

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2014

CHURCH SERVICES

2 November 11.15am The Minister

9 November 10.55am Remembrance Sunday – the service will begin at 10.55am at the War Memorial. The service will commemorate those named on our Cenotaph a hundred years on from 1914. After the Wreath-Laying Ceremony, please enter the church quietly and reverently.

11 November 10.45am A Short Service for Remembrance Day

16 November 11.15am Veronica & Gordon Walker
from Bolton Bank Street

23 November 11.15am The Minister

30 November 11.15am The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

2 November Alf Howson & Roger Mills

9 November Freda & Derek Worthington

16 November Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell

23 November Lois & Alan Williams

30 November Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

If you are unable to fulfil your duties on the given date, please re-arrange with another steward – thank you.

CHURCH FLOWERS

2 November In loving memory of Barbara Pollitt

9 November Dorothy Stott – in loving memory of Harvey

16 November Church Flowers

23 November Mr & Mrs R Wilkinson – in loving memory of Joshua

30 November In memory of Mr & Mrs J Davenport

Distributors: Edna Wilkinson, Margaret Pollard, Molly Ratcliffe

*****We urgently need someone to volunteer to help distribute flowers. Please speak to Molly if you can help.*

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

1 November Bazaar

8 November Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos

15 November Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe

22 November Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard

29 November June Clarke & Pam Gilbert

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Monday 10 November 7pm Post-Bazaar Assessment

Wednesday 12 November 7pm Communications & Worship with
Young People

Wednesday 26 November 7pm Finance & General Purposes

CALENDAR DEADLINE – 23 November – December/January edition

LUNCHEON CLUB

This month's meeting will be held on November 11 at 12.30 pm and hosted by Beryl. This has had to be re-arranged, as none of the chefs will be available on the 18th. Lamb Hot –pot – names on the noticeboard please.

Best wishes to Susan for a successful hip-replacement operation and subsequent recovery; we miss you already!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 13 November at 7.30pm – Steve Horrocks will give an illustrated talk about Ainsworth Chapel

Saturday 6th December

7.30pm

Christmas Concert

With HD Brass & Sarah Killian (Guildhall School of Music)

Carols for everyone to sing

Mulled wine and mince pies

Tickets £8.00

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on November 2nd, 16th and 30th. Christmas cards are now available, and this includes special hand-made cards, courtesy of June Clarke. The stall will also be open during the Bazaar. If anyone wishes to order items from the Winter 2014 Traidcraft brochure, please let Anne have details, as soon as possible; as we know from experience, goods from Traidcraft sell out very quickly! Bernard Emblem, from Bury's Fair Trade Group, has commented, on our Facebook page, on our church's outstanding commitment to Fair Trade---pleasing recognition, indeed!

BAZAAR

Our major fund-raiser of the year, the Bazaar, will take place on November 1st, from 10 a.m. onwards. Please support us by coming along, spending lots of money, and staying for lunch. This year, it will be possible to order soup and sandwiches at the downstairs café, as well as the usual cakes and fruit pies, and there will be a good range of hot lunches upstairs, in addition. Stalls will sell books, cakes and home-made produce, Christmas items, handbags, jewellery and all accessories, Good as New items, and Traidcraft and handmade cards; as well as a Raffle, with superb prizes, there will be Competitions, a Bottle Tombola, and a Tombola Stall.

Setting-up of stalls will take place on Friday, October 31st, from 6.30pm onwards; cakes may be brought then, or on the Saturday morning, if they contain fresh cream.

A Post-Bazaar Assessment Meeting will be held on Monday, November 10th, at 7 p.m.

FACEBOOK

As part of our Growth initiative, we have set up a Facebook page for the church; thanks to Joanne Fitzpatrick for her help in achieving this. Our page will detail all church-events, plus comments from interested parties, and, hopefully,

photographs, too. If you use Facebook, please look at our page and “like” us there; if you are not a Facebook user, ask your friends and family to support us instead. Already, a considerable amount of interest has been generated; other Unitarian churches, and members, have “liked” us, and our hope is that we shall attract more, as time goes on. It is possible to access Facebook from our website, and vice-versa. If you feel able to make additional contributions to our Facebook page, please speak to Anne Mills.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

Our cheque to Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary was handed over to Vicki Appleton, the Chairman of their Trustees, by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Sharon Briggs, at our Harvest Festival, on October 5th; also present were Deputy Mayoress, Shirley Rabbett, and Muriel Bird, a founder member of Bleakholt. The total raised was £1,180.70, with Bleakholt goods amounting to over £60 also being sold.

A substantial amount of used textiles was collected and sent to Bleakholt, from the church, for which they were extremely grateful.

On the afternoon of October 5th, a party of 8 enjoyed a visit to Bleakholt; they were guided around by Muriel, who was particularly anxious to show them the newly-acquired donkeys. A good time was had by all!

BURY LIGHT NIGHT

Our second contribution to Bury Light Night took place on October 10th; we were assured that our gardens were, again, the best in the whole area, although we didn't think that they were as good as last year's, when the gardens were ablaze with lights of all colours. The most impressive decorations, this year, were the large, white carrier-bags that children wrote messages on; these then had an illuminated candle added to their interiors, and all of them were placed in a semi-circle, near the fountain, which had, itself, been transformed into a dome of light.

As far as we were concerned, we had more people through our doors than last year; many had returned specially, having visited last year, and they spent time looking round the worship-area, inspecting Betty's display, and examining our selection of leaflets and calendars. We served plate after plate of hotpot and black

peas, and drinks of all kinds were in great demand. Unfortunately, on account of extremely dense traffic, Chris Price was unable to reach us, so those who had come to listen to him play were disappointed.

Despite this setback, all our visitors enjoyed themselves, and the occasion was worthwhile. Thanks to all who helped on the evening. (Council expressed its thanks to Anne for the hotpot, and to Susan for the black peas.)

A BIG THANK YOU.....

.....to the very generous church-member who has offered to buy us a television set; we hope to make a purchase shortly. The donor wishes to remain anonymous, so this is the only way in which we can express our gratitude.

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING: 13-10-14.

A minute's silence was observed, in memory of Miriam Murphy.

The Art Exhibition was very successful, and much appreciation was shown. The Harvest Festival was excellent, with beautiful floral displays and a wonderful atmosphere. Lunch at Park Farm provided an extremely pleasant occasion, and thanks were expressed to Anne for her very efficient organisation and for providing the sherry.

Finance: PAT Testing is to be arranged; the upstairs kitchen is to be decorated soon, and the new splashback fitted; a general advertising budget of £2,000 per annum was agreed; it is hoped that we can fit a donation-box into one of the church-walls; this will be kept locked, at all times; members of the congregation are requested to leave all monies in this, for the sake of security; changes in the rules for reclaiming Gift Aid have created complications, but the amount reclaimed continues to be very pleasing; a Panic Button is to be fitted in the Primary, in case of emergencies; the leader can then summon assistance from people in the worship-area.

The Treasurer reported a healthy balance, after 8 months, and looked forward to a year-end surplus; he also hoped for a financially-successful Bazaar.

Lettings Secretary: We have been approached about a 10-week let, for two and a half hours, on Monday afternoons, to begin after Christmas; it was felt that we might manage to steward this.

Social and Fund Raising: The next event to be organised will be the Christmas Concert, on December 6th.

Communications and Worship, with Young People:

A retiring collection, in aid of The Royal British Legion, will be taken on Remembrance Sunday; the Unitarian Renewal Group Day Gathering was a pleasant occasion, despite a low turnout; 3 Junior Church members and their leader greatly enjoyed a recent weekend at Hucklow; thanks were expressed to June for her contribution.

The Minister reported that we need more Junior Church leaders and helpers; on December 21st, there will not be a morning service; instead, in the evening, a communion service will be followed by a Candlelit Carol Service; the seminars on Growth generated some workable ideas, which we hope to put into practice in due course; the First World War research continues, but progress is slow, and the work is time-consuming; all the information collected will eventually be included in a book.

Charity: The final amount raised for Bleakholt was more than £1,200; a letter of thanks and a certificate had been received; information is to be sought about supporting sufferers of prostate cancer, with a view to setting up a group as next year's charity.

NELUM: The next meeting will be held on 10-11-14, at 7 p.m; at Padiham; an instruction-course on Facebook and other social media has been suggested, and interest will be explored.

Correspondence: several letters of thanks had been received; all have been placed on the notice-board.

Any Other Business: The Art Society has donated a painting of the church; it was decided that this would be auctioned off during the Bazaar; a silent auction will be held. The plants in the outside tubs are to be renewed. It was agreed that we would approach the local authority to ask whether the Library Gardens could be renamed to reflect our ownership more accurately.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday, December 10th, at 7 p.m.

INVITATION

We have been invited by the congregation of Rochdale Unitarian Church to attend the induction of the Rev. Shammy Webster; this will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, at 3 p.m. and followed by tea. If you wish to attend, please sign up by Sunday, November 16th, at the latest, so that numbers can be forwarded to Rochdale.

CHARITY COMMITTEE

The sum of £1,200 was raised and we sold over £100 worth of Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary merchandise during this year of fundraising. This was a tremendous effort and our thanks go to everyone who supported us in any way. *Barbara Bamford/Treasurer*

MINISTER'S MONTH

We have just returned from putting the caravan to bed for the winter and it feels rather sad. I filled all the bird feeders and the squirrel box with monkey nuts for the last time. There are far fewer birds now, those who leave for winter have gone and this year's babies have grown and flown. Still there were goldfinches and nuthatches, the ubiquitous chaffinches of course. The red and grey squirrels were busy burying the nuts we had provided. One squirrel was busy digging up the ones the others had buried and burying them somewhere else. There is a marked increase in rabbits on the site which means all my plants will be eaten and if not by the rabbits then by the deer which come onto the site when the people leave.

The Light Night was once again a great success with lots of people coming into the church, more than last year. This year we were better prepared, we had displays up and leaflets out as well as buckets of black peas and pans of hot-pot at the ready. We were busy all evening and there was a really good atmosphere. It is not easy to explain the finer points of Unitarianism while serving black peas though we did our best. I thought at the end of the evening how many people who had not even known the church existed before went away with a really good impression of it. Thank you to all who helped, making and serving and talking and laughing for and with all our visitors. (My job had been to source black peas for this event)

The Harvest Service brought a welcome return of Councillor Sharon Briggs, now Deputy Mayor, to present the cheque on our behalf to Bleakholt Animal Sanctuary, our charity for the year. Later that day some of us visited Bleakholt for a guided tour. I have to say I was very impressed at the improvements that have been made over the years, everything was very clean and the animals all well cared for. I have homed two dogs from the sanctuary in the past both wonderful and much loved. In year gone by there were always a great variety of dogs of all shapes, sizes and colours. Not so now, almost all are Staffordshire Bull Terriers or crosses of the same. These are the dogs favoured as accessories by young men who quickly tire of the commitment and discard them. The lucky dogs find themselves at somewhere like Bleakholt where there is good care and the possibility of a new loving home, others are less fortunate. What a sad reflection on our throw-away society when even sentient creatures are disposable.

The Pie and Peas Supper and Quiz for the Women's League project was a great success, so many tickets were sold that the upstairs hall had to be used. The evening caused brains to ache over nursery rhymes and children's songs with only initials to give a clue to their titles. It was good to welcome friends from Rochdale and Stand. (I was on mushy peas duty)

I have just realised that this Minister's Month is all about food – very Unitarian. And finally the lunch at Park Farm, the last of our fortieth celebrations, this was absolutely excellent and the fitting end to the year. Thank you to Anne for organising this. Let's not wait too long before we do it again.. **Beryl**

HELP

We have some members who are unable to attend church through illness or age, I visit regularly but not as often as I would like to do due to other calls on time. If anyone is willing to be a 'visitor' please could you have a word with me. It would entail visiting at least once a month taking the latest church news and maybe photographs to show what we have been doing. If you can spare a little time please volunteer. **Beryl**

NELUM MEETING AND PIE AND PEAS SUPPER

Monday 10th November at 7.15pm

Everyone welcome – Supper free – names to Beryl by Monday 3 November

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 5th December GA President Marian Baker will conduct the service

Sunday 14th December Minister - Nativity Play and Christmas Lunch

Sunday 21st Minister & Others Candlelit Carol Service 7pm (please note there will be no morning service that day)

Christmas Day Minister Short Service 11.15am

Sunday 28th Minister

Christmas Communion Sunday 21st at 6pm.

GROWTH SEMINARS

The first growth seminar was a bit hap-hazard as I think we did not really know where to begin on such a big undertaking and were somewhat overwhelmed. I had not structured the evening in any way as I wanted people to be free to express ideas, in the event I think that the evening left people confused. By comparison the second seminar was far more focused and applied some rigorous discussion to how the church makes itself open and visible because we felt we had good things to offer.

I have listed below some of the ideas – please talk about them and if you want more information I will try to help.

'Buddies' about 5/6 people who are willing to speak to visitors and welcome them. It was thought that if we have people who are willing to make themselves responsible for this then everyone is not waiting for everyone else to do it. Please volunteer after all it is only an occasional task. See Sue Mitchell who is collecting names.

Interest Group it was suggested that an interest group for members open to others would be a way of encouraging people into the church, meeting people and getting to know them and maybe wanting to come to services.

Special Services Services with a theme that would be of general interest so that we can invite people to come along.

Opening the church Events such as the Art Exhibition and Light Night where the church is open for people to just come in and look around.

Moving the Front Door It was unanimously agreed that moving the door to the side overlooking the gardens would be a good thing.

Different Services A parallel church which offered a different type of worship.

Video publicity a screen to run videos of church services and events when the church is open so that people see us in action.

Facebook The church is already on Facebook and this was agreed to be a good thing. There was some discussion about how this is handled in the future. The idea of a ministerial blog was also discussed.

Car Park the difficulty of daytime parking and thus daytime events was addressed and it was felt that maybe we should keep more spaces for ourselves.

The key question was why do we want to grow ?

It was decided to have a follow up meeting in six months to see how we are doing.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the meetings.

NOTES FROM 1974 (11)

November 1974 was dominated by the church's annual Autumn Fair and by Remembrance Sunday---as might be said today, too! The Autumn Fair, held on the 2nd, was organised by the Efforts Committee; it began at 2.45 p.m; was chaired by Colonel R.M. Barlow and opened by Michael Fidler. (I was, at first, puzzled by the lack of the initials "M.P." after Mr. Fidler's name; however, recourse to Wikipedia informed me that the Member of Parliament for Bury and Radcliffe lost his seat at the elections held on October 10th, that year, so the editor of the calendar was certainly on the ball!) My own recollections of Autumn Fairs, around that period, were that the opening ceremonies were very formal occasions, and the Chairman and Opener were always presented with a buttonhole carnation by one of the children.

The young people of the church were well-represented, that month; church-parade was held on Remembrance Sunday, November 10th; the Youth Club and UYPL organised a joint Disco, on Saturday, the 9th, and Junior Church flowers were contributed by Kathryn and Sally Jackson, on the 17th, and by Carolyn and Melanie Pollitt, on the 24th. On Remembrance Sunday, Colonel Barlow laid the wreath on the steps of the War Memorial, and he was escorted by Mrs. Irene Sutherland (my mother) and Mr. Frank Carter (the

church-organist). It is possible that, in our 40th year, we may return to the practice of escorting the wreath-layer.

Both The Women's League and The Men's Fellowship held intriguing meetings; the ladies were entertained by Mr. Jack Crabtree and "Over My Shoulder" and, later in the month, visited the gas showrooms for a demonstration entitled "Cooking with Cider"; the men heard a talk by Derek Janes, M.A; the Keeper of Social History in Bury, whilst their second meeting explored "The Bury Dig". If anyone can shed light on the content of these meetings, please let me know. A Cheese and Wine Evening, on the 22nd, promised that the film about the building of the new church would be shown.

In the Stop Press section of the calendar, the North-East Lancashire Lay-Preachers' Association pleaded for greater numbers of lay-preachers to come forward; anyone interested was asked to contact Rev. John Roberts urgently. In his Minister's Month, John Allerton makes reference to low numbers training for the Ministry---a fact which became obvious at the Opening Session at Unitarian College Manchester. It was not all doom and gloom from UCM, however, as John records that the management and facilities at the college were much improved; he did wonder, though, what had happened to all the "ancient, cracked and curling linoleum". Another old building visited by John, at this period, was the Unitarian Church, in Wakefield, where he attended the induction of Rev. Ernest Baker; the church is an excellent example of mid-18th Century church-architecture and contains beautiful stained-glass windows and fine woodwork. The church is not the easiest place to find, as it is hidden in a maze of one-way streets, and extra security precautions because of the trial of the M62 coach-bombers added further difficulty to the journey. (Wikipedia---again---states that the bombing occurred shortly after midnight, on February 4th, 1974, between Junctions 26 and 27, near Oakwell Hall;12 people were killed, and 38 injured, by a bomb attributed to the Provisional IRA.)

In addition to Wakefield, John visited Sheffield, to attend the annual committee meeting of the Send A Child To Hucklow Fund; at the time, the fund's turnover was approximately £3,000 per annum, which provided holidays for more than 170 children. It was remarkable that all the necessary business was transacted in a single two-hour meeting; John was able to report that the year's target had been exceeded and that an additional holiday for children from Bolton was envisaged, the following year. Excellent news! *Anne Mills*

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 24 November at 7pm. The book to be discussed will be in the lounge cupboard by Thursday 29 October and the title will be on the web-site from that day. We look forward to new faces – so come and join us if you enjoy a good book!

