

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
0161 764 6374

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

JULY & AUGUST 2014



40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCH AT BURY – THE MAYOR AND MAYORESS CUT THE CAKE AFTER MORNING SERVICE

MINISTER

REV B ALLERTON

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR JULY & AUGUST 2014

CHURCH SERVICES

6 July	11.00am	Service at Bury United Reformed Church
13 July	11.15am	Bury United Reformed Church visit us.
20 July	11.15am	The Minister
27 July	11.15am	The Minister
3 August	11.15am	The Minister
4 AUGUST	10.55pm	FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
10 August	11.15am	The Minister
17 August	11.15am	The Minister
24 August	11.15am	The Minister
31 August	11.15am	Robert Ince – Convenor of the National Executive Committee of the G.A.

CHURCH STEWARDS

13 July	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
20 July	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
27 July	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

3 August	Marian Price & Jean Taylor
10 August	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
17 August	Marc Peters & Sue McMullen
24 August	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
31 August	Freda & Derek Worthington

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

13 July	In loving memory of Connie & Derek Fitzgerald
20 July	In loving memory of Fred & Eileen Bowden Lois, Zilpha & Leah
27 July	In loving memory of Minnie Sharp
<i>Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Margaret Pollard</i>	
3 August	In loving memory of Jim & Madie Hargreaves
10 August	Mrs Alice Whewell – In loving memory of Jack
17 August	Revs. B & J Allerton
24 August	In memory of Mr & Mrs W G Sharples, U.S.A.
31 August	In Memory of Marian & Bernard Haughton

Distributors: Sue McMullen & Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 July	June Clarke & Vera Stephenson
12 July	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
19 July	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
26 July	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
2 August	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
9 August	Beryl Allerton & Nora Hickson
16 August	Anne & Roger Mills
23 August	Marc Peters & Philip Peters
30 August	Renee Hollos & Alison Hollos

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

TUESDAY 1 JULY	AT 7PM	TRUSTEES
WEDS. 9 JULY	AT 7PM	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES
MONDAY 14 JULY	AT 7PM	WORSHIP, YOUNG PEOPLE, COMMUNICATIONS
WEDS 16 JULY	AT 7PM	BAZAAR
WEDS. 30 JULY	AT 7PM	SOCIAL & FUND-RAISING
WEDS. 13 AUGUST	AT 7PM	CHURCH COUNCIL
SAT. 23 AUGUST	AT 11AM	CHARITY

CALENDAR DEADLINE

THERE IS AN EARLY DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE CALENDAR. **IT IS SUNDAY 17 AUGUST.** ANY EARLIER ITEMS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. THANKS, PAM

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will meet on 15 July at 12.30 pm. Anne and Roger will be the hosts. There will be a list on the lounge notice-board so that those intending to be present can sign up. New members are always welcome.

This will be held on 19 August at 12.30 pm; and will be hosted by Susan and Margaret. There will be a list to sign, in due course, on the notice-board. All are welcome.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on the following dates:

Monday 28 July at 7pm and Monday 25 August also at 7pm. Details of the books to be read and discussed will be on the notice board in the lounge and also on the web-site a.s.a.p. after the meetings. New folk always welcome.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on July 13th and 27th; at other times, please ask Anne, if there is anything you need.

The stall will be open on August 3rd, 17th, and 31st. Please ask Anne if you require items at other times.

THE INQUIRER

From now on, copies of each issue will be labelled with names and left on the table in the foyer. If you are a regular subscriber, please collect your copy from there. Stewards could help by reminding people when their copies are available. Thank you.

40TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE: 1 JUNE 2014

Once again, the sun shone for us---we obviously have influence! Some 90 people attended this special service, including the Mayor, Councillor Sharon Briggs, and her Consort, Shirley Rabbett, and it was wonderful to see the church full and to hear some very hearty singing. Chris Price on the organ, and the choir, contributed to the excellence of the music. Val Chamberlain and John Allerton supplied thought-provoking readings about the desirability of working together, in unity, and about the importance of a church's ministry to it; a minister needs to be part and parcel of the church's very fabric, working alongside its members, in order to achieve its goals.

Beryl explored these themes in her sermon; when the three congregations of Bank Street, Chesham and Heywood first amalgamated, it was not, initially, easy to reconcile ideas, desires and personalities, but, with tolerance, patience and humour, harmony was achieved---a step of the utmost importance (and one still required today!) Beryl also referred to the congregation's new, "hippie", Minister, with his long hair and John Lennon-type glasses: "We all fell in love with him," she said, "including me!" Towards the end of the sermon, we were all asked to stand and observe a minute's silence in memory of all those members who had died since the new church came into being, in 1974---many of whom were listed on the service-sheet; our church is the poorer for their passing, and they are remembered with great respect and affection.

