

CHURCH INFORMATION

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CHURCH OFFICERS

Chair of Trustees	Susan Holt 078767 16563
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Chair of Congregation	Anne Mills, 5 Arley Avenue, Bury BL9 5HD 0161 762 0943
Church Secretary	Anne Mills
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BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2019



Celia Cartwright, new G.A.President and Anne Mills, new G.A.Vice-President at the General Assembly meetings in Birmingham in April.

MINISTER

REVEREND K MCKENNA

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR MAY 2019

CHURCH SERVICES

5 May	11.15am	The Minister
12 May	11.15am	The Minister
14 May	7pm	Contemplative Worship – The Minister
19 May	11.15am	The Minister
26 May	11.15am	The Minister <i>This service will be followed by Communion.</i>

CHURCH STEWARDS

5 May	Betty & Neville Kenyon
12 May	Marian Price & Di Scaife
19 May	Beryl Bowden & Janet Thatcher
26 May	Sue McMullen & Ashleigh-Jade Jones

CHURCH FLOWERS

5 May	Connie Diggle – In memory of her loved ones in Wales
12 May	Betty & Neville Kenyon – In memory of George Kenyon
19 May	Church Flowers
26 May	Church Flowers

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

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

4 May	June Clarke & Sue McMullen
11 May	Brenda Ainsworth & Susan Holt
18 May	Pam Gilbert & Di Scaife
25 May	Margaret Fitzpatrick Norah Hickton

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 May	Anne Mille(M), Beryl Bowden, Damion Langford
12 May	Norah Hickton(M), Barbara Bamford, Peter Whewell
19 May	Margaret Fitzpatrick(M), Di Scaife, Lois Williams
26 May	Marian Price(M), Susan Mitchell , Fred Mitchell

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday 30 April	7pm	Worship
Wednesday 1 May	7pm	Trustees
Wednesday 22 May	7pm	Social & Fundraising
Tuesday 28 May	7pm	Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLIINE

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

LUNCH CIRCLE

The May meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 21st, at 12.30 pm**; when Kate, hopefully assisted by Barbara Bamford and Jean Brookhouse, will be our newly-recruited chef. Many thanks to Kate for offering to do this; please give her as much help and support as you can, so that we can invite her to cook for us again! The list will be on the board, in due course; please sign up as soon as possible.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 2nd May at 7.30pm We are hoping to contribute a history of the Women's League in celebration of the 300 year anniversary of Bury Unitarian Church. If anyone has any stories, memorabilia, etc. that they would like to pass on, please see Sue McMullen.

TRAIDCRAFT The stall will be open on **May 5th and 26th**; if you require items at other times, please speak to Anne or Jean. The new brochures should be available this month.

BOOK CLUB The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday 29th May at 7pm**. The book to be discussed is ***When God was a Rabbit*** by Sarah Winman. All welcome- you don't need to read the book!! **For information for any new recruits** – all the books we read for Book Club are supplied to us free of charge by Bury Library who maintain sets of books for Readers' Groups. An excellent resource for us – thank you Bury.

CAMERA CLUB The group will meet on **May 13th, at 7 pm**. This month's theme will be "Animals". If you want to find out more, why not come along to the meeting? Following the members' success with portraits, they will be offering sessions to church-members. Watch this space!

UNITARIAN WOMEN: A LEGACY OF DISSENT: REVIEW

Edited by Ann Peart: Ann is too modest in describing herself as "editor"; she wrote a substantial amount of the book herself, with remaining material supplied by eminent Unitarians.

This fascinating blend of history and biography---you will recognise many well-known names---covering 200 years, from the mid-eighteenth century onwards, may be read through or dipped into, equally successfully. Its referencing and indexing are meticulous, allowing for further personal research. (Harriet Martineau's novel, "Deerbrook", is still available from Amazon!)

The earliest dissenting women were conditioned to domesticity, discouraged from intruding upon the male world, and persuaded that they were incapable of men's work. However, those who tried succeeded admirably, whether by preaching, writing, producing art, or embracing social justice issues; great talent flourished---without, usually, detracting from femininity. Many women raised funds to improve conditions for the disadvantaged, and, where they were banned from participating in committee-work, started their own organisations, not only competing with the men, but outdoing them! Women's Suffrage issues involved women like Clementia Taylor: "earnest.....capable of persistent energy.....(and) successful."

What all these women had in common was a strong desire to share their ideals and beliefs; by all accounts, they must have been formidable adversaries! Rose Allen, for example, a Rosslyn Hill Women's League member, demonstrated huge determination in her 1915-1919 war-relief efforts.

Not all these women were lifelong Unitarians, though. Certainly, some came of solid stock and remained within the denomination. Others were attracted through friends, interests or contacts, but didn't necessarily stay. Some began as Unitarians but left; others joined late in life: Mary Rees Bevan, mother of Josiah, minister of Gellionen Chapel, embraced Unitarianism in her eighties; eventually, their congregation converted---but only after "debate, splits, and physical fighting in the churchyard."

Congratulations, Ann, on a readable and informative book!

This review is due to appear in the May issue of "The Unitarian". The Manchester launch of the book will take place on Monday, April 29th, at Luther King House, between 6 and 8 pm; to which we are all invited. If anyone would like to borrow my copy, please ask. **Anne Mills**

NELUM INFORMATION

The AGM will be held on Monday, May 13th, at 7.15 pm; at Rawtenstall Unitarian Church, and this will be followed by the ordinary meeting; all are welcome to attend. Nomination-forms for NELUM officers are on the board; please make sure you have the consent of the people in question before signing them up.

Also at Rawtenstall, a NELUM Dinner will be held on Friday, May 17th, at 6.30 for 7.00 pm. If you would like to attend, you will need to give your name to NELUM Secretary, Beryl Allerton, by May 5th; 40 names are needed for the dinner to proceed.

REV. J. CORRIGALL

Jim will conduct his last service at Padiham Unitarian Church, on Sunday, May 26th, at 10.30 pm. Lunch will follow the service; names must be given in advance. Jim has served the Padiham and Rawtenstall churches, as well as The Lancashire Collaborative Ministry, faithfully and well, for more than 5 years, and is now to take a well-earned rest, although he has just been elected to the Executive Committee, and is also partway through a demanding M.A. course. We wish him well in his retirement, after his outstanding ministry in Lancashire.

NEWS FROM RAWTENSTALL UNITARIANS

The next Interfaith Service will be held on June 16th, at 5 pm; all are invited to attend; refreshments will follow. The inaugural Interfaith Service, on February 10th, attracted 20 people, from different faith-groups, and was felt to be very successful. Rawtenstall's Film Evenings continue to be well-attended; full details are on our notice-board. Rawtenstall are now offering a photocopying service; there are flyers about the service on the lounge-tables.

CREATIVE WRITING RETREAT

This is offered, at a greatly-subsidised rate, by the North West Provincial Assembly; it will take place on September 20th and 21st, at St. Joseph's Centre,

Formby. Details are on our notice-board; places are limited and going fast, so please book early.

300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The group met on March 2nd and will meet again on April 27th (at the time of writing). Filming for a DVD of our anniversary year continues; we hope to play the finished footage, once it has been edited down, early next year. Opening our premises for Heritage Weekend is part of our celebrations; we will be open to the public over the weekend of September 20th-22nd. Various banners are to be purchased and displayed, and a special leaflet is being prepared. Contributions towards a Book of Memories are requested; these should be handed to Betty Kenyon, as soon as possible. Ideas for our celebrations are welcome; please speak to a member of the committee.

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT GROUP

This was started when Kate began her ministry with us, in November, 2016, in recognition of the fact that a newly-qualified, inexperienced minister would need help and support in a difficult rôle. All four members of the group have found the regular meetings to be beneficial and plan to continue them. Many matters, some of them confidential, are discussed, and reports are regularly submitted to Church Council and to the trustees. Further information can be obtained from any member of the group.

"FORGIVENESS" SERVICE

On April 7th, Harry Taylor assisted Kate in a presentation of a themed service. He spoke movingly about his work as a Superintendent of Supplies, to many different wards, in various hospitals (mainly Fairfield), and related his experiences to the theme of forgiveness. On one occasion, he and his department were wrongly accused of inefficiency and summoned to a disciplinary meeting; with great forbearance, he did not accuse his accuser, but spoke factually and calmly, until his account was accepted. Some time later, he encountered his accuser, who was

in need of his help, which was ungrudgingly given; she appreciated this and apologised, admitting that she had been in the wrong. Harry subsequently used this experience, when teaching Sunday School at Birtle Parish Church, to illustrate the true meaning of forgiveness.

