

<b>BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH</b> <b>CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2013</b>
---

**SERVICES**

3 November	11.15am	The Minister
<b>10 November</b>	<b>10.55am</b>	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b> <b>The Battle for the Atlantic</b>
<b>11 November</b>	<b>10.50am</b>	<b>A quiet service for Remembrance Day</b>
17 November	11.15am	4 Unitarians 4 Unitarian Values A service around 4 themes chosen by 4 members of the congregation who will conduct the service.
24 November	11.15am	Joint service with members of Rochdale Unitarian Church

***Please note the service on 10 November, Remembrance Sunday, will commence at the War Memorial at 10.55am***

**CHURCH STEWARDS**

3 November	Jean Jackson & Beryl Bowden
10 November	Sue Mitchell & Marc Peters
17 November	Alfred Howson & Roger Mills
24 November	Freda & Derek Worthington

**CHURCH FLOWERS**

3 November	In loving memory of Barbara Pollitt
10 November	Dorothy Stott. In loving memory of Harvey
17 November	In memory of Mr & Mrs J Davenport
24 November	Mr & Mrs R Wilkinson. In memory of Joshua

*Distributors: Margaret Pollard & Edna Wilkinson*

**SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA**

2 November	Bazaar
9 November	Freda Worthington & June Clarke
16 November	Brenda Ainsworth & Pam Gilbert
23 November	Margaret Fitzpatrick & Jean Jackson
30 November	Beryl Allerton & Nora Hickson

**LUNCHEON CLUB**

November's meeting will be held a week earlier than usual on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month. Beryl will be catering; please let her know if you usually attend and are unable to do so. The Christmas Luncheon Club will also take place earlier, on December 10<sup>th</sup>, when Susan will be in charge. The meal supplied by I-Care in October was thought to be very good, and we may well use them again. It was good to see some new faces then; if you wish to join us regularly, or once in a while, speak to that month's chef.

**WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**Thursday, 7 November at 2.00pm** Anne Mills will talk about her and Roger's visit to New Zealand in 2012. This is an open meeting. All welcome.

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

At the last meeting of the Men's Fellowship we had a talk given by Mr Gordon Walker on his experiences on Bomb Disposal. It was very interesting and humorous. He certainly had a very different National Service. The ten members present all agreed they had been well-entertained. The meeting was followed by lunch at the Trackside Pub.

The talk was followed by a brief AGM. It was decided that all the money belonging to the Fellowship should be passed over to the church treasurer and kept separate within church funds. It was also decided that each member present would pay £1 towards refreshments and the speaker's lunch.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday 20 November at 11.00am**. The speaker at this meeting will be the Chairman of the East Lancs. Railway, David Wright.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER**

Monday 4 November at 7.00pm	Trustees
Saturday 9 November at 11.00am	Charity
Tuesday 12 November at 7.00pm	Communications, Worship and Young People
Wednesday 13 November at 7.00pm	Efforts

## **CALENDAR DEADLINE**

The last day for items to be included in the **DOUBLE** edition of the **December & January Calendar** is **Sunday 15 December**. **Please note the early date**. Thank you.

## **CHARITY**

On Sunday 6 October the mayor and her consort attended our harvest service to present a cheque for £1,181 to Liz Greenwood, on behalf of North West Air Ambulance, our chosen charity for 2013. We also raised £90.46 from the sale of Air Ambulance merchandise. This was a tremendous effort and the charity team would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously. Any member of the congregation who would like to nominate a charity, preferably local, for next year's fundraising, please speak to Roger Mills, Barbara Bamford or Jean Maden. Anyone wishing to join the charity committee will be very welcome.

## **BOOK CLUB**

The Book Club will meet next on Monday 25 November at 7.00pm in the lounge at Bury. Please watch the notice board or the website for details of the book to be discussed on that occasion. Newcomers welcome. We usually share refreshments after the discussion and finish around 9.00pm.

## **TRAIDCRAFT**

The stall will be open on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 10<sup>th</sup>, and then not again until December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you require goods at other times, please speak to Anne Mills or Jean Brookhouse. Orders for Christmas should reach Anne as soon as possible.

## **CHARITY COMMITTEE**

The meeting scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> had to be cancelled; this has now been fixed, provisionally, for Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. Please check that it is still taking place, nearer the time.

## **SUNSHINE SMARTIES**

As the Bazaar approaches, we are looking to collect in Smartie tubes filled with 20 pence pieces; please give these to Brenda Ainsworth, as soon as possible.

## **DECORATING**

The lounge and kitchen have recently been redecorated, and a substantial amount of cleaning in the downstairs part of the building has also been carried out. Thanks are due to the painters: Beryl, John, Roger, Susan and Peter, and to Sue M. for the baking, and to Jean J. for the brewing-up. The newly-decorated areas look fresh and bright, and the efforts of a few people have achieved the task and saved us a great deal of money, too! Many thanks---your work is much appreciated.

