

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
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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, 0161 764 6374
Lettings Secretary	Margaret Fitzpatrick 0161 764 6374

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2018

January 2018 – Junior Church Prize-giving – at which, a certificate was awarded to June Clarke which read – Awarded to June Clarke for her commitment to working with Bury Unitarian Junior Church for many years. Betty Kenyon presented the prizes.

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2018

CHURCH SERVICES

4 February	11.15am	The Minister
11 February	11.15am	The Minister ***
18 February	11.15am	The Minister
25 February	11.15am	The Minister - <i>followed by Communion</i>

***MEDICAL ASSISTANCE DOGS

During Sunday's Service, 11 February, a speaker from Medical Assistance Dogs, a voluntarily-run Charity for which we will be raising funds on our **QUIZ NIGHT 10 MARCH**, will be coming to tell us all about the wonderful skills of their dogs, and how they assist both in detecting disease and alerting patients to get help, thus avoiding crises. It is a fascinating story not to be missed.

CHURCH STEWARDS

4 February	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
11 February	Betty & Neville Kenyon
18 February	Marian Price & Di Scaife
25 February	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If the date given is difficult for you, please change with another steward(s).

CHURCH FLOWERS

4 February	Adrian Brady - In memory of Mary O'Mahony Brady
11 February	Sue McMullen – In memory of Connie & Derek Fitzgerald
18 February	Allan Hodgert & Barbara Bamford – In memory of Ted & Eda Gerrard
25 February	Janet Thatcher

Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 February Betty Kenyon & Kate Mckenna
10 February Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
17 February June Clarke & Sue McMullen
24 February Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 February Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Barbara Freemantle
11 February Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford & Peter Whewell
18 February Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams & Di Scaife
25 February Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Jean Taylor, Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING FEBRUARY

Weds. 7 February at 7pm – Finance & General Purposes
Mon. 12 February at 7pm – Social & Fund-raising
Weds. 14 February at 7pm – Church Council
Weds. 21 February at 7pm – Trustees AGM

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the March edition of The Calendar will be **Sunday 18th February** – thank you.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 1 February at 7.30pm – AGM

DONATIONS TOWARDS THE CALENDAR

The portal for donations towards Calendar production and distribution for 2018 is now **OPEN!**

Contributions, whatever size, will be gratefully received by Di Scaife, either at Church or by post to:

Twenty Pen'orth, Whitworth Rake, Whitworth, Rochdale OL12 8PQ

Currently, distribution and production costs run at £10 per year per calendar.

Cheques should be made payable to Bury Unitarian Church - Thank you.

FORTHCOMING FUND-RAISING EVENT

SING-A-LONG BAND

By popular demand!!!!

SATURDAY 10 FEBRUARY AT 7.30pm

Come and join in with the songs we all know.

Bring your own bottle or soft drink.

Tea, coffee & biscuits at the interval.

TICKETS £6

LUNCH CIRCLE

This will be held on Tuesday, February 20th, at 12.30 p.m. Susan and Margaret will act as hosts. New members are always welcome--- just sign up on the list on the board if you wish to attend.

If you find that you cannot be present, please let the organisers know, as soon as possible, either at church, on the Tuesday morning, or at home, at other times.

If anyone would like to volunteer to cook, occasionally, please speak to Anne or Susan; we also need help, each month, with clearing away, after the meal; all offers gratefully accepted!

Please note: at the January meeting, it was decided that, in future, if diners wished to accompany their meals with wine, or other drinks, they should bring their own supplies.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 4th and 18th; please ask Anne or Jean if you require items at other times. Last year's figures show a pleasing increase in sales; thank you to all who support the stall.

Further to Kate's service about Toilet-Twinning, on January 14th, please be aware that, by buying fairly-traded items, we can help to improve standards of living; Traidcraft's profits, for example, are returned to the groups which produce for them, and are used to help

people to help themselves, by supplying housing, and other buildings, water-supplies, drains, sewers, education, and health-education---all of which we take for granted but are barely accessible to those in developing countries; every sale makes such a difference to those who have so little.

We first began to sell Traidcraft on the last Sunday in November, 2003, and have sold at least £2,000' worth of goods, per year, ever since---a magnificent effort!

