

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2012

SERVICES

- 4 November 11.15am The Minister
- 11 November **10.50am** The Minister
Remembrance Day Service
- 18 November 11.15am Rev John Allerton
- 25 November 11.15am The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

- 4 November Lois & Alan Williams
- 11 November June Seddon & Alfred Howson
- 18 November Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert
- 25 November Freda & Derek Worthington

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

- 4 November In loving memory of Barbara Pollitt – Caroline,
Melanie & Families
- 11 November Church Flowers
- 18 November In loving memory of Harvey – Mrs Dorothy Stott
- 25 November In memory of Mr & Mrs J Davenport

Distributors: Anne & Harvey Evitts

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

- 3 November Bazaar
- 10 November Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
- 17 November Jean Jackson & Margaret Fitzpatrick
- 24 November Brenda Ainsworth & Jean Taylor

LUNCHEON CLUB

This will meet on Tuesday, November 20th, at 12.30 p.m. The hosts will be Anne and Roger Mills; please let them know if you usually attend but are unable to do so.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 8 November at 7.30pm – Beryl will give a talk on Tai Chi

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Monday 12 November at 7.00pm – Communications, Worship & Young
People

CALENDAR DEADLINE

The last day for items for the **December & January Calendar** is Sunday 18 November. Please note the double edition. Thank you.

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL 8.10.12

Betty Kenyon was thanked for volunteering to take the minutes.

Following our donation to Frenchay Unitarian Chapel, Bristol, Anne Mills had written to Derek McAuley, suggesting that all churches should be encouraged to carry out necessary maintenance on a regular basis, rather than waiting until crises occurred; a very positive response had been received, both from Derek, and from Mike Barber, who heads the Buildings Advisory Group; this correspondence will be made available shortly.

Finance: Organ-tuning will be arranged; the trustees will be asked to pay for a new swell shutter. Superior Signs will be asked to provide designs for a new notice-board; once this has been done, plans for moving the existing notice-board can proceed. The lounge is to be decorated, next year; it is proposed that we do this ourselves. We have been informed that we need to appoint a Safeguarding Officer, who must be trained appropriately; further information will be sought.

The Treasurer reported that we should have a small surplus, at the year-end; much of this will depend on the amount raised by the Bazaar. The GA Quota payment will soon have to be made.

Efforts: After discussion, it was agreed that the pricing of cakes for Saturday-morning coffee should be left to those who donated it. The charge for coffee and tea will rise, slightly, in January. The Tony Berry Concert had been very successful. Arrangements are in hand for the Christmas Concert, on December 1st.

Communications and Worship, with Young People: The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress had attended our Harvest Service and had thoroughly enjoyed their visit. The current arrangements for stewarding services will continue until the end of the year, when the rota will be re-assessed; if you are willing to steward, and do not already do so, please sign the list on the notice-board; if you wish to withdraw, inform Beryl or Anne. It is proposed that 2 of the Junior Church should attend a National Weekend Event, at Hucklow. Thanks were expressed to David Gilbert for his help in assembling the October Calendar, when Pam suffered a bad bout of sciatica; both are recovering!

The Minister reported that she continued to be busy, although visiting had become easier. An Assisted Dying Pack was now available, and Beryl intends to arrange a seminar about this in the New Year. It has become easier to organise the music for Sunday services, as visiting musicians are returning to play for us and are now more familiar with our requirements.

Charity Committee: A cheque for £1,207 was handed over to representatives of the Bury branch of The Samaritans, by the Deputy Mayor, at the Harvest Service. Planning for next year's programme will begin shortly.

NELUM: A meeting will be held, on 17-11-12, at Cross Street Chapel, Manchester, to discuss communications with Executive Committee members; please speak to Beryl, if you wish to raise any points. Beryl and John will cease their involvement with Todmorden Chapel, at the end of the year. Permission was given for NELUM to hold its AGM, at Bury, in March, 2013.

Correspondence: Anne expressed concern that mail is not being received at the church; she will investigate. A GA Mailing included items about Howard Hague's retirement; Safeguarding Training; Nominations to the Executive Committee; Assisted Dying. Anne had received a letter of support from Julian Meek, Interfaith Minister at Stratford, following publication of her letter in "The Inquirer".

Any Other Business: There was discussion about arrangements for First Aid, at the church; the dishwasher and cooker had recently been repaired, and regular servicing for both was to be put in hand.

The next meeting will be held on 10-12-12, at 7.30pm. A volunteer is required to take the minutes.

