

BURY UNITARIAN CHURCH

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2015

CHURCH SERVICES

1 November	11.15am	The Minister
8 November	10.55am	Remembrance Service – <i>the service will begin at 10.55am at the War Memorial. After the Wreath-Laying Ceremony, please enter the church quietly and reverently.</i>
11 November	10.50am	Remembrance Day Service A short service of about 30mins.
15 November	11.15am	The Minister
22 November	11.15am	The Minister
29 November	11.15am	The Minister

CHURCH STEWARDS

1 November	Alf Howson & Roger Mills
8 November	Freda & Derek Worthington
15 November	Jean Brookhouse & Susan Mitchell
22 November	Lois & Alan Williams
29 November	Barbara Bamford & Allan Hodgert

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

CHURCH FLOWERS

1 November	In loving memory of Barbara Pollitt – Melanie and Carolyn
8 November	Mrs Dorothy Stott – in loving memory of Harvey
15 November	Church Flowers
22 November	Mr & Mrs Roy Wilkinson – in loving memory of Joshua
29 November	In memory of Mr & Mrs J Davenport

Distributors: to be arranged.

SATURDAY MORNING COFFEE ROTA

7 November	Rene Hollos & Alison Hollos
14 November	Betty Kenyon & Molly Ratcliffe
21 November	Jean Maden & Margaret Pollard
28 November	June Clarke, Marc Peters & Philip Peters

COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER

Monday 2 November at 7pm	Post-Bazaar Assessment Meeting
Monday 9 November at 7pm	Worship, Junior Ch. Communications
Monday 16 November at 7pm	Finance & General Purposes
Sunday 22 November after the service	Congregational Meeting
Monday 23 November at 7pm	Church Council

CALENDAR DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY EDITION

Please make sure that any items for December 2015 and January 2016 are handed to the editor by Sunday 13th December – thank you.

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet on Monday 30 November at 7pm. The book to be discussed will be in the lounge cupboard from 31st October. All welcome.

TRAI DCRAFT

The stall will be open on November 8th and 22nd; if you would like goods at other times, please ask Anne or Jean. If you wish to order items for Christmas, it is better to do this sooner rather than later, as Traidcraft tend to sell out early!

LUNCHEON CLUB

The November meeting will take place on the 17th, at 12.30 p.m; when Susan and Margaret will be the hosts. Please keep an eye on the notice-board and sign the list when it is available. New members are always welcome!

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Thursday 12 November at 7.30pm – to be announced.

G. A, DELEGATES

The G. A. AGM's take place between Wednesday, March 30th and Saturday, April 2nd, 2016, at the Birmingham Hilton. As usual, we are entitled to send two delegates; in addition, Beryl will be attending, as our Minister, as will Susan Holt, who is the Women's League National Treasurer. This is an

excellent opportunity to meet other, like-minded Unitarians, from all over the country, and to exchange ideas and experiences with them. If you are interested in representing our church, on this occasion, please speak to Betty Kenyon or Anne Mills, before the next Church Council meeting, on November 23rd.

STEWARDING

Rotas for stewarding the Yoga Group and the AA are on the notice-board; at times, rather than a named person, a group will be designated as the steward for the evening (when there is a meeting, for example). The system breaks down when meetings finish earlier than the hirers do, if nobody has taken the responsibility for closing the premises. It would be appreciated if the Chairman and Secretary of each group would ensure that there is always someone nominated, to open and close the building. Thank you.

HARVEST FESTIVITIES

Our Harvest, on October 4th, was a perfect day! The grey clouds cleared, and the sun shone; the church, beautifully-decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables, looked magnificent; the service, thanks to Beryl, was of very high quality, with excellent readings and particularly able readers; hymns were sung lustily, and the choir's introit and anthem sounded tuneful and pleasant. After the service, a tasty lunch was greatly enjoyed by a large number of the congregation. Thanks to everybody who contributed in any way to the success of the occasion; events such as this, which bring us all together, both in worship and in fellowship, are essential to the health and well-being of our church.

FROM THE CHARITY COMMITTEE

The committee has had a very successful year and has raised £1,631.00 in total; after all outstanding expenses have been paid, the amount to be handed over to the Prostate Cancer Support Group is expected to be £965.00. The

Group is now fully-independent, although there are still church-members who will continue to support it; Howard Maden has volunteered to chair the Group, and Jean will act as Treasurer; we wish the Group every success, in the future. Church Council has very generously agreed to waive the Group's hire-charges for 2016, to support them during their transition-period and to enable it to become a well-established entity. Thank you to everyone who has supported the Charity Committee, and the Prostate Cancer Support Group, during 2015.

