

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2014

SERVICES

- | | | |
|-------------|---------|--|
| 2 February | 11.15am | The Minister |
| 9 February | 11.15am | The Minister – A representative from The Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary will talk about the work of our chosen charity for 2014. |
| 16 February | 11.15am | The Minister |
| 23 February | 11.15am | Rev Tony McNeile |

CHURCH STEWARDS

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 2 February | Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell |
| 9 February | Lois & Alan Williams |
| 16 February | Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert |
| 23 February | Margaret & John Fitzpatrick |

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

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|-------------|----------------------------|
| 2 February | Church Flowers |
| 9 February | Church Flowers |
| 16 February | In memory of Jack Crabtree |
| 23 February | In memory of Mary Scholes |

Distributors: Margaret Pollard & Edna Wilkinson

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

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|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 February | Beryl Allerton & Nora Hickson |
| 8 February | Anne & Roger Mills |
| 15 February | Marc Peters & Philip Peters |
| 22 February | Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos |

LUNCHEON CLUB

We will meet on Tuesday, February 18th, at 12.30 p.m. The organisers are Susan and Margaret. Please let them know if you usually attend and are unable to do so

.DISTRICT WOMEN'S LEAGUE AGM at BURY

Saturday 1 February at 12 noon followed by lunch at 1.00pm.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 6 February – Time and Speaker to be announced from the pulpit.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 26 February at 11.00am. A Talk and Slide show on the history of Ainsworth Chapel by *Steve Horrocks*. Afterwards we retire to the 'Trackside' for our usual lunch.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 24 February at 7.00pm. The book to be discussed is: *The Murder Room* by P.D.James. This book will be available from the lounge cupboard by 30 January.

100 CLUB

The 100 CLUB was very successful for the Church in 2013. More numbers were included so it was decided to give an extra prize and we gave an extra £25 in July which was won by Jean Maden. The Christmas Bonus of £75 was won by Val Chamberlain. We also had two very lucky people who won twice last year, which I don't think has ever happened before.

Last year's winners were: January – Molly Ratcliffe, February – Freda Worthington, March – Jean Jackson, April – Joe Ashworth, May – Barbara Bamford, June – Dorothy Roberts, July – Alf Howson, August – Barbara Chadwick, September – Molly Ratcliffe, October – Colin Smith, November – Barbara Chadwick, December – Martin Bartlett.

The financial year for the 100 Club starts from 1st March. Can you all please ensure that I have your £12 per number before the March Draw. If you'd like an extra number, please let me know; there are plenty to choose from. Good Luck for 2014! **Derek Worthington**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3 February	7pm	Finance & General Purposes
8 February	11am	Charity
10 February	7pm	Church Council
17 February	7.0pm	Charity & Efforts
26 February	7.0pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last date for items to be included in the March Calendar will be Sunday 16 February. Please email if possible.

NOTES FROM THE MEETING OF CHURCH COUNCIL HELD ON 9-12-13.

A minute's silence was observed, in memory of Beryl Oliver, a church-member for 37 years.

Finance: Howard Maden had carried out a Fire Risk Assessment, during the Bazaar; comments were positive, on the whole, and improvements would be implemented; a small committee has been formed to discuss caretaker's duties; the cleaners continue to be monitored; 2 members wished to withdraw from making individual quota-payments; there was no wish to withdraw, as a church, from the General Assembly.

The Treasurer reported that we would probably make a small loss at the year-end; bills for the Quota Payment had not yet been sent out.

Efforts: The concert on 30-11-13 was very successful; a meeting is to be arranged to discuss a possible merger between this committee and the Charity Committee; prices for hot drinks served during Saturday-morning coffee will rise, from January 1st, and beakers will be used, as well as cups.

Communications and Worship, with Young People: The Light Night was successful; arrangements for December and January services were discussed; a card and gift will be presented to Alice Whewell on the occasion of her 100th Birthday; Val Chamberlain will present the Junior Church prizes; it was agreed that Sam would be allowed to practise on the organ, once a week; the children will have a party at church, on January 4th; help is still needed with the Junior Church, which plans to move back into the Primary Department in the New Year.

The Minister reported that pastoral demands were very heavy; recent special services had been very good; Rev.Bill Darlison, the G.A. President visited on December 1st and wishes to return, next year; the visitors from Rochdale enjoyed their visit; a series of seminars (Personal Unitarianism) is planned for the New Year.

Charity: £1,271.46 was raised for North West Air Ambulance; next year's charity will be the Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary; next year's programme was drawn up.

