning of very different lives.'

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Just for some festive fun, see if you can answer these General Knowledge questions from 2020:

- Q1.** Job applications from weirdos and misfits were invited from people to work at which place in London?
- Q2.** Which famous actor who died this year is associated with the phrase "I am Spartacus?"
- Q3.** In February the Church of England advised against the practice of 'intinction' – what is it?
- Q4.** In a world "where you can be anything, be _____" – what, wrote actress Caroline Flack on Instagram in December 2019?
- Q5.** What were we supposed to do in March while singing the National Anthem or Happy Birthday twice?
- Q6.** This year was a leap year. What do we call other years?
- Q7.** Which village in the Peak District is associated with self-isolation during a previous plague?
- Q8.** How long, literally, is quarantine?
- Q9.** Why did President Macron visit Britain on 18th July? What other Anglo-French anniversary could he have remembered but for some reason it was not mentioned?
- Q10.** How many countries launched space rockets to Mars this year?
- Q11.** Who, in their resignation letter in August, on Twitter posted, "I have championed our work, built our relationships and celebrated the diversity of our staff... and will always be an ambassador for the UK and the new Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office" after a four year career in Downing Street which had included scraps with a neighbour?
- Q12.** Which day is the furthest away from Christmas Day?

"I am looking for a Christmas Card that contains inclusive language, and yet retains the richness of 16th century English and is overtly Christian whilst being sensitive to the multi-faith patterns of our day ... any suggestions?"



SMILE LINES



Friction at Christmas

This Christmas, when your family gets together, remember: a certain friction between the generations is inevitable. After all, the young and the old have all the answers and those in between are stuck with all the questions.

Present

First man: 'My wife doesn't know what she wants for Christmas.'

Second man: 'You're lucky. Mine does.'

Christmas cake

Every Christmas, composer Giacomo Puccini would have a cake baked for each of his friends. One year, having quarrelled with Arturo Toscanini just before Christmas, he tried to cancel the order for the conductor's cake. But it was too late, as the cake had already been dispatched.

The following day, Toscanini received a telegram from Puccini: "Cake sent by mistake."

He replied by return: "Cake eaten by mistake."

Attention

With several relatives visiting, I was struggling to get my wife's attention. So, I simply sat down and looked comfortable. That did the trick.

If you see any of the family this Christmas, remember this:

Auntie: one who has stopped growing at both ends, and who is now growing in the middle.

Egoist: the relative who is usually me-deep in conversation.

Handkerchief: cold storage by your cousin.

Secret: something that you tell to only one member of the family at a time.

Toothache: the pain that drives you to extraction, even on Christmas Day.

Yawn: an honest opinion from an uncle, openly expressed.

Wrinkles: something your relatives have gained since you last saw them. You have character lines.



EVENT DATES 2020

Date	EVENT
19 Dec	4.30pm LCM Carole Service via Zoom
25 Dec	11am Christmas Morning Service led by John Allerton

PLEASE NOTE:

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

Our Christmas Morning Service is dependent on circumstances and restrictions in place at the time.

Updates will be posted on our website, Facebook page and in our bi-weekly newsletter

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

Email: john@illingworth.org.uk

Paul Hubbard Tel 07884 123 169

Email: rochdaleunitarian@outlook.com

Church Answerphone - 01706 648461

Messenger by Email?

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



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