

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 460 3363 , 07751 240 886 (mobile)
Minister's Email revkatemckenna@gmail.com
Editor's telephone 01706 822651
Editor's email pam_gilbert66@btinternet.com

CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees Susan Holt 078767 16563
Chair of Church Council Betty Kenyon 01204887222
Chair of Congregation Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury
 BL9 5HD 0161 762 0943
Church Secretary Anne Mills
Church Treasurer John Fitzpatrick, 0161 764 6374
Lettings Secretary Margaret Fitzpatrick, 0161 764 6374

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2018



Neville with our banner at the G.A. Meetings

MINISTER – REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2018

CHURCH SERVICES

6 May	11.15am	The Minister
13 May	11.15am	The Minister
20 May	11.15am	The Minister
27 May	11.15am	The Minister <i>followed by Communion</i>

CHURCH STEWARDS

6 May	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
13 May	Lois Williams & George Scaife
20 May	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
27 May	Alf Howson & Roger Mills

CHURCH FLOWERS

6 May	Richard & Becky Ashworth - in memory of Barbara Ashworth
13 May	Betty & Neville Kenyon – in memory of George Kenyon
20 May	Church Flowers
27 May	Pam Oxley – In loving memory of Harry

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 May	Susan Holt & Kate McKenna
12 May	Barbara Freemantle & Betty Kenyon
19 May	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
26 May	June Clarke & Sue McMullen

SUNDAY MORN9ING COFFEE ROTA

6 May	Anne Mills(M), Beryl Bowden & Barbara Freemantle
13 May	Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford & Peter Whewell
20 May	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Di Scaife, Lois Williams
27 May	Marian Price(M), Susan & Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING MAY

Monday 21 May at 7pm Social & Fund-raising

There will be a short meeting of the Social & Fund-raising committee after the Sunday morning church service on 6th May to arrange the details of the Tottington Public Brass Band Concert.

CALENDAR DEADLINE

Any contributions to the June issue of The Calendar should be with the editor by Sunday 20th May, please.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 3 May at 7.30pm

To be announced

**FORTHCOMING FUND-RAISING EVENTS – PLEASE GIVE YOUR
GENEROUS SUPPORT AND HAVE FUN AT THE SAME TIME!!!!**

TOTTINGTON PUBLIC BRASS BAND

**A varied programme of classical Brass Band Music,
Songs from the Shows and some Marches**

SATURDAY 12th MAY AT 7.30PM AT THE CHURCH

TICKETS £8 from Susan Mitchell

(to include refreshments)

AND AN ADVANCE DIARY NOTICE FOR A JUNE EVENT

STRAWBERRY CREAM TEA

SATURDAY 23 JUNE AT THE CHURCH

THANKS!

When Betty Kenyon conducted our service for us, on March 25th, she took "One World" as her theme and spoke much to the point about the desirability of learning to live in our world in peace and harmony with one another, no matter whom we encounter within our sphere. She commented that it was vital for us to live without prejudice, according to the liberal, tolerant principles which encompass our Unitarian tradition. Betty's story concerned Guru Nanak, the founder of Sikhism, who believed that there should never be barriers of race, class, caste, creed or colour; those who endorsed his views were to be encouraged to travel throughout the world, spreading the word to all who would listen.

When we encounter others who are different from ourselves, in any way, we should endeavour to understand the person, as well as the difference, in the interests of world accord and empathy, and we must always be alert to the misuse of emotive language, especially in the media, which may lead us into poor judgement. Each of us is special; in our dealings with others, we should always be mindful that, if we denigrate them, we destroy an essential part of their humanity, instead of creating respect for our fellow-men. In a world in which many suffer from indignities of all kinds, our love and kindness for others is an aim which we should strive to maintain, at all times.

On April 8th, Val Chamberlain conducted our service, as an essential part of her Worship Studies Course. Her theme was "Gratitude". The hymns we sang reinforced this theme, especially the third one ("Think of a world without any animals....."). Val's story concerned an elderly lady, who, as her Life Savings, boxed up days from different stages of her childhood; eventually, in later life, she took them out, one at a time, recreated them, and enjoyed them all over again. These were not special occasions---just typical, ordinary, daily experiences, which removed her, temporarily, from the preoccupations of adult life, to which she returned, refreshed and renewed. The first reading advised parents to teach their children to learn to appreciate the finer qualities of life---not through material elements, or special, high-profile occasions, but by celebrating and rejoicing in everyday happenings, so that they became grateful for day-to-day experiences. The

second reading took us to the other end of the scale: in old age, we should have reached a point at which we are able to let go of non-essentials; we should not hanker after achievements, ambitions and excitements, but should concentrate, instead, on the genuine pleasure-enhancing elements of life, such as thoughtfulness, kindness, and enjoyment of music, food, friendship. Val's sermon united ideas from both readings and the story. If we can learn to distinguish between what is truly important and what can be discarded, we may come close to an appreciative, grateful approach to life. As part of a series of seminars she had undertaken, Val had kept a Diary of Gratitude, noting down a list of simple things which, day by day, had given her pleasure; she found that, the longer she kept her diary, the more she found to appreciate and enjoy in her life. For example, time spent with friends, relaxing, feeling comfortable with them, and at ease with oneself, can be both satisfying and fulfilling. Such situations help us to perceive what is important to us---what should be retained, and what should be rejected, which provides us with a valuable perspective on our lives.

Marian Price, in her service on April 22nd, concentrated on the power of memories. We all have personal memories of past times---some happy, to be cherished, and others, more painful, yet important to our experience of life in general, which we might prefer to forget. People, places and events trigger reminiscences, and the quality of our remembrance can be assisted by photographs, newspaper-clippings, perfumes or music, often recalling those who are dear to us, but who may not be with us, either temporarily or permanently. However, we should not necessarily dwell in the past, in the "good old days", but must remember that all past experience shapes our present, and our future. Positive memories suffuse our present and future with happiness, helping us to lead contented, fulfilled lives; negative memories may carry with them a reminder that we should learn not to make the same mistakes again, or give us strength to cope with upsetting situations which may recur. The Fox, in the children's story, learned the value, literally, of the saying : "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush"; the poem about past experiences celebrated a lifetime of happy memories; and all the hymns urged us to appreciate the quality of life, and its influence, that we have, at all times.

The above three services, each excellent in content, yet different in theme, serve as a reminder of how fortunate we are to be able to call upon such skilled service-leaders, who present us, willingly, with high-quality worship. Thank you, all of you, for contributing so positively to our church-life. **Anne**

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on May 6th and 13th; if you need items, at other times, please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse. Our stores are now housed in new plastic boxes, thanks to Jean's generosity.

LUNCH CIRCLE

The group will meet on Tuesday, May 22nd (a week later than usual), at 12.30 p.m. Susan and Margaret will act as hosts. All are welcome; please sign the list on the lounge notice-board, once it has been posted. Offers of help with the catering are always welcome, as is assistance with clearing away, afterwards; please help your hosts as much as possible.

NELUM AGM ARRANGEMENTS

The NELUM AGM takes place, at Bury, on Monday, May 14th, at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend. Nomination-forms for the election of officers are on the board. If you require supper, after the meeting, please let Beryl (Allerton) know, in advance. Full details are on the board.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Rev. Lynne Readett has contacted us to ask whether anyone from the Bury congregation would be interested in joining members of Chowbent Chapel for a NELUM Weekend, at Great Hucklow, from June 8th to 10th, 2018. If

you wish to discuss this matter further, you are welcome to ring Lynne, on 01942 893965.

Rev. Jim Corrigan is again organising a Poetry Festival at Padiham; this will take place on Saturday, June 9th, 2018, between 11.30 am. and 4 pm. (a different format, this year). The day will contain 2 lectures: one on Sylvia Plath, and one on her husband, Ted Hughes; the lectures will be followed by a Poetry Workshop. Tickets are available from Jim and cost £10, which includes lunch.

York Unitarians are organising a half-day training-session entitled "Working on our Welcome"; this will take place on Saturday, June 16th, at 11 for 11.30 am; at York's St.Saviourgate church.

The North West Provincial Assembly is to organise a Worship Studies Foundation Course, on four Saturdays in June and July (June 16th and 30th, and July 14th and 28th), at Cross Street, Manchester; each session begins at 10.30 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. Booking is essential.

This year's Summer School at Hucklow will take place between August 18th and 25th, when Kate will be a member of the organising-team. This year's theme is to be: "How, Then, Shall We Live?" Booking is required.

Full details of all the above are on the lounge notice-board.

SUNDAY, MAY 6TH

A party from our Rochdale church are to visit, on the above date, to share worship with us; we look forward to seeing them all; please extend a warm welcome to our visitors. Also, in the afternoon, Ainsworth will be holding its Anniversary Service, at 3 pm; when Kate will conduct the service; all are welcome to attend, and to stay for tea, coffee and cakes, afterwards.

BOOK CLUB - The Book Club will meet at 7pm on Wednesday 23th May.

The book to be discussed is: The Sisters Brothers by Patrick De Witt.

CAMERA CLUB

This will meet on Wednesday, May 9th, at 7 pm. The group are planning an exhibition for the summer, to run between July 2nd and 15th, and would welcome photographs from the congregation. At present, various topics are under discussion: Flowers, Sunrise/Sunset, Water, Churches (including our own), Motive Power, Landscapes, and Architecture; there will also be a miscellaneous section. If you have photographs which you would like to

contribute, why not come along to the meeting and talk to the others in the group?

100 CLUB

Peter Whewell and Norah Hickton are now organising our 100 Club; draws for March and April have already taken place---but it isn't too late to join, or to take additional numbers. Membership costs £1.00 per month, so, if you join in time for the May draw, it will cost you £10.00 for the rest of the year (until February 2019). See Peter or Norah, if you are interested; thanks to them for agreeing to take on the task of organising the Club.