Post-Bazaar Assessment Meeting: this was a social and financial success; improvements were suggested for next year; storage, tidiness and security ought to be much better; we seem to need only one day for setting-up; the start-time is hoped to be 10 a.m; staffing had been a problem, because of illness, on the day.

40th Anniversary Celebrations Group Report: The first report from 40 years ago has appeared in the December /January Calendar; enquiries are to be made about the provision of a plant-pot and 40 bulbs under the exterior notice-board; plans for a celebratory meal are in hand.

NELUM last met on 25-10-13, at Rawtenstall; Jackie Woodman is now the District's Executive Committee Representative but has not made contact; a discussion on Future Leadership, at Bolton, had been disappointing; a follow-up meeting will be arranged; a First Aid Course will be organised, next spring, and we should try to send two people to it; arrangements for next year's AGM will be simplified in order to improve attendance.

G.A. Delegates: To date, no-one had volunteered, so it was decided to extend the deadline to the beginning of January.

Correspondence: it was agreed that, on Christmas Day, we would have a retiring collection in aid of The Philippines disaster; the results of the Congregational Audit will be posted on the notice-board.

A.O.B: It was suggested that 2014 Church Council Meetings could be held on Wednesdays, instead of Mondays. Concern was expressed over the untidiness in the Primary Room; arrangements for clearing it were put in hand.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 2nd and 16th. Fairtrade Fortnight, this year, runs between February 24th and March 9th, when I hope to organise a specific event for it. **Anne**

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

New tubes of Smarties are now available and ready to be filled with 20 pence pieces

---20 pence for each day on which the sun shines! Last year, we raised £331.10 for church-funds. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

STEWARDING

We have regular lettings, each Monday and Wednesday evening, and these lettings provide us with valuable income. However, we are always in need of stewards; if you can help, please speak to Marc about Mondays, and Margaret Fitzpatrick about Wednesdays. The more stewards we have, the less often people need to turn out. Thank you.

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

Our charity for 2014 is to be the Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, at Edenfield; we have already been in touch with them and hope that they will be joining us for a service, and for events, soon. Our first fund-raising event will be:

Annual Quiz with Pie & Peas Supper

Saturday 22 February at 7.30pm

Tickets £6 from members of the Charity Committee

Come along and be sure of a great evening of pitting our wits!!

Quiz-masters Doug & Enid Cathcart

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

On January 6th, Alice Whewell celebrated her 100th Birthday---many congratulations! On the 5th, she was presented with a rug, flowers, a bottle of Baileys, and a card signed by members of the congregation; Alice's health was drunk, and a piece of excellent birthday cake, plus the now-traditional tot of Bailey's with coffee, added the final touch to a splendid occasion.

January 5th was also the occasion of the Junior Church prize-giving, when the children received their books from Val Chamberlain. On the previous day, with a few friends, they visited the cinema, before returning to church for a party and tea; a good time was had by all!

NOTES FROM 1974 (2)

By February, the new congregation was settling into their new premises; they worked hard to learn about their new church and how to use its rooms and facilities to best advantage, whether this was for small gatherings or large-scale functions. Their Minister, Rev. John Allerton, was commended for guiding the spiritual life of the church and for providing insight into facets of Unitarian faith and exploring all other world religions.

In his Church Secretary's report for 1974, the then Secretary, Norman Haworth, reported: "The first service was held on February 10th, and the impressive dedication of the building and its congregation took place on March 9th. So culminated the enterprise which had begun with the realisation that dry-rot within the structure of the Bank Street church had become too extensive to effect an adequate and permanent cure, the closure of the Chesham and Heywood churches and the merging of their respective memberships with that of Bank Street into a new congregation of Bury Unitarian Church." A daunting task, indeed, yet one which succeeded admirably, as we can all testify!

Norman also commented that the building of the new church was achieved relatively quickly, owing to advances in technology; he was pleased to report that an excellent colour film, recording the transition from the old buildings to the new, had been produced.

The first Church Council Meeting in the new church took place on Wednesday, February 13th, 1974, and was chaired by Bernard Haughton; incidentally, although no start-time is given for this meeting (7.45 p.m?), it was noted that it finished at 10.55 p.m! During the meeting, the question of advertising for a Caretaker was discussed, and Council decided that, as an alternative, a cleaner should be sought; meanwhile, volunteers would clean the building, the rota for which would be organised by Mrs. Jean Jackson. It was announced that 110 people had booked for a Buffet Dance, and a trio had been obtained; sadly, I have not been able to find any more information about such a splendid-sounding occasion; does anyone remember it? A letter had been received from Upper Chapel, Sheffield, requesting permission to visit Bury Unitarian Church in the summer; this was approved by Council, in principle, and the Ministers of the two churches subsequently embarked upon preliminary negotiations.