A superb service was followed by an excellent buffet-lunch, complete with wine and birthday-cakes (specially baked by me and decorated by one of my daughters!) A toast to Bury Unitarian Church was drunk, and the Mayor and

Mayoress cut a symbolic slice of the cake. Other local congregations were represented, and congratulations and best wishes were sent by several people unable to attend. Many of those present expressed their appreciation of the warmth and friendliness of the welcome they received; they felt that the atmosphere during the day was truly remarkable. Congratulations and thanks to all those who contributed to the achievement and quality of this milestone occasion. *Anne*

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

I have booked lunch for this celebration on October 12th, at Park Farm. During July, I shall put a list up on the notice-board, so that people can add their names to it; at this point, I shall also collect a £5.00 non-returnable deposit. There will be further details about the menu, full cost, and time, in due course. Watch this space! *Anne*

BALLOT

The result of the Ballot we conducted, during May, as to whether we were prepared to hold Same-Sex Weddings on our premises was as follows:

47 votes were cast, of which 35 were in favour, and 12 were against,
which indicates that we should proceed.

Anne Mills, Church Secretary

BAZAAR

We are proposing to hold our Bazaar on 1 November, this year. In order to organise the event, a meeting will be held on Wednesday, 16 July at 7 p.m. Please come along and be involved in what is being planned.

THANKS

Marian Price, assisted by Beryl Bowden, has undertaken to sort out and organise all the choir music---a mammoth task; gratitude and appreciation were expressed at the June Council Meeting for all their efforts.

HELP!

We need extra people to help on the regular rota for Sunday-morning coffee; this involves assisting on one particular Sunday each month; if you feel able to help, speak to Jean Taylor. Men as well as women may apply!

Jean would also like to hear from anyone who could help out occasionally with Saturday-morning coffee; this would not necessarily involve much in the way of baking but would mean standing in when regulars on the rota were unable to be present. Jean would like to draw up a list of anyone willing to be involved on a casual basis (including men!)

We continue to need stewards for Yoga, each Monday evening, and for the AA, each Wednesday evening; if you can help, please speak to Marc (about Yoga) or Margaret Fitzpatrick (about the AA), or sign up on the appropriate list on the notice-board. Thank you.

AFTERNOON TEA at CHURCH

SATURDAY 12 JULY FROM 2 - 4PM

Strawberries & cream, sandwiches, cakes and a glass of Pimms

Raffle

IN AID OF THE BLEAKHOLT ANIMAL SANCTUARY

Tickets - £5 from members of the Charity Committee

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL: 9 June 2014, at 7 pm

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Colin Smith.

We have been approached by the organisers of an event entitled "GlastonBURY", in aid of Bury Hospice, on August Bank Holiday Monday. They wish to use Bank Street for part of the event, and this has raised some concerns as regards our premises and garden; negotiations are proceeding, and we are hopeful that all can be amicably resolved beforehand.

Finance: Organ-tuning has been arranged until mid-October; we are to buy and fix a baby-changing table in the Ladies' toilet; for a trial-period, the stairlift switches will be left on, all the time, for ease of use; Saturday-morning coffee needs extra advertising.

The Treasurer reported a slight shortfall, at the end of March; this was due to the purchase of new water-heaters, and the cost of sending delegates to the GA Annual Meetings; John will continue to provide projected figures, during the year, but will not continue with annual budgets.

Social and Fund-Raising Committee (formerly Efforts): The Book Auction, in May, was a pleasant and successful evening; The Chris Price Concert was excellent, as well as profitable; next year's programme is already under consideration; thought needs to be given to attracting more people to events.

Communications and Worship with Young People: Burial of ashes at Holebottom will be for church-members only; names and dates will be added to the plaque; the charge for the short ceremony, which must be conducted by the Minister, will be £25.00, plus the cost of engraving the plaque (at present £90.00); organisers have been arranged until mid-October.

The Minister reported a continued heavy workload; it is proposed that the Christmas Communion Service should be held on Sunday, December 21st, at 6.30 p.m; it was agreed that a donation should be given to Philip Mather, who works at The Fusiliers' Museum, for all the help he has given Beryl with her First World War research; the results of the research will be transferred to a book, eventually;

Beryl has written to Derek McCauley about the lack of publicity for Junior Activities at Hucklow; no reply has been received, so she will write again; it was agreed that, in future, for funerals, Beryl will appoint the stewards she needs; also, the upstairs room must be specifically-booked for refreshments after funerals, and all arrangements must be made in advance.

Charity: Arrangements are in hand for the Coffee Morning, on June 18th, and the Afternoon Tea, on July 12th; it is hoped to arrange a visit to Bleakholt, during the summer.