## **BURY LIGHT NIGHT**

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, our building and grounds were transformed into an enchanted garden, beautifully and tastefully lit; those of us who walked round the central area of Bury agreed that our garden was by far the best--- a quite unbiased opinion! We estimated that approximately 100 visitors came through our door: many stayed for refreshments; others listened to Chris playing wonderful music, on piano and organ; some bought books and Traidcraft items. The atmosphere was relaxed and pleasant, and it was good to welcome new people into our church; quite a few of them had no idea that we existed at all, so had never been on the premises; everyone was most impressed. Participating in the event was worthwhile, and we are already enthusiastic about next year. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the evening.

## **REMEMBRANCE SERVICES**

As usual, we shall commemorate Remembrance Day by a service on Remembrance Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>; please note that we shall begin, by our War Memorial, at 10.55 a.m.

On Remembrance Day itself, we shall mark the occasion with a short act of devotion and quiet reflection; this will begin at 10.50 a.m. and last for approximately half-an-hour. Coffee will be served afterwards.

## **DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS, 2014**

The 2014 AGM's will be held at Whittlebury Hall, Northamptonshire, between April 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. We are entitled to send two delegates; if you are interested in representing our church, please speak to Anne, preferably before the December Council meeting, on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **JOINT SERVICE**

On November 24<sup>th</sup>, visitors from Rochdale Unitarian Church will join us for worship; please make them welcome; we hope that this will be the first of many such services.

## **BAZAAR**

This takes place on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 10.30 a.m. If you have items to donate to any of the stalls, please bring them to church, as soon as you can, and give them to the relevant stallholder; all items should be clearly marked. On October 31<sup>st</sup>, in the evening, the stalls will be set up; on the following evening, stalls will be stocked, and goods for the Cake Stall should be brought in; fresh cream cakes should be brought on the day itself.

Posters, car-stickers and flyers are now available; there is no such thing as bad publicity!

This is our major fund-raising effort of the year; please help to make it a success.

## **POST-BAZAAR ASSESSMENT MEETING**

Monday 11 November at 7.00pm – all welcome.

## **THE BELL!**

Rev. Dr. Len Smith, formerly minister at Stand and Principal of Unitarian College, Manchester, is writing a book about church bells; when Roger and I visited Kendal Unitarian Chapel, recently, Len asked us if we could supply a photograph of the bell which now stands in our foyer but originally hung in the tower above the Bank Street entrance of Bank Street Unitarian Chapel. This was a single tolling bell, and I think I remember a rope looped back at each side of this entrance.

From the photograph, Len was able to tell us that the bell was manufactured in 1777---possibly not the first bell in the first Unitarian church in Bury, but certainly the one transferred to every subsequent chapel on our site. The bell bears the legend "Come away, make no delay", and this is followed by the initials T and R, separated by a small bell which tells us that our bell was made by the Rudhall family from Gloucester---in fact, by Thomas Rudhall, the son of Abraham.

Len now has sufficient information about our bell to include it in his book; fame at last! However, he has issued a note of caution: we should be careful about spreading information about the bell, as it has been known for such bells to be stolen, despite their size and weight! *Anne*

## **NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL: 14-10-13**

Anne reported that her contact at "The Bury Times" had left; she now has a new contact and hopes that he will be equally good. A small committee has been formed to make preliminary arrangements for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and will report back shortly.

**Finance:** Organists' fees will continue to be paid from church-funds, so that the congregation are aware of the costs; better lights have been fitted near the heating-controls and the gas-meter; Council approved annual donations to various organisations; Council also approved a freeze on lettings-charges for 2014; concerns were expressed about the duties of the cleaners, and this will be pursued; the G.A. Collection will be made up to £50.

**The Treasurer** reported that we are currently slightly ahead of our forecast-budget but predicted that we might fall behind by the year-end; he had analysed the cost to the church of the year's Sunday services and suggested that, in the light of rising costs and declining membership, we might all consider giving a little extra, each week.

**Efforts:** The Philharmonic Brass Concert had been excellent; arrangements are now in hand for the Christmas Concert on 30-11-13.

**Communications and Worship with Young People:** The new plaque for Holebottom has now been made and should be in place soon; there was discussion about the transfer of the Junior Church from the Primary to the Lounge; this is quite a complex issue, so there will be a trial-period; both Anne and Beryl have supplied short articles to appear in the November issue of "The Associate"; repairs to the main door will be carried out on 15-10-13.

**The Minister** reported that the discussion on Bullying had been excellent and very worthwhile; she expressed concern about the low attendance at services during the summer months; seminars on congregational growth are to be organised after Christmas; a trip to Chester will be organised, in November; the service on 17-11-13 will be conducted by members of the congregation.

