

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2015

SERVICES

- 5 April 11.15am The Minister
- 12 April 11.15am G.A. Service when Betty & Neville
Kenyon will speak of their experience
of this year's G.A. meetings.
- 19 April 11.15am Church Community Service – The various
groups who use the church have been
invited to take part in the service.
- 26 April 11.15am The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

- 5 April Freda & Derek Worthington
- 12 April Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
- 19 April Lois & Alan Williams
- 26 April Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given please re-arrange with another steward(s).

CHURCH FLOWERS

- 5 April In memory of Joan & Ted Sharples
- 12 April In loving memory of Peter Gilbert
- 19 April Margaret Miller – in loving memory of Derek
- 26 April Mrs Jean Taylor

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

- 4 April June Clarke, Marc Peters, Philip Peters
- 11 April Brenda Ainsworth, Jean Taylor
- 18 April Margaret Fitzpatrick, Jean Jackson
- 25 April Marc Peters, Philip Peters

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will meet on Tuesday, April 21st, at 12.30 pm. The hosts will be Anne and Roger. Please sign the list on the lounge notice-board, if you wish to attend. New members are always welcome, as are visitors; however, please make sure that you have signed up, if you are attending, as this makes it easier for the caterers to calculate how much food is required.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 29 April at 11.00am George Scaife has done a couple of charity cycle rides in France and he will relate his adventures to us.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2 April at 7.30pm Beryl Allerton will speak on

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN APRIL

Wednesday 8 April at 7.00pm Finance & General Purposes

Saturday 11 April at 10.30am Charity

Monday 13 April at 7.00pm Church Council

Tuesday 21 April at 7.00pm Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Sunday 19 April is the deadline for items to be included in the May edition of The Calendar.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on April 5th and 19th; at other times, if you require goods, please ask Anne or Jean.

COMING TO CHURCH

Going to church and getting home again afterwards has become difficult for a few of our congregation. Some drivers offer lifts but we are not sure how this can meet all needs successfully. For example some people do not ask for lifts and some drivers do not come to church every week. We want to offer help, so if you have any ideas, please have a word with Beryl or with any member of the Worship Committee.

AINSWORTH

We have been invited to join the members of Ainsworth Unitarian Chapel for their 300th Chapel Anniversary Service, on Sunday, April 19th, at 3 pm. The service will be conducted by Rev. J. D. Allerton, and the Mayor and Mayoress will be present. Afterwards, a buffet tea will be served; if you intend to be present and wish to stay for tea, please sign the list on the notice-board by Sunday, April 5th, at the latest.

QUIZ EVENING

This proved to be a highly-successful event; the questions were not too difficult, and an atmosphere of good humour prevailed. The winners were John Allerton's team, and it was John's birthday, so this felt quite fair! The food was excellent, and Doug and Enid were, once again, very genial quiz-masters. We raised £487.00---the highest amount yet, and a very pleasing total. Thank you to everyone who supported this venture.

SITUATIONS FILLED

In last month's calendar, I asked for volunteers for two tasks. I am pleased to announce that Derek Worthington has offered to oversee the Yoga Stewarding Rota, from the beginning of April. If you feel able to help with Yoga Stewarding, please speak to Derek; if you can help with AA Stewarding, speak to Margaret Fitzpatrick; in both cases, there is a list to be signed.

Susan Mitchell has volunteered to act as our Publicity Advertising Manager, with immediate effect. Please note that it is not Susan's responsibility to gather material for advertisements; if you are organising an event, or your committee is, it is your job to ensure that Susan has all the information she needs in order to insert an advertisement; she should also be given the date on which the advert needs to appear---and as much notice as possible.

Thank you to Derek and Susan for their offers of help, which are much appreciated---especially by me!

Anne

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be on Monday 27 April at 7.00pm. New folk welcome.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Following the Inaugural Meeting of this group, on March 17th, a further meeting has been arranged for **Tuesday, April 14th, between**

7 and 9 pm. Please join us, if you wish, and keep spreading the word that the group is in existence.

The Launch Meeting, on March 17th, was encouraging, with more than 30 people present; some were our own members, and some visitors; the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress attended and were most complimentary about our church and our efforts; Councillor Sharon Briggs congratulated us on our attempts to start a Bury group and said that she was delighted to endorse the project. Yvonne Trace and Annette German spoke very informatively about many aspects of Prostate Cancer care and were most helpful and supportive. We hope that we now have a nucleus for our group, which will develop into a self-supporting entity, in time; this is a huge leap of faith for us, as well as a challenge, and we hope for success; watch this space!

CONGREGATIONAL A.G.M.

This was held on March 1st, at 12.30pm. and attracted a good attendance. We had had a busy and successful year, in 2014, as all the reports testified, and it is clear that a great deal of hard work is carried out by many people.

