

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR JULY 2011

SERVICES

3 July	11.00am	Our congregation will visit Bury U.R.C.
10 July	11.15am	The Minister – Bury U.R.C. will worship with us at Bury
17 July	11.15am	The Minister
24 July	11.15am	The Minister
31 July	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 July **NO SERVICE - Our congregation will worship at the United Reformed Church in Bury at 11.00am.**

10 July	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
17 July	Freda & Derek Worthington
24 July	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
31 July	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden

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

10 July	Sue McMullen – In loving memory of Connie & Derek Fitzgerald
	Barbara Spencer – In memory of Nora Fletcher
17 July	Jean Jackson – In loving memory of Tom
24 July	In loving memory of Mrs Minnie Sharp
31 July	In loving memory of Fred & Eileen Bowdon

Distributors: Edna Wilkinson and Margaret Pollard

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 July	Vera Stephenson & friend
9 July	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
16 July	Molly Ratcliffe & Betty Kenyon
23 July	Anne & Roger Mills
30 July	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills 5 Arley Avenue Bury BL9 5HD 0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	Harry Taylor 457 Rochdale Old Road Jericho Bury BL9 7TB 0161 797 4414
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW 0161 764 6374

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
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Charity reg.no.	1078570
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Minister's telephone	0161 761 2960
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JULY

14 July	7.00pm	Communications & Worship and Young People
18 July	7.00pm	Bazaar Committee

Advance Notice

1 August	7.30pm	Finance & General Purposes
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LUNCHEON CIRCLE

There is no meeting in July.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

There is no meeting in July

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We shall meet on Tuesday 26 July at 7.30pm.

The speaker will be **Mr Roy Brooks** who will be speaking about **Rolls Royce**. All men cordially invited.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

The problems encountered with the Good Friday Walk of Witness were discussed at the Communications and Worship Meeting, on 24-5-11. Beryl, Harry, Molly and I then attended the Churches Together Meeting, on 26-5-11. This was not a straightforward meeting! The Secretary was absent, there was, therefore, no agenda, and the Chairman was cast into confusion! In addition, a group of 7 people representing the North Bury Churches Together group also attended, unexpectedly, and much of the meeting was spent in discussion of how this group would integrate with the Central and South Bury one. This will be a fairly lengthy process but, I think, will inject our group with vitality and new ideas.

Eventually, we requested an airing of the issues that had preoccupied us specifically. We were given a hearing (which was good), and it did seem that others in the group were prepared to respect our views; also, the Chairman apologised to us, both in the meeting and afterwards, for the fact that we had been upset by what had happened. We were able to show that Unitarians are capable of polite and reasoned discussion, even if we do not necessarily share the views of other denominations.

Whether we participate in next year's Walk of Witness remains to be seen; hopefully, there will be more consultation, generally, beforehand. One point that emerged, which needs to be clarified, was that, as Unitarians, we are only entitled to be Associate Members of Churches Together. The constitution---the national one---is trinitarian, and, therefore, not acceptable to Unitarians, who would be unwilling to sign it. What restrictions this imposes on us have not yet been stated, and we were left wondering how Churches Together groups in other areas deal with the same situation. We meet next in September, when this will be discussed again, so have the summer months in which to reflect.

Anne

WORKING GROUP

We met, on June 8th, and, again, had a thorough discussion. We have now formally requested Beryl to extend her Interim Ministry until mid-October, by which time the work she set out to do should be complete. Gratitude was again expressed to Beryl for all her efforts and achievements.

Susan wrote, on our behalf, to the Ainsworth congregation, to enquire whether they might be interested in a joint ministry with us. A meeting was held at Ainsworth, at the end of May, to discuss our offer; their decision to continue on their own (on account of dwindling membership and financial constraints) was unanimous. This was disappointing, as we had hoped to renew our links with Ainsworth; however, the relationship between the two congregations is deep-rooted and will continue, albeit informally.

At our previous meeting, we had discussed joint-ministries with other congregations in the area and concluded that none was suitable; some were already in settled ministries and did not wish to enter into partnership; others were too far away, geographically, to be truly practical. We considered, also, that a joint ministry might involve difficult changes or choices; would we be prepared, for example, to move to a regular afternoon or evening service, in order to accommodate another congregation, or to hold services every other Sunday, instead of weekly?

As we needed to make progress, we decided, after some discussion, that the time had come to place our name on the vacant pulpit list, in order to seek a full-time minister. I have already spoken to Linda Phillips, Director of Ministry, at Essex Hall, and she has indicated the next steps to be taken, which I shall be pursuing shortly. If you have questions or concerns, please address them to me or to Janet Thatcher.

Anne

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open, this month, on the second and fourth Sundays of the month: July 10th and 24th.

VISIT FROM DUNHAM ROAD UNITARIANS

This will take place on Thursday, July 7th, from 7.30 p.m. We have asked our visitors if they would like Beryl to conduct a short service and are awaiting their reply. Betty is to arrange a display of archive-material, which will explain the origins of our church, and a light supper will be served during the evening. This should be a very pleasant occasion, as well as a good opportunity to meet fellow-Unitarians from another congregation. Please join us, if you are able to do so. (Volunteers to help with the refreshments would be greatly appreciated.)