TRAIDCRAFT

The stall will be open on November 4th and November 18th; at other times, please ask Anne or June if you require items. The stall will also be open at the Bazaar, and proceeds, on that day, will go towards that fund.

If you have taken one of the new brochures and do not need it any longer, please return it, as soon as possible. Orders for Christmas may be given at any time, now---the sooner the better, as Traidcraft tends to run out of items, once December arrives.

I have recently been informed that Bury has been granted an extension of its Fair Trade Borough Status; this will last for a further two years and indicates that efforts to promote fair trade, throughout the borough, including in its churches, remain ongoing.

VISIT TO BANK STREET CHAPEL, BOLTON

It was feared that this would have to be cancelled, as few people had signed the list, and a re-arranged Women's League meeting, in the evening, at Bury, seemed likely to conflict. However, 7 of us made the journey, on October 11th, and were received with great warmth. Friends from Chowbent were also present, as well as members of the Bolton congregation.

Rev. Stephen Lingard conducted a short but meaningful service, whose theme was religion---in general, and at a personal level; he explained what purpose religion served within a community but commented that each individual needed to decide how that religion was to be used; Maria endorsed this with a most thought-provoking reading. Finally, Granville presented a short history of the church, indicating, in the process, how past members of Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, had not only served their church but had been prominent in the town, and this had reflected well on Unitarianism generally. There was an opportunity to look round the church, after the service, to read the information-panels supplied, and to talk to others present. Excellent fish and chips, at The Olympus, rounded off a very successful visit, and we are grateful to our friends in Bolton for their hospitality and warm welcome.

Bank Street Chapel, Bolton, are to hold a concert, in the afternoon of November 17th; also, on December 9th, again in the afternoon, a traditional reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" will be given. Further details will be on the notice-board, when available; all are most welcome.

BAZAAR

The Bank Street Bazaar takes place on Saturday, November 3rd, from 10.30 a.m. onwards. This is our main fund-raising effort of the year, so please consider supporting it.

The downstairs café will serve coffee and home-made cakes, whilst, upstairs, a variety of hot and cold lunches will be available.

Stalls include Tombola; Bottles; Chocolate Tombola; Good as New; Cakes; Books; Christmas Items; Traidcraft and Cards; and Jewellery, Scarves and Accessories. If you are willing to help on one of the stalls, there is still time to volunteer; speak to Beryl or Anne. Goods for all stalls may be brought to church at any time; these should be handed to one of the stall-assistants and labelled clearly. If you are contributing cakes, please bring these on the evening of Friday, November 2nd.

Please: do not bring any items on the day of the Bazaar itself, as stall-holders cannot deal with them then, and they will not be used.

Stalls will be erected on the evening of Thursday, November 1st, and stocked on the following evening, from 6.30 pm onwards.

VESTRY

Once again, the use of the Vestry was discussed at length, during the October Church Council Meeting. It has become clear that our Vestry, because of certain items in it (such as the answer-phone, the CCTV equipment, and the keys to the stair-lift), is rather more of a Church Office than a room for the Minister's exclusive use.

However, there are occasions when a private space is required, either for the Minister to work, or to store private papers, or for interviews of a private and sensitive nature to be conducted. To this end, it was decided that a second lock would be added to the Vestry door, to which **only** the Minister would possess a key. A notice, which will indicate that the Vestry is in use for private sessions, will be employed, as necessary. **Please:** respect these arrangements.

If you need to leave papers for Beryl, there is a folder, marked "Minister" in the centre corridor cupboard, where other church-mail is kept; this cupboard can be accessed by using key 9.

Concern was expressed that members of the congregation might be in possession of church-keys, when they no longer need them; if you have keys which you no longer use, please return them to Roy Wilkinson.

NOTICES

Seminars on Journeying: Home and Away

Begin on Tuesday 30th October and run for six weeks each Tuesday 7-9pm

NELUM

The next meeting will be on Monday 19th November at

Halliwell Road Church commencing at 7.15pm.

TRIP TO YORK

Thursday 29th November

Leaving from the Library at 10.30am.

Leaving York at 5pm for return and calling for

Fish and Chips on the way home.

There will be special Christmas events on in York such as St Nicholas Fayre and events at public building in the city centre.

All details and list on the notice board in the lounge

Cost £19.00 including travel and meal.

Saturday 1st December 7.30pm.

Christmas Concert

With Minister Brass and soloist Sarah Killian

Notability Choir

Cody and Catherine Coyne

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies will be served at the interval

Tickets £7.00 Please see members of the Efforts Committee

Please invite family & friends to this first taste of Christmas.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Please gather at the Memorial at 10.55am

The Minister will conduct all the services in November except 18th when Rev John Allerton will conduct the service.

