

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2016

CHURCH SERVICES

1 May 11.15am The Minister – Cherry Blossom Service followed by Lunch – weather permitting there will be a group photograph taken following the service.

8 May 11.15am The Minister

15 May 11.15am The Minister

22 May 11.15am The Minister

29 May 11.15am Beryl's last service

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 May Betty Kenyon & John Allerton

8 May Marian Price & Di Scaife

15 May Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher

22 May Sue McMullen & Marc Peters

29 May Alf Howson & Roger Mills

Please ask someone to exchange dates if you cannot make a particular Sunday – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 May Dorothy Nortley – In memory of Mr & Mrs Warburton

8 May Dorothy Nortley – In memory of Colin Smith

15 May Vera Stephenson – in memory of Rhona & John Smith

22 May Anne & Roger Mills – in memory of Rene Sutherland

29 May Church Flowers

Distributors: Barbara Bamford & Jean Brookhouse

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 May Jean Taylor, Marc & Philip Peters

14 May Margaret Fitzpatrick & Norah Hickton

21 May Brenda Ainsworth & June Clarke

28 May Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 May Anne Mills (M), Beryl Bowden, Rene Hollos

8 May Norah Hickton (M), Peter Whewell, John Allerton

15 May Margaret Fitzpatrick (M), Lois Williams, Di Scaife

22 May Marian Price (M), Jean Taylor, Susan Mitchell

29 May Jean Maden (M), Brenda Ainsworth, George Scaife

LUNCHEON CLUB

We shall meet on Tuesday, May 17th, at 12.30 pm. Anne and Roger will host this month, when a buffet meal will be served. Please sign up on the list on the board if you intend to be present.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 5 May at 7.30pm – an Open Meeting – everyone to bring a wrapped present with them costing no more than 50p.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The 2016/7 charity will be the National Deaf Children's Society; fundraiser Louisa Moorhouse spoke about its work at this year's GA Meetings. This year sees the 10th anniversary of compulsory monitoring for deafness at birth. 1 in 4 babies suffer temporary or permanent deafness, at this point, and there are currently 45,000 sufferers. 90% of deaf babies are born to hearing parents. This is a hidden disability, and a huge barrier to communication; deaf children are vulnerable and isolated and suffer from mental health and educational problems. Help is available, and used: a free Helpline for enquiries, a network of support-officers, aids to be borrowed, a Roadshow, Family Weekends, confidence-building events called "Me2", and campaigns such as "Close the Gap" (about educational opportunities) and "Listen Up!" (about audiology services in England). There are more than 32 million deaf children worldwide, and work is carried out in countries such as South Asia, Latin America and East Africa. Louisa then introduced Atia Ahmed, a NDCS volunteer, who has 3 children; the eldest is hearing, but the other 2 are deaf. Atia spoke movingly of her feelings on learning that her second son was deaf; she was in denial, at first---very upset and unable to process information; she felt very negative and emotional and found difficulty in telling her husband, family and friends. However, she learned, over time, that professional help and support are available; her second son is now a happy, confident 10-year-old, thanks to the NDCS.

The Women's League project for 2015/6 raised £6,000 for Unitarian College, Manchester.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN MAY

Tuesday 3 May at 7pm.	Worship, Junior Church, Communications
Weds. 18 May at 7pm.	Finance & General Purposes
Weds. 25 May at 7pm.	Social & Fund-Raising

CALENDAR DEADLINE

All items for inclusion in The June Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 22 May – thank you.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on May 15th and 22nd. If you require items at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean.

REPORT FROM THE GA AGM's

Betty Kenyon and Anne Mills attended the Annual Meetings as the church-delegates, this year; their reports are on the notice-board for everyone to read. Beryl, Susan and Neville were also present. As we expected, all the Motions were carried, without a great deal of debate, and business was transacted smoothly. The fringe-meetings were interesting, with excellent speakers, including Paul Kenyon (Neville and Betty's son), and Dot Hewerdine, from our Chorley church, was installed as the G.A. President for the next year. Please speak to Betty or Anne, if you would like further details.

UNITARIAN THEOLOGY CONFERENCE

This is to be held at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, on Saturday, May 21st, 2016, from 11a.m. until 5 p.m. Full details are on the notice-board; if you wish to attend, you will need to book.

