

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2015 & JANUARY 2016

CHURCH SERVICES

6 December	11.15am	Christmas Miscellany – conducted by Members of the Congregation
13 December	7pm	Carols by Candlelight with HD Brass, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies Everyone Welcome
20 December	11.15am	Christmas Play Service followed by Christmas Lunch
Christmas Day	11.15am	A Short Festive Service
27 December	NO SERVICE	

If anyone requires transport to the Carols by Candlelight Service please put your name on the list on the notice-board in the lounge.

3 January	11.15am	New Year Service
10 January	11.15am	Junior Church Prize Giving
17 January	11.15am	The Minister
24 January	11.15am	The Minister
31 January	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

6 December	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
13 December	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
20 December	Marian Price & Di Scaife

Christmas Day	As available
27 December	Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson
3 January	Marc Peters & Sue McMullen
10 January	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
17 January	Freda & Derek Worthington
24 January	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
31 January	Lois & Alan Williams

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

6 December	In memory of Jean Kenyon – Sandra, Gordon, & Richard
13 December	In loving memory of Ted & Joan Sharples
20 December	In loving memory of David Pollard
27 December	In loving memory of Jack Entwistle

Distributor: Molly Ratcliffe

3 January	Church Flowers
10 January	Church Flowers
17 January	In loving memory of Mr & Mrs J Pollard
24 January	In loving memory of Jack Lord
31 January	Church Flowers

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 December	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
12 December	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
19 December	Beryl Allerton & Norah Hickton
26 December	Boxing Day – no coffee
2 January	Philip Peters Marc Peters
9 January	Rene Holos & Alison Hollos
16 January	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
23 January	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
30 January	June Clarke, Marc Peters & Philip Peters

LUNCHEON CLUB

We will meet in December on the 15th, at 12.30 p.m. for our Christmas Party, when all three chefs will be in attendance! We shall linger over lunch rather longer than usual, too! This will be free for those who have attended throughout the year.

The January session will be held on the 19th, at 12.30 p.m. Further details will be available nearer the time.

In both cases, please watch out for the list on the notice-board and sign up if you wish to attend.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had a good meeting on 28 October when Roger gave a talk on the Festiniog Narrow Gauge Railway – very interesting indeed. The next meeting is scheduled for the last Wednesday in January – 27th – when Fred Mitchell is going to talk to us of his 'Cricket Experiences'.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

Monday 14 December at 7pm	Trustees
Wednesday 13 January at 7pm	Worship, Jun. Ch. & Communications
Saturday 16 January at 10.30am	Charity
Monday 18 January at 7pm	Social & Fund Raising
Wednesday 20 January at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE – for the February edition will be Sunday 24 January 2016

TRADCRAFT

The stall will only be open in December on the 6th; after that, it will not be open until January 3rd; it will also open on the 17th of that month.

As usual, if you require goods at other times, please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse.

During November, the year's figures for Traidcraft were drawn up; in 2015, goods to the value of £1,382.70 were sold; the sum of £150.00 was paid to the Treasurer, as profit, and £200.00 worth of coffee and tea was supplied to the church; all the stock is paid for. Since Traidcraft first began to operate, approximately 11 years ago, clear profit for the church of £1, 956.76 has been handed over.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Fair Trade initiative in this church; our efforts are consistently impressive; well done!

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

If you still have money from your Smartie tube, please hand it to Brenda Ainsworth, before the end of December. New Smartie tubes will be available in the New Year.

BURY LIGHT NIGHT

Once again, this was a very successful occasion, on which we entertained many visitors to the church; we had so many that we almost ran out of hotpot and black peas! At least one visitor, on this occasion, attended a Sunday service, just to see what we did---a good outcome.

In Beryl's absence, Susan did sterling work in organising the entire event, for which we are very grateful. Thank you to everyone who helped on the evening, and also to those who came along; we seem to be gaining an excellent reputation both with the event's organisers and with the townsfolk of Bury.

BAZAAR

This was held on October 31st and was again a successful event; however, despite the vast quantities of goods for sale, customers were in short supply, and we spent a considerable time not only setting up stalls beforehand but also clearing up and disposing of unwanted items afterwards. The Assessment Meeting, on November 2nd, provided a good opportunity for discussion about the future of the Bazaar, and this will be explored thoroughly during the next few months. Perhaps it is time for a change---a new formula---but, if so, what should we choose as a replacement for the Bazaar? We need to ask the opinions of the whole congregation, in order to work out the best way forward. Please give this subject some thought; the Meeting-notes from November 2nd are displayed on the notice-board.

STEWARDING

As we begin a new year, just a reminder that we have two regular lettings, every week, for which we require stewards. If you are able to steward Yoga-sessions, on Mondays, please speak to Derek Worthington; if you can help with AA meetings, on Wednesdays, the person to speak to is Margaret Fitzpatrick. Wednesdays are frequently quite difficult to fill, so please examine your new diaries and calendars and see whether you are able to offer to oversee a session or two. The Wednesday letting alone brings in over £1,000 per year. If you have not stewarded before, please think about offering now. In both cases, there are lists on the notice-

board. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times each person has to turn out. Thank you to everyone who has assisted with stewarding during 2015.

REMEMBRANCE

This year's Remembrance Sunday's service was devoted to celebrating the efforts of the 3 arms of defence in this country: the Air Force, the Army, and the Navy. Each of the three sections contained an appropriate hymn and reading, and there were details of Unitarians from Bank Street, Chesham, and Heywood, who had given their lives in the World Wars. Pam Oxley, very appropriately dressed in her poppy-red coat, laid the wreath, and the church was again decorated with felt poppies, each of which commemorated a specific life lost.

Beryl has now completed her research into those of our former members who served in the World Wars; the information is now in book-form, beautifully-bound in red, with golden lettering, and this is Beryl's gift to the congregation.

During the service, the book was presented to Susan Holt and Anne Mills, and Beryl was thanked for her generosity and all her efforts; the book has been almost two years in the making; progress has been, at times, difficult and slow, and the revelations, in the process, were emotional---even harrowing. This is a book to be treasured---a unique record that we must be proud to possess. (The copy has now been placed in the glass-topped display-case, at the back of the church, and the pages will be turned over regularly, so that everyone will have an opportunity to see it. There will also be an unbound copy in the foyer bookcase, if people wish to inspect it; please do not remove this from the premises. An additional copy has gone to The Fusiliers' Museum, for their archives, and there are plans to transfer the information from the book to our website, in due course.) Details concerning our book of Remembrance are now available on our web-site.

Remembrance Day brought a more intimate shared act of worship, which proved both emotional and moving. The felt poppies were strewn down the steps of the dais, under the red candle, and provided a focus for our thoughts. We were asked to remember all those who had fought in the conflict of the two World Wars---those who survived, those who died, those who were wounded, and those whom we considered our enemies. These were people who were called upon to embrace the concepts of courage, fear and honour. One of the readings described the very first Armistice ceremonies, in 1919---the first service at the new Cenotaph, in Whitehall, and the unveiling of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. What must it have been

like, to be present at these events, with memories of war so recent and ever-present? The writer says that "the very stones cried out"---almost unbearable to hear, and painful to read out, but so important to acknowledge.

PARKING

During the week, we retain only the two car-parking spaces immediately adjacent to the side of the church for our own use. On occasions, people with no connection to the church park there, which is annoying; if you are aware of such parking, please speak to Anne or Beryl. It is also important that church-members do not monopolise the two spaces; we request, therefore, that parking at the side of the church is restricted to those who are actually inside the church, and on church-business, and that parking-time is kept to a minimum. Thank you.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will not meet in December. In January we will meet on Monday 25 at 7pm. The book to be discussed will be in the lounge cupboard from Thursday 4 December, all being well. New people are always welcome – if you enjoy a good read come along and see what happens. We usually talk for about an hour and enjoy some light refreshments.

STOP PRESS: FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

We still have not settled the matter of the two delegates we wish to send to the GA AGM's; the deadline has been extended until the end of the year; if anyone would like to volunteer to represent our church on this important occasion, please speak to Anne or Betty; the meetings will be held between March 30th and April 2nd, at the Birmingham Hilton. Please consider attending; it is a worthwhile experience.

Council has now considered the report from the group which met to assess this year's Bazaar; the general feeling seems to be that it is time we had a change. In the New Year, we will put a Suggestions Box either in the foyer or

in the lounge; please feel free to express your opinions: is a Bazaar still feasible, or should it be replaced by some other form of fund-raising, and, if so, what should we choose? We would like everyone in the congregation to be involved in this decision; this matter will be discussed further at the February Council Meeting.

The President of the GA, John Clifford, wrote to us, some time ago, to ask whether we were willing to support efforts to alleviate the effects of the refugee-crisis in Europe; Unitarian churches in Hungary and Germany are looking after vast numbers of refugees and are desperately seeking financial help. Council has decided to request donations, both at the Carols By Candlelight Service, on December 13th, and at our Christmas Lunch, on December 20th. Any money collected will be divide between the two countries which need our help. Please give generously!

Derek and Freda Worthington have decided to relocate to South Manchester and will probably be moving in the New Year. We shall be sorry to see them go and will miss them; we hope they will come back and see us as often as they can possibly manage, and we send very best wishes to both of them for the future.

Both Derek and Freda do a great deal for this church, and there will be several jobs which will now need to be handled by others. George Scaife has already volunteered to run the 100 Club, but we also need people to deal with Gift Aid, the organisation of the Music Exams, and the operation of the Yoga Stewarding rota. Derek has all these tasks well in hand and will help his successors as much as he can; Gift Aid is quite straightforward but needs to be run by someone who is computer-literate. Freda has been our Assistant Treasurer for some years now, and we will need to replace her sooner, rather than later. If you are able to help, please speak to Anne or Betty. Many thanks to Derek and Freda for all they do, and have done, for us.

FLOWERS – DONATIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF FLOWERS IN CELEBRATION OR COMMEMORATION.

If you donate for church flowers on a particular week during the year could you please confirm that you wish to do so in 2016 so that the flower list can be updated and checked. The list will be on the board so that those people who would like to donate can see where there are weeks free and have the opportunity of choosing

a time they would want flowers. Please confirm by the end of January and if flowers could be paid then this is helpful. The cost of church flowers is approx. £20.00 per week.

MINISTER'S MONTH

The last social event of the year, the concert by The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers proved to be very popular. We had lots of visitors and many of them had seen our publicity and paid at the door. It was a very good concert and there were some excellent comments as people were leaving. It was also good to have the opportunity to thank Phillip Mather publically for all his help with the research for the Remembrance Book.

I was able to present the book to the church on Remembrance Sunday after almost two years research. Though not exhaustive in its contents there is now more information that just the names of those from the church who gave their lives. The Bury Times are to publish an article about the book and even a photograph of the Minister. I'm a celebrity, get me out of here!

Christmas services are very nearly here and this year we are to repeat the Candlelit Carols which were so successful last year. Many of those who came to the band concert were saying that they would be attending the service so perhaps we will have a full church. This year there is to be a nativity with a difference, the cast will be adults not children. At this very moment it is being written and tidied up ready for the first rehearsal. The biggest

problem is that costumes have to be adult size, thanks to Rene for offering her help with these.

Christmas Day service is always very special and only lasts about 30 minutes, please try and come if you can. It is a festive service with time for chat over a pre-lunch sherry afterwards.

John and I will be away between Christmas and New Year, we are spending some time in a small cottage in the Lake District which we thought would be quiet, peaceful and restful after a busy year. Not so, the family have decided to join us on Boxing Day, it will not be quiet but it will be great fun, maybe we will toboggan as we did some years ago when in The Lakes.

January will begin the last year of my Ministry, with just five months to go to my retirement date. How quickly it seems the time has gone and looking back how much we have done together. I look forward to 2016 with mixed emotions, it will be exciting to enter another phase of life and spend more time with John (he may not be as enthusiastic), getting out my paints and brushes which have lived under the bed for five years and seeing more of family and friends. But, and this is a big but, I will miss being your minister and I will miss you. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve as Minister at Bury.

Now may I wish everyone a very happy, joyful and peaceful Christmas and the very best for the New Year. *Love Beryl*

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUND

AY 13 DECEMBER AT 7PM

WITH HD BRASS

MULLED WINE AND MINCE PIES

IN THE PRESENCE OF

THE DEPUTY LORD LIEUTENANT OF
MANCHESTER – KAREN PHILLIPS

LED BY REV BERYL ALLERTON

ORGANIST MR CHRIS THOMPSON

EVERYONE WELCOME

**DURING REFRESHMENTS DONATIONS FOR UNITARIAN
CHURCHES IN GERMANY AND HUNGARY WHO ARE HELPING
WITH FOOD AND CLOTHES FOR REFUGEES WILL BE
GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED.**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER

AFTER THE CHRISTMAS PLAY SERVICE

MENU

SHERRY OR FRESH ORANGE JUICE

CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP AND ROLL

HOT BEEF MUFFIN

CHRISTMAS CAKE, TEA OR COFFEE

**TICKETS £3.50, children £2 from Pam Gilbert on Sundays
Nov 29 and Dec. 6 or phone 01706 822651 before 7pm.**

A vegetarian option is available if ordered.

CHRISTMAS DAY

A SHORT FESTIVE SERVICE

11.15AM

