

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>

Editor's telephone 01706 822651

Editor's email pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

Pastoral Care – Susan Mitchell – 01706 823787

Margaret Pollard 01204 888051

Minister (Retired) B. Allerton 07807322449 Text Funerals only

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

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2016



Anne, Chair of the Congregation welcoming our newest member – Abi

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2016

CHURCH SERVICES

5 June	11.15am	Anne Mills, a member of the Seminar Worship Group
12 June	11.15am	Tom Grimshaw, Send a Child to Hucklow Trustee
19 June	11.15am	Kate McKenna, Ministerial Student – Service will be followed by a Summer Lunch Coffee will NOT be served today.
26 June	11.15am	Veronica & Gordon Walker from Bolton, Bank Street

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 June	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
12 June	Lois & Alan Williams
19 June	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
26 June	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

Please ask someone to exchange dates if you cannot make a particular Sunday – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 June	Betty & Neville Kenyon – In memory of George Kenyon
12 June	Betty & Neville Kenyon – In memory of Anne Kenyon
19 June	Barbara Chadwick – In memory of Joe
26 June	Church Flowers

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 June	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
11 June	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
18 June	June Clarke, Marc Peters & Philip Peters
25 June	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 June	Anne Mills (M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
12 June	Norah Hickton (M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton
19 June	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
26 June	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JUNE

Tuesday 7 June at 2pm Ministerial Appointments Group

Wednesday 8 June at 7pm Trustees

Wednesday 15 June at 7pm Church Council

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The next Calendar will be a joint **July/August** issue. Please ensure that the editor receives all contributions by Sunday 19 June – thank you.

TRADCRAFT

The stall will be open on June 5th and 26th; at other times, please ask Anne or Jean if there are items you would like.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2 June – Meet at church at 6.30pm before walking to The Clarence for an evening meal.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship will be holding their next meeting on **Wednesday 29 June at 11am** when George Scaife will be showing how to make church bells. Ding Dong!! After the 'showing' we will be lunching at The Trackside as usual. All men welcome.

LUNCHEON CLUB

This takes place on June 21st, at 12.30 p.m. Susan and Margaret will host the occasion; please sign on the list if you will be attending, and watch the notice-board for further details. Please note that there will not be a July Luncheon Club.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 27 June at 7pm. The book to be discussed will be on the website and in the lounge cupboard on Thursday 2 June all being well.

CHURCH RULES

I have now finished distributing the updated version of the church rules; everyone should have received either a paper copy or an email one. If you have not received your copy, please let me know, and I will supply one. The small grey booklets, dated 2010, are now redundant, so feel free to dispose of them. **Anne**

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please remember that we will be holding a Strawberry Tea, on Saturday, July 30th, from 2 p.m. The details will be discussed at the June Church Council Meeting, so watch the notice-board and listen for pulpit-announcements for updates. Help will be appreciated for this occasion.

ADVANCE DATE AND TIME – SUNDAY 3 July – We will join Bury United Reformed Church for morning service which will begin at 11am.

CONGRATULATIONS.....

.....to our organist, Chris Price, on being elected President of the Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside Organists' Association; he will serve for two years, from April 30th.....

and to the ten people who attended the Taking the Service sessions organised during April and May by Beryl and John. The sessions were rigorous and demanded much, in terms of commitment, time, energy and effort---but the results were extremely encouraging. We now have competent people who are able to devise, conduct or assist with services, and we thank them for undertaking a task ultimately for the benefit of the congregation; thank you, too, to Beryl and John for giving of their time and expertise to run the meetings---their efforts were appreciated, as ever.

W. B. YEATS FESTIVAL

Rev. Jim Corrigan is organising three lectures, on the first three Saturday evenings in June, from 7 to 9 p.m. These will be held at Padiham Unitarian Church. There are leaflets and a poster on the notice-board, with full details.

BEST WISHES.....

.....to Beryl, as she retires; we wish her a long, happy and successful retirement; she leaves us after five and a half years, during which time, she has never stinted her efforts on behalf of our congregation; her energy, enthusiasm, generosity and kindness have been overwhelming, and we thank her whole-heartedly for all she has done for, and with, us. She will be greatly missed! **Anne**

CHERRY BLOSSOM SERVICE: MAY 1ST

Every year, at the end of April and the beginning of May, the cherry trees outside the church are full of the most beautiful pink blossoms, although, sadly,

this year, the flowers were not quite as far advanced as usual. Not discouraged, however, Beryl devised a special service for us, during which the congregation sang five rousing hymns, all celebrating spring, new life, and the earth's beauty. Organist Chris Price played a brilliant, jazz version of "Life is Just a Bowl of Cherries", which had everyone smiling and tapping their feet. Two beautiful readings from Laurie Lee's "The English Spring", given by Val Chamberlain and Marian Price respectively, were wonderfully reminiscent of childhood and all the traditions of May Day. The sermon concentrated on Hanami, the Japanese tradition of celebrating the cherry blossom season; this is very short---about two weeks in length---and can occur at any time between the end of March and early May. The Japanese weather bureau issues forecasts so that everyone knows where the most beautiful blossoms are to be found, and outdoor parties, often attended by thousands of people, in the public parks and gardens, abound---often lasting until well into the night.

