

**BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2015**

SERVICES

| | | |
|-------------|---------|--------------|
| 1 February | 11.15am | The Minister |
| 8 February | 11.15am | The Minister |
| 15 February | 11.15am | The Minister |
| 22 February | 11.15am | The Minister |

CHURCH STEWARDS

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 February | Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell |
| 8 February | Lois & Alan Williams |
| 15 February | Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert |
| 22 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

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1 February | Mrs Shirley Healey – in loving memory of my husband and friend David. |
| 8 February | Mrs Barbara Spencer – in memory of Nora Fletcher |
| 15 February | Susan Holt – in memory of Jack Crabtree |
| 22 February | In memory of Mary Scholes |

Distributor: Molly Ratcliffe

Donations for flowers may be given to Molly. Help to distribute flowers after the service on Sundays and/or arranging for them to be delivered to anyone who is ill, would be greatly appreciated – please speak to Molly.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7 February | Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor |
| 14 February | Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson |
| 21 February | Marc Peters & Philip Peters |
| 28 February | Beryl Allerton & Norah Hickson |

HELP – VOLUNTEER NEEDED – We are one person short on the Coffee Morning Rota. If you feel you could help out it would be greatly appreciated. It entails baking/or providing cakes and being willing to help in the kitchen on one Saturday morning every nine weeks. The Saturday Coffee mornings provide a steady income for the church and also a good means of introducing local people to us as a congregation. We would also appreciate roping in one other person to be ‘on standby’ in case one of the regulars is not able to do it on a certain day. If you feel you could help to fill these gaps, please speak to Jean Taylor.

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will be held on Tuesday, February 17th, at 12.30 p.m. when Beryl will be the host. Please sign up on the list on the notice-board if you wish to attend. New members are always welcome. Shrove Tuesday – there will be pancakes!!!

WOMEN’S LEAGUE

Thursday 5 February at 7.30pm – Barbara Hardman will talk about **‘Things You Can Do With Patchwork’**. This will be followed by the A.G.M.

CALENDAR DEADLINE will be Sunday February 22 for the MARCH CALENDAR.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on February 1st and 15th; if you require items at other times, please ask. The new Spring brochure should be available early this month. Fair Trade Fortnight begins on February 23rd.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY

Monday 2 February at 7.00pm Finance & General Purposes

Monday 9 February at 7.00pm Church Council

Monday 23 February at 7.00pm Trustees and AGM

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

New tubes of (full) Smarties are now available and can be collected from Brenda Ainsworth. Last year, we raised a total of £316.70, which was slightly lower than the previous year, but a goodly contribution to church-funds, nevertheless.

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 sign up on the appropriate lists on the notice-board; the more stewards we have, the less often people need to turn out.

We also need someone to co-ordinate the Monday evening Yoga lettings; this requires very little in terms of time and work; please speak to Anne Mills if you can help. Thank you.

CALENDAR DONATIONS

Donations towards the cost of the monthly Calendars for 2015 can be given to Jean Jackson – thank you.

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship-area, on Sunday, March 1st, 2015, commencing at 12.30 p.m. In 2014, we were not quorate, as this needs 25 members to attend; the change of time and day are an attempt to encourage more people to attend; the meeting is not expected to last for more than an hour, and coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand, at the end of a slightly shorter service.

Nomination-sheets for the election of officers and Council-members will be posted on the lounge notice-board, in advance of the meeting. Ideally, we need up to five people to serve for three years, and one person to serve for two years.

Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to Anne Mills, in writing, no later than Sunday, February 15th.

All officers are elected annually. Retiring Council-members, this year, are Robin Ainsworth, June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Roger Mills; they are not now eligible to serve for a year; Lois Williams has served for one year and could serve for a further two, if elected. Currently on Council, with a further year to serve, are Norah Hickson, Roy Holden, Rene Hollos, Sue McMullen and Molly Ratcliffe; Barbara Bamford, Val Chamberlain, Susan Mitchell and Peter Whewell still have two years to serve.

Please give thought to nominating people to serve as officers or Council-members; if everyone will volunteer to contribute, no matter in how small a way, we can continue to operate successfully. Please help, if you are able to do so.

Anne Mills: Church Secretary.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Although Christmas is rapidly fading from mind, it would be wrong not to give a mention to all the services held during December. As ever, all our services were of extremely high standard; music from the choir and our organists, and readings from church-members, were impressive, as well as entertaining and enjoyable, and it was clear that a great deal of effort beforehand had been involved. The G.A. President, Marian Baker, conducted the first service of the month, and it was good to welcome both Marian and Ernest to our church, once again. The Almost-Nativity Play, the following week, almost reduced Beryl's fingernails to zero, but the result was worthwhile---especially where the non-squeaking mice were concerned!

The Carols by Candlelight Service, just before Christmas, was amazing---in terms of atmosphere, content, and attendance; on an evening on which everybody was holding carol-services, we attracted over 80 people, many of whom had never visited us before, and all of whom thoroughly enjoyed themselves (not to mention the refreshments!)

