

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2014 & JANUARY 2015

CHURCH SERVICES

7 December	11.15am	Marion Baker, G.A.President
14 December	11.15am	Nativity followed by Christmas Lunch
21 December	07.00pm	Carols by Candlelight – evening service

Please note that there will be no Morning Service on this date and no Junior Church.

25 December	11.15am	Christmas Day service
28 December	10.45am	Communion service followed by
	11.15am	Morning Service <i>no Junior Church</i>
4 January	11.15am	Junior Church prize-giving – Margaret Miller will distribute the prizes.
11 January	11.15am	The Minister
18 January	11.15am	The Minister
25 January	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

7 December	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
14 December	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
21 December	Marian Price & Jean Taylor

Christmas Day - as available

28 December	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
4 January	Sue McMullen & Marc Peters
11 January	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
18 January	Freda & Derek Worthington
25 January	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

7 December	In memory of Jean Kenyon – Sandra, Gordon & Richard
14 December	In loving memory of David Pollard – Margaret
21 December	In loving memory of Ted & Joan Sharples – Janet
28 December	In loving memory of Jack Entwistle

Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse

4 January	Church Flowers
11 January	Church Flowers
18 January	In loving memory of Mr & Mrs J Pollard - Margaret
25 January	In loving memory of Mr & Mrs John Lord

Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 26 January. The book to be discussed is:

The Lady and the Unicorn by Tracy Chevalier.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTAS

6 December	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
13 December	Jean Jackson & Margaret Fitzpatrick
20 December	Beryl Allerton & Nora Hickson
27 December	Anne & Roger Mills
3 January	Philip Peters & Marc Peters
10 January	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
17 January	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
24 January	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
31 January	June Clarke & Vera Stephenson

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

Monday 8 December	7pm	Social & Fund-raising
Weds. 10 December	7pm	Church Council
Monday 15 December	7pm	Trustees

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Weds. 14 January	7pm	Worship, Communications & Junior Church
Saturday 24 January	11am	Charity

CALENDAR DEADLINE for the February edition is Sunday 19th January.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The subscription envelopes for 2015 are available for collection from the table in the foyer. Please destroy any unused envelopes for 2014 at the end of the year. If you wish to make up any missed contributions, please include them in your first envelope for 2015 – thank you. *Margaret Pollard*

LUNCHEON CLUB

The December meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9 at 12.30 pm. This will be the Christmas Luncheon, and the hosts will be Anne and Roger. Please sign on the list on the notice-board if you are able to attend.

In January, we shall meet on Tuesday, the 20; as yet, the details are not to hand, so please watch the notice-board and listen to pulpit-announcements, nearer the time.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

CHRISTMAS MEAL AT VERONA'S, SILVER ST. BURY

ON THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER AT 7PM

PLEASE MEET IN THE COFFEE LOUNGE AT CHURCH AT 6.30pm

There will not be a Women's League meeting in January.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had a very good meeting on 15 October followed by our usual lunch at *The Trackside*. Our church organist Chris Thompson described the history and intricacies of the modern church organ. He even took those of us who were agile up into the organ loft.

The next meeting will be on the last Wednesday in January 2015, which is the 28th at 11am when we are to have a talk by the Rev. John Allerton on KNOTS followed by our usual lunch. ***Derek Worthington***

SMARTIE TUBES

Please let Brenda Ainsworth have any Smartie Tubes 20p's by 14 December. Thank you.

THE INQUIRER

Will anyone currently subscribing to ***The Inquirer*** and who does not wish to renew their subscription for 2015 please notify John Fitzpatrick as soon as possible. The subscription for 2015 will be £27. Anyone who wishes to be added to the list of subscribers should also have a word with John Fitzpatrick. Thank you.

THE UNITARIAN

Betty Kenyon is letting everyone know that payments to the *Unitarian* are now up to date until the end of December 2014. The *Unitarian* subscription is for twelve months and a new year starts in January 2015. All subscriptions will run for twelve months.

Will anyone currently subscribing to ***The Unitarian*** and who does not wish to renew their subscription for 2015 please notify Betty Kenyon as soon as possible. Any one wishing to take a copy of the new, improved, all colour magazine now edited by Rachel Skelton, please speak to Betty and she will add you to the list. Thank you.

TRAIIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on December 7 and 14 and on January 4 and 18. If anyone wishes to order Christmas items, please make sure that they reach Anne as soon as possible.