During the service, new member, Abi Elliott-McGuffie was welcomed formally to the church by the Chairman of the Congregation and presented with a chalice badge to celebrate her new status. A congregational photograph was taken of everyone present, and this included several visitors who had accompanied family-members and friends.

After the service, members of the congregation enjoyed a glass of chilled white wine and a delicious cherry-themed lunch, which included cherry tomatoes, cherry pie, and cherry and cinnamon tea. The church and the hall were decorated with cherry blossom, and all this added up to a most enjoyable and unusual occasion. Many thanks to Beryl, once again, for a very successful day.

SUMMER LUNCH

This will take place on Sunday, June 19th, after the service; details will be posted on the notice-board, and there will be pulpit-announcements, too, so please keep alert! The format will be kept simple, so that everyone has a chance to enjoy the occasion; please keep the date free, and come and join us!

NOTABILITY CHOIR

We enjoyed a superb concert, on May 14th, when Notability returned to entertain us, once more. All the singers were in excellent voice, and their songs ranged from sacred and classical to jazz and songs from the shows---truly a programme for everyone. The choir had promised us a free concert, in return for using our premises for a master-class, in January, and £420.00 was raised. White wine spritzers and nibbles were available during the interval and proved very refreshing. Thank you to everyone who supported this extremely successful occasion!

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING CO-OPTED TO SERVE ON THE COMMUNICATIONS AND WORSHIP WITH YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE?

This committee meets once every two months and ensures that all the arrangements for the church services are in place for the forthcoming weeks, publicity for special services, organists' rota, the Junior Church, flowers, membership. It keeps an eye on the Calendar, the Website, Facebook. It receives and discusses reports from our Minister, possibly now from the Chair of the Congregation from time to time, and deals with other aspects of church life as needed. We would welcome new blood!!

MINISTER'S MONTH

This is my final Minister's Month how strange it seems to be saying that, maybe because ending ministry is not like any other job ending. Mainly of course because it is not a job, it is a relationship and relationships only normally end when they have broken down, not when they feel strong and good. But it is time, and you and I must move on, for now separately, but I hope to be back as part of the congregation in the future.

The Cherry Blossom Service was not quite as I had hoped, the weather and the blossom refused to cooperate,

Weather cool and blossom too shy to come out. Yet just one week later the trees around the church were weighted down with a froth of pink. Despite not having the hoped for conditions the Service was appreciated and the lunch and wine very much enjoyed by over fifty people. It is a bit of a juggling act to prepare a buffet and take the service but worth it when all goes so well. Thank you to all who helped.

Once again we had the pleasure of hearing Notability in concert with a new and varied programme. They came to sing in return for the use of the church for a singing workshop day that the choir held last year. The evening had a warm and friendly atmosphere and there were lots of good comments about the music and the spritzers which refreshed choir and audience at the interval. We made a good profit socially and financially. Thank you to the Social and Fund Raising Committee.

I had a lovely surprise when I was invited to the Bridgewater Hall for a performance of Karl Jenkins 'Requiem' and his new work 'The Healer' both conducted by the man himself and sung by the Manchester Camarata. I love Karl Jenkin's music but have never heard it live before and how different it is, as is always the case, when played live. The Healer was 'mesmeric' gentle, soft and rhythmical it lulled you into a very relaxed mood. The singing was beautiful and the large choir included some who would sing for us in Notability the following Saturday. It was a delight to share in a birthday present, thank you Geoff for your generosity, and Abi for inviting me.

The Junior Church are going animal crackers. With June's help they are making a mural of Noah's Ark, drawing, colouring and cutting out animals. All the usual ones and some very unusual, I am not sure if Noah could have squeezed in dinosaurs. I was asked to paint the background and the ark on the board in the primary room, this I did and they seemed to approve. Please go and see the picture when it is finished. To fit in with the theme I have been telling animal stories for a few weeks.