STEWARDS

We seem to be short of volunteers to steward some of our lettings--in particular, the Monday-evening Yoga sessions, and the Music Exams. If you are able to help on an occasional Monday evening, please speak to Marc Peters or Harry Taylor. These evenings involve attendance from 6.45 p.m. to 9 p.m; the more stewards we have, the fewer attendances for each individual.

Music Exams' stewarding involves either opening the premises at 9 a.m. or closing them at the end of the session---approximately 20 minutes altogether. Derek Worthington is in charge of Music Exams' arrangements, so please speak to him, if you can help.

Both Yoga and the Music Exams bring in good income for us, and we need as many people as possible to officiate; the more workers we have, the less work for all concerned.

BAZAAR MEETING

At the Church Council Meeting, last month, we discussed preliminary arrangements for our annual **Bazaar**, which we hold in November. Despite the hard work involved, this is generally felt to be a pleasant, sociable day--and it is our main fund-raising effort of the year. We propose to form a Bazaar Committee, to organise this event, and an open meeting will be held, on **Monday, July 18th, at 7 p.m.** Please attend if you are interested in making a contribution.

SUMMARY OF POINTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL:

13-06-11

(Some of the matters discussed appear elsewhere in this calendar.)

- Howard Maden has volunteered to act as our Publicity Officer; he takes superb photographs, which will enhance all reports of events we hold.
- Council approved proposals from the Finance Committee to redecorate all the corridor and stair areas of the building, as well as the upstairs room. 2 quotations have been received, to date. It is hoped that the work will be completed during August.
- The Treasurer reported that all expenditure was on target, at the end of 5 months, with a healthy cash balance, at the bank.
- Harry Taylor was formally thanked for many years' devoted service as Secretary of the Communications and Worship Committee.
- Beryl is hoping to run a "Build Your Own Theology" course, once she returns from holiday. She is also planning 3 further sessions on "Ministry". The possibility of holding a crèche, in the lounge, for very young children, is to be investigated. (A copy of Beryl's Minister's Report can be found on the lounge notice-board.)
- The Charity Committee has arranged an event for September 10th, when Dorothy Haughton will perform "Monologues", as she did at this year's G.A. Meetings; cheese and wine refreshments will be served during the evening.
- A list of Council members, and the composition of all its subcommittees, should be available shortly.
- The next meeting will be held on August 8th, at 7.30 p.m.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 25 July at 7.30pm in the lounge at Bury. The book to be discussed is: **The Colour** by Rose Tremain. This book, from Bury Library, should be in the lounge cupboard after Wednesday 29 June

A view from the kitchen window –

A few hundred yards away at the top of the field is what we call the 'wigwam', this is a reconstruction of a Mesolithic dwelling built by the archaeology students of Newcastle University after excavations at the site eight years ago. Those excavations uncovered evidence of five or six dwellings and a number of graves close by. The building is conical, wigwam shaped, made from large tree branches covered in turf. The entrance tunnel is placed to keep out the prevailing wind. The archaeologists estimate that the site was occupied for about two hundred years. It is strange when cooking locally caught fish in the cottage kitchen to think that someone was doing exactly the same thing a few thousand years ago just over the field.

Looking towards the sea from the window, on the rocks that surround the bay, is a piece of wreckage from a French steam trawler that came to grief on the rocks a hundred years ago. The villagers of Howick, some of them fishermen themselves, did all they could to help but five men died. Though the villagers did not know the men they collected money for a grave marked with a beautiful gravestone in the churchyard at Howick Hall.

Howick Hall, the home of the Earls Grey, is a small stately home where the gardens are open to the public. From the window we can see the Arboretum that was planted in the nineteenth century with native species and many collected from around the world. This woodland is a path called the 'Long Walk' which begins beside a wild flower meadow and ends as you emerge onto a beach and sheltered cove.

Beryl at Howick Northumberland

Don't forget!!!

TEA AT MOLLY'S

SATURDAY 2 JULY BETWEEN 2.00PM AND 6.00PM

FEATURING 'CHARITY RECIPE BOOK' LAUNCH

TICKETS £2.50 FROM MEMBERS OF THE CHARITY GROUP

NEWS FROM AINSWORTH

SUNDAY SERVICES AT AINSWORTH

JULY 2011

PREACHER

10.00 am 3 July Rev John D. Allerton (tbc)

10.00 am 17 July Mrs Jean Longworth
(Halliwell Road Church, Bolton)

CHAPEL WEDDINGS

Two Weddings are arranged to take place at the Chapel - on Saturday 25 June and Saturday 2 July, Rev John D. Allerton officiating.

We send our very best wishes to both couples - Jackie & Keith and Ruth & Steve.

Several members of the Chapel have been unwell recently and we send them our best wishes.

