

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH
CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2017

CHURCH SERVICES

5 March	11.15am	The Minister
12 March	11.15am	The Minister
19 March	11.15am	The Minister
26 March	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 March	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
12 March	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
19 March	Lois & Alan Williams
26 March	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If the given date is not possible, please re-arrange with another steward(s) – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 March	Barbara & Allan – In memory of Eda Gerrard
12 March	Church Flowers
19 March	Vera Stephenson – In memory of Barbara & Joe Ashworth
26 March	Church Flowers

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton
11 March	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
18 March	June Clarke, Marc Peters, Sue McMullen
25 March	Pam Gilbert & Jean Maden

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 March	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos
12 March	Norah Hickton(M), Peter Whewell, Barbara Bamford
19 March	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife
26 March	Marian Price(M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MARCH

Monday 6 March at 7pm	Communications & Worship with Junior Church
Wednesday 8 March at 7pm	Social & Fund Raising
Wednesday 22 March at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Wednesday 29 March at 7pm	Church Council

IN ADDITION

After a shorter service on Sunday 12 March we will hold a discussion to assess Kate's Ministry. (*see item entitled MINISTRY MEETING*).

On Sunday 19 March the Congregational A.G.M. will be held. (See item entitled CONGREGATIONAL AGM).

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for the April edition of the Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 19 March please.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2 March at 7.30pm **Speaker – Birte Langden**

A Danish lady who is going to tell us about her family helping Jewish people in World War 2. **This is an Open Meeting and everyone is welcome.**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 29 March at 11am **Bill Hargreaves** will be giving us an expose of the newspaper industry. This will be followed by lunch at either The Trackside or at another suitable establishment. Prediction for the rest of the year - The meteorological office have just announced that there will be some weather this year. Keep a lookout in case you miss it!!! **George**

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 27 March at 7pm. The book to be discussed should be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 2 March.

CAMERA CLUB

For a few weeks now myself and Howard Maden have been meeting casually at the church on occasional Wednesday evenings to talk about photography, cameras and related matters. Recently we have been joined by Ade, our minister Kate's partner. He is a very enthusiastic and knowledgeable photographer. We have now decided to "go public" and to

invite any other congregation members with an interest in photography to join us. No specific skills are needed, just an interest in photography of any kind. We don't have an agenda, just a common interest, please feel free to join us or speak to me if you have any doubts.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st March at 7.00 pm at the church. **Roger Mills**

CONGREGATIONAL AGM

Notice is hereby given that the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the worship-area, on Sunday, March 19th, 2017, commencing at 12.30 p.m. The meeting should not last for more than an hour, and coffee and biscuits will be served beforehand, at the end of a slightly shorter service.

Nomination-sheets for the election of Officers and Council-members will be posted on the lounge notice-board, in advance of the meeting; we need a full set of officers to serve for one year, and four Council-members to serve for three years.

Any items for the agenda relevant to an AGM should be notified to Anne Mills, in writing, no later than Sunday, March 5th.

Retiring Council-members, this year, are Barbara Bamford, Val Chamberlain, Susan Mitchell, Peter Whewell and Lois Williams; they are not now eligible to serve for a year; thanks to them for all their efforts. Currently on Council, with a further year to serve are Jean Maden, Di Scaife and Janet Thatcher; Beryl Bowden, June Clarke, Margaret Fitzpatrick and Marian Price have two years left to serve.

Please give thought to nominating people to serve as officers or council-members; nomination-sheets will shortly be posted on the notice-board; if everyone will volunteer to contribute a small amount, we can continue to operate successfully. Thank you. **Anne Mills: Church Secretary**

MINISTRY MEETING

On Sunday, March 12th, we will be holding a discussion, after a slightly shorter service, to assess Kate's Ministry. We shall meet in the lounge, over coffee and refreshments, to speak informally; the first part of the meeting will not include Kate, but she will join us for the second part; the session will last for between an hour and an hour and a half. If you are unable to be present, on the day, but have views to express, please speak to Anne Mills.

INDUCTION SERVICE

Kate's Induction will take place on Saturday, March 4th, 2017, at 2 p.m. The service will be conducted by Rev. Cody Coyne, of Cross Street, Manchester, and the sermon is to be preached by Rev. Jim Corrigan, of Padiham, Rawtenstall, and The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry. The GA President is to be present, as are our MP and his wife, and the Mayor of Bury and his Consort, in addition to various dignitaries, representatives of other Unitarian churches, and representatives of local churches. The Choir, augmented by members of Roundelay, will offer special musical items. The service will be followed by a buffet tea. As we are to be the hosts of a large number of visitors, on this occasion, we should all make a special effort to welcome our visitors. The Induction of a Minister represents a statement of good intent---an acknowledgement that we endorse and support the work of that Minister in our church. The Ministerial Appointments Group felt it important to mark Kate's service, thus far, even---and especially---at this early stage of her time with us.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on March 5th and March 26th. The new Spring Brochures are now available for inspection, and several new (to us!) lines have been ordered. If there is anything you would like to buy which is not already available, please speak to Anne Mills.