LANCASHIRE COLLABORATIVE MINISTRY

The Reverend Jim Corrigan has recently been appointed as Minister at Padiham and Rawtenstall; this is an unusual appointment, in that it marks the first appointment by the Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, which has recently been set up; Dot Hewerdine, of our Chorley church, is its Chairman, and two representatives from each church form a committee with her; Dot is also involved with the Hibbert Trust and with Future Ministry. The aim of the LCM is to revive Unitarian witness in East Lancashire, with Padiham and Rawtenstall at its centre. The two congregations will be supported and encouraged by the LCM; its purpose, also, is to encourage the Minister and to be responsible for his expenses; the congregations concerned contribute towards this whilst maintaining their own committees and accounts.

Jim's contract will run for three years, and his Induction is to be held, at Padiham, on February 28th, at 3 p.m; to which we are invited. Members of other Unitarian congregations are always welcome at services at Padiham and Rawtenstall; a copy of their most recent calendar should be displayed on our notice-board shortly.

POST-BAZAAR ASSESSMENT MEETING

At the meeting held on November 10, it was agreed that we had, once again, had a successful Bazaar, although we seemed to suffer, this year, from a surfeit of goods to sell, and not quite enough customers! Several stall-holders felt that extra space would have been beneficial, and this deficiency will be addressed, next time. The amalgamation of the two Tombola stalls meant that better-quality prizes were available, and the new layout of the Bottle Stall was an improvement. Printing books of raffle-tickets lent a more professional approach to this element and was felt to be worth repeating. We managed storage of donated items better, this year, and kept the foyer tidy, so the new system worked well. Staffing was better, too; we had a few extra helpers, on the day, and they were much appreciated. Next

year, we need to turn our attention to the marketing of the event; if anyone has any contacts in the retail marketing field, please speak to Anne, Beryl or Betty. It was suggested that, next year, once the Bazaar ends, all unsold goods should be placed on tables, upstairs, and the congregation should be invited to remove any items they liked, on the Sunday, in exchange for a donation, if they felt that to be appropriate. Many thanks to everyone who contributed towards the success of this year's Bazaar.

(A copy of the minutes of this meeting has been posted on the notice-board.)

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Once the December Church Council Meeting has been held, on the 10, I shall not be writing my usual summary of the business of the meeting, as it could not appear in the calendar until February. Instead, a copy of the full minutes will be posted on the notice-board, so that anyone interested may read them. Copies of each set of Council minutes are always kept in a folder in the bookcase cupboard, and the December 2014 minutes will be added, later in the month.

TELEVISION

Our new television has now been purchased and looks splendid; indeed, we seem to be spending a great deal of time admiring ourselves on the screen, before and after services! A DVD player has been donated, as well, and a stand for the equipment has been bought. Many thanks, once again, to our generous donor; we will make very good use of our new items.

2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The G.A. Annual General Meetings will be held between Sunday, March 29 and Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at the Birmingham Hilton Metropole Hotel; applications need to reach Essex Hall by the end of January. It is part of the business of the December Church Council to appoint two delegates to represent us at these meetings; if you are interested in representing the church, please speak to Anne or Betty before December 10. All expenses are paid by the church, and the meetings offer an excellent opportunity to gain insight into the workings of the wider

Unitarian movement and to meet other, like-minded people from other Unitarian churches.

PEACE AND REMEMBRANCE

During October and November, we have held three services, each unique in itself, but broadly dealing with similar themes, and all connected by our observance of the outbreak of World War 1. Our Peace Service, on October 26, reminded us that we cannot achieve true peace instantaneously; it has to be worked at, over a significant period, by individuals and by groups; no contribution is ever too small. Remembrance Sunday saw our worship-area beautifully-decorated, with the main floral display of deep red poppies enhanced by the array of felt poppies, made by Beryl, each one with the name of a First World War soldier from one of our three constituent churches attached to it. The theme of this service was the sacrifice of individuals---particularly those whose names are commemorated on our War Memorial and in our Roll of Honour. Sadly, Alice Whewell, who was born in 1914, was too frail to attend to lay our wreath, but Vera Stephenson, whose grandfather, Private Alfred William Smith, of the Lancashire Fusiliers, was killed in action on September 6th, 1916, honoured him, and us, by taking her place. At the end of a very moving service, the red candle of remembrance was replaced by the white candle of peace, and the circle was complete. By Remembrance Day, felt poppies representing soldiers who fell in the Second World War had been added, and we concentrated on the actual act of remembering, in a service which proved to be reverent and thoughtful, with a most profound, shared silence at 11 am.

