

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

## CALENDAR FOR 2015

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### CHURCH SERVICES

7 June	11.15am	The Minister
14 June	11.15am	Midsummer Service – A service of readings and music, followed by lunch.
21 June	11.15am	The Minister
28 June	11.15am,	The Minister

**14 June - Lunch Menu – Glass of wine, Ploughman's lunch – Pork Pie, Ham, Cheese, Salad, Pickles, Crusty Bread, Apple Pie and Cream, Tea and Coffee – *Please sign the list on the board and pay £5 to Beryl if you wish to come to lunch.***

### CHURCH STEWARDS

7 June	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
14 June	Freda & Derek Worthington
21 June	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
28 June	Lois & Alan Williams

*If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please re-arrange with another steward(s). Thank you.*

### CHURCH FLOWERS

7 June	In memory of Mr & Mrs C Burnside – Carolyn, Melanie and Families
14 June	In loving memory of George Kenyon - Betty & Neville
21 June	Church Flowers
28 June	Barbara Chadwick – in loving memory of Joe

*Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse*

### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

6 June	June Clarke, Marc & Philip Peters
13 June	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
20 June	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
27 June	Beryl Allerton & Norah Hickson

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JUNE

Monday 1 June	7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Monday 8 June	7.00pm	Church Council
Wednesday 10 June	7.00pm	Social & Fund-raising
Monday 22 June	7.00pm	Trustees
Saturday 27 June	10.30am	Charity

## CALENDAR DEADLINE

I would be most grateful if I could have all contributions to the **July and August edition of the Calendar** by Sunday 21 June, please.

## LUNCHEON CLUB

This will be held on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 12.30 p.m. when Beryl will host the occasion. Please sign the list on the notice-board if you wish to attend; all are welcome---new members and regular ones---but please let us know if you are coming. Thanks to a generous donation from Muriel (whom it has been lovely to see at recent gatherings), we have been able to buy wine to accompany our lunches during the summer.

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

**SUMMER MEAL – Thursday 4 June at:**

## THE SWAN AND CEMETERY

**6.30pm for 7pm**

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We had another very enjoyable meeting in April, when we were given a talk by George Scaife on his travels. With the assistance of photos, displayed on the new television, we were able to learn about his charity rides. The main one was the ride along the Canals of France from Calais to the Mediterranean. It was an arduous journey that left him and his companions tired and sore. They raised a tidy sum for the Bell Tower of the church where George is a bell-ringer.

Our next meeting will be on July 29<sup>th</sup> when Roy Wilkinson will be relating his experiences in 98 Squadron in the Tactical Air Force, from January to V.E. Day in May 1945. **Derek**

## TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 21<sup>st</sup>; at other times, please ask Anne or Jean if you require items.

## SUNSHINE SMARTIES

Anne still has a few tubes of Smarties left, if anyone would like them. Full tubes may be handed in to Brenda Ainsworth, at any time.

## PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Those who have attended previous meetings have agreed that these will continue on a monthly basis, on the second Tuesday of each month. The June meeting will be held, therefore, on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, between 7 and 9 p.m. Church-members are always welcome; keep spreading the word about this group, to encourage interested people to attend and help the group to grow.

## CHURCH DIARY

A reminder from Anne not to overlook bookings already entered in the diary, even if these are only provisional; if you wish to book a date and are unsure whether it is free, please check first, otherwise problems may arise. Thank you.

## “HEART TO HEART” SEMINAR SERVICE

I commend the participants in the service on May 3<sup>rd</sup>; what they produced was thought-provoking and intense. Pam Oxley opened and closed the proceedings, stressing the importance of setting aside time, in our daily lives, to worship regularly; this helps us to assess the quality of the way we live.

Marian Price spoke about listening as a skill---one which is valuable, but very difficult; we should be listening to others, to our own innermost thoughts, and to God. As God listens to us, so we should strive to listen, in order to improve the depth of our spiritual lives.