On March 4th, the middle Sunday of Fair Trade Fortnight, the service will concentrate on Fair Trade in Bury; there will be speakers from the Bury Group, and The Mayor and Leader of the Council will also be present. A selection of fairly-traded refreshments will be served after the service. Come and join us!

POST-CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Raffle raised a total of £220; thank you to everyone who supported this, and to the organisers, especially June.

The collection taken after Gordon and Veronica Walker's reading of "A Christmas Carol", plus the profit from the lunch, amounted to £142.00, which was divided equally between Prostate Cancer UK and Fortalice (in support of abused women and children); moreover, the donation to Prostate Cancer UK attracted matching-funding from a charitable foundation, so this doubled what we sent to them. Thank you to everyone who supported this event, to Susan for organising the lunch, to Anne for organising the performance, and to Gordon and Veronica for their generosity in reading to us, and for waiving a fee, in favour of donations.

NELUM MINISTERS' GROUP

Rev. Jim Corrigan has sent news of the next event to be organised by the above group; their first event was the Julian of Norwich

workshop, held at Bury, and led by Kate. On Saturday, February 24th, 2018, there is to be a Taizé session, led by Rev. Jeff Gould, at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester. The session will be held between 2.30 and 4.00 pm; refreshments will be served, at the end of the afternoon. The music selected will have a Lenten theme. Please put this date in your diaries and come along, if you can.

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

We are quite often in need of occasional help, on Sundays, if the regular servers are absent; if you can assist, please speak to Barbara Freemantle, or just offer, on the day.

Rene Hollos has had to step down from helping with Sunday coffee, after several years. Thank you for all your hard work, Rene; we are all very grateful.

CHURCH CAMERA

Last year, we bought a very simple point-and-shoot camera for church use. The intention of this was that any member of the congregation who wished to take photographs of church-events could do so, simply by fetching the camera from the vestry, where it is kept, at present. However, there has been very limited usage of the camera, so far, and, at the December Church Council, it was decided to promote the idea further. If you require more information, or help, please speak to Roger. Above all, please consider using the camera, if only to practise!

CAMERA CLUB

The next meeting has been arranged for **Monday, February 5th, at 7 pm**. All are welcome---come along, if you wish---no previous experience necessary!

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Wednesday 28 February – we are not sure yet what is happening to the Library Books so keep a watching brief!!

UNITARIAN EARTH SPRIT NETWORK

The local Bolton group, led by Rev Tony McNeile is growing in numbers. In December the group enjoyed a peaceful and meditative meeting on the eve of the Winter Solstice. We lit candles and shared our memories of past Christmases or other winter celebrations. There were some lovely memories of toy forts and dolls houses made by parents – inexpensive in terms of money but taking hours of care in cold garages. We looked forward to our hopes for the coming year.

The group has an interesting programme of events planned for the year.

- Imbolc Sat 3rd February, 2pm Unity Chapel Hall, Chorley New Rd
- Ostara Sat 24th March 2pm Unity Chapel Hall Chorley New Rd
- Beltane Sat 5th May Visit Stone circle or May Day event
- Lithia Thu 21st June Greet the sun, Rivington Pike
- Lammas Sat 4th Aug Visit another group in another district.
- Mabon Sat 22nd Sep Visit Derbyshire Well dressing
- Samhain Wed 31st Oct 7pm Unity Chapel Hall Chorley New Rd

Yule Fri 21st Dec 7pm Unity Chapel Hall Chorley New Rd

The Bolton UESN group also plans to be involved in planting ceremonies with other groups for the Northern Forest.

Have a chat with Val Chamberlain if you are interested in any of these events, or just want to ask questions about the UESN : it may not be your 'cup of tea', but it's always interesting to know about other activities and groups within our movement.

TOILET TWINNING

After the Church service on the 14th January 2018 the sermon must have pricked some consciences and George Scaife together with Damian Langford have volunteered to take part in a sponsored Charity event, to raise funds for the Church to take part in the Toilet Twinning. This is to raise funds for those who are not fortunate enough, to not only have toilets in their own home, but they do not have the facilities in their villages.

This is a terrible situation for those unfortunate people who have to risk not only being attacked by animals but also rapists and the added threat of disease through lack of good sanitation in their home and village.