Beryl is to be congratulated for all three of these services; they represent a tremendous amount of inspiration, empathy, time and effort, for which we must be truly grateful. In addition, the fruits of Beryl's research into the particulars of soldiers from our three churches are now published, and almost complete, and make for extremely interesting reading. Again, this work has been time-consuming and harrowing, on many occasions, and we are fortunate that our Minister is willing and able to undertake such a task, for our benefit. On behalf of the congregation, I offer sincere thanks and appreciation to Beryl.

Anne

THANKS

The Retiring Collection, on Remembrance Sunday, raised £152.00, which will be made up to £155.00 and sent to The Royal British Legion. In due course, we will receive certificates that show that our donation has been used to commemorate the soldiers whose names appear on our War Memorial.

CHARITY GROUP

In a change to previous arrangements, the charity group are proposing to establish and fund (for the first year at least) a support group for Prostate Cancer. There is no such group within the Bury area and we feel that our church is well placed to offer its facilities to such a group. We have contacted Prostate Cancer UK, and have received some positive advice and information; we hope to have a visit from their Support Development Officer at our next meeting. This project has yet to be approved by Church Council but if and when this happens we hope that we can count on the usual high level of support for our fund raising events during 2015.

EMERGENCY LIGHT SIGNAL

There is an Emergency Light Signal by the side entry door into the worship area, from the Primary Room. If the light flashes someone must go upstairs immediately to the Primary Room.

JUNIOR CHURCH

One Saturday 3rd January the children will be having a film show at the church followed by tea at McDonalds. On Sunday 4th January at the Prize Giving service the prizes will be presented by Margaret Miller who began teaching in Sunday School at Bank Street at the age of fifteen.

MINISTER'S MONTH

This is the last missive of 2014 and the first of 2015, one full to the brim of memories the other empty, waiting for us to fill it. This year has been special because of the 40th Anniversary celebrations. All of them were well supported and much enjoyed, and spread throughout the year, they kept the feeling of celebration bubbling all the time. I hope 2015 will be as busy and as successful.

In the last month it appears that we have all become television stars as the recently purchased TV is put to great use showing pictures of recent events. I hope that next year when we have a full 'box set' of the year's events we can have an evening at the end of 2015 'watching the year'. Thank you to the person who so generously donated it I think it is going to be a real asset in many ways. Thank you to Roger who sorts out the pictures and has taken responsibility for showing them and to Howard who is most often our photographer. Visitors will now be able to see our special events in glorious colour and high definition.

There have been three special services in the last month, the first being the Peace Service. This was arranged at short notice but it went well and there were some visitors for worship that day. On Armistice Day itself we held a short service around the silence at 11 am. On Remembrance Sunday we were sorry that Alice (Whewell) was not fit enough in her hundredth year to lay the wreath but grateful to Vera for doing as she remembered her grandfather who is named on our memorial. The service brought together the experiences of war by those of our three churches with readings citing similar experiences. Having a trumpeter to play the Last Post and Reveille added much to the occasion. A centenary well marked I think. The book which has been put together with war records and information about those whose names are on our cenotaph is almost complete and in the New Year I intend to add those from 1939-1945.

The Bazaar was a success though on the day it seemed quieter than usual, nevertheless it raised a lot of money and a lot of aching feet. It is another occasion when we get a large 'footfall' in the church and the opportunity to meet and greet people who may be looking for a community like ours.

As well as the website we are now on Facebook, thanks to Anne and Joanne Fitzpatrick who set it up for us and to Val Chamberlain who is helping keep it on course. If you have the means and you wish to add your own comments please do so.

Finally as we head towards the last days of the year I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support throughout 2014. Ministry is all that we do together, and this is very true at Bury Unitarian Church. Thank You.

I wish you a Christmas filled with light and love and laughter and a happy and healthy 2015.

Love Beryl

WEDDING

On 25th October the wedding of Lauren Fawcett (granddaughter of Margaret Miller and goddaughter of the minister) to Dan Fitton was conducted by the Minister.

To Lauren and Dan we offer our congratulations and prayers for a long and happy marriage.

