

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2013

SUNDAY SERVICES

5 May	11.15am	The Minister
12 May	11.15am	Dr Jim Clarke of Horwich
19 May	11.15am	The Minister
26 May	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 May	To be arranged.
12 May	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
19 May	Margaret & John Fitzpatrick
26 May	Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 May	Church Flowers
12 May	Betty & Neville Kenyon in loving memory of George Kenyon
19 May	In memory of Rhona, John & Gordon Smith
26 May	In memory of Mr & Mrs Stanley Warburton

Distributors: Vera Stephenson and Margaret Miller

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 May	Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor
11 May	Susan Holt & Nora Hickson
18 May	June Clarke & Freda Worthington
25 May	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson

LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Luncheon Circle will meet on Tuesday 21 May at 12.30pm. The organisers are Harry & Marc. Please let them know if you are unable to attend.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2 May at 7.30pm Mrs Joyce Fowler will be talking about and showing us artefacts of the Fusiliers. It should be a very interesting evening and will be an **OPEN EVENING** – all welcome.

BOOK CLUB

Monday 27 May at 7.00pm *The Welsh Girl* by Peter Ho Davies

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MAY

Wednesday 5 May at 7.00pm	Finance & General Purposes
Wednesday 29 May at 7.00pm	Communications, Worship & Young People

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items to be included in the June Calendar will be Sunday 19 May. Thank you.

STATEMENT FROM THE MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS GROUP

At our Congregational AGM, on March 18th, I informed you of an Expression of Interest in our vacant pulpit. Since then, there has been a rather unexpected development---an offer from Rev. Beryl Allerton to remain with us as our permanent minister.

Constitutionally, this needs the approval of both Church Council and the Trustees, before the congregation is informed; this approval has now been given by both bodies, and an announcement to this effect was made, during the service on April 14th.

Beryl's ministry will remain at three-quarter time, enabling her to take one week off per month, and providing us with the chance to hear a wide variety of other preachers. Beryl has stressed that she finds her work at Bury very satisfying and fulfilling and, since she feels fit enough to carry out the work effectively, she is more than willing to continue. Beryl occupies a unique position within our congregation and has served us with commitment, energy and enthusiasm since she took up her Interim Ministry.

In the immediate future, Susan Holt and I will liaise with Beryl, in order to make any arrangements which may be necessary. Our name has been removed from the Ministerial Vacancies List, and the interested party has been informed that we will no longer pursue the application.

There was some suggestion that a second-year student pastorate should be served here, from September; however, as this would only have been possible if Beryl had left us by then, and as it was for one-quarter time only (10 hours and one service per month), the idea has been rejected and the Principal of Unitarian College, Manchester, informed accordingly. Nor are there any plans to engage an assistant for Beryl.

Church Council expressed its desire to thank Beryl for all her efforts on our behalf and sends her all best wishes for the future.

Anne Mills, Chairman of the Congregation.

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL 8 April 2013

A minute's silence was observed in memory of Barbara Ashworth.

Sue McMullen and Molly Ratcliffe were co-opted onto Council, to serve for 3 years.

MATTERS ARISING

- Work on the new notice board is in hand.
- There had been no response to the letters sent about vehicle access in front of the church, but new arrangements are working well.
- Work is in progress on the new sound system.
- Arrangements are in hand for additional church lighting.

DEFERRED ITEMS

- The worship area is not to be decorated.
- Decoration of the lounge will take place between 29 and 31 May.
- Drainage work at Holebottom is complete, so work on the new Memorial can now begin. The garden will be used for the scattering of ashes and a plaque on the wall will explain this.

FINANCE

- It was agreed that, in future at the end of each AGM, new Council members will be asked which sub-committees they wish to serve on, and the newly-constituted committees will run immediately from then.
- Ciphers on the organ need to be repaired.
- We are still pursuing enquiries about our licence liability.
- Proposed new charges for the worship area were approved.
- Chalice badges are available from Beryl.

THE TREASURER stated that we were in a healthy financial position at the start of the new financial year.

EFFORTS Arrangements are in hand for the forthcoming concert.

COMMUNICATIONS, WORSHIP & YOUNG PEOPLE

- The date of the Reunion Service is now Sunday 9 June.
- Betty has written to the local authority to enquire about signage to the church.

THE MINISTER reported a very hectic period in March: pastoral demands continue to be heavy.

NELUM

The AGM was held at Bury on 16 March. Whilst it was a successful occasion, some aspects were disappointing, and the format will be re-considered before next year. The next meeting will take place on 29 April, details on the notice board.

AOB

- Stewarding for Wednesday evenings will be arranged once we have details of Soroptimist meetings.
- Mugs will not be used for Saturday morning coffee.

THE NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 10 JUNE AT 7.00pm.

SPONSORED WALK

Joyce Ashworth from our Rochdale congregation, is to undertake a Sponsored Walk in June, in order to raise much-needed funds for Unitarian College, Manchester. Details are on the notice board; please sign up if you wish to sponsor Joyce.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on May 5th and May 26th; if you need anything, between these dates please ask me. Thank you.

Anne

FISH AND CHIP BABIES' VESTS

Just a reminder that we are no longer collecting or distributing these vests, so please do not leave any at church. One of the local charity shops may be willing to take small numbers if they are approached, but it is for individuals to make arrangements.

SUNSHINE SMARTIES

Hopefully, we are all continuing to collect our 20p pieces! There are still tubes of Smarties ready to be filled; see Anne or Brenda if you would like one. The contents of tubes which are already full can be handed to Brenda at any time. Last year, we raised a goodly sum for church funds by this method, and it would be splendid if we could equal that amount, in 2013.

COFFEE-MORNING---advance notice

The Charity Committee will hold a coffee morning in aid of this year's charity (North West Air Ambulance), on Wednesday, June 12th, between 10am and 12 noon. NWAA articles will be on sale, and there will be a raffle. Please make a note in your diary; further details will be announced, nearer the time.

YOGA STEWARDING

We seem to be experiencing difficulties in filling the rota this month; on most Monday evenings, we require someone to steward the session. This is one of our regular lettings and brings in revenue for the church. If you are able to help, particularly if you are a key-holder, please sign the list on the lounge notice board.

NEW MEMBERS---AND OLD

It was my pleasure to welcome Jean Brookhouse and Susan Mitchell as new members of the congregation, on Easter Sunday. As we stood waiting to have our official photographs taken, the two ladies were chatting about Stand Unitarian Chapel, with which they both have links. Although they didn't know one another before they started to attend at Bury, they soon discovered that they had many mutual friends and relatives; it may turn out that they are actually related! It's a small world, as they say.

Roger and I attended the 10th **Birthday Celebrations of Bury Cancer Support Centre** on April 10th and were made very welcome; we supported

them as our charity, in 2011. One of the first people we spoke to turned out to be Stella Oates who, with her husband, used to be the caretaker at Bank Street; in fact, the family appears on our wedding photograph! Stella is now the mainstay of the centre as well as being the sister of Daphne Roberts, whom many of us will remember.

Anne

REUNION SERVICE SUNDAY 9 JUNE 11.15AM

Invitations have now been sent out for this service and lunch and it is hoped that we will welcome back lots of people.

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Sunday Services in MAY 2013

10.00 am Sunday 5th May 2013 Rev Helen Mills

10.00 am Sunday 19th May 2013 Dr Jim Clarke

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

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

*We send our kind thoughts and best wishes to any member or friend of
The Chapel who is not well at the moment*

MINISTER'S MONTH

Finally there are signs that spring is actually here at last. The daffodils are out all over the town, a beautiful sight, which cannot fail to make us feel cheerful. As I write this, looking out of the study window, I can see a huge forsythia bush that last week had no sign of blossom and today is gold from top to bottom. Perhaps spring was awoken by the excellent service that Marian conducted on this theme while I was at the GA Meetings. I would like to thank Marian for volunteering to do this, her first, but I hope not her last worship service. I know, from all the comments I have had, how much people enjoyed it.

After all our serious consideration of the motion to be put to the GA Meetings on Assisted Dying it was a disappointment that this motion was carried. A procedural motion was brought to make this an issue on which no vote would be taken, but that failed. I am worried that some will seek media coverage of this motion and how that will reflect on the denomination internally as well as externally. My highlight of the meetings was a little girl called Maisie who is the granddaughter of Reverend Andrew Hill. Maisie is 21 months old and was born deaf. At the 2012 meetings she was beginning to learn basic signing. Though much loved she cried quite a lot and it felt very sad. How much can change in a year, a miracle happened, and thanks to medical science, Maisie can now hear. She has had an operation to fit cochlea implants and now she is a little chatterbox who never stops smiling. Though, at the moment, she still signs as well as speaks. Maisie and her miracle, my highlight.

The latest series of seminars is almost halfway through and sinning seems to be going well each Tuesday. Until now I have used 'ready-made' seminar programmes but having exhausted those I had to devise and write this one myself. This is a bit stressful, I have to admit, because I am no expert on the subject.

As a congregation recent events have left us feeling bruised. The sudden and unexpected loss of June Seddon just a few short weeks after that of Barbara Ashworth is a terrible blow. June with her friendly nature and ready smile was much loved by everyone and we will miss her tremendously. Then, just a week later, we heard the news that three year old Freddie was seriously ill with Meningitis. This was indeed a very sad Sunday.

I know that as a congregation we will support and care for each other as we face this difficult time. If you want to talk and would like me to visit then please have a word or telephone me. Alternatively I am always at the church on Saturday morning.

Beryl

I shall be away for a week from Friday 10th May.

JUNE SEDDON

On Friday 26th April the Funeral of June Seddon took place at the church followed by a service of committal at Rochdale Crematorium. The Minister conducted both services.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Alf, David, Paul and their families at this sad time.

June was a loyal and committed member of the congregation. A member of the Church Council and the Efforts Committee she also did Saturday and Sunday Coffee and helped with the Fair Trade stall. For all those things she will be much missed but even more she will be missed for her gentle, friendly, smiling presence among us. We are deeply saddened by her death.

A PIANO PLAYER AND SOME OTHER PEOPLE

The concert which was postponed will take place either late May or 1st June. Tickets will be honoured for that evening. If you cannot attend and would like a refund please see the person from whom you purchased your tickets. Please see the notice on the board for details.

CHURCH INFORMATION

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Church telephone	0161 761 3785
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