

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2010

WORSHIP SERVICES

7 February	11.15am	Introduction to the work of 'Speakeasy'
14 February	11.15am	Saint Valentine's Day
21 February	11.15am	Jesus – In the wilderness, from the edge towards suffering
28 February	11.15am	Mary Magdalene – Soul Sister

CHURCH STEWARDS

7 February	Miriam Murphy & June Seddon
14 February	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
21 February	Sybil Poulson & Molly Ratcliffe
28 February	Freda & Derek Worthington

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that stand-in steward(s) can be allocated to that date – Thank you

CHURCH FLOWERS

7 February	Mrs Miriam Murphy
14 February	In memory of Jack Crabtree
21 February	In loving memory of Mary Scholes
28 February	In loving memory of Jim Pollitt

Distributors: Barbara Ashworth & Vera Stephenson

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Neville Kenyon 0120488 7222
Church Secretary	Marian Price 24 Swinnel Brook Park, Grane Road, Haslingden, Rossendale BB4 4FN 01706 211981
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SUNSHINE PENNIES

Brenda Ainsworth is keen to remind church members and friends that she is happy to continue collecting money in aid of the congregation through the "Sunshine Pennies" scheme, which is a long-standing tradition. It began with the custom of putting aside one penny for church funds every time the sun shone. Whilst Brenda keeps her accounts for the calendar year, she is grateful to receive any amount of money at any time.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 February Barbara Bamford and Freda Worthington
13 February Rene Hollos and Alison Hollos
20 February Molly Ratcliffe and Betty Kenyon
27 February Anne and Roger Mills

LUNCH CIRCLE

The Lunch Circle meets on Tuesday, 16th February at 12.30pm. The organizers are Anne and Roger Mills. Please inform them if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday, 4th February 7.30pm The delayed A.G.M.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The speaker for the meeting on the evening of **Wednesday, 24 February** will be Monica Burns, who is an international health consultant who works in the least developed nations of the world for a variety of governmental and non-governmental agencies. Her latest "mission" was for the Thai Government, where she led a project for two years, based in Bangkok. Monica and her husband, Dr. Garth Manning, were married at Norcliffe Chapel in Styal, Cheshire, and are currently members of Dean Row Chapel in Wilmslow. This meeting will be open to anyone who is interested in learning about the fascinating world of global health consultancy (from Bosnia to Mongolia)! The meeting will begin at 7.30 pm and conclude with a light supper.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, 1 February	7.30pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday, 8 February	7.00pm	Church Council
Monday, 22 February	7.30pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All contributions to be included in the March Calendar should be in the yellow folder by Sunday, 21 February, please.

INTER-FAITH WEEK LAUNCHED AT LAMBETH PALACE

It was with a great sense of pride and anticipation that I accepted an invitation from the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, to represent the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Churches at a special function held at Lambeth Palace on Monday, 16 November 2009. Inter-Faith Week is an Inter-Faith Network initiative which provides faith communities with a range of local, regional and national opportunities to demonstrate their work together and to highlight the major contributions that religious faith makes to society. The Faith and Public Issues Commission of the General Assembly is able to send representatives to attend the meetings of the network, and I was asked in my role as chairperson of the commission to take part in the launch of the special week, which took place in mid-November.

Those who attended the launch, including Dr Indarjit Singh, The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, as well as leaders of all other faith communities, signed a statement of commitment to continue building good inter-religious relations and to contribute to the common good from different religious perspectives. The Secretary of State, John Denham, also attended the event, and was warmly welcomed by those present. He had hosted a similar event in the preceding week, in order to affirm the Government's support of the inter-faith initiative. It was not possible for any Unitarians and Free Christians to attend that launch and exhibition, which had been held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster on 12 November 2009.

The last time I had seen Rowan Williams was the occasion of my final tutorial with him whilst I was a student at Oxford University, in June of 1989. It was a pleasure to speak with him and convey the greetings of the General Assembly. To his credit, the Archbishop remembered who I was, and offered warm good wishes to Unitarians and Free Christians. The assembly room of the palace looked as if it were filled with the cast of Radio Four's "Thought for the Day," as so many different religious leaders were present. I was initially apprehensive about attending the event on my own, but was quickly joined by the representative of the Society of Friends (the Quakers), and the Director of the Christian-Muslim Forum, who was very knowledgeable about the General Assembly, and inquired about the recent marriage of the Rev Jean McNeile and the Rev Alex Bradley! It was good to meet so many different religious figures, some famous, some less well-known. The food and beverages on offer represented an equally

wide variety of cultures, traditions and dietary codes, and it was remarkable for an inter-faith event that alcoholic drinks were served alongside fruit juices and bottled water.

On leaving the palace at the end of the event, I was joined by a Muslim gentleman from Bradford, who was eager to tell me of the Unitarians he knew from his own community. Clearly, the day's proceedings achieved many things, but the most substantial accomplishment was the bringing together of so many people who valued religious diversity, and who were eager to become not only better acquainted, but more aware of each other's perspectives. It is hoped that the celebration of Inter-Faith Week will become an annual fixture in the nation's calendar, and this is something that our fellow-congregations will want to mark in both their worship and their public witness, I am certain.

JEFF

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

We will be guided through the season of Lent in 2010 by Christian Aid's seasonal calendar, which will be available free of charge to everyone who attends services on every Sunday from before Ash Wednesday (17 February) until Easter Sunday (4 April). Each day offers information on some aspect of world development, and invites reflection on the blessings that are enjoyed in more prosperous countries. Further copies are available from Jeff Gould, should you be unable to attend Sunday services. The worship throughout the six weeks of Lent will be inspired by the joint programme of BBC's Radio 4 and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland for the season. "People on the Edge of His Pain" looks at some of the key characters in the Passion narratives and considers issues of today that resonate with these characters.

IN MEMORIAM

A service of thanksgiving for the life of church member, Barbara Politt, was held at the Bury Unitarian Church on Friday, 27 November. Harry Taylor provided organ accompaniment to the hymns and Jeff

Gould officiated at the service. The gathering was well-attended by the members and friends of the congregation, Barbara's friends from the wider community, and members of the Jackson's Row Synagogue in Manchester's city centre. A moving commemoration was given to Barbara through the participation of close family members throughout the entire ceremony. Grand-daughters Charlotte and Sophie read suitable poetry, son-in-law Tim played the piano, son-in-law George offered words of tribute, and grandson Edward read the words of Reinhold Niebuhr's Serenity Prayer. A very poignant element of the service was a recording of Barbara's late husband Jim, singing the Lord's Prayer. The congregation left the church to a recording of another grandchild singing Fauré's "Pié Jésus." A service of committal then followed at the East Lancashire Crematorium in Radcliffe. Generous table fellowship was shared upstairs at the church, and Barbara's daughters, Carolyn and Melanie, were able to express their gratitude for the visits that were made to Barbara throughout her illness. Her diagnosis earlier in the year of Motor-Neurone Disease had been a devastating blow to all who knew her, but Barbara had remained alert, communicative and grateful until her death at the age of 79. Barbara's vivacious personality and generous spirit will grace the church for as long as memories of her survive.

MEDITATION GROUP

The exploration of different methods of meditation will continue at the next meeting of the group on Thursday, 25 February, from 7.30 p.m. in the church. Light refreshments will be served after the meeting in the coffee lounge. Newcomers are always welcome, and no charge is made for the gathering. If you have any questions about the group, please speak with Jeff Gould (telephone 0161 764 4925).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Volunteers are invited to act as representatives to attend the **Annual GA Conference** to be held from **Thursday, 8th April to Sunday, 11th April 2010**, at **Nottingham University**.