NOTES FROM 1974 (12)

As the year drew to its close, the already-busy life of Bury Unitarians picked up yet more pace. No-one was busier than the Minister, who reported, in the December calendar, on his schedule during the first weekend in November. On the Saturday, having conducted a wedding at Ainsworth, he attended the opening of the Autumn Fair at Bury; then he addressed a NELUM Meeting in Rochdale, before returning to Bury for tea at the Fair and proceeding back to Ainsworth to The Old Folks' Party. On the Sunday, he conducted three services, plus Communion. Despite the fact that he had only just returned from one holiday, he felt in need of another!

John also reported a new experience from his pastoral visiting: he had called on three separate people, who seemed to be out; all of them had rung him later to say that they had been in, but fast asleep, and all his "knocking and banging had not woken them!"

All the regular church-groups organised their own Christmas parties, and the Women's League managed a Cake Decoration Demonstration, in addition. On December 8, morning-service included Toy and Pudding contributions (a tradition which continued for many years) and Church Parade; the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. A. L. Collinson, received the puddings, which numbered 114 and were donated to the WRVS; the many toys collected were given to the Bury Leo Club. December 14 saw the occasion of a Whist

Drive **and** Dance, with whist at 7.30 and dancing from 8 p.m; tickets (strictly limited!) cost 75p. The Junior Church Party was held on December 21, between 3 and 6 p.m; and this was followed by the Youth Club Party, in the form of a disco, at 7.30. The following day, at 11 am; the Carol Service and Children's Nativity Play took place, and, at 6.30 pm; a Service of Readings and Carols was held. The venue for the Christmas Day Service, that year, was Ainsworth. Money collected during Christmas services at Bury went towards the Bury Intermediate Treatment Group holiday.

Nor was the ongoing life of the church neglected on account of the festivities. The Men's Fellowship---finally---visited Granada TV Studios to watch a recording of "The Army Game"; they were fascinated by the technology (especially when some of the sophisticated and expensive equipment failed to work!) as well as by the artificiality of so-called spontaneous studio-reactions.

Mr. John Lord reported that the Chesham Roll of Honour had been deposited in the Bury Museum, and Chesham's Day School Managers' Minute-Book in the Reference Library; both gifts were appreciated by the Curator and Librarian respectively.

Mr. Bernard Haughton informed Church Council that the contractors were proceeding with some of the 78 outstanding items and fault-corrections which required attention. A proposed modification to the heating-system would, hopefully, result in a greater degree of heat-control; those involved were still experimenting with the heating and its advanced programming. Draught-excluders had been fitted to the church-entrance doors and those into the foyer; a further heater had been installed in the panel to the right of the altar; a stainless steel font had been ordered, and Molly Ratcliffe had bought an artificial Christmas tree and decorations. It was agreed that the names of members from Chesham and Heywood who had died in both World Wars should be included on the War Memorial. Gas cost, on average, £8.00 per week, but new charges were due in January, when electricity-charges would also rise, by 30%. However, the Autumn Fair had raised well over £500, and the Treasurer, Jack Crabtree, felt well satisfied by the end of year surplus of £2,488.24.

Reviewing 1974, calendar-editor, Nora Fletcher, commented: "Subtle changes have taken place since January 1, 1970; the new church is now a robust infant, with a fine building as its home; religious life has deepened, and this has resulted in a strengthening of the congregation---but it still needs our active support." As we move towards the start of our 41st year, let us remember these wise words---as true today as when they were originally written.

Anne Mills

GRAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

CAROLS & BRASS

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER AT 7.30PM

With HD BRASS & SARAH KILLIAN (Guildhall
School of Music)

Carols for everyone to sing

Mulled wine and mince pies

Tickets £8

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER

MENU

Dry, medium or sweet sherry or fresh orange juice

Home-made cream of celery soup and bread roll

Hot beef muffin with mustard

Christmas cake, coffee or tea

A vegetarian option is available if ordered.

Tickets £3.50

From Pam Gilbert after morning service on Sunday 30
November and Sunday 7 December or by phone or email

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'

6.30pm Sunday 14 December

Led by Rev. John Allerton

Organist – Mr Barry Scanlon

Please join us for coffee & mince pies after the service

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER AT 7.00PM

LED BY REV. BERYL ALLERTON
ORGANIST – MR CHRIS THOMPSON

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MULLED WINE AND
MINCE PIES AFTER THE SERVICE

TRANSPORT TO CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**There is a notice on the board for those who
would like transport for the 'Carols by
Candlelight Service' on 21st of December.
Please put your name on as appropriate.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY
SHORT FESTIVE SERVICE**

11.15am to 11.45am

**FOLLOWED BY KISSES, SHERRY &
SHORTBREAD**