NELUM: The new Annual Reports are now in the bookcase cupboard; Will Greenwood, from Rochdale, has died, aged 94. Rochdale Unitarian Church also celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2014, and there was an opportunity, at the end of July, 1974, for people from other congregations to visit its new building and sample its generous hospitality. The Burne Jones windows had been transferred from the old church to the new one and were looking splendid, and the building is described as a “social activities church”, with excellent facilities.

AOB: A new freezer was offered to replace the broken one; it was suggested that we should produce our own donation-card at the year-end.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 13 August at 7 pm.

NOTES FROM 1974 (7)

The July Calendar for 1974 makes reference to what was to become a regular exchange of services between our church and Bury's United Reformed Church, now settled into its pattern of occupying the first and second Sundays of the month; in 1973, the second and third Sundays were used, but, before that, I can find no mention of it. On July 7th, 1974, the preacher was the Reverend E.G. Stewart, the Provincial Moderator of the URC, whilst the service at Bury Unitarian Church, on the 14th, was conducted by the Reverend Ernest Baker. Later in July, on the evening of the 28th, a Sportsman's Service was held, in conjunction with a Festival of Sport; it was noted, however, that this was not especially well-

attended, although it gave the Minister the opportunity to talk at length about football!

The Minister comments on the acute shortage of lay-preachers in the Manchester area; as there is also a shortage of ministers, lay-preachers are even more in demand, and the suggestion is made that members of the congregation might be able to help by leading an occasional service. The response is not noted.

Rochdale Unitarian Church also celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2014, and there was an opportunity, at the end of July, 1974, for people from other congregations to visit its new building and sample its generous hospitality. The Burne Jones windows had been transferred from the old church to the new one and were looking splendid, and the building is described as a “social activities church”, with excellent facilities.

A gas bill of £424.00 had been found to be incorrect and was to be amended; it was still hoped that G. Percy Trentham Ltd; one of the sub-contractors, would make a contribution towards the cost.

A spray of flowers was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carter (the organist and his wife), to commemorate their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

July seems to have been a fairly quiet month; the Calendar is a joint edition for this month and August, and some of the regular societies, such as The Women's League, The Ladies' Social Club and The Tea Circle did not meet during a month when the Bury Holiday Fortnight tradition was much stronger than it is now; other groups, like The Dorcas Society, waited until the end of July to meet. (Incidentally, if you are wondering, as I did, what a Dorcas Society is---it is named after Dorcas, who was also known as Tabitha, and is described in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 9, verse 36; such groups were set up, in organisations such as churches, with a mission to provide clothing to the poor; I remember Bank Street's Dorcas Society meeting in the room to the right of the stair-landing, in the Sunday School building, and have a vague memory that fine sewing and embroidery were produced by the more mature ladies of the congregation.) During 1974, the main occupation of this group was tea, followed by whist, and

the meetings were hosted by such stalwarts as Mrs. Ramwell and Mrs. Pilling. Whist-drives were popular for many of the church-societies, although it would seem that such occasions were not purely for pleasure, as there are references to the “fierce and determined players” who attended! Anne Mills

MINISTER’S MONTH

I am writing this knowing I have not yet packed – 5pm – and I am leaving for Scotland in the morning. A friend and I are touring in the North West and spending some time on Mull and Skye. While we are on Mull we intend to visit Iona somewhere I have never been but of which I have heard much. It is a place that has the power to affect people deeply. I am looking forward to experiencing its unique atmosphere. No doubt it will inspire a sermon.

At the beginning of June one of our organists Chris Price with a friend and fellow organist gave the most wonderful concert for organ and piano. Those who came were treated to some wonderful and varied music with a break for wine and chat. In fact it was a perfect sum

mer evening. The addition of a screen to show that the organists really were playing added much to the enjoyment. Thank you to Roger and Dave for fixing that up.

In the middle of the month Nora and I were on Saturday Morning Coffee and as always we had stacks of cake (thanks mainly to Nora). The morning was quiet, very quiet, and as midday loomed we pondered the mountain of cake still left. Then a miracle, a coach came in, or that was what it seemed like, and twenty people descended for coffee and cake. In fact it was an extended family visiting the Bury and the Fusiliers Museum. They had seen our sign and now ready for refreshments they decided to come in. They had coffee and tea and juice and bought all the cake we had left. It was 1.15 by the time we closed but there were lots of thanks for our welcome and a boost to the takings.

Our Grandson was once again in action on the stage, this time playing Mowgli in Jungle Book. We sit in the audience looking on proudly dreaming of the day he is a star who keeps his aged grandparents in luxury.

