

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2013

SERVICES

7 April	11.15am	The Minister
14 April	11.15am	Marian Price
21 April	11.15am	The Minister
28 April	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

7 April	Alfred Howson & Roger Mills
14 April	Freda & Derek Worthington
21 April	Sue McMullen & Rebecca Warburton
28 April	Lois & Alan Williams

If you are unable to fulfil your duties please re-arrange with another steward, thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

7 April	Barbara. In memory of Nora Fletcher
14 April	In loving memory of Joan & Ted Sharples
21 April	In loving memory of Peter Gilbert
28 April	Mrs Margaret Miller. In loving memory of Derek

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 April	Anne & Roger Mills & Becky Warburton
13 April	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
20 April	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
27 April	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING APRIL

Tuesday 2 April	7.00pm	Efforts
Monday 8 April	7.00pm	Church Council
Tuesday 30 April	7.00pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Sunday 21 April is the last day for items to be included in the May edition of the Calendar.

LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club will meet at 12.30pm on Tuesday 16 April. The organisers are, Susan & Margaret. Please let them know if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 4 April at 7.30pm Sarah Han from N.W.A.A. will give a talk with a film about the work they do. It will be a very interesting evening, so, please try to come along. **It will be an Open Meeting.**

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet at 7.00pm on Monday 29 April. The book to be discussed is: *Mr Pip* by Lloyd Jones. Copies of which will be in the lounge cupboard by the weekend, we trust.

PIANO PLAYER & SOME OTHER PEOPLE & SUPPER

SATURDAY 20 APRIL

6.30 FOR SUPPER AT 6.45

TICKETS £6 FROM MEMBERS OF THE EFFORTS COMMITTEE

Notes from the Church Council Meeting: 11-02-13

Matters arising: We now have two organists on the rota which makes the booking-process easier. Beryl will attend the GA AGM's in the capacity as our Minister. GA Motions will be discussed after the service, on March 24th.

New notice-board: Derek has worked hard on the technical specifications for this; we now have written permission from the local authority to re-site the board and erect a new one; they will help with this work; it has been established that grants for new notice-boards are no longer available; Communications and Worship have produced a design, which was approved by Council; the various strands of this task are coming together, and we hope that further information will be available at the Congregational AGM.

Vehicle-access: Problems have arisen over the parking-posts outside the main door, which allow access to Back St. Mary's Place; Roger has now negotiated a compromise with the commissionaire at The Exchange: these posts should remain upright, but not fixed in position, so that necessary vehicles may gain access. The MD of one of the companies at The Exchange burst a tyre on the base of one of our posts and wishes us to reimburse him; after much discussion, Council declined to pay; the situation will continue to be monitored.

Chairman's Report: Anne presented her annual report, which was accepted by Council and will be taken forward to our AGM. Arrangements for this meeting were clarified, and all who had served on Council, during the past year, were thanked.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Finance: It was agreed that Spectrum Sound, of Whitefield, should be asked to supply our new Loop-System. A suggested cancellation-period of 48 hours was agreed for all lettings.

Treasurer: We had had a good year, in 2012; current funds stand at just over £19,000.

Efforts: The concert given by Sam Ali and Corinne Candlish had been very well-received, and £202 had been raised. The programme of events for the year is in place.

Communications and Worship, with Young People: The ground at Holebottom needs to dry out before we can commence work on a memorial garden. The trees we planted, last September, are doing well. Attendance at the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day had been low; it was decided not to hold the Christmas Eve service, and to assess the situation, next year. Two Junior Church children and a leader will attend a weekend event, at Hucklow.

The Minister reported that we were planning a Reunion Service, on June 9th, to be followed by lunch and social time, in the afternoon; next year will be our 40th Anniversary. Visiting since Christmas has been heavy.

Charity Committee: Two meetings had been held: one to plan the year's programme, and the other to arrange the Quiz Evening.

NELUM: The last meeting, at Ainsworth, had not been quorate, so no decisions could be taken; NELUM's AGM will be held, at Bury, on March 16th.

The Membership Secretary agreed to approach 3 potential new members; slips for envelope-amounts for 2012 would shortly be available.

Lettings: A new, regular, Wednesday-evening letting has been arranged; the upstairs room will be used; stewards will be required; volunteers should sign the list on the notice-board.