All the serving Church-Officers were elected for a further year, and Jean Maden, Di Scaife and Janet Thatcher were elected to serve on Church Council for three years; Lois Williams was elected to serve for a further two years.

The AGM made changes to the Church constitution, as follows: It was agreed, unanimously, that the post of Vice-Chairman be discontinued, that the number of members elected to serve on Council be reduced from five to four per year, and that the Trustee-representation on Council be reduced from four to three; the quorum for Council-meetings remains at seven.

The Minutes of the 46th Congregational A.G.M; those of the February Church Council Meeting, and a copy of the 2014 Annual Report have been pinned up on the notice-board; once these have been removed, they will be filed in the bookcase cupboard, in the lounge, if anyone wishes to consult them.

NORTH WEST UNITARIAN PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

The Annual General Meeting of this group will be held on Saturday, May 16th, 2015, at Rochdale Unitarian Church; the proceedings commence at 10.30am and last until 4.00pm. We are all invited to attend; please let me know by Sunday, May 10th, if you will be going, so that I can pass the information on to Rochdale. Further details are contained on the notice on the board.

Anne

MOTHERING SUNDAY

Once again, this year, we had an excellent service to celebrate Mothering Sunday; thank you to Beryl for master-minding it! The choir's carol reminded us of the traditions surrounding Mothering Sunday, and Margaret Pollard and Susan Mitchell sang their solos beautifully (and bravely!) Readings were of very high standard and ranged from the concept that the best preparation for a successful lifestyle was to bring up and care for a baby, through family-traditions in which close links bound members together, to the poem, "Mrs. Malone", which related the tale of an old woman who, although she had very little, always shared what she had---and was rewarded in heaven!

The sermon dealt with motherhood, but touched on different aspects of it; there are many birth-mothers, but there are also mothers who foster, or adopt, or care for the children of their new partners, and these women take on a difficult task; so, too, do single mothers, on whom the demands and responsibilities lie heavy, yet, in the majority of all these cases, the joys and rewards far outweigh the drawbacks.

Our celebration of mothers also included the presentation of a spray of daffodils to everyone present, and, at the end of the service, we enjoyed a slice of June's tasty Simnel cake with our coffee.

SATURDAY 25TH APRIL – 7.30PM

NOSTALGIA

SWING BAND

TICKETS £8.00 INC. REFRESHMENTS.

THIS BAND COMES WITH A HUGE REPUTATION
LOCALLY.

MINISTER'S MONTH

Though I have known for some time that Alice Whewell was becoming more frail it was nevertheless both a shock and a sadness when she died so quickly and quietly at the beginning of March. I know I will miss her because my visits to her rebalanced my perspective on life. She was always cheerful and always looked to the positive in every situation. I will miss her.

The launch of the Prostate Cancer Support group went well, thank you to church members who supported this with their presence. Though not overwhelmed by people I was told, by the clinician, that this is often how it is and that the group gains momentum. Among the familiar faces at the evening was Councillor Sharon Briggs, now Deputy Mayor, who has been a frequent and welcome visitor to the church and who said some very nice things about us.

Once again I was on 'peas' for the Charity Committee Quiz Evening which as always was very well attended and made a record profit. Of course there were well deserved winners who trounced the opposition by a whole one point to lift not the trophy but six bottles of wine with which to toast success, hic!

Mother's Day is always an unknown, sometimes the church is full other years obviously everyone is being taken out and we who are gathered are few. This year was a quiet year but those present expressed enjoyment of the service. Three readers sharing one reading was different but they gave Mrs Malone a good send off.

I was very nervous when I was asked to do an interview about the Prostate Cancer Support Group with Mike Shaft on Radio Manchester. But I reckoned that most people would still be in bed at 7.50am. and so not many people would hear me. It was actually an OK experience though stressful. Once in the studio it was easy to forget about the microphone and the audience and just concentrate on the questions (not known beforehand) being fired at me. Those who heard said it went well – does a new career loom? I think not.

Beryl

I hope to take some days away during April.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The funeral of Alice Whewell was held on Friday 6th March at the East Lancashire Crematorium followed by a Remembrance and Thanksgiving Service at the Church. The Minister officiated at both services.

To Peter, Norah, Dawn, Hayley and Gail and their families we offer our sincere sympathy at this time.

On Monday 23rd March the funeral of Leslie Keating was held at the East Lancashire Crematorium. The Minister officiated.

It was with sadness that we heard of the death of Les and we offer condolences to his family.

19 APRIL – CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICE

At this special service members of groups who use our church for meetings will be present and each group will give a short presentation about the activities in which they are involved. These groups are: Prostate Cancer Support Group, Seminar Group, Women's League, Men's Fellowship, Book Group, Piano Teacher, Soroptimists, HomeStart, A.A., Yoga. It should be a most interesting service so come along and bring friends and family.