Many thanks to Harry for his contribution to this service. If anyone else would like to contribute similarly, please discuss the matter with Kate.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The Rivington Unitarian Chapel's Triennial Pilgrimage is to take place on Saturday, September 28th, 2019. Lunch will be served in the Church Hall, at 1 pm; when the Guest Speaker will be Rev. Celia Cartwright, President of the General Assembly; lunch will be followed by a service in Rivington Chapel, at 3.15 pm; and this will be conducted by Rev. Danny Crosby. Full details are on the notice on the board, and a booking-form is included; please let Anne Mills know if you need other forms.

GA ANNUAL MEETINGS 2019

The Meetings, in their new 3-day format, were successful, with good attendance; Birmingham's Hilton Metropole is an attractive venue, and well-equipped for conferences. The three Motions reviewed during our service on April 7th were all comfortably passed: Martin West was elected as an Honorary GA Member; Findhorn was accepted as an affiliated association of the GA; and it was agreed that the Motion about Knife Crime should proceed; this Motion was proposed, unopposed, with an amendment added to the effect that Unitarian congregations would spread the word about the problems associated with Knife-Crimes, as far as possible, and this would include contact with local MP's. However, it was felt by some that this Motion did not go far enough, as it did not explore the reasons that knife-crime is so prevalent, at present, or offer solutions to the various problems resulting from it.

The National Women's League raised a grand total of £8,470.00 in favour of the UK Sepsis Trust; Bury contributed £285.00 towards this. The new Project for 2019-20 will support The Smile Train, a charity which assists those who suffer from cleft-palate problems.

During the final session of the Meetings, Rev. Celia Cartwright was elected as the new President of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches, and Anne Mills became the new Vice-President.

Eight members from our congregation attended the Meetings, this year, and found them worthwhile, if exhausting; our conferences offer a great opportunity to meet old friends and new, and to discover how other Unitarian churches operate; we may be relatively small in number but we are great in spirit and in faith.

A LIGHT-HEARTED FUN EVENING

Not to be missed

THURSDAY 16th MAY AT 6.30pm

SENIOR MOMENTS and MUM'S BLOOMERS

MUSIC, SONG, VERSE AND COMEDY

TICKETS - £5 including refreshments

Available from Susan Mitchell 01204 880484

BURY HOMELESS PROJECT

We have just heard that the Bury Homeless Project are no longer going to be providing the Street Kitchen service, so at least for the time being, they will not be using our premises. Other organisations are still providing hot meals to people who need them, and we hope that at some point in the future we can work with one of these organisations, once all the relevant safeguards are in place. It has been a pleasure to welcome the group over the last few months, and I've been very proud of our church for doing exactly what a church is there to do. **Kate**

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear all,

I hope everyone had a very lovely Easter break, whatever you chose to do with it.

Many of us from church were only just back from the GA meetings in Birmingham: I have no doubt that everyone who went is very tired, but also enthused and inspired. It's a huge joy to be amongst 300 or so other Unitarians, and to fully realise that we're part of something bigger than we sometimes think. There were seven of us there from Bury, and I think we did ourselves proud.

It was a pleasure to see Anne invested as Vice-President during the meetings, and I know that the next two years will be very busy indeed for her and Roger. I'm sure they will take our good wishes with them on their travels, and I hope for reports back from them: and as I said in the service recently, I hope all those reports start with "well, of course, that church wasn't as nice as ours . . ."

On home ground, we've had a lovely busy month. Early in the month we had our quiz evening, which raised a phenomenal amount of money: £600 was shared between church funds and Grace's Place, a local children's hospice. We also had a very enjoyable evening (and I say this even though I gave very many wrong answers), so it was a success every way round.

Several of us met the new Chief Officer of the denomination at Cross Street, and encountered her again at the GA meetings. She has quite rightly pointed out that she is not "the new Derek" but that she is her own person and will be doing the work in her own way. I think the interview panel have made a good choice, and I look forward to seeing her in action.

Two services this month have involved members of the congregation: Harry Taylor provided the children's story and the sermon for a service in the first half of the month, and the GA feedback service had contributions from members who had been at the GA. It is always encouraging when people want to have input into a service, and I welcome any suggestions!

Other very exciting news is that, at the last service in April we welcomed two new members to our fold. Harry Taylor and Ian Barlow both have a long

association with the church, and have both returned after a gap. It is lovely to formalise their membership, and acknowledge their importance to us as a congregation and the place the church holds in their lives.

Remarks on the weather seem to be my traditional end to these letters to the calendar: today is one of those days that are almost cliched in their spring-like beauty, and birds are singing over in the graveyard. It will, apparently, rain for the rest of the week though: but let's be grateful for a climate which never overheats us for too long and in which any droughts we experience last weeks, not years.

With love, **Kate**

CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP The next contemplative worship session will be on Tuesday 14th May, at 7pm. Everyone is very welcome to this service, which lasts about an hour and is followed by tea and cake. The topic for the session will be "songs no-one sang to me".

I will be on leave on the date of the June contemplative worship (12th June). If anyone would like to volunteer to facilitate the session, I would be delighted to talk to you about it.

COMMUNION SERVICE The next communion service will take place on Sunday 26th May, directly after the main service. Everyone is welcome to join us for this sharing of bread and wine.

"PRAYER" WORKSHOPS IN JUNE Kate will be running two afternoon workshops on 'prayer' on Sundays June 23rd and 30th. The first will look at our relationship with prayer, including what we mean and don't mean when we use the word, and the second will be a chance to write our own prayers. They will be linked, but you don't need to attend one to attend the other.

Both sessions will start at 1.30, so please pack some sandwiches and we will share lunch together before we start.

The workshops are suitable whether you are comfortable with the word 'prayer' or prefer to use another phrase, and even if you are confused about the whole concept!

EASTER EGGS The collection of Easter eggs for children of families who use the Food Bank resulted in us giving 59 chocolate eggs to Sister Joan from the Food Bank. She has asked me to express thanks for this generous donation, and I would also like to thank everyone who donated.

DELTA COURSE A reminder that Kate is hoping to run the Delta Course – a progressive alternative to the evangelical Alpha Course – sometime later in the year. Watch this space (or speak to Kate) for more details.

There will also be a workshop on “our welcoming words” later in the year.

VICTORIA WOOD STATUE We have had confirmation of the date of the unveiling of the Victoria Wood statue: it will take place in the afternoon of Friday 17th May. The church will be open for light refreshments for official members of the unveiling party (and our own members) beforehand, and Kate will be offering a dedication of the statue.

We have also agreed to allow the Brighouse and Rastrick Band to practise in the church before the ceremony.

It is likely that whilst the fountain is being removed and the statue installed there will be some disruption to the front of the church gardens: please bear this in mind and be extra careful.

Fly Me to The Stars or Make a Dream Come True

It was after the Church Service whilst talking to Anne Evitts, we began exploring my exploits in raising money for charitable causes that she disclosed a long held dream to fly in a glider.

Now, I have cycled through France; Scotland; the full length of the Leeds Liverpool Canal; abseiled down Peel Tower and even walked the Mary Townley Bridalway Loop to raise money for various good causes. But the thought of flying without an engine keeping the plane in the air has never appealed to me.

But when you read Anne's account of her long held Dream you can understand the determination she holds to carry out this particular feat.

Foolish or not I put my concerns behind me and said that if Anne wanted to do this then I would accompany her on this adventure. As this dream started at Great Hucklow when Anne was a child, what better charity to raise money for, than Send a Child to Hucklow. They are hoping to raise £60,000 this year.

So please look out for the Sponsorship forms, **which are now on the lounge notice-board**, as we would like to raise a considerable sum for this wonderful charity and give other children some experiences to remember and even dream about.

George H Scaife

My Childhood Dream

In the summer of 1952, I joined 5 girlfriends from Rochdale Unitarian Church to spend a week at the holiday centre in Great Hucklow which consisted, at that time, of huts in a field. We had a wonderful time exploring the countryside, towns and villages. The weather was perfect and I particularly enjoyed watching the gliders as they soared on the thermals above the village. How I wished I could be up there with them. But it would cost 5 shillings and I only had 10 shillings to last the whole week!

In the past I have taken a flying lesson at Barton aerodrome; flown over the Yorkshire dales in a balloon, but I have never forgotten that childhood wish.

Now with the help of George Scaife, I hope to make that dream come true this summer and raise funds for this year's church project.

Anne Evitts