A.O.B. It was agreed that, when evening-meetings involving groups from outside the church were held, a front spotlight should be lit; it was further agreed that we needed more illumination, in the worship-area, for concerts; some arrangements for this had previously been made, and Summerseat Players had offered to lend us some equipment to try out.

Beryl was thanked for taking the minutes.

The next meeting will be held on 8-4-13, at 7 p.m. Will new members, in particular, please note this date.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on April 7th and 21st, this month.

Mothering Sunday

I have lost count of all the comments I heard, afterwards, about what a lovely service this was; my personal thanks are due to everyone who participated, in any way. Beryl masterminded the occasion, persuading a group of our mothers to deliver a variety of readings, some of which were hilarious, whilst others brought tears to the eye; but all of them gave a truthful account of what mothers are and what they do, reminding us of the reason for devoting a special day to them. Beryl also spent the better part of the previous day assembling colourful, cheerful posies of daffodils, which

were then given out by the children, and, whilst the distribution seemed a little haphazard, at times, everyone received flowers---eventually! The church-flowers, too, were beautifully arranged by Molly, their shades of red contrasting perfectly with the yellow and green of the daffodils. The choir performed a special hymn about mothers, as well as the Gaelic Blessing as a benediction, and Sam supplied, as ever, superb music throughout the service. Simnel cake made by June Clarke, after the service, with our coffee, set the seal on the occasion. As well as several welcome visitors, it was pleasing to note that some of the readers were new to us, and extra choir-members meant that four-part harmony was possible, and appreciated. This was worship at its very best, as well as an occasion of which we can be justly proud. **Anne**

STEWARDING

Please note that Marc's duties, as church steward, have recently been reviewed and agreed; we hope that the clear, formal, official basis for these will avoid problems, in future. There is a copy of the agreed duties on the lounge notice-board, and these have been signed and dated by Marc himself and by Anne Mills. Most of Marc's work is paid; he receives a small honorarium for what he does, and, in addition, he has agreed to carry out a few voluntary tasks. These do not include Saturday morning jobs or setting out rooms before meetings.

Marc is now directly responsible to Roger Mills; if you have comments to make, or problems arise, please speak to Roger, rather than to Marc, and at an appropriate time---preferably not just before Sunday-morning services. We will need to compile a short list of people willing to deputise for Marc when he is on holiday.

If you are booking an event or meeting, details need to be in the diary, otherwise the heating will not be switched on; it is usually best to mention the booking to Marc, especially if it is a last-minute one. Please make sure that the time is clearly shown and indicate which areas (for example, upstairs or the worship-area) are to be used, so that the correct heating can be selected. Thank you. **Anne**

Quiz Evening

The first Charity Committee event of 2013 raised just over £484.00 for this year's designated charity, The North West Air Ambulance. The evening was extremely enjoyable, and thanks go to Doug and Enid Cathcart, who again acted as our quiz-masters, despite the fact that they were leaving to go on holiday, the following day! Thanks, also, to Andrew Billington, who supplied the pies for supper and gave a generous discount on the price, thus enabling us to make more than £20.00 extra profit. This event is fast becoming a popular annual event, supported by a goodly number of people from outside the church, and the efforts of all who helped, and attended, are much appreciated.

FAIRTRADE TASTING

The fairly-traded items we enjoyed, on March 24th, were purchased largely with money provided by The Co-operative Society, whose contribution is gratefully acknowledged. The Co-op are staunch supporters of Fair Trade, and £30 worth of vouchers made it possible to supply a goodly spread.

NOTES FROM NELUM

The new NELUM Annual Reports are now in the bookcase cupboard, if anyone wishes to borrow them.

Joyce Ashworth, from our sister-church in Rochdale, is to undertake a sponsored walk, in June, in order to raise money for Unitarian College, Manchester, which is experiencing financial difficulties; details are on the notice-board, if anyone wishes to sponsor Joyce.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Following a brief meeting, on 17-03-13, members decided to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting, on Wednesday, April 24th, at 7.30 p.m; so that the future of the organisation can be thoroughly discussed; please make every effort to attend.

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

This was held, on 18-03-13; a copy of the minutes has been placed on the notice-board; if anyone wishes to have an individual copy, please speak to Anne Mills.

