

<p>BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH</p> <p>CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2013</p>

SERVICES

3 March	11.15am	The Minister
10 March	11.15am	The Minister- <i>Mothering Sunday</i>
		<i>With simnel cake & spring posies</i>
17 March	11.15am	Rev John Allerton
24 March	11.15am	The Minister
28 March	6.30pm	Communion - Maundy Thursday
31 March	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

3 March	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
10 March	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
17 March	Marian Price & Jean Taylor
24 March	Beryl Bowden & Jean Jackson
31 March	Rebecca Warburton & Marc Peters

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

3 March	Barbara & Alan – in loving memory of Eda Gerrard
10 March	In loving memory of Jim Pollitt
17 March	Mr & Mrs D Worthington
24 March	In memory of Mrs Gwen Lancashire
31 March	In memory of Mr & Mrs W G Sharples – USA

Distributors: Edna Wilkinson & Margaret Pollard

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

2 March	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
9 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
16 March	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
23 March	Jean Clarke & Freda Worthington
30 March	June Seddon & Vera Stephenson

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MARCH

Monday 4 March	7.00pm	Trustees AGM
Monday 18 March	7.30pm	Congregational AGM
Tuesday 26 March	7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes

APRIL CALENDAR DEADLINE – Sunday 24 March – thank you.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 7 March at 7.30pm **John Smith** (grandson of Muriel & Colin) will be giving a presentation about his experiences cycling across America last summer.

- 4300 miles in 9 weeks from Seattle to Boston
- crossed 13 US states and 1 Canadian province
- has a wealth of stories to tell, photos to bring

Hope you can come along to meet John and see the bike he used for his epic journey. This will be an open evening – all men welcome and anyone who would like to come welcome also.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

A meeting of the members of the Men's Fellowship has been arranged for 12.30, on Sunday, March 17th; please collect your coffee and make your way to the back of the church, if you wish to attend. There has been a suggestion that this group ought to be wound up, and we need to discuss its future. If the Men's Fellowship is to continue, it will need a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and decisions must be made, also, about the frequency and format of meetings. Please come along and make your feelings known. **Anne**

LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle meets on Tuesday 19 March at 12.30pm. The organisers are Anne & Roger. Please inform them if you are unable to attend.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 25 March at 7.00pm

The book to be discussed will be announced later.

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

There are still plenty of full Smartie tubes available, just waiting to be filled with 20 pence pieces; the proceeds go to church funds. When the Traidcraft stall is open, the Smarties are on the stall; at other times, please speak to Brenda Ainsworth or Anne Mills.

TRADCRAFT

The stall will be open, this month, on March 10th and 24th; if you require items, at other times, please ask Anne or June. Fair Trade Fortnight runs from February 25th to March 10th; if you feel able to buy a fairly-traded product, during this period, the proceeds will go towards helping people in developing countries to achieve a better life and standard of living.

We shall have a Fair Trade Tasting, after the service, on March 24th; this has had to be postponed until after Fair Trade Fortnight; it was originally planned for March 10th, until we realised that it clashed with Mothering Sunday.

THE INQUIRER AND THE UNITARIAN

Subscriptions to these two publications were discussed at the February Finance Meeting. Payments for the whole year, for both of them, are paid, in advance, out of church-funds. This year, copies have been paid for, but subscribers have not wished to continue, and this means that we have ordered and paid for more copies than we need. Consequently, towards the end of this year, we shall ask people to indicate, in advance, that they are willing to subscribe, and pay for, the whole of the following year. We hope that this will be a better system; in the meantime, we have extra copies available; if you are interested in purchasing copies, please speak to Joe Ashworth about *The Inquirer* and to Betty Kenyon about *The Unitarian*.

THE "HOME" SERVICE!

Our service, on January 27th, was conducted by those involved in a recent seminar, entitled "Journeying Home and Away". The content of the entire service had been chosen by members of the group, and very thought-provoking and moving it was! It made all of us think about what "Home" meant, not just in terms of a physical space, but as a private, inner, spiritual proposition, unique to each individual. The music of "Take Me Home" brought tears to the eye, whilst "The Heap of Stuff Attack", from the two Pams (Ayres and Oxley), made us all laugh--- and obviously struck a chord with more than one person!

