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|  **October / November 2022** **Services 10:45am Sunday mornings****ALL ARE WELCOME****WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF LOVE** |
| Unitarians are a religious denomination that believe in a united world community, justice, peace and compassion. |

**Important dates**

All Tuesdays – coffee mornings, 10am till 12pm

Sunday 2nd October – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna – Harvest Festival

 Followed by shared lunch and Gift Day (see info)

Friday 7th October – 7.30pm Film Club – The Imitation Game

Sunday 9th October – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

Sunday 16th October – worship at 10.45am with Alan Perks

 12.30pm Church Committee

Friday 21st October – 7.30pm Open Mic Night

Sunday 23rd October – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

Monday 24th to Thursday 27th Oct – Rev Anna at Ministerial Conference

Sunday 30th October – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

Friday 4th November – 7.30pm Film Club – Inside Out!

Sunday 6th November – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

Sunday 13th November – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

 12.30pm Church Committee

Friday 18th November – 7.30pm Open Mic Night

Sunday 20th November – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

Thursday 24th November – 10.30am, dressing the Christmas Tree!

Sunday 27th November – worship at 10.45am with Rev Anna

**MINISTER’S LETTER**

Somebody had the nerve to mention it was less than 100 days to Christmas in my hearing the other day. The outrage! I pointed out that I haven’t yet done Harvest or Remembrance Sunday, and no mention of Christmas would be permitted until after that!

Which is daft of course, because I’m getting ready for the Christmas Tree Festival already, one of my children has already given me their preferred ideas for presents, and indeed I’m already making plans for next year!

Time is such a fleeting thing. How many of us remember getting all excited because the days were beginning to lengthen and we knew spring was on its way, and now here we are, with winter rapidly approaching!

While winter is an exciting season in many ways, with celebrations aplenty, this year feels a little different. We are all aware of just how hard this coming winter is going to be for so many people, as the costs of living, particularly fuel costs, continue to spiral out of control. Many people were already facing the dilemma of whether to be warm or fed – many more will be joining their ranks, and with the mortgage rates now also rising, households will be facing a challenge of simply keeping hold of their homes, never mind heating or eating.

While there are limits to what any of us can do to help, there should be no limits to how much we try. And the church is no different. We are currently looking into applying for grants that will enable us to afford the heating in the church to be on all week long so that we can be a “Warm Space in Winter” – open and staffed at least five days a week from January to March, so that people can come and be warm here without worrying about their own heating bills, so that they have someone to talk to, a hot cup of tea and something to eat, and hopefully some representatives from various supportive agencies to give advice and help.

It will take significant funding, and significant contributions of time and energy from our members and friends, but if we cannot be there for our local community when we are needed, then all our words on Sundays are meaningless. “No creeds, just deeds”, as the phrase goes – we will never ask you to believe X, or Y, or Z, but we will ask you to take a stand, to give something back to our society, to help those who need it, and this winter people are going to need that help more than ever.

I hope you will be able to join me. And if not, I hope you will be able to find other ways of giving help to those who need it. And equally – if you are one of those who need help this winter (or indeed anytime), please do not hesitate to ask. Times are hard, we all know that – but love is stronger! We might not be able to change the world all at once – but we can make a difference, one small gesture of love and compassion at a time.

Sending you all many blessings.

Rev Anna

**CHURCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The next committee meeting is on Sunday 16th October, followed by November 13th. Please speak to Rennie, or Rev Anna, if you have any issues that you wish the committee to consider.

**FILM CLUB 7th OCTOBER and 4th NOVEMBER**

Come and join us for our next film nights – firstly in October, we are watching The Imitation Game, telling the story of Alan Turing’s life, in particular his work on the Enigma machine. Secondly in November, the funny, fascinating and at times frightening look inside the human brain as it develops – Inside Out! Sounds serious? Be prepared to laugh and cry as Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear and Disgust battle for survival inside a teenager’s mind!

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

This year, we are finally bringing back our Christmas Tree Festival that was so popular before the pandemic put a halt to it.

Set-up will be on Thursday 8th December in the afternoon, then open 10am-4pm on Friday, with a concert from Eccles Brass Band on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm, and continuing through Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th December, we aim once again to have the church filled with Christmas trees representing groups, organisations and local charities and businesses.

However, we need a good team of people to help make it happen! Please do get in touch with Rev Anna if you would like to be on the team!

**TUESDAY COFFEE MORNING CONTINUES!**

Coffee morning continues, every Tuesday morning 10am till 12pm, in Monton Memorial Hall, with tea and coffee, biscuits and cakes on offer, and of course, plenty of fellowship and a good natter! Do come along and join us. We do ask for a donation for the refreshments, where possible, but we never turn anyone away!

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| **MAGAZINE** **EDITOR** | Debbie Hulme | 0161 707 1921 |
| **WEDDINGS &****BAPTISMS** | All enquiries | 07769 038 773 |

**MAGAZINE**

If anyone would like to contribute any articles for the magazine, please send them to the editor by the second weekend of the month by post or by email. Please contact me by phone for email address. Thank you. Debbie.

MONTON CHURCH is open to all who wish to worship with an open mind, in a spirit of freedom, reason and tolerance. No doctrinal tests are imposed on anyone. Rather, each person is encouraged to develop their own faith. Our Congregation is affiliated to the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches.