

BURY UNITATRIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2012

SERVICES

4 March 11.15am The Minister – A short Service followed by a discussion and ballot on same sex ceremonies the

11 March 11.15am The Minister – Spring Service and welcome of new members

18 March 11.15am The Minister – Mothers' Day Posies and Symnel Cake

25 March 11.15am Ray Beecham from Merseyside

CHURCH STEWARDS

4 March Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgerts

11 March Freda & Derek Worthington

18 March Margaret & John Fitzpatrick

25 March Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the date given, please inform Harry so that stand-in steward(s) can be arranged. Thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

4 March In loving memory of Jim Pollitt
Carolyn, Melanie and families

11 March Mr & Mrs Derek Worthington

18 March In loving memory of Gwen Lancashire

25 March In memory of Mr & Mrs W.G.Sharpley (U.S.A.)

Distributors: Edna Wilkinson & Margaret Pollard

Volunteers are needed to distribute flowers after the service on Sundays – please have a word with Molly Ratcliffe.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

3 March Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
10 March Molly Ratcliffe & Betty Kenyon
17 March Anne & Roger Mills
24 March Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
31 March Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson

LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle will meet on Tuesday 20 March at 12.30pm. The organisers are Harry, June and Mark. Please let Harry know if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Women's League will meet on **Thursday 1 March at 7.30pm.** There will be a speaker.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MARCH

Saturday 3 March 11.00am Charity

Monday 5 March 7.00pm Trustees AGM

Tuesday 13 March 7.00pm Communications, Worship and Young People

Tuesday 27 March 7.30pm Finance and General Purposes

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 19 March 7.30pm

MINISTER'S REQUEST

If you know of someone who is ill or who needs a ministerial visit for any reason, please tell the minister.

CALENDER DEADLINE

The deadline for the April edition of the Calendar will be on Sunday 18 March.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the church lounge on Monday, 19th March, 2011, commencing at 7.30p.m.

Nomination forms for the election of officers and Council members will soon be posted on the church notice board.

Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to the Church Secretary, in writing, no later than Sunday, 11th March.

All Officers are elected annually. Retiring Council-members, this year, are Sheila Houghton, Betty Kenyon, Janet Thatcher, and Edna and Roy Wilkinson; they are not eligible for Council for a year. Currently on Council, with a further two years to serve, are: Beryl Bowden, Jean Maden, Margaret Pollard, June Seddon and Jean Taylor; Marc and Philip Peters, and Colin Smith, have one year left to serve. This means that we shall be seeking five members to serve for three years, plus two members to serve for one year, from the date of the AGM.

Please give some thought to nominating people to serve either as Officers or as Council-members; we shall also need Council-members to serve as either Chairman or Secretary of the sub-committees. The Rules of the Congregation state that either the Chairman or Secretary **must** be on Council; as matters stand, there will be difficulties with appointing officers to Finance, and to Communications and Worship. The duties are not onerous, and, if those who are able to make a contribution will do so, we will manage. If we cannot make the necessary appointments, it may be that our present committee-structure needs to be assessed and revised.

Notes from Church Council: 13-2-12

A service for new members will be held in March. We still need at least one delegate to represent us at Nelum meetings. Neville has been appointed to the Steering Committee at the GA Annual Meetings, which means that he cannot vote or be our delegate; Molly Ratcliffe will replace him as delegate. GA Motions will be discussed, after the service on 1-4-12.

Finance: The central heating has required much attention recently; we hope that the problems are now resolved. Action needs to be taken to

reduce draughts from the organ-loft. We shall continue to monitor telephone charges; please use the honesty-box, if your call is not connected with church business. Problems with Bury Link bills are resolved.

Treasurer's Report: Figures for 2011 are now finalised; we are not quite breaking even; however, during last year, we paid for some decoration of the premises, and this goes some way to explaining the deficit.

Efforts: The programme for 2012 has been arranged; all details are contained in a special booklet, a copy of which is now available.

Communications and Worship, with Young People: We shall request 40 more hymn books; as these are currently out of print, we shall have to see whether there is to be another print run. A visit to Dunham Road has been arranged for the evening of Tuesday, April 17th.

Minister's Report: A lengthy discussion about Civil Partnership ceremonies ensued; this will be pursued.

Charity Committee: Roger has met with representatives of The Samaritans, who wish to provide opportunities for their Youth Support Group to assist with fund-raising, during the year.

The Chairman read the Annual Report, which was accepted in its entirety and will now be presented to the congregation at the AGM.

Membership Secretary: two more applications are in the pipeline.

Correspondence: Quita Brooks thanked us for our condolences. Anne and Harvey sent New Year greetings from Florida. Other correspondence: from Nelum, re. its AGM; The Fair Trade Foundation; Bury Metro, re. Police Commissioner's Election.

AOB: Beryl has given permission for Ancestry to use Bank Street's records on its website; records from Chesham and Heywood are proving hard to trace.

The Chairman expressed thanks to all members of Council for their work during the past year; the church officers were also thanked, as were retiring members, especially if they had acted as Chairman or Secretary of a sub-committee.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open, this month, on March 4th and 11th. March 4th is the middle Sunday of Fair Trade Fortnight, so we will be having a tasting of fairly-traded foods, after the service then. The new Spring and Summer brochures are available; feel free to collect a copy from the table. Some new stock, including blackcurrant and liquorice sweets and iced fruit cake, is now available.

FISH AND CHIP BABIES

Many of us are now busy knitting vests and beanie hats for these babies. Patterns and a small amount of wool are available from the Traidcraft table, or speak to Anne or to June Seddon. Please bring completed items to church by April 1st.