There have been two baptisms this month and these are always a joy to conduct. I am never quite sure what this ceremony does and why it is still considered very important. This applies even when people are not church goers, there is it seems a real need to bring a child into church for blessing. How much this owes to the past or to superstition I don’t know. I am just glad that people still need the church when something as huge and life changing as the birth of a child happens.

Sometimes a simple act brings a lovely response. A few days ago I offered my arm to someone and giving it a squeeze they said, ‘Thank you, you have got a comfortable arm’.

At least a bit of me is still OK then. *Beryl*

We have had a lot of illness this year but most people are on the mend or on the way to being on the mend and we give thanks for that. Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and John Fitzpatrick following her accident and we hope for good news soon.

FUNERAL

On Tuesday 27th May the funeral of Colin Smith took place at the church followed by committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium. The Minister officiated at both services.

To Muriel and her family we offer our sincere condolences. Colin was a loyal, hard-working member of our congregation. Always will to help and always cheerful. Church meant a great deal to him and he missed being among us during his illness as much as we missed him.

BAPTISM

On Sunday 8th June the Minister officiated at the baptism of Charlie Stephen Fred, Great grandson of June Clarke

To Charlie and his parents we wish them well for the future.

On Sunday 22nd June the Minister conducted a baptism service for Andrew David James son of Zenobia and David Critchley. *May you have a long and full life.*

MONDAY 4 AUGUST

On 4th August 1914 at 11pm the declaration of war between Britain and Germany was made. To commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of the first World War there will be a service in the church beginning at 10.55 pm and lasting about 30/40 minutes. The church will be open during the evening from 8pm and there will be coffee available.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Unitarian Renewal Group is to hold a Day Gathering at our church on Saturday, 22 September 2014. The session is entitled 'Growing Our Faith: reflection and future vision', and involves worship, discussion and good speakers; the speakers are John Allerton, (Minister for many years) Danny Crosby (4 years into ministry) Anna Jarvis (on the brink of first ministry), and Marion Baker (President of the G.A.). The event will last from 11am to 4pm; those attending should bring a packed lunch. The cost is £8 or £6 for concessions. Places may be booked by emailing David Dawson on:

dcdawson@hotmail.com

As we are to begin our own discussions about 'Growth' in the autumn, and as we are hosts, it would be good if a reasonable number from Bury could attend. If you are unable to email but wish to book, please speak to Anne.

THANKS FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

The sum of £138.40 was made at our coffee morning on 18 June in aid of Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, making a total so far this year of £592.30. Our thanks to all the people who supported this event.

Bury Art Society Exhibition

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th September

10am – 4pm.

Admission free

We will be serving refreshments in the lounge during the Art Exhibition if anyone could spare time on Friday or Saturday afternoon to help we would be most grateful. Please speak to Beryl – just one hour would help.

JOHN AND BERYL'S 30TH WEDDING CELEBRATION

Saturday 16th August from 7pm

Buffet Supper followed by music

Everyone is welcome and there will be a notice on the board to sign so that we know how many black puddings we need (only joking).

NOTES FROM 1974 (8)

An event which occurred early in August, 1974, was a Social Evening held to express the gratitude of the new Bury congregation for the hospitality they had received from members of the George Street Ragged Church during the previous four years. The gesture was appreciated, as George Street had asked for their thanks to be noted at the August Church Council Meeting. Those who had helped to make a success of the occasion were thanked, in turn, by Council.

The August Calendar noted that the row of chairs against the back wall in church had been removed to encourage Junior Church members to sit amongst the congregation during morning-service.

As well as being a quiet month, that year, August, 1974, turned out to be very wet. The Garden Party planned by the Efforts Committee as an outdoor event, at Ainsworth, suffered from inclement weather; nevertheless, a profit of £45.00 was raised---no mean feat, as tickets cost 10 pence (which could be redeemed towards the cost of a buffet-tea). Efforts also held a Coffee Evening, on August 29th, at which Christmas Cards were displayed; it is not just in recent years that Christmas has begun early! Plans for the Christmas Fair, in November, were already under way, too.

The Minister had pledged his help at two events at Hucklow, that summer: the Send A Child to Hucklow Week, and The Junior Adventure Week; the former saw non-stop rain; everyone was drenched, although spirits remained high; the latter, although very wet, pursued its activities undeterred! In between the two, John returned to Hucklow for a holiday, as it was too wet for camping; he refers to his memories of afternoons spent tramping through the Derbyshire Dales---in the rain! The Men's Fellowship Bowling Evening was likewise washed out, when snooker

and dominoes replaced the planned activity. There was always the winter, and whist, to look forward to! *Anne Mills*

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 5 OCTOBER – HARVEST SERVICE