I do congratulate and thank each participant on the success of an excellent service; what we learned remained with us, to take away and ponder, and it was clear that the seminars, masterminded by Beryl, to whom thanks are also due, had been productive and worthwhile; it was good to share the experience!

QUIZ EVENING

The Charity Committee will hold its first event of the year on Saturday, March 9th, at 7.30 p.m. This will take the form of a Quiz, and Pie and Peas Supper; feel free to bring your own wine; soft drinks and nibbles will be provided. Once again, we welcome Doug and Enid Cathcart, as our Quizmasters, and look forward to pitting our wits against friends and family.

Tickets cost £6.00 and will be available from committee-members, from February 10th onwards; please try to sell tickets to form teams of between 4 and 6 people; you will be able to reserve a table. This year's charity is the North West Air Ambulance. Collecting boxes are still available, and full ones can be handed in at any time to Barbara Bamford.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the church lounge on Monday, March 18th, 2013, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Nomination-sheets for the election of officers and Council-members will soon be posted on the lounge notice-board.

Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to Anne Mills, in writing, no later than Sunday, March 10th.

All officers are elected annually. Retiring Council-members, this year, are Margaret Miller, Marc Peters, Phillip Peters, Colin Smith and Peter Whewell; they are not eligible to serve for a year. Currently on Council, with a further two years to serve, are Robin Ainsworth, June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Roger Mills; and Beryl Bowden, Jean Maden, Margaret Pollard, June Seddon, Jean Taylor and Edna Wilkinson have one year left to serve. We need five members to serve for three years.

Please give thought to nominating people to serve as officers or Council-members; we shall also need Council-members to serve either as Chairman or Secretary of each sub-committee; this is particularly important, this year, in the case of the Efforts Committee, which has run without an official secretary, and whose chairman is resigning, at the AGM. Anne Mills intends to stand down as Chairman of Council but is willing to be nominated as Church Secretary, instead.

If we can all make a small contribution to the administration of our church, all will proceed smoothly; if not, we must assess and revise our current committee-structure.

Please: help, if you can.

NORTH AND EAST LANCASHIRE UNITARIAN MISSION (N.E.L.U.M.)

The district association of which Bury Unitarian Church is a member, is holding the Annual General Meeting of the district at Bury on Saturday 16 March. The day consists of the AGM, lunch and a talk by the President of the G.A. and a District Service. The day is open to everyone and is an enjoyable opportunity to meet with other Unitarians. All details are on the notice board in the lounge.

MEETING TO DISCUSS 'ASSISTED SUICIDE'

Monday 11 March at 7.00pm

This is the subject of a motion to be re-presented at the annual GA meeting, having been returned last year for further thought.

Since then a booklet has been issued by those supporting legalising assisted suicide. The booklets have been available in the church lounge for some time for people to take away and read.

This is an issue that delegates to the GA will be asked to vote on. It is a serious and emotive issue and one on which they need a clear mandate from the congregation on how they should vote. This is a matter of life and death and one which I think should be treated extremely seriously. A decision on how to vote should only be made after wide consultation and a definitive decision is forthcoming from our members. Please come to the meeting if you can. *Beryl*

THANK YOU TO ALF HOWSON

Members of the Church Council expressed their thanks to Alf Howson for all the extra stewarding he's done at services during the last three months.

IN SUPPORT OF OUR CHARITY FOR 2013 - NORTH WEST AIR AMBULANCE

QUIZ EVENING

WITH A PIE & PEA SUPPER

SATURDAY 9 MARCH AT 7.30PM

TICKETS £6 BYO DRINKS

(soft drinks available)

(You can reserve a table for teams of 4 - 6)

Tickets from members of the Charity Committee

And from Jean Maden 0161 761 6862

NEWS FROM AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL Sunday Services in March 2013

10.00 am Sunday 3rd March Mr Cody Coyne

10.00 am Sunday 17th March Rev Desmond Porter

Services (which last 45 minutes) are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month with visiting preachers.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Minister's Month

This is the season of Annual General Meetings. The season when organisations take stock of the last year. The Manchester District Women's League held their AGM at Bury at the beginning of February. It was a good occasion warmed by a delicious potato pie lunch. The National President, Anne Harrison, attended and very positively pointed out that the Manchester District has one of the biggest and most thriving branches in the country. I think it is easy to become disheartened when looking back and seeing how the number of members has fallen over the years. This is when it needs someone from outside to point out the positives and help us be thankful for all we have today.