Whitsun is no longer the high day and holiday or Holy Day that it once was. With no Whit Walks it is often overlooked though traditional Christian churches will celebrate Pentecost. I decided to talk about Whit and how walking was something confined largely to the North West mill towns. I have many memories of Whit Friday as a child and shared some of them. But what was most enjoyed was a few minutes of a film, shown on our TV, that was made by Bury Photographic Club in 1967. The film had an all-star cast of the Bank Street Chapel congregation at the Whit Walks. We recognised lots of people, some people recognised themselves fifty years ago. After the service there was much reminiscing and chatting about days gone by, I have never known a service so talked about.

I hope some of you may have seen the lovely thank you card on the notice board from 'Streetwise', one of the charities supported from the proceeds of the Quiz Evening in February. It is obvious that the money was much appreciated and needed and the card is signed by everyone - it is good to be able to help small groups like this who are often overlooked in favour of more well-known charities.

The 'Taking the Service' sessions have now been completed and I don't know about the participants but I have enjoyed the experience greatly. The final session was 'sermons' which were approached with trepidation. During the evening we listened to eight sermons, all very different even though some themes overlapped. They were all interesting, well written and presented and entertaining when you hear them over the next few months I have no doubt you will agree with me.

On Saturday 21st May Freddie runs in the Junior section of the Great Manchester Run, he is running for the Manchester Children's Hospital. Everyone at church has given generous support in acknowledgment of the life-saving treatment Freddie received when aged three he contracted meningitis. Good luck to Freddie.

Finally I would like to thank everyone for your support, encouragement and friendship, thank you for the fun and laughter, thank you for letting me share your tears as well and for the privilege of being your minister over the last five and half years. Ministry is all that we do together and this was a ministry I could not have done without you.

Love Beryl

STOP PRESS - Freddy (& Zilpah) successfully completed the Manchester Mini Marathon. Freddy was awarded a medal and a T-shirt which he proudly displayed at church the following day, when he talked about his achievement. He should feel very proud of himself, as he will probably raise £1,000 for the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital through sponsorship - and over a third of that will have been donated by church members. Well done Freddy!!

THANK YOU

Thank you to the family of Rodney Shaw for the donation of £500.00 to the church in his memory.

Thank you to Dorothy Nortley and family for nominating the church for donations in lieu of flowers at her mother Muriel's funeral. The church received £245.00 in memory of Muriel Smith

PASTORAL CARE

In the absence of a Minister, pastoral care is being coordinated by Margaret Pollard and Sue Mitchell. Please let them know if someone is ill or needs support for whatever reason. Also please tell them if someone is celebrating a special event. Write information down with contact details as it is often very busy on Sunday Morning and hard to remember everything that is said. Though Sue and Margaret will coordinate care they need everyone to help.

CHURCH NOTICES

In the absence of a minister we must be aware of the need to co-operate in the collection of 'notices' to be read out at Sunday services. Certain people have been delegated to read notices and they will be responsible for doing that, but **members who organise events and meetings will need to ensure that the details - dates, times, etc. are written down in the book which will be placed in the lounge on the bookshelf.** The Calendar will also have to be consulted and the Church Diary. This will need to be done in good time and not during the last few minutes before the service.

PROFILES

Thank you to the members who have already done, or promised to do, a short profile of themselves in response to the item in the May Calendar. The collection of profiles on the web site is growing and makes fascinating reading. Several members have already discovered they have interests in common which they didn't know about before. However, the Communications and Worship with Young

People's Committee is keen for these to be made available to everyone, rather than just to those with access to the internet, and so it has been proposed that a profile should be included (with permission of course!) in the Calendar from July onwards. We hope you will enjoy reading them and feel motivated to have a go yourself.

Thanks to **Roger Mills** who has kindly agreed to let us share his Profile to get the ball rolling.

I was born and raised in Walmersley, Bury.

I was christened at Christ Church, Walmersley and (much later!) I was in the church choir!

I was married to Anne at Bank Street Chapel in 1968.

I worked for most of my working life in the textile industry as an Industrial Engineer.

I am proud of my family, 2 daughters, a granddaughter and 2 grandsons.

I enjoy practical pursuits - making and mending things!

I help to build stage scenery.

I enjoy holidays overseas and at home.

I enjoy visits to the theatre, concerts and most surprisingly perhaps - the ballet!

I go swimming regularly - for recreation, not exercise.

Thank you. **Val Chamberlain**

CLOSE OF SESSION PROCEEDINGS AT UNITARIAN COLLEGE, MANCHESTER

The Close of Session proceedings and Valedictory Service will take place on Tuesday 14 June. Full details are on the notice board; please note that you may need to book if you wish to attend.

