

## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2013

#### SERVICES

3 February	11.15am	The Minister
10 February	11.15am	The Minister
17 February	11.15am	to be announced
24 February	11.15am	The Minister

#### CHURCH STEWARDS

3 February	Rebecca Warburton & Sue McMullen
10 February	Lois & Alan Williams
17 February	Alfred Howson & Roger Mills
24 February	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

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

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

3 February	Revs. Beryl & John Allerton
10 February	Church Flowers
17 February	Susan Holt in memory of Jack Crabtree
24 February	In memory of Mary Scholes

*Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Sue McMullen*

*If you would like to donate to the Flower Fund, please speak to Molly.*

#### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 February	June Seddon & Vera Stephenson
9 February	Anne Mills & Beccy Warburton
16 February	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
23 February	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING FEBRUARY

Monday 4 February at 7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday 11 February at 7.00pm	Church Council
Monday 18 February at 7.00pm	Efforts

#### CALENDAR DEADLINE – EARLY

The deadline for items for the March edition of the Calendar is earlier than usual due to half-term commitments – sorry. It will be on Sunday 10 February and the Calendar will be in church on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February all being well.

#### LUNCHEON CLUB

The Luncheon Club will meet on Tuesday 19 February at 12.30pm. Please let the organisers know if you are unable to attend.

#### WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm - The Annual General Meeting will be held.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club meets on Monday 25 February at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed will be in the lounge cupboard after 30<sup>th</sup> January. We share light refreshments after the discussion and usually close around 9.00pm. All are welcome to come along – you don't need to have read the book!!

## **100 CLUB**

Last year's '100' CLUB has been a success again. The prizes were well spread out amongst our members. It is a very easy, good source of income for the Church as 50% of your contributions goes straight into Church Funds. Also, anyone who signs up for 'Gift Aid' adds 26% of their contribution to church funds via the Inland Revenue. Last year the Church benefitted by £1824 in Gift Aid from the government. The bad news is that we lost a few members due to deaths and members leaving the area. We have 26 blank numbers available. If you could consider taking up an extra number, or persuading your friends or relatives to become members, it would greatly help the church. It only costs £1 per week!! Please see me to choose another number.

The 2012 winners were:

January – Dorothy Rostern, February – Lauren Wright, March – Colin Smith, April – Roy Brooks, May – Harold Maden, June – June Seddon, July – Roy Brooks (returned to Church Funds), August – Barbara Chadwick, September – Jean Taylor, October – Derek Worthington, November – Colin Smith, December – Molly Ratcliffe, Christmas Bonus (£75) – Dorothy Roberts

On behalf of our Church, may I thank you for your support and wish you Good Luck in 2013.

***Derek Worthington***

## **Notes from Church Council Meeting: 10-12-12**

A minute's silence was held, in memory of Dorothy Rostern

Material from The Buildings Advisory Group had been made available; this will now be kept by Roger Mills, in his capacity as Trustee Property Steward.

**Finance:** Tuning of the organ will go ahead; repairs to be discussed with Gary Owens. A meeting of The Men's Fellowship will be arranged, to see whether members wish to continue. Arrangements for a new loop-system are in hand.

**Treasurer:** A modest surplus is forecast for the end of the year.

**Efforts:** The Christmas Concert was very successful. Arrangements are already in place for next year's events. The Chairman's resignation was received with regret.

**Communications and Worship, with Young People:** All keyholders are required to return their keys to Roy Wilkinson; these will be re-issued, on signature of the Responsibilities document. June Clarke has volunteered to be our Safeguarding Officer. June and Beryl are now certificated for safeguarding children.

**Charity Committee:** Next year's charity will be the North-West Air Ambulance; one of their representatives will speak during the service on 13-1-13.

**The Minister** reported on the recent Safeguarding Course; we need to be vigilant about accidents and incidents.

Members of the "Home" Seminars will conduct a service, in January.

Plans for Christmas services are well in hand.

In 2013, open meetings will be arranged to discuss Assisted Suicide, and Growth.

**NELUM Report:** We are to host the NELUM AGM, in March, when it is hoped that the GA President will attend. Beryl and John had attended a meeting, at Cross Street, Manchester, to discuss improvements to communication with the Executive Committee.

**The Membership Secretary** reported that Lorraine Maden had been welcomed as a new member.

Receipt-slips will be available, in the New Year; members are reminded that the first £30 of each individual's annual contribution goes towards the GA Quota, and not to church funds.

**Bazaar Assessment:** Although the event had been successful, we need to give thought to its long-term future.

Betty Kenyon and Anne Mills will be our delegates to the **GA AGM's**, next April.

**Correspondence:** We have received apologies from Neil Long and Tony Trehy for the problems caused by the "Light Night" event.

**AOB:** Surplus items, mainly from the Bazaar, will be disposed of. A camera, to record events, is to be purchased.

Roger was thanked for taking the Minutes; a volunteer is required for the February, 2013 meeting.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Our Congregational AGM will take place on **Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013**, at 7.30 p.m.

On Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, we are invited to visit Bury United Reformed Church; members of this church will visit us, on Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **THE VESTRY**

An additional lock and privacy-signs have now been fitted to the door of the Vestry. Please respect them, in order to allow those who wish to discuss confidential matters to do so, undisturbed. Thank you. **Anne**

## **TRAIDCRAFT**

The stall will be open on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you require items, at other times, please ask.