The Ministry Meeting, on March 12th, coincides with the end of Fair Trade Fortnight; in celebration of this, a selection of fairly-traded refreshments will be available to sample with coffee. Enjoy!

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will take place on Tuesday, March 21st, at 12.30 p.m; when Anne and Roger will act as hosts. Please watch the notice-board for menu-details and sign up, if you wish to attend. New members are always welcome.

PARKING

Just a reminder that both The Exchange and the residents of St. Mary's Place have asked us not to occupy their parking-spaces, at any time. Our own parking consists of the back car-park (at the weekends, and between 6p.m. and 9 a.m. on weekdays) and the two spaces immediately adjacent to the church; these are usually reserved for the Minister and the organist, on Sunday mornings. Previously, we have been accustomed to using Back St. Mary's Place, the covered area opposite our front door, and the spaces in front of The Exchange, but none of this belongs to us; it never has. The Exchange, in particular, is now taking action against anyone who parks in its spaces; if you do so, be prepared to face the consequences! Up to now, we have remained on reasonable terms with our neighbours, and it is desirable for this situation to continue. Please: use your parking-permits, at all times, and make every effort to comply with requests; your co-operation is much appreciated.

FIRST AID COURSE

A Basic First Aid Course has been arranged for Saturday, May 13th; it will be conducted by Judith Jones, of The British Red Cross, on church-premises, and will be free to all church-members who wish to attend; it may

also be thrown open to others. The course will commence at 1 p.m. and will last for about two and a half hours; we need a minimum of six people for the course to run. Participants will receive a Certificate of Attendance, but there will not be an exam at the end. Subjects to be covered will include what to do in case of heart-attack, stroke, choking, unconsciousness, and broken bones. Best of all, you do not need to get down on the floor, although you may do so, if you wish!

If you are interested in attending the course, please speak to Anne Mills, as soon as possible. If you cannot attend this course, but are interested in First Aid, it may be possible to arrange another course, later in the year.

BOOKS WANTED

Have you any books that we can sell for Church Funds? Please speak to Margaret Fitzpatrick.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Am I alone in not quite being able to believe it's March (or, at least, will be by the time you read this)?

But finally – finally – I think we might be heading for Spring. There have been some cracking days recently, and I'm slowly becoming convinced that there will come a day in Bury where I can dry my laundry outside.

It was a delicious treat this last month to do the baptism service for Hope Maden Hunter. A third generation baptism, no less! It was lovely to see the church full and for there to be so many children and young people. We're really lucky at Bury to have a small but regular core of children for Junior Church, and it's fabulous when they join in so well. I hope everyone takes a bit of time to talk to them sometimes!

By the time you're reading this, we'll have had the church pie and quiz night, which I'm very sure I will have won with a massive lead. If for some

bizarre reason I didn't, I'm sure it was because I generously allowed someone else to get ahead. Joking aside, it looks as though the quiz – quite apart from being yet another lovely social event – will have raised considerable funds for Streetwise, our chosen charity.

I'm so proud to be part of a church which looks outside itself and gives help. That is what a church is for – if all we do is support our own members and our own needs then we may as well not consider ourselves religious at all. Giving is an essential part of all faith groups, and I'm proud that we take that on so wholeheartedly.

This month brings Fairtrade fortnight, a period in which we're invited to think about the impact our purchasing choices have on the wider world. The first service in March is about Fairtrade and Trade Justice, and I'm hoping it will spur people on to support the church Fairtrade stall even more than they currently do. If you're not going to be at that particular service, talk to me about my suggested Fairtrade pledges. There will be gifts for people participating (they may be very low value gifts, but gifts nonetheless!)

This month sees Lent, Mothering Sunday, and the equinox – that time of year when the days and nights are of equal length. By the time of the next calendar the clocks will have changed and we'll be heading towards Easter and all the special services that will bring. This year, that's going to include an inclusive communion service on Good Friday, as well as the service on Easter Morning.

As always, I'm keen to continue getting to see people either in their own homes, or in the vestry, or the Art Gallery Tea rooms. I really appreciate people's hospitality when I've visited, and I'm thrilled that people are increasingly dropping in to see me in the vestry or the tea rooms. Let me know if you'd like to meet up, otherwise I'll eventually just invite myself anyway!

With best wishes, Kate

CHURCH INFORMATION

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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2017



Baptised at Bury on Saturday 11 February – Good wishes to Hope and her parents.

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA