

## BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

### CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2011

#### SERVICES

6 November	11.15AM	THE MINISTER
13 November	<b>10.55AM</b>	<b>REMEMBRANCE SERVICE</b>
20 November	11.15AM	TO BE ANNOUNCED
27 November	11.15AM	THE MINISTER

#### CHURCH STEWARDS

6 November	Barbara & Joe Ashworth
13 November	Rebecca Warburton & Marc Peters
20 November	Sue McMullen & Sybil Paulson
27 November	Lois & Alan Williams

*If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the above date, please inform Harry so that stand-in steward(s) may be arranged.*

#### CHURCH FLOWERS

6 November	In loving memory of Barbara Pollitt
13 November	Dorothy Stott – In loving memory of Harvey
20 November	In memory of Mr & Mrs J Davenport
27 November	Mr & Mrs R Wilkinson – In memory of Joshua

*Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts*

#### SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

5 November	Bazaar
12 November	Anne & Roger Mills
19 November	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
26 November	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson

#### COMMITTEE MEETINGS DURING NOVEMBER

7 November	7.00pm	Communications, Worship & Young People
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#### LUNCHEON CIRCLE

The Lunch Circle will meet on Tuesday 15 November at 12.30pm. The organisers are Harry, June & Marc. Please let Harry know if you are unable to attend.

#### WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 10 November 7.30pm The speaker will be Susan Holt.  
Her subject: **ON HOLIDAY**

#### WITH CHARLES DARWIN

#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday 1 November 7.30pm A talk by Rev John Allerton  
*All men are cordially invited to come.*

#### NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: 10-10-11

The proposed visit to Dunham Road Unitarians has been postponed until next spring.

A new list of church-members has been drawn up; a copy is on the notice-board. GA Quota payments, at £29.00 per head, per annum, were due in October.

**Finance:** Refurbishment of the gold chairs and the purchase of more black chairs are ongoing projects. Donations to various bodies were approved: NELUM: £50.00; GA Student Fund: £450.00; Unitarian College, Manchester: £250.00; Roof Appeal, Macclesfield Unitarians: £250.00. New lettings-charges for 2012 were also approved. Barclays have notified us that they will be discontinuing their safety-deposit-box scheme; we are, therefore, considering the purchase of a second-hand safe. Our Performing Licence needs to be renewed, and consideration is being given as to which sections of the licence we now require.

**The Treasurer** hoped that all members would feel able to commit to a little extra Live Giving. We need to be aware that, if we do not balance our income and expenditure, we may have to dip into our investments, which could be quickly eroded.

**Efforts:** A Joint Meeting with the Charity Committee has been arranged for October 24<sup>th</sup>, when a programme of events for 2012 will be planned. A Christmas Concert has been arranged for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Communications and Worship, with Young People:** Roy and Edna Wilkinson will lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday. Concern was expressed that there was no system in place for payment to visiting ministers; this was duly noted and will be monitored.

**Charity:** A total of £1,607.72 has been raised, this year, for Bury's Cancer Care Centre. Next year's charity is now being considered.

**Minister:** Beryl's Report is on the notice-board; she was thanked for all her efforts, and congratulated, specifically, on the success of the Build Your Own Theology Service, on October 9<sup>th</sup>; this was an inspirational and moving service, and greatly to the credit of all who participated. The BYOT Course had proved excellent, with much involvement amongst the group.

**The Bazaar Committee** met on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements are now in hand and will be implemented, when appropriate. A successful day is hoped for.

Beryl has been contacted about an Interfaith Group Meeting, at the Town Hall, during the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>; she will attend and report back.

### **GORTON MONASTERY**

The visit took place on October 9<sup>th</sup>, with 19 participants. The Monastery building is an amazing one and has an interesting history. It was originally a Franciscan Monastery, designed by Pugin, which fell into dereliction; it is now deconsecrated. As well as the physical renovations which have taken place during the last few years, at a cost of £7 million, the project is putting the heart back into the community of Gorton. Unfortunately, we learned less about The Monastery's history and renovations than we would have liked to do; also, our guide must have forgotten that he was conducting a party of Unitarians--we were quite staggered to be asked how many of us were Catho-

lics! Thanks were expressed to Anne Mills for organising the trip; Anne has a DVD of Gorton Monastery, which she is happy to lend to anyone who is interested.

### **TRAIDCRAFT**

The stall will be open on November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>. Anne Mills attended Bury's Fair Trade Declaration Event, in The Mayor's Parlour, on October 6<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the Borough's certificate has been received and will be displayed in the lounge, with the other Fair Trade certificates.

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER**

At the last meeting, on September 8<sup>th</sup>, we were presented with the draft constitution for the new, amalgamated, group of Bury Central and South with Bury North. This constitution has proved unacceptable to us, both in terms of its aims and the language in which it is couched; it is at variance with our Unitarian ethos. We were, in addition, indignant at attempts to silence us; it is, apparently, felt to be inappropriate, if we attempt to explain how we differ from other denominations.

This matter was discussed, in detail, at a Communications and Worship meeting, and then presented to Council. All those who have attended Churches Together meetings felt that there was nothing to be gained by continuing, and Beryl agreed to write to the Churches Together Chairman to explain our reasons for withdrawing.

### **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**

We have been approached by our sister congregation in Rochdale about possible interest in a Joint Congregational Weekend, with them, at The Nightingale Centre, Great Hucklow. This is not until **September, 2013**, which seems a long way off, but preparations need to begin early. If you might be interested, please bear this information in mind. Further details will follow, when they are available.

### **USE OF THE VESTRY**

Beryl and I have recently cleared out the Vestry, which was very untidy. We need to take care that it does not become a general dumping-ground again; please do not leave items in the Vestry that could be accommodated elsewhere. I have asked Communications and Worship to consider ways of improving our use of the Vestry, and Council will be discussing this again at its next meeting.

Also, we all ought to remember that the Vestry is **primarily** the province of the Minister---whether this refers to Beryl, or to a future minister. If anyone needs to use the Vestry, Beryl's permission should be sought; we should all knock before entering; the telephone there should only be used for church-business; we ought to be able to offer the Minister a secure place for personal effects; and the Vestry may, in the future, be required as the Minister's workspace. We need to remember, too, that the Vestry is often required for private, confidential consultations, especially on Saturday mornings. Please treat the Vestry with respect.

**Anne**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

This took place on September 25<sup>th</sup> and was well-attended; attitudes were positive, and much goodwill was apparent.

I reported on the year's efforts of the Working-Group; this has now become the Ministerial Appointments Group, and its 6 members were endorsed by the congregation (and, later, by Council). Our current position is that the post of minister continues to be advertised; meanwhile, we agreed, after discussion, that Beryl should be asked to stay as our Infill Minister, on three-quarter time, and this will be reviewed in 6 months' time. In response to requests from the meeting, information about Beryl's Interim and Infill Ministries has been added to the Congregational Profile and Job Description; and a brief article, thanking Beryl (and making it clear that we are still seeking to appoint a permanent, full-time minister) was sent to "UniNews", "The Inquirer" and "The Unitarian".

Beryl reported on her Interim; she felt that much progress had been made, in terms of services, seminars, visiting, and social occasions, and that we were more settled than we had been a year ago.

Finally, we discussed whether an earlier start-time to the service was possible (11 a.m. instead of 11.15). Several valid points were made, both for and against; it seemed that a majority preferred the start-time to stay as it was. This was subsequently discussed at Communications and Worship, and again at Council, where the recommendation that we would not change was ratified.

Beryl's Interim Ministry ended on October 16<sup>th</sup>. During the service, Beryl summed up her work of the last nine months; she was thanked and presented with a bouquet of Birds of Paradise, a particular favourite of hers, by Susan, as a token of the congregation's appreciation of all she had achieved.

Many thanks, once again, Beryl.

**Anne**

### **NELUM MEETING**

Padiham Unitarian Church

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November at 7.15p

### **BOOK CLUB**

The November meeting of the Book Club will take place on Monday 28 November at 7.30pm in the lounge at Bury. The book to be discussed is *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. Everyone is welcome. We usually share light refreshments and the meeting finishes around 9.0pm. The book should be available from the cupboard in the lounge after Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Please note there will be NO meeting in December. The book for the January meeting will be available from the cupboard after 30<sup>th</sup> November – it is a long, but good read – *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel.

### **CALENDAR DEADLINE**

The deadline for the December Calendar is Sunday 20 November. ***Please note that there is an early deadline for the January edition of the Calendar – it will be on December 11 to make sure that the Calendar is available in church on 18<sup>th</sup> December.***

### **NEXT YEAR'S CHOSEN CHARITY**

You will know that the Bury Unitarian Church – Charity Group raises money each year in support of a chosen charity. This past year has been the 7<sup>th</sup> charity to be supported and over £1,600 was raised, which we have donated to Bury Cancer Support Centre.

The group has now decided that next year's charity will be Bury Samaritans. Before making our decision, we considered 5 charities suggested by members of the congregation: Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary; The Samaritans; Bury Hospice Building Programme; Send a Child to Hucklow; and North West Air Ambulance. We considered the congregational feedback regarding each of the above charities and our objectives to support local organisations before reaching our decision.

Next year's fund raising efforts will start early in 2012, when a speaker from Bury Samaritans will be invited to address the congregation, during one of our regular services. Before the end of 2011, a programme of events for the next year will be decided.

