

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2014

SERVICES

6 April	11.15am	The Minister
13 April	11.15am	Reverend John Allerton
17 April	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
20 April	11.15am	The Minister
27 April	11.15am	Delegates will speak about this year's GA Meetings

Please note there is no Junior Church on Sundays 13 & 20 April.

CHURCH STEWARDS

6 April	Freda & Derek Worthington
13 April	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
20 April	Lois & Alan Williams
27 April	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the given date, please re-arrange with another steward – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

6 April	In memory of Joan & Ted Sharples
13 April	Church Flowers

20 April	Mrs Margaret Miller – in loving memory of Derek
27 April	In loving memory of Peter Gilbert

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

If you donate to the Flower Fund and need a particular date, please give Molly good notice.

Volunteers are needed to distribute flowers after the Sunday service. If you can help, please speak to Molly.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 April	Beryl Allerton & Nora Hickson
12 April	Anne & Roger Mills
19 April	Marc Peters & Philip Peters
26 April	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN APRIL

Monday 7 April	7.00pm	Church Council
Tuesday 22 April	7.00pm	Trustees
Wednesday 23 April	7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Wednesday 30 April	7.30pm	Efforts

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the May Calendar will be Sunday 20 April – Easter Day. Thank you.

If you would like to receive the Calendar via Email, please let the Editor know your email address.

LUNCHEON CLUB

We shall meet, this month, at 12.30pm on Tuesday 8 April; please note the earlier date, to avoid Easter and to allow the chefs to attend the GA Meetings. The hosts will be Anne & Roger. If you wish to come, please sign the list on the lounge notice board. Everyone is welcome, especially those who have not previously attended.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 3 April at 7.30pm A talk by Susan Holt

Thursday 1 May at 7.30pm An illustrated talk by Bridget Park on the
National Parks of West Coast America

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 28 April at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed will be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 3 April. New faces always welcome – we usually talk for about an hour then enjoy light refreshments until about 9pm.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on April 6th and April 20th; if you would like items at other times, please ask Anne Mills.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH

March 9th, 1974, was the date of the new church's Dedication; the 40th Anniversary Celebration, on the same date in 2014, turned out to be a magnificent occasion--- everything we could have hoped for! We were blessed with bright Spring sunshine, which lifted all our spirits, the church was full, and the service was perfect. It was wonderful to have our worship conducted by Rev. John Allerton, our Minister from 40 years ago, and John spoke movingly of his incredulity at being present (and still working!) on both occasions. John's relaxed style and personal recollections of the early years of the church were engaging; he explained that the goal he had set himself, when he first arrived in Bury, was to maintain a Unitarian congregation there until the year 2000---how admirably he succeeded! His reading, "The Church of my Dreams" was the one he had used for the original Dedication Service, and it proved to be as relevant today as it had been then. John demonstrated his versatility by accompanying the choir on the piano as they performed the canzonetta, "O Worship the King", which was very well-received. Thank you, John, for providing us with such a memorable occasion.

The service was followed by an excellent lunch; Bury Unitarians have always enjoyed eating and talking, and this occasion was no exception. Beryl and her team supplied a feast of soup and sandwiches, and the selection of sweets that followed were provided courtesy of The Co-operative, in celebration of Fair Trade Fortnight; it was all much appreciated, and there was very little left! Most of the congregation stayed on for lunch, and it was good to see the upstairs room so full and to experience the pleasant atmosphere that prevailed.

Roy Turner was present, in his capacity as Chairman of Bury Ciné Society, and Secretary of Bury's Local History Society; his film, "To Rise Like The Phoenix", records the years between 1969 and 1974---the transition from the old churches to the new one. After lunch, he showed a digitally-remastered version of his film--- never before seen at the church; it was pure nostalgia, as we remembered old friends and events from long ago, and laughed at a version of the three-legged race that landed all the competitors on the floor, in a heap, to the huge enjoyment of all concerned.

I should like to express my appreciation of the day and my thanks to everyone who contributed to its success, particularly Beryl and Susan, who struggled, in the most horrendous weather-conditions, to fill our two new planters with daffodils and primulas; we began with the idea of planting 40 bulbs, one for each year of the church's existence, and, on our 40th Anniversary, the yellow and pink blossoms shone in the sunlight, enhancing the occasion and providing a fitting tribute to our achievement.