Christmas Day saw a goodly number, too, although some regulars were prevented from attending by the cold and cough bug which has affected many people this Christmas; nevertheless, the retiring-collection, in aid of the Ebola crisis, resulted in a pleasing amount to add to the final total. Worship on December 28th began with Communion, and the service which followed looked back, with some nostalgia, on the many and varied events of our 40th year, as well as moving forward positively by welcoming two new members to the congregation: George and Di Scaife.

Christmas 2014 showed us at our very best; let's continue in the same vein throughout 2015!

BOOKCLUB

Monday 23 February at 7.00pm. Book will be in cupboard from 29.01.15.

ORGANISTS

The list is now complete for the year; during 2015, Chris Price will play on the first Sunday of each month; Chris Thompson on the second Sunday, and Barrie Brailsford on the third and fourth Sundays. This left a few dates to be filled, but that has been done. I am hoping that the new system will prove less stressful than the old one---and a great deal less work for me. **Anne**

JANUARY CELEBRATIONS

The members of the Junior Church enjoyed their usual celebrations during the weekend of January 3rd and 4th. On the Saturday, they watched a DVD, cinema-style (including popcorn!) and followed this with tea at McDonald's. A good time was had by all. On the Sunday, prizes were presented to regular attenders by Neville Kenyon; Neville ably deputised for Margaret Miller, who was indisposed, and paid tribute to her work as a Sunday School teacher. June Clarke was presented with a bouquet of flowers in appreciation of her valuable work as Junior Church leader.

Congratulations to Alice Whewell, who celebrated her 101st Birthday on January 6th---another milestone!

PUBLICITY PERSON

We are seeking a volunteer to be our 'Publicity Person'. This entails communicating with the Bury Times when we wish to place an advert or report in the newspaper i.e. to encourage attendance at a Special Service or Event. The person at the B.T. who deals with advertisements is most helpful and recent adverts have been exceptionally good thanks to her. If you feel you could help, please have a word with Anne Mills.

CHARITY COMMITTEE QUIZ

PIE AND PEAS SUPPER

SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY AT 7.30PM

Quizmasters - Doug & Enid Cathcart

Proceeds in aid of the

Prostate Cancer Support Group

Tickets from committee members nearer the time.

Come and exercise those little grey cells!!!

MINISTER'S MONTH

A busy and I think a very successful Christmas is now just a memory but a good memory with which to close our 40th Year. There was a very full church for 'Carols by Candlelight' and many of the people there were visitors. The worship area looked beautiful in the candlelight and it totally changed the space making it feel cosy and intimate. One couple remarked to me how different the service was – in a good way – that it retained the tradition of carols and readings but used material that people could relate to. Someone else said it was the first time they had ever laughed in church and how good that felt. I was reminded that most people think all

churches are the same and it is only when they experience how a Unitarian service is different that they begin to understand that they are not. I am therefore thinking that in 2015 I will try to arrange some 'open' services that will encourage more visitors.

I was surprised, when I put together the final service of the year, how busy the anniversary year had been, as well as numerous excellent social events there were twenty one special services. Good to look back and be able to say how well 2014 was celebrated. In 2019 it will be the 300th anniversary of the founding of the church – now that really will be a celebration. Thank you to everyone, and I think that is probably everyone, who helped to make the year so special and to those who read and sang and stewarded in services, it is appreciated.

The beginning of the new church year is always marked by the prize giving for the Junior Church and a treat for the children the day before. This year on the Saturday, having a super new television, we decided to show a DVD in the church lounge and then take the children to McDonald's for tea. I find that children's films these days are beyond me, I am still in the era of Dumbo I think. But I do understand how much kids like chips and ice cream. A good time was had by all.

It is good to note that 2014 ended on a positive note when we welcomed back into membership Di and George Scaife, if only we had had some bells George could have rung them. **Love Beryl**

Tomorrow I fly to Venice for five days holiday and am in that stage of, should I take this or this or perhaps that. Will I need two or three pairs of shoes, should I take my boots, etc. etc. What is the Italian for panic?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The funeral of Lilian Sharples took place at the church on Wednesday 7th January conducted by the Minister the service was followed by committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium.

We offer our condolences to Jack and Philip on the loss of their wife and mother.

The wedding of Sarah Clarke and Richard Thatcher (son of Janet and Ron) took place on Friday 23rd January the service was conducted by the Minister.

To Sarah and Richard we offer our very best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

The Seminar Group will recommence on Tuesday 3rd February. The subject for discussion that evening will be 'Forgiveness'.

NOTES FROM 1974

These notes are now complete and can be viewed on our website; follow the link on the right-hand side of the Home Page. As well as the pieces that appeared during last year, there is now a Foreword and a supplementary item. There is also a link from Facebook, if it is easier to access the information in this way. If you would like a printed copy, it may be possible to supply one to individuals; please speak to Anne or Roger.

CHRISTMAS PANTOS AT CHESHAM UNITS – a trip down Memory Lane

I guess you could say that it all began at Chesham Junior & Infant School. My sisters – Pamela, Dorothea and I were pupils at Chesham Junior School which was in a rural part of Bury. This grand old building was previously a Gentlemen's Bowling & Snooker Pavilion. I was always intrigued to know what was behind the raised platform area at the far end of the hall. This was closed off by a long gold velvet curtain. As I joined the Sunday School, held in the same building, I soon found out!

