

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2014

SERVICES

- 2 March 11.15am The Minister
- 9 March 11.15am **The 40th Anniversary of the Dedication Service of the Church Building. The service will be conducted by Reverend John Allerton. *Please note there is no coffee after this service. See 'Traidcraft' article.***
- 16 March 11.15am The Minister
- 23 March 11.15am The Minister
- 30 March 11.15am The Minister – Mothering Sunday

CHURCH STEWARDS

- 2 March Betty Kenyon & John Allerton
- 9 March Marian Price & Jean Taylor
- 16 March Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
- 23 March Sue McMullen & Marc Peters
- 30 March Alf Howson & Roger Mills

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

- 2 March In loving memory of Barbara & Jim Pollitt

- 9 March Church Flowers
- 16 March In loving memory of Barbara Ashworth – Vera, Joe & Family
- 23 March In memory of Nora Fletcher – Barbara Spencer
- 30 March Church Flowers

Distributor: Barbara Bamford

If you would like to make a donation to the Flower Fund please speak to Molly.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

- 1 March Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
- 8 March Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
- 15 March June Clarke & Freda Worthington
- 22 March Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
- 29 March Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 6 March at 7.30pm Talk by Carol Twist from Healthcare UK

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 31 March at 7.0pm. The book to be discussed is: *RACHEL'S HOLIDAY* by Marion Keyes. New faces are always welcome. We talk for about an hour then share refreshments until about 9pm.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MARCH

Monday 3 March	7.00pm	Communications, Worship & Junior Church
Weds. 12 March	7.00pm	Efforts
Monday 17 March	7.30pm	Congregational AGM

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Please note the **early deadline date for the April Calendar**. All items should be in the hands of the editor by Sunday 16 March – thank you.

THE LUNCHEON CLUB - TUESDAY 18TH MARCH 12.30PM.

The luncheon club will meet in the upstairs hall on this occasion.

Please use the back door (Silver Street) and the back stairs. The music exams will be taking place downstairs so we would ask you to enter quietly.

Please place your name on the list on the board if you will be attending.

Menu: Cumberland Hotpot followed by Lemon Roulade and Cream.

Please note that the Music Exams are due to be held during that week, so lunch will be served upstairs, and those attending will need to enter by the back door. If anyone needs the stair-lift, please let Beryl or Roger know.

We have had to alter some Luncheon Club dates in the early part of this year, to fit with the chefs' commitments. We meet in April on the 8th, in May on the 6th, and in June on the 17th, with Anne, Susan and Beryl hosting respectively. Please make a note of these dates in your diaries

ADVANCE NOTICE

Lunch has been booked at Park Farm for Sunday 12 October; please make a note of the date. Park Farm will need plenty of notice for this occasion, so names and deposits will be collected in June and July. Watch this space!!

NOTES FROM 1974 (3)

The month of March, 1974, resonates with me, as members of my family play their small part in the history of the church. At the Congregational AGM, on March 28th, the Chairman, Bernard Haughton, paid tribute to his predecessor, Alex Rogers, and to all other deceased members of the Building Committee since its inception; one of those members was my father, George Sutherland, from Bank Street, who urged the congregation not to throw good money after bad and to take the sensible option of demolishing the old church; he died in August, 1971, without seeing the completion of the new church---a project which he had worked hard to support. In 1974, my mother, Rene, volunteered to become the church cleaner and, by March, was preparing to begin her new job. By then, also, my younger daughter, Diane, had been baptised---the first baby to be so in the new church; I still have her Baptism and Cradle Roll certificates, as well as those for my elder daughter, Helen, who was baptised in 1972, at George Street, by Rev. Jim McClelland. Jim also married me to Roger; we were the last Bank Street couple to be married at the old church, in August, 1968.

When the new congregation moved into the completed building, Church Secretary, Norman Haworth, commented that “1974 was undoubtedly the most momentous year in the lifetime of its present congregation.” He was proud to announce that a colour film record had been made of the transition from old to new. An impressive Dedication of the Building and its Congregation was arranged for March 9th, and a sub-committee was set up to organise arrangements; the service, conducted by Rev. J. D. Allerton, fell

into three sections, to depict, in words and illustrations, the past, present and future of Unitarianism in Bury; in addition, the service included Responsive Reading and the Affirmation of the Congregation. This, in best Bury Unitarian tradition, was followed by a buffet, tickets for which were sold, and members were urged to buy these as soon as possible, as there might not be enough places for all who wished to attend. Mrs. E. S. Ainsworth offered to provide church-flowers for the occasion. It is recorded that the net cost to Church Council of all the celebrations was £52.67 (according to the internet---£383.79 in today's money).

As regards money in general, the Church Secretary reported that the new building had incurred vast costs; however, the final deficit on the building project was, pleasingly, comparatively minimal---between £1,100 and £2,000; once this had been paid, the sum of £22,841.85 was left in the Building Fund, as Barbara Ashworth was able to declare. Church-funds, already healthy, were further swelled by £9,000 from the sale of the Bank Street caretaker's house, 18 St. Mary's Place. Treasurer, Jack Crabtree, issued a stern warning, though: because of inflation, charges for gas, electricity, water and telephone were set to rise tremendously, and, in the light of this, the congregation were to be asked to reconsider their contributions to the church. Does this sound familiar?

Anne Mills

The flowers on Sunday 23 March have been donated by Ms Barbara Spencer in memory of Nora Fletcher. Nora and Jim Fletcher were the first couple married in the new building on 26 March 1974.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the church lounge on Monday, March 17th, 2014, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Nomination-sheets for the election of officers and Council-members have been 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 9th.

All officers are elected annually. Retiring Council-members, this year, are Beryl Bowden, Jean Maden, Margaret Pollard, Jean Taylor, and Edna Wilkinson; they are not now eligible to serve for a year. Currently on Council, with a further year to serve, are Robin Ainsworth, June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Roger Mills; and Norah Hickson, Roy Holden, Rene Hollos, Sue McMullen and Molly Ratcliffe still have two years to serve.

Please give thought to nominating people to serve as officers or Council-members; we need five people to serve for three years, and one person to serve for one year. The Efforts Committee is very short of members, and in need of a secretary.

If everyone will volunteer to do a small amount, we can continue to operate as successfully as we have done in the past. Please help, if you are at all able to do so.

Anne Mills: Church Secretary

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL: 10-02-14 at 7 pm

The delegates to the G.A. AGM's were confirmed as Betty Kenyon and Anne Mills.

The date of the Congregational AGM will be March 17th, at 7.30 p.m. Dates for Council meetings for the next year were provisionally arranged; all Council members will be notified.

The Memorial Garden at Holebottom is now finished and will be dedicated on Sunday, May 4th, at 2.30 p.m.

The Annual Report was read and approved.

Finance: NELUM will be arranging a First Aid course, in the summer, to which we will be invited to send 2 people. Quotes had been obtained for cleaning the cooker, and this will be put in hand. Prices had been obtained for 2 new water-heaters, which are to be purchased. £50 will be donated to the International Council for Unitarians and Universalists. Regular hirers will receive rebates, as a goodwill gesture. Changes to Gift Aid rules were discussed to determine whether the changes might be beneficial to us.

The Treasurer reported a healthy year-end balance, with a slightly higher surplus than projected; John was thanked for his efforts, both with the accounts and with the forecasts he produces.

Efforts: The Christmas Concert raised £456. The year's programme has been arranged. Joint meetings with the Charity Committee are resolving personnel issues.

Communications and Worship, with Young People:

The Junior Church are now meeting in the Primary Room again. Junior Church holidays have been agreed. It is hoped that planters and bulbs will be in place for the service on March 9th. It has been agreed that, next year, there will be 2 levels of prizes (First and Encouragement).

The Minister reported that we are to be visited by organists from the North West Organists' Society, on 15-02-14; some of its members already play regularly for us. We need to look seriously at Growth, and meetings to consider this will be arranged in the summer; we must all commit to this. Funding for Junior Church members who wish to attend events at Hucklow needs to be made available; the children are our future, and, by encouraging them, we may create growth.

Charity: Arrangements are in hand for the Quiz; the rest of the year's programme has been planned. Muriel Bird, from Bleakholt, visited in February and outlined the Sanctuary's work.

NELUM: Concern was expressed that there had been no contact with the district's Executive Committee representative; a question will be raised at

the G.A. AGM's. A dinner is to be held at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church, on May 30th. Halliwell Road will close at Easter. We had received a document requesting our views on the Future of the Lay Pastor Category; the questions were very thoroughly discussed; Beryl will email our conclusions to Stephen Lingard.

Membership Secretary: Slips detailing individual contributions during 2013 are ready to be distributed.

Correspondence: G.A. Mailing; this contained a great deal of material about the G.A. AGM's and also notified us that there had been no nominations for Vice-President, this year. Michael Lord had written to say that he is to re-locate to the U.K. later this year.

A.O.B: It was decided that a new congregational photograph should be taken, this year.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday, 7 April 2014 at 7 pm.

