

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2018



**Tottington Public Brass Band at our concert on
Saturday 12 May in the church.**

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
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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
Lettings Secretary	Margaret Fitzpatrick, 0161 764 6374

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CHURCH SERVICES

3 June	11.15am	The Minister
10 June	11.15am	The Minister
17 June	11.15am	The Minister
24 June	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 June	Betty & Neville Kenyon
10 June	Marian Price & Di Scaife
17 June	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
24 June	Sue McMullen & Barbara Freemantle

CHURCH FLOWERS

3 June	Susan Holt - In memory of Jack Crabtree
10 June	Betty & Neville Kenyon - In memory of Anne Kenyon
17 June	Jean Brookhouse - In memory of Hilda & Walter Dickinson
24 June	Church flowers

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 June	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
9 June	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
16 June	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
23 June	Susan Holt & Kate McKenna
30 June	Barbara Freemantle & Betty Kenyon

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 June	Anne Mils(M), Beryl Bowden, Barbara Freemantle
10 June	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
17 June	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
24 June	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell, Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE

Monday, 4 June	7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Weds. 6 June	7pm	Worship
Weds. 13 June	7pm	Church Council
Weds. 20 June	2pm	Trustees

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The Deadline for the July/August edition of The Calendar will be Sunday 17 June.

CLEANING PARTY – HELP, HELP!!!!

Following the building work the building is covered in a fine layer of dust and the furniture is in disarray. It was well worth it to have a shiny new lift, but there is still some work to do; please join us **after coffee morning on Saturday 2nd June for a cleaning-up party**. We will provide rubber gloves and cake. Even if you can only spend half an hour it will make a huge difference.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday service – July 8th – will be a Flower Communion. Further details will follow, but please bring along a flower or a small bunch of flowers to the service.

STRAWBERRY TEA – SATURDAY 23 JUNE

The Social Committee would like your help with the Strawberry Tea. If you can make a cake, or possibly cakes, please sign on the board in the lounge. Please also save any small pots with lids because if there are leftovers, these will need to be transported to people's houses. And if you have any good quality items for the Raffle, please see June Clarke.

LUNCH CIRCLE

We meet, this month, on June 17th, at 12.30 pm; when Anne and Roger will act as hosts. Please sign on the list, if you intend to come, giving us as much notice as possible. Offers of help to clear up, afterwards, are always appreciated; if you feel able to assist by cooking, occasionally, please speak to Anne or Susan Holt. Feel free to bring alcoholic or soft drinks, if you wish; these will not now be supplied as standard.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on June 3rd and 17th. If you need items at any other times, please ask Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse. If there are items that you would like but aren't on the stall, speak to Anne.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rev. Lynne Readett has contacted us to ask whether anyone from the Bury congregation would be interested in joining members of Chowbent Chapel for a NELUM Weekend, at Great Hucklow, from June 8th to 10th, 2018. If you wish to discuss this matter further, you are welcome to ring Lynne, on 01942 893965.

Rev. Jim Corrigan is again organising a Poetry Festival at Padiham; this will take place on Saturday, June 9th, 2018, between 11.30 am. and 4 pm. (a different format, this year). The day will contain 2 lectures: one on Sylvia Plath, and one on her husband, Ted Hughes; the lectures will be followed by a Poetry Workshop. Tickets are available from Jim and cost £10, which includes lunch.

York Unitarians are organising a half-day training-session entitled "Working on our Welcome"; this will take place on Saturday, June 16th, at 11 for 11.30 am; at York's St. Saviourgate church.

The North West Provincial Assembly is to organise a Worship Studies Foundation Course, on four Saturdays in June and July (June 16th and 30th, and July 14th and 28th), at Cross Street, Manchester; each session begins at 10.30 am. and ends at 4 pm. Booking is essential.

Full details of all the above are on the lounge notice-board.

VINA CURREN

The death occurred, on Sunday, May 6th, of Vina Curren, a member of our Chorley congregation, and, formerly, their lay-leader. Vina had been in failing health, for some time, and had been living in a care home. Her husband, Alan,

died, last year. Both Alan and Vina were stalwart and active Unitarians, in the north-west, for many years.

At the time of writing, we have no details of funeral-arrangements; Kate has contact-details for Sylvia Merrick, Chorley's Secretary, if anyone requires information.

PARKING

We have been informed by The Exchange that a new tenant will shortly occupy their premises; this tenant has specified that he will need his parking-spaces, at all times, including weekends and evenings. We have been requested, therefore, not to park under the covered area, or opposite The Exchange, at the front. Please use our back car-park, especially on Sundays, where there is usually sufficient space. Your co-operation, in this matter, is much appreciated.

HERITAGE WEEKEND

We are in the process of applying for registration for this event, for the first weekend in September. Once this has been done, we can begin to organise our programme. If anyone has photographs, newspaper articles, or other literature, connected with the current church, or the three churches which united to form Bury Unitarian Church, which they would be prepared to contribute towards a display, they should speak, in the first instance, to Betty, Kate or Anne. We can make copies of material, if owners do not wish to part with original documents. Material should be marked with as much information as possible about dates, places, and people. Please help us to make a success of this, our first Heritage Weekend.

THANKS

The first weekend in May was a particularly busy one for our Minister. On the Friday evening, Kate conducted the first of her early evening Meditation Services, when we were asked to celebrate elements in our lives for which we

felt grateful. This was a tranquil act of worship, in which prayers, music and readings alternated to great effect. **Future sessions will be held on the first Friday of the month, at 6.15 p.m.**

Saturday afternoon saw a group gathered to participate in a workshop on the subject of Commitment. First, we considered how best we might present an explanation of our beliefs, in a positive way; next, we examined a variety of statements from different Unitarian sources---good, bad and indifferent; finally, each individual was asked to write a general statement which might represent our own church---a demanding but satisfying task; despite our struggles, we all agreed, in broad terms, about how we would wish to describe ourselves, and some excellent pieces were produced. **The next Workshop will be held on August 11th.**

Sunday, May 6th, brought our morning-service, attended by a group of visitors from our Rochdale church, plus a family-party who had come to enquire about a wedding. In the afternoon, Kate had been asked to conduct Ainsworth's Anniversary Service, and the Ainsworth, Bury and Rochdale congregations were well-represented. She spoke about the past Ainsworth members, whose beliefs and ideas had influenced the present-day congregation, and continued with conjecture about what future members might be like---and what they might think about their church-ancestors; they might appreciate their roots, without actually approving of their predecessors (and vice-versa)! Both services were enjoyed by everyone, and those who had not previously heard Kate preach were united in praising her efforts. Thank you, Kate, for a high-quality and successful weekend.

MEMBERSHIP AND GA FEEDBACK SERVICE

This was held on April 29th. During the first part of the service, we welcomed five new members: Adrian Brady, Barbara and Bryan Freemantle, Peter Hunter, and Damion Longford, who had all found in us their spiritual home, despite the fact that they had reached us by different routes and for different reasons. They were formally welcomed by Anne Mills, Chairman of the Congregation, given a chalice badge each, and invited to sign our Membership Book; all members will be given the opportunity to sign this, in time. The whole congregation then reaffirmed its commitment to our church, to each other, and

to its new members; the ceremony, though simple, was very moving, especially when spontaneous applause greeted the "newcomers".

Those who had represented us at the GA Annual Meetings, earlier in the month, spoke briefly but interestingly of their experiences. Betty commented on the contribution to the Meetings of younger members of the movement, admiring their vitality, enthusiasm and hopes for the future. She had watched the installation of the new National President, Joan Cook, and the Vice-President, Celia Cartwright. She had listened with mixed emotions to the report on the new Training and Education Development Project, which has yet to prove its worth. Neville reported on the Business Meetings, at which eight Motions had been discussed and debated; one was referred back for further discussion, next year, and the others were agreed; next year, we are to have shorter Meetings, which will still, hopefully, remain effective. Val was involved in presenting information-sessions on Findhorn, and on the Earth Spirit Network, in which she is much involved; this done, she was able to relax and participate in others' presentations. Susan had been present at The Women's League Annual General Meeting and was able to report on the installation of Anne Gemmell as League President; the total raised, over the year, for Prostate Cancer UK; and the next year's Project: Sepsis. This year's Meetings had inspired enthusiasm in their participants, and it was good to appreciate our delegates' contributions and enjoyment.

CAMERA CLUB

This will meet on Wednesday, May 30th and on Tuesday, June 12th, at 7 pm. on both occasions. The group are planning an exhibition for the summer, to run between July 2nd and 15th, and would welcome photographs from the congregation. At present, various topics are under discussion: Flowers, Sunrise/Sunset, Water, Churches (including our own), Motive Power, Landscapes, and Architecture; there will also be a miscellaneous section. If you have photographs which you would like to contribute, why not come along to the meeting and talk to the others in the group?

THE BOOK CLUB will meet on Weds. 27 June at 7pm. The book to be discussed is **THE POSTMISTRESS** by **Sarah Blake**. All welcome.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

Finally, finally, I think we can say the weather has turned! I've loved watching the trees in the church garden blossom and then turn to leaves, and we've even got round to planting some tubs and some herbs at the manse: I'm showing my Norfolk roots by having lots of lavender at the front, but my realistic Lancashire weather-awareness by sheltering the strawberries at the back.