The N.E.L.U.M. AGM also takes place at Bury this year and, as Secretary of the District, I have been busy over the last few weeks preparing everything and sending out information. Another President will be present on that day when Lis Dyson-Jones, GA President, returns to Bury to speak to the meeting. As Secretary of the District I prepare the Annual District Report and each year I receive a report from each of the NELUM churches to include in this. In my time as Secretary I have experienced the closure of churches and the decline in congregational numbers in most of the others. These are sad facts but hardly surprising in times that are difficult and challenging for all churches. Though it is apparent, from the reports, that remaining positive can be a struggle there emerges a sense of a real determination and belief in what people do for their church. Although in many, if not in all cases, numbers may have fallen the deep feelings that people have for their place of worship and friendship remain as strong as ever.

The church AGM will be held in the middle of March and we will hear that overall it has been a good year for Bury Unitarian Church. Financially our monies, well looked after by church and trustee Treasurers, are firmly in the black. (Though we should never be complacent about this) There have been six new members welcomed to our community. We have had a busy year socially and have raised over £1500.00 from our events, not including the Bazaar. Services have been well attended and I hope that they have been varied, interesting and

of a good standard. We have enjoyed wonderful music which has enhanced worship enormously. The Church has featured regularly in the local press usually with a good photograph to catch the eye. The church is also well cared for and always looks attractive. This is a great plus point, I have visited many churches that looked 'down at heel' this is depressing for members and puts newcomers off immediately. Our most valuable asset is without doubt our congregation, it is large in number (the largest in the district) and in heart. It is warm and welcoming and I believe we all get along very well together, offering each other support and encouragement. Sometimes when we are close to something it is easy to see the negative things and so now and again we need to take stock, stand back and see just how fortunate we are. The Annual Meeting gives us this opportunity we should not waste it. It will show us that we have a firm foundation from which to move into the future.

As I enter my third year as 'sort of' Minister I am very aware that the enthusiasm and energy that is present at the beginning of a new ministry inevitably dissipates over time and that it is my job to try and keep those levels as high as possible. To this end I have organised, with help, a different 'big' event each summer. The first year was a service of music and a lunch to which we invited friends. Last year a ready-made celebration was enthusiastically jubilated. This year, at a Reunion Service and Lunch, I hope we can welcome back lots of people and celebrate old and new friendships. For this I need your continuing help. Next year it will be forty years since the opening of the present building. There will no doubt be appropriate celebrations for that when, possibly, some of those who return this year will come back again.

In the next few weeks the church will have a new external notice board in a brighter colour and in a more prominent position. It will have space to advertise special services and events. It will also tell people that this is a different church - I hope some people come inside and find out what makes it so.

Beryl

AGM

At the AGM we will be looking for people to fill positions on church committees. Last year we did not fill all the vacant positions this makes the administration of church life complicated. I have over the year filled in as secretary to the Efforts Committee and as Minutes Secretary to the Church Council because there was no one to do those jobs. I am not the only one who has had to 'fill the gaps' where no appointment was made last year. Please, please volunteer, you don't need any special talent the church is not a multinational conglomerate we just need people with commitment and enthusiasm who want Bury Unitarian Church to continue to thrive. I am going to say thank you before the AGM because I am sure we will get volunteers. *Don't hide your light under a bushel!* **Beryl**

WE MAY HAVE IT !

Millions upon millions of people everywhere are drifting from old formulations, no longer willing to view the ancient myths as religious truths. They are looking for a vital, modern religion with a personal and social imperative. We may have it!

Our religion is one of social concern, a religion of intellectual and ethical integrity, a religion that embraces the scientific world-view, a religion that stresses the dignity and worth of each person, that values goodwill as the creative force in human relations.

Adapted from words by Lewis A Mcgee

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 761 2960
Minister's email	theallertons@talktalk.net
Editor's telephone	01706 822651
editor's email	pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt	078767 16563
Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury BL9 5HD	0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	to be appointed	
Church Treasurer	John Fitzpatrick, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374