TRAIDCRAFT

Fair Trade Fortnight begins on February 24th and ends on March 9th, this year. To celebrate the event, I shall be organising a Lunch, after the service, on March 9th, from 12.30 p.m. onwards; Beryl has kindly offered help, and soup, sandwiches and sweets will be served. This lunch is **free**; please sign the list on the notice-board to give us some idea of numbers, and to indicate your preference of sandwich-filling. The Co-operative have generously provided vouchers, to help with our costs, and I am pleased to acknowledge their contribution.

Lunch will be served in the upstairs room; please note that there will not be coffee after the service, on that day, but coffee will be available after the meal. The Traidcraft stall will be open, and I have ordered a great deal of new---and different---stock, which I hope everyone will view. There will also be a raffle with, of course, fairly-traded prizes.

After lunch, Roy Turner will show the film, "To rise like the Phoenix", which charts the transition from the old church, through George Street days, to the new one; this will begin at approximately 2 p.m. Please come along and support this venture; this part links with our 40th Anniversary Celebrations. Roy will have copies of the film for people to buy; the price will be approximately £10 each.

The stall will be open again on March 23rd.

MINISTER'S MONTH

The weather has been atrocious over the last few weeks, wet, wet and more wet. Then to add to that we had extremely strong winds and this was the last straw for the church roof which leaked and we had buckets strategically placed around the front of the church to catch the drips. The problem is not the rain but the wind, which, when in a certain direction, blows the water under the flashing. Despite the bad weather there has been relatively little real grumbling because I think we all recognise how lucky we are compared to others. I am sure we have all seen the terrible pictures of flooded homes and businesses and feel a great deal of sympathy for those affected.

A recent sermon about the need to look at church growth prompted quite a lot of comment in the lounge after the service. I think the main thing that people were questioning was, how, how do we encourage people into the church and into becoming member of the congregation. Firstly let me say that each year I have been here we have welcomed new members so that is a positive indication. Secondly let me say that people write books on church growth which are a rich source of ideas that can be adapted to particular situations. The beginning of this year is busy with lots happening so later in the year, when there is time, I hope that we can get together and discuss and put into action ideas that we feel could work for us.

The one way that is universally recognised as achieving growth is for people to invite family and friends to either social events or services,

and to do this regularly so that they begin to feel part of the community. There are services which are particularly good to invite someone to, those with a popular theme such as music or friendship.

This year with the commemoration of the outbreak of the 1914-18 war people may well be looking for places where they can take part in commemorative services. Here at the church in August there will be a service at 11pm on the 4th at the time when war began. That service will be appropriate to that event and, with publicity, we hope will bring people into the church. That service and the Remembrance Service in November, which is so special this year, would both be a good time for members to invite someone to join us.

One very wet Saturday morning, in the middle of February, we welcomed members of the Rochdale Organists Association to come and look at, listen to and play our organ. Three of our organists are members and had suggested the visit. It was really good to welcome them and I think they and we enjoyed their visit. Though we are rich in organists having, at the moment, six to call on, it is always good to be known in the right places.

A planter with spring flowers has now been placed under the external notice board and will soon carry a plaque saying that it is there to mark the church's 40th Anniversary. Hopefully it will be a cheerful reminder to those who pass that the church is here and is as cheerful as the spring flowers.

Beryl

SUNDAY 9TH MARCH 11.15AM

SERVICE TO MARK 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BUILDING.

No doubt John will reminisce about that day and others since.

The service will be followed by a light lunch for which there will be no charge (donations would be welcome).

At 2pm the film 'Rise of the Phoenix' will be shown by Roy Turner.

This is the first of three films made about the church and covered the demolition of the old church, the time in George Street and the rise of the new building. This film has not been shown for a long time so may not be familiar to many. A reworked version has improved the quality and we will now see ourselves forty years ago in high definition.

If you would like to purchase a DVD they will be on sale on the day for £10.00

The church received donations of £125.00 from the funeral of Beryl Kirkman Oliver. We thank her family for making us their chosen recipients.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

I am looking for people to talk about their experience of 'mothering' this could be about their own mother, themselves as mothering, or 'mothering' in a wider context.

Please speak to me if you wish to take part.

Beryl

ADVANCE NOTICE

There will be a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on 17th April at 6.30pm.

THANKS

To Beryl for producing the front cover for this Calendar.

CHURCH INFORMATION

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If you would be prepared to receive your copy of The Calendar as an attachment to EMAIL please inform the editor and this will be arranged.