Anyone interested, please give names to **Neville Kenyon**, Chairman of the Congregation, or **Marian Price**, Secretary of the Church Council, prior to the Council meeting on 8th February, when a final decision will be made.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING TO BEGIN

The Charity Sub-Committee of the congregation has responded to the requests of church members to designate the local branch of "Speak-easy" as its chosen recipient for fundraising for the year 2010. A special service will be held on Sunday, 7 February, during which a representative of the charity will provide information on its origins, day-to-day work, and the benefits that it offers to the wider community. It exists to provide appropriate practical and emotional support to people who are recovering from a stroke, especially for those whose speech has been affected. The first event in the year's efforts to raise funds will take place on Saturday evening, 27 February, from 7.30 p.m. in the upstairs room of the church. This will take the form of a Quiz Night, with a fish and chips supper served in the interval. Last year's event, held on similar lines, was a great success, and it was decided to repeat the formula which had enabled the church to welcome members of the public to the evening's festivities.

UPDATE OF RECORDS

Attempts are made at the beginning of each year to update the **Church Membership records**.

If there has been any change in your address or telephone details over the last twelve months (or if you think, for whatever reason, we may not have the correct details) please inform **Marian Price, Church Secretary**, at your earliest convenience.

POINTS OF INTEREST FOLLOWING THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER, 2009

We have accepted a new, long-term Yoga booking for Wednesday evenings.

We have recently passed a Fire Department inspection, losing only 10 penalty points because of lack of training and inadequate sound volume of the fire alarms. (Under 15 penalty points is considered very good). We are following up on advice given by the Fire Officers.

The cost of printing the calendar each month, plus the supply of calendar covers, works out at approximately 25p. per copy, equivalent to about £3 per year. Any donations towards the running costs are always gratefully received and should be handed to Jean Jackson.

Churches Together in Bury will be holding their meetings at our Church throughout the coming year.

To coincide with the dedication of Holebottom on the 31st May 1857 it is proposed to hold a service at Holebottom on the last Sunday in May.

Costing is to be carried out for the provision of a plaque to list all the names of past Ministers of the Church, to include Chesham and Heywood.

Costing is also to be carried out for the furnishing of a Children's Corner at the rear of the Church to provide a more welcoming area for parents with very young children.

It has been decided that the crockery cupboard at the top of the rear stairs should be left unlocked. A catch will be fixed to prevent the doors from falling open.

JAM JARS

Thanks from Barbara but she has enough jars to last until Spring.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO CHURCH RULES

Following a meeting of Church Officials to discuss revision of the Church Rules, several minor alterations have been proposed and these will be presented to the AGM of the Congregation in March.

A copy of the proposed changes will be made available on the Noticeboard and members are encouraged to peruse these prior to the AGM so that an informed decision can be made at that meeting.

CHALICE LIGHTING

There will be a paper ballot on Sunday, 14th February, to gauge the feeling of the congregation towards chalice lighting at the beginning of the Sunday services.

A ballot paper will be handed to everyone with their hymn book as they enter Church and a box will be provided in which to place them after the service.

Anyone wishing to take part in the ballot who will not be attending on that Sunday should request a ballot paper from the Church Secretary

CONFORMITY OF DIARY ENTRIES

Would anyone making entries in the Diary please note that there may be entries for the morning, afternoon or evening on any particular date.

Entries for the Morning should be at the top of the dated section,

Afternoon “ in the middle “ “ and
Evening “ at the bottom “ “

Also - Please enter in brackets the initial of the room you will be using

Eg. (L) for Lounge, (H) for Hall, (C) for Church and (V) for Vestry

This will help when more than one booking is being made, and more importantly when, in the future, it is hoped we will be able to zone off particular areas for heating requirements.

Also it would be helpful if any committees or organisations who have regular meetings throughout the year, on specific dates, could enter their required dates in advance for the whole of the year.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

GRAND FISH & CHIP SUPPER & QUIZ

SATURDAY, 27 February at 7.30pm

Tickets £7.50 from Harry

Organized by the Charity Committee in aid of SPEAKEASY our charity for the year 2010

THE 100 CLUB

The final draw for the 100 club took place in December with Colin Smith winning the £75 Christmas Bonus. Well done Colin!!

The winning draws of £25 throughout the year were as follows:

As you can see the prizes were well spread out amongst the members with the Smith Family enjoying a good slice of luck. Winners were: Robin Ainsworth, Neville Kenyon, Vera Stephenson, John Fitzpatrick, Jean Maden, Marian Price, Joe Ashworth, Harry Greenhalgh, Alf Howson, Muriel Smith, Janet Thatcher, and Pam Oxley

1st of March is when your contribution for next year is due, and is still only £12 per number of which £6 goes into Church Funds. If you are a “Gift Aid” subscriber the Church draws in another 28%

We still have quite a few numbers not spoken for yet, so if anyone would like to join you are most welcome.

Will you please let DEREK WORTHINGTON have your £12 per number during February, and choose another Number from him.

Thank you for your support.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will next meet on Monday evening, 1 March from 7.30 to 9.00pm. The book to be discussed is *Sepulchre* by Kate Mosse.

Light refreshments are shared throughout the evening – all welcome.

The following dates and books have been decided:

Monday, 29 March *The House at Riverton* by Kate Moreton

Monday, 26 April *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

These three books are on the library list and will be available from the cupboard in the coffee lounge.

TRAIDCRAFT NEWS FROM ANNE MILLS

During 2009, Traidcraft sales totalled over £2,700---higher than for the last three years, and a magnificent effort. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the stall throughout the year; whatever we raise makes a tremendous difference to people in countries in the developing world.

Suppliers' prices have risen in the past year, and this looks set to continue over the next few months; however, I shall continue to try out different suppliers, in an effort to contain price-increases as far as possible. For example, the 500 gram tubs of coffee used in the kitchen would cost over £17.00 from Traidcraft; at present, from the Ethical Superstore, the same tubs cost £14.00.

People may have noticed two changes for 2010. The wooden trolley, which has faithfully carried stock between stall and stockroom, has collapsed, beyond repair. As an experiment, I am storing stock in large, durable plastic baskets and hope that this will prove a viable alternative. An inspired Christmas present of a cashbox means that the pudding basin previously used has now retired!

TRAIDCRAFT COFFEE MORNING

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place, this year, between February 22nd and March 7th. In 2010, Fairtrade organisations are being asked to promote two ideas: The Big Swap, and the Big Brew. The aim of the Big Swap is to encourage everyone to exchange items regularly purchased for fairly-traded ones---for example, by buying fairly-traded bananas instead of non fairly-traded ones.

Groups are invited to hold Big Brew events, and I plan to organise a Coffee Morning, on Wednesday, March 3rd, between 10a.m. and noon. Fairly-traded refreshments will be available, the Traidcraft stall will be open, and a raffle will be organised; proceeds will be for church-funds.

Tickets, priced at £2.50 each, will be available from mid-February; please watch out for further details, nearer the time, on the church notice-board and in pulpit-announcements.

NEWS FROM AINSWORTH

SERVICES

!0.00 am Sunday, 7th February Mrs Jean Cardus

10.00 am Sunday, 21st February Mr Granville Leather

IN MEMORIAM MRS ANNIE JEPSON 1913 – 2010

'Little Annie' as she was so fondly known, passed away peacefully in Fairfield Hospital on 8th January aged 96 years.

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at Ainsworth Chapel on Tuesday, 19 January, followed by Committal at The East Lancashire Crematorium, The Rev John D. Allerton officiating.

Annie is remembered with much love and affection by us all. She was a loyal and supportive member of The Chapel and also attended events at Bury.

We send our deepest condolences to Peter and Barbara, Sheila and Rodney, and the family.

NOTICE OF CHAPEL AGM

2.30 pm SUNDAY, 14th FEBRUARY 2010

in the Grundy Room

LADIES' SOCIAL GROUP

Mrs Mary Wightman has written to express her thanks and gratitude for a donation towards the Women's League National Project of Meningitis, and to say how much she and Bob enjoyed their visit to Ainsworth and Bury last year.

*To members and friends of The Chapel
who were housebound or ill during the recent severe snow and ice,
we send our best wishes.*