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER

On Sunday 9th December the GA President, Lis Dyson-Jones will conduct the service and there will be a Nativity Play with the children of the Sunday School.

MINISTER'S MONTH

Tomorrow I go off on holiday for a week at our caravan in Wensleydale. Though John goes frequently I have only managed to get there two or three times over the summer. The van is on a very small site hidden away down a narrow lane. It is very peaceful and to one side is a wooded valley with a stream which is home to lots of wildlife, some like the deer very shy and seldom seen. And although not shy, the colouring of the brown trout makes them very difficult to spot in the stream, under the trees. Not so difficult to see are the birds that visit the bird feeders by the caravan. As John says it is easy to lose an hour or even two just sitting watching the coming and goings of blue tits and woodpeckers. Sad to say it seems that our red squirrels may have moved to a better class of trees. Next week I will sit, in the morning, with tea and toast and just watch the birds go by.

But before I go on holiday I have one final wedding to conduct at Todmorden. This ends an association with the church that John and I began six years ago. It is sad that a regular Unitarian presence has not been re-established there but, with very little support, it has proved too difficult to do this with the limited time we alone could offer. It is a beautiful building and I will remember it candlelit and filled with people for the annual Christmas Concert, the local brass band and Choral Society making a joyous noise.

Looking back on the month the harvest weekend was very successful. The Tony Berry concert on Saturday evening was much enjoyed by everyone with a great deal of laughter at Tony's funny stories. A week before we were a little worried about tickets sales but with some people paying at the door the church was well filled. The Harvest Service the following morning was a lovely occasion with rousing harvest hymns filling the air and readers bringing alive stories and poems about autumn and harvesting. I love harvest in church, it is my favourite time of year. I love the colour and scents of the decorations and I love harvest hymns. I am with Laurie Lee's little brother when, in *Cider with Rosie*, he asked, 'Will there be trumpets?' There certainly should be!

And now Christmas is just around the corner. At the request of some members I have organised a trip to York to visit the Christmas markets including St Nicholas Fayre which has been voted the best in Europe. Christmas shopping may also be on the agenda for some of us. There is limited space on the coach so put your name down quickly if you wish to go.

Once again we are having a Christmas Concert with Minister Brass and Notability Choir who were such a great success at last year's concert. I hope we can fill the church again for this enjoyable and seasonal evening.

Could I remind people about Saturday Morning Coffee, though it is popular with people from outside the church, only a few of our own members attend. Even if you don't shop in Bury on Saturday it is just a nice to call for coffee, delicious cake and a chat. See you there for homemade cake, yummy! **Beryl**

NEW MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION

On Sunday 4 November, Lorraine Maden will be welcomed into membership of the church.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Christmas Lunch this year will be on Sunday 16 December. During November a menu will be put on the notice board in the lounge and tickets will be on sale after the services on Sundays 25 November and 9th December.

DELEGATES TO GA ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Annual Meetings of the General Assembly will be held between April 11th and April 14th, 2013, at the University of Nottingham; we are entitled to send two delegates to these meetings; if you are interested in attending, to represent our church, please speak to Anne Mills, preferably before December 10th, when the next Church Council Meeting will be held. Delegates are required to book their places in January.

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

The committee met on October 20th, to consider which charity to support during 2013. To date, the options are: The North-West Air Ambulance (which offers medical assistance, throughout this area, whenever it is necessary and ambulance-access is restricted or difficult); the north-west area of Music in Hospitals (which provides the services of professional musicians, not only to those in hospital, but to care-home residents, stroke-victims, children in special schools, and many more, on the basis that music can comfort them and alleviate their problems); Bury Involvement Group (which promotes good mental health recovery and offers help and advice for vulnerable adults); The Creative Living Centre, in Prestwich (which provides help and facilities of all kinds for those who suffer from mental or emotional distress, as well as for their carers, families and friends); Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary (which cares for dogs, cats, farm animals and small pets, and aims to find happy, loving homes for them).

A list will be placed on the notice-board, so that church-members can indicate their choice of charity; the deadline for this will be November 30th. If you would like further information about any of the above charities, please speak to Anne or Roger

AINSWORTH UNITARIAN CHAPEL

Services for November 2012

Sunday 4 November at 10.00am Rev Desmond Porter

Sunday 11 November at 10.00am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 30 mins
of readings and meditation

Sunday 18 November at 10.00am Gordon & Veronica Walker (Bank St.
Bolton)

All best wishes to members and friends of The Chapel.

CHURCH INFORMATION

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