

## 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 460 3363, 07751 240 886 (mobile)  
Minister's Email        [revkatemckenna@gmail.com](mailto:revkatemckenna@gmail.com)  
Editor's telephone     01706 822651  
Editor's email          [pam\\_gilbert66@btinternet.com](mailto: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, 0161 764 6374

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## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2017

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*PRESENTATION TO MOLLY RATCLIFFE ON SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY*

MINISTER  
REVEREND K MCKENNA

# BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

## CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2017

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### CHURCH SERVICES

4 June	11.15am	The Minister – Flower (please bring a flower)
11 June	11.15am	The Minister
18 June	11.15am	The Minister
25 June	11/15am	The Minister

### CHURCH STEWARDS

4 June	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
11 June	Betty & Neville Kenyon
18 June	Marian Price & Di Scaife
25 June	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher

*If you are not available on the date specified, please re-organise with another steward(s) – thank you.*

### CHURCH FLOWERS

4 June	Susan Holt – In memory of Jack Crabtree
11 June	Church Flowers
18 June	Church Flowers
25 June	Barbara Chadwick – In memory of Joe Chadwick

*Distributors: Barbara Bamford, Jean Brookhouse, Anne Evitts, Sue McMullen*

### ADVANCE NOTICE – JUNIOR CHURCH

**The last Sunday Junior Church will be on Sunday 23 July. We will re-commence with Junior Church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 June	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
10 June	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
17 June	Jean Taylor & Brenda Ainsworth
24 June	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife

**HELP!!! Volunteers needed urgently to be on the rota for Saturday Morning Coffee. If you feel you can help and need more information about what is involved, please speak to any of the volunteers already on the rota. If you can help, please speak to Jean Taylor. Thank you.**

### SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 June	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
11 June	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
18 June	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
25 June	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN JUNE

Weds. 14 June at 7pm	Church Council
Monday 26 June at 7pm	Trustees

### REMINDER \*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 7pm Finance & General Purposes**

## CALENDAR DEADLINE

The deadline for items to be included in the July/August, double edition) Calendar will be **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June**.

## LUNCHEON CLUB

This will be held on Tuesday, June 20th, at 12.30 p.m. Susan and Margaret will host. Please sign up, once the notice appears on the board.

Numbers have declined, recently, and we are seeking new members; do come and join us; lunches are always very enjoyable social and culinary occasions; everyone welcome!

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 1 June – Out for a meal at AUTOMATIC in Bury at 6.30pm

## TRADICRAFT

The stall will be open on June 4th and 18th. The new Spring/Summer brochure is available for browsing; if you've already had a look and don't need your copy any longer, please return it to Anne. If you need items at other times than when the stall is open, speak to Anne or Jean. If there are goods that aren't usually on display which you would like, please let Anne know, and they can be ordered. Thank you.

## CAMERA CLUB

This will meet on Wednesday, June 7th, at 7 p.m. If you are interested in any aspect of photography, why not come along and find out what's happening. For further information, speak to Roger. He and Howard are currently compiling pictures of Old and New Bury for use at the September Men's Fellowship Meeting.

## BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on **WEDNESDAY 28 June at 7pm**. The book to be discussed is: *The Interpretation of Murder* by Jed Rubenfeld. This book should be available from the lounge cupboard on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June – all being well!

## FIRST AID COURSE

Fourteen people attended the course, on May 13th---three from other NELUM churches. It was an excellent session---very relaxed and informal, but practical and down-to-earth, aimed at drawing out knowledge we had forgotten we had, and encouraging confidence in our ability to help in cases of emergency. A similar course will be organised, in the autumn; look out for announcements, if you missed this one and are interested in attending another. Subjects covered included what to do in the case of heart-attacks, strokes, choking, fractures, unconsciousness, and heavy bleeding. Using a defibrillator was also considered, and we will be discussing, at Council, whether it would be viable to buy one of our own. Many thanks to Judith Jones, of The British Red Cross, for an interesting and informative afternoon.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Rev. Sue Woolley, on behalf of The Midland District Union, has contacted us to ask whether any of us would be willing to complete a survey about Unitarians and their spiritual beliefs; Inquirer-readers may already have seen this mentioned. If you are interested in participating, full details are posted on the notice-board, or speak to Kate or Anne, if you require the relevant forms. The closing-date is the end of June.

## PADIHAM LITERARY FESTIVAL IN THE NORTH

Posters and flyers for this event are on the notice-board and on the lounge-tables.

This is the third such festival to be organised at Padiham Unitarian Church, and well-worth a visit. This year, the sessions will be held on June 3rd, 10th and 17th, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m; tickets cost £8.00 per evening, which includes refreshments. The first session will be led by Theresa Sowerby and will concentrate on the poetry of World War 1 ("Never Such Innocence"). Rev. Jim Corrigall will deliver the second lecture, when he will consider whether Edward Thomas was a Nature Poet or a War Poet. Session 3, led by Edmund Prestwich, is entitled "Beyond the Horror---the genius of Keith Douglas" (a World War 2 poet).

Anne will attend at least one of these sessions and will have space in her car, if others wish to travel to Padiham with her.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Anne and Roger will give an illustrated talk about their recent holiday, entitled "Travels Down Under"; this will take place on Wednesday, August 23rd, at 7 p.m. Full details about the format of the evening have not yet been finalised, so watch out for future announcements.

### **STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA**

Following last year's successful and very well-attended event, we will be holding another Strawberry Tea, on Saturday, June 24th, between 2 and 4 p.m. Tickets cost £6.00 per head and are available from members of The Social and Fund Raising Committee. Sumptuous refreshments will be served, accompanied by Pimms, Strawberry Daiquiris, and soft drinks; we are hoping for fine weather, so that the gardens outside can be used, on the day. Please come along and support this venture; if you are willing to help, speak to Susan Mitchell.

### **THANK YOU MOLLY**

On Sunday, May 14th, a special presentation was made to Molly Ratcliffe by Chairman of the Congregation, Anne Mills.

Very early in the history of the new Bury Unitarian Church, Molly volunteered to provide a floral display for the church, each week, for three years; this was in 1974. Her promise has never been renewed, and, 40 years after the initial period expired, Molly has continued to provide flowers in abundance---for Sunday services, on special occasions, and for particular events; the Bury congregation has been privileged to enjoy all Molly's arrangements, and has admired the decoration of the church for each Harvest Festival, on Remembrance Sundays, and each Christmas (when Molly also decorated our Christmas Tree, and, for a number of years organised a Christmas Tree Festival). Individual baskets of flowers have been supplied, each week, to be given to members who were to be cheered up, thanked, welcomed, or appreciated in any way. For many years, Molly also acted as Flower Fund Secretary, receiving donations, and working out when people could mark memorable occasions by contributing to church-flowers. Molly has always been on hand to help and advise others, to encourage them to decorate the church, by suggesting ideas and encouraging technique, yet leaving space for personal expression.

Molly was presented with a basket of flowers (for herself, for a change!) and with a voucher for Afternoon Tea for two, at a venue of her choice, as a token of gratitude for all her work; each creative arrangement has been marvellous in its artistry and inspiration.

Afterwards, she commented that she had thoroughly enjoyed all her flower-arranging duties; it had never seemed to be hard work---and she had been able to indulge herself at somebody else's expense! She added that her work had always felt worthwhile because everyone at Bury was very pleasant to deal with. The Bury congregation is indeed fortunate to be able to call upon so much talent, and lucky that it has always been so generously shared. Many thanks and very best wishes, Molly!

### **rites of passage**

In the case of the performance of Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals, the first approach that must be made is to the current Minister. Ordinarily, this will be arranged without problem. However, on occasion, individuals and families wish to request that another officiant conduct the service. It is the decision of the current Minister as to whether permission is given or withheld, although every attempt will be made to consider such requests and accede to them, and the reasons for the requests will be fully

considered, in each case. Please be aware that it may cause administrative difficulties at the church if other ministers are contacted, and these have to be addressed. If you feel that it would be helpful to discuss this matter further, please speak to Anne Mills.

### **NOTIFICATIONS FROM UNI-NEWS**

There are several items contained in the latest issue, which is on the notice-board; in particular, information about Ministry Inquiry Day 2017; Working on our Welcome: Improving our Hospitality to LGBTQ+ People; The Great Get-Together (June 2017); and Hull Unitarians' Invitation might be of interest, as well as worth pursuing.

## **STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA**

**SATURDAY 24 JUNE - 2pm to 4pm**

**Pimms, Strawberry Diaquiris, Soft Drinks**

**Tickets £6 from members of the Social & Fund-  
Raising Committee**

**First class food and company!!!!**

### **MINISTER'S MESSAGE**

Dear all,

This month's piece for the newsletter is written with a very sad heart, following the horrible, incomprehensible incident in Manchester on Monday night. Incidents of this sort are always heartbreaking, and it is human nature that we are more concerned about them when they are nearer to home – and this incident was very near to home, both physically and in terms of its impact.

We already know that some of the victims were local – at least three of the people who were killed were from Bury, and one of the young men who remains very ill in hospital was also a local boy, and known to one of our members. I know that our hearts and our prayers go out to everyone effected by this incident, and that we will do anything in our power to do what we can to help and to try and create a world in which this sort of incident ceases.

But that's not easy. We talked in a recent service about how hard it is to act when we know we can't make everything better. We can't possibly take away the pain and devastation of those who lost friends and family members, or heal the physical or emotional wounds of those who survived but sustained injuries. Neither can we take away the guilt and loss of those who survived unhurt, including, of course, the young woman whose concert was targeted. We can't remove the horror and terror which will remain with those hundreds of people who rushed to help – whether professionally or because they were there and could.

We can feel helpless in these situations. And we are allowed to feel pain and grief and anger and to weep for what has happened – in fact, I would suggest that we *\*should\** feel all those things, and that crying is appropriate.

But we're not helpless. A kind word to those who are affected. A message of support to those doing the hard and vital work of mending bodies and minds. All of those things are help. All of those things are showing love, and we are never helpless if we can show love.

It can feel as though these things happen all the time. And they do happen too often. But the fact that we respond to them with horror and heartbreak

shows that we are not broken. A world that grieves is a world that loves, and a world that loves is a world that is winning.

There are going to be difficult times ahead, in the next few weeks and months. There are those who will leap on this awful event as an excuse to blame an entire group of people. There will be people reacting with hatred and anger and calls for retribution.

We are better than that. We have to be better than that. One person, one individual, chose to do this thing. And the moment the news was out, we were already seeing dozens, hundreds, of people doing what they could to help. Other concert goers. Passersby. Homeless men who had been begging in the arena. The emergency services. Almost everyone reacted with love, with horror and with offers of support. Within minutes, local taxi drivers swarmed to be as near to the arena as they could, to get people away. Within an hour Manchester residents were offering rooms and cups of tea to those in need of them.

Manchester and the world responded with love to an action of hate. And that is not only what we must continue to do, it is what we must continue to look for. We must look for the helpers, and we must see ourselves in the helpers.

What happened is awful. It is unimaginable. It is not a thing which happens in the world we want to live in. And we can't make it go away.

But we can love. We can meet the hatred with love. In the days and weeks to come it may become clear what we need to do, and we must be willing to do it. But whatever it is, I know that it will have love at its core.

We must keep loving. If all we can do is send out love, we are helping.

With love, **Kate**