Thank you, too, to George Scaife, for organising the Club, over the past few years; his efforts have been much appreciated.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGISTRATION

Changes in legislation mean that we have been obliged to review our data protection procedures; more information will be made available, in the weeks and months to come. The first step is to issue our Data Protection Policy---in our calendar, on our notice-board, and on our website. Over time, this may have to be modified, but a start has now been made.

"Under the terms of the General Data Protection Registration (2018), Bury Unitarian Church will use information provided by its members for its own social and administrative purposes only. A member's

personal information will be removed from the church-records within one month of the receipt of a written request, to that effect. Bury Unitarian Church will not pass on members' details to any third-parties outside the church, without permission; information held by the Minister or Church Officers of a confidential nature will not be passed on to other church-members; this will include Gift Aid details. If photographs are taken on church-premises of church-members, Bury Unitarian Church will assume that, unless instructed otherwise, permission for these to be displayed is granted. In the case of members of the Junior Church, the permission of the children's parents will always be gained before photographs of them are taken or used (for example, in the church-calendar, or on the church-website); in such cases, surnames and ages will never be included."

Queries about GDPR should be addressed to the Church Secretary.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I no longer feel able to keep predicting the better weather coming, but today, at least, is lovely, so we'll go with that!

Firstly, thank you for all your birthday wishes, and the cards and gifts. Special thanks to June Clarke for the lovely cake. I had a delicious (drawn out) birthday, and now, at fifty, I think you can all agree I'm generally lofty and mature.

Myself and four of the congregation (Betty Kenyon, Neville Kenyon, Susan Holt and Val Chamberlain) are all just home from the General Assembly Annual Meetings. It's always refreshing, and exhausting, to spend time with so many other Unitarians, and I was very proud to be there with the Bury contingent (not that we got to spend much time together).

You can be very proud of your delegates, who bore in mind the decisions made at the congregational meeting and then stood their ground, in one case in face of, I'm afraid, some bad behaviour from other people in the meetings.

If you think you might be interested in attending the meetings at a future date, please speak to someone - they're a good insight into how the movement runs.

The church has been a bit less tidy than usual, but for very good reason. I'm delighted at how fast the work to install the lift is going and very much looking forward to its unveiling later this month! I wonder who we should get to take it on its maiden voyage. . . .

Just before Easter I was able to hand over our biggest ever Foodbank collection to Sister Joan of Caritas. After a Facebook announcement that the Foodbank had run out of food during the bad weather, our Facebook followers made some very generous financial donations, which, topped up a bit by Ade and I, meant that we were able to deliver an extra £140 worth of food. If you're shopping specially for the Foodbank, some of the most useful items are, apparently, tinned hotdogs, tinned meatballs, and tinned potatoes, as well as pasta and pasta sauces. Toiletries are also always welcome.

As you all know, the church holds a coffee morning every Saturday, and this is a rich and valuable piece of the church's work. If you don't come to the coffee morning, or haven't been for a while, you are very welcome to pop in. The welcome is good, and the cakes are generally delicious. There's even bacon sandwiches sometimes.

I'm always very aware that as well as those of us who come regularly (or less regularly) to services, there is a secondary community of people to whom the church is important and who are also part of our family. There are several spouses and partners of members who are involved in our activities, there are the coffee morning regulars, and there are people who come to our social and other activities. I'm very proud that we're also a home for so many people who don't attend our main services.

I'll finish with a reminder that I am almost always contactable, and that I like to be contacted! If you feel I haven't visited you recently enough, tell me! You're also welcome to arrange to come to the manse, and as you know I'm generally in the vestry on Fridays during the day. The vestry days do not replace pastoral visits, but several people prefer to pop in to see me rather than for me to visit them. The choice is entirely yours!

With love,

Kate

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP

The first of our monthly contemplative worship services will take place on Friday 4th May at 6.15. This month we will be reflecting on the subject of 'miracles'. The service will consist of periods of quiet contemplation, recorded music, and readings. It will last about 40 minutes and be followed by refreshments.

WORKSHOP:

On Saturday 5th May Kate will be leading a workshop on “**what we believe, and what we commit to.**” It is hoped this will result in the creation of a new leaflet for the congregation.

Please bring sandwiches from 12pm, for a 1pm start. The workshop will finish by 3pm with coffee.

COMMUNION

The May communion service takes place on Sunday 27th May. The communion service is a sacred sharing of bread and wine, and is open to everyone of any religious belief or none. The service starts at 12.30 and normally lasts about 15-20 minutes.

If you are curious about what happens but anxious about actually taking part, you are very welcome to join us and decide at the time whether you want to share in the bread and wine. There is no obligation.

ADVANCE NOTICE: EQUAL MARRIAGE

The service on Sunday 13th May will be on the subject of equality in marriage. After the service there will be a discussion in the lounge on applying for a same-sex marriage licence, and everyone who attends services will then have a month to cast a vote on whether this should go ahead or not.

Ballot papers will be available in the vestibule for a month after the service and discussion, and the wording of the vote will be:

“I agree that Bury Unitarian Church should apply for authorisation to conduct marriages for same-sex couples on an equal basis with those between a man and a woman.”