This year has been an extremely hectic one for the Charity Committee, as its members have undertaken 3 excellent fund-raising efforts, in addition to all the work required to set up the Prostate Cancer Support Group---much of it behind the scenes, and in uncharted territory! The decision has been taken to step down activities, during 2016, and only to organise a Quiz Evening, which will take place on Saturday, February 20th, with Doug and Enid Cathcart as the quiz-masters.

With regret, the Charity Committee has accepted the resignation of Barbara Bamford from the committee itself, and as its Chairman. Barbara has worked tirelessly on behalf of all the charities the committee has supported over the years, and the committee-members would like to express their appreciation of all her hard work and willingness to be involved. The committee-members themselves are to be congratulated on their efforts; the Charity Committee has just ended its tenth year and has raised a staggering total of £13,445.00 for ten different charities, in that time, beginning in 2006 with Bury Hospice. Well done, indeed!

MINISTERIAL SUPPORT GROUP

The group met on October 8th, having invited Beryl to join them. The Congregational Profile and Job Description have been updated and now await a candidate to whom to send them. The meeting was extremely useful, and Beryl's input most valuable and helpful. The group has two tasks to carry out: they must prepare for the ending of Beryl's ministry at Bury, at the end of May, 2016, and --- hopefully--- for a new minister; also, they have to put arrangements in place in case we cannot appoint a suitable person. With at least twelve churches already on the Ministerial Vacancies List, a decreasing number of ministers, trainees, and lay people, this is no easy task!

A Congregational Meeting will take place, on Sunday, November 22nd; on that day, there will be a short service, of approximately half-an-hour, and the meeting will follow that; it is expected to last between half-an-hour and an hour; the

purpose of the meeting is to convey information about what has been done, so far. If congregation-members have questions that they wish to ask of the Ministerial Appointments Group, it would be helpful if they would put them in writing to Anne Mills, by the previous Sunday (November 15th), at the latest; Beryl will probably not attend this meeting, unless members think this would be advantageous; please make your views known, in advance.

MINISTER'S MONTH

I am writing this while confined to barracks after an emergency, early morning, admission to hospital in Northallerton. What I had thought at first was chronic indigestion turned out to be pancreatitis. Scans revealed I have gall stones and will need an operation sooner rather than later. I am feeling better though a bit wobbly at the moment. Sometimes being married to a minister is a bonus, with a funeral to conduct on Friday as well as Saturday coffee and the Sunday Service it was good to be able to let John take over. Thank you also to Susan who sorted out the 'Light Night' and Lunch Circle. Thank you to everyone for their concern and good wishes, I feel thoroughly cherished. I hope to be back in harness by next Sunday, though I will be taking things a little quieter for a week or so.

A small but appreciative congregation gathered for the service 'A Time to Remember' when we remembered those we loved and had lost. It would have been good to have more people there but I believe it was well worth doing as those present expressed appreciation for the opportunity this service gave for remembrance. It also brought people from beyond the congregation into the church and such a service where

all are there for the same purpose creates a sense of belonging to and with those assembled.

It is sad that the Charity Committee has decided to scale down its activities for next year but times have changed and we must recognise that there are limits to how much we can do. Over the years thousands of pounds have been raised for local charities and this is a huge achievement. I think it is a good thing when we are able to see when something needs to change and we do something to bring that about rather than to let things slide. Better to be proactive than reactive.

After a marvellous week in Cornwall with glorious weather I returned just in time for the Harvest Service. And what a good service, wonderful readers, favourite pieces, rousing hymns given full value, choir singing beautifully, and a really joyful atmosphere. There followed a delicious lunch (thank you to Susan and her helpers) and lots of chat. What a good day. The whole event will appear as the star feature at church on a future Sunday morning, thanks to Roger who worked the cameras.

Sadly I missed the 'Light Night' but believe it went well, I suspect people are beginning to know we are open for food and provide a warm and comfortable place to have a rest during the evening. I do like to be around at things like this, when people come into the church not knowing about Unitarianism, as I think it one of the important parts of ministry.

The main fund raising event of the year is now just days away please help if you can with bringing items for

stalls, helping on stalls, putting up posters, inviting family friends and neighbours to come along and being there to welcome visitors. Let's make it a bumper year.

I have just finished the book of remembrance and taken it to the bookbinders so it is now complete and will be handed over on Remembrance Sunday. Beryl

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 7.30PM

**THE BAND AND DRUMS OF THE
LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS**

Tickets £9.00 inc. refreshments

**This will be a popular concert so please get your tickets
early.**

THE LAST SUNDAY SCHOOL OF THE YEAR WILL BE DECEMBER 6TH

FORWARD NOTICE

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

SUNDAY 13TH DECEMBER AT 7PM