Val Chamberlain took inspiration from Kipling's poem, "If". Success and failure are tricky words to define; if we succeed, we may not feel a great sense of achievement, if sacrifices in other spheres have occurred; failure may simply indicate that we should reconsider and perhaps try a different tack. What is important is that we should judge ourselves with a sense of proportion, in order to assess where the true rewards in life lie.

Betty Kenyon read from David Usher's book, "LifeSpirit". She considered the questions: "What is God?" and "Do we believe in God?" which led her to her personal belief that God is to be found in the love that exists in the world, from which all power and energy emanate. We all benefit from setting aside a quiet time and space to consider our responses to God, and our regular worship-hours provide eminently suitable opportunities for this.

Susan Mitchell read "Equilibrium", which Beryl had used during this year's GA AGM's; she developed the image of the seesaw, feeling that we all benefit from balance in our lives. We are always open to others' thoughts and ideas, but we need to keep a careful check on how we react; if we can maintain an even keel, we will feel more at peace with ourselves, as well as spiritually-refreshed.

An excellent choice of readings and hymns complemented the Words chosen by each person; for me, the third hymn encapsulated the general theme of the service: "Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead". Many thanks to those who took part; their efforts were

impressive; thanks also to Beryl for leading the seminars and encouraging the group's members to produce an inspired, high-quality service. **Anne**

## **T. S. ELIOT FESTIVAL IN THE NORTH**

Rev. Jim Corrigan, of our Padiham and Rawtenstall churches, is organising a Festival, this month, as it is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of T. S. Eliot's death, this year. Three events are planned, on the first three Saturday evenings in June, and these will be held between 7 and 9 p.m. Full details are on the notice-board, and tickets can be bought from Jim.

## **VERA AND RACHEL - see cover photo**

Vera's granddaughter, Rachel Hayes, came to give a talk to the Women's League. She told us all about the training she had to undergo in order to be accepted by the Royal Navy.

Upon leaving school Rachel first trained to be a hairdresser but was made redundant when the salon suddenly closed.

Time for a career change!!!!

It took a total of eighteen months to complete the whole application process. She, first, had to have a very complex interview, followed by an exam, medical and a fitness test.

While waiting to be given her official training date, Rachel worked hard to get her fitness levels to a high standard. She then travelled to Scotland for four days; this was called an acquaint course. The four days were spent completing intense

fitness tests, running, swimming, the dreaded high ropes and getting a first-hand feel for Navy life. Was it what she wanted? And did they want her? The day finally came and Rachel left home to travel to H.M.S. Raleigh in Plymouth, where she spent ten weeks completing her initial training.

Daily, all her kit had to be washed, dried and ironed with precision. Inspections were on a regular basis and a speck of dirt or kit folded to incorrect measurements meant that it all had to be done again, which was disheartening especially when she was exhausted and hungry. It was a very strict regime and there were rules for everything. Eating was not allowed whilst ironing. Rachel was ironing and eating a cookie when a Petty Officer came in and caught her!! He asked what she was eating and she replied 'It's one of my grandma's home-made cookies that she sent me, would you like one?' He took one, said thanks, and nothing more was said. Phew!!

The training was very hard and at times Rachel wondered if she could carry on; this was especially so when they had to trek across bleak Dartmoor in sleet, snow and the very cold January weather. She had to carry a heavy pack on her back and all they had for shelter at night was a tarpaulin. The next morning, she was cold and totally exhausted but when she saw the lights and the finishing point, she determined to complete the exercise with blisters and tears. Her feet were so blistered that a Petty Officer helped her bandage them.

Rachel finally attended the passing out parade in March and received her official Royal Navy epaulettes. Her Mum and Dad travelled down to see her pass out and are extremely proud of her.