The BUC Charity Group is always ready to welcome new members from the congregation. We usually meet on Saturday mornings at the church about 4 times a year to plan our forward programme. If you are interested in joining the group, please speak to me (Chairman) or Harry (Secretary).

**Roger Mills**

### **Congregational Photograph**

A congregational photograph will be taken in the worship area following the service on Remembrance Sunday.

Please go into the lounge as usual for your coffee to allow the church to be arranged. Once this has been done you will be asked to return to the church for the photograph.

### **MINISTER'S MONTH**

October was the month when I thought I would be saying goodbye as minister at Bury but this turned out to be mistaken and I apologise

for any confusion. In fact I am staying on in a slightly different role. The Interim Ministry officially finished on 16<sup>th</sup> October and I am now 'filling in' until you are ready to appoint a permanent minister. One difference will be that I am going to be three quarter time rather than full time and will take one Sunday and one week each month off. This has two advantages, it allows you to hear different styles of preaching and conducting the service and secondly gives John and I some time together. Which week of the month I am away will be a flexible arrangement to take into consideration what is happening and when I may be needed.

October has been a busy month with three special services one after the other. Firstly Harvest Festival (my favourite service) which was a great celebration of the blessings of harvest. Lunch followed the service and the highlight of this it seems was that we had custard with the pudding. The following Sunday the cheque for this year's charity was presented by the deputy mayor to Bury Cancer Support. The service itself was conducted with style and sensitivity by those who had taken part in the 'Build Your Own Theology' seminars. There were many appreciative comments afterwards and with the, before service, nervousness gone participants were able to enjoy the congratulations.

The visit to Gorton Monastery did not perhaps allow us all the time we would have liked to explore nevertheless it was well worth the visit. It is an amazing place and a very successful regeneration of what was an almost ruined building. Thank you to Anne for arranging the visit.

Finally, on a personal note, I have just visited the Ford Madox Brown exhibition at Manchester Art Gallery and I must recommend it. There are a large number of pieces, paintings and sketches, the painting are good but the drawings are genius. Allow plenty of time if you decide to go. In conjunction with the exhibition Manchester Town Hall is open to the public to see the murals in the Great Hall, again worth seeing if you are in Manchester. **Beryl**

**DON'T FORGET!!!!**

## **BANK STREET BAZAAR**

**SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

**11.00AM – 2.00PM**

**STALLS:**

**Tombola, Cakes, Chocolate, Books, Nearly New, Christmas, Bottles**

**hot and cold meals**

**raffle**

**ADVANCE NOTICES – DATES FOR DIARIES!!!**

### **CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS TREES**

**FRIDAY 2 UNTIL SUNDAY 4 DECEMBER**

**THE MAYOR OF BURY, COUNCILLOR YVONNE WRIGHT WILL ATTEND  
THE SUNDAY SERVICE**

### **SERVICES IN DECEMBER**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December  
Service with the Mayor

The Christmas Tree

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December  
Service with a Nativity Play

Children's Christmas

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
followed by Christmas

Readings and Carols

Lunch

Christmas Day Service a short service at 11.15AM

**SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 7.30PM**

**A CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**WITH MINSTER BRASS**

**A PROFESSIONAL BRASS QUINTET FROM YORK-  
SHIRE**

**NOTABILITY CHOIR**

**FLUTE AND PIANO DUETS**

**WITH CAROLS TO FINISH THE EVENING**

**Tickets £6.00 including Mulled Wine and Mince  
Pies**

***Please invite family and friends***

### **CHURCH OFFICERS**

Chair of  
Trustees

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078767 16563

Chair of Congregation Anne Mills  
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#### **NEWS FROM AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL**

#### **SUNDAY SERVICES in NOVEMBER 2011**

10.00am 6 November Mrs Jean Longworth  
(Halliwell Road Church, Bolton)

10.00am 13 November Remembrance Sunday  
(30 mins quiet reflection & readings)

10.00am 20 November Rev Desmond Porter

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*Normal Services take place twice a month*

#### **AINSWORTH OLD FOLKS' PARTY**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this annual village event, held in the Schoolroom. Over 50 guests enjoyed a hot lunch, followed by musical entertainment by The Radcliffe Brass Band.

#### **'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT'**

Everyone is most welcome at this special service  
at 6.30 pm Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December.  
The service will be led by The Rev Desmond Porter.

#### **CHAPEL FLOWERS FOR 2012**

*The new Flower List for 2012 is now in Chapel.  
If you would like to commemorate a particular date, please put your name down or see our Flower Secretary, Mrs Dorothy Roberts.*

***Several members and friends of the Chapel are not well at the moment and we send them our kind thoughts and best wishes.***