Life in the new church was well under way!

Anne Mills

MINISTER'S MONTH

It always seems strange to write about Christmas when it already seems so long ago. Yet this is the only opportunity. I thought we had a good Christmas with very varied services. Thank you to all those who read so excellently, to the choir who contributed so much to every service and to Pam who once again provided us with a delicious festive lunch. We are fortunate and very blessed.

I am glad to welcome Molly back into her role as Flower Secretary after her recent illness, to some extent from purely selfish reasons as I have helped Rene with flowers in Molly's absence. This is a good time to say thank you for all the beautiful floral arrangements we enjoy throughout the year.

At the service on Christmas Day we actually had a six week old baby, Andrew David, the youngest member of the Healey family. Following in family footsteps he will be baptised this year at the church. It was

decided to have a retiring collection for the people of the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan and thanks to everyone's great generosity this raised £160.00. This has been sent to the 'Clara Barton' Red Cross Appeal.

A quick lunch after service and we went off to open presents with family then, with the car even more loaded, on to Yorkshire for dinner. It is a tradition that each Boxing Day we go for a walk and have an annual 'how are we looking now' photograph taken, with friends, always at the same place by the village pond. Over the years the pond has not changed as much as we have. For New Year we made our usual trip to Teesdale where it was wet, wet, wet. I visited the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle for an exhibition of Laura Ashley dresses. Some of you may remember that I wore a Laura Ashley dress when John and I got married thirty years ago. The frills, pin-tucks, ruffles and puffed sleeves seemed so old-fashioned but then they were even when they were fashionable.

The first Sunday of 2014 was one of celebration. Val Chamberlain was wonderful distributing the prizes to the Junior Church. The children were amazed when she produced the book her mother had received as a prize from Sunday School exactly 80 years ago to the day. There were flowers and thanks for our Junior Church Leader, June. Three of the male choir members sang us into the epiphany hymn 'We Three Kings'. And of course we were celebrating Alice Whewell's hundredth birthday. Anne presented her with gifts from the congregation, one of which was, of course, a bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream. Then at the end of the service a toast, to Alice and to our church which this year celebrates forty years in the 'new' building.

A healthy, happy New Year to you all.

Beryl

I will be away on Sunday 23rd February and for a few days before and after that.

FUNERAL

On Thursday 19th December the Minister conducted the funeral service for Beryl Kirkman Oliver at the East Lancashire Crematorium. To Beryl's family and friends we offer sincere condolences.

BIRTHDAY

It's not usual to put birthdays in the calendar but then it is not usual to celebrate a 100th birthday. Alice Whewell has been a member of the church for many years and for a long time she sang in the choir and was a loyal member of the Women's league. It was wonderful to welcome her to church on the day before her birthday. We congratulate Alice and wish her health and happiness. The opening words of the service on 5 January were **a poem written by Alice Whewell.**

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

What a special occasion this is---

A joy to look back and reminisce.

Hundred years of worship in this, God's holy place,

Where everyone is welcome; there is always a friendly face.

Through the church calendar and seasons we share;

God knows all our needs and hears every prayer.

Through life's ups and downs, there is someone there,

Always ready with their love and care.

So let us be grateful for what we share:

Family and friends and God's loving care.

NELUM Meeting Monday 27th January 7.15pm.

The meeting will be held at Halliwell Road Church in Bolton. This will be the last meeting there because the church is closing and is for sale.

Everyone is welcome at NELUM Meetings and particularly at this one as the life of this congregation closes.

ALICE WHEWELL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Dear Friends,

I would like to say on behalf of my mother and myself our special thanks to all our friends at this church for all they did to make my mother's 100th Birthday one she will never forget.

Thank you for all the cards and the generosity with regards to the cheque and blanket she also received---and last but not least to our minister, Beryl, for organising the whole thing.

Thank you all once again and God bless,

Peter.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
Church Website	http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk
Minister's telephone	0161 761 2960
Minister's email	theallertons@talktalk.net
Editor's telephone	01706 822651
editor's email	pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt	078767 16563
Chair of Church Council	Betty Kenyon	01204887222
Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury BL9 5HD	0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	Anne Mills	
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	