Rachel has now started her training in her specialist trade – Warfare Specialist and hopes to complete this by July of this year. Well done Rachel. *Vera*

**VISIT TO ELIZABETH GASKELL'S HOUSE – TUESDAY 25 AUGUST  
MEETING AT 1PM AT CHURCH**

Booking will be during the month of June. Cost will be £17.50 which includes coach and tour.

24 PLACES ONLY – List will close on Sunday 28 June so that confirmation can be made. Please note that monies will have been paid so no refunds will be able to be given. Please put your name on the list and at the same time, pay Val Chamberlain, before the end of June.

**MINISTER'S MONTH**

I am writing this on a very wet day on holiday in Northumberland. The weather has been very unkind to us this year being both very windy and cold until today when it has rained as well. Not the warm, sunny summer holiday we had hoped for. It has not prevented us doing some lovely walks, albeit wrapped up for winter. On one walk along the beach between Seahouses and Bamburgh we were effectively sand-blasted as the dry sand was whipped into our faces. One of the most wonderful sights are the gorse bushes which are in full bloom, but I have never seen them as full of flower before. Wherever you look there are banks covered in bright golden gorse. Until this year I never realised that gorse has a beautiful perfume. As we walk along the scent of sweet almond permeates the air, absolutely gorgeous.

For a long distance walk we took ourselves off to the Upper Coquet Valley, hoping for it to be a little less windy, a hope not realised. This area has tiny villages, quite remote, with beautiful little cottages and quaint pubs. I suspect in winter the inhabitants may be regularly snowed in. At the car park in the village of Alwinton we encountered a very friendly village cat who saw us off on our walk and on our return we were greeted by an equally friendly cockerel and three hens. The valley was somewhere we had not walked before and though there was a lot of uphill, (I mean a lot of uphill!) the climb gave us the most spectacular views across as far as the sea some miles away.

There was a very good and appreciative audience for the British Legion Swing Band at the end of April. Though I feel they did not realise where they were going to play and we did not realise they actually had a singer. Nevertheless we coped and there were lots of good comments at the end.

I would like to thank the members of the Seminar Group who conducted the service on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. I thought the quality of the service was exceptional particularly as the topics they chose were far from easy ones. It was great to be at the service because normally I am on a Sunday off and so I miss it. I have to say that though I try to persuade them to do a service this is not compulsory and those who do not wish to participate do not have to do so. I would not like to think that this would prevent anyone who wishes to being part of a seminar group.

The summer is gearing up to be quite busy. The Book Auction and the second Art Exhibition (thank you to all those who volunteered to serve refreshments) rounds off May and then in June there is the Midsummer Service and Lunch followed later in the month by a fundraising evening for the Nepal Earthquake victims. Val Chamberlain who returned from Nepal just days before the earthquake is going to talk about her experience and show us her photographs from the trip. Please support this and encourage others to come along, it is hard for us to even begin to understand the terrible plight of the people of Nepal. The beginning of July brings another concert and the annual visit of our friends from the United Reformed Church.

I hope to take some time out in June to complete my research of the names on our War Memorial, completing those from World War 1 and including those from World War 2, the resulting information can then be bound in book form for future reference.

**Beryl**

## **CONDOLENCES**

We offer our sincere sympathy to Anne and Roger on the death of Anne's mother Rene Sutherland who many people will remember. Rene was a

regular member of the church before she moved 'up the valley'. Anne and Roger our thoughts are with you at this sad time.

Over many years Roy and Rita Brooks were great supporters of events at the church and they enjoyed coming and we enjoyed having them with us. Sadly a while ago Rita had to move into residential care. I am sorry to report that Rita died at the end of May. We offer Roy our condolences.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm.**

## **Fund Raising Evening for Nepal**

*Val Chamberlain will talk about her visit to Nepal from which she returned just a few days before the earthquake. Her talk will be illustrated with photographs of her journey.*

Refreshments will be served after the talk

A minimum donation of £3.00 is requested.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm**

**Square Street Singers & Tutti Flutti**

**Tickets £6.00 inc. Refreshments**