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS GROUP

We met on April 7th, and a further meeting is planned for April 26th. We are still very much involved with forward planning; thanks to Beryl and John, the Taking the Service seminars are proceeding, and 10 people attended the first session. There will be opportunities for this group's members to conduct services, or to assist, from June onwards; not all dates have been filled by pulpit-supply, and it will be interesting to see how the "trainees" have shaped up! Our advertisement for a new minister appeared in The Inquirer, on March 26th, and has received favourable comment. Kendal printed 100 flyers to be distributed at the GA, in an attempt to attract a minister---a good idea, which we may consider, in the future. Once we no longer have Beryl as our minister, we will have to organise our own visiting; anyone who is willing to help should speak to a group-member. The church possesses a number of reference books, purchased over the years; some of these are missing; they all have church-labels on the inside covers, so are easily-identifiable; please search your bookshelves and return any you may find to Betty Kenyon.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At our Congregational Meeting, last November, it was suggested that we might approach university departments, in our search for a new minister, or for trainee-ministers. This will be a huge undertaking, and the EC has now decided to attempt to establish Campus Ministries; Joan Cook has offered to organise a pool of volunteers, for this and other projects, and a message from her, requesting volunteers, is on the board. If anyone wishes to contact Joan, her email address is included, or Anne has the relevant forms. Names are sought, initially, by May 13th.

EASTER: MARCH 27TH, 2016

Easter Sunday---always a tricky day for Unitarians---but not today! Rev. Beryl Allerton reminded us, first and foremost, about the tragedies of the past week in Brussels. She commented that innocent people are still being sacrificed, nowadays, for what is done in the name of faith, power and hatred. In a brilliant sermon, Beryl drew parallels between the current situation in Brussels and Jerusalem at the time of Jesus' entry there, his arrest and subsequent crucifixion. Jesus undermined hatred and lawlessness with love, and turned what looked like defeat into triumphant success. In Brussels, the desire for vengeance was replaced by a feeling of solidarity and a need to express ideas of forgiveness and shared sympathy. Evil must always be defeated, and this is the way in which to achieve our aim---violence must not prevail. A powerful message, which we should all remember!

This was posted on our Facebook page, on the same day, and attracted a magnificent 155 visits. If you haven't seen it already, please look at our page; the posts and comments are well-worth reading.

Congratulations to Beryl for an exceptional sermon, which was very well-received by the congregation.

LET'S SING!

This event is being organised by the North West Provincial Assembly; it will take place on Saturday, May 7th, 2016, at Cross Street Manchester, from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Full details on the notice-board.

CHURCH RULES

For the last two years, our AGM has accepted amendments to the church-rules; it is now Council's intention to issue each member (or couple) with a copy of the newly-updated rules. As far as possible, copies will be sent by email; the rest will be available during this month. If you do not receive a copy, please let me know. **Anne**

HELP – SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

The rota is working pretty well at present thanks to everyone who helps. We need to have a few people on call in case of emergencies i.e. when someone on the rota may be ill or on holiday. If you could consider being one of the 'extras' who may be called upon to fill in, will you give your name and phone number to Jean Taylor a.s.a.p. please – thank you.

ADVANCE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please make a note that A Strawberry Tea will be held on Saturday, July 30th, from 2 p.m.

A Summer Lunch will be held on Sunday, June 19th, at 12.30 p.m. (At present, this is a provisional date, but we hope that the Social and Fund Raising Committee will agree to organise it.)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Some years ago, we compiled an album containing photographs of individual members of the congregation; this is now very much out-of-date, and Council has agreed that a new record should be made. Howard Maden has offered to take on this task, which will be carried out soon, in the lounge, during coffee, after service. Specific dates will be announced from the pulpit. As before, anyone who wishes to opt out is entitled to do so.

SITUATIONS VACANT

From the 1st of June, we need a steward to open and prepare the premises, each Sunday---a task previously carried out by Beryl. The duties are not onerous, but the job does involve being at church by 10.15 a.m. If you could help, please speak to Anne Mills.

Also, we need a volunteer to take on the job of renewing the plants in the two outside tubs, under the notice-board; again, please speak to Anne.

A GOOD IDEA FOR TO OUR WEBSITE!!

Our website is another way in which we can celebrate the richness of our congregation both among ourselves and with a wider audience. Some of us may know each other very well, but do we all know each other as well as we might? Do you know, for instance, which members of the congregation share an interest or hobby? Do you know which members may be able to give you advice over a practical task or suggest a new recipe or book to try? Would a more recent member of the congregation have an opening to a conversation with someone they hadn't spoken to at morning coffee? Would perhaps someone looking at our website (visitor, visiting or prospective minister) and think 'they sound an interesting bunch' and be encouraged by our openness? By writing a few bullet points about yourself you could help to capture the lively and vibrant personality of our membership. Please speak to Val if you would be willing to have a go or want further information or help to get started. She will be eagerly seeking 'volunteers' in the next few weeks. There are 3 examples on the website (click on 'click here to read profiles of individual members' under the photograph of the congregation) or available hard copy from Val.

MINISTER'S MONTH

I am at the stage of doing things for the last time before retirement. It has been that way since Christmas – this is the last time I will Yet it is hard to get out of the habit of accumulating things for this or that service, a reading or a prayer or opening words. Someone said to me recently that I must think sermons all the time. This is true, and true I suspect for every minister, whatever we encounter there is always an awareness that this might provide a sermon. Will this stop happening, I doubt it will, at least in the short term, and no doubt there will be times when I think, what a waste that would have been a cracking sermon.

At the moment John and I are trying to help others to do cracking sermons and prayers and readings. The numbers at the 'Taking the Service' sessions both surprised and delighted us. I think it is an indication

of the positive way in which everyone is approaching the time without a minister as one of challenge and opportunity. In May I will be doing two sessions on pastoral care out of which I hope a small group will take on responsibility for all aspects of pastoral care which is much more than just visiting the sick.

These last four weeks have been particularly sad and difficult. We have lost five members and former members of the congregation. I have never before conducted so many funerals for members in such a short space of time and I have found it to be emotionally exhausting. Of course beforehand I had spent a lot of time supporting and visiting those who were so ill and their families. I feel it has cast a shadow over my last few weeks as minister I never imagined we could lose so many people all at once.

My retirement will give me chance to spend more time at our caravan where the red squirrels seem to be well established judging by number this spring. And on 18th April as we were putting up the awning a duck with twelve tiny ducklings appeared. This is the earliest we can remember seeing ducklings. They are the most delightful sight, as they toddle and tumble along after mum. At the moment the environs of the caravan are covered in gold there being so many daffodils, it is really quite beautiful.

I am looking forward to the Cherry Blossom Service my final special service for which I hope we will have a lovely warm day. If this proves to be the case then we will have white wine in the garden before lunch and this will give us the opportunity to capture some photographic memories which I can keep. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help.

Love Beryl

'TAKING THE SERVICE' MEETINGS

'SERMONS' MONDAY 16 MAY AT 7PM

MEETINGS TO ORGANISE PASTORAL CARE IN THE ABSENCE OF A MINISTER – SATURDAY 14 & SATURDAY 21 MAY AT 10.30AM IN THE VESTRY.

FUNERALS

The funeral of Joe Ashworth took place on Tuesday 29th March at the East Lancashire Crematorium the Minister conducted the service

On Monday 30th May the Joe's ashes will be interred in the Memorial Garden at Holebottom.

To Stuart, Richard, Vera and their families we offer our sincere condolences.

On Tuesday 29th March at the church followed by committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium the Minister conducted the funeral service for Muriel Smith

To Dorothy and the family we offer our deepest sympathy.

On Monday 4th April the Minister conducted the funeral service for Jean Jackson followed by committal at the East Lancashire Crematorium.

Jean's ashes were interred at Ainsworth on Tuesday 5th April.

To Kathryn and Sally and Jean's family we extend our condolences.

The Minister will conduct the funeral service for Rodney Shaw on Tuesday 26th April at Lytham Crematorium.

To Noreen and Rodney's family we send our sincere sympathy.

We thank the family of Betty Connery for the donation of £100.00 in appreciation of her funeral service.

JUST A REMINDER

Di Scaife is still accepting donations towards the cost of the Calendar production and distribution , which is currently running at approximately £10 per copy per year.

Please speak to her if you wish to lighten your pocket or wallet.

Di mobile – 07905899586 or at a church service. Thank you.

PARKING

We have received a complaint from the occupants of 12 St. Mary's Place that cars of church-members have been using their parking-spaces on Back St. Mary's Place on Sunday-mornings. Whether this is the case or not, I would ask that we do not use Back St. Mary's Place, at any time; the back car-park and the two spaces adjacent to the church are always available for our use; please co-operate, so that we may remain on good terms with our neighbours. Roger has produced church parking-permits, and I suggest that everyone who parks at church, whenever that is, should display a permit. Thank you. **Anne**

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
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CHURCH OFFICERS

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