**Charity Committee:** The total amount presented to North West Air Ambulance was £1,271.46; at the next meeting, suggestions for next year's charity will be considered; the congregation will then be invited to vote on the choices; already suggested are the new Bury Hospice and Bury Deaf Society.

**NELUM:** The August meeting, at Ansdell, was very pleasant; Nelum continues to supply large grants to churches in the district, in order to support Ministry, and also to enable churches to repair their premises;

Future Ministry in Lancashire will be considered on 19-10-13, at a meeting at Bank Street, Bolton.

**Lettings:** Council approved two requests: one for a piano concert, on 17-12-13, and the other for a Day Gathering of the Unitarian Renewal Group, on 27-09-14.

**Membership Secretary:** We need to take action to increase our membership, although it is difficult to attract younger people; we have the largest Sunday School in the whole of Nelum; many of its churches have no children attending; children who attend events at Hucklow do not necessarily attend Unitarian Churches.

**Correspondence** was received from The Penal Affairs Panel, enclosing a letter to be sent to Ivan Lewis, M.P; with regard to the Government's refusal to mount a Royal Commission on the use and abuse of drugs; it was agreed that this should be sent, as we had voted for it at the G.A. AGM's; we are requested to participate in a congregational census, on each Sunday in November; the G.A. will then analyse the results, in order to ascertain the numerical strength of the movement and to determine decision-making in the future. Other items of correspondence have been placed on the notice-board for information.

**Any Other Business:** There was discussion about the use of our two parking-spaces; these seem to be respected, and we are not experiencing problems.

**The next meeting** will be held on December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

## **NELUM MEETING AT RAWTENSTALL**

Monday 25 November at 7.15pm

## **MINISTER'S MONTH**

Summer is officially over when the heating engineer comes to service the boiler. This happened last week at our house a few days after we had cranked up the heating for the first time since May. Time to get my winter wardrobe out of storage in the loft and find out what still fits. Time for a final visit to the caravan and pack it up until next spring. Time, before leaving, to fill up the bird and squirrel feeders and to say a little prayer that they will make it through the winter.

This year it was decided to open the church for the 'Light Night' (see the front cover of the calendar) because the church gardens were going to be a central part of the event. It proved to be a very good decision because the church was very busy all evening. Over a hundred people came through the doors, most of them for black peas the supply of which ran out. Next year we plan to open the church again making sure we have buckets of black peas at the ready. Thanks go to all who helped, particularly to Chris Price whose music was perfect for the evening, I think it must be the first time 'I do like to be beside the seaside' has been played on the church organ.

Autumn in the church began as it always does with the harvest weekend. Philharmonic Brass entertained us with a wonderful concert on the Saturday which was enjoyed by about ninety people. Thank you to all who brought family and friends to swell the crowd. The following day, at my favourite service of the year, Harvest Thanksgiving, just looking around the beautifully decorated church weighed down with fruit and vegetables and flowers made the harvest hymns so meaningful. No wonder they are sung with such fervour. I am always reminded of Laurie Lee's words, 'neither drums, nor cymbals, nor trumpets of brass would have seemed out of place at that time.

The lounge and downstairs kitchen have been painted with a good deal of laughter and a few aching joints. A small band who wished that the walls, to quote the bible, had been made smooth rose to the challenge and finished much more quickly than anticipated. So, enthusiasm running high, it was decided to paint the kitchen as well, in fact it became quite dangerous to stand still for too long. Where next?

*Beryl*

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm

## The 'Almost Christmas' Concert

With

HD Brass Quintet (formerly Minster Brass)

Notability Choir

Mulled wine and Mince Pies

*Tickets from members of the Efforts Committee*

### A DATE FOR THE DIARY

Christmas Lunch this year will be on Sunday 15 December after the Service. There will be a menu on the notice-board in the lounge in November and tickets will be sold after morning service on Sunday 1 December priced at £4. You can also book by phone – Pam Gilbert 01706 822651.

***PLEASE SUPPORT OUR GRAND BAZAAR ON SATURDAY  
2 NOVEMBER FROM 10.30AM ONWARDS***

***LOTS OF STALLS - tombola, cakes, nearly new, Christmas,  
bottles, books, jewellery, accessories, etc.***

***HOT & COLD MEALS***

***RAFFLE***

### CHURCH INFORMATION

Church address	1 Bank Street, Bury BL9 0DN
Church telephone	0161 761 3785
Charity Reg. No.	1078570
Church Website	<a href="http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk">http://www.bury-unitarian-church.org.uk</a>
Minister's telephone	0161 761 2960
Minister's email	theallertons@talktalk.net
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, 2 Heapy Close, Bury BL8 2HW	0161 764 6374