The church building hasn't, in all honesty, been the most tranquil of places to work recently, and everything seems to be covered in a fine layer of dust, but as I write the lift is very near to completion and I hope that as we read this it will be in use. No major work is without disruption, and we should thank the trustees for their decision to go ahead with the lift and to fund it themselves, and particularly Roger Mills who has had oversight of the work, and negotiated brilliantly between us and the builders: Someone once told me that builders don't think they're working in your home/office/church, but that you're trespassing on their building site, and Roger has trodden that line with finesse!

In the middle of May we had a service on equal marriage, followed by a discussion on whether the church should or should not apply for a license to offer marriages to same-sex couples. The outcome of this discussion is up to a vote from everyone in the congregation, and the outcome will be known by mid-June. My views on it are well known. But whatever the decision is, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the discussion and particularly

everyone who attended the discussion on May 13th. Matters like this can be divisive and meetings to discuss them can be fraught, but the discussion that Sunday was amicable, constructive, and friendly, and I am very proud that, as a church community, we are able to express our differing opinions without falling out. Someone pointed out at the meeting that it's not always easy to give your opinion when it's not shared with everyone, and that that's particularly the case when it's not shared with the minister - the person was right, and so I'm grateful that we have an atmosphere of trust and openness!

It was very lovely last month to welcome the members of Rochdale Unitarians to our service. Unitarian churches in Norfolk are very few and far between (in fact, there are two in the whole county!) and it's great to have close Unitarian neighbours. It was a special treat to hear our already excellent singing boosted by our visitors. I like to think we treated them nicely enough that they'll come back again.

And next month we're joined by our friends from Bury United Reformed church, as part of our annual exchange programme. We're very lucky to have good relationships with other non-Unitarian churches as well, and I look forward to those visits.

We're heading into the proper summer now, and people have already started to take holidays. If you're going away over the summer please enjoy your break, and come back to tell us all about it and make us jealous!

With love, Kate

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

The June monthly contemplative worship service will take place on Friday 1st June. This month we will be reflecting on the subject of 'laying our burdens down'. The service will consist of periods of quiet contemplation, recorded music, and readings. It will last about 40 minutes and be followed by refreshments.

COMMUNION

The June communion service will be held on Sunday 24th June. The communion service is a sacred sharing of bread and wine, and is open to everyone of any religious belief or none. The service starts at 12.30 and normally lasts about 15-20 minutes.

If you are curious about what happens but anxious about actually taking part, you are very welcome to join us and decide at the time whether you want to share in the bread and wine. There is no obligation.

EQUAL MARRIAGE

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE AND DISCUSSION on equal marriage, you are now invited to vote on whether the church should apply for a same-sex marriage licence. The ballot box will be at the back of church on the 27th May and the 3rd and 10th June, and the votes will be counted after the service on 10th June.

The options on the ballot are:

"I AGREE that Bury Unitarian Church should apply for authorisation to conduct marriages for same-sex couples on an equal basis with those between a man and a woman," and "I DO NOT AGREE that Bury Unitarian Church should apply for authorisation to conduct marriages for same-sex couples on an equal basis with those between a man and a woman."

SUPPLIES FOR THOSE WHO NEED HELP:

Thank you very much for your continued generosity to the Food Bank and to our stock of warm clothing and sleeping bags.

We are still very much in need of Food Bank supplies (and Sister Joan is very grateful for our donations), but we are now a little overwhelmed with coats and sleeping bags. This is, of course, a lovely problem to have, but please could I ask you to delay any further donations until our stocks are lower.

Thank you!

READING ROTA:

Several of you already volunteer to do readings in church every so often: if you are not already being asked and would like to be involved, please let Kate know and she will be sure to make good use of you!

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA

SATURDAY 23 JUNE AT 2PM

PIMMS OR NON-ALCOHOLIC PIMMS AT 2PM

FROM 2.30pm TEA WILL BE SERVED.

***DELICIOUS HOME-MADE SANDWICHES, CAKES,
STRAWBERRIES & CREAM***

Tickets from Susan Mitchell £6 (tel.0120488 0484)

EVERYONE WELCOME

THANK YOU

Betty Kenyon with help from Neville, has redone the display boards upstairs and in the Primary room. We appreciate that.

ADVANCE NOTICE

On Sunday 1st July there will be NO SERVICE at Bury Unitarian Church. Instead we will join The United Reformed Church for their service at 11.0am.

On Sunday 8th July Bury United Reformed Church will join us for worship.

JUNIOR CHURCH

The last service at which the children will be present is on Sunday 22nd July. The children will return for Junior Church on Sunday 9th September.

ABSEILING DOWN PEEL TOWER 8th JULY

Don't forget to sign up to sponsor Damion and George in their major effort to help provide toilets via the Toilet Twinning Charity.