At the meeting, the following were elected, to serve for one year:

Chairman of Church Council: Betty Kenyon

Chairman of the Congregation: Anne Mills

Vice-Chairman of Church Council: Roy Wilkinson

Church Secretary: Anne Mills

Church Treasurer: John Fitzpatrick

Assistant Treasurer: Freda Worthington

Church Council members, to serve for three years: Norah Hickton, Roy Holden and Rene Hollos.

Seminars on Sin

A series of eight seminars beginning on Tuesday 9th April and running for eight consecutive weeks from 7 – 9pm. The first week will look at the concept of original sin and the following sessions will look at the seven, so called, deadly sins. If you wish to come to the seminars please put your name on the list on the board.

Reunion Service and Lunch New Date

The date of this event has been changed because the Bank Holiday weekend seemed to be unsuitable for a lot of people. The new date is **Sunday 9th June.** Invitations will be sent out early in April if you know of someone who should be invited please put their name in the box in the vestibule.

Postlude Traditionally at Bury we have left the worship area immediately at the end of the service to some recessional music. Our new organists now play a postlude – a proper piece of music rather than just music to leave to. There are people who like to remain in church to listen to the postlude at the end of the service. Please could those people who wish to leave the worship area during the postlude do so quietly to minimise disturbance to those listening and out of respect for the organist.

Thank you.

Sunday 14th April

The service will be conducted by Marian Price on the theme of Spring

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Funeral Service for Barbara Ashworth took place at the Church on Wednesday 20th March the service was followed by committal at The East Lancashire Crematorium. The Minister conducted both services.

It was with deep regret that we gathered to pay our respects and remember Barbara. She will be much missed. A lifelong Unitarian she served our church in many capacities and her knowledge and advice were invaluable. To Joe, Richard, Stuart and Vera and the larger family we offer our sincere condolences. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

MINISTER'S MONTH

The congregation was much saddened by the death of Barbara Ashworth and many members attended her funeral service. In the room upstairs afterward there was much sharing of memories and meeting of people who knew Barbara. In such circumstances where memories are shared we also share our own stories, stories that are interwoven where lives have crossed. The strength of a community lies in the memories and experiences that are shared. Such is the community of our church, our

strength is in the life we share, our common purposes and experiences. It was good to stand and watch as people remembered and shared again those things which connect us one to another and to know that in the sharing there was also comfort for the sadness we all felt.

The discussion on Assisted Dying was very well attended with the lounge full to capacity. The discussion itself was thoughtful and detailed. But people spoke gently and respected the thoughts and opinions of others. It is in circumstances such as this that I feel humble in the face of a group of people who are so careful not to hurt each other. It was a difficult discussion in that though we agreed with the principle of freedom of choice we were concerned that one person's freedom could affect the freedom of another. Though no vote was taken it became clear the feeling of the meeting was that this was a matter of individual choice and that to try and bring about a consensus would be wrong.

One very pleasant experience recently was attending the finals of the Organ Recital Competition at the Royal Northern College of Music. About fourteen of us went along to support Sam Ali who was one of the three finalists. Sam is quite shy and didn't say much but I think he was very pleased and surprised that so many of us were there. Sadly he did not win but no doubt he will do so next year, after all we already think he is a winner.

The attendance and the volunteering at the Church AGM was first class, as was the conduct of the meeting. Thank you to all. The meeting following the service, to discuss the Motions to be put to the general Assembly Meetings, was again very well attended and the discussion informative about the congregation's views on the subject addressed. This will hopefully help our delegates when they have to vote at the meetings.

Though the temperature is not spring like and the wind too lazy to go around a person, the sun has begun to shine and John and I are about to set off for two days in the Lake District. Thermals are packed !!

Beryl

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Sunday Services in April 2013

3.00 pm Sunday 7th April **Rev Helen Mills**

298th CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY

Please note time of service is 3.00pm.

10.00 am Sunday 21st April Rev Desmond Porter

Services (which last 45 minutes) are normally held on the
1st and 3rd Sundays of each month with visiting preachers.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Calendar as an Attachment to an email

If you would like to receive the Calendar by email attachment and print it yourself, please let me know your email address and that can be done. *Editor*

CHURCH INFORMATION

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CHURCH OFFICERS

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Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury BL9 5HD	0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	Anne Mills	
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374