LOST PROPERTY?

There are two sweaters in a plastic bag, on one of the lower shelves of the middle of the three corridor cupboards. If you know anything about them, or wish to claim them, please speak to Anne Mills. If the sweaters remain unclaimed, at the end of March, they will be removed.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 26 March at 7.00pm in the lounge at Bury Unitarian Church. The book to be discussed is *The Girls* by Lori Lanseng. This book should be available from the cupboard in the coffee lounge after Weds. 29 February.

All are welcome to come to Book Club. We share light refreshments during the evening and usually finish around 9.00pm.

The following dates and books have been chosen:

Monday 30 April – *Yesterday's Houses* by Mavis Cheek

Monday 28 May – *White Mughuls* by William Dalrymple

These books are available to us from Bury Library and are therefore cost-free.

ADVANCE NOTICE

A visit to Dunham Road Unitarian Chapel, Altrincham will take place in the evening on Tuesday 17 April. This is the return visit that was postponed last Autumn because of the riots in Manchester. More details are on the notice board in the lounge.

NELUM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at Bolton Bank Street Chapel on Saturday 24 March. The speaker will be Rev. Peter Godfrey on the founding of the Send a Child to Hucklow holidays. The Annual District Service will be led by Rev Dr Vernon Marshall. Programme for the day and details of booking for lunch are on the notice board.

SUNDAY MARCH 4 - DISCUSSION AND BALLOT ON THE NEW LEGISLATION ON SAME SEX PARTNERSHIP CEREMONIES

After a short service, there will be time for discussion and questions before a ballot of the congregation is taken, to decide if the church will become licensed for partnership ceremonies.

Many people will have heard the sermon on the new laws regarding premises where same sex partnerships can be registered. For those who were not there or who need a reminder, the following explains, in short, the changes in legislation:

Until December 2011 those wishing to enter into a same sex civil partnership had to have that partnership registered at a registry office by a registrar. If the couple wanted any religious ceremony, this had to be a blessing conducted separately in a church willing to carry out such a ceremony.

After December 2011 same sex partnerships can now be registered in a licensed building (a church) by a registrar as part of a religious ceremony. The partnership would have two elements: the legal registration which must be carried out by a registrar and the religious ceremony performed by the minister.

If you have any questions you wish to ask beforehand please see Beryl.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday 11 March there will be a Service for Spring during which five new members of the congregation will be officially welcomed into membership.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

On Sunday 18 March there will be a Service of Readings and Music with Spring Posies and Simnel Cake.

MINISTER'S MONTH

I know that many people find going to the dentist to be a frightening and traumatic experience, though not so much these days as it used to be. I have to say that over the last twenty plus years, going to my dentist has been a pleasure. Always gentle and kind, he only did any treatment if it was absolutely necessary. Sad to say, he has retired and I am going to miss him. In his place is a young lady who seems very nice but a bit keen and I think, at least for some time, going to the dentist will be approached with a little less confidence. Why do we feel like this about the dentist? I suppose because it makes us feel vulnerable, lying prone, mouth open, with someone bending over us with dangerous-looking instruments. Lying there on the dentist's chair is when I know I would recant at the very mention of being tortured for my faith.

During my week off, at the end of January, John and I went up to Northumberland to stay in our favourite cottage. The weather was perfect, blue sky and sunshine every day. Unfortunately John's ankle, which he had injured previously, was not so good, so he couldn't walk very far. So, while he stayed in and read books, I took myself off walking along the coastal paths. It was exhilarating, particularly on those days when there was a strong wind and the spray was being whipped up off the sea. Time to think and time to relax – just what we needed.

Can I remind everyone that I am at the church on Saturday mornings should anyone wish to speak to me. It is a good time to see me if it is a confidential matter or one that would take more time than can be managed on a Sunday. The vestry provides private space without fear of interruption. Please bear this in mind if I can help in any way. Of course, should anyone want a visit at home, I will always do this.

Beryl

AINSWORTH CHAPEL March 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES FOR MARCH:

PREACHER

10.00 am 4th March Mr Granville Leather
(Bank St Chapel, Bolton)

10.00 am 18th March Rev Desmond Porter
(Mothering Sunday)

IN MEMORIAM KENNETH BROOKS (10.03.1919 – 09.02 2012)

We regret to announce that Kenneth passed away peacefully on 9th February aged 92 years. A life-long, stalwart member of the Chapel, he served with devotion and distinction in innumerable ways, including as Chapel Secretary for 60 years and a Chapel Trustee for 42 years. Amongst his many roles and responsibilities, he was an active and enthusiastic member of the Chapel Drama Society and ran the Friday evening Whist Drives for many years.

With an excellent tenor voice, he sang in the Chapel Choir and also in The Men's Fellowship Choir at Bury.

A Service of Celebration was held at the Chapel on Friday 17 February led by The Rev John D. Allerton, followed by committal at East Lancashire Crematorium and a reception in the Schoolroom. A special 'Thank you' to the choir from Bury for their special singing of 'Lead me Lord' a personal favourite of Kenneth's and specifically requested by him to be sung at his funeral.

He will be very much missed at Chapel and we send our deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife, Quita, and family members.

FLOWERS AND WREATHS

As usual, the graveyard will be tidied and any Christmas wreaths removed in time for Mothering Sunday, 18 March.

Thank you to everyone who provides flowers for Chapel services. They are a focal point of our worship and very much appreciated. Following the service, the flowers are normally distributed to any one who is unwell or housebound. *Dorothy Roberts*

