

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2012

SERVICES

5 February	11.15am	The Minister
12 February	11.15am	The Minister
19 February	11.15am	To be announced
26 February	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 February	Rebecca Warburton & Marc Peters
12 February	Sue McMullen & Sybil Poulson
19 February	Lois & Alan Williams
26 February	Miriam Murphy & June Seddon

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 February	Rev Beryl Allerton
12 February	In loving memory of Jack Crabtree
19 February	In loving memory of Mary Scholes
26 February	Barbara & Allan

Distributors: Barbara Bamford and Sue McMullen

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 February	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
11 February	Jean Taylor & Harry Taylor
18 February	Freda Worthington & June Clarke
25 February	Vera Stephenson & June Seddon

CONTRIBUTIONS TO COST OF CALENDAR

Jean Jackson will be pleased to receive donations towards the cost of producing the Church Calendar for 2012 – thank you.

LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle will meet on Tuesday 21 February at 12.30pm. The organisers are Anne & Roger Mills. Please inform them if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The AGM of the Women's League will be held on -
Thursday 2 FEBRUARY at 7.30pm

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

There is NO MEETING in February.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

6 February	7.30pm	Finance & General Purposes
13 February	7.00pm	Church Council

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME FOR CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS IN FUTURE.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on **Monday 27 February at 7.00pm.** **Please note the new time.** The book to be discussed is *Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. This book should be in the library cupboard by Wednesday 1 February. Please bring library lists to this meeting as we'll be selecting our next three books. All are welcome at the Book Club. We share light refreshments and usually finish around 8.30pm.

SACH COLLECTION

On behalf of the Send-A-Child-to-Hucklow Fund's Trustees I thank the members of the Bury Congregation for their generosity at the special service and our 'at home' on behalf of the fund. To raise over £700 at two events in the course of four days is quite extraordinary. But then, this is an extraordinary congregation. Well done, Bury Unitarians. **John Allerton**

SACH Trustee

CHRISTMAS LUNCH THANKS

Many thanks to all who helped in any way with Christmas Lunch. We made a small profit which was added to the contributions for SACH.

100 CLUB

The first draw of the new year for the 100 CLUB will be on the first Sunday in March. I hope you will all have given me your subscriptions for the year by then! Last year's lucky winners were well spread out amongst you all. This is the list:

*January – Derek Worthington, February – Dorothy Rostron,
March – June Clark, April – Janet Thatcher, May – Lauren Wright,
June – Lois Williams, July – Barbara Chadwick, August – Neville Kenyon, September – Joe Ashworth, October – Vera Stephenson, November – Sue McMullen, December – Colin Smith,
MAS BONUS DRAW – Mary Warburton*

Congratulations to the winners and to everyone Good Luck for 2012. Many thanks, on behalf of the church, for your continued support.

Derek Worthington

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL: 12-12-11

A minute's silence was observed, in memory of Jean Kenyon.

A meeting to assess the Bazaar had been held, on 17-11-11, and points raised will be borne in mind for next time.

Finance: Thanks were proposed to Roger for all that he does for the church. Work on the car-park is now complete. Problems with the heating continue to be investigated. Council-approval is **always** required before the worship-area is let, and before any Saturday-evening letting. Janet was thanked for her work in sorting out the Performance Licence material.

Treasurer: The quota has been paid for 67 members. By the end of 2011, we will have spent approximately £23,000, against income of £19,000—a deficit of £4,000.

Efforts: Dates have been arranged for events in 2012; these will include a weekend of celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, in June. "Sunshine Smarties" will collect 20p pieces, in 2012, in an attempt to update and rejuvenate the scheme.

Communications and Worship, with Young People: It was agreed that 10 more purple hymnbooks should be bought. Further discussion about the vestry ensued.

The Minister has received a reply to her letter to Churches Together, and this is on the notice-board. There was discussion about music used during services, and the minister's input.

Charity: Our charity for 2012 will be The Samaritans; a representative of the local branch will speak about their work, during the service, on 29-1-12. Many of the charities we have previously supported display trees during our Christmas Tree Festival, and good links are being forged with the community. Events for 2012 have been arranged; the first of these is a Quiz, with Pie and Peas Supper, in February.

The Membership Secretary reported that 5 people had applied for membership of the church.

NELUM: Les and Doreen have resigned as our representatives; they were thanked for their efforts.

G.A. Delegates: Neville and Betty have volunteered to represent us.

The Congregational Meeting will be held on 19-3-12; the April Council meeting will be held on 2-4-12, when the motions for the G.A. Annual Meetings will be discussed.

Correspondence: Beryl has received a letter from the Council, asking whether we would agree to archive-material from Bank Street Chapel to be released to Ancestry.com. After discussion, it was agreed that Beryl should proceed, at her discretion.

It was agreed that, in future, Church Council Meetings would start at 7pm, thus coinciding with the Yoga start-time.

NELUM REPRESENTATION

We now seek at least one person to represent us at Nelum meetings. These meetings take place at the different Unitarian churches of the area, in rotation, and are held every other month, in the evenings; the AGM is held in March, during the day, on a Saturday. Ideally, we need a replacement immediately, but, failing that, after our Congregational AGM. If you feel able to help, please speak to Anne Mills.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 5th and February 19th. In 2011, takings from the stall were lower, by approximately £300, to £2,300; prices have risen considerably, even though I have made every effort to contain them. We did not have a specific Fair Trade fund-raising event, during the year, although a tasting of products took place in Fair Trade Fortnight. On the whole, trade has kept up, despite the fact that the stall operates fortnightly, now, instead of weekly. Most of the items sold are purchased from Traidcraft, but I also buy regularly from The Co-op, The Ethical Superstore and Just Trading Scotland, so that we can enjoy a wider range of goods. Since I began to sell fairly-traded products, just over nine years ago, a profit of £1,400 has been raised for the church. Thank you all for continuing to support this important venture. **Anne**

USE OF THE VESTRY

Council again discussed this matter, at its December meeting. The Vestry is primarily for the use of the minister, and strangers should not be brought into the building, unless on church-business and accompanied by a church-member. It was decided that some of the lower corridor cupboards would be suitable to use for all incoming post; Anne will identify suitable cupboards, and keys will be made available, as required. Council will be informed, once these changes have been implemented. Church-members are reminded that telephone-calls from church-premises should be church-related; if not, please use the honesty-box in the kitchen-storeroom. Remember that **all** outgoing calls are charged, even if they are unanswered, and Directory Enquiries, which were once free, can now be very expensive.

There has been an improvement in the way we use our vestry; let's see whether we can continue with this, without further measures having to be taken.

Anne

MINISTER'S MONTH

It seems a long time since the hustle and bustle of December and all the preparations for Christmas but it is good to look back on what I believe was a very enjoyable and successful festive season in the church. With the exception of the Communion Service all the services were well-attended. Those who took part did so with aplomb and I would like to thank Harry and the Choir for their hard work and also all the readers who took part in the services. Thank you to Pam who once again brought everyone together for a delicious lunch and to Molly for making the chapel look magical. On Christmas morning itself so many people came along that we ran out of service sheets, though I had printed lots. This provided a great end to the seasonal services.

After the service on Christmas Day, a visit to look at the dozens of presents that our grandchildren had received, then we zoomed off to Yorkshire. Once there we, together with friends, settled down to a glass of champagne and a delicious meal. The following day we always have a walk and a photo opportunity before we leave for home. Each year this photograph is taken in the same place and it is a salutary experience to see the toll the years have taken on us in a background that doesn't change.

There had been some discussion about whether to hold a New Years Day service or not. Many churches had decided to close. In the end it was decided that we would have a service but it would begin earlier. The result of this was really quite hilarious. At the earlier appointed time a few gathered for worship; this number trebled by the end of the service as people arrived for the usual service time. The lesson to be learned is never change the time of the service.

After New Years Day service, John and I went to a cottage in Teesdale that is truly 'put in the wilds'. And the weather was really wild, gale force winds and driving rain whistled around the cottage and swept the moors outside. One of our group was reading *Jane Eyre* but *Wuthering Heights* would have been more appropriate.

The following Sunday the Junior Church Prizegiving combined with the Send A Child to Hucklow Service was conducted by John Allerton. It was lovely to see the children receiving their books particularly baby Callum who slept through the presentation. The retiring collection for SACH was so generously supported it exceeded all expectation. The coffee morning and afternoon tea brought more generous donations and a total of £725 was raised. I feel thank you is not enough in the face of your immense generosity but it is all I can say – thank you.

Beryl

Services are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month with visiting preachers.

Funerals

Sadly over the Christmas and New Year Period I was called upon to conduct a number of funerals. Two of these were for members of Bury Unitarian Church.

On Friday 16th December the funeral service for Jean Kenyon was held at the church, followed by committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium. On Wednesday 21st December her ashes were placed in the Memorial Garden at Ainsworth Unitarian Church. The Minister officiated at the services.

To Sandra and Gordon, Neville and Betty, and their families we offer our sincere condolences.

On Monday 9th January the funeral service of Jean Wild was held at Overdale Crematorium. The Minister conducted the service.

To Jean's family we offer our sympathy.

Jean Kenyon was a lifelong member of the church who contributed an immense amount to the life of the congregation. Though of late health problems have prevented her being among us at services and social events this did not stop her interest in everything that was happening at the church. A stalwart of the church throughout her life, we are deeply saddened by her death. We remember her with great affection and respect.

Jean Wild came to the church after much persuasion by her husband Eric, who was a member of the Mens Fellowship Choir. Of late she has not been part of our community but many people remember her and Eric affectionately.

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

SUNDAY SERVICES - FEBRUARY 2012

10.00AM Sunday 5 February Rev John D Allerton
SEND A CHILD TO HUCKLOW CELEBRATORY SERVICE

10.00AM Sunday 19 February Mrs Jean Longworth
Halliwell Road Church, Bolton

SOCIAL EVENT – Please support this ever popular evening.

In support of our charity for this year

BURY SAMARITANS

**A QUIZ EVENING
WITH PIE & PEAS SUPPER**

**SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY
AT 7.30PM**

Quiz Masters - Doug & Edith Cathart

**TICKETS £6.00 INCLUSIVE OF PIE AND PEA SUPPER
BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS**

**PURCHASE BETWEEN 4 - 6 TICKETS TO RESERVE A
TABLE**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MEMBERS OF THE CHAR-
ITY GROUP OR HARRY TAYLOR 0161 797 4414**