It must have been in 1946 when I was four years old that I joined the chorus of tiny tots as we danced across the stage in fairy outfits. Watching the principals rehearse – people like Johnny, Albert, Barbara, Vera, Gordon Smith and Barbara Davenport, of course, was wonderful. I could not wait for each December to go on stage – I was starstruck!!

Auntie Vi Mitcheson directed and was looked up to because she made things work. Pat Lupino Thompson taught us to dance. She was related to Ida Lupino and Lupino Lane. I even have a shilling sheet music copy after all this time of the song 'Lambeth Walk' with Lupino cast in the London production.

Auntie Dorothy (Birch) played the piano and couldn't she twinkle those keys? Mr Davenport played the drums and the scenery director was Edward Smith. The backstage team made a wonderful Cinderella coach. Constructed in the cellar, it had to be dismantled to get it onto the stage!

Barbara was Cinderella and we 'young uns' were horses with plumes on our heads. Harry Wilde did all the 'electricals' and Michael Lord dealt with lights and curtains.

The sewing room was a hive of activity. As one climbed the stairs, a noisy whirring sound met the ear. It was necessary to knock before entering and then you were met with racks and racks of covered fancy clothes. During the trying-on period you were a human pin cushion. Mrs Cheetham was in charge with the help of mums. We could not see what everyone else was wearing until the dress rehearsal, which made it even more secretive and exciting. Someone must have given the sewing team rolls of coloured

cellophane paper from The Transparent Paper Works in Bury. This was transformed into bubble costumes. We pointed our toes, lifted our balloons on canes and sang 'I'm forever blowing bubbles'.

As time went on, friendships developed, especially with those who were in your group. There were eight in ours, Barbara & Brenda Livesey, Doreen Luxton, Jean Norris, Antonia Spencer, Cathleen Cannon and a relative of Brenda & Barbara, and myself. I think Beryl Hargreaves, (now Allerton) was in a different group.

Things moved on and different principals emerged – Molly Adlam (Ratcliffe), Miriam Jones (Murphy). However the comic characters remained the same – Johnny and Albert, and we must not forget – Joe Ashworth – all doing their slapstick as dames. I believe Jack Entwistle was Simple Simon and Michael Lord the Giant.

Chesham was a thriving community and everyone joined in to make the pantomime a success. It was a 'sell-out' each night of the week. When I was eighteen, I too played a couple of lead roles and our group performed items from 'West Side Story'.

The church sent me to the Oxford Summer School for a week with Alex Rogers and I have memories of Great Hucklow, Flagg and the IRF in Germany. I know that she is no longer with us but I would like to thank Edith Heaton for giving me a Sunday School class to teach, pushing me onto the mobile pulpit and organ seat. These things helped me, later in life, to organise activities with young people – holiday missions, school assemblies, singing and dancing in groups.

I remember the warm feeling of friendship from the church at Chesham. I can still smell the greasepaint from the great pantos. Thanks Chesham Units. **Pat Mitton, (nee Twigg) now living in Yorkshire and receiving the Calendar via email.**

EBOLA COLLECTION

The collection for the Ebola Fund amounted to the sum of £210 – thank you everyone.

ADVANCE DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Ainsworth's 300th Anniversary Celebrations – Sunday April 19 at 3.00pm. The service will be conducted by Reverend John Allerton.

100 CLUB NEWS

We have come to the end of another year for the 100 Club. The church has benefitted quite well from your contributions. Half of your £12 per year goes to the church and for those who are eligible for Gift Aid, their £6 will have risen to £7.20 for church. In 2014 we had 82 numbers taken. This meant that the church contributions amounted to £492, plus the Gift Aid. The last draw for your £12 is next month – February. Your next year's membership contribution is due before the end of February, in order to ensure that your chosen number will be entered in the draw for March and in all the draws in 2015. Please let me have your £12 before the end of February. You may, if you wish, change your number or have another extra number!! Here is a list of the lucky winners in 2014. It is again, well-spread throughout the congregation.

JANUARY – SUSAN HOLT, FEBRUARY – COLIN SMITH, MARCH – LOIS WILLIAMS, APRIL – PETER WHEWELL, MAY – JUNE CLARKE, JUNE - TED GERRARD, JULY – ANNE MILLS, AUGUST – BERYL ALLERTON, SEPTEMBER – KAREN HAMPSON, OCTOBER – JOHN FITZPATRICK, NOVEMBER – MARC PETERS, DECEMBER – JEAN JACKSON. BONUS WINNERS – CHRISTMAS £75 – JOE ASHWORTH, SUMMER £25 – DEREK WORTHINGTON.

Many thanks for your support and good luck in 2015. **Derek Worthington**

WOMEN'S LEAGUE – MANCHESTER DISTRICT – AT BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

Saturday 7 February at 12.00 midday - LUNCH followed by a SERVICE LED BY SHEILAH SCOTT – NATIONAL PRESIDENT – followed by the A.G.M.