George can remember when his house was the first in his street to have a bathroom fitted inside. Not having to go to the outside lav was a luxury. Let us help with this exemplary work and sponsor George and Damian.

I can hear you all saying "but what is the charity event?"

George and Damian will be taking part in abseiling down the Peel Tower at Holcombe Hill on the 7th July in co-operation with the East Lancashire Freemasons who are organising the operation to raise funds principally for the Young Persons Committee. They have very kindly offered the venue open to other worthy causes.

It has been suggested that the sums raised be split between the above mentioned causes.

What can you do?

When you see the sponsorship forms on the notice board the get your pen out and pledge a sum of money and sponsor George and Damian.

It is a very worthy Charity, so every time you enjoy indoor running and flushing water remember those who do not have that luxury. Help them to be flushed with success. **George and Damian.**

BURY UNITARIANS 100 CLUB.

George Scaife is now collecting the money for the Monthly Draw which is remaining at £12 per number for the Twelve months.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

One of the things I was told about when I was first looking at Bury for a ministry was the dampness of the weather: I don't think it's actually stopped raining for the last 48 hours, except when it wanted to snow! But that's January in England, and reports from Norfolk tell me that it's worse down there.

But it doesn't get in the way of how much I love living in Bury. Over the autumn and winter we had three separate sets of visitors (friends of mine from Norfolk twice, and Ade's parents over Christmas and the new year) and I definitely realised how proud I was to be able to show them a tiny bit of what Bury has to offer.

None of them escaped a visit to Slattery's (I don't know why no one told me about that the minute I arrived), but we've also had trips on the steam railway, the market (obviously), up to the Peel Tower, wandering round Ramsbottom, and investigating Bury itself. We also made it to the transport museum, finally, which was a real treat.

I think when you're used to somewhere it's easy to forget about some of what it has to offer - you always know you can do it another time - certainly there are places in Norwich I never did get round to visiting, or only visited once I knew I was leaving.

I wonder if that's the case about church as well? I've said before that I'd had no idea how glorious our church building was before I first visited (I've even confessed that before I saw it for the first time I assumed it was going to be ugly!). I think we get used to what we've got, so it was lovely to get the opportunity to show off about the building and the way we use it in the colour issue of the Inquirer.

It was really lovely too, late last year, to spend part of a Worship, Communications, and Junior Church meeting discussing the attributes of our youngest members, so that their annual prizes could be personal. It's easy to see "the children" as a big mass of small people, but it was a treat to be able to discuss them each as individuals, and to acknowledge that they're an active part of our community.

We're really lucky to have a junior church, and it's always a pleasure to see them joining in with everyone else. I'm sure I'm not the only one who's hugely grateful to the adults who give up their time and skills to spend time with them each week. Starting this year they are going to be staying in the service with the adults one Sunday a month, so the order of service will change slightly - so watch this space. I know you're always willing to accept change and experiments - and as always, I really hope you'll talk to me if there's anything you want to raise.

You'll have seen a clarification in the calendar about funerals, which I hope clears things up and sorts out any upset there was about it. Another clarification: although I am normally in the vestry on a Friday and you are very welcome to drop in, this is as well as other pastoral visits, not instead. I'm still trying to get to see everyone, and some people are needing more visits and phone calls than others: but please keep letting me know if you, or anyone else, would benefit from me calling round. I am always delighted to do that.

Finally, cold though it is, I'm sure I'm not alone in noticing that the days are definitely getting longer. Let's hold on to that thought and look forward to seeing sunshine again!

With love, **Kate**

FUNERALS AT BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

There seems to have been some confusion around the last article in the Calendar about arranging funerals at Bury Unitarian Church. I apologise for that.

Hopefully the following will clarify things:

It is very important to everyone at church that something as personal and important as a funeral is done in the way the deceased person, their family, and their loved ones want it to be.

As the settled minister, the first contact about funerals should be made with me.

We can then talk about the funeral, and when there are particular requests – for specific things in the service, or for it to happen somewhere else, or for someone else to lead the service, for instance – of course I will do my best to make those things happen.

If other people are contacted first, it gets very complicated.

So in a nutshell: please contact me first but please also know that your wishes, and those of the deceased person, are the primary concern.

If you want to discuss the situation any further, please speak to me about it: things are cleared up much more quickly if they're dealt with directly!

With love,

Kate.