Anne Mills

NOTES FROM 1974 (4)

Once the Dedication Service was over, the congregation settled into its routine; meetings, conducted efficiently by newly-elected officers, were shorter, and there was a definite sense that everyone was working together towards the mutual benefit of the church and its members. The new church-premises offered greater scope than had been possible at George Street, and a wide range of activities took place, from week-to-week usage by various organisations to the full-scale management of larger functions. Church Secretary, Norman Howarth, commented, "We have made the building come alive and breathed into it something of the steadfast faith and spirit of enterprise which first launched the project." At this point, the Membership Secretary recorded 125 members on the list, with an estimated total membership of 175, approximately.

The April Council meeting expressed its thanks to Jean Jackson and all the ladies who had volunteered to clean the premises until the permanent caretaker (Rene Sutherland) commenced her duties, on April 1st. Jack Crabtree, Church Treasurer, announced that the three church accounts held a total of £1,445.95, with cash in hand of £1.20 (why so little, I wonder?)

Possibly the Choir were in trouble, as a severe instruction was issued to them "to revert to processing into church before each service through the door nearest the vestry (instead of through the entrance hall), with immediate effect." What had gone wrong? The lack of detail and background, here, is quite frustrating!

Bernard Haughton advised Council that he had compiled a list of names from the Rolls of Honour of the three churches and requested that a suitable commemorative device be suggested on which these could be permanently recorded; was this the fore-runner of the Roll of Honour which has been read, so stirringly, for many years now, at our Remembrance Sunday Service?

Anne Mills

FOR OUR INTEREST

Letter published in 'The Oldie' April 2014

I fear the Sunday Assembly is reinventing the religious wheel. Do you not have Unitarians in the UK? Unitarians are an inclusive, community –oriented, universal, liberal church who, though often accused of believing nothing, actually believe in personal worth, justice, spiritual growth, the search for meaning and the rights of conscience. We leave the matter of God to individual conscience, reflection and meditation, trusting that should God exist, we will be forgiven our lack of congregational supplication

Robin Hornby, Calgary, Canada

MINISTER'S MONTH

The celebration for the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the church building was a splendid occasion. More than seventy people attended the service and sixty sat down for lunch in a really celebratory atmosphere, wherever you looked there were smiling faces. I don't know if it is unique that the minister who conducted the service for the dedication of a new church has ever then conducted a fortieth anniversary as well but, if not, it must be a very rare event. On this occasion there was less hair, less formality and many years of friendship making it a very special service.

The lunch was much enjoyed, the soup dragon having spent Tuesday cutting up vegetables, volunteers coming early to make sandwiches (thank you to those ladies) and Fairtrade supplying sweet things to finish. As a finale, Roy Turner showed, 'To Rise Like The Phoenix' the first film of the three films he has made about the church. There was much 'Oh look' every time a familiar face appeared. I saw myself as godmother at the baptism of Muriel and Colin Smith's granddaughter, Helen, who now lives in Australia.

After the film some of us went back upstairs to finish clearing away only to find that the dishwasher was not working. Thank you to Marian Price who valiantly washed all the crockery by hand, even this mammoth task could not dampen the good feelings. It was a very special day.

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation went very well though attendance was very low and did not constitute a quorum. This meant that nothing could be voted on and instead things had to be approved. There were no contentious issues so this should not present any problems this year and hopefully this situation will not arise again. There were some expressions of surprise when the year was recounted and it was realised how much we had achieved. On reflection, and it is only when we look back on the whole year, we can see how busy and successful the church has been.

I have been called upon to conduct a number of funerals recently for people who in the past had connections with Unitarian churches. One for a lady, aged ninety-six, who had attended a Unitarian church until she was about nineteen when her family moved. From her marriage in her twenties she had attended an Anglican church for the rest of her long life. Nevertheless in her instructions for her funeral she had asked that it be conducted by a Unitarian minister. This is one of three such funerals I have conducted recently. The Unitarian influence obviously lingered long.

I will be away at the GA Meeting from 13th to 16th of April.

Beryl

A DATE FOR OUR DIARIES

BOOK AUCTION

THURSDAY 8 MAY AT 7.30PM

TICKETS £2 includes a glass of wine and nibbles - available from members of the Efforts Committee

EVERYONE ATTENDING IS ASKED TO BRING AT LEAST ONE BOOK WITH THEM TO BE AUCTIONED OFF

This is a light-hearted way of exchanging books and finding out what other people thought of the books they bought.

CHURCH INFORMATION

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Charity Reg. No.	1078570
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CHURCH OFFICERS

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Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374