## **FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE**

The next meeting will take place on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10.30 a.m.

Collecting-boxes are now available, ready-prepared with stickers for the North-West Air Ambulance, this year's chosen charity. The project began on January 13<sup>th</sup>, when a NWAA volunteer, Les Hardy, gave an account of his work, during the service; this was both inspirational and moving, and seemed to indicate what a worthwhile charity this is.

The first event of the year will be a Quiz Evening, with Pie and Peas Supper, to be held on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets will be available from early February; please make a note of the date in your diary.

## **JUNIOR CHURCH PRIZEGIVING**

Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> was the occasion of our first service of the year, and the day of our Prizegiving. The members of the Junior Church discussed with Beryl their previous day's outing to the pantomime ("Cinderella", at Oldham Coliseum), and it seemed that an excellent time had been had by all!

We had previously invited Colin and Muriel to present the prizes, but, at the last minute, we were informed that both of them were ill and could not be present; we wish them both a speedy recovery.

Obviously, we needed replacements---and, in the face of disaster, inspiration struck! It was Alice Whewell's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday, that very day, and it was also exactly 40 years since John Allerton had conducted his first service for the new Bury Unitarian Church. So John escorted Alice to her seat, at the front, and read out the names of the six children who had won prizes. Alice handed out the books, commented on them, asked each child's name, and demanded---and received--- a kiss from each one! What a star she was; thanks and congratulations to Alice, who received flowers and a card from the congregation, for making our service so special and joyous. Both June and Olive received a bouquet of flowers, too, to thank them for all the work they do with the Junior Church. This service reviewed the past year's events, as well as looking forward to the coming year---a high "feel-good" factor, and an excellent beginning to 2013!

## **SUNSHINE SMARTIES**

New tubes are now available; please collect them, eat the sweets (if you must!) and replace them with 20p pieces. The proceeds go towards church-funds and, last year, raised £360---a magnificent total! Thank you to all who contributed to this.

Concert by The Sam Ali Trio

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February

*Music on the theme of 'Love'*

Tickets £5.00 including wine and nibbles.

Please give your support for the church and for Sam who has been playing the organ for us for almost a year during which we have enjoyed the most wonderful music.

## **REUNION SERVICE AND LUNCH**

Some people may remember that we held a reunion service many (20+) years ago and it was much enjoyed and it is hoped to repeat that this year.

The service is planned for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May. Invitations will be sent out early to invite people to come and meet up with old friends and maybe make new ones. The success of this depends on members giving names and contact details for people, maybe family or friends, or those they remember who were members of the church or the Sunday School in the past. Please think about who we might invite give their names to Beryl (please write them down) and make this a special occasion.

Minister's Two Months

Except that I was suffering from flu during much of it I had a wonderful Christmas at church and at home. Christmas at church was busy and enjoyable. From GA Presidents to grumpy camels, from rousing carols to delicious beef butties we celebrated in style. It was a team effort and to all who made up the team I would like to say a heartfelt thanks. The services were mostly very well attended but numbers at the communion service and Christmas morning service were sadly disappointing.

The new year began with the Junior Church Prize-Giving. Alice Whewell (celebrating her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday) assisted by John Allerton (40 years since his first service at Bury) presented books to our young people and Alice received kisses in return. There were tears and smiles in equal measure among the large congregation. We were sorry that Muriel and Colin Smith who should have been officiating were unable to do so due to illness. We wish them a speedy return to health.

During the address on this first Sunday of the year I asked people to stand up in response to things that they had offered to the church over the last year. At the end, everyone was standing. It is good to remember that the life of the church depends on what we offer to it, the more we give, the richer it will be. The most important thing we give to the church and each other is, as I said at the service, – being there- week by week. You may not think that you being there or not makes a difference but it does, it makes a difference to everyone else who is there. And everyone else there makes a difference to you. Being there week by week builds a strong community.

On the home front I took some time off over New Year to take a few days away. John and I went to the Lake District to spend a few days with family. It was very cold and very windy and the converted barn we stayed at seemed to let the wind in through lots of cracks and crevices. One evening, watching television, Dawn wore two thick sweaters, a fleece, a large woolly scarf and a hat! We travelled on from The lakes to Teesdale where it was equally cold outside but much warmer in a cosy cottage where we stayed with friends.

I returned home fully recovered from flu and ready to face 2013 when I hope we can work & worship together to make it another good year for Bury Unitarian Church.

**Beryl**

## ACCIDENT RECORDS

Please note that if an accident happens, details must be recorded in an 'Accident Book' which is located in the cupboard, under the bookshelves, in the lounge. Thank you.

## MOTION CONCERNING ASSISTED SUICIDE / GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A meeting will be arranged during the month of March to discuss the topic before our delegates attend the General Assembly. Please read the documents relating to this which are available for borrowing and are located in the lounge.

## NEWS FROM AINSWORTH

### Sunday Services in February

3 February 10.00am Rev Desmond Porter

17 February 10.00am Rev Helen Mills

(Minister at Walmsley Chapel)

*Services are normally held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> Sundays of each month with visiting preachers